



The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2019 ◆

"Hello ... Pinecones"

By Chris Ricciotti

A light bulb is out in Pinecones. A toilet is leaking in Lads. Have you ever wondered how the Pinewoods crew sent urgent messages around camp before mobile phones arrived? Here's the story, based on Chris's interview with Jack O'Connor of Carlisle, Massachusetts. (Editor)

When Jack O'Connor was 10 or 11, his uncle gave him a pair of toy intercom phones. This gift was the seed that started Jack's longtime interest in technology.

In the 1950s, when Jack's family vacationed in rural New Hampshire, the local village still had crank phone service, all connected to a switchboard and run by a family from their home in the center of town. Around then, Jack started collecting old crank phones and wire; he eventually ran a pair of wires from his telephones to a neighbor's home, and later to other nearby neighbors along their road, creating a private intercom party line. Jack also started playing music about that time, mostly banjo and bass, which led to his lifetime involvement in the traditional dance and music scene.

In the 1970s, while Jack was playing in the Cambridge Folk Orchestra, he made his way to Pinewoods and fell in love with it. Jack noticed that there was no communication system at camp, except for an outside telephone line that ran into the main office and down to the kitchen, which was disconnected in the winter to save money. Crew would run up and down the path along the pond between the kitchen and the office to talk with each other because there was no easy way to call back on the same line to get the other party to pick up.

(continued on pg. 3)



Photo by Carl Mastandrea



Photo by Carl Mastandrea

Notes from the Executive Director

By Carl Mastandrea

I am happy to say that this winter was mostly uneventful, weather-wise, at Camp -- a quiet season, seeing the tracks of foxes, raccoons, and rabbits, with sighting of owls, eagles, and hawks.

We did lose a half dozen big trees but they all fell in fortuitous directions -- Camp fairies at work, I'm sure, though they owed us after deserting us last year. We continue to be proactive with our forest management by identifying and removing potential problem trees. Here are the remains of a sixty-foot "leaner" ready to crush a cabin close to the shore of Long Pond.

Off-Season Projects -- We are working on projects both big and small this off-season. As soon as the weather breaks, we'll be building two new crew cabins in the Highlands. Thanks to Eileen Callahan and Deborah Kruskal for their work on the design.

(continued on pg. 2)

In This Issue

- ◆ "Hello ... Pinecones" ◆ Notes from the Executive Director
- ◆ Welcoming the 2019 Crew ◆ 2019 Summer Schedule
- ◆ Notes from the Board ◆ Work Weekends

Notes from the Executive Director (cont.)

A new deck at the bottom of the stairs of C# will provide a sitting area, and campers will be able to fill their water bottles without having to take off their dancing shoes.

The bathrooms at Royton are scheduled for an upgrade, and there will be full-length mirrors in every cabin.

Accessibility -- We continue to look at ways to make Camp more accessible. By Camp opening, we plan on having railings built at all cabins that have two or more steps. In addition, we have added stairs at the bottom of Mary and Dorothy and a railing up to Kitty Alone. We've added grab bars in the bathrooms.

Ongoing Maintenance -- Each summer season I keep a list of the smaller projects I'd like to see done in the off-season -- fix a bureau, repair a door, replace a lamp, and so on. We are close to finishing that list. In addition, we have an in-house list of scheduled facility projects. We had nineteen roofs reshingled this fall, including Hunsdon House, the Bookstore, and many cabins. In addition, all these cabins were given roof vents in the hope of alleviating some of the heat of those hot summer nights.



Photo by Carl Mastandrea

By spring of this year, we hope to complete our three-year project of reglazing and painting every window in Camp. During the winter, this process entails removing the windows from each cabin, covering the openings with plywood, bringing the windows to the shop for renewal, then returning and installing them in the cabins. Next cabin: repeat. They should be good for another fifteen years. See above "before and after" photos of the process.



Introducing Dennis Carchedi -- Our new caretaker has been ably filling Tony Baker's shoes since Tony's retirement in the fall. Dennis comes to us after a career most recently as a program director for the Kennedy Donovan Center and a life of working with his hands. Both a father and a grandfather, Dennis has a nice easy way about him and a strong work ethic. Camp is in good hands. He has a short commute from his home on the end of Cornish Field Road. Campers will have the opportunity to meet Dennis since he'll be working three days a week during the season. Dennis will also help train the grounds crew.



Photo by Carl Mastandrea

Annual Appeal -- I want to thank everyone who gave to this year's very successful annual appeal. As you know, last winter was an expensive one for Camp, and your generosity has helped with the cost of cleanup. I want to especially thank the sixty-two campers who were first-time donors. Maintaining this oasis in the woods takes the effort of the whole Pinewoods community. And by far, this is my favorite donation of all time: You go, Charlotte!

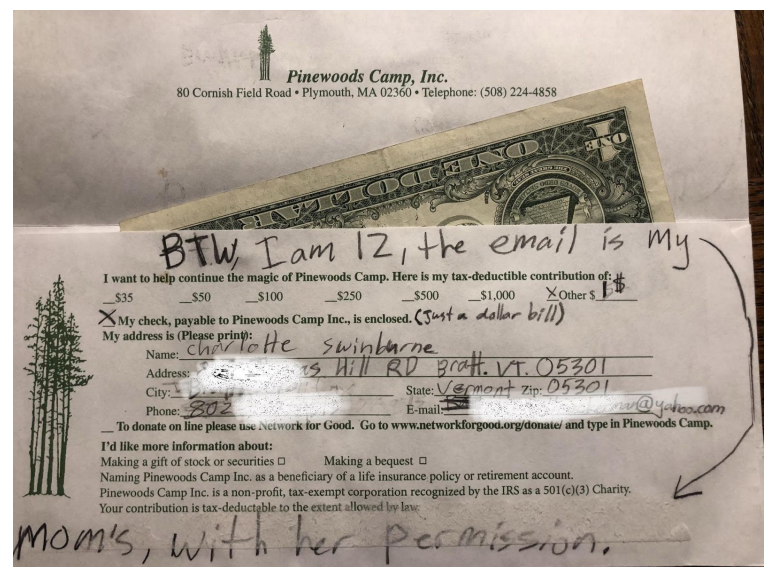


Photo by Carl Mastandrea

Finally, spring is on its way. I'm looking forward to warmer weather, the start of the new season, and seeing many of you back at Pinewoods this summer. ◆

Photo on left by Carl Friedman

“Hello .. Pinecones” (cont.)

Fondly remembering the intercom system he had set up with his rural neighbors back in the 1950s, and by this time having amassed a collection of phones and wire, Jack convinced Gerda Conant, whose family owned Pinewoods at that time, and Ed Wilfert, the caretaker at Pinewoods, that this type of system would benefit them.

In 1977 or '78, Jack brought his equipment to camp, ran a wire through the trees along the main path near the pond between the Camp Office and the kitchen, and installed a crank phone at both locations. Strung through the trees, the system proved to be high maintenance, vulnerable to the elements, and susceptible to branches coming down on wires. However, it worked, and the crew and staff loved it! This provided Jack with a great excuse to come to Pinewoods often, to service the technology he loves, and hang out with his musician and dancer friends.

Around 1981, Jack extended the intercom line from the kitchen using the utility poles that came into camp from the main dirt path, installing a phone at Pinecones for the off-season crew living there, to Hunsdon House, the Workshop, and John Raymond. Another overhead line was run in trees from the Camp Office over to the Conants' cabins when Camp Manager Jacqueline Schwab stayed for the summer season. Some campers were unhappy with this setup, reporting that they didn't like seeing lines on trees -- it looked too modern.

Service was further upgraded in 1986 when Pinewoods started a utilities improvement project, with volunteers digging trenches all around camp and installing new water and electrical supply lines. Jack used this opportunity to bury all the phone cables for the intercom system around camp, taking wires off the trees and reconnecting the phones to the new cables. Not only an



Jack O'Connor at work on the phone lines. Photos courtesy of Jack O'Connor

esthetic improvement, the buried cable improved the sound quality and reliability of the system. Jack was able to convince some phone company personnel to donate cable for this project.

When completed, the Pinewoods intercom system had phones in nine locations. Loud external ringers were installed outside the First Aid Room, the kitchen, and the Workshop. Many of these phones are still used, especially when cell phone service is down, and they are fondly referred to as the “ringy dingies” by the staff and crew.

In the summer of 2000, while working on the kitchen crew at Pinewoods, I was completely taken with Jack's crank phone intercom system, and I used it frequently. I was always looking for an excuse to pick up a phone and make a call. It was one of the many highlights of my summer at Pinewoods. Little did I know that I would open my own switchboard and telephone museum in the spring of 2018 in Rockland, Massachusetts. ◆

Welcoming the 2019 Crew

The following is a partial list of the upcoming summer's crew.
These hard working folks ensure you'll be well fed, safe, and comfortable at Camp.

Office Manager	Thom Yarnal
Head Cook	Sophie Bady-Kaye
2nd Cook	Amanda Barbour
3rd Cook	TBA
Dining Hall Manager	Jack Janssen
Kitchen Aide	Kathryn Barbour
Kitchen Aide	Alix Janssen

Kitchen Aide	Fiona Rogers
Kitchen Aide	Emilie Moore
Dishwasher	Issac Burr
Pot Washer	Sam Howe
Grounds Crew Chief	Morgan Lobrose
Grounds Crew	Rowyn Peel
Grounds Crew	Eliot Layton

2019 Summer Program Schedule

Join us at Pinewoods Camp for any of these wonderful sessions. For more information on these programs see our website: <http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/session-schedule/> and contact the sponsoring program provider.

Jun 7 - Jun 9, 2019: Hungarian Weekend

Sponsored by: Folk Arts Center of New England

Jun 14 - Jun 16, 2019: Swing Into Summer

Sponsored by: CDS Boston Centre

Jun 20 - Jun 27, 2019: Folk Arts Center of New England Weekend and FolkDays

Sponsored by: Folk Arts Center of New England

Jun 27 - Jul 1, 2019: July 4th Weekend

Sponsored by: CDS Boston Centre

Jul 1 - Jul 5, 2019: English Scottish Contra (ESC)

Sponsored by: CDS Boston Centre, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Jul 5 - Jul 13, 2019: Royal Scottish Country Dance Session I & II

Sponsored by: Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Jul 13 - Jul 20, 2019: Family Week

Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Jul 20 - Jul 27, 2019: Harmony of Song and Dance Week

Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Jul 27 - Aug 3, 2019: English Dance Week

Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Aug 3 - Aug 10, 2019: American Dance and Music Week

Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Aug 10 - Aug 17, 2019: Early Music Week

Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Aug 17 - Aug 24, 2019: Campers' Week

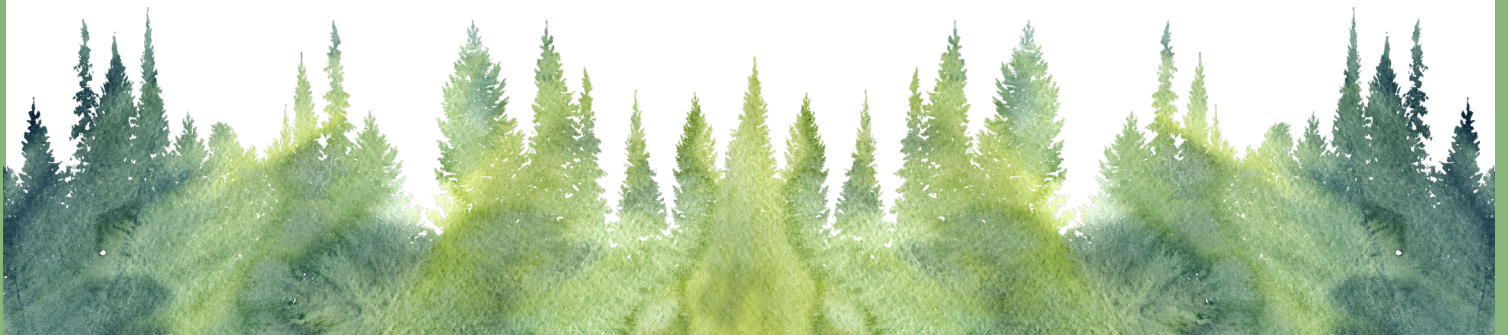
Sponsored by: Country Dance and Song Society

Aug 24 - Aug 30, 2019: TradMaD Camp (Traditional Music and Dance Camp)

Sponsored by: Folk Music Society of New York and others

Aug 30 - Sep 3, 2019: Labor Day Weekend

Sponsored by: CDS Boston Centre, Folk Arts Center of New England



Notes from the Board

By Warren Anderson

First, I want to express my gratitude to Joanna Reiner Wilkinson, previous president of the Board of Directors, and to Marissa Roque, our vice president who served as interim president following Joanna's departure last year, for their skillful and attentive leadership. I return to serve out the balance of Joanna's term as board president during a time of transition for the board, in which we are planning for new directors to assume leadership of the board.

During my tenure as president from 2012 to 2016, I worked to focus the board's attention on adapting to the changes occurring in the traditional dance and music communities, and on the impact of those changes on activities at Pinewoods. All nonprofit organizations, and arts groups in particular, face demographic, cultural, and economic challenges that we could not anticipate a generation ago. Our work to adapt to change will continue as we cultivate new leadership for our board.

The Camp Facilities Committee has been working with Carl Mastandrea to address deferred maintenance of buildings and grounds that accumulated while we were focused on projects funded by the Legacy Campaign. You can read about the progress in this issue's "Notes from the Executive Director."

This past fall, the Development Committee worked with Carl to rejuvenate our Annual Appeal fundraising effort with the assistance of George McCully, a fundraising consultant from Boston. This effort yielded a 40% increase in contributions to our appeal over 2017. Our thanks to everyone who contributed!

In years past, much of the crew has come from a sort of "Pinewoods pipeline" populated by young adults who have grown up coming to Camp, and friends they recruit from colleges they attend. The improving economics of the job market has affected that so much that the Personnel Committee is assisting Carl with developing other sources for recruiting candidates for crew positions. The committee is also assisting Carl in developing a more formal orientation and training program for crew, and instituting other measures to insure that the crew is productive, adaptive, and happy during their stay at Camp.

Carl is working with the Archives Committee on a plan to begin digitizing our archives, which are stored at the University of New Hampshire.

Finally, the New Generations Initiative -- our joint scholarship program with program providers -- has prepared and distributed a new flyer to promote sessions at Camp with the purpose of recruiting young musicians, singers, and dance leaders who are new to Camp, and for whom financial support is instrumental in their ability to attend a session. ◆



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



Photo by Carl Friedman



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◆ SPRING 2019 ◆

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Plymouth, MA 02360

Work Weekends

Spring Work Weekends are scheduled for May 17-May 19 and Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-May 27. These are two great opportunities to spend time with old friends, make new friends, and contribute your loving labor to Pinewoods in preparation for the new season. Volunteers with a will to do grounds work and cleanup are welcome; no special skills required! Housing and meals are provided. Evening activities, initiated by those attending, may include dancing, singing, jamming, playing games, or just hanging out. Please register at least three days in advance and check with us before bringing children. Folks new to Camp are welcome! Work Weekends fill up quickly, so sign up now on our website, www.pinewoods.org, or call 508-224-4858. ◆



Photo by Jeff Bary