



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2021 ◆

Greetings from the Executive Director

By Chris Jacobs

Rain. Rain. Rain. It provided campers ample opportunity to view fungi and slime molds throughout the summer sessions. They were beautiful, stunning, unique. The rain also quenched the thirst of our fall-flowering native perennials and the Six Ponds area is now ablaze with yellows, purples, and whites from goldenrods and asters. The beauty of native plants is that they are strong and resilient, sometimes growing in the unlikeliest of places. They are generous, they feed the local wildlife -- especially birds, bees, and butterflies -- and by doing so, they support and increase biodiversity. They are nature's palette

providing viewers with a living canvas. On a crisp winter's day, after a fresh snowfall, nothing is more lovely than mini snowdrifts atop the spent fruit of wildflowers. It's a gentle reminder of what's to come, that tomorrow will arrive. Lady Bird Johnson stated, "Where flowers bloom, so does hope." When the rain returns in the spring, the wildflowers will emerge once again to feed our soul. ◆

*"Flowers are the music of the ground. From earth's lips spoken without sound."
~Edwin Curran*



Eurybia spectabilis (eastern showy aster) - Photo by Martin Barbour



Monotropa hypopitys (pinesap)
Photo by Daniel Freidman



Rhexia virginica (Virginia meadow-beauty)
Photo by Chris Jacobs



Epifagus virginiana (beechdrops)
Photo by Daniel Freidman

The New Generation Initiative Program - 2021

By Anna Alter

Through the New Generation Initiative Program (NGI), now in its fifteenth year, Pinewoods Camp and our program providers and organizers awarded twenty-five NGI scholarships during the 2021 summer season. NGI scholarships are intended for younger campers who are new to Camp or demonstrate financial need, and it is through your generous donations that we are able to financially assist and excitedly welcome each NGI recipient to Pinewoods!

At the end of each scholar's session, we ask to hear about their experience at Camp. We received letters full of delightful anecdotes and appreciation for the time at Pinewoods. All NGI thank you letters we received are published on the Pinewoods website.

Below are several excerpts from this past summer.

"A lot of the people I met have grown up in the community and have deep connections with the people there. I didn't grow up with anything like that, and never felt like I was missing much, but now, having been to Pinewoods, and having met so many folk dancers, I can see the importance of fostering community. This realization has been very meaningful for me, and it's affecting how I engage with the people around me, inside and outside of folk dancing, in an entirely new way.

"I really appreciate this opportunity to experience beautiful Pinewoods, and to become a new member of its amazing community. Thank you!"

-Julian Drumwright (FAC Weekend)

"It was deeply healing to be able to share these joyful feelings with people who care about dance in the same way as I do. And to be dancing with people who care about community safety as well. I really appreciated the care the event organizers put into doing this event as safely as possible.

"I am so grateful to Pinewoods, CDS Boston, and RSCDS for the tremendous week they put on together, and to NGI Scholarships for making it easy for me to say a resounding YES PLEASE to discovering the magic of Pinewoods. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for this year's beautiful ESCape!"

-Rachel Wetter (ESC - CDS-BC)

"Pinewoods and CDSS have fostered an incredible community. Immediately upon arrival, I was enveloped by it. I can't say the last time I felt so much like a thread in such a close-knit fabric. My dad said he had never heard me so happy as when I called him on my drive home to tell him about camp. I learned so much from the staff and fellow campers alike: sad songs, silly songs, Scandi dance tunes, contra-dance tunes, how to lead, how to follow. My appreciation for concertinas has quadrupled. My cup runneth over -- into my local community (SW Virginia)!"

-Molly Graham-Hickman (Harmony of Song & Dance - CDSS)

"I loved the unstructured evenings, where all over camp there were little gatherings taking place, dancing, or singing, or star-gazing, or jamming. And I was welcome to join in any of them. Long into the night, there was music and merrymaking. What a rare feeling that is. To be there, and participate in this intergenerational community, is something everyone should do at least once in their lives. [. . .] It's hard to speak to this experience, because Pinewoods left me speechless. Photos are worth 1000 words, but I turned my phone off on day one, and didn't turn it on again until Saturday, so I've none to add here. And none of that would have been possible without the generous scholarship I received. The financial assistance I was allocated allowed me the time to find people to cover my shifts, to afford gas, to actually enjoy a vacation during what has been a very difficult financial period. For what is offered, Pinewoods is very affordable, and when I return again, I hope to pay my own way."

-Samson Fowler (American Dance & Music Week - CDSS)

To read the 2021 NGI Scholarship thank you letters in full, visit our website at <http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/ngi-scholarship-info/ngi-recipient-letters/>.

Thank you again for each of your donations, which in part, support scholarships to Pinewoods Camp! ◆

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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
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Country Dance & Song Society (CDSS)

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Visit 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.

Thank You

From Chris Jacobs

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who came together to create the amazing 2021 Pinewoods Crew. It was a quick start to the season with an abrupt end; they never missed a step. The result was a fine choreographed dance that left me awestruck and inspired! Encore! Encore!



Thank You Pinewoods Crew 2021 • Photo by Martin Barbour

left to right, top to bottom

Dennis Carchedi, Seth Weidner, Frank Clayton, Hamish Swanson, Kathryn Barbour, Maeve Tyler-Penny, Erika King, Amanda Barbour, Elliot Layton, Isaac Burr, Rae Fixler, Daniel Friedman, Warren Anderson, Chris Jacobs, Anne Kennedy, Sam Overbeck, Tuesday Mueller-Harder, Jess Emery, Julia Rosenfeld, Morgan Lobrose, Laura DeCesare, Alix Janssen, Sean Lanni

Not Pictured: Sam Howe, Barbara Morrison, Susie Petrov, Fiona Rogers, Sarah May Schultz, Cat Weidner, Linden Wicinas. Many thanks to the others who supported Camp throughout the 2021 season. ◆



Introducing Kip
Photo by Martin Barbour

Pinewoods announces our newest crew member, Chief Security (Blanket) Officer, Kipper Bow. Kip, a lab-hound rescue from Arkansas, arrived at Camp on August 28 at 13 weeks old. He is thoroughly enjoying his new position and often can be found clearing sticks, moving rocks, and greeting each and every visitor.

Update on C# and C# Minor

On October 6, 2021, between eighty-five and one hundred members of the Pinewoods community attended a Zoom conversation about whether or not to rename the C# and C# Minor pavilions. In small group breakout rooms, each facilitated by a member of the Pinewoods board, everyone had the opportunity to share their thoughts and listen to other opinions about the pavilion names. We appreciate the universally respectful sharing of diverse perspectives. By the time this reaches you, another online community discussion will have taken place on October 23, 2021.

Thank you to those who have been part of this continuing discussion. Our overall approach to this process involves thoughtful listening and open dialogue. Following the publication of the Pinewoods Post in August, over one hundred people have written to the board at post@pinewoods.org. We value your participation and your patience with this process.

All the members of the Pinewoods Board of Directors will read and consider the written and verbal comments that are shared with us. We will keep the community apprised of our actions on this topic. ◆

The Importance of Volunteers at Pinewoods Camp

By Martin Barbour

Pinewoods Camp has been hosting traditional dancing since 1925, initially under the leadership of Helen Storrow, then nurtured by the Conant family, and since 1976 as a nonprofit organization known as Pinewoods Camp, Inc. (PCI). Maintaining the rustic facility and grounds has always been a labor of love, and the transition to PCI was enthusiastically supported by the Pinewoods dance community members to ensure the long-term sustainability of the place that hosts the dance and music traditions that we treasure.

Over the past forty-five years, the community that created PCI has continued to nurture and support the camp through financial gifts and through donation of their time and talents. Volunteers are a critical component of our camp operations. With only one year-round full-time staff member, our executive director, and a small seasonal staff, PCI relies on the gifts of time from our volunteer community members. They enable us to manage Camp during program sessions, maintain the facility, invest in improvements, support operations off-season, and minimize our operating costs to keep camp affordable. Anyone who has attended a camp session has supported our volunteer mission through the daily camp jobs, whether it be greeting campers, helping in the dining hall or kitchen, sweeping floors, or cleaning up after late-night parties. We also rely on the many volunteers

who work part-time to support the summer crew in the kitchen, office, or on the grounds in exchange for housing and attendance at camp sessions.

In a typical camp season we rely on volunteers to open and close camp during our work weekends, which are also a fabulous time to meet and work with people from the different communities that run programs at Pinewoods. Our board of directors is also composed of volunteers who work year-round behind the scenes and with Executive Director Chris Jacobs to oversee the business of PCI. Board members contribute their diverse skill sets to the oversight of our facilities, finances, personnel, development, communications, operations, and future strategy. In short, volunteerism is part of the fabric of PCI -- the community coming together to maintain the space that allows us to be in community with each other. We appreciate the contributions of all our volunteers and invite you to share your time and expertise with us -- we can't do it without you. ◆

For more on the history of Pinewoods Camp:
<https://www.pinewoods.org/about/history/>

To learn more about volunteer opportunities please contact Chris Jacobs at executivedirector@pinewoods.org.

Changing of the Guard

By Martin Barbour

The changing of the season from summer to autumn also brings with it the start of the new year for the Pinewoods Board of Directors and the transition of our board membership.

This year we say farewell to five individuals who have collectively given forty-two years of service to PCI. David Conant represented the Conant family and served as treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee; Annette Sassi represented FAC, thoughtfully led the Personnel Committee, and served on two executive search committees; Natty Smith has most recently served as board secretary as well as being an active member and contributor to the Communications and the Inclusion & Anti-racism Committees; David Shewmaker contributed his time and insights to Personnel and Development; and Dragan Gill chaired the Archives and Scholarship Committees and served on Communications. Please join me in thanking this group of incredibly dedicated people who gave their time to PCI and worked on a board that navigated the numerous challenges that PCI has faced through the recent pandemic.

I am thrilled to welcome our newest board members:

Alex Ellis (Providence, RI) is an urban planner for the city of Providence. His current passion is pub singing. He has been a Pinewoods camper and volunteer and has served on multiple organizing committees for dance and singing, including ten years on the organizing committee for Swing into Summer.

Laura Parsons (Louisville, KY) has been dancing since the 1980s. She fell in love with the dance, the people she met, and the places hosting the dance camps she attended, in particular Buffalo Gap and Pinewoods. She recently retired and is looking forward to contributing her leadership and communication skills and her professional management experience to PCI.

Sonya Kaufman (Burlington, Vermont) barely remembers a time in her life without dance and dance camps. She is a longtime CDSS Family Week camper (Buffalo Gap and once at Pinewoods), Pinewoods crew member, and dance organizer. After fighting forest fires in the Pacific Northwest and South Carolina, Sonya is in the Field Naturalist Master's Program at the University of Vermont.

Susan Conant (Charleston, SC, and Plymouth, MA) spent summers while growing up on the Conant family property adjacent to Pinewoods, and Pinewoods holds special meaning for her family. She had a thirty-year career as a landscape architect and is now concentrating on music as a choir director, composer, performer, and producer.

Elliot Isen (Boston, MA) grew up in the Folk Arts community and is a longtime Pinewoods camper at the FAC sessions and CDSS Camper's Week. His experiences as a camper and crew member at Pinewoods have sparked lifelong friendships and been a catalyst for his passion for traditional music and dance. He is a professional fundraiser and will serve as the new board treasurer.

Please join me in welcoming our newest board members to PCI, and I look forward to working closely with the entire board over the coming year as we plan for next season and the long-term future for Pinewoods, a place we share. ◆



Actea racemosa (black cohosh)
Planted by Deborah Kruskal, 2009
Photo by Sam Breslow, summer 2021

Interview with a Dance Camp

By Anna Alter and Jo Rasi

Another summer has come and gone. The leaves, once new and green, are changing color and floating downward; the autumn chill is creeping in, and it's time to reflect while also looking toward the future. With that in mind, we (Anna & Jo) thought it might be the perfect time to find a summer camp to interview. We were pleased that Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA, agreed to meet with us.

A&J: Hello, Pinewoods! You look magnificent.

P: Why, thank you. My paths are full of leaves. It changes the dynamic and blankets me for winter. I'm already getting sleepy. Thanks for making the trip to see me. I don't get out.

J&A: We know you've had a busy season, though, for the second year in a row, things didn't work out quite as planned.

P: Yes, 2020 was so lonely. By the summer of 2021, I was more than ready for company! I felt overjoyed thinking about hearing human voices in conversation and song, feeling people exploring my paths, and joining campers at meals.

J&A: You join campers at meals?

P: Of course! If you've ever noticed a pine needle in your soup, or a napkin on a breeze, it was simply me saying "Hello!" Part of what's tough about not having you all here is longing for the scents that waft through my trees and the sounds and rhythms that play through my wooden floors. I myself can't bake brown sugar biscuits or play the fiddle or dance on two feet. I miss those sensations. They are part of what help me feel grounded.

A&J: We get that! Music emerging from cabins, scents of pancakes and coffee, and...

P: You miss those things, too? That makes me feel connected. What did you come here to ask me?

J&A: Truthfully, we came to be here, if only for a brief moment, to walk your paths and watch the air dance over the surface of your ponds. Also, to ask you what did happen here this past summer?

P: We were so lucky -- many of the planned sessions took place. The crew returned and diligently worked to get me presentable, then a work day of volunteers gave the crew a hand. It was like stretching and exercising with friends. Warren Anderson was a caring and supportive interim executive director. Then in June, Chris Jacobs joined the team as my new executive director, and she's terrific. She's been working non-stop. As she helps to spruce me up, I'm pining away a bit less. (Did you get that? ... I miss jokes.) She's like me -- we can't wait for summer 2022.



Katie Martucci streaming live from Pinewoods, Summer 2021
Photo by Jo Rasi

Intrepid, first-to-arrive dancers and musicians arrived for FAC in late June followed by exuberant Scottish dancers. More sessions followed. It was marvelous to reunite with members of the Pinewoods community! Sessions started out with fewer people than usual, but Camp was getting fuller and fuller. I wasn't always able to offer sunny weather (sorry July 4th Weekend), but I did try my best!

A&J: That sounds promising and exciting! What were the highlights?

P: Everything felt like a highlight this summer. I even loved participating in the CDSS virtual programming broadcast live from here. It was fun to see people zooming around. Get it? Zooming? I didn't know what that meant at first. I thought it was a good way to connect to people who weren't able to visit me. And I definitely don't shy away from the camera!

All ten sessions brought joy -- to me and to everyone here. There was music, dancing, hand sanitizer, good food, and laughter. But then I heard folks talking about "the numbers" going up in the world, and wisdom had to overrule hearts. Suddenly, it got very quiet. Thank goodness the crew stayed, or I might have shed all my needles in disappointment. There've been many hard decisions since March of 2020, but I have been grateful to see the focus on the health of our whole community.

A&J: Sounds like you're carrying some joys, some sorrows, and some hopes.

P: Yes! I feel lucky that so many programs could happen here in 2021. But I'm sad for those who couldn't be here, and for sessions that were planned and then canceled.

Hope! Yes, of course. A reprise is written into the music, and into the dance steps you bring here. Hope makes our time together magical. My message to everyone is, hang in there, and fill your spirits with music and dance in whatever ways you can until we meet again. Take a minute to close your eyes. Feel yourself sitting on the Camphouse porch. Hear melodies ringing out through the open windows. Feel the breeze off the lake and the ice cream bar dripping onto your knees. Take a deep breath in through the nose, smelling my pine pitch (perfect pitch?), and out through the nose. Reprise. We'll all be back together here before too long. Here's a big sensory Pinewoods embrace. I miss you all. ◆

Editor's note: At various times throughout the summer of 2021, the online Daily Antidote of Song was hosted live from Pinewoods. This daily mid-day Zoom with songs and conversation, sponsored by Carpe Diem Arts and Washington Revels, had gone on for over 500 days in a row by then.

Click here to see the programs.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/107376424785367/350649246814192>



Campers on Parade 2021 at Harmony of Song and Dance (CDSS)
Photo by Jo Rasi



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2021 ◆

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Preserve the Magic

This summer, Pinewoods provided a glimpse through the window of normality for ten sessions -- a sense of community, a sense of togetherness. As we continue to balance the intricacies of a pandemic world, we hold dear the memories of this wondrous place until we can reunite.

Pinewoods continues to require support from those who value it, have experienced its magic, and want to help it continue. As a nonprofit, Pinewoods belongs to you. Your passion is what makes Pinewoods, and your philanthropy keeps Camp healthy -- both physically and in spirit.

Today, we ask you to give generously to our Annual Appeal.

<http://www.pinewoods.org/support-pinewoods/>



*Long Pond on a cool, crisp day
Photo by Chris Jacobs*