



THE CHEWONKI FOUNDATION CHRONICLE

FALL 2005

Hand in Hand: Land Conservation and Education

In taking possession of four magnificent Maine islands next year, Chewonki will once again protect and preserve its “school of the open”



On the morning of Thursday, August 11, 2005, in the offices of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust in Topsham, Chewonki signed a significant document: a purchase and sales agreement that will transfer ownership of four spectacular coastal islands from the Island Institute in Rockland to the Chewonki Foundation. When the closing takes effect later next year, Chewonki will own Hungry and Black Islands in Muscongus Bay and Russ and Campbell Islands off Deer Isle in Penobscot Bay. Each one of them is a gem, and all have a long tradition of public recreational use. Permanent conservation easements will protect the islands, and Chewonki—and the public—will have guaranteed access to them in perpetuity. This means we can lead sailing and kayaking trips along these parts of the coast forever!

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President's Notes



Many journeys make up a year at Chewonki. The story begins in all the homes across Maine, New England, and the nation where young people pack their bags for the trip to Wiscasset. A handful make the journey from Russia, Venezuela, England, Europe, even from Japan and Thailand. Several weeks or

even months later, the story ends, with memories not only of Chewonki Neck but of places beyond: of vast green forests, clear northern rivers, bright days and strong winds on Penobscot Bay. The memories of wilderness adventures, near and far, are as much at the heart of Chewonki as anything.

A story is told that Clarence Allen operated a second, wilderness-based camp for a few years in the Grand Lake region of Washington County, Maine, in the early 1920s, shortly after his move from New York to Maine. Doug Allen, Clarence's son, was not yet born, but he recalls hearing the tales. The venture never took hold, probably because it was too difficult for Clarence to manage such a far-flung operation, but it set a precedent of sorts.

Since those earliest days in Washington County, our wilderness program has gradually expanded. It began in earnest with coastal cruising in the late 1920s and 1930s and was solidified in the 1940s and 1950s with regular ventures to the rivers, lakes, and mountains of northern Maine. It expanded again in the 1970s, when Tim Ellis initiated several experiential educational programs that included wilderness trips.

Today we regularly sail and kayak along the coast and hike, canoe, and whitewater kayak in many corners of Maine and beyond. Given our history of wilderness-based activities, it should come as no surprise that we are working hard to preserve such opportunities for future Chewonki participants—be they campers, Maine Coast Semester students, EE groups, or senior citizens. Conserving open spaces for camping and extended wilderness travel is an essential ingredient of our success.

The Chewonki group that traveled to Italy this summer comprised a band of trailblazers cast from the same mold as those who first ventured to Quebec and Labrador in the 1970s. More

recently, the *Grand Chat* sailed into Montsweag Bay from the Chesapeake on October 3, to join our fleet of vessels—small and now larger. Our sailing staff is now busily planning Chewonki's first nature-based adventures for young adults and families to explore the riches of the Gulf of Maine, from Montsweag Bay in Wiscasset to Russ Island near Deer Isle and on to the Bay of Fundy and Nova Scotia.

Very simply, we are drawn by the beauty and grandeur of nature to explore the corners of our peninsula, the surrounding waters, and even a few corners of the world. Our mission has not changed in ninety years. We know that these adventures help all people, young and old, develop skills and self-confidence. Participants learn about integrity, empathy, compassion, and caring for one another. We explore the world around us, and we come to learn the meaning of stewardship, and what it might take to sustain all life on the planet.

There are no limits to the size of a Chewonki classroom, something that has inspired staff from Clarence Allen and Tim Ellis to the present to find new paths along which to teach about the world, about life in community, and about ourselves. ■

W. DONALD HUDSON, JR.



485 Chewonki Neck Road, Wiscasset, Maine 04578-4822
(207) 882-7323 • Fax: (207) 882-4074 • email: info@chewonki.org • www.chewonki.org

Don Hudson, President
Garth Altenburg, Camp Chewonki, Director
Dot Lamson, Environmental Education, Director
Willard Morgan, Maine Coast Semester, Director
Greg Shute, Wilderness Programs, Director

Mark Adams, Big Eddy Campground Staff
Susan Adams, Big Eddy Campground Manager
Scott Andrews, Maine Coast Semester, History
Lizzie Anson, Maine Coast Semester, Alumni Relations
Suzanne Armstrong, Maine Coast Semester, Math
Peter Arnold, Renewable Energy Pathways
Paul Arthur, Maine Coast Semester, English, E.I.
Heidi Baker, Environmental Education
Jenn Barton, Maine Coast Semester, English
Sarah Burgess, Kitchen and Dining Manager
Lila Carey, Environmental Education
Katie Cashwell, Environmental Education
Hadley Clark, Health Care Coordinator
Chris Coleman, Outreach, Assistant Program Director

Josh Cridler, Environmental Education
Erin Cummings, Accounting Assistant
Jesse Dukes, Historian
Talia Epstein, Environmental Education
Phine Ewing, Volunteer Gardener
Lynne Flaccus, Head Naturalist
Jaimie Frailey, Environmental Education
Ginny Freeman, Camp Registrar
Erika Gould, Development Associate
Rebecca Graham, Development Assistant
Emma Hallowell, Environmental Education
Alexandra Harris, Maine Coast Semester, French
Phoebe Hazard, Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls
Bill Hinkley, Maine Coast Semester, Math
Lucy Hull, Director of Development
Anna Hunt, Outreach Director
Lee Huston, Boat Builder and Waterfront Manager
Carol James, Housekeeping
Brad Johnson, Farm and Woodlot Manager
Brendan Kober, Environmental Education

Rebecca Kosakowski, Maine Coast Semester, Admissions Director
Aaron LaFlamme, Environmental Education
Don Lamson, Facilities Manager
Lauralyn Lenzycki, Reception/Office Manager
Ryan Linehan, Wilderness Programs, Assistant Director
Katie Mast, Outreach
Betsy Mattox, Farm Intern
Marc McCabe, Environmental Education
Trish McLeod, Business Office
Daegan Miller, Maine Coast Semester, History, E.I.
Jock Montgomery, Photography
Mish Morgenstern, Environmental Education, Program Coordinator
Amanda Morin, Environmental Education
David Mortimer, Environmental Education
Lauren Ostis, Environmental Education
Rachel Paris-Lambert, Environmental Education
Stephanie Peters, Maine Coast Semester, Spanish
Zak Pritchard, Environmental Education

Chris Riley, Outdoor Equipment and Logistics Manager
Amy Rogers, Maine Coast Semester, English
Peter Schoene, Environmental Education
Jocelyn Smith, Outreach
Brandon Stafford, Technology
Betta Stothart, Director of Community Relations
Dick Thomas, Director of Alumni Relations
Ed Thompson, Librarian
Kathy Thompson, Business Manager
Katie Tremblay, Environmental Education, Field Coordinator
Noah Tuthill, Captain, *Grand Chat*
Sue West, Maine Coast Semester, Art
Ken Wise, Carpenter
Margaret Youngs, Assistant Farm Manager

CHRONICLE STAFF
Elizabeth Pierson, Editor
Betta Stothart, Assistant Editor
Fall Design, Design



New Role for Dick Thomas

"He isn't going *anywhere!*" That's the quick—and happy—reply to the many people asking where outgoing Camp Director Dick Thomas is headed. Dick will remain right here, working in the Development Office as Chewonki's first Director of Alumni Relations.

"I can't imagine a better person for this important new position," says a delighted Don Hudson. "Few people have worn as many hats here or had as much experience with participants as Dick has." Indeed, since his arrival on campus thirty-five years ago at age twelve, Dick has been a camper and wilderness tripper, counselor, camp program director, Assistant Camp Director, Development Director, and from 1986 to 2005, Camp Director. "Who else could better manage our alumni relations?" asks Don rhetorically.

In assuming his new position, Dick will continue to work closely with camp families. He will also be contacting alumni, families, and friends from other Chewonki programs, to update them on all that Chewonki is doing and to share some exciting plans for the future. Working in concert with the Development Office and with the Maine Coast Semester's new Alumni Intern, Lizzie Anson, Dick will be in touch with

people all around the country, helping them understand how important their support and continuing interest in Chewonki are. "I look forward to getting updates from Chewonki friends and to helping Chewonki alumni make connections at home, college, and elsewhere," he says.

Anyone with news, questions, or ideas can reach Dick at dthomas@chewonki.org, or by calling or writing him at Chewonki.

New Health Care Coordinator

Chewonki's program directors and staff were pleased and excited to welcome a new residential Health Care Coordinator to campus this summer. Hadley Clark is managing all of Chewonki's health care, wellness, and safety issues from her new office in the Chewonki Infirmary. Before coming to Chewonki in August, Hadley worked at The Island School in the Bahamas and The Outdoor Academy in western North Carolina, where she provided primary

medical care to students and worked on risk management issues. She has also worked with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and spent twelve summers as a camper and staff member at Camp White Pine in Ontario.

Hadley says she first heard about Chewonki at The Island School, a semester program similar to MCS, and that its focus on environmental education caught her eye. "When I saw this position posted, I knew I'd found a job with my name on it!" she says.

Hadley graduated from The Colorado College with a degree in Biology and is a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and Wilderness First Responder. She lives on campus in North Pasture Cottage and reports that both her new job and her new home state are "great."





Don Hudson (left) and Greg Shute (right) cradle the recycled-iron loons awarded to them last summer by the Maine Island Trail Association.

MITA Recognizes Chewonki

When the Maine Island Trail Association held its annual celebration of volunteer stewardship on August 25 in Rockport, Chewonki and Greg Shute received two of the association's ten awards. "I was both surprised and honored," said Greg. "There are so many organizations worthy of note in Maine!"

Greg, who has directed Chewonki's wilderness programs since 1991, is no stranger to MITA. He joined the fledgling organization in 1989, only one year after it was established, and has served on its board since 2000. He confesses that he was surprised to learn he would receive the Bowline Award, however. The award is named for the bowline knot, one of the world's most used loop knots, praised for its simplicity and security.

"The Bowline is a solid knot, reliable in all circumstances," read the award, confirming what many of us at Chewonki already know: "Greg Shute is similarly reliable."

Greg was also a founding member of the Maine Association of Sea Kayaking Guides and Instructors, and he helped to ensure that the kayak guides remained alert to

MITA's interest in balancing recreational access and conservation on the coast of Maine.

The Chewonki Foundation was recognized as Most Valuable Partner. "MITA is able to do the work we do only through close collaboration with other organizations," the citation noted. "Working together with other like-minded individuals, MITA has been able to extend our reach and educate coastal visitors. For as long as we can remember, the Chewonki Foundation has been a terrific partner."

MITA recognized Chewonki's active role as an island owner and our willingness to volunteer use of the "Whale Room" for meetings and events. "Most important, the message they teach all their campers and visitors is directly in support of MITA founding principles. Chewonki is truly a Most Valuable Partner."

Established in 1988, MITA is the largest water trail association in North America and a national model for others building water trails. MITA's 325-mile-long waterway

comprises islands and mainland sites that are available for day visits or overnight camping by people in kayaks, sailboats, motorboats, or other watercraft. For more information, visit www.mita.org or contact MITA directly at info@mita.org or at 8 Fore Street, Building 30, 3d Floor, Portland, ME 04101; telephone 207-761-8225.

Chewonki to Help Promote Biodiesel

Thanks to a grant received last fall from the Maine State Energy Program, Renewable Energy Pathways Coordinator Peter Arnold (at right) has added yet another task to his busy environmental education agenda: teaching Mainers about the liquid renewable fuel called biodiesel and documenting their interest in using it. The grant provides two years of funding for Chewonki and five partners to educate potential users about the advantages of biodiesel, with the aim of building market demand for an in-state production facility capable of producing a million gallons per year—the estimated





Advantages of Biodiesel

- Biodegradable and nontoxic.
- Contains no petroleum or other fossil fuels, so emits virtually no sulfurs, aromatics, particulates, or carcinogenic compounds.
- Can be used in all conventional diesel engines, delivering similar performance and engine durability as petroleum diesel.
- Requires few if any changes in fuel-handling and delivery systems.
- Can be used in its pure form or blended in any ratio with petroleum diesel; this means it can be stored and dispensed with petroleum diesel.
- Safer to store, handle, and use than petroleum diesel (because it has a flash point of 300° versus 125° F).
- Can be produced domestically from a renewable resource.
- Reduces dependence on foreign oil, increases agricultural revenue, and creates jobs.

minimum needed to yield a good return for investors. Current use of biodiesel in Maine is about 60,000 to 70,000 gallons a year, but feasibility studies indicate that figure has the potential to grow tremendously.

"Biodiesel for Maine: A Public Education and Market Development Project" is co-directed by Chewonki and by Maine Energy Investment Corporation, a nonprofit market development company. Peter has lead responsibility for developing technical demonstrations and education materials, and he began showcasing them around the

state this past summer. How biodiesel is made and delivered, its emissions profile, and how the fuel fits into the need for a homegrown, renewable, and secure source of energy were all part of the pitch. The primary targets were municipalities (includ-

ing school districts), businesses, industry, and marine co-ops—entities that usually self-fuel and for whom it's easiest to make a switch in suppliers.

Biodiesel has a wide range of applications and can be made from any fat or vegetable oil. In many parts of the country, especially the Midwest, it's made from virgin soybean oil. In Maine, however, where restaurants produce almost two million gallons of used cooking oil per year (and pay to have it shipped out of state for disposal), there is interest in building a reprocessing facility to convert that oil into biodiesel. Peter is confident it can be done—in part because Chewonki has already demonstrated how. Chewonki began making its own biodiesel in 2001, with used cooking oil collected from local restaurants. The small-scale operation still continues, with a weekly production of 150 to 200 gallons being used to run six vehicles and as supplemental heating fuel.

"The biggest obstacle in promoting biodiesel," says Peter, "is its cost." On average, consumers now pay half a penny more per gallon for each percent of biodiesel they buy. That means pure biodiesel, or B100,

Meet "The Incinerator"

It's the most recent model in a long line of Chewonki solar cookers, designed this summer by camp counselors and used to roast hot dogs, marshmallows, farm vegetables, and tempeh. It was built from a salvaged satellite dish coated with wedge-shaped strips of Mylar and mounted on a wooden base built in the Chewonki shop from cut-off scraps of canoe paddle blanks. The base allows the dish to be tilted over a 70-degree range so that it can be aimed directly at the sun. "We estimate that it concentrates the sun's power by a factor of 50," says Brandon Stafford (seated at left). On a sunny day the cooker can ignite wood shavings in 10 seconds!

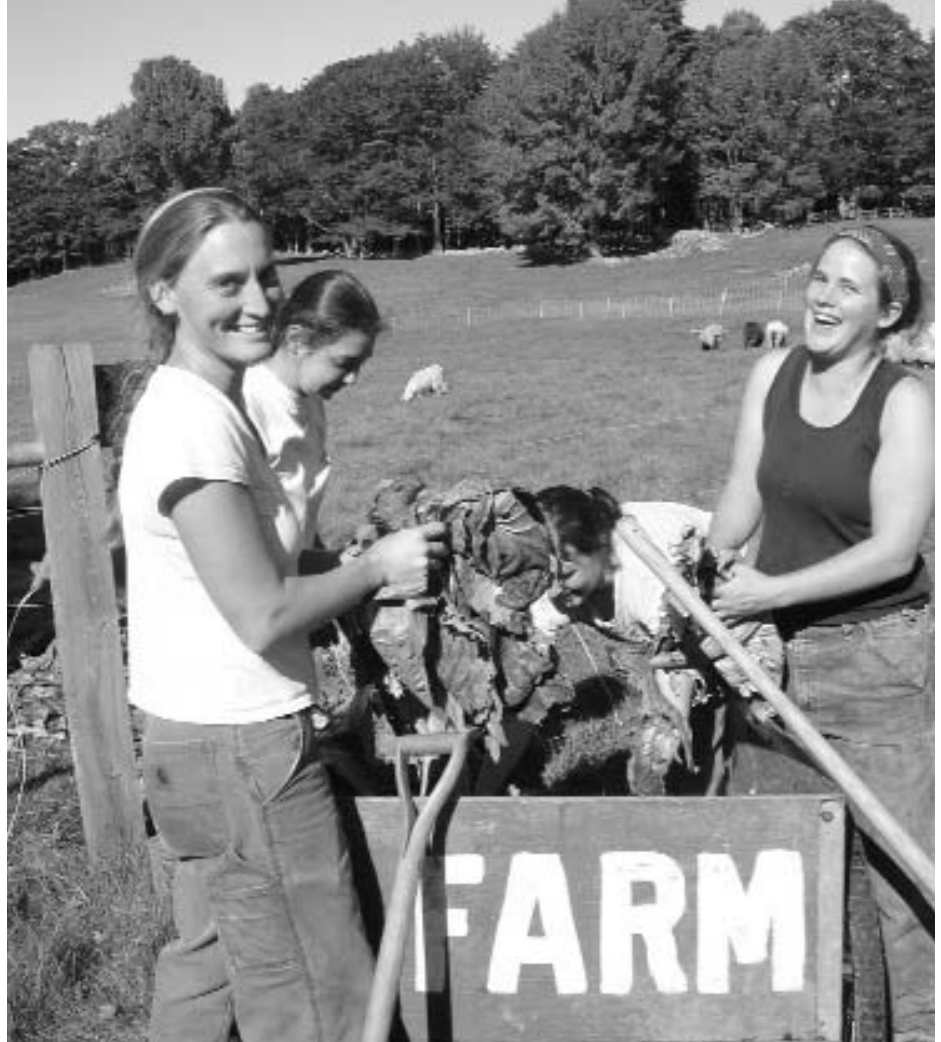
Jessica Allen, who ran the renewable energy activity this summer, organized the project, and Alex Melamed, a woodshop counselor, constructed the tilting base. Peter Arnold supplied the dish, and Waterfront Director Brandon Stafford provided some engineering support. Total cost? About five dollars. Interested in building your own? Brandon Stafford is happy to share technical details. You can e-mail him at brandon.stafford@gmail.com or write to him at Chewonki.

costs about \$1 more per gallon than petroleum diesel. B20, a commonly used blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel, costs 10 cents more per gallon. As the cost of petroleum moves ever upward and as new tax incentives become available for biodiesel, however, that price discrepancy will almost certainly get smaller.

Although the State of Maine and a small number of Maine businesses (among them L. L. Bean) are already using biodiesel, the state has only one wholesale supplier: Frontier Energy in South China, just east of Augusta. Frontier supplies heating oil to residential and commercial customers in the mid-coast area and has a pump in South China where drivers can fill their cars. It also supplies biodiesel to a gas station in Raymond.

Beth Nagusky, Director of Maine's Office of Energy Independence, is hopeful that the growing demand for biodiesel by both large and small consumers will enable one or more in-state production facilities to go forward in the near future. "State government is one of Maine's largest consumers of biodiesel," she says. "The State is excited about biodiesel because it reduces our dependence on foreign oil, helps reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and if produced in state, will bring significant economic benefits to Maine."

For the next two years, Peter Arnold and several others will be laying the important educational groundwork to make that happen. ■



It's a busy time of year on the Chewonki farm! Fall is bearing down on us in earnest, and Farm Manager Brad Johnson, Assistant Farm Manager Margaret Youngs, and Farm Intern Betsy Mattox have plenty of work to oversee. With the enthusiastic help of the MCS 35 students and staff, they are picking apples, pressing cider, slaughtering chickens, digging root crops, taking pigs to market, and getting in the last of the hay. Here, Margaret (left) and Betsy (right) get some help feeding cabbages to Chewonki's livestock. Both women are enjoying their new positions on the farm staff. Margaret came to Chewonki this summer after four seasons co-managing Mandala Farm, an organic horsepowered farm in Gouldsboro, Maine. Betsy is making a return appearance, having worked at Chewonki previously as the farm activity coordinator for summer camp.

BACK TO SCHOOL

For many MCS faculty, summer is more than just a time to relax; it also provides exciting opportunities to be a student again. “If there’s a better way to enrich your own teaching,” says Daegan Miller, “I’ve yet to hear about it.”

Living History

As you drive on Interstate 94 across the Great Plains, you will find a place where an absurd sight greets you. An erratic entirely foreign to the soil on which it rests brazenly thrusts itself out of the dusty blue flax fields and into the infinite sky. It is impossible to simply drive past, and one will always find the curious thronged about the attraction. This is New Salem, North Dakota, and high on top of the biggest small-hill around proudly stands New Salem Sue, a giant...cow. She towers four stories high, has a hide of solid fiberglass, and is anatomically correct down to the veins that bulge from her swollen udders. I had the distinct pleasure of making Sue’s acquaintance in the summer of 2004 while on a five-week National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Teacher Seminar titled “The Great Plains from Texas to Saskatchewan: Place, Memory, Identity” centered at North Dakota State University at Fargo. The

experience was such a good one that in 2005 I applied to a Landmarks of American History workshop, also sponsored by the NEH, on the American Industrial Revolution. This time I headed to The Henry Ford, the well-known living history center in Dearborn, Michigan.

At both seminars I found a mix of public and private schoolteachers; most taught history or English, but there were also a few technology teachers, and one librarian. We were a diverse group hailing from all parts of the country and representing schools both tiny and huge, urban and rural. I even bumped into a guy who had grown up in nearby Hallowell before moving to Tacoma, Washington, to teach fifth-grade social studies. Most were older and more experienced than me—one had been teaching for better than thirty-five years—but there were a few whose ears were even wetter than mine.

Each seminar mixed classroom study with historical exploration. The mornings in Fargo were spent discussing one of the many books we read, while the afternoons and weekends were given over to travel or research. The main highlight of that seminar was the week-long pilgrimage to writer Wallace

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These two seminars were really nothing more than excuses to get together with other teachers and outside experts and share the joy of discovering the little things that turn history from bunk into thickly tangible, grand reality.



Daegan and New Salem Sue in North Dakota.

Stegner's boyhood home in southern Saskatchewan. In Michigan we spent the mornings listening to scholars discuss various aspects of the American Industrial Revolution, before dispersing to explore Dearborn Village, one of the foremost living-history sites in America.

I could continue to give details about each seminar, but I'd rather turn to the underlying theme of both—the irresistible pull of history. In order to do this, I briefly want to turn to the two figures who dominated each course: the enigmatic Henry Ford, who famously, and erroneously, was reputed to have said "All history is bunk," and the writer of history and fiction, Wallace Stegner.

Ford grew up on a farm, and as an adult he idolized the pastoral life that he ran away from, invented his way out of, and eventually helped to transform into a predominately urban society. He has recently been vilified as an anti-Semite—Ford lavished praise on Adolf Hitler in the 1930s and theorized about an international Jewish conspiracy—yet many of his advisors and at least one of his closest friends were Jewish. So it should not be surprising that a man of such wildly divided minds could reconcile divergent impulses regarding history, for Ford created the same Dearborn Village that I explored during this past summer's seminar.

Half a century later, Wallace Stegner grappled with what it meant to grow up on the last western

frontier, in western Saskatchewan. Frontiers, from the perspective of those who settle them, are necessarily places without history, and so young Stegner grew up learning not about the history of his place but about the social, political, and economic exploits of the eastern provinces. Stegner's family soon left Saskatchewan for Montana and Utah, but his home in Eastend haunted his memory to such an extent that the region crops up frequently in his later fiction. Read Stegner as he recounts some of his childhood in *Wolf Willow*:

For here, pungent and persuasive, is a smell that has always meant my childhood. It is wolf willow that brings me home. For a few minutes, with a handful of leaves to my nose, I look across at the clay bank and the hills beyond where the river loops back on itself, enclosing the old sports and picnic ground....

Hard as Ford might protest, he and Stegner clearly shared a love of history. Ford did not in fact say "All history is bunk" but "All history in textbooks is bunk," and even as he denounced the drudgery of schoolbook history, he bought and restored steam locomotives, reconstructed slave quarters, and mandated that only horse-drawn buggies be used at Dearborn Village. These are hardly the actions of a man who despised the past. What both Ford and Stegner sought was complexity, the little details both mundane and fantastic, in order to evoke the past, to flesh it out.

Perhaps the little detail that made the Great Plains come most alive for me was a small cemetery north of Bismark. Bismark is located well west of the 100th meridian and so typically does not receive enough rainfall to support stable agriculture. And yet in the mid-nineteenth century German immigrants farmed this land. Not much is left of their lives except an old iron-cross cemetery, which provides a haunting window on the past. There is something incomparably lonesome about standing in the midst of the plains, surrounded by an immensely blue sky, on land that was once dearly loved by someone. Milling about the crosses puts faces and names on those people—enough to imagine a life and to fill that life with the details learned from books. Looking closely at the crosses thickens the story even more: many of the words are strangely misspelled, and it turns out that the ironsmith was an artist who was also extremely dyslexic. Dark eyes forever look at the blue horizon from an enameled picture affixed to one of the monuments; they belong to a woman, dressed in a wedding gown, about my age.

These two seminars were really nothing more than excuses to get together with other teachers and outside experts and share the joy of discovering the little things that turn history from bunk into thickly tangible, grand reality. While I did not literally



MORE FACULTY ENRICHMENT IN 2005

Willard Morgan, MCS Director, Natural History of the Maine Coast

In July Willard joined more than sixty new independent school heads from around the country at the Institute for New Heads of School for a week of workshops and discussions about the joys, challenges, and responsibilities of leading a school. The institute was sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools and took place in Washington, D.C. Experienced school heads, including Mark Segar of the Waynflete School (an MCS member school in Portland, Maine), facilitated as the group studied leadership, management, finance, legal issues, governance, and crisis communication. Willard met several new heads who have been involved with MCS in the past and who plan to support students attending MCS in the future.

Scott Andrews, American History and Contemporary Issues

Scott attended a week-long NEH workshop in July in Massachusetts. It was called "Becoming American: Trade, Culture, and Reform in Salem, Massachusetts, 1801–1861" and was based at Salem State College and the Peabody Essex Museum. In lectures and meetings with master teachers, museum docents, and curators, Scott and his fellow students explored the maritime history of Salem, particularly the China trade, the antebellum history of the city, including the black community, and the mills. They looked at historical art, ships' logs, maps, clothing and textiles, Chinese export art, and the writing in this period. "I have already used a number of ideas that occurred to me during the workshop in my classes this fall," says Scott. "And I anticipate using much more of what I learned as the semester goes on."

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Salem's House of the Seven Gables, which inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel of the same name.

live during the time of Ford's \$5 dollar workdays or the great buffalo herds, I have experienced enough to imagine. I can understand what it was like to own a Model T because I rode in one at Dearborn Village, used its only door (on the passenger side; Ford did not want people exiting into traffic), and smelled the oil leaked from its none-too-closely fitted engine.

Buffalo once roamed the plains to such an extent that trains were sometimes stopped for days at a time while a single herd crossed the tracks. No living American can claim this as their experience, but for a half-hour I sat precariously perched in a small sapling while a herd of North Dakotan buffalo milled all about me, so close that I could hear the flies buzzing about their humps and smell the musty odor of their tawny hides. I had only to squint my eyes to imagine that the herd of a hundred stretched all the way to the horizon and that my cowboy hat was real and not a fake straw one purchased from the local tourist trap. History was thickly about me, and for those few vivid moments I lived the nineteenth century. ■

DAEGAN MILLER

Daegan Miller graduated from Middlebury College in 2002 and teaches History and Environmental Issues at MCS. "I never wanted to be a teacher," he says. "I was always content to be a student, constantly learning. As it turns out, however, 'teacher' is one of those clever, grown-up words that really means 'spend your time studying, thinking and discussing.'"

MORE FACULTY ENRICHMENT IN 2005

Sue West, Art and the Natural World

Sue pursued two different summer seminars. The first was a workshop titled "Artists' Books" and taught by Rebecca Goodale at the Maine College of Art in Portland. Participants spent five consecutive days working with a theme on several different kinds of visual books. "It was a wonderful experience to learn some new sculptural book forms, do my own artwork, and meet some great book artists and art teachers," says Sue. She also attended "Walking in Peace Today: Practicing Together in the Midst of Turmoil," a retreat led by Vietnamese monk and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Thich Nhat Hanh at Stonehill College in Massachusetts. This was "a life-changing experience," in which the group spent six days learning to pay more attention to the present moment and to be more fully alive. Hanh spoke of the Vietnam War, of the present aggressions around the world, and of dealing with anger in our own lives. "His way of practicing mindfulness, becoming centered, and being an activist appealed to me, and has already brought me a measure of happiness and clarity as I negotiate a life busy with family and various roles in the Maine Coast Semester," says Sue. If there is interest, Sue will teach others in the Chewonki community a variety of ways to practice mindful breathing.

Alex Harris, French

Last spring Alex went to a Foreign Language Association of Maine (FLAME) conference in Portland. "It was really exciting to spend the day with people who are interested in teaching languages," she reported. She went to three different workshops, all focused on making language come alive in the classroom, and received many ideas about getting students active in class and really using the language. She also was able to talk with other French teachers in the area about how their classes are structured. "Teaching French at Chewonki is different because I do not have other French speakers around," says Alex. "It was great to see that a little French world exists out there. There's a lot of excitement about teaching the French language in Maine."

First MCS Alumni Trip a Great Success

*"Hands on the Land"
included an experiential
taste of food, farming,
and culture*

On July 24 eight Maine Coast Semester alumni and two leaders gathered on Chewonki Neck and prepared to embark on an agricultural adventure that would lead them to another continent, another culture, and another century. The group had done its homework and was eager to begin the inquiry that would lead them from the farms of Maine to the agricultural terraces of Tuscany.

The overseas program was designed earlier this year by Environmental Education faculty member Nicole Borrasso, with assistance from MCS French teacher Alex Harris. Nicole had visited Italy the previous summer and was convinced that there was much for students to learn and compare about agricultural life in Maine and abroad. The program was based at Spannocchia, a centuries-old agricultural estate located about 12 miles southwest of Siena, in central Tuscany.

MCS Director Willard Morgan saw the trip as a natural means of expanding on the MCS student experience. "It provided a wonderful opportunity for our alumni to advance the agricultural learning they started here on Chewonki Neck, and to compare what we do on our farm with techniques that have been used for centuries elsewhere in the world," he said recently.

The program was led by Nicole and Alex and included students from four semesters: five from MCS 33 and one each from MCS 31, 32, and 34.

Each student chose an area of academic focus, with the understanding that they would present a report on their findings when they returned to Chewonki. The group left Chewonki Neck on July 29 and returned on August 12. They kept a delightful (and often comical) journal, some of which is excerpted here.

*Enrichment opportunities for MCS faculty are supported in part by the **Scott Andrews Fund**, which was established in 2003 to honor Scott's seventeen years as the first director of MCS. By offsetting such expenses as attendance at conferences, tuition for summer courses, and special materials for the classroom, the Andrews Fund fosters faculty growth and development. For information on contributing to the fund, please contact the Development Office, or visit www.chewonki.org and click on "Maine Coast Semester."*



Excerpts from an Italian Journal

July 30, 2005

Buon Giorno, Tutti:

We left Maine on a very hot Wednesday morning...and...arrived in Italia, hot, tired, and hungry, but all in all, in very good shape.

Our first afternoon was spent getting settled, touring the grounds, swimming and eating.

Day 2 – Work. From 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., we worked. Some worked on the gray water project. Two worked in the garden. The other two worked in the bosco (woods) where we helped Roberto saw and split more than three cords of wood.

August 1, 2005

Ciao Tutti!

Early [Saturday] afternoon the group took a two-hour hike down to a monastery that is several centuries old. It was full of bats and crumbling floors. We all felt multo “Indiana Jones-ish.” Saturday evening, however, was the real excitement: the local expert baker...Stefano, came over to help us make pizzas.

3 August 2005

Ciao Rigattzi!

Spannocchia has not only touched our skin with a blazing sun, but it has also touched our hearts with its charm. We are writing to let you know that we are never coming back.

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 14, a large gathering of former students, parents, friends, relatives, faculty, and other guests gathered under the whale in Chapin Hall to hear the Italy participants present their reports, stories, and songs, and to taste some of their delicious culinary creations. The reports—each one fascinating—covered everything from permaculture to green building design to beekeeping. Also investigated were Italian cuisine, the Slow Food Movement, and the prized Italian olive (see sidebar for a complete list).

“The trip was a great success,” said Chewonki President Don Hudson. “I expect that MCS alums will have more creative offerings in the future, so stay tuned!” ■

BETTA STOTHART

5 August 2005

Ciao Tutti:

We have had a great time exploring the Renaissance city [of Florence]...the Duomo, the DeVinci museum, the outdoor markets, local artisan shops, and of course, a little stroll across the Ponte Vecchio....We are on to the Uffizi Gallery tomorrow morning to see some of the famous works of Botticelli and DaVinci, before heading to the coast.

12 August 2005

Ciao Famigli!

The train ride to Rome was slightly overcrowded—in fact, it was most comparable to a pack of sardines: salty, hot, and a little fishy....We saw the Coliseum and ...we stood in line for almost an hour to see the Pope’s crib. The Vatican Museum was worth the wait....We headed to St. Peter’s, took tours, and then split up to explore.

After a somewhat discouraging day, the angel Gabriel (our tour guide, not actually an angel...) saved Rome from our barbaric ignorance...leading us around Rome...the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, the Forum, and Capitaline Hill. After the tour, we sat down for our last Italian meal...The next morning we left on a jet plane. However, we were all confident that we would return someday, after having thrown coins into the Trevi Fountain.

“Hands on the Land” Projects

The Mezzadria System. A look back at the sharecropping system used in Italy for 900 years up to the 1960s. BUDDY GRAY, MCS 33

Slow Food. A study of the Slow Food Movement and its manifestations in Italian food culture. ELLIE BOMSTEIN, MCS 33

Green Building at Spannocchia. An investigation of Spannocchia’s ancient buildings, focusing on the use of natural resources and energy-efficient building innovations. MARGARET MANSFIELD, MCS 33

Permaculture. A study of the uses and concepts of permaculture (permanent culture) at Spannocchia, and the application of those methods to the American lifestyle. LONDON NEWTON, MCS 33

Olives. An investigation of the noble fruit that plays such a huge part in the Mediterranean culture. ALEX BEECHER, MCS 34

Beekeeping and Honey Tasting. A look at the fascinating art of beekeeping and the culture surrounding honey both in Italy and the Americas. MATTIAS LANAS, MCS 33

Useful Woodcraft. A study of Spannocchia’s wood from the forest and its use throughout the estate. MARIA McMORROW, MCS 32

Italian Food Culture. A photojournalistic investigation of the process of growing Italian ingredients and their relationship to the country’s cooking and dining culture. SARAH KIRK, MCS 31



Hand in Hand: Land Conservation and Education

Continued from page 1

The Island Institute acquired these islands more than fifteen years ago to preserve their public access. When the organization's mission shifted to support working waterfronts and island communities, however, it decided to sell them. The purchase was facilitated by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which will hold permanent restrictions protecting three of the islands and sought a conservation-minded partner willing to support and manage public access to them. (Similar restrictions already exist for Campbell Island and are held by the local Island Heritage Trust.) Chewonki fit the bill. We are card-carrying members of the American Camping Association and the Maine Land Trust Network. In fact, no other organization in Maine or the nation has quite the same purpose: to serve as a land steward *and* a leader in conservation education.

In terms of current land prices, especially on the Maine coast, the purchase was a bargain:

\$800,000 for the four islands, and we have five years to pay it off. As patterns of land ownership along the Maine coast and in the Maine Woods have threatened our access, particularly for camping, we have acted decisively to ensure that future generations of Chewonki campers and students will have the opportunity to visit and experience the grandeur of some of Maine's last remaining wilderness.

Chewonki's dual role as an environmental educator and land conservationist has evolved slowly but steadily over many years. From our earliest days, our land has been the heart of our institution. It is the central character in our history—the place that inspired our founder, Clarence Allen, and his foremost protégé, Roger Tory Peterson. The teacher and the naturalist formed a friendship at Chewonki that lasted their lifetimes, and directly and indirectly they guided the creation of the Chewonki Foundation.

Peterson came to Chewonki in 1929, a young man of eighteen, his skills as a painter and observer of nature already evident. His last



Chewonki Lands A Chronological History

1985—Montsweag Meadows, Woolwich: The Montsweag Meadows Partnership donated 7 acres of shoreline opposite Chewonki's waterfront.

1987—Castle and Berry Islands, Georgetown: Located in nearby Hockomock Bay a few miles south of Chewonki Neck. These two islands were donated by Thomas Gardiner, with non-development, forever wild easements held by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

1991—Cushman Mountain Preserve, Wiscasset: This parcel of 120 acres and more than a mile of shoreline due south of Birch Point on the Back River was donated by Margaret Stetson and her siblings, to be maintained as open space for public enjoyment and recreation, as well as a demonstration tree farm for sustainable forestry. In 1999 a donation of two-thirds ownership of a 30-acre field between the forestland and the ice pond south of Birch Point was added to the preserve.

1992—Sunday Cove, Magalloway Plantation, Lake Umbagog: We acquired this lease of a campsite on the Maine shores of Lake Umbagog near the headwaters of the Androscoggin River from Boise Cascade. The leased land was donated to Chewonki by Mead Paper in advance of the transfer of a much larger tract to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

1993—Montsweag Preserve, Woolwich: The Nature Conservancy transferred this 45-acre preserve abutting the south side of the Montsweag Meadows property to Chewonki, protecting a long stretch of shoreline opposite our waterfront.

summer on the Neck was 1933. One year later, when he published *A Field Guide to the Birds*, he changed the art and science of nature study forever. That same year he also joined the staff of the National Audubon Society. RTP, as he was affectionately called at Chewonki, was arguably the most influential informal environmental educator of the twentieth century, and he honed those skills during five summers working for Clarence Allen. The story has often been told that Peterson and Allen had plans to establish a National Audubon Society sanctuary on Chewonki Neck. That dream has never been officially documented, but it certainly seems well within the realm of probability.

In the years leading up to the creation of the Chewonki Foundation, Clarence Allen was also introduced to summer neighbor Rachel Carson. Carson had been instrumental in the creation of The Nature Conservancy in 1951, and in 1956 she spearheaded the creation of its Maine chapter (the fourth state chapter in the country). The famed author and scientist summured in a cottage on the Sheepscot River not far from Chewonki. She too

may have influenced how Clarence Allen and his peers thought about land conservation.

The Chewonki Foundation was created with little fanfare on February 9, 1962, with the filing of its charter at the Penobscot County Courthouse in Bangor. One of the first paragraphs provides an important clue for anyone looking to unravel our conservation past:

"Insofar as permitted under the laws of Maine, the corporation may acquire certain real and personal property in the town of Wiscasset, Lincoln County, Maine, now known as Camp Chewonki, for the purpose of preserving such property for all time as a 'school of the open' for future generations, viz., an outdoor laboratory and provision for outdoor classes to serve as a model for conservation and natural science education consistent with such ideals as have been demonstrated by The Nature Conservancy Association and the National Audubon Society and in carrying out such purpose may serve as a wildlife sanctuary."

Continued on page 14

1994—Wood Cove, Big Wood Pond, Attean Township:

Chewonki accepted the donation of a campsite on Big Wood Pond near Jackman, Maine, from Lowell & Company Timber Associates, to serve as a wilderness base for our programs. In addition, we accepted responsibility for conservation easements along the shores of three of the larger ponds in the township, as well as easements to create and protect an ecological preserve in the heart of Attean Township around the small and remote Benjamin Valley ponds.

1997—Huckleberry Island,

Newcastle: The Myers family of Damariscotta donated a small island in the Sheepscot River north of the Wiscasset railroad bridge to Chewonki.

2002—Big Eddy Campground,

T3 R11: Chewonki acquired this private campground on leased land along the shores of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, 5 miles southwest of Baxter State Park in the heart of the Maine Woods. A few months later, Great Northern Paper Company sold us the 75 acres of land that make up the campground.

2002—Bowline Head,

Harrington: This 7-acre island along the Downeast coast in Pleasant Bay was purchased from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust on a bargain sale, with forever wild easements held by the Great Auk Land Trust.

2005—Eaton Farm, Wiscasset:

The 200-acre Eaton Farm was transferred from Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to Chewonki as part of the requirements for decommissioning the nuclear power plant. This coastal property east of Chewonki Neck on Montsweag Bay will be maintained as open space for public enjoyment and recreation and as a demonstration forest for sustainable silvicultural practices. The donation inspired the development of a 12-mile trail to connect Chewonki Neck with other open space and conservation lands along the Back River. The trail will eventually stretch from Chewonki Neck to the Town of Wiscasset.

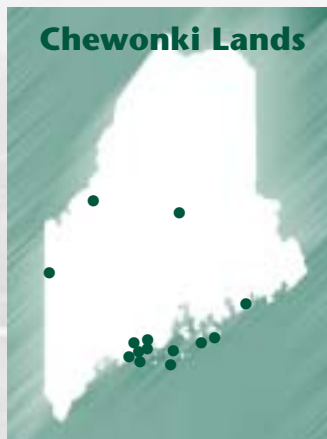
2006—Chewonki will take possession of Hungry, Black, Russ, and Campbell Islands.

Did Clarence Allen discuss the role of land conservation in environmental education with Roger Tory Peterson and Rachel Carson? We will never know for certain, though we suspect the answer is “Yes”!

In 1965, his fiftieth year as camp director and his third in the employ of the Chewonki Foundation, Clarence Allen negotiated the purchase of Hoyt’s Farm and the Gatehouse (approximately 25 acres), which lay just north of the original camp property. It was the first deliberate act of land conservation by the newly formed Chewonki Foundation. Ten years later, when the neighboring Gould property came up for sale, Executive Director Tim Ellis negotiated the purchase of an additional 150 acres, thus consolidating Chewonki’s ownership of the entire 400-acre Neck. Stewardship and conservation had been part of the Chewonki lexicon from the early days of camp, so it was no surprise that we sought to protect and preserve our own peninsula as a “school of the open.”

Ten years passed before land acquisition for educational and conservation purposes returned to our agenda—and for the first time it was land that lay beyond Chewonki Neck. In 1984 a proposal for a marina in Woolwich threatened the shores opposite our waterfront. Trustee Gordy Hall went to work, and with the help of fellow board member Bill Niss and a few neighbors, secured seven acres along the shoreline for Chewonki while limiting development to five upland lots.

The Chewonki Foundation now owned land outside Wiscasset, to be held forever wild for educational and conservation purposes. The Board of Trustees accepted the gift of land along the river because it provided for an uninterrupted landscape and wooded buffer to activities on Chewonki Neck. This decisive action was not lost on the neighbors and others involved in



Whether close to home on Chewonki Neck or on the faraway shores of Big Wood Pond near the Canadian border, we take on the responsibility of land conservation where it can have a clear and unambiguous impact on our programs.

land conservation in Maine, and Chewonki’s special role in combining land conservation and environmental education was cemented.

In the twenty years that have followed, our conservation activities have continued (see sidebar). When our access for camp sites has been threatened in the North Woods and along the coast, we have acted to save places where our special brand of environmental and conservation education could flourish. Whether close to home on Chewonki Neck or on the faraway shores of Big Wood Pond near the Canadian border, we take on the responsibility of land conservation where it can have a clear and unambiguous impact on our programs. Although many people are unaware of it, we even serve as a recognized land trust. We are one of almost ninety in the state, working primarily in Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties and in other corners of Maine where we have a regular presence as wilderness trippers. No other camp in North America serves as a land trust, though many have protected large portions of their land as open space with conservation easements.

Our satellite sites are managed primarily by our Wilderness Tripping staff, with assistance from

our Land and Buildings staff, which helps with routine tasks of opening and closing facilities. In the case of our conservation easements, we also work closely with the Maine Bureau of Forestry and with nonprofit groups such as the Forest Society of Maine and Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Our “school of the open” has grown considerably since that day in February 1962 when Chewonki’s nonprofit charter was filed. Our stewardship responsibilities have grown accordingly, and they remain an integral and important part of what we do. The much-anticipated acquisition of four islands next year will be yet another step in our long history. Land conservation and education will continue to go hand in hand at Chewonki. ■

DON HUDSON

Four New Gems in a Sea of Possibility

Chewonki's interest in securing island access to the Maine coast evolved slowly and incrementally over time and, in a way, was simply a matter of the right forces coalescing to bring this island deal to life. When the Maine Coast Heritage Trust called Chewonki nearly two years ago to say it was looking for the right steward of four Maine islands, Chewonki was ready to listen.

"Maine's coast is not the wild landscape we imagine from the days of N. C. Wyeth," says Greg Shute, Chewonki Wilderness Programs Director. "Today's coastline is developed, heavily used, and increasingly private." When the opportunity to secure four undeveloped islands appeared, Greg was already feeling the pinch of reduced coastal access for Chewonki's wilderness trips, and suddenly the opportunity seemed ripe for the picking.

As recently as 1990, Chewonki enjoyed access to 74 Maine islands for camping. Today that number has dwindled by nearly 35 percent, to 49 islands. The biggest impact, according to Greg, is transfer in ownership and the resultant change in personal relationships that follows. Another factor is that the State of Maine has established a new management plan for certain public islands, setting tighter voluntary camping capacities.

Greg is quick to point out that Chewonki enthusiastically supported the state's more restrictive plan. "We even helped them establish the guidelines, because Chewonki supports protection of the natural resource above all," he says. "But because our trips often comprise eight to ten campers, we constrained ourselves in the process." Along certain long stretches of coastline, finding overnight accommodations for Chewonki groups can be a "scramble." In recent years, he says, the Muscongus Bay and Deer Isle areas have been particularly challenging.

Greg's familiarity with the Maine coast and his passion for wild places make him a perfect, albeit understated, voice for Chewonki's newest land acquisitions. His office and the Camp Office will be bustling with activity this winter as they begin to design new and creative ways for adults and teenagers to enjoy these rocky gems. One such program has already taken shape. The Maine Island Camp, a co-ed experience to be offered next summer on Hungry Island, will be a combined wilderness trip and service-learning project for ages 14 to 17. The program will offer a unique opportunity for Chewonki participants to combine encampment skills, navigational skills, trail building, campsite design, and service projects. "We are very excited about this new program," says Greg. The service component will allow for great personal connections to the landscape, and participants will have the chance to make a lasting contribution to the island and to Chewonki.

There will be more to come. Fifty-acre Russ Island off Stonington, heralded by many as one of the natural



The new islands will provide spectacular camping opportunities for Chewonki trippers in Penobscot and Muscongus Bays. Pictured here is last summer's Osprey Cabin sailing trip in Penobscot Bay. (Photo by Jock Montgomery)

gems of Penobscot Bay, will certainly be a destination for next summer's wilderness sea kayakers and sailors. With high bluffs, rocky edges, and even a sandy beach, the island is truly spectacular.

"All you have to do is visit Russ Island once to know that this place will provide years of inspiration for generations of Chewonki wilderness trippers and campers," says Greg. "Russ is one of those quintessential Maine islands. Because it sits a little higher in elevation, it is an incredible spot to view the surrounding bay and islands."

All four islands are undeveloped and are part of the 325-mile-long Maine Island Trail. Chewonki will work with the Maine Island Trail Association, local land trusts, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to manage them. Betsy Ham, Project Manager at MCHT, is enthusiastic about the partnership. "MCHT looks forward to working with Chewonki because we know they will be a good steward for these important islands," she said recently. "It's rare to have a landowner who will not only protect the ecological values and scenic beauty of their property but also guarantee access to the public forever so that the activities enjoyed here by generations of people can continue to be enjoyed by their children and grandchildren."

If all goes as expected, next August Chewonki will celebrate ownership of the four magnificent islands. The transaction will be the culmination of years of thoughtful work on the part of many people.

"The Board was very supportive of this because we recognized first and foremost that it was a unique opportunity to secure permanent access to islands on the Maine coast for future generations of campers and students," says Chewonki Chairman Joshua Marvil. "It's good for the future of Chewonki and the longevity of our mission, and it ensures that we will have use of these areas in perpetuity, providing flexibility for all of our programs." ■

BETTA STOTHART

BUILDING TRAILS AND BUILDING LIVES

*Chewonki Partners with
Wilderness Work Projects
for Foster Teens*



For the past two summers, Chewonki's Environmental Education/Wilderness Trip staff has had the privilege of leading a ten-day trip in Maine for foster teens from around New England and Maryland. The Wilderness Work Project, as it is known, is organized by the Maine Division of Casey Family Services, a nonprofit child welfare agency. It is a direct arm of the well-known Annie E. Casey Foundation, which supports innovative programs in child welfare, health, and education across the country.

The Wilderness Work Project was established ten years ago by Mark Millar, Division Director of Casey's Maine office. Shaun Taudvin, who also works in the Maine office and is a registered Maine Guide, organizes the trips. They are for boys and girls ages 14 and 15 and are run in conjunction with the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC). The goal is to model positive work habits and communication skills that can be applied to future work lives. Students apply to the project and interview for it as if it were a real job, and in many ways it is. Participants are paid minimum wage for the hours worked, and their performance is evaluated daily.

Chewonki's role is to provide basic camping equipment, food, and the expertise of camp living. Shaun is pleased with the collaboration and notes that the EE teachers bring far more than their skills. "They bring a wonderful commitment and energy," he says. "You can tell they really want to give the kids an excellent experience." They also provide a valuable opportunity for the students to interact with mentors beyond the Casey environment. "In the Chewonki leaders," says Shaun, "our kids see professional young adults who are so good in their personal interactions. They are friendly, clear, appropriate, and direct. Our kids really respond to that and establish a good rapport with them."

The EE/Wilderness Trip staff have also been rewarded by the experience. Living and working alongside the Casey crew and the MCC, they've learned firsthand about the daunting challenges foster children face. In 2004 the group did trail work in Camden Hills State Park and then canoed the St. Croix River. This past summer, they improved a rugged and eroding portion of the Appalachian Trail in the Nahmakanta Public Reserve. Nicole Borrasso led the 2005 trip with Chewonki colleague Amanda Morin and was inspired to write the following account.



At 7:30 A.M. the mist sat heavy on Nahmakanta Lake. It was too early to see the summit of Nesuntabunt Mountain towering over our campsite, and the world seemed so small. Steam rose from two figures draped across the canoes at the water's edge. The heat of the night had driven them from their tents to the lakeshore, blanketed at night by only stars. I was camped with three other staff and nine boys at the north end of the lake. To our south, near the MCC base camp, were our teammates: eight girls and five more staff, including Amanda. By 8:30 we could see the girls' six canoes breaking the surface of the fog and paddling toward us. It was time for all of us to think about getting to the work site.

Work began at 10:00 A.M. sharp, and points were docked for anyone who was late or unprepared. That meant you'd better show up with your orange hardhat, work gloves, boots, long pants, and water bottle. The duties for the day consisted of raking leaves, setting rocks, sawing roots

and limbs, and digging. The last was done with picks, shovels, and sometimes even gloved hands.

The kids worked hard in the steamy 90-degree heat and were inspired by their MCC supervisors, who encouraged them with laughs and chants. The work day lasted until 3:00 or 4:00 P.M., with breaks included, and by the end of it the kids were ready to sit down with their supervisors and evaluate the day. They discussed the skills they learned and those that need more improvement. They also participated in group activities designed to strengthen self-esteem, teamwork, and work habits.

By the end of the week this seventeen-member crew had completed an impressive quarter mile of trail along the banks of Nahmakanta Lake. Their greatest rewards by far were the thanks, praise, and smiles they received from the through hikers who walked the new trail.

With our hard work behind us, we all looked forward to the second phase of the trip, canoeing down the West Branch of the Penobscot River from Lobster Lake to Chesuncook Lake. This beautiful stretch

of river gifted us with many moose, many fish, and many amazing sunsets. Both men and women paddled over 30 miles of waterway, and even found time to improve a Chesuncook Lake campsite by hauling several hundred pounds of gravel from the lake to build two new tent platforms.

The trip was a success, and it did not go without the hardships of any wilderness trip, expanding comfort zones and pushing the limits of each participant to be a positive member of a tightly focused community. It was clear that the results of the trip reached far deeper than the stated purpose. When I asked one boy why this trip was important to him, he told me this: "This trip is needed because when you are here, you feel like you are part of one big family traveling together. It is like we are all brothers." ■

NICOLE BORRASSO

After two years on Chewonki's EE/Wilderness Trip staff, Nicole Borrasso has a new job this fall, teaching at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School in Bartlett, New Hampshire.



A Warm Welcome for a New Camp Director

*Garth Altenburg is delighted with his new position—
as is the rest of the Chewonki community.*

Tuesday, September 6, 2005—It is the day after Labor Day, and Garth Altenburg is comfortably ensconced in an Adirondack chair that he has strategically placed in a patch of sunlight on the Farmhouse porch.

A perfect Indian summer afternoon lies over Chewonki Neck, and Garth knows better than to squander it indoors. "Wouldn't it be nice to sit outside?" he asks. In his shorts and T-shirt, he is smiling broadly and abuzz with energy. There's good reason why: he has a brand new job, and he's "absolutely thrilled" about it.

Six days ago, on September 1, Garth Altenburg officially succeeded Dick Thomas as the Director of Camp Chewonki. The announcement was not a surprise, but that didn't diminish anyone's excitement about it. Especially Garth's. "I feel like I've been given the reins of the greatest camp in the country," he says today. The former middle school teacher does have to admit, however, that it feels "pretty odd" to be working at Chewonki on the day

after Labor Day. "This is the first time since I was five years old that I'm not starting school today!" he exclaims.

The transition from full-time teacher to year-round camp director has hardly been an unlikely one, however. Like the three previous camp directors who succeeded founder Clarence Allen—Tim Ellis, Scott Andrews, and Dick Thomas—Garth moves into his new position having already established a long and varied history at Chewonki.

That history begins in 1988, when Garth was fifteen years old and did the five-week Mistassini expedition in Quebec. The trip was led by Greg Shute and Lynne Flaccus (now Director of Wilderness Programs and Staff Naturalist, respectively), and it was the first "true wilderness experience" Garth ever had. He was raised in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and although his family had always been outdoorsy, he hadn't done much camping. He had never canoed. And he had never had an intimate glimpse into another culture, in this case the Cree Indian culture of northern Quebec. "That

trip was a huge revelation for me in so many ways," he says. He didn't realize it at the time, of course, but it was also the beginning of his eighteen-year metamorphosis into a camp director.

Garth returned to Chewonki the following summer, this time as a junior counselor with the Puffins, the youngest group of campers. "It was so much fun," he recalls. "I remember thinking 'I get paid to do this?'" The job was a natural fit for him, and he knew it. "With a blended family composed of three younger sisters and one older sister, who had cerebral palsy, I was always very much in tune with being a caregiver, either for my older sister or helping out with my younger sisters," he says. "I also learned to take advantage of every opportunity that came my way."

Since 1988, Garth has missed only three summers at Chewonki—to co-lead a seven-week Alford Lake AMT trip (1994), to get married (2000), and to put an addition on his house in preparation for the arrival of his first child (2002). He has been a counselor, trip leader, head counselor, and guides director. For three summers he served as Assistant Camp Director, and in 2004, when Dick Thomas took a summer sabbatical, he was Acting Director. This past summer Dick and Garth were co-directors, which both agree has made for a virtually seamless transition.

And what about the "other nine months" of Garth's life each year? Until this September, school has been a dominant theme. He graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 1991 and from Skidmore College in 1995 with a B.S. in Elementary Education. As much as he enjoyed Skidmore and upstate New York, he jumped at the opportunity to return to Maine when he graduated and was offered a job at Scarborough Middle School. From 1995 to 1998 he taught seventh- and eighth-grade reading, math, and social studies and coached track and cross-country. He then took a position at North Yarmouth Academy, where from 1998 to 2005 he

taught middle-school math and history. He also coached cross-country and basketball and served as the experiential education coordinator. As both a teacher and a coach, Garth displayed a gift for connecting with his students. "I've always tried to foster a sense of community, whether I'm inside or outside the classroom," he says. "That comes more from Chewonki than from anything I learned in college or as a student teacher, however."

For the past few years Garth has also been a student again. Later this year, he'll receive a master's degree in Public Policy and Management from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

The other dominant theme in Garth's life is his family. He is married to Heather Williams Altenburg (Camp Staff 1999), a former Spanish teacher at the Waynflete School in Portland and now full-time mother to their two boys, three-year-old Will and one-year-old Ben (both of whom have already charmed their way into the hearts of campers and staff). The family lives near Willard Beach in South Portland, where they are close to multiple sets of grandparents and involve themselves in a variety of neighborhood and community activities. Both Garth and Heather are avid downhill skiers, and they hope to get Will on the slopes later this year. Garth is also a marathon runner and—"of course!" he says emphatically—a diehard Red Sox fan.

Ten years of teaching have been immensely enjoyable and rewarding. At this juncture in his life, however, Garth is confident that the move to Chewonki is the right one. "I know I'll be at my best here," he says. "Chewonki is so highly regarded and such a leader among camps and environmental organizations. I'm excited about every single aspect of this job." As Garth well knew before accepting the position, the responsibilities add up to quite a job description. In addition to overseeing all of the summer programs, he's also one of the senior staff who make up Chewonki's Leadership Team and are responsible for virtually all aspects of the Chewonki Foundation's operations. "The new challenge of being part of this team and a collaborator on all things Chewonki is really exciting. It's part of why this job appealed to me so much," he says.

Another part of the appeal, and not an insignificant one, was what the job offers his family. For eight weeks each summer Garth and Heather live on the Chewonki campus with Will and Ben. "What a backyard! There are so many adventures for the boys here," says Garth, gesturing at the campus beyond the Farmhouse. "This is what Heather and I want for them. It's an ideal setting for me both professionally and as a father."

Listening to Garth talk about his past and future at Chewonki, it is obvious that he values deeply



Evolution of a camp director: on the Mistassini in 1988; sailing with Orchard House in 1996; on Chewonki Neck with Heather, Will, and Ben, July 2005.



what Chewonki has to offer. "Summer experiences really complete a young person's growth and make for a well-rounded person," he says. "The greatest students in the world can miss out on the broader experiences of camp if their focus is too narrow. Sure, camp is rustic, kids do get dirty, and they may even get a few bruises and bumps. But they learn a lot about themselves and grow. They step outside



Greetings!

I hope the fall finds you well and enjoying a good start to the school year. Each day is a new adventure for me as I have never been at Chewonki outside the summer. I'm very impressed with the Maine Coast Semester in my first opportunity to see the program up close. The Environmental Education program is equally impressive, and they too are having a fabulous fall with beautiful weather and a busy, exciting schedule as they host schools from all over New England. However, there is a markedly different pace to life at Chewonki these days that tells me it is definitely not camp season!

While most of you may feel that school has just started and camp is a long way away, those of us at Chewonki are busy making plans for Summer 2006. Ginny has been showing me the ropes with all of the ways that we keep track of your registration information. Greg Shute, Ryan Linehan, and I are planning some new trips for next summer. One of them is the Wilderness Osprey program, to be based off Chewonki Neck. We are also planning for Maine Island Camp, a program that will take place on Hungry Island, one of our new islands in Muscongus Bay. I've also been in contact with our Russian friend Vladimir as we plan for a camping exchange program in Russia! Finally, I must mention all of the advice and support that Dick Thomas has provided me as I transition into my new job. He is an amazing resource.

Next summer promises to be very exciting at Chewonki. Enrollment has begun, and some programs are already filling. Please be in touch about your plans for next summer and let me know if I can be of any help in making them. While you are at it, mention Chewonki to your friends, and let us know if they need any information.

I will be hitting the road in early November, and I hope to have a chance to say hello to many of you. Stay in touch, and be well!

*Kenne-bee-bee!
Garth*

the comfort zone of home. Our future leaders need that kind of well-rounded experience." He pauses and then adds another thought. "Campers and counselors may not realize it, but what they do here really is life changing."

As for the camp program itself, there are various "minor tweaks" Garth wants to make in the short term (bringing the bird list back to cabin trips is one he mentions), but overall he's "grateful for all the work that has gone on before me." Looking at the long term, he's certainly intrigued by the possibilities for establishing a permanent camp for girls. "There's tremendous interest in it," he says. He's also intrigued by the opportunities Chewonki's recent islands acquisitions may present (see this issue's cover story). And he'd love to institute a naturalist's training week at camp.

Six days into his new job, Garth is perfectly delighted to be here. He's still sharing a Farmhouse office with Dick Thomas, now Director of Alumni Relations, but says the temporary setup is actually ideal. "I've got my own private consultant to show me the ropes."

Dick Thomas is delighted too—and that speaks volumes. "I've known Garth since he first set foot on Chewonki as a teenager," Dick recalled recently. "I hired him as a junior counselor and have looked forward to his annual involvement with camp ever since. He is perfect for this job. He is bright, energetic, has a deep respect for what Chewonki stands for, and is excited about bringing new ideas and creativity to the year-round Camp Director position. I look forward to working with him and introducing him to the wider Chewonki family."

Nicely said. Welcome aboard, Garth. ■

ELIZABETH PIERSON

Newsflash! **Camp Opens Portland Office**

Chewonki recently opened its first "satellite" office, in Portland. Camp Director Garth Altenburg works two days a week in the new office, and come winter he may well be there three days a week. "It's a great place," he says enthusiastically. "People are welcome to drop in and see me about camp in particular, but also about any other Chewonki program. I'm well supplied with brochures!" Visitors should call ahead at the main Chewonki number to be sure Garth is there (207-882-7323).

The office is at One Longfellow Square, Suite 202, directly above the Center for Cultural Exchange. Longfellow Square is at the intersection of Congress and State streets, and metered parking is available on the street. "There usually are spaces right in front of the building on State Street," says Garth.

Have Owl, Will Travel

Chewonki's Traveling Natural History Lessons hold audiences spellbound



Have you ever wondered what an owl's foot looks like? Or what an alligator's skin feels like? Do you know why vernal pools are important or how biodiesel is made? Since 1985 Chewonki's Traveling Natural History Lessons have been helping people of all ages discover and explore the world around them. In these hands-on Outreach programs, you might heft a whale's vertebrae; handle paws, talons, teeth, and beaks to understand the relationships between form and function; scrutinize your own use of resources to find ways to conserve; or sit enraptured before a live Barred Owl or American Alligator.

Our programs are available to schools, libraries, camps, and community groups. Most presentations last an hour and are limited to 30 people.

On the first Monday of each month, from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M., Chewonki offers a program, usually in the Whale Room, that's free for kids and \$5 for adults.

Our lessons include the following.

Scales & Tales: Amazing Reptiles!

(K-adult). A live snake, alligator, iguana, and box turtle introduce four major groups of reptiles and highlight their adaptations.

Owls of Maine (all ages). Live owls are the highlight of this program. We offer an intimate and detailed look at them, bringing these creatures of the night out into the light.

Fur, Feathers & Feet: Introduction to Birds and Mammals (grades pre-K-2).

Discusses differences and similarities between birds and mammals. Students dress in our black bear and bird costumes and examine beak, foot, and feather specimens. A live mallard and maine mammal bring abstract ideas to life.

The Balance of Nature: Predators (grades 3-adult).

Dispels commonly held myths about predators and their roles in nature. Features a mounted coyote and live predators.

Birds of Prey: Comparing New England's Raptors (all ages).

Opportunity to see three of our live birds of prey. Students also handle feet, wings, and skull specimens.

Global Warming/Renewable Energy (grades 6-adult).

Looks at climate history, what humans are doing to cause the global climate to warm, and how we can cool things down again. Also illustrates how renewable energy and saving electricity can make a difference. A one-hour Renewable Energy Tour of Chewonki is available.

From Mice to Moose: Mammals of Maine (grades 2-adult).

Introduces students to native Maine mammals. Features mounted animals and a live mammal.

The BugMobile: Insects and Their Relatives (grades 1-adult).

Brings the world of arthropods—insects and their relatives—into the classroom. There are millions of species worldwide, and we show you several of them.

Rhythms of Farm Life: A Field Trip (grades pre-K-5).

An introduction to farming principles at Chewonki's small organic farm, where we tour the vegetable garden, composting center, and animal barn. Students make butter from farm cream and see seasonal tasks such as sheep shearing or cider pressing.

Trees in My Forest (grades 2-adult).

Uncovers the mysterious world of forests and backyard plants by unlocking the secrets of pollination and identification of native species. Uses models, costumes, and both living and nonliving specimens.

Fins & Flippers. Examines the four major groups of marine mammals, their adaptations, and the threats they face. Concludes with the reconstruction of a real, 16-foot pilot whale skeleton.

Too Much Trash! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (grades 3-adult).

Explores solid-waste disposal, recycling, composting, and reuse of durable products. Students develop strategies

to reduce their own contribution to the waste stream.

The Batmobile: Bats of the World (all ages).

Features a slide presentation on bats around the world. Hands-on specimens and our big brown bat help dispel common myths about bats.

The Rain Forest: Diversity of Species (grades 3-adult).

Discusses links between the flora, fauna, and weather patterns of New England and tropical woodlands. Includes a live iguana and giant millipedes.

Vernal Pools: Stepping Stones in a Sea of Forests (grades 2-adult).

What are vernal pools? Why are they important? Slides, activities, and live animals help answer these questions.

Skeletons: Skulls and Bones (grades 3-adult).

Hands-on introduction to skeletons using bones and skulls from several vertebrate classes. We end by assembling the skeleton of a 16-foot pilot whale.

Prices for September 2005–August 2006

One presentation	\$115
Two presentations (same day)	\$210
Weekend and custom presentations	Add \$50
The transportation cost is 45 cents per mile round-trip from Wiscasset, Maine. To reserve a program in your area or to learn more, e-mail outreach@chewonki.org or call Anna Hunt, Program Director of Outreach, at 207-882-7323 x 32. You can also visit www.chewonki.org and click on "Environmental Education" and then "Outreach."	



T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

Get 'em while you can! A limited supply of 90th anniversary T-shirts are still available. They're 100 percent heavyweight cotton, preshrunk, and come in Adult S through XXL (in sage or yellow) and Youth S through L (in yellow only). The cost is \$12.00 per T-shirt plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. To order, e-mail Lauralyn Lenzycki at lauralyn@chewonki.org, or call her at 207-882-7323.

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR CHEWONKI”

It couldn't have been a nicer day! On Saturday, July 23, more than 200 people gathered to celebrate Chewonki's 90th birthday and enjoy a quintessential summer afternoon and evening on the Neck. Almost everyone commented on how beautiful the day was—the first in more than a week when it was *not* boiling hot. Under a bright blue sky softened by high cumulus clouds, families and friends of all ages met on the Quad to register and attach the requisite nametag, exchange greetings, and join in the activities.

People swam, sailed, canoed, and kayaked. They walked to the Point and the Farm, visited cabins that used to be “home,” played cards on the waterfront, and did rope climbs in the barn. They took advantage of organized walks and tours and displays and of decidedly unorganized games of tetherball and Frisbee. Several guests were content simply to sit in Adirondack chairs in the shade of the trees and admire the snapdragons and petunias. On an afternoon punctuated by warm hugs and hearty handshakes, there was ample time to revisit the familiar and discover the new, all the while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

An undisputed highlight of the day came at midafternoon in the Center for Environmental Education, when the new Chewonki Archival Timeline was unveiled. Against a backdrop of white bedsheets draped across the walls, Board President Josh Marvil and Don Hudson welcomed the crowd that filled the lobby and reflected on the many lives Chewonki has touched in its 90 years. They then ceded the floor to Dick Thomas, and when Dick gave the nod to pull “our very sophisticated veils,” the nearest guests did the job and revealed four beautiful oak cabinets. The timeline showcases photos and memorabilia and was given in loving memory of Carolyn and Joseph Scott (Camp Staff '35-'51) by their children, Amy, Fred (trustee, Camp '53-'56, Camp Staff '60-'63, '70-'72, '76-'79), and Joe (Camp '49-'54, Camp Staff '58-'62). Dozens more photos were displayed on tables beneath the cabinets, with post-its at the ready and a request for people to provide names and dates wherever possible.

When the big bell rang outside the Natural History Center at 5:00 P.M., it was time for hors d'oeuvres on the Quad and then dinner in the Wallace Center. Dessert brought the loud and joyful singing of “Happy Birthday, Dear Chewonki,” and in the clapping that followed 79-year-old Doug Allen—Clarence Allen's son—blew out the candles. Having come to Chewonki in 1926 when he was two months old, Doug represented the attendee with the longest association with Chewonki.

A rousing campfire concluded the day's events. When the songs and cabin skits and storytelling at last gave way to the farewell, people gathered their belongings and headed back to their cars in the starry night. A procession of flashlights flickered down the trail and converged in the parking lot. As people said their good-byes and their thanks, everyone agreed on two things: It had been a perfect day. And they looked forward to returning in 2015 to celebrate Chewonki's centennial.

90 YEARS OF CHEWONKI

More than 1,100 students have attended the Maine Coast Semester.

More than 14,000 campers and wilderness trippers have attended Camp Chewonki.

More than 100,000 students have spent a night at Chewonki in a residential EE program.

More than 400,000 students have had a Chewonki presentation in their classroom.

PHOTOS BY JAN PIERSON



New Catamaran Launches New Marine Programs!

Chewonki's newest vessel sailed into port on October 3—a 46-foot catamaran named *Grand Chat*. The boat is a gift from two generous donors who wish to see it used for educational purposes. Formerly used to run charters in the Bahamas, *Grand Chat* will soon provide a platform for Chewonki participants of all ages to enjoy nature-based adventures in the Gulf of Maine.

Experienced sailors Peter Arnold and Noah Tuttle, both of Chewonki's Renewable Energy Pathways staff, and four friends sailed the boat north from Chesapeake Bay. The trip took six days, and Peter and Noah pronounced the boat "fast and comfortable." She sleeps six passengers and two crew, is reasonably spacious, and—"unlike the rest of the Chewonki fleet," they note—has showers and flush toilets! The crew described their trip north as "magical," especially once they reached the Gulf of Maine.

Planning for Chewonki's first "blue water" sailing trips in the Gulf of Maine next summer is already underway. Watch for more information on our website (www.chewonki.org) and in the spring *Chronicle*.



485 Chewonki Neck Road, Wiscasset, Maine 04578-4822
(207) 882-7323 • Fax: (207) 882-4074 • email: info@chewonki.org • www.chewonki.org

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