

Hall of Flags Event at the State House

Youth Camp Directors and Legislators Share Insights and Information

When representatives of the Maine youth camping industry make the trip to the State House, it is often with a particular issue in mind, an item of business for which they are advocating or to which they are opposed. But on May 1, more than 20 Maine youth camp directors, plus a handful of business members of the non-profit membership organization Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA) set up tables and displays in the State House's Hall of Flags. Their goal: to simply meet legislators, answer questions, and offer a look into the vast benefits of youth camping in Maine.

Newell Augur, Esq., the MYCA lobbyist, says he suggested the event, based on the experience of other clients.

"They come to the State House, meet legislators on their own terms—reach out to them when they don't have an issue particularly pressing," Augur says.

One benefit of the May 1 event date was the fact that the legislature was not in session, Augur says. Rather, legislators were meeting in committees, and could take the time to more fully engage with camp representatives, he says.

Those representatives came from a broad cross section of Maine youth camps. Two dozen youth camps from nearly every Maine county demonstrated just how wide ranging Maine's youth camping opportunities are. Representatives included camps serving youngsters with developmental challenges, single gender and coed camps, residential and day camps, agency camps and camps that are tuition-free. In addition, legislators could learn more about the Junior Maine Guide Program, an outdoor living skills certification program created by the Maine State Legislature more than 80 years ago.

In addition, two of Maine Summer Camps' 138 business members—Chalmers Insurance, and Northeast Charter—were able to lend insight into how the youth camp industry and Maine businesses support each other.

"There was a marvelous cross section and energy from folks all over the state," Augur says. "We got nothing but positive feedback from legislators."



Jan Dodge, legislator from Belfast, with Greg Shute from Chewonki

Maine youth camps extend vast growth opportunities to children, both in terms of learning and advancing new skills and in developing socially through group living, collaborating and problem-solving, and increasing in confidence and independence. But camps also have other impacts, says Maine Summer Camps Executive Director Ron Hall. Camps host community suppers and invite local schools to use their facilities; they provide more than \$5 million in camp scholarships to Maine children; and they have more than \$200 million in direct and indirect impact on the Maine economy, he says.

"What a nice chance to talk about what we do," says Augur, "without any agenda."

"We need to take the opportunity to tell them about who we are and what we do," he says. "Why continuing to support youth camps is important for the development of youth and the development of the economy."

Jack Erler, Esq., MYCA counsel, says explaining the youth camp industry to legislators sometimes demands the clarification that a "youth camp" means a children's camp licensed by the state

Continued on page 3

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A membership association for Maine youth camps
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SUMMER 2019

As we launch into another summer, I think about the breadth and complexity of the work we do as camp professionals. From facility management, to program development, to marketing, to child development; we wear a lot of hats! In my opinion, some of the most important work we do with young people – both campers and staff – is centered on building community. Maine Summer Camps create safe spaces for young people to feel accepted, included, and valued, and to be given opportunities to challenge themselves and grow.



As I end my time as president of Maine Summer Camps and pass the torch to Beigette, I couldn't be more proud of our organization, because it is reflective of that mission we have in our camps. No matter how different each of our camps is, we are all building strong, supportive communities. Likewise, Maine Summer Camps is a strong, supportive community of camp professionals!

I am so excited to continue to be an integral part of Maine Summer Camps, because I learn so much from my colleagues, whether they're new to the industry or seasoned veterans. The enthusiasm and desire to work together to grow our organization in ways that support the work we do in our camps is unparalleled. Maine Summer Camps provides us with the opportunity to stretch ourselves and to continue to grow as professionals. How fortunate we are to have this collegial community as a foundation and springboard for the work we do in our own camps. If you're not already actively involved, join us!

Wishing you all a safe and successful summer season! I look forward to continuing our connections and learning from one another after the summer and throughout the year!

Best Wishes,
Catriona Sangster, President, Maine Summer Camps



Maine Summer Camps is on the move!

During the month of June, we will move the MSC offices to 550 Forest Avenue, Suite 203, Portland. The new space is larger and is handicapped accessible. For those of you who know Portland, it's next door to the Great Lost Bear on Forest Avenue. Our contact information will not change.

550 Forest Avenue, Suite 203



Maine Summer Camps participants shared the benefits of youth camping in Maine at the Hall of Flags event held in early May.

Hall of Flags Event *continued from page 1*

Department of Health and Human Services. This allows camps to indicate that they are indeed part of a “regulated industry,” he says. It also allows youth camps to make the distinction from entities that do not have that designation.

Like Augur, Erler says the timing of the event meant legislators had time to engage. Conversations were both professional and personal, he said.

Peter Hirsch, MYCA board president and director of boys’ Camp Androscoggin in Wayne, says the event offered legislators the opportunity to be in “their backyard, at their camp,” to talk about what camps do for their communities as the State of Maine.

“I think it was the first opportunity that we had just to talk to legislators without it being in a hearing, or outside a hearing room about a particular issue,” he says. “We often invite them to visit us in our workplace. We thought it would be nice to reach out, travel to their workplace.”

The event was also a helpful follow-up to Maine Summer Camps’ “Backpack Project,” a youth camping information campaign conducted in 2018. A professionally designed paper “backpack,” which contained a full spectrum of information about the youth camping industry, was sent to each candidate running in 2018 for Maine governor and legislature, and the U.S. Senate and House. As Jack Erler says, the Hall of Flags event allowed camp representatives to remind legislators of the backpack information.

The summer youth camping season begins mere weeks away. Camp directors across Maine will turn their attention to the youngsters they serve, to fulfilling the missions of their organizations. But these directors know their work impacts not just youngsters, but communities and the state. By gathering in the Hall of Flags, with the goal of connecting with lawmakers, camp directors demonstrated yet another dimension of their multi-faceted roles in supporting youth development.

MYCA & MSC Annual Meeting June 12

It’s not too late to sign up to attend our **Annual Meeting and Luncheon on June 12 at Camp Walden**. All MSC members are invited to our Annual Meeting (camp, individual, and business members). The day will begin with coffee and pastries at 9:30 am, then the Annual Meeting at 10 am, and lunch at noon. An optional tour of the camp will be held at 1:15 pm.



[Click here to register for the meeting and lunch](#)

Checkmate

The Second Annual Maine Summer Camps Chess Tournament will take place on Thursday, July 25 at West End House Camp in Parsonsfield, Maine. There will be 2 age divisions: 12 and Under, and 15 and Under. Trophies will be awarded to the top two players in each division. Entry fee is \$5 per person. Report time is 9:30 am and Start Time is 10 am. The event will again be sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank.

For more details or to sign up please contact Bill Margolin at West End House Camp at bill@westendhousecamp.org or call 617-783-2267 *before June 18*, or 207-625-9382 *after June 18*.

TAKE NOTE

September 18 Workshop at Migis Lodge

Mark your calendars for the **September 18 Morning Workshop and Lunch**, once again hosted by Migis Lodge in South Casco, on Sebago Lake. The workshop will focus on six topics from the 2019 summer season. In late August the Education Committee will send a survey looking for your input, which will guide us on choosing the most relevant topics you are interested in addressing. You will have the opportunity to rotate and discuss three of the topics during the workshop.

Potential Camp Fair in Bangor Next April

Maine Summer Camps hopes to organize a camp fair in Bangor in early April 2020. Date and location are still to be determined. At this point, we would love to hear from any MSC camps interested in having a display at the camp fair. As we explore various venues to hold the fair we also welcome suggestions. Email camps@mainecamps.org

MSC Book Club Update

The Education Committee plans to organize a fall book club gathering. If you have any great book suggestions, please email beigette@fernwoodcove.com. We will choose a book in late August and let you know our choice in a forthcoming *Hall Monitor* email update.

A Discussion on Weather and Running a Safe and Fun Camp Experience

Education Workshop Led by Moe Beaulieu on Using Weather Technology

We all love being in Maine and its rich tradition of children's summer camps. Part of that experience includes our beautiful sunny days and cool mornings with the fog rising over the lake. It also includes humid days and thundershowers that can dampen our best programming efforts. We all know the adage about Maine weather—wait a minute and it will change. Added to that is the constantly changing technology to help us see the weather patterns as they approach camp. This makes running a safe and fun children's camp experience a very challenging proposition.

This year's April Education workshop met during the Sysco Food Show to discuss weather and how everyone is using weather technology to make the best decisions for their camp programs. We were grateful to have Moe Beaulieu lead our engaging discussion on this topic. Moe is a Registered Maine Guide and the L.L. Bean Youth Programs Coordinator for the Outdoor Discovery School for Kids in Freeport. They face some unique challenges for their school that include changing ocean tides and wind velocity.

Communication that is open and clear is a key component of having an effective weather plan. Start weather training protocols early and emphasis your decision-making process throughout the summer.

We broke out into small discussion groups and then came back to share what technology and systems everyone is using, some of the most popular suggestions were using the WeatherUnderground app, setting custom alerts for your camp, and signing up for Emergency Management Alerts for your area from the National Weather Service. For camps operating trips, River Watch is a very helpful resource and the Garmin Inreach devices are able to provide a daily weather update.

Many of the discussions emphasized balancing outdoor experience and knowledge with technology. It is important to make sure everyone understands your camp's weather emergency protocols on how decisions are made. Default to safety and understand what that means for everyone at your site. Communication that is open and clear is a key component of having an effective weather plan. Start weather training protocols early and emphasis your decision-making process throughout the summer. It is important to include all staff early on in the discussions about weather as some of Maine's weather is very different from the states and countries that our staff are from.

Thunder and lightning are consistently the most challenging in Maine especially in July. At L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School, their lightning/thunder policy is nonnegotiable; campers and staff must be inside for 30 minutes from the last

sighting or clap of thunder. Many camps shared they had a similar position.

It was also discussed how to be prepared for rainy days and have alternate programming ready to go—it makes all the difference and can turn a rainy day into a memorable event. It was emphasized how important it is to be flexible and ready to modify programs as the weather changes.

Some groups brought up that parents can use the same technology to monitor weather at camp. We need to have a proactive policy regarding what to post on social media accounts to keep them notified about weather events.

It's always good to remember and hear we are not alone in our weather and programming challenges at camp. The opportunity to discuss and learn more about some of the weather technology camps are using and how we might incorporate them into our own procedures was helpful. It was also helpful to reaffirm how important communication is to the effectiveness of our decisions. We all know weather changes and safety for everyone is priority number one. Effective communication can help everyone weather the storm at camp!

We all are looking forward to a sunny not too humid summer!



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Chris Thurber

Chris Thurber's Workshop for First and Second Year Counselors – July 9, 1:30-4 pm at Camp Wawenock

Collaborative Problem Solving with Youth: Achieving Durable Change in High-Conflict Situations

In volatile situations, traditional problem-solving efforts can backfire and escalate conflict. In this engaging workshop, Chris will introduce powerful new tools to help counselors identify kids' needs, empathize effectively, and resolve conflicts durably. Chris's guidance will prove helpful for camper-camper conflicts, staff-staff conflicts and staff-parent conflicts. All participants will practice Collaborative Problem Solving and learn to apply it to the very next conflict that they encounter.



To register your staff, [click here](#)

MSC/Norway Savings Bank Spelling Bee – Thursday, July 11

The 14th Annual Norway Savings Bank/MSC Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, July 11 at the Jewish Community Center, 1342 Congress Street, Portland. Registration starts at 9:30 am.

The cost is \$5 per contestant. Register your teams, by calling the MSC office 207-518-9557 or send an email to Sue at office@mainecamps.org

First Annual Bayside Bowl Summer Camp Bowling Tourney

On Monday, July 8, MSC and Bayside Bowl will partner to sponsor the First Annual MSC Summer Camp Bowling Tourney. The event will be held at Bayside Bowl (58 Alder Street, 207-791-2695) in downtown Portland. Registration begins at 10:15 am for an 11 am "pins up" start time.

Lunch will be served to all teams (pizza, drinks, dessert), included in the price of \$15 per bowler, for the entire tourney. Other food/snacks may be brought by participating teams but may not be brought into the venue.

In a similar format to the MSC Spelling Bee, teams of five in two age groups (12 & under and 13 & over) will compete. Teams will bowl a minimum of two games, with a third "medal round" game for qualifying teams. Cumulative scoring among all team members will count toward a final pin count after two games. Prizes will be awarded to the team that scores the highest total, as well as the individuals who score the highest game.

Camps will provide staff in the ratio of a minimum of one staff member per team. **Let's start rolling!**

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Email: nichols@tutorcorps.com

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Contact: Todd Beacham at 207.253.7448

Email: todd.e.beacham@baml.com

Website: www.bankofamerica.com

Save the date! Next winter's Business Networking Extravaganza will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland.



Possible Student Nurse Intern Program

Maine Summer Camps and Husson University School of Nursing personnel met this spring to discuss plans for a new elective course for senior nursing students. Plans are underway to create a new course in which students would intern at a MSC summer camp health center for two to eight weeks. Husson would provide both the curriculum and a program to monitor their students in the field. The next step in the process is to have the director of the nursing school visit MSC camps this summer. The final step will be nursing faculty approval of the new course. If all goes well the program could start in summer 2020.

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Bryant Pond 4-H Camp Hosts Fourth Annual JMG Rendezvous on July 6

The fourth annual JMG Rendezvous will be held Saturday, July 6 at Bryant Pond 4-H Camp. About 100 campers and staff attended the 2018 event. The Rendezvous gives candidates the opportunity to become acquainted with JMG testers, who demonstrate to both counselors and candidates the skill levels expected at testing camp. There will also be a question-and-answer session for camp counselors with the JMG Program Director.

The Rendezvous will start at 9 a.m. with introductions and a schedule/orientation of the day's events. There will be sessions on the following topics: axe and knife; map and compass; canoeing; a tree walk; and individual shelter. Candidates will have ample opportunity to ask questions. Prior to lunch, JMG staff will conduct a group session on areas in which they would like to see skill improvement. The day will conclude with a short closing session at 3 p.m.

The JMG Rendezvous and cookout lunch is hosted by Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and is sponsored by a grant from Enterprise Car Rental.



Click here to register your JMG candidates and staff



Campers are tested on a number of survival skills including Map and Compass.

Junior Maine Guide Testing Camp July 22-26 at Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve, Oquossoc

This summer marks the 82nd birthday of the Junior Maine Guide Program.

JMG Testing Camp will be held July 22-26 at the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve in Oquossoc, outside Rangeley. The annual Junior Maine Guide Newsletter will be sent in mid-June to all camps interested in attending this year's encampment.

Maine's new Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Judy Camuso, is scheduled to visit JMG Testing Camp this year.

If you have any questions about the JMG program, please contact Program Director Moose Curtis at 207-928-2107 or mr.moose675@gmail.com.

Copies of *The Art of Outdoor Living* are still available; for more information email the MSC office at office@mainecamps.org



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Webinar: Setting Up Your Health Center in Maine

A big thank you to VJ Gibbins for creating and presenting our
latest webinar on Setting up your Health Center in Maine. It was
truly informative and provided a great overview and foundation
for any camps' health center. If you did not get to watch it live it
is available on the MSC website or see the links below.



[Click here to view video.](#)



[Click here to view powerpoint presentation](#)

In Memorium

There will be a celebration of the life of **Andy McMullan** at
Alford Lake Camp on **Sunday, June 9** at 1:30 pm. The family
would love to have you join them for this special time together.



[If you are planning on attending, please use this link to let
the McMullan family know.](#)

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Maine Camp History –

Seal Bay Camp, North Brooksville

By Henry Johnson, Maine Camp Historian

Seal Bay Camp for Girls was located in North Brooksville, Maine and operated continuously from 1953 to 1970. The camp was founded by “Monty” Perkins and Chrissie Perkins. Information to date indicates that the camp was founded to “keep Monty’s teenagers interested in coming to Brooksville from Portland.” Because many seals populated the body of water of the Northern Bay area of Maine, the Camp gained the name Seal Bay Camp for Girls.

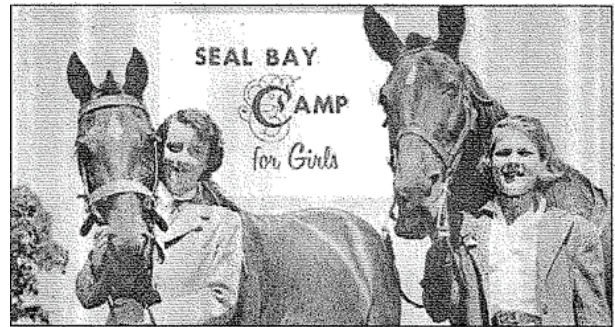
At Seal Bay Camp girls aged from 6 to 16 years old attended. At this 8 week camp, campers from many states throughout the United States came to attend and the staff were primarily college students and teachers. As a general proposition the camper to staff ratio was 3:1.

One primary focus of the camp was horseback riding. There, daily equitation classes were taught with an emphasis on fundamentals such as the finer points of horsemanship. Campers, whether beginner, intermediate, or advanced, participated in the Seal Bay Horse Show held at the close of each camp season. The camper winning the show won the “Tozier Trophy” for being the most outstanding rider in the camp.

In addition to horseback riding campers were given the opportunity to climb Cadillac Mountain and canoe the Saco River. The arts and craft shop was typically very busy. Popular day trips for the campers would include visits to Frenchman’s Bay for a “charcoal sketching-lobster cookout.” Occasionally, campers

took all-day boat trips to a nearby island on Penobscot Bay which provided campers an outstanding opportunity to explore and see the abundant bird life as well as participate in treasure hunts.

The thought is that despite the outstanding recreational facilities and great attention paid to campers, by the late 1960s due possibly to the rise in a demand for specialty camps for children, camps such as Seal Bay fell out of favor. That, possibly coupled with the advanced aging of its directors Seal Bay opted to close its doors in 1970. Below is a picture from a brochure for Seal Bay Camp for Girls.



Editor’s Note: This article is written by noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson who attended Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine from 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson is the author of numerous articles and publications relating to the history of Maine summer camps. If you wish to submit information to Mr. Johnson relating to the history of any Maine summer camp, you may do so at the following email: hjohnson@henryjohnson/aw.com.



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Bridgton's new President, Peter J. Wright, FACHE, will be on-hand at MSC's June 12 meeting to introduce himself and answer questions.

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Contact: Alexis Dascoulias, Founder and Director at 808.385.4138 or admin@centerstage.org
 295 Maple Lane, Livermore, ME 04253

Website: campcenterstage.org

Camp Chloë

Growing Routes offers a variety of small-group summer programs for all ages. Our focus is on nurturing confidence, creativity, and compassion. We empower participants through exploration of self, community, and culture.

Contact: Chloë Rowse, Director at 207.415.8400 or info@growingroutes.org
 PO Box 8638, Portland, ME 04105

Website: www.growingroutes.org

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MSC 2019-2020 Calendar

September 18

- 9 am-2 pm Fall Membership Workshop – Migis Lodge
1:30-3:30 pm MSC Fall Board of Directors Meeting

January 30, 2020

- 3-5 pm MSC Board of Directors Meeting – Location TBD

January 29

- 9 am-12:30 pm MSC Workshop at Italian Heritage Center – Portland
12:30-3 pm MSC Business Networking Extravaganza & Lunch

February 2

- 1-3 pm MSC Camp Fair – Cheverus High School

February 11-14

- ACA National Conference – San Diego, CA

March 9-12

- Tri-State Camp Conference – Atlantic City, NJ

March 22

- 1-3:30 pm Annual MSC Camp Fair, East End Community School – Portland

March 26-28

- New England ACA Conference – Manchester, NH

March 28

- 7:45-9 am Semi-Annual Membership Meetings of MSC and MYCA at the ACA/NE Conference – Manchester, NH

April 22

- 9-10:45 am Spring MSC Board of Directors Meeting
11 am-12:15 pm MSC Spring Workshops
Location TBD

June 10

- MYCF & MYCA Annual Membership Meetings

July 11

- 9 am-3:30 pm JMG Rendezvous Workshop
Bryant Pond 4-H Camp

July 14

- 1:30-4 pm Chris Thurber Staff Training Workshop,
Camp Wawenock – Raymond

July 16

- 14th Annual MYCF Spelling Bee – Portland

July 27-31

- Junior Maine Guide Testing Camp,
Stephen Phillips Preserve – Oquossoc

September 16

- Fall Membership Workshop and Cookout – Migis Lodge
(Tentative)

Outreach Committee Completes 85 Volunteer Hours

The Outreach Committee has narrowed its focus this year to partner with two organizations that work for and with children in Maine - WinterKids and the Center for Grieving Children. Since September 2018 we've volunteered our time at six events, and have completed 85 volunteer hours to support these great organizations. We plan to continue to work with these organizations in the fall and into the winter of next year. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to support children around Maine through the great work these organizations are doing.

In addition to volunteering, we've also gotten together for camp tours and social gatherings at breweries throughout the

year. We've gone on tours of Kingsley Pines and Center Day Camp, and had drinks at Bissell Brothers, Bunker Brewery, and an outstanding VIP tour of Allagash Brewing.

Join us in fall of 2019! Though the Outreach Committee is made up of camp professionals in the early stages of their careers, we would love the opportunity to talk with and get to know "seasoned" camp professionals, too. Please consider joining us for an event in the fall, to help us continue to grow our professional networks.

If you or anyone at your camp would like to be involved, please email Kristy Andrews, Camp Wawenock, at kristy@campwawenock.com.



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