



The Pinewoods Post

◆ AUTUMN 2018 ◆

Forest Succession

By David Conant

Grown from the fields

When Helen Storrow first purchased the property that is now Pinewoods, the forest landscape was quite different from the one we know. The name Cornish Field Road is a clue to what the land was like in the nineteenth century. The sandy soil would not support many crops but it could support pastures. Camp was covered with oaks and pitch pines, pioneer trees populating former sheep pastures. The large white pines that now predominate were young, seeded by old growth at field edges. In the picture to the right, we see Long Pond from Long Pond Road at the north end of Little Long Pond. No large trees interrupt the view.



Photo courtesy of the Conant Family Archives

Growth and devastation

By the 1940s, the young pines of Storrow's early camp were thriving 30-year-old trees. In the left-hand picture below we see the shoreline in 1939. A few older pines tower over the younger growth. Then, in 1944, a hurricane swept across the area. Pines have shallow root systems, and sandy soil does not hold them with great strength. They tended to uproot and topple whole. Oaks, with their stronger roots and wood, were not toppled, but more often had their trunks snapped 30 or 40 feet up. In the right-hand picture below we see the original C# crushed by toppled pines. The storm transformed large sections of the forest by letting in light and eliminating competition from older trees. A dense growth of white pines was stimulated by this change. In other places, as you wander around camp, you can see that many of the older oaks have a jog, or they branch out heavily where their tops broke off long ago.

(continued on pg. 3)



Shore by Men's Bath-House.

Photo courtesy of the Conant Family Archives



Photo courtesy of the Conant Family Archives

In This Issue

- ◆ Forest Succession
- ◆ Notes from the Executive Director
- ◆ Scholarships to Pinewoods Camp
 - ◆ Annual Appeal
- ◆ Notes from the Board
- ◆ Work Weekends

Notes from the Executive Director

By Carl Mastandrea

At this time of year, I have a chance to both look back at the 2018 season and look forward to an off-season. Just when I was looking forward to some downtime, Tony Baker came into my office and changed my plans.

Tony, our head of grounds, has decided to retire. I will miss my friend dearly, especially in the off-season. During last year's long winter, during the crazy storms, when he and I were the only ones in Camp, it was nice to have a friend to rely on, to vent to, and to help take care of Camp.

(continued on pg. 2)

Notes from the Executive Director (cont.)



Tony Baker (Photographer unknown)

We spent a good deal of time and money last spring trying to improve the accessibility of Camp. We built four new ramps, and seeing their actual use was amazing. Watching Julie Vallimont roll into the Camp Store is one of my favorite moments. The ramp to Newbiggin changed the use of the building. More events were held there, and the space became more useful. We will continue to make improvements in this area in the off-season.



Photo by Carol Amico

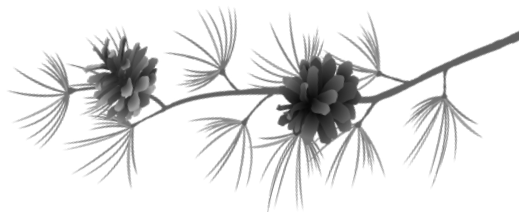
The summer season is intense, and we do our best to ride out heat waves, crew sickness, appliance failures, leaky trucks, and eel attacks with smiles on our faces. The crew does a remarkable job of keeping the place clean, preparing delicious food, and dealing with both minor and major emergencies. Seasonal jobs are hard. You have to hit the ground running, and the intensity doesn't let up until the season is over. It's a tribute to the Pinewoods community that we continue to find great staff. Even at this early date, I would encourage anyone thinking of applying to be on crew next summer to contact me. Please help spread the word among people who know Pinewoods, and even those who don't, that there is a great experience waiting for them at a certain dance camp in a pine forest in the near future.



Photo by Jeff Bary

Looking at the big picture, we want to boldly face the challenge of becoming more active stewards of the forest, this great natural resource that we are blessed with overseeing. Last winter there was a tremendous amount of weather-related tree loss. Another thirty trees are scheduled to be taken down this fall. We want to develop a better forestry plan, looking at things like density, diversity, wind shear, fire load, and the effects of climate change. We need to dedicate a big chunk of money to catch up with what we have neglected, and to pursue a program in the future that ensures the safety of Camp and the health of the forest. I'm hoping you will support our efforts.

Finally, I want to thank the crew, the volunteers, the program providers, and the campers for making 2018 another special Pinewoods season to remember! ◆



Forest Succession (cont.)

Forest succession continues

By the 1990s, the young pines of the 1940s and the remnants of their predecessors became the dominant feature of the Pinewoods forest. They were now between 50 and 90 years old. Among them were clusters of hardwoods that found supportive niches. These hardwoods—often beeches—that adapted to growing in the shade, began to build an understory. Nature intervened again in 1991 with Hurricane Bob. While not as devastating as the 1944 storm, Bob still knocked down a number of the larger pines. A burst of baby trees met optimal growing conditions, and the open park-like woods behind C# were transformed into a dense matrix of saplings. In the picture below, taken last winter, we can clearly see the layers of succession. The crown of large pines are the crop from the 1944 hurricane. Below them are the leaves of the beech understory that grew up over several decades. Farther down are vigorous young pines released by Bob.



Photo by David Conant

A hard winter

This year in March, the growth and destruction cycle continued. A succession of severe winter storms overwhelmed trees that were in any way compromised. Again, oak trees tended to break at forks and weak branch locations. Pines, on the other hand, tended to come down whole by uprooting, or nearly whole by snapping 4 to 8 feet off the ground if their trunks had been colonized by carpenter ants. We can expect to see yet another flush of sprouts over the next few years in spots where the canopy has new holes in it. The final picture below shows the main path where trees were exposed to the maximum wind and heavy snow. ◆



Photo by David Conant



2018 crew members (Photographer unknown)



Frank Albani of Golden Rule Farm - one of our favorite farmers (Photo by Carl Mastandrea)

Scholarships to Pinewoods Camp

By Jan Burdick

Pinewoods Camp is pleased to support the growth of our folk arts community by offering scholarships at each camp session held at Pinewoods every summer. Through our New Generation Initiative (NGI) program, we jointly provide funding with program providers who organize and run the sessions and help select scholarship recipients. NGI scholarships are intended for younger campers, between the ages of 15 and 30, who are new to our community, demonstrate financial need, and are interested in leadership roles in traditional music, dance, and song.

Applying for an NGI scholarship

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in applying for an NGI scholarship, take a look at next season's schedule of upcoming sessions at our website, pinewoods.org. When registration opens in the spring, contact the appropriate program provider to register and apply for the session that interests you. Program providers include the Country Dance & Song Society; Country Dance Society, Boston Centre; Folk Arts Center of New England; Folk Music Society of New York; and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch. Each program provider may combine NGI scholarship funding with other funding sources to create a full or half scholarship for you.

If selected as an NGI recipient, you will:

- need to have a sponsor to answer questions prior to camp and help with registration. (Program providers can help with finding sponsors.)
- be assigned a mentor at camp to introduce you to the programs, community, and camp life. (This may be the same person as your sponsor.)
- meet with the executive director of Pinewoods during the camp session.
- write a thank-you letter at the end of the session that we post on our website.



Photo by Jeff Bary

Sponsors and mentors

If you are interested in being a sponsor or mentor for a particular individual or session, please contact the appropriate program provider. We'd be glad to have your assistance in welcoming new folks to our community.

Supporting the NGI scholarship program

For general questions about the NGI program, email us at ngi@pinewoods.org.

Past recipient letters

Check out letters from past recipients at the NGI link on our website.

Thank you for your interest in the New Generation Initiative. See you at Camp! ◆



Photo by Carl Mastandrea



Photo by Carol Amico

Annual Appeal

Please support Pinewoods Camp! Your tax-deductible contributions, in any amount, to our Annual Appeal or Planned Giving Campaign will help us achieve our goals:

- Preserve our woods by developing and implementing a comprehensive forestry plan
- Protect our ponds
- Make ongoing repairs and improvements to outdated electrical and plumbing lines
- Continue to maintain and improve our cabins, pavilions, Camp House, and Dining Hall to meet camper needs while still preserving our rustic environment
- Continue our efforts to control erosion of our paths
- Improve accessibility
- Provide scholarships
- 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 by donating here: <http://www.pinewoods.org/support-pinewoods/donate/> ◆



Photo by Jeff Bary

Notes from the Board

By Marissa Roque

It is hard to believe another summer at Pinewoods has come and gone already! Members of the PCI Board of Directors have been at Camp in a number of capacities this summer — as campers, staff, session coordinators, volunteers, and even managing the Bookstore during Country Dance & Song Society (CDSS) sessions. I love seeing Camp in full swing. It is gratifying to witness the appreciation for the improvements we do in the off-season.

This fall, Martin Barbour will be joining the board as a director, nominated by CDSS. Martin is an active member of the folk dance community in Princeton, NJ, and works as a high school science and special education teacher.

Warren Anderson is returning to the board to take over the remainder of Joanna Reiner Wilkinson's term, and will also serve as president of the board for the coming year.

As for the work of the board, this winter the personnel committee will conduct an analysis of our current hiring and management practices of the PCI crew. With labor laws being revised all the time, we think it is time to take a closer look at the positions and contracts of crew members to see if we should make any changes or revisions. In addition, the facilities committee will work with Carl to develop an up-to-date forestry management plan for the PCI property. ◆

Program Providers

Boston Branch, 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
781.591.2372 • www.cds-boston.org

Country Dance & Song Society

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 345
Easthampton, MA 01027-2759
Steve Howe • Director of Camp Programs • camp@cdss.org
413.203.5467 • www.cdss.org

Folk Arts Center of New England

10 Franklin St., Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
Marcie Van Cleave • Executive Director • fac@facone.org
781.438.4387 • www.facone.org

Pinewoods Post

Sue Rosen • Editor • suerosen-caller@yahoo.com
Carl Mastandrea • Executive Director • manager@pinewoods.org
Kim Becker • Design & Layout
Jan Elliott & Anne Ketchen • Proofreaders

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 copy, email manager@pinewoods.org or call 508-224-4858.



Photo by Carl Mastandrea



The Pinewoods Post

♦ AUTUMN 2018 ♦

Pinewoods Camp, Inc. ♦ 80 Cornish Field Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Work Weekends

A huge thank-you to the many volunteers who gave their time and worked so hard at our spring and fall work weekends! There is a lot to do when we open and close Camp for the season: opening and closing cabins, moving docks, washing curtains, painting signs, clearing trees, splitting wood, and scrubbing equipment. We couldn't do it without you! Consider joining us next year and experience firsthand why our cheerful and devoted helpers keep returning every spring and fall.

Andrea Aeschlimann
Andrew Moore
Anna Shipunova
Barbara Morrison
Bruce Mabbott
Chris Reynolds
Clara Stefanov-Wagner
Daniel Friedman
Diane Lockhart
Dragan Gill
Eileen Kennedy
Eliot Layton
Emilie Moore
Emma Anderson
Emma Mabbott Aeschlimann

Erin Ricker
Gillian Stewart
Hannah Bary
Hannah McArdle
Harriet Bernstein
Jakob Raitzyk
Jennifer Davis
Jennifer Dodwell
Jennifer Rusche
Jeremy Thorpe
Jerome Fung
Jim Greaney
Kat Dutton
Katrina Bercaw
Laura DeCesare

Marissa Roque
Martin Barbour
Marty Stock
Melinda Ricker
Paul Levitt
Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner
Ruth Howe
Seth Weidner
Steve Howe
Tom Howe
Thom Yarnal
Tom O'Connor
Warren Anderson
Willy Clemetson

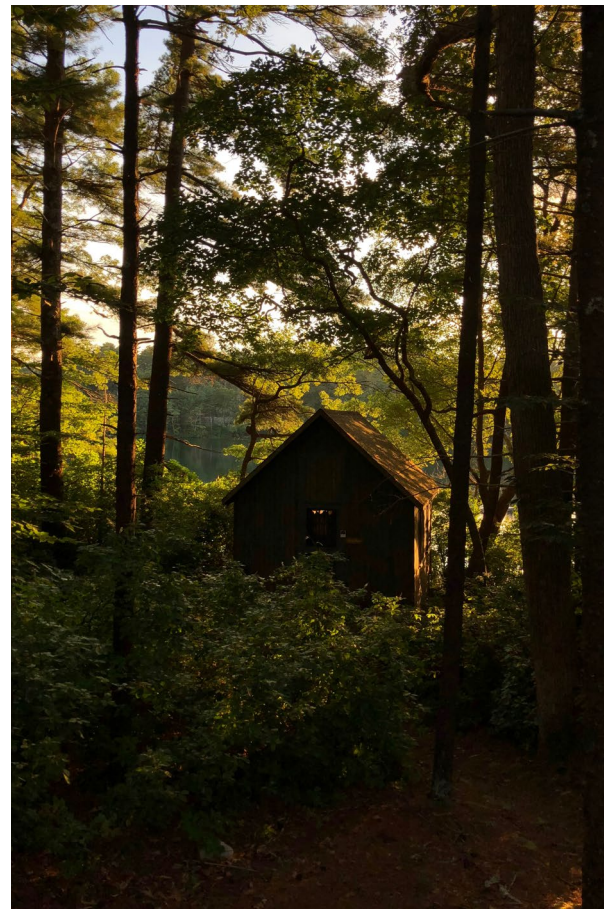


Photo by Carl Mastandrea