



THE CHEWONKI FOUNDATION

FALL 2006

CHRONICLE

The Birth of Hydrogen in Maine

Hundreds of guests and dignitaries celebrated the formal unveiling of Chewonki's Renewable Hydrogen Project in an event that drew media attention from around the world

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INSIDE

President's Notes

Conservation practices have been a topic of discussion at Chewonki for as long as I can remember. When The Chewonki Foundation was officially organized in February 1962, the charter stipulated that the land being purchased from our founder, Clarence Allen, should be maintained forever as a nature preserve and a "school of the outdoors." The ornithologist and artist Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Allen began a long friendship in 1930. They set us on a course, along with many others in the conservation movement in North America and across the planet, that has focused attention on the plight of threatened wildlife, the loss of critical habitat (notably wetlands), and the need for clean air and water for all life on earth. Rachel Carson was a friend of Chewonki, and I recall Clarence Allen celebrating her ecological call-to-arms, *Silent Spring*, in a Sunday morning message to campers in 1963, just months after its publication.

When Maine Reach began ten years later, we asked all of our students to develop a statement of their personal environmental ethics. OPEC had captured the attention of the rest of the world with a dramatic reduction in the supply of oil, and just as suddenly we became aware of the finite nature of this natural resource. At Chewonki, Tim Ellis, who succeeded Clarence Allen, and Tom Bertocci, the first director of Maine Reach, searched for ways to reduce our dependence on fuel oil. We burned wood cut on Chewonki Neck to heat buildings, and we took every opportunity to better insulate our old structures against the winter cold. Ten years later, in 1983, a new staff gathered around Tim and planned what would become the most energy-efficient buildings on a school campus anywhere



in the northeastern United States. Vermont architect Don Metz helped us design the George R. Wallace Center and the Allen Center, both of which were years ahead of a national trend to create "green" buildings.

Energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources in all parts of the life of Chewonki have been our institutional mantra for a third of a century. Pathways to a Sustainable Future, our program for teaching and sharing the lessons of environmental education with far-flung audiences, cut its teeth on solid-waste management in 1993. A few years later, we shifted the focus to renewable energy, with a strong emphasis on global climate change. Our biodiesel initiative followed quickly, under the creative and watchful eye of Peter Arnold. When an ice storm threatened to darken our new Center for Environmental Education, we began to think about a source of emergency power that might keep critical systems for staff and animals energized—systems for water, heat, and light. The Chewonki Renewable Hydrogen Project that you can read about in this issue of the *Chronicle* was borne in those days, and Peter worked tirelessly to see it inaugurated on August 28, 2006.

We are currently working on aspects of water conservation and a second renewable hydrogen system that will help produce fuel for electric utility vehicles equipped with fuel cells. We look forward in a coming issue of the *Chronicle* to sharing what we have learned.

Every participant in a Chewonki program learns simple ways to have an impact on his or her use of energy and natural resources. Conservation remains the most effective tool in the kit, along with an abiding love and appreciation of the natural world. ■

W. DONALD HUDSON, JR.



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Online Photo Gallery a Smash Hit

The last time we checked, Chewonki's new online photo gallery had received 38,000 hits! Yes, that's thousand. "We are pleasantly amazed," exclaimed Camp Director Garth Altenburg, who advocated for the online gallery last fall when he came on board as Chewonki's fifth camp director. Indeed, the gallery has been hugely popular, and is now the most visited location on Chewonki's website.

A visit to the site will reveal more than 2,000 photos, now covering all of Chewonki's programs. What's more, you can do more than just *look* at the pictures: you can download them to your own computer and even order prints! The site is an online photo management and sharing application, and it's easy to use. Just visit www.chewonki.org and click on "Visit Our Photo Gallery" (under "Chewonki News & Events").

The site appeared this summer and was intended primarily for campers and their families. It proved to be so much fun that it quickly grew to embrace our other programs too. Although camp and wilderness trip photos still comprise most of the



An EE group tours the farm in September. This is one of more than 2,000 photos you can see on our website.

collection, there's a nice variety of other images too: of MCS, EE, the farm, and more. There's even a Chewonki Photo Calendar. The photos are organized thematically in "albums," which run the gamut from "The Incredible Ninja Pirate Adventures" to "Session II Cabin Photos," "Building the New Albemarle," and "First Snowfall."

The gallery has been a true team effort. Garth Altenburg suggested the idea, former "Technology Tzar" Brandon Stafford got it

up and running on the website, and Camp Intern Kate Fox administers it. Kate has also taken almost all of the camp photos on the site, with those from other programs taken by various staff and participants.

So if you're missing Chewonki, or you're still kicking yourself for having left your camera outside the night it rained on your wilderness trip, check out the new photo gallery. We think you'll agree that it's a terrific addition to our website.





CAROL LEON

Julie Isbill of the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails program joined Don Hudson and Dick Thomas to celebrate the opening of the Back River Trail.



the Back River Trail, and we are grateful to the many partners who came together to support what was once but a dream," he said.

Located on a 200-acre parcel formerly owned by the Maine Yankee Nuclear Atomic Station, the 3.7-mile footpath consists of two loops, large stretches of which follow the coastline. The Maine Conservation Corps cleared the trail last fall, and over the winter Chewonki participants and staff and other volunteers blazed and marked it. Additional support came from the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails program, Point East, and the Town of Wiscasset.

The project is the culmination of a multiyear effort by Chewonki to secure the property and make it available for public recreation and enjoyment. It has won the support of Senator Olympia Snowe and Congressman Tom Allen, who have both written letters recommending completion

of the project. Eventually the trail will extend another 8 or 9 miles, linking Chewonki Neck to the Town of Wiscasset. In so doing, it will protect a sizeable stretch of open land in one of Maine's most heavily populated areas and provide much-needed public access in a region where wild places are at a premium.

Work began on a second section of the trail this past summer, when Chewonki counselors, staff, and Osprey campers blazed a portion leading from Chewonki Neck east toward Town property. The trail building will continue throughout the winter.

The Back River Trail can be reached from Chewonki Neck or by following Route 144 to Ready Point Road. In 0.7 miles, bear left at Chewonki's Eaton Farm Preserve sign and proceed to the parking area. The trail is open to the public for non-motorized day use.

Chewonki Earns Vital New Support

Chewonki was immensely grateful to receive two generous new grants this year.

The Good Samaritan Foundation in Wilmington, Delaware, provided full tuition for nine Portland youngsters who otherwise could never have considered a Chewonki experience. Five of them attended camp, and another four—three girls and one boy—were wilderness trippers. "The Good Samaritan grant added a wonderful dynamic to our programs this summer," said Camp Director Garth Altenburg. "Each one of these campers brought many smiles to my face, partly because I was aware of the circumstances that allowed them to attend camp, but largely because they contributed so much spirit to our community."

Good Samaritan is a private foundation with a long history of supporting educational endeavors and institutions, including Chewonki. Previous gifts of support from the foundation have enabled many individuals to attend Camp Chewonki or the Maine Coast Semester.

In August, **The Quimby Family Foundation** of Portland, Maine, called to announce more good news. Chewonki's request for two years of funding for the development of additional girls' programs had been accepted, and we were to be honored at a special luncheon, hosted by Burt's Bees founder Roxanne Quimby, at Inn By The Sea in Cape Elizabeth. The Quimby grant

provides key support for the creation of a Girls' Program Director position at Chewonki.

"This is a very exciting moment in our history," said Don Hudson upon hearing of the gift. "Chewonki's board of trustees and staff have long dreamed of expanding our offerings for young women and girls. This position marks the official realization of that dream." A job description has been written, and the new position is scheduled to commence in November.

Scott Andrew's Fund Reaches Goal

We are delighted to announce the realization of the Scott Andrew's Challenge Grant. The endowed fund was created in 2003 to honor Scott Andrews' sixteen years as director of the Maine Coast Semester. Once the fund reached its first hurdle of \$250,000, the MCS family that provided a stunning lead gift matched every additional pledge dollar for dollar, until we met our ultimate goal of \$500,000. "The fulfillment of this challenge grant marks a great achievement for Chewonki and is a tribute to Scott's tremendous contribution to this place," said Lucy Hull, Director of Development for Chewonki. There are many wonderful stories behind the fulfillment of this goal, including the departing class of MCS students who announced they had achieved 100 percent participation in giving to the fund, and asked other MCS classes to do the same. Every gift honored Scott, and the fund now supports MCS faculty members who have made teaching their life's work.

Thank You, Gordy Hall

It was a perfect moment: an August afternoon of glorious sun and warmth at Big Eddy, the river lapping softly at the shore, and the bugs in abeyance. For the first time ever, the Chewonki trustees held their summer board meeting at Big Eddy Campground, and included in their agenda was a celebration of one of the people who helped Chewonki purchase the site: former camper (1951–1953), former chairman of the board, and longtime trustee Gordon Hall.

Flanked by his family and Chewonki President Don Hudson, Gordy stood beside the famous salmon pool on the West Branch of the Penobscot River and smiled warmly at the recognition. Mounted on a big rock by the riverside is a bronze plaque that says it all:



ED BARKER

Gordy Hall, third from right, with his family at Big Eddy Campground in August.

IN APPRECIATION OF
GORDON HALL,
WHOSE GENEROSITY MADE POSSIBLE
THE ACQUISITION OF THIS SITE FOR THE CHEWONKI FOUNDATION

“It is my hope that everyone will learn from this river and the wilderness beyond it, be an active participant in its stewardship, and delight in its beauty forever.”

First *Grand Chat* Eco-Sailing Program a Grand Success

It was a winning combination: Chewonki’s first Gulf of Maine sailing expedition on the recently acquired *Grand Chat* offered a small group of “citizen scientists” the opportunity to participate in important monitoring work, fast sailing, and the best of Maine’s culinary harvest when the anchor was down! The expedition was broken into seven legs and began on July 5 at DiMillo’s Marina in Portland Harbor. It ended almost six weeks later, on August 13, in Passamaquoddy Bay. Participants could sign on for one leg or all seven.

Renewable Energy Pathways Coordinator Peter Arnold, who designed the trip, was

onboard for two of the legs and described the experience as “pretty spectacular.” he said “the boat is a gem, and the stops along the way for scientific exploration brought meaning to the adventure.” A guest scientist accompanied each leg and guided participants in monitoring such critical issues as red tide, spread of invasive species, island use, condition of bottom communities, and wildlife populations. In between, there was plenty of time for splendid sailing as well as fishing, swimming, birding, stargazing, and just marveling at the sunsets.

The *Grand Chat* is a 46-by-24-foot catamaran capable of carrying six guests and two crew. It is outfitted to be as energy

efficient as possible (a state-of-the-art photovoltaic system mounted on the stern provides all onboard electricity, for example) and to serve as a model for promoting sustainable ecotourism. “The *Grand Chat* is another pathway to a sustainable future,” says Peter. “Maine is moving in the direction of inviting more tourism to the state but worries about its impact on quality of life. This boat offers a different kind of trip potential, one focused on principals of sustainability.”

Next summer Chewonki will offer a co-ed wilderness program on the *Grand Chat* for 15- to 18-years olds. Stay tuned!

The Birth of Hydrogen in Maine

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The early morning of August 28 began like many a late-summer day: cool, a little foggy, and slightly damp from the evening's rain. Yet this was not shaping up to be a typical Chewonki day. After all, the governor, Congressman Mike Michaud, representatives from Senator Olympia Snowe, Senator Susan Collins, and Congressman Tom Allen's offices, and nearly two hundred VIPs from around Maine and New England were all winding their way toward the Chewonki campus.

This was the long-awaited unveiling of Chewonki's Renewable Hydrogen Project, a three-year collaboration between The Chewonki Foundation, the Hydrogen Energy Center, the Maine Energy Investment Corporation, and a host of engineers, contractors, and manufacturers from around New England. The Chewonki staff had been asked to don "professional attire" for the occasion. Peter Arnold wore his windmill tie, Chapin Hall was adorned with fresh flowers, and the kitchen prepared a delectable spread.

By 9 A.M., Chapin Hall was a noisy swarm of suits, TV cameras, photographers, and well-wishers, all scrambling to find their camera angles, their interview subjects, and their seats. But at 11 A.M. when Don Hudson took the stage and stepped to the podium, the room fell silent—a stunning and thrilling hush in which everyone poised themselves for something big.

Don opened his speech with a simple passage about Roger Tory Peterson: a man who came to Chewonki in the 1930s "with an idea." A man who eventually changed the world with his book *A Field Guide to the Birds*, which inspired generations of people to become naturalists and environmentalists. In five short but captivating moments, Don set the stage for what will surely go down as one of the biggest events in all of Chewonki's history.

Governor John Baldacci delivered the keynote address, using the opportunity to advance his administration's common themes of sustainability and job creation. Baldacci celebrated the Hydrogen Project as vital work in sustaining a healthy planet, curbing our nation's dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting people's health. Hydrogen represents a "huge growth industry," he told the packed audience, proudly declaring that this partnership puts Maine on the leading edge of hydrogen business development.

There was yet another landmark for this auspicious day. In addition to unveiling the nation's first publicly accessible direct high-pressure hydrogen energy system and the first complete hydrogen energy system in Maine, Governor Baldacci signed an executive order at Chewonki establishing the Maine Hydrogen Energy and Fuel Cell Partnership. The partnership will comprise thirteen members from

the University of Maine, the Hydrogen Energy Center, The Chewonki Foundation, and the Maine business community and will work to accelerate development of renewable hydrogen technology in Maine and beyond.

By the time the sun rose the following day, news of our unveiling had traveled across the globe. It was far and away the biggest news day ever for a Chewonki event, and it brought an international spotlight on the efforts of Chewonki's Pathways to a Sustainable Future Program and the enlightened work of Pathways Coordinator Peter Arnold.

In the days that followed, the story appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *CBS News*, *Fox News*, the *Las Vegas Sun*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Albuquerque Journal*, the *Cape Cod Times*, the *Iran Daily*, and the *Taiwan News*. Hundreds, if not thousands, of other newspapers, TV and radio stations, and online news services distributed the story around the world.

The key to the media success was the attendance of one Jerry Harkavy. His business card reads simply "Newsman." But the operation for which he writes, the Associated Press, is the largest and oldest news organization on the planet. When Chewonki called Mr. Harkavy the following day to inquire about his story and to gauge just how many newspapers ran it, his response was to chuckle: "There's no way to know."

"None of us ever imagined that Chewonki's Renewable Hydrogen Project—a three-year collaboration of a fairly small number of committed and passionate individuals—would become headline news across the nation," said Don Hudson. "However, it's no surprise that the country and the world are looking for solutions to our growing energy crisis, and that people everywhere are thinking seriously about how to minimize human impact on the earth."

Peter Arnold, equally amused by the news blitz, reports that the hydrogen team has also pondered why the unveiling captured the attention of newspaper editors around the world. "We decided that it's about having hope for a brighter future, and having a reason to believe that the world can be a better place." ■

BETTA STOTHART

Governor Baldacci's Message about Sustainability

AN EXCERPT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Some of Maine's biggest economic assets are the vast renewable energy resources we have right here at home. Tapping these resources creates jobs and supports the Maine economy. And developing our renewable resources reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Creating hydrogen energy from Maine's renewable resources provides additional benefits because the hydrogen created can be used in fuel cells and replace fossil fuels used in the transportation, industrial, and other



Governor Baldacci signs the executive order in the company of Chewonki's staff and trustees.

sectors....This installation at The Chewonki Foundation will give Maine people and those out of state a place to learn about hydrogen energy and its role in ours and the nation's energy future. This project lays the groundwork for future hydrogen installations by helping educate communities and others about the benefits of hydrogen energy systems. Many experts point to clean hydrogen energy systems as the energy end game, but projects like this are needed to get us there.

What the System Does and Does Not Do

AN EXCERPT FROM DON HUDSON'S SPEECH

Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Allen set us on the path of teaching and learning and environmental awareness that brings us here today—to celebrate a wonderful and productive partnership with the Hydrogen Energy Center and a host of specialists and colleagues who have helped to create the renewable hydrogen system on display today.

This system is remarkable not only for what it does, but for what it does not do. When we use renewable hydrogen in a building or a vehicle in this type of system, we do not create carbon dioxide, we do not create nitrogen dioxide or sulfur dioxide or particulate matter. There are no benzene compounds, no carbon tetrachloride, and none of the other 180 or so chemicals that are produced when we burn fuel oil, diesel, or gasoline. By making and using renewable hydrogen in this way, we do not introduce these chemicals to our streams and lakes or to the sea to cause fish kills and algae blooms, and we do not introduce these chemicals to our lungs and our bodies to cause asthma, cancer, or birth defects.

These are good things not to do, but there's more. This energy system sends no money overseas, places no reliance on foreign energy sources, and requires no diplomatic or military initiatives to support it.



Don Hudson with Sarah Emily and

What Maine's Leaders Have to Say

This project is an inspiring example of what can be accomplished when government, nonprofits, and the private sector partner together. Chewonki's efforts will serve as a model for hydrogen energy infrastructure as well as for public-private collaborations that can develop new energy technologies to move Maine and the country forward.
—CONGRESSMAN
TOM ALLEN

I am a strong supporter of increasing fuel efficiency standards, alternative fuel use, and renewable energy in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, lower energy prices, and protect the environment. Projects like the Chewonki Renewable Hydrogen Project will help us in reaching these goals.
—SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

I cannot tell you how excited and pleased I am about the event you are celebrating today. This three-year collaborative effort will allow Maine to export its technical knowledge and expertise, and I could not be prouder of what has been developed right here in our state....The volunteers who... put this project together reflect the entrepreneurship not only of our great State of Maine but the entire nation as well—a can-do attitude that will be passed on....Everyone will benefit from this new technology and its educational opportunities.... I thank you for your dedication to a more secure and prosperous energy future for all of us.
—SENATOR
OLYMPIA SNOWE

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Recognizing Peter Arnold

One of the most heartfelt moments at the hydrogen unveiling came when Rick Smith, president of the Hydrogen Energy Center, presented Peter Arnold with a handsome engraved plaque:

Peter Arnold

*Your Quiet Diplomacy and Passion for Teaching the World to Thrive
Sustainably Brought the Chewonki Renewable Hydrogen Project
from Dream to Inspired Reality.*

*From your Grateful Colleagues and Friends at the
Hydrogen Energy Center
August 28, 2006*

It was a much-deserved moment in the spotlight for Peter, who is well known for continually sparking new and innovative projects on the Chewonki campus. As Don Hudson said recently, "Whatever Peter does is contagious. He fans the flames around here, inviting all of us to come up with more ideas."



Two great teachers, two great courses

Visit an English class at the Maine Coast Semester, and within minutes you will almost certainly conclude one thing: this is *not* your typical high school English class. Whether it is Literature and the Land with Amy Rogers or Ethics with Paul Arthur, you will likely sense yourself in unfamiliar territory. And it won't just be because several of the students are wearing slippers, or that one of them has eaten two hard-boiled eggs and is now noshing on a leftover breakfast biscuit.

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What will really grab your attention is how engaged these kids are, how adept Amy and Paul are at cultivating student-led discussions, and how intellectually exciting and rigorous the class is. Whatever the topic of the moment—be it Wendell Berry's essay "The Ecological Crisis as a Crisis of Character" or a debate on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide—these young people are sticking out their necks, telling their classmates what they do and don't understand, asking questions, reading aloud, critiquing one another's writing, asking more questions. You will find here curiosity, kindness, humor, and a willingness to listen to and learn from others. In short, you will find English as taught by Amy Rogers and Paul Arthur.

English has always been at the core of the MCS curriculum, being one of two required courses (the other is the science course, *The Natural History of the Maine Coast*). Until last year, all students took *A Sense of Place: Literature and the Land*, which Amy designed specifically for MCS and has taught since the program's inception in 1988. In 1999, when Paul joined the faculty, he too began to teach the class, as well as one on environmental issues. Last fall, partly in an effort to introduce more choice into the curriculum, an exciting change was made: students can now fulfill their English requirement with another option, Paul's *Ethics: Understanding and Choice*. Another reason for the change, "and not an insignificant one," says MCS Director Willard Morgan, was "to unleash Paul's boundless energy for ethics and philosophy." Paul has a Ph.D. in philosophy, and his extensive background and academic training in the area are unusual for a teacher at the secondary level. "A teacher who can teach his or her passion, as Paul does in *Ethics* and as Amy does in *Literature and the Land*, lights up the classroom," observes Willard.

The ethics course is now in its third semester, and Willard is delighted with it. "It fits MCS perfectly," he says, "because it requires students to confront how to make thoughtful and deliberate decisions, which is an integral part of our program. So just like *Literature and the Land*, *Ethics* flows from our mission and core values, which is a key point to understand about our curriculum."

Whichever course students choose, the format and expectations are similar. Both Amy and Paul teach in a seminar style, skillfully guiding their classes to be student, rather than teacher, centered. They approach



A Sense of Place: Literature and the Land AMY ROGERS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an opportunity to read and then reflect, speak, and write on a variety of topics: What is nature? How does one draw the line between what is "natural" and what is "not natural"? Where do people fit into the natural world—and what are our rights and responsibilities? What part does an individual's or community's sense of place play in shaping an ethic with regard to the land? How have cultural, historical, and religious traditions shaped American views of the American land, and how should these attitudes change in the search for "right relationship" with the natural world? We will also consider the role of "environmental literature": why writers write about nature, and to what degree this writing molds our perceptions. Finally, we will reflect on more personal and immediate topics: What is my personal story; what is happening here at MCS; and how does my personal experience relate to larger issues?

READINGS

We will read from a broad range of fiction, essays, and poetry, with nineteenth- and twentieth-century

American writings comprising the lion's share of the literature. Major texts will be selected from the following: Jane Brox, *Here and Nowhere Else*; Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*; William Faulkner, *The Bear*; Bill Roorbach, *Temple Stream*; and Henry David Thoreau, "Walking."

We will also read selected essays and poems by such writers as Edward Abbey, Wendell Berry, Robert Frost, Jane Kenyon, Aldo Leopold, Pablo Neruda, Mary Oliver, Michael Pollan, Scott Russell Sanders, Gary Snyder, Wallace Stegner, Terry Tempest Williams, and William Carlos Williams.

WRITING

Our reading is a springboard for writing, which in this course will point you in two directions. On the one hand, you will keep a journal, which is a gateway to self-expression; on the other, you will write more formal papers, often a blend of personal essay and literary analysis, which are signposts toward the refinement of ideas. Both should be approached actively and imaginatively. Your writing assignments will often give you an opportunity to respond directly, or indirectly, to your MCS experience. Usually, we provide time in class to give and receive responses to rough drafts while working on a paper. Thinking critically about and giving feedback on your colleagues' writing not only helps them, but also sharpens your ability to strengthen and improve your own writing.

reading assignments through full-class discussions as well as small group work, and students frequently read their work aloud. Wherever possible, the teachers connect their classes to events unfolding both on and off Chewonki Neck.

Another hallmark of the classes is the MCS English journal. Amy describes this as “an invitation to react, observe, describe, remember, ruminate, and experiment.” She and Paul tell their students they hope the journal will be a kind of “catch all” for their MCS experience. “Although writing will be one important component of your journal,” they say, “we invite and encourage you to sketch, paint, clip-and-paste, photograph, etc., as well. We imagine that the contents will vary widely from person to person, both in terms of form and content, but we hope it will provide a rich and satisfying way to shape and reflect on your time at MCS.” The journals are not graded, but evidence of genuine effort and commitment is expected.

For the students, this all adds up to a decidedly unconventional way to teach English—and they love it. A student from MCS 32 said of Amy’s class: “At first it seemed less structured than my English class at home, but then I realized that it wasn’t at all. I learned so much from the other students as well as from Amy. There was so much more sharing of ideas [at MCS], and our conversations always continued outside class. It was a much more intellectual experience.” From MCS 34 came this succinct evaluation of Paul’s ethics class: “AMAZING! It really helped me understand how to reason when facing problems.”

When Amy and Paul talk about English at MCS, there is no missing their enthusiasm either. Amy is just back from a much-deserved year’s sabbatical and reports that it feels “really great” to be back in the classroom. “In some ways it’s all tremendously familiar,” she says, “but in other ways I feel so refreshed and energized.” She is excited about introducing a few new books this year but also looks forward to her “tried and true favorites,” saying she never tires of teaching them. “The kids always find a way to surprise me, often in multiple ways.” She is also excited about Paul’s new course—which about a third of the students have opted for this semester—and delighted by the “cross-fertilization” it offers both students and faculty.

Paul too is newly energized, having found his ethics course “so intellectually exciting that it has enlivened all my teaching.” For now he is content to let Amy teach Literature and the Land while he teaches Ethics as well as Environmental Issues. This spring he will also be a Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Colby College in Waterville, teaching a course called Special Topics: War & Morality. While he admits that he misses teaching Literature and the Land, he says “it’s also a treat to have time to explore new things.”

MCS students are indeed lucky in their choice of English classes. Two great teachers. Two great courses. ■

Ethics: Understanding and Choice PAUL ARTHUR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We often hear in the news, or are confronted with ourselves, situations in which we scratch our heads about what is the right thing to do, or whether someone should be blamed, punished, or praised for doing (or not doing) something. This course will give you some tools with which to approach difficult choices. After a brief foray through three traditional ethical theories, we’ll take a careful look at some of the most challenging contemporary topics in today’s society. Through examination of issues such as capital punishment, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, reproductive technologies, genetic engineering, human uses of animals, and other moral questions, we will develop ways of talking and thinking about difficult moral choices. These issues are of interest in their own right, but they will also help us learn how to recognize and approach important choices in our own daily lives.

READINGS

Our primary texts will be Peter Singer, *Writings on an Ethical Life*; Hugh LaFollette, ed., *Ethics in Practice*; Jeffrey Olen and Vincent Barry, eds., *Applying Ethics*; Peter Singer and Renata Singer, eds., *The Moral of the Story: An Anthology of Ethics through Literature*; and Christopher Wellman and R. G. Frey, eds., *A Companion to Applied Ethics*.

Supplementary readings will be drawn from a variety of primary sources in the history of ethics (e.g., John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant, Aristotle, John Rawls) as well as contemporary practice (Holmes Rolston, Garrett Hardin, Alison Jaggar, Sarah Lucia Hoagland, Jonathan Glover, James Rachels, Mary Ann Warren, Michael Pollan, and others). We will also draw from current media (notably *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New Yorker*) and philosophical journals.

WRITING

You will write short (1 page or less) papers or responses once or twice a week, two papers 3 to 4 pages in length, and at least 3 pages per week in your journal. You will also take part in two formal debates and do a final activity, perhaps in the form of a project, debate, or presentation.



MAINE ISLAND CAMP

Our first program designed to take advantage of Chewonki's much-anticipated acquisition of four Maine islands this year became reality. On August 1, just one day after Don Hudson signed the purchase papers for Hungry and Black islands in Muscongus Bay and Russ and Campbell islands off Deer Isle, trippers were in their kayaks and island bound. "We didn't waste a minute," said Wilderness Programs Director Greg Shute, who worked with Camp Director Garth Altenburg to plan the new program. The destination was Hungry Island, situated at the mouth of the Medomak River in Muscongus Bay; and the program was Maine Island Camp, a combination wilderness trip and service-learning project.

The campers and two leaders spent two glorious weeks on the 140-acre uninhabited island. In addition to honing their paddling and camping skills, exploring the area's natural history, and reveling in the simple joys of island life, they also built trails, cleared a campsite, and cleaned out and revived an old freshwater spring. "Maine Island Camp presents a unique opportunity to learn new skills, have fun, and make a valuable contribution to one of Chewonki's new islands while also helping to shape its future use. We're excited about building on the program's very successful first year," said Garth.

The program proved so successful, in fact, that there will be two sessions in 2007: June 26 to July 5 and again from July 22 to 31. The program is co-ed and open to ages 14 through 17.

Reflections on Maine Island Camp

Before bright red sea kayaks and VHF weather radios, before plastic paddles and PFDs, before green timberline tents and down sleeping bags, before even the notion of "service learning trips" or "coastal conservation" came along, the Millers and the Simmonses inhabited Hungry Island. Theirs were the hands that as early as 1790 built the stone walls that criss-cross the island like hidden treasures, theirs the hands that raised the barn now

fallen into its foundation, that cleared the meadow now alive with milkweed and monarchs, that planted the apple trees and tilled this land and fished these waters.

Hungry once sustained two homesteads, comprising a community of nineteen people at its largest. Seventeen babies were born here and four souls buried. Sitting in the meadow watching the

Off to a Great Start



moon rise above the spruces on a starlit night, I can't help but think about the mothers collecting water, the fathers rising early to go fishing, the children climbing trees, the many eyes watching this same moon from this same meadow and wondering at the size of the universe.

In *Among the Isles of Shoals*, published in 1873, author Celia Thaxter wrote of living on an island:

*The eternal sound of the sea on every side has a tendency to wear away the edge of human thought and perception; sharp outlines become blurred and softened like a sketch in charcoal; nothing appeals to the mind with the same distinctness as on the mainland, amid the rush and stir of people and things and the excitements of social life.....
People forget the hurry and worry and fret of life after living [on an island] awhile, and, to an imaginative mind, all things become dreamy.*

To the farmers and fisherman who lived here, life was undoubtedly not always dreamy. As we struggle through thickets of young spruce to break trail, as we haul rocks and carry our wash water up from the sea, as our muscles become tanned and taught from the chores, we get a taste of the scratches and bumps, of the constancy of work to be done in a place where nature reigns. We get a taste, too, of the satisfaction of a hard day's work, of a deep breath of a dreamy sea breeze after a meal with friends.

Early one evening a sparrow calls through the woods, the last of the dusky light filters through the trees, raccoon eyes flicker in the glare of our light, and then, quiet. With cocked heads, a gesture surely mirroring that of the Millers or Simmonses in a time passed, we raise our ears to a slow rumble in the east. Thunder? A moment passes, another rumble, and we shake our heads yes. As the lightning and thunder pass over, we huddle in our tents, and this imaginative mind dreams of countless storms sat through, of wives waiting on husbands' returns from the sea, of the endless line of thunderheads starting well before the Millers and continuing on long after we are gone. Who will sit in this place in another hundred years, hearing these sounds, wondering about us as we wonder about them? Well over a century ago Walt Whitman wrote:

**To one a century hence, or any number of centuries hence,
To you, yet unborn, these, seeking you.
When you read these, I, that was visible, am become invisible;
Now it is you, compact, visible, realizing my poems, seeking me;
Fancying how happy you were, if I could be with you, and
become your comrade;
Be it as if I were with you. (Be not too certain but I am now
with you.)**

Indeed, in quiet moments before storms or on moonlit evenings as we read the poetry of the stone walls or apple trees, we are not certain that the Millers and Simmonses are not with us. Whitman also wrote:

**And that my soul embraces you this hour, and we affect each
other without ever seeing
each other, and never perhaps to see each other, is every bit as
wonderful.**

And this is how we feel about our Hungry ancestors, affecting us now as the vision of children or other people to come must have affected them. It is this same vision of the future that has made us committed to our work on Hungry, this same vision that makes the "greater us" that is Chewonki committed to conserving this place.

Meet now the present Hungry homesteaders. They come from New York City, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Connecticut, and even Liberia. They come as musicians and artists, storytellers and comedians, scholars and chefs, athletes and bookworms, experienced campers and novices. Within days they are transformed into sawyers and lumberjacks. Within a week they are also sanitation workers and farmers. They learn to carry heavy loads on their heads, and their vocabularies grow to include words like *loppers* and *dromedary bags*. They learn their spruce from their fur because spruce scratches worse. They learn to live without Band-aids, because that's what you do when you run out of something on an island. Their ears become attuned to the low growl of thunder and the sneaky scratching of raccoons in the makeshift kitchen. They are girls and boys who seek, in their own words, "to make new friends, have fun, and give something back."

Afternoons, we assemble and make our daily pilgrimage to the southern rocks to swim and rest before dinner. Here the island is exposed to the open sea. First a few island silhouettes in the distance, then just blue. Each of us is lost in our own daydream. An Osprey circles overhead, a flooding tide rises and wets our toes. How many days we have been or will be here ceases to have meaning, so we do our work, eat our meals, play music and games, and fall in love each and every day with this lovely place. At the end of the day, we are satisfied with our work, the shape of which is a clear path through a thick wood. We are participants in a tradition of living and working that is simple and necessary. But even when we are tired and hungry, the magic of the place does not cease to move us. Even as our muscles grow tighter with work, we are softened by sunsets and sea breezes, and warmed by ghosts of the past and company of the present. After us will come countless more Chewonki groups to keep company with the Millers, the Simmonses, and the monarchs. Perhaps one day you will have the chance to *forget the hurry and worry and fret of life* as we have by living just a little while on Hungry. May the lines of time blur here for you too *and all things become dreamy*. ■

KATIE TREMBLAY

Katie Tremblay is program director for environmental education at Chewonki. She and EE teacher Jason Avis led the first Maine Island Camp.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Who's your farmer?



Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA, farms are cropping up all over the country as a mutually beneficial partnership between farmers and community members. Here in Maine, we have about eighty such farms now. As a participant in a CSA, you pay a flat fee at the beginning of the growing season and in return you receive a weekly “share” of the harvest. Along the way, you are a partner with the farmer in both the risks and the bounty of the growing season. This system keeps people connected to where their food is coming from, what is in season, who is growing it, and how it is being grown. The concept originated in Japan nearly forty years ago and has gradually spread throughout Europe and North America.

This year seven Chewonki staff members participated in the first Chewonki Supported Agriculture program. The CSA ran for fifteen weeks, beginning in mid-June with the season's first greens and ending with storage crops and pumpkins in mid-September. Every Monday the farm crew harvested and divided up the available vegetables, making an effort to provide a wide variety over the course of the summer. A short newsletter accompanied the weekly share, to help identify the produce in each delivery, suggest recipes, and tell members a bit about what was going on at the farm that week. For a separate fee, CSA members could also get fresh eggs and milk at their weekly pick-up—two items the farm offers for sale to the entire Chewonki community year-round.

CSA member Rebecca Graham, who works in the Development Office, said “It was like Christmas every Monday!” Other members reported happily bypassing the produce aisle at the grocery store and enjoying the challenge of using what was given to them, even if it was new and unfamiliar. What to do with bulb fennel or all that kale, for instance? Make “Marinated Fennel and Mushrooms” or “Kale Crunch,” of course!

Farm manager Brad Johnson was also enthusiastic about the new venture. “The CSA gives nonresidential staff increased access to farm produce and allows us to experiment with a wider variety of crops in smaller quantities than would be useful to the kitchen.”

Chewonki plans to offer the CSA again next summer and hopes to increase the share numbers. Because the farm crew needs to make sure they balance their responsibilities to the kitchen and to the farm's educational mission, the CSA will remain relatively small. Nonetheless, this past summer's experience proved to have tremendous benefits: helping keep our community connected to the farm, helping provide economic stability for the farm, *and* giving CSA members affordable access to locally grown, organic, and seasonally fresh food. Everybody wins! ■

MARGARET YOUNGS

Margaret is Chewonki's assistant farm manager. Prior to working here, she helped start a twenty-five-member CSA in Gouldsboro, Maine.

“We have trained ourselves to plan meals around any food from anywhere in the world at any time of the year. Eating locally means that we need also to become reconnected with the seasons, to think about meals...organizing them around seasonal delicacies.”

—Jane Goodall, *Harvest for Hope*

Interested in learning more about CSAs? An excellent starting point is *Sharing the Harvest: A Guide to Community Supported Agriculture* by Elizabeth Henderson (Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vt., 1999).

Also visit www.localharvest.org, where you can search for CSA farms and markets anywhere in the country by zip code or state.



Jock Montgomery, Photographer

Chewonki is an enduring subject and a second family.

But for our peripatetic staff photographer, home is Thailand.

There's no guessing, at least here on Chewonki Neck, where Jock Montgomery might be on any given day. Trekking in Nepal? Mountain biking in Bhutan? Maybe he's kayaking in East Greenland or watching wildlife in the Galapagos.

Of course, it's just as likely he's skimming across Loch Lomond or bouncing through the streets of Calcutta in a rickshaw. There is even the very slightest chance—especially if it is July or August—that he is on Chewonki Neck. After all, the words "Jock Montgomery, Photographer" do appear in the staff list on the inside page of every Chronicle!

Betta Stothart Connor, director of community relations and the person who oversees Chewonki's publications, breaks into a broad smile when asked about Jock's position on the staff. "It is unusual," she says with a good-natured laugh. "Jock lives in Bangkok and works all over the world. But every summer he spends a week at Chewonki, photographing everything and everybody he possibly can. He's definitely a treasured asset in helping us tell our story."

So why does Chewonki use a commercial photographer in *Bangkok*? And why does a commercial photographer in Bangkok, whose clients include such corporate giants as Eddie Bauer, Patagonia, Coca Cola, Marriott Hotels, Kodak, and Time, spend a week *here* every year? The short answer to both those questions is this: In 1969, when he was eleven years old, a skinny little boy named Jock Montgomery spent eight weeks at Camp Chewonki, and the man he grew into has never let go of the place. "This is really my second family," Jock said when he was on campus this past July. "At least a few times a year, someone says to me 'What is with this Chewonki place?' I tell them it's a place I have an amazing connection with. Sometimes I get very emotional about it."

Although the man himself is a rarity on campus, his images are not. The vast majority of the color photos that have appeared in every Chewonki brochure and poster for at least the past decade have been Jock's, and we regularly convert his photos to black-and-white for the *Chronicle*. We also use them



on our website. "I don't think a week goes by when someone on the staff doesn't go in search of a Jock photo for one use or another," says Betta.

Jock grew up in Longmeadow, Massachusetts (where, amazingly, his next-door neighbor was also a future Chewonki staff member, MCS English teacher Amy Rogers), and vacationed in Tenants Harbor. He spent nine summers at Chewonki five as a camper and four as a counselor, and in 1977–1978 he attended Maine Reach. "Maine Reach was really big for me," he recalled in July. "I was struggling. I was the quiet, skinny kid. Instead of looking somewhere else for definition, I learned at Maine Reach to look inward and to have confidence. Chewonki gave me this 'Go for it' ethos." Jock cited one especially memorable incident that typified the kind of impact Chewonki had on him. "Tim Ellis called me into his office one day and asked me to head up a kayaking program. 'Who will supervise me?' I asked him. 'You will,' Tim replied." The same shock of surprise that must

Jock is currently organizing cultural, adventure, and photo tours to the Andes, the Galapagos, Mongolia, and Burma. You can contact him at jock@jockmontgomery.com. If you are a member or friend of the Chewonki community and sign up for a trip, Jock has generously offered to donate a percentage of your tour fee to The Chewonki Foundation, as his way of supporting our mission and programs.

have appeared on Jock's face that long-ago day flashed by again as he related the story. "This is where I learned to be confident in the role of being a leader," he said.

The leadership and wilderness skills Jock acquired at Chewonki have served him well. In 1983, when he graduated from U Mass and discovered there was virtually no work for someone with a degree in geography and cartography except in the defense industry, he moved to Kathmandu to guide trekking, river rafting, kayaking, and mountain biking trips throughout Asia. It was the beginning of a long career working outdoors in some of the most beautiful places in the world, first as a professional guide and expedition leader and later as a photographer. For several years he spent nine months of the year in Asia and three in the States, where he guided river trips in the Grand Canyon and Idaho—and usually managed a trip to Chewonki, staying anywhere from a few weeks to a few months and working in exchange for room and board.

In 1986, in search of something "more fulfilling in the long run than simply traveling," Jock took up photography. For the better part of a year he traveled alone through India, Tibet, and Southeast Asia with a backpack full of film and cameras, teaching himself a new profession. "Taking pictures was the easy part," he'll tell you. "Marketing them was another story. Everybody would ask 'Where have you been published?' And of course I hadn't been published anywhere." It was a hot summer day as Jock related this, and he was sitting in an Adirondack chair with a camera draped around his neck. In his Tevas, Patagonia shorts and shirt, and baseball cap, he looked every bit the adventure photographer he had become; there must have been some breaks along the way. There were, he said, first with a few adventure travel companies and publications, and later through his Chewonki connections.

By 1991, Jock's career as an Asia-based photographer specializing in cultures and adventure travel and sports was on solid ground. He was still eager to find new clients, however. In the fall of that year, when Tim and Margaret Ellis retired from Chewonki and embarked on a six-month journey through Asia, Tim hiked in the Himalayas with Jock and stayed with him in Kathmandu. Impressed with the exquisite work he saw, Tim hired Jock to provide photographs for Chewonki's publications. Later, Tim and Margaret traveled with Jock to Thailand, where they

met former camper (1955) and staff member (1960–1970) Tri Devakul, an architect and businessman with a strong environmental ethic. Tri was interested in producing a book about the Chao Phraya River, Thailand's major waterway, and he hired Jock as the photographer. The result was *Menam Chao Phraya, River of Life and Legend*, published in Bangkok in 1994 and showcasing more than 250 of Jock's photos. By then, Jock had fallen in love with the book's designer, Annie Miniscloux (who is French), and moved to Thailand. They were later married on the rim of the Kathmandu valley, among the foothills of the Himalayas.

From his home in Bangkok, Jock now spends about six months of the year traveling as a photographer. He also continues to guide a few private tours each year. Most frequently he's in Thailand, Burma, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Laos, or Vietnam—places he refers to as "my own backyard" and where he is often accompanied by Annie—but his work can really take him almost anywhere. Greenland, Mongolia, and the Grand Canyon are other examples. His annual visit to Chewonki is part of a larger trip to see family and friends in the States. Asked to name a favorite destination, he says it would probably have to be the Himalayas. He has led more than seventy trips in the region and loves it "as much for the culture as the landscape." But Chewonki, too, remains an enduring and much-loved subject. "This place was life changing for me," he says. "I know both the terrain and the people here so well, and I love to photograph them."

Wherever he is, Jock aims to capture images that emphasize people in the landscape and a sense of place. "Photography is a way to tell stories," he says, "and I derive immense satisfaction from engaging with a subject intimately and forging a compelling narrative."

Don Hudson, who led eleven-year-old Jock on his first canoe trip, always looks forward to his annual trip to Chewonki. "Words of praise for our publications come in all the time, and nine times out of ten the complements make reference to the images as well as the stories," Don said recently. "When Jock takes over a corner of my office every summer, as a staging area for his work, I can relax. Another year of stunning photography is in process!"

For all of us at Chewonki, it is a distinct pleasure and honor to count Jock as a colleague and friend. ■

ELIZABETH PIERSON

www.jockmontgomery.com

To fully appreciate the beauty of Jock's work, visit his website, where he has fifty-plus color photographs—including some of Chewonki participants—on display in three categories: Lives, Travels, and Adventures. What you'll find here is just a tiny sample of his files, which contain more than eighty thousand photographs.





Editor's Note: Everyone at camp knows Ginny Freeman, our longtime camp registrar. She's the friendly and familiar voice you hear when you call with camp-related questions and the capable person who manages the camp database. Last May, shortly after ice out, Ginny took her first Chewonki wilderness trip: six days down the St. John River, the longest free-flowing river in the Northeast. "After fifteen years of working at Chewonki," she said recently, "I decided it was time to see how the pros do it." Would she do it again? "Yes! And this time I'd be ready for the rapids." She was reminded of an Oliver Wendell Holmes quote, she said: "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

THE LAST L

W

Visions of dark jagged rocks loomed in my mind. I could almost feel the cold water rising in the canoe, pulling me out into the raging current. My body was cold, then hot, in waves of panic and dread. But I wasn't actually *on* the river—just lying in my tent, terrorized by the thought of running Big Black Rapid.

It was mid-May, and it had been raining almost the entire trip. It would be six days and 103 miles from our put-in at Baker Lake to our take-out near Allagash Village. The St. John was growing increasingly fast, and we had already hung up on some lurking "pillows" and tight negotiations. Our guides said anything that didn't swamp or flip the canoe counted as a "good save." I wasn't convinced. I was more familiar with saltwater conditions—clear channel markers, light signatures.

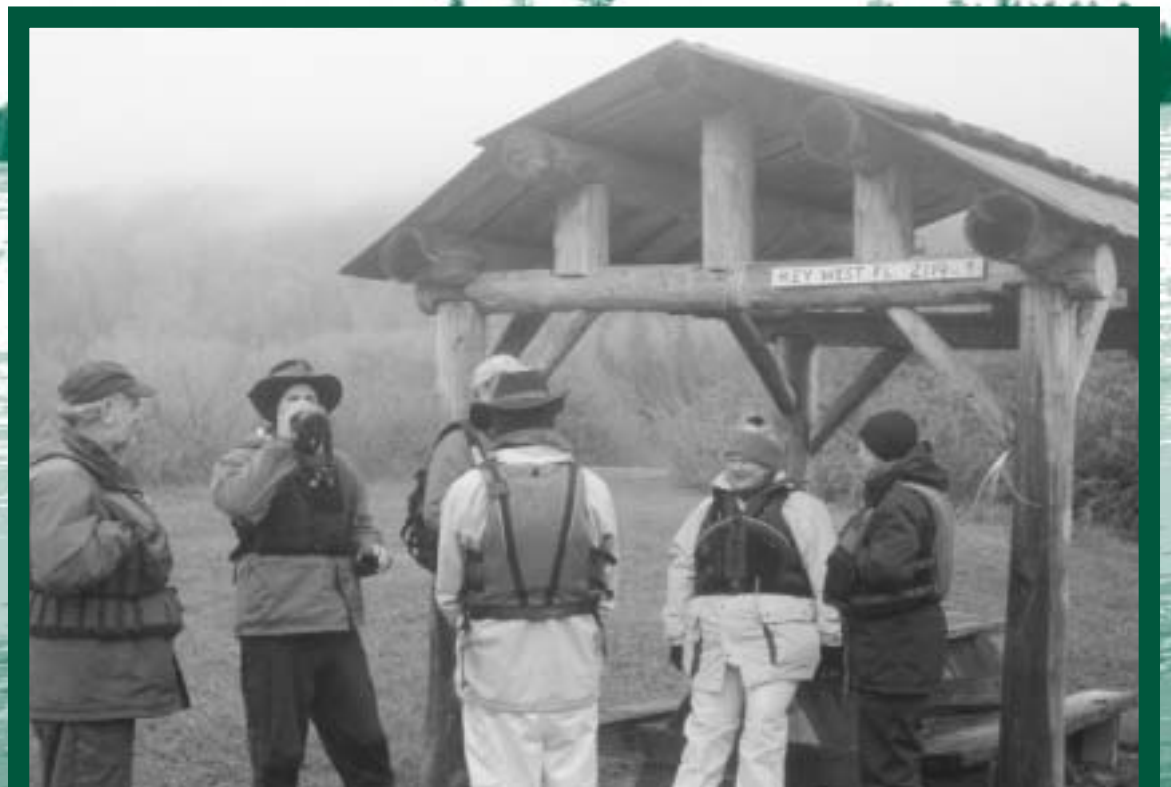
It had been more than thirty years since I had been on a fast river—the Allagash, back when it was in danger of being dammed. Just two of us, ill-prepared, underequipped, overloaded, the edge of a hurricane. It taught me respect for rivers.

This trip was different: professionally guided, by Greg Shute, a Registered Maine Guide, and Mac Henry, a strong young woman and Chewonki trip leader. The best in the business. We were expertly briefed on the river, and state-of-the-art gear was distributed among five canoes. On the river, Greg and Mac alternated running "lead" while the other ran "sweep," hanging back to observe and lend aid if needed.

Of the seven participants, five of us were experienced paddlers. The two who weren't grew in skill and confidence in the wide slow places. But sitting behind a desk does not prepare one for the demands of the river. I knew it and felt it. I already had tennis elbow, but armed with Icy Hot and a support band, I managed. The dampness got to my joints, and one day my knees ached so badly I needed help just to get out of the canoe.

Still, I was undaunted. The river was so beautiful. Author John McPhee has called the St. John "the Last Lonely River," and it was lonely, but I also found it peaceful—a welcome retreat from noise, politics, and the recent loss of my father. We saw so much wildlife. Migratory birds and year-round residents, snowshoe hares fighting over potential mates, a young bull moose crossing downstream then coming back to check us out, the earth awakening to the spring that kept taunting us. And we heard much more than we ever saw, like the Moose that came into camp one night leaving a calling card on the path to the privy.

There was, surprisingly, snow in shadowed places—reminders of the harsh winter. Trees had been scoured by ice jams nearly ten feet high, peeling back the bark and exposing the vulnerable, white cambium. Tree after tree bowed forward toward the river.



TRIP PHOTOS BY FRED CICHOKI

ONLY RIVER

Cold, sideways rain continued, but our group had a full supply of what we laughingly referred to as “fun chips”—happiness and camaraderie points we had gathered along the way. The dampness crept into everything, wicking up through sleeves, insinuating itself into anything momentarily exposed. None of our gear really dried, but we didn’t care. We had fun and friendship. We sang as we paddled and as we sat around the campfire. Fred played his Lakota flute for us as we gathered for supper at Simmon’s Farm below Seven Islands, and Mac baked cream-cheese brownies for dessert over the open fire.

Still, my worries of Big Black, loomed. I knew it made no sense. I had complete trust in these leaders. I worked with them. I regularly told parents they could trust their children with them. I felt like a charlatan, a sham, in the face of my personal fear. And I was embarrassed to admit it. Hundreds of people had navigated this river—had actually *enjoyed* it. Why was I afraid? I did NOT want to give up and walk.

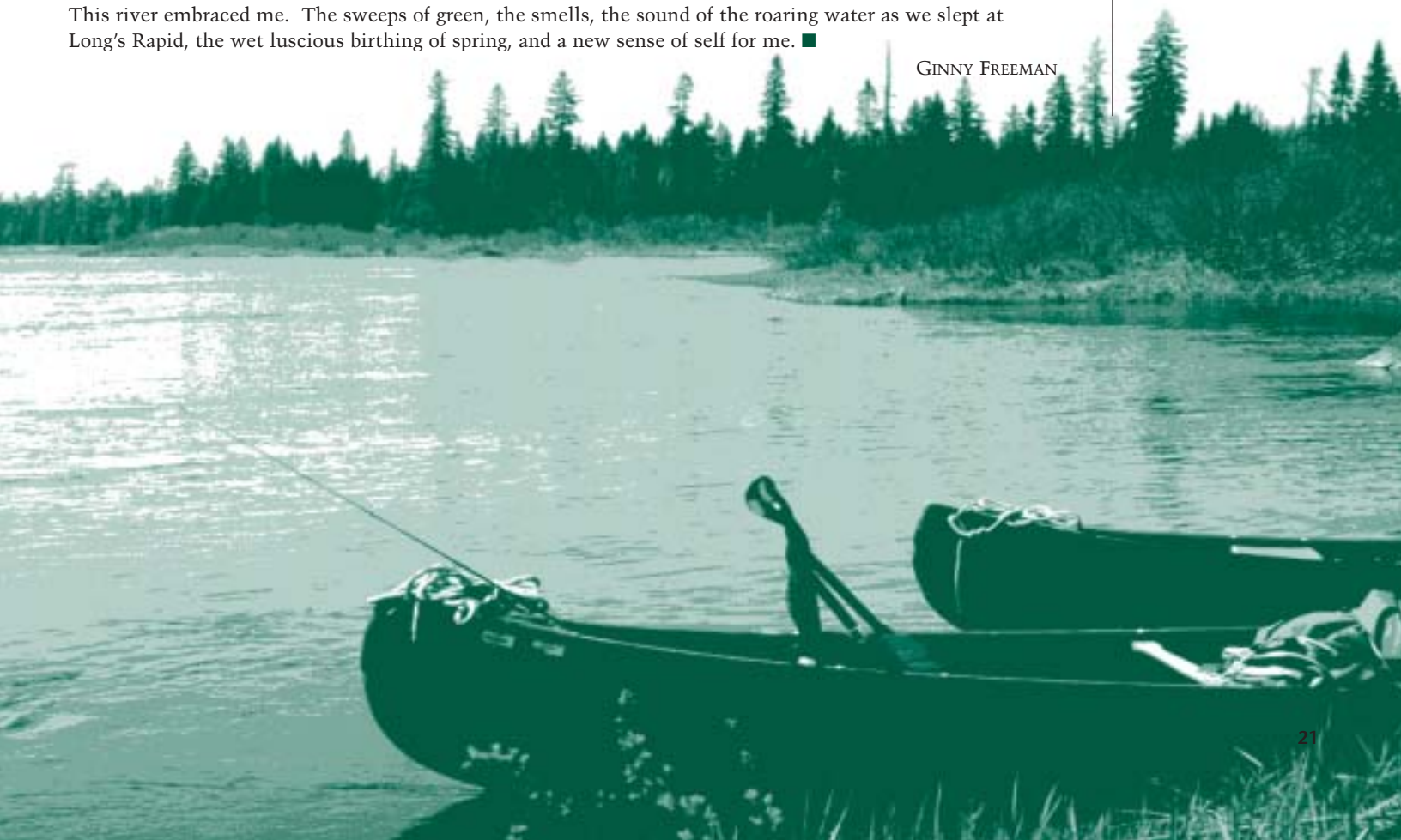
It was easier when I actually saw it. All the hype and worry faded. We pulled into an eddy within throwing distance of the most challenging spot: a narrow chute with a quick drop and turn, a tight fast turnout of the eddy to reenter the river to get a straight shot downstream. I am not a strong swimmer, and certainly not in water that cold. I didn’t want to flip or swamp. But I knew that once I got through, I would be the better for facing this head on. It was only water, right? So I did it.

We did get hung up in the chute. My paddling partner, Fred, was so “at one” with the river that it didn’t alarm him at all. And by not panicking, we wiggled off without incident and shot through. Piece of cake! Thanks to all the rain we’d had, the mile-long-rapid turned out to be less rocks than swiftly moving water, with most of the “lurkers” safely underwater. I was ecstatic.

At the next campsite we read a newspaper article nailed under the roof of the shelter. Beside it was a rose. A man had drowned recently on this very stretch of rapids, but even this did not shake me. (We later learned he was inexperienced, paddling after dark, and not wearing a lifejacket.) I was ready for whatever lay ahead.

I was held in thrall by the Last Lonely River and the tall trees that guarded her. As we wound through them, the fog and mist lent a mystical air to the experience. Just south of Allagash Village, two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds zoomed by the sign at Ouellette Farm. It read “Florida—2119” miles. We were so far from home, from anything some might call “civilized.” But the river evoked a different sense of home. This river embraced me. The sweeps of green, the smells, the sound of the roaring water as we slept at Long’s Rapid, the wet luscious birthing of spring, and a new sense of self for me. ■

GINNY FREEMAN

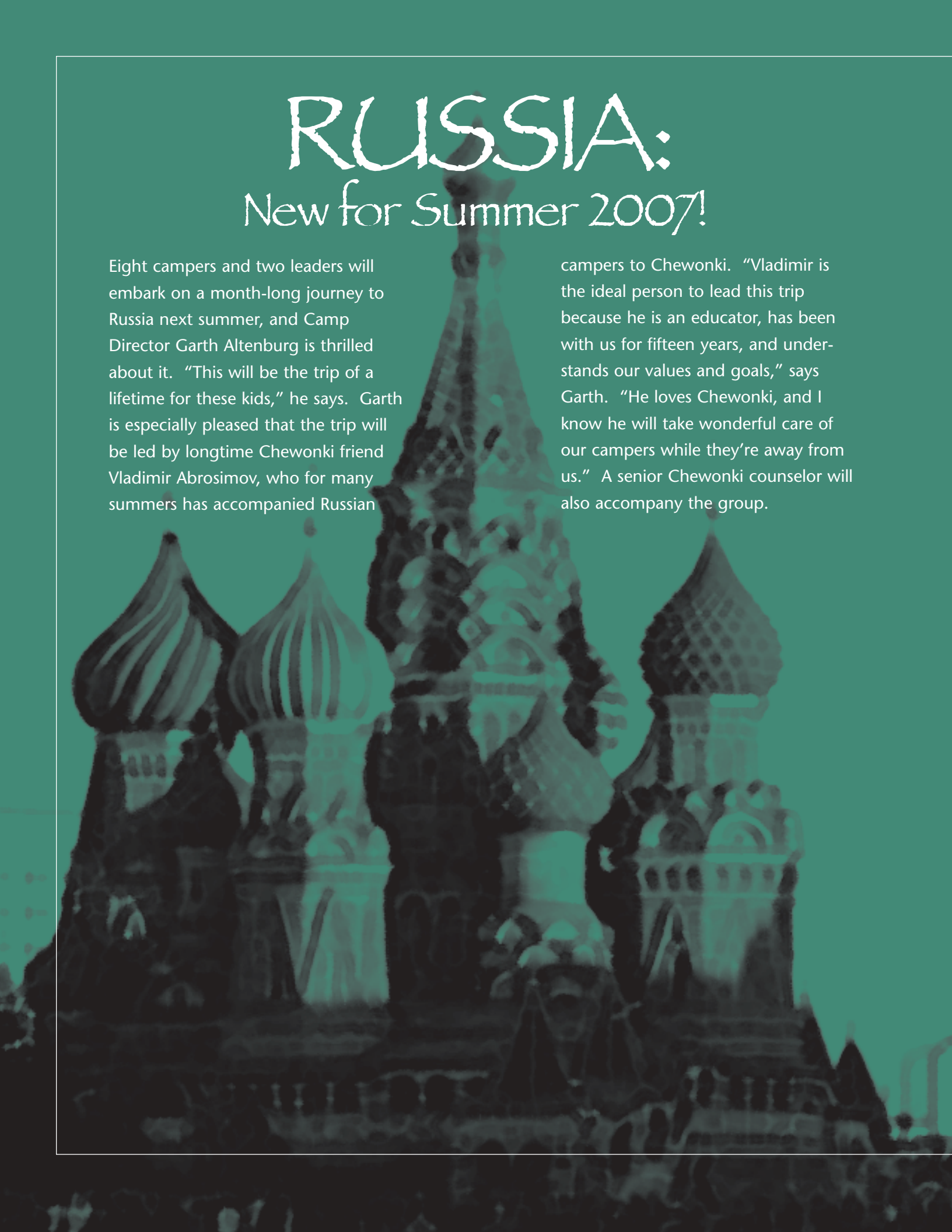


RUSSIA:

New for Summer 2007!

Eight campers and two leaders will embark on a month-long journey to Russia next summer, and Camp Director Garth Altenburg is thrilled about it. "This will be the trip of a lifetime for these kids," he says. Garth is especially pleased that the trip will be led by longtime Chewonki friend Vladimir Abrosimov, who for many summers has accompanied Russian

campers to Chewonki. "Vladimir is the ideal person to lead this trip because he is an educator, has been with us for fifteen years, and understands our values and goals," says Garth. "He loves Chewonki, and I know he will take wonderful care of our campers while they're away from us." A senior Chewonki counselor will also accompany the group.



The five-week experience will begin and end at Chewonki and will include a combination of touring, home stays, and a camp stay. It is limited to eight campers ages fourteen to fifteen, and Garth expects some keen competition for the small number of spaces. "We'll be looking for veteran campers who have the ability to be good ambassadors for both Chewonki and the United States, and who will be successful being so far away from home," he says. A great deal of interest in the trip has already been expressed by boys who attended camp this summer, so Garth expects the 2007 trip to be for boys only. In the future, he hopes to offer a coed trip.

After a week of sightseeing in Moscow and St. Petersburg (and a few lengthy but beautiful train rides), the group will spend three weeks in the Komi Republic in far northwestern Russia. Komi is a sister state of Maine, and the two locales share a similar biogeography. Of particular interest to Chewonki is the fact that Komi is blessed with many protected natural areas. The campers will spend two weeks at a summer camp called Gamayun (named for a famous Phoenix-like bird of Slavic mythology). From here they will take hiking and canoeing trips and also have the opportunity to visit the Pechora-Ilych Nature Preserve, the largest virgin forest in Europe and a World Heritage Site. They'll also spend five days in home stays in the capital city of Syktyvkar, where Vladimir lives with his family and teaches high-school physics.

Camp Chewonki has long-standing ties to Komi, having taken four previous trips there in 1990–1992 and again in 1996. And Russian youngsters—more than eighty total—have come to Chewonki almost every summer since 1990.

Both Garth and Vladimir are delighted that Chewonki will return to Russia next summer. Someone else who's delighted is Mike Eckel (Camp & EE Staffs '94–'97), who led the 1996 trip and now lives and works in Moscow as a correspondent for the Associated Press. "Russia is a vast and fascinating country," Mike says. "It's also a country that presents endless rewards to those willing to rise to its challenges. What is it like dealing with the frustrations of making yourself understood in another language? What is it like trying to understand how Russians view Americans? What is like eating unfamiliar food or living in rudimentary accommodations? Just like doing a Barn Climb or the Gulch Crossing, going to Russia is about discovering new challenges, figuring out how to overcome new and foreign obstacles, and discovering something new about yourself in the process."

For more information on the trip or for an application, contact Garth at galtenburg@chewonki.org or at 207-882-7323. ■

Vladimir Abrosimov

On a muggy and oppressive morning at the height of a bad heat wave in early August, Vladimir Abrosimov sat outside the Farm House waiting to meet a friend. "Hello, Vladimir!" called out Sue West on her way across the Quad. "How are you this morning?"

"Fine! Always fine at Chewonki!" Vladimir replied with a wave. His eyes beamed, and a warm smile spread across his big round face.

It was vintage Vladimir, a summer institution on Chewonki Neck and one of the kindest people you could ever hope to meet. In his khaki shorts, Chewonki T-shirt, and Red Sox cap, he looks as American as apple pie. But as soon as he begins to speak, his delightful accent says otherwise.

Almost every summer since the early 1990s, Vladimir has accompanied the small group of Russian youngsters who come to camp from the Komi Republic. He facilitates their experience here and also serves as support staff, both for camp and the maintenance crew. "I like it here," he says simply. "I feel myself at home." He enjoys interacting with the campers, and he pitches in with gusto on any project that requires assistance. Mowing? Painting? No problem. "I like," he says.

At home in Syktyvkar, a city of about 250,000 people some 800 miles northeast of Moscow, Vladimir teaches high-school physics and works part-time for the Komi Peace Fund. He looks forward to touring Russia with a small group of Chewonki campers next summer and is especially excited about showing them around Syktyvkar. Among other things, he can't wait to take them to a Russian sauna—"just two-minute walk from my home, and takes only one half hour to prepare," he says, smiling.

"For fifteen years, Vladimir has been making friends and building bridges between Americans and Russians," says Garth Altenburg. "We can't think of a better person to lead our upcoming trip."



Tentative Itinerary

- Meet at Chewonki
- Flight from Portland to NYC to Moscow
- One week sightseeing in Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Excursions and five-day home stays in Syktyvkar, capital of the Komi Republic (and home of Vladimir Abrosimov)
- Two-week stay at Russian summer camp, with options for hiking and canoeing trips and a visit to a nearby World Heritage Site nature reserve
- Return to Chewonki



CSA = CHEWONKI SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Saltmarsh Farm launched its first Community Supported Agriculture program this summer, and it was a grand success! Camp Intern Kate Fox caught this shot of the farm staff—from left to right, Betsy Mattox, Margaret Youngs, and Brad Johnson—showing off what was in the season's last share: carrots, arugula, spinach, scallions, radishes, leeks, peppers, onions, lettuce, broccoli, herbs, winter squash, and a pumpkin. To learn more about CSAs in general and Chewonki's in particular, see Margaret's story on page.



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