# CHEWONKI FALL 2011 CHRONICLE

# A Fresh Wind in Our Sails!

Chewonki concludes the most successful capital campaign in its history Story begins on page 22



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#### PROGRAMS

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

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OC instructor Adam Williams reflects on a trip to the grocery store.

Cover photo by Bridget Besaw.



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Did you know that the Chronicle is available online too? Visit www.chewonki.org and look for the link on the bottom left, under "Popular Pages."

# Sharing a Pathway

ain had fallen steadily for 24 hours, but it had not dampened spirits for 41 semester students and a dozen staff members. We were at Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps, the home of Chewonki Camp for Girls, in late October-midterm break for the group that hails from the west, east, north, and south of our country. Since arriving a day earlier, we had paddled in canoes, hiked to Fifth Debsconeag Lake and the top of Clif's Cliffs, learned how to set up tarps for the students' upcoming solos, and begun the work to shut down the camps for

winter—scrubbing yurts, splitting firewood for next spring, and pulling docks from the waterfront.

By the time we left, every student had hiked the surrounding hills, paddled the lake, heard the call of loons, and reflected both on their semester experience already half-completed—as well as their emerging sense of personal leadership. They also returned to Wiscasset with exposure to our Girls Camp culture—we share "random acts of community" at dinner announcements—and ideas for wilderness trips in their future, whether with Chewonki or on their own.

Five years ago we could not have hosted a fiveday program like this, but now Chewonki has this wilderness campus with permanent yurts, a lodge for cooking and eating, and a collection of cabins for staff as well. It was made possible by the historic generosity of more than 1,400 donors to our Pathway to the Future Campaign, which is featured in this issue of



the *Chronicle*. Thanks to a strategic effort launched nearly seven years ago, we now have a four-year-old camp for girls to complement our ninety-six-year-old camp for boys in Wiscasset. We have grown our endowment to support all programs and make our facilities more sustainable.

Although our feature story is about the campaign, you will find this issue full of other Chewonki and alumni news. In response to our recent reader survey, we have enlarged our "News from the Neck" section with exciting developments at Chewonki and made sure to feature a range of programs and alumni in our stories. Read carefully and you

can find hints of our next steps in this issue too. You will notice we have begun to plan for our centennial in 2015 with increased outreach to alumni of all programs. We have initiatives to increase enrollments in our wilderness trips and school programs as well. Finally, you can read about the new activities we offered the 309 boys who joined us for camp in 2011.

With this issue we say thank you for your support and simultaneously ask you to be further engaged with Chewonki. I hope you will share information about Chewonki programs with those in your community, send us your feedback, and consider volunteering your time in support of our mission. Together we will continue on a shared pathway to the future.

Travel well, Willard

## News from the Neck

#### Hello, Color!

We feel the way Dorothy and Toto must have felt when they were blown out of Kansas and woke up in Oz! We're thrilled to introduce four-color printing with this issue of the *Chronicle*. It's a change we considered for years but didn't make earlier because of cost. With changes in technology, however, the difference in cost between four-color and two-color printing has narrowed dramatically. We also heard your comments on our recent reader survey, in which several people asked for color photography. One reader said: "I associate Chewonki with beauty: physical—the place, and a spiritual beauty....why can't the magazine look more like *Orion* than a newsletter? I'd love to see the *Chronicle* with a gorgeous cover that would make even people who'd never been [there] want to open it."

Dear readers, here you are! We're excited about the change and hope you are too.

#### **Centennial Co-Chairs Named**

Chewonki is pleased to announce that Advisory Board members Scott Beebe and Roseanne Saalfield have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the newly formed Chewonki Centennial Committee. Chewonki will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2015, and plans are beginning to take shape for this momentous affair.

Roseanne and Scott will each serve a two-year term of this ad hoc board committee to help guide the centennial planning process. Others who have agreed to participate are former Chewonki presidents Tim Ellis and Don Hudson.

"I was delighted to hear that Scott and Roseanne are willing to cochair this important committee," said Chewonki board chair Josh Marvil. "Each has a deep interest in Chewonki's history and its future, and they bring abundant experience, leadership, and energy."

Scott is a senior vice president of institutional sales for Merrill Lynch of Boston. In addition to serving on the board of the University Club of Boston, he has served as a Big Brother mentor and City Year volunteer. Scott was both a camper and counselor at Chewonki.

Roseanne is the mother of two boys, one of whom was a long-time camper and both of whom participated in Chewonki wilderness trips. Beyond fund-raising and development work, Roseanne has served on local boards of private schools in her hometown of Harvard, Massachusetts, and currently chairs the Town Historic Commission.

Next steps involve recruiting more committee members and laying out a timeline from now through 2015. The first two years of the committee's work will focus on archive work and documenting Chewonki's history. The committee welcomes volunteers. Anyone who would like to be involved should contact Chewonki.



Did you know there used to be a stable at the current site of Packout? We don't know the identity of the gentleman grazing these equines in front of the Farm House, nor do we know when the photo was taken. Our best guess is sometime in the 1920s or 1930s. If you know, or can tell us more about the horseback-riding era at Chewonki, we'd love to hear from you.

#### Alfond Support Aims to Reach More Maine Youth

Thanks to a generous grant from the William and Joan Alfond Foundation, a group of Maine youngsters from the towns of Dexter, Milo, and Eastport will receive financial assistance to attend a Chewonki program. The Alfond grant is a four-year commitment and will fund a total of 16 scholarships for students to attend Boys Camp, Girls Camp, or Semester School. The first four students came to Chewonki this summer.

"It was incredibly gratifying to have campers with us this summer who were recipients of this grant," said Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg. "Their participation was a highlight of my summer." Garth, together with then interim head of school Bill Hinkley, visited schools in Dexter and Milo last winter to get the word out about the opportunity. Chewonki will visit Eastport schools this year. "We were thrilled when the applications came in, knowing that these families never would have applied had there not been assistance available," said Garth.

The goal of the Alfond scholarship program is to increase participation of youngsters from Dexter, Milo, and Eastport in Chewonki's summer and Semester School programs. For more information about the grants or to provide support for financial aid at Chewonki, please contact Lucy Hull in the Development Office (207-882-7323 or lhull@chewonki.org).



Education and livestock coordinator Megan Phillips (left) and farm apprentice Abigail Marshall are using the new farm equipment regularly.

JEREMY TARDI

#### Gifts for the Farm and Kitchen

Thanks to a generous grant from the Harmon Foundation, Salt Marsh Farm recently purchased three beautiful and much-needed pieces of new equipment: a wheel hoe, a horse-drawn plow, and a horse-drawn dump cart. The grant came at the direction of Matt and Laureen Hollyday of Cape Elizabeth, whose daughter Emily attended Semester 43. There are many farmers in the extended Hollyday family, and they were all eager to support a program that Emily had enjoyed so much. Their gift has been a welcome boon. Our farmers rely on hand and horse-drawn tools to plow and cultivate Chewonki's fields, and in the past these have often been antique tools. With this new equipment, the farm staff can actually contact the manufacturer for replacement parts or related advice!

The farm is also grateful to longtime friends Mark and Ingrid Albee, who for many years were Chewonki's farm manager and health care coordinator, respectively. When the Albees moved to New Hampshire in 2005 to start their own farm, they left behind—temporarily, they thought—some valuable tools. This summer, the Albees informed Chewonki that what they had originally intended to be a loan would instead be a gift. Salt Marsh Farm is now the grateful owner of the Albees' hay tedder, walk-behind plow, drag harrow, and forecart.

In the kitchen, a recent gift for the root cellar from Dee and Jim Kleinman of Pepper Pike, Ohio, will help Chewonki preserve the food it grows. The Kleinmans' gift was made in honor of their granddaughter Rachel Kleinman (Semester 43) and her graduation from high school this year. Their support enabled Chewonki to purchase climate-control equipment and cedar crates and rolling bins for the root cellar, thereby ensuring that the kitchen can accommodate and safely store thousands of pounds of vegetables from fall into spring. The tradition of root cellaring, coupled with innovative purchasing agreements with local farmers, allows us to eat local food year-round, long after our limited growing season is over. For more about this marvelous root cellar, see p. 21.

We couldn't be happier with these gifts. We see the farm equipment and root cellar in use every day and think of the Hollyday, Albee, and Kleinman families with gratitude.



#### 2010 Annual Report Available

Chewonki's 2010 annual report is available both in print (by request) and online. We created a stand-alone report this year, a change from past years when we included it in the *Chronicle*. Our hope is that many of you will read the report online, helping us save paper as well as reduce printing and mailing expenses. You can download the report at www.chewonki.org/support/annual\_report.asp.

Well over 1,000 donors helped Chewonki provide powerful educational experiences to thousands of children of all ages last year. To all of you who supported this work, thank you! Our annual report honors your collective effort.

## News from the Neck

#### Semester School **Receives New State** Approval

"It's something we have been working on for many years," said an elated Bill Hinkley, math teacher and most recently interim head of school. On July 7, the Maine Department of Education recognized Chewonki Semester School as an approved private school—a "step up" from the school's previous state recognition as a non-traditional limited purpose school. Edwin Kastuck, school approval consultant for the Maine DOE, visited the campus and approved Chewonki's application.

"With our accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, we were



Art teacher Sue West often teaches sketching outdoors. The students here are from this fall's Semester 47

finally able to make this step with the state," explained Bill. Although the Semester School opened in 1988, it was not accredited until 2007 not because it ever lacked in any way but because semester schools were not previously eligible for accreditation. Chewonki was the third semester school in the nation to earn the coveted designation. Now, it has comparable recognition from the state as well.

Private schools in Maine must meet state standards in instructional time and curriculum, faculty qualifications, health and safety, legal status, and record keeping. One of the benefits of the new status is that

it makes Chewonki eligible for tuition assistance for some Maine public school students. It will also make the school eligible for certain grants, particularly related to technology.

Ann Carson, who became the new head of school on August 1, was delighted with the news. "Chewonki Semester School has always been strongly committed to an ongoing process of evaluation and improvement," she said. "The new state approval is another step forward in that process. It will also help market the school to groups who may not know about us. It is one more stamp of approval for our rigorous and unique program."



SCOTT PETERSON

#### The Launch of the Sognabåt!

On a clear September afternoon, a unique wooden boat carried by many hands made its way from the quad, over the rock wall, across the field, through the woods, and into the ocean. The Norse Sognabåt is an inshore sail-and-oar fishing vessel built in Bath, Maine, in 1976 at The Apprenticeshop, a school for traditional boatbuilding and seamanship (now in Rockland). This classic open boat whose roots extend deep into the 1,000-yearold Viking tradition and whose design comes from Norway's midcoast Sognefjord will grace Chewonki Neck for the fall season. The Sognabåt (length 18'5", beam 5'8") is at once an education in foreign art and culture, ancient and innovative building techniques, and in the water, a valuable platform for teamwork. If you have ever rowed a faering (literally "four-oaring") or raised her sprit-rigged main sail in a narrow saltwater creek, with wind and tide against you, you might attest to the level of focus and communication that must be collectively summoned, and you might recall the triumphs, laughs, and friends made along the way. —Scott Peterson, Chewonki boatbuilder

Scott (MCS 25) is excited about incorporating more experiential education through traditional small craft into the Semester School experience.

#### **Chewonki Garners Environmental Award**

On a rainy October morning, Katie Tremblay received a phone call from Ruth Smith, Award Committee Chair for the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA).

"On behalf of the NEEEA, I want to congratulate you, Katie, and Chewonki for being chosen as the 2011 recipient of the Maria Pirie Environmental Program Award, which is designed to recognize an outstanding environmental education program," Ruth said.

NEEEA is a network of professional environmental education organizations from the six New England states. The organization promotes and supports environmental education in the region through professional development, affiliation with the North American Association of Environmental Education, collaboration and networking, and recognition of outstanding individuals and programs. The Maria Pirie Environmental Program Award, named after an environmental educator and NEEEA board member who lost her life to cancer, is given at NEEA's annual conference.

Katie, program director of Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom, hooted with excitement and quickly spread the word around campus.

"The Outdoor Classroom staff and Katie deserve the highest praise for this honor," said Chewonki president Willard Morgan. "Our OC program is one of the last in the country that still incorporates camping as a central theme, our educators work extremely hard in challenging conditions, and we are proud of our unique brand of environmental education and the lasting impact we see on students and schools."

Katie accepted the award on behalf of Chewonki at NEEEA's annual conference, which was held in late October at the Prindle Pond Conference Center in Charlton, Massachusetts.

#### A Heron Comes to Roost

It's a life-size Black-crowned Night-Heron, carved from a solid piece of black walnut, and it was sculpture #267 by the renowned bird carver Charles "Chippy" Chase (1908–1998). Chippy was Chewonki's first camper in Wiscasset. His family summered in Woolwich, and in 1918, when Chippy was 10 years old, his mother rowed him across Monstweag Creek to attend Clarence Allen's new camp. It was the only summer Chippy spent here, but he retained a lifelong affection for Chewonki. From the 1920s through the 1960s he returned regularly to regale campers with his "high water clamming" skit at Saturday night campfires. The sculpture was a gift from former camper and counselor Jake Nunes (Camp '75–'76; Camp Staff '81, '88–'89), who inherited it from his grandmother.

The heron's story begins about 35 years ago. As Jake tells it, his grandmother lost the diamond from her wedding ring while she was walking her dogs one day. When Peg Harwood received the settlement from the insurance company, she decided that rather than replace the stone, she'd buy a carving by her old friend Chippy Chase. For many years the night-heron stood in a bay window in Peg's Dedham, Massachusetts, home. When she died in 1996, Jake inherited the bird, but lacking room for it in his apartment, he relegated it to his parents' attic. There it languished, until last year, when his parents cleaned out the attic and told their kids their stuff had to go. "I could bring this home. It's beautiful!" Jake remembers thinking when he saw the bird again. "But somehow giving it to Chewonki seemed to make more sense." Jake knew the bird had been carved in Maine and that Chippy had a connection to Chewonki. "It seemed appropriate for this bird to come home to Maine," he said.

The night-heron was one of hundreds of birds that Chippy carved. What started as a hobby became a full-time career and earned him international acclaim. The Harvard graduate and former math teacher, boat designer, and pilot was a stickler for precision; he took detailed measurements of museum skins to be sure the proportions of his sculptures were accurate. A typical piece took him three months to complete. The *New York Times* referred to him in 1958 as "the Audubon of wood," and his work was widely exhibited and sought after. Bird #302 was an American Oystercatcher that was presented to President Gerald Ford in 1975. Last May, at an auction in Thomaston, Maine, Chippy's 1974 carving of a Bald Eagle brought \$13,800.

For several years before he moved to Brunswick, Chippy lived and worked just across Montsweag Creek, and he knew many people at Chewonki well. We're delighted that one of his birds has come to roost with us. It needs a few repairs, which are being ably undertaken by our carpenter, Ken Wise. Ken is a fine bird carver himself; what's more, he used to visit Chippy's studio to talk with him about their shared art and now lives in Brunswick just down the road from where Chippy used to live.

> There's one final thread we have to mention—one we know would delight Chippy: Jake Nunes is a math teacher at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Chippy

taught math too, from 1932 to 1934, at St. Paul's School. The two math teachers never met, but they have a bond in a beautiful Blackcrowned Night-Heron that has come home to roost at Chewonki. Thank you, Jake.

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

## News from the Neck

#### ELLMS Project Raises \$290,000

A unique collaboration of four Maine nonprofits—Ferry Beach Ecology School in Saco, UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Tanglewood, and Chewonki Outdoor Classroom for Schools- Environmental Living & Learning has caught the attention of major funders in



its first year. Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students (ELLMS) has received \$290,000 in grants from five foundations.

The largest grant, \$125,000, came from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation. "Providing opportunities for Maine's school children to learn about and connect with the environment is an essential part of strengthening Maine's communities, economy, and health," said Megan Shore of the Sewall Foundation. "The collaborative nature and strong track record of the organizations involved in this program, as well as the potential to reach so many children throughout the state, were very compelling."

Additional funders included Jane's Trust (\$100,000), the Quimby Family Foundation (\$40,000), the Sam L. Cohen Foundation (\$20,000), and Bangor Savings Bank Foundation (\$5,000). The funds are available for the 2011–2012 school year.

Cohen Foundation executive director Nancy Brain says the collaborative spirit of ELLMS impressed her board. "It's rare that we see competing organizations come together like this for a common goal," she says. "The combination of what these non-profits offer collectively is going to make a huge impact on Maine students. We'd love to see more Maine organizations follow this model."

ELLMS aims to provide students in all 16 Maine counties with residential environmental education through a financial aid fund for public



Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay (far left) stands with Tanglewood educator Jessica Meisner, Bangor Savings representative Sally Garand, and Chewonki president Willard Morgan.

schools. The project will encourage students to develop a lifelong commitment to environmental sustainability and stewardship, outdoor exercise and recreation, good nutrition, community building, and civic engagement through positive, nature-based activities, lessons, and challenges. The project will also spur students' understanding of the connections between natural resources and the economy, so they will be better prepared to participate in the "green economy."

For more information, visit www.ellms.org or contact Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay at 207-882-7323 or ktremblay@chewonki.org.

#### **Chewonki Hosts First Maine Master Naturalist Course**

A new organization that trains volunteers to teach natural history and environmental stewardship kicked off its inaugural course on September 7 at Chewonki. Participants in the Maine Master Naturalist Program (MMNP) are attending evening classes at Chewonki once a month from September through May and taking four all-day field trips, three of them on Chewonki Neck.

The 46-hour course is training 20 participants in coastal, wetland, and upland ecology; identification of Maine flora and fauna; geology; soil science; and teaching skills. It is intended for people who have some natural history experience and need to increase their knowledge and perhaps teaching skills—not those who are already professional naturalists. Tuition is \$250 and covers books, handouts, equipment, and instruction.

MMNP had its genesis a year ago, when Dorcas Miller, a former Chewonki teacher and trip leader (1974–1977), met a man wearing a vest with a Texas Master Naturalist logo. She asked him about it, learned that about two dozen states have such programs, and

wondered why Maine didn't. Dorcas then took action. By late spring, MMNP was a registered nonprofit, had a grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation in Yarmouth to purchase classroom and field equipment, and was accepting applications for its first course.

Much of the credit for developing the program, says Dorcas, goes to her fellow board members and volunteer instructors: Fred Cichocki ("Doc Fred" as he's affectionately known at Chewonki Camp for Boys) of Bath, Cloe Chunn of Swanville, and Susan Hayward of Lewiston.

The four instructors were thrilled when more than 40 people applied for the 20 spots available in the first course. "By the end of the course," says Dorcas, "participants will have the skills to lead a good walk, present talks and slide shows, provide outreach in schools or on land trust or park properties, and teach people how to identify common plants and animals." Participants agree to volunteer 40 hours at a conservation nonprofit or school during the year following certification, and must continue to volunteer to remain active Maine Master Naturalists.

Future MMNP courses will be offered in Belfast, Lewiston, and other locations around the state. For more information, contact Dorcas Miller at dmiller75@roadrunner.com or 76 Williams Rd, Chelsea, ME 04330. Watch for a future MMNP website too.

#### Sam's Bench

There's a lovely new spot to sit and read, talk with friends, or simply enjoy the fresh air on Chewonki Neck. On Memorial Day this year, 25 family members and friends—some of whom are shown here—gathered between Packout and Salt Marsh Farm to install a beautiful swinging bench in memory of Sam Maier (MCS 8; Camp Staff '92), who died in 2009 at the age of 34 in Haugesund, Norway. The bench was a gift from Sam's family and master carpenters Robert and Sebastian Cariddi, a father-son team who were close friends of Sam. Their magnificent work of art hangs between two red oaks along the path to the farm gardens and overlooks a part of the Chewonki campus that Sam especially loved.

Sam came to Chewonki in 1992 from Waynflete School in Portland, and his family says it was here that he cultivated a love of nature drawing, outdoor life, and farming. Inspired by his strong connection to Mark and Ingrid Albee, he later attended an outdoor school in Norway where he met his wife, Maud, with whom he had three children.

Among those who gathered for the bench's dedication were Sam's parents, James and Elizabeth Maier, and sisters, Sarah Peterson and



Chewonki's new Friendship Bench was dedicated May 31, 2011, in loving memory of Samuel Waterman Maier, MCS 8.

Lydia Maier. The lovely memorial they've established for their son and brother has already become a favorite spot for reflection among Chewonki staff and participants.

#### **Results of Our Recent Reader Survey**

More than 200 readers responded to the Reader Survey we posted on our website in May. Thank you! Your comments were insightful and enormously helpful. They ranged from an enthusiastic "I want more! The Chronicle is always too short" to a blunt "I don't know why I get your publication."

We learned a lot. For instance, the Chronicle is your leading source of news about Chewonki, followed by e-newsletters, the Chewonki website, Facebook, and word of mouth. An impressive 67% of you read all or most of every Chronicle, and 50% of you typically spend 30 minutes or more with an issue. The majority of you (59%) like getting the magazine biannually, and a solid 69% of you prefer to read it in print but we're not discounting the 16% of you who would prefer to read it online, especially since we haven't really promoted that option (yet!). We were especially gratified to learn about the actions our readers have taken as a result of reading the Chronicle: 55% have recommended Chewonki to a friend, 48% have made a donation, 44% have discussed or forwarded an article or issue to someone, and 28% have changed a behavior in an effort to live more sustainably.

In terms of content, the clear winners were News from the Neck, sustainability stories, and profiles of staff and alumni. You expressed the least interest in reading about upcoming events.

We heard your criticisms too: in particular, that our covers and layout could be improved and that we need more voices in the magazine.

There were contradictions as well, of course. While some of you suggested that we put "People" online, others declared this your favorite part of the magazine. "I know Chewonki needs money, but I would like to see less in-your-face fundraising in the Chronicle," said one reader. Another, however, said, "If it is a fundraising tool-I'm missing that part"!

A very satisfying 89% of you told us that the Chronicle strengthens your connection to Chewonki. That's an outstanding number-but we aim to push it even higher, and your feedback will help us do so. We hope you'll continue to share your opinions and suggestions with us, so we can ensure that these pages best serve you, our readers—and that they continue to remind you, as one reader put it, that you're "part of a big Chewonki family." —Liz Pierson and Betta Stothart Connor, Editors

## Make a Connection!

Chewonki has increased its efforts to connect alumni and friends with each other and with us—and we need your help! As we ramp up work in our Alumni Relations Office and begin planning for Chewonki's centennial in 2015, we'll be providing more networking opportunities and sending invitations for parties and gatherings. But we need to know how to reach people!

If you want to be in the know about what's happening, find old friends, be invited to a local event, participate in networking opportunities, or work in your communities together, please be sure to:

- Update your address and email at alumni@chewonki.org (we need both to invite you to local events)
- Join the Chewonki Group on LinkedIn



Please pass the word to your grown children or to Chewonki friends who you know have moved. Thank you for your help. We look forward to hearing from your family, friends, and from you!



## How six New York City teens brought their own unique energy to Chewonki

t's been seven months since they were here, but you'll still hear people talking about them. Six high-school juniors and three teachers from the Harlem Children's Zone "Learn to Earn" program visited Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom in April, and as OC instructor Adam Williams put it, "Everyone wished they could have stayed longer!"

Adam formed such a strong bond with the group that in August he visited them in New York. "I was instantly greeted with hugs and smiles and given a tour of the facility," he recounted. "Within minutes, the news spread that 'Adam from Chewonki' had arrived, and I was being greeted by kids I'd never met. There were siblings of my participants and other young adults who came up to me and expressed how much they too wanted to come to Chewonki."

Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay was delighted to hear that. LTE is an after-school program that helps high-school students improve their academic skills and be better prepared for college and the job market. Their visit was organized as an OC program, but once the students arrived, they interacted more extensively than planned with Chewonki's semester students. "The visit took on a life of its own," said Katie. She credits the LTE kids with "working incredibly hard to get everything they could out of this place" and the semester students with embracing the visitors so warmly. "These kids created an experience beyond what anyone had organized or expected," she said.

Ruthie Scarpino, the LTE teaching artist and chaperone who organized the visit, concurred. Ruthie grew up in Maine and came to Chewonki on an OC program herself in the seventh grade. Last winter, when she came home to the small fishing village of Port Clyde, she warned her students that she'd be off the grid. "I told them 'No cell phone. No internet. *Get it?*" and they said 'Yeh, we get it.' But when I got back, they all said 'Miss Ruthie, where *were* you? We couldn't reach you!' I realized my students had no idea what it meant to be unplugged, to be beyond the reaches of technology's fingers." Wanting to teach her students about rural living, Ruthie advocated for a visit to Chewonki.

"I wasn't prepared for this," she said recently, referring to the impact the visit had on her students. "It changed their lives. It changed how they think about applying to college. It changed how they think about the environment. It changed how they make decisions and how they live their lives. That's a pretty amazing thing to say of a group of 17-year-olds."

In the essays that follow, two of those students relate what their visit meant to them. We were delighted to learn that LTE is planning another student visit to Chewonki.

Three Learn to Earn students pitched in with Chewonki staff and students on a Work Program last April to stack firewood. Outdoor Classroom instructor Adam Williams (back left) said the LTE students "quickly endeared themselves to the entire Chewonki community. Everyone wished they could have stayed longer!"

PHOTOS BY BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

#### So Much Togetherness by Gerald Bryan

hen I was told I would be one of the select few going to Chewonki, I didn't know what to feel or say. The ride up was fun and interesting, but still there was the mystery of where we were going. When we arrived, it was late so we went straight to the yurts and slept. A sleep that was induced by a long, tiring day drifting off in the unknown...

I woke up to the sunlight from the roof of the yurt, expecting to wake up in the comfort of my own home, but I was mistaken. I was in Maine...and the sudden realization came upon me like running into a wall. Adam [Williams] alerted us we would be going to the dining area in a couple

of minutes. In shock and feeling unaware, I panicked. My feelings of panic faded as we walked into the dining area and the semester students greeted us as if we were their childhood friends having a reunion.



The next days were like a rollercoaster ride I never wanted to get off. I was

really happy to be accepted so easily and swiftly by the semester students, and their openness allowed us to join the Chewonki community. Our first day on the farm started out nice and quiet until Adam opened the chicken coop. The next thing I knew I was surrounded by strutting, loud, scattered chickens. With Adam and the semester students, I learned how to milk a cow, gather eggs, feed and care for Sal, and was educated about general farm maintenance.

When we returned [after a trip to Port Clyde], the semester students were having a bake-off and we were coupled in. It was bittersweet looking around and seeing nothing but everyone smiling. There was so much togetherness it was hard to tell the difference between the semester students and Learn to Earn because in six hours we were family separated at birth but finally reconnecting. As the week continued, we had numerous conversations together on the way society has shaped and forced us to believe things that aren't always true. This created a space where we were able to speak freely, and it was great to understand how others felt about the same topics.

When the day came to leave, it was hard for us to say good-bye. Dyaami D'Orazio, the first student I had met, ran over to me and we did our special handshake and I said "I'ma miss you." I learned a lot about the semester students, conservation, rural America, my fellow Learn to Earn students, and more about myself. How I, one person can make a difference and how the idea of conservation, unity, family, and teamwork is what you really need. So despite how prejudice, racist, and difficult the world may be, the semester students accepted us in a place where race, gender, background, and location didn't matter. If everyone in the world knew an ounce of what Chewonki taught us and the semester students, the world would be a better place.

#### An Experience to Remember by Nisaa Jackson

y time at Chewonki was, without a doubt, one of the greatest experiences of my life. Being there changed my entire outlook. Before I visited Chewonki, I had absolutely no idea what rural areas in the U.S. were like. At Chewonki, the idea of rural life grew on me, and I learned to appreciate the interdependence of the community. I began wishing that I could live the same lifestyle at home.

When we first arrived at Chewonki, we pulled over on a dirt road. It was pitch black outside, and our guide, Adam, was standing in complete darkness. I was scared, especially being surrounded by all of the unfamiliar sounds of the forest.



My fear subsided as I got used to the noises. Early the next morning, we were up and on the move.

The Semester School kids were so open-minded and caring. I remember the first person to greet me; her name was Shauna, and she reassured me that my experience at Chewonki would be one to

Nisaa Jackson

remember. On our hike to the Point for lunch, I got to know a few more semester kids, and that's when O-town (Orchard Cabin) made space for itself in my heart. The students were all so kind-hearted and interested in getting to know me. I began to ask questions about their experiences at Chewonki, and of course, they all said great things about what they had learned there, how great the faculty is, and how hard it would be for them to leave.

After lunch, we played icebreaker games. They were so much fun; I had never smiled so much in my life. Before the students returned to their normal schedules, they invited me to join them for the cabin bake-off. I was super excited. By the end of the night, I had been crowned an honorary member of Orchard, which I am still extremely proud of.

The next morning, we were off to do farm chores. With the help of some of the semester students, I milked the beautiful cow, Lola. To my surprise, I was pretty good at it, and I had an entire pail of milk until Lola kicked it over.

We also participated in educational seminars. I enjoyed them a lot because I got to voice my opinion about education and the role it plays in your life. I learned so much about the varying perspectives that people have based on their personal experiences, which made me rethink my own opinions.

That evening, I sat at a table where I participated in a mini-Seder. I learned a few of the traditions of Judaism, including the history of matzoh, which I tried for the first time. We sang some traditional Jewish songs, and fellow students taught me about the ten plagues.

Overall, this experience was life changing. Our departure from Chewonki was emotional because there was a huge possibility that I wouldn't ever see my new friends again. I left Chewonki open-minded and in hopes of returning someday to create new memories.



# Wilderness Trip Musings Thoreau Wilderness Trip stands the test of time

#### GREG SHUTE

t has been 26 years, and I still remember vividly the butterflies I felt as my co-leader, Joe Quinton, and our group of 10 Thoreau Wilderness trippers unloaded the van deep in Maine's North Woods at the headwaters of the St John River. We had met our trippers a day earlier at Chewonki, and after a hurried first few hours that included a swim test, health check, and last-minute packing, had settled in for a short and restless night in our tents by the tennis courts.

Early the next morning we were on the road north, and 250 dusty miles later we pulled into our campsite at Baker Lake. The next morning, amidst a swarm of blackflies, we broke camp and loaded the boats. The reality that we were beginning a seven-week canoe and hiking trip was hitting

home. I still recall the first strokes of the paddle, the pull of the current, and the feeling of excitement mixed with adrenaline as we headed downstream.

The seven weeks we spent together provided a lifetime of memories. There were certainly challenges, including our first day of poling upstream on the Allagash and several day-long stretches of rain. There were spectacular campsites and the beautiful country through which we traveled. We also had many meaningful experiences with other wilderness travelers and those who called the North Woods home. I remember a particularly memorable afternoon with author Dorothy Boone Kidney and her husband, Mildred, at their lakeside cabin at Lock Dam. A few days later we met Jim Drake, the longtime dam tender at Telos Dam. At the time I wasn't aware that I was witnessing the end of an era; within a few years Mildred Kidney passed away and Dorothy moved from the Allagash, and soon Jim Drake retired.

We had the expected sightings of Moose, deer, eagles, and beaver. For me, however, the summer was marked by the numerous interactions we had with Black Bears. The summer of 1985 was one in which Maine's Black Bear population was at an all-time high. Our first encounter took place a few weeks into the trip, near Churchill Dam. It was the night before our resupply, and as we slept we had an unexpected visitor. The next day we found a wanagan about 100 yards down the shore with a hole punched through the top. Luckily we only lost one bread mix to the bruin. Later in the trip we paddled under



Greg Shute has been at Chewonki since 1984, when he joined the year-round Environmental Education staff. He has been director of Wilderness Programs since 1991.

three surprised cubs sprawled on the branch of a maple tree that arched over the East Branch.

Our most unforgettable bear encounter came during our stay at Russell Pond in Baxter State Park, when we met Red Tag. Named for the two plastic ear tags he sported, Red Tag had become somewhat famous to park rangers that summer. He had been live-trapped several times and moved because of the mischief he caused. At midday on our last day at Russell, with a full campground, he ripped into the tent of a nearby camper. No one was injured, but that was unfortunately the last straw for Red Tag.

Allagash Lake is remembered fondly by most TWTers. Chewonki trustee and former trip leader Rebecca Marvil recalled, "I think the best memory I have is of a rest day we spent on Allagash Lake. After several weeks of hard paddling, poling up the Allagash River, and completing a seriously challenging portage in to Allagash Lake, we decided to stay put for a few days and have some fun. We had canoe bobbing contests, bake-offs, fire-making competitions, and numerous other camp craft face-offs. We also had the time to make elaborate meals and dishes full of wild blueberries—all cooked over an open fire and in the Dutch ovens!" Joe Selle and Julius Alexander, also Chewonki trustees now, recalled fondly the Dutch oven meals and desserts. Joe also remembered after days of rain the optimistic outlook that developed in the group. "The enduring feeling was more about we can overcome this, and there may be sun tomorrow, rather than gloomy, moldy despair. I do think our internal coping mechanisms were steeled up quite a bit during that summer."

My own prevailing memory from my TWT summer is of how an at-times awkward group of teenagers came together as a group. It happened subtly, and I wasn't fully aware of the transformation until a few days before the end of the trip. During our last days together we traded our canoes for backpacks and explored the wilder reaches of

Baxter. We summited Katahdin and bushwhacked out of the park along the overgrown tote road that parallels Wassataquoik Stream. Joe and I would take time each evening to meet with individual trippers and debrief our time together. As dinner was being prepared, we would steal away and find a comfortable spot among the gigantic boulders that line the banks of the Wassataquoik. It was a magical time of day, and we would sit by the river in the gathering dusk as nighthawks flittered back and forth feeding on the evening insect hatch.

I was overwhelmed by the depth of our discussions and by the profound impact of the previous seven weeks on each individual. Over the years I've been able to observe a similarly meaningful impact on numerous Chewonki trippers, some of whom are now colleagues. I've also witnessed it in my own son, Kyle, who just spent his seventh summer with Chewonki, this year paddling the George River in the subarctic of northern Quebec.

Today more than ever we need to ensure that meaningful wilderness experiences are available to youth of all backgrounds. As you muse about your own connection to Chewonki, be it as a participant or parent, please help us spread the word to potential wilderness trippers of all ages.

#### "Today more than ever we need to ensure that meaningful wilderness experiences are available to youth of all backgrounds."

The Thoreau Wilderness Trip is legendary among Chewonki trippers. The seven-week, coed trip for ages 14–17 is our longest wilderness trip and one of our longest-running; our trippers have been making this classic North Woods journey since 1970. Retracing many of the steps that Henry David Thoreau took in the summer of 1846, they paddle the St. John River from its headwaters at Baker Lake, pole the Allagash, and travel the great lakes of northwest Maine to reach the headwaters of the East Branch of the Penobscot. They end their trip by climbing Maine's highest peak, 5, 267-foot-tall Katahdin.

For more information on our wilderness trips, visit our website or contact Summer Wilderness Programs director Ryan Linehan (rlinehan@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323). As with other Chewonki programs, financial aid is available. The dates for the 2012 Thoreau Wilderness Trip are June 26–August 13.

# Inspired to Teach

We're delighted to present two essays here from former Semester School teachers. Sarah Glass (French 1991–1995) relates how her Chewonki experience continues to influence her teaching practices and philosophy. Adam Janosko (teaching fellow 2010–2011) offers some thoughts on what he learned while teaching at "a progressive semester program in the middle of the woods." Although it's always hard to say good-bye to staff when they move on, it's immensely gratifying to think of all they carry with them, expanding the influence of Chewonki's mission and ideals.

## The Things I Carry Sarah Glass

nervous seventh grader dangles from a climbing tower on an island in Boston Harbor. Attached to the belay rope on the ground is a senior from the same school. Though this may be a common sight at Chewonki, the students from this school have never heard of an Outdoor Classroom program or wilderness trips. This retreat is just my way of preparing older students for leadership roles in a grades 7–12 public school while also helping seventh graders transition to a new school setting.

It has been 16 years since I taught at Chewonki, and though the things I do with my students are not always so observably influenced by Chewonki activities, the spirit of those experiences is something I have tried to bring with me to each of the teaching and learning environments I've worked in ever since. Now, more than 100 students come into my classroom each week, and long corridors and cinder-block walls surround me. But the progressive ideals I was exposed to in the four years I taught at Chewonki—the importance of building community, taking risks, and promoting hands-onlearning—inform my teaching every day.

Whether it is in my own art classroom or in my work helping intern teachers navigate the public-school system, I have learned to value the *culture* of a school first and foremost. Coming from Chewonki, where decisions were made in community meetings, with democratic leadership and guided by student voices, I learned that the time invested in building trust is central to learning. As students learn to pole up the Allagash, split wood on Work Program, or utter unfamiliar words in French, they need to feel supported and encouraged. An environment of trust is the most fertile place to be when you want students to take risks. And risk taking—for teachers



Sarah Glass with students at Richmond Middle School in Hanover, NH.

ALEX LOVEJOY

as well as students, and whether physical or intellectual—is what enlivens and fosters learning.

Still, I have to be honest. I face a dilemma: given that public education has constraints that Chewonki does not, how can I carry that spirit of intimacy between teacher and student and among students into my classroom and school? I found one answer to that question at an 1,800-student public high school, where I was able to work on a grant that proposed dividing up the school into smaller learning communities. Like the students, I often felt lost and disconnected in such a large school. I was seeking a way to recreate the intimate setting of students and teachers I'd had at Chewonki. As a result of this work, interdisciplinary courses were offered and the ninth grade was split into smaller teams, each with a common core of teachers.

Like community building, experiential learning is at the heart of a Chewonki experience, but it still eludes many public schools and teacher-training programs. A few years ago,

"The progressive ideals I was exposed to in the four years I taught at Chewonki—the importance of building community, taking risks, and promoting hands-on-learning—inform my teaching every day."

I was lucky enough to start working for the Upper Valley Educators Institute in Lebanon, New Hampshire. What attracted me to the program were the small community and its internship-based philosophy. The program is designed to integrate teaching theory and practice at a ratio of 20 to 80 percent. While many teacher-preparation programs are still driven by courses that require papers and textbooks, this one puts interns into classrooms with a master teacher from day one. Because they're in the classroom facing real issues, supported by a close-knit community of colleagues, the interns find themselves taking productive risks on a daily basis. Like a wilderness tripper who needs to use a map and compass on a hillside or river to truly understand how to navigate, an aspiring teacher needs to navigate the mind of a hard-to-reach student in a real setting to truly be prepared.

In an age when increasing emphasis is placed on test scores and student outcomes, it becomes harder for publicschool teachers to embrace a philosophy like Chewonki's. An experiential classroom can be less predictable; it can feel like a big risk for those used to teacher-centered environments that are lecture and textbook driven. But I do hope that students in my classes and the teachers I help train can recognize that much is gained from giving up a bit of control and embracing the interdependence that many a Chewonki tripper facing a set of rapids or a steep trail knows only too well.

## The Fellowship of the Neck Adam Janosko

fter crossing the worn bridge that connects New Hampshire and Maine, a green sign flashed on the right side of I-95: "Maine: The Way Life Should Be." My silver Matrix, brimming with household detritus, zoomed along-four cylinders churning up the coastline. Enveloped by gargantuan white pines, the highway was unlike any I had ever seen: a concrete, serpentine labyrinth that allowed only fleeting glimpses of the radiant August Atlantic.

It was in that moment that the whispered words escaped my lips: "What the heck am I doing?"

To teach at a progressive semester program in the middle of the woods is one thing, but to teach at a progressive semester program after teaching for two years in a Washington, D.C., public high school is a horse of a different color. Despite my paroxysm-heard only by the banjo sitting shotgun-I knew why I had chosen Chewonki Semester School. After being thrown in the gauntlet that was Teach for America, I still needed to validate if teaching was the right profession for me. Chewonki would provide a stark contrast to my past position; the Semester School was small, independent, and rural. In the world of education, I was hoping to find a niche.

I often think about how my experience as a Semester School faculty member has influenced my current teaching practices and philosophy. Since leaving the Neck I've taught in classrooms in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and have helped train dozens of public-school teachers. Though on the surface these settings may seem distant from my experiences at Chewonki, I carry Chewonki's mission and ideals with me into every classroom I enter, hoping they will inspire others as they have inspired me.

Sarah Glass taught French and art at Semester School from 1991 to 1995 and is married to former Chewonki staff member Derek Callaway (Boys Camp, Wilderness Trips and OC Staffs '91-'93). In addition to coaching new teachers in New Hampshire and Vermont, Sarah also teaches art at the Frances C. Richmond Middle School in Hanover, NH.



Adam Janosko and his mentor, Amy Rogers.

Teachers, in general, are a strange breed. A particular maxim describes them: "A good teacher is like a candle-it consumes itself to light the way for others." Consumes itself. You heard correctly. I know that candles are environmentally sustainable, but why can't the maxim be "A good teacher is like a rechargeable battery-it helps light the way for others until June and then relaxes in its charger until the end of August"? After teaching in D.C., I was worried that I was becoming that candle.

Here lies the genius of the fellowship position at Semester School: a ten-month stint (at an incredible place) for those interested in education as a profession.

Continued on page 16

#### "A good teacher is like a rechargeable battery—it helps light the way for others until June and then relaxes in its charger until the end of August."

As I reflect on my experience as a fellow, I am particularly thankful for the knowledge and skills that I learned to become a better educator. I could not have done this without my lovely mentor, English teacher Amy Rogers. In the first semester, I had the opportunity to observe and participate in her sections of Literature and the Land, where we discussed McPhee, Thoreau, and Faulkner. I was consistently amazed by Amy's depth and literary understanding of these texts (especially Faulkner's The Bear-if you have a chance to pick her brain about it, I recommend it) and examined the way she framed questions and pushed students' awareness of thematic elements in them. Amy is a master of facilitation: she allows for students to organically come to conclusions through discussion. In my own section in the spring semester, I added this facet of teaching to my toolkit. I emulated Amy's Socratic style while adding a personal spice-creating new assignments, altering specific lessons, and most significantly, shifting my teaching style to be more student-centric.

But academics were only one piece of the proverbial pie. To the students, school represents the pragmatic reason for coming to this place. The reason these young men and women never want to leave, however, lies within the sense of community. Fellows become an integral part of this community. As a student advisor, I learned to truly listen and, sometimes, provide an adult voice of reason (and along the way, made some incredible bonds with these teenagers). As a leader of a social justice seminar on Sundays, I encouraged students to consider new perspectives on how they view the world. As co-leader of the Outdoor Activities Program, I had the opportunity to wear incredibly short jean shorts without compromising professionalism (well, perhaps a little). The fellowship promoted what a well-oiled school community should: learning and living while giving a piece of oneself to the whole.

This year I am traveling to the city of Malindi, on the southern coast of Kenya, to teach on a Fulbright grant, enhancing English language competencies at the high-school level. My journey through the world of education continues, and I am more adequately equipped and inspired. If nothing else, my Chewonki fellowship proved one thing—teachers never stop learning. It may be what draws us to the profession in the first place. At Chewonki, the amount that I learned—ranging from how small-school faculties make decisions to how to identify a balsam fir—was truly remarkable. My wish is that Kenya will provide similar reinforcement and I will come back to the States prepared to teach with confidence, poise, and awareness.

I know another thing, too. That sign was right: Maine is the way life should be. I hope to get a chance to visit again, sometime soon.

Adam Janosko has a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in secondary education from American University. This year he is in Kenya on a Fulbright grant, teaching English at the New Horizon College in Malindi.

#### **Semester School Teaching Fellows Make Their Mark**

ow in its fifth year, the Semester School Teaching Fellows Program has been an unequivocal success. "The quality of the applicant pool has been exceptional, and we continue to attract increasing numbers of applicants," said French teacher Marjolaine Whittlesey, who has sat on the fellows hiring committee for the last two years. Each year, three fellows contribute as full colleagues and have the same core responsibilities as all other faculty members. "We've had 15 fellows to date, including this year, and every one has been a great addition," Marjolaine said.

Described as "an introduction to working at the intersection of academic and experiential education," the program provides a full immersion in the academic and residential life of the school. Fellows observe and assist lead teachers while also having primary areas of responsibility within the semester activities. Although fellows are not in a teacher-training program per se, there is a clear mentorship structure. Like other Semester School faculty, they help students with schoolwork outside of class, participate with students in Work Program and morning chores, and serve as academic advisors, cabin parents, and trip leaders. They also coordinate the Outdoor Activity Program, help organize and lead trips, and assist with recruiting applicants for the next academic year.

In addition to being a boon to Chewonki, the program has been a boon to the fellows as well, providing a valuable step toward new careers. Yet another plus is that when the fellows depart, they take Chewonki's ethos and mission with them.

## A Conversation with Martha Svatek

artha Svatek has been teaching science in Concord, Massachusetts, for 47 years, 27 of them at Nashoba Brooks, a coed day school. Once a year since 1986, Martha has brought her students to Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom. Martha is what we call a "chaperone extraordinaire," not just because she

loves to camp with her students (even in the pouring rain), but also because she is full of the wisdom, soul, and passion that we celebrate in any great teacher. I sat with Martha outside the Barn on a sunny September afternoon and talked with her about the power of environmental education and why she advocates for Chewonki back in Massachusetts.

-Betta Stothart Connor

#### Why are you such a fierce advocate of environmental education?

I feel so strongly about this program. It is the greatest thing to be able to work with Chewonki's young, caring, dynamic staff. People at Chewonki are such good listeners, and they care so strongly about the earth and our place here. They encourage students to push themselves and reach beyond what they think they might be able to do. My students see the staff here as leaders; they look up to them.

## What do you see happening to students in Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom?

Unknown strengths of certain students come out in this setting, and it sets them up for success throughout the school year. For some, this is their first and maybe only camping experience. As they reflect back on this experience later in life, they may realize that they got to have a rare experience to do something special, to reach out beyond their comfort zone.

#### Why do you think Chewonki's encampment model works so well?

When a small group of randomly selected kids comes together and bonds, it opens them up to new possibilities, and it opens their minds to new ideas and perspectives. Suddenly they find themselves making friends with kids they had made judgments about. The living is so simple. Making meals over the fire and doing dishes together take on more meaning.

#### What makes Chewonki different in your eyes?

What's unique about Chewonki is the incredible staff that is caring and compassionate about the earth and the world, but also about people. There is a profound ability here for working together. There's a wonderful sense of camaraderie. I have never heard anyone here complain about their work environment. There is just a great selection of people who work here and an overall way of approaching life—a certain kind of magic.

#### What has kept you coming back for so many years?

I am 70 years old, and I've been saying that I should stop coming. But I just love it here. Being at Chewonki allows me to take time to pause. I love the wonderful people and how they give me a strong, positive feeling about the future. The leaders here are so caring, and they are truly making a difference in the world. I always feel energized by that, knowing our world is a better place because these young teachers work in environmental education at Chewonki.



"Being at Chewonki allows me to take time to pause. I love the wonderful people and how they give me a strong, positive feeling about the future."

# **Boys Camp** Innovates

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

Boys Camp may be nearly 100 years old, but that doesn't mean we have stopped innovating! This summer alone, we introduced four new features, and by all accounts they were enormous successes.

#### The Electrifying Puffin

"I see one!" That excited shout was heard regularly, as up to 20 campers with binoculars and field guides traveled each week to Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay. The trips on the Hardy Boat Cruises embarked from the quaint village of New Harbor and traveled about 30 minutes to a small rocky island that is world renown for its puffin research. The trippers enjoyed a rich diversity-sights and cacophonous sounds-of bird life. Each cruise included a naturalist who provided a fascinating talk about the Atlantic Puffin, which bordered on extinction in Maine until 1973, when a project was started to bring it back. Today, more than 100 puffins nest on this scraggy island. With their clownlike faces, large bills, and fluorescent orange feet, the puffins are an electrifying-and unforgettable-sight. Other sightings included gulls, terns, Black Guillemots, Doublecrested Cormorants, Common Eiders, Northern Gannets, and seals. The trips were an adventure for everyone involved.

#### A New Kind of Paddle Sport

Raf Adams, owner of SoPoSup, a standup paddleboard company in South Portland, traveled to Chewonki this summer with a raft of padddleboards for two fun-filled visits to our waterfront. Campers, counselors, and staff had the opportunity to try their luck at paddleboarding, an emergent sport that is taking hold across the country. All who tried it seemed to love the activity—even if it meant taking an unexpected tumble into the water. "I knew it was a special day at our waterfront when I had a hard time finding a lifejacket," said Garth Altenburg, who later referred to the event as "Magic at the waterfront."



#### Nature Is Cool

How would you do at finding the following creatures? Non-insect arthropods; a female Eastern Hemlock cone; a non-native, invasive animal species; a Moosewood leaf; a non-gilled mushroom; a macroscopic marine alga; and a land-living mollusk? This summer, Doc Fred and the rest of the nature staff staged a hugely successful return of a longstanding Chewonki traditionthe Nature Scavenger Hunt-and these were just a few of the items on this list. On a beautiful summer evening, cabins worked together as teams, scouring Chewonki Neck with hopes of accurately collecting as many items on the scavenger list as possible. "I was very impressed with the amount of knowledge displayed by our campers, much of it gained here at Chewonki," wrote Garth Altenburg on the Boys Camp blog. "I feel it is part of what makes Chewonki a little different than most other summer experiences. Nature is cool here!" Winning cabins were announced in the dining hall and treated to a special dessert as their reward.

#### Glass Fusing with Hope

Glass artist and camp mother Hope Murphy spent several days during both first and second session leading boys in an artistic adventure of glass fusing. This creative and wonderful art form was a new experience for campers and was made possible by Hope's thoughtful generosity. Hope, who makes and sells elegant



one-of-a-kind fused glass artwork from her studio in South Berwick, Maine, said, "It was such fun to introduce boys to this art form. They were totally engaged with the process, and I think they were surprised by how much fun it is to work with glass." Hope designed a special concept for a Chewonki Osprey necklace that the boys loved and replicated. The emblem was evident everywhere on campus as boys flaunted their wares. Many campers made earrings, pendants, pins, and even cabinet knobs for their mothers, aunts, and other relatives. "This is a super cool activity," said one camper from New York City. "I had no idea how much I would love this."

## NOTICING NATURE

#### Fred Cichocki

uring Boys Camp, just after lunch on any given day, you'll likely hear me say, "Well, it's time again for the..." followed by the entire dining hall erupting in the familiar refrain "Natural History Mystery!" The drill goes something like this. I produce some curio of nature found on Chewonki Neck and



OCK MONTGOMERY

suggest that there is something deeply mysterious or unexpected about it. The boys, in turn, try to figure out what it is. They submit their ideas on slips of paper. I tabulate the results and then unravel the mystery in a teachable moment the following day. This activity has become so popular that it was suggested maybe the entire Chewonki community would enjoy taking a crack at a regular Natural History Mystery. So, here goes. Good luck!

#### Natural History Mystery

Just before the end of Boys Camp, we discovered this rather strange little beastie on the Lower Field near the Plaza. What exactly is it? Hint: It's on a poisonous weed, where it was keeping company



FRED CICHOCKI

with another odd, plump, little red-and-black animal (not shown in the photo). You could poke at it as much as you wanted, and it wouldn't move from that spot. For the answer, go to page 50.

# The First Margaret Ellis Day

ANNE LESLIE



An enthusiastic band of volunteers (including Tim Ellis, far left) spruced up Chewonki's gardens during the first Margaret Ellis Day on June 4.

une 4 dawned fair with a blue sky and trees full of birdsong. It was just the kind of day that Margaret Ellis would have used well—and her friends and admirers knew this as they turned from their own pursuits to spend that beautiful morning working on hers. Margaret Ellis Day was an opportunity to think about Margaret while digging, planting, raking, and pruning in the gardens she first began working on more than 45 years ago at Chewonki.

"She's definitely here," remarked one volunteer in dirtcaked gloves to another in overalls. "She'd love this." Volunteers bent over their tools; marched hither and thither with watering cans and wheelbarrows full of compost; and conferred around the new plants like anxious parents dropping their children at camp.

Margaret was director of healthcare and safety at Chewonki from 1966 to 1991. Before she died last February, she and her husband, former Chewonki president Tim Ellis, decided they'd like to help sustain the flowerbeds Margaret developed decades ago. Phine Ewing ably continued the tradition during Don Hudson's tenure as president, and now Jenn Barton, wife of current president Willard Morgan, is head of garden care. "Margaret wanted so much for people to round the bend from the Barn and take a deep breath, to stop and experience profound beauty," says Jenn. "She believed in the healing power of Earth's living gifts."

She also believed in gardens as outdoor classrooms. She loved involving Semester School students because she "saw gardening as learning," Willard explained. "She asked that students and staff, rather than hired contractors, do the work. In this way, she hoped to lead more young people toward a love for growing things."

Chewonki seeded the Garden Fund in Memory of Margaret Ellis, and generous friends contributed more than \$9,000 to help it grow. The endowment supports the maintenance of the gardens around the Quad, Center for Environmental Education, and other public spaces at Chewonki.

Jenn had spent hours talking gardening with Margaret, so she had a clear idea of what the volunteers should tackle. Five generations showed up, including imps on pink bikes; Semester School alumni; young women whom Margaret had mentored; old friends, including fellow gardeners "the Ladies of the Dirt"; and even Tim Ellis, recently returned from Montana and Wyoming.

Some volunteers were master gardeners;

others were novices. Asked his opinion on the placement of an astilbe, Tim chuckled wryly. "I have absolutely no idea. Margaret always told me what to do!"

What was accomplished? *Lots* of planting. The list of new flora included names that in one way or another brought Margaret to mind: nannyberry, English roses, the iris 'Immortality,' the delphinium 'Summer Stars,' the daylily 'Elegant Explosion,' old-fashioned bleeding heart, white butterfly bush, English daisy, and the ever cheerful pansy, to name but a few. Volunteers also put in a stone walkway and a rose garden behind the Farm House, planted an herb garden, tamed an undisciplined forsythia, and vanquished a vine invading the bed along the Barn.

Jenn Barton hopes Margaret Ellis Day will become an informal yearly tradition. She wants to convey to others the enthusiasm and confidence Margaret instilled in her. Although Margaret's horticultural knowledge was daunting, "I told myself that I could do it," says Jenn, because her mentor's advice "never translated into judgment...It was about delighting in the intricate flower forms and marveling at their survival strategies, their delicacy, their determination, and their beauty."

Gardening done, the Margaret Ellis Day workers enjoyed lunch in the Wallace Center before carrying out one last, essential task: they oiled their tools—with Chewonki biodiesel. Margaret would have approved.

Anne Leslie works in Chewonki's Development Office and loved Margaret's passion for gardening.

# Pure Goodness All Year Long

Farm/kitchen connection grows with the addition of a root cellar

MEGAN PHILLIPS

t's an unusual thing to be a farm growing for a single, dedicated market such as our kitchen. We get to know what makes our cooks tick—like the fact that kitchen manager Bill Edgerton couldn't live without cabbage and giant rutabaga—and they get to know about us. Bill knows that the best way to brighten my mood midsummer, for example, is to ask for a giant kale harvest. I love giant kale harvests.

These getting-to-know-each-other conversations start every January, at our farm and kitchen planning meeting. The farmers bring their spreadsheet, complete with the poundage of all the vegetables we sent to the kitchen in the previous growing season—\$18,024 worth of vegetables in 2010!—and the kitchen staff come ready to offer suggestions and directions.

This farm-to-kitchen fellowship continues year-round. Every Wednesday during the growing season, the farmers stroll through the gardens, predicting what vegetables will need harvesting the following week. Later in the day, Bill and I find a quiet spot to talk, I with my "Vegetables to Harvest" list and Bill with his menus. He supplements and complements our offerings with his regular food order and an order to Crown of Maine Organic Cooperative, a local food distributor.

This year, much of the talk between farmers and cooks has centered on the two-room root cellar attached to the kitchen. Built in 2009 during the Wallace Center renovations, this root cellar is *big*, the kind of big that says "Fill me up." This year we set out to do just that, fundamentally changing the way our cooks think about menu planning. Instead of deciding TTA STOTHART CONNOR

what to make and ordering the ingredients, they are consulting the root cellar and thinking creatively about possibilities.

Our goal is to have a root cellar full to bursting with locally grown vegetables to feed us from fall into spring. To make this possible, we focused our growing efforts this year on a few vegetable varieties fit for long-term storage. Next, we initiated an innovative buying agreement with local grower Emily Garnett, a former MCS student and staff member who agreed to grow onions for us. I had a vision of expanding these contracts in future years, but a casual conversation at the Bath Farmers' Market with Small Wonder Organics in Bowdoinham led to an additional contract this year for 500 pounds each of storage beets and carrots.

We had a lot of vegetables heading in our direction, but we still lacked appropriate storage bins. Thanks to a gift from the grandparents of Semester 43 student Rachel Kleinman (see p. 5), our root cellar now has 30 white cedar crates and 8 rolling bins. Truth be told, the first time I saw these crates and bins, I had to contain happy tears: that's the kind of beautiful they are. They have been filling fast, with our own student-harvested potatoes, onions, garlic, and carrots and with locally grown kohlrabi, beets, carrots, onions, potatoes, and winter squash.

When the snow flies this winter, our community will be eating well—on fresh, locally grown, pure goodness.

Megan Phillips is the education and livestock coordinator on Chewonki's Salt Marsh Farm.

Bill Edgerton and Megan Phillips (pictured above) are thrilled with Chewonki's new root cellar bins. In the last few years, the connection between the farm and kitchen has taken a quantum leap forward. A Food Action Committee was established, providing a regular forum for reinforcing Chewonki's commitment to serving as much locally grown food as possible. Bill says that "since starting this committee, the kitchen's relationship with the farm is much stronger. We feel like one department now." He also noted that the weekly arrival of hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables keeps the kitchen staff on its toes. "It helps us be more creative and flexible as chefs."



ELIZABETH PIERSON

ugust 31 was cause for celebration. On a picture-perfect Maine summer day, Chewonki officially closed the books on the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history. The fiveyear "Pathway to the Future" capital campaign raised \$10.8 million and helped to more than double Chewonki's endowment—from \$2.8 million at the start of the campaign to almost \$5.5 million today, with an additional \$2.2 million of endowment pledges still to be paid. About 75 percent of the total funds raised have been received.

Director of development Lucy Hull was jubilant. "This is a day we have long anticipated and worked very hard to reach," she said. "The entire Chewonki community owes a tremendous thank-you to every single person who participated in this endeavor. The inspiring leadership of former president Don Hudson and co-chairs Gordon Hall III, Josh Marvil, and Fay Shutzer was essential for our success. For all of us who have a stake in Chewonki's mission to provide life-changing experiences for young people, this is a milestone to celebrate."

President Willard Morgan noted that although it may not be immediately apparent, Chewonki is a different place now than it was when the campaign began five years ago. "Think about the changes we have made since we started," he said, and then enumerated the highlights. More money is available for financial aid. Staff have greater access to professional development, and will have improved campus housing as the sustainable campus work is completed in 2012–2014. Chewonki Camp for Girls is open and thriving. Chewonki's campuses, not only in Wiscasset but up north at Big Eddy Campground and at Fourth Debsconeag Lake, are operating more sustainably than ever. And on the coast, Chewonki owns four beautiful undeveloped islands, available not only to its own trippers but also to the public, through the Maine Island Trail.

"Imagine where we would be, especially given the current economic climate, if we hadn't undertaken this campaign," said Willard. "What would enrollment in our programs look like? Would we still be able to recruit top-level staff? Would we be able to continue modeling the best practices in sustainability and renewable energy? Chewonki will feel the effects of this campaign for years to come."

Pathway to the Future was launched in 2006 to ensure Chewonki's long-term health and longevity by helping it build a stronger endowment and reach a broader segment of society, including more girls in the summer. It was the fifth, and by far the largest, capital campaign since Chewonki's incorporation as a nonprofit in 1962. Its success was all the more impressive given that much of the campaign was conducted during the most volatile economic period in recent history. Staff, board members and advisors, and a cadre of volunteers worked together in a herculean effort, and nearly 1,400 loyal supporters came through with unparalleled generosity.

Continued on page 24

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIDGET BESAW, JOCK MONTGOMERY, AND CHRIS RILEY EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.

"If it weren't for efforts like this, and our supporters' generosity, Chewonki would be a very different place today."



## Five Goals Where The Campaign Dollars Are Going

#### **Financial Aid Endowment**

Financial aid for Semester School, Outdoor Classroom, Traveling Natural History Programs, Wilderness Trips, and Boys Camp (for Girls Camp, see below)

#### **Staff Enrichment Endowment**

Support for professional development and salaries

#### **Girls Camp**

Purchase of property

Construction and renovation of facilities: Lynn Harrison Lodge, yurts, shower house, composting toilets, solar panels Financial aid endowment, for all girls and for Maine girls

#### **Access to Wild Places**

Purchase of Russ, Campbell, Hungry/Hall, and Black Islands Acquisition and removal of Montsweag Dam Purchase of addition to Cushman Mountain Preserve in Wiscasset



#### Sustainable Campus

Wallace Center renovation: new kitchen, root cellar, and dish room; renovated dining hall; hybrid solar panels and solar water-heating system; new foundation for barn
Bathrooms/shower-house facilities
Gordy Hall cabin construction and solar panels
Hoyts cabin renovation
Faculty Housing Fund (project implementation 2012–2014)
Geothermal, Phases I and II (2009, 2011)
Wind power
Tidal power study *Grand Chat* catamaran upkeep (2008–2010)
Nature Program enhancement and bird watching
Black walnut trees alternative endowment
Kronosport electric vehicles
Poster curriculum series

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org / 23

"We are deeply appreciative of everyone who helped us accomplish what at one point appeared to have turned into a nearly impossible task," said board chair Josh Marvil.

The gifts and pledges received are supporting five broad areas of need, of which the largest is financial aid for participants. The other four are staff enrichment, Chewonki Camp for Girls, access to wild places, and the sustainable campus.

One of the hallmarks of the campaign is the percentage earmarked for endowment. In past campaigns, nearly every penny went to infrastructure. This time, almost 50 percent is going to endowment, primarily for financial aid.

Willard thanked the campaign staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts and a job well done. "Fund-raising is hard work, but we wouldn't exist without it," he acknowledged. "If it weren't for efforts like this, and our supporters' generosity, Chewonki would be a very different place today."

A list of the campaign donors begins on p. 30. They come from 41 states and 14 countries and sent gifts ranging in size from more than \$1 million to a few dollars. While some of the gifts were designated for specific projects, many were for the campaign as a whole, which showed great faith in Chewonki and allowed it the flexibility to meet its most immediate needs first.

"It is a great honor to thank our donors again on the campaign's conclusion," said Lucy. "Many of them made multiple gifts to Chewonki during the campaign years, and many, many of them stretched generously. They enclosed wonderful notes and letters with their gifts. They inspired us and spurred us on!"

Each and every day, those gifts are changing lives. "We have a fresh wind in our sails," said Willard. "Chewonki is not cruising along, especially in this economy, but it has charted a steadier course forward thanks to the dramatic contributions of this effort. Capital campaigns never solve every fiscal challenge an organization faces, but they certainly make a world of difference."

The pages that follow provide a glimpse into that world of difference. Thanks to the successful completion of Pathway to the Future, Chewonki is well positioned to continue its legacy of changing lives.



In the Fall 2009 Chronicle we celebrated the achievement of meeting the Kresge Foundation Challenge, an \$850,000 challenge grant in support of our Sustainable Campus goal. Two years later we are celebrating the conclusion of the Pathway to the Future campaign.

## **Our Five Goals**



## **GOAL #1: FINANCIAL AID ENDOWMENT**

Increasing the endowment for financial aid was the largest single component of the campaign. We are committed to making a Chewonki experience available to as many students as possible, regardless of their economic circumstances.

Chewonki awarded close to \$800,000 in scholarship and financial aid for campers, wilderness trippers, Semester School students, and school subsidies for the Outdoor Classroom and Traveling Natural History Programs in fiscal year 2011 (which ended on August 31). This amount represents approximately 16.4 percent of Chewonki's total tuition revenue for the year—a significant increase since the start of the campaign in 2006.

#### Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rodman,

Thank you for helping out my family financially and giving me the opportunity to go to Chewonki. If I wasn't lucky enough to receive your scholarship, I would have never known I loved kayaking and bird walks. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go to Chewonki.

I had a wonderful time and had so many great experiences, like when I went on my first bird walk. I had no idea that I loved to watch birds. Now one of my favorite water sports is kayaking. In kayaking, I learned how to do my wet exit, t-rescue, and I can sometimes do a roll, all thanks to Chewonki and to you. I experienced so many different great things and met friends from all over the world. I had an amazing time—hands down, the very best experience of my life. I just want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn so many different things, meet so many different people, and have so many fun experiences.

Sincerely, Liam F. (age 12, Boys Camp '11)

"Matthew just loved Chewonki so much! He grew up there: Chewonki matured him. He had a very successful career in advertising, a wonderful marriage, and two beautiful children, and yet he talked about Chewonki all the time. His experiences there were central to his life. He died at a young age, but he's still there. We know he would be so proud of what we have accomplished, with the help of his friends and our family, to create a legacy for young people who want to go but cannot afford it." —Oliver and Cynthia Rodman, gift to the Matthew Rodman Scholarship Fund

## GOAL #2: STAFF ENRICHMENT ENDOWMENT

Our faculty and staff are the heart and soul of Chewonki. Growing the endowment to support their professional education and enrichment is one of the best investments Chewonki can make.



#### Garth Altenburg, Boys Camp Director

Institute for Civic Leadership, Portland, September 2010–May 2011 ICL trains leaders to bring innovative and inclusive models of leadership to Maine's communities and organizations. Our class met for 15 days over 9 months and included a 3-day stint at Outward Bound in Newry and a practicum. For my practicum, I worked with six classmates to help the town of Casco develop a Municipal Energy Committee.

I cherished the ICL program. I gained a valuable network of colleagues, and I gained a better sense of my own leadership style. I learned first-hand how much we can gain when decision-making and planning are inclusive and when everyone involved in the process has a voice.

#### LUKE O'NEILL



#### Sue West, Art Teacher, Semester School

University of Southern Maine Books Arts Program, July 2011, & Coastal Maine Art Workshop: Painting the Maine Landscape, August 2011 At USM I spent seven days, each with a different teacher and focus, working on a variety of book arts skills and concepts. It was so rich! I have several books/sculptures in progress that demonstrate many of these skills and which delve into new ways of expressing ideas. I also was able to witness many different teaching methods and connect with other art teachers and book artists in the state. I feel rejuvenated and inspired!

I also spent five days in a painting class in and around Rockland, learning to observe and paint color and value. I was very challenged in this course, which reminded me of the experience of being a student.

#### Paul Arthur, Assistant Head of School & English Teacher, Semester School

Field Ornithology Course on Hog Island with National Audubon Society & Project Puffin, June 2011

The course benefitted me in numerous ways. I'm very enthusiastic about birds and natural history and now feel more confident in my overall understanding of the lives of birds and how they figure into coastal ecology. I share this interest with classes every time an interesting bird happens by the window (which happens more often than one would expect!), and of course when I'm leading wilderness trips. I also did some networking I didn't expect, which may lead to closer connections between Chewonki and these two organizations.

## Professional Development Grants for Staff in FY 2011

Garth Altenberg: Institute for Civic Leadership course

Carob Arnold, facilities manager: Maine Rural Water Assoc. Annual Conference

Paul Arthur: Field Ornithology Course

Sarah Burgess, Girls Camp kitchen manager: Management training

Dawn Dill, supervising nurse: ACA New England Conference

Ann Rupe Glass, Accounts Receivable: Blackbaud software training

Rebecca Graham, IT manager: Apple certification training

Leah Kramer Heyman, OC staff, Outreach educator, and trip leader: NOLS sea kayak/canoe training trip

Jane Koopman, trip leader: Water rescue training and paddling development

Bethany Laursen, OC staff and trip leader: Allagash canoe trip

Ryan Linehan, Summer Wilderness Programs director: Paddling course and Risk Management conference

Colin McGovern, OC staff, Outreach educator, and trip leader: St. John River trip

Trish McLeod, Business Office manager: Blackbaud software training

Willard Morgan, president: Management training

Constanza Ontaneda, Semester School Spanish teacher: Spanish AP training course

Megan Phillips, Farmer: Organic farming conference and MOFGA conference

Greg Shute, Wilderness Programs director: Risk Management conference

Jamie Sonia, Accounts Payable: Blackbaud software training

Jeremy Tardif, Farmer: MOFGA conference

Kelsie Tardif, Development assistant: Blackbaud software training

Sue West: USM Book Arts Program and Coastal Maine Art Workshop

Marjolaine Whittlesey, Semester School French teacher: Three MA courses in French

Peg Willauer-Tobey, Development assistant director: Blackbaud software training

"We've been involved with Chewonki for almost forty years as campers, staff, trip leaders, and trustees on the Board. The success of Chewonki and the transformative power of its programs on participants come from the remarkable teachers that lead these programs. We wanted to contribute to a fund that supports Chewonki's talented and devoted teachers as well as encourage teachers to visit Chewonki and carry its mission back to their students." —Josh and Becky Marvil, gift to the Fund for Teaching and the Environment



## **GOAL #3: CHEWONKI CAMP FOR GIRLS**

Chewonki realized a long-held dream when Chewonki Camp for Girls opened in 2008 on Fourth Debsconeag Lake in Maine's North Woods. Of the campaign funds dedicated to this goal, 58 percent are for the purchase of the property and the construction and renovation of facilities, and 42 percent are for endowment for financial aid.

Each year, more and more girls ages 8–18 are having transformative experiences in this beautiful wilderness setting. Now in its fourth year, with Abby Burbank at the helm as the new director and with a legion of strong returning counselors and campers, the camp is evolving to include its own songs, cheers, and traditions. A wilderness leadership program added a new dimension to the camp this summer. There is endless excitement, creativity, and energy going into Girls Camp.



When we [picked] up our daughter after her 3-week trip, I couldn't have imagined that, in so many ways, we would truly be getting our daughter back!

It wasn't as if we sent her away with you as a lost soul. She appeared self-confident and assured, but as a thirteen-vear-old girl having spent a rough year in the throes of the 7th-grade social scene, she came to you a fragile girl. I am so grateful to say that she is once again a strong adolescent who believes in herself and appreciates the kindness of others. We chose Chewonki because I have always admired the sincerity, integrity, and strength of character of all I have met at Chewonki Neck. We had seen many of those traits in our daughter slipping away and hoped that ... Chewonki would guide her toward a positive self-image. We couldn't have been more thrilled with her experience. Since she returned from Fourth Debsconeag, she has taught all of us how to listen more intently to one another and really seems to be approaching all the people in her life (adults and peers alike) with a sense of respect which is noticeable. The director of her middle school has asked her to come speak with him about her experiences at Chewonki last summer. -letter to Abby Burbank from a Girls Camp parent in Rhode Island

"If a girl finds herself in a place of extraordinary natural beauty, is allowed to learn from her peers and female mentors, away from the distractions and competitions of today's world, her internal life will be changed...What a gift!" —Wendy Jordan, gift for Girls Camp





## GOAL #4: ACCESS TO WILD PLACES

Exploring the woods and waters of Maine has been at the heart of a Chewonki experience since our founding days. Our role in conservation education depends on access to wild places.

The purchase of four Maine islands between Muscongus Bay and Blue Hill Bay—Hungry/Hall, Black, Russ, and Campbell Islands—has been a monumental achievement for Chewonki. "The greatest value of these



islands is not in the near term but in the future," says Wilderness Trips director Greg Shute. "We own them in perpetuity, and Chewonki trippers will be able to use them forever." These undeveloped gems link our long-established and permanent campsites close to home to a stretch of the Maine coast extending all the way to Mount Desert Island and beyond. All four islands are part of the 350-mile-long Maine Island Trail and are available for public use as well.

Two smaller acquisitions were also realized. One was the purchase of an additional 30 acres for Chewonki's Cushman Mountain Preserve in Wiscasset. This parcel along the Sheepscot River has an exemplary stand of hemlock forest and will one day be a critical link in a 12-mile trail being constructing from Chewonki Neck to the village of Wiscasset. The other was the purchase and removal of Montsweag Dam, where Chewonki is working with several partners to restore a stream and its native fish populations.



"Dam removal has become a very important tool in our efforts to bring back fishery resources to the Gulf of Maine. We try to get fish back to their natal streams where they can spawn and return to the ocean." —John Catena, Northeast Regional Supervisor for the NOAA Restoration Center

"Teaching our youth about the natural world and the importance of conserving it is vital. Chewonki kids go home as ambassadors of conservation, and carry the message to their parents and peers. I give to Chewonki to maintain this process, while at the same time giving kids a wonderful time, and invaluable experience in accomplishing things as a cooperating group." —Gordy Hall, gift to the campaign as a whole

## **GOAL #5: A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS**

Modeling the sustainable management of natural resources has been an institutional commitment at Chewonki for decades. Campaign funds are enabling us to move ahead more aggressively with many projects—especially solar, wind, and geothermal ensuring that Chewonki will continue to be a leader in sustainable living and renewable technologies. The unusual opportunities we offer our participants for hands-on experiences often inform a lifetime of behavior.







The centerpiece of this multifaceted goal (see p. 23) was the expansion and renovation of the Wallace Center dining hall and kitchen. The work took place in 2008–2010 and resulted in a building that is significantly more efficient, both in terms of energy consumption and work flow, *and* more spacious. Our entire Boys Camp community can now eat at one sitting instead of two. With solar hot water and electricity, a flood of natural light, energy-saving fixtures, more efficient appliances and refrigeration, and super

insulation, the Wallace Center is "greener" and more energy efficient than ever. The team that made it all happen included architect Amy Hinkley, builder Leon Garnett, facilities manager Don Lamson, and carpenter Ken Wise.



"Being able to observe how Chewonki changes lives motivated us to become involved in the campaign, hoping to make it possible for Chewonki to continue to have the same profound impact on future campers, trippers, and students, just the way it did for our children." —Fay and Bill Shutzer, gift for Faculty Housing Fund

## Thank You to Our Donors!

#### PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Gifts received between May 1, 2006, and August 31, 2011

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#### **Outdoor Classroom for Schools**

For students in K-college. Established 1971. Served 2,070 students in 72 schools or groups in 2010.

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Traveling Natural History Programs For all ages. Established 1985. Served 25,000 people in 2010.

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"We gave to Chewonki because of the outstanding people and programs and because of its mission centered on a deep respect for the natural world. Both our children had many special adventures with Chewonki which no doubt have contributed to their outdoorsy and conservation-minded lifestyles." —Sue and Chris Klem, gift for the campaign as a whole

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Chewonki Camp for Boys For ages 8-17. Established 1915. Served 309 boys in 2011.

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#### Chewonki Camp for Girls

For ages 8-18. Established 2008. Served 102 girls in 2011.

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"My counselors made this session all I wanted it to be. Becca and Sarah were probably the best counselors that I have had throughout my time in girls camp over the years. They made it possible for me to solo portage a canoe for almost a full mile by helping me believe in myself when I was about to give up. I had an amazing time this summer, it helped me get my life and self-esteem back on track." —A Maine girl who received financial aid for Girls Camp in 2011



#### Sustainability Office

Established 1992. Supports all of Chewonki's programs with conservation and energy curricula and provides energy technology for all of our properties.

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In Honor of Caroline Goodbody Tom and Sandra Goodbody

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#### Wilderness Trips for Teens For ages 13-20. Established 1976. Served 111 teenagers in 2011.

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"The education provided to the students at Chewonki is directly related to the energy and enthusiasm provided by the faculty. This exceptional experience is enhanced by faculty enrichment programs that provide innovative and fresh ways for teachers to interact with students in our rapidly changing world."—Suzanne and Neil McGinn, gift for staff enrichment endowment



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For high-school juniors. Established 1988. Served 82 students in 2010.

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For all ages. Established 1971.

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"We were so moved by the transformation that our son Jack experienced during the program that we were compelled to understand more of the 'secret sauce' behind the Semester School program. The 'sauce,' as we discovered, is a group of educators, administrators, and staff bound together by their commitment to enlighten our children on the impact they have on our natural environment and by the love and passion they bring to their respective professions daily. We were so awed by this phenomenon that we were compelled to ask how we could help Chewonki with its various missions."—John and Cindy Phinney, gift to the Semester 42 Fund, for scholarships for Semester School

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## 1930s

Doug Allen (Boys Camp '33, '35, '37-'39, '41; Camp Staff '42, '46, '47) visited Chewonki last July with his wife, Louise, and daughter, Tapley. Doug generously shared some great old photographs and stories from his summers at Chewonki. Thank you for coming back, Doug!

## 1940s

Renny Little (Boys Camp '43-'48; Camp Staff '53-'55, '60; foundation advisor; former trustee) reports that the Rivers School Class of '51 held its 60th reunion last spring and that Chewonki, which has historical ties to Rivers, was well represented by Renny, Jim Ballard (Camp Staff '47-'51), William "Bing" Crosby (Camp Staff), Jim Newell (Boys Camp), and George Olmsted (Boys Camp). Gail Rees, widow of Malcolm Rees (Camp Staff), also attended. "Everybody was up, but we forgot to cheer!" says Renny.

#### 1950s

Fred Scott (Boys Camp '53-'56; Camp Staff '61, '63, '70, '71, '76, '79; former advisor; foundation trustee) sent us a short history of Chewonki real estate. "The archery range used to be at the site of the tennis courts and before that was behind the barn. Corral was a cabin in Osprey Circle that collapsed one winter due to heavy snow on the roof; it was replaced by the yurt. The same fate met South Hall on the lower field. Crow's Nest used to be Spruce Lodge and was located next to Ranch House in what used to be called Woodchuck Circle, the haven for the youngest campers. Betty Decker was at the back of the Farmhouse overlooking Outhaul and was the camp office for master-of-all Betty Decker. The new Gordy Hall [named for trustee Gordy Hall] replaced the White House cabin, which previously was the Old Library attached to the Farmhouse, and prior to that was the camp dining room. The camp barber made his weekly appearance there as well. There once was a rifle range behind Fo'c'sle. The tennis shack served as a great outhouse, as did most of the little shacks around campus. A few years off, with tanks removed and some Air Wick, you could never guess! Pack-Out was the



Beau Jackson

woodworking shop for years." Fred invites other alums to share campus memories with the *Chronicle*.

## 1960s

Jock Montgomery (Boys Camp '69-'72, '74; Camp Staff '77, '81, '82, '95, '06, '07) continues to work as an Asia-based photographer, guide, and expedition leader. He and wife Annie Miniscloux recently traveled to the Batanes Islands, part of the Philippines, and did some bicycle touring. "The spectacular natural beauty had us whooping and smiling everywhere we went!" See photos at www.jockmontgomery.com/1280.html.

## 1970s

Beau Jackson (Boys Camp '76-'82) has lived in Korea for 14 years. He teaches at the Foreign Language Institute of Seoul Nat'l Univ. and has become a minor celebrity on the educational TV channel. Beau spices up his daily word games with his unique brand of humor. He's also a vocalist with a local jazz band. Roger Tyler (Boys Camp '72, '73, '75, '77; Camp Staff '79) visited Chewonki last August with his father, honorary trustee Bill Tyler.

## 1980s

Lynne Flaccus (EE Staff '88; trip leader; Outreach teacher; head naturalist '96-'11) has set sail for a new job as programs manager at the nearby Sheepscot Valley Conservation Assoc. Lynne has served in many teaching roles at Chewonki over the past 23 years. Look for a tribute to her in the spring *Chronicle.* Until then, we thank her for all she has given Chewonki—and

wish her well! Kirk Niese (Boys Camp '86; Camp Staff '87, '89, '90, '94, '95; Mariner) says "Hello from Pownal, ME! I still love teaching 8th-grade science at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham. I have recently started my own low-impact forestry business, Niese Forest Works, LLC, and continue to be inspired by my experience as Chewonki's woodlot intern with Mark Albee [former farm and woodlot manager] and Andy Barker [Boys Camp '81-'84; Mariner; MCS 11-20 faculty] in the winter of '94-'95. My wife, Michaela Goldfine [Camp Staff '94-'99], is teaching at Waynflete School this fall after a year-and-change off with our daughter, Cecily, and our son, Søren." Jennifer Redding (EE Staff '88, '89) writes, "Go, Chewonki! I enjoy receiving the Chronicle and look forward to reading about the people I worked with and the accomplishments they have made with their lives.... I feel fortunate to have been a part of such a forwardthinking place."

## 1990s

Imrich Varga (Camp Staff '93) has relocated from eastern Europe to the Boston area. He stopped by Chewonki last summer with his wife and two daughters, to "show them the place where I spent 3 months of wonderful time of my life." Peter Blake (Boys Camp '93, '94, '97; Staff '98) works as a real-estate broker at RE/MAX in Portland, ME. Alex Sonneborn (Salt Marsh Farm '97; Boatbuilders '98) completed an MS in biostatistics at Columbia and then studied for a



Genell Vashro Huston and Keller

master's in ecology and evolution at SUNY-Stony Brook. He plans to seek fame and fortune in NYC but first wants to "give a shout-out to Lyndsey, Meghan, and Lauren from Salt Marsh Farm '98 and to my brother David (Boatbuilders '02; MCS 34)." Chrissy Burnham Sudler (Voyageurs '95; Northwoods Canoe '96; Umbagog '97; Women's Leadership Exp. '98; Wood Cove Staff '00; trip leader '01; Boys Camp Staff '05, '07; Girls Camp staff '08; OC '06-'09) and Jesse Dukes (Camp Staff '00-'05) are planning to lead a UVA group volunteering for Jifundishe, an NGO promoting literacy, education, and community empowerment in Tanzania. Chrissy is a fundraiser and treasurer for Jifundishe. Husband Brian recently finished 5 years in the Army, so they are happily considering their next step. The class of 2011 at Gould Academy (Bethel, ME) chose their foreign language teacher, Sam Hoyle (Boys Camp '97-'00; OC '08, '09; Camp Staff '08-'11), to address them at their baccalaureate last May. Sam is a Colby grad with a BA in Spanish and international studies. He also coaches basketball and soccer. Matt Werrbach (Boys Camp '96-'01; Camp Staff '04, '05, '07-'09; Northwoods Canoe; Mariner; Maine Coast Kayak; Boatbuilders) lives in Burlington, VT. He spent a year with AmeriCorps working with at-risk youth and now works at a group home for troubled teens. He skis and mountain bikes in the nearby mountains.



L-r: Teddy Auman, Christian Fulton, John Fulton, Owen Woodard, George Markley, Arthur Markley, and Carter Auman

### 2000s

Pam Foxley Arifian (Camp Staff '02-'03) and her husband are the happy parents of a daughter, Lena Grace. "Looking forward to her first Chewonki experience!" Paul Taylor (wilderness trips '03, '05, '07; Wilderness Trips Staff '08) and Claire Nelson (Wilderness Trips Staff '09, '10) are in Austin, TX, for another year before relocating to Portland, OR, so Claire can begin a graduate program in sustainability education at Portland State Univ. Paul is a climbing guide and working toward certification to be a backcountry guide in Alaska and abroad. Kristi Skanderup (TWT leader '83, '84; EE Staff '83, '84), husband KC Golden (Camp Staff '83; TWT leader '84; head of Maine Reach '83, '84), and their children (see Jonah Golden in Sem. 44 and Dana Golden in MCS 39) took two river trips last summer: a 16-day Colorado River/Grand Canyon trip and a 6-day Salmon River trip. Andy Moore (Boys Camp '01, '02, '05, '06; Northwoods Canoe '03) spent his summer at Haverford

College as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute research scholar, taking a break now and then to play golf. Malcolm Thomas (Boys Camp '07, '08; Penobscot White Water Kayak '09; Northeast Rivers '10) spent last summer in Ghana with the Experiment in International Living. Pascal Croak (Boys Camp '03-'08; Northeast Rivers '09) is an intern at a D.C. think tank, and brother Ben (Boys Camp '04-'08; Umbagog '09) is taking math classes through Johns Hopkins. Stacy Linehan (OC '97-'00; Outreach '99-'00; Wilderness Trips Staff '01, '02, '06-'11) and husband Ryan Linehan (Wilderness Trips Staff '99-'08; Summer Wilderness Programs director) enjoyed having their children at Chewonki with the Ducklings program over the summer. "Sawyer, 6, and Kestrel, 4, studied the farm, pond, and forests, already finding relationship to this wonderful place," Stacy says. "I led a 4-day trip for girls camp, teaching whitewater kayaking up at Big Eddy. Our gourmet food business, Treats, in Wiscasset is growing

strong and we thank all Chewonki families that stop in while in town!" Jacob Dorval-Hall (Boys Camp '02, '03; wilderness trips) was the student speaker at his graduation from Gould Academy in Bethel, ME, last May. He's now a freshman at UC Denver. Noah Stone (Boys Camp '03-'05; Maine Coast Island Camp '06; Mariner '08; Ultra Light Hiking '09; Sem. 45; Camp Staff '11) was a junior counselor at Boys Camp this past summer, teaching nature and drama. Genell Vashro Huston (Girls Camp director '08-'10) gave birth to a beautiful boy, Keller Kai Huston, on 5/30/11. Genell and husband Sair are thoroughly enjoying getting to know their little son. Prema Long (TNHP instructor '06-'11; Girls Camp Staff '08; trip leader '08-'10; Montsweag Dam project '11) is working toward a teaching certificate and master's in education at the Univ. of Southern Maine. Hugh McCormick (Boys Camp '03-'07; George River '07; MCS 37; Camp Staff '10, '11) and brother John (Boys Camp '03-'07; George River

Alexander (Zand) Martin (Voyageurs '00; Northwoods Canoe '01; Mistassini '03) is not your average paddler. This is a guy with Paddlers' Passion, and his desire and skill take him all over the world to find good water and a new adventure. One of his longest stints in a canoe was a solo expedition from Portland, OR, to Portland, ME (4/09 to 11/10). His account of the trip, accomplished in three legs, appeared in last summer's issue of *The Leader*, the magazine of the National Outdoor Leadership School. Zand is on the NOLS faculty and also writes a blog on the *Huffington Post* (huffingtonpost.com/zand-b-martin). Reminiscing about a chilly interlude on his journey, he wrote, "That night the last warmth of the lake is sucked into space. Shackled by ice as far as the eye can see in the wilderness along the Canadian border, and with 2,900 miles and 106 days behind me, I am just a little over half way home." Zand faced endless questions about why he was undertaking the trip by himself, and even he wondered at times. "Why was I paddling across North America alone? I told people...that I wanted to raise awareness of riverine environmental issues, see my country and meet its people, explore our environmental history.... All worthy goals, but in my heart they all ring hollow.... I have no real answer. Because it is there? Because I had to? Maybe because the mirror of wild country shows us who we are."

'07; TWT; MCS 41; Camp Staff '10, '11) both worked as counselors at Boys Camp last summer. For news of **John Fulton** and **Arthur Markley** (both Boys Camp '08–'11), see the 2010s.

#### 2010s

Rae Jones (OC '10, Girls Camp Staff '10, farm crew '10, '11) is living in Jamaica Plain, MA, and working for Weir River Farm through the Trustees of Reservations in Hingham, MA. She recently took a course through the Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point called "Making Environmental Education Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences." Dan Sandberg (Wilderness Trips Staff '10) is managing the EMS Climbing School and Kayak School in Lake Placid, NY. A gang of Chewonki campers, all of whom attend Lancaster (PA) Country Day School, and their parents enjoyed dinner and camaraderie at the home of Jack and Ann Fulton in Lancaster in September. Teddy and Carter Auman (both Boys Camp '11), Christian (Boys Camp '11) and John Fulton (Boys Camp '08-'11), Arthur (Boys Camp '08-'11) and George Markley (Boys Camp '11), and OwenWoodard (Boys Camp '11) look all ready for campfire!

## SEMESTER NOTES

## MCS 1

Fall 1988 Class Agent: Torrey McMillan, vmcmilla@alumni.princeton.edu

## **MCS** 2

Spring 1989 Class Agent: Critter Thompson, crittert@gmail.com

Amy Mayer's first hour-long radio documentary, *Peace Corps Voices*, "a celebration of the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary," is airing across the country. She's also been producing radio, web, and print stories about sailing through the Panama Canal on a research ship. "Fortunately, my son's been loving day camp," says Amy, and her partner is "totally focused on finishing her doctorate this year, so there hasn't been much summer vacationing."



Jessi Hauser and Rosie with Erin Quinn

## MCS 3

Fall 1989 Class Agents: Krech Paynter, tkpaynter@gmail.com; Will Redfield, wredfield@gmail.com

## MCS 4

Spring 1990 Class Agents: Mitch Levesque; Emily Rich, emily@teaguys.com

#### MCS 5

Fall 1990 Class Agent: Laura Leduc, laura howard@yahoo.com

## MCS 6

Spring 1991 Class Agent: Andy Wilbur, andrew wilbur@hotmail.com

Emily Lerner and her husband live in New London, CT, with their two daughters, ages 6 and 9. Emily had been working at FRESH New London, a community food-security nonprofit that her husband founded, but is now getting a degree in massage therapy. "If anyone is passing through New London, we're just a few minutes from the highway."

## MCS 7

Fall 1991 Class Agent: Brooke Guthrie, bpguthrie@gmail.com

## MCS 8

Spring 1992 Class Agents: Jenn Gudebski, jenn.gudebski@me.com; Sarai Hinkley, saraihinkley@hotmail.com



Fall 1992 Class Agent: Katie Wagner, katie@katiewagnersocialmedia.com

## **MCS** 10

Spring 1993 Class Agent: Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, betsyruth@gmail.com

## **MCS** 11

Fall 1993 Class Agent: Jess Green, jebbygreen@gmail.com

## **MCS** 12

Spring 1994 Class Agents: Lara Fox, jlarafox@gmail.com; Becky Palmer Dickson, rebeccapdickson@gmail.com

Gen Pence Kent's second daughter, Sadie, was born last January. Sadie, Zoe (3), Mark, and Gen still live near Cape Town, South Africa. "I'm working from home as a conservation planning consultant," writes Gen, "riding Rocky on the beach; trying to keep baboons out of the house; and happy except for the lack of Ben & Jerry's in South Africa."

#### MCS 13 Fall 1994

Class Agents: Erin Quinn, equinn141@yahoo.com; Besenia Rodriguez, besenia@yahoo.com

Stephanie Elson is "Happy in Boston, working for Mass. Audubon, really enjoying backyard beekeeping, and having a baby! Due on Halloween!" Caroline Murphy



Sarah Wolf and Caroline Murphy Freedman

Freedman and Sarah Wolf are also expecting! Caroline's firstborn, Audrey, is a good spokes-toddler for Caroline's company, NurturMe (www.nurturme.com), which makes organic baby foods. Erin Quinn took a summer trip from Atlanta to D.C. to visit her sister, Kerry Quinn (MCS 20), who recently returned from Abu Dhabi, and the sisters ran into another pair of MCS sibs: Jessi Hauser and Jamie Watson (MCS 35). Jessi and her husband are lawyers and devoted parents to Rosie, 1. Carrie Judd Miller and family love Boulder, CO, where a design job with Thule for husband Brett, the skiing, and family/friends keep them entertained. In June, Carrie celebrated her 5-year anniversary in remission (melanoma) by captaining a Relay for Life team. A highlight was walking the survivor lap, one arm in Brett's, one hand in their son Luke's. Carrie is teaching 7th-grade English at a high-needs school. Kirsten Klimt Zefting and husband Brett live in The Dalles, OR, where Kirsten is a physical therapist, plays ultimate, and is "looking forward to becoming an aunt this fall."

## **MCS** 14

Spring 1995 Class Agent: Erika Brown, erikabrown1@gmail.com

"After neglecting my duties as class agent for over 15 years," confides **Erika Brown**, "I have LOVED hearing from so many semestermates!" She and husband Patrick are moving with 18-month-old twins



Carrie Judd Miller and Luke

Mason and Emery to Durango, CO. Erika has been "taking a break from a career in environmental sustainability to raise my kids, but look forward to finding some interesting work in the future in Durango." Sarah Chamberlin Fesenmyer and husband Kurt love life in Boise, ID, with 1-year-old Elsa. They ski, raft, and hike, and Sarah is a part-time biologist with the federal government, protecting Idaho's threatened salmon runs. Colby McGavin Holtshouse and husband Mike welcomed a daughter, Calla Simone, on 7/1/11. "We are so happy to have her in our lives," says Colby. "Otherwise, everything is the same-still living in San Francisco and working at a small medical device company in marketing." In Portland, OR, Hoppy Hopcroft (Camp Staff '95-'00) is managing energy-efficiency



Elsa and Sarah Chamberlin Fesenmyer

programs for utilities and providing sustainability consulting to the private sector. "I love it and have no plans to change job or location anytime soon. I feel lucky!" Last May, Hoppy saw Betsy Stubblefield (MCS 10) and got to hang out with Betsy's twins in Providence, RI. "Actually it was kind of a Chewonki reunion with babies," explains Hoppy, "as I also saw Justin Reich [MCS 11] with his wife, Elsa Olivetti [Camp Staff '01-'04]; Ben Urquhart [MCS 11] and his wife, Julie Shoemaker [Outreach and OC intern '01, '02; Boatbuilders leader '02]; Jesse Reich [MCS 17] and his wife, Alene Reich; and their respective babies. A great way to start a trip to the East Coast!" Jenny Horne graduated from Brigham Young Univ., received her certification in child life therapy, and worked at Yale Children's Hospital before retiring to full-time motherhood in Stratford, CT, with her husband and 4 children, ages 6 years-16 months. "I love being a mom. We camp and hike together and spend a lot of time outdoors. I am teaching [my kids] the song of a chickadee and I hope to instill the passion for the environment that Chewonki gave to me!" Starrla Johnson has moved to Seattle after 9 years in Boston. "The Pacific Northwest is great for running and I've become a 4-star Marathon Maniac (9 marathons in 9 states in 1 year). I've finished 30 marathons and 2 ultras. When I'm not running, I work on arthritis research. I also love watching the Mariners but I always cheer for the Red Sox first." Hannah Kennedy is "happily living out in the woods in North Carolina" with husband David and their 7 children. Kendree Key is in Brooklyn, NY, "making art, being a mom, and going back to school for my MFA...got to see Valerie Orth perform a few months ago." Learn more at www.mckendreekey.com. Helen LaCroix finished her PhD in U.S. history and lives in D.C. with husband Dave and two dogs. "I'm working as a research consultant on a historical book project, but I'm thinking about making a move into the world of community development, specifically, affordable housing. For fun, I read Victorian

literature, bake and eat a lot of pie, and play with my growing collection of nieces and nephews." Jess LeClair and husband Matt have been preparing to welcome a baby to their home in Bangor. "I'm still working on my graduate program, an MFA in Intermedia at the Univ. of Maine, but I plan a brief hiatus when the baby arrives," says Jess. Matt is teaching and doing some work for L.L. Bean. Abby Shaw MacDonald is a clinical social worker at Mass. General, specializing in women's health while husband Chris nears the end of a post-doc at BU. "We have an 8month-old daughter, Penny, who inherited her father's sense of rhythm and her mother's gift of gab." Loren Merrill has finished his graduate studies at UC Santa Barbara but is sticking around to work on his dissertation and teach ecology and evolution of terrestrial vertebrates. He's also helping coordinate a program called the School for Scientific Thought, in which graduate students at UCSB design and teach a class for high-school students. In July, Kempton Mooney visited Chewonki for the first time in 10 years. "The farm looks great. It is amazing how much the place has grown, and how much it has stayed the same .... I encourage everyone to visit; it's like stepping back in time." Valerie Orth is living in San Francisco, focusing on songwriting and her rock trio. She's released a second full-length album and is about to release a second music video. "My band continues to record and I sometimes tour, mostly on the east and west coasts. Performing original songs is my true love! Take a listen at www.valerieorth.com." James Paugh spent the last few years in NYC practicing law but has moved to Bermuda for a new job at an insurance company. "I remain on the lookout for the once elusive Bermuda petrel. If any Chewonki folks make it out to the rock, please get in touch!" Berkeley, CA, is home for Cynthia Rothschild, who is "incredibly happy to be just engaged to Oliver Jaggi (a Swiss-Canadian luthier, for any guitarloving MCSers)!" She is chief program officer at Catholic Charities of the East Bay. "Would love to

catch up with West Coast MCSers!" Jamie Shutzer and wife Jenny are preparing their young son Julian "for MCS 78 or something like that!" Jamie would love to be in touch with MCSers in the D.C. area. Tyler Stewart and husband Johnny Eason own Wags, a pet-care business in San Francisco. Ty is also an elite professional triathlete one of the top women in the world! Learn more at www.tylerstewart.com.

## **MCS** 15

Fall 1995 Class Agents: Fitz Cahall, dirtbagdiaries@earthlink.net; Emily Dellas, emilyd@gmail.com; Glynnis Roberts, glynnis.roberts@gmail.com

## **MCS 16**

Spring 1996 Class Agent: Bailey McCallum, bailey.mccallum@mac.com

## **MCS 17** Fall 1996

Class Agent: Page McClean, pagemcclean@gmail.com

## **MCS** 18

Spring 1997 Class Agent: Sarah Klain, s.klain@gmail.com

Chartey Quarcoo (foundation advisor; Semester School advisory committee) works at a D.C. law firm primarily litigating white-collar crime. He's also working to defend the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence against challenges from the NRA and others. He recommends the book Too Big to Fail to all. Dan Brakeley lives in Somerville, MA, and works at Harmonix, maker of the games Rock Band and Dance Central. He plays drums in a band called Father Octopus. "I hold onto dreams of starting a small indie game-studio some day." Jaed Coffin is working on a new book, due out next spring. Daughter Jai-Yen is 3, and the Coffins continue to live in Brunswick, ME. "Anyone passing through on their way to Chewonki: look me up," Jaed says. Sam Friedman has finished her PhD in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinician in two private practices in Michigan. Tim Healey has gravitated north to Boston again. After 3

vears in British Columbia, Sarah Klain has added "eh?" and "washroom" to her vocabulary. She's in a PhD program at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the Univ. of British Columbia. Chad Martin and wife Joyce Fu Martin have 2 children, a 2-year-old daughter and a son born in June. Chad works at KPMG in the Global Grants Program. "I'd love to catch up with others from my semester if you're ever in NYC." Sarah Mattox has been working for Outward Bound in Minnesota for the past 10 years. Last summer she was contemplating a canoe trip from Ely, MN, to Belfast, ME. We hope she did it! Sierra McLane finished her PhD in forest sciences in Vancouver, BC, last spring and a few days later moved with husband Denny to Alaska. She's the education coordinator for the Murie Science and Learning Center in Denali Nat'l Park. Ben Sigelman happily reports that he "found someone named Maggie who was willing to marry me, and we recently moved to San Francisco where I type for a living. I'd love to meet up with MCS folk if any of you are stationed out here!"

## **MCS 19**

Fall 1997 Class Agent: Josie Rodberg, josierodberg@gmail.com

**Josie Rodberg** has moved to Brooklyn, NY, but is "still working on the same PhD dissertation."

#### MCS 20 Spring 1998

Class Agents: Marley Aloe, marleyaloe@gmail.com; Kerry Granfield, kdgranfield@gmail.com

Jenn Yee (foundation advisor) is "proud to announce my new[ish] startup, MBAsocial (MBSsocial.com)—a national website for MBAs, covering popular topics such as love + dating, career, fashion, family life, and health for students and alumni of the top business school programs in the country." Since its launch, the site has been recognized and syndicated by USA Today's higher education site, as well as many blogs and forums.

## **MCS** 21

Fall 1998 Class Agent: Malia Haddock, maliahaddock@gmail.com

Hannah Kapell (Camp Staff '99-'03) has relocated to Berkeley, CA. with her boyfriend, who got a job at Twitter. Hannah continues to do bicycle/pedestrian planning and is enjoying being out of the Portland rain for a spell. Actress Lily Rabe received a Tony Award nomination for her portrayal of Portia (opposite Al Pacino) in The Merchant of Venice. Now she's starring on Broadway in Seminar opposite Alan Rickman, but if you're not in NYC, you can catch her on Ryan Murphy's new psychosexual TV series, American Horror Story. Rachel Cotton graduated from law school in '09 and now clerks for a federal judge in D.C.

## **MCS** 22

Spring 1999 Class Agent: Louisa Pitt, lapitt@gmail.com

Chris Shutzer (Boys Camp '97; North Woods Hike) and wife Georgia have their hands happily full with twins Lillian Truro and Felix Emile, born 7/9/11.

#### MCS 23 Fall 1999

Class Agent: Ariane Lottie, ariane.lotti@gmail.com

Envi Koene (foundation advisor) was at Chewonki last August to pick up her brother, Christopher Rice (Boys Camp '11). Enyi lives in Paris and hopes to help Chewonki connect with some French youngsters interested in a great summer in Maine. Last June, Enyi and Devon Liddell attended Rebecca Garfield's wedding to her Chilean beau, Jean Paul Aracena Oliver Rebecca described the wedding at her family home on Cuttyhunk Island, MA, as "magical." Paul and Rebecca took an advance honeymoon last winter, backpacking through Chile, Bolivia, and Peru and traveling down the Amazon into Brazil. This fall they moved to Tarrytown, NY, where Rebecca is teaching Spanish at the Hackley School. Marselle Alexander-Ozinskas is "staying busy every second of every day, but



Devon Liddell, Enyi Koene, and Rebecca Garfield

I was lucky to see Caroline Schley and Lindsey Horton in NYC a few months ago. These days I'm back and forth between Boston and San Francisco (where my boyfriend lives) and always wanting to see you guys if travels overlap!" Good news from Liz Dyke: she's engaged to Ford Baker, a ship broker. Ginger Walsh Larsen (MCS 19) introduced the happy couple. Liz is associate director of alumnae at Greenwich Academy, Ariane Lotti (Camp Staff '01) continues to work on sustainable agriculture policy in D.C. as policy director for the Organic Farming Research Foundation. "With the new Congress, it's been a non-stop battle to defend the modest programs that serve organic farmers," she writes. Scheduled to defend his PhD dissertation in September, Will Morris already had plans to hop a plane to Australia afterward for the International Energy Agency's second-ever oxycoal combustion conference, where he will give a paper. After that, he's moving to the Denver area to work for ADA Environmental Services, helping develop emissions-control devices. He also looks forward to participating in the Colorado Ski Mountaineering racing series!

Megan Nuttall has moved to the small town of Peterborough, ON, where she's in her first year as a Registered Midwife. "I'm farming, catching lots of babies, and even making time to go camping and white-water rafting in my spare time." Julia O'Hern is "still working on a PhD in oceanography at Texas A&M. Otherwise, working on boats and seeing the world!" Her adventures include being a deckhand on the R/V Manta, a 90-ft. research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico. Andrew Schapiro lives in San Francisco and is taking advantage of all the outdoor adventures it has to offer. He recently started a new job with a small graphic design and branding studio in Berkeley that has big ambitions. "I miss seeing EJ Winter, who moved north for school, but am happy to welcome Meredith Benedict to the East Bay (she starts business school at UC Berkeley this fall)." Liz Tunick says life is great in D.C., where she's begun a new fellowship at the National Gallery. "I am now a Kress Fellow, still working mainly in the French paintings dept. I've been lucky enough to do some local camping in Shenandoah Nat'l Park. though recently a family reunion

allowed me to explore Big Sky, MT—a must for all you outdoor enthusiasts."

## **MCS** 24

Spring 2000 Class Agent: Nora Gouge, nfgouge@gmail.com

#### MCS 25 Fall 2000

Class Agents: M. A. Moutoussis, maryangela.moutoussis@gmail.com; Chris White, cstuartwhite@gmail.com

## **MCS** 26

Spring 2001 Class Agent: Andrea LaRosa, andreallarosa@gmail.com

## **MCS 27**

Fall 2001 Class Agent: Chris Clark, clizzy@gmail.com

Georgia Green graduated from UC Berkeley with a master's in global health and environment. She also eloped with longtime boyfriend Jason. They're living in the North Lake Tahoe region and hope you'll visit! Emily Wellington works at the Northern Rocky Mt. Science Center in Bozeman, MT. "My best project right now is to co-author a chapter on the status of whitebark pine in a book about Yellowstone." She's still in grad school part-time and wants to study community and landscape ecology of the Rocky Mt. region. She gets into the mountains often on her mountain bike or skis.

## **MCS 28**

Spring 2002 Class Agent: Ellie Stewart, elliestew@gmail.com

While at the Univ. of Delaware, Jed Weeks worked as a staffer for the then-state treasurer, transitioning on graduation to deputy finance director for the treasurer's successful gubernatorial campaign. He's now working as a development associate for Open Society Institute Baltimore, a field office of George Soros's Open Society Foundations that focuses on drug addiction, over-reliance on incarceration of youth and adults, and failing schools. Jed's tiny urban yard is full of tomatoes, peppers, and vermicompost, and he rides his bike or takes the bus everywhere. Elspeth Pierson Hay and husband Alex are thrilled to be new parents. Sally Elizabeth Hay was born 10/2/11 on Cape Cod. Elspeth is still blogging at www.diaryofalocavore.com and producing her weekly "Local Food Report" for NPR affiliate WCAI.

## **MCS 29**

Fall 2002

Class Agents: Cara Brody, cara.lutz.brody@gmail.com; Greg Daggett, gdaggett1@gmail.com

Christina Feng, who's serving a third year with Teach for America in NYC, traveled to Thailand last summer with FirstClicks (www.firstclicks.org/) to provide technology resources and computers to underprivileged children in Phrao, Thailand.

## **MCS 30**

#### Spring 2003

Class Agents: Will Davidson, davidswr@gmail.com; Kiira Heymann, kiirahey@gmail.com; Olivia Sideman, olivia.sideman@gmail.com

**Barbara Johnson** lives in Brooklyn, NY, and enjoys the community garden across the street.

#### **MCS** 31

Fall 2003 Class Agents: Sarah Kirk, sskirk@gmailcom; Ben McGee, ben.mtbm@gmail.com

After graduating a year and a half ago, Lauren Bangasser drove from North Carolina to Maine, stopping in D.C. to see Caitlin Dufrain. "Then, after dreaming for almost 8 years of coming back, I started working at Chewonki as an apprentice in the Outdoor Classroom. I shadowed and worked with returning instructors to learn how the program works and what the different lessons are that we teach." Lauren studied Spanish in Guatemala last winter and traveled there and in Honduras before returning to the OC. She enjoyed a visit from Sarah Thompson before heading north to work at Girls Camp for the summer. Now she's back in the OC, and "who knows what adventure comes next?" After kicking the tires of environmental consulting for a year, Hilary Best has jumped to freelance writing, editing, and civic engagement projects. She'd love to reconnect with anyone passing through Toronto. Connor Dow lives in Vail and manages a ski shop. "Skiing has been great, 236 days of skiing in 2 seasons, the last season being Vail's snowiest season ever. The summer is great here too." Connor got back to Maine last summer and again in September for the wedding of his brother, Brackett Dow (MCS 19). In June, Taylor Dryman wrapped up 2 years of work at Mass. General in Boston, where she and Olivia Doolev shared an apartment. "I just recently moved out to Montana to work on a guest ranch for the summer, and I'll be applying to clinical psychology graduate school programs in the fall. Miss you all!" Hannah Johnston is finishing her master's in geography at Queens Univ. She took some time off last year "to help unionize mushroom farmers in Kennett Square, PA." After serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer in NYC, Sarah Kirk moved to North Carolina last summer to pursue a master's in city and regional planning at UNC Chapel Hill. Danielle Layton has moved from

Scotland back to the U.S. and now lives in, and loves, Portland, ME. Ben McGee bought a house in Nashville, TN, and is enrolled in Vanderbilt's acute-care nurse practitioner program. "When all is said and done, I'll have certifications as both an acute care and a family nurse practitioner. My end goal is to work in a rural hospital's emergency department." After high school, Joe Meier spent a year at St. Lawrence Univ., then went to Patagonia with NOLS before studying geology at Northland College in Wisconsin. Joe now lives in Seattle, working as a cheese maker, but he's "finally decided to go back to school and get a master's in geology." Jackie Perlow taught with Teach for America in D.C. and is now at Harvard Law School. Since college, Scott Simontacchi has been adventure-trip leading, trail building, and leading student conservation crews all over the nation. He took time out to support his mother through some health challenges but spent a lot of last year "being a climbing bum traveling across the nation and in Mexico." He also enjoyed a teaching apprenticeship at the Rocky Mt. Semester and is now teaching highschool math at Storm King School, 50 miles up the Hudson from NYC. Sarah Courtney Smith lives a double life as a clinical psych grad student at Appalachian State Univ. and an outdoor educator at North Carolina Outward Bound School. "I love both lives...and am always up for a climbing, backpacking, or boating trip if anyone wants to join!" She says the NCOBS community "is similar to the one our semester built in '03. Being a member of this community keeps my spirit alive and connected to some of the most inspirational and good-hearted people." Cindy Sorrick is in vet school at Iowa State Univ. She's been working at a small-animal clinic and volunteering at a wildlife care clinic. "I'm looking to go into small animal and exotic/zoo animal medicine, but I am also interested in wildlife and pathology." Last summer she visited the Bahamas and recommends Nassau's Atlantis resort for its "phenomenal aquariums and very large collection of marine animals on

site. Plus, the snorkeling and diving!" Kelsev Sutcliffe is also in vet school, at Ross Univ. in St. Kitts. In December she'll return to the U.S. to do a year of clinicals. Sarah Thompson just moved to Highlands, NJ, but spends most of her time on the USCGC Bainbridge Island, a 110-ft. patrol boat based in Sandy Hook. Sarah is the executive officer in charge of personnel on the boat. "We do patrols all through New England and Long Island Sound/New York Harbor." After working as a lab tech at the Univ. of Pennsylvania by day "and an acclaimed science blogger by night," Hannah Waters has moved to NYC to pursue her dream of science writing. She's a staff writer for The Scientist but spends her free time "geeking out on the web with my cyber science pals." Check out her projects at http://culturingscience.word press.com/ and http:// fishes.southernfriedscience.com/.

## **MCS 32**

Spring 2004 Class Agents: Julian Holland, jpholl05@gmail.com; Molly Martin, mollymarti@gmail.com

Katie Chomiak covers the U.S. State Dept. as an associate producer at NBC News. It all started with her reports of "stupid news" at MCS and Paul Arthur's excellent writing and English instruction. Emily Jackson Tupper has launched an academic tutoring business in Brunswick, ME. Academic Wings Educational Support Services helps students of all ages improve their performance through private and small-group tutoring. Emily graduated from U. Maine Orono with a BS in biology and a BA in English.

#### MCS 33 Fall 2004

Class Agents: Bryce Koukopoulos, bkoukopoulos@chewonki.org; Jaz Smith, jsmith@coa.edu

Ellie Bomstein is at Cornell, studying for a master's in city and regional planning. She enjoyed running into Daegan Miller (MCS 31-36 faculty) this fall, who's finishing up his PhD. Margaret Mansfield graduated from UVA

with a double major in art history and French and now works for Bloomberg in NYC, where she's enjoying reconnecting with Chewonki pals.

## **MCS 34**

Spring 2005 Class Agents: Alex Beecher, 10anb@williams.edu; Liz Franchot, efranchot@gmail.com

Chloe Shasha (Maine Coast Kayak '02; Umbagog '03) graduated from Middlebury with a BA in cognitive psychology. She traveled to Colorado and California in June and then began working for the TED Conference (www.ted.com), managing and coordinating TEDxYouthDay events on a global scale. She's based in NYC and loves bumping into other MCSers, including Sarah Smith, Danny Growald, Claire Steines, Daisy Jones, Sally Lemonick, Andrew Karp, Alex Beecher, Zarine Alam, Stephanie Schmiege, and Lucy Bates-Campbell (MCS 40).

## **MCS** 35

Fall 2005 Class Agent: Cameron McKnight, faithcameronmcknight@yahoo.com

Since graduating from Whitman College, **Robin Lewis** has been interning on a diversified CSA farm. In addition to gaining some tangible farming skills, she wants to "reflect upon the past four years and think deeply about what is important to me and figure out how to achieve that. Will it be through farming? Teaching? Community organizing? Maybe, or maybe it will be through something I haven't even imagined." **Linnea Palmer Paton** is diving into a master's in urban planning at NYU.

## **MCS 36**

Spring 2006 Class Agents: Teddy

Class Agents: Teddy Newmyer, tnewmyer@wesleyan.edu; Chelsea Pompadur, cp296@st-andrews.ac.uk

Meredith Ruhl came back to Chewonki for our 5-year reunion and later wrote, "I had a wonderful weekend and left feeling grateful both for my time at MCS...and for the fact that I can return after so much time and still feel genuinely cared about and supported by the Chewonki community. Reconnecting with friends and teachers reminded me of how lucky I am to know all of you! I was also struck by how influential MCS has been in shaping many of my decisions over the past five years and my plans for the future. All morning today as I was harvesting greens and radishes on the farm where I'm working, I was thinking about how my interest in farming and food originated at Chewonki."

### **MCS 37**

Fall 2006 Class Agent: Lizzy Tarr, lizet345(@gmail.com

Natalie Friedman traveled to Belize last spring with her tropical field biology course. She was in Maine over the summer, studying squid muscle physiology at the Darling Marine Center, and visited Chewonki. For news of Hugh McCormick, see People 2000s.

## **MCS 38**

Spring 2007 Class Agents: Franklin Jacoby, fjacoby@coa.edu; Maddy Schwartz, madeleineschwartz@gmail.com

Hamish Haddow is studying biology at U. Maine Orono, where he also works in a lab investigating a fungus that infects and kills some species of frogs. He enjoys paddling when he can. "I ran the Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race, which I would recommend to anyone with whitewater canoeing experience. We did not flip the boat, which was a bit remarkable, and we did shoot a stretch of rapids backwards." Hamish encourages MCSers to stop by. "If you go into the Thai Kitchen on Route 2 in Orono and ask for Hamish, they'll point you in the right direction." Liddy Hepner is pursuing a biology degree at Virginia Tech. She's head of a research team looking at intestinal parasites in muskrats and waterfowl and the population decline of muskrats. She spent last summer interning at a small-animal clinic and an equine practice and hopes to go to vet school. Franklin Jacoby (Mistassini '07; George River '08), a

senior at College of the Atlantic, received a Goldwater Scholarship last spring. The Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awards scholarships to second- and third-year college students planning careers in science and math. More than 1,000 students applied for 275 scholarships, and Franklin was the only Maine student to receive one. His primary focus at COA has been birds. Over the summer, he paddled the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, "a 740-mile route from New York to Maine that took me about 6 weeks to paddle and portage along. I'm hoping to tie it in with a writing project for my final studies in college." This fall, Franklin is studying at Prescott College in Arizona. Another MCSer doing great things at COA is Halie Morrell. "This past summer I worked on my senior thesis...researching the history and conducting a vegetation survey of a 100-acre piece of property that COA just received. My hope is that future students and professors will use this baseline data for their own studies." Ethan S. Nonomura studied in New Zealand last spring and "had a class with Evan Deutsch. Fancy that! There's a lot of hiking, bungee jumping, skydiving, kayaking, etc., to be done in NZ. I recommend it to all of you." Maddy Schwartz, a senior at Harvard, wrote an article for the May-June issue of Harvard Magazine titled "The Most Important Course? Do Harvard undergraduates ponder the meaning of life?" In it, Maddy laments that her undergraduate education has not included more instruction in how to live life. She cites MCS as a time when "daily routines centered around thoughtful discussion."

## MCS 39

Fall 2007 Class Agents: Dana Golden, deg1@williams.edu; Madeleine Woodle, mwoodle@princeton.edu

Dana Golden helped row the Williams varsity 8 women's crew team to their 6th consecutive NCAA National Championship in California last May. Dana is studying in Chile this fall and seeing firsthand the "Chilean Spring," widespread student protests for increased democracy and funding for public education.

## **MCS** 40

Spring 2008 Class Agents: Rachel Madding, rmadding@middlebury.edu; Nick McLeod, mickmc10935@aol.com

Douglas Gledhill was on the Neck in May to see his sister, Sarah Gledhill, graduate from Semester 46. Over the summer he worked for Middlebury-Monterrey Language Academies as a Chinese Academy program assistant, then spent 3 weeks exploring Costa Rica before starting his sophomore year at Middlebury. Yona Koch-Fienberg also has a semester school sibling: Ruby Koch-Fienberg is at Chewonki this fall.

## **MCS** 41

Fall 2008 Class Agent: Kevin Coleman, colemankj@gmail.com

Nelle Edge spent 10 months traveling and exploring, starting in India with a group called Carpe Diem. "After the program, I stayed for another four months, working with a non-profit (Folk Arts Rajasthan), and traveling on my own through the Himalayas and in the hot, crowded plains of India." Back in the U.S., she crossed the country by foot and train, worked on organic farms in Georgia and Florida, and took a bike trip from New Orleans to Florida. She's now a freshman at Portland (OR) State Univ. For news of John McCormick, who's at Colorado College, see People 2000s.

## **MCS** 42

Spring 2009 Class Agent: Carly Blumenfeld, cnblumenfeld@gmail.com

## Semester 43

Fall 2009 Class Agent: Sara Clark, saraclark146@msn.com

Addie Bakewell is spending a year traveling and WWOOFing (working on farms through Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms) in New Zealand and Southeast Asia



Dana Golden (third from right) and crew

before heading off to Cornell. Sara Clark helped reclaim an unused plot of land at her high school to establish a multiuse garden and also helped make her school a drop-off location for a local farm's CSA. Sara is now a freshman at Williams. Tavo True-Alcala spent most of the summer working on an organic farm that provides food for his high school, the Hotchkiss School. "One of the cool projects we were working on is a rice paddy, one of the only ones in the Northeast." He's now at Wesleyan and has a grant to do environmental work next summer: "if anyone has any cool ideas, e-mail me at ttruealcala@wesleyan.edu."

#### Semester 44

Spring 2010

Class Agents: Charlotte Allyn, charlotteallyn@gmail.com; Hannah Perkins, hannah perkins@me.com

Maxson Jarecki recorded his first album with his band and lead 14year-olds on wilderness canoe trips in northern Ontario for Keewaydin Camps. He's now spending a year in India with the Princeton Univ. Bridge Year Program before entering the university. Jonah Golden played varsity basketball last winter and received the Most Inspirational award. He enjoyed serving as a senior mentor at school and leading trips for the student-run outdoor program. He's deferred college for a year to do a NOLS semester in New Zealand along with some WWOOFing and travel. Next fall, Jonah will attend Quest Univ. in British Columbia.

#### Semester 45 Fall 2010

Class Agents: Katie Rush, katierush@westminster.net; Noah Stone, noah1313@gmail.com

Laura Baldwin interned at a mental health services organization last summer. "It helps to start vegetable gardens for people stuck in the group homes/state hospitals," she writes. Lee Barker interned for the Grand Teton Nat'l Park Foundation in Wyoming. Margo Daiber spent part of her summer as a camp counselor and tutor and teaching kids how to play squash. She also worked on her family farm in Iowa. Catherine DiPietro worked on an organic herb farm last summer. Ashlee Johnson had a summer internship at the Univ. of Wisconsin. She helped engineer mutated plants with increased

biomass, which could be extracted to make biofuels. Giovanna Grigsby-Rocca worked at the Golden Trout Camp, an educational facility in the high Sierras. Katie Rush was a camp counselor and was recently accepted into the Class of 2016 at Wake Forest. Hannah Cabot interned at the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. "They have a goal to have New England coal-free by 2020," she writes, "and have already shut three major power plants and started a cool urban agriculture project where they buy vacant lots downtown and turn them into farms." Francesca Gentile lent a hand at Chewonki's Salt Marsh Farm in August. Ben Clark spent the summer touring Europe and working on a local farm. Eric Nathanson was last seen racing a sailboat around Boothbay Harbor. Leila Rezvani worked at an organic grocery store over the summer. Maggie St. Jean's summer included scooping ice cream and 2 weeks in Colorado. Alana Thurston interned at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, where she learned about genome sequencing and how to find new small molecules that bind to proteins. Katherine Wasynczuk is studying history at St. Andrews in Scotland. Hillia Aho (Girls Camp '08; wilderness trip '09; Umbagog '10) traveled last summer to Nicaragua, where she volunteered for Omprakash, an organization she learned about at Chewonki. Hillia received a grant to make a film documentary and create a presentation about Omprakash and Nicaragua. To read more, go to www.omprakash.org, drop down "Volunteer," and follow the link for "Volunteer Grant Recipients." Lily Taylor spent the summer working for the food/recipe website food52.com. She also hiked and biked her way over and around the White Mountains. For news of Noah Stone, see People 2000s.



Jonah Golden (back row, left) and team



Bottom row, I-r: Alex Siebert, Sarah Gledhill, Luke Trautwein, Abby Kelly, Louis Warner-Kamsler. Middle row, I-r: Nadine Cutler, Ruth Gourevitch, Clarke Ruddick, Megan Robidas. Top row, I-r: Elizabeth Lefever, Maya Johnson, Shauna Yuan

## Semester 46

Spring 2011

Class Agents: Ruthy Gourevitch, ruthgourevitch@gmail.com; Katie Kibler, kkibler@paceacademy.org; Clarke Rudick, crudick@chewonki.org

Niall Griffin (Boys Camp '05-'08; Umbagog '09), Drew Higgins, Maritza Padilla, and Dyaami D'Orazio met Abby Holland (Sem. 39-46 faculty) in NYC last July. They ate sushi, talked about colleges, hung out in Central Park, "and realized that we could still have our friendships outside of Chewonki," writes Dyaami. Ruthy Gourevitch spent part of her summer working on Salt Marsh Farm and the rest working with the conservation commission in her village, installing recycling systems and learning how her town can help reach zero waste. Drew Higgins also helped at Salt Marsh Farm last summer. Maya Johnson is "sad to have left Chewonki but I hope to be visiting soon as I embark on another round of college touring." Last summer Maya did an intensive pre-college arts program at Parsons School of Design. As part of her

summer camp program, Talia Hulkower lived in a cabin with 4 12-year-old girls and worked during the day at a nearby daycare center. She also spent 2 weeks in Nicaragua. Katie Kibler took the Wilderness First Responder course at Chewonki in June and plans to get her EMT license in 2012. In July she went to camp, taking the Chewonki spirit of "WAH" (a game having to do with trees and lumberjacks that only semester students seem to understand) with her. Xochi Maberry-Gaulke is "still extremely interested in the birds, trees, and weather patterns... Thanks, PSniff [science teacher Peter Sniffen], Ruth [Poland, sustainability teaching fellow], and Lynne [Flaccus, head naturalist]!...I'm so thankful for the science class at Chewonki. Everything that we learned was superrelevant to our daily lives. I'm more interested in the world around me now that I know more about it. If I could, I would give the class a big squeezy hug." Alex Siebert worked at a camp last summer. For the first 4 weeks he worked one-on-one with a boy with special needs. "Then I

was just a normal counselor for a group of 7-year-olds." He also spent a week in the Grand Canyon. Megan Tischbein worked on the Chewonki farm in June and then backpacked on the Long Trail. She's enjoyed seeing several semester-mates. In July, Shauna Yuan had two internships: one at the Neiman Center for Printmaking at Columbia and one at artist Sarah Sze's studio in NYC. Clarke Rudick had a 2-month internship in the licensing department at the fashion company PVH Corp. He spent the rest of his summer in Southampton, enjoying time with family and friends-including a human pyramid of 46ers!

### **Former Faculty**

Abby Holland (Sem. 39-46) saw a gaggle of Semester 46ers in NYC last July; see above! Abby is now a New Yorker, living on the Upper East Side and teaching at the Hyde Leadership Charter School in the South Bronx. Caitlin Scott Ellis (Camp Staff '01, '02, '06; Sem. 43, 44 fellow) misses Maine but loves her job in Tallahassee, teaching science to K-4th graders. "Bob and I got married and bought a house! We are staying put for at least 4 years while he finishes his PhD in marine biology." Cait's contact info: 1604 Branch St., Tallahassee, FL 32303 904-635-2733, cscottellis@gmail.com. Don Schuman and wife Charley have moved up to live at Loon Lake near Rangeley, ME, after finally selling their B&B in Edgecomb. "Although we are physically farther away from the Neck, we will support the work you



Talia, Wyeth, and Daegan Miller

all do all of our lives," writes Don. Daegan Miller (MCS 31-36) and wife Talia (formerly Epstein; EE Staff '03-'06) are ecstatic to announce the birth of their son, Wyeth Gabriel Miller, on 3/10/11. Daegan says he's really got two kids: Wyeth and Dissertation. He's tending the second at Cornell. As for Wyeth, "we can't wait to bring him to Chewonki, feed him a fresh carrot, and have Paul teach him a few bad puns."

## NOTABLE VISITORS TO THE NECK

Lisa Pohlmann, executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, was the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Maine Environmental Education Association, which took place at Chewonki last April. Lisa has expertise in sustainable economic development and other social and environmental policy issues. The faculty of Wiscasset Primary School spent a day in Chapin Hall in June debriefing from their school year. Steve Wessler, founder and executive director of the Center for Preventing Hate in Portland, worked with Chewonki camp and wilderness trip staff last June and in the fall held a workshop for semester students. Dr. Eunice Blavascunas, a cultural anthropologist conducting interviews about the proposed Maine Woods Nat'l Park, visited Semester School in September. She attended several classes and made an informal presentation to the Environmental Issues class. Dr. Hirotado Nanjo, director of the North Japan Research Institute for Renewable Energy at Hirosaki Univ. in Japan, visited Chewonki in September to learn about our renewable-energy initiatives. President emeritus Don Hudson organized the visit, and sustainability coordinator Peter Arnold was the guide. Dr. Nanio hopes to return for a longer visit. The MoleCricket Stringband, featuring legendary folk-rock duo Michael Merenda + Ruthy Ungar, transformed the lawn behind the Farm House on September 11 to a utopian scene of dancers and music lovers of all ages.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Read Albright, who for many years brought students from the Fenn School in Concord, MA, to Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom, died on July 16, 2011, at his home in Billerica, MA. He was 72 years old. A graduate of Milton Academy and Harvard, Read taught English at Fenn from 1964 to 2002. He also coached football, baseball, and basketball and was active in development, alumni affairs, and the yearbook. Read was a great spokesperson for Chewonki and a much beloved teacher. He is survived by his wife, Jo Anne; two daughters; six grandchildren; and a brother.

Jim Bitler (Camp Staff '83) died on April 10, 2011, on his beloved Ossabaw Island, GA. He was 55 and the self-described "on-island working stiff" of the nonprofit Ossabaw Island Foundation. Accompanied by his two Boston terriers, it was Jim who greeted visitors to the island and brought alive its history. Many a Chewonki tripper knew of Jim's lively personality and extraordinary skills as a naturalist. Jim held a degree in wilderness skills from Ohio State University and had worked for many years as a professional naturalist. He is survived by his partner of 18 years, Jack

Sinopoli; a brother and sister; a niece; and legions of friends and admirers.

Thomas Lathrop Chadwick (Camp '36-'37; Camp Staff '38-'40), age 84, died on August 25, 2011, in Vero Beach, FL. He was born in Worchester, MA, and after graduating from high school joined the Merchant Marines as a radio operator. He joined the U.S. Army and later the CIA, with which he served tours all over the world. Tom always enjoyed reminiscing about Chewonki, telling tales about being a "gopher" for Clarence Allen, chopping wood and hauling ice for the kitchen. Tom is survived by his wife of 31 years, Barbara; a daughter and son; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Norman Campbell Cross, Jr. (Camp '61-'62; Camp Staff '64) died on March 6, 2011, in New Haven, CT, at the age of 62. He was a gifted artist and musician and a devoted father and husband. Norman was born in Fitchburg, MA, and graduated from the Applewild School and Phillips Academy. He attended Stanford University, Berklee School of Music, the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston, the Yale Special Students Program, and Skidmore College. Survivors include his mother, Sally Manny Cross; wife, Cynthia; sons Campbell (Camp '94-'95) and Cole (Camp '95); two sisters; six nieces and nephews; and many loving friends.

Patrick Doherty (Camp '96-'99, '01; MCS 31; Camp Staff '04) of Cape Elizabeth, ME, died at the age of 24 on June 4, 2011. Pat suffered from schizophrenia and took his own life. In a heart-wrenching story that appeared in the Portland Press Herald, Pat's parents, John and Mary Anne Doherty (Staff '96-'03), shared their son's struggles, asking readers to remember one thing about people whose lives have been overturned by mental illness: "They're human beings. And they deserve our compassion, our kindness." Pat was a top student at Cape Elizabeth High School and a talented athlete. He was an excellent student at Chewonki too, in Fall 2003. Pat is survived by his parents, sisters Hannah (Camp '96) and Arin, and many friends.

Ray A. Eusden, Jr. (Camp '41, '46-'47), age 86, died on April 1, 2011, at his home in Vero Beach, FL. Ray grew up in Newton, MA, and after serving with the U.S. Navy in World War II, graduated from Yale and earned an MA from Harvard. From 1947 to 1979 Ray taught history and coached ice hockey and soccer at Brooks School in North Andover, MA. After retiring, he and his wife divided their time between Vero Beach and Etna, NH. Ray is survived by his wife, Priscilla; a daughter and son; two grandchildren; brothers John (Camp '39, '42, '46-'47; Camp Staff '57; advisor '00-'06; honorary trustee) and David (Camp '42, '47; Camp Staff '50; Elderhostel '96); and many nieces and nephews.

Laurel Parks Pfaffinger Jones (MCS 26) died at her home in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 9, 2011. She was 27 and had fought a long battle with depression. Laurel came to Chewonki from Mounds Park Academy in St. Paul, MN, and fell in love with Maine. She returned to attend Bowdoin College, from which she graduated summa cum laude in 2006. At the time of her death she was a 5th-year student at the Medical School at the University of Auckland and had recently received an award for the Best 4th Year Student in General Practice, Friends around the world remember her for her kindness and her passion for social justice. Laurel is survived by her parents, David Jones and Kate Pfaffinger; brother Owen; partner Kurt Martin; and many other relatives.

# **NEW** for Summer 2012! Sustainable Ocean Studies Program

hewonki and Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, have forged a new partnership! Starting in Summer 2012, the organizations will co-lead Sustainable Ocean Studies (SOS), a 24-day summer program focused on promoting ocean health and sustainability. The program will use the natural and human communities along the coast of Maine from Portland to Stonington as its classroom. The trip includes a three-day sea kayaking component led by Chewonki.

This unique experiential and academic program will allow students the chance to live and work for five days at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center, which functions year-round as a research and educational facility for scientists from around the world. The itinerary also includes a visit to Hurricane Island, where a new scientific study center is taking shape, and numerous sessions with science, policy, and community experts. Students will have the unique opportunity to explore a critical set of issues related to the Gulf of Maine more deeply than possible in a classroom.

Open to students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, the program will foster development of the skills needed for success in college-level courses. Academic credit is available.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Waynflete in this exciting summer offering," said Chewonki president Willard Morgan. "Chewonki and Waynflete have had a longstanding relationship, which only becomes stronger with this new program."

More information will be available on the Chewonki website in the coming months.

# STEPS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## Zero Waste—Mission Impossible?

TOM TWIST, SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANT

hen I first heard about the idea of Chewonki adopting a Zero Waste goal, I was incredulous. Having grown up in an age of unsurpassed wealth and material possessions—as well as unsurpassed garbage—I saw just about every action or purchase produce a small mountain of non-biodegradable refuse.

And this was only the trash I could *see*. My mind reeled as I calculated how much waste each of my choices was making downstream. Garbage was everywhere; things were *made* to break and be discarded, plastic packaging was non-optional. What could we possibly do?

Last spring, Chewonki began its Zero Waste initiative, with the goal being total elimination of our dumpster by Fall 2012. I was initially skeptical—and then amazed as we actually started to accomplish our goals. Problems that seemed insurmountable began to give way. The semester students went to work with signage and education campaigns, and after just one semester, they had reduced our dumpster load by half!

Below are the steps the students took to break this enormous task into bite-sized pieces. This list, which represents a hierarchy of actions, is applicable to residences and organizations—anyone who wants to move toward a world with less trash.



**Support thoughtful design**. Currently, most items are designed with no thought to their end of life. This is because we consumers don't demand it. A short list of companies that are exploring thoughtful design includes Patagonia, MycoBond (packaging from fungi), TerraCycle, and MBDC (a cradle-to-cradle design company).

**Buy less/shop wisely**. As one of our students said, "More things do not equal more happiness." When we do purchase things, we can use our purchasing power to support companies we believe in and whose actions minimize environmental harm.

**Reuse**. Goodwill is my favorite place to shop, but I understand that not everyone subscribes to my unique style of dressing. Nonetheless, vintage T-shirts are still

in, and antique furniture is hip (at least in Maine).

**Recycle**. More and more communities are moving toward singlestream recycling, which greatly increases the variety of items that can be recycled and the percentage that find their way into recycling bins. If your community doesn't have this arrangement yet, call your local transfer station to learn what you can recycle.

**Compost**. What's not to like? It's easy and produces great soil for gardens and flowerbeds.

**Consider waste to energy**. How do we deal with the trash we *do* end up producing? Waste-to-energy plants have at least two advantages over landfills: they reduce the volume of trash by about 90 percent, and they recover part of the energy inherent in the garbage that gets burned.

The bottom line: Zero Waste is Mission *Possible*! For more ideas on how to move toward it, check out www.chewonki.org/zerowaste.

**Natural History Mystery:** The little beast is the peculiar larva of the Clavate Tortoise Beetle (*Plagiometriona clavata*), which (along with the adult) feeds on plants of the tomato/potato family—here the common poisonous weed nightshade. Our little spiky greenish larva sports an anal fork on its rear end, by which it grasps its last exuviae (last summer's campers already know this great word!), its own feces, and whatever else it can grab, and holds them up over its back as camouflage. The little guy in the picture was in the process of pupating, and that's why it wouldn't move when prodded. You can go online to see what the very different emergent adult beetle looks like. The plump, red-and-black larvae that were feeding with the tortoise beetle on the same plant belong to the Colorado Potato Beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*), a serious garden and farm pest that is in the same insect family. And, finally, in an unexpected literary twist to our story, this large beetle family, the Chrysomelidae, also contains Edgar Allen Poe's Gold Bug!

Fred Cichocki, aka Doc Fred, directs the nature program at Chewonki Camp for Boys.

## The Illusion of Choice

ADAM WILLIAMS

ecently I had to go to the grocery store. I say "had" because I rarely step foot in one these days. For over a year I've had room and board at Chewonki, where three meals a day are cooked with care and with many ingredients sourced from our own farm or nearby farms. The flavors change with the seasons, and the end product usually makes me wonder what I did to deserve such amazingly diverse and tasty sustenance. When I enter a grocery store now, I'm a bit overwhelmed. So many things take me by surprise-things I never really noticed before.

The sheer quantity of items is astounding. There are aisles upon aisles of specialty "foods," an eclectic array of marketing slogans, celebrity spokespeople, and animated spokes-

species, all helping you choose the products you see on television. There is no concept of time here. Shelves are packed with items that have enough preservatives to ensure they last forever. There might be snow outside, yet here strawberries, apples, bananas, grapes, tomatoes, and countless other foods are in abundance. There is no concept of place here. Ripe citrus is available, even though an orange tree would never survive in Maine.

As I walked to the checkout counter, I began to tense up. There were the magazines of exaggerated photos and headlines, illuminating exaggerated lives, trying to convince me that I should be less like me and more like them.

As I waited to pay for my bag of yerba maté, I scanned the other carts. An elderly woman unpacked soda, chips, hot dogs, ice cream, frozen peas, and microwave dinners. A mother and her child were unpacking cookies, soda, canned fruits, and energy drinks. I began to feel sad and agitated. Then I realized what was bothering me: this place only has the *illusion* of choice. It's not real choice.

So many of the food items contain either corn or soy, because of subsidies cashed in long ago by the corporate farms and laboratories responsible for the cumbersome ingredient list on the back of nearly everything here. The plasticwrapped meats are the parts of animals that led a sickly and confined life on a concentrated animal feed lot. The "healthy"



items on the end aisles, usually where the fruits and vegetables reside, aren't from here—not even close. Most have been shipped from California, Washington, Arizona, and as far away as Argentina. The artificially low prices, again aided by subsidies, force us to make the choices we can afford, and these are the items that least resemble real food.

Nothing about these foods connects us to the place we live. In fact, they hide the reality of the small family farmer growing these same items and selling them for a livable wage at the weekly farmers' market down the road. Here there is no real differentiation. No real taste. Our purchases are meant to be influenced by which marketing pitch was most effective; which jingle stuck inside our head the longest and followed us all the way up until this moment; which image we associate most with ourselves, our family, our friends.

I left the grocery store wondering what the cumulative effect of this place is on a population. I'm not sure I will ever know.

Adam Williams has been an Outdoor Classroom instructor, farm apprentice, maintenance crew member, and trip leader at Chewonki. Next spring he'll embark on a cross-country bike ride to support collaborations between public schools and small organic farms. You can learn more at his blog, http://foodcycle.wordpress.com, where this essay first appeared.



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Are your name and address above up to date? If not, please see "Make a Connection" on page 9 and set us straight. Thank you!



**Can you date this photo?** On Wednesday, July 6, Doug Allen, the son of Chewonki founder Clarence Allen, visited Chewonki with his wife, Louise, and daughter, Tapley. Doug bestowed on us two leather-bound photo albums and a collection of Chewonki memorabilia. The photograph here, taken from



his collection, shows the first Wiscasset group of Chewonki campers, dated 1918. As Chewonki approaches its centennial in 2015 (the camp was started in 1915 at Split Rock on Lake Champlain, NY), we will be mining the extraordinary collection of photographs and artifacts that mark the rich history of Chewonki, including its land, traditions, people, and stories. As part of that effort, we are happy to announce the formation of a centennial committee (see page 4). In the meantime, if you can identify anyone in this photo, please send word to us. Clarence is marked in the rear, with the initials "CEA."