



ONCE IN A CENTURY
Chewonki's Centennial Year
Special Report





Centennial Year
August 2014-August 2015



Dear Chewonki friends,

Over the course of the Centennial Weekend last August, hearing people from a wide variety of Chewonki backgrounds tell their stories was deeply inspiring to me. I heard Boys Camp alumni from the 1940s articulating the same passion and appreciation for Chewonki that Maine Reach alumni from the 1970s and Semester School alumni from ten years ago were expressing. Men and women in their eighties (and one in her nineties), in their twenties, and in between recounted how Chewonki has affected them and continues to influence their personal and professional choices and priorities. Across generations, across programs, and over time, Chewonki has made an important difference in many people's lives.

The extraordinary philanthropic support so many of you provided during the Centennial Year profoundly strengthened Chewonki's ability to continue to provide the kind of educational experiences that today's and tomorrow's students will remember. I feel privileged to be part of this special organization and I am grateful for the role you play in keeping it vital. Thank you.

Chewonki has exciting plans that will carry forward its best traditions and make it even more effective in fulfilling its mission in the years ahead. Please stay in close touch; I know you will continue to be inspired and impressed.



John Warren, *Chair, Board of Trustees*



Former leaders of Chewonki's board of trustees (left to right) William Hetzel, Jr., Robert Elmore, Jr., Joshua Marvil, and Gordon Hall III joined John Warren (right), current chair of the board, on Centennial Weekend.

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

Our Centennial Year provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to honor Chewonki's history, celebrate what it is today, and look toward the future together. Thank you for being part of this milestone year! More than 1,200 people donated to the Chewonki Annual Fund in FY 2015, lifting us over the \$1,000,000 mark for the first time ever. Over 1,000 people attended a centennial event on Chewonki Neck or elsewhere around the country. Hundreds are now enjoying the commemorative book, *Chewonki: 100 Years of Learning Outdoors*, and the wonderful CD *'Round the Campfire*. Countless more people became part of our centennial by following the *Chronicle*, newspaper coverage, and other communications.

This special report is one way to thank you for a truly meaningful, exciting year and give you a better sense of all that your support has made possible. I hope you'll find yourself and your Chewonki story reflected somehow in these pages. I also hope you see yourself in Chewonki's future. As much as the 2015 centennial marked the end of our first century, it also marked the beginning of our second. We look forward to sharing it with you!



Willard Morgan, *President*



Tim Ellis (left) and Don Hudson (right), former heads of Chewonki, caught a moment with Willard Morgan (center), current president, during centennial celebrations. Photo courtesy of the *Lincoln County News*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for a great Centennial Year!



Chewonki's Centennial Year will go down as one of the great times in this organization's history.

From August 2014 through August 2015, staff and friends from all generations and all programs enjoyed the chance to share this proud moment. We reflected on the past, exploring the archives and listening to the recollections of people who have known Chewonki for a lifetime. We celebrated the dynamism of Chewonki today, its compelling educational programs, outstanding staff, and ever-evolving lands. We envisioned a new century of innovation, tradition, and life-changing learning outdoors.

You contributed to this year-long extravaganza in a multitude of ways. You reconnected with friends, teachers, counselors, and leaders. You found your way to events in

Maine, Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, San Francisco, and Seattle. You came back to Wiscasset from all over the world for a joyful Centennial Weekend. Whether or not you could be here physically, you gave your time, talent, and enthusiasm to make the year a success.

Last but not least, you affirmed the continuing importance of the Chewonki mission by contributing more than \$1,000,000 to the Chewonki Annual Fund. What a way to celebrate!

We are grateful for all the affirmations you gave to Chewonki throughout the Centennial Year. This report showcases some of the activities and improvements that your support made possible in FY 2015. First, though, we look back at the wonderful year that was. THANK YOU.



President Morgan greets longtime camper, counselor, trustee, and advisor Renny Little.

Centennial Weekend, August 14-16, 2015

Marking a milestone with joy and intention

In 1915, Clarence Allen had some big ideas. He believed that young people benefit from spending time outside, enjoying themselves and learning about nature with the guidance of excellent teachers who mentor as well as educate; that they grow to meet challenges when caring adults put trust in them; that they give their best when they find themselves in a small community where integrity, friendship, hard work, love of learning, and appreciation of nature are valued.

Clarence Allen's big ideas have endured through 44 U. S. presidents; five wars; the Great Depression and the Great Recession; the arrival of the internet and the iPhone; Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Wendell Berry's *The Unsettling of America*, and Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*; the establishment of the Environmental

Protection Agency; and the realization of climate change. Through it all young people have steadily come to learn and have fun at Chewonki and returned home with a stronger sense of who they are and what they will do in and for the world. That's a legacy worth celebrating.

Centennial Year gave people a way to deepen their connection to Chewonki's ideals, community, and place. Many who came to Centennial Weekend said they experienced intense memories connecting them to the young person they were when they first arrived as a camper, student, or staff member years ago.

During a sun-dappled Sunday Service at the Point, one person after another stood to describe the impact Chewonki has had on their lives. Even

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A LEGACY WORTH CELEBRATING

Continued from page 2

newcomers were moved. Barbara Perman, wife of Jim Ballard (Boys Camp staff '47-'51), said she had “come along not having my own relationship with Chewonki—but I sure do now. It’s opened my heart up.” Touched by what he’d experienced over the weekend, Schuyler Gould (Boys Camp '59-'63, '65) commented, “In retrospect it seems utterly appalling that I almost didn’t come because I thought I was too busy—which would have been a grand mistake, but I wouldn’t have known.” He concluded, “I’ve learned to show up.” KC Golden (Boys Camp staff '83; Wilderness Trips staff '84; Building Program staff '83, '84; MCS 39 and 44 parent; foundation advisor) picked up that theme and urged us to keep showing up, here and in all of our communities, making our

voices heard, using what we discovered at Chewonki to create a better world.

Something good has affected thousands of people who’ve come to Chewonki since Clarence Allen hatched his big ideas. The world needs more of it. You and we have important work to do—and a hundred years ahead.



HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTENNIAL WEEKEND

A blue sky arced over Chewonki Neck and sunlight infused every inch of it. The sound of greetings crisscrossed campus and hugs were the standard currency. Some highlights are listed below. You can find lots more about Centennial Weekend by going to www.chewonki.org/centennial.

Friday

- First wave of arrivals
- Chewonki staff began a full weekend schedule of short courses on topics such as encampment skills, story telling, animal adaptations, Nature Rove, sustainability, farm chores, trail work, and Holman Day poetry recitation
- At the waterfront, throngs swam, sailed, canoed, and kayaked; on the fields, Ultimate Frisbee, dodge ball, soccer, and Rocks prevailed
- Campfire Circle overflowed; performers from six decades entertained the crowd with new acts and classics from the Chewonki canon



Tim, Ben, and Flynn Ellis





Saturday

- Chewonki at Work in the World: alumni described their work and Chewonki's influence
- Representatives of Russia's Komi Peace Committee presented gifts honoring the 26 summers that Komi students have come to Chewonki
- Descendants of founder Clarence Allen received a proclamation of appreciation

- With food from the farm and other Maine producers, the kitchen served dinner for 600, ending with Mud Rove ice cream
- The legendary Stumblebums, an a cappella group of Boys Camp staff, charmed us with smooth harmonies and matching boaters
- Willard Morgan spoke under the tent: "We celebrate the leaders who brought us this far. We celebrate this place...We celebrate the thousands of

lives changed by Chewonki...[and] Chewonki's impact on each of us—a gift for life...And we celebrate all that is to come!"

- Videographer Charlie Hudson (Boys Camp '91,'93,'95; Wilderness Trips '96-'98) unveiled a stirring tribute video
- Singer/songwriter Dave Mallett and his band capped the evening with music; Mallett composed "I Knew This Place," a song that's become a Chewonki anthem

Sunday

- Sunday Service at the Point, led by Tim Ellis and Dick Thomas, provided a chance to express memories and gratitude and sit in silence together under the trees
- Keeping the festivities going, a group set sail on the schooner *Mary Day* for a week in Penobscot Bay
- Chewonki's second century began



Chewonki at Work in the World

“Chewonki at Work in the World” was a speaker series on the Saturday of Centennial Weekend featuring nine outstanding alumni talking about their work and its connection to their Chewonki experiences. Below are excerpts from two speakers’ presentations. Find out what else they and the other speakers said by going to www.chewonki.org/centennial.

KC Golden (energy and climate change expert; Boys Camp staff ’83; Wilderness Trips staff ’84; Building Program staff ’83, ’84; MCS 39 and 44 parent; current foundation advisor): “We cannot very well tell the two billion

people who have known nothing that we would call... economic opportunity, ‘Sorry, the atmosphere is already full of the emissions that created our prosperity so I guess you’re out of luck’... We are going to have to engineer a different sustainable path to broadly shared prosperity... We need to wage and win the clean energy revolution that we now know is possible...”

Malin Pinsky (Ph.D., ecologist, marine biologist, researcher, professor; Mariners ’84; MCS 20): “Two of the things that I took away from my experiences

here at Chewonki: living deliberately and living with a purpose—in part [from] the English class with Amy [Rogers]... and also from the Mariners trip, being on a boat where the knot you tied was

really important... [A]nd through the semester, we had the chance to do real work... I learned the importance of the difference an individual can make...”



Right: Three generations of MacNeishes





THE ARCHIVES: a living record of all things Chewonki

If “archives” makes you think of a dusty, silent room, you don’t know the Chewonki archives. Terry Marsh, a member of the board of advisors, mother of alumnus John Marsh (Boys Camp ’02-’07; Wilderness Trips ’08, ’09), and a conservator of works on paper, has been creating order out of chaos amid an avalanche of memorabilia in the Allen Center since 2013. In so doing, she has made the past accessible and illuminated our understanding of Chewonki through letters, photographs, records, ephemera, and treasures such as old camp sweaters and a copy of Roger Tory Peterson’s *Guide to the Birds* signed by both him and Clarence Allen.

Thanks to Terry, Boat Shop and Wood Shop Manager Scott Peterson (MCS 25, Wilderness Trips staff ’08; foundation staff ’09-present), and archivist Elizabeth Estey

(who comes from Stonington, Maine, now and then to provide professional advice), those here for Centennial Weekend enjoyed a rich exhibition of historical material that prompted wonderful recollections and conversations.

“An archive is a living thing,” Terry explains. “The work can’t stop.” New material arrives almost daily. Rather than try to stem the tide, Terry encourages it. “I hope alumni will search their attics and cellars for Chewonki items and send them to us rather than tossing them out,” she says.

We thank Terry Marsh for her enthusiasm, skill, and the hundreds of hours she has invested in organizing and preserving the testaments of Chewonki’s history for all to enjoy.

Left: Archives mastermind Terry Marsh receives a banner from camp alumnus Terry Billings.

Below: Led by Gordy Hall (far right), the Stumblebums performed with finesse.



A semester at Chewonki*

Intellectual and outdoor adventures in a community living close to the natural world



Eighty-three curious, bright, energetic high school juniors came to Chewonki last year for a 14-week semester adventure. Semester 53 students in the fall and Semester 54 students in the spring settled into their cabins, dove into their studies, and soon learned that here, their participation mattered—in classrooms and cabins, during morning chores and afternoon work programs, on field trips and wilderness trips.

Last year's semester school students came from 20 states and 66 schools, 43 independent and 23 public. They created a vibrant community on Chewonki Neck and returned to their sending schools and homes with new knowledge and skills and a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the ecological and human communities where they live. We hope that leads to fulfilling work that benefits the world.

This sampling of teachers' comments to students at semester's end provides insight into the remarkable young people here during the 2014-2015 academic year:

- "You've shown tremendous self-knowledge and great eagerness to develop a richer understanding of yourself, your relationships, and your place in the world."
- "From the beginning...you demonstrated through your actions how much you value building community and taking responsibility... You see something that will help the community, and you jump to do it."
- "You dived deeply into the material, seeking connections between topics and between disciplines, and you are eloquent in offering your view."
- "...[Y]ou did a fantastic job of peeling away the layers of the world that sought to pre-define you..."
- "[B]rilliant...passionate, engaged, thoughtful, and committed to doing what is right..."

Best of luck to all our Semester 53 and Semester 54 students!



Financial aid allows admission of the very best students

Excellence in any academic program comes from the caliber of students as well as teachers.

There are many extraordinary students, however, whose families can't keep pace with the skyrocketing cost of education. We want a Chewonki education to be accessible to outstanding students from all backgrounds.

With your help we have made good progress in recent years, significantly increasing the financial aid we can provide. Chewonki Annual Fund dollars allow us to recruit exceptional students across the country, whether or not they have the means to afford full tuition. In FY 2015, the semester school awarded over \$410,000 in financial aid. This represents 19.5 percent of gross tuition revenue.

Welcoming the most talented students, regardless of ability to pay, benefits the whole semester community—and ultimately the world. We are grateful to donors who have made financial aid a priority.

*HOT OFF THE PRESS Chewonki Semester School is now Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki

This fall, we brought forward the semester's original name at its founding back in 1988. "Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki" honors the school's strong sense of place here on Chewonki Neck in midcoast Maine. It also highlights a key aspect of our students' experience. Welcome back, MCS! You can read more about the name change by going to www.chewonki.org/mcsnamechange.



Benedict Foundation grants \$40,000 for semester capstones

The Benedict Foundation for Independent Schools has awarded Chewonki a \$40,000 grant to fund faculty time for overseeing the semester's human ecology capstones, independent research projects that each student completes as the culmination of their studies; and faculty training to guide this student work most effectively. We thank the foundation for supporting this innovative element of our curriculum.

In academic year 2014-2015, students chose a wide range of capstone subjects to explore. Every student made a final presentation to the whole

semester community; some continued working on their project after returning to their sending schools. Among last year's topics:

- What were some of the herbal remedies that local Penobscot and Abenaki tribes used and can they benefit people today?
- What are the benefits and challenges of urban agriculture and how could my city school create a vegetable garden?
- What are the impacts of residual PCBs on the ecosystems and people of the Hudson River?
- What can be done to improve the quality of life of migrant laborers working on the blueberry harvest in Downeast Maine?

- How is the tidal impact of climate change affecting species in midcoast Maine, and what role can photojournalism play in raising awareness?



Semester students win statewide Wind Blade Challenge

Last spring, a team of six Semester 54 students and their teachers, Chewonki Sustainability Educator Tom Twist and Sustainability Fellow Morgan Curtis, won first place at the Maine Wind Blade Challenge, an educational design and engineering contest hosted by the University of Maine. Forty-two teams comprising 250 students from across Maine competed. Judges evaluated each team's presentation of their design as well as the performance of their wind blades in the university's Advanced Structures and Composites Center.

This was the first time Chewonki had competed in the Wind Blade Challenge. "We learned about aerodynamics, materials, fabrication, and the process that engineers and industrial designers go through to find solutions," Tom said. He praised the students for their "admirable openness, and curiosity that was palpable. You could tell that win or lose, they were really savoring the whole experience." Coming up with the first prize was icing on the cake.



Many thanks to the Semester School Advisory Committee:

Laura Appell-Warren, Chair
 Peggy Conver
 Kate Coon
 Peter Curran
 Susan Feibelman
 Erika Guy
 Jake Jacobsen
 Jim Justice
 Richard Krantz
 Dave Liebmann





SNAPSHOT

Chewonki Semester School, academic year 2014-2015

Faculty: 16

Hours each student spent on science field trips: 65

Hours each student spent on solos: 42

Capstone projects completed: 83

Polar Bear swims: 26 (too early in the morning to count students)

Advanced Placement exams administered: 39

Igloos built on the Quad: 1 (a math project we all enjoyed)

Lydia Maier
Torrey McMillan
Wylie Mitchell
Starr Peteet
Charkie Quarcoo
Chartey Quarcoo
Fay Shutzer
Elana Snow
Sue Stafford
David Vail
John Warren
Staff support: Ann Carson



Summer programs

In camp or the wilderness, learning about nature, leadership, friendship, and oneself



From mid June till mid August, Chewonki Neck vibrated with the energy of Boys Camp in full swing and Wilderness Trips and Adventures for Girls groups heading to and returning from expeditions to the forests, rivers, lakes, and mountains of Maine's North Woods and eastern Canada, as well as the waters of the Gulf of Maine. These campers, trippers, and adventurers didn't waste one of the multitude of beautiful days last summer.

Enthusiastic staff members led the way, sharing their love of adventure, sense of fun, and appreciation for nature. They encouraged the children and young adults in their care to discover the world around them as well as within them and to value the power of tackling a challenge together.

In the letters they wrote at the end of each adventure, counselors and leaders made clear that inspiration flowed in both directions. Below are a few of their written comments to last summer's students:

- "It does not seem that it is in your nature to complain or focus on the negative; you are stoic and brave, and you provided a true backbone to our group."
- "You were one of the kindest members of our cabin. During the wilderness trip, we were incredibly proud to see you walk up to one of the more flustered members of our cabin, sit down, and comfort him..."

Generations of alumni have said that Chewonki summers had a lasting influence on their lives. We hope summer 2015 provided such memories for these students and many more.



- "On many an evening, your laughter filled the tent with joy and on almost as many paddles, your beautiful voice gave melody to our voyage..."
- "[Y]ou set a high bar and led by example, and you consistently took initiative without audience fanfare or any expectation of reward."
- "Seeing you up at campfire every Saturday and performing at Talent Show made us proud..."



THANK YOU, WILDERNESS TRIPS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We are grateful to:

Julius Alexander, Chair
Jefferson Bates

W. Donald Hudson, Jr.
Rebecca Marvil
Syd Roberts

Staff support: Emma Carlson
and Greg Shute





Quimby Family Foundation grants \$20,000 to new leadership expedition

The Quimby Family Foundation has awarded Chewonki \$20,000 to support the development of the Katahdin Woods and Waters Leadership Expedition and financial aid to make this trip possible for all selected candidates. The two-week program will be open to 10 high school sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated leadership ability. Two-thirds must be Maine students; we hope to involve some from northern Maine and indigenous tribes. In the spectacular part of Maine being considered for a new national park, they will backpack on the International Appalachian Trail and canoe the East Branch of the Penobscot River, learning outdoor skills and the territory's ecological and social history and hearing from guests speakers (around the campfire) who regard the park proposal from various, sometimes conflicting perspectives. Our heartfelt thanks to the Quimby Family Foundation.

SNAPSHOT

Summer programs in FY 2015

- Chewonki Camp for Boys: 265 campers, 40 counselors
- Adventures for Girls: 53 adventurers, 14 leaders
- Wilderness Trips: 118 trippers (38 female, 80 male), 24 leaders
- Wilderness trips taken by Boys Camp cabin groups: 43
- Nature Activity awards: 48
- Campers who earned the Master Birder award: 10



Summer programs use financial aid to open the door for outstanding participants

Chewonki devoted more than \$416,000 of financial aid to participants in summer programs—Adventures for Girls, Boys Camp, and Wilderness Trips—last year. We want enthusiastic, curious, and kind students in camp and on the trail and we use financial aid to help their families if they cannot afford full tuition. The dollars we commit to financial aid have increased but so too has need. We continually seek funding to assure that every deserving applicant who wants to be part of Chewonki can have an adventure with us.

George River Expedition 2015



Big Eddy Cabins & Campground and Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps

Chewonki outposts in the North Woods

Chewonki's two North Woods locations—Big Eddy Cabins & Campground on the West Branch of the Penobscot River and Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps on Fourth Debsconeag Lake in the Nahmakanta Reserve—are important resources for our programs and for outdoor enthusiasts seeking scenic locations for hiking, fishing, paddling, wildlife watching, family reunions, vacations, and weekend getaways. When summer programs are in session, Debsconeag hosts the 10-day Wilderness Adventure Camp for Girls.

Cabin trips from Boys Camp and a variety of Chewonki Wilderness Trips visit both Debsconeag and Big Eddy. Semester school and Outdoor Classroom groups also visit these beautiful, unspoiled spots. In spring, late summer, and fall, Big Eddy and Debsconeag offer cabins, campsites, and yurts to the public for rent.

In FY 2015, both sites had the most visitors ever. Big Eddy welcomed 1,709 guests (3,669 user days) while Debsconeag hosted 144 (1,087 user days). At Debsconeag, we removed an ailing old dock and

installed a quiet, efficient new generator, which, in combination with solar panels, greatly reduces our propane consumption. At Big Eddy, we renovated an old cabin so we'd have one more for rental.

Someone recently called Big Eddy Cabins & Campground and Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps Chewonki's two "best-kept secrets" but we don't want these wonderful places to be secrets. Make a trek to the North Woods next year so you can enjoy them.



SNAPSHOT

Chewonki's Big Eddy Cabins and Campground and Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps in FY 2015

Accommodations at Big Eddy Cabins & Campground: 3 cabins, 62 campsites

Accommodations at Debsconeag: 7 yurts, 8 cabins

Miles of whitewater rapids adjacent to Big Eddy: 5, including 2 of Class IV-V

Distance from Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps to the Appalachian Trail: 1 ½ miles

Acres of protected forest in Maine's North Woods: about 2,000,000

School programs

Teaching students outdoors or right where they are



“I camped at Chewonki with my class in sixth grade. We had a fantastic time!”

“I still remember the owl Chewonki brought to my class in third grade.”

People remember their experiences with our Outdoor Classroom Program and Traveling Natural History Programs for a very long time. For many, these programs provide the first opportunity to encounter the wild—and Chewonki. Because a wide variety of students come to the Outdoor Classroom with their schools or hear Traveling Natural History Programs in their classrooms, we reach not only those children with an established interest in nature but also those who know little about the world beyond four walls and electronic screens.

The power of our school programs also lies in their ability to enhance schools’ curricula through interactive learning. Chewonki educators work with classroom teachers and school administrators to design programs that will engage students more intensely in particular areas of study.

In FY 2015, the staff of Traveling Natural History Programs designed two new lessons: Tide Pools: Life on the Rocky Shore and Hero Adaptations. The tide pools program was by popular demand: teachers and students had repeatedly asked for it. Hero Adaptations complemented the 2015 national summer reading theme. Both new presentations received rave reviews across Maine.

Outdoor Classroom staff focused on delivering excellent programs to visiting school groups from throughout the Northeast and as far away as North Carolina. They also developed stronger, more intentional partnerships with nearby public schools as part of an ongoing effort to support public education in Maine. (Read more about this below.)

Several days of camping and learning outdoors or several hours of listening to and engaging with a Chewonki presentation in a classroom: either way, our school programs try to light a spark that could grow into a lasting interest in the natural world.

Collaboration strengthens Maine schools, thanks to Sewall Foundation, others

For the past five years, Chewonki has been partnering with four other environmental learning centers to provide residential environmental education to Maine public school students. Chewonki’s Outdoor Classroom, The Ecology School in Saco, University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Tanglewood (in Lincolnville), and the Schoodic Institute in Acadia National Park comprise the unique collaboration known as Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students—more informally, ELLMS. ELLMS provides financial aid to Maine public elementary and secondary schools who want to provide immersive outdoor learning to upper elementary and middle school students.

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In the 2014-2015 school year, ELLMS helped 47 schools provide residential environmental education to 1,794 students. Since the partnership began, 9,497 Maine public school students from 186 schools have participated, visiting the five ELLMS organizations to learn about the world beyond walls and screens, a world that is theirs to enjoy, understand, and steward.

As part of the ELLMS collaboration, Chewonki spent more time last year focusing on the public schools closest to it, in Wiscasset, Woolwich, and Bath. We provided middle school students from all three towns with field-based learning integrated deeply with their classroom curriculum, connecting them with the ecosystem they inhabit here in midcoast Maine. We will continue these efforts in the new new year and are eager to find more meaningful, inspiring ways for Chewonki to contribute to local students' education across the whole K-12 span.

The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation has provided visionary support for ELLMS since its beginning—four major grants over five years, a commitment we greatly appreciate. In FY 2015, the foundation awarded \$275,000 to ELLMS, allowing Chewonki and its partners to continue providing support to schools as well as to undertake research, visioning and planning, leadership development, and other activities critical to the initiative's sustainability. The Sewall Foundation has truly been a co-creator of ELLMS.

An anonymous foundation also supported ELLMS in FY 2015, committing \$35,000 to help pay for assessment of ELLMS programs. The assessment will enrich our understanding of the impact of residential environmental education so we can work most effectively for the benefit of Maine children and children everywhere.



Bath Savings helps introduce Maine children to nature through Chewonki

Bath Savings Institution has been a good friend to Chewonki since 1994 and the key sponsor of Traveling Natural History Programs since 2006. This is remarkable community stewardship by a local bank where people recognize and appreciate that TNHP often provides the very first interaction local children have with the wild. "Bath Savings and Chewonki share an ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of children in Maine, educating them about the wonders of the natural world around them," says Glenn Hutchinson, president of Bath Savings. We are grateful for the generous support of our neighbor and partner in this venture.



Zero Waste Challenge puts young minds to work on sustainability

Changing people's energy habits and empowering them to live more sustainably are two big challenges to the goal of a zero-waste world. Sustainability Educator Tom Twist engages Maine students in meeting both through the Zero Waste Challenge for Maine Middle Schools. For three years, sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders participating in this contest have designed strategies that their schools can realistically implement to reduce their waste stream. The next step, or course, is implementation. Several schools have begun that work since their students competed.

The 2015 winners of the Zero Waste Contest were the Maine Coast Waldorf School in Freeport and the Massabesic Middle School in East Waterboro. Hearty congratulations to both!

The support of the following businesses made the 2015 Zero Waste Challenge possible: **ecomaine, We Compost It!, and Casella Resource Solutions.** We thank them for their good work and commitment to sustainability education.



SNAPSHOT

School programs in FY 2015

TNHP presentations: 808

TNHP participants: 21,845

TNHP elders-in-residence: Georgia, a Gulf Coast box turtle, 58 years old; Carolina, an Eastern box turtle, 55; Wocawson, a bald eagle, 31; Olivia, a great horned owl, 27

Financial aid Chewonki provided to Outdoor Classroom schools: almost \$80,000 (21.8 % of tuition)

Outdoor Classroom participants: 1,414 from 38 schools

Schools that have come to the Outdoor Classroom for 10 years or more: 19



Work with a single purpose

Sustainability initiatives, the farm, the kitchen, and other facilities support great programs



Every ecosystem is a cosmos of interdependent parts. Chewonki is in many ways a cosmos; many vital activities, all related, support our educational programs. The sustainability educator and the farmers, for example, are integral to the semester school curriculum and also teach campers and Outdoor Classroom students. Students do real work on the farm and sustainability projects, living our philosophy of environmental and community stewardship.

The farmers also work closely with the kitchen manager and cooks, who plan delicious ways to use our produce and share information about food-related subjects such as nutrition, culinary history, and food security. The kitchen also buys an increasing percentage of other food from other Maine farms and producers. Kitchen staff work closely with Packout, the logistics hub for Chewonki's overnight programs, to prepare food that will be nutritious and easy to manage at a campsite.

Grounds, buildings, and critical systems such as water, waste, and transportation keep programs and offices running smoothly. Semester students work with facilities staff on a wide range of maintenance projects such as cleaning, painting, scrubbing boat bottoms, raking, trail maintenance, and splitting and stacking firewood. Campers and students are also a frequent presence in the Boat and

Wood Shop, where boats, paddles, furniture, birdhouses, toboggans, and many other wooden objects are built and repaired.

FY 2015 was a productive year on all these fronts. Below are a few highlights.

Sustainability

We took meaningful strides toward reducing our carbon footprint in FY 2015. Last fall, **thanks to an \$11,400 grant from the Horizon Foundation**, semester students helped install eight solar panels on their cabins, taking all six cabins beyond net zero. Students also helped install a data logger in each cabin so they could monitor energy use. The result was that semester cabins began producing roughly ten times the amount of energy they were using. Surplus electricity production offset consumption in our largest building, the Center for Environmental Education.

Last summer, we stepped up our solar capacity by installing 78 solar panels on the farm barn. This array produced more in one month, roughly 3 megawatts, than our other arrays produce all year. We expect it to generate roughly 24,000 kilowatt-hours per year. This installation foreshadows projects to come: larger-scale, proven technologies that will greatly enhance our renewable energy production.

The Allen Center used 2,387 fewer gallons of propane in FY 2015 than it did in FY 2014 thanks to a new wood-fired district heating system that kicked into action last fall. (In fact, the propane delivery company called us last winter to let us know that our propane boiler must be broken because we were burning so little fuel.)

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Farm

Food production at Chewonki is growing! In FY 2015, the total value of the food that our farm provided to our kitchen was over \$77,000, 30 percent of the value of the food we served, up from 24 percent in FY 2014 (our long-term goal is 50 percent). With one acre in cultivation, 300 meat birds, 150 laying hens, 20 sheep, 14 pigs, 9 cows, 6 turkeys, and 1 draft horse, the farm is an important source of our food, as well as firewood and wool. Last year's haul of firewood, which the farmers harvest and process with students, came to 21 cords, valued at \$4,725.

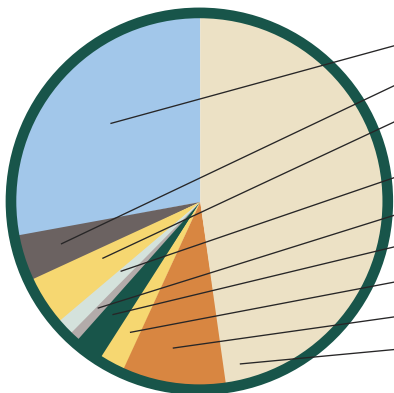
Farm improvements last year included acquiring a rebuilt horse-drawn mower for cutting hay and a livestock trailer that made it easier to transport animals. New terraces between the two hoop houses created a perfect place for growing brassicas such as kale and bok choy. New raised garden beds near camp cabins delighted the boys. Thirty young apple trees went into the ground. Chewonki once again donated a portion of its harvest to the St. Philip's Church Help Yourself Shelf, a local food pantry. We also co-hosted with the Morris Farm Trust the first of three annual conferences on reducing food insecurity in Lincoln County.

Kitchen

Closing the circle between production and consumption, the kitchen staff in FY 2015 creatively cooked up the bountiful harvest from the farm, offsetting the cost of buying this food from other sources. The kitchen also shifted a significant portion of purchasing power to Maine producers. Eating well-prepared local food supports the health and happiness of our community and the larger community around Chewonki.

Value of food from the Chewonki farm and other Maine growers and producers in FY 2015:

Chewonki vegetables: \$39,137 (16,234 pounds)
Chewonki beef: \$5,826 (1,500 pounds)
Chewonki pork: \$6,233 (2,485 pounds) (campers ate our pork for the first time)
Chewonki lamb: \$1,742 (387 pounds)
Chewonki turkey: \$975 (241 pounds)
Chewonki chicken: \$5,130 (1,461 pounds)
Chewonki eggs: \$4,127 (12,348 eggs)
Chewonki milk: \$9,954 (1,659 gallons)
Food Chewonki purchased from other Maine farms and producers: \$46,500



Facilities

The facilities team efficiently met the needs of FY 2015, including many associated with Centennial Weekend, and achieved that without interrupting programs. They welcomed semester students to work side-by-side with them, mentoring many during work programs.

Repairing and refreshing all the cabins on the Lower Field was a major project in FY 2015. Facilities staff sand-blasted the interiors to clean and brighten them; repaired and replaced many feet of trim; rebuilt shutters; and repaired storm doors. They also leveled each cabin on its posts.

Restoration of the first 1,500 feet of the Nature Trail was another big initiative, and an exciting kick-off to the Centennial Year. (See more information on opposite page.)

Chewonki looked its best on August 14-16 and many alumni expressed their appreciation.





Restoring an iconic trail

The washed-out, worn-down, and often very muddy first section of the Nature Trail, which leads from the center of campus to the Point, enjoyed a major facelift last fall. With advice from a world-class trail designer we rerouted the worst section with an elegant S-turn and a dramatic stretch along the rock outcrops of Blueberry Hill to near the Inlet Trail junction. The trail bed itself was restored for all-season recreation and access by human power and small vehicle. We plan to continue improving a primary access trail loop up the east side of Chewonki Neck in future years.

SNAPSHOT

Sustainability initiatives, farm, kitchen, and facilities in FY 2015

Cost of charging our 3 electric vehicles
at our solar charging station for a month: \$2.50

Total number of solar panels installed: 86

Meals served last summer: more than 30,000

Cords of wood burned in the Wallace Center boiler: 25

Board feet of lumber sawn from Chewonki trees: 3,142

Packout: 112 dry bags, 95 tents, and 84 canoes in the field last summer

Chewonki-made granola bars eaten last summer: 800



Master planning in motion

Last winter the architecture firm Murphy Burnham and Buttrick and landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz visited Chewonki several times to study our landscapes and buildings and talk with the whole staff about what works well here and what doesn't. Overarching goals are to improve our participants' experiences; consolidate and update our infrastructure and sustainable systems; solve problems such as the shortage of staff housing, traffic circulation, and inadequate space in Packout; and preserve Chewonki's ecosystems and beloved features of the built environment. The new master plan is due in late 2015 and will be an important part of Chewonki's decision-making as we move into our second century.



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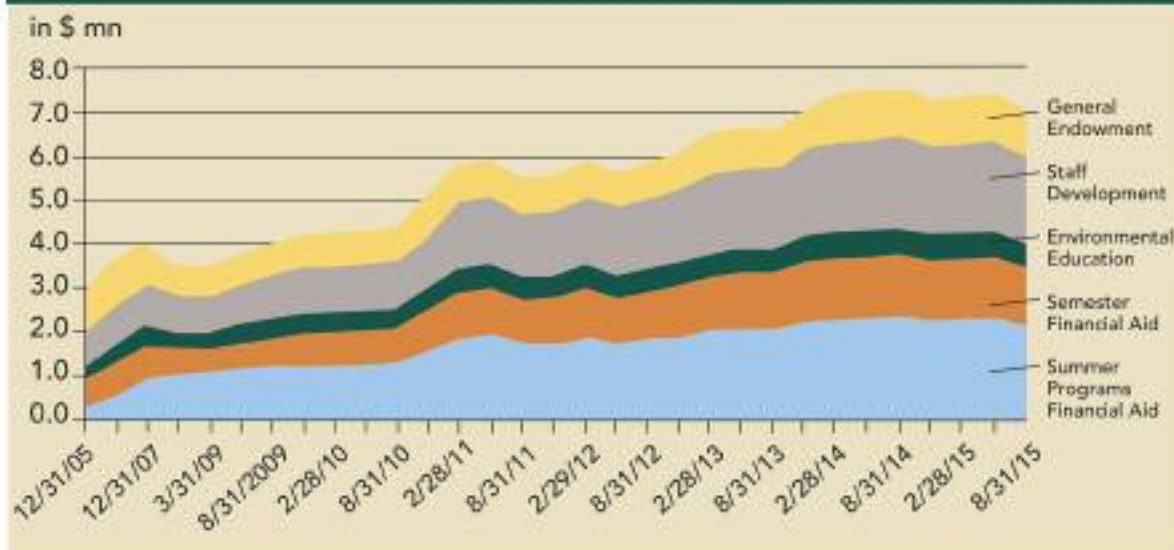
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WELWE Foundation

IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIVING AND LEARNING FOR MAINE STUDENTS (ELLMS)

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Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

IN SUPPORT OF INITIATIVES WITH MAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Deceased

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IN SUPPORT OF THE SEMESTER SCHOOL (MAINE COAST SEMESTER)

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Equinox Foundation
Dugald W. Hudson Charitable Trust
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Chewonki is proud to be a member of MaineShare, working with over 40 other nonprofit organizations for a clean, healthy, and prosperous Maine. MaineShare offers easy, one-stop giving to fund statewide groups working for a clean and healthy environment, fair treatment for all, and safe, livable communities. For more information on offering MaineShare at your place of work, please visit www.maine-share.org or contact the Chewonki Advancement Office.

Balance Sheet

As of August 31 (in 000s)	2014	2015
Assets		
Cash	27	26
Accounts Receivable	39	40
Pledges Receivable	668	560
Investments	8,161	7,560
Land Buildings & Equipment, Net	10,245	10,259
Other Assets	126	160
Total Assets	19,266	18,605
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	166	374
Deferred Income	857	946
Line of Credit, short and long-term notes	1,572	1,072
Other Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	2,595	2,392
Fund Balance	16,672	16,213
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	19,267	18,605

Income Statement

As of August 31 (in 000's)	2014	2015
Operating Revenue		
Tuition	4,876	5,108
Financial Aid and other discounts	-974	-1,072
Endowment Funds used for operations	254	276
Unrestricted and temp. restricted contributions	847	1,591
Other revenue	345	322
Total Operating Revenue	5,348	6,225
Operating Expense		
Wages & Salaries	2,639	2,750
Benefits & staff development	671	712
Food	262	261
Promotion, alumni relations	177	188
Transportation, supplies, IT, & telecom	328	372
Program Expenses	146	310
Professional services	165	365
Campus Maintenance & utilities	258	287
Insurance	175	161
Depreciation	277	289
Interest, taxes, bank and credit card fees	137	135
Other expenses	94	277
Total Operating Expense	5,329	6,107
Net Operating Income	19	118
Non-operating Activity & Adjustments		
Permanently Restricted Contributions	80	105
Less: endowment funds used for operations	-254	-276
Other non-operating activity		
investment gains (losses)	1,047	-405
Total Non-operating Activity & Adjustments	873	-576
Net Consolidated Income	892	-458*

*Due to market losses in endowment investments

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PROGRAMS

Maine Coast Semester
Camp for Boys
Adventures for Girls
Wilderness Trips for Teens
Wilderness Vacations for Adults & Families
Outdoor Classroom for Schools
Traveling Natural History Programs
Sustainability Office

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

Photos by Carlen Deskin, Maxson
Jawick, Heather Lowe, Chris Percy,
Scott Peterson, Polychrome Collective,
and friends of Chewonki

Editor: Anne Leslie
Design: Fall Design



I imagine a future for Chewonki that is impactful, kind, joyous, inclusive, creative, vital!

I imagine a Chewonki that reflects the demographics of our country and embraces difference as powerful education.

I imagine a Chewonki that operates wisely within constraints of our natural resources.

I imagine a Chewonki that continues to educate year-round, as a school and a camp, changing lives through our programs and providing models for others to emulate.

I imagine a Chewonki rooted here on Chewonki Neck but with branches that extend beyond this place, in program and impact.

I imagine Chewonki friends working together to build thriving communities wherever they are, leading with integrity, impact, and compassion for others.

And I imagine all of us returning here, ourselves, and in the form of our descendants, for many centuries to come.

WILLARD MORGAN, PRESIDENT,
AUGUST 15, 2015, CENTENNIAL WEEKEND



CHEWONKI

485 Chewonki Neck Road,
Wiscasset, Maine 04578-4822

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

I knew this place, I knew it well,
every sound and every smell,
and every time I walked I fell
for the first two years or so.

There across the grassy yard,
I a young one runnin' hard,
brown and bruised and battle-
scarred and lost in sweet illusion.

And I remember every word
from every voice I ever heard,
every frog and every bird,
yes, this is where it starts.

•

A brother's laugh, the sighing wind,
this is where my life begins.
This is where I learned to use my
hands and hear my heart...

from "I Knew This Place"
by David Mallett

