



Autumn 2017

In This Issue

[Work Weekends](#)

[Ann Mason: A Pinewoods Treasure](#)

[Notes from the Board](#)

[2017 Annual Appeal](#)

[Tick Talk](#)

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Check Our Website

For news updates, additional information, photos and past issues of the Post, log on to our website: www.pinewoods.org, or join us on our "Pinewoods Camp" facebook page.

Note

This issue of the Pinewoods Post is being sent out via email to most of our readers, as will all future editions. However, paper copies will continue to be mailed to those who have requested their issues in hard copy. To request a paper

Ann Mason: A Pinewoods Treasure

Growing up in Arlington, Massachusetts, in a house built by her grandparents, Ann Mason learned early to value traditions. Now 84, she has helped keep traditional dance and music alive wherever she's lived, but especially at Pinewoods.

Ann was introduced to contra dancing by her brother Dudley Laufman, who had learned at Walpole Agricultural High School. Back in Arlington Dudley held contra dances in the family home. Ann recalls that pioneering caller Ted Sannella attended those dances regularly, once arriving with his friend Larry Collins and entering through a basement window when the door was locked.

A few years later she met Ed Mason, then a graduate student in chemistry at MIT, at a contra dance at the Cambridge YWCA run by caller Dick Best. After they married, Ed and Ann moved around the country, carrying with them their love of traditional dance. They led English country and international folk dances in Madison, WI, at Penn State University, and in Washington DC, and performed German Schuhplattler dances with a Penn State student group. In 1967 they moved to Rhode Island with their four children and resumed dancing in Cambridge, while Ed joined both the Pinewoods Morris Men and the Westerly Morris Men. Later Ann joined the Mystic Garland NW Clog Morris dancers and continued for 20 years.

Even then they had a long history with Pinewoods. They had first come to camp in 1953, attending one day of a weekend session in September where they enjoyed dance workshops, swimming, and a delicious meal. Ann remembers that dance leaders Arthur and Helene Cornelius and George Fogg were there for the weekend.

The following year, Ed and Ann made it to CDS-Boston Centre's annual weekend, now called July 4th Weekend but at that time held in mid-June, and went on to attend every year. They also participated in other camp sessions, including CDSS's English and English-American weeks, and loved bringing their grandchildren to Family Week. Ed died in 1994, but Ann has continued to attend July 4th Weekend every year, serving as camp nurse for many years.

In 1983 Ann became one of the first Certified Nurse Midwives practicing in Rhode Island. Retired now, she is learning to play fiddle and has been mentoring a refugee family from Burundi, Africa. She plans to bring the oldest child to Family Week at Pinewoods next year.

As a Pinewoods board member in the 1990s, Ann saw what it takes to maintain this place that we are so lucky to have, with its wonderful fellowship, dance and music. One of the things she loves most about Pinewoods is the diversity of ages. When a friend told her that one way to stay younger is to know people from every decade, she realized that Pinewoods has enabled her to have friends of all ages. I, myself, remember how welcoming Ann was when I first started dancing and going to Pinewoods, and what a difference that made.

Ann is quick to point out the role her brother Dudley has played in reviving these traditions and is proud that her family is carrying them forward into the future. She is a member of the Grace Notes singers and the Chorus of East Providence. Her daughters, Sarah and Cathy, and Cathy's daughter Amelia, dance with Muddy River Morris in Boston. All three are active musicians as well, and Sarah calls for contra dances in New Hampshire. This year at July 4th Weekend, there were 3 generations of Masons in attendance: Ann, Cathy & Amelia. [Editor's note: I also remember a particularly wonderful moment when Ann, Cathy, and Amelia danced a triple morris jig together. How many families can put up three generations for a jig?]

2018 will be Ann's 65th year at Pinewoods, and she is a treasure trove of stories about Pinewoods over the years. When you see her at camp, be sure to ask her about them.

Barbara Morrison



*Ann and Ed Mason outside the Dining Hall with Eileen Callahan, (former camp manager, now board member), July 4th weekend 1994
Photographer: Unknown*

Notes from the Executive Director

Looking back over this past summer season, I know now how much I didn't know. Despite a good 5 months of preparation, nothing could have prepared me for the onslaught of the season. Once Camp is rolling, there isn't much time to pause and think about something because there are 5 more somethings to do immediately. It became clear to me,



*Opening the Kitchen - Ellie Camp, Clara Sefanof-Wagner, Cecile Huttenhower, Joel Rosen, Devon Fernandez
Photographer: Carl Mastandrea*



Work Weekends

Once again our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals for their generous donation of time and effort in opening and closing cabins, moving docks, washing curtains, painting signs, clearing trees, splitting wood, and scrubbing equipment. There is no way we could get all this done without our wonderful volunteers. Work Weekends are also fun, productive and eye-opening, as attendees gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to make Pinewoods look beautiful and run smoothly. Consider joining us next year (2018 Work Weekends begin May 18-20) and experience first-hand why our cheerful and devoted helpers keep returning every spring and fall.

- Andrea Aeschlimann
- Emma Mabbott Aeschlimann
- Warren Anderson
- Hannah Bary
- Katrina Bercaw
- Barbara Bezdek
- Ellie Camp
- Laura DeCesare
- Katarina Dutton
- Cathy Fahey
- Dan Fairchild
- Devon Fernandez
- Dragan Gill
- Jim Greaney
- Thom Howe
- Elliot Layton
- Paul Levitt
- Diane Lockhart
- Bruce Mabbott
- Colin McArdle
- Hannah McArdle
- Nancy Moore
- Barbara Morrison
- Linda M Nelson
- Mel Novner
- Tom O'Connor
- Kirk Purvis
- Liz Reisberg
- Chris Reynolds
- Marissa Roque
- Jennifer Rusche
- Anna Shipunova
- Clara Stefanov-Wagner
- Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner
- Seth Weidner

as early as the first Work Weekend, that in order for my first season to be a success I'd need a lot of help. I'm happy to report that I got it and I have a lot of people to thank.

Crew: First and foremost, I had such a great crew with so many returnees, they made my first summer so much easier than it would have been without their hard work. I know the Pinewoods community appreciates the crew, but let me stand on the top of the stairs at the beach and yell across Long Pond and beyond to anyone that can hear, "The crew was AWESOME!" They were a relentless, hard working team, working day and night to make your time here as wonderful as possible.

It's a long season for the crew. Some days, it's 95 degrees in the kitchen at 9 in the morning and you are standing next to the roaring convection oven, peeling a million carrots or cracking open 12 dozen eggs. Did I mention that it's hot? And then there are 5 days in a row of that. By the end of the summer, it takes some mental toughness to stay focused, happy and supportive of everyone around you. But they did it and did it well.

(Maybe I'd better not yell across Long Pond.)

Volunteers: My first mistake this year was not fully appreciating the role of volunteers in the operation of Camp. In my previous jobs, volunteers did "extra" work and though their roles were important, they weren't essential. Volunteers at Pinewoods are essential! Thanks to the closeness of the Pinewoods community, volunteers came in on short notice for both long and short stints and plugged into a schedule I had woefully underfilled. I want them to know that I appreciated all their hard work and their commitment to Camp.

Program Providers: The work that goes in to planning and executing a successful Camp session is enormous. It takes a hardy group to pull it off. It was my job to make sure we contributed to each one's success and it was made easier when each group would come in and work with the Pinewoods staff as a team. Each team brought a spirit of hard working professionalism, but I was mostly struck by how much they all enjoyed it. No matter how tired they were, especially by the end of the session, they still had that certain Pinewoods smile on their faces.

Campers: My first conversation with many campers started with their question "What are you going to change?" When I reassured them that Pinewoods had survived well without me for close to a hundred years and therefore big changes weren't necessary, they breathed a sigh of relief. In those conversations - and there were literally hundreds of them - I learned how much you all love Pinewoods and cherish being here. It gave me the sense that I was more than just the new ED, that I was expected to be a steward of this national treasure. Pretty cool. It only reinforced my commitment to excellence in running Camp. Your support and encouragement meant a lot to me.



*A handmade spoon and bowl made by Plymouth Craft and presented to Carl in appreciation of Pinewoods Camp
Photographer: Carl Mastandrea*

The Board: As many of you know, we have a great board. I found out first hand this summer. I was able to sit and talk with many of them when they came to Camp as campers. I sought out their advice on a number of ongoing issues and it helped me navigate my way through my first season. Their counsel was invaluable. In addition, I was able to get a sense of their feelings about Camp, their histories, and their commitment to Pinewoods. A number of them also did stints as volunteers.

Finally, I ran into Judy Savage last week and she said, "You survived." I said "yes." She continued "and you have a smile on your face! I guess that says everything." And so it does. So thanks, everyone. It was a great first season and I am looking forward to next year!

One last thing. I would like to apologize to all the campers I ran into and over while dancing this summer, and for all the feet I stepped on pretending I knew where to go next. Your patience and generosity on the dance floor were much appreciated. I have said many times, "I don't have to know how to dance to run Pinewoods but I have to know how to dance to appreciate it."

Carl Mastandrea

Notes from the Board

Fall is a time of transition on the Pinewoods Board of Directors. We on the board bid a fond farewell to our outgoing directors David Chandler, Bill Card and Meg Carver, and we offer grateful thanks for their hard work and dedication.

David has served for the past three years, as a representative of CDSS, as Secretary on the Executive Committee and chair of the Personnel Committee. He was also on the board from 2000 to 2006.

Bill has served the past two terms (2011-2017), representing RSCDS, and was a member of the Facilities Committee.

Meg has been our At-large member representing pond neighbors, serving two terms since 2011. She chaired the Communications Committee, and was a member of the Centennial Committee and our Executive Transition Committee.

We now welcome our incoming directors: Lars Hanslin, returning to the board after 30 years and again nominated by CDSS; Bruce Mabbott, a native of Scotland, nominated by RSCDS Boston; and Kate Harvey, a year round resident on Long Pond, as our At-large pond neighbor representative. We look forward to working with you all.

This fall, the PCI Board is beginning to work on defining strategic directions for the organization over the next 5-10 years. We hope that defining our direction will help us make decisions that touch many different aspects of Camp: building projects, staffing, schedule, shoulder seasons, etc. To jumpstart that process, we are asking ourselves:

- What would you like to see at Camp in the next 5 years? In the next 10 years?
- What do you dream about for Camp?
- What are opportunities we should pursue?
- What are some upcoming/foreseen challenges for the next 5 years? For the next 10 years?

We'd love to add your thoughts to the mix as this work unfolds over the next year and starts to inform our planning and projects. If you want to share your answers to the above questions, please be in touch: jlreiner@gmail.com

Joanna Reiner Wilkinson and Sue Rosen



Pinewoods Board members:
Top row: Annette Sassi, Lars Hanslin, Kate Harvey
Row 2: Sara Babbitt Spaeth, Bill Card, David Conant, Eileen Callahan
Row 3: Warren Anderson, Jan Burdick, Dragan Gill, Joanna Reiner Wilkinson
Row 4: Gene Murrow, Bill Cronin, Chuck Gordon
Row 5: Sue Rosen, Natty Smith, Marissa Roque, Bruce Mabbott
Not in attendance: David Shewmaker

2017 Annual Appeal

Please support Pinewoods Camp! We very much appreciate tax-deductible contributions, in any amount, to our Annual Appeal or Planned Giving Campaign.

Your contribution helps us:

- Protect our ponds.
- Preserve our woods.
- Make ongoing repairs and improvements to outdated electrical and plumbing lines.
- Continue to maintain and improve our cabins, dance pavilions, Camphouse and Dining Hall to meet camper needs while still preserving our rustic environment.
- Implement much needed erosion control on our paths.
- Provide scholarships to bring deserving campers and emerging young leaders to Pinewoods.
- Ensure that the land surrounding Camp stays undeveloped.

All of us share the responsibility as stewards of this increasingly rare and extraordinarily special place. Join us in our effort to preserve the magic for many generations to come!

Tick Talk

As many of you know, we did a fair amount of work this past season to address the ongoing issue of ticks at Camp. To start, we installed full-length mirrors in every bathroom. We also know that the best defense against tick bites is camper education and path remediation. For the former, 2017 Camp Manager Bean Knott created this notice which we have posted in every bathroom; for the latter, we began the process of widening many of the paths. We will continue that work in the off-season and into next year. So when you are in Camp, be smart - stay on the paths and do daily tick checks.

Do A Tick Check!

But sure not to miss these 'favorite' spots:

- Along your hairline
- Back of your neck
- Armpits
- Groin
- Legs
- Behind Your Knees
- Between Your Toes

*It's best to check for ticks **every day***

Ticks can be very small, so look for 'new freckles'

	Larvae	Nymph	Adult
Deer Ticks	→	•	•
American Dog Ticks	→	•	•

Actual Size

Thank You!

On behalf of the Pinewoods Community, I would like to thank Jan Elliott and Barbara Blair for all their work on this and previous Posts. This kind of contribution is invaluable to Pinewoods. It's part of what makes the place so special.

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