

Welcome to **Lucy Norvell**, Maine Summer Camps' New Executive Director

Following an extensive search and a unanimous vote, the MSC Executive Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Lucy Norvell** as the organization's new executive director. A career spanning three decades, including 15 years with ACA, New England, have led to this "culmination" of her professional experience, she said. Norvell will take the helm of Maine Summer Camps in early 2023.

"It's most definitely a culmination. I can imagine using what I've learned in every professional position and camp position in this role," she said.

Matt Pines, MSC president, said "While it was not an easy process, it was a gratifying one, knowing that we had found a candidate who brought a tremendous depth of experience, excellent qualifications and expertise, and a long history of loving summer camp to the table. As part of the search committee, I am excited for membership to get to know Lucy, for Lucy to become familiar with all the member camps, and for MSC to continue providing dynamic leadership to the Maine, regional, and national camping communities."

Norvell's experience is both broad and deep. In addition to serving as director of development and communications, director of public information, and parent education manager at ACA, New England, her experience includes being an assistant camp director, a founding manager of a Northern Kentucky childcare resource agency, a development and communications specialist at the Center for Grieving Children in Portland and, most recently, serving as coordinator of programming and communication at the Scarborough Public Library.

These experiences will now inform her work at MSC. "It has all the sides – the policy side, the human side, the education side, the whole shebang," she said.

"I'm just sort of incredulous," she said. "January will be here before we know it."

There is "so much" to look forward to, Norvell said. "I'm looking forward to the people. There are so many people that make



Lucy Norvell, new Executive Director of Maine Summer Camps

MSC/MYCA work, all the members, all the related allied professionals—people we engage with to make camp happen," she said.

Norvell also said that the idea of a "growth mindset"—discussed often in business and education circles—is nothing new to camps. "When people are actively learning and invited to grow and change it brings out the most wonderful qualities in people."

She also spoke to MSC's role as a membership organization, describing it "as serving its members extremely well and evolved to meet the needs of camp professionals."

"The purpose of this is about belonging," she said. "I think that there are a lot of people who say they get a tremendous value, that membership is priceless." Norvell wants to make sure that continues. "People deserve a really high level of support and service. Whatever they need, I want to be for them."

She also praised Ron Hall. "Ron is amazing, just an extraordinary human being. It's always difficult to follow an extraordinary human being. No one can be Ron Hall."

Executive Director continues on page 7.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 2022

Happy Fall. Here's hoping that you have all found some time for rest, recharging and reflection after what was by all accounts, an intense and thoroughly worthwhile summer.



It was wonderful to see so many camp people gathered in-person at the annual meeting at Migis Lodge. We were also joined by several members who couldn't travel to Sebago for the day; they joined through some technical wizardry in the form of an Owl Camera.

I can't help but reflect on how the generosity of the Migis Lodge folks facilitated something we all value immensely: collaborating, making connections and building community. We got to sit, chat, enjoy a meal, celebrate our luminaries, and strengthen connections.

That generosity is, to my mind, a distant reflection of what you all do every summer—creating space for human connection and giving that opportunity to tens of thousands of children and young people. Of all the myriad benefits you work so hard to provide—caring and highly qualified role models (staff), exciting and challenging new opportunities (programming), safe and supportive time away from home and school—I believe the act of maintaining space for human connection is the most vital in 2022.

And it is the power of the community and connections that makes MSC such a dynamic and necessary organization. For the 10-plus years I have been involved in MSC at the board level, I have been consistently in awe of this group of incredibly talented individuals who use their skills to collaborate and overcome the many challenges our industry has faced (especially the last few years. Who among us would have wanted to face the COVID pandemic without the steady leadership of MSC/MYCA?)

This spirit of collaboration and those many talents will continue to be tested by many challenges moving forward. These include big picture issues around staffing, including mental health challenges in the camp setting, climate change, or budgeting for seasonal businesses in an inflationary cycle. More local concerns exist around how camps can best serve Native-American/Immigrant/Mainer kids, around inclusive housing policies, changing licensing requirements, and of course, bringing on a new Executive Director and many more. All of these issues will be challenging, but all offer opportunities to grow and strengthen the camping industry in Maine.

That growth and strength happens only when camp people choose to get involved. The MSC Board has several committees that truly lead the camping industry not only here in Maine, but regionally and nationally. Committees are diverse, and include Education, Marketing, Membership, Business Partners, DEI, Native American Working Group, Community Connections, and Staffing. All would gladly welcome your participation and talents.

You don't have to be on the board to serve on a committee. We just ask that you be willing to jump on a zoom call once a month or so, share your good ideas, be open to those of the camp professionals around you, and be willing to collaborate towards the continued growth of youth camping in the beautiful state of Maine. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to me (matt@teencamp.com).

Matt Pines
MSC Board President, Maine Teen Camp Co-Director



Katie Rooney of Ampion presents Ron Hall with a Level Ground gift.

Thanks to Ampion, Camps' Commitment to Renewable Energy Supports Level Ground Initiative

Ampion, a Boston-based renewable energy company, has made supporting local communities part of its mission. In late October the company provided such support to Maine Summer Camps—a check in the amount of \$4,239 designated to MSC's Level Ground initiative.

The contribution resulted from the participation of 13 camps, all of which registered with Ampion and its community solar program.. Beyond committing to the use of sustainable energy, the camps' participation means Level Ground can further fulfill its mission of providing free camp opportunities for immigrant and refugee children from Maine.

Ampion, which was founded in Bar Harbor in 2014 and began its involvement with Maine's Community Energy program in 2019, agreed to donate \$350 for every 100kW of annual electricity use enrolled. The resulting participation means Level Ground has even more resources to fulfill its mission.

Corinna Ricard-Farzan, Ampion community outreach specialist, says that because Ampion is a Public Benefits Corporation it factors community impact as well as the "bottom line" into its business decisions. The corporation seeks to share its successes, she says. "We use it to uplift others, positively impact the environment, support our employees, etc. MSC's Level Ground Initiative is a perfect example."

On Oct. 31, Maine-based Ampion employee Katie Rooney presented the corporation's gift to Ron Hall at the MSC offices.

"We love partnering with communities," Rooney said. "If we are going to be working in communities, we want to support the communities we are serving."

Businesses and individuals who register with Ampion save between 10-15 percent in electricity costs, Rooney said. It's a way to benefit from renewable energy without incurring the costs of installing on-site solar panels, she said.

And it's a way for Level Ground to broaden its efforts to reach, as Level Ground committee chair Mike Douglass puts it, "more camps, more campers."

For more information about Ampion and how to participate in its renewable energy program, please contact Corinna Farzan-Ricard at cfarzanricard@ampion.net

A.M. Skier Donates Level Ground Funds

In addition to Ampion, insurance company A.M. Skier has offered its support to the Level Ground Initiative. Its contribution of \$3,000 will also help MSC expand its Level Ground reach to both additional partner agencies and schools with the goal of ensuring even more camp experiences. ■



Mark your calendar! Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 24, 2 - 4 pm, 2023
MSC Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 9 am - 3 pm
Winter workshop & business networking extravaganza, Italian Heritage Center, Portland

Sunday February 5, 1 - 3 pm
Camp Fair at Cheverus

Thursday-Saturday, February 23-25
ACA National Conference

Thursday, March 9
Maine Youth Camp Day at Maine State House

Tuesday-Thursday, March 14-16
Tri-State Conference

Sunday, March 26, 1 - 3:30 pm
Camp Fair at East End Community Center

Thursday-Saturday, March 30-April 1
ACA New England Conference

Wednesday, April 5, 10 am - 12 pm
Semi-Annual Meeting via zoom

Wednesday, April 19, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
UMF Job Fair

Wednesday, April 26, 9:30 am - 3 pm
Spring Workshop and Board Meeting

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Share Your Ideas and Energy: Join a MSC Committee

MSC is unique in many ways, including the breadth and depth of its committee work during the year. Currently, most committees are comprised of board members but “we hope to change that equation by encouraging our camp directors and senior staff to consider joining one of our committees,” Executive Director Ron Hall said.

Committee work is rewarding, collegial and makes an enormous impact on the high quality and wide-ranging efforts of MSC as an organization. Please, consider joining us!

MSC committees include Education, Book Club, Membership, Marketing, Camp Fair Planning, Awards, Community Connections, Level Ground, DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ad hoc) and NAWG – Native American Working Group (ad hoc). These vital groups welcome new members and their efforts and commitment.

“Our membership, camp fairs, and marketing committees are especially interested in finding new committee members who can bring new ideas and expertise to the table,” Hall said.

Can you help? Ron Hall, at camps@mainecamps.org, looks forward to hearing from you. ■

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MSC Members Gather Together for Business and Connections

Returning from a COVID-created three-year hiatus, members of Maine Summer Camps (MSC) finally returned in person to their annual meeting and cookout at Migis Lodge on September 21. Approximately 100 MSC members were in attendance to catch up, extend and listen to expressions of gratitude, hear committee reports, witness the presentation of the Halsey Gulick Award, and, of course, enjoy the cookout and lunch spread thanks to the culinary masters of Migis Lodge.

Laura Ordway, President of MYCA (Maine Youth Camping Association) and co-director/owner of Winona Camps, opened the meeting with a brief year-in-review.

Laura announced that MYCA's legislative and legal support is now provided by attorney's **Newell Augur** of Pierce Atwood and **Nancy Savage Marcus** and **Tyler Costello** of Curtis Thaxter. Camp Runoia's **Pam Cobb** has filled the role of MYCA secretary vacated by **Tom Doherty**. In addition, **Mary Ellen Deschenes** is now a MYCA board member emeritus.

The group then heard from MYCA treasurer **Steve Sudduth** (Wyonegonic), as well as Newell Augur, whose report covered issues ranging from the Tribal Rights Bill to Education in Boating to minimum wage concerns. Augur also announced that Maine Youth Camp Day will be held at the State House on March 9, 2023. The event will facilitate connections between camps and legislators, allowing camp professionals to educate their representatives about the broad scope of legislative matters connected to Maine's youth camping industry.

Beigette Gill, President of MSC and director of Fernwood Cove, also addressed the group, calling specific attention to the MSC membership's energy and the organization's commitment to supporting and nurturing connections across the state's industry.

In addition, ACA, New England Executive Director **Michele Rowcliffe** was in attendance, praising MSC "for being a leader in addressing camp concerns" such as the COVID process, mental health issues, and camp pricing structures.

The membership also heard MSC committee reports: Treasurer (**Fritz Seving**); Community Connections (**Nicky Martin**); Membership (**Mike Katz**); Education (**Anna Hopkins Buller**); Marketing (**Mark Lipof**); Business Membership (**Arleen Shepherd**); DEI (**Peter Kassen**); the Native American Working Group (**Catriona Sangster**) and Level Ground (**Matt Pines**).

Arleen Shepherd reminded MSC members of the benefits of business membership, stating, "if each of the 150 member camps brought in a business member it would provide \$19k in additional revenue."

Ron Hall also spoke, his last address to the full membership before his upcoming retirement. Ron praised the dedication of the boards and also thanked **Arleen** and **Shep Shepherd** for the retirement dinner for him that they hosted the previous evening at Camp Skylemar (see page 16).



Mary Ellen Deschenes receives a retirement gift from Fritz Seving at the 2022 annual meeting at Migis Lodge in September.

Ron also took the opportunity to recognize that while the Level Ground Initiative is MSC's formal program through which Maine camps provide free camp opportunities to Maine children from immigrant and refugee families, many, many camps do similar work. MSC plans to gather information from directors statewide in order to "document all camps doing Level Ground work." MSC plans to create and distribute a survey in order to collect such data.

Ron also emphasized the vast economic impact of Maine camps. MSC's 150 members directly and indirectly generate \$500 million annually, he said.

MSC is firmly committed to increasing its outreach to Maine children from underserved regions and families, Ron emphasized. Forty camps participated in the program launched thanks to last spring's \$100k contribution from L.L. Bean; camps received stipends from the funds and provided the balance of tuition for the program's registered campers. That amounted to \$235k in tuition funds donated by camps, he said.

"It is a great example of collaboration with outside donors," he said. "There's an endless need in Maine for camp among underserved kids." And programs such as these are mutually beneficial to campers receiving funds and other enrolled campers.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for recognition of more than a dozen Maine camp professionals who have worked in camping for 25 years or more. They include **Michael Scott Duffy** (Camp Beech Cliff) and, from Winona Camps, the following: **Spencer Ordway**, **Laura Ordway**, **Jeremy Longpre**, **Jeffrey Dropkin**, **James Morse**, **James Purtzer**, **James Dillon**, **Alexander Forbes**, **Clayton Miles**, **Jeanne Sheridan**, **Gary vom Lehn**, and **D. Todd**.

Following the meeting the group gathered on the waterfront to enjoy Migis Lodge's renowned cookout lunch, then concluded the morning with Steve Sudduth's presentation of the Halsey Gulick Award (see page 14)

The morning, filled with connection and collegiality, was a wonderful way to see old friends, make new ones, hear MSC business and news, and once again come together as a true community. ■

MSC New Executive Director *continued from page 1.*

Norvell has a wide variety of interests outside her professional life. An avid reader of fiction and nonfiction, she said she “loves to read children’s books – see what’s new and coming out for kids.” Cookbooks are another favorite. Norvell also enjoys creative writing.

She is also an accomplished baker. “I love to bake cookies and give them to people,” she said. “It’s a practice I’ve had since childhood.” And the practice took off during the pandemic she said. “I was shipping cookies to people all over the place.”

Parents of two grown children, both of whom attended camp in Maine, Norvell and her husband live in Scarborough. She takes advantage of the Eastern Trail to fulfill her passion for walking. In addition to observing nature, she says walking is “also my meditation.”

Norvell says her career evolution has brought her to exactly where she wants to be. “I am just so pleased to be returning to a job where I have the privilege of interacting with camp professionals directly or with other people about camp-related matters. I could not be more excited about that.”

“This is a return to people who I really respect and admire and want to spend time with.” ■

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Bryan Murphy

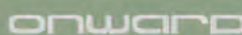
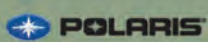
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The Complexities of Land Acknowledgments: Not Just 'Checking A Box'

Maine Summer Camps continues to strive to help its members learn and teach about the history and culture of Maine's Wabanaki people. It is a complex subject that demands thoughtful attention and a commitment to true education. Camp Wawenock Co-Director Catriona Sangster and Hidden Valley Camp Co-Director Peter Kassen are both founding members of MSC's Native American Working Group. They shared their insights on the role of land acknowledgments and how they fit into the larger picture of truly understanding camps' connections to Maine's first populations.

Land Acknowledgements Defined

Land acknowledgements are just a small part of the process of teaching and learning about the people who originally lived on Maine camps' land. As the Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian, and its program Native Knowledge 360° (NK360°) define it, a land acknowledgment is a "traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities. Today, land acknowledgments are used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live." The NK360° initiative provides educators and students with new perspectives on Native American history and cultures. Here in Maine, Wabanaki REACH is one organization that seeks to make similar strides.

MSC's Actions

Maine Summer Camps' commitment to issues related to Maine's Wabanaki peoples has been a top priority since the organization received outreach in 2020 from members of the Penobscot Nation regarding concerns about cultural appropriation in Maine camps. Members of the MSC board met with former Penobscot Chief Barry Dana and Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana to seek their input and wisdom. In early 2021 MSC reviewed and removed content link to its website that depicted cultural appropriation and also reached out to member camps to raise awareness about cultural appropriation. In addition, the Native American Working Group was formed to consider additional plans for addressing this vital issue.

In April of 2022, University of Maine Orono anthropology professor Darren Ranco, a member of the Penobscot Nation, presented a webinar to MSC members specifically focused on land acknowledgments, including their significance, limitations, as well as intention and the importance of follow-through.

Those vital elements of knowledge and understanding are foremost on the minds of directors and staff of many MSC camps as they seek to share with their camp communities the history, culture and importance of Maine's Wabanaki peoples. Catriona Sangster (Wawenock) and Peter Kassen (Hidden Valley Camp) have taken similar but not identical steps as they and their staff work toward their goals.

Hidden Valley Camp's Approach

At Hidden Valley Camp, a land acknowledgment and history of the land in at the camp's Montville site have both been placed on the camp's website. But this "immediate forward-facing" information is only a small element of the camp's efforts and commitment to expand knowledge and understanding, Kassen said.

"It's not a formal invocation. It's more like it becomes part of some more comprehensive, appropriate conversation," he said. Staff and campers alike are learning about the subject of Wabanaki history and culture, he said. The camp's efforts represent a commitment to weave the information "into the fabric of general understanding of camp's place."

"It's good for staff and campers to hear but we need to return to it and provide a more comprehensive education for campers," Kassen said. "It's analogous to other things," he said. "If all you did was [teach] the Pledge of Allegiance, would you have citizens who could make contributions to society? You need to do more." Without deeper and broader education, land acknowledgments have a "check-the-box formality," that doesn't sufficiently address the need for better understanding, he said.

Kassen is optimistic about the camp's efforts. "I feel like we are doing well, and we are just getting started," he said. "We are certainly not at a point where we can say 'mission accomplished.'" But he expresses hope, first because "the majority of camps have bought into this," and also because tribal members he has spoken with have been "optimistic and encouraging."

Efforts at Camp Wawenock

At Camp Wawenock, Catriona Sangster describes a slightly different approach but with the same goal: to increase education and understanding. The camp has not crafted or publicized a formal land acknowledgment but rather has begun "addressing things at camp we felt needed to be addressed," beginning with education, she said.

For example, two summers ago the camp made changes to what had historically been called its annual "council fire," and renamed the ceremony. It also renamed the camps' traditional two "tribes" to "teams." Together with campers, Sangster says, staff did an "overhaul" of that ceremony, "looking at what we felt had been taken from Indigenous or other cultures and what was authentically camp and what was important about the ceremony for camp."

The process included removing anything appropriated from Wabanaki culture, she said. But much of the ceremony remained unchanged, "because it was just what we did; it was not appropriated."

Land Acknowledgements continues on page 9

Land Acknowledgements *continued from page 8*

Addressing this issue “is a process,” Sangster said. “This year in particular we tried to add more of an acknowledgment of the history of people who had previously lived in harmony with this land,” she said. That includes the question of “where it makes sense to embed more history.”

Sangster says the camp also confronted the issue of song language. “We put an acknowledgment in our song book because we made a decision not to change the language,” she said. For example, some songs refer to the “council fire” and “tribes” and the song book now explains “why those words appear, what we’ve learned,” and the importance of such understanding.

"We all evolve over time and what's most important is the idea of 'when you know better, you do better.' That in itself is a lesson to kids that they should understand we should all be open to having that growth mindset."

“It’s an effort to put perspective on what transpired at camp and how we are looking at it differently,” she said.

The discussion process around these issues provides a learning opportunity for campers that extend beyond the Wabanakis’ historical and cultural elements, Sangster said. “I feel like camp

is a place where it is important for kids to learn that nobody is perfect, no institution is perfect,” she said. “We all evolve over time and what’s most important is the idea of ‘when you know better, do better.’ That in itself is a lesson to kids that they should understand we should all be open to having that growth mindset.”

Addressing these issues, and communicating with present and past campers about them, demonstrates the “power of the camp experience,” Sangster said. “If we are perpetuating false narratives, that’s really detrimental to campers and Indigenous Peoples. We need to right that wrong.”

This comes with a challenge, she said, because that history “is ugly and awful.” There needs to be a balance between being truthful and understanding — “not to make these kids feel guilty, but also have an awareness.”

NAWG’s Plans

MSC’s NAWG members are discussing how to provide camps with resources “around this idea of education, history, and culture,” Kassen said. “Camps need to understand what their native neighbors look like.” One idea, said Sangster, is to identify potential Wabanaki educators who could visit camps and share information. “The hope would be to have a resource list for camps.” ■

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Maine Camp History

Camp Abena, Belgrade Lakes, Maine

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian



Camp Abena, by all accounts, opened its doors in the summer of 1905 on the site of Hersom's Point Camp on then Great Lake in the Belgrade Lakes region. The Camp was founded by Hortense Hersom, then a teacher at the Friends' Select School in Washington D.C. During the initial camp season, which ran from July 1, 1905 through August 26, 1905, Ms. Hersom was assisted by her sister, a graduate nurse of the Maine General Hospital, and by one Miss Hughes, the director of physical training at Friends' Select School. Camp Abena, by all accounts, closed in the 1950's and the land upon which sat Camp Abena was purchased by a third party in 1959.

Camp Abena was an all girls camp and is considered by some to be one of the earliest girls' camps to be in existence in the United States. It is important to note that at this point in Maine camp history, summer camps were generally a new concept. Even though a school teacher ran Camp Abena, it ventured beyond the initial thought of summer school. Hersom was an educator who understood that a proper education should venture past typical school subjects. She wanted to teach other skills like etiquette and leadership and also understood the importance of recreational activities. Girls that attended Camp Abena in 1925 came from such cities as Newton Highlands, Massachusetts; New York City, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Brooklyn, New York; Portland, Maine; Hampton, Virginia; Waterville, Maine; Scarsdale, New York; Providence, Rhode Island; Norwood, Ohio; Waltham, Massachusetts; East Orange, New Jersey; and Middlebury, Vermont.

The camp had an enviable location on a spacious peninsula jutting into Great Lake, now known as Great Pond. Across one arm of the lake was the entrance to the Belgrade stream emptying onto Long Lake. Camp Abena had a rather large 100 acre property with an entire mile of lakefront views. The Camp was located off of the Augusta Road on Great Pond east of the town know as Belgrade Lakes, in Kennebec County, Maine. The early summer programs included water sports such as swimming, cannoning, sailing, and even life saving classes. The Camp had at least one girl who became a famous actress in later years. Specifically, in the 1920s, one famous camper was a girl who became a movie actress, Constance

Bennett. Based upon at least one account, Ms. Bennett carved her name in one of the cabins. Another girl who attended the Camp in its early years was one Elva Statler, daughter of the famous hotel family. Presently, on the land upon which once sat Camp Abena, sits, by all accounts, several single family homes.

Camp Abena, it is noteworthy, is one of many summer camps in the Belgrade Lakes region which are no longer operational in their original form. These camps include Camp Arcadia for Boys (not to be confused with Camp Arcadia for Girls which continues to thrive on Pleasant Lake in Casco, Maine), Birch Crest Camp, Camp Coaquanock, Camp Belgrade, Camp Kennebec Senior and Junior Camps, Camp Merryweather, Camp Arden, and Cedar Crest Camp.

At left is an image courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission at which this Historian was very pleased to find among the archives of the Belgrade Historical Society online. ■

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

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MYCA Update

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MYCA (Maine Youth Camp Association) is the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps (MSC). MYCA's mission is to monitor, publicly comment and interpret state and federal legislation on behalf of MSC, with the purpose of furthering the welfare of camps in Maine. We maintain relationships with policy officials for camp advocacy. Additionally, our 501(c)(4) non-profit status allows for limited activities supporting political campaigns. As a member of MSC, your camp is also a member of MYCA.

It's an election year for the Maine State House (all state senate and representative seats are up for election every two years). This, along with a heated race for governor, means MYCA has kept close tabs on the races, and ultimately who will control the departments and legislative committees. It is our job to create and maintain relationships on behalf of Maine Summer Camps with our elected and appointment officials, regardless of their political party affiliation. If you and or someone in your "camp family" has a close connection with a candidate or other elected officials, please let MYCA know. As the saying goes (one of Newell's favorites), "The best time to make friends is before you need them."

MYCA is monitoring early department work as Augusta prepares for the first regular session of the 131st Maine Legislature, including MSC members who are newly appointed to the following groups:

Spencer Ordway (Winona Camps) member of the stakeholder group created by the Commissioner of DIFW (Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) for LD 1663, Act to Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters

Garth Altenburg (Camp Timanous) member of the DEP and DIFW stakeholder group to examine ways to improve aquatic species spread prevention in the state (LD 1826), and required to make recommendations to the Interagency Task Force.



Pam Cobb (Camp Runoia) member of the Interagency Task Force (Title 5, section 12004-D, subsection 6) on Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species which reports to DIFW and the Legislature matters of research, control and eradication of aquatic invasive species

MYCA is planning to host a reception in the Statehouse on March 9, 2023. The first such event was a few years ago (pre-pandemic) and we found it to be a great way to meet legislators and speak with them about the importance of summer camps to the economy of the state and the opportunities for Maine children (50 percent of all children who attend camp in the state are Maine residents).

Did your camp apply for a Thrive Maine forgivable loan from FAME? Do you have questions about it for the second round (if you did not apply the first time)? These and a few other questions regarding the most recent pandemic recovery funding from the state will be included in a survey to membership later this fall.

Laura Ordway
President MYCA Board
Winona Camps

2023 Job Fair Planning in the Works

MSC is currently working on three possible **job fairs**. Our annual fair at the University of Maine Farmington will look a bit different this year. Based on recommendations from UMF's Career Services staff we will hold the job fair on Wednesday, April 19. The UMF staff felt that most students aren't thinking about summer employment in early February, whereas by mid-April students are more focused on finding summer employment. Look for more details in February. We are also working with the University of Maine Orono to have MSC camps included in an outdoor career event that they hold in late February.

Finally, USM's career services has approached us hoping we'd be willing to try one more time to offer a job fair. Once we have their proposal, we'll use the Hall Monitor to see if there is sufficient interest to have the job fair.

Dates Set for 2023 Camp Fairs

MSC will hold two **camp fairs** in 2023. The first fair will be on Sunday, February 5 from 1-3 pm at Cheverus High School. Registration for this fair will open on December 5. The cost will be \$110 for nonprofit camps and \$150 for all other camps.

The second camp fair will take place on Sunday, March 26 at the East End Community School. Registration for this fair will open on Monday February 6. The cost will be \$110 for nonprofit camps and \$150 for all other camps.

As in the past we will be doing extensive advertising for the fairs, including radio spots, newspaper ads, notification to schools throughout southern Maine as well as promotional signs and banners placed around the Portland area.

January Education Workshop to Focus on Camper and Counselor Well-Being

The Education Committee is excited to announce our topic and speakers for the annual educational workshop on January 25 at the Italian Heritage Center. Join us for an interactive and in-depth discussion of **Camper & Counselor Well-Being in Today's World**.

We have gathered an all-star speaker team including **John Hamilton** of Camp Hope America, **Tracey Gaslin** of the Alliance for Camp Health, and (coming out of retirement from speaking engagements) camp expert and psychologist **Bob Ditter**! These speakers will address recent trends in youth and young adult mental health, well-being, and resilience.

They will focus on actionable steps for camp directors and how we can help camp staff process their own challenges and needs, so they in turn can meet the needs of their campers.

This event will be our first in-person January Workshop since before the arrival of Covid-19. We look forward to many opportunities for small group discussions, seeing colleagues you may not have seen in a few years, and making new connections.

Please mark your calendars for 9 am on January 25 at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland and stick around after the workshop for our Business Extravaganza.



Click here to register your camp for the workshop



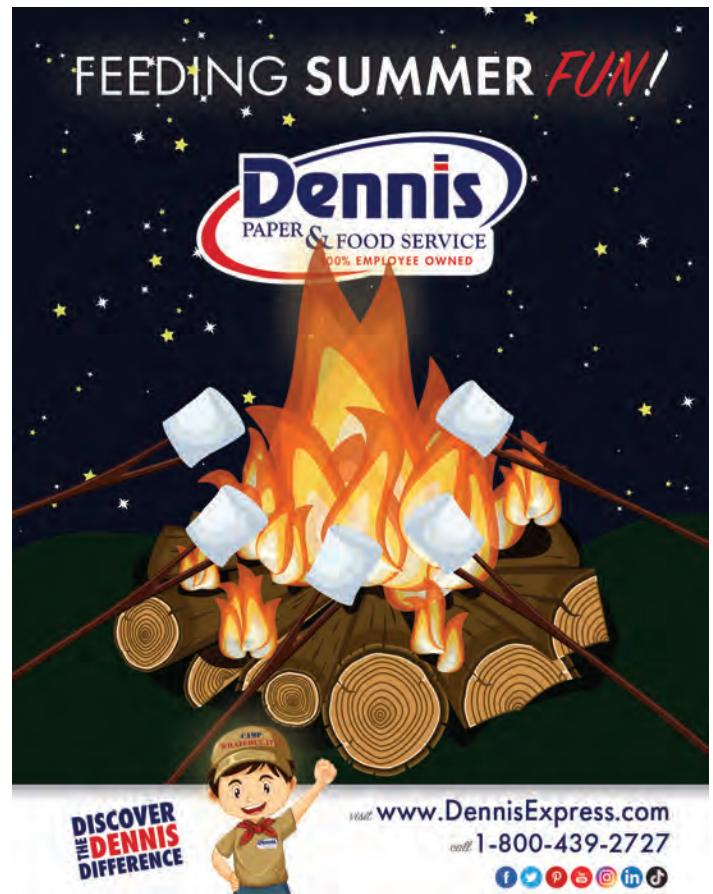
John Hamilton



Tracey Gaslin



Bob Ditter



Book Club to Meet in Person

Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.

MSC members are invited to join a discussion of MSC's Book Club on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 9 am. The group will discuss *The Art of Gathering*, by Priya Parker, in person, at The Good Life Market in Raymond.

All are welcome to attend.



Remembering Pat Smith, Camp Wawenock

Pat developed countless leaders at Camp who have gone into the world to encourage and inspire growth in others.

Patricia Anne Smith, Director Emerita of Camp Wawenock in Raymond passed away peacefully on Monday, September 5, 2022. Close friends and caregivers were by her side.

Pat was born and grew up in Virginia, graduated from Westhampton College of the University of Richmond, and did her graduate work at Boston University. Early in her career, Pat taught Physical Education and coached girls' and women's sports at the high school and collegiate levels, including at Bates College in Maine where she coached the women's tennis and lacrosse teams at the beginning of the title IX era. She was a woman who paved the way for many wothers in so many ways!

Pat was introduced to Camp Wawenock by professors and students at Westhampton College, whose many connections to Wawenock began as early as 1916. Pat was hired by Syd and Lillian Ussher in 1968 and, through 2013, never missed a summer at Camp! Pat joined June Gray as a full-time director of Camp Wawenock in 1997 and celebrated her 50 years of service and connection to Wawenock in August 2018.

Pat's legacy at Wawenock lives on in many ways, and especially through the quality and safety of the instructional program. Pat's steady leadership and passion for teaching were a gift to generations of campers and staff. She saw potential in others and helped them develop skills and confidence by challenging and supporting them in clear and compassionate ways. Pat had endless curiosity and was committed to lifelong learning. This was exemplified by her interest in each person, as well as her drive for the continual improvement of Camp's program. Pat's love of the natural world was epitomized by her good stewardship of this beautiful place and her tireless efforts to help secure the Wawenock Forest Land Conservation Easement, setting aside over 60 of Wawenock's acres to be protected from future development, while also safeguarding the clear waters of Sebago.

As testament to Pat's profound impact on so many in the Camp Family, following are excerpts from comments shared in celebration of Pat's 50 years at Wawenock:

"There are many ways Pat affected my life and helped me become a caring, confident person. Pat taught us to slow down our swimming strokes so we could swim long distances. She taught us serious lifesaving skills. She ingrained in us the high tennis serve-toss and a love for the game! She showed discipline in all areas and kindness and fairness to all people. She appreciated sunsets and all of nature's beauty. Fun, friendship, simple pleasures, being your best self, perseverance, resilience, and thoughtfulness – all Pat!"



Pat's steady leadership and passion for teaching were a gift to generations of campers and staff. She saw potential in others and helped them develop skills and confidence by challenging and supporting them in clear and compassionate ways.

"Pat developed countless leaders at Camp who have gone into the world to encourage and inspire growth in others. Pat's ability to understand individuals' needs, tailor teaching moments, and inspire young women is unparalleled. Pat modeled and taught people that women are strong and can do anything. So many staff cherish the memories of teaching by Pat's side."

In addition to Pat's dedication to Wawenock, she was an active member of her professional and local communities. She was, for many years, President of the Raymond Recreation Association, a not-for-profit organization for local community residents that focused on their involvement in sports and outdoor pursuits.

She was an American Camp Association (ACA) Certified Camp Director and her lifetime commitment to quality camp experiences included planning trainings for the Maine Youth Camp Foundation (MYCF) and the ACA-New England Section Conference. She was a trainer for Red Cross Water Safety, Lifeguard Instructor, ACA Standard's Visitor, Member of ACA-New England Section Standards Committee and was the MYCF Membership Chair for over a decade.

In 2003, Camp Director colleagues recognized Pat with the prestigious Halsey Gulick Award for service to camping in Maine.

There will be a celebration of Pat's life at Camp Wawenock on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

Camp Sunshine's Mike Katz Receives Halsey Gulick Award

As MSC members gathered to enjoy the delicious Migis Lodge lunch at the Sept. 21 annual meeting, they once again witnessed presentation of the annual Halsey Gulick Award winner. Receiving expansive accolades from supporters, **Mike Katz** of Camp Sunshine was this year's recipient.

The honor was well deserved, colleagues reported, citing his extraordinary talent matched by equal humility. Charged with making executive decisions, he also is fully available to families, campers and staff. In addition, Mike has served both Maine Summer Camps and ACA, New England, with distinction and impact.

Mike has proactively chaired the MSC Membership Committee for more than a decade, garnering more organization members and therefore helping increase revenues. He has brought the same level of commitment to his work with ACA, New England, particularly in his longtime role on the Stewardship Committee. The combination of his dedication, professionalism and gentle approach have helped drive his many contributions.

Executive Director at Camp Sunshine since 2014, Mike's career with the organization has spanned several decades. One employee says that while Mike may be "Mr. Policy and Procedures," he is also a playful leader, fully engaged with parents and children. He helped to build and develop Camp Sunshine's thriving volunteer program



Halsey Gulick Award winner Mike Katz with Spencer Ordway

many years ago, and after the camp moved to its current facility in 2001 he oversaw the entire volunteer program.

"The thing about him that I respect most is that he doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk," says a long-time camp colleague. "He will not ask anyone to do anything that he himself wouldn't turn around to do." And when COVID-19 hit, his abilities shone even more, as he helped create a virtual program that welcomed both returning and new families, including sending each family a "Box of Sunshine" to bring Camp Sunshine into their homes.

Mike was also praised for his work ethic and kindness, "all underscored by his gentle soul and wit." Congratulations, Mike.



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MSC 2023 Winter Workshop & Business Networking Extravaganza

Wednesday, January 25, 9am - 3pm at Portland's Italian Heritage Center



We are excited to be holding this event in person!

The day starts off with **MSC Winter Workshop** taking place from 9 am to noon. The workshop will be an interactive and in-depth discussion of “Camper & Counselor Well-Being in Today’s World”. More information can be found in the Education Committee’s article on page 12. We anticipate there will be more than 100 senior staff from our member camps

attending this event. The cost to attend this timely workshop is \$30 per person and includes lunch. Use the link below to register yourself and others from your camp. The cost for non-MSC registrants to attend the workshop is \$50 and available with approval from the MSC office.

The **Business Networking Extravaganza** will start at 12:30 pm. From noon to 1 pm a walking lunch will be available for camp staff and business members. During the next two hours senior staff from MSC camps will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives from various MSC businesses. At around 2:30 pm we will hold the **MSC Mega Raffle**. All staff from camps are eligible to win but they must be at the drawing to win! We will also have two raffle items for business members who are present. Once again thanks to Migis Hotels, our grand prize will be a three-day, two-night stay at the Inn at Ocean’s Edge in Lincolnville.



[Click here to register your camp for the event](#)



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MSC, MYCA Boards Celebrate Ron Hall at Camp Skylemar

Honored and praised as his tenure reaches its end

In a celebration hosted by Arleen and Shep Shepherd at Camp Skylemar on September 20, **Ron Hall**, MSC's executive director was honored and praised as his tenure reaches its end.

Members of both the MSC and MYCA boards enjoyed delicious food and drink, heard words of tribute, and shared stories and accolades of Ron's invaluable role in the organization. As a culmination of the evening, members presented Ron with a book of testimonials and photographs documenting his service to the organization. Its title, a take on the MSC slogan, perfectly summarizes Ron and his contributions: "Ronald K. Hall: Real Leadership, Real Integrity, Real Class."

Thank you, Ron, for all you have brought to MSC. Your boundless energy, abilities, and commitment to this organization will always be remembered and appreciated.



Thank you, Ron!



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Mark Lipof, Co-owner/Director, Camp Micah

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