



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2023 ◆

Pinewoods Camp, Inc. wishes Happy 100th Birthday
to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS),
established as SCDS on Nov. 28, 1923



*The Grand March processing to Hands Across
Photo by Alan Duffy*



*Pavilion decorations for the Highland Ball at Pinewoods, Summer 2023
Photo by Alan Duffy*

Reflection

By Chris Jacobs, Executive Director

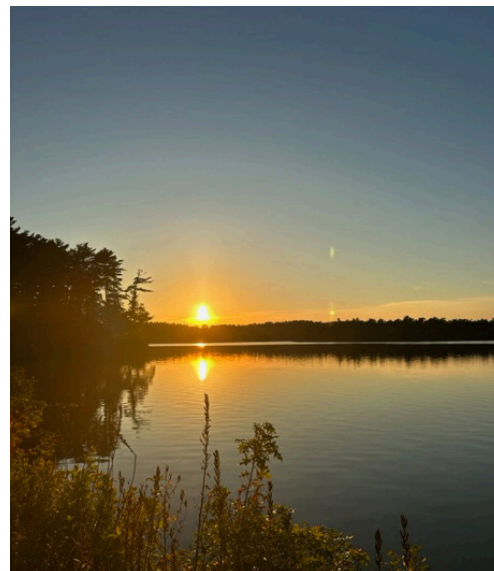
It's a crisp, beautiful morning with the smell of fall. I sit on my deck overlooking Round Pond in seemingly quiet solitude. As I sip my coffee, my senses awaken to the myriad activities around me. Just off the dock are two river otters frolicking in the water. On the little peninsula to my left, a great blue heron stalks its prey. A reflection appears on the pond, and I look up to see a Cooper's hawk flying overhead. A Carolina wren flits about.

The longer I sit, the louder it becomes, a crescendo of sorts. A constant buzzing from crickets sets the backdrop. Red squirrels chatter away; a belted kingfisher makes a cackling ruckus as it sits on a wire and flicks its tail. Nuthatches, wrens,

and titmice sing away. I tilt my head and tune in. I hear acorns falling through the trees and a woodpecker rapping away in the distance. I hear a soft splash from a fish jumping.

Nearby, a darter zips past my head, and a common eastern bumble bee snoozes on goldenrod. Finally, I see a bald eagle soaring high in the air. With my energy levels depleted at the end of the long summer season, an hour of immersing myself in nature rejuvenates me. I turn to an article my indigenous friend, Jackie, asked me to review, a piece advocating for a local dam removal project. Her words

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*Sunset on Halfway Pond
Photo by Chris Jacobs*

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For the list of the groups that design and run programs at Pinewoods Camp, and their contact information, please see our website <https://pinewoods.org>

Update your Information

Do you have any changes to your contact information? If so, please email them to executivedirector@pinewoods.org

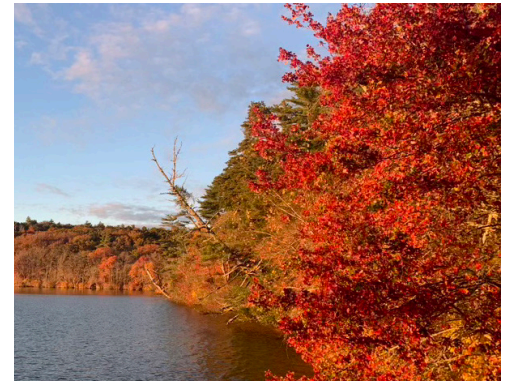
Reflection (cont.)

By Chris Jacobs, Executive Director

flow like a poem as she describes her ancestors' connection to the Land, and her own. It is humbling to read, and it, too, rejuvenates me.

Later in the day, Jackie and I explore Halfway Pond Conservation Area across from Cornish Field Road. As we walk, we share our knowledge and our love of nature with each other. While exploring, Jackie tells me more about the Herring Pond Tribe, their trials, and their tribulations as an unrecognized nation by the US government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I continue to be humbled by her determination and fortitude.

Reflecting on the day, I am grateful that the Pinewoods community cares so deeply for this land, its protection written into the mission. I see that devotion in the crew and volunteers' cheerful and generous work and in the joyful faces of campers as they revel in the beauty of Pinewoods. I am also thankful to our neighbors and the local land trust, Wildlands Trust, for preventing the area around Halfway Pond from being developed. The Pinewoods



Halfway Pond Conservation Area
Photo by Chris Jacobs

community, too, played a role in these efforts through financial contributions and local action. Just as we come to Camp to renew our spirit and celebrate our community, the land and ponds around us are vital to the health and well-being of so many and provide an opportunity to connect and build community. I look forward to many more hours of observing and creating new friendships through shared experiences. ◆

Handwashing Sink in Memory of Cobey England

This summer, many campers and crew enjoyed the new handwashing sink located outside the Dining Hall. This handwashing station was donated in honor of Cobey England, a former crew member and camper who passed away tragically in a motorcycle accident in 2020. Cobey's family wanted to donate something that the entire Camp community would use, and we are thankful for their generosity. The station will continue to help keep crew and campers healthy for years to come.



Photo by Alan Duffy



Cobey England playing the
hammered dulcimer
Photo by Meyer Billmers



Jamie Berg and son, Arthur, enjoying
the new handwashing sink
Photo by Martin Barbour

Scottish Dancing in the Woods

By Jeanetta McColl

The Scottish Country Dance world is celebrating all year as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society turns 100 this November, 2023. It took less than three decades to cross the Atlantic. Seventy one years ago it arrived at Pinewoods Camp.

Jeannie R.B. Carmichael was a Scottish mathematician working at MIT during WWII. There were no Scottish dance groups, so she persuaded some interested dancers from Boston CDS to try something new, hence the ultimate connection to Pinewoods. In 1951 they asked the SCDS HQ in Edinburgh to create a branch in Boston - the first beyond the UK. Two years later, 1953, they negotiated with Lily and Richard Conant for a Scottish weekend at Pinewoods. A second session to complete the week was added in 1973, then a third session in conjunction with CDS, Boston Centre in 1984 (ESS: English-Scottish Session).

Jeannie was the only teacher at first, but a few of the newcomers were interested in getting involved. About 1958, Jean Milligan, a co-founder of the SCDS in 1923, came to examine possible candidates. Success came to the following: Charles & Kay Campbell, Alan & Julie Smith, Marianne Taylor, and Doris Weller. These teachers were the mainstay of the Pinewoods weekend for many years. Since then, the number of teachers has exploded world-wide as have the SCD musicians. Gone are the 78s, LPs, CDs; now we rely on live music.

Over the decades participants developed numerous traditions. Some came and went, but one has never changed. The piper marches around camp at 7am intending to get everyone out of bed. The longest serving piper we have had is Dan Emery.

Many other traditions, once started, have remained as well. They include tea parties, sherry (now wine) parties, welcome parties for both Scottish I & II sessions and the formal dinner on the last Friday of Camp.



*Dancing a Strathspey Poussette in 2019
Photo courtesy of the Boston Branch, RSCDS*

Many individuals have provided their time and energy in putting all the events together. They deserve a round of thanks from us all.

One weekend really stands out from the others. In 1969, John Bowie Dickson, a teacher from Montreal, presented a dance dedicated to Mrs. Conant (Lily Roberts Conant), *The Pinewoods Reel*. Everyone clamored to learn it. The organizers changed the Saturday Ball program to include teaching everyone the new dance as it contained an exciting new figure which no one present had ever seen. Pinewoods Reel is always on the final Ball program of each Scottish Pinewoods session. Now a favorite

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*Dan Emery playing bagpipes at Pinewoods
Photo courtesy of Jeanetta McColl*



*The 2010 Highland Class ready to perform Argyll Broadsword
Photo courtesy of the Boston Branch, RSCDS*

Scottish Dancing in the Woods (cont.)

everywhere, the dance is included in the RSCDS publication for 2023. On that Sunday in 1969, hardly anyone was in class. We were glued to the TVs, brought to Camp for this purpose, to watch men walk on the moon and make history.

The Reel of the 51st Division is another dance with a special history. In 1940, Scottish officers who were POWs in Germany devised the dance to keep up their spirits and provide exercise. If this dance is on the program, there is always at least one set of men who dance this together.

When we were invited to be part of the coalition to purchase Pinewoods Camp from the Conants in 1975, we leapt at the chance. We raised thousands of dollars at the first Pinewoods Ball which we continue to hold annually to raise money for Pinewoods.

There have been few real changes recently in structure and activities except that Contra dancing was added to the English-Scottish Session. We now have the ESC session, a good ESCape for all.

Editor's note:

With her father an ex-Black Watch piper from Glasgow and her musical mother from South Wales, Jeanetta McColl grew up dancing highland and traditional Scottish dancing after WWII in the Scottish community in London that was not connected to the SCDS. When in college, Jeanetta taught a SCD class and continued to teach adults' and children's classes after college. Jeanetta moved to Massachusetts in 1960. Within weeks of moving into Boston in 1961 close enough to find and attend the Boston Branch, she was invited into the advanced class and onto the demonstration team. At an expedited pace she became a RSCDS certified teacher. That summer, 1963, was her first at the Scottish weekend at Pinewoods. Until her final summer in 2013 she only missed two sessions. She organized 13 of them. Now 92, Jeanetta says that the ongoing camaraderie in the Boston dance community, memories of friends, the silliest of pranks, and the satisfying dancing keep her connected to Pinewoods even though her health has not permitted her to return. ◆



*Dancing The Reel of the 51st Division in 2009
Photo courtesy of the Boston Branch, RSCDS*



*Candlelight Dinner
Photo by Alan Duffy*

Nature Note

By Chris Jacobs

The common ground-nut, *Apios americana*, is a native perennial plant often found entwined with other plants along banks of ponds and streams. Also known as the potato bean, it is a nitrogen-fixing legume with a climbing vine found throughout much of the eastern US. The tubers, pods, and flowers are all edible, with the tubers being incredibly nutritious. This made the plant an important food source for indigenous people and settlers alike. I was thrilled to find ground-nut in bloom along the banks of Halfway Pond this summer, only to find it also growing at Camp this fall. It's such excitement for a nature nerd. ◆



*American groundnut in bloom (L) and seedpod (R)
Photos by Chris Jacobs*

A Peek Behind ... A Look Ahead

By Martin Barbour

In 2025 Pinewoods Camp, Inc. (PCI) will celebrate 100 years of dancing at our beautiful facility between the waters of Long Pond and Round Pond! The Boston branch of the English Folk Dance Society held a summer dance school at Pinewoods in 1925. Since that time much has changed and evolved yet much has stayed the same. One element that has not changed is the rustic environment of Camp. PCI is committed to carefully invest in maintaining and renovating our buildings to preserve this rustic environment.

While we look to celebrate our history, we also need to look ahead and set the stage for the next 100 years at Pinewoods. Over the past year, the PCI Board has been working on a strategic plan to define the vision and roadmap that will enable us to respond to the needs of our campers and address some real and potential challenges ahead. The Board has identified five areas of focus for our strategic plan:

- Investing in our facilities to meet the needs of our campers while maintaining the rustic nature of Camp
- Stewarding the environment and addressing the challenges associated with forest and pond health
- Continuing to build strong and collaborative partnerships with our program providers
- Identifying and removing barriers to an inclusive culture
- Improving our business operations and external communications

At each camp session this summer, Board members held discussions with campers to seek feedback on our priorities. We are still collating the comments and inputs that campers shared with us, but some key themes emerged from these discussions. Campers appreciate improvements that PCI has made, such as handrails for safety and ease of access and the porch on Hands Across, and also are concerned about the level



*Strategic planning feedback session during Labor Day Weekend
Photo by Alan Duffy*

of accessibility with many of the buildings. A significant factor bringing people to Camp is the secluded environment with the forest and ponds, and we heard a lot about challenges with erosion, diseases impacting our forest, and risks with invasive species, all of which are negatively impacting the health of our environment. The sense of community culture is strong, and numerous ideas for ways to improve the experience for new campers were shared. We also heard a lot about the value of the scholarship programs and the need to continue to keep Camp as affordable as possible. Our community members love this place, and we are committed to preserving the special magic of Pinewoods. We continue to seek feedback; for those unable to participate in the in-person sessions, watch for a survey coming this fall to your inbox, and please take some time to share your thoughts with us.

As we talk about the priorities, goals, and long-term plans for PCI, a critically important aspect of our future is the people who are the community that builds, supports, and sustains Pinewoods. As a non-profit organization with one year-round full-time employee, PCI depends on volunteers from all corners of our community to help us keep Camp running. Our 18 Board members are responsible for the governance of PCI – setting policy, developing strategy, and ensuring the overall health of the organization. The Board works through a committee structure, currently with 10 standing and 2 ad hoc committees, that also includes volunteer community members who provide skills and knowledge to supplement the expertise of the Board members. For the summer camp season, volunteer crew members assist the full-time seasonal crew to make sure that our kitchen, grounds and office run seamlessly. Another fabulous volunteer opportunity is our work weekends, where volunteers work together to do a variety of jobs to open Camp in the spring or close it in the fall. I have personally experienced a deepened sense of connection and community through volunteering, and I invite all of you to join us in any way that works for you. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of this year's volunteers – we can't do it without you!

Thank you all for a great 2023 camp season. Enjoy the beautiful autumn season, and see you next year! ◆



*Recorders from CDSS Early Music Week
Photo by Alan Duffy*

Thank you Crew and Volunteers



2023 Pinewoods Crew

Back Row (L to R)

Sam Overbeck, Alex Shaneyfelt, Will Lewis, Kira Young, Amanda Barbour, Robin Barbour, Kathryn Barbour, Hamish Swanson, Daniel Friedman

Front Row (L to R) Fiona Rogers, Aidan Vielleux, Laura DeCesare, Echo Lustig, Elena Giacoletti, Maeve Tyler-Penny, Seramay Schultz, Chris Jacobs, Erika King

Not Pictured:

Anna Alter, Franny Bester, Theo Bester, Ted Bubbins, Isaac Burr, Dennis Carchedi, Frank Clayton, Kim Crespi, Mark Dooley, Alan Duffy, Kat Dutton, Lucretia Field, Rae Fixler, Sam Howe, Laura Keeler, John Lam, Elliot Layton, Emilie Moore, Karen Mueller-Harder, Meghan Murray, Barbara Morrison, Susie Petrov, Lila Rutishauser, Clara Stefanov-Wagner, Gillian Stewart, Laurel Swift, Seth Weidner, Linden Wicinas, Thom Yarnal

In addition to the crew, we had wonderful volunteers helping to open and close Camp during the scheduled work weekends.

Claire Anacreon, Martin Barbour, Nancy Barbour, Ellie Beals, Jasper Beals, Kathie Brown, Diane Burden, Paloma Burr, Eileen Callahan, Weiwei Chen, Dragan Gill, Jim Greaney, Emma Hardin, Julia Huestis, Lauren Ingram, Liv Jacobs, Diane Lockhart, Bruce Mabbott, Kyle MacKenzie, Hannah McArdle, Robert Penny, Chris Reynolds, Diego Ruiz Tello de Meneses, Jennifer Schoonover, Yaron Shragai, Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner, Ana Velez, Nell Wright, Aloysius Yanas, Ricaard Yospin



Crew working
Photos by Seramay Schultz



Crew relaxing
Photo by Alan Duffy

End of the Summer Granola

By Chris Jacobs

One of the perks of working and volunteering postseason is enjoying the last bits of delicious camp food. I recently finished what was left of the summer granola and heaved a big sigh. I LOVE Pinewoods granola; it's not too sweet, not too chunky, just right. Eight more months until I can enjoy it again. Of course, I can access the menu binders, but making granola for 150 is silly, and breaking down the recipe for a much smaller portion hurts my brain.

The great news is that there will be scaled-down recipes as part of a Pinewoods centennial cookbook in 2025. We need your help! Please vote for your favorite Pinewoods recipes. In addition, we are looking for photos of those favorite meals. Email photos to executivedirector@pinewoods.org.

Please email kitchen@pinewoods.org and tell us about your favorite Pinewoods recipes, or scan this QR code to complete the survey.



Photo by Chris Jacobs

Notes from the Board

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 and thank you to four individuals who have given their time and energy to furthering the mission of Pinewoods Camp (PCI). Margaret Keller-Dimock served on and chaired the Volunteerism and Philanthropy Committee and served on the Archives Committee; Dave Casserly served on the Personnel Committee, started the Centennial Task Force, and was Vice President of PCI for the past two years; Susan Creighton co-chaired the Archives Committee and the Centennial Task Force; and Eileen Callahan served as chair of the Facilities Committee. As such Eileen served on the Executive Committee and managed multiple projects at Camp. Please join me in thanking this group of incredibly dedicated people who gave their time to PCI and helped the organization navigate through times of change.

With great pleasure we welcome our newest board members:

Michal Warshow (Arlington, VA) is a long-time dancer and dance organizer who was inspired during her first week at

Pinewoods to take her children to family camp so they could experience the joy of growing up in this community. She has been an event organizer and program director, and her experiences working with different camp venues will be valuable to the Pinewoods Board. PCI is grateful to Michal, a professional epidemiologist, for her counsel to us and to many other dance communities as we navigated the many challenges to safely return to the dance activities that we cherish.

Gillian Stewart (Cambridge, MA) has been involved with Pinewoods for many years and from multiple angles – crew, camper, staff, program chair – and is excited to work on the long-term future and development of Camp. Professionally, Gillian works with databases and business analytics, partnering with teams and individuals to integrate technology and data into workflows. She is looking forward to bringing her diverse perspectives and lived experiences to the Board.

Please join me in welcoming Michal and Gillian to the PCI Board. 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 of Pinewoods, our beloved forest retreat.



The Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Board of Directors and Executive Director

Front row: Bruce Mabbott, Chris Jacobs (ED), Jo Rasi, Harris Lapiroff

Second row: Dave Casserly, Sonya Kaufman, Martin Barbour, Gillian Stewart

Third row: Elliot Isen, Caroline Chapin, Anna Alter

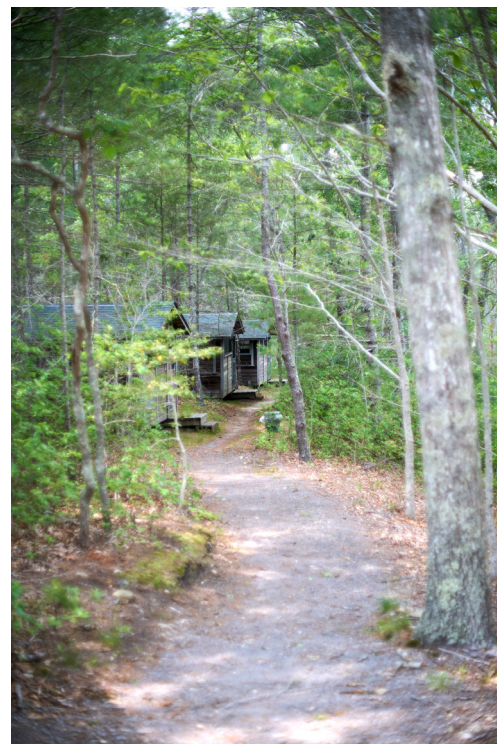
Top row: Susan Conant, Margie Landa, Corey Walters

Not present: Alex Ellis, Marney Morrison, Laura Parsons, Michal Warshow

Photo by Daniel Friedman

Temporary Housing at Camp

Photos by Alan Duffy



Path to Longborough
Photo by Alan Duffy



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2023 ◆

Pinewoods Camp, Inc. • 80 Cornish Field Road
Plymouth, MA 02360 • www.pinewoods.org

Annual Appeal

What a reason to celebrate! For the first time since 2019, we had an entire season of Camp with all sessions well attended. The sounds of laughter, music, and dancing drifted through the fresh air and lifted hearts and spirits.

As you know, Pinewoods Camp is a unique and beautiful setting, supporting a vibrant community of musicians and dancers who create joyful memories together. This year, contributions helped provide almost 70 scholarships for campers in addition to allowing Pinewoods to continue subsidizing camper fees for everyone, enabling many generations to experience traditional music, song, and dance sessions. You are an integral part of making this magic happen year after year.

We celebrate our success, but we still have challenges that will require additional financial investments. In its second year, Beech Leaf Disease is taking a severe toll on the trees, and weather-related events continue to cause concern; heavy rainstorms have required added repairs to roads and paths. With your help, we can meet these needs and keep Pinewoods Camp in excellent operating condition.

As our fiscal year begins this month, we ask for your generous support. Visit <https://pinewoods.org/support-pinewoods> to make a gift and to learn of the various ways to make contributions. Thank you for helping to keep the magic of Pinewoods alive!



*Pinewoods in the fall
Photo by Martin Barbour*