



The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2015 ◆

Historic Storrow & Conant Films Digitized

In 1998, at Pinewoods Camp, my friend Jan Elliott showed me an intriguing VHS video of early 20th century English dance in America. The video had been produced by Brad Sayler from carefully salvaged 16mm film that belonged to Pinewoods Camp founder Helen Storrow and the family of Lily Roberts Conant, who inherited the property from Mrs. Storrow. It included silent footage of Morris and English country dancing as performed by Cecil Sharp's demonstration team—May Gadd, Douglas Kennedy, Maud Karpeles and other notables—as early as 1927.

The dancing was filmed at the Agricultural College in Amherst (which became the University of Massachusetts), at the Storrow home in Lincoln and at Pinewoods Camp, through the 1940s. The video concluded with color footage from the Pinewoods Morris Men's annual tour of camp in 1964. Those final snippets chronicled a singularly auspicious moment for Morris dancing in the US: the transformation from a loose association of dancers into America's first established Morris team.

Many aspects of the movement on the films piqued my interest. The difference in English country dancing style was immediately apparent and visually striking. I remember May Gadd teaching this style in the early 1970s — leaning forward on the balls of the feet, using small springy running steps, and keeping knees closer together than nowadays. By the time of her death in 1979 it had virtually disappeared, replaced by a smoother and more upright dance-walk.

Among the film's highlights were the Morris jigs, or solos, danced by Cecil Sharp's protégés May Gadd and Douglas Kennedy. Having only known May Gadd in her elder years, when she no longer



Cecil Sharp's demo team in Amherst, 1929 (May Gadd, far left)

From CDS-Boston Centre archive "Up and Double and Back."

danced Morris, it was a thrill to see her dancing so beautifully while in her prime. Douglas Kennedy's jig exhibited so much strength and grace that it was exhilarating to watch.

Later I discovered that the Conants also had historic footage of Girl Scouts performing Morris and Longsword dancing, at a time when these dances were virtually unknown in the US. These films showed many young Girl Scouts beautifully dancing the "Bacca Pipes" jig as well as other Morris sets and processions, neatly putting to bed the oft-repeated notion that historically women did not dance Morris in public. As a long time Pinewoods camper, I was also intrigued to see Ampleforth being used as a dining room for camping Scouts, and found myself scouring the films for other recognizable buildings and familiar landscapes.

The original videotape was already showing signs of wear, so I asked to digitize it before there was any more damage. The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre graciously agreed to grant the funds to have all of these important films digitized. I was further surprised to learn that the English Folk Dance and Song Society had recorded tunes to go with some of the

dances as played by the original musician, Elsie "Ruby" Avril, accompanied by Everal DeJersey on piano. Malcolm Taylor at EFDSS was happy to let me use these recordings on the DVD. Although there was no way to fit the sound recordings to these old films, it is still wonderful to hear the way they were played. Additionally, CDS-Boston Centre's "Up a Double and Back" archive contained pictures and memorabilia from these same historic gatherings, which were incorporated into the final product.

While working on the video, I realized that many people would be interested in this silent footage. And now, looking at all the additional materials, it became clear that a full-fledged DVD was in the making. The resulting collection of historical films, audio recordings, photographs and ephemera is a celebration of Pinewoods Camp, the Country Dance and Song Society and affiliates, and Helen Storrow's legacy of traditional dance and music in America. It will be for sale at camp this summer, and year-round through the CDSS Store. My web site www.kardboardkid.com also has a page devoted to the DVD. I hope you enjoy it! ◆

Mitch Diamond

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A Quick Overview of Pinewoods Capital Projects

Part II: Transition to Site Planning

As noted in Part I in the fall 2014 issue of the Post, the first 25 years of PCI's capital improvements (1975-1999) focused on addressing critical needs as perceived by the Program Providers, the campers and the Board in a pretty straightforward progression. It always seemed obvious what the next project needed to be. But at the start of the next century, decisions became less clear. There was a growing list of needs and problems to be addressed, often in conflict with one another, and none critical (or all critical by alternative reckoning). Figuring out how to address them was a bewildering puzzle. No sooner would we think we had a good idea, when something would arise to question our approach. Do we build the new Manager's Office in its existing location, or at the Dining Hall? How, where and when do we provide a bigger pavilion, a larger Program Provider Office, more showers and bathrooms in the Square, a late night jamming space, workshop for the caretaker, a common crew space? How do we deal with handicap accessibility and erosion control? Meanwhile, we need to renovate Ampleforth, Pinecones, the Kitchen, the Changing Rooms, and Pine Needles. Do we keep them as is, or redesign to accommodate some of those needs mentioned?

It seemed obvious that we needed a master plan. In 1999 we formed the Site Plan Committee, which decided to hire a consulting firm. RKC & Associates, a firm from New Hampshire who had designed many camps, was chosen for the job. We discussed our needs in context with our mission and guiding principles. However the proposal they presented was a shock. It recommended that the property be totally reorganized to create distinct usage zones: program, residential, administration, and maintenance; the manager's office would be at the entrance, the workshop at Back Lads, cabins would be moved and placed with pond views, preferably with private toilets. It also suggested a new pavilion to be situated *between C# and C#minor*, without consideration

of the noise conflict. The board and the committee expressed their dismay with this proposal, as it seemed to ignore many of the parameters we had set forth. In the end, we decided that we probably knew best how to figure it out.

The process did provide an opportunity to examine just why we were so averse to the suggestions set forth by RKC. It also reinforced our opinion that Pinewoods is unique, and does not fit into the prescriptions used by most outside professionals. What helped us move forward was arriving at a character description of Pinewoods. We realized that Pinewoods is a lot like a village, with the Camphouse and Square area being the Village Center. In a village center, there is a lot of mixed use, like shops and services with housing above or nestled among them. This organic structure makes for an integrated and friendly atmosphere, encourages involvement and strengthens community. Zoning belongs to a resort, not to Pinewoods.

It then became clear that the Manager's Office should remain in its current "downtown" location. Befitting our method, projects were never hurried, but mulled over thoroughly until we were sure of the right solution. The office, originally slated for construction in the fall of 1999, was completed in the spring of 2002.

The use of site planning became a critical tool for addressing all our future decisions. Buildings were considered in terms of integrating activities and encouraging community. These included the entire Square area (our "downtown"), the caretaker's workshop and storage facility, and the camp's entrance, as well as the major projects that comprised the Legacy Campaign: C# Minor, Ampleforth, the Changing Rooms, and the Dining Hall. Their stories are yet to come in future issues of the Pinewoods Post. ◆

Deborah Kruskal

Introducing Bean

Catherine Knott, known to most of us as Bean, will be at Camp this summer in a new role. Catherine was our Office Manager last summer, and her cheerful and outgoing personality played a big part in making campers feel welcome. You saw her selling T-shirts and she helped you locate Lost and Found items. Behind the scenes she kept the office running like a well oiled machine. Due to some reorganization of staff roles, Bean will now be responsible for camp's day-to-day operations as Camp Manager. She will still be keeping the office running smoothly, and Judy will still be around to help her, but it will be Bean who will be doing camp announcements and directly responding to camper needs. ◆



Photo by Tony Baker

Transitions

In Nov. 2014 PCI welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors. David Chandler, from NY, is a former PCI board member who also served on the CDSS board including many years as secretary. Former crew member Marissa Roque is active in the Boston dance community and recently chaired English-Scottish session. She and longtime Boston-area caller Sue Rosen, this year's American Week program director, are new to the PCI board. Welcome all! ◆

Notes from the Executive Director

We are slowly emerging from the winter. Boston got all the press, but we actually got more snow. Since my daily commute is on foot (or snow shoes), I was able to enjoy the beauty of ice-covered branches sparkling in the sun without fear of traffic or black ice. And regularly cross-country skiing across Round Pond to visit neighbors was novel. It has been a true winter wonderland for the last few months, but Sophie and I are now looking forward to spring.

Changes you can anticipate this summer include an updated Pinecones. The living room has doubled in size, a toilet and sink have been added to the indoor shower room, and the kitchen has a new floor. We have also added a screened-in porch on the side closest to Nonesuch. There are other, not so visible changes that we hope will make you more comfortable while at camp.

We welcome back Laura Keeler as our Head Cook and Emma Van Scoy as our Grounds Crew Chief. Laura will be joined by Meghan Murray as Assistant Cook, Jacob Henderson as Potwasher, Sam Smukler as Dishwasher, and Shannon Paton and Julia Rosenfeld as Kitchen Aides. Our Grounds Crew will include Sam Conant and Elise Newcomer; a few positions remain open at press time. Catherine "Bean" Knott will return in the new position of Camp Manager, joining me in the office with a much-expanded role this summer.

Look for a new map in your welcome packets when you arrive at the Greeting Shed. We hope it will help new campers more easily locate their cabins and other essential spaces such as dance pavilions, showers and the Dining Hall.

While many of the upcoming summer sessions at Pinewoods are full, there are still openings at several of our popular weeks, including Harmony of Song and Dance, American Dance and Music Week, Early Music Week and Family Week. There are two brand-new sessions for folks looking for both English and American dancing: ESCape and Trad MaD. For a complete listing and description of all the 2015 sessions, and their sponsoring organizations, go to: <http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/session-schedule/>.

We look forward to seeing many of you at camp this summer! ◆

Judy Savage, Executive Director



138" of snow - what a winter!
Photo by Judy Savage



Pinecones renovations take shape.

Photo by Tony Baker

Program Providers

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o Folk Arts Center
10 Franklin St., Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
www.rscdsboston.org

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

P.O. Box 3055, Acton, MA 01720
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Check Our Website

For news updates, additional information, photos, past issues of the Post, log on to our website:
www.pinewoods.org

Note:

This spring edition of the Pinewoods Post is being sent out via regular mail.





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◆ SPRING 2015 ◆

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Spring Work Weekends

Spend time with old friends and make new friends while working and contributing your loving labor to Pinewoods in preparation for the new season. Two Spring Work Weekends are scheduled: Memorial Day Weekend, May 22-25, and the following weekend, May 29-31. Folks new to camp are welcome. Daytime activities include opening the Camphouse, cabins, and kitchen, raking the grounds, painting, and moving furniture. Evening activities depend on the talent and initiative of volunteers attending each weekend; they may include dancing, jamming, games, or just schmoozing. The Memorial Day Weekend is almost full, but we still have room at the second Work Weekend. Sign up now by visiting our website: www.pinewoods.org or calling 508.224.4858. Please make sure to register before arriving. Work Weekends fill up quickly! ◆



Six Ponds Annual Meeting and Community Dance

Pinewoods Camp will host its Community Dance and Concert, *and* the Six Ponds Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper, on Saturday, June 13th. The Annual Meeting and potluck supper for members of the Six Ponds Association will be held at the Pinewoods Camp Dining Hall from 5:00-7:00 PM, followed by a dance at the Ampleforth dance pavilion from 7:00 - 10:30 PM. No dancing experience is required. Newcomers are welcome!

In addition to this special event in June, we invite our neighbors to join our Sunday evening dances throughout the summer. If you are a neighbor and are curious about the laughter, bagpipes, or the steady rhythmic sounds of clogging that you hear during the summer, please come and experience what the joy is all about. ◆

