

Summer 2021: A Season of Joy and Challenges

Directors report happy, grateful campers



Challenges, yes, but above all, campers have been happy and healthy.

Maine camp directors say the summer season brought challenges, yes, but above all, campers have been happy and healthy. From managing COVID protocols, to staffing concerns, to rainy days, camp leaders have had their hands full, yet achieving their top priority — giving kids just what they needed — has been another success.

Most Maine youth camps suspended their 2020 seasons; the past year has been one of planning amidst COVID and facing challenges the pandemic still posed. But whether camps opened last summer or not, directors are pleased.

“It’s been incredibly successful,” **Hidden Valley Camp’s** Peter Kassen said. Campers have been relaxed, connecting with one another, and participating in “meaningful activities,” and the leadership is “tired and rewarded.”

Staff members at HVC “bought into the idea” that camp would present different challenges this summer, Kassen says. “Those who are here really want to be here,” he said. Supporting staff was key, he says, and the camp made an effort to give staff members the backing they needed by bringing in extra people to help meet staff members’ needs, he says. As a result, staff members could take more time off, and had experienced, committed adults to lean on for advice.

Kassen says those added support people included former staff, both paid and volunteer, which likely helped keep staff attrition low.

MSC’s efforts during the past year also made a difference, Kassen says. The fellowship among camp colleagues was “utterly invaluable,” he said, and the ongoing availability of resources allowed camp professionals to “educate ourselves for a year.”

At **Camp Wawenock**, “we have very happy campers and staff,” director Catriona Logan Sangster says, although like Kassen, Sangster says leadership is indeed “exhausted.”

“Kids are happy and joyful,” she said. Like last year, campers and staff feel gratitude at being together at the camp but staffing challenges have demanded that leadership and counselors have been stretched thin, she says.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SUMMER 2021



I hope this letter finds you well, despite understandable exhaustion! As the camp season concludes I hope all of you have had a fulfilling season, where you are able to both appreciate the highlights and recognize the challenges that we have all faced.

As we look toward September, when we will be able to gather in person once again at our fall meeting, my wish is that all of us can come together as a community to share and learn from one another. It was MSC's spirit of collegiality that helped so many of us as we opened our doors for this summer season, and I am certain that same spirit will be with us moving forward.

At Fernwood Cove we have witnessed kids who are truly grateful and happy to be able to be here. Maine Summer Camps all have a common mission of supporting the kids who are having this joyful camp experience, and we can learn and grow from what we have experienced this summer.

All of us can probably agree that this has been a summer different from others. Yet our goal has not changed, and our commitment to giving kids a happy, healthy summer of learning and growth has steered us all. As we say good-bye to our campers and staff and look ahead to opportunities to rest and reflect, I am certain we will be able to share with our fellow camp professionals the lessons we have learned in shaping our vision for what camp means.

Until we meet in September, be well. And thank you for all the ways you make Maine Summer Camps the unique and special organization it is.

Warmly, Beigette



Annual Meeting & Cookout – Sept 22

We are very excited to once again hold our annual meeting and gourmet cookout at Migis Lodge this fall, on Wednesday September 22. Due to group size limitations, we will only be able to accommodate staff from our camps. Early registration is limited to just two people from any camp. Early registration ends on September 8. After then, any remaining spots will be on a first-come basis with a maximum of five people from any one camp. Look for the day's schedule in an upcoming Hall Monitor. Don't wait to complete your registration!



[Click here to register for the Annual Meeting](#)



In addition, Sangster says staff members have been particularly drawn to spending time with their peers. “It’s a different dynamic,” she said. “They feel like ‘I need time with my people.’”

Staffing is also lean in teaching areas, she says, meaning that her husband, Andy, and the camp’s assistant director Kristy Harvey “literally teach every hour of every day.”

Camp Wawenock’s food service director also left her position just days into the season, taking her son, who was another fulltime kitchen employee, with her. As a result, “Andy has been food service director,” she says, and on Thursdays, which kitchen staff have off, cabin staff have pitched in in the kitchen.

Nonetheless, Catriona Logan Sangster says she feels fortunate. “When I take the big picture, staff are very devoted to the kids, have a great relationship with the kids, and are definitely helping make meaningful experiences for kids.”

Andy Lilienthal, of **Camp Winnebago**, agrees that the summer has brought challenges, “yet camp is as good or better than it’s ever been.”

They are having a ball with everything we do, even with [COVID] modifications.

“They are having a ball with everything we do, even with [COVID] modifications,” he said.

Yet Lilienthal acknowledges he and camp leadership have noticed challenges that may carry over to campers’ school experiences come fall. This includes a diminishment in social skills, he says. “Kids need a lot more sort of focus on what we would consider normal social behaviors,” he says, including “responding not reacting, and being more tolerant of things going on that kids may not like.”

Much of this comes because COVID-19 has prevented kids from interacting with one another over much of the past 15 months, he says. Staff, too, have been challenged by the pandemic, and attrition has been higher than usual.

Yet Lilienthal says that when the camp reached its fifth week, things started to “feel sort of normal.”

“It took kids a month to sort of hit the groove,” he said, and begin to demonstrate “their sophisticated way of living in community.”

“It’s so heart-warming to know they’re relearning what it means to be a kid connected to peers,” he said.

At **Fernwood Cove**, in Harrison, Director Beigette Gill agrees the summer has bought “ups and downs,” but said “our kids are happy and joyful.” They have particularly appreciated coming together as a full camp community after enduring the COVID-related cohorting and testing protocols. “It was incredible, feeling the shift of being segregated to the actual culture of connection,” she said.

Staff members have held up well, she said. “I think we have supported them in ways that have given them the time they need to recover. We have definitely been emphasizing how to support them in their time off and get them the time they need in order to be the best they can with campers.”

The lack of international staff has had a significant impact, Gill says, and has meant that she and her husband, Jim, and other administrative staff have spent more time supervising and teaching campers. “While that is challenging at times, and exhausting, at the same time I do feel like I know the campers and staff better,” she said.

2021 Summer in Review *continues on page 4.*

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2021 Summer in Review *continued from page 3*

"They are long days, but good days."

At nonprofit camps, the summer has also been both rewarding and challenging. Terri Mulks, director of Camp Susan Curtis, writes in an email that "Summer has been filled with happy campers!"

Mulks says camp has been a welcome respite for the children **Camp Susan Curtis** serves.

"The pandemic has not been kind to those facing economic hardship and the greatest reward for all of our hard work, confusion, and frustration has been the sound of laughter and the ability to watch the stress fall from our campers' shoulders as they relaxed into the comfort of camp," Mulks wrote in a recent email.

She also complimented her staff for their efforts. "Our usual challenges were greatly amplified this year and we were grateful for the dedication and resilience of the small but mighty staff team."

She and her staff faced amplified challenges this season, but the campers enjoyed a full range of programming, she added. "The full extent of the pandemic has been felt with supply chain issues, stretched staff, increased anxiety, depression and control-based behaviors including mean girl syndrome and eating disorders. And while the consistent camp damp made programming difficult, the campers still enjoyed kickball, swimming in the rain and a weekly cook-in."

Maine Summer Camps Executive Director Ron Hall acknowledged that a number of Maine nonprofit camps serving economically disadvantaged youth have noticed effects of the pandemic. "The isolation these kids faced over the past 18 month translated to increased social and emotional issues for their campers," he said.

Indeed, camps across Maine did what they're known for. Although summer 2021 was perhaps challenging in new ways, camps achieved what they always strive for: happy kids immersed in an environment of safety, good health, and joy.

Like Terri Mulks, Hall says nonprofit campers have reported happy youngsters. "I think it's been a really good summer that is challenging but oh so rewarding," he said.

At **Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and Learning Center** in Bryant Pond, Director Ron Fournier said "The kids were awesome. They were really excited to be back with other kids."

Fournier said that heeding COVID protocols went smoothly; kids were healthy and safe. There were few behavioral issues as well, he said. "We're all focused on positive youth development and a strong rapport — meeting every kid where they are at."

Fournier said both the Bryant Pond camp and the **Greenland Point 4-H Camp** in Princeton operated at full capacity, with Bryant Pond hosting about 70 campers per week and Greenland Point about 40.

For returning campers, camp provided a sense of normalcy, Fournier said. "But a lot had never been here before," he said. "You could definitely see the desire to be part of something really fun and engaging."

"The biggest challenges were in food service," Fournier said. "Food truck deliveries were always being changed in the moment. It forced us to be really nimble."

But the camp continued to achieve its goal of providing high quality food, addressed food insecurity concerns at Greenland Point, and served almost 100 percent of its meals outdoors.

And the summer was a success.

"We stuck to what we're known for," Fournier said.

Indeed, camps across Maine did what they're known for. Although summer 2021 was perhaps challenging in new ways, camps achieved what they always strive for: happy kids immersed in an environment of safety, good health, and joy. ■



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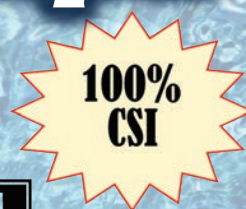
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Dedication to Camping Recognition

Nominations are due September 1

This award represents Maine Summer Camps' recognition of those who have dedicated a significant amount of time working in Maine organized youth camping.

Eligibility for Dedication to Camping Recognition:

- ▶ Any staff member, current or former, regardless of their camp position, is eligible.
- ▶ Length of service must be 25 years or more for initial nominees.
- ▶ Service fully or predominantly to Maine camps. Service does not have to be consecutive or to one camp.
- ▶ Count years as staff member, not years as a camper.
- ▶ Can be seasonal or year-round.



[Click here for the Camping Recognition nomination form](#)

Halsey Gulick Award Nominations

Nominations are due September 1

The Halsey Gulick Award is presented to persons who have distinguished themselves by giving unselfishly of their time, energy, and resources to improve organized youth camping in Maine. It is awarded at the Maine Summer Camps Annual Meeting in September and is kept confidential until awarded. Recipients are selected by their colleagues in camping for their record of public service to the camping movement in Maine. Any member of MSC may recommend candidates for the award. Candidates need not be members of Maine Summer Camps and their contributions to Maine camping need not necessarily be related to leadership roles within the Foundation.



[Click here for the Halsey Gulick Award nomination form](#)



[Click here for a list of past Halsey Gulick award recipients](#)

Welcome New Camp Member!

Let's Wander

During our summer camp children explore the woods, dance outside, listen to stories, pick flowers, say hello to the farm animals. The parade will be a celebration of their exploration, adorned with their instruments and accessories, complete with parents at the end with their camera ready.

Kelly Taxter, 207.274.9462
adolescentwellness@gmail.org

2021-2022 MSC Calendar

Wednesday, September 23

- 10 am MYCA/MSA Annual Meeting – Migis Lodge
- 12:30 pm Cookout
- 1:45 pm MSC Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

- 2 pm MSC Board of Directors Meeting
Location TBD

Wednesday, January 26

- 9 am-12:30 pm MSC Workshop – Italian Heritage Center
Portland
- 12:30-3 pm MSC Business Networking Extravaganza
and lunch
- 3 pm MSC Social Hour @ Bunker Brewing Company

Sunday, February 6

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

Monday, February 7

- 11 am-1 pm MSC Job Fair – University of Maine
Farmington

Tuesday, February 8

- 10:30am-1:30pm MSC Job Fair – Husson University
Bangor

Tuesday-Friday, February 8-11

ACA National Conference – Portland, Oregon

Monday-Wednesday, March 14-16

Tri-State Camp Conference – Atlantic City, NJ

Thursday-Saturday, March 24-26

- New England ACA Conference – Manchester, NH
- Time TBD Semi-Annual Membership Meetings of MSC
and MYCA – Location TBD

Sunday, March 27

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

Wednesday, April 27

- 9 am Spring MSC Board of Directors Meeting –
Location TBD
- 11 am MSC Spring Workshops – Location TBD

Monday-Friday, July 25-29

Junior Maine Guide Test Camp
Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve
Oquossoc

In Memorium



A Tribute to Camp Tapawingo's Jane Lichtman

by Abby Pecoriello

Jane A. Lichtman, Camp Tapawingo's owner and director since 1983, passed away on June 6, 2021 after a long battle with ovarian cancer. Jane chose to fight her battle in private. In public, she chose to focus all of her energy on getting to know new campers, welcoming back returning girls, greeting alumnae with open arms, celebrating Tap's 100th Birthday, and spending every additional moment she had making Tapawingo a place of joy.

Countless campers, their families, and camp staff members have credited Jane with helping them to become leaders, true friends, and, most importantly, the best versions of themselves. In 1996, Jane was thrilled to expand her family with the adoption of her son

Victor. Victor's fondest memories with his mom include reading Harry Potter, listening to the Beatles, attending Broadway musicals, going water and snow skiing, sharing family history, and running free as a young boy at a summer camp filled with adoring girls!

Jane did a wide range of volunteer activities, including serving on the board of the American Camp Association and as Treasurer of the Keyes Pond Environmental Protection Association. Jane was known for her wonderful and warm way of bringing people together. Her wit, playfulness, and love for children were evident in nearly every aspect of her life. She was an avid tennis player, later a paddle tennis convert, a fierce and skilled Scrabble player, and a lover of dogs. It was rare for her not to have a black lab at her feet.

For many of us, a summer without Jane at Tap seems surreal. But in truth, Jane is alive and celebrated throughout the daily rhythms and traditions of Tapawingo. As we loudly count the break in Pine Trees (Jane's favorite camp song), listen to the loud loons on Keyes Pond, eat our Sunday lunch of turkey and neapolitan ice cream with chocolate sauce, and enjoy campfire traditions, Jane is there.

In 1985, the Blue team wrote "Jane's Song" and it sums things up beautifully...

She's always there to listen, whenever we complain.

The reason is so simple, because she is our Jane!

As far as Camp Director, we think you're number one!

So Jane to you we say, thanks for all the fun.

Donations in Jane's name can be made to the Lake Environmental Association www.mainelakes.org or to the charity of one's choice.



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Chris Thurber Presents Annual Leadership Skills Workshop

They didn't gather in person, but several dozen young camp staff members once again came together in July for psychologist and camp professional Chris Thurber's annual talk about building skills to become better youth development leaders.

Teaching Positive Alternate Behaviors

First-year counselors and counselors/leaders-in-training joined Chris via Zoom on Tuesday, July 13 for ninety minutes dedicated to "Teaching Positive Alternate Behaviors" in the camp setting. The 50 participants, from six different camps, heard Chris describe the work of Harvard University's Ross Greene known as the "Cooperative and Proactive Solutions" model. The model focuses on skill building as opposed to reward and punishment for creating durable change in how youngsters resolve conflict and solve problems.

Skills-based solutions are not only time saving for camp staff, Chris explained, but they create true growth. "It leaves people more compassionate, better listeners, and solution oriented; it's win-win," he said.

Using case studies, the group first discussed the fact that inappropriate behavior can have various explanations, and that all campers benefit from learning to resolve conflicts themselves.

Chris used the example of two campers in a physical altercation in a camp bathroom, and he laid out a seven-step process for helping campers resolve the problem.

Ensuring safety is the top priority, he said, but staff asking the campers "what happened," is not necessarily the most effective next step. Rather, using a framework for seeking to achieve a positive outcome, staff can identify both solutions and areas where youngsters lagging skills might be the crux of the conflict.

When working with campers in conflict Chris suggested that staff members first remember to center themselves. "Breathe," he reminded participants. The second step is to consider what triggers the behaviors may have stemmed from. This is a question for staff to ask themselves, Chris said. Third, staff should consider what skills a camper may lack, resulting in the behavior.

The Element of Surprise

A staff member may surprise campers with step four, by expressing empathy using adjectives for how the campers may feel. "This isn't the same as offering a solution," Chris said. Staff members can also help their campers by asking them what they need or want in that moment. Counselors should also state what they need in that moment.

Leadership Skills continues on page 9.

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Leadership Skills *continued from page 8*

Win-Win

Finally, staff members and campers should discuss how each person can get what they need and arrive at a solution, Chris said. At that point, staff members can consider what lagging skills may have contributed to the conflict.

Chris emphasized that truly effective solutions teach ways to avoid future behavior challenges. If campers and staff have the tools to resolve conflict, they can transfer the skills to other situations.

This achieves the goal staff seek: durable change. ■

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Camp Fairs Scheduled for February and March 2022

Maine Summer Camps will host two camp fairs this winter. The first fair will be held at **Cheverus High School on February 6** from 1 to 3 pm. The second fair will be held at the **East End Community School on March 27**, from 1 to 3:30 pm. If there is enough interest MSC will consider hosting a third camp fair in early April in the Bangor area. Any camps interested in this possibility should email Ron Hall at camps@mainecamps.org. Registration information for MSC camps will be sent December 6. Other camps and organizations will begin registering December 15.

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JMG Annual Testing Camp Hosts 48 Campers from Eight Camps

Report from Director Moose Curtis

Thank you all for making JMG Camp 2021 possible. We had a successful camp with so many candidates and staff enjoying the opportunity to be out in the woods again working on their outdoor skills.

Forty-eight well prepared candidates represented eight camps. These candidates had a positive and determined attitude, and their counselors represented were quite helpful in assisting the JMG staff with the tasks they were assigned. They did a fine job training their campers and supervising them at testing camp.

The following camps sent candidates to the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve testing site: **Arcadia** (4); **Birch Rock** (5); **Bryant Pond** (8); **Kawanhee** (9); **Natarswi** (8); **O-AT-KA** (4); **Winona** (4); and **Wyonegonic** (5).

Passing rates

Second-year candidates: 5 out of 7 passed

First-year candidates: 17 out of 41 passed

Total passing percentage: 47.9 percent

Our goal this summer was to make JMG Camp as normal as possible. We achieved our goal of keeping each encampment together by creating a schedule for taking tests. Our evening campfire tradition continued, with candidates sitting masked and separated by camp group.

There was minimal socializing between the camps groups at the conclusion of evening programs. In addition, counselors stayed at their own sites during meals rather than helping with the meal testing.

Evening speakers

JMG staff member Lou Falank spoke about being a Maine Guide and outdoor educator, and discussed the opportunities and challenges presented by pursuing JMG certification. Maine Guide and storyteller Roger Lambert of Strong joined the group as well. In addition, candidates heard from two members of the Border Patrol, who discussed policing the Maine/Canada border, the differences between the U.S. southern and northern borders, and gave a demonstration of the Patrol's drug-searching dog.

Rangeley writer Bob Romano, who writes a column for the *Northwoods Sporting Journal*, gave a talk about the history of the Rangeley area from the times of the Native Americans to the growth of the area as an outdoor sporting destination.

Candidates listed a variety of favorites and not-so-favorite elements of testing camp. Among favorites were talking with testers and visiting with their dogs, practical skills tests, teamwork, and demonstrating their knowledge. Campfire speakers were among both favorite and least favorite elements, and the challenges presented by scheduling tests, anxiety about tests, and serving food they weren't proud of were among candidates not-so-favorites.

Candidates also made suggestions for improving camp, including more time to relax and socialize and longer blocks for written tests. They also advocated for greater consistency between the book and the test.

Finally, candidates offered advice for future JMG campers. Among them: study more, start cleanup ASAP, get as many tests done as early as possible, and embrace the testing camp experience.



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Maine Camp History

Long Lake Lodge – Summer Tutoring School and Camp for Boys

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

By all accounts, **Long Lake Lodge** opened in 1902 to provide boys an opportunity to spend their summer in a desirable location and in preparation for preparatory school and college examinations. It was written in one 1919 publication for the Long Lake Lodge the following:

“To furnish these boys with the best of tutoring, to surround them with an atmosphere of real work, and to provide for them every facility for a delightful summer among the lakes and mountains, has been, during the past seventeen years, the purpose of Long Lake Lodge.”

The camp touted that it had a splendid location and an excellent core of experienced tutors. The camp offered individual instruction, facilities for laboratory work, and opportunities for many field and water sports. The camp emphasized that although many of the features of an ordinary recreation camp had been retained, Long Lake Lodge was essentially a Summer Tutoring School. No boys were accepted that did not desire tutoring and no very young boys were admitted. A schedule at the camp was arranged and each boy was given special instruction that was required just for him. Specifically, it was stated in the 1919 brochure for the camp:

“Seriousness of purpose on the part of boys and instructors has produced results that are highly gratifying to all concerned.”

In 1919, the camp boasted that boys from sixty preparatory schools satisfactorily prepared for twenty-eight colleges and universities. The staff at the camp were an impressive group of instructors from such well known preparatory schools and colleges as Philips Exeter Academy, Roxbury Latin School, Tufts University and Union College.

The camp was located at the northern end of Long Lake in Cumberland County, fifty miles north of Portland. The camp in 1919 was reached by the boats of the Sebago Lake and Bay of Naples Line and by the trains of the White Mountain Division of the Main Central Railroad. Then, the automobile routes from Poland Springs to Bretten Woods passed within three miles of the camp.

The equipment of the camp was complete. The Lodge, which was located on a knoll in the center of a grove, contained a dining room and recreation room, kitchen, the camp store and broad piazzas overlooking the lake. Around the Lodge were grouped twenty-nine large furnished tents and several bungalows. A laboratory for physics and chemistry were available when necessary. On the lakeshore was an equipped boat-house. On land there was a baseball field, two tennis courts, a rifle range, a launch, sailboats, rowboats, canoes and complete equipment for sailing and canoeing affording opportunities for all kinds of field and water sports.

The athletics of the camp were arranged to give the maximum pleasure and physical benefit to all at the camp. Throughout the season, there were camp championship contests in track, tennis, and aquatics with metals and cups for the winners. There were also baseball games, tennis matches, aquatic and track meets with other camps in the vicinity. Notably, a sailing and canoe regatta was held in August. The camp also featured a rifle club which was affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America and target practice was permitted at camp.

The season of 1919 opened on July 10 and closed on September 5. The charge for the entire season for board, tent accommodations, use of boats and canoes, and for tutoring from one to four subjects was \$385. The number of boys in the 1919 season was limited to forty two.

The camp over the years was highly recommended by such notables as the President of Brown University, the President of Dartmouth College, the Headmaster of St. Paul's School, the Headmaster of Collegiate School and highly regarded Professors from Harvard College and Colombia University. The exact date of closure of the camp is a bit unclear to this historian. We do know that the camp was operated in 1968 as a former Reading Teacher from Camp Ticawa in Harrison, Maine, came to Long Lake Lodge in 1968 to become a Summer Teacher.

***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 relating to the history of any Maine summer camp you may do so at: hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com*

2022 Maine Summer Camp Job Fairs

MSC plans to host two in-person job fairs in February at Maine college campuses. The fairs are *only* for Maine Summer Camps and are limited to 35 camps at University of Maine Farmington (UMF) and Husson University. Registration fee is \$100 per fair or \$75 for nonprofit camps. MSC will work with the colleges to market the fairs and will have raffle drawings for students who attend the fair. Students who complete an information form and engage with 5 or more camps will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card. Registration for these fairs will open on December 8.

February 8, 11-1 pm at University of Maine Farmington
Olsen Student Center We are collaborating with the UMF Career Office and Student Internship Program. Camps can agree to work with the school's internship program (or not) so that a student gets their internship requirement satisfied (up to 600 hours) and earns a salary by working as a counselor!

February 9, 10:30-1:30 pm at Husson University in Bangor.
We are collaborating with Husson's Career Services.

We will also be holding a virtual job fair, where we will be reaching out to colleges throughout New England. Look for more information in upcoming Hall Monitors.

Meet your Maine Summer Camps Lobbyist, Newell Augur



When attorney **Newell Augur** advocates for MSC's interests as a lobbyist in Augusta his varied resume serves him well. Especially the nine years he spent at the YMCA Camp of Maine.

Augur knows Maine and he knows camp. Moving from young campers to a cabin counselor, he calls his experience a "remarkable maturation process."

"My whole nine years at the camp made me a very living proof that the Maine youth camp experience is special," he said.

And for the past five years Augur has brought that living proof, along with a wealth of professional experience, to the State House and Maine's legislative process on behalf of Maine Summer Camps.

A Maine native, Augur wore many hats before attending law school, including serving as a case worker in the sixth ward of Houston and as a commercial banker in Chicago. And the variety of his professional efforts continued even after earning a law degree. From clerking for a Clinton judicial appointee in West Texas to starting a criminal defense law firm in Manhattan to serving as the business manager at a charter school in Harlem, Augur gained a broad spectrum of experience before returning to Maine.

"I landed as the Director of Legislative Public Affairs for DHHS in the last 18 months of the [Angus] King administration," Augur said. "It was a marvelous introduction to state government generally, and human services specifically. And it's obviously very helpful assisting Maine youth camps, too."

Augur stayed on during part of Gov. John Baldacci's tenure, then took his broad range of knowledge and started his own business in 2005, with clients such as Bangor Hydro and the Maine Beverage Association. After fourteen years on his own, Augur joined the law firm of Pierce Atwood in 2019, with a focus on governmental relations.

"I'm a lawyer at heart and I love practicing law," he said. "I'm able to grow that part of my practice in a way that I wouldn't have been able to do solo."

Augur's Maine camp connection also continued, including 13 years on the board of directors of the YMCA Camp of Maine. "Through that I got to know Jack [Erler]," he said.

"I was drawn to his passion for camps, his intellect, his general wonderful nature," Augur said. And when Jack approached Augur to "help be his eyes and ears in Augusta," the answer was easy. Today Augur says he is in the State House "pretty much whenever [the legislature] is there."

The legislative environment can be a "pressure cooker," Augur says. This is true particularly toward the end a session when bills

MSC Lobbyist, Newell Augur continues on page 14.

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MSC Lobbyist, Newell Augur *continued from page 13*

that have been “lying around” suddenly gain momentum. It is important to be there “to stop or push along, depending on your client’s interests, or stick your nose in to make sure language is in act written correctly.”

“Mistakes are made all the time,” Augur said. “It’s not by any malice, it’s just the nature of the beast.”

Augur said meeting legislators is one of the most enjoyable elements of his work. “They are all very different, but they all come to Augusta with a deep love, and abiding love for the state and the people they represent.”

“They’ll vote however they vote,” he said. “I can’t press that button for them. All is want is an opportunity to present to them the issues that affect my client and have them understand why my client is supporting [the bill] or against it. To do that in a thoughtful, meaningful way. That’s the objective.”

And when it comes to Maine youth camps, Augur brings his appreciation of the camp experience.

“It’s not often that when you’re lobbying for or working for an organization that you can have a personal experience as part of that relationship,” he said. “I feel mission-driven with all my clients, but certainly with youth camps it’s a little different because I am a product of their great work.” ■

MSC Educational Workshop and Networking Extravaganza

Save the date—January 26, 2022!

Our two biggest events of the year are back!

Make sure you save the date—January 26 from 9 am to 3 pm. We will be holding our major Educational Workshop, and the Business Members Networking Extravaganza live at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland.

We will end the afternoon with our not-to-be-missed MEGA RAFFLE. Or you can extend the day by joining our Community Connections Group at the Bunker Brewing Company to continuing networking.