



The Pinewoods Post

◆ AUTUMN 2019 ◆

Six Ponds, One Community

By Kate Harvey, Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Pond Representative

You turn off the highway and navigate your way to West Long Pond Road. You slow down and open the windows. You hear the crunch of the gravel road under your tires and breathe in the damp pine forest. You catch a glimpse of the glistening water and know that you've arrived. Whether you've been coming for decades or this is your first time, Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, Massachusetts, remains a welcome retreat in a beautiful natural setting.

It is actually quite remarkable that Pinewoods and the immediate surroundings, referred to locally as the Six Ponds area, have been able to maintain the rural wooded character over time. Once a remote location, the Town of Plymouth has grown from 14,000 residents in 1950 into a suburban community of nearly 60,000 year-round residents, 14 schools, 11 golf courses, 7 firehouses, and thousands of businesses. For decades the Six Ponds community has felt the pressure of residential development and associated impacts, including land conversion, traffic, and water quality. Fortunately, the area is also home to persistent individuals and organizations that are connected by a strong sense of place, each playing a different role to preserve the character of the community.

"Six Ponders" are passionate about the quality of life they enjoy in South Plymouth, and more importantly, they never take it for granted.

-Karen Grey, Executive Director at Wildlands Trust

Six Ponds Improvement Association

Recognizing that change was inevitable, in 1951 a group of residents formed the Six Ponds Improvement Association to protect the well-being of the Ponds -- Long, Little Long, Round, Gallows, Halfway, and Bloody -- from the impacts of rapid development. Still active today, the all-volunteer organization meets monthly to stay informed and influence action on issues ranging from land use to water quality and fire safety. Pinewoods Camp hosts the Six Ponds annual meeting and participates in its ongoing efforts.

We envision a future where open land is abundant, our water is clean, and forests, farms, wetlands, fields, ponds, and coastal areas are commonplace sightings on our landscape.

-Wildlands Trust

Wildlands Trust

Founded in 1973, Wildlands Trust is one of the largest and oldest regional land trusts in the state. It works with government agencies, nonprofits, and individual landowners to protect natural and agricultural lands in Southeastern Massachusetts. Headquartered on Long Pond Road, Wildlands Trust owns much of the conservation land around the Six Ponds area and hosts regular educational lectures, yoga, guided trail hikes, and youth outreach programs.

Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barren Alliance (SEMPBA)

Pinewoods Camp is located in the distinctive coastal pine barren. Globally rare, this habitat is threatened by development and climate change. The all-volunteer SEMPBA uses education and citizen science (involvement of the public in scientific research) to support the protection and resilience of plants and animals that rely on the pine barrens habitat, including pitch pine, scrub oak, herring, bats, horseshoe crabs, moths, and northern red-bellied cooters.

Pinewoods Camp Inc. (PCI)

Not only does PCI maintain the Pinewoods camp facilities, the organization also sets policies to conserve the local watershed and identify management plans to protect the long-term well-being of the surrounding habitat. From forest management to septic maintenance, PCI works to lower the environmental impact of camp operations and maintains collaborative relationships with local organizations to support the shared long-term vision for the Six Ponds community. ◆

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.

-John Muir



Photo by Kate Harvey



2 Red-bellied cooters

Photo courtesy of MassWildlife

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
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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 Fred Gerhard

New Generation Initiative

Through our New Generation Initiative (NGI) program, Pinewoods Camp supports the growth of the folk arts community by offering scholarships at each of the camp sessions held at Pinewoods. NGI scholarships are intended for younger campers, between the ages of 15 and 30, who are new to our community, demonstrate financial need, or are interested in leadership roles in traditional music, dance, and song. Since 2006, over 350 scholarships have been jointly provided by PCI and our program providers. Following their camp session, each recipient writes a thank-you letter. Here are excerpts from several of the letters received this summer. You can read the complete letters and many more on our website: <http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/ngi-scholarship-info/ngi-recipient-letters/>

Thank you to our sponsors who invite NGI recipients to camp and help smooth their way by assisting with registration and making connections at camp. Interested in sponsoring a new camper? Learn more about NGI here: <http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/ngi-scholarship-info/>

Zoe Crafton attended Early Music Week. My favorite memory will be from the very last day. I tripped and skinned my knee before lunch, I washed and stacked dishes after the meal, and I headed straight to the Accademia presentation to sing. My performance attire consisted of shorts, t-shirt, a skinned knee, and the slight dampness of dishwater. I sang music from the late Renaissance in a camphouse overlooking the clearest lake I have ever seen. It was a little slice of heaven. Thank you for that privilege.

Laina Johnston attended Scottish Session II. Coming from a group of 8 dancers to 140 dancers made me feel like I was at RSCD Super Bowl, but it was terrific!!! I am so thankful for the opportunity to improve my skills, meet wonderful people, and have the best time dancing! Thank you for making this possible for me!

Harsh Singh attended Hungarian Weekend. The NGI scholarship made choosing Pinewoods and the Hungarian dance weekend a no-brainer. The result was an unforgettable memory and the start of a lifelong Pinewoods dance camp tradition. I want to really thank the Pinewoods and the Folk Arts Center communities for having this scholarship and for helping sway me to come here. Most of all, I want to thank everyone for building something so precious and beautiful! I know I'll keep coming back.

Dean Woodrow attended ESC (English-Scottish-Contra).

Throughout my time at Pinewoods ESCape week, I found myself thinking some of the same thoughts over and over again. I kept remarking on the beauty of the camp, with its towering pines and crystal clear pond waters. I was continually taken aback by the friendliness of the people with whom I shared so much in common. Chief among these thoughts was the sheer disbelief that Pinewoods had managed to elude me for so long. A part of me is saddened that I have already missed twenty-two summers of Pinewoods, but a larger part is thoroughly resolved to never miss another. ESCape week was, by a large margin, the most fun I have ever had. I owe that all to the NGI scholarship, without which I would be marking my twenty-third year sans Pinewoods. ◆



Notes from the Executive Director

It takes a village. Pinewoods style 2019.

By Carl Mastandrea

The main well pump failed this summer during Folk Days at about 11 a.m. Not having water has obvious consequences: no showers, no flushing toilets, no dishwasher. But it also has other not so obvious but equally important consequences. The kitchen staff has to be able to wash their hands. On an average day, they may wash their hands more than a dozen times. This has to be done. No exceptions. When it was clear that the pump had failed, the staff immediately sprang into action. Crew went out to purchase twenty cases of bottled water and forty individual gallons. The kitchen crew set up hand-washing stations, pulled out our backup supply of disposable plates and utensils, and planned two meals ahead in case we were down for an extended period of time. Bean Knott was in Camp, and she and Sam Howe organized the general Camp response. They collected water from Dennis Carchedi's house on Cornish Field Rd. Signs were put on every bathroom to use outhouses when possible. Buckets of water were put in every bathroom so the toilets could be flushed. In the Dining Hall, Meghan Murray helped by keeping campers informed and ensuring that proper hand-washing procedures were followed. The kitchen and grounds crew all did their part in an emergency effort to deal with an obviously difficult situation. Everyone stepped up -- crew, campers, friends, and volunteers alike. To my surprise, the well guys accepted my offer to help. I took the end of the pipe, and, as they did the hard work of pulling up the pump from the well, I walked it through the woods in the Highlands where there is no path. In a scene from a bad movie, I grabbed the pipe, holding it over my shoulder, and comically stumbled through the brambles and brush, being pushed more than pulling, barely keeping my footing. To the delight of the professionals, I got showered with freezing cold well water as it poured down the back of my neck at the end of the run. It was my baptism. I was now one of them. Though their workday should have ended hours ago, they stayed and installed the new pump. Water was back and running by evening. No one blinked, no one complained, everyone worked together, and when the water came back on, everyone cheered.

We lost electricity twice this summer. Early in the season, it went out during ESC around 5:30 p.m. Dinner had been made so our concern turned to the evening dance. We lit C# with lanterns

on benches between the rows of dancers. The band sat at the front of the stage and every musician played in every song. Folks danced on the new deck until it got dark. No one missed a beat. It was a throwback moment to a time without sound systems and microphones. Campers turned this potential disruption into a moment of grace. It was intimate and elegant and memorable.

During American Week a camper collapsed on the new C# deck and had a heart attack. He was revived with the camp automated external defibrillator (AED), and thanks to the remarkable work of both campers and Camp staff, the story had a happy ending. He wrote us to say, "I can't think of any better place for my death and resurrection than Pinewoods Camp." Had he collapsed in the Dining Hall, the race to get the AED from my office may have meant the difference between life and death. I am happy to say that the campers at American Week took up a collection and bought another AED for the Dining Hall. Then Camp decided to buy two more so there is now one at C# and one at Pinecones.

This is the definition of teamwork, both during and after the incident, and evidence of a special community. This community comes together in times of joy and times of trouble. These moments illustrate part of what makes Pinewoods so special. ◆



Photo by David Conant

News from the Board

By Warren Anderson

First, I want to express my gratitude to the board for the opportunity to serve as its president for the past year. Succeeding me as president this fall will be Martin Barbour who has extensive experience as a director and officer of several nonprofit organizations. He has quickly become active with policy matters, projects, and operations of camp as a director and as a volunteer during the summer. Two of Martin's daughters have also worked on the kitchen crew for the past two summers.

Since the spring, the Camp Facilities Committee has continued working with Carl as he completed more deferred maintenance of buildings and grounds, the construction of two crew cabins, and construction of the new deck on C#, which will be completed this fall.

The Development Committee worked with Carl and fundraising consultant George McCully to increase contributions to our Annual Appeal by 34% over 2018.

The Archives Committee is working with the Country Dance and Song Society on a joint effort to digitize our archives, which are stored at the University of New Hampshire.

In closing I thank the departing directors for their service: Bill Cronin for his work on the Camp Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee, Gene Murrow for his work on the Development Committee and Personnel Committee, and Chuck Gordon for his work on the Development Committee and Finance Committee.

The Board welcomes new directors Marney Morrison of Charlottesville, VA, nominated by CDSS; Corey Walters of Montague, MA, At-Large; and Margie Landa, of Brooklyn, NY, At-Large. ◆



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Pinewoods Camp Inc. ◆ 80 Cornish Field Road
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Work Weekends

Many thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time, hard work, and good cheer at our spring and fall work weekends. Opening and closing Camp for the season is a huge undertaking: cleaning cabins, moving mattresses, installing docks, washing and hanging 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	Kristin Fleischmann-Rose	Timothy Mueller-Harder
Emma Mabbott Aeschlimann	Katy Tarter German	Meghan Murray
Zoe Mabbott Aeschlimann	Dragan Gill	Chris Reynolds
Janet Anderson	Jim Greaney	Melinda Ricker
Warren Anderson	Noel Hess	Erin Ricker
Sophie Bady-Kaye	Thom Howe	Marissa Roque
Martin Barbour	Katie Johntz	Jennifer Rusche
Amanda Barbour	Anne Kennedy	Anna Shipunova
Katrina Bercaw	Peter Kruskal	Natty Smith
Sonja Boet-Whitaker	Eliot Layton	Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner
Isaac Burr	Cecile Leroy	Clara Stefanov-Wagner
Benjamin Dalven	Bruce Mabbott	Laura Stern
Laura DeCesare	Jim Madigan	Gillian Stewart
Mark Dooley	Hannah McArdle	Seth Weidner
BDan Fairchild	Emilie Moore	Pace Willisson
Ezra Fischer	Barbara Morrison	Thom Yarnal
		Richard Yospin



Photo by Nikki Herbst