



Maine Summer Camp Day at Migis Lodge



This fall's MSC Membership meeting was held at Migis Lodge in Casco. The day started with a Board of Directors meeting at 9:00 am, followed by a MSC membership meeting where the education committee facilitated an open forum/gallery walk and talk. MSC camp members had the opportunity to participate in a multitude of lively focus groups. The topics discussed included health, staff, program, administration, food service, and campers. Notes from each focus group can be found on the MSC website, www.maine camps.org.

The highlight of the day was a Migis Cookout for MSC camps and business members. More than 115 business and camp members of MSC enjoyed the gourmet cookout put on by Migis Lodge. Many guests ended the day with a boat ride and a tour of either Wohelo or Wawenock camps.

It was the perfect way to wind down from a great summer!

THANK YOU Migis.



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President's Column



Catriona Sangster

Dear Friends,
Like many of you, I'm sure, each summer at Wawenock we have a theme for our staff training, woven into ongoing training throughout the summer season. The theme this year was actually borrowed from another camp through connections made at a conference last year – a great example of how willing we are as professionals to share and be collaborative! Our theme was “I was here” – a take-off from a Beyoncé song performed at the United Nations World Humanitarian Day in 2012. If you haven't seen the video, take a look; it is powerful. The message empowered our staff to consider and recognize the difference they were going to make in the lives of their campers by being fully present and engaged.

As I reflect on the summer, with pride in our staff for truly setting aside their lives and embracing the opportunity to make a difference at Wawenock, I find myself circling back to this message of being mindful and present in all that we do. In our hectic schedules of the summer season, we typically put our personal lives and needs on hold. It's time now to be fully present for ourselves. It's time to reenergize and rediscover those things that recharge us, and reignite the passion we have for our profession as we begin to prepare for the 2017 season! For me, recharging often comes in the form of simple pleasures, such as re-connecting with my family over a meal, going out to dinner with my husband, connecting with other parents while watching my daughter's soccer game, or taking advantage of living at camp with a walk or a kayak. Whatever it is for you, I hope you make the time to do those things for you!

I look forward to opportunities to connect with all of you through MSC events throughout the year!

Catriona

Maine Summer Camps Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Laura Ordway, Winona
Tracy St. Onge, The Summer Camp
Norm Thombs, Mechuwana

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Maine Summer Camps
Ron Hall, Editor
PO Box 1861, Portland, ME 04104
Tel. 207-518-9557
Fax. 207-799-7773
E-mail: camps@mainecamps.org
www.mainecamps.org
Submissions and articles welcome!

Meet Our New MSC Board Members



*Peter Kassen
Hidden Valley Camp*



*Terri Mulkes
Camp Susan Curtis*



*Arleen Shepherd
Skylemar*

Save the Date!

**Wednesday, November 16 Camp Fair, Concord
Massachusetts**

Maine Summer Camps and Nashoba Brooks School is offering a Camp Fair for Maine camps at the Nashoba Brooks School, 200 Strawberry Hill Rd, Concord MA, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. 18 Maine camps are registered to attend so far. For more information and registration contact Jevan Jammal, jjammal@nashobabrooks.org
flyer: <http://mainecamps.org/event/free-camp-fair-maine-camps-concord-ma/>



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Bob Ditter on Staff Mental Health, plus the **BUSINESS NETWORKING EXTRAVAGANZA**

Next year we are combining two of our biggest events by having our major Educational Workshop and the Business Members Networking Extravaganza on the same day: Tuesday, January 24th at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. From 9:00 am to 12:30 pm MSC will sponsor a workshop featuring Bob



Ditter. The focus of the workshop will center on “staff mental health.” In order to help offset the cost of the workshop, Androscoggin Bank has generously agreed to be the workshop sponsor. This will make it possible to keep the registration fee for the workshop the same as last year (\$20 per person). After the workshop, there will be a buffet lunch and our Vendor Networking Extravaganza. The day will end with our annual Mega Raffle. And similar to last year, the lunch and venue for the event will be sponsored by a limited number of MSC businesses - yet to be determined.

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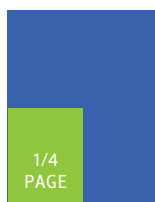
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“If you would have told my 12-year-old self that my favorite place in the world would be in the woods with no electricity, phones, television, cable, video games, etc., I would have said you are nuts.”

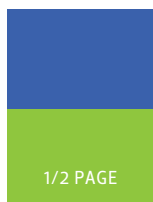
*Jim Goodfellow
Chicago, Illinois
Camp Winona for Boys 1990–1994
Down East Magazine, February 2014*

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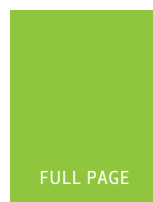
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DATES & DEADLINES

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Down East

THE CAMP HISTORY CORNER BY Henry Johnson, Historian

A Look Back at Beaver Camp for Girls

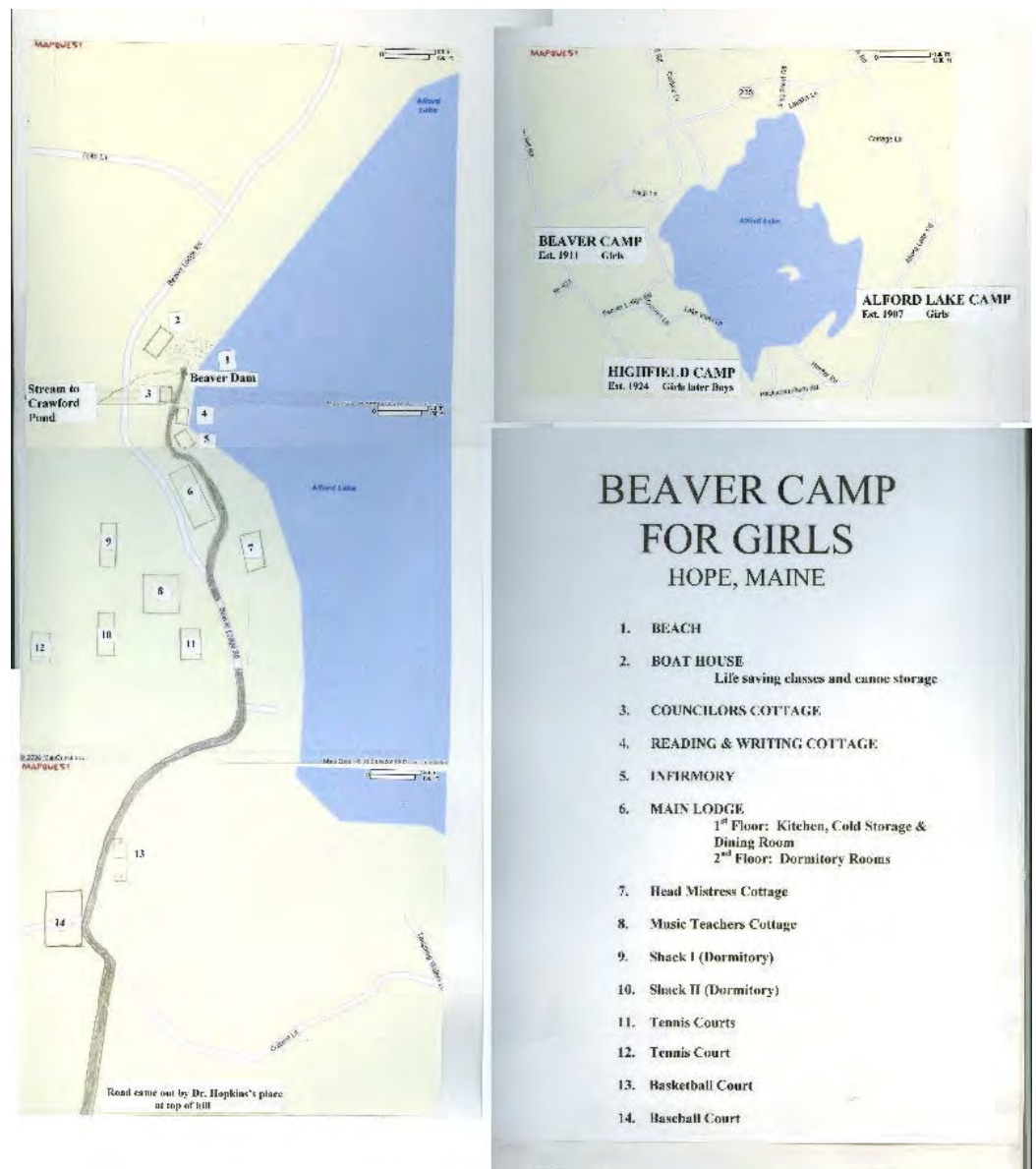
By all accounts, Beaver Camp for Girls which was located in Hope, Maine, opened in 1911 by Elizabeth Wilson Fisher, Josephine Poe, and Margaretta Poe. The Camp was in operation until 1952. To the best knowledge of this Historian, the camp is now used as a natural resources site for a lumber company and parts of the old camp are privately owned.

It is understood that the camp's philosophy was "loyalty and devotion to Beaver Camp ideals...courage, courtesy, self control and modesty...perseverance and determination under discouraging conditions...observance towards the rules of the game, and fairness towards opponents." Much attention was given at Beaver Camp to athletics and water sports, including canoeing, basketball, swimming, and tennis. The camp also featured handcrafts, color guard, and marching.

It appears during the early years of operation that the camp was primarily for girls aged 14 to 18 and its initial tuition was \$400 for the summer. Generally, enrollment featured 60 to 70 girls with approximately 16 staff members. Some accounts suggest that the camp closed in the 1950's as a consequence of a consistent drop in family income following World War II.

As shown in the picture below, Beaver Camp appears to have been one of the great camps that has dotted Alford Lake along with Alford Lake Camp which was established in 1907 and Highfield Camp which was established in 1924 as a girl's camp and later became a boy's camp.

Further shown in the picture below, Beaver Camp for Girls featured the following structures: a Boat House, Counselors Cottage, Reading and Writing Cottage, Infirmary, Main Lodge, Head Mistress Cottage, Music Teachers Cottage, Shack I (dormitory), Shack II (dormitory), tennis courts, basketball court, and a baseball court.





This past year JMG received funding totalling \$12,250 from Enterprise Holdings, Camp O-AT-KA and its alumni, and Maine Timberland Charitable Trust who provided ten \$1,000 scholarships to campers from Bryant Pond 4-H and Natarswi Girl Scouts. For the first time JMG offered a pre-testing camp workshop for JMG candidates and outdoor living instructors from member camps. More than 90 people took part in the workshop which was hosted by Bryant Pond. Plans are already being made for the 2017 pre-testing camp workshop.

Participating Camps

Arcadia
Birch Rock
Bryant Pond
Kawanhee
Natarswi
O-AT-KA
Runoia
Winona
Wyonegonic



2016 Statistics

- 13 out of 15 second year candidates passed
- 15 out of 53 first year candidates passed
- Total: 28 out of 68 candidates passed, a 41% passing rate. Slightly lower than the 10 year pass rate of 48.6%

2016 Staff

Moose Curtis, Director
K Bolduc
Lindley Brainard
Katie Curtis
Carrie Curtis
Ron Fournier
Ginny Geyer
Marie Keane
Bruce McDonald
Lynn O'Donnell
Bill Southwick
Gard Thompson

Thank you to staff for another great year!





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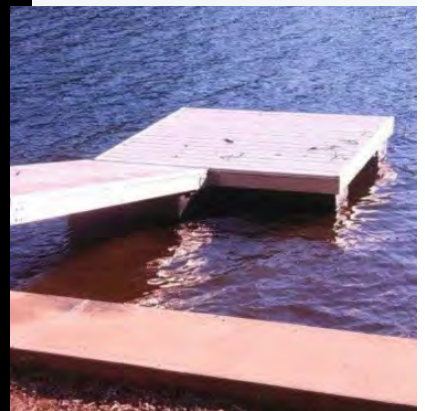
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Camps Save the Day at Raymond Town Beach



When town officials in Raymond, Maine were on the verge of canceling the summer swim instruction

program because they had no lifeguard, three Raymond summer camps came to the rescue. Pat Smith, a former Camp Wawenock director who for decades organized Raymond's swim program, spearheaded the effort. The result of what one camp director called Smith's "stick-to-itiveness." Camp Agawam, Camp Timanous, and Kingsley Pines Camp each provided volunteer lifeguards to stand watch on the shores of Crescent Lake. The program was saved, and 30 Raymond youngsters got their lessons.

"Pat called and asked, do I know anyone to hire," said Camp Timanous Director Linda Sutor. "I thought, 'we have a lot of lifeguards; maybe we can help out and maybe there are other camps, too.'"

"I was overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of camps," Smith said. Despite their multitude of responsibilities in preparing for the upcoming season, camp administrators responded to her inquiries and helped come up with a solution. "There was a real spirit of collegiality," Smith said. "They all wanted to help however they could."

Karen Malm, assistant director of Camp Agawam, says the credit goes to Smith. "She did a lot of extra legwork to make it happen," Malm said. "Her stick-to-itiveness made it happen. The priority for everybody was getting the swim lessons to happen, to make sure Raymond Rec. could run the program." And it did. Four weeks of lessons, four days a week, with more than a dozen lifeguards from three different camps all donating their time and ability and enthusiasm.

"They have all been wonderful," said Pam Synk, who taught the lessons and also provided the lifeguards with rides to and from their camps each morning. "They are competent, enthusiastic, just great. This was like assembling a fun puzzle, since we had a different guard every day." Transporting the lifeguards offered time to talk about the venue and the structure of the lessons. Synk said the lifeguards learned and remembered swimmers' names, led the charge into the water each morning, and quickly bonded with the youngsters they were guarding. "There was no

reluctance at all," she said. "They were excited to do it. They were amazing."

Alan Kissack, director of Kingsley Pines Camp, which offered lifeguards on four days, said his counselors "were happy to help out. They had fun."

One of the lifeguards to pitch in was PJ Synk, a head counselor at Camp Timanous. Synk, who is swim instructor Pam Synk's son, is currently spending his tenth summer at Timanous, his fifth as a counselor. "I think giving back is important," PJ said, adding that he has worked with Habitat for Humanity and a number of soup kitchens. He said that during the summer he has helped out at Camp Sunshine in Casco, which serves children with life-threatening illnesses, along with their families. A cabin counselor who also teaches both swimming and lifeguarding, PJ said he and the other lifeguards "appreciated the opportunity to get out of camp and work with local children. Community outreach by camps is important." While it's easy to get caught up in camp schedules and programming, he said, "I think looking beyond that into the community is spectacular."

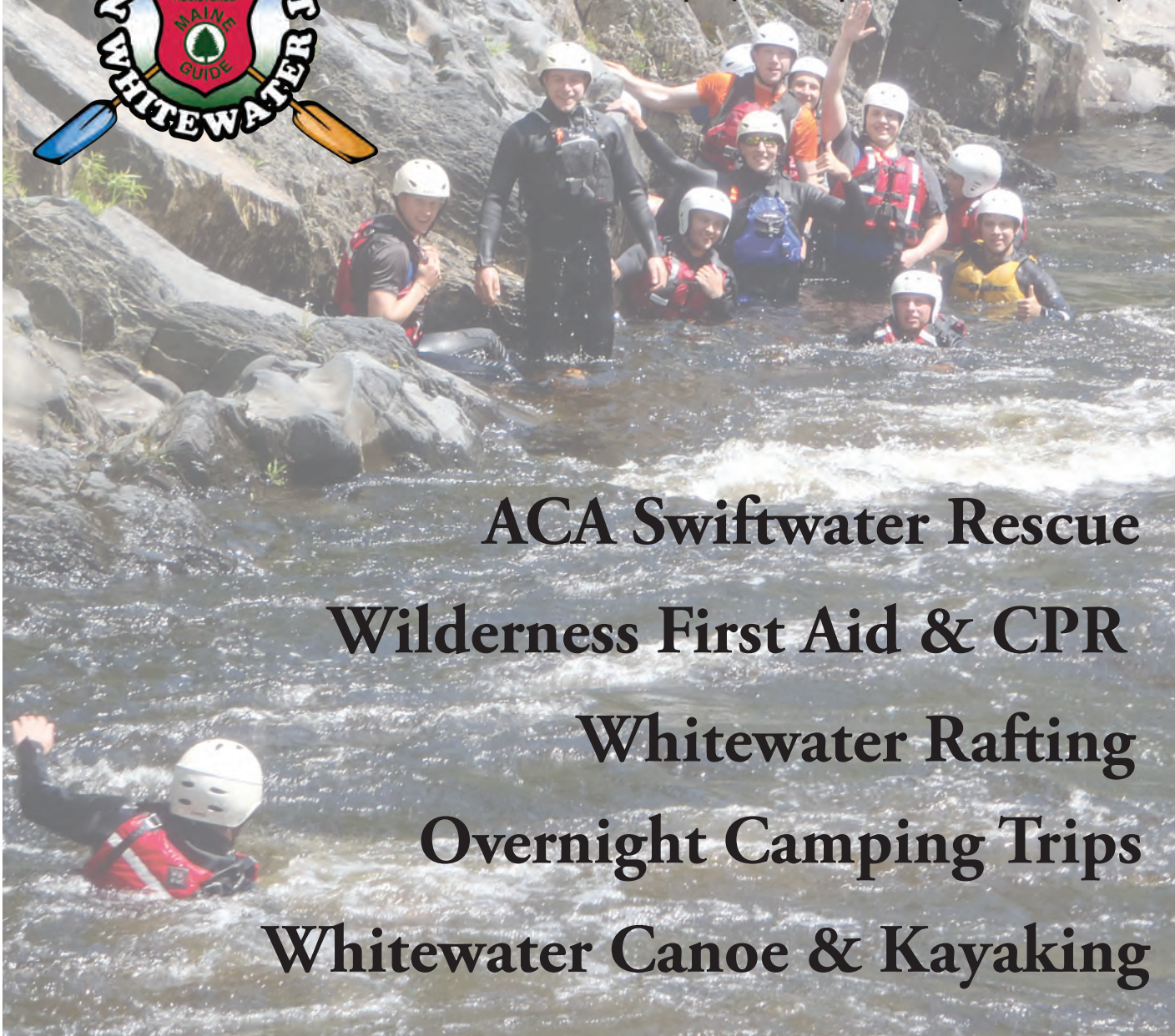
An added benefit, said Sutor, the Camp Timanous director, was the chance to collaborate with other camps. "Everyone wanted to do it for the right reasons."

For Camp Agawam staff, the choice to volunteer was in keeping with the camp's mission of service, said Stephanie Hogan. Hogan, Agawam's waterfront director for the past five years, has been affiliated with the camp since 2000. She said Agawam's program known as "The Main Idea" – which for more than four decades has offered a week of free camp to boys for whom a camp experience would otherwise be unavailable – is another symbol of the camp's commitment to community. So when Hogan and a handful of other Agawam lifeguards joined the crew of volunteers for Raymond's swim lessons, it was "seamless," Hogan said. "I think we all feel a sense of duty and commitment to the Raymond community. When we heard about the lifeguard situation it was a no-brainer." Hogan said the fact that some of the youngsters taking swim lessons had attended The Main Idea program made the volunteering even more significant. "They got a vision of us outside the Agawam community. When we go to Raymond Rec. we are on their turf, supporting them. It's incredibly meaningful."

A community in need, its commitment to teaching kids to swim, and some like-minded camps determined to do their part. Collaboration, cooperation and a spirit of giving back meant that, once again, Raymond, Maine's youngsters got their summer swim lessons. And a lot of thoughtful lifeguards had fun making it possible.

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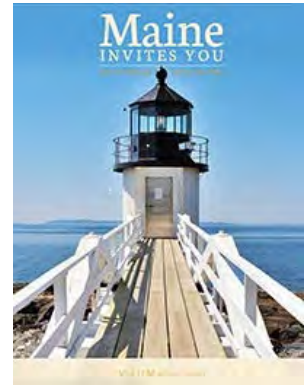
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MSC Marketing Update for 2016-17

We are working on a number of new marketing initiatives this year in hopes of increasing the branding of our organization.

1. MSC has been working with Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) and Maine Tourism Association (MTA) for more than a year to find ways to increase MSC's exposure in the marketing of both organizations. This fall upgrades are being made to both the MOT & MTA websites that will include a greater presence of MSC, including easier to find links to MSC and its member camps. We have also signed a contract to have a full page ad in the 2017 "Maine Invites You," the official tourism brochure for the State of Maine. This guide to Maine has a distribution of over 300,000 copies with a focus on New England and the Atlantic states. The guide is also available online.



2. We are also starting to work with local chambers of commerce. MSC has become a member of the Kennebec Valley Chamber, which has 17 MSC camps in its area. We are collaborating on a plan to encourage all 17 camps to join the chamber, and as a result, the chamber has agreed to promote the camps on their website and create a special rack card promoting tourism and summer camps in the region. Camps can distribute the card to their families who will be traveling to Maine. Once this project is active (in about 1 month) we will use it as a prototype to use with other chambers of commerce that have a significant camp population.

3. MSC will co-sponsor a camp fair in Concord, MA for Maine camps. Approximately 20 Maine camps have registered to participate at the Nashoba Brooks-MSA Camp Fair in Concord, MA on November 16 (see page 3 for more information).

4. In addition to these new initiatives, MSC will continue to:

- Regularly post blogs on our website
- Actively manage the MSC & JMG social media sites
- Host the annual MSC Camp Fair in Portland (March 19th)
- Advertise in Maine Magazine's April issue
- Collaborate with Maine Magazine's April issue listing all MSC camps with a brief description of each
- Advertise in Down East Magazine's February issue
- Print and distribute 10,000 MSC rack cards
- Publish the MSC 2017 directory and distribute 1,200 copies to camps, MSC business members, Maine libraries, social workers, and school guidance counselors.



5. And don't forget, if you are a full directory member and have not sent back your web text and the activities checklist, please contact Margi at the MSC office at office@mainecamps.org to update your information.

Special MSC Events

October 19th – The fall maintenance/facility managers meeting will take place at Camp Fernwood Cove, 350 Island Pond Road, Harrison from 8:30 to noonish. For more information, please contact Chris Wentworth at 207-233-6866

November 4th – The fall MSC Social Gathering will happen at the Allagash Brewery, 50 Industrial Way in Portland, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. For more information, please contact Matt Pines 207-585-2115

December 6th – The first meeting of the MSC Book Club will be held at the Good Life Market, 1297 Roosevelt Trail Raymond, ME from 9:00 to 10:30 am.

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The 2016 Halsey Gulick Award Presented to Tim Ellis June Annual Meeting



Visionary. Innovator. Educator. Idealist. In his tenure at Chewonki, Tim Ellis was all of these, blurring the lines between the recreation of camp and the learning in the classroom. Tim saw each and every interaction and experience at Chewonki - be it in winter, spring, summer or fall, indoors or outdoors - as a teachable moment. While formally retiring from Chewonki in 1991, Tim's legacy remains as influential as ever, making him a deserving recipient of the 2016 Halsey Gulick Award.

Not many in the camping world first arrived at their camp in a bassinet, but legend has it that this is how Tim's Chewonki career began in 1938. Tim's childhood summers were spent at Chewonki as the son of the head counselor, and eventually Tim forged his own path as a camper and counselor.

By the time Tim took over as camp director in 1965, Chewonki was already steeped in 50 years of camping traditions. Tim was the first employee of the newly formed Chewonki Foundation, the non-profit entity that purchased Chewonki from founding owner and director Clarence Allen. From this point forward, Tim began to leave his mark, matching the rapid pace of cultural change in our country with his own bold vision for Chewonki's future. Tim viewed every moment of camp as an educational opportunity. Mealtimes were not just a time for physical nourishment, but also a time for deliberate community development. Sunday Services evolved from one-sided sermons to interactive community discussions, providing equal voice to 10-year-olds and the camp director.

While Tim's drive and focus at Chewonki were legendary, he also believed in the value of a strong camping industry for the good of all. Tim willingly shared his experiences with other camps as they made the transition to non-profit status. Tim also served as president of the Maine Youth Camping Foundation from 1989 to 1991, giving of his time and experience for the good of all Maine camps.

There is so much to Tim Ellis, the person. Tim drew great strength from his family. His wife Margaret was the perfect camp partner, far more equal visionary and teacher than her formal role of camp nurse and gardener might suggest. Tim graced many a campfire and Sunday Service with his banjo playing and captivating stories. He took his role as financial steward of a not-for-profit seriously, always looking for a deal. Legend has it that camp bunks were secured from a military surplus for free and attempts were made to cajole restaurants into waiving the meals tax for end-of-season staff parties, because after all Chewonki was a non-profit.

Stories about Tim always have a common theme: a belief in everyone's inherent potential balanced with firm expectations, and the conviction that with the right design, more learning could occur in one summer of camp than an entire year of school. As we look to a future where the camps of Maine have a tremendous opportunity to partner with our schools, we celebrate the leadership of Tim Ellis with the 2016 Halsey Gulick award.

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News and Reviews

Fall 2016



MSC Spelling Bee

The 13th Annual Spelling Bee was held on July 14th this year with the continuing support of Norway Savings Bank matching all of the entrance fees.

This year saw our biggest attendance yet with ten camps bringing a total of 142 spellers. With tricky words like “curmudgeon”



and “entrepreneur,” the 13-15 year olds forged ahead.

Wigwam Team B won the 12-and-under contest and Fernwood won the 13-15 year-old trophy. Thanks to Bob Strauss and the Wigwam staff for all their hard work and a special thanks to our sponsor Jack Day and the Norway Savings Bank. Kudos to Fernwood for providing the Spelling BEE mascot.

Welcome

New Business Members

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Camp Spot Contact: Howard Hoffman, 4 Vreeland Rd., Florham Park, NJ 07932. howard@thecampspot.com
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Corcl Boats Contact: Carter Brigham, 732 Deepdene Rd., Baltimore, MD 21210. carter@corcl.com.
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Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District Contact: Jami Fitch, 35 Main St., Ste. 3, Windham, ME 04062. jfitch@cumberlandswcd.org 207.892.4700. *We provide hands-on environmental education to all ages. Topics focus primarily on clean water.* www.cumberlandswcd.org.

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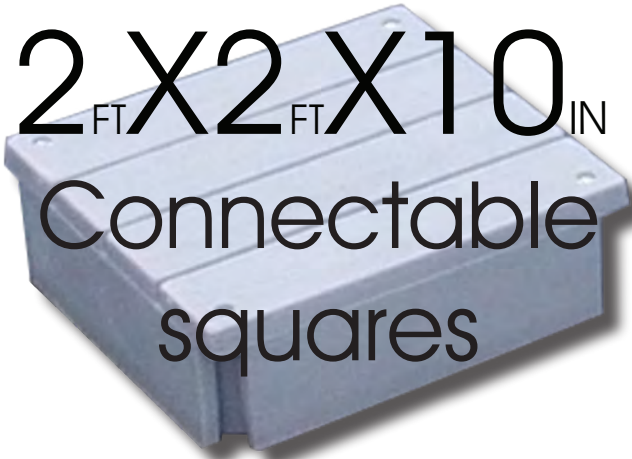
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News and Reviews

Fall 2016

Truth and Consequences 2016 Thurber Workshop Camp Wawenock-July 12



The subject for this dynamic and participatory workshop was, in a word: lying. Why do people lie, how do we deal with lying, and in particular how can counselors deal with it at camp? Christopher Thurber brought this ethical struggle to 68 first and second year counselors at this year's workshop at Camp Wawenock in Raymond. The participants were challenged to explore the limits of their own honesty, and to come up with instructive methods for helping their campers tell the truth when it counts.

In his interactive way, Thurber, after talking about some reasons why people lie, turned the dilemma back to the counselors, and asked them how they would respond to different scenarios where the question might be simple, but the response might need to be nuanced so as not to hurt someone's feelings. Some vexing cases were:

- "How did I do?" - during a sporting event, or a performance
- "Do you like the gift I made or brought for you?" -this response can be a little delicate, especially with homemade gifts
- "Does this (clothing) look okay on me?" – hard to win with this one
- To the most difficult: "If you were a person sheltering Jews in Nazi Germany during WWII would it be okay to lie about that?"

By discussing responses to these questions, the counselors realized that all ethical dilemmas can have a truthful outcome, if we can tell the truth in un-hurtful ways. But getting there may not be easy. Communication is key and patience and more patience is required.

Not all lies are bad. Sometimes lying makes sense. A story that may be more common than we think is the situation where a camper has to go home because his father died and the staff told the young campers that he'd gone home for a "family event" rather than the actual truth. We sometimes

lie so as not to hurt others, such as praising a shop creation when it really wasn't very good, to protect the creator of the project.

Counselors came up some reasons why people might not tell the truth: fear, boosting self-esteem, denial or ignorance of the truth, to give people what they think they want, to avoid doing work, to take the onus off yourself. There is also learned behavior from a dishonest family; it is how things are done in that family.


Thurber then asked the crowd: "Why be honest?" Honesty is a gift to other people. It is also a source of power and an "engine of simplicity" because if you tell the truth you don't have to remember what lies you told and it gives you credibility. And when you do tell the truth it can strengthen relationships.

So how can we deal with a camper who has lied? It is not a conversation about lying but about what to do now and later, and moving forward. Accusing the liar doesn't get you anywhere. If the lie is not confronted, it can have a negative impact. Thurber, together with his counselor audience, came up with some steps to take.

- Remember that all behavior makes sense to the actor
- The counselor must set an example
- Focus on truth-telling, not the lie
- Build a relationship, save face, and demonstrate skills rather than punishing the lie

All this takes time and patience, two things that may be in short supply during the busy camp season, but when paid attention to can have lasting effect.

A Word about Carbon Monoxide Detectors



A number of camps that were inspected by the DHHS-HIP this past summer were told that there is a new law that requires camps to have carbon monoxide detectors in all cabins even though they don't have any heat or cooking source. At our request, Jack Erler contacted the State Fire Marshall's office and ultimately they agreed with us that cabins without a heat/cooking source are not included in the new CO detector law. Any camps that were cited for not having CO detectors in their cabins should therefore have the violation removed from their inspection report. Jack will be working with Senator Bill Diamond, the sponsor of the bill, on an amendment to the law that would require cabins that have a heat source to have CO detectors starting next summer.



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Opportunity for Business Members! Be an MSC Newsletter Sponsor!

Once again we will be publishing four newsletters and our Spring Action Bulletin. This is a great way for our business members to reach out to our 125 Maine Summer Camps members. Currently, we have space for sponsor ads in all issues. For more information, contact Margi at the MSC office. office@mainecamps.org

Calendar of Events 2016-17

Save the Date!

November 16, Wednesday- Maine Camp Fair at Nashoba Brooks School – Concord, MA.

2017

January 24, Tuesday- Business Member Networking Event and Bob Ditter Workshop, – Italian Heritage Center - Portland, ME, 9:00 – 3:30.

January 25, Wednesday- Winter Board Meeting – Hyatt Place, Portland, ME, 9:30 am to Noon.

March 19, Sunday- Annual MSC Camp Fair, East End Community School, Portland, ME, 1:00 pm.

March 30 – April 1- New England ACA Conference, Manchester, NH.

April 1, Saturday- Semi Annual Membership Meetings of MSC and MYCA at the ACA/NE Conference, Manchester, NH. Breakfast provided by Chalmers Insurance and Norway Savings Bank.

April 25, Tuesday- Spring Board Meeting and Workshops at SYSCO Food Show.