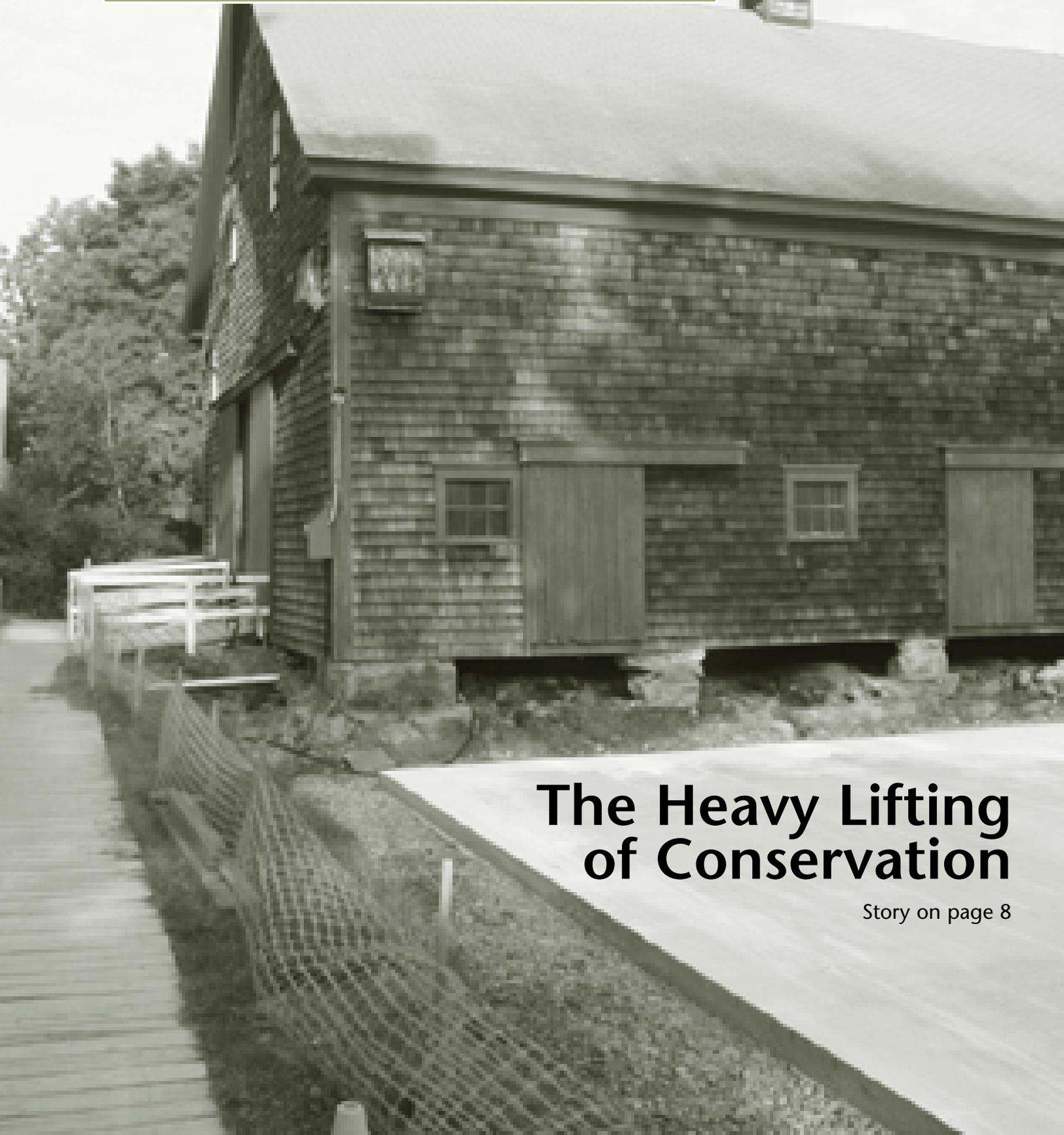




FALL 2007

THE CHEWONKI FOUNDATION

# CHRONICLE



## The Heavy Lifting of Conservation

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Willard Morgan, Maine Coast Semester, Head of School  
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Maine Coast Semester  
Camp Chewonki  
Wilderness Trips for All Ages  
Outdoor Classroom for Schools  
Traveling Natural History Programs  
Pathways to a Sustainable Future

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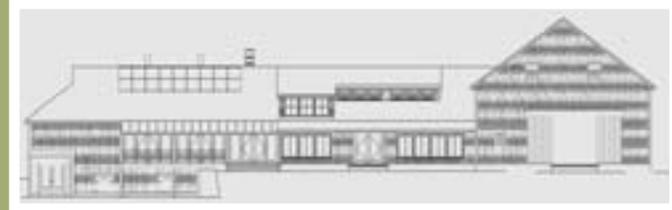
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**It is time for all of us to take more responsibility for what we consume. Conserving resources is always less expensive than replacing them with renewable sources.**

## Conservation Matters

**D**o you let the water run when you brush your teeth? I do, but I shouldn't! The well at home is not a gusher, and I should pay more attention to my water use. We could save a few quarts every day—a few hundred gallons each year—if we didn't let it run down the drain without first doing a job. Fresh, potable water is a diminishing resource in the world, and we are lucky to have such a valuable thing right under our house.

The spring of 1970 was dry in Maine, and by the beginning of camp Tim and Margaret Ellis were worried about water use. They did a little research and decided the twentieth-century out-house was just the thing for Chewonki. Abby Rockefeller was importing Clivus Multrum composting toilets from Sweden, and we were one of the first institutional buyers. A four-holer was installed on the Lower Field that year and was christened “The Plaza.” Tim calculated we saved 50,000 gallons of water that first year, and we've done that thirty-seven times over since then.

Our first Clivus Multrum was replaced this fall with a brand spanking new model—and a wonderful new building to house it: “The Ritz.” We are building a second facility this year, and flush toilets will be a thing of the past on the Lower Field. Some of us remember when flushes were first installed for campers in 1965!

We are turning back to move forward. Such is the way of the world.

The young people of the world have raised their voices about conservation through events like Step it Up, and we could not be more pleased. A former Chewonki camper and counselor, Will Bates, was one of the organizers of Step it Up, the international event held last April to urge a rapid response to climate change. Will and his cohorts see the great potential for conservation of resources as well as the opportunity for changing large-scale patterns of resource use by addressing individual behaviors related to consumption of nonrenewable resources.

It is time for all of us to take more responsibility for what we consume. Less water pumped, for example, is also less electricity consumed. Conserving resources is always less expensive than replacing them with renewable sources. It is money in the bank! And when operational costs on a campus drop—even a campus as small as ours—the pressure on tuition is reduced. Conservation makes good business sense as well as good global environmental sense.

Chewonki's big barn is about to move 44 feet to the east, allowing us to expand the kitchen and dining hall next door to it, and that too has been prompted by conservation. As you will read in Betta Connor's cover story, the move will create room for a more energy-efficient workspace and roof space for solar panels that will produce both hot water and electricity. An old kitchen will become a new Packout, consolidating food refrigeration and storage to one place rather than two. Thirty years ago, we packed food for trips from the back porch of the old kitchen. Again, we are moving back to move forward.

You will also learn in Betta's story how a group of Maine Coast Semester students completed Chewonki's first carbon footprint analysis this year—a landmark accomplishment, and one that is already pushing us toward further conservation efforts at Chewonki! This is where a commitment to conservation leads. Thirty-five years ago we focused on the conservation of water. Now, at the urging of our own students, we turn our attention to greenhouse gas emissions. The demands of conservation usually spark a creative response at Chewonki.

The next time you brush your teeth, try turning off the faucet until you are ready to rinse. I promise to start doing the same!

DON HUDSON



## Maine Coast Semester Earns Accreditation

It's official! The long-awaited letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) arrived in late September, notifying MCS that it is now accredited. The six-member NEASC Visiting Committee that evaluated MCS last April strongly recommended it for accreditation, and NEASC's full board finalized that decision with a unanimous vote at its September meeting.

"What a momentous day!" said a jubilant Willard Morgan, head of school, who celebrated the good news along with the entire MCS faculty and Chewonki staff.

Describing MCS as "uniquely compelling," the Visiting Committee expressed its admiration for the school's "powerful sense of community and shared purpose that was evident in even the most casual interactions." The Committee concluded its report with six major commendations and four major recommendations. The recommendations related to curriculum review, strategic planning, fund raising, and strengthening relationships with sending schools. Among the commendations were the consonance between MCS's mission and practices, its incorporation of natural resources in its program, and the intellectual engagement of its students and faculty. In summary, stated the report, "Exuberant vitality, intelligence, pragmatic altruism, humor and mutual respect were abundantly evident at all levels throughout the Committee's

three-day experience at MCS. It is an institution that in all of the most significant respects impressively fulfills its stated mission and vision."

Accreditation in and of itself does not change a school in any way, but it does provide several benefits. One of the most important, says Willard, is external verification of your program. "It's an opportunity to assess yourself against the standards of the secondary education community, and it assures the public of your program's quality." Accreditation also facilitates transfer of credit at home schools and can assist with fund-raising. Yet another plus is becoming an official part of the independent school community, allowing MCS to tap into that larger network and the wisdom to be found there.

The heart and soul of the accreditation process is a yearlong self-study that results in an extensive written report. MCS's report hadn't even been printed and bound before Willard and the faculty began addressing the long list of improvements it identified. Among other things, the starting salary for faculty has been given a much-needed boost; the student exercise program has been dramatically improved; and renovations are underway in the Wallace Center that will help address facilities inadequacies. "These are all things that flowed directly out of our self-study," Willard noted.

Until two years ago, semester schools were ineligible for accreditation. MCS is the third semester school in the nation to earn the coveted designation.

## Make Your Plans Now – Family Camp Is Back!

By all accounts, it was a rousing success. "The highlight of our summer—hands down," wrote one participant. Eight families—nearly forty people—gathered at the Neck on the weekend of August 16 to 19 for Chewonki's first family camp in more than twenty years. The weather was glorious, the food delectable, and the fun almost nonstop. Each family had its own cabin on the lower field and was free to partake—or not!—of a wide variety of activities, both organized and unorganized.

"It's hard to say who had more fun, the adults or the kids," said Director of Alumni Relations Dick Thomas, who organized the weekend. Highlights included a lobster dinner, a campfire in which all eight families participated, and an unusually spirited game of Kingdoms (a popular camp game that combines elements of both

tag and chess). There were early-morning birdwalks and polar bear swims, visits to Saltmarsh Farm, tennis and tetherball matches, a natural history presentation by Lynne Flaccus and our Golden Eagle, and of course the traditional waterfront activities: swimming, sailing, canoeing, and kayaking. When there was time to sit still—and there was—people played cards and board games, soaked up the sun or the shade, picked blueberries, and read. At least one person could be found at any hour of the day reading *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, and more than a few were probably reading it by flashlight in their sleeping bags.

Dick Thomas was "thrilled" with the weekend. "It was a nice mix of ages and of alumni, current camp families, and families who were brand new to Chewonki," he reported. All eight families have already expressed a desire to



The Robertsons and Deinards had a great time at Family Camp.

JENNIFER DEINARD

attend next year or to attend another Chewonki program. Next summer's Family Camp may be held at Chewonki's Big Eddy Campground near Baxter State Park, since the twenty-year reunion for Maine Coast Semester will be taking place that weekend on Chewonki Neck.

For many years, a post-camp gathering for families and friends was traditional at Chewonki. As our summer programming expanded, however, it got harder to fit the

event into an increasingly tight campus schedule. "As it stands now, there's only about a two-week window between the time the last campers depart and the MCS students arrive," says Dick. "That doesn't leave us much time for cleaning, maintenance work, and staff training."

We're delighted that Family Camp has made a comeback. Watch our website and the spring *Chronicle* for information on 2008.

## Educator of the Year Goes to Dot Lamson

It was well-deserved recognition for Chewonki's longtime environmental education director. The Maine Audubon Society recognized Dot Lamson as its 2007 Educator of the Year at an August 29 reception held at its Falmouth headquarters.

Maine Audubon Executive Director Kevin Carley had high praise for Dot's long and distinguished career. "Dot Lamson has been working to get kids outdoors for twenty-five years—long before other educators recognized how important that is," said Carley. "To that end, she has helped thousands of children reap the tremendous physical and emotional benefits of connecting with nature."

Dot's influence on the growth and development of environmental education has extended throughout Maine and beyond. She is a founding member and twenty-two-year board member of the Maine Environmental Education Association and a former board member of the New England Environmental Education Alliance. "Her experience, energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to environmental values have long inspired not only her students but also her peers," said colleague and Maine Audubon environmental educator Linda Woodard.

Dot holds a BS in wildlife management and teaching certification from the University of Maine and served for several years as a classroom teacher before coming to Chewonki in 1982 to teach environ-

mental education. Since 1984 she has been the program director. She also helped start Chewonki's Maine Coast Sea Kayaking program, continues to lead wilderness trips, and serves on Chewonki's Leadership Team of senior staff. She is a Registered Maine Guide, Wilderness First Responder, Lifeguard, and American Red Cross First Aid and CPR Instructor.

Josh Marvil, chairman of the Chewonki Foundation, echoes the praise that Dot received: "She has been and continues to be an outstanding teacher, leader, and role model in the environmental field and rightly deserves recognition as one of the top educators in Maine. Congratulations, Dot!"

With characteristic modesty, Dot said she was "surprised and honored" to be recognized by Maine Audubon. "It is especially rewarding," she said, "to receive this on my twenty-fifth anniversary of environmental education leadership here at Chewonki."

The Audubon award is given annually to an educator whose environmental education methods in and beyond the classroom serve as a model and inspiration for others.



## Chewonki Hosts Seminar on Coal Gasification Project

When Twin River Energy Center announced plans on July 18 to build a multi-billion-dollar coal gasification plant on the site of the former Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Wiscasset, it was breaking news statewide. One of the few people already in the know, along with the governor and Wiscasset's selectmen, was Chewonki president Don Hudson. The proposal had been shared with Don in advance because Chewonki is the largest abutter.

The project of an investment firm in Greenwich, Connecticut, Twin River would be the first coal gasification facility in New England. The proposed center would use Carbon Capture and Storage, or CCS, technologies, which have recently emerged as solutions to meet energy demands while reducing carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming.

Betta Stothart Connor, Chewonki's director of communications, says the project is generating many questions. "As with any new technology," she says, "there is a need for education regarding both the potential and limitations of CCS. We thought there was a useful role for Chewonki to play, by bringing leading thinkers together to share information." Don Hudson notes that Chewonki is in fact obliged to do so. "That responsibility came to us as part of Maine Yankee's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission settlement agreement," he said. "When Maine Yankee transferred ownership of 200-acre Eaton Farm to us in 2005, part of what we agreed to was to provide 'a forum for environmental policy dialogue.'"

To that end, Chewonki invited key policy-makers throughout the Northeast to gather at the Center for Environmental

Education for an all-day seminar on October 24. Participants had the opportunity to acquire some in-depth knowledge of CCS technologies and how they may fit into New England's energy economy, and to gain perspective about the Twin River Energy Center in particular. David Littell, Commissioner of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection, opened the day, providing insights about Maine's approach to addressing climate change. Panelists included professors Eric D. Larson of Princeton University, Howard Herzog of MIT, and Jennie Stephens of Clark University; Jay Braitsch of the U.S. Department of Energy; and Joseph Chaisson of the Clean Air Task Force.

In an evening forum open to the public, the day's key speakers held an open discussion and Q&A for local citizens.

Chewonki Sustainability Coordinator Peter Arnold emphasizes that the seminar was designed to look at CCS technologies and coal gasification facilities on two different levels. "One is the local level: What would it be like to live next door to a major power plant like this? And the other is the global level: What's involved in continuing to use coal? Coal is going to continue to be burned, not just in the U.S. but in places like China and India. If technology exists to make burning coal less carbon-dioxide intensive, we should be looking carefully at that."

A summary of the day, including the speakers' presentations, will be prepared and made available to the public, as well as posted on our website. At their November meeting, Chewonki's trustees will review the information shared at the seminar and evaluate the impact of the proposed development on Chewonki.

# Camp Trip to Russia Visits Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Distant Komi Republic

**T**en Chewonki campers, ages fourteen and fifteen, had the trip of a lifetime this summer: five weeks of travel through the world's largest country, renown for its cultural and natural history. The adventure began on July 1, when the boys arrived at camp for two days of orientation and planning. Accompanied by Director of Alumni Relations Dick Thomas and his wife, Karen Dille, the group left for Moscow on July 3. They were met by Chewonki friends and counselors Vladimir Abrosimov and Alexei Pshenkin, who led the group for the next five weeks.

After guided tours of the highlights of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the group traveled east to Syktyvkar—capital of the Komi Republic and home of Vladimir and the many Russian campers who have come to Chewonki since 1990. Here the boys spent three days with host families. Among the highlights was a special presentation to Dick and Karen, before they left for home, of the Komi Peace Committee's



Gold Medal for Chewonki's commitment in Russian exchanges.

Under Vladimir and Alexei's care, the boys then traveled to the historic village of Troitsko-Pechorsk, and the Pechora-Ilych Nature preserve where they spent a week in rustic accommodations and homestays. Their experience ended with a stay at a Russian camp, where friendships were formed and new games learned. Chewonki veteran and summer waterfront director Brian Cushing traveled to Moscow to pick up the campers and returned with them on August 3, where they shared their stories and experiences with the rest of camp.

"After having so many Komi campers attend Chewonki, it was wonderful to send a group there," said Camp Director Garth Altenburg. "We hadn't sent campers there since 1996! Our camp community has certainly benefited from the presence of Vladimir and

his campers all these years. I hope the trip reminded all our campers of how we are all more alike than we are different, and that it helped promote a greater understanding of our global connectivity."

## Don Hudson to Help Oversee Allagash

Governor John Baldacci has appointed Don Hudson to serve on Maine's newly created Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council. As stated in legislation signed into law in May, the seven-member group will "aid in the long-term governance, management and oversight structure" of the AWW, which was itself estab-

lished by legislation in 1966. Don will represent wilderness recreation, an area in which Baldacci recognized Don for his "vast experience."

Rich in natural and human history, the AWW is a spectacular 92-mile-long corridor of waterways in northern Maine. Don knows the Allagash well; he has canoed it and camped along its shores since the early 1970s, and Chewonki runs

several trips down it each year. "The waterway is a natural treasure and a very special place," he said on learning of his appointment. "I am pleased and honored to serve on the Advisory Council, and look forward to working with a great group of colleagues to help protect this unique wilderness area for all to enjoy."

## Big Eddy Campground Goes Solar

**C**ampground Manager Susan Adams could barely contain her excitement. "We have power for the water pump, lights, and workshop tools!" she crowed in an e-mail to Don Hudson and Greg Shute. "We have 24-hour computer access to Chewonki!" It was September 10, and the new solar installation at Big Eddy Campground had just gone live.

The 150-watt module—a size typically referred to as a micro system—was installed by Blair "Tump" May (Maine Reach 1973–1974), a solar contractor from Waldoboro, Maine, who also installed the system on Gordy Hall. The single photovoltaic panel atop the generator shed means the campground now has electricity in the office, bathrooms, and library twenty-four hours a day. The system isn't large enough to eliminate use of a generator, particularly in the morning and evening when electrical use is heaviest, but it does reduce that use (and the attendant noise and smell). As Don Hudson notes, "This not only saves on fuel costs but also reduces the campground's carbon footprint."

There are management advantages as well. "One of the biggest benefits is that we can now contact Big Eddy when its generator is off," says Greg Shute. "This is a huge help in managing the campground, and also in the event of the occasional wilderness-trip evacuation, which often relies on the help of Big Eddy staff." With a more reliable connection to the "outside world," Big Eddy can now handle reservations more efficiently and be more responsive to e-mail queries.

"We hope this is the first step in making Big Eddy more energy self-sufficient, either with more solar or possibly some micro-hydropower," said Don. "It would be wonderful one day to turn off the generator altogether."

# Got Milk?

“I can guarantee that you will not find fresher, tastier milk anywhere.” So says Farm and Woodlot Manager Brad Johnson of the milk that comes from Lola, Saltmarsh Farm’s newest resident. Lola is a five-year-old Ayshire/Devon/Jersey cow that came to Chewonki in late August from Village Farm in Freedom, Maine. A family milk cow at her last farm, she is now providing plenty of fresh raw milk to the Chewonki kitchen, with enough surplus for the farm to sell to staff. Lola produces about six gallons per day. Having been hand-milked since she began lactating, she is gentle and easy to handle—traits that Maine Coast Semester students are especially quick to appreciate when they begin their farm chores.



With the arrival of Lola, Chewonki’s much-loved Adeline—a familiar face to many Chewonki alumni—has moved into a well-deserved retirement. “Adeline is now a dedicated lawnmower and will no longer be milked,” says Brad. “She milked for nearly twenty years, so we are happy to see her just relaxing out in the field.”

The kitchen is delighted to have Lola’s increased volume of milk on hand. “We pasteurize if for drinking in the dining hall and use it for baking and to make yogurt, cheese, and butter,” says Kitchen and Dining Manager Sarah Burgess. “It not only tastes good. It’s also nice to see a student who milked a cow during morning farm chores come to the kitchen in the afternoon to make cheese out of that very milk.”

## Turtle Rescue

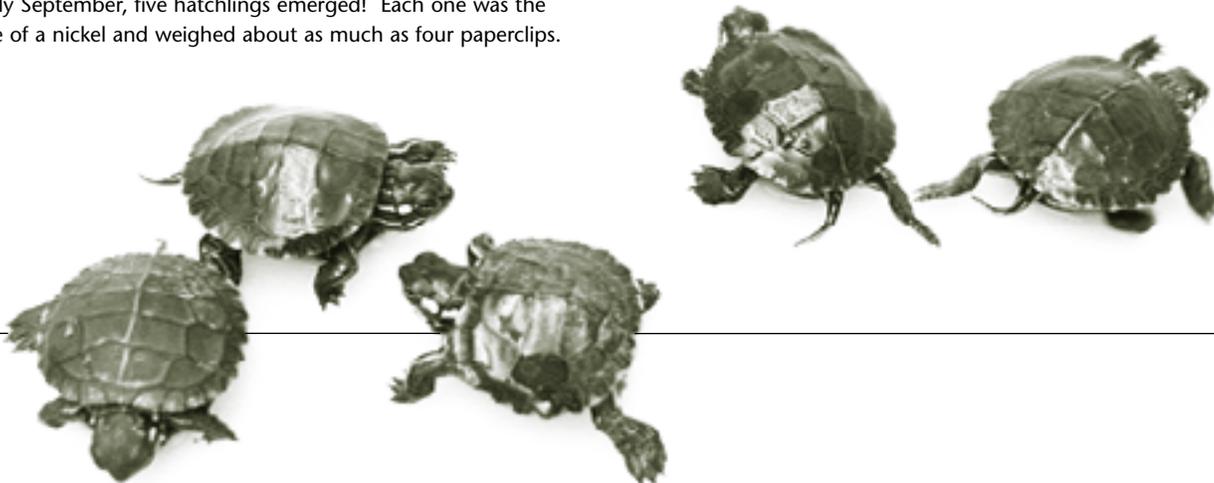
There isn’t anything much cuter than a baby turtle. As we’ve discovered in recent weeks, there probably isn’t anything harder to photograph either!

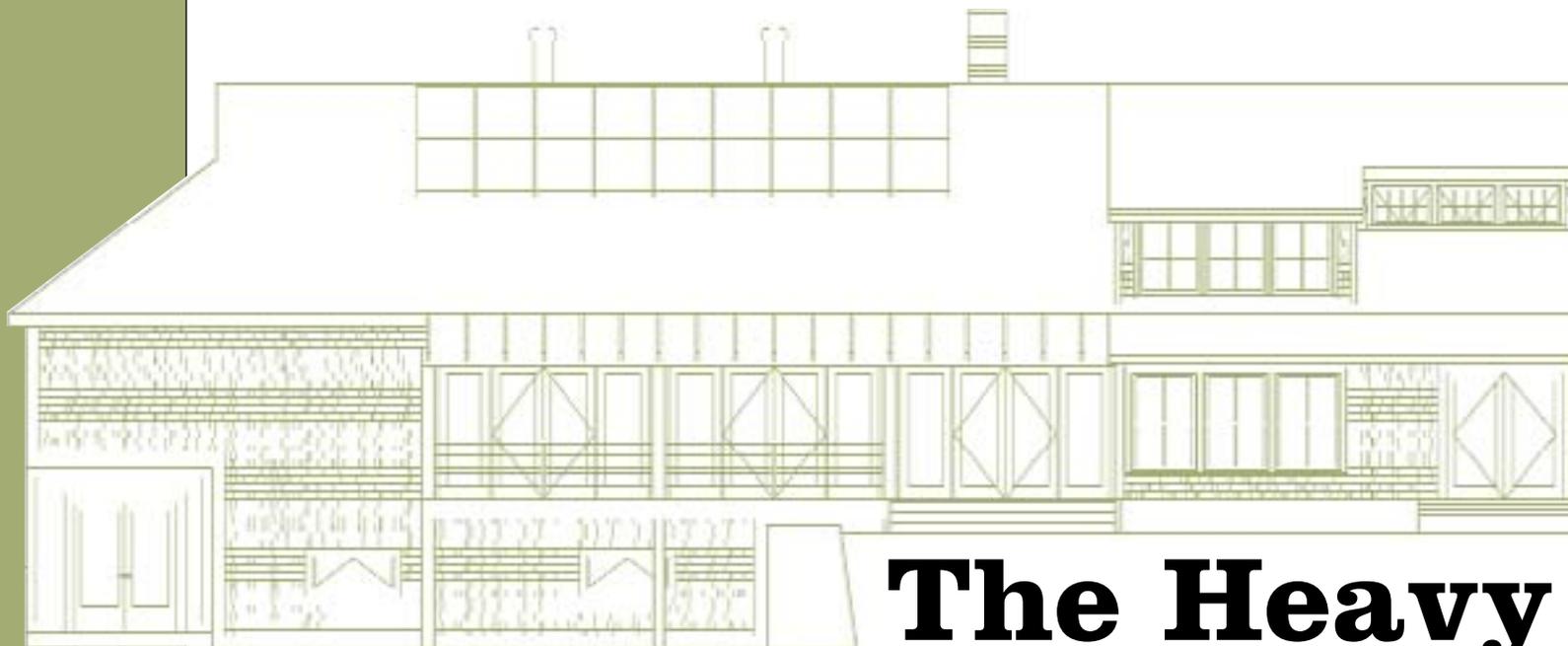
On June 14, Kathy and Ed Thompson, Chewonki’s business manager and librarian, brought in an Eastern Painted Turtle that was hit by a car near their house. Her shell was fractured, and two days later she died of internal injuries. Hoping to keep alive her genetic line, we harvested the nine eggs from her body cavity and “planted” them in a tray of loose sand and loam. In early September, five hatchlings emerged! Each one was the size of a nickel and weighed about as much as four paperclips.

The little turtles are all doing fine, eating, swimming, basking, and quickly hiding whenever anyone walks into the Outreach Lab. In the wild, hatchlings frequently overwinter in their nest, remaining underground until the warm rains of late spring. They then emerge and begin the long walk to the nearest water. Our artificial hatching is a bit different, but we hope the result will be the same. The hatchlings will overwinter with us, and next spring we’ll release them at a wetland near where their mother was hit.

All we will be able to do is cross our fingers and hope they survive. We’ll wish them luck!

LYNNE FLACCUS





# The Heavy

## *Chewonki's carbon footprint*

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

**W**hen it became clear last year that Chewonki needed to vastly improve its kitchen and dining facilities, it could have gone the route of hundreds of schools and colleges across the United States: Hire a high-profile architect. Break ground in a stunning new location on Chewonki Neck. Be dramatic. Build big.

Instead, as they have done on previous occasions, Chewonki leaders first asked themselves how badly the institution needed the additional space, and could existing facilities be improved rather than building new?

Chewonki president Don Hudson is more than a little passionate on the subject of sustainability. At work and at home, he uses the most efficient technology available, and he is always on the lookout for more ways to save energy and increase efficiency. "Chewonki's commitment to conservation goes back at least forty years, and we have consistently made investments in infrastructure aimed at saving our operating budget and the planet," he says. "The Wallace Center and Allen Center were both built as super-insulated buildings in the 1980s and in their lifetimes have saved thousands of pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, not to mention thousands of dollars in heating costs." On the



The drawing above, prepared by architect Amy Hinkley, shows an exterior view of the renovated Wallace Center. Moving the barn 44 feet to the east will allow for the addition of a new south-facing kitchen area (above center).



# Lifting of Conservation

*report reveals a deep commitment to conservation*

few occasions Chewonki has built a new facility, it has worked diligently to minimize the footprint and maximize efficiency. The Center for Environmental Education, opened in 1999, was built with the highest conservation values, won first place in the Northeast Green Building Award competition, and is widely recognized as a model of sustainable design.

It was against this backdrop that Don and other management staff, together with trustees and consultants, carefully evaluated the options for upgrading the kitchen and dining hall. Their conclusion? Chewonki would resist the urge and cheaper (at least in the short-term) option to build new. Instead, it would move the iconic barn 44 feet to the east, allowing for a major expansion of the existing Wallace Center. The project is underway now and scheduled for completion in the spring (see page 11).

Indeed, the deeper story about sustainability around the world today might be told in terms of what we as a society decide *not* to do, as well as what we do. Self-containment, efficiency, and economy of scale have been part of Chewonki's growth pattern since its inception. Our participants, our neighbors, and even leaders in state government have come to expect it of us. It's an integral part of Chewonki's identity, and a deep source of institutional pride.

In the last decade, as global climate change has risen to the level of international crisis, pressure for change has descended on institutions and individuals around the world. With this pressure has come a growing responsibility to take action. On many fronts, Chewonki has already staked out a leadership role at the local, state, and regional level—in no small part because of sustainability coordinator Peter Arnold. Peter's efforts to develop projects such as our biodiesel initiative and our solar hot water and renewable hydrogen systems have not only reduced our environmental impact but have lifted up Chewonki's profile across Maine and New England as a model of sustainability.

Chewonki has also followed and supported important policy initiatives in Maine and beyond. In 2001, we applauded when the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers signed an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 and to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. Two years later, we celebrated as Maine adopted the Climate Change Law and became *the first state in the nation* to enact these goals into statute. With Peter's insistence, we were one of forty stakeholders who developed Maine's Climate Change Action Plan, the first meeting of which was convened at Chewonki.

*Continued on page 10*

As an outgrowth of Maine's historic Climate Change legislation, Chewonki joined several businesses and nonprofits across Maine in taking the Governor's Carbon Challenge, a voluntary carbon emission reduction agreement with the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This non-binding agreement challenges us to achieve a 10 percent carbon reduction by 2010 and outlines three ambitious goals: conduct an inventory of our direct and indirect carbon sources; establish a baseline for carbon emissions; and report each January on our prior year's carbon emissions.

Last fall, as Chewonki began to dig into its commitment to the Challenge, it faced a daunting first step: How does an institution take a carbon inventory in the first place?

In that dilemma, Chewonki is not alone. Businesses and institutions all over the country are stumbling over the same obstacle says Dr. David Kyle of Efficiency Maine, a program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Unfortunately, he says,

**"We must continue to live up to our heritage of science-based learning by collecting data. We do this with birds and with weather at Chewonki. It's time to set up a regular practice of doing this with carbon emissions."**

— WILLARD MORGAN

the more typical story is that many organizations that start the process never finish. "You need strong leadership from the top, or at least a champion within the organization whose mandate is to operate efficiently," says Kyle. Barring a champion, very few organizations have the verve to see a footprint analysis through to completion. A notable exception in Maine is the City of Biddeford, which has not only conducted its own carbon analysis but was the first city in Maine to create the position of *Energy Codes Enforcement Officer*.

Another leading category, according to Kyle, is Maine schools. "Our college campuses have quite an impressive record of taking action," he says, often because the students themselves demand it. At the University of Southern Maine, Sustainability Coordinator Dudley Greeley says it was students who pushed hard for sustainability. They have organized on campus, lobbied in Augusta, and even presented USM's president with a petition demanding that the university build its newest dorm using solar energy and the best in available conservation methods. The nursing school administrators demanded that their school buy clean energy after acknowledging that it made no sense to teach nurses to treat asthma when the classrooms themselves were contributing to the problem. Across the

country, more than four hundred university presidents have signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which includes an action plan for achieving climate neutrality (see [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org)).

**A**t the annual meeting of Chewonki's Board of Trustees this May, four articulate Maine Coast Semester students stood before an audience of nearly thirty trustees, advisors, and guests and presented "The MCS Climate Project: A Climate Inventory of the Chewonki Foundation and the Opportunities for Change." The 28-page report, accompanied by another 20 pages of recommendations and supporting documentation, was the triumphant result of a semester's worth of effort by the Environmental Issues class, taught by assistant head of school Paul Arthur and renewable energy intern Seth Silverman. The report offers Chewonki, for the first time in its history, a realistic numerical snapshot of its carbon emissions. It covers six major areas of carbon emissions: electricity, heating, program-related transportation, commuting, food systems, and paper use.

"The implications of this report are significant," says head of school Willard Morgan. "We are extremely pleased to have it and to have officially joined the carbon neutrality movement." But Willard also sends a caution. "We need to stay focused on our carbon *reductions* and resist the current trend to buy offsets and call our work done."

Willard stresses a need for continued integrity and genuine action at Chewonki—pointing out that some players in the sustainability movement are merely seeking a "green-wash" and a way to market themselves as globally responsible while sidestepping the heavy lifting of conservation. By focusing its sights on the local reality of its own campus—building at a reasonable scale, promoting multiple use of spaces, clustering new development, scrutinizing food purchases, reviewing transportation impacts—he believes Chewonki can not only reduce its carbon footprint but, more importantly, provide lasting lessons for its participants.

Unfortunately, some schools are still going for monstrous new buildings, creating what Willard calls a "disconnect" between their planning, their teaching, and their philosophy. But he is quick to admit that Chewonki, though in many ways a model of sustainability, has some catching up to do if it wants to continue to lead.

"We need to do our carbon planning the same way we do our budget planning," says Willard, who is recommending a "carbon balance sheet" that might be managed and maintained much like a financial statement and presented alongside the

*Continued on page 12*

# Wallace Center to Be a Model of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

As the *Chronicle* goes to press, the barn has just moved 44 feet to the east! This will open new space for the kitchen and allow us to relocate Packout into the old kitchen, thus consolidating our food handling to one location and cutting electrical consumption in half. Sustainability Coordinator Peter Arnold calculates that even though the Wallace Center expansion will add 1,800 square feet of space, it will cause no increase in Chewonki's energy consumption.

Here are a few of the energy-efficient designs the renovation will include:

- Solar electric and hot water panels will produce 3 kW of power and supplemental hot water for the kitchen.
- Clerestory windows will reduce the need for electric lights in the kitchen.
- A new facade and light tubes will make for a brighter dining hall in all seasons and a cooler one in summer.
- A lofted kitchen ceiling will allow for natural convection, cooling the space in summer.
- A new airlock entrance will eliminate drafts in winter.
- Construction will be from "green" materials acquired from local sources.



## Chewonki's Carbon Footprint by the Numbers\*

### Space and Water Heating Emissions

	Gallons	Annual Cost	Emissions
<b>Propane</b>	13,108	\$18,924	144,515 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Number Two Oil</b>	7,492	\$15,190	195,026.2 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Total</b>	20,600	\$34,114	339,541.2 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Total Emissions: 154 metric tones</b>			

### Electricity Emissions

Building	Annual Cost	Kilowatt Hours per Month	Annual e CO <sub>2</sub> (lbs)
CEE	\$2,243	30,586	0 (green power)
Farmhouse	\$2,316	17,039	0 (green power)
Wallace/NHC	\$13,096	79,528	78,719
Packout	\$2,783	16,831	16,660
Hilltop	\$2,583	15,374	15,218
Warren	\$1,025	5,868	5,808
Shop	\$676	3,631	3,594
Farm	\$562	3,739	3,701
Park Ave.	\$563	3,660	3,623
North Pasture	\$397	1,710	1,693
Hilton		3,720	3,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,245</b>	<b>181,686</b>	<b>132,698</b>
<b>Total Emissions: 60 metric tones</b>			

### Commuting Emissions

	Gallons	Emissions
<b>Biodiesel</b>	472.7	0 (renewable source)
<b>Petroleum Diesel</b>	388.8	8,702.5 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Gasoline (unleaded)</b>	5,124.9	100,238.8 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Total</b>	5,986.4	108,941.3 lbs e CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Total Emissions: 49 metric tonnes</b>		

### TOTAL EMISSIONS

Activity	CO <sub>2</sub> Equivalent (Metric Tonnes)	Percentage
Heating Fuels - Space and Water Heating	154	43
Travel - Fleet, Air, and Program Travel	76	21
Electricity	60	17
Farm Emissions	18	5
Copy Paper	0.4	<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.5</b>	

\*From "The MCS Climate Project" by Laura Coyne, Casey Cummings, Evan Deutsch, Charlie Governali, Hamish Haddow, Franklin Jacoby, Marie Johnson, Connor Mahoney, Jack McKean, Halie Morell, Drew Tanabe, Zemora Tevah, and Seth Silverman, May 2007.

budget at trustee meetings. “And we must continue to live up to our heritage of science-based learning by collecting data. We do this with birds and with weather at Chewonki. It’s time to set up a regular practice of doing this with carbon emissions.” One of the most tangible outcomes of the carbon report has been the creation of a permanent position in Chewonki’s Sustainability Office, focused on the process of data collection.

For many at Chewonki, the report provided a powerful and sometimes eye-opening lens through which to view our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For example, commuters from the Portland area who carpool 43 miles to Wiscasset with four riders in one vehicle were surprised to learn their carbon impact is *less* than that of several staff who drive alone to work from nearby towns. Heating fuels (for space and water) are by far the greatest culprits in carbon emissions at Chewonki, followed by transportation and electricity.

The report concluded that Chewonki’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for fiscal year 2005–2006 totaled 358.5 metric tonnes. “Our intention is to lower this number, to make real incremental reductions, and that will take focus and hard work,” Peter Arnold said recently. “That said, we’re doing well for an institution that employs 75 people year-round and twice that many in summer, provides year-round housing for 40 faculty and staff, and supports 80 MCS students and 300 summer campers a year. We just can’t let up!”

**E**dward Barker, a Chewonki trustee and former MCS faculty member, is especially well informed about the debate on climate change. Ed is director of corporate partnerships at Earthwatch Institute, an international nonprofit that promotes (among other things) public understanding of the impact of climate change on our world.

“I think it’s great that Chewonki has begun to look at its carbon emissions in a systematic way,” he says. With a baseline complete, he notes, the report offers a point of reference for the future. But Ed says the report begs a much larger question: What will Chewonki *do* with this information? “If we choose to use it to continually reduce the footprint of our own operations, that’s a great response. I’d hope, however, that we’d also use it as a part of our overall mission to engage and educate so that other people can see that living a lower-carbon lifestyle doesn’t mean moving to a cabin in the woods.”

Franklin Jacoby of Washington, Maine, was one of the four students who presented the carbon footprint report to

Chewonki’s trustees in May. Asked if he felt the effort could make a difference in a world that is seeing such dramatic climate changes, he said, “Yes, I felt a very strong sense that this was the case, especially after we gave the report to the board of directors.” By helping Chewonki identify places where it can operate more efficiently, Franklin said he felt he was helping in the larger movement to reduce greenhouse emissions globally.

In a recent column in the *New York Times*, columnist Thomas Friedman quotes the director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s office of transportation and air quality as saying: “Demand for oil has grown 22 percent in the U.S. since 1990. China’s oil demand has grown nearly 200 percent in this same period....By 2030, the global thirst for oil is forecast to increase by another 40 percent.” Says Friedman, “Such an appetite would devour every incremental green initiative we make.”

In the face of such doom, one might ask whether Chewonki’s, or even the state of Maine’s, efforts to change are meaningful. Asked to comment on how he feels in the face of such dire forecasts, Franklin Jacoby paused and said, “I’m not sure if we have enough time. I know that we definitely don’t have time to waste. We need to move quickly if we are going to make a difference.”

Seth Silverman, who is now back at Stanford University studying the Global Politics of Health, Human Rights, and the Environment, takes a surprising and perhaps broader view of the problem and even the solution. “There is virtually no value to the footprint analysis and neutrality goal in its own right,” says Seth. What the footprint analysis and associated mitigation work can do “is reinforce two edicts that the Chewonki family holds dear: thinking globally while acting locally and leveraging the power of education to sow the seeds for a better world.”

Don Hudson, wrestling with the same dilemma, offered this: “Some may pick up the report prepared by our MCS students and feel daunted by the magnitude of the challenge, particularly when thinking about the larger global issues. Tens of thousands of institutions around the globe are facing the same challenge. Notwithstanding the seriousness of the issue, the work is inspiring and invigorating. This is a problem for all of us to solve—at home, at school, and in all of the communities in which we live.”

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*Betta Stothart Connor is Chewonki’s director of community relations and assistant editor of the Chronicle.*



MINA BARTOVICS

# Sailing Off to College

*Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom offers a great way to begin the first year of college*

ELIZABETH PIERSON

**M**ina Bartovics and Stew Stout, veteran Chewonki trip leaders, are handing out the lifejackets. "I'm sorry if they're cold," says Mina. "I'm sorry if they're still damp!" says Stew. The nine Bowdoin College students standing outside Packout laugh good-naturedly. Stew is wearing a bright red, one-piece rain suit, and his attire, functional as it may be, has lent a decidedly comic air to the morning.

"What about warm clothes?" asks Mina. "Does everyone have long underwear, a fleece, and waterproof raingear?" Three of the girls need rain pants, and bingo, Stew produces

these from Packout. What about sunblock? And especially ChapStick sunblock? "If you don't have any, put your sunscreen directly on your lips," advises Mina. "I know it tastes bad, but it beats sunburned lips." One girl astonishes the group by shyly mentioning that she has spf 65 sunblock. "65?! I didn't even know that existed!" exclaims one of her new classmates. "Yeah, my mom packed it," the girl replies, and she sounds both embarrassed and just a tiny bit wistful.

Ah yes, moms. They're history now, along with dads and sibs. It hasn't been even twenty-four hours since the seven first-years in this group arrived at Bowdoin and said good-bye to their families. Now they're at Chewonki, standing around in

clammy lifejackets and being shown how to “burp” a dry bag. In another hour or so they’ll shove off, embarking on a three-day sailing trip that will spend two nights on Ram Island at the mouth of Townsend Gut and then a third night at The Point on Chewonki Neck. “It’s going to be terrific!” says Nicole Willey, a Bowdoin senior and one of two student leaders on the trip.

It is August 22, and across the country universities and colleges are rolling out the welcome mat for first-year students. At many schools, that welcome now includes an optional pre-orientation trip. More than 70 percent of Bowdoin’s incoming students—numbering 480 this year—do a “Pre-O” trip. Most of the trips focus on exploring Maine’s outdoors, and most are led by student leaders, who receive extensive training from Bowdoin’s Outing Club. When it comes to its saltwater trips, however, Bowdoin calls on Chewonki. According to Outing Club director Michael Woodruff, “These are trips that require a bit more expertise and equipment than we can easily provide. We have great confidence in Chewonki’s staff. They do a terrific job for us.”

Chewonki has been leading Pre-O trips since the early 1990s, and this year all three of Maine’s premiere liberal arts colleges—Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin—contracted with Chewonki for trips. Central Maine Community College from Auburn also brought students to Chewonki this year, to spend a day doing team-building exercises as part of their orientation.

Katie Tremblay, director of the Outdoor Classroom for Schools (formerly Environmental Education), is delighted to be serving more college students. “We don’t do any programs for them the rest of the year, so this is a fun opportunity for us,” she says. “It also enables us to hold on to some of our summer staff a little longer, which they appreciate.” The timing works well too; by late August the last campers have just departed Chewonki Neck, the start of Maine Coast Semester is still a week away, and the fall schedule of elementary school visits has yet to begin. “We don’t have the staff or equipment to make a huge expansion in this area,” says Katie, “but we do hope to see the number of college trips grow.”

Jonathan Milne, Director of Outdoor Education and Safety at Colby College in Waterville, says he would “pay right now to secure a trip with Chewonki next August. They did an out-

standing job.” Milne oversees Colby’s COOT (Colby Outdoor Orientation Trip) Program and says he will come back “again and again” to Chewonki. “It’s not just that our kids had a great time,” he explains. “It goes into the realm of teaching in the outdoors. Our Colby-trained student leaders are *very* good. But they learned a tremendous amount from the Chewonki trip leaders.”

Bates reported a great time too. One of the student leaders e-mailed Katie afterward saying that “everybody had such an amazing time and the first years really bonded. They left agreeing that theirs was the best AESOP [Annual Entering Student Outdoor Program] ever....I really hope to lead a similar trip next year since it was such a hit.”

Chewonki supplies the boats, kayaks, lifejackets, camping equipment, and food for the college trips. It also supplies the leaders, who are assisted by the student leaders sent by each college. No previous experience is required for any of the participants. Equipment is handed out when the groups arrive at Chewonki, after which the Chewonki leaders provide a brief overview of the boats and the

trip. “There’s plenty of hands-on experience for the students,” says Katie. “If they don’t know anything about saltwater tripping and camping when they arrive, they certainly will when they leave.” As on any Chewonki wilderness trip, everyone pitches in with cooking and other chores, and the leaders look to the students to take ownership of the trip. “It’s definitely a cooperative venture,” says Katie.

Bowdoin began doing its Pre-O trips in 1982. “For a large majority of our students,” says Mike Woodruff, “this is their introduction to Bowdoin. In addition to showing them how beautiful Maine is, the trips enable students to start orientation having already bonded with a small group of friends. It’s an exciting and fun way to begin your first year of college.”

**B**ack at the Chewonki waterfront, Mina and Stew are working side by side with the Bowdoin students to finalize preparations for their trip. Two gems of the Chewonki fleet, the *Guillemot* and the *Petrel*, are tied to the dock. The conversation flows easily, especially when the first-years learn that their Chewonki leaders just graduated from Bowdoin themselves in May—Stew with a major in history and

**“These are trips that require a bit more expertise and equipment than we can easily provide. We have great confidence in Chewonki’s staff. They do a terrific job for us.”**

— MICHAEL WOODRUFF,  
BOWDOIN COLLEGE OUTING CLUB DIRECTOR



First-year students from Bates College settle in on their three-day Outdoor Classroom adventure. Photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen, Bates College.

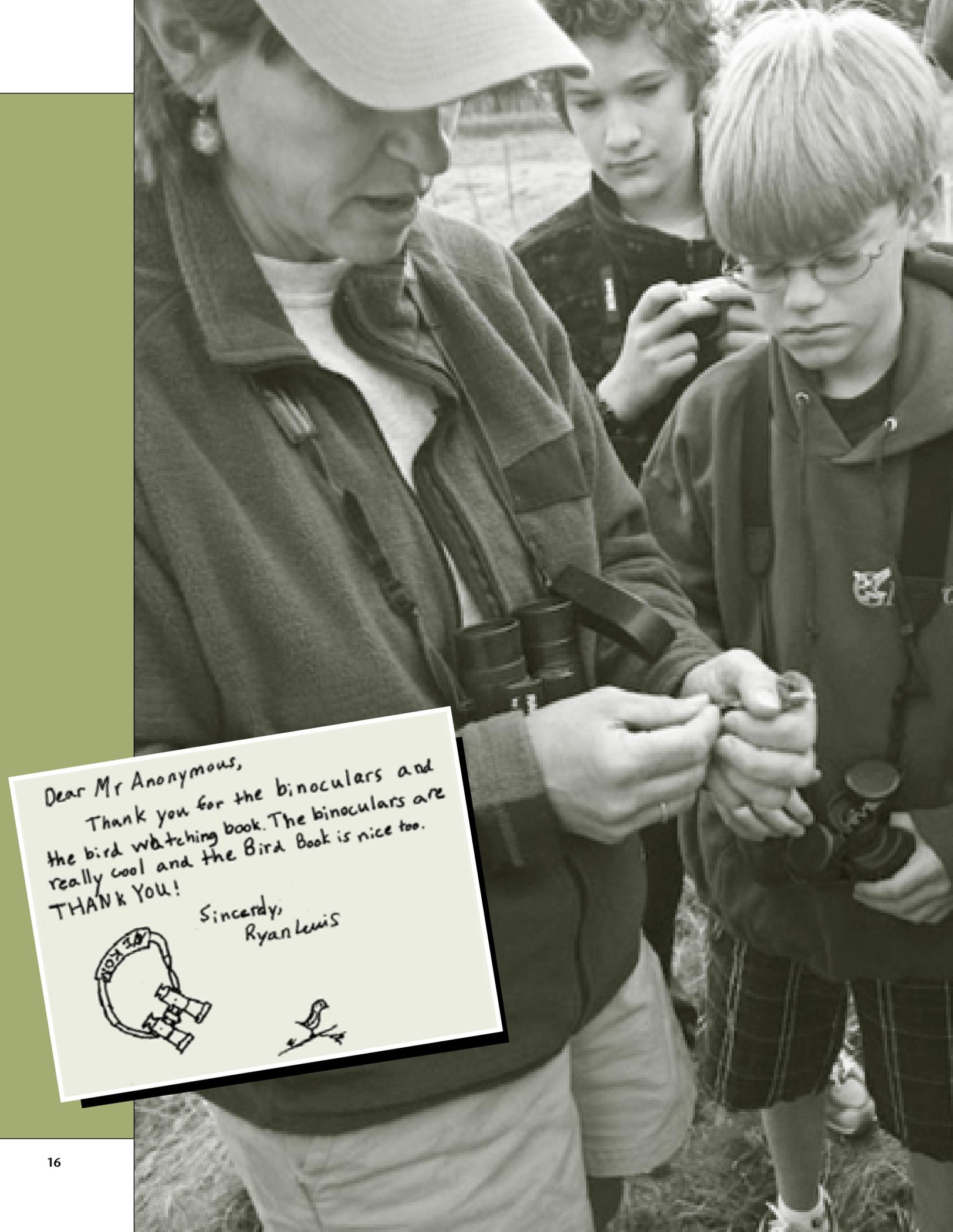
Mina with a double major in Geology and Studio Art. It's no coincidence they're leading this trip. "Mina and Stew were both on our summer staff, and I knew they went to Bowdoin," said Katie Tremblay. "So I hired them to stay an extra week and lead this trip. I figured the opportunity to get to know two recent grads would add an extra dimension to the experience for the first-years."

The *Guillemot* and *Petrel* look just about ready. Water jugs, rain tarps, wannagans, and packs have all been stored below, and daypacks lie at the ready on deck. Stew and four students will be on the *Petrel*, Mina and the other five students on the *Guillemot*. "I thought these boats looked so spacious when I first saw them!" says a tall young man as he steps aboard. Everyone laughs, recognizing that the 29-foot Mackinaw and 27-foot Crotch Island Pinky will in fact be very cozy.

It's 10:30 A.M. and time to set sail. Except in reality, it's time to set the oars. Not a breath of wind is stirring on this August day. "It isn't that far to Ram," Stew tells the students, "but if the wind doesn't pick up, we probably won't get there until this evening." No one in this eleven-member crew looks even the tiniest bit perturbed. "We've got four rowing stations on each boat," announces Mina. "Any volunteers?" And of course there are: *everyone* volunteers. "Sweet!" says Mina.

Minutes later, they're off, leaving a world of green—the shore, the point, and the harbor—for a world of blue. The day is slowly warming, and overhead an Osprey circles and calls. "It's going to be a great trip!" calls out one of the students happily. "We'll be exhausted when we get back, but that's okay!"

Welcome to college. It appears to be off to a great start.



Dear Mr Anonymous,  
Thank you for the binoculars and  
the bird watching book. The binoculars are  
really cool and the Bird Book is nice too.  
THANK YOU!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Lewis





# Dear Mr. Anonymous, Wow, thank you for the binoculars

ELIZABETH PIERSON

It's hard to convey in writing how magical the moment was. It was the inauguration of what Chewonki refers to simply as "the binocular program," and it happened twice this summer: at the beginning of Sessions I and II of our boys camp. Each boy who was ten or older and attending camp for a full session received a pair of Nikon 8 x 40 binoculars and a copy of Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*. They weren't just to use at camp and then give back, either. These were gifts, to be taken home and kept. "Forever?!" asked more than one wide-eyed boy. Forever. The proof was right inside each field guide: a handsome bookplate inscribed with the camper's name and the words "A Gift from The Chewonki Foundation, Summer 2007."

The extraordinary gifts were the brainstorm of a generous anonymous donor who is concerned that today's young people don't spend enough time exploring the out-of-doors. What better place to kick-start a life of watching and appreciating nature, he reasoned, than at Chewonki? The donor himself was an avid birder at Camp Chewonki and sustained that passion at home, compiling bird lists on the cardboard from his father's laundered shirts and tacking them to his bedroom wall. Bird watching, he knows, is a wonderful way for people of all ages to connect to the natural world and learn to care for it.

Lynne Flaccus, Chewonki's head naturalist, took the lead in preparing materials and activities for the new program and worked with the summer Nature staff to introduce campers to their binoculars and field guide. Fisheries biologist and all-round naturalist Fred Cichocki, who was head of Nature this summer, played a key role as well, as did counselor Zinny Wilson and Jim White of the Outdoor Classroom faculty.

"More than anything else, my role was to get the kids enthused," said Fred. Part of that was sharing with them the long history of bird study at Chewonki, and of course the story of Roger Tory Peterson, a counselor and camp naturalist from 1929 to 1933. "Seeing Chewonki mentioned in the foreword to their field guide, and learning that the first edition was written here and dedicated to founder Clarence Allen, really got the kids' attention," reported Fred. "They also thought it was pretty neat to spend time in the Nature Museum, knowing that's where Peterson spent much of his time at Chewonki" (and which he created from an old chicken coop).

The most fun of all, of course, was actually watching birds. Lynne led regular early-morning bird walks and did some bird banding with campers. Fred and other camp staff were also enthusiastic teachers, as was Chewonki president Don Hudson. At some level, the birding went on all day—when a Double-crested Cormorant flew by the waterfront or a Black-capped Chickadee landed atop a bush by the Wallace Center; when a Great Blue Heron rose majestically from the marsh or a White-crowned Sparrow sang its clear *Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody* from underneath a thicket. Several boys were keen to sight and check

off the birds on the three checklists Lynne developed: Chickadee Checklist, Sparrow Spotters, and Hawk Eyes. They even got a patch for each list they completed. With ten species on a list, progressing in degree of identification difficulty, that was no small order for a youngster who had never used binoculars or a field guide before.

So, were any bona fide birders born at camp this summer? "I think so," Lynne said recently. "Quite a few kids came on the bird walks, and they loved the bird banding. We found a few nests too, and that was exciting." Many of the boys got a kick out of learning they could use their binoculars backward, to examine insects and plants. Although some worried about taking their binoculars on trips, Lynne encouraged them to do so. "It's a fine line," she said. "You want them to take good care of their optics, but you don't want them to be so cautious they don't use them."

Lynne and Fred will fine-tune the program with a few minor improvements next summer, but both said that overall they considered its first year a great success. Camp Director Garth Altenburg concurred. "Some kids took to it, and some didn't," he said matter of factly. "Those who took to it *really* took to it." Fred doesn't worry too much about those who didn't. "It's like planting seeds," he said. "Some grow and some don't. You're happy for the ones that do." Don Hudson, who for twenty years has taught a bird class for Maine Coast Semester students, is of a similar mind. "Some of the MCS students don't care about birds," he said, "and I can live with that. Because these kids are like sponges. They'll absorb this, and decades from now it may surface."

A hundred and seventy-two campers received binoculars and a field guide this summer. The program will continue annually, providing significant support for Chewonki's educational efforts. "My hope is that as previous campers return with their gifts each summer, they'll help us teach the younger campers who are just getting theirs. I think the excitement will continue to build," said Lynne.

One can only imagine how delighted Roger Tory Peterson would have been by this program. At Chewonki, we've already seen how delighted the campers are by it. A thirteen-year-old Osprey who asked if he could write and thank the donor penned these words:

*Dear Mr. Anonymous,*

*Wow, thank you for the binoculars. I love watching birds and deer from far away and now I feel like I'm close up. I never really paid attention to birds, but now I am a lot more conscious of them and respect them. I often build bird boxes and set them up around my yard.*

*Sincerely,  
Doug Lewis*

Whoever Mr. Anonymous is, he planted a remarkable seed this summer. A million thanks to him from all of us at Chewonki.

There's nothing like seeing a bird in the hand. Here, Lynne Flaccus prepares to band a nestling.

# A DREAM FOR

*With a new program director and a new advisory committee, the*

**F**ifty-four girls participated in a Chewonki program this summer, thirty-nine of them in all-girl programs and fifteen in coed programs. If Genell Vashro and the Girls Program Advisory Committee have their way, however, those numbers will soon climb higher—much higher, in fact!

Hired last January as Chewonki's first director of girls programs, Genell is leading a much-anticipated expansion in programming for young women and girls. She's assisted in that task by the Girls Program Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees shortly before her arrival. Board chair Josh Marvil said recently that he's impressed with how much Genell and the committee have accomplished in less than a year. "They're exploring and carefully considering myriad possibilities," he said. "It's a very deliberative process, and we already know it will have exciting results."

The committee's charge from the trustees is two-fold: involve more girls and young women in wilderness programs and create a proposal for a summer camp that will serve girls ages eight to seventeen. Much of the work is focused on the later, particularly on finding the ideal location. "We're actively looking for a site and will certainly let people know when we find it," said Josh.

In attempting to envision the very best they can for girls at Chewonki, the committee has sought input from a wide array of constituents. Last May it hosted a one-day "Share Your Vision" forum at Chewonki with keynote speaker Lyn Mikel



Brown, co-founder of the nonprofit organization Hardy Girls Healthy Women and professor of education and women's studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. The day culminated in a facilitated visioning process for girls programs, centered on what girls need today. "What an event!" said Genell. "It was so exciting and energizing to see Chapin Hall filled with people eager to see more girls benefit from a Chewonki summer."

In addition to its longstanding coed wilderness trips and weeklong adventure camps on campus, Chewonki offered four all-girl programs this past summer: Wood Cove, Explorers for Girls, the Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls, and Adventure Camp for Girls. Much more is planned for next summer, including two three-week Allagash River expeditions and a three-week Appalachian Trail hiking trip that will culminate on the summit of Katahdin in Baxter State Park.

For information on girls programs in summer 2008, visit [www.chewonki.org](http://www.chewonki.org) or contact Genell Vashro at 207-882-7323 or [gvashro@chewonki.org](mailto:gvashro@chewonki.org).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIDGET BESAW

# GIRLS UNFOLDS

*stage is set for more girls than ever to enjoy a Chewonki summer*

Our daughter's participation in the Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls could not have been more enriching or supportive of her development as a young woman. She returned from the arduous and challenging 3-week trip on the Allagash with the best parts of her intellect and soul shining. The trip seemed to focus on her strengths (a tribute in large measure to the trip leaders) and to draw out the very best she has to offer. The experience provided our daughter with a revealing picture of her own strengths and capabilities, and an awareness of areas in which she is challenged. Overall, the trip will stand as one of the outstanding experiences of our daughter's life, a measure of her own potential and her unique relationship to the world.

—A PARENT'S REFLECTION ON HER DAUGHTER'S CANOE EXPEDITION FOR MAINE GIRLS TRIP, 2007



As you are aware, we had reservations when we sent [our daughter] to Chewonki whether she would fit in or like it, since as a 15 [-year-old] teenager she had become enamored with boys, clothes, jewelry, her cell phone, Myspace, and instant messaging on her computer. A three-week trip in the wilderness white water kayaking (session II) seemed as far from her interests as possible. Yet, she not only survived, but returned with new confidence in her own abilities, new friends, a new found respect for the world beyond our small home-town, and a more positive attitude. That is a lot to accomplish in just three weeks. We are amazed.

Thanks to you, to the great guides she worked with on her trip, and to Chewonki for providing such an experience.

—A PARENT'S REFLECTION ON HER DAUGHTER'S WEST BRANCH WHITEWATER KAYAKING TRIP, 2007



# Reflections on a 1957 Trip to Katahdin

TIM ELLIS



Tim Ellis (back right) and the five campers who joined him in his 1957 exploration of Baxter State Park, atop Baxter Peak. The view hasn't changed since then, but camping equipment and clothes certainly have. Note the ash pack-basket and canteen—and the conspicuous absence of fleece!

*Editor's note:* We're delighted to present two essays in this issue that speak eloquently to the value of wilderness travel. Below, Tim Ellis relates how an unexpected experience as a nineteen-year-old trip leader stimulated lasting ideas about teaching and learning. On page 23, Jenn Barton relates the experiences of several former Chewonki wilderness trippers, as well as her own thoughts about wilderness travel. Jenn's essay is a condensed version of her chapter by the same title that appears in a recently published book on Maine's Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail, *Wildness Within, Wildness Without* (Besaw Publishing, 2007).

The sun was warm on our backs that summer of 1957. A light breeze carried peaceful summer sounds as we paused to catch our breath on the Second Cathedral of the challenging Cathedral Trail en route to Baxter Peak. Two Common Ravens chortled and somersaulted above us. An atmosphere of closeness and connection surrounded us as we looked over the Great Basin to magnificent Pamola Peak. Knowing how sacred Katahdin is to native Penobscot Indians, we paid our respects to the legendary god Pamola. Thought by Penobscots to be the God of Thunder and protector of Katahdin, Pamola is described as having the head of a moose, the body of a man, and the feet of an eagle. Worth staying on his good side, we figured!

I was nineteen years old and had just completed my freshman year at Bowdoin College. I was a cabin counselor, worked in Woodcraft, and helped lead wilderness trips. I was pleased to be selected as an assistant leader on the coveted weeklong trip to Katahdin. Three leaders and ten campers had been chosen. Although I had hiked Katahdin many times before, a visit there was always a pilgrimage of sorts and a privilege. I was filled with excitement.

Midsummer, a bug swept through camp, laying low many, including half of our ten chosen campers and their head trip leader, Renny Little. There was talk of canceling the trip. A day or two before it was to leave, Clarence Allen called me to his office. I nervously considered what might have prompted this, but I was soon set at ease. He asked me if I'd be comfortable leading the trip as the only leader with five campers. He urged me to consider the magnitude of the responsibility and said I would be the youngest counselor to have led such a trip. What a challenge! I was humbled by the responsibility he was willing to put on my shoulders and flattered by his trust and high expectations. My eyes lit up. I'm not sure whether I revealed my fear and nervousness.

The five campers were a diverse and impressive group of twelve- and thirteen-year olds: Victor Kyrlyliuk, Howard Coonley, George Bell, Ted Churchill, and David Cadbury.

Before we left, I explained that it was unusual to have only one leader and that I needed to have complete confidence in them to help make the trip a joyful experience for us all. I asked for their understanding and support, and indicated I had high expectations for their behavior and sense of ownership for the trip. If we were to be successful, every one of us had to feel a sense of responsibility for the trip and for each other. I told them I was ready to share decisions and responsibilities for all aspects of the trip. After dinner on our first night out at Roaring Brook, and before reading a bit of Don Fendler's autobiographical *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*, I reinforced these ideas. Together we identified tasks and decisions.

The seven days flew by. We explored Basin and Chimney Ponds on our way up to Baxter Peak. We lunched on Baxter, crossed the Knife Edge, explored Pamola and its fascinating caves. We enjoyed a sunny day hiking up Hamlin Peak, and halfway up watched a Black Bear foraging for berries. After lunching at Caribou Springs, we headed down across the Northwest Plateau to camp at glorious Northwest Basin and skinny dip in the frigid waters of Davis Pond. Several days were spent on and around Wassataquiok Lake and Russell Pond. Before heading back to Chewonki, we swam and washed at Slide Dam. Seven days of joy.

This is a story as much about ideas, people, and institutions as place. We had the usual crews for campsite work—cook, wood, clean-up, journal. But beyond that, an atmosphere of doing emerged. Victor was quick to grab the saw and ax when wood needed topping off. David shared his fascination with each wonder of the natural world. Ted, with his smiling eyes, had a joke ready for every adventure encountered. Howie and George pitched in with dishwashing. Each kept an eye open for the needs of others. I can't remember one raised voice. We read to each other, told stories of our lives, and for those precious days we were a close family. I had never felt as relaxed as a trip leader.

As a junior counselor, I had been on other successful trips to Katahdin and to many other favorite haunts. What made this trip so unusual was, in part, being the only counselor. On

other trips there was a natural division between counselors and campers—those who led and those who followed, those with power and those without. One evening on a previous trip, I had taken a canoe out on Russell Pond with the other counselor for a pipe-full (no more!) as the sun set, leaving the campers to clean up. Although a bonding time for the two of us, it was symbolic of the “we-they” ethic that pervades so much of education today. As the only counselor on the ’57 trip, I was forced to look to the campers for companionship, and I found it. The six of us became partners.

Again and again, as I visit schools and classrooms and meet with teachers, administrators, and students, I see the age-old “we-they” game being played.

The teacher role seems to be to catch the student on some behavioral issue; the student role is to not get caught! When problems and failure arise, students point the finger at the teacher, the parent, the authority figure to find blame, rather than look inward and say, “What can I do, in community with others, to make this situation better?” School cultures develop around this ethic, which becomes sadly engrained. What could be more negative?

Concepts essential to effective teaching and learning are lost: trust, empowerment, ownership for learning, *real* responsibility.

What made that Katahdin ’57 trip so powerful for me personally? In part it was the weather, thanks to the kindness of Pamola. In part it was the group: five fabulous young people ready to take on significant responsibility. In part it was what I saw them learning about themselves and community. But the major value for me came from what *I* learned. Clarence Allen had asked for and expected mature and adult behavior from me as a young counselor, and I responded. In turn, I asked for and expected responsible behavior and a sense of ownership for the trip from the campers, and they responded.

Such a simple lesson, yet perhaps more personally significant than a full year of my master’s studies in International Education at Tufts. As my years as an educator rolled by—counselor, classroom teacher, Chewonki director, international educational consultant, founder and director of GlobalQuest—I tried to keep that ’57 Katahdin experience in mind. In the 1970s and 1980s we had a fabulous laboratory at Chewonki to develop programs based on some simple and abundantly obvious observations about education. Programs came (and some

went): Maine Reach, School Residential Programs, Boat Building, EcoWeek, Environmental Education College Semester, Outdoor Leadership Semester, Outreach Natural History Programs, Maine Coast Semester—and we continued to learn.

We speak often about “the magic of Chewonki.” Why is it that MCS students, semester after semester, are ecstatic about what they have experienced? Why is it that so often campers want to become counselors? Why is it that Chewonki leaders spark ideas that often lead to new programs and initiatives? It happens because of deeply held and shared beliefs that have become part of the culture and ethic that are Chewonki.

We strive to set high expectations, understanding that we often get from others what we

expect. When offering responsibility, we seek to ensure that it is real and that there is accountability. Students and colleagues embrace responsibility when their effort and commitment are truly needed, and often the most effective punishment for failure is the withholding of responsibility for a time.

As Chewonki develops programs, it works hard to create a culture of empowerment, which

engenders personal ownership for the success of the enterprise—a wilderness trip, a productive garden, a successful campfire skit, a well-stacked wood pile, a seaworthy boat. We hope that participants in all Chewonki programs feel that they, in community with others, are responsible for the success of their program, whatever it might be. We work hard to create communities based on trust. When students and teachers realize that trust goes to the trustworthy and responsibility to the responsible, communities thrive.

Generations of Chewonki campers before and after have enjoyed trips to Katahdin. Yet that quiet moment in the summer of ’57 on the Second Cathedral, surrounded by friends, will always stay with me, as will the adventure, the exploration of ideas, the place. It was an experience that stimulated lasting ideas about teaching and learning.

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*Tim Ellis has spent much of his life at Chewonki, as a camper, counselor, camp director, executive director (1966–1991), and now trustee. He filed this essay in between hiking in Wyoming and the Grand Canyon, and before joining his wife, Margaret, while she works for three months this fall for the Indian Health Service in Pinon, Arizona.*

**When students and teachers realize that trust goes to the trustworthy and responsibility to the responsible, communities thrive.**



# Outdoor Education – In Search of a Secret

JENNIFER BARTON



BRIDGET BESAW

Jenn Barton and her daughter explore the woods near their home on Chewonki Neck.

**O**n his descent of “Kataadn” in 1846, Henry David Thoreau stopped to gaze westward toward an abundance of lakes. “The forest looked like a firm grass sward, and...these lakes in its midst had been well compared...to a ‘mirror broken into a thousand fragments and wildly scattered over the grass...’” On his canoe journeys, Thoreau speaks of entering these mirrored lakes via river and soon becoming lost, as if the entrance to the river closes up. I know this feeling when I enter Lobster Lake, and wonder if I will find my way out again. But the panoramic beauty beckons, as does a loon that yodels and then dives toward the depths. My paddle plunges, pulls, and releases. I see myself on the surface of the water, and I also see beyond to where the loon disappeared. As in any journey, I can’t say where I’m headed, just that I must go.

Some of my favorite memories of the West Branch of the Penobscot River are from late afternoons in camp when the division of labor is clear and no words are necessary to enhance the experience. There is only the rasping of a saw sliding through a log, the chink of an axe halving a billet, the crackle of a freshly lit fire, and the metal on metal clank of spatulas sautéing vegetables. I imagine Thoreau and his companions preparing their evening meals of fried pork or moose meat, ship bread, and coffee or tea steeped from snowberry, checkerberry, or hemlock leaves. In Thoreau’s time as in mine, each person’s role is crucial to the functioning of the whole. As Thoreau noted, “There’s rarely any time to spare, hardly enough to examine a plant, before the night or drowsiness is upon you.”

Shared work makes us feel valued, no matter what our age. We delight in the campfire pizza we kneaded and baked while watching the river roll by at dusk. Wilderness skills become a source of pride, a reward much greater than ascending fifteen levels in the latest video game.

Today, many hands-on skills are undervalued, since they are no longer necessary for survival. With no need to split and stack our own wood or grow our own food, we are losing a precious intimacy with the natural world. In his 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv asserts: “Today, kids are aware of the global threats to the environment—but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature, is fading.... In nature, a child finds freedom, fantasy, and privacy: a place distant from the adult world, a separate peace.”

In the summer of 2003, sixteen-year-old Meredith Podgurski of Farmington, Maine, participated in Chewonki’s first Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls. Having low expectations for her daylong solo at the end of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, she was startled by her compulsion to write page upon page in her journal. The opportunity to slow down enough to pay attention to her inner and outer worlds yielded profound insights for Meredith. “This program has really changed my life. When I got back . . . I saw everything in a new way—the seasons, the people around me. It was like I was seeing it all for the first time. On the expedition I figured out where I’m

headed. And now I'm leaping forward into my life." Since the summer of 2004, Meredith has been working her dream job as an Allagash ranger.

While an experience of intimacy in the natural world can be clarifying, it can also present great obstacles, then build our confidence when we overcome them. On the first week of her Thoreau Wilderness Trip in the summer of 1978, fifteen-year-old Hilary Huber was homesick, rain-sopped, and bug-bitten. Following the first resupply, the group traded paddles for poles and began the arduous journey up the Allagash. Hilary thought, "My god, this is so hard." What helped her persevere was harkening back to the pioneers, how struggle had been their daily life, and how they had survived. Almost thirty years later, she reflects on that time: "My wilderness trip allowed me to be in the struggle; I could choose to hate it and fight it, or I could appreciate it and learn to live with it."

When I consider the allure of the wild, I'm not thinking of portaging a canoe on my head without a free hand to swat the black flies on the back of my neck. Nor am I thinking of my trench foot from a week of rain. Yet some part of me knows I will encounter these things along the journey. What greater skill to teach our children than how to move through struggle just as we navigate the next rapid—sometimes with grit, other times with grace, but always as an opportunity to be embraced.

We live in a culture of escape, which values reality television over our own reality, which preaches to us of our inadequacies and offers to fix us through this diet or that tooth whitener. In the wilderness, our shortcomings don't make us inadequate.

Wilderness teaches us that brokenness is part of wholeness by the maple snag that has become home to a Great Horned Owl or the three-legged coyote still foraging enough to survive. Emily Johnson, fifteen years old, describes her process of coming to terms with that brokenness during the 2004 Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls: "I often feel so tense, like a rubber band pulled so tightly, trying to hold myself together. On our trip, I broke so suddenly and gently and I want to let life and love break me again and again."

We don't go to wilderness to find this easy way out. We go because in our deepest being we wish to be challenged, for we know that perseverance yields great rewards. Thoreau said, "If I wished to see a mountain or other scenery under the most favorable auspices, I would go to it in foul weather, so as to be there when it cleared up; we are then in the most suitable mood, and nature is most fresh and inspiring. There is no serenity so fair as that which is just established in a tearful eye." Thoreau reminds us that we must move through the storm to find beauty and to rekindle an intimacy with the world.

Who will speak on behalf of the earth if we lose this intimacy? According to Hilary Huber Holm, "The children who have these opportunities will be the ones who can understand the effects of some grave environmental issues such as global warming. These are the kids who will have the passion to protect the earth. When I brought home Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, my twelve-year-old son Ryan was the only other one in the family to watch it. He spent the last two summers at Camp Chewonki."

## Wilderness Tripping at Chewonki

Wilderness tripping has always been part of the Chewonki experience. In the earliest days, campers set off on one- to three-day trips to nearby areas such as the Kennebec River and the Camden Hills. In 1950, the program expanded to include longer adventures in the North Woods. On the first Thoreau Wilderness Trip in 1970, campers spent seven weeks paddling and poling along much of Thoreau's 1857 route. The first coed wilderness trips were offered in 1976, and the first all-girl trips in 2000.

In the past year, 926 people took a wilderness trip with Chewonki. Ranging in age from preschoolers to octogenarians, they participated in 125 individual trips that ranged in length from two days to five weeks. By Wilderness Program Director Greg Shute's calculations, that's more than 9,090 participant days in the field on wilderness trips! The trips ranged as far south as Cumberland Island in Georgia and as far north as the Torngat Mountains of Labrador, as far west as the Long Trail in Vermont and as far east as the Republic of Komi in Russia.

Visit [www.chewonki.org](http://www.chewonki.org) and click on "Wilderness Trips for All Ages" to learn more about our program.



These children will have the passion to protect the earth because they have learned to love and care for their own lives as well as others. This is where outdoor education must reach—into the heart of every child. It is not just about the landscape through which we travel; it is about the landscape within, that vast and uncharted wilderness we carry deep inside. Without the engagement of the heart, any effort to protect the earth fails. Thoreau's

journals reveal the great depth to which nature influenced his feelings about the world. Of yellow birch trees he wrote: "The sight of these trees affects me more than California gold."

Twenty-one-year-old Alex Martin will never forget the first time he felt a deep emotional response on a Chewonki wilderness trip. He was fifteen years old, and his group was camped on Gero Island in Chesuncook Lake—an island Thoreau never saw, formed by flooding from the construction of Ripogenus Dam in 1916. Low water revealed layers of previously concealed shoreline, exposing "a whole new world of beauty," Alex recalls. "It truly inspired the imagination. It was the single best day of my life until that point." Best, because he had to earn it through a long paddle. Best, because it was "deeply and elementally satisfying to split wood to make a fire to make dinner to fuel the next day's paddle journey." Best, simply for the sake of feeling so alive. Today, you will never find Alex paddling solo in the North Woods. "For me, it's best to take others along, to teach them how to be comfortable in the woods. If this transformation can happen to me, it should happen to others, it should happen to my children. I need to do my part to see that these experiences remain available."

Much has changed since Thoreau journeyed through Maine with his Penobscot guides in the mid-1800s, yet the power of wilderness to transform the traveler has endured. The learning of hands-on skills, a willingness to engage struggle, and an experience of intimacy with the natural world remain as important today as they did 150 years ago.

Wilderness travel is not a retreat; the lessons have to come home with us. Otherwise it is self-serving, mere luxury. There is a responsibility that comes with it because not everyone can do it. One of the best ways to understand this responsibility is through direct service. "I've always liked the service component of wilderness trips," says 1977 Thoreau Wilderness Trip leader Rebecca Marvil, "the idea of making something better than when you got there as a thank-you for the privilege of

**"The children who have these opportunities will be the ones who can understand the effects of some grave environmental issues such as global warming. These are the kids who will have the passion to protect the earth."**

—HILARY H. HOLM

using the waterway you were traveling." Rebecca recalls meticulously rebuilding stone fire rings, repairing ridgepoles for tarps, and cleaning up campsites. She recalls how one Allagash ranger led her group to a secret fishing spot in return for their campsite work. "I caught the most beautiful brook trout I've ever caught in my life! Mist was rising on the water; it was truly a magical moment. I kept thinking to myself, I'll never catch such a beautiful fish again."

The power of wilderness travel lies not between these pages, but in the awesome and humbling experience of it. We are never the same for it. Nor was Thoreau ever the same for his North Woods journeys, evident from his dying words, "Indian" and "moose." Throughout his later years, Thoreau's reverence for his Indian guides grew, and in 1857 he acknowledged, "Nature must have made a thousand revelations to them which are still secrets to us." Perhaps that is why venturing into wild places is so important in today's world; in return for our physical and mental exertion we are always rewarded with profound revelation. Or perhaps it's even simpler than that—an age-old desire to stand on the other side of a secret.

I am now the mother of a one-year-old girl and grateful to all of my wilderness journeys, which have become my greatest parenting resources. There are nights when I don't want to awaken at 2:00 A.M. to change another diaper or to fill my daughter's bottomless belly. Then I remember days when my blisters were so raw that I couldn't fathom carrying my canoe across another portage. My responsibility to others inspires me onward, as does my commitment to myself to embrace the journey with its many faces. Some nights, when I am holding my daughter close, her eyes closed and mouth drawing milk, I can hear the call of loon across the lake and feel its sound reverberate through my body. That same wild sound that Thoreau, for hours, lay awake listening to. I trust that my daughter feels it too.

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*Jenn Barton is project coordinator for Maine Woods Forever, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the legacy of Maine's North Woods. She has led wilderness trips for Chewonki since 1998 in Maine and Canada and been a teacher in three Chewonki programs: the Outdoor Classroom, Outreach, and Maine Coast Semester. Jenn lives on the Chewonki campus with her husband, MCS head of school Willard Morgan, and their one-year-old daughter.*

## Calling All Alumni— Log On and Stay in Touch!



Thanks to our new website, launched last December, it's never been easier for alumni to stay in touch with Chewonki and with each other. Just visit [www.chewonki.org](http://www.chewonki.org) and click on "Alumni" in the navigation bar at the top of the page. Want to update your contact information? Get in touch with other alums? Order back issues of the *Chronicle* or *Coastlines*? Or learn how you can volunteer for Chewonki? You can do all that—and more!—online.

Dick Thomas, Director of Alumni Relations, is particularly interested in receiving address updates and in learning what types of events alumni would like to see Chewonki organize in their area. Future plans call for alumni events across the country, and Dick would love to hear "any and all ideas" people might have.

Whether you've been a camper, wilderness tripper, MCS student, EE participant, staff member, or parent or friend of Chewonki, we hope you'll visit our Alumni Page often and stay in touch. As always, of course, you can also call Dick in our Alumni Office at 207-882-7323, or e-mail him at [alumni@chewonki.org](mailto:alumni@chewonki.org).

## Remembering Sheryl Blair



Chewonki lost a dear friend on August 28, 2007, when Sheryl Blair died after a long illness at her home in Concord, Massachusetts.

Sheryl first came to Chewonki in 1987, when her son Justin Reich came to camp for the first time. Son Jesse joined Justin at camp in 1988, and both had a long associa-

tion over more than ten years. Justin's wife, Elsa Olivetti, and Jesse's wife, Alene Reich, both served on the summer camp staff in the latter years of their husbands' involvement, which only strengthened Sheryl's ties to Chewonki. Sheryl was a passionate advocate for Chewonki, and she was elected to the Board of Trustees in May 1991. This July, shortly before her death, she was elected an Honorary Trustee.

Sheryl was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on March 25, 1948. She earned a bachelor's degree

from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health administration from Clark University.

Chewonki staff and trustees will remember Sheryl for her skillful and dedicated leadership of the Development Committee. Sheryl worked for years in the development offices of several institutions, including the Fay School, Dana Farber Institute, and Lesley University. She never lost her focus on the need for a strong endowment at Chewonki, and she spoke eloquently many times about the need for institutions like ours to pay careful attention to the establishment and stewardship of such resources. When Sheryl took over leadership of the Development Committee, our fledgling endowment stood at just under \$400,000. She watched it grow tenfold in sixteen years.

The Sheryl A. Blair Fund has been created at Chewonki to celebrate Sheryl's love and commitment for all that we do. This endowed fund will provide broad support for all of our activities. As a result, Sheryl will be honored and remembered at Chewonki forever.

DON HUDSON

### *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan (Penguin Books, 2006)

Thought you were confused about what to eat after reading Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*? Well, just wait, the problem of how to eat a conscientious meal has gotten worse. Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* presents us with a gripping exposé of the most basic choices we make as we sit down to dinner each night. Looking at food from an ecological, anthropological, political, and personal perspective, Pollan dissects our choices and reveals their implications. It's a complex read, but Pollan makes it entertaining and endlessly instructive.

This book is for readers who want the truth about where American farming has arrived in the twenty-first century and who have the patience to follow Pollan on his sometimes lengthy scientific inquiries. The book's best moments are in interviews. Pollan is a journalist, and his travels to meet farmers on their farms and foragers in the field are colorful and richly informing.

In section one, devoted entirely to corn, an Iowa farmer reveals why so many Midwestern farmers abandoned diversified farming and are now trapped in a downward spiral of corn and soybean production. "We're on the bottom rung of the industrial food chain, using this land to produce energy and protein, mostly to feed animals," he says. For anyone who's ever had an idyllic perception of the Midwestern corn belt, Pollan obliterates that notion, revealing a destructive pattern of

bioengineered crops, overplanting, overproduction, synthetic fertilizer addiction, and the resulting tragic number of farms and farmers in debt "up to [their] eyeballs."

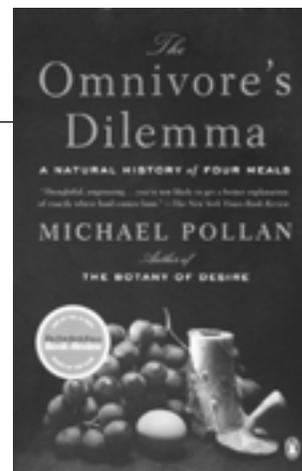
Section two offers a fascinating encounter with Joel Salatin, a pastoral farmer from Virginia, and a simply mind-boggling excursion to Whole Foods Market, where Pollan leads us through an astonishing critique of natural food labels. This section will be of tremendous interest to those who prefer all-natural and organic foods and who shop accordingly.

In 415 packed pages, Pollan explores the industrial and alternative food chain that sustains us. He even devotes a chapter to the food we forage ourselves, seeking out a "stout, burley Italian" named Angelo Garro on colorfully depicted hunts for mushrooms and pigs. The book ends on a high note, with Pollan's example of what he calls a "perfect meal."

Michael Pollan is the Knight Professor of Journalism at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* was named one of the ten best books of 2006 by the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* and has won numerous awards.

If you have the stomach for the truth, it's a must read.

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR



# STEP IT UP

## FOR SUSTAINABILITY

### SOLAR HOT WATER

If you haven't already installed a solar hot water system, we're guessing you've at least thought about it. Yes, we know, this is a much bigger commitment in time, energy, and money than replacing your incandescent lightbulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents. But as Sustainability Coordinator Peter Arnold said recently, "It's time to start putting solar hot water in the 'Of course!' category."

Although the up-front costs may seem high, a solar hot water heater usually pays for itself through energy savings within a

very reasonable time. It can also save significant money over its lifetime and be an example of sustainable living for others.

A typical system provides 50 to 70 percent of a household's hot water needs, saving the existing hot water heater as a backup for times of heavy use or extended bad weather. At a cost of \$3,500 to \$7,000 before state and federal incentives, a system that replaces an electric water heater can pay for itself in four to six years, last fifteen to twenty years, and provide an internal rate of return of 17 percent. Where available, incentives can cut a system's cost by as much as a third to a half. In Maine, for example, homeowners receive a rebate of 25 percent of the cost of the system or

\$1,250, whichever is less. As in all states, they also receive a federal tax credit of 30 percent of the system's cost, up to \$2,000. Do the math, and it's quite an incentive!

Many tools on the internet can help you estimate the cost and savings of a solar installation. A good example can be found at [Findsolar.com](http://Findsolar.com). These tools are no substitute for a qualified professional, but they can give you some idea of the potential for your home based on your current utility use. These sites also have information on state and federal rebate programs.

**The bottom line:** If you own your home and can install a system, you'll be saving money and our planet in no time at all.

*This column takes its name and logo (with permission) from the Step It Up 2007 National Day of Climate Action that took place on April 14, 2007. For more information, visit [www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org).*

CHEWONKI FOUNDATION

**MAINE  
COAST  
SEMESTER**  
*20th Anniversary*

# SAVE THE DATE

## *20 Years of Maine Coast Semester!*

**August 15–17, 2008**

Mark your calendars now!

Alumni from all semesters

will be invited to return to Chewonki Neck next summer to celebrate twenty years of MCS.

We've already begun planning the event, which will include semester reunions, music, activities, demonstrations, and speakers.

Remember the delicious meals in the dining hall? Farm chores and dish crew? Paper bag skits? Long walks on Chewonki Neck? Knitting in the Wallace? Hamming it up with your cabin mates? This is your chance to come back and enjoy it all again!

If you have suggestions or would like to help us plan the celebration, please e-mail [mcsalumni@chewonki.org](mailto:mcsalumni@chewonki.org). In the meantime, look for more information in upcoming issues of *Coastlines* and on our website ([www.chewonki.org/alumni](http://www.chewonki.org/alumni)).



MCS 35 (Fall 2005) is all smiles on a science field trip.



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