



Chewonki Foundation Annual Report to Donors

FISCAL YEAR 2016 • SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 – AUGUST 31, 2016

Our 101st was a big year.
We hope these pictures and words
bring you a bit of the Chewonki spirit.



Chewonki Foundation Annual Report to Donors

FISCAL YEAR 2016 • SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 – AUGUST 31, 2016



For the second year in a row, you gave more than \$1,000,000 to the Chewonki Annual Fund. Your support made extraordinary things possible.

Thank You



Annual Report to Chewonki Donors • Fiscal Year 2016

You can take great pride in the way Chewonki is thriving. If you had the good fortune to spend time at Chewonki last summer, as I did, you were undoubtedly struck by the enthusiastic way boys and girls described campfires, swimming, nature study, and many other activities, as well as adventures on rivers, lakes, mountains, and the sea. Joy and growth characterize students in other parts of Chewonki, too, from the new Elementary School to Maine Coast Semester, now in its 29th year.

Like all the best organizations, Chewonki is focusing on making every aspect of the current programs outstanding while also developing compelling plans for the future. Thoughtful and comprehensive strategic planning will ensure that Chewonki has what it needs for summer camps and trips to remain best in class, for Maine Coast Semester to continue to excel, and for our school programs, both on the Neck and beyond, to keep providing education with impact.

You make it possible for Chewonki to do what it does so well. Your generosity cultivates learning that remains relevant in students' lives long after they leave the Neck. Thank you for your continuing support of our mission.



John Warren
Chair, Board of Trustees



FROM THE CHAIR

Centennial Weekend in August 2015 catapulted Chewonki into its 101st year. Thanks to your support of the Annual Fund, that year encompassed vibrant programs and exciting plans for the future. We have skilled, caring teachers and innovative leaders; a rich landscape on which to learn; an increasingly sustainable campus; and many wonderful students and campers. And, we, including *you*, have a place to come back to, a place to which we all belong.

A highlight of the past year was implementation of the first project sited by our campus master plan, the new Challenge Course. This marks the start of increased capital investments in our facilities and lands to meet our programmatic vision.

Meanwhile, you helped us provide more than \$1,050,000 in financial aid to children and teens across all of our programs. I am especially proud of our wide geographic reach and increased diversity—participants hailed from 21 countries and 31 states—and our leadership role in fundraising for experiential and community-connected learning in Maine public schools.

Your continued involvement and generosity are essential. Chewonki matters, and with your commitment, we will have deeper and broader impact on the students and campers who come here year-round. Heartfelt thanks for making the past year a tremendous success.



Willard Morgan
President



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maine Coast Semester

A transformational academic semester program for college-bound high school juniors

Fall 2015: 42 students from 31 schools and 16 states plus China
 Spring 2016: 42 students from 37 schools and 17 states
 Financial aid: \$518,532 (22.9 percent of total tuition) to 35 students

Maine Coast Semester welcomed a remarkable group of students to Chewonki Neck last year. They generously shared their intellect, energy, and sense of adventure to create a lively community of their own. Each student who comes here is unique; each semester is unique. Yet the spirit that emerges from year to year is much the same and now part of a tradition, making one wonder again about the effect of place on human nature. Thank you, students and families of Semester 55 and Semester 56.

Donors committed to **making Maine Coast Semester accessible** to outstanding students regardless of socioeconomic background partnered with us to provide scholarships to 42 percent of students. Among lead donors dedicated to access is the **Blue Yak Foundation**, which generously committed \$25,500 to semester financial aid.

Where do Maine Coast Semester students go after high school? Here (right) is a partial list of where our alumni are first-year students this fall. A number of them are taking the year to work or go on adventures, including an art program in Greece, an internship with a statewide organization supporting foster children, and bird research in Argentina. Congratulations to all.



American University
 Bowdoin College (4)
 Carleton College (after gap year)
 Colby College (2)
 College of the Atlantic (2)
 Colorado College (5)
 Connecticut College
 Cornell University (2)
 Elon University
 Falmouth University
 Hampshire College
 Harvard University (3)
 Johns Hopkins University
 Juniata College
 Lafayette College
 Loyola University Maryland

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 McGill University (after gap year)
 Middlebury College (5)
 Oberlin College
 (3, 1 after gap year)
 Oregon Institute of Technology
 Pitzer College
 Pomona College (2)
 Sewanee: University of the South
 St. Olaf College
 Skidmore College
 Stanford University
 (after gap year)
 Tulane University
 University of Denver
 University of Massachusetts,
 Dartmouth
 University of Miami,
 Coral Gables
 University of Michigan
 University of Montana
 University of Vermont
 (8, 1 after gap year)
 Vassar College
 Wake Forest University
 Wellesley College
 Wesleyan University
 Whitman College
 Yale University

"You have a keen mind and when coupled with your interest...[and] your artistic gift...your field journal quickly became a beautiful piece of scholarship."

TEACHER TO SEMESTER 55 STUDENT





"One of the things that is most notable about you, especially in a world that is increasingly fast-paced, is your dedication to the quality and thoroughness of your work. You love and believe in hard work...you inspired your classmates to feel an equal sense of wonder as we began to understand...the natural communities along the Maine Coast."

TEACHER TO SEMESTER 56 STUDENT



Maine Coast Semester

We continued to develop the scope of the Human Ecology Capstone Project, a culminating, place-based endeavor that every Maine Coast Semester student undertakes. We used a \$40,000 grant from the [Benedict Foundation for Independent Schools](#) to help fund faculty development and project coordination.

Among last year's capstones:

- tanning hides using natural methods
- medicinal plants in Eastern and Western medicine
- effects of microplastics on the Maine coast
- food security in the Bronx
- creating a water filter using low-cost, readily available materials
- impact of invasive green crabs on Maine's marine resources
- creating a gleaning project at farms near a sending school



"[Y]ou gave of yourself to this community, as we say around here, with your head, hands, and heart. This was certainly evident as you pursued your Human Ecology Capstone...You took your interest in psychology and turned it into a social science question that got to the heart of human ecology...with an eye towards offering solutions to problems."

TEACHER TO SEMESTER 56 STUDENT





"I have risen early, when the sky was still thick with darkness and celestial spatterings...I have talked to trees and learned their names and skin and leaves...[O]n my solo, I did not even set up a tarp, wanting nothing to divide me from the salt marsh hay and the nocturnal winds and the rain...I have learned how to love the world I am in...with fervency and care, how to be a member of a whole, greater body of people, and how to have a voice of my own."

LOUISA CAREY, SEMESTER 55



"Where else can you play ringette on a frozen pond with your math teacher? Where else do you have a science field trip every week, a walk in the woods for English class, or a Spanish teacher who's teaching you how to knit a hat? This is the land where...my long-lost passion for school has been reignited, and doing homework is a peaceful and fulfilling end to the day."

CAROLINE KERN, SEMESTER 56

Summer programs

Through fun and challenge, helping young people explore the outdoors—and themselves

Boys in Camp Chewonki: 264

Girls in Adventures for Girls: 78

Teens on Wilderness Trips: 116

**Financial aid: \$436,730 (16.9 percent of total tuition)
to 134 participants**

Our three summer programs have deep roots in Chewonki history but they're a fresh adventure every year, energized by the enthusiasm that participants and staff bring to a new summer. Many start as children in Adventures for Girls and Camp Chewonki for Boys and move up to Wilderness Trips as they get older; some go on to leadership positions. Chewonki summer programs offer a fun, supportive, challenging, and healthy way to grow up and to discover a lifelong passion for being outdoors.

Camp Chewonki for Boys

A wonderful group of boys and counselors made the most of last summer's bright weather, engaging in every possible camp activity on Chewonki Neck and taking cabin trips to more remote locations in Maine. At the waterfront, sailors celebrated the arrival of a **Hartley 12, purchased thanks to donor support**. This stable, responsive little sailing dingy is perfect for boys improving their nautical skills.

Another highlight was a resurgence of interest in "woodcraft," **thanks to the leadership of Blinn Dorsey** (Boys Camp staff '89,'16; Wilderness Trips staff '90-'93,'95). Blinn, a science teacher at Friends Academy in North Dartmouth, Mass., brought new elements to woodcraft, such as more sophisticated carving projects and a skills progression modeled after the Junior Maine Guide curriculum. "It was wonderful to be serving at a place that has given so much to me," he says. "It was even better knowing that my son, James, would share in those experiences." James was a first-time camper. His mother is Lisette Robinson Dorsey (Boys Camp staff '92,'93; Maine Coast Semester intern '92,'93), so now everyone in the family has a claim to Chewonki. "It was easy for me to see what an effect Chewonki has had on my teaching since 1989," says Blinn. "[I]t is essential for me to take kids outside so that they can experience and connect with the natural world..." Blinn was back at Chewonki in September, accompanying his students on an Outdoor Classroom program. We're always happy to see him.



"We've hit that point where everyone is feeling very comfortable and settled. Campfires and Sunday Services become times for celebration and genuine community-building....I find myself wanting to slow down the days. This is a special group of campers and counselors."

GARTH ALTENBURG, DIRECTOR OF BOYS CAMP, AUGUST 2



Trustees Move to Expand All-Girls Summer Programs on Chewonki Neck

“[T]he board of trustees voted in July to create a plan to expand and enhance summer programming by building a girls’ camp on Chewonki Neck. This vote came after thoughtful, wide-ranging discussions encompassing the diverse perspectives of trustees, advisors, staff, and alumni. It honors the contributions of all the girls and women who have co-created 16 summers of extraordinary all-girls programs at Fourth Debsconeag Lake, on wilderness trips, and at Wood Cove.

“The trustees and staff leadership feel strongly that both girls and boys should have the opportunity to experience a single-gender summer camp that fulfills our mission *on Chewonki Neck*. They are committed to meeting the hopes of current and future families while respecting the legacy established by 101 years of Camp Chewonki for Boys.

“We will continue to offer coeducational and single-gender wilderness trips for teens, ensuring that boys and girls from age eight to age 18 can come to Chewonki summer after summer and discover new chances to learn and grow.”

Excerpt from a letter from President Willard Morgan to Chewonki community, fall 2016

Adventures for Girls

While younger adventurers enjoyed 10 days of camp activities at our site on Fourth Debsconeag Lake, older girls explored some of Maine’s most famous wilderness locations on foot and by canoe during three-week expeditions. A talented group of counselors and trip leaders helped make 2016 Adventures for Girls memorable for each participant. While summer was in full swing, Chewonki trustees made an important decision; see story at right.

States and countries represented in 2016 summer programs

COUNTRIES	STATES
Austria	Arizona
Bahamas	California
Bahrain	Colorado
China	Connecticut
Ecuador	Delaware
England	Florida
France	Georgia
Germany	Iowa
Ghana	Illinois
Hong Kong	Maryland
India	Maine
Ireland	Minnesota
Korea	Missouri
Kuwait	North Carolina
Mexico	New Hampshire
Spain	New Jersey
Switzerland	New Mexico
Taiwan	New York
Thailand	Ohio
United States	Oregon
Venezuela	Pennsylvania
	Rhode Island
	South Carolina
	Texas
	Virginia
	Vermont
	Washington
	Wyoming



“After one last resupply just outside Baxter State Park, the group...climbed to the top of legendary Mount Katahdin. This is a challenging climb...[The girls] met that challenge the same way they had all previous ones: with grit, grace, and great humor.”

NANCY KENNEDY, DIRECTOR OF GIRLS’ PROGRAMS, JULY 21

Summer programs

Wilderness Trips for Teens

From the Gulf of Maine to Gulf Hags; from the Appalachian Trail to Acadia National Park; from Moosehead Lake to Mount Desert Island; from Chewonki Neck to the Chic-Choc Mountains of northern Quebec—there are vast and beautiful lands and waters stretching through Maine and eastern Quebec, and 116 teenagers explored them last summer through Chewonki Wilderness Trips. On foot, in canoes and kayaks, and on sailboats, they met the challenges of expedition life; learned about the world unfolding around them as well as what they have inside them; and created communities of friends as they journeyed through the wild.



Students gain unique vantage on Maine's new national monument

Last August, when President Obama turned more than 87,500 acres of Maine forest land speckled with lakes, rivers, and ponds into the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, nine Maine high school juniors took special note. They'd spent two weeks in July exploring the territory, learning about its history, natural history, and the diverse opinions people hold about its future.

This was the Katahdin Woods and Waters Expedition, a first for Chewonki. A grant from the [Quimby Family Foundation](#), created by the same family who gave the land for the national monument, made it possible, allowing students to participate at no cost. Students gained insight into the debate about plans for this spectacular region as they hiked and paddled through it. They heard a variety of viewpoints from 12 visitors along the way, including a retired forester, a camp owner, a dam operator, and a Maine Guide.

"The Quimby Family Foundation understood and supported our concept of providing different perspectives," says Chewonki Vice President Greg Shute. "We're so grateful to the foundation for giving these outstanding Maine students a unique opportunity."

"Katahdin marked the end of our time on the trail. We made our way up in the darkness, at first being able to enjoy formations of stars, streaks of meteors, and outlines of the mount in the night sky...As August comes to a close our challenges will change. How will you use the systems you developed, the places you traveled, and the people you encountered, in the next phase of your journey?"

LEADERS' LETTER TO MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL PARTICIPANTS

Big Eddy and Fourth Debsconeag Lake

Chewonki's wilderness sites enrich our summer programs and give recreationists two places to call home in the North Woods. We take students and campers to our Big Eddy Cabins and Campground and Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps to learn wilderness skills and experience the immense beauty and interest of the surrounding territory. In spring and fall, both locations are popular with paying guests: fishermen, hikers, paddlers, wildlife enthusiasts, and urban escapees. We are fortunate to have outstanding managers at each site. Both enjoyed the largest-ever number of visitors last year. They hope to see *you* in the year ahead.



Big Eddy Cabins and Campground

4 cabins, 62 campsites
2,017 guests; 4,075 user days
(18 percent increase from FY2015)



Don Lamson

- Adventures for Girls, Camp Chewonki for Boys, Wilderness Trips for Teens, Maine Coast Semester, and Outdoor Classroom students came and went all summer.
- Site Assistant Sarah Sindo kept Big Eddy's social media buzzing with her fine photography.
- The wood-fired pizza oven proved to be a great community gathering spot.

Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps

6 cabins, 8 yurts
183 guests; 667 user days
(13 percent increase from FY2015)



Andy Williams

- Adventures for Girls, Camp Chewonki for Boys, Wilderness Trips for Teens, Maine Coast Semester, and Outdoor Classroom students came and went all spring, summer, and fall.
- 40 Waynflete School ninth graders visited for a week at the start of the new school year.
- We hosted the Wabanaki Youth Science Camp in July: about 30 Native American teens from around Maine and 15 staff, for a five-day program of instruction and immersion in Western science interwoven with traditional knowledge and culture.



Summer participants at Fourth Debsconeag Lake: "The girls and their leaders were greeted by the call of loons and the smell of fresh bread baking...This morning we awoke to 'Polar Bear!' announcing the opportunity for a 6:30 a.m. dip in the lake. To everyone's surprise and delight, the entire camp jumped in, and the lake echoed with whoops and laughter. Today the yurt groups are...learning paddling strokes, going on nature hikes, and painting paddles..."

NANCY KENNEDY, DIRECTOR OF GIRLS' PROGRAMS, JULY 27



School programs

Connecting students to the natural world through their schools

The Chewonki Outdoor Classroom welcomes school groups from New England and beyond to Chewonki Neck for experiential learning. We take our teaching off the Neck through Traveling Natural History Programs that we present at schools, libraries, elder housing, and other community centers. Last year, we experimented with an elementary pilot program here at Chewonki, drawing on our resources and 100 years of experience teaching children outdoors.

Outdoor Classroom for Schools

Number of schools served: 33

Number of Maine schools served: 27

Number of students served: 1,536

Number of Maine students served: 1,218

Financial aid: \$72,262; grants: \$15,000
(together, 24.6 percent of total tuition)

Students from schools throughout New England came to Chewonki for experiential learning last year. We also intensified our work with children from the communities closest to us by creating exciting partnerships with Maine Regional School Unit 1 (Arrowsic, Bath, Phippsburg, and Woolwich) and the Wiscasset School Department.

Special thanks to the [Elmina B. Sewall Foundation](#) for making a fifth major grant, \$275,000 in June, to Chewonki and the four other partner organizations in Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students (ELLMS). This grant will help us continue reaching Maine public schools with high numbers of children living in poverty. Sewall funding is also supporting research on the impact of environmental education. The ELLMS collaborative served 2,412 students last year. Over five academic years, ELLMS has reached 11,909 students from 186 different Maine public schools.

Our thanks as well to the foundations whose generous grants in FY 2015 supported Chewonki's work with local public school children in FY 2016: the [Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation](#), the [Davis Family Foundation](#), and the [Elmina B. Sewall Foundation](#). A major local business, [Wiscasset Ford](#), stepped forward to strengthen local schools and improve the lives of children by committing \$3,000 to our program partnerships with all grades in the Wiscasset public schools.

With a \$19,900 grant from the [Maine Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\)](#), Chewonki began working with the Darling Marine Center (part of the University of Maine) and the Island Institute to involve students in estuarine monitoring, helping to create the Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANet). Outdoor Classroom students, as well as those from Maine Coast Semester and Camp Chewonki, started taking water samples and learning science and math skills as they probed the link between water quality and a sustainable environment, what happens on Chewonki Neck and what happens in the Gulf of Maine as a whole.



Schools that came to the Outdoor Classroom in FY2016

Applewild School (Massachusetts)
Ashwood Waldorf School (Maine)
Bath Middle School (Maine)
Camden-Rockport Middle School (Maine)
Cape Cod Academy (Massachusetts)
Cape Elizabeth Middle School (Maine)
Colby College (Maine)
Edgecomb Eddy School (Maine)
Fay School (Massachusetts)
Friends Academy (Massachusetts)
Friends School of Portland (Maine)
Glen Urquhart School (Massachusetts)
Hall Elementary School (Maine)
Harpwell Community School (Maine)
Hillside School (Massachusetts)
Inly School (Massachusetts)
International School of Boston (Massachusetts)
Maranacook Community Middle School (Maine)

Monadnock Regional Middle-High School (New Hampshire)
Montessori School of Raleigh (North Carolina)
Nashoba Brooks School (Massachusetts)
Oak Meadow Montessori (Massachusetts)
Oakland Steiner School (Michigan)
Peaks Island School (Maine)
Pennfield School (Rhode Island)
Pine Cobble School (Massachusetts)
Providence Country Day (Rhode Island)
The Rivers School (Massachusetts)
Summit School (North Carolina)
Waynflete School (Maine)
Wiscasset Elementary (Maine)
Wiscasset Middle High School (Maine)
Woolwich Central School (Maine)



"I learned that no matter what, if the group supports me, I can find the strength to continue."

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
STUDENT AFTER PROGRAM



"It was experiences like [this] that got me into education in the first place."

RSU 1 TEACHER AFTER PROGRAM

School programs



"I have seen this program many times and never been disappointed. Please keep providing these fantastic outreach programs for kiddos who may never see these animals outside of these presentations."

STACY STEVENS, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, CHINA PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SOUTH CHINA, MAINE

Traveling Natural History Programs

Number of programs presented: 766

Number of communities visited: 215

Estimated number of people who heard a presentation: 27,000

Chewonki educators take lessons about the natural world primarily to schools and libraries but also to elder housing and other community centers throughout the State of Maine and beyond, using interactive props and often live animals. These educators also work with our Elementary School and Maine Coast Semester students, as well as summer campers.

Many thanks to [Bath Savings Institution](#) for a \$10,000 gift to Traveling Natural History Programs. The bank's support made it possible for Chewonki to bring natural history lessons to students all over the state, including many children who have had limited, if any, opportunity to encounter the natural world on their own.

Last January, biologists and educators from across Maine whose work involves bats met at Chewonki to share their knowledge and brainstorm ways to further common goals. "We wanted to get on the same page about what is going on with bats in Maine right now," says Chewonki Educator Jessica Woodend, who organized the event. Attending the symposium were a diverse group of biologists and educators from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Department of Transportation, University of Maine, Midcoast Conservancy, Biodiversity Research Institute, Maine Audubon, Maine Lakes Resource Center, and three Chewonki programs: Traveling Natural History Programs, Outdoor Classroom, and Maine Coast Semester. While bats are in crisis across Maine and the country, there is a wide range of activities going on to support them. Conversation at the symposium wheeled across topics including the latest research on white-nose, high-tech detection equipment (you can now record bats and even identify species by sound on your iPad or iPhone), citizen science initiatives, the impact of wind turbines, migration patterns, the effects of mercury, and public education strategies. It's an anxious but also exciting time to be interested in bats.



Dear Jessica,
I would like to thank you for coming to our school. My favorite thing about the presentation was seeing the owls. My favorite owl was Byron the Barred Owl. I also liked being able to touch the items on the table. My favorite part though was being able to get up close with the owls. That was my first time ever seeing an owl.

Sincerely,
Brian

Chewonki Elementary Pilot Program

Students enrolled: 9

Elementary School financial aid: \$22,767 (21.1 percent of total tuition) to 8 students

The pilot year of the Elementary School at Chewonki was a great adventure for the pioneering students as well as everyone else on Chewonki Neck. These children and their lead teacher, Kat Cassidy, and assistant teacher, Emily Bell-Hoerth, sang, studied, skied, read, acted, farmed, paddled, painted, and skipped their way into our hearts while showing how the Chewonki approach can be integrated into a multi-year school program.



"If you have a whole lot of maple trees, why not do something useful with them? This was exactly the thinking of folks here at Chewonki, who realized...that not only should the apples be used for making cider, but the maple trees could be tapped to make syrup, or even delicacies like...maple snow candy."

FROM "SUGARING AT CHEWONKI" BY KIERNAN MANN, GRADE 5, MARCH 2016

"The time has finally come for the Wood Frogs and Yellow-Spotted Salamanders to make the big journey across busy roadways to get to the marshes and ponds where they were born...to mate and lay eggs in the nearby waters. When you hear the name Big Night you generally think of a party...The frogs and salamanders think the same thing, because in the spring on the first warm, rainy night, they go on an adventure..."

FROM "BIG NIGHT AT CHEWONKI" BY VERNON SMITH, GRADE 5, APRIL 2016



Food system, Facilities, & Sustainability

Work with a single purpose

Farm

Animals tended: 1 horse, 10 cows, 20 sheep, 14 pigs, 150 laying hens, 300 broilers, 6 turkeys

Major harvests: 2,133 pounds of potatoes, 570 pounds cucumbers

Improvements: made a drum dibbler, designed and built poultry brooders, improved fencelines

Saved Chewonki \$79,490 in avoided food cost

The Chewonki farm is in many ways the heart of our community. It is a place of meaningful work, challenging and joyful learning, animals, vegetables, wool, wood, refuge, revelation, and good old dirt. Farm Manager Megan Phillips, Assistant Manager Hilary Crowell, and Farmer/Educator Lisa Beneman (Sem 40) keep the farm humming, and last year, more participants than ever were involved in producing food. The farm also played a lively role in Chewonki programs, enriching Maine Coast Semester's Sustainability Seminar and Human Ecology Projects; Camp Chewonki and Elementary School activities; and Outdoor Classroom programs. We increased engagement in local food security issues through growing food for St. Philip's food pantry in Wiscasset and co-hosting a forum on food security for the second year.

Kitchen

Prepared just over 78,000 meals (about 26,000 during the 7 weeks of summer programs)

Spent \$42,858 on Maine-grown or -produced foods (27 percent of our food spending)

Pasteurized 1,503 gallons of milk from our farm, and made 346 quarts of yogurt

Food, farming, philosophy, health, aesthetics, and culture are constant cross-currents in the Chewonki kitchen. It's an energy hot spot as well as where we go to share meals. Students interact regularly with Kitchen Manager Bill Edgerton and his staff. Several times last year, they welcomed the elementary pilot program students to help prepare lunch for all of Chewonki. Maine Coast Semester students worked with the cooks to create some special ethnic meals and a Roman dinner for Latin class. Students also held a Day of Hunger to bring attention to worldwide food insecurity. Students and staff participated voluntarily and Edgerton assigned a dollar value to the meals not eaten that day. Chewonki then donated an equivalent amount in food, including homemade bread and granola, to a local food pantry.



"[O]ur time in the kitchen with Bill was a huge success. Students worked together to make meatballs, bread, cookies, and prepare carrots and kale for our amazing meal. Eating in the dining room with the entire Chewonki community was a treat for our class, and it was fun to watch the children chat with peers and adults while enjoying the delicious soup with so many farm veggies in it."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM LEAD TEACHER KAT CASSIDY,

OCTOBER 2015



"I love to watch the farmers work, their dedication, their scars, their plates at breakfast, the soft sweet words they whisper to the animals they love. The smell of Bag Balm on their hands at morning gather. They endlessly work to feed us, to feed this community. And yet they have time to teach us, and time for tea at the end of the day, in mugs made by their own hands. They have taught me statistics, facts, and ethics. They have taught me compassion, empathy, and realism."

AVERY MACLEAN, MAINE COAST SEMESTER 55



Food system, Facilities, & Sustainability

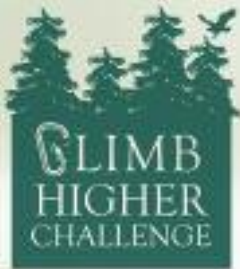
Facilities

We took an official step forward (and up!) with our master plan last summer by having a **challenge course installed in the woods** along the Blueberry Hill trail. Through the Climb Higher Challenge, a match campaign in the spring, hundreds of donors raised funds to pay for the 17-element course. Shelly Gibson, course coordinator, is working with educators from every Chewonki program to plan ways to use the course to enhance students' learning. Challenge courses help develop users' confidence, self-esteem, problem-solving skills, motivation, group dynamics, and leadership ability. Gibson also wants to make strong connections to academic learning. "We're trying to take what students are doing in the classroom and give them a way to reinforce that, a physical way...It's about metaphors," Gibson says. She's enjoying the opportunity to work with an organization committed to finding "how to integrate and utilize this amazing resource." Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make the challenge course a reality.

Other important facilities projects last year included the purchase of a Polaris electric service vehicle, which cut overall facilities fuel use by one-third; and reroofing the Center for Environmental Education in preparation for an upgraded solar installation.

"I can make people laugh
and I can face my fears, climb
ropes without being scared."

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM STUDENT
AFTER PROGRAM



Our gratitude to those who lead the
Climb High Challenge:

Abele Family Foundation, Inc.
Joe and Kristen Brown
W. Todd Field and Serena Rathbun
Michael D. Fleisher
Jenn and Jay Gudebski
Henry R. and Alicia P. Heyburn
Glenn Hopkins and Jamie Hanna
Karen and Robert Scheu

and the family, friends, and Semester 17 alumni who gave
in memory of Eric Klimt, who loved to climb

"[I]t's so helpful to have a real-life example of a new technology right in front of students. It illustrates—it embodies—the immense hope of renewable energy. You can tell them, 'It's possible! It looks like this! You're living it!'"

FIONA HASLETT, MAINE COAST SEMESTER TEACHER



Sustainability

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the [Aldermere Foundation](#), we installed two heat pumps in two faculty residences; added nine solar modules to Gordy Hall to generate electricity for Maine Coast Semester cabins, with excess energy serving the Center for Environmental Education; and put a data logger into the Wallace Center to track energy use. Semester students helped install the solar modules and learned about the how and why of all three sustainable energy technologies. "When you are explaining to students how an energy system can switch from fossil fuel to sustainable energy," says Fiona Haslett, who teaches the Renewable Energy Solutions component of the semester-long Sustainability Seminar, "it's so helpful to have a real-life example of a new technology right in front of them. It illustrates—it embodies—the immense hope of renewable energy. You can tell them, 'It's possible! It looks like this! You're living it!'"

At Chewonki's Big Eddy Campground on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, we installed a solar array to produce some of the energy that the diesel generator has been cranking out. We have saved more than 67 percent of fuel usage since it has been in place, and everyone's enjoying the sound of solar power.





ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2016

Gifts received between
September 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016

CHEWONKI CIRCLE

St. John Level (\$5,000 and up)

Anonymous (14)
Jackie and Julius Alexander
Scott and Laura Beebe
Tim Blair and Kate Dempsey
Steven and Karyn Bristol
Thomas Brokaw
Joe and Kristen Brown
Sam Buttrick
Jane Chapin*
Jill Cohen
Bruce Cornuelle
Paul Crowell and Alexandra Stillman
Ted and Jen Deinard
Joseph and Nancy Delogo
Timothy and Maureen Dibble
Elisabeth C. Dudley
Jeffrey and Marguerite Eberle
W. Todd Field and Serena Rathbun
Michael D. Fleisher
Edwin F. Gamble*
Lillian and Greg Giornelli
Theodore S. Greene*
Jenn and Jay Gudebski
Matthew and Laureen Hollyday
Glenn Hopkins and Jamie Hanna
Wendy E. Jordan
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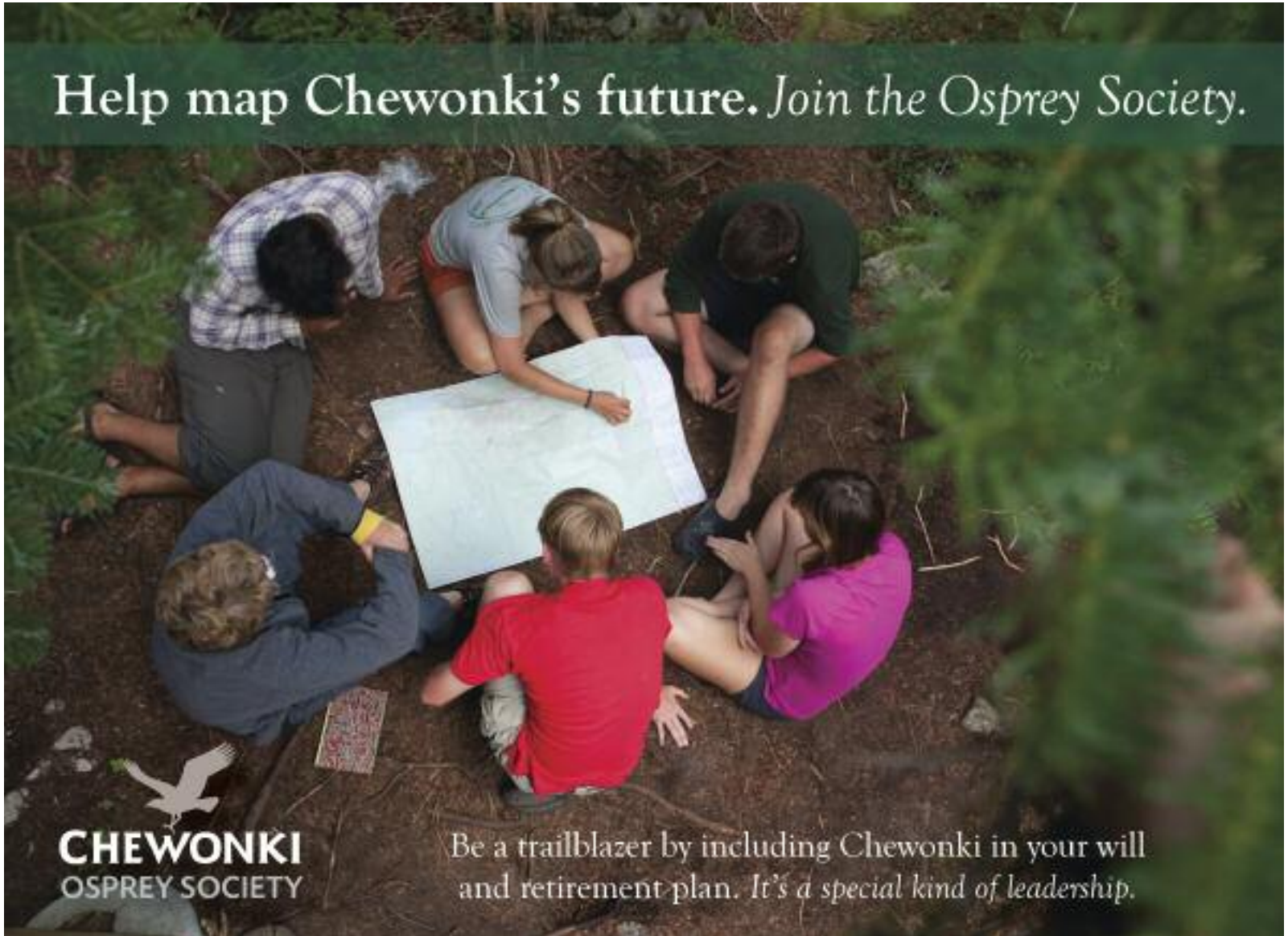
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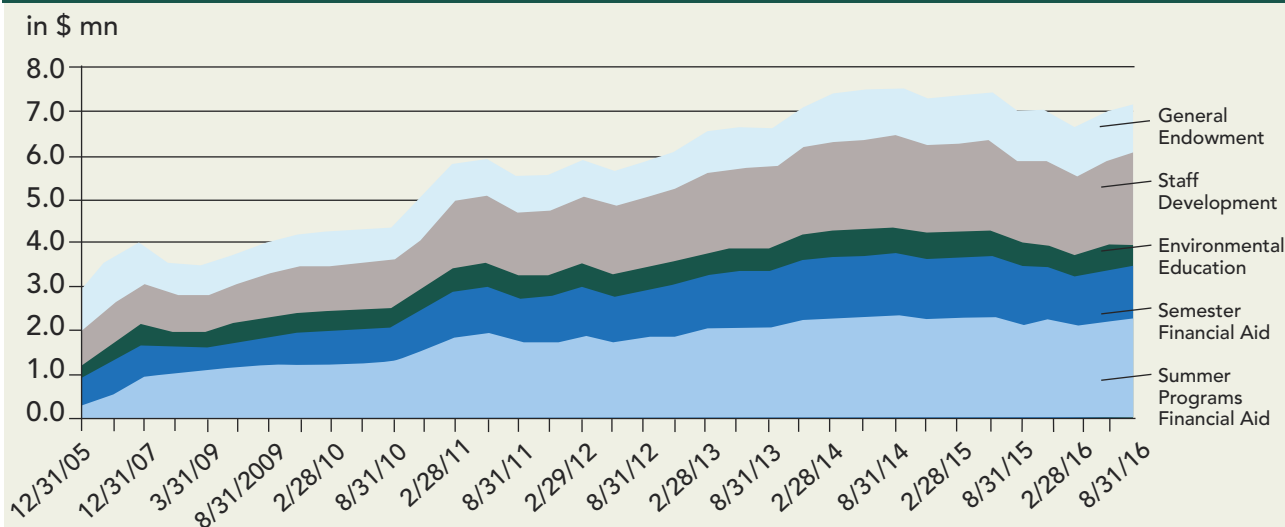
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