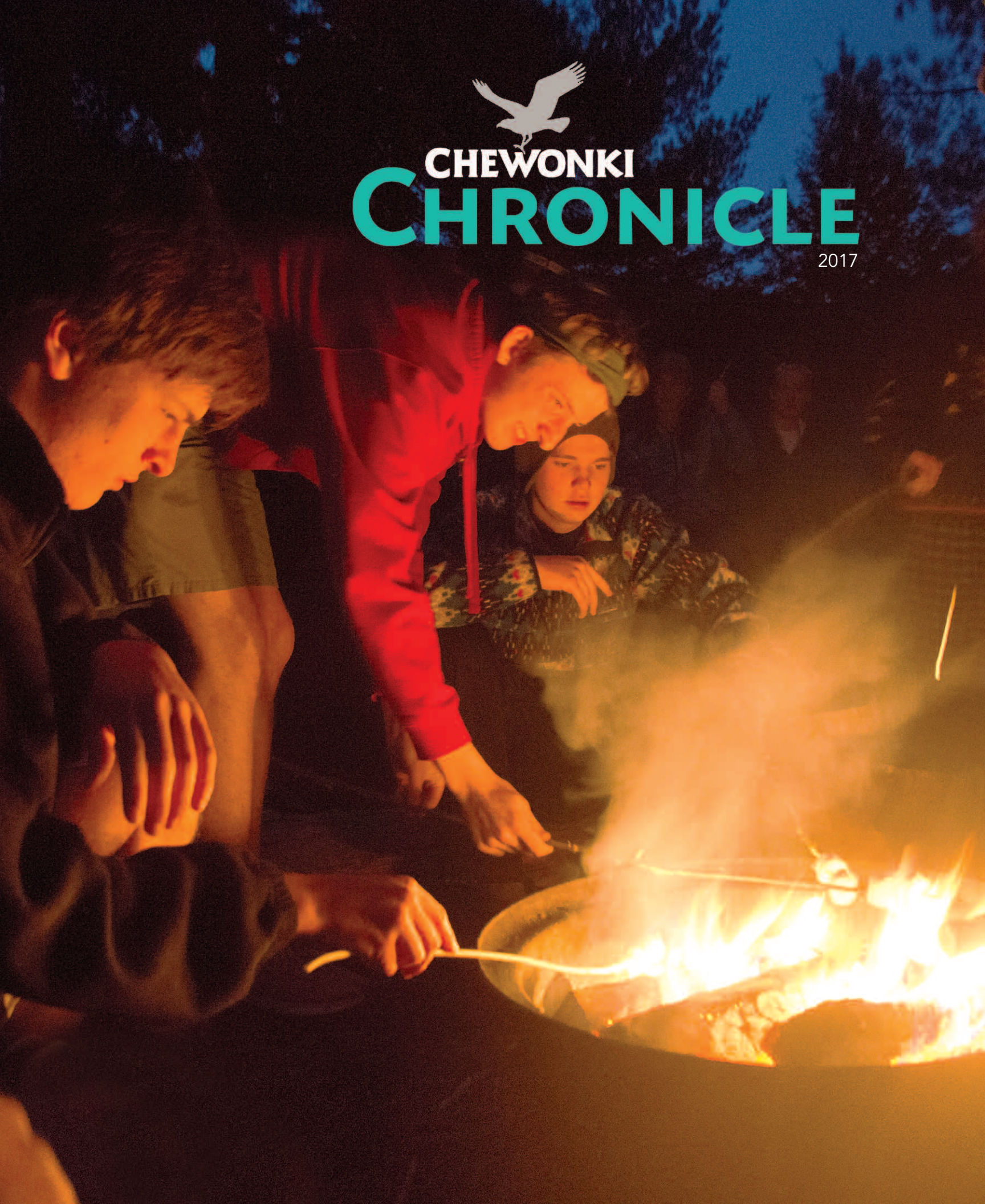




CHEWONKI CHRONICLE

2017






**CAMP
CHEWONKI**
Ready, Set, Summer!
Boys Camp • Girls Camp • Wilderness Trips





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Chewonki inspires transformative growth, teaches appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, and challenges people to build thriving, sustainable communities throughout their lives.

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President's Notes

The famed naturalist Roger Tory Peterson popularized nature study for millions of people with his first book, *A Field Guide to the Birds*, which he wrote and illustrated during his years as a staff member at Chewonki. Peterson artfully combined the scientific method with a reverence for the natural world. Inspired by his work and that of scores of other science educators who have taught at Chewonki over the past 102 years, we try, day in and day out, to encourage children and young adults to observe the world around them, ask good questions, and develop evidence-based conclusions.

Nature provides vivid lessons about the importance of getting your facts straight. A canoe pushed broadside against a rock will flip if the current is too strong. At Chewonki, we ask young people to study the situation, determine what needs to be done, and work with others to design and execute solutions. We encourage them to use judgment tempered by experience and information. They soon realize that ignoring evidence results in bad outcomes.

For most of my life, I assumed that scientific principles would play an increasingly more important role in education and decision-making affecting society as a whole. Our enlightened understanding of the natural world has given us a heliocentric model of the solar system, life-saving medicines, and the development of global communication technologies. Appreciation for scientific thinking must be a shared value, right?

Recent trends have shown this assumption to be only partially true in the United States. To my dismay, climate change skeptics are undermining the scientific community, often for selfish ends. "Alternative facts" that lack rigor and method are influencing public discourse and important policies.

As an institution rooted in environmental science and social accountability, Chewonki has a vital role to play in this landscape. I am more committed than ever to supporting science-based teaching and learning across our whole institution.

A healthy, just, advancing society needs the scientific method, tempered with a potent dose of civic responsibility, to guide decisions that support the wellbeing of all. Our future depends on it, and I am honored to be leading an educational organization that is working very hard to prepare young people to meet this challenge.

On that note, I hope you will enjoy the *Chronicle*. It is a window into some of the promising people and programs in play at Chewonki, where we are carrying scientific discovery forward with vigorous determination and a deep sense of wonder.

Thank you for keeping Chewonki vibrant.

Willard Morgan
President





Harleen Kaur, Semester 58

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES YOU CAN TOUCH

Grant gets students doing the hands-on work of going green

You can talk a good game about sustainability but motivating people to act takes more than conversation. Over the past year and half, the Aldermere Foundation has made it possible for Chewonki to engage students directly in creating renewable-energy infrastructure on our campus. A \$15,000 grant in 2015 led to students helping to install nine solar panels on Gordy Hall; two heat pumps in faculty housing; and a data logger to measure energy consumption in the Wallace Center. A more recent, \$7,500 grant has built on that momentum. Facilities Manager Carob Arnold got Maine Coast Semester 58 students working with installers from ReVision Energy to put solar panels on the roof of the farm workshop this spring. This was a recycling project, too, because the panels came off the Wallace Center roof (see related story, “Let the sun shine”). Through participating in the labor and learning from experts, “Students realize that making the move to solar is not only possible but really doable,” says Arnold. “They also come to respect the expertise of the people doing the technical aspects of sustainability work.”

Aldermere Foundation funds are also supporting an effort to reduce energy waste at Chewonki. Arnold and Maine Coast Semester Sustainability Teacher Fiona Haslett have recruited students to work with them on a comprehensive inventory of electrical energy use across campus. After studying the information they gather, they’ll begin to “install equipment to mitigate wasted energy in our spaces,” says Arnold. (The Aldermere-funded data logger in the Wallace Center is providing valuable information about how people are consuming energy in that busy building.)

Arnold has encouraged Chewonki staff to participate, too. “I am asking you all to look around with an eight-year-old’s sense of wonder and inquiry,” Arnold wrote. “Ask questions about why things happen the way they do, or why the Allen Center stairwell lights have been on 24/7 since the building was built? Where can we automate lights? Use motion sensors? Timers? Flashlights? Where can we upgrade fixtures that have to stay on for code reasons (Allen Center stairwell lights) to LED?”

Students will brainstorm best strategies for reducing waste and help install energy-saving devices where they will have greatest impact. Over time, data loggers around campus will let us know whether our efforts are paying off. “We hope that learning to do this kind of analysis and then make improvements that have real, measurable benefits will show students that it’s possible to reduce waste with fairly simple technologies and changes of habit,” Haslett says.



▲ Watching fireworks explode in the dusky, summer sky, from the rocky shore of Gay Island in Cushing, Maine. **Alexis Grabowski**, admissions assistant, Maine Coast Semester



I love to run on the trails around Oven's Mouth, a sheltered estuary just inland from Boothbay. **Diana Clarke**, English teacher, Maine Coast Semester



Spring Walkabout

One April day, with spring fever running high, we ambled around campus to ask staff to describe something they love to do outside and where they like to do it.

Hiking around the woods ►
on the Montsweag Road
(including the Chewonki
Preserve) with my Great
Pyrenees, Abby.
**Steve Shea, 5th/6th-grade
classroom teacher,
Elementary School at
Chewonki**



◀ I love to travel and explore
the natural wonders in a
new place, especially with
my two young children.
**Liz Taggie-Wright, RN,
Health Center**



◀ Mucking about in boats.
**Cullen McGough,
director of marketing
and communications**

◀ Snowboarding at Sugarloaf.
I have been snowboarding
for 35 years, the past 25 at
Sugarloaf.
**Jeremy Lucas, program
support assistant**



◀ Taking walks, both for solo
reflection time and with
others, through surrounding
landscapes. I am particularly
drawn to mossy, old hemlock
stands and the calm and
energy they provide.
**Olivia Lukacic, senior
outdoor program educator**



▲ I love to go hiking, and
my favorite place to hike is
Gorham Mountain in
Acadia National Park.
**Ana Burroughs, 5th-grade
student, Elementary
School at Chewonki**



Running near the ocean. ►
**Adam Gilbert, math
teaching fellow, Maine
Coast Semester**



◀ Canoeing with people. Anytime
I am in a boat, I find myself
learning and growing. Many
places around New England
serve as ideal locations...but I
am happiest when paddling
with others: friends, students,
mentors, or harbor seals.
**Johnson Whippie, Outdoor
Classroom field coordinator**

I love to go camping and
hiking in Maine's northern
forests and mountains,
especially Baxter State Park.
One of my favorite trails
there is North Traveler
Mountain from South
Branch Pond.
**Liz Burroughs, math
teacher, Maine Coast
Semester**

◀ Rock climbing on the
crystal-studded, granite
boulders of New England.
**Elias Peirce, humanities
teaching fellow, Maine
Coast Semester**



PICK-UP STICKS

Tree harvest creates (wood)pile of benefits

As part of Chewonki's forest management plan, loggers in late winter harvested trees around the farm pastures while staff members Don Lamson (Big Eddy site manager) and Lisa Beneman (farm educator) took down trees around farm gardens as well as Packout, opening the way for more light. "This will make a tremendous difference in our production," says Assistant Farm Manager Hilary Crowell, who looks forward to flourishing crops in the sunnier gardens. Bringing light and air to Packout will help dry tents, tarps, and other equipment washed after trips throughout the summer.

Harold Burnett (Maine Reach 3; farm/woodlot manager '85-'88), who has managed Chewonki's forests for 31 years, says cutting around the pastures generated income, gave work to local loggers, and contributed to the start-up of a wood pellet manufacturing plant in nearby Boothbay. "Ron Dostie, a talented logger, did the

work," explains Burnett. "Erik Carlson, another excellent logger who has worked for Chewonki before, is finalizing a wood-processing facility, C & L Forestry Wood Pellets. We helped launch it by selling him a load of softwood from Chewonki trees."

About 25 percent of the cut oak and pine became furniture and flooring. The remainder sold locally as firewood or elsewhere in Maine as pulpwood. Ten cords of hemlock and pine, which previously would have become pulpwood, went instead to C & L Forestry's plant, reducing trucking from 60 miles to 15. Most of it became wood pellets for heating; some turned into grilling chips or animal bedding.

This wood harvest embodied a waste-not/want-not philosophy and highlighted the interlocking benefits that careful use of natural resources generates on a community scale.



2017 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM STAFF LAUNCHES NEW SEASON

Nine new staff members joined the Outdoor Classroom team this spring to kick off a season of place-based learning. They are teaching school groups who come to Chewonki from all over Maine and New England. The first students (from nearby Woolwich Central School) arrived on April 4.

Back row, l-r: Keith Crowley (associate director of school programs), Jack Kimball, Hannah Marshall, Amy Dorfman, Ben Wiley, Taylor Jackson, Johnson Whippie (Outdoor Classroom field coordinator), and Shelly Gibson (challenge course coordinator)

Front row, l-r: Rachel Tauber, Reesey Partlow, Karen Blakelock, Jen Adams, and Olivia Lukacic (senior outdoor program educator)

ANIMAL-LOVERS LEARN TO LOVE AN AUDIENCE

Unity College students
tune up teaching skills

Twenty students from Unity College visited Chewonki for a two-day workshop in March with our Traveling Natural History Program educators, who helped them develop their ability to teach with wild animals in front of a live audience. Most of the students, all of whom are majoring in captive wildlife care and education, expect to work for zoos and wildlife rehabilitation centers, but Keith Crowley, Chewonki's associate director of school programs and a Unity graduate himself, says that in almost every setting, they will need to communicate with humans as well as animals. "There's a strong need for this workshop," he said. "We're trying to shape how these students view their careers and help them identify their teaching style and strategies."

The college students collaborated to create a lesson about animal biomimicry



Traveling Natural History Program educators Jessica Woodend, Emma Balazs, Matt Weeks, and Stoff Scott

that they then presented to an audience, one group to Georgetown Elementary School second-graders and the other to students in grades three through six at the Elementary School at Chewonki. Many found that presenting to children was a challenge. "The Unity students were definitely in their learning zone," Crowley said.

Some resisted, telling him they are introverted "animal people" and that teaching humans is for extraverts. "I cheerfully disagreed," said Crowley. He believes that the skills an educator needs to deal well with animals—such as empathy, patience, and sensitivity—also apply to teaching children.

LET THE SUN SHINE Chewonki grows solar power

There's plenty of sunshine in the Pine Tree State to keep solar arrays cranking, and Chewonki is making good use of it. We've increased our power generation by replacing old solar panels with new, bigger arrays; installing more arrays; and repurposing smaller ones where we need them. Leading the expansion has been Facilities Manager Carob Arnold and ReVision Energy, a New England solar installer whose staff includes Hans Albee (BC '90-'92; WT '94-'96).

In 2016, we moved a 3.5-kW system off the roof of the Center for Environmental Education and transported it to Chewonki's Big Eddy Cabins and Campground, where it's quietly and cleanly replacing some of the output of the diesel generator. A new 44-kW array went up on the Center's roof last fall, and we cleared some trees behind the building to allow more sunlight to find it.

Also last fall, an 18.15-kW array went up on the Allen Center and the Wallace



ALEXIS GRABOWSKI

Center got a 24.48-kW system that covers the whole surface of the roof, replacing a 3.5-kW array that then supplanted a small 2-kW system on the farm workshop (see related story about the Aldermere Foundation grant). That, in turn, will find a home somewhere else at Chewonki.

(Arnold's dreaming about parking the array on a pontoon boat at Chewonki's Fourth Debsconeag Lake outpost; stay tuned.)

Solar arrays now produce about half of Chewonki's electricity, significantly reducing our dependence on fossil fuel. That's bright.

Chewonki Chooses Susan Feibelman to Lead Maine Coast Semester

“We have a long history of success to build on”

Susan Feibelman sits in the slant of sunlight flooding her kitchen as students and staff hurry by her Farmhouse apartment. She is a picture of calm concentration. “I don’t teach till 10:30,” she says, indicating with a smile that we therefore have all the time in the world to talk. The rhythm of academic life is intuitive to her, as is teaching itself.

“I have spent my life in schools,” she has written. “I am undeniably drawn to...the hum of classrooms; the breathtaking energy that goes hand-in-hand with the work of teaching and learning; and the look on students’ faces when they take ownership of their education. I believe every school has the potential to act as a sanctuary where teachers and learners are empowered to ask important questions and determinedly search for their own answers.”

Susan has worked as a teacher and school administrator for 38 years, including 17 years in the Dallas public schools, where she served in a variety of roles including principal of a magnet high school for high-achieving students and director of gifted education; and 15 as upper school head at Packer Collegiate Institute in New York City, one of Chewonki’s longtime partners. She recently completed four years as upper school director at Greensboro Day School in North Carolina. While there, she became deeply involved in the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, focusing on how to develop women’s leadership in schools.

Susan earned her undergraduate degree in history from Lewis and Clark College, an education master’s from Stanford University, and a doctorate of education from the University of Pennsylvania. She has received fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the Edward E. Ford Foundation. Her work outside the classroom has encompassed curriculum development, diversity initiatives, student wellbeing, teacher mentorship, and effective administrative practices. She has studied schools in China and Finland and has worked on a township-based education project in South Africa.

Today, she is sitting with a cup of tea on Chewonki Neck, where she’s been teaching U.S. history since last fall. She will become the head of the semester school this summer, taking over from Peter Sniffen, who is looking forward to returning to teaching science full-time. She and her husband, George Turner, a retired teacher who is sometimes away, nannying their grandchild or hiking parts of the Appalachian Trail, and their scraggly, waggly mutt, Wallace, have quickly become fixtures here. In fact, Susan slipped into Chewonki life like a fish into water--not surprising, since she first came here in 1999 to drop off her daughter, Eva Turner (also a teacher) to be part of Semester 23. Four years later, she brought her son, Zeke Turner (a journalist for the *Wall Street Journal*), to be part of Semester 31. Susan has also served for a dozen years on the Semester Advisory Committee.

Leading any semester school program is a challenge in this era of heavy competition for the best students. What gives Chewonki an edge? “We have a long history of success to build on,” says Susan. “Maine Coast Semester gives students the chance to play with ideas, practice different roles, build a vocabulary in a safe place.” She recognizes that this semester program is different from everyday life, describing the community as one of “unique intensity,” in which students can delve into learning and explore who they are while also doing physical work, being held accountable by fellow students and faculty, and coming to understand the environmental and social systems that shape culture. And they are taking on all of this shoulder-to-shoulder with excellent, very committed teachers.

“I think students do experience this place as sanctuary,” she says. “It’s not all peace and love here, but we wrestle mightily together, and what everyone does, and gives of themselves, matters.”

Susan Feibelman has already earned a reputation for doing and giving, for her kindness, inquiring mind, and impartiality. Her tea mug empty, she stands to prepare for the morning. Her students await her, and as she has so many times before, she turns to them.



"Maine Coast Semester gives students the chance to play with ideas, practice different roles, build a vocabulary in a safe place...I think students do experience this place as sanctuary."



Susan Feibelman at a Glance

Teacher of U.S. history. Married to George Turner, retired teacher.
Two children: Eva (Semester 23) and Zeke (Semester 31). One grandchild: Isaac.
Often found knitting.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, doctor of education degree in educational leadership and organization
Stanford University, master of arts degree in social studies education
Lewis and Clark College, bachelor of science degree in history

CONTINUING EDUCATION

2003 National Association of Independent Schools/E. E. Ford Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads
2001 New York University, post-graduate coursework in international trauma studies
1989 Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and DeWitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Institute in American History

LEADERSHIP

2012-2016 Upper school director, Greensboro Day School, Greensboro, North Carolina
1996-2011 Upper school head, Packer Collegiate Institute, New York, New York
1979-1996 Served in various roles including director of gifted education, principal, and teacher, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas, Texas

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Feibelman, S., and Haakmat, M. (2012).
Independent school leadership: a gendered experience. *The Inclusive School: A Selection of Writing on Diversity Issues in Independent Schools*. Washington, D.C.: National Association of Independent Schools.

Feibelman, S. (2010). Changing curricula. *Why Change? What Works? The NAIS Guide to Change Management*. Washington, D.C.: National Association of Independent Schools.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

June 2012-2016, Women's Leadership Conference, North Carolina Association of Independent Schools

February 2015, "Rethinking the Balance of Power," National Association of Independent Schools



MAINE COAST SEMESTER  **THE POWER OF COMMUNITY**
at CHEWONKI

FRIENDLY. REALLY INTERESTING. A LOT OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW. DELICIOUS. I DIDN'T EXPECT THE STARS TO BE SO BRIGHT. AWESOME. GENUINE. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO ALWAYS HAVE A FRIEND. I LOVE MY CABIN. IT'S THE BEST EVER. I COULD BE MY TOTAL SELF. COZY. LIFE-CHANGING. IT'S LIKE WALKING INTO HOME EVERY DAY. CREATIVE. THE COMMUNITY. THE BEST. HONESTLY, THE BEST.

SEMESTER 58

Looking Back to Find the Way Forward

Two educators reflect on the value of studying history

“A context that’s greater than a single moment in time”

I chose a teacher’s life because I believe the classroom offers a place from which understanding, insight, and change happen daily. Teaching allows me to contribute to the building of sustainable communities. I teach history because I know that through the study of our historical past and our historical present, it is possible for learners to make crisp connections between what was and what is. In other words, it is how we begin to make sense of our place in the world.



This semester, our study of the rise of American labor and industry invited an exploration of how we talk about work here on the farm, in our families and communities, and in the United States. Suddenly, students are asking wonderful, messy questions about the relationship between economic opportunities in Down East Maine and gender, race, and age.

Our examination of globalism and the rise of the United States as a world power leads students to make connections between yellow journalism during the Spanish American War and the current headline-making charges of fake news. Suddenly our critical consumption of news resides in a context that’s greater than a single moment in time.

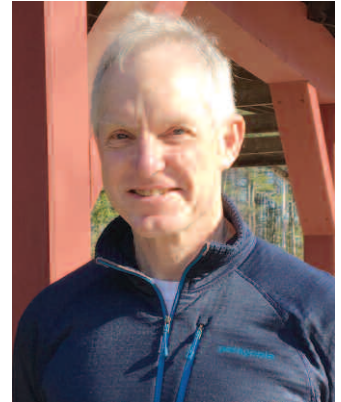
This semester’s book study, which includes J.D. Vance’s *Hillbilly Elegy*, invites students to understand the intersection between Roosevelt’s New Deal and environmental stewardship, while wrestling with the author’s depiction of the economic opportunities available to today’s “hill people” of Appalachia.

A Semester 57 student of mine made an excellent case for the value of studying the past: “[H]istory at Chewonki made me realize how important history is when talking about contemporary politics...At Chewonki, we study history to ensure that each generation is fully prepared to meet the awesome responsibilities of citizenship, which begins with asking questions like, Why?”

Susan Feibelman, history teacher, Maine Coast Semester
Susan is the new head of Maine Coast Semester.

“That makes six from our class”

In three days, my son, Henry (13), and I will leave for Europe. We will start in London, visit friends and the Imperial War Museum, and then travel by ferry to Caen, France, near the Normandy invasion beaches. Ultimately, we’ll make our way to Berlin and then fly home by way of Oslo.



What’s the point of this journey? While I’m so looking forward to traveling with my son, our trip has roots in the past. Growing up in Kentucky, I was an easy 15-minute walk from my grandmother Heyburn’s house, where, in the library, she had the letters my father had written home while serving as a forward observer with the U.S. Army’s 14th Armored Division in World War II.

As I grew older, I realized what these letters were, and I began reading them. Dad had so many interests, including government, history, geography, and diplomacy, and his letters often reflect these interests. Their contents’ range from the mundane to the extraordinary and are responsible in part for our upcoming trip.

History is powerful; it helps us better understand ourselves and humanity. My son never knew his grandfather, but he has been reading the letters and in doing so has come to know him in some way. How could he not?

In one letter, we read a description of how several just-liberated Russian prisoners of war ask to borrow Dad’s machine gun because they know where some of the prison camp’s former guards are hiding. In another, he writes, upon learning of a classmate’s death in the war, “That makes six from our class.”

I asked my son what he thought of history and the letters we’ve been reading. He replied, “I find it interesting. I enjoy it.” We all should. History is not technically our DNA, but it is pretty darn close. I expect I’ll learn more about my father, my son, and myself on this trip. History provides clues about who we are, and can, if we make the effort to learn from it, foreshadow and help us choose the way forward.

Henry Heyburn, assistant director, Boys Camp
Henry studied history at Middlebury College, taught it for a decade, and continues to love learning about the past.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Swinging, climbing, teetering students discover learning means more than the thrill

If you wander off the Blueberry Hill Trail on a summer day, you will discover a startling world of wires, ropes, planks, beams, and boards filling the forest from root to canopy. Challenge Course Coordinator Shelly Gibson knows exactly how to use the 18 elements of this new course and she is teaching staff from every program how to utilize this resource well. Elements range from deceptively simple low ones like the “Whale Watch” (a platform resting on a fulcrum beam) to high ones like the “Voyageur Course,” with ladders and cables inviting you into the treetops. The course is one part of a challenge curriculum Gibson is developing in partnership with Chewonki educators.

Alumni might remember earlier incarnations of Chewonki’s challenge activities, like the Barn Climb and Crossing the Gulch, but the new course “offers so much more,” says Boys Camp Director Garth Altenburg. “This provides an opportunity for students to push themselves...in a team context, while working together. On an individual level and a group level, it will build trust and confidence. Boys can come back year after year and discover something new.” Girls Camp Director Nancy Kennedy sees challenge

activities as a way for girls to develop self-assurance and skills and also create deeper bonds of community. Shelly Gibson, challenge course coordinator



Shelly Gibson, challenge course coordinator

Chewonki’s Elementary School students recently used the course to develop group cohesion while also learning more about levers, which they were studying in class. At the “Whale Watch” element, half of the students could see but not speak, while the others could speak but were blindfolded and then tasked with balancing the platform as it

activities as a way for girls to develop self-assurance and skills and also create deeper bonds of community.

Gibson’s aspiration is for students in all Chewonki programs to take their physical and conceptual learning from challenge activities and apply it in their lives after they leave Chewonki Neck. “I want them to remember what the experiences felt like and use those learnings in an everyday context,” she says.

During a recent Outdoor Classroom program for a visiting school group, a young girl nervously floated on the edge of her group as her schoolmates worked with gusto on an activity called “Spiders from Mars.” This climbing element involves moving yourself across a series of wooden disks suspended 20 feet above the ground, with people below manipulating the platforms with ropes to help each participant to cross. Gibson and Outdoor Classroom Field Coordinator Johnson Whippie sensed that this one student was very apprehensive about the challenge. Her peers seemed to recognize this, too. One by one, every other student made the difficult crossing. It was her turn. Suddenly, wordlessly, she found her courage and moved through the air with grace and resolve. “Her confi-

dence was amazing,” says Whippie. “She easily handled the task, and it was inspiring to watch the group silently take note of her achievement as well. This is an excellent example of how students can surprise you, their peers, and even themselves. The challenge course offers opportunities to shine for confident participants and those who are more reserved and cautious.”

Chewonki’s Elementary School students recently used the course to develop group cohesion while also learning more about levers, which they were studying in class. At the “Whale Watch” element, half of the students could see but not speak, while the others could speak but were blindfolded and then tasked with balancing the platform as it

Thanks again to all the donors who met the Climb Higher Challenge and brought the challenge course to Chewonki Neck.



Design by High 5 Adventure Learning

Backcountry Gourmet

In a wilderness kitchen, Loryn Kipp is “bringing people together with good food”

If you drop by Chewonki’s 10-Day Adventure Camp for girls in the heart of the North Woods, you will discover that wilderness cuisine isn’t always freeze-dried. Counselors and their campers, ages 8 to 12, will be enjoying a delicious meal concocted by Loryn Kipp, who works mouth-watering magic in the rustic kitchen at our Fourth Debsconeag Lake site.

Loryn (Maine Coast Semester 9; summer staff ’93; kitchen ’01-’06; GC kitchen manager ’12; ’16, ’17) earned her Chewonki reputation for fabulous food during six years as our kitchen manager in Wiscasset. She’s had a variety of culinary adventures since then and now lives with her husband, Finn MacDonald, in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is a private chef and also makes hot-selling granola bars for a local establishment called Seek and Bee. A native Mainer who went to Williams College, Loryn gets a hankering for New England when temperatures rise in Louisville.

Planning in Kentucky for camp meals in Maine involves brainstorming and list-making; long conversations with Chewonki Kitchen Manager Bill Edgerton to figure out how to include as much fresh food as possible from the Chewonki farm and other local producers; and a stop-off in Wiscasset to pack everything into coolers for Loryn’s truck. (Her great Danes, Ely and Sofia, patiently share their space with coolers for the last, long leg of the trip.)

Loryn is not daunted by the simple set-up awaiting her. “The oven and stove are temperamental, but once you figure them out, they’re fine,” she says, with a maestro’s confidence.

Cooking for her campers is “really fun,” says Kipp, refuting the idea that young girls are picky eaters. “They have way more adventurous palates than I expected. They are willing to try new things. I am impressed! They seem to be excited about mealtimes.” She notes modestly that appetite is the best sauce. “In a situation like Debsconeag, where you are outside all the time being active, you get hungry,” she says. That’s when a girl might dream about Loryn’s robust chicken curry or her flavorful stir-fry over rice or her morning muffins or—dessert. “They always like dessert,” Loryn laughs. “At that age, if you’ve made it through the entire day in the wilderness, you deserve dessert.” She turns the table when she serves as a judge for the campers’ Blueberry Bake-Off.

Creative and energetic, Kipp believes in the power of memorable meals to uplift the soul, nourish the body, and cultivate community spirit. “I love bringing people together with good food,” she says. It’s part of what draws her to a camp kitchen in the North Woods.

The other part is her enduring passion for her home state. “I like everything about Maine—weather, ocean, mountains, people. It’s just the place I like to be,” she says.

Hungry girls will be happy campers this summer, when they find Loryn Kipp cooking up great food and high spirits in her kitchen in the wild.



SARAH SINDO



Finn MacDonald and Loryn Kipp. Finn "definitely deserves to be in the photo" because he puts up with her migratory trips to Maine, says Loryn.



Young Mainers Explore Their Wilderness Birthright

Chewonki leaders help cultivate a new generation
of Baxter State Park enthusiasts

Baxter State Park, a gift from the late Governor Percival Baxter to the people of Maine, draws about 75,000 visitors every year. Ten of them each summer are Maine high school students selected through a highly competitive process to participate in the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program run by the Friends of Baxter State Park, with leadership and logistical support from Chewonki. These ten students explore the 209,644-acre park on foot and by canoe for nine days, learning from people who know it well and immersing themselves in ecology, cultural and environmental history, and current issues such as access vs. conservation.

“This trip provides an opportunity for really talented Maine kids from all socioeconomic backgrounds, some of whom haven’t had opportunities to get to know the wilderness, to become connected to a very important part of the state,” says Chewonki Vice President Greg Shute. “Chewonki is proud to collaborate with Friends of Baxter to make it happen.”

Aaron Megquier, executive director of Friends of Baxter, says Chewonki leaders have been essential to the success of the program. There is “no formal leadership curriculum,” says Megquier. “What we’ve found is that Chewonki provides very skilled, very mature people who model good leadership. So the kids get to see good leadership in action.”

The educational emphasis is cross-disciplinary. “Some kids engage through science, or art, or photography, or storytelling, or writing... We try to offer a little of everything, so every student can find at least one way to get excited,” Megquier says. Participants must do assigned reading and participate in online discussions before the trip. Along the way, special guests, including a retired park ranger, the former chief of the Penobscot Nation, and a writer and artist, visit the group at campsites. Afterwards, every student must make a public presentation about the experience. “Being willing to speak... about what you value is a way to take what you’ve learned and teach it,” says Megquier. “It’s the next level of leadership.”

Megquier hopes the program inspires a new generation to appreciate and steward Baxter State Park, which includes legendary Mount Katahdin (the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail) and roughly 40 other mountain peaks and ridges, as well as many lakes, streams, and ponds.

When we’re lucky, we see outstanding Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program alumni again. Charlie Caldwell, now a senior at Gardiner High School, participated in 2016 with leaders Jason Chandler (BC staff ’02,’03,’6,’10; WT staff ’05,’11-’14; semester fellow ’09-’10) and Annika Alexander-Ozinskas (Semester 34; semester fellow ’10-’11; WT staff ’11-’16). He arrived at Chewonki last fall, bright-eyed and ready to roll as a member of Maine Coast Semester 57.

Waste Not, Want Not

Recovering food waste on Chewonki Neck and beyond

MEGAN PHILLIPS, FARM MANAGER

In March, 120 local community members, including some Chewonki staff and students, gathered in Chapin Hall for the third annual food security forum, co-convened by Chewonki and the Morris Farm Trust. The focus this year was food waste and recovery.

This issue is no small potatoes: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that in 2014, the United States generated more than 75 billion pounds of food waste. A lot of that wasted food was perfectly edible. For economic or aesthetic reasons, some of it never left the farm where it grew. Some was thrown away at retail sites because it did not sell before an arbitrary “use by” date. And much traveled through the entire large-scale food system--farm to processor to distributor to store to home refrigerator--before ending up in the garbage. Tossing away edible, nutritious food makes little economic, ecological, or social sense, especially when hunger is prevalent.

The EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy (see image) offers a paradigm shift: instead of talking about food waste, we should start a conversation about food recovery. This hierarchy is a model for reexamining where and how we can keep food in the system--as food, fuel, or nutrients--and out of the waste stream. It’s a food-focused take on “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.”

The EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy also provides a useful framework for describing Chewonki’s food system. Our kitchen crew works diligently to plan meals, but when the farm crew brings in a bumper crop of tomatoes or a plethora of oddly shaped carrots, the cooks nimbly adjust their plan to use what is available and cook just enough to feed everyone on campus (“Source Reduction,” the highest level of the pyramid). We eat leftovers twice a week (“Feed Hungry People,” the second level down), feed the leftover leftovers to pigs (“Feed Animals,” level three), and compost remaining scraps (the last level before the landfill) to help grow vegetables. The close relationship between our farm and our kitchen makes this narrative



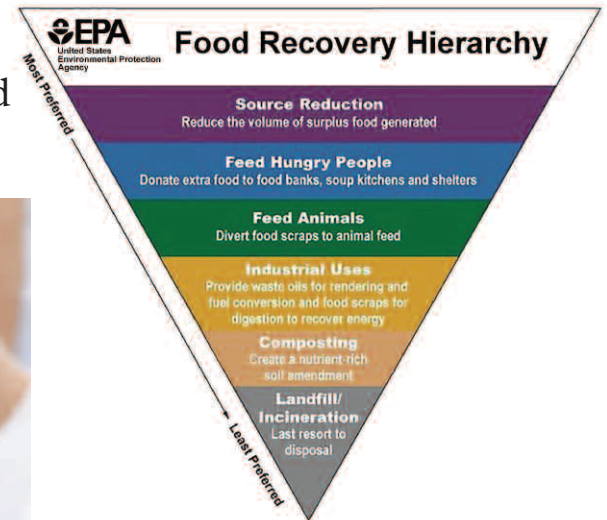
This potato would never make it to your local supermarket due to its unique shape, but here at Chewonki, we love it.

relatively simple, but it requires remarkable coordination.

Last fall, Charlie Caldwell (Semester 57) showed us the potential for improvement. With input from the farm crew and faculty, Charlie established a food waste monitoring system, setting up a weigh station in the Wallace so students could track the pounds of food we were composting. After months of Charlie’s encouragement, we finally managed a single day without any food waste. This happened when a fellow student secretly rallied the whole community to give Charlie a “day of no waste.”



Students in Chewonki’s 5th/6th-grade class made muffins using gleaned ingredients. They were served to members of the Maine Legislature as part of the roll-out of the Maine Food Recovery Act in January.



Charlie, oblivious to the plot, made an ecstatic announcement at every meal that day to congratulate us, much to our delight. I reflected at day’s end that even here at Chewonki, we only reduced waste when it mattered enough to someone we know.

We have been working to better on-the-Neck food recovery efforts and connect to off-the-Neck initiatives. As part of a Natural Resources Council of Maine project, I have been cooking with our elementary school and semester students to use gleaned ingredients that otherwise would go to waste. Food prepared as part of similar efforts around Maine has been served in Augusta to legislators and organizations working on the Maine Food Recovery Act. (Our elementary-aged bakers traveled to the State House for the press conference introducing this bill.) Maine Coast Semester students regularly

volunteer at Midcoast Hunger Prevention, the St. Philip’s Help Yourself Shelf, and gleaning initiatives, and last year they participated in the Feeding the 5000 event in Portland. Several semester students have also pursued individual projects focused on food security and recovery, and many alumni are carrying out this work in their schools and home communities (see Step It Up). The Chewonki kitchen, inspired by cook Susan Bauer, has been pasteurizing and donating farm milk to local food pantries when our students are on break.

On the Neck and off, we seek to engage in meaningful ways with food recovery. It’s quite delicious, when you stop to think about it.

PEOPLE

CAMP CHEWONKI

1940s

Bob Hartley (BC '43-'45) has been working to restore Harbin Hot Springs Retreat and Workshop Center in Middletown, CA, since it was destroyed in the massive Valley Fire that burned more than 76,000 acres in 2015. He hopes to open this spring for day visits, camping, and baths.

1950s

Late-winter news flash from **Fred Scott** (BC '53-'56; BC staff '60-'63, '70-'72, '76, '79; trustee '85-'13; advisor '13-'14): "While we are dealing with near record heat, you're shoveling one more time. Time we found a natural balance! Hope all is well on Chewonki Neck. Wore my camp shirt in Hilton Head last week and two people noticed and made the connection."

1960s

Anne Booth Hauser (BC staff '62) wrote from her home in Sharon, NH, with fond memories of working in the Boys Camp kitchen as a college student. **William Maze** (BC '65) lives in Houston, TX, with his wife and son. Now retired, he is still busy leading his son's Boy Scout troop. **Ted Carter** (BC '62-'67) has retired after teaching primary school for 31 years and runs a small organic farm in Washington County, Maine, with his wife, Liz. **Andy Ingeman** (BC staff '61-'63, '65) and his wife, Susan, live in Florida, where Andy manages the Stuart, FL, office of Janney Montgomery LLC. **Jock Montgomery** (BC '69-'72, '74; BC staff '76, '77, '82, '83, '93-'95, '06, '07) is based in Bangkok, where he's a working photographer and leads photography tours and adventure travel trips to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and other locations for his company, Compass Rose Expeditions.



A big watermelon has the same effect on campers and wilderness trippers today that it seems to be having on these campers, including Tim Ellis (center) and Fred Scott (far right), around 1951. Do you recognize anyone else in this photo? Let us know at alumni@chewonki.org. Happy summer!

1970s

John Little (BC '70, '71; WT '76; BC staff '77, '78; WT staff '79, '80) teaches high school science and is president of the Missisquoi River Basin Association. He also serves on the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee. **Ted Winterer** (BC '71, '72; BC staff '74, '75, '78) was elected mayor of Santa Monica, CA, in November 2016. **Elizabeth Byrne** (BC staff '70-'72, '74-'76) works for the Jacksonville, FL, symphony. **Boro Jerabek** (BC staff '72) (see photo) contacted us with remembrances of his summer at Boys Camp as an international

counselor from Yugoslavia. He wrote: "Today while I was sitting outside my home by the mountain river which runs nearby, enjoying my pipe as a retired old man, it suddenly came upon my mind to visit Camp Chewonki on the internet...Summer '72—those were unforgettable days! As a mountain climber and nature-lover, I enjoyed every day with the boys. Living by the water, hiking the Appalachian Trail, paddling canoes on Saint Croix rapids along Canadian border, every Sunday morning having the service under the old tree, playing the fiddle for the entire camp, teaching boys how to climb rock walls with the rope, and many more things...Memories from 45 years ago are still fresh!" Boro now lives with his wife in Slovenia. In August, **Terry McClenahan** (BC '75; WT '76, '77) and family moved to Buffalo, NY, where his wife, Kara Kelly, is the chief of pediatric oncology at two local hospitals. Terry is the volunteer coach for his son's high school crew team and enjoys working on historic architecture preservation projects.

1980s

For all you outdoors-folk: **Jamie Hannon**, Ed.D. (Fall Outdoor Leadership Semester '85; Spring Environmental Education Semester '86; OC staff '92, '93, '95-'97; WT staff '93-'97), an associate professor of adventure education at Plymouth State University, has just co-authored a book for the Appalachian Mountain Club: *AMC's Mountain Skills Manual: The Essential Hiking and Backpacking Guide*.



Boro Jerabek (second row from front, far left) in 1972

1990s

Phil Di Vece (BC staff '78,'79,'81,'96-'99) and his wife, **Marjie** (BC staff '78, '79; Semester staff '88-'99), are proud first-time grandparents: August Dean Di Vece, son of Erica and **Jason Di Vece** (BC '91-'94), was born 4-21-2016. Yes, **Charlie Fear** (BC '98,'02; WT '00; BC staff '06-'13,'15) is engaged to **Heather Lowe** (BC staff '07-'09,'12; semester staff '12-'14; foundation staff '14-'16)! Charlie is in his first year of teaching science at Bath (Maine) Middle School and Heather now does advancement work for Bates College. **Brad Johnson** (semester faculty and staff '96-'00; farm '00-'08) and **Emily LeVan** (semester faculty '97-'00) have sold their farm and moved to a new home and woodlot in Northfield, VT.

See Semester 18 for news of **Forrest Fleischman** (BC '92,'94; WT '96; BC staff '01,'03,'04); and Semester 20 for news of **Malin Pinsky** (WT '94).

2000s

Chris Coleman (OC staff '01-'02; WT staff '01-'02; TNHP staff '02-'06) was honored at the Maine State House in May for being the Lincoln County Teacher of the Year! Chicago-based radio producer and writer **Jesse Dukes** (BC staff '00-'05) has started a non-profit, non-partisan documentary project that will capture the thoughts of a broad cross section of Americans as they live through the Trump era. (Interested? Contact jpdukes@gmail.com.) **Caitlin Scott Ellis** (BC staff '01,'02,'06), her husband, Bob, and their son, Will (3), now live in St. Petersburg, FL. Caitlin teaches writing, literature, and STEM at Alegria Montessori School. She and Will are also involved with their local community garden. **Cayla Marvil** (WT '05) is brewing craft beer for the tasting room at Lamplighter Brewery in Cambridge, MA, which she co-founded. The *Boston Globe* and *Boston* magazine have written glowingly about Lamplighter. After her adventures as a 2016 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow, sponsored by National Geographic Education and Lindblad Expeditions, **Kerri McAllister** (BC staff '03) has returned to VT to be Shelburne Farms' new education program manager and place-based educator. Read news of **Kyle Shute** in boxed story. Artist and furniture-maker **Katie Stout** (Wood Cove '01; WT '06, BC staff '09) popped up on the Forbes "30 Under 30" list of influential innovators in art and design. She was also featured in the *New York Times Style* magazine. **Paul Taylor** (WT staff '03,'05,'07-'10) and Claire Nelson still call Portland, OR, home. Paul is the Oregon program director for Kaf Adventures and has begun guiding for the American Alpine Institute and instructing for the Northwest Avalanche Center.

See Semester 13 for news of **Lydia Peelle** (BC staff '02); Semester 33 for **Jane Koopman** (BC staff '08,'10; GC staff '11; WT staff '13); Semester 37 for **Hugh McCormick** (BC '03-'06; WT '07; BC staff '10-'13); Semester 38 for **Franklin Jacoby** (WT '06,'07; WT staff '12); and Semester 50 for **Jeremy Epstein** (BC '09,'10; WT '11; BC staff '13).

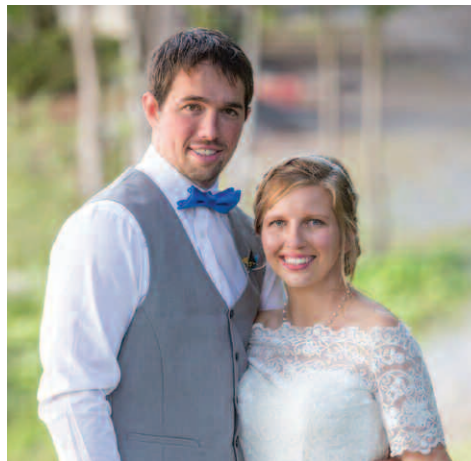


DON'T LET ANOTHER MINUTE GO BY!

Share your latest news through alumni@chewonki.org. Semester alumni: you can also send news to your class agent (see list on p. 22).

2010s

Sandy Bandu (BC '95-'98; WT '99-'00; BC Guides '01; BC staff '01,'02,'04,'05, '07-'10; WT staff '11,'12) is living in Washington, DC, working in IT for the Department of State, supporting innovation in the public sector. "It's been a good landing space after grad school in Geneva, but I do hope to one day bring my skills back up to Maine!" he says. He recently saw one of his old campers, **Nicholas Tonckens** (BC '04-'07; WT '08), once a first-year Owl from France, "now a recent Bowdoin grad working at a think tank." **Jason Chandler** (BC staff '02,'03,'06,'10; WT staff '05,'11-'14; semester fellow '09,'10) and **Caitlin Thurrell** (GC staff '11,'16; farmer/educator '12-'14) returned last summer after more than a year of farming and herding in Ladakh, India. Read about their adventures at www.tothelandofapricots.blogspot.com. They are planning to settle in Maine. **Katelyn "Scout" Costello** (GC staff '12,'13) and **Mikey Picard** (OC staff '13) tied the knot on 9-17-2016 (see photo) with old pals **Matt Weeks**, **Becca Abuza**, **Charlie Fear**, **Heather Lowe**, **Claire Churchill-Seder**, **Carly**



Mikey Picard and Scout Costello



Shane Killen (right) with his father

Segal, **Jenn Goldstein**, and **Mateus Da Costa** cheering them on. **Shane Killen** (BC '11-'14, WT '15, BC Guide '16) (see photo) felt rightly proud when his father, Kevin Killen, won 3 Grammy Awards in February. **Austin Muir** (BC staff '14, WT staff '15) is the education program coordinator at the Catamount Institute and is engaged to Ally Bolger. **Will Pellerin** (BC staff '14) is living in Nashville, TN, writing and performing his own music. He's performed twice in NYC recently, and **Frances Leslie** (summer staff '11,'12; WT staff '14) and **Brady Huebner** (WT staff '14) enjoyed being in the audience.

See Semester 56 for news of **Evon Magnusson** (BC '08-'12; WT '14; BC Guides '15) and **Stella Moreno** (GC '11-'13; WT '14-'16); and Semester 38 for news of **Julia Munson** (GC staff '11,'12).

MAINE COAST SEMESTER

1 (Fall 1988)

At the Hathaway Brown School in Ohio, **Torrey McMillan** (see photo) has been working on a habitat restoration project and developing a schoolwide food philosophy, as well as designing biomimicry curriculum and professional development opportunities for regional educators and professionals. "I attended the Women's March in Cleveland and am considering the March for Science on Earth Day...political action has become paramount!" she writes.



Torrey McMillan (left) and friends

PEOPLE

8 (Spring 1992)

Jan Forman lives in Squamish, British Columbia. She is a registered midwife and has a six-year-old daughter, Maizie.

9 (Fall 1992)

Kipp Bovey writes that she's "still catching babies in northern VT." **Katie Wagner's** Orange-County-based digital marketing agency, Katie Wagner Social Media, Inc., has just opened an office in Atlanta, GA.

13 (Fall 1994)

Erin Quinn married Chris Martin on 1-14-2017 in Atlanta, GA. Erin works at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and volunteers with Atlanta BeltLine, a local urban redevelopment program. **Lydia Peelle** (BC staff '02)'s second book, *The Midnight Cool*, published in January, has earned excellent reviews. Here's her essay about birthing a book while parenting: <http://lithub.com/on-being-a-mother-and-a-writer-in-a-time-of-war/>

17 (Fall 1996)

In January, the radio show "The Moth" featured **Morley McBride** telling a terrific story about her first job. **Page McClean** is pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at the Univ. of Colorado. "My research takes me to Chile every year," she writes, "so I still get to travel as I put down roots."

18 (Spring 1997)

Forrest Fleischman (BC '92, '94; WT '96; BC staff '01, '03-'04), his wife, Claudia, and their son, Yaxche, have moved to St. Paul, MN, where Forrest will be teaching environmental policy in the forest resources department at the Univ. of Minnesota Twin Cities.

19 (Fall 1997)

New York City is home to **Brewster McCall**, who works with family company Gourmet Foods International, as well as the wind-powered family farm in Cutchogue, NY, producing sustainable wines and grass-fed beef.

20 (Spring 1998)

Malin Pinsky (WT '94) and his wife, Kristin, have two children, ages 1 and 4. The family lives in Princeton, NJ, and Malin and Kristin both work at Rutgers Univ. "Our adventure this fall was living for three months in Oslo, Norway, for a research exchange at the Univ. of Oslo," Malin writes.

23 (Fall 1999)

Anna Becker Stevens, her husband, Brent, and their two girls, Isabel (3) and Lillian (1) (see photo), live in Brooklyn, where Anna works in business development at Google. **Katie Eberle** heard her name being called at the Women's March in Oakland, CA, and sure enough, there were **Pippa White** and **Cara Brody** (see photo). A



Anna Becker Stevens with Lillian and Isabel

mini reunion ensued, with plans afoot for a hike soon. **Rebecca Garfield**, husband Paul, and big sister Pippa (2) welcomed baby Ayla Cecilia on 9-29-16. Rebecca teaches Spanish and serves as a middle school dean and community service coordinator at Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY. Last fall, the family enjoyed time with **Enyi Abal Koene** and her son, James (2), who were visiting from France (see photo). **Ariane Lotti** is in her second year of the organic transition of her family's farm in Italy (www.tenutasancarlo.com). **Will Morris** and his wife, Elise, are overjoyed to have a daughter, little Vera Eleanor, born 3-6-2017. Will reported that they were "getting used to our new normal." Will is working on a variety of projects around the country, "including

Libby Chamberlain: The woman behind, and ahead of, Pantsuit Nation

In the final stretch of the race for the presidency last fall, a private Facebook group started by a woman in Maine spiraled into an explosion of support for Hillary Clinton. From all over the country, women posted stories from their own lives that fueled their desire to see Clinton in the White House. The rest is history—but not for Libby Irwin Chamberlain (semester admissions and alumni relations '07-'11), who hatched the group Pantsuit Nation in her home in Brooklin, Maine.

After the election, Libby wondered how to use the energy and stories people had shared to continue pressing for change. She decided to put a collection of the posts into a book, scheduled for May publication, called, of course, *Pantsuit Nation*. "We are planning a series of meet-ups at independent bookstores around the country," says Libby. (You can learn more at <http://www.pantsuitnation.org/events.html>.) She believes the book will further the impact of the powerful messages women declared in creating Pantsuit Nation.

"A Facebook group that was started on a whim by a woman in rural Maine who wanted to gather some friends to wear pantsuits to the polls, and which then exploded to a 3.9-million-person community, is anything but conventional," she writes on her site. "[Y]our stories matter...your voices are crucial....It is an incredible privilege and honor to be a part of this huge, diverse, complex, multifaceted community, united as we are by our belief in the power of collective storytelling and a commitment to justice and inclusion."

When she is not leading her Nation, Libby enjoys life with her children, Eleanor (3.5) and Hugo (1.5), and husband, Rick Chamberlain, a boatbuilder at Brooklin Boat Yard. Even though she is a celebrity now, she hasn't forgotten Chewonki. "The fog of motherhood and Pantsuit Nation hasn't obscured my memory *that* much...!" she wrote. It seems she's a woman with a clear sight line.





Katie Eberle, Pippa White, and Cara Brody

utilization of poultry waste as a fuel substitute for power generation and the usage of agricultural wastes as fuel for cement production. He's also working with a group "to turn agricultural wastes into activated carbon for heavy metal emissions mitigation." **Julia O'Hern** lives in Moss Landing, CA, where she works for the Marine Mammal Center, rescuing and rehabilitating stranded marine mammals. She also captains a whale-watching vessel. **Marissa Vahlsing** is an attorney for EarthRights International, providing legal defense for communities in the Amazon and Andes against oil, gas, and mining projects. Last October, she married her partner, Patricio, near her home in New Jersey.

27 (Fall 2001)

Jessica Hoy will graduate from residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital in June. She then heads to NM to work as a primary care physician at Indian Health Services.

30 (Spring 2003)

Sara Farnum Shannon and her husband, Brent, welcomed a daughter, Madeline Ann Shannon, on 8-26-2016 (see photo). In February, **Jason Lilley** began working with the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension office, promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Prior to that, he got an MS in Horticulture at Penn State; worked at various farms in ME, PA, and NJ; and taught soil conservation and agriculture with the Peace Corps in Paraguay.



Enyi Abal Koene and Rebecca Garfield with their children



Marston Leff: Finding a place to have impact

Since June 2015, Marston Leff (Semester 34), a Peace Corps volunteer, has been establishing sustainable agriculture practices in a small village surrounded mostly by jungle in interior Panama. It's a long way from Chewonki Neck. His parents, who updated us because Marston could not get to a phone or computer, say his time at Maine Coast Semester, with its emphasis on owning one's actions, community engagement, environmental stewardship, and hands-on work, prepared him well for the Peace Corps. His "enviable capacity for adjusting to difficult conditions" has also been useful, says his mother, Marilyn McDaniel.

Marston is working with farmers who grow coffee, corn, rice, yucca, cattle, and other crops. He has become fluent in Spanish. He knows how to catch *brocas*, the boring insects that destroy coffee cherries, in traps made from recycled plastic bottles. He waits out army ant invasions from the comfort of his hammock. He is handy with a machete. And, in the humid heat of Panama, he quips that he salts his soup by holding his head over the bowl.

"There have been some very good highs and some very low lows," says his father, Scott Leff, who visited Marston in January. "Any community development is difficult in a third world environment. But he's definitely interested in the work and pleased with it." Among his achievements are setting up a solar dryer for coffee beans, increasing their market value; and attaining and installing 40 solar panels to generate electricity from the rooftops of local houses.

Marston's interest in the environment and service grew at Chewonki and College of the Atlantic, from which he graduated in 2011. After college, he did a variety of work, always striving "to figure out where he wanted to have an impact," says his father. In Los Uveros, Panama, he found the place he sought.

Catch up with Marston at panamonzo.blogspot.com, where he blogs when he can.



Sara Farnum Shannon with husband and daughter

33 (Fall 2004)

Jane Koopman (BC staff '08,'10; GC staff '11; WT staff '13) is an instructor for NOLS in the river and sea kayaking programs. She spent the winter in Chile working to grow the River Kayak Stewards of Chile program, which she founded last year. **Hannah Nestler** is in a graduate program at Tufts Univ., studying school psychology.

34 (Spring 2005)

Read news of **Marston Leff** in boxed story.

36 (Spring 2006)

Wendy Lovinger is getting a master's in legal and political theory at Univ. College London.

Semester 56 tops Mount Kilimanjaro

Stella Moreno (GC '11-'13; WT '14-'16; Semester 56), at home in California, laughed when her semester mate Evon Magnusson (BC '08-'12; WT '14; BC Guides '15; Semester 56), in New Jersey, contacted her to ask if she wanted to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Stella has racked up a lot of hiking and paddling experience with Chewonki over the past five years, but Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania and it is the highest mountain in Africa, 19,340 feet above sea level. Still, she didn't say no. Neither did 56ers Aidan Carlson in Maine or Anneke Sherry in Michigan. In March, after months of planning, the four reached the summit of the mighty mountain, unfurling a little Chewonki pennant to honor the place where they met.



Anneke Sherry, Evon Magnusson, Stella Moreno, and Aidan Carlson

Climbing Kilimanjaro is not for lightweights. To get ready, Stella, a diver, did a lot of extra running and worked on her standing muscles. The foursome was fortunate to have well-respected guides from Pristine Trails, a trekking and safari organization known to Evon's mother, Ellen Morris, whose work frequently takes her to Africa.

It took four days to get to the top. The greatest challenge was the thin air, which made every step much harder. On the last night of the climb, after a short sleep, the group started for the summit at 11:00 p.m. with headlamps shining. Stella will never forget the intensity of the stars that seemed to hang right over their heads. "I would look up and feel as if I could touch them," she says. That nighttime climb "took everything I had," she admits, but the little band made it to the top by morning. "It was a crazy feeling. Amazing," she recalls. They spent 20-30 euphoric minutes drinking in the view and their achievement before starting their run (!) down. Any longer, and the altitude would have started to take a toll on their bodies.

They recovered on a two-day safari in Arusha National Park, where Stella, who plans to be a biology major in college, marveled at the lions, gazelles, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, and other wild animals.

Evon, Anneke, Aidan, and Stella were friendly at Maine Coast Semester but they were not "best friends." This experience took their relationship to a new level. "The whole experienced bonded us so deeply," Stella says. Ellen Morris saw the group just after they descended from Kilimanjaro. "They said it was the most grueling and exhilarating thing that they have ever done," she reported. "It is so great to see how Chewonki brought them together in the first place and that the bond formed more than a year ago helped them make this journey together."

PEOPLE

37 (Fall 2006)

Kristy Andrews is the assistant camp director of Camp Wawenock on Sebago Lake in Maine.

Lindsay Baldwin lives in Portland, ME, where she is the sales and marketing director for Casco Totes, which designs and crafts handbags made from reclaimed ship sails. Portland, OR, is home to **Karl Berger**. He builds sets and displays for Axiom Custom Products and continues building his own furniture and doing standup comedy.

Katie Black has graduated from medical school and is fulfilling her residency in pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Caddie Durrett lives in Helsinki, Finland, and works as a manager for a healthcare software company. **Madeleine Hobbs** works in business development for Dropbox in Austin, TX. **Hugh McCormick** (BC '03-'06; WT '07; BC staff '10-'13) opened the Hugh McCormick Design Company in Portland, ME, and founded the Hired Wrights, an artists' collective including graphic designers, illustrators, woodworkers, and others. **Chloe Rossano** lives in Sisters, OR, where she works on a small CSA farm and makes jewelry. **Alex Schulte** manages partnerships at a mission-driven startup in Brooklyn. When **Luke Shannon** isn't at sea, working as an engineer on container ships, he has been camper-adventuring around the country. He plans on spending the summer in Alaska. **Irene Syphers** is an environmental steward with Augusta Trails, and lives in Portland, ME. **Katherine Stewart** is pursuing her master's at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, focusing on higher education.

38 (Spring 2007)

Maren Frisell is a senior water resources engineer at a consulting firm in Providence, RI. **Liddy Hepner** graduated from vet school at Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine last May and then earned a master's in public health from Virginia Tech. She is working as a vet in Seattle, WA. **Franklin Jacoby** (WT '06,'07; WT staff '12) is in his second year as a PhD student at the Univ. of Edinburgh. "When not writing about the philosophy of science," he reports, "I have been



MICHELE BARKER

Kyle and Greg Shute

Prizewinner Kyle Shute: Biologically inclined to love the wild

Kudos to Kyle Shute (BC '04,'06-'08; WT '09-'11), son of Chewonki Vice President Greg Shute and former Staff Naturalist Lynne Flaccus, who received the P. F. English Memorial Award from the Wildlife Society at a ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia, in April. Kyle is a senior at the University of Maine, Orono, majoring in wildlife ecology. The Wildlife Society, a national wildlife science, management, and conservation organization, annually gives the award to one outstanding undergraduate senior student in wildlife biology or wildlife management in its Northeast Section, which covers an area from Maine to West Virginia. Criteria for award nominees include academic achievement and outstanding recommendations for work in the field.



Sienna Santer

enjoying the mountains and crags of the Scottish Highlands.” In May, **Meg Lundy** will graduate from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at the Thomas Jefferson Univ. She recently returned to the US from Mlolongo, Kenya, where she worked with women and children who have HIV/AIDS and partnered with a local NGO, Positive Life Kenya, to build a medical clinic and health education center in the local slum. **Halie Morrell** is the stewardship project manager for Coastal Mountains Land Trust in Camden, ME. **Julia Munson** (GC staff '11,'12) works with the International Rescue Committee in Tucson, AZ, as the garden specialist, supporting resettled refugees in growing food for their families and community. **Ethan Nonomura** is pursuing an MFA in Industrial Design at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. **Emily O'Connor** is an infusion nurse at a pediatric GI practice in Atlanta, GA. She writes, “My most exciting news is that I adopted a Maine Coon cat.”

41 (Fall 2008)

This winter, **Johanna Douglas** and **Kate Yazujian** (Sem 52) worked together at Cherry Grove Farm, a sustainable dairy farm in Lawrenceville, NJ. “I’ve graduated from the Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy,” **Georgina Waldman** writes, “and moved out to San Diego, where I’m specializing in solid organ transplant pharmacy.”

43 (Fall 2009)

Addie Bakewell will graduate from Cornell Univ. in May.

44 (Spring 2010)

Suhas Vijaykumar visited Chewonki Neck on a trip up the coast after graduating from MIT last spring.

46 (Spring 2011)

Jennifer Cutler (WT '09) recently moved to Guam.

47 (Fall 2011)

Leo Turpan is an art major at Colorado College, and recently returned from doing a funded independent photography project in Cuba.

49 (Fall 2012)

See Semester 50 for news of **Jane Jordan**.



Zan Armstrong and Jonas Sicking

50 (Spring 2013)

Jeremy Epstein (BC '09-'10; WT '11; BC staff '13) attends Grinnell College in Iowa, where he lives in a food co-op along with **Jane Jordan** (Semester 49).

52 (Spring 2014)

See Semester 41 for news of **Kate Yazujian**.

53 (Fall 2014)

Jennie Richardson attends Lafayette College, where she competes on the forensics team.

54 (Spring 2015)

Cameron Jones is a freshman at Harvard Univ. So is **Sam Rukeyser**, who, during his last year of high school, started a company that makes sunglasses out of reclaimed, reusable materials.

56 (Spring 2016)

See news of **Aidan Carlson**, **Evon Magnusson** (BC '08-'12; WT '14), **Stella Moreno** (GC '11-'13; WT '14-'16), and **Anneke Sherry** in boxed story. **John Rauen** has started a handcrafted longboard business. Look for his Instagram, native.longboards. **Sienna Santer** (see photo) earned a Congressional Medal of Honor in 2016 in part for her outstanding efforts to connect food gleaned from local farms with the nearby food bank.

SEMESTER SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF

Best wishes to **Zan Armstrong** (semester faculty '04-'06) and **Jonas Sicking**, married June 2016 (see photo); and **Ted Heavenrich** (semester faculty '90,'91), who has retired from teaching at Taft. Read news of **Libby Irwin Chamberlain** in boxed story; **Brad Johnson** and **Emily Levan** in 1990s; and **Jason Chandler** and **Caitlin Thurrell** in 2010s.

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen R. Kellert (1943-2016)

Stephen Kellert, a Chewonki advisor from 1995 to 2016 and father of Emily Kellert Lerner (Semester 6), spent his life advocating for what lies at the heart of the Chewonki mission: connecting human beings with nature to create happier, more sustainable communities. A social ecologist who taught and worked as a research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he also met his wife, Cilla, Kellert was a passionate, compelling proponent of creating places for living, learning, and working—from homes to cities—that put people in touch with the natural world. Kellert collaborated on the 1995 book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* with biologist E. O. Wilson, who defined biophilia as “the urge to affiliate with other forms of life” and believes it has genetic roots. Kellert wrote several more books about biophilia, focusing on how architects and urban planners can create a built environment that incorporates nature while meeting pragmatic needs.

A champion of conservation and sustainable development, he urged designers to push beyond energy goals to satisfy humans’ deep hunger for contact with the environment that is our birthright and responsibility. Kellert also made a documentary film about his principles, “Biophilic Design: The Architecture of Life.”

“Stephen was a giant in his field,” says Chewonki President Willard Morgan, “part of a nucleus of inspired leaders who launched a national movement to combat ‘nature deficit disorder.’ His prominence and impact did not overshadow his humanity, however. I first met Stephen in his modest office at the sustainable building he helped envision at Yale, Kroon Hall. His personal warmth and humility, his interest in me and Chewonki’s work, and his obvious affection for and pride in his daughter Emily were all remarkable and memorable. Based upon that meeting, we welcomed him to speak about biophilic design at a meeting of trustees and advisors in 2012, in advance of our master planning process. From the visionary to the personal, Stephen’s legacy will live on in our work for years to come.”



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Meet a Member of the Osprey Society

Paula Cook Sculley: A gardener and conservationist with a love story rooted in Chewonki

Paula Cook Sculley (1945-2017) spent the summers of 1963 and 1964 at Chewonki as a “kitchen girl,” but her relationship with this place was much deeper than that. Paula’s grandparents, American Impressionist painter John Folinsbee and his wife, Ruth, first came to the peninsula across Montsweag Brook from Chewonki Neck in the summer of 1931. The Folinsbee daughters were the talk of Camp Chewonki when they came of age. In 1950, the family, including Paula’s mother, Joan, and father, Peter Cook, a landscape and portrait painter, acquired an old farmhouse on Montsweag Road and built a studio for Cook and his father-in-law to share. So began Murphy’s Corner, a summer place that has evolved into a hamlet of cousins including a fifth generation.

Paula’s cousin Joan Wiggins Hooker (BC staff ’62,’63) describes their childhood summers at Murphy’s Corner as “truly idyllic,” with days of playing, swimming, tennis, and music; picnics and fishing for stripers aboard the family’s old lobster boat, the *Sketch*; and watching Cook and Folinsbee work in the studio on paintings that often included the children. The clan was full of energy and high spirits, and everyone pitched in to tend the gardens and the house.

As Paula’s generation grew up, the parents threw square dances in the studio, inviting off-duty Chewonki counselors to paddle over and join the fun. In 1963, Paula and her cousin Joan decided to take summer jobs in the camp kitchen. “I think we were paid \$30 a week and a hairnet,” laughs Joan. They soon met David Sculley (BC staff ’63,’64), a counselor from Long Island, New York, who had followed his older brother, Arthur (BC ’54), and cousin Sean Sculley (BC ’50,’51) to Maine. Amused by the New Hall counselor’s attempts to get her attention as he passed dirty dishes to her, Paula invited him to Murphy’s Corner one July night and baked him a cake for his 17th birthday. “That was the beginning of a long, long, wonderful love,” says David.

Paula had a wide smile, luminous blue eyes, and a serene, selfless nature. “She always thought about everybody else,” says David, describing her way of listening intently to others. Joan says that despite living for years with a brain tumor, Paula handled her illness “so gracefully, to make everyone else feel better.”

Coupled with her gentle manner was a strong intellect. She entered Smith College at 16, earned a master’s in education from Harvard, and learned five languages. She spent a school year in Japan and embraced the adventure of travel throughout her life. Her greatest interest, though, and one that surely had roots in the Cooks’ New Jersey farm and summers on Montsweag Bay, was the natural world.



This painting of Chewonki Neck by Peter Cook, Paula Sculley’s father, hangs in the president’s office at Chewonki, across the room from one by her grandfather, John Folinsbee.

David and Paula Sculley in 1963 at Chewonki (right) and more recently (top).



Gardening enabled Paula to be outside and create beauty, to do hard work that uplifted others. She shared this passion with her friend Margaret Ellis (director of healthcare and safety ’65-’90), who by the late 1960s had settled with her husband, Tim, on Montsweag Road. Paula wanted children and young adults to know the joy of being in touch with nature. She dedicated herself to getting them excited about the outdoors and interested in conservation. “She was an amazing teacher and loved to teach about nature,” David says. She co-founded the Fern Valley Nature Center in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, as well as Botany in Action, a fellowship program for doctoral-level plant scientists creating new knowledge about plants or conserving traditional uses of indigenous species.

A private person, Paula spent quiet moments sewing exquisite quilts to mark milestones in the lives of her children, Heather and D., and other family members and close friends. Her quilting was “as much about love as art,” says David.

Rumor has it that the summer they fell in love, Paula Cook and David Sculley mischievously carved their initials into a tree on Chewonki Neck. Long may it grow. Long may the memory of Paula Cook Sculley shine over Montsweag Bay.

Please consider becoming a member of the Osprey Society by including Chewonki in your estate plan. For more information, contact Peg Willauer-Tobey, director of development, at pegwillauer@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323.



In His Natural Habitat

Don Lamson, Site Manager,
Chewonki's Big Eddy Cabins and Campground

With his neatly trimmed beard, twinkling smile, and soft Maine accent, Don Lamson, site manager of Chewonki's Big Eddy Cabins and Campground, is the genuine article. A native of Wiscasset, Don spent his childhood hunting, fishing, and exploring the woods and waters of Maine. His knowledge and willingness to share it make him an important resource to guests at Big Eddy and Chewonki as a whole.

Don knew about Chewonki growing up, but it wasn't until he met his future wife, Dot, then our director of environmental education, that his relationship with the



Don Lamson

place began. Don became manager of Big Eddy in 2013 after 12 years at Chewonki and 24 before that as a shipfitter at Bath Iron Works.

Don has intimate knowledge of the North Woods, can launch a conversation with just about anyone, and is handy with maps, tents, canoes, fishing rods, and flat tires. He's a natural fit for the job of managing Chewonki's cabins and campsites on the shores of the Lower West Branch of the Penobscot River, near the famous pool where the river swirls and reorganizes after running the Ripogenus Gorge. Big Eddy is legendary among fishermen of landlocked salmon and brook trout, so Don, a fly fisherman himself, is in his natural habitat.



SARAH SINDO

He relishes watching the antics of a bald eagle or a moose but also enjoys teaching people how to use a compass before they set out for Baxter State Park or helping a bouncy child strap on a backpack. What he likes most about his work is the characters he gets to know. “You meet a lot of great people,” he says. “I like helping them...That’s the fun of it. I really love to help people accomplish what they want in the outdoors.”

Chewonki bought Big Eddy Cabins and Campground in 2000, recognizing “an opportunity to hold and steward a unique feature of the North Woods,” explains Vice President Greg Shute. We use the site, which is open from mid May to mid October, for summer programs and sometimes, during the shoulder seasons, for Maine Coast Semester expeditions. When we are not there, Big Eddy’s cabins and campsites are available for rent, providing everyone



from experienced outdoorsmen to young families with a superb base for wilderness adventures.

Under Don’s management, and with the help of his capable assistant, Sarah Sindo, Big Eddy’s vacation rental business has steadily climbed. He is especially happy that more people are staying for longer periods of time. This doesn’t surprise Vice President Greg Shute. “I saw what a great way Don made connections with Maine Coast Semester students through work programs,” Shute says. “He’s done the same thing at Big Eddy. He is truly interested in the people he welcomes there.”

Don credits his parents with handing down the skills he values most. “My parents’ generation had to fend for themselves,” he says. “You had to have skills. My father, Roy, was a tremendous hunter and and fisherman. He had so much knowledge of the outdoors. He did things and made them look easy. Drove me nuts. A lot of what I learned from him was not just the skills, but how to get people to want to keep trying.”

During the off season, Don stops by Chewonki now and then to help with special projects and work patiently with students, many of whom have never hammered a nail. Drawing on his father’s training, he finds teaching “very rewarding. I have kids come back and tell me that the things they did here with me were really important to them.”

Returning to Wiscasset from Big Eddy can involve culture shock, however. “The more I’m up there, the more I want to be up there,” he says. “Being the steward of that land makes me feel good inside.”



VISIONARIES

Mother and daughter captured camp life in luminous photos

On the shelves in the Chewonki Archives are pale-blue cardboard boxes holding photographs of Camp Chewonki taken by Mary Louise Barrett and Katrina Morosoff Stout (BC participant 1950s, 1960s; BC staff '71). Mother and daughter, each had a special connection to Chewonki.

Barrett took photographs of camp in the 1930s and 1940s for Clarence Allen; Stout in the 1970s and 1980s for Tim Ellis. Though separated by decades, their black-and-white photographs capture the same timeless quality of camp, where summer after summer, boys play, learn, and grow. Both women responded to the beauty of light and shadow, pattern, and the human form in action and repose. Across time, mother and daughter seem to hold a visual conversation about their affection for camp life.

Mary Louise Barrett, a professional photographer, was the sister of Katherine ("Kay") Allen, Chewonki founder Clarence Allen's second wife (his first, Elizabeth, died of multiple sclerosis). No doubt at Kay's urging, Allen hired Barrett to take photographs for brochures promoting the camp. Through this work and family ties, she stayed in touch with Chewonki, perhaps even more so when her husband died, leaving two young children, Peter (BC '51-'57; BC staff '61,'63-'67) and Katrina. Under the wing of "Auntie Kay," they grew up spending much of every summer at Chewonki, Peter as a camper and Katrina as one of the little "Girls in Gray," daughters, or in this case, a niece, of staff, who wore the gray uniform of the youngest campers (Woodchucks then, Puffins now) and enjoyed camp alongside them.

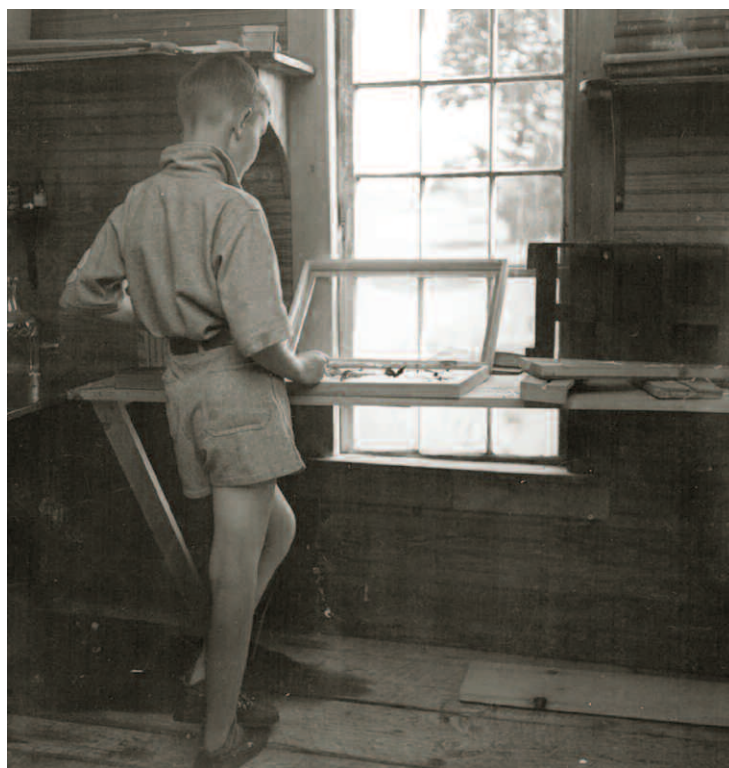
Stout studied photography at the Rhode Island School of Design. Ellis hired her to be the art counselor in 1971 and later to do as her mother had done: photograph camp. Her photographs also helped promote the start of Maine Coast Semester. Stout's daughter, Katie (Wood Cove '01; WT '06; BC staff '09), extended the legacy by serving as art counselor one summer; and her son, Stewart (BC '92-'97; WT '99-'01; BC staff '04-'07), bested all the women in his life by spending 13 summers with Chewonki as a camper, wilderness tripper, and counselor.

Many great family stories run through Chewonki history. This one is unique: two women, bound by blood, artistic sensibility, and deep affection for Boys Camp, helped establish its identity in the eyes of the world.

Many thanks to Peter Morosoff for delivering a box of his sister's contact prints and negatives to the archives last fall. If you come across something that tells a story about Chewonki's past, let us know by contacting alumni@chewonki.org.



KATRINA MOROSOFF STOUT



MARY LOUISE BARRETT



KATRINA MOROSOFF STOUT



THE DIRT ON CHEWONKI NECK

Chore time

MEGAN PHILLIPS

Chores hem our days on the farm. Each morning and late afternoon, the farm crew tends to the things that need doing every day of the year: feeding and watering animals, milking cows, collecting and washing eggs, mucking stalls.

Things change a bit from season to season. All winter, we're putting out hay, but come summer, we'll be setting up moveable electric fencing and rotating the animals on pasture twice daily. Baby Animal Season in spring means tending to extra details like bottle feeding calves or individualizing grain amounts for ewes, depending on how many lambs they have. Blizzards demand extra-long chores. On hot summer days, we race through the routine to get to swimming as soon as possible.

Our help changes season to season, too. Boys from camp flock to early morning chores in summer, bleary-eyed yet markedly bubbly for 5:15 a.m. We start chores later during the school year, greeting Maine Coast Semester students as they

stagger into the barn, each cabin taking a two-week turn. By breakfast time, we're moving in the direction of the Wallace Center, two cabin mates carrying a milk can suspended from a pole between them, another trailing gingerly with flats and flats of eggs in arms. The Semester 58 boys of Orchard House belted out "Eye of the Tiger" as we made our way toward granola and yogurt; most other cabins take a quieter approach.

The elementary schoolers join us for afternoon chores a few times a week, so focused and joyful that it's difficult to call this "work." And Outdoor Classroom students help in the late spring and fall, as we farmers dole out advice on how to squeeze milk out of a cow teat or toss hay safely from the loft.

There's a regularity and predictability to chores. Some days I meander through this work, tangentially tending to every loose end that comes up (that broken hose or this ice-encrusted water bucket). When alone in the barn, I try to maximize efficiency, making a game out of minimizing trips from one end of the barn to the other. When just the year-round farm crew is in charge, we get our best planning done in the milking parlor, two or three farmers creating task lists, catching up on our weekends, and

solving the problems of the world, all to the soft, even rhythm of milk hitting the pail.

This winter, I didn't do chores for six weeks while recovering from knee surgery, yet even from my spot on the couch in the Gatehouse (my home, attached to the barn), I tracked the movement of the farmers around me, listening to the clanking of milk pails in the dairy filter room before and after milking, the turning on and off of the hydrant on the side of the house where we fill Sal's buckets, the clomping of hooves as a farmer led Sal into the barn. This work—so ubiquitous and familiar and the same—becomes akin to breathing. There are certainly other things that I do with the same regularity: brushing my teeth, eating, sleeping. What feels different, and, truthfully, sacred, about the wholly unremarkable act of tending to chores is just that it is, in fact, remarkable: I am part of something larger than just me, from the start of the day through the end of it. I am one in the great fellowship of humans who are waking early to do work that must be done in the world.

Megan Phillips is Chewonki's farm manager.

Maine Coast Semester students transform learning into action

FIONA HASLETT

All Maine Coast Semester students conclude their academic experience at Chewonki with a human ecology capstone, an independent research project that gives them an opportunity to dive into a topic of personal relevance and explore the relationship between humans and the natural world. Sustainability education stands at the center of human ecology. Last year, two of my students, Kate Talano (Semester 55) from Naples, Florida, and Rose Esselstyn (Semester 56) from West Hartford, Connecticut, created capstones that prepared them to propose new sustainability initiatives to their school community.

Rose dreamed of creating a garden at her school, Kingswood Oxford, while Kate wanted to start an upper school “green team” at Seacrest Country Day, focused on reducing energy and waste. As high school seniors, both girls successfully brought their projects to life. In recent interviews, they shared how their Chewonki human ecology capstones inspired them to bring what they had learned about sustainability back home and put it into action in their schools.

How did your human ecology capstone inspire you to enact change after you left Chewonki?

Kate: My capstone gave me the direction to create something real at home, and it helped me understand where to start. My project gave me that extra push to initiate my ideas and inspired me to take on a leadership role. I loved how the project was broad, with endless possibilities. Some students decided to embark on projects that were hands-on, while others took this opportunity to do personal research projects.

Rose: Without my capstone project, I wouldn’t have even thought of starting a school garden. At Chewonki, I felt energized by the high level of spunk, enthusiasm, and passion for sustainability among my peers and teachers. It was so clear that everyone wanted to be part of the “spirit of sustainability.” I wanted to bring that spirit home. I felt prepared to show up and convince my school administration that I understood what needed to happen on both a practical and visionary level. Because I understood all the vocabulary after learning and living a sustainable life

for four months at Chewonki, I not only had many ideas but also a concrete plan that I felt prepared to share with them. As I was presenting, I felt so passionate about what I was saying that I couldn’t imagine them not supporting me.

What was the most rewarding part of implementing your human ecology capstone in your own community?

Rose: The most rewarding part was working to change a culture and share with my peers the value and joy that come from working with your hands. Watching my peers as they picked vegetables they had planted weeks earlier gave me such a burst of positive energy. Each Tuesday last fall, almost 60 juniors and seniors would join me in the garden to harvest vegetables.

Kate: I love watching when the light bulb goes off as my peers begin to understand all the effects human beings have on the environment. It has been wonderful for me to share my passion for environmental stewardship. I often find myself feeding off other students’ energy as they get excited about understanding their impact on the natural world.



Kate Talano



Rose Esselstyn

Fiona Haslett, an alumna of Semester 41, is the Maine Coast Semester’s sustainability teacher.

NOTICING NATURE

A gem of a fen, in our own backyard

FRED CICHOCKI

When is a “bog” not a bog? When it’s a fen. Just splitting hairs, you say. Perhaps, but to the ecologist, the difference is important. Although both bogs and fens are classified as *Sphagnum* moss wetlands (a.k.a. *peatlands*), they are strictly separated by basic hydrology.

Bogs by definition receive essentially all their water from *direct* precipitation. They are said to be *ombrotrophic*, literally “rain-fed.” This is imposed on them by the land-form itself: bogs always form in depressions raised *above* the surrounding landscape, such that neither runoff, nor seepage, nor groundwater can reach them. Consequently, bog water is extremely mineral- and nutrient-poor, as well as very acidic (pH<4). This largely dictates the biotic community that develops in a bog. Fens, on the other hand, are situated *below* the surrounding land surface, and so, unlike bogs, receive water and mineral input from upland seepage and the ground, as well as from precipitation. For this reason, fens are termed both *geotrophic* and *minerotrophic*. Fens run the mineral/nutrient gamut from poor to rich. They are acidic, too, but generally less so than true bogs (pH~4-6). Biotically speaking, very poor fens may differ little from bogs. Intermediate and rich fens, however, are another story.

It is little known that we have a lovely gem of a fen on Chewonki Neck. It lies in a narrow basin running due east from Chewonki Neck Road, just south of the northern property line. It is basically an *intermediate open fen*, but one that is rather exceptional as fens go.

In their recent book, *Natural Landscapes of Maine: A Guide to Natural Communities and Ecosystems*, Susan Gawler and Andrew Cutko describe some 15 types of *Sphagnum* wetlands that qualify as open fens or bogs. None of these, however, really fits our fen. Sure, it has the expected soggy carpet of peat mosses (mixed *Sphagnum* species) and is ingrown with a cast of other typical peat-land plants. Among these are tawny cotton-

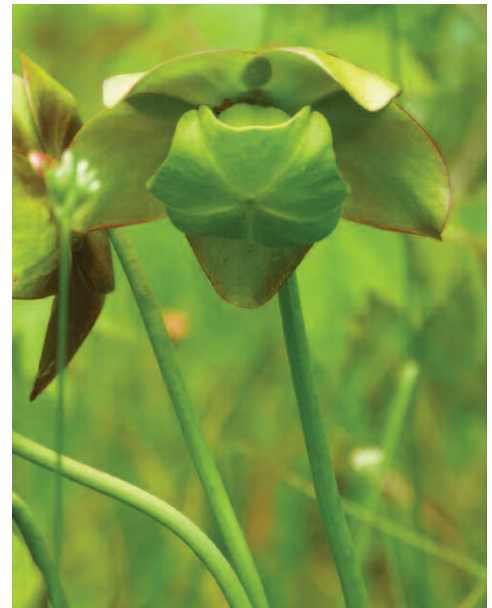
grass (a conspicuous sedge) and bur-reed; purple pitcher plants and red round-leaved sundews (iconic carnivorous plants); leatherleaf, maleberry, and hardhack (acid-adapted shrubs); and small cranberry. Here, though, we part company with the ordinary.

Aside from an unusual abundance of marsh and Massachusetts ferns (*Thelypteris palustris* and *T. simulata*), what really sets our Chewonki fen apart is its spectacular profusion of rose pogonia orchids (*Pogonia ophioglossum*; a.k.a. snakemouth), a species not even mentioned by Gawler and Cutko! From late June through mid-July, when the rose pogonias are in bloom, our little fen is a veritable riot of pink, and truly a sight to behold.

Of our fen’s endemic animals, we know relatively little, except that it is home to at least two otherwise uncommon species: the bog copper butterfly (*Lycaena epixanthe*), and Maine’s smallest and rarest salamander, the four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*). It also has become a refuge for wood frogs, especially during the recent drought.

If you want to experience our fen, better not wait. When I first visited in 2008, it was much more open than today, and fairly free of sapling trees. There were many more pitcher plants and sundews, too. Since then, however, red maples and white pines have seeded in, advancing the march of ecological succession. Little by little, tree and shrub cover will increase and the ecology will inexorably change. Eventually, the exquisite rose pogonias, pitcher plants, and sundews will be no more, and our open fen will become something else, perhaps a wooded, red maple fen. And after that, who knows? This is just Nature’s way. The less resilient and competitive ecosystems inevitably give way to the stronger and more powerful.

Many years from now, except to the most practiced eye, there will be precious little evidence of our fen’s glory days. While it still graces this place, be sure to take the opportunity to see Chewonki’s little jewel. And remember: tread lightly.



Pitcher plant flower



Tawny cottongrass

Pitcher plant leaf



Pogonias



Round-leaved sundews

FRED CICHOCKI PHOTOS

Fred Cichocki, aka Doc Fred, is a retired professor with a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology. He has led the nature program at Boys Camp since 2007.

UNPACKING SUMMER CAMP

One boy's odyssey

CULLEN MCGOUGH

If you're a parent, you've probably encountered a phonebook-sized **Official Packing List** issued by your children's camp, along with dire warnings about the minimum number of socks required, the importance of labeling underpants, and the forbidden nature of sharp objects, video games, cellphones, lighters, and processed sugar (because, you know, it attracts bears).

I remember epic battles with my mother over packing as I prepared for my first time at overnight camp.

"But Mom," I whined. "I *need* this axe. We're going to be *in the forest*. We have to *survive*."

To my eight-year-old-brain, the demands of sleeping away from home were roughly on par with that scene from *The Empire Strikes Back* where Han Solo slits open the belly of a tauntaun and shoves in the comatose body of Luke Skywalker to keep him from freezing to death.

I didn't know what camp would be like, but based on the number of socks I was told to bring, I suspected I would have to get tough if I wanted to survive.

"You don't need an axe," she said, taking it out of the bag.

On the other hand, going away to camp for the first time meant getting my very own sleeping bag. Prior to this, I had to make do with hand-me-downs from an older sister, including a particularly obnoxious *Strawberry Shortcake*-themed bag.

Sleepover parties had been rough. My friends all had bags printed with cool action figures like *Skeletor* or the *Tazmanian Devil*.

"What's his super power?" demanded my friend Steve, pointing to an image of the Purple Pie Man leering out the window a pastry-castle.

"He makes pies," I muttered, and then pretended to fall asleep.

But no more! With summer camp in my future, it was time for a



trip to the L.L. Bean camping department, where I immediately focused on the \$800 arctic survival bag.

"Mom! This is tactical nylon. *Tactical*. You can sleep on a glacier, and I think it stops bullets."

"Put it back," she said, dragging me into the Lightweight Summer Cotton zone.

Still, it was a good day. I took home a new plaid sleeping bag, which was cool, because *Braveheart* had come out that year, and I would be able to tell Steve that this was how Scottish Highlanders went camping.

Even better, Mom agreed to get me a flashlight. My own flashlight. Not one of the cheesy plastic ones that lived under the sink, no, this was a *MagLite*.

It had an adjustable focal point and a textured grip. This baby was clearly high-

tech gear used by law enforcement professionals, ninjas, and scientists. It could probably burn through walls if I could only get the adjustment right. I leaned out the car window, attempting to signal nearby planets in Morse code.

We made one last camping-supply stop on the way home, dropping into the local pharmacy.

"One bag," Mom said. "And don't tell your counselors."

I stared wide-eyed at the candy aisle. Was I dreaming? This never happened. Even at Halloween, Mom routinely demanded a 90 percent candy tax on our haul. "It's for charity," she lied.

I made some quick mental calculations. Hard candy would last longer but chocolate bars would be better for trading. In the end, I settled on a bag of Smarties, reasoning that I could split them into smaller units if I needed to wheel-and-deal.

That night, I insisted on trying out my new sleeping bag. I lay on the floor of my room, tracing the glow-in-the-dark stars on my ceiling with the beam of my *MagLite*.

I still have that plaid sleeping bag. And it still reminds me of that first time away from home.

I survived.



Cullen McGough is the director of communications for Chewonki; the former general manager of Camp Hawthorne; and a lifelong camper.

Why We Give

Tina and David Treadwell: refusing to hunker down

Tina and David Treadwell believe staying in touch with young people keeps life interesting. Residents of Brunswick, Maine, they are a familiar presence at lectures, games, concerts, and other events at Bowdoin College, David's alma mater, and around the midcoast region. They enjoy serving as host parents to Bowdoin students far from home, whether that's a distant state or another continent.

"We had fun being parents," says Tina, reflecting on why she loves interacting with students. "Both of us, for some odd reason, resist the idea of hunkering down. We want to stay engaged in the world. If you interact with people of all generations, it does inform your perspective."

David gave Chewonki an unexpected gift this spring when he contributed the essay below to a local newspaper. We are grateful for the Treadwells' friendship, their abiding interest in young people, and their commitment to the ongoing adventure of learning.



Chewonki: It's All in the Family by David Treadwell

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It could be said that our family's connection to Chewonki goes all the way back to 1915. My wife, Tina, first heard about Camp Chewonki in Wiscasset from Charles ("Chippy") Chase, a good friend of her mother's. Chippy had been the very first camper at Chewonki...he went on to become an internationally known wildlife sculptor.

When it came time to look for a summer camp for her two sons—ours is a second marriage, and we weren't married at that time—she visited a few camps. Chewonki stood out because of Chippy's strong recommendation combined with its saltwater location. She also liked the casual culture of the place suggested by bathing suits haphazardly thrown on clothes lines, a task clearly done by boys.

Tina's two sons, Ed and Andy [Barker], and my two sons, David and Jon [Treadwell], all attended Camp Chewonki for seven-week sessions in the late 1970s. They loved the whole experience. Slipping into the cold salt water in the early morning to attain "Polar Bear" status; learning new sports, like archery and kayaking; going on wilderness trips, which always produced memorable stories; and competing in traditional Sag versus Hoc competitions. (Every Chewonki camper is designated either a Sag or a Hoc and retains that status for life.)

And, of course, they cherished the campfires, which featured songs, skits, and boisterous laughter. The boys would sing the songs and act out the skits for weeks after camp ended. I even got into the camp act by surprising my two sons with visits when I had occasion to be in Maine on business.

Ed and Andy stayed directly connected with Chewonki after they graduated from college. Andy worked as the assistant farmer and, later, taught history for the Maine Coast Semester, an innovative, environmentally based program designed for high school juniors. Incidentally, Andy composed "The Lego Song" while working there, and he performs it to the delight of campers and students whenever he returns for a visit. Ed taught French for a few years at the Maine Coast Semester and eventually joined the board of trustees. He currently serves as vice chair of the board.

My two sons haven't been directly connected with Chewonki since their camping days, but they acquired fond memories and learned enduring lessons: take care of the environment; get along well with other people; respect yourself; and know how to have fun in a natural setting.

I had the privilege of writing the viewbook for the Maine Coast Semester a few years ago. I was impressed by the independent-minded students who are willing to give up the security of home (and cell phones and shopping malls) for an educational adventure on the Maine coast.

Tina and I give financial support to Chewonki because we consider it to be an extraordinary investment in young lives. That said, we've never quite mastered the lyrics of one of Chewonki's most revered songs: "Kenne-bec -bec, co-ec, co-ec! Sag-a-da-hoc, a Hock-o-mock. Wiscasset, chow; Nequasset, chaw; chew 'em up quick, Chewonki! What? Chewonki! WHAT? CHEWONKI!"



Immense work, care, and love go into the Chewonki programs that your gift provides to more than 20,000 promising young people each year.

Red-Winged Blackbird

A red-winged blackbird, cheerily singing out over the cow pond located on Salt Marsh Farm on Chewonki Neck on the Coast of Maine. A splash-dash of bright wings is a lit match in the darkness and an eternal fire worn on the wing, the badge of a life forever changed.

Back to the real world and it feels like I am in technicolor but everyone else wears black and white specs. The further I get from the Farm, the more my eyesight fades, too, and the natural world hides behind the dun of city life.

Until one day, driving, A red-winged blackbird, cheerily singing out over the spillway located by the highway by the interstate pavement outside the big city. A splash-dash of bright wings illuminates the darkness, an eternal fire burning on the inside now as ever, the reminder of a life forever changed.

Caroline Beattie
Maine Coast Semester 34



Every young person holds great promise.

Thank you for your support.



CHEWONKI

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*Are your name and
address up-to-date?
If not, please email
alumni@chewonki.org
and set us straight.
Thank you!*



Now I see the secret
of the making of the
best persons: It is to
grow in the open air
and to eat and sleep
with the earth.

WALT WHITMAN