



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2025 ◆

Reflections of a Tree Hugger

By Executive Director Chris Jacobs

Yup! I'm a self-proclaimed tree hugger. I like to hug trees, literally. I feel alive when I caress their bark, rub their leaves, smell their essence, and observe what life they host. One of my favorite activities after a late-night gathering in the Camphouse is to walk down to the Pine Hollow clearing and stare up at the star-studded sky framed by the towering pine trees. It is awe-inspiring and evokes an intense emotional response in me. As Kahlil Gabran wrote, "Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky."

Pinewoods has trees in spades! Pine, oak, maple, tupelo, sassafras, holly, and of course, the American beech, to name a few. Together, they provide us with shade, clean the air, hold the soil in place, provide habitat and food for many species, and even give Camp its name. Over the last 100 years, the trees here have been admired, photographed, studied, and yes, even hugged.

Are Pinewoods trees in trouble? They certainly face immense external pressures—increased wind events, droughts, erosion, insects, and even competition from other tree species. But we've got their "backs". The health of the forest is one of Camp's strategic priorities. We will continue to invest dollars and consult with experts. We will develop a forest management plan focused on ecological factors that also balances the safety of buildings and campers.

When we do have to harvest a tree, we can look towards our Indigenous neighbors for inspiration. We can offer reminders that trees are strong, resilient beings that connect past, present, and future generations. Respect them, thank the trees for all they have contributed, and provide opportunities for new trees to grow. ◆



Aurora borealis over Pine Hollow



*Pinewoods Camp "tree guy", John Scag, inspects a white pine.
Photos by Chris Jacobs*



Marcie Van Cleave leads young campers during FAC Folk Days.



*Kira Young leads a line of Crew alums at an FAC evening dance.
Photos by Sue Flint*

Folk Arts Center of New England

By Marcie Van Cleave, FAC Executive Director

It is an auspicious year - the 50th anniversary of two organizations who share so many driving forces: strong missions, passionate communities, and devoted leadership. 1975 was when both the Folk Arts Center of New England and Pinewoods Camp were incorporated as non profit entities - building a relationship that has brought the joys of traditional dance and music to legions of people in a nurturing and natural environment. FAC still has its eight-day flagship program every June, bringing international dance and music from a wide variety of countries to an ever-growing population. FAC collaborates with Country Dance Society, Boston Centre on the Labor Day session, and over the years have run a variety of shoulder season weekends, including intensive Cajun, Swing, and Hungarian dance sessions, and also Cape Breton music and dance weekends. The ideas are plentiful, and our audiences are enthusiastic to try their feet, hands, and voices in any variety of languages, tunes, and dance styles.

Kudos to all - staff, crew, volunteers, members, campers - who have made it possible for all to blossom in the Pinewoods and Folk Arts Center communities! May the collaboration between the two organizations continue for many more generations. ◆

You Asked and We Listened

By Chris Jacobs

Each session, there is the tradition of completing a Pinewoods half-sheet feedback form in exchange for a chocolate chip cookie. We read and record your suggestions, thoughts, and ideas. We talk to our Program Providers and ask how we can improve. Sometimes the suggestions are low-hanging fruit, while others require extensive planning and fundraising to bring to fruition. We discuss as a leadership team and board to determine what is feasible, what is fitting, and what the priorities are.

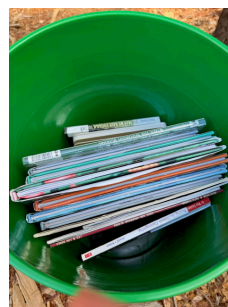
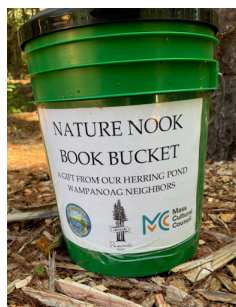
If you were at Camp this summer, you may have noticed some new features—many of them a result of your feedback. The most significant addition was the new bathrooms attached to Hands Across—an item that had long been on Pinewoods' wishlist. Thanks in part to a generous donation from Jean McIntosh, the bathrooms came to fruition. Given the proximity to the vernal pool, we sought an environmentally friendly solution and opted to install composting toilets and waterless urinals. The siding of the addition is Pinewoods white pine, milled and planed onsite. The new bathrooms, named Skye and Lisdoonvarna, increase accessibility and allow participants more time on the dance floor.

The town required Pinewoods to install a septic system for the grey water from the handwashing sinks in the new bathrooms. Needing to keep the area free of trees, the idea of the Nature Nook was born. Families were requesting a space for kids (of all ages) to play and explore. We partnered with the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe through their state Cultural Council grant program to create the space. We planted native plants and trees on the outskirts, used leftover pieces of logs and tree cookies to create play structures, used stumps and slabs for seating, and assembled book buckets featuring Indigenous picture books. Rain gardens, extensions of the Nature Nook, were installed around Hands Across to allow for water runoff. The work was done entirely in-house by Work Weekenders, Crew, and Crew Reunion attendees. We look forward to partnering with our Indigenous community for ideas on how to enhance the space.

Many of you inquired about the yellow ribbons tied around some of the beech trees. In their fourth year of decline from beech leaf disease (BLD), Pinewoods chose to have twelve specimen beeches treated. Those selected are iconic at Camp

- gentle giants that stand out from others. In order to qualify for treatment, the tree needed to be at least 10" in diameter, not show any sign of decay, and have decent foliage in its crown. The chemical used is Arbotech 20-s, a fungicide whose active ingredient is Thiabendazole (TBZ). TBZ has long been used to treat Dutch elm disease and sycamore anthracnose, as well as parasitic infections in humans and livestock. The arborists inject the fungicide into the root flare of the trees, where it is then systemically distributed throughout the canopy. Although this treatment is fairly new for BLD, we remain hopeful for positive results this spring.

Other enhancements this season included a new sound system at Hands Across, along with updated instructions for the sound techs. Thanks to Joel Bluestein, Steven Bluestein, Mark Dooley, and Charlie Pilzer for their incredible efforts. Also, we placed a new suggestion box at the Dining Hall, installed a utility sink on the Pinecones porch, and at the very end of the season, fixed sound-absorbing panels on the ceiling of the Dining Hall. Thank you for your continued interest and passion for Pinewoods. Please keep those ideas flowing.◆



Nature Nook book buckets funded by the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe Cultural Council
Photos by Chris Jacobs



Composting toilet expert Ben Goldberg providing an overview to Crew
Photo by Chris Jacobs



Crew and volunteers spreading mulch in the new Nature Nook
Photo by Gabriel Vasquez-Billin



Working together to build the Nature Nook during the Memorial Day Work Weekend
Photo by Gabriel Vasquez-Billin



Planting ferns and blueberries in the Nature Nook
Photo by Gabriel Vasquez-Billin



A View of the Nature Nook and Hands Across bathroom addition
Photo by Marney Morrison

Looking Back on our Centennial Year

By Caroline Chapin and Marney Morrison

During this milestone year, Pinewoods not only looked back on our 100-year history, we also moved forward with strength, belief in our mission, and optimism for a bright future. That's what this year is all about: honoring where we've been and setting the stage for where we are going.

Whether through the memory roundtables at Fine Companions, StoryCorps conversations recorded for posterity, Pinewoods trivia nights, or gathering former Crew for a rollicking Crew reunion, Centennial activities encouraged reflection and introduced the next generation to the rich history of Pinewoods while having fun together.

This special place calls people back. Longtime camper and Fine Companions Co-Program director Susan Creighton wrote, "The deep sense of community is completely interwoven with the physical beauty of the place. You can't separate one from the other." This is true for each session at Camp.

During this Centennial year the Pinewoods board and staff continued to improve Camp facilities, expand the shoulder seasons, and complete

a strategic plan to ensure that we are deliberate and thoughtful in planning Camp's future. In the late spring the Pinewoods Board of Directors shared our 2025-2030 [Strategic Plan](#) with the community. This plan is our blueprint for prioritizing our work within the framework of these commitments, which remain unchanged:

- We will keep Camp's rustic aesthetic with low environmental impact and small community focus
- We will remain a camp for adults and families
- We will remain an intentionally welcoming and inclusive community
- We will maintain good relationships with our neighbors and a positive reputation in our communities
- We will continue to grow the next generation of the folk community

We will be providing periodic updates regarding our progress toward the specific goals in the Strategic Plan. With careful stewardship and community support, Pinewoods Camp will thrive for another hundred years. ◆



Centennial Cake at the Crew Reunion



Pinewoods Centennial Timeline



Jeff Warner singing during the Fine Companions Centennial session
Photos by Chris Jacobs

"As a collector of stories and history for the Centennial this summer, my depth of appreciation for Pinewoods and the broader impact it has had on the North American dance and music communities has grown overwhelmingly stronger, as has my respect and admiration for the people (especially women) who shaped Camp and its impact. From bringing source singers, professional musicians, and fabulous dancers as instructors, to being a place that connects dance communities globally, to offering an intergenerational hub of teaching and learning, Pinewoods has played a key role in shaping and maintaining generations of singers, musicians and dancers to spread joy and share culture for generations to come."

- Fiona Rogers, a Camp Centennial Coordinator

Update your Information

We want to keep in touch with you. Do you have any changes to your contact information? If so, please add them [here](#). Our website is secure.

Pinewoods Post

Caroline Chapin • Co-Editor
post@pinewoods.org

Marney Morrison • Co-Editor
marney@morsn.com

Chris Jacobs • Executive Director
executivedirector@pinewoods.org

Kim Becker • Design & Layout

Jan Elliott • Proofreader

Save the Date

Winter ZOOM series - Save the dates
**4th Tuesdays: February 24,
March 24, and April 28**

Look for information in upcoming Articles and Announcements (the PCI email newsletter)

Gratitude



The Centennial events were a labor of love. Pinewoods Camp received abundant additional expertise and support from staff and numerous volunteers.

Thank you to the many people who worked hard to make the Centennial year special: **Centennial Co-chairs** (Jo Rasi and Michal Warshow), **Archives Committee** (Jo Rasi, Liv Jacobs, Pat MacPherson, and Susan Creighton), **Centennial Communications Committee** (Anna Alter, Caroline Chapin, Jo Rasi, Lisa Greenleaf, and Michal Warshow), **Cookbook Committee** (Amanda Barbour, Chris Jacobs, David Conant, Jeremy Thorpe, Laura Keeler, Michal Warshow, and Susie Petrov), **Fine Companions Committee** (Marney Morrison, Michal Warshow, and Susan Creighton), **Timeline Committee** (Cecily Pilzer, Chris Reynolds, David Conant, John Lam, Marney Morrison, Michal Warshow, and Stephanie Smith), **Crew Reunion Committee** (Corey Walters, David Conant, Jo Rasi, Marissa Roque, and Susie Petrov), the **at-Camp Centennial Coordinators** (Emilie Moore, Fiona Rogers, and Liv Jacobs) and the Pinewoods year-round staff. And, of course, a shout-out to Crew for their extraordinary behind-the-scenes work. ◆



50th Anniversary of Pinewoods Camp, Inc.

By lovely, unplanned symmetry, 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the creation of Pinewoods

Camp, Inc., the non-profit created to purchase and manage the camp into the future. Pinewoods Camp expresses gratitude to the Conant family for their years of stewardship and generosity in selling this special haven to our community. ◆

Pinewoods Camp logo drawn for the first Pinewoods Post in 1975 by dancer and volunteer Frank Edwards

Country Dance and Song Society Family Week

CDSS Family Week also celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer. The Pinewoods Family Week and its younger siblings and cousins - family weeks around the country - have brought in new campers and retained loyal campers since that first year. Family Week children go out into the world. They start and sustain dance groups, bands, singing groups, and festivals on college campuses and in their future communities; they return to Pinewoods as crew, campers, and program staff. Thank you, CDSS. ◆

Greetings from the President of the Pinewoods Camp Board

By Katherine Giacoletti

"What is that in your background?" I get asked just about every day at work. During the COVID shutdown someone shared to Facebook a beautiful picture of the Long Pond dock from the Camp House steps and said anyone was free to download it so I did, and I made it my virtual background on Zoom. It gave me such joy to see it and imagine being there, even while it reminded me during that tough year of what I was missing so much. And now here we are, back again for 4 years and going strong!

And now I'm nearing the end of my first year as president of the Pinewoods Camp Inc. Board of Directors. While I was very honored when asked to take on the role, it was my decades long love for Pinewoods and its community that compelled me to say yes. It is absolutely a big task, and yes (as I also get asked often) I have a full time "real" job too. But this work for PCI is a labor of love for me, as it is for everyone on our board and for our staff and crew and volunteers, who make the "magic of Pinewoods" happen. So it is worth it, and deeply meaningful to me.

The work would be worth it just because I am devoted to Pinewoods and to ensuring that its future is strong and secure. I have also found much joy during my first year, in the strengthening of existing connections and the opportunities to form new ones that this role has given me. And that is what Pinewoods is really about, isn't it? It's why I put that picture in my background and want to see it every day, years after the shutdown. We face new challenges now, large and small. As my friend Melissa Shaner wrote about one of our power outages at camp this summer, we have to "... keep dancing till the lights come back on." And as we have looked back this summer with our Centennial celebrations at the first century of dancing, music, and song at Pinewoods, we - the Board, our year-round staff, our summer crew, our volunteers, and our community of campers and neighbors - also look forward to our future: a welcoming and joyful community that we will continue to build together. ◆



*Pinewoods dock on Long Pond
Photo by Cindy Culbert*

Hats off to the Crew and Volunteers

From Chris Jacobs and the Pinewoods Board



*Kitchen Crew 2025
Photo by Karen Mueller-Harder*

Thank you, Crew, for another spectacular season. Hats off to Amanda Barbour, Audrey Tannous-Taylor, Barbara Morrison, Ben Rechel-McCormick, Beth Reagan, Brenda Castro, Chris Jacobs, Cindy Dill, Claire Gérin-Lajoie, Dan Kappus, Daniel Friedman, Dennis Carchedi, Elena Giacoletti, Em Moore, Erika King, Erin Ricker, Evan Johnston, Ewan Swanson, Fern Poling, Finn Torrey, Fiona Rogers, Frank Clayton, Isaac Burr, John Lam, Karen Mueller-Harder, Kim Crespi, Kira Young, Laura DeCesare, Laura Keeler, Liv Jacobs, Lucretia Field, Maeve Tyler-Penny, Mark Dooley, Paloma Burr, Rae Fixler, Robin Barbour, Rowyn Peel, Sam Howe, Seramay Schultz, Seth Weidner, Susie Petrov, Talia Connelly, Teah Cory, Ted Bubbins, Teej Keyes, Théo Biamonte, and Thom Yarnal.

Additional thanks to those who jumped in to help including: Anna Alter, David Shewmaker, Elliot Layton, Gillian Stewart, Linden Wicinas, and Nell Wright. ◆



*Grounds 2025
Photo by Fiona Rogers*

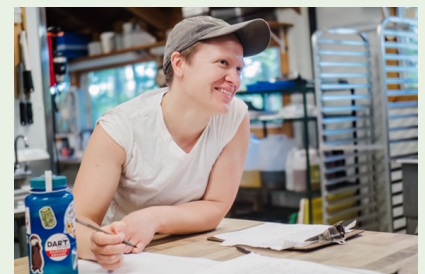
Farewell, Amanda

Amanda Barbour has been a steady, calm, and joyful presence in the Pinewoods kitchen since she started as a kitchen aide in 2017 and quickly rose to Head Cook (renamed Head of Kitchen in 2022.) Campers will recall exceptional bread, delicious new recipes from childhood favorites to North African stews, and the particular care given to those with dietary restrictions. Crew remember her steady guidance through COVID, her fortitude in wrangling the cursed Hobart, and her clear and calm leadership.

Whether it's making sure every person at Camp has something delicious for dinner, taking teens on behind-the-scenes tours of the kitchen, or creating the infamous Kale Pudding, Amanda has brought both dependability and humor to Camp. Her legacy will live on in the A Taste of the Kitchen: A Pinewoods Cookbook and through cameo appearances as she helps us transition to new leadership in the kitchen.

Thank you, Amanda, as you start a new chapter! ◆

The cookbook is available to purchase on our website. [click here](#)



*Amanda Barbour
Photo by Mira Whiting*

Thank You, Scots

Each summer, Scottish Sessions host tea cup, silent, and live auctions, and graciously donate the funds to Pinewoods Camp, Inc. In 2025, the Scottish community went above and beyond, raising over \$26,000. We used some of the funds to purchase a replacement ice machine for the Camp Store, as the previous one went kaput just as Camp opened for the season. In the heat of the summer, the ice and water machine is a lifesaver. So, on behalf of all campers, thank you, Scots! ◆



Dennis Carchedi installs the new ice machine.

Nature Note

By Chris Jacobs

This summer, Crew discovered beautiful io moth (*Automeris io*) caterpillars feeding on sassafras off the back deck of the Dining Hall. These caterpillars are unique in that they begin their lives as communal feeders. In their early instars (developmental stages), they band together and move as a group, a defense mechanism. As they molt into final instars, their social instincts diminish, and they become solitary. After their fifth and final instar, they crawl down to the bases of trees or into leaf litter, where they spin a cocoon. ◆



Notes from the Board

By Caroline Chapin

As 2025 draws to a close, the Board of Directors bids farewell to outgoing Board members Marjorie (Margie) Landa, Marney Morrison, and Corey Walters. They all joined the Board at a challenging time, just prior to the pandemic in 2020. Their first official vote was a difficult one: to close Camp for a season.

Margie was chair of the Personnel Committee for four years and led the Search Committee for the Executive Director which resulted in the hiring of Chris Jacobs. As chair of the Personnel Committee, Margie worked with Chris to rewrite the manuals for the paid crew and volunteer crew. In addition, she worked with Board input to create certain board operating policies and to create the new Governance Committee, on which she will continue to serve as a member of the PCI community after leaving the board. Additionally she served on the Finance Committee and the Inclusion and Antiracism Committee.

Marney was the chair of the Communications Committee and editor of the Pinewoods Post. Leading up to the Centennial, Marney worked on the Timeline task force researching our history. Much of the success of the Fine Companions session this past summer was due to her vision and thoughtfulness.

When PCI created an Ad Hoc Inclusion and Antiracism Committee, Marney chaired it and both Margie and Corey were active members. The board created an antiracist statement for the website without which we would not have attracted Chris Jacobs. This work is now one of the lenses through which all committees look as they attend to the business of Pinewoods.

Corey served on the Search Committee for Chris, the Personnel, Inclusion and Antiracism and Governance Committees, and as Chair of the Finance Committee. Last year he became the Treasurer. Corey provided invaluable insight into board operations and governance structure with his triple perspective from his years as camper, crew, and staff member.

Pinewoods depends on the hard work of its Directors to advance the work of Camp by creating sound management policies, planning for our financial security, and supporting our program providers. We are grateful to each outgoing Director.



PCI Board of Directors, current and just stepped off, plus Executive Director

Back row L to R: Harris Lapiroff, John Lam, April Birnie, Alex Ellis, Bruce Mabbott, Don Tucker, Jo Rasi, Sonya Kaufman, Caroline Chapin

Front row L to R: Leah Gordon, Gillian Stewart, Lisa Greenleaf, Marney Morrison, Executive Director Chris Jacobs, Corey Walters, Katherine Giacoletti, Laura Parsons, Margie Landa, Jan Elliott, Michal Warshow, Susan Conant. Not pictured: Anna Alter

Photos by Harris Lapiroff

We now welcome incoming Directors Jan Elliott, returning to the board after many years and nominated by CDSS; Leah Gordon, also nominated by CDSS; and April Birnie, our at-large member.

Cape Cod native Jan Elliott returns to the Board to serve for the third time. She first attended Pinewoods in 1974 and after ignoring warnings that girls couldn't do Morris dance, she founded a team while in high school. Fifty years later, she continues to be an active teacher, musician and artistic coach for the music and dance community.

Leah Gordon grew up at Campers Week and has consistently attended Camp for almost 40 years. An active Contra, English, Morris and Rapper dancer, Leah teaches at Brandeis University and is an historian focused on equity and education in the 20th century United States.

April Birnie is a longtime Pinewoods camper now living in New Jersey, where she is involved with her local dance community and runs the Molly team Handsome Molly. When not dancing she is a contractor for pharmaceutical companies.

Welcome to our new Directors. ◆



Outgoing Board members L to R: Marney Morrison, Corey Walters, Margie Landa



Incoming Board members L to R: Leah Gordon, April Birnie, Jan Elliott

Scholarships Serve us All

Making Camp accessible for as many people as possible is a priority for Pinewoods Camp, Inc. We offer three scholarships that we ask Program Providers to co-sponsor and fiscally match. This past summer we awarded 77 such jointly sponsored scholarships:

- 47 Need-based (a combination of half and full scholarships)
- 19 New Generation Initiative (for young, first-time campers)
- 11 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or People of Color)

This winter, we ask you to help spread the word about PCI's scholarship program. Are there candidates in your traditional music, dance, or song community? The significance of this outreach is important. For many scholarship recipients, attending Camp has a lasting impact, and they return to their folk communities energized, excited, and raring to get involved. For more information, visit the [scholarship page](#) on our website or email scholarship@pinewoods.org. ◆

Aaron Vincent, Swing into Summer (SiS) 2025 scholarship recipient

"I wasn't really sure what to expect at the SiS weekend at Pinewoods, I had never attended a true summer camp before, so I had no idea what to expect. To my surprise not only was everything as advertised by friends and loved ones, but in many cases exceeded expectations! The food was delicious and plentiful; the dancing was a fun challenge; the company who attended the weekend were all lovely individuals; the grounds were beautiful, and the swimming was a delight! I had such a great time. I have been planning my return and sharing this lovely introduction to Pinewoods with friends and family who I truly think would benefit from this little oasis."



Queer Tango at Pine Hollow
Photo by Rai Lee Pham

Looking Ahead

Our Program Providers will return with this lineup of wonderful sessions.

2026 CALENDAR

June 5-7

[Queer Tango Camp](#)
[\(La Nuestra Tango, Queer Tango-Boston\)](#)

June 12-14

[Spring Camp \(Lavender Country & Folk Dancers\)](#)

June 19-21

[Swing into Summer \(Country Dance Society-Boston Centre\)](#)

June 25-29

[Folk Arts Center Weekend](#)
[\(Folk Arts Center of New England\)](#)

June 29-July 2

[Folk Arts Center Folk Days \(FAC\)](#)

July 2-6

[July 4th Weekend \(CDS-BC\)](#)

July 6-10

[ESCape \(CDS-BC; Royal Scottish Country Dance Society\)](#)

July 10-13

[Scottish Session I \(RSCDS\)](#)

July 13-18

[Scottish Session II \(RSCDS\)](#)

July 19-July 26

[Family Week \(Country Dance & Song Society\)](#)

July 26-August 1

[English Dance Week \(CDSS\)](#)

August 1-8

[Campers' Week \(CDSS\)](#)

August 8-13

[Harmony of Song & Dance \(CDSS\)](#)

August 13-17

[New Mini Program - SEA Session \(CDSS\)](#)

August 17-23

[American Dance & Music Week \(CDSS\)](#)

August 23-29

[Early Music Week \(CDSS\)](#)

August 29-September 4

[TradMaD \(Folk Music Society of New York\)](#)

September 4-8

[Labor Day Weekend \(FAC; CDS-BC\)](#)

Visit our website [click here](#) for more information.



The Pinewoods Post

◆ FALL 2025 ◆

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



Preserve the Magic

We are all stewards of this unique sanctuary, where each summer the sounds of music and song twirl through the pines and lodge in our hearts. These memories and friendships sustain us throughout our lives.

Your support keeps Pinewoods strong and vibrant. With your contribution, we will:

- Provide scholarships to make Camp more accessible.
- Improve our cabins, pavilions and gathering spaces.
- Maintain our tranquil setting by caring for the waters of Long Pond, Round Pond, and the land that sits between them.



*Round Pond Sunset
Photo by Chris Jacobs*

Pinewoods relies on the generosity of our supporters.
Please give what you can today to preserve this extraordinary place for future generations.

GIVE TODAY