



FALL

2017

Fall Workshop and Cookout Offers Opportunity to Network and Connect

ore than 40 camps were represented at the Fall Workshop and Cookout on September 13 at Migis Lodge, where 80 camp personnel networked, shared experiences, and enjoyed the chance to connect in six different workshops organized by the Maine Summer Camps Education Committee.

The workshops, facilitated by Education Committee members, included: technology; campers and parents; staff; inspections and accreditation; health; and sex, sexuality and gender. Participants had the chance to rotate through three different workshops, giving them ample opportunity to share ideas and experiences, raise common concerns, and suggest solutions.



Participants enjoyed terrific food prepared by Tim Porta, host and chef at the yearly meeting. 80 camp personnel networked and attended six workshops.

"It was an opportunity to learn from each other in an open conversation," said Education Committee Chair Beigette Gill. Each camp is individual and unique, Gill said, making conversations about issues and concerns particularly valuable.

Workshop participants also had the opportunity to submit notecards with questions and ideas stemming from conversations. MSC is gathering notes from each group facilitator, which will be distributed throughout the membership. Click here for notes from September 13 Maine Summer Camps Workshop at Migis Lodge.



The workshops, facilitated by Education Committee members, included: technology; campers and parents; staff; inspections and accreditation; health; and sex, sexuality and gender.

After the workshop, more than 115 business and camp members of MSC were treated to a lakeside gourmet cookout put on by Migis Lodge. Corn on the cob, petite filet mignon, jambalaya, ice cream sundaes, and sunny 80-degree weather offered a perfect ending to the 2017 camp season! A very special thank you to the Porta family and Migis Lodge for once again hosting this event.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FALL 2017

Dear Friends,

What good fortune to have some summer days this September, so we can enjoy what everyone else does most of June, July and August – like picnicking with friends alongside the lake in the sunshine, which we got to do together at Migis Lodge on September 13th! What a treat!



At the recent membership meeting,

I reflected and shared some challenges our daughters have faced, and the fact that I believe their camp experiences are what prepared them to manage those challenges. Through camp, they have learned resilience. Through camp, they have learned empathy. Through camp they have learned to step out of their comfort zone, to take initiative and write their own story. Camps are preparing children for life! What a joy and a gift it is to be part of that process and to partner with parents to help their children grow!

This gift of partnering with parents and being responsible for other people's children also comes with an obligation to continually educate ourselves. We have a responsibility to reflect on the camp experience, to challenge ourselves to learn about the complex world with which our youth are faced, and to be intentional about the creation of our camp communities and each individual's experience within those communities.

Maine Summer Camps offers us so many opportunities to learn from one another, to broaden our perspective, and to help us create thoughtful, developmentally appropriate and formative experiences for children. I hope you'll join us and take advantage of these opportunities. I look forward to working together in the year ahead, to prepare ourselves to be the best partners and resources we can to our campers and their families.

In the meantime, take some time to recuperate and re-energize after the sprint of summer season 2017!

Best Wishes, Catriona Sangster

Meet Our New MSC Board Members



Kathy Jonas, Camp Walden

Kathy Jonas is looking forward to her 8th summer as Director of Camp Walden.

Her lifelong passion for overnight camping began as a camper and staff member at a camp in the

Adirondacks, where she learned skills, made lifelong friends, and developed a love of the outdoors. As a camper, she grew while learning to sail, camp and hike. After eighteen years as a college administrator she returned to camping with one goal in mind, to create the opportunity for as many children as possible to have the same exceptional overnight camping experience she had as a child and young adult.

For eight years, 2003 to 2010, Kathy was the Director of JCC Maccabi Camp Kingswood. She is proud of the experiences she created and the relationships she developed with hundreds of campers, staff and their families. Kathy is thrilled to be a member of the Walden community, a very special camp community, and to continue this wonderful and amazing journey. Wishing summer lasted all year!

Michael Douglass, Camp Bishopwood

Michael Douglass has been the Executive Director of Camp Bishopswood in Hope, Maine, for the past five summers.

Prior to Bishopswood, Mike spent many years working at Lutheran camps in New York and New Hampshire, before moving into public education. Mike spent four years teaching high school math and helped pilot a dropout prevention program while there. Mike then moved to work for two years in middle school special education.

Currently, Mike serves on the board of directors for the Sweetland School and the Hope Elementary School Board. When Mike is not working he enjoys touring Canada on his motorcycle, skiing in the winter, curling, and spending time with his amazing wife Hanna and their three dogs.



Completely rebuilt Camp Somerset on East Pond will reopen next year and will serve girls ages 8-13.

Camp Somerset Reopens

ore than 30 years after it closed, Camp Somerset, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious girls' overnight camps will reopen in the summer of 2018. It will open under the leadership of co-directors Josh Hahn and Kate Levy Auerbach – who have a combined 30 years of camping experience – and in partnership with Camp Manitou for Boys.

Camp Somerset for Girls, founded in 1921 and closed in 1986, is being completely rebuilt on its original pristine site on the shores of East Pond, one of the Belgrade Lakes of central Maine. During its first season, the new camp will serve girls aged 8-13 and increase by one age group each summer.

The camp will feature rustic yet modern cabins with full bathrooms, a state-of-the-art dining hall, a theater, a three-section gymnasium, an events barn, a swimming pool, a creative arts center, an amphitheater, a ropes course, and five acres of athletic fields and courts. A spectacular waterfront boasts more than 2,000 feet.



Save the Date!

January 23 Educational Workshop and Networking Extravaganza

once again, we are combining our two biggest events of the year by having our major Educational Workshop featuring Niambi Jaha-Echols, and the Business Members Networking Extravaganza on the same day, Tuesday, January 23, at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. After the workshop, there will be a buffet lunch and our Vendor Networking Extravaganza. The day will end with our annual Mega Raffle.

Last year, more than 70 MSC businesses attended



Niambi Jaha-Echols

the event and donated over fifty prizes for the Mega Raffle. The lunch and venue for the event will be sponsored by a limited number of MSC businesses. Registration fee for the workshop will be \$20 per person if we're able to secure a sponsor; without a sponsor, the cost will be \$25 per person.

Creating More Culturally Inclusive Camp Environments

n conjunction with the MSC Business Networking Extravaganza on January 23 at the Italian Heritage Center, the Education Committee will offer a 3½-hour workshop featuring Niambi Jaha-Echols, past member of the ACA Board and advisor to many camp groups. The morning workshop will be centered on her passion: Cross Cultural Agility.

As society and the camping movement evolve, many of our camps are attempting to become more diverse and inclusive. Join Niambi and your fellow camp professionals as we explore how our different cultural experiences and conditioning influence our interactions with others, all with the aim of helping our camps become more welcoming to a wide range of staff, campers and families.

Statements such as "I don't see color," and "I treat everyone the same," are often used to communicate that we are inclusive. Day-to-day, people of color still often experience prejudice and exclusion that undermine our best intentions. Our morning with Niambi will help us understand how stereotypes and assumptions contribute to prejudice, bias, and misunderstanding. Our goal? To learn ways to create camp environments that are more inclusive for all people and cultures.

Niambi's workshop is an opportunity to gain practical skills and is a perfect follow-up to ACA-NE's October 16 session with Niambi, which members are encouraged to attend as an introduction. Online registration for the January workshop will be sent on November 6.



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2017 JMG staff at the annual testing camp held the last week of July. Below, candidates enjoy lunch at testing camp.



he summer of 2017 was a productive one for the Junior Maine Guide program.

First, June brought the long-awaited update of The Art of Outdoor Living, the JMG teaching manual. It is great to have an up-to-date teaching manual for this program on outdoor living skills. (A limited number of books are still available. To order a book, see page 14.)

During the second week of July, Bryant Pond hosted the second annual JMG Rendezvous. The JMG staff made some adjustments to the program from last year, and the day focused on the skills that the JMG candidates should have. Over 70 candidates and their counselors attended this event. The campers and their counselors all agreed that this was a productive day.

The last week in July was the annual JMG camp. Even though the pass rate was low, the JMG Examiners thought this year's JMG Camp was a successful one. Both the candidates and their counselors had a positive attitude and were focused on the tasks at hand. The counselor staff from the camps was an outstanding group. They were mature, good leaders, and gave their candidates good guidance.

There were 68 JMG candidates this year. The passing totals were the following:

13 of 15 second-year candidates passed; 13 of 53 first-year candidates passed.

This gave a total passing figure of 26 of 68 candidates, a 38 percent passing rate. The average passing rate

average over the past seven years has been 46 percent.

The candidates seemed to enjoy the evening speakers who joined us around our campfire. On Monday evening, we welcomed Dr. Peter Kallim of Belgrade. He spoke on the natural history of the Rangeley area. He mentioned the land formation from the glaciers to the present; species development of both plants and animals; the role of trees to our habitat, and the development of the area's fisheries. Peter wrote of his JMG visit in the weekly addition of the *Summertime in the Belgrades* newspaper.

On Tuesday evening, retired warden John Ford and retired state trooper Mark Nickerson, both authors, gave a wonderful presentation about their careers. John wrote a wonderful article about his visit in the September issue of *The Northwoods Sporting Journal*. Our Thursday evening speaker was Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife biologist Liz Thorndike from the state fishery in Strong. She discussed how the department monitors the fish in the area as well as restocking programs. Our final program was from the Border Patrol. They talked about their job and equipment. After their presentation, they had an active question-and-answer session.

Overall, the JMG staff thought that the camps were well prepared, and the candidates represented their camps well. The staff wants to thank Ron Hall for all he does for JMG.

Maine Summer Camps Holds 14th Annual Spelling Bee

n July 13, more than 100 campers from 8 different camps assembled at The Racket and Fitness Center in Portland to compete in the 14th Annual Maine Summer Camps Spelling Bee. Enthusiastic spellers came from as far away as Encore/Coda in Sweden to as close by as West End House in Parsonsfield. All the campers arrived prepared to represent their camp and take home the trophy.

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First place in 12-and-under age group was Camp Micah.

The results from the 12-and-under age group included individual winner Spencer from Camp Wigwam. In the group competition, Camp Micah came in first place, Camp Fernwood placed second followed by Camp Wigwam in third.

The outcome for the 13-15 age group resulted in an individual win for Graham, a camper from Wigwam. Camp Fernwood came in first in the group category followed by West End House and Camp Wigwam for third place.



Camp Fernwood came in first in the 13-15 age group.

Thank you to Bob Strauss of Camp Wigwam for organizing the MSC Spelling Bee. His enthusiasm and energy are much appreciated. And it's obvious the kids love this yearly event.

And a special thank you to Norway Savings Bank for supporting MSC's Annual Spelling Bee! Once again, Jack Day, Regional Vice President, graciously agreed to match all the entrance fees and more than \$1,000 was raised to support Maine Summer Camps.



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New Online Presence is Coming This Fall for Maine Summer Camps

SC will launch its new website late this fall. The new site will emphasize "Why Maine?" and "Why Maine Camps?" with streamlined navigational tools for both camps and families.

The "Find-A- Camp" search engine is also being upgraded. Camps that opt for the enhanced listing will have many new features. This will include: photo albums, multiple videos, and the ability to include hot links within their 130-word camp description. It will also include the option to update listing information throughout the year.

Later this fall, the MSC office will send more information to camps that have chosen the enhanced camp listing. Last year the MSC website had more than 225,000 page views and many of our camps had their information viewed by 800 to 2,500 visitors.

For camps that have not chosen this enhanced option it's not too late; contact Sue at the MSC office.

2018 Directory Form Due Now!

information sheet for the directory, please forward it to Sue as soon as possible at office@mainecamps.org. In August, Sue sent the 2017 form to each camp for updates. If your camp didn't receive the email with the attachment, please notify the MSC office.

The printed directory is primarily used by camps, businesses, libraries, guidance counselors and for MYCA's work in Augusta.

Your camp's listing in the directory is included in your camp dues. If you want to sign up for the full website listing that includes videos, photos, hotlinks and filters by activities, please send \$350 to the MSC office or pay online at: http://mainecamps.org/make-a-payment/

Like our newsletter's new format?

Starting with this issue, we will be publishing our quarterly newsletters digitally and emailing the electronic version to everyone. A printed copy is available upon request.

We value your feedback — please let us know what you think!



Thank You Camp Champions!

amp Champions is a fundraiser where supporters of ACA New England raise funds that help bring the summer camp experience to the region's children in need. 100 percent of net proceeds benefit ACA New England's Campership Fund. This past year the fundraiser was held at Fenway Park

Thanks to donations from the ACA New England Camp Champions program, 27 boys and girls received scholarships making it possible for them to attend a Maine camp this past summer.



2017-18 MSC Calendar

2017

September 13

9:00 am-1:30 pm – Educational Workshop & Membership Cookout, Migis Lodge

1:45-3:45 pm - Fall Board of Directors Meeting

2018

January 23

9:00 am-1:00 pm – MSC Workshop – Italian Heritage Center, Portland

1:00-3:30 – MSC Business Networking Extravaganza and Lunch

January 24

9:00-11:00 am – MSC Board of Directors Meeting – Italian Heritage Center, Portland

February 20-23

ACA National Conference, Orlando, FL

March 7-10

New England ACA Conference, Manchester, NH

March 10

7:45 am – Semi Annual Membership Meetings of MSC & MYCA at the ACA/NE Conference in Manchester, NH

March 18

1:00 pm – Annual MSC Camp Fair, East End Community School, Portland

March 20-22

Tri-State Camp Conference, Atlantic City, NJ

April 24

9:00 am – Spring Board Meeting and 11:00 am workshops at SYSCO Food Show, Cross Insurance Arena, Portland (tentative)

June 8

MYCF and MYCA Annual Membership Meetings, Location TBA

July 10

Chris Thurber Staff Training Workshop, Camp Wawenock - Raymond

July 12

14th Annual MYCF Spelling Bee, Portland

July 23-27

Junior Maine Guides Testing Camp, Stephen Phillips Preserve, Oquossoc, ME

September 12

Fall Membership Workshop and Cookout

2017 Halsey Gulick Award

he 2017 Halsey Gulick Award went to an individual who has brought to youth camping "a creative, consistent, and exemplary commitment to children and the camp organizations that serve them," Maine Summer Camps' own Executive Director Ron Hall.

Presented to Ron at the MSC Annual Meeting, the award citation described Ron's long-time tenure as



Ron Hall

an educator and 20-year commitment to youth camping in Maine. "At Camp O-AT-KA he created a program that met the needs of all boys with all interests . . . All the while, Ron demonstrated the skills that those in the Maine youth camping community know so well: a sense of humor, endless energy, unassailable collaboration and communication skills, and an enthusiastic persistence that sees a solution to every challenge."

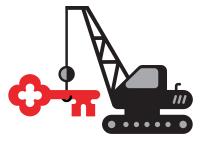
Ron was honored for bringing all these abilities to MSC, working to secure additional business members, to receive grant funding for camperships and other programs, and seeking to raise awareness of Maine camps and their impact on the State of Maine. "Upbeat and positive, collaborative and considerate, a listener always, Ron Hall continues to serve camps throughout Maine with energy, enthusiasm, and expertise. These enduring qualities — and the ways they benefit the Maine camping community — make him a most fitting recipient of the 2017 Halsey Gulick Award."

MSC Launches Outreach Committee

In late September a group of young camp professionals gathered for the first ever Community Outreach Committee Meeting! A flurry of ideas was shared as we brainstormed ways for MSC members to volunteer in the Maine community throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to join in with the good work! To learn more about the committee or better yet, to join the group contact Kristy Andrews at kristy@campwawenock.com.



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Camp Kennesuncook: The Forgotten Outpost Camp

By Henry Johnson, Maine Camp Historian

To understand the history of Camp Kennesuncook, it is best to know the history of the Kennebec Camps. The Kennebec Camps were founded in 1907 by Louis Fleisher, Charles Edwin Fox, and Milton Katzenberg. The Kennebec Camps operated for 84 continuous years from 1907 to 1991 in North Belgrade, Maine. Kennebec offered competitive athletics and many wilderness trips.

Camp Kennesuncook was founded as an outpost camp as a consequence of the Kennebec wildness trips. In 1925, Kennebec specifically created Camp Kennesuncook, an outpost camp approximately 150 miles north of its camp site in isolated Chesuncook Lake, roughly one mile south of Chesuncook Village. Kennesuncook became a special place for the oldest boys of Kennebec and the launching pad for its Allagash trip. Specifically, the Allagash trip was very special to Kennebec campers. Only campers who were with the camp for many years were permitted to train for the strenuous seventeen mile canoe trip. Some alumni have called it the final "rite of passage". While at Kennesuncook, activities included volleyball, baseball, horseshoes, and swimming in the coppercolored water.

Alumni accounts place Kennesuncook on Pine Stream Road roughly one mile south of the small village of Chesuncook. The small village is an unincorporated village that supported the local logging industry during its day. That village, upon information and belief, remains today with little infrastructure and a minor year-round population of few people. An excerpt from The History of Kennebec states "The Kennesuncook "campus," bordering on the tiny settlement of Chesuncook, first contained cabins, now replaced by A-frames ("easier to keep clean, but you can no longer hear the rain on the roof," says Uncle Artie Clark, who built them), and a dining room-kitchen building which can never be replaced because of the generations of names and messages penciled on the upright posts of its interior.

Chesuncook Lake is the third largest fresh water lake in Maine. It is formed by the damming of the West Branch Penobscot River, by dams built in 1835, 1903, and 1916. The lake is roughly 22 miles long and ranges from 1 to 4 miles wide with a surface area of just over 25,183 acres. During early years from roughly 1930 to 1960 the campers of Kennesuncook may have shared the Lake with the St. Croix Voyageurs who camped around Chesuncook village as well.

While Kennesuncook, upon information and belief, does not have any alumni groups associated with it, it is important to remember that it was an outpost camp for Kennebec. The Kennebec Camps has a large alumni community although the camp closed in 1991. Camp Kennebec Alumni might keep in touch via the following website: Kennebecalumni.com.

Henry Johnson, Camp Historian, was a camper, counselor and Program Director at Camp Powhatan in Oxford, ME from 1966-1979. Mr. Johnson's children attended Camp Fernwood and Camp Androscoggin as campers and counselors for many years. A special thank you is provided to Alex Kurth, a student at Florida Gulf Coast University in Estero, Florida for his research assistance relating to this article.



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Clinical psychologist Chris Thurber met with more than 50 camp employees in July to talk about counselor-camper connections.

Counselor-Camper Relationships: Navigating the Gray Area

When clinical psychologist and renowned camp industry consultant Chris Thurber worked with more than 50 camp employees at a training workshop in early July, his message was clear. The relationships between counselors and campers are grounded in camps' missions. And because camp counselors are in the unique position of making those missions come alive, the counselor-camper connection is the key to a successful summer.

... counselors must "anchor what you do in the knowledge that you're the most important thing at camp" when it comes to executing camps' missions.

But working with kids can be tricky. Counselors face the challenge of building relationships with their campers while also remaining professional. Thurber titled his presentation, held at Raymond's Camp Wawenock, "Professional Youth Leader Boundaries: Find Your Way Through the Gray." Relationships with campers are never black and white, can be as varied as the individuals involved. But Thurber helped pave a path for counselors working with campers in Maine.

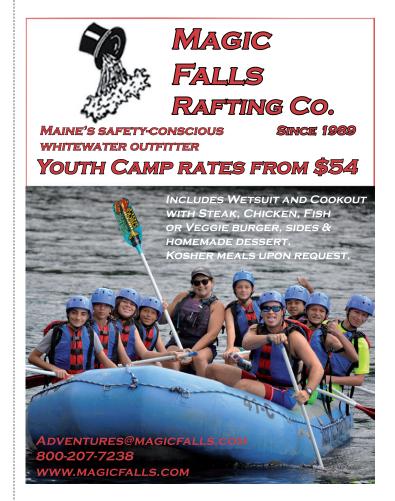
"The relationships young people have with you is the 'secret sauce'" to a positive summer at camp, Thurber explained. And counselors must "anchor what you do in the knowledge that you're the most important thing

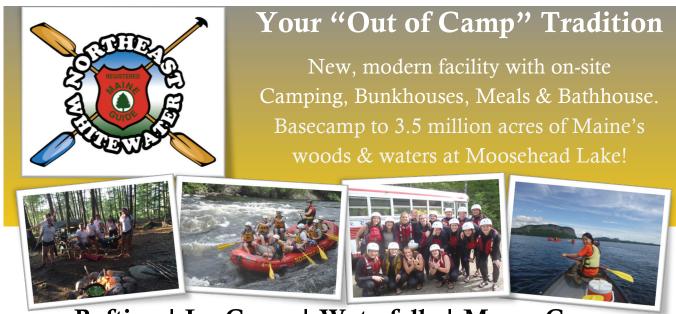
at camp" when it comes to executing camps' missions. That makes it essential that the counselor-camper relationship is healthy, he said.

Thurber and the group outlined elements of a healthy counselor-camper relationship, discussed limit-setting, and counselors' roles as mandated reporters. Counselors must also take care of themselves, their image, and their camp, Thurber said. They can help ensure that by spending their time off wisely, managing stress in healthy ways, asking for feedback, making all social media posts G-rated, and not friending or following any campers or anyone under age 18.

Thurber concluded the afternoon by reminding counselors that "sometimes the best leadership is 'get out of the way' leadership. You don't necessarily have to insert yourself into the action," he said.

"Your example is a great teaching tool," he said. "But sometimes standing back is great, too."





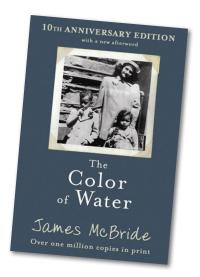
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Next Book Club Meeting is Thursday, November 16



The Education Committee has set the date for the next Book Club Meeting – Thursday, November 16 at 9:00 am at the Good Life Market, 1297 Roosevelt Trail in Raymond.

They selected *The Color of Water*, by James McBride as the book for this month's Book Club Meeting.

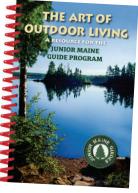




'The Art of Outdoor Living'

Limited number of books still available

This past spring, Maine Summer Camps, with the assistance of a generous grant from the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust, printed the sixth edition of the Junior Maine Guide resource manual, *The Art of Outdoor Living.* The first edition was copyrighted in 1946, and this edition is the



first revision in 50 years! The grant also made it possible for us to provide free copies to Maine high school outing clubs, Maine summer camps and Maine public libraries. The 280-page spiral-bound book is filled with information on outdoor living and is a great resource for any outdoors enthusiast or youth group.

A limited number of copies are still available for purchase at \$34, including postage. For details, send an email to the MSC office at camps@mainecamps.org.

We Remember -

Dave Mason

Camp Agawam and Maine's entire camping community lost a legendary leader when Dave Mason died September 15 at the age of 100. Born on April 9, 1917, Dave and his wife, Peg, directed Camp Agawam



Dave Mason

from 1954 until 1985, and he remained an active and engaged member of the Agawam Council after his retirement.

Among Dave's accomplishments was the creation of Agawam's Main Idea program in 1971, which has given a Maine camp experience to thousands of deserving boys. Dave once again visited the Main Idea program this past summer. Beyond Camp Agawam, Dave also had a profound influence. He was a leader in the communities of Lovell and Fryeburg. He was a father, husband, brother and son.

Dave's impact on the lives of countless young people during their journey to adulthood is a true gift. His loss will be deeply felt, but he lived a full and rich life and his legacy will be everlasting in the lives of the people whom he has influenced. The world is a much, much better place because of Dave Mason.

A memorial service for Dave was held on Sunday, September 24. Contributions in his name can be made to: Camp Agawam, 6 Fundy Road, Suite 100, Falmouth ME 04105 or online at www.campagawam.org under the giving tab; or, Lovell United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 232, Lovell, Maine 04051







Welcome to New Business Members

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Sugarloaf Contact: Brenna Herridge, 5092 Access Road, Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947, bherridge@sugarloaf.com, 207-237-2000. Sugarloaf's summer offerings include ziplining, off road Segway tours, hiking, lift rides, fly fishing, golf and world class mountain biking. **www.sugarloaf.com**

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■ Newsletter Sponsor Ads – published online 4 times per year Half page horizontal – \$175 per issue

width: 7.5 inches x height: 4.625 inches

Quarter page horizontal – \$100 per issue

width: 7.5 inches x height: 2.188 inches

Quarter page vertical - \$100 per issue

width: 3.625 inches x height: 4.625 inches

Reservation/submission deadlines:

Winter (Dec/Jan) – December 30 Spring (Mar/April) – March 25 Summer (May/June) – May 20

■ Members Action Bulletin Ads – printed in March/April

Half page horizontal – \$200

width: 7.5 inches x height: 4.625 inches

Quarter page horizontal - \$100

width: 7.5 inches x height: 2.188 inches

Quarter page vertical – \$100

width: 3.625 inches x height: 4.625 inches

■ **Directory** – printed in December

Reservation/submission deadline: October 10

Full Page Full Color Ad - \$1500

width: 4.5 inches x height: 7 inches

Half Page Full Color Ad - \$850

width: 4.5 inches x height: 3.25 inches

Quarter Page Full Color Ad - \$500

width: 4.5 inches x height: 1.62 inches

■ Sponsor the 2018 Business Networking Extravaganza – January 23, 2018

Event sponsor - \$400

Seven spots are remaining as of 10/1/2017

Benefit: Your business name and logo included in all marketing for the event, your logo displayed at the event and you will be recognized as a sponsor, free full-size table and 3 free lunches

■ 2018 MSC Winter Workshop Sponsorship

Contact Ron Hall for details at camps@mainecamps.org

Questions? Call Ron Hall at MSC office, 207-518-9557. Or send an email to us for spec sheets and contracts at camps@mainecamps.org

