



CHEWONKI
FALL 2012
CHRONICLE



The Grit Factor

*Chewonki investigates its
capacity for building character*



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

CHEWONKI FOUNDATION STAFF

Willard Morgan, President
Susan Adams, Big Eddy Manager
Garth Altenburg, Boys Camp Director
Scott Andrews, Semester Teacher
Carob Arnold, Facilities Manager
Paul Arthur, Asst Head of School & Semester Teacher
Emma Balazs, TNHP Asst
Jenn Barton, Gardener
Julie Bellefleur, Cook
Andy Bezon, Asst Director of OC/Summer Wilderness Trips
Sarah Blackburn, Farm Apprentice
Leah Boch, Semester Admissions Director
Abby Burbank, Girls Camp Director
Paul Canny, Nurse
Ann Carson, Head of School
Katelyn Costello, OC Inst
Lauren Cote, OC Intern
Keith Crowley, TNHP Director
Jane Cullina, OC Program Support Coordinator
Dawn Dill, Supervising Nurse
Frank Dinsmore, Facilities Technician
Jeannette Eaton, Program Administrative Asst
Dominique Edgerly, OC Inst & TNHP Educator
Bill Edgerton, Cook
Charlie Fear, OC Inst
Lisa Ferrel, Cook
Jennifer Goldstein, OC Inst
Rebecca Graham, IT Manager
Jeff Hankins, OC Inst
Laura Hartz, Teaching Fellow
Henry Heyburn, Asst Boys Camp Director
Bill Hinkley, Semester Teacher
Sara Hirsch, OC Inst
Lucy Hull, Director of Development
Anna Hunt, Director of Program Support
Carol James, Maintenance Housekeeping
Tessaly Jen, OC Intern
Chris Jessen, OC Inst
Jamie Kane, Facilities Technician
Esther Kary, Semester Teacher
Steve Kerchner, Semester Teacher
Will Korzennik, OC Intern
Bryce Koukopoulos, Semester Teacher
Aaron Lafamme, Equipment and Logistics Manager
Hannah Lafleur, OC Inst
Don Lamson, Director of Operations
Mattias Lanas, Teaching Fellow
Anne Leslie, Development Writer/Editor
Ryan Linehan, Director of Summer Wilderness Trips
Jan Loeb, Counselor
Heather Lowe, Semester Admissions and Events Coordinator
Holly Lowe, Program Support Coordinator
Abby Lukensmeyer, OC Apprentice
Kimberly Madden, Development Data Asst
Dana Mark, OC Inst & TNHP Educator
Ellen McDavitt, OC Intern
Sarah Mortati, OC Inst & TNHP Educator
Katie O'Brien, OC Intern
Constanza Ontaneda, Semester Teacher
James Overton, OC Inst
Nancy Percy, Human Resources Manager
Scott Peterson, Boat Shop Manager
Megan Philips, Farm Manager
Emma Ram, OC Inst
Amy Rogers, Semester Teacher
Maryanne Seredynski, Health Center Asst
Greg Shute, Director of Outdoor Programs
Peter Sniffen, Semester Teacher
Rachel Solomon, OC Inst
Courtney Sonia, Cook
Jamie Sonia, Business Office Asst
Matt Stern, OC Inst
Betta Stothart, Director of Communications
Kelsie Tardif, Development Asst
Caitlin Thurrell, Farm Educator
Edward Tittmann, Chief Financial Officer
Katie Tremblay, OC Director
Tom Twist, Sustainability Officer
Matt Weeks, TNHP Educator
Sue West, Semester Teacher
Holly Whitney, OC Intern
Peg Willauer-Tobey, Asst Director of Development & Alumni Coordinator
Andy Williams, Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps Site Manager
William Wolf, Senior Bookkeeper
Jessica Woodend, TNHP Educator

CHRONICLE STAFF

Elizabeth Pierson, Editor
Betta Stothart, Assistant Editor
Fall Design, Graphic Design

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

Contents

- 3 President's Notes**
- 4 News from the Neck**
- 10 The Grit Factor**
Can the opportunity for young people to deal with challenge, and even failure, help promote long-term happiness and success? The answer appears to be yes.
- 15 Do-It-Yourself Sustainability**
Our new focus on project-based teaching for renewable energy has a clear message for students: you can do this yourself!
- 16 Westminster Schools: A Stalwart Partner**
It couldn't be more different than Semester School, but this Atlanta day school has sent more students to Chewonki than any other school.
- 18 What Makes a Great Camp Counselor?**
The lessons come in all sizes in the eight-week Guides Program.
- 20 Sustainable Ocean Studies**
An educational adventure for high-school students travels from Portland to Mount Desert Island, asking "How can we create a sustainable future for the Gulf of Maine?"
- 23 Noticing Nature**
Do you know what the difference is between a parasitoid and a parasite? Doc Fred tells us, in a fascinating column about wasps.
- 24 Celebrating What Never Was**
The Big A Dam would have flooded the last wild stretch of the Penobscot. Thank goodness it didn't.
- 27 People**
- 38 Step It Up for Sustainability**
We need to save the bees.
- 39 On My Mind**
Semester School math teacher Steve Kerchner reflects on moving back to New England.



Page 10



Page 16



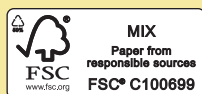
Page 20



Page 23

Cover: Hundreds of hikers a year scramble up "Pamola's Finger" on Katahdin's Dudley Trail. This well-known granite outcropping offers stunning views on the hike from Chimney Pond to Pamola Peak. Photo by Daniel Casado

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



Hands-On with Nature

On any given day at Chewonki you might see dozens of campers playing a group game in the woods, school children collecting samples of pond plants and animals for study, or a semester group covered in mud from head to toe after a science field trip in the Montsweag salt marsh. Each of these activities involves some impact—in some cases, a lot of impact. Although we practice Leave No Trace principles on trips, at Chewonki we also embrace a highly interactive relationship with nature, including off-trail exploration, mud games, and extraction of renewable resources—wood, hay, crops, and animal products—which means we make a noticeable impact on our lands.

This might cause you concern, especially considering Chewonki's commitment to conservation, which is real and deep. However, our work is first and foremost about fostering personal growth and connection to nature in young people. We believe this relationship grows best when it comes from literal immersion in the stuff of Earth—the soil, water, plants, and beings that surround us. Such a hands-on definition of environmental education is not necessarily the norm in this field, even if it has a long tradition in summer camps.

I'm delighted to report that a movement is now afoot to make such wild play and discovery the norm for environmental education. Noted author and educator David Sobel made a case for this change in the July/August 2012 issue of *Orion Magazine*. In his article "Look, Don't Touch: The problem with environmental education" (available online), Sobel argues that if we want to inspire interest in the outdoors and conservation values, then children "should be allowed to go off the trail and have



CHRIS RILEY PHOTO

fun," and that "environmental educators need to focus way more on hands-on experience with children and way less on systematic knowledge."

We are part of this movement, from camps and wilderness trips to Semester School and our Outdoor Classroom for visiting schools. In all these programs, young people live close to the elements, either in tents or simple cabins, and they spend a remarkable amount of time outside with many hours to develop curiosity. We are proud to be the only environmental-education center in Maine that camps with school groups. And well before David Sobel wrote his article, Katie Tremblay, our Outdoor

Classroom director, had been reemphasizing the camping experience as the core of the experience for schools.

In this issue of the *Chronicle* you will see evidence of "hands-on experience" everywhere at Chewonki, from hauling cedar logs for boatbuilding material to sampling in the intertidal zone alongside scientists. Our cover story articulates the added value of such experiences for developing grit, building character, and cultivating leadership qualities. And you will see the community that has grown through these experiences, in our news story about Chewonkipedia, the growth of alumni and friends activities, and the ever-growing pages of "People."

Taken as a whole, it is clear to me that so much of what makes Chewonki special comes from what David Sobel refers to as the "wild play" in our programs. Far from new, this ancient way of being needs a rebirth in our society. Chewonki is leading the way, and I hope you will promote this movement in your local communities too.

Willard Morgan



Chewonki Wins Environmental and Energy Technology Council Award

The Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine—E2Tech—recognized Chewonki with its first-ever “E2 Can Do!” award at a ceremony held September 20 in Portland. Ocean Renewable Power Company, Efficiency Maine, and Chewonki were recognized for their leadership in the business sector, public sector, and education, respectively.

Accompanied by a small group of staff and board members, Chewonki president Willard Morgan accepted the award and offered special thanks to Chewonki’s former sustainability coordinator, Peter Arnold, who retired last December. “I would not be standing here today if it were not for the passionate work of Peter Arnold,” said Willard. “Peter and the staff at Chewonki play a special role in educating a cadre of young people who care about clean, renewable energy and who are eager to work toward a healthy future for the planet.”

Well-known environmental lawyer and University of Maine School of Law professor Jeffrey Thaler, co-chair of the E2Tech board, presented the award, stating that Chewonki has been one of the key players in educating Maine businesses, residents, policymakers, and students on waste management, renewable energy, sustainability, and energy efficiency.



University of Maine School of Law professor Jeffrey Thaler presents the “E2 Can Do!” award to Willard Morgan.

Chewonkipedia Goes Live!

The Internet has become the natural place to look when you have some kind of question. Everything today seems to be just a quick search away. But try to find out about Chewonki’s first Mistissini Expedition in 1975, or who was in the first Maine Reach class in 1973, for example, and you won’t find much. Yet. Thanks to a group of volunteers and staff members, however, that is quickly changing. Chewonkipedia—a place to collect and share the spirit and memory of the Chewonki community—has just gone live.

Populated with history and photos, and meant to grow over time, Chewonkipedia allows users to contribute content via a web browser—just like all “wiki” projects do. The project is spearheaded by Arthur Myer (Boys Camp ’75–’79, ’82; Boys Camp staff ’84), a systems engineer and technology consultant who lives in Kanagawa, Japan.

Content will eventually come from hundreds, if not thousands, of contributors, but the initial “dedicated core,”

as Arthur calls it, consists of himself, former Chewonki president Don Hudson, former Boys Camp director Dick Thomas, centennial archivist Terry Marsh, and current staffers Rebecca Graham, Betta Stothart, and Lucy Hull.

“We’re doing this the Chewonki way, as a group,” says Arthur. “If an institution can build its own buildings and boats, and produce its own milk and energy, then it can certainly build its own Chewonkipedia!” The site’s strength, he says, will be its ability to connect participants of all programs from anywhere in the world while building Chewonki’s history from the participant perspective.

The project is a key part of the build-up to Chewonki’s centennial in 2015. “We’re excited that Chewonkipedia has gone live and hope it grows quickly,” said IT manager Rebecca Graham. “Some of our broadest-reaching programs, like the Outdoor Classroom and Traveling Natural History Programs, have long-term teacher, school, and individual connections that are currently outside the Chewonki narrative. Chewonkipedia will help us stitch those stories together from anywhere.”

Please share your memories at www.chewonkipedia.org. Look in the upper right-hand corner and click on “Log in/create account.” Once you do this, you’ll be able to add to any page or create new pages.

“If you came to Chewonki,” says Arthur, “your story has a place here.”



Here’s one of several photos already posted on Chewonkipedia. Do you recognize this trio? It’s (left to right) Paul Arthur, Tim Ellis, and Scott Andrews, circa 1987. “We could probably nail the year if we asked Nike about those sneakers,” said Paul.

Charitable Foundations Keep the ELLMS Project Growing!

Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students—the ELLMS project—has won two more foundation grants: \$5,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation and \$250,000 from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, which generously increased its support in this second year of funding. A collaboration of five environmental education organizations, including Chewonki, ELLMS is a financial-aid fund for Maine's public elementary and middle schools to access residential environmental education.

"We appreciate the funds and the faith that these foundations have put into ELLMS," said Chewonki president Willard Morgan. "They are making an important investment in environmental literacy for Maine public-school students."

The original ELLMS partners—Chewonki Outdoor Classroom, Ferry Beach Ecology School, UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, and UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Tanglewood—recently welcomed a new collaborator: the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) in Acadia National Park. SERC will expand the project's reach.



CHRIS RILEY PHOTO



In the 2011–2012 school year, ELLMS provided 2,862 students from 51 Maine schools with hands-on learning about the environment. The latest grants will allow ELLMS to continue that success while also pursuing much-needed long-term funding.

"I recognize the benefits of ELLMS in the faces of these students," says Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay. "Away from their schools and electronic devices, they see the natural world with new eyes."

If you know of foundations or businesses that might support ELLMS, please contact Lucy Hull, Director of Development, at 207-882-7323, ext. 127, or lhull@chewonki.org.

Traveling Natural History Programs a Highlight for Kids with Disabilities

Among the most rewarding presentations the Traveling Natural History Programs made this summer were those to two Maine camps for sick and disabled children. Bringing mostly live-animal presentations, Chewonki made seven visits to Camp CaPella on Phillips Lake near Bangor, for youngsters with developmental and physical disabilities; and four visits to Camp Sunshine on Sebago Lake in Casco, which supports children with life-threatening illnesses. "The Chewonki presentations were the highlight of each week," said Camp CaPella counselor Beth Smyth-Handley. "Due to their disabilities, our campers are often left out of programs like the ones Chewonki brings. At Camp CaPella this summer, it was the other way around—the presentations were directly for them. I was so impressed with the respect and patience that the Chewonki staff showed to our campers." TNHP instructor Jessica Woodward loved her visits to the two camps. "It was thrilling to see how excited the kids got about the animals," she said. Many of the children had never seen a live owl, snake, or turtle, and certainly not up close. "Life as a TNHP instructor can be rewarding every day," said program director Keith Crowley. "But without even looking at the schedule, I could tell by our instructors' faces when they had just returned from Camp CaPella or Camp Sunshine."



ANNA HUNT PHOTO

Two Grants for the Farm

The Saltmarsh Farm crew was thrilled to learn that Chewonki has received two grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grants are from a fund specifically dedicated to helping farms plan and implement conservation practices that responsibly manage natural resources.

One of the grants will support forestry management by providing funds for a forester to reevaluate Chewonki's woodlots. The farm crew will work together with the forester to update the plan that dictates how we harvest wood sustainably from the 150-acre woodlot north of the farm and from Eaton Farm and Cushman Mountain, two nearby Chewonki-owned properties.

The other grant will provide partial funding for a new high tunnel on the farm. A high tunnel—also known as a hoophouse—is a plastic-covered, unheated greenhouse facility used to grow heat-loving crops in the summer and to extend the growing season. The small hoophouse that already exists at Saltmarsh Farm has fed us early spring greens and kept us eating fresh food late into the fall. The new high tunnel will be an impressive 30- by 70-foot structure that will greatly expand our production on the shoulders of the growing season. The farm crew hopes to break ground on it next summer.

A huge thanks goes out to former Chewonki farmer Jeremy Tardif, who applied for both of these grants last winter.

Helping Hands from Wyoming Seminary

For the fourth consecutive year, an energetic group of students from Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania spent a week in June doing community service at Chewonki. "Their visit always comes at a perfect time for us—just before the opening of Boys Camp. It's great to have their help," said carpenter Ken Wise. This year's group numbered six and for the first time was all girls. The two big projects they tackled were gutting the inside of Binnacle, one of Chewonki's oldest cabins, in preparation for renovations, and installing floors on the new tent platforms by the pond.

"This group is always very independent and self-sufficient," said Ken. "They'll tackle anything we suggest and will do it competently and cheerfully." The many projects they've completed in previous years include building a new boardwalk to the Lower Field, building a new outdoor shower, installing a fence around the windmill (to keep out animals), and countless painting jobs. In their free time, the students help with farm chores and get a campus sustainability tour.

Wyoming Seminary—or "Sem" as it's familiarly known—is an independent school near Wilkes-Barre. "Not a seminary and not in Wyoming!" quips math teacher Jason Thatcher, who leads the annual trip. It's an 8-hour drive from Chewonki—which begs the question, why does the school venture so far afield to do community service?

The idea originated in 2009, when Jason was helping a group of students build sets for a drama production. "It dawned on me that the construction skills the students were learning could help them earn community service hours in an appropriate setting." Jason already knew Chewonki well; he's been bringing ESL groups to the Outdoor Classroom annually since 2004, and his daughter Alison attended MCS 34.

The goal of the June trip is two-fold, he says. "One is to do good, meaningful work, and the other is to experience Maine. For most of the students, this is their first trip north." In addition to exploring the local area, the trip includes a few bigger excursions as well. This year's group



This year's Wyoming Seminary volunteers were all smiles at Chewonki in June.

JANET THATCHER PHOTO

hiked the Camden Hills and spent an afternoon aboard a schooner on Penobscot Bay. Breakfast at Moody's Diner, a lobster dinner, and a visit to L.L. Bean are also part of the trip.

Asked if Chewonki felt like a different world to them, all six of this year's participants said yes. "It's different in the best way possible," said Megan Tindell. The girls cited the farm, the incredible meals, and how welcoming the Chewonki community was. "Chewonki is completely original. I love it," said Tiffany Usavage. "The work was hard but enjoyable," said Christina Thomas.

There is much more to the trip than simply extending a hand to a worthy nonprofit, says Jason. "The kids benefit in so many ways from the positive coaching that Chewonki's maintenance staff provides and from the rewards that are inherent in working with one's hands. I don't know how much my students will remember from my math classes, but I know the students I bring to Chewonki will remember the experience for a lifetime. I find that very satisfying and hope we can continue the tradition."

Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg feels exactly the same way. "Wyoming Seminary is building quite a history of service to Chewonki," he said recently. "The work these kids do for us is hard and often dirty, but they come with an amazing attitude. We're incredibly grateful and look forward to welcoming another outstanding group next year."

Remembering Wilmer Hafford — An Allagash Icon

Chewonki lost a longtime North Woods friend this year. Wilmer Hafford died at his home in Allagash, Maine, on April 25, of cancer. He was 70 years old, and for more than 50 of those years he owned and operated Allagash Outfitters.

Until this spring, almost everyone who had paddled the Allagash or the St. John with Chewonki had met Wilmer. I first met him 34 years ago when I pulled my canoe into his campsite at the confluence of the St. John and Allagash rivers. For the past 28 years Chewonki groups have pitched their tents at his campsite at the end of a trip down the St. John or Allagash, or in the case of our Thoreau Wilderness Trip, before beginning the long upstream pole of the Allagash. I've lost track of how many Chewonki vehicles Wilmer shuttled for us over the years. He was

incredibly generous, always ready to lend a hand to our groups, whether it was taking a sick camper to the Fort Kent Hospital or helping fix a flat tire on one of our vans miles from help on a gravel road.

Wilmer was an Allagash icon with a wonderful and dry sense of humor. He always had a story to tell of his latest moose hunt or his early days working in the woods, and he had keen insights into whatever the latest Allagash controversy was. In his understated way, Wilmer had a far-reaching impact on numerous Maine Guides and paddlers. With his passing the Allagash has lost a true character in the best sense of the word. Wilmer was as much a part of the Allagash experience as the moose, loons, and blackflies. He will be greatly missed in Allagash Village and beyond. —Greg Shute



DANIEL CASADO PHOTO

A Summer for the Birds

Birding was yet again enormously popular at Boys Camp this summer. Here's ace birder and teacher extraordinaire Lena Senko with one of her flock on a puffin cruise. Lena also led thrice-weekly morning bird walks on campus. A whopping 34 boys showed up—at 6:00 A.M. no less—for the first one. "It was wonderful, but way too many for one leader!" she said later, laughing. "Fortunately the numbers dwindled to a more manageable size—usually between 5 and 15." Lena was grateful to have help from other staff members, especially counselors Ben Clark and Nate Smith. Lena and her spotting scope also accompanied campers to the beach on Tent Days, to scan for seabirds and shorebirds. Among many other activities she offered was a "Tricks of the Trade" workshop that included lessons on birding by ear, bird anatomy and behavior, keeping a field journal, and finding bird nests.

Lena came to Chewonki well prepared for her job of assisting with the Nature program. A graduate of Cornell's Natural Resources Program, she also holds master's degrees in anthropology (University of Connecticut) and ecology and evolutionary biology (Princeton). As a young birder she won awards from the American Birding Association for her field journals and artwork, and she has led birding tours in North and Central America. "Thanks to Lena, this summer saw a wonderful continuation of the birding tradition at Chewonki," said Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg. "Her enthusiasm and curiosity were inspiring and infectious."

Lena called her summer at Chewonki "a dream job." She also noted that Chewonki is the only summer camp she knows of that has a clear-cut program devoted to birding. "The kids were so sharp. I was really impressed and feel so grateful to have been part of Chewonki's enlivening community," she said. Like many of the birds on the Neck, Lena migrated at summer's end. She's now teaching biology courses at the University of Southern Maine.

Our First Labrador Tripper

Sixteen-year-old Mary Anderson, or Binky as she's known to friends, joined our three-week Maine Coast Kayak trip. Binky is from the Inuit community of Nain. She met Outdoor Programs director Greg Shute last summer when he took a group of semester students to Labrador's Torngat Mountains, where Binky was participating in a student leadership and education program sponsored by the Inuit government. She came to Maine this summer thanks to a Chewonki scholarship. Afterward she returned to the Torngats, where she worked in the same program as an apprentice, using skills she learned with Chewonki. Before leaving Maine, she said she looked forward to teaching her friends back home how to kayak. "There are still kayaks in Nain, but nobody uses them anymore," she said. Greg hopes Binky will be successful in bringing an interest in paddling back to her native culture. "Having Binky with us was a wonderful opportunity for Chewonki to make a personal connection with a part of the world where we've traveled so much," he said. Asked what she liked best about her Chewonki trip, Binky replied, "Just being with different people from all over and learning about this part of the world." Her fellow trippers reportedly felt likewise. "I think one thing *all* the kids on Binky's trip learned was how much similarity there is among teenagers, even when they come from very different backgrounds," said Greg. "We were excited to have Binky with us and hope she can return."



DANIEL CASADO PHOTO

Binky Anderson (center) with her Maine Coast Kayak leaders, Jane Cullina and Noah Kleiner



DANIEL CASADO PHOTO

Opening Day of Camp

It's always full of emotion, for parents as well as campers. The first day of camp—for Boys Camp, Girls Camp, and Wilderness Trips—was June 26 this year. Despite heavy rains in the morning, it was a stellar start to the summer. There were smiles and energy in abundance—and *people*! "We probably had more people on campus than any other day this year," said communications director Betta Stothart. "We welcomed 250 campers and their families and served 840 meals in the dining hall. The kitchen staff did a stupendous job." The afternoon brought sun and warmth, and by nightfall it was downright cool—perfect for sleeping. Everyone was settled in nicely, and another memorable Chewonki summer was underway.

Chilean Photographer Gets to Know Chewonki

Daniel Casado of Patagonia, Chile, was Chewonki's resident photographer this summer. This talented young artist spent 9 weeks with us and carried his camera all over our 400-acre Wiscasset campus, to the top of Katahdin, to Maine's offshore islands, and to places in between. In all, he snapped more than 3,000 photographs, shot 4 videos, and won the hearts of the Chewonki community with his gentle, thoughtful demeanor. After studying art and photography in Santiago, Dani was fortunate to cross paths in Chile with environmental documentarian Bridget Besaw, who has shot countless stunning images and created breathtaking videos for Chewonki. "Bridget has been a big influence on my life and the way I approach stories and also the stories I want to tell," Dani said. From a documentary photographer's perspective, Dani found Chewonki fascinating. "Everything here has a story behind it. For me, that's a big part of Chewonki—the tradition and the stories. But Chewonki also gives kids the tools to develop consciousness for wild places, for organic farming, for community. The things that kids learn here can have a deep effect on their lives." He especially appreciated having time to get to know his subjects. "If you take pictures the way I like to, you take the time to get to know a place before you pick up your camera," he explained. "After living with people for a few days, then usually something magical happens and they will open up their world and their lives to you—and this is when the great photography can happen." You can find several examples of Dani's photography on Chewonki's Boys Camp Flickr collection and also scattered throughout this and future issues of the *Chronicle*.



BETTA STOTHART PHOTO

Help Us Stay in Touch!

There's a lot of fun in store for Chewonki alumni and friends that we don't want them to miss! Especially as we plan for Semester School's 25th anniversary in 2013 and our centennial in 2015, we need to know how to reach our alumni and friends so we can notify them of regional celebrations.

If you are getting the *Chronicle*, we obviously know that alumni parents or friends of Chewonki live at this address. However, if you know of anyone who now lives elsewhere, please let us know! If you haven't already done so, please update mailing and email information at alumni@chewonki.org.

Thank you!

Built by Campers: Two Beautiful New Canoes

As reported in the last *Chronicle*, a new chapter of boatbuilding began at Chewonki this summer, with the building of wood-and-canvas canoes at Girls Camp. Camp director and canoe enthusiast Abby Burbank wants to see a fleet of these beautiful traditional boats on Fourth Debsconeag Lake.

With help from generous donor Lynn Harrison, this vision is becoming a reality. The goal for this summer was to build two 15-foot canoes—one during each of the two camp sessions—and that's exactly what campers did. Starting with precut wood, the girls steamed and bent ribs, fit and tacked on planking, then stretched and filled canvas. Each boat was sanded, varnished, and—finally!—painted. Campers worked closely with canoe builder Schuyler Thomson, who came to camp for the first week of each session, but it was the girls themselves who did the work.



Anna Nickerson Reich (left) and Emma Russell canvassing a canoe this summer

TAHRIA SHEATHER PHOTO

What's more, they worked entirely outdoors and used traditional hand tools such as block planes, rabbet planes, spoke shaves, and tack hammers. One of the canoes was launched this summer, and the other was launched over Columbus Day Weekend. "I'm excited!" Abby said of the boats. "The girls learned quickly, worked well together, and did a great job." Asked if she was pleased with the program and if it would continue next summer, Abby laughed. "Of course!" she said. "We have at least three more canoes to build!"



Bill Clements (left) and Lee Huston with *Elusive* when Bill delivered her to Chewonki in June

SCOTT PETERSON PHOTO



Boatshop manager Scott Peterson and Semester School science teacher Bryce Koukopoulos on *Kingfisher* in September

ANN CARSON PHOTO

Donated to Chewonki: Two Beautiful Sailboats

New to the waterfront this year are two marvelous sailboats, both donated by former Chewonki participants. *Elusive* is a 16-foot canoe-stern lapstrake yawl, built with meticulous craftsmanship of marine plywood, white oak, and santa maria in 1995 by Bill Clements of North Billerica, Massachusetts. Bill spent nine months at Chewonki in 1979 as a boatbuilding apprentice under the direction of Lee Huston, building *Petrel*, our Crotch Island pinky. *Kingfisher* is a 16-foot sail-and-oar surf dory, donated by Lucy Gatchell of Jackson, New Hampshire, who in 1983 attended the spring EE Practicum and was on the Boys Camp and Environmental Education staffs. This traditional lapstrake wooden boat was built in 1986 at the renowned Lowell's Boat Shop in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Revered by fisherman for their stability and buoyancy when returning to beaches through the surf, dories of this design were also used by the U.S. Life Saving Service for life-saving missions for nearly 100 years. We look forward to a long future with both boats. Thanks a million, Bill and Lucy!

The Grit Factor

Does Chewonki provide a platform for lasting character development?

BETTA STOTHART



At the close of the Session I Boys Camp banquet this summer, with 200-plus campers and staff packed into the dining hall and bellies full from a delicious dinner, a young man named Tom Kittredge stood up to offer his speech as head counselor for the 11- and 12-year-old campers. Unbeknownst to him, his words captured the spirit of an ongoing national discussion—the subject of recent books, newspaper articles, blog entries, and interviews. Tom had written about character development.

You are beginning a journey that will teach you who you are and what you value. Ahead of you lies a vast wilderness full of daunting obstacles and unforeseen hazards... On your journey you will encounter moments of terrible frustration, of heart-wrenching sadness, of anger and of pain. Do not get me wrong, you will also experience countless moments of joy and elation and happiness. But it is in the hard moments, the moments that threaten to break you, that what you have achieved together at Chewonki this summer will truly matter.

When you have worked yourself to the bone and can't imagine being any more tired, you will remember paddling against tide and wind and current, and you will push on. When petty quarrels and fighting threaten to engulf your friendships, you will remember the lessons learned in a cramped cabin, and you will put aside the disagreements that don't really matter.... When you expose your heart and suffer the sting of rejection, you will remember climbing hand over hand to

reach the top of Katahdin, and you will know your inner worth. When you feel talentless and adrift, you will remember that you can hit a target at 40 yards; that you can tack against the wind; that you can identify 20 species of bird—and you will find the passion that drives you.

The applause when Tom finished reading was thunderous.

Had Paul Tough been in the dining hall that night, he might have applauded the loudest of all—and even scribbled some notes. Tough has written extensively about child development; he is the author, most recently, of the book *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*. The basic premise of the book is that contrary to what many people believe, success in life does not depend primarily on cognitive skills. Instead, argues Tough, it depends on *non-cognitive* skills—skills such as persistence, conscientiousness, optimism, self-control, and grit.

Tough believes that one of the keys to developing good character is to deal with challenge and even failure. That's a difficult concept for parents and even many teachers today, says Tough. "We have deep in our DNA the urge to shield our kids from every kind of trouble," he says on his website. "But what we're finding out now is that in trying to protect our children, we may actually be harming them. By not giving them the chance to learn to manage adversity, to cope with failure, we produce kids who have real problems when they grow up. Overcoming adversity is what produces character.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL CASADO, CHRIS RILEY, TAHRIA SHEATHER, AND FRANCES BUERKENS



And character, even more than IQ, is what leads to real and lasting success.”

The stories that Tough relates in his book are fascinating—but not that surprising to many people at Chewonki, which has arguably built a 98-year-old institution around the conviction that good character traits are key to a successful life.

“Character development?” Girls Camp director Abby Burbank asked rhetorically when asked to comment on Chewonki’s role in this sphere of learning. “At Girls Camp, building character and grit is *what we do*.”

In fact, staff members at Chewonki seem to universally agree that the work of character development is a fundamental aspect of our mission and cuts across every program. While much of the national conversation regarding education seems focused only on achieving the academic success of young people, here at Chewonki we provide a lush and sometimes raw landscape for the development of non-cognitive skills.

President Willard Morgan addressed this very topic when he gave a motivational talk on character development and particularly the “grit factor” to wilderness trip leaders at the start of the summer. Ten weeks later, at summer’s end, he stood before 200 weary yet accomplished staffers and thanked them “for developing a measure of grit in each young person who came to Chewonki and helping contribute to their long-term happiness.”

At the same time, Willard knows it would be overly simplistic to claim that a Chewonki experience in and of itself develops character. “The longer and deeper the experience, or the more repetition of that experience, the better the chances of seeing change,” he said recently. “We should not claim that too much can be done by one organization or by one experience. Character education comes over time and from many aspect of people’s lives, from their home life, parents, community, and schools.”

Outdoor Programs director Greg Shute has been at Chewonki for 28 years and has a broad perspective on Chewonki’s contribution to the growth of our campers and students. “I think we develop grit at Chewonki at varying levels,” he said recently. “There’s something about being in nature, where the unexpected can happen, that allows people to problem solve through challenges and figure out how to meet their basic needs.” He also noted that the consequences of a small decision can “slap you in the face” on a wilderness trip. “If you forget to close your river bag and your gear gets wet, this can have serious consequences. There are no extra sleeping bags and no back-up systems for careless behavior on a wilderness trip,” Greg said.

In the Outdoor Classroom, where camping is at the core of the experience, character education is an underlying theme for every school visit. “Allowing for failure has always been part of the learning process in our program,” says director Katie Tremblay. “When a group of students has to reflect on why



something they were attempting *didn't* work, the depth of their growth is often much greater than if everything had gone their way." That said, Katie says it is a highly developed leadership skill to know when failure can be positive versus when it can close students off to attempting future challenges. "We don't want the challenges we present to scare students away from taking healthy risks or spending time outdoors. For example, allowing a group to attempt a difficult rapid too early on a canoe trip could frighten some away from challenging themselves later on. But allowing students to discover for themselves that the plan they developed for how to carry their gear on a portage doesn't work, and then having to try again in a new way, can be a frustrating but incredibly valuable learning process."

Chewonki's impact on character is evident in the comments we receive from parents and teachers. We often hear about students who were not performing at home who really shined at Chewonki. One school reported that its janitors noticed a dramatic shift in behavior after a Chewonki trip because the kids were taking responsibility for their trash. We hear about students returning to their schools and becoming leaders, running for office in student government, and working to create community in both minute and substantial ways.

Another measure of proof can be found in the loyalty of schools coming to Chewonki. Rivers School in Weston, Massachusetts, has been sending its eighth-graders to

Chewonki for more than 40 years. Many semester sending schools, among them The Thacher School in California, have been sending students for more than 20 years.

In a recent phone interview, Jake Jacobsen, chair of Thacher's English Department, praised Chewonki as a place that develops well-rounded people, with more understanding, competence, and sense of responsibility. "This is not easy work," he said. "As with leadership skills, you can teach them and you can bring experts to facilitate workshops—but what strikes me about schools like Chewonki is that you create an environment where students learn character from each other." Jacobsen said it's clear that a lot of learning happens on wilderness trips, but there are other ways to develop character too, "like living closely together, doing communal work—these kinds of situations challenge kids to be their best."

Often, said Jacobsen, the greatest growth occurs when students return home. "Just last semester a student came home from Chewonki and asserted his leadership in a quiet and forceful way—with a confidence and sense that he had something meaningful to offer. It was tremendous, and that growth came from Chewonki."

Greg Shute agrees that Chewonki experiences continue to teach over time. He says he often gets letters and emails from former trippers and trip leaders. Last summer a Thoreau Wilderness Trip participant from the 1980s came back to visit campus with his family and left a note for Greg thanking him for the experiences he had and explaining how they had shaped his life.



In an interview at the waterfront in late August, Francesca Governali and Claire Longcope, Semester 47 alumnae from the Portland area, helped put it all into perspective. Both agreed that character education was an enormous component of their time at Chewonki, even though they were not aware initially that it would be.

“There is such a huge focus on community and social intelligence here at Chewonki,” said Francesca. “I went home with a much greater confidence in my ability to get along

with people. I felt I could interact in a positive way with all of my peers.”

Claire’s observation was equally compelling. “I definitely think we learn strong character traits at Chewonki. *Everybody* goes home with increased amounts of those traits—more aware of self-control and making an effort to show gratitude. At Chewonki there is an attitude and an atmosphere where this kind of learning just happens. I remember for the first time being *excited* for life.” ■

SEVEN ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS

Not surprisingly, discussions about character development at Chewonki usually raise more questions than they answer. Are we doing a good job of building good character? What are the essential traits of good character, and who are the best teachers?

For answers to some of these questions, one might delve into the groundbreaking work of University of Pennsylvania’s Dr. Martin Seligman, whose book *Character Strengths and Virtues* documents no fewer than 24 character traits that are key to a happy life. The list includes what we think of as traditional good qualities—courage and honesty, for example—as well as others that cover the emotional realm. Two prominent New York City educators—KIPP Academy superintendent David Levin and Riverdale School headmaster Dominic Randolph—pared

Seligman’s list down to seven essential traits: grit, optimism, zest, curiosity, social intelligence, gratitude, and self-control.

“It’s a great list,” says Willard Morgan. “To be honest, I think we develop young people incredibly well at Chewonki, especially if they start as a camper and then become a counselor, trip leader, or Outdoor Classroom instructor. The trajectory of experience here counts for a lot.”

By giving individuals true responsibilities that have real consequences, says Willard, we allow for authentic growth. “Here at Chewonki, students carry their own packs, paddle their own boats, are responsible for real needs—and if there is a lapse, there is a pretty quick feedback loop. And it’s not just a parent or teacher saying they did it wrong—there are real-life consequences, like no dinner, tent, sleeping bag, or flashlight for the night.”

The White Cedar Transport: 26 boys, 10 canoes, 16 logs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SCOTT PETERSON

Last January a great winter storm blew down several beautiful straight white cedar trees growing on the east side of Chewonki Neck. Since this is a valuable, rare, and rot-resistant boat-building lumber, I couldn't in good conscience let those trees die a slow death in the forest so far from the boatshop. We had to go rescue them. In mid-July, on the last morning of Session I of Boys Camp, 26 boys mobilized by Papa Osprey Zander Auerbach paddled 10 canoes around the point to meet me at the site. We spent all morning carrying logs to the water's edge, sliding them into the ocean, and lashing them to canoes. The boys then paddled two miles up the Back River, towing the logs to the boat launch where I awaited them with a sailboat trailer. The boys tried their skills at the log drivers' arts—balancing and walking on logs, unsticking jams, avoiding fast-moving seaweed clumps—and then loaded the logs onto the trailer, tied them down, and paddled back to the Neck. The logs are now up at the Chewonki boatshop, and this winter the semester students will mill them into new planks for future wood-and-canvas canoes and for new floorboards for our Mariners sailboats. Thanks to our 26 lumberjacks, the first step in building boats with our own trees is complete. Nice work, fellas! ■



Do-It-Yourself Sustainability

TOM TWIST

In late 2010, Ruth Poland—Chewonki’s 2010–2011 sustainability fellow—and I had just finished a successful semester of teaching sustainability classes to the Semester School students. We were in the midst of debriefing how the classes had gone and were thinking about what to do for the next semester.

“Let’s do something entirely different with the kids.”

“Like what?”

We didn’t know—not yet, anyway. But what emerged from a three-hour brainstorm ended up revolutionizing how we teach about renewable energy at Chewonki. What we came up with was a project-based sustainability class, a sort of Sustainability Shop Class, in which we would ask students to complete a real project for Chewonki—one that would actually help Chewonki reduce its carbon footprint, and in the process teach lessons we couldn’t teach in a lecture-style class. Lessons like problem solving, tenacity, independent research, hands-on skills, and—most importantly—the knowledge that these renewable energy projects are very do-able!

The following semester Ruth and I oversaw nine different projects—everything from rainwater collection to designing and building a solar iPod charger. The students really got into the projects and responded enthusiastically to the hands-on nature of the class. The next school year, sustainability fellow Mike Hughes and I decided to have fewer, more ambitious projects. That fall we asked three groups of students to undertake three different projects: design and build, from scratch, a solar hot water array and install it on Hoyt’s, a staff house; take their science teacher’s—Peter Sniffen’s—recumbent bicycle and turn it into a functioning electric vehicle; and install photovoltaic panels on the cabin Gordy Hall, in order to take it completely off the grid.

I consider myself a decent lecturer, but I have never, in any of my lecture-based classes, had students as excited or engaged as these students were in working on these projects. They would stop me at all hours of the day to tell me their ideas on how to fix problems—solutions for tricky plumbing runs or electric issues. They asked to work on weekends and during their free time. All three projects were very successful.

The next semester the students worked on the problem of eliminating Chewonki’s waste stream—moving the organization toward our goal of Zero Waste. The students were engaged in waste education, distribution of recycling bins, and informational signage. To date we have reduced Chewonki’s waste stream by 50 percent, and we are still moving forward!

This semester, with the help of a grant from Constellation Energy, we purchased energy-audit equipment—a blower door, thermal imaging camera, and real-time data logger—and the students are performing energy audits on some of Chewonki’s



ARJUN GOSWAMI PHOTO

Semester 47 students (above) and 2012 summer campers (at right) install solar technology that they built themselves at Chewonki.



DANIEL CASADO PHOTO

60-odd buildings.

Laura Hartz (MCS

27) is our 2012–2013

sustainability fellow, and she is every bit as enthusiastic about the sustainability classes as her predecessors were.

This project-based approach to teaching has been so successful with semester students that we have expanded it for Chewonki’s other programs as well. We have revamped our Boys Camp sustainability class to be essentially all hands-on. We convey very little information through talking, instead letting the lion’s share of communication take place through technology exploration and projects. We have designed and built kits that campers can assemble to create working photovoltaic arrays, solar hot water arrays, and a wind turbine tower and power station. We’ve also helped campers build solar battery and iPod chargers (yes, using the original design from the semester students), as well as a solar-powered water-slide for the waterfront (pictured above).

To the best of our knowledge, Chewonki is one of only a handful of places around the nation doing this type of project-based teaching for renewable energy. For the students, the understated but always present message is: You can do this. Renewable energy isn’t so difficult, and if you can do it here, you can do this at home, in your schools, and in your communities. You don’t have to wait for someone else to do this for you. You can do this yourself. ■

Tom Twist is Chewonki’s Sustainability Officer and is currently in the process of turning his office into a mechanic’s garage.

A Stalwart Partner: The Westminster Schools,

JEANNETTE EATON

Semester 49 is in full swing at Chewonki, with 41 students from 29 sending schools. Including this semester, 1,736 students have now attended Chewonki Semester School, coming from 324 independent and public schools. Remarkably, 108 of these students have come from one school: the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Westminster is by far our leading sending school,” said head of school Ann Carson. “It has been a wonderful connection for us in the South, sending us academically talented students who are excited to spend time in Maine.”

Founded in 1951, Westminster is a coeducational Christian day school for grades K–12. It sits on 180 acres in a beautiful suburb of northwest Atlanta and currently has 1,846 students, 813 of whom are in the high school. Like Chewonki’s 13 other member schools (see sidebar), Westminster has been sending students to Semester School regularly since its opening in 1988.

There was a natural collaboration between the two schools from the beginning. Westminster students had been coming to Boys Camp for years, so when our semester program began, the school was already familiar with our organization and mission. Additionally, Westminster had developed a program in 1980, the Discovery Program, for its ninth-graders, focusing on building outdoor leaders and culminating in a four-day expedition. The Discovery Program shared many goals with Chewonki and helped highlight a natural fit between the two programs. As Scott Andrews, our current U.S. History teacher and original head of school, said recently, “Westminster immediately liked the idea of offering their students an experience unlike what they were getting there. We were interested in working with Westminster students, we wanted to have geographic diversity from the beginning, and there was a strong mutual respect between our two programs.”

Students from Westminster have consistently brought many strengths to Chewonki, both inside and outside the classroom. “From my days as a teacher, Westminster students always made the program better,” said president and former head of school Willard Morgan. “They were always prepared. Always



Westminster's high-school principal Ross Peters (right) and assistant principal Jim Justice (rear) pose with five Semester School alumni (clockwise from back left): Paige Williams (Semester 47), Abigail Kahn (Semester 45), Maritza Padilla (Semester 46), Katie Rush (Semester 45), and Ben Clark (Semester 45).

raising the level of the class. During my first semester, I was amazed by how Westminster students would say ‘Thank you for class’ and push in their chairs as they left. That subtle appreciation was incredibly exciting as a teacher and pushed me to work harder because I wanted to live up to their level of participation in class and in the community.”

Paul Arthur, who teaches Chewonki’s Ethics class, shared a similar sentiment. “The kids from Westminster enrich my class, for sure. They bring politeness and cordiality, they are gentle and welcoming and warm. It sounds like a generalization, but I’ve never known any Westminster students who didn’t throw themselves right into the semester.”

David Liebmann, a Chewonki board member and former teacher at both Semester School and Westminster, knows both

Atlanta, Georgia

schools well. “The fact that Westminster committed so early on and has been so supportive speaks to their commitment to different ideas and to supporting their students. Chewonki has really benefited from having Westminster students and from their different perspectives and ideas.”

What is it about Chewonki that makes us a good fit for Westminster? On the surface our programs are quite different, and that could provide an easy answer. We offer students a different social and learning environment. A great benefit for students coming from a day school is the chance to live in a cabin with their peers and form their own unique community. Additionally, our small classes extend far beyond the walls of a classroom, into fields, forest, rocky coast, saltmarsh, pond, and farmland.

Jim Justice is the assistant principal at Westminster’s high school. “At Chewonki, our students grow to see life differently,” he said recently. “They see themselves as connected, and they see their choices mattering. They see themselves as more whole. While the courses are academically rigorous, students find a different motivation than they may have felt at our school. They come home more concerned about curiosity and learning.” Students have returned to Westminster with a desire to do new things, whether making an organic garden or running an environmental club that makes enough money to buy a solar panel for the school, he said. “While we are very different schools, our bedrock culture is the same.”

Ann Carson sees Chewonki’s long-term relationship with Westminster and its other member schools as invaluable for both parties. “Our member schools helped us get started,” she said. “They know us well and can direct students to us who will be the best match for our program. At the same time, sending-school students become familiar with and excited by our program and can plan accordingly for their junior year. Not every school can have a field-based science course, but by partnering with Chewonki, they can offer their students the opportunity to do something different while staying on track at their school.”

We are grateful to *all* of our sending schools for entrusting their students to us, and particularly to our member schools for their enduring partnership. When Semester 49 ends in December, we will say good-bye to our current Westminster students—and will eagerly await the arrival of our 109th Westminster student, who will join us in January for Semester 50. ■

Jeannette Eaton works year-round at Chewonki to provide support to Semester School and summer programs.

CHEWONKI'S MEMBER SCHOOLS

About one-third of the students in each semester come from our 14 member schools. These schools were carefully chosen for their academic excellence, geographic diversity, and commitment to the type of experience Chewonki represents.

The Brearley School, New York, NY
Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte, NC
Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT
Miss Porter’s School, Farmington, CT
Noble and Greenough School, Dedham, MA
The Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Phillips Academy Andover, Andover, MA
Princeton Day School, Princeton, NJ
Shady Side Academy, Pittsburgh, PA
The Taft School, Watertown, CT
The Thacher School, Ojai, CA
Waynflete School, Portland, ME
The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA

Along with our close relationships with member schools, we actively reach out to other schools, both public and private. We have a particular commitment to serving students from our home state. Students have come from several Maine schools, including Waynflete School and Brunswick, Yarmouth, Falmouth, Freeport, Camden, Orono, and Cape Elizabeth high schools. All interested and capable students are encouraged to apply to Chewonki Semester School. Financial aid is available.



What Makes a Great Camp Counselor?

Chewonki Guides spend eight weeks in “an in-between world”—no longer campers and not yet counselors

ELIZABETH PIERSON

Fritz Brokaw was nine years old—a Puffin—when he came to Boys Camp. He stayed for seven weeks, and when his mother arrived from Massachusetts to pick him up, he announced, “Mom, I want to do the Guides Program!” He would have to wait a long time to reach that milestone. But flash forward seven summers—every one of them spent at Chewonki—and there was Fritz on a late July day this year: a thoughtful 16-year-old teaching renewable energy in the morning, organizing field sports in the afternoons, and living in a cabin with six young campers and their counselors.

Asked if being a Guide was anything like he expected, Fritz smiled and nodded yes. “I’ve done a lot of hard work and learned a lot.” The lessons, he noted, had come in all sizes—from getting certified in lifeguarding, CPR, and First Aid to realizing that leading a trip involves (surprise!) planning and preparing meals. He’d learned to comfort, cajole, and encourage; to cope with the occasional troublemaker; and to recognize his own value as a role model. “Guides are in an in-between world,” he said. “We have more responsibility than campers, but we aren’t yet counselors. It’s a great transition. I can’t wait to come back next summer as a counselor.”

Chewonki’s 2012 Guides atop Katahdin with their trip leaders, Guides director Charlie Fear (far right) and former Guides director Cory Cramer (far left).

JR Jennings echoed that wish. This was JR's fifth summer at Chewonki. "I really want to be a counselor next summer. My goal this summer is to learn what makes a good counselor so I can do a good job at it." One thing he'd already learned was "the importance of being able to keep control of a group. I've also learned that you need to be able to see what needs to be done and then step in and do it."

Fritz and JR were among nine boys in the 2012 Guides Program. It was attitudes like theirs that made Charlie Fear's eyes light up with pride all summer. Charlie led this year's program and had only rave reviews for the group. "These were nine *incredible* Guides," he said. "From Day 1, they worked hard and earned the respect of campers and staff. They were amazing."

The eight-week Guides Program was established in 1993 for former campers age 16. Usually limited to eight participants, it's an opportunity for boys who are ready to take on more leadership and learn how to be effective counselors and trip leaders. As Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg makes clear each summer, being a Guide doesn't automatically qualify a boy to become a counselor the next year, but many do. "About 35 to 40 percent of our counselors every year are former Guides," said Garth. To date, 150 boys have done the program.

Guides spend the first half of the summer learning hard and soft skills—everything from river rescues to group dynamics—and taking a wilderness trip. This year's group spent 10 days in Baxter State Park. "It's important for this trip to be challenging," Charlie explained. "The trips that these Guides will lead as counselors probably won't be challenging for *them*, but they will be for the campers. Guides need to remember how tough a trip can be, especially for a young kid." In the second half of the summer, each Guide moves into a cabin, where he assists the junior and senior counselors.

Charlie, a 2009 graduate of Denison University, knows a thing or two about what makes a good Guide—and future counselor. This was his eighth summer at Chewonki. He has been a camper, tripper, and counselor and now teaches in the Outdoor Classroom during the school year. He had high expectations for this year's Guides. "I wanted their experience to be challenging, rewarding, eye opening, and empowering—

with the result that they will be counselors who are thoughtful, proactive, selfless, and effective leaders." It was no small order, but the Guides more than met it, he said. One particularly telling incident occurred on their wilderness trip, when one of their canoes got stranded mid-river on a rock. "Watching them put their training into action that day was a highlight of my summer," said Charlie. "They organized the rescue entirely by themselves and executed it perfectly."

As challenging as some of the wilderness skills can be, a far tougher challenge for most Guides is learning how to step into a leadership position. "Learning to make hard decisions—and ones that may be unpopular with campers. Learning to see a choice that isn't readily apparent. Learning to slow down and

consider what the different outcomes might be of various decisions. These are huge challenges for kids this age," Charlie noted.

Charlie is thrilled by the recent rise in popularity of the Guides Program. "More and more, being a Guide is becoming part of a camper's long-term goals," he said. "There's a lot of anticipation among the Ospreys [the oldest campers]. You hear them talking about the program all summer."

Garth Altenburg is delighted with the trend too. Garth would argue that few jobs better prepare young people for "the real world," or carry more weight on a college application or résumé, than being a camp counselor. "Employers in all fields are looking for people who are creative problem-solvers, know how to work collaboratively

and with people from different backgrounds, and can put group goals ahead of their own goals," he said recently. "Chewonki asks a lot of its counselors. We expect them to show tremendous maturity and to be real leaders." In ways both big and small, that message is woven into every aspect of the Guides Program.

Another, if more subtle, message is also woven into the program: Being a counselor can be tremendously rewarding. "Overseeing a safe and successful cabin experience, teaching an activity and passing on a skill, being a mentor to younger boys—these are things that really matter," said Garth.

No one needs to convince Charlie Fear of that. He spent his entire summer mentoring younger boys. "The Guides Program is the most exciting thing I've ever been part of at Chewonki," he said.

Nine shining stars. Kudos to them all, and to their leader. ■

MORE SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Chewonki offers two other summer leadership programs, both of which are open to participants who do not have previous Chewonki experience: a 7-week Girls Leadership Program for ages 16–18 and a 5-week coed Wilderness Leadership Expedition for ages 17–20. Like the Guides Program, the Girls Leadership Program focuses on preparing participants to be both counselors and trip leaders. It extends over two summers. First-year participants live together in their own yurt at camp; get certified in lifeguarding, Small Craft Safety, and Wilderness and Remote First Aid; and take their own wilderness trip. Second-year participants live in yurts with campers and their counselors. The Wilderness Leadership Expedition is aimed at those who want to become trip leaders at Chewonki or lead their own trips with friends or other organizations. Participants train in the field alongside current Chewonki trip leaders; receive wilderness medical training; and plan, prepare, and execute a remote wilderness trip. For more information, visit www.chewonki.org or call Chewonki at 207-882-7323.

Financial aid is available for all Chewonki leadership programs.

Sustainable Ocean Studies

Chewonki pairs up with Waynflete School for an exciting new summer program

STORY BY ANN CARSON

PHOTOS BY DANIEL CASADO

Imagine a Chewonki bus packed with 14 teenagers and enough camping gear for a 24-day journey, plus books, field ecology equipment, and wanagans filled with food. Then picture an educational adventure that begins in Portland and travels down east to Mount Desert Island, taking advantage of local experts, research facilities, and ecologically rich, beautiful sites. Our purpose was to address the question “How can we create a sustainable future for the Gulf of Maine and its citizens?” While this might not sound like a typical Chewonki summer program, this unique partnership between Chewonki and Portland’s Waynflete School turned out to be a perfect addition to our summer slate of opportunities for teenagers.

SOS started at Waynflete in 2010. Last year David Vaughan, SOS director and marine biology and environmental science teacher at Waynflete, approached Chewonki about partnering with the program. As a newcomer to the state, I was thrilled to get involved. What a wonderful way to get a handle on the marine ecosystems of the Gulf as well as better understand the environmental issues of this bioregion! Peter Sniffen, Semester School’s Natural History of the Maine Coast instructor, also wanted to get involved, and over the course of several meetings with David, we developed a highly ambitious plan for this 24-day course.

Our goal was to immerse our 14 high-school students in the ecological, cultural, and economic issues of the Gulf of Maine, with the overarching goal of exploring how long-term sustainability could be achieved in each of these areas. On a daily basis, the program felt more like a college-level seminar than a summer camp experience, although our students were gaining valuable skills in camping and community living as well.

To give you an idea of our busy schedule, during our first weekend we toured a Portland sustainable seafood company, ventured into Casco Bay on a lobster boat and helped haul the traps, then camped for two nights on Cow Island, where we conducted both sandy shore and rocky intertidal species surveys. After returning to the mainland on the ferry, we

completed an introductory scuba dive, worked with a fisheries biologist to conduct a beach seine survey of fish diversity, and then scurried over to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to talk with an entrepreneur who is pioneering kelp aquaculture, all before returning to our base camp to have a dinner conversation with an environmental lawyer from the Conservation Law Foundation.

While the pace of the course was brisk, the passion we felt from each person we met and each experience we encountered underscored the urgency of packing in as much as we could in order to understand the complex issues at work in the Gulf. The students were divided into three groups and tasked with developing a research question around one of our three themes: cultural, economic, and ecological sustainability. As an educator, I found this thematic approach a helpful framework for the students as they grappled with the ideas they were exposed to each day. So while meeting with an oyster aquaculture expert, student questions might sound like “To what extent does oyster farming help or hurt the fishing industry?” or “What ecological effects does oyster aquaculture have on the Damariscotta River estuary system?”

As a career high-school educator, I have found that the most valuable learning experiences for kids come from authentic immersion, where students apply “textbook concepts” to real situations and actually do valuable work. In this rich, multifaceted, and intensive program, our students were challenged with sorting out different viewpoints and figuring out what questions to ask in order to create some sense out of the many voices and experiences they encountered.

In many ways, SOS mirrored what we do each day at Chewonki Semester School, as our courses and program follow a similar pedagogical framework. I was proud to participate in this first summer’s partnership between Waynflete School and Chewonki and am excited to see this incredibly important program continue in the future. ■

Ann Carson is head of Chewonki Semester School.

SOS 2012, BY THE NUMBERS

Number of students – 14

Number of experts visited – 29

Number of biological surveys and projects completed – 7

Number of islands visited or camped on – 7

Number of boats traveled on – 11

Next summer’s SOS program will run from June 28 to July 21. For more information, call Chewonki at 207-882-7323 or visit our website and click on “Multi-Element Trips” under “Wilderness Trips for Teens.”





Our goal was to immerse our 14 high-school students in the ecological, cultural, and economic issues of the Gulf of Maine.



Ken Wise Ends a 17-Year Journey with Chewonki

ELIZABETH PIERSON

Tap tap. Tap tap.... Tap tap tap. It's a pretty reliable way to find Ken Wise; he's rarely without his hammer. There he was, tapping bungs into a beautiful new ship's ladder. He wasn't on Chewonki Neck, however. On this perfect September afternoon, Ken was in the shop behind his house, overlooking Maquoit Bay in Brunswick. The radio was tuned to fiddle music, and the bay was aglitter with sun.

Asked if he'd retired, Ken gave a mock shudder and grinned. "Don't let my wife hear you say that!" he laughed. He'd love to retire, but it isn't going to happen anytime soon, he said. "I've just gone back to being a self-employed carpenter, as I was before I came to Chewonki."

Until he stepped down this summer, Ken had been Chewonki's head carpenter for 17 years. He came in 1995, "just in time for Chewonki's building boom," as he put it. He oversaw the building of South Hall, then of New Meadows, Last Resort, Pete Gillies, Hoyt's, Park Avenue, and the Hilton. Every one of those buildings came into existence under Ken's skilled hands and careful eye. So did Gordy Hall, which Ken helped build over three semesters with Semester School students.

He also did whatever else needed doing. "I resingled a lot of roofs. Built steps and screen doors and privies. Fixed this, that, and everything else that was broken." He helped with the boats, drove resupply trips for trippers, and even led a few Elderhostel trips on the Allagash—yes, he was a Registered Maine Guide. He also worked at Big Eddy and at Girls Camp. "Girls Camp—that's a really special place," he said, his eyes softening.

Ken said he never did any complicated work, but that's typical Ken: quiet, modest, never one to call attention to his own fine work. Director of operations Don Lamson worked closely with Ken and knows as well as anyone how much he did for Chewonki. "No matter where you go on any Chewonki property, Ken Wise has had a hand in making it into a great place for participants and staff," Don said recently. Chewonki president Willard Morgan noted what a gifted educator Ken is. He often worked with semester students during Work Program, and he also oversaw



BRIDGET BESAW PHOTO

numerous volunteer groups (among them Wyoming Seminary; see p. 6). "Students learned so much working with Ken," said Willard. "He knew how to give them interesting jobs—jobs where they could solve some problem themselves. And he had the patience to let them do so."

There's another side of Ken too—one that staff and students at Chewonki knew well. Ken is a talented artist who carves local hardwoods into loons, mergansers, fish, and bears. He also carves spoons and turns bowls. His work—exhibited at craft fairs (including Chewonki's), a few wildlife art shows, and a handful of shops—is graceful and beautiful. You can see examples at his website, www.kenwisewoodcarver.com.

Was it hard for Ken to leave Chewonki? "Yes, it was. But it was time for a change," he said. He loved working with students and misses all the people. "And the Chewonki lunches," he added, with a twinkle in his eye. Reminiscing about the past 17 years, his affection for Chewonki was evident. "It wasn't just where I worked," he said. Ken and his wife, Julie, an ESL teacher at Portland High School, have two daughters. "Our older daughter, Amelia, was a tripper, and our younger daughter, Adele, has spent two summers at Girls Camp and been a vacation camper. Chewonki has been a big part of our family's life."

To say that Ken has been a big part of Chewonki's life would be an enormous understatement. We miss him, thank him for countless jobs well done, and hope he visits often—with or without his hammer. ■

Chewonki's annual holiday craft fair is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 14; please check our website for details on time and place. Held on campus and open to the public, the fair features crafts made by Chewonki staff and friends—including Ken, of course.



NOTICING NATURE

FRED CICHOCKI

During the last week of camp, one of our boys came into the Nature Museum with a fat Fawn Sphinx Moth (*Sphinx kalmiae*) caterpillar almost completely covered with tiny, white egg-shaped bodies. As it turned out, they were the silken cocoons (*not* eggs) of a minute braconid wasp (genus *Cotesia*; sorry, it has no common name).

All braconid and numerous other wasps are *parasitoids* of insects. The distinction between a *parasitoid* and a *parasite* is a fine one: parasitoids inevitably kill their hosts, whereas parasites usually don't. So a *Cotesia* female (maybe more than one) injected her eggs into the body of our hapless sphinx caterpillar. Once inside, the eggs hatched into small white grubs, which—gruesome as it sounds—proceeded to devour the still-living caterpillar from the inside out! After a few weeks, the mature wasp larvae tunneled out through the caterpillar's skin, spun cocoons, and became pupae. Several days later, adult wasps began to *eclose* (entomologist-speak for "emerge from their pupae"). Incredibly, the stricken caterpillar remained alive through all this trauma, but eventually its fate was sealed and it expired. And here, the plot thickens.

Careful examination of the adult wasps that eclosed from the cocoons revealed not one, but *two different species*: the expected braconid, *Cotesia*, and a smaller wasp in the family Pteromalidae. Now, some pteromalid wasps are known to be parasitoids of other parasitoid wasps, including *Cotesia*. So here's what happened. Just as the *Cotesia* took over the body of our sphinx caterpillar for its own reproductive functions, some pteromalids did the same to the *Cotesia* pupae! This is a classic case of what's called *hyperparasitoidism*. The whole affair reminds me of that cute, oft-quoted verse by Jonathan Swift:

So, naturalists observe, a flea
Hath smaller fleas that on him prey;
And these have smaller still to bite 'em;
And so proceed *ad infinitum*...

There's more about wasps—including the ability of some species to produce viruslike particles of wasp DNA that are sophisticated transmission agents for wasp genes, and the remarkable olfactory abilities of braconid wasps—but those stories will have to wait for another time. For now, I'll simply suggest that it's time to reconsider the popular but inaccurate notion of the order Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants, and their kin) as a group of offensive stinging insects, best feared and avoided. In truth, of the 330,000 or so described species of Hymenoptera, the vast majority are tiny innocuous parasitoids, many of great value for controlling insect pests. In 2006 the Boston Natural Areas Network listed braconid wasps among New England's top-10 most beneficial garden insects. We should be glad we're finding them on Chewonki Neck!

"Doc Fred" directs the nature program at Chewonki Camp for Boys.



An adult Fawn Sphinx Moth



Fawn Sphinx caterpillar covered with fresh *Cotesia* cocoons. The small dark spots are larval exit holes.



Cotesia cocoons after both species of adult wasps (visible) have eclosed

DANIEL
CASADO
PHOTO

FRED CICHOCKI PHOTO

FRED CICHOCKI PHOTO



ERIC CONNOR PHOTO

Celebrating What Never Was

BETTA STOTHART

More than 30 river enthusiasts gathered under the great pines at Chewonki Big Eddy Campground in early August to commemorate the demise of a project proposed a quarter century ago. The construction of a hydroelectric dam at Big Ambejack-mockamus Falls—aka the “Big A Dam”—would have flooded the last wild stretch of the Penobscot River, including its prized landlocked salmon fishery, the spectacular Cribworks rapid, and Big Eddy itself.

The project was staunchly opposed by river enthusiasts, particularly rafters and fishermen, and eventually by the larger environmental community in Maine. The story of their opposition is a remarkable one, and Matthew Polstein, founder and owner of the New England Outdoor Center, recounted the gripping tale of how a small group of rafting companies engaged the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine and engendered what became the largest environmental battle in the state’s history. At the time, Great Northern Paper Co. was the most powerful company in Maine; the Big A Dam was intended to provide electricity to its mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket, with the surplus to be sold to Bangor Hydro Electric; and the promise of jobs loomed large. Disputing the



Whitewater enthusiasts continue to enjoy the elevation drop at the Cribworks Rapid on the West Branch.

dam was unpopular, Polstein recalls, and wrought with the nuance and intrigue of today’s political battles.

According to former raft guide and citizen organizer Sandy Neily, who organized the West Branch Coalition to Save the Penobscot River, the Big A proposal was approved by Maine’s Land Use Regulation Commission and appeared to be heading for fruition when one courageous Department of Environmental Protection staffer refused to sign off on a water-quality certification. Eventually Great Northern withdrew its application, and the rest is history.

Today the river continues its extraordinary flow down a series of magnificent stony drops and deep pools, from McKay Station all the way to the Boom House at Ripogenus Lake. The river continues to attract thousands of recreationists annually.

Twenty-five years ago, a younger Matt Polstein scaled 50 feet up an enormous pine tree at Big Eddy and hung a marker to show how high the water would rise if the dam were built. That tree has since succumbed to time, wind, and weather. But in preparation for the Chewonki River Reunion, Mark Adams of Chewonki’s Big Eddy Campground scaled another pine tree at Big Eddy and wrapped a brand-new pair of bright yellow rain pants around the trunk. With luck, his marker will last another quarter century. ■

JACK MONTGOMERY PHOTO

The Dirt on Chewonki Neck

Invisible People

MEGAN PHILLIPS

*In memory of Kathryn Currier
(Semester 44), who greets me daily
from the rhubarb bed*

I work every day alongside invisible people. Having passed a few seasons on Chewonki's Saltmarsh Farm, I am increasingly aware of how layered my experience of place has become. One day in early August, chattering campers joined the farm crew in one of our main gardens to pick beans, a tedious and long-lasting task until many hands (and mouths) are engaged in the process. Although that garden was beans and boys in the here and now, I had vivid memories of a failed watercress experiment there two years ago, and a powerful and pleasurable Work Program one fall when students left their assigned projects to collectively move a table-sized rock we unearthed from that garden soil onto a nearby stone wall. There, too, I taught a student to cultipack a recently cover-cropped garden with our workhorse Sal, handing over the lines and watching a nervous smile transition to a confident one. I have had mundane and important conversations in that place, and they echoed in my ears while bean picking in August.

This is true of every place on this farm: people visit me as I work. In any moment, my experience in place is real and rooted, and my memories of shared conversations, births and deaths, weeding sessions and long harvests are equally present and valid. How sweetly deep these connections are; how much richer my experience of place is to know it in this way, with these people, here and gone before.

Surely connections to place—important ones—exist outside of experiences with people. I have spent hours alone on this land, learning its hidden rocks and noting changes in soil quality, disc harrowing gardens and setting up electric fencing. But here, too, I have met people, some known to me and some not. Evidence of so much work and care lives on this farm, details and systems and stories that tell of many individuals who so valued their own labor—and my future labor—enough to move rocks, make shelters, build soil, tend pastures, shepherd livestock, manage a woodlot. These people work alongside me, leading and teaching. “Gratitude” is not word enough for what I feel toward them.

Walk Whitman wrote of this connection, looking both forward and back, in *Leaves of Grass*:

To one a century hence, or any number of centuries hence,
To you, yet unborn, these, seeking you.

When you read these, I, that was visible, am become invisible;
Now it is you, compact, visible, realizing my poems, seeking me;
Fancying how happy you were, if I could be with you, and become your comrade;
Be it as if I were with you. (Be not too certain but I am now with you.)

I wonder: What is it to be worthy of these invisible people, to be open enough to learn all that this place and these people have to teach? What systems will I create that value my own labor and the idea of the future labor on this farm? What of me will live on in this place? ■



JOCK MONTGOMERY PHOTO

Megan Phillips is Chewonki's farm manager. She came to the farm as an apprentice in 2009 after many seasons on the Outdoor Classroom and Wilderness Trips staffs.



ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Greetings from the Neck!

Mentioning Chewonki in a conversation often guarantees an enthusiastic and inspired discussion. Anyone who knows Chewonki usually has memories of hiking a mountain, canoeing or kayaking a river, taking a Polar Bear plunge, learning to identify a bird, and sharing great meals together. Those collective adventures inform conversations and enable great connections. The goal of our Alumni Office is to provide opportunities for these sustaining conversations. Through our regional groups, alumni and friends are increasingly able to enjoy Chewonki-inspired adventures, share meaningful conversations, and have fun!



Northern California Alumni and Friends held a September BBQ in Golden Gate Park, "for anyone who understands the difference between slop and compost." More events will follow this year! Pictured here (from left to right): Charlie Robinson, Remy Mansfield, Lauren Miller, Emily Dellas, Zan Armstrong, Colin Bayer, Dan Fox, Maureen Bayer Hodson, Dave Hodson, Lily Hodson, and Mac Jernigan.

Here are just a few of the recent and upcoming gatherings planned by various groups.

- The **New York** Alumni and Friends Group hosted an October family hike in Cold Spring Harbor. They're also planning their third annual June Picnic and Service Day; they'll volunteer for Meals on Wheels in the morning and afterward enjoy a picnic in Central Park.
- The **Maine** Alumni and Friends Group invites you to join them for a Sugarloaf Ski day; date TBD. Contact alumni@chewonki.org if you want to partake.
- In November, **New York, Boston, and San Francisco** alumni and friends gathered to view Chewonki alumnus Jim Balog's award-winning documentary *Chasing Ice*, about the melting of Arctic ice as a result of climate change. The film opened around the country in November. See www.chasingice.com for scheduled showings.

Wish you had an alumni group in your area? Have a fun idea you'd like to share with Chewonki friends? Email alumni@chewonki.org to find out who's in your region—then invite people to join you. It's that simple!

Peg Willauer-Tobey
Assistant Development Director & Alumni Coordinator
alumni@chewonki.org or tel. 207-882-7323 ext. 153

Semester School to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Save the date—August 23–25, 2013—

*and join us in celebrating 25 years
of Chewonki Semester School!*

*Come learn what's new, and what
remains the same, at Chewonki.*



Join us for FAMILY CAMP!

The Deinard family from Connecticut can attest to the fact that it's fun, relaxing, and educational. Jennifer and Ted and their children Gigi and Theo are Family Camp regulars. This past summer they returned home with beautiful new paddles they created in the Chewonki woodshop. Mark your calendars now, for August 15-19, 2013. For more details, check online or call us at 207-882-7323.



JEN PAISLEY PHOTO



Laguna Cuicocha, a crater lake in the Ecuadorian Andes.

LEAH BOCH PHOTO

Ecuador!

A Trip for Semester 47-50 Alumni

We're delighted to announce that Chewonki is planning a three-week trip to Ecuador in July 2013 for students from Semesters 47 through 50. Traveling throughout a good portion of the country, we'll learn about local environmental issues, cultures, and artisanal products while participating in "community tourism"—meaning tourism that includes and benefits local communities, particularly those of indigenous peoples. We'll hike in the Andes, learn to navigate the bus system, weave on traditional looms, canoe in the Amazon, sample local cuisine, and learn to surf on the coast—all while practicing our Spanish with Ecuadorians. The trip will be led by Semester School admissions director Leah Boch, who has traveled and studied extensively both in Spain and Latin America. Size will be limited to 12 students, so early sign-up is encouraged. For more information, contact Leah at Lboch@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323 ext. 139.

Chewonki remains strong because of the support, creativity, and involvement of alumni and friends. Please remember Chewonki and consider a gift to the **ANNUAL FUND.**

PEOPLE

People is a synopsis of news from our alumni and friends. To be included, please e-mail your news to Alumni@chewonki.org or mail it to Chewonki, attn. Peg Willauer-Tobey. We try hard to avoid errors. If you see one, please let us know so we can correct it in the next issue. Unless you specify that you do not want us to print your news, we will include it in the *Chronicle*. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Thanks for sharing your lives with us! —Editor

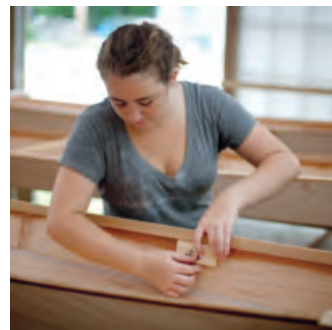
Key to abbreviations: BBE: Boatbuilders Expedition; BC: Boys Camp; EE: Environmental Education (predecessor to OC and TNHP); GC: Girls Camp; MCS: Maine Coast Semester, until Sem. 43; Mariners: Mariners Sailing Expedition; OC: Outdoor Classroom for Schools; Timberline: Timberline Hiking Trip; TNHP: Traveling Natural History Programs; TWT: Thoreau Wilderness Trip; Torngat: Torngat Northern Labrador Trip; Umbagog: Umbagog Whitewater Kayak; WT: Wilderness Trips



Dave Hudson (left) and Matt Libby



Melelani, Kai, Nalu, and Keola Appleton, children of "T" Appleton



Lillian MacNeish, daughter of Terry MacNeish, one of the first Boatbuilders

1960s

Ben Hudson (BC '62, '63; Umbagog '67; BC staff '68-'70, '74) and **Matt Libby** (BC '60s) enjoyed running into each other at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, ME, in September. They hadn't seen each other since the summer of '63 (?), but the essentials hadn't changed! See photo.

1970s

Environmental photographer **Jim Balog** (BC staff '71, '72; WT staff '73) and his efforts to capture time-lapse video of the dissolution of the Arctic glaciers due to climate change are the subject of a new documentary, *Chasing Ice*. It opens around the country in November and has already won numerous awards at film festivals. Members of Congress watched the film in Washington in September, and journalist Bill Moyers interviewed Jim on the TV show *Moyers & Company*. Jim also has a new book of photographs coming out: *Ice: Portraits of Vanishing Glaciers*, with text by Terry Tempest Williams.

1980s

Thomas "T" Appleton (BC '86) and wife Monique live in Boston with four little Appletons: two boys (6 and 3) on either side of twins (4), a boy and a girl. See photo. "T" works in the financial services industry. **David Barron** (TWT '89) has been swinging a hammer in a kilt; learn more under MCS 1. See news of **KC Golden** (BC staff '83; Maine Reach staff '83, '84; WT staff '84) in the boxed note. **Terry MacNeish** (BBE '86; Umbagog '87; BC staff '88), one of the first Boatbuilders participants, had the pleasure of seeing his daughter, **Lillian MacNeish**, become part of Boatbuilders '12. See photo.

KC Golden Wins Heinz Award for Public Policy

Congratulations to KC Golden, who won a prestigious Heinz Award in September for outstanding achievement in public policy. The awards carry a prize of \$250,000 and honor the late U.S. Senator John Heinz and his interests. KC is policy director for Climate Solutions, a Seattle organization that focuses on developing feasible solutions to global warming through developing partnerships among government, businesses, the energy sector, and other key stakeholders. In announcing the award, the foundation noted that “by mastering the facts and working to truly understand the needs and priorities of the major players in the climate debate, [KC Golden] has helped steer public policy towards building fundamentally cleaner and more sustainable systems...and helped to inspire a new kind of inclusive advocacy with the vision of sustainable, broadly shared prosperity.” To get KC’s take on politics and oil, read his letter in the 4/23/12 issue of *The New Yorker* (available online).



KC is the father of semester alums Dana (MCS 39) and Jonah (Sem. 44) and the husband of Kristi Skanderup (TWT & EE staffs ’83, ’84), who has been instrumental in major school reform and innovation efforts in Seattle public schools.

1990s

Elizabeth (Lisa) Hamblin Naylor (BBE ’94) is going strong after overcoming non-Hodgkins lymphoma, diagnosed 3 years ago. An experimental treatment involving a donation of stem cells from her sister, **Amanda Hamblin-Joyce** (MCS 23), put Lisa on the road to health. Another sister, Susannah, raised more than \$20,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society while Lisa was ill. All three are daughters of **Peter Hamblin** (BC staff ’89, ’91-’96). “I have been in remission for a little over 2 years,” Lisa writes. She lives in Hull, MA,

with husband Adam and daughter Grace, age 5. Lisa’s using her experience to help others facing cancer, working part-time at the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center as a parent consultant. She also writes a blog (cancergaveme2birthdays.blogspot.com) and does some public speaking. **Nick Zandstra** (BC staff ’95, ’96) married **Betsy Mattox** (MCS 18; farm ’05, ’06) on 6/23/12 surrounded by numerous Chewonki friends. See photo. See MCS 20 for news of **Alex Dews** (BC ’98); MCS 17 for news of **Tim Kidman** (BC staff ’97); and



CHRISTOPHER EICHLER PHOTO

A joyful menagerie of former Chewonki farmers and staff gathered in Topsham, VT, last June to celebrate the wedding of Betsy Mattox and Nick Zandstra. Front row: Miki Glasser (MCS 24), Lauren Braunohler (MCS 25; BC staff ’01, ’03, ’05), Mark Albee (farm ’91-’07), Madeline LeVan Johnson, Brad Johnson (MCS staff & faculty ’96-’00; farm ’00-’08), Forrest Fleischman (BC ’92, ’94; WT ’96; MCS 18; farm ’97, ’03, ’04), and Christopher Eichler (BC ’88, ’89; BC staff ’98, ’04). Back row: Jeff Chase (BC staff ’96; OC staff ’97, ’98) and Caleb, Sarah Mattox (MCS 18), Aaron Ritzenberg (BC ’87-’91; Guide ’93; BC staff ’94, ’95, ’99-’06), Hans Albee (BC ’90-’92, ’94-’96) and baby Turner, Emily LeVan (MCS faculty ’97-’00), Chris Coleman (WT & OC staffs ’01, ’02; Outreach staff ’02-’06), Margaret Youngs Coleman (farm ’05-’11) and baby Lilianna, Nick, and Betsy. Missing from photo: Abby Huckel (BC staff ’06; farm ’07, ’08) and Ingrid Albee (nurse ’90-’95, ’05).



Kate Fox and Cory Cramer

MCS 9 for news of **Loryn Kipp** (WT staff ’93; BC staff ’94; kitchen manager ’01-’05; GC staff ’12).

2000s

Nicole Borrasso (OC staff ’04, ’05; BC staff ’05, ’06, ’09; GC staff ’10) and husband Eric Favreau welcomed a daughter, Sylvia Grace, on 9/25/12. “She’s already been hiking in the White Mts. and loves to be outside,” writes Nicole. **Kate Fox** (BC staff ’03, ’05-’08, ’11, ’12) and **Cory Cramer** (MCS fellow, Sems. 39-40; BC staff ’08; WT staff ’10, ’12; BC Guides leader ’11) tied the knot in Edgcomb, ME, on 8/25/12 with many happy Chewonki folk gathered ’round. See photo. Kate is a contractor in collections and education at the Smithsonian Institution, and Cory teaches 9th and 10th grade at the Bullis School in Potomac, MD. **Vanessa Jones** (GC staff ’09, ’10) worked at Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport, ME. **Prema Long** (TNHP staff ’06-’11; GC staff ’08; WT leader ’08-’10; Montsweag Dam project ’11) received her master’s in education from the Univ. of Southern Maine last spring and now teaches science at Wiscasset High School, 12 minutes from Chewonki! **Holly Whitney** (GC staff ’09, ’10, ’12; OC ’12) is enjoying her internship with Chewonki’s Outdoor Classroom. Come November, she’ll road-trip with her twin sister to Truckee, CA. “I’ll be working as the assistant Nordic coach for Truckee H.S., a great excuse to play with kids and ski on some of the best trails in the country. I’m also going to be racing for the Far West Senior Farm Team, a development team for post-college cross-country skiers who are reluctant to give up on the Olympic dream just yet.” See MCS 35 for news of **Becca Abuza** (WT ’01-’05; BC staff ’07; GC staff ’08-’11); MCS 29 for news of **Emily Guerin** (BC staff ’04); and MCS 27 for news of **Laura Hartz** (BC staff ’04).

2010s

Girls Camp director **Abby Burbank** paddled in Algonquin Park, ON, after camp ended. She followed that by paddling a segment of the Josh Billings Triathlon in western Massachusetts. Abby’s threesome was “Team Retro”—the cyclist rode a single-speed bike, and Abby paddled a wooden canoe. “We tried to get the runner to run in bare feet,” says Abby. Maybe next year. **Jo Dixon** (GC staff ’12), a student of adventure tourism business operations in Golden, BC, has been hiking in the Purcell Mountains in southeastern BC. “We hiked Silent Pass to Caribou Pass and were fortunate to see a grizzly bear playing in a mountain tarn. The week after, I went rock climbing in Squamish. I climbed some amazing crack routes, did my first mock lead gear climb, and my first multi-pitch. It was super fun and challenging!” **Kate Hutchison** (GC staff ’11, ’12) hiked in Alaska’s Talkeetnas and sea-kayaked on Prince William Sound over the summer. “I saw **Becca Siegel** (MCS 36; GC staff ’09, ’10), her mom, and her younger sister, **Julia Siegel** (GC ’09-’12), and we went to the Alaska State Fair!” Kate tells us. “I’m on my way to Tahoe, where I work at Alpine Meadows/Squaw Valley. I’m getting a ski touring set-up this winter and am also hoping to backpack in the Sierras before too much snow falls.” **Addie Liddic** (WT staff ’09; OC staff ’10-’12; GC staff ’10, ’12) is traveling throughout India but says she’ll “spend most of the year in Kerala, India, working, studying, and practicing yoga at the Amritapuri ashram.” **Abigail Marshall** (farm ’11; GC staff ’12) worked on a Univ. of Montana field crew researching whitebark pine last summer. Now she’s learning all about goats at the Prodigal goat dairy near Durham, NC. **Kate Quirk** (GC staff ’11, ’12; GC Advisory Committee) is an EMT in Red Hook, NY. **Lena Senko** (BC staff ’12) is teaching botany and biology at the Univ. of Southern Maine. In September she was a guest speaker at the American Birding Association’s Mid-Atlantic Young Birders Conference in Delaware. Lena is leading a women’s birding trip in Costa Rica this winter for Wildside Nature

Tours. **Maggie Yocius** (GC staff '12) has moved to Bethel, ME, where she's "working as resident artist in clay under internationally recognized potter Woody Hughes at the Mill Hill Inn. I'm also working in the inn as a cook and waitress and helping organize and maintain the potter's studio."

SEMESTER SCHOOL

MCS 1

Fall 1988

Class Agent: Torrey McMillan, vmcmillan@gmail.com

Chewonki's resident Scot, **Scott Andrews** (faculty, MCS 1-present; EE staff '72-'82; BC staff '79-'83; MCS director '88-'04), and **Sue West** (faculty, MCS 1-present; EE staff '79, '82, '83; Maine Reach staff '80; BC staff '80-'82) enjoyed watching **David Barron** (TWT '89) compete in professional-level heavy-weight Scottish athletic events last summer at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, ON, the largest Highland games in North America. Says Scott, "Dave is great, a lawyer with two kids, living in Brooklyn. He is one of the best in the world and competes (at the age of 40!) along with his brother Will all over the U.S., Canada, and Scotland. He won the hammer throw. We didn't get to see him toss the caber, but he was looking good." See photo.



David Barron (note the hammer, upper left!)



Douglas Friedman (center) with Sue West and Scott Andrews

MCS 2

Spring 1989

Class Agent: Critter Thompson, crittert@gmail.com

Douglas Friedman made a surprise visit to Chewonki in October, arriving with the same energy and enthusiasm he brought way back when. See photo. He was heading south after photographing artist Robert Indiana. Look at Doug's website (douglas-friedman.net) and you'll see that celebrities are just one of many subjects to which he turns his camera. **Edward Pais**, an architect in Burlington, VT, is president of the Vermont Green Building Network. He recently coauthored and edited a guide to green renovation of school buildings.

MCS 3

Fall 1989

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

MCS 4

Spring 1990

Class Agent: 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

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

MCS 9

Fall 1992

Class Agent: Katie Wagner, katie@katiawagnersocialmedia.com

Sarah Elmendorf has moved to Boulder, CO, where she's a staff scientist at the National Ecological Observatory Network. "Life feels ridiculously busy and loud and chaotic, trying to keep up with our preschooler and soon-to-be-kindergartener and work, but it's also full of adventure and fun," she writes. "MCSers: look us up if you're coming through town. We have a guest tree-house in the backyard!"

Jordon Gillis (BC '86-'89, '91, '92; BC staff '93-'96) reports, "Now that I am a father of two, I have not been able to focus quite as much of my time on human beatboxing. I won the L.A. sectionals, but after a night of almost zero sleep I lost in the regionals to the Incredible Rahzel. As the name indicates, Rahzel is incredible and I probably would have lost to him had I been fully rested. I am confident that I will rock Box Fest '13 next spring in Atlanta." Campers and staff at Girls Camp hit the jackpot when chef **Loryn Kipp** (WT staff '93; BC staff '94; kitchen manager '01-'05; GC staff '12) made a lasting impression this summer as the cook at Fourth Debscconeag.

MCS 10

Spring 1993

Class Agent: Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, betsyruith@gmail.com

Adam Borden's daughter Emma, 5, is heading to kindergarten, while Ian, 3, still enjoys pre-school. "They've developed a great love of their garden—heirloom tomatoes and lots of basil for pesto," says Adam. Wife Meredith is the Maryland Attorney General's lead healthcare lobbyist, "a busy role given the state's work on implementing a healthcare exchange." Adam continues to look for "interesting food companies in which to invest while also running an alcohol advocacy group that legalized wine shipping in Maryland in '11 and corkage in '12." Adam visited Chewonki in the fall and saw his Baltimore neighbor, **Nora Leitch**, who's here in Sem. 49. **Betsy Stubblefield Loucks** (BC staff '95-'98) has been living in Providence, RI, for 3 years, "loving being back in New England near my family. Eric and I have made it through 4 person-years of parenting our twin 2-year-olds, Monica and Stella, and feel like old pros now. We notice how much they love being outside—climbing trees, swimming, or riding in their bicycle trailer, just soaking in the natural world." Betsy works part-time as the director of HealthRIGHT, a coalition working for universal healthcare in Rhode Island. Husband Eric is a professor of public health at Brown. When she can, Betsy manages to see **Heidi Fessenden** in Boston and **Amy Morris** in NYC.

MCS 11

Fall 1993

Class Agent: Jess Green, jebby-green@gmail.com

Fiona Kouyoumdjian (BC staff '94) lives in Hamilton, ON, with husband Guy and their young boys. "In May, we welcomed our second son, Eric, who has a lovely disposition, and is fortunate to be showered with attention and love by his big brother, Sacha." Fiona is finishing a PhD in epidemiology at the Univ. of Toronto.

MCS 12

Spring 1994

Class Agents: Lara Fox, jlarafox@gmail.com; Becky Palmer Dickson, rebeccapalmer@gmail.com

Hayden (Smith) Temin says 2012 has been a big year. "We renovated and moved into a wonderful house on Capitol Hill in D.C., and a few



Raya Sage Mirkin, daughter of Kate Renner

weeks later I delivered a baby boy 2.5 months early. After a long hospital stay, Cameron joined big brother Owen at home. Both boys are healthy, growing like weeds, and keeping Jon and me busy. If you plan to visit D.C. any time, please let us know!"

MCS 13

Fall 1994

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

Lauren Lochner tied the knot on 8/10/12 in Poulsbo, WA. "I met my husband, Ryan, a few years ago working in the same school district. He is a middle school science teacher. We're really happy that we had the summer off to plan and celebrate—it's been beautiful out here this year! Part *deux*: after two seasons of no open water swimming due to a back injury, I swam the short course of the Fat Salmon race in Seattle and came in as one of the top 10 women in wetsuits. Woo hoo!" **Erin Quinn** (MCS faculty '00, '01) is knitting in happy anticipation of her first nephew's arrival this fall to sister **Kerry Quinn Granfield** (MCS 20). She's also looking forward to volunteering for the Atlanta BeltLine, which is repurposing 22 miles of old railroad corridors into parks, trails, and transit. **Kate Renner** (BC staff '95-'98, '00, '01) writes, "Our big news is that Raya Sage Mirkin was born on 7/30/12." See photo. Fellow knitter **Sarah Scally** also has a new child: Lucia Cruz Stevenson, born 4/27/12. Older brother Manny is soundly smitten. "I'm back at work now, but we've had a busy spring and summer," says Sarah. "Hopefully I'll be able to get a little knitting in this fall; I've got Christmas presents to make!"



Ryan Jacob Connors, son of Kevin Connors

MCS 14

Spring 1995

Class Agent: Erika Brown, erikabrown1@gmail.com

Loren Merrill (former advisor) has started post-doc work in Stillwater, OK. He wrote last summer, "You may have heard of this town as it's been in the news recently for its record-breaking heat. I drove out from Santa Barbara 2 weeks ago and the daytime high has been below 100 degrees exactly once. It peaked at 114 degrees on Thursday and has been over 110 degrees 8 times. Now we've got fires and severe drought too. Why did I move out here? Well, the project I'm working on is pretty cool. We're examining the relative importance of developmental stressors and maternal effects on learning and memory in zebra finches. These cute finches are becoming a model system for understanding language acquisition and learning in general in humans. If you find yourself in the vicinity, give me a shout."

MCS 15

Fall 1995

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

Kevin Connors (trustee) and wife Jamie were thrilled to welcome a son, Ryan Jacob Connors, on 7/18/12. See photo. **Sarah Gingerich** reports, "My husband, Fred, and I recently moved from Chicago to Iowa City, IA, Fred's hometown. I will continue to practice veterinary medicine at a small animal clinic here."

MCS 16

Spring 1996

Class Agent: Bailey McCallum, bailey.mccallum@gmail.com

MCS 17

Fall 1996

Class Agent: Page McClean, pagemcclean@gmail.com

Susannah Clark writes, "Howdy, 17ers! I am back in Portland, ME, getting settled in a new apartment up on the hill. The past few years have seen variations on the themes of boats and farms, both around Maine and abroad. I am trying out my scholarly side again with a master's program in American and New England Studies. Great to hear what folks are up to." **Tim Kidman** (BC staff '97) wrote last summer, "What's new with me? Well, my wife and I (mostly my wife, really) had a beautiful baby girl named Cora 3 months ago. It's been amazing. We recently hopped a plane from L.A. to Maine with baby and dog in tow and are relaxing for the next month."

Betsy Mattox (farm '05, '06) married **Nick Zandstra** (BC staff '95, '96) on 6/23/12. See photo.

Page McClean (MCS faculty '03-'04) says she's "frantically finishing up my master's in visual anthropology in London. London has been a great place to spend a year but I'm looking for a greener, more mountainous place to live and work next." **Carter Peyton Scott**, her partner, and their son Ollie, 2 1/2, are living in South Portland, ME, and loving the coast. "Working for a wind company and trying to save the planet, although I hear that is a controversial mechanism," writes Carter. "I think of the Wonk often as we pass through Wiscasset."

Chessie Thacher graduated from Stanford Law School in '11 and served a year-long clerkship for a Ninth Circuit judge in Montana. She's moving to NYC to start another clerkship. "Would love to see any of you if you're ever in the city!" **Tracey Wheeler** says she's "jumping on the update train, and I hope everyone else will too! I moved to L.A. a few years ago for grad school and love living 7 blocks from the ocean. Between writing my dissertation and working as a therapist in a clinic in addition to my specialty of equine-assisted psychotherapy (yes, I still love playing with ponies!), I enjoy the great hiking around L.A. with my little dachshund, Eleanor. Hope everyone is doing well."

MCS 18

Spring 1997

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

MCS 19

Fall 1997

Class Agent: Josie Rodberg, josierodberg@gmail.com

MCS 20

Spring 1998

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

Alex Dews (BC '98) lives in Philadelphia with wife Sasha and 1-year-old daughter Evelyn. "For the past 3 years I've been working in the Mayor's Office of Sustainability on green building, climate adaptation, and energy policy." He also teaches a course in sustainable design at Philadelphia Univ. **Kerry Granfield** and husband Patrick moved to Chicago last fall for his new job with Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Kerry works at Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, where she manages an energy-efficiency training and certification program for commercial building operators in 8 states. "In other big news," she writes, "we are expecting a baby boy in October." She has enjoyed reconnecting with other MCS 20s in Chicago:

Jenn Yee (advisor), **Ali Garmey**, **Dixie Uffelman**, and **Mari Davis** (BC staff '97-'99). **Malin Pinsky** (Mariners '94) and wife Kristin were also expecting a baby in October. They moved to New Jersey last fall when Malin got a post-doc at Princeton in the ecology and evolutionary biology department and Kristin started working in the marine department at Rutgers. "It looks like we'll be in the area for a while, since I'm likely signing on at Rutgers as new faculty in the ecology and evolution department," says Malin. "Among the benefits of being back on the East Coast after 7 years out West: we stopped by Chewonki last fall and caught up with Scott, Sue, and Amy."

MCS 21

Fall 1998

Class Agent: Malia Haddock, maliahaddock@gmail.com

MCS 22

Spring 1999

Class Agent: Louisa Pitt, lapitt@gmail.com

MCS 23

Fall 1999

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

Marselle Alexander-Ozinskas

reports that she and Tim “are still living in Cambridge but biding our time until a San Francisco move sometime in early ’13. I’ve been at Ceres for 2 years now and still find the work challenging and rewarding. I don’t have a clear idea of what will come next but look forward to seeing how things unfold. I also want to suggest a big push from 23ers to attend next year’s reunion...if there is a critical mass of those interested, I’m happy to organize!” **Liz Dyke Barker** says change has been the constant for her this year: “In April I started a new job as account executive for Winston Flowers, a 70-year-old Boston-based business that had just opened a location in Greenwich, CT. On 6/30/12 I married Ford Barker, to whom I was introduced by **Ginger (Walsh) Larsen** (MCS 19). We were married on Lake Champlain in Vergennes, VT. Ford, a Maine native and Bowdoin alum, is a ship broker in Stamford, CT. We live in Old Greenwich and welcome visitors any time!” See photo. **Rosie Dent** is back in Philadelphia after 2 months of dissertation research in Brazil and is preparing for comprehensive exams for her PhD in history and sociology of science. “I’m loving being back in the U.S. Almost got

to see **Marselle [Alexander-Ozinskas]** in Rio, but we missed each other by a hair.” **Rebecca Garfield** and husband Paul “spent an excellent summer visiting friends and family in Guatemala and Costa Rica. I had always wanted to spend time in this part of the Americas but had to keep buying tickets back to Chile after I fell in love with Paul!” In mid-August they headed back to Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY, where Rebecca teaches Spanish and Paul coaches. “We look forward to connecting with more MCSers now that we’ve got our feet firmly under us,” she writes. “We are only 40 minutes from NYC on the Hudson Line. Do be in touch!” **Amanda Hamblin-Joyce** played a key role in the recovery of her sister **Elizabeth (Lisa) Hamblin Naylor** (BBE ’94) from cancer, by donating her stem cells to Lisa 2 years ago. With Lisa’s cancer in remission, Amanda is stepping back (while keeping her day job adjusting workers compensation claims) to do some writing. “A lot of what I have written is about my experience dealing with Lisa’s illness and the stem-cell donation,” says Amanda. “I want to encourage others to join Be the Match and understand what the clinical trials really gave us: my sister is still with us. I am thankful every day that I had the genetic make-up to help and for the strength my sister had and continues to have through everything.” **Emily Izenstein** sends this news: “In late June, Meg and I moved out to Portland, OR, to pursue some big, long-held dreams! I’m now working in the training department at a wonderful non-profit, Guide Dogs for the Blind. We’re loving our new life in the Pacific Northwest: big mountains, a long gardening season, and fresh, local food everywhere...paradise. Our other beloved Portland (ME) sure does feel far away, though, so we’d love to hear from anyone who happens to be out this way. I still think of y’all so often and hope everyone is well!” **Ariane Lotti** (farm ’01; advisor) is still working in D.C. for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and, last heard, was “fully immersed in the farm bill reauthorization.” When in Maine last summer for a Chewonki board meeting, she visited **Beth Schiller. Will Morris**, who lives in Colorado, recently attended a



Paddlers celebrated the first five years of Chewonki Camp for Girls

in four beautiful wood-and-canvas canoes on Fourth Debsconeag Lake in October. Left to right: Dot Lamson (EE & OC staffs ’82-’09; GC staff ’10, ’11), Abby Lukensmeyer (GC & OC staffs ’12), and Holly Whitney (GC staff ’09, ’10, ’12; OC staff ’12) in a canoe built by Session I campers last summer; Ryan Linehan (WT staff) in a 1925 Old Town canoe that semester students restored; Chase Willauer-Tobey (BC ’09-’12; Vacation Camp ’07, ’09, ’11, ’12), Tom Willauer-Tobey, and Wyeth Willauer-Tobey (BC ’09; Vacation Camp ’09-’12) in a canoe they helped build during Vacation Camp last April; and Abby Burbank (Girls Camp director) and Lynn Harrison (Girls Camp Advisory Board ’09; advisor) in a canoe built by Session II campers last summer.

research conference in Warsaw and sent this: “There is a lot of interesting work going on to try to use fuels both bio and fossil more cleanly. We’re still currently focused on mercury and acid gas emissions in this country, while Europe is attempting to address CO₂ through increasing use of bio fuels, presenting some significant technical challenges.” ADA-ES, Will’s employer, won a large CO₂ capture project from the U.S. Dept. of Energy and will partner with Southern Colorado, one of the largest utilities in the country, to make it happen. Will relaxes by working on his house, which luckily was spared in last summer’s “horrendous wildfire season.” He enjoyed seeing **Julia O’Hern** (MCS 24) in College Station, TX, several times while he was working at a power plant down there. **Megan Nuttall** writes, “Life is great up in the Whitewater Region of the Ottawa Valley. I’m working full-time as a registered midwife, catching babes in the hospital and homes of the rural, remote, and military women who live out here. We’re still looking for that perfect farm for my flock of sheep, but the hens are loving their new chicken tractor in our backyard in the meantime. Starting a master’s in public health at the Univ. of Victoria in the fall, with a focus on

remote and indigenous women’s health. Three more years of school! Plans to travel to northern Canada and Thailand this year. Miss you all!” **Brian Roberts** says, “After 5 years of helping identify and monitor retail and food-related investments for private equity firm Apollo Management in L.A., I’ve moved to Scottsdale, AZ, to join the corporate office of Sprouts Farmers Market, a natural and organic food retailer with 150 stores in 8 western states. I’m looking forward to helping Sprouts expand nationally, learning more about the (unsettlingly poisonous) wildlife here in Arizona, and attempting to avoid that wildlife on the golf course! Anticipating making it back to Maine and catching up with everyone sometime in the near future.” **Ellie Shepard** writes, “We are still in lovely Queenstown, NZ, and I gave birth to a gorgeous baby girl, Charlotte Naviti Forrest, on 5/9/12. We’re enjoying this new journey!” **Nan Wakefield** has been busy doing digital video preservation for the NY Philharmonic as well as some freelance production for independent documentaries and PBS. She’s “taking a psychology class (and loving it!), and hoping it’ll help me find work that feels more personally meaningful.”



Liz Dyke Barker with husband Ford Barker and Fiona

MCS 24

Spring 2000

Class Agent: Nora Gouge, nfgouge@gmail.com

Julia O'Hern writes that she and **Will Morris** (MCS 23) "managed to coordinate his engineering of an energy plant in Texas and my boat-swabbing schedules so we could actually have dinner together while he was in town. I've been deck-handing on a research boat in the Gulf of Mexico, diving blackwater and installing buoys and loving it! Hopefully, I'm actually graduating this year! I spent a few months earlier in the year observing marine mammals in the Pacific and offshore of South Africa. I also spent a week on safari north of Cape Town. It was totally amazing!" **Liz Tunick** still lives in D.C. and continues to enjoy "the interesting people and proximity to non-urban fun, like camping and good running trails. Working at the National Gallery of Art is great, and I look forward to seeing my second small exhibition installed in September. The biggest excitement is an upcoming trip to Botswana and Zimbabwe—not sure my Northeast bird identifications

will come in handy, but I can't wait to be surrounded by incredible wildlife again!" **Marissa Vahlsing** has been working as a human rights lawyer in Peru for the past year with EarthRights International, focusing primarily on cases involving indigenous communities resisting petroleum extraction on their ancestral lands. Every now and then she has the great joy of coming across a baby sloth in the Amazon.

MCS 25

Fall 2000

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

Charkie Quarcoo organized a terrific alumni service morning and picnic in NYC on 6/16/12. See photo. Alumni from several semesters, along with **Ann Carson** (head of school), met at the Union Settlement Senior Center in East Harlem to make bag lunch meals in assembly-line fashion. "We then all went out in small groups to deliver the meals to elderly folks in nearby housing projects," said Ann. "Very helpful to the organization and meaningful to us. What a wonderful



Ann Carson (left) and some of the alumni who participated in the June service day in NYC. Participants included Catherine LeClair (MCS 5); Nan Wakefield (MCS 23); Charkie Quarcoo (MCS 25); Alex Siebert, Ruthie Gourevitch, Adam Schachner, and Louis Warner-Kamsler (Sem. 46); Ruby Koch-Fienberg, Lizzie Landau, Sasha Stahl, Evelyse Vargas, and Olivia Cameron (Sem. 47); and Isobel Curtis, Marc Foster, Rosie Kissel, Elizabeth O'Connor, Jessie Springer, Paola Idrovo, and Ellie Wachtel (Sem. 48).

way to translate Work Program into an urban setting." **Lucy Van Hook** spoke to the Environmental Issues class in October. Read more under "Notable Visitors to the Neck."

Hayes Wong writes, "I just started my emergency medicine residency at Univ. of Washington in Seattle. I'll be here for the next 4 years (at least) so look me up if are in town!"

MCS 26

Spring 2001

Class Agent: Andrea LaRosa, andreallarosa@gmail.com

Amy Aloe is spending the fall with the Appalachian Mountain Club, "working as a naturalist at Mizpah Hut in NH's White Mts. I'll also be making breakfast and dinner for our guests every few days, so get those boots on and make the 2.7-mile trek up Mt. Pierce for a hot meal. I'd love to see a familiar face!"

MCS 27

Fall 2001

Class Agent: Chris Clark, clizzy@gmail.com

Laura Hartz (BC staff '04) returned to Chewonki for her 10th reunion last June and came back again in August to begin work as a Semester School fellow in Sustainability. Laura majored in English and biology at Hamilton and has a master's in agriculture and environmental policy from Tufts.

MCS 28

Spring 2002

Class Agent: Ellie Stewart, elliestew@gmail.com

MCS 29

Fall 2002

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

Nellie Black still lives in NYC but now works at a venture capital firm in Westchester County. "I get together with a group of Wonks often in NYC." She's been globe-trotting too, visiting New Zealand and attending 9 weddings. "That's after declining 3," she writes. "Tis the season! I was at the Wonk in August, as my family goes every summer to Maine and I always make a point to stop by. It all looks



Chewonki at the Common Ground Fair!

A record number of Chewonki alumni gathered with current semester students and staff at the annual Common Ground Fair in Unity, ME, in September. Willard Morgan posted a message on Facebook asking alumni to gather at a designated time and spot for an informal mini-reunion, and they heeded the call! Chewonki staff had a booth at the three-day fair and enjoyed talking with hundreds of friends who stopped by to say hello. Look for us at Common Ground again next year!

great!” **Emily Guerin** (BC staff ’04) cut her teeth as a journalist at a weekly newspaper in midcoast Maine, looking for investigative and environmental stories wherever she could find them, before moving to Colorado in July to be an intern at *High Country News*. “It’s so nice finally to be reporting on topics I’m really interested in, plus the area is bursting with delicious local fruit—cherries and peaches being my favorites. I make so much pie! Before starting at *HCN*, I took a NOLS instructor course in New Mexico and Arizona. I hiked through the Gila Wilderness just weeks before it blew up in flames, which is, of course, the subject of an article I’m working on. I hope to stay out here as a journalist and NOLS instructor. It seems like a pretty good life.” **Becca Spiro** is also having a western adventure. “In September, I moved from London (where I was finishing my master’s in contemporary art) to Baja, Mexico, where I’m living and working at NOLS. I’m the kitchen and rations manager, which entails supervising three Spanish-speaking women; purchasing, organizing, and packing all the food that goes into the field; and preparing meals for students and instructors. It is a lot of work, but I’m improving my Spanish and learning a lot about the Mexican economy and culture. This summer I’ll be participating in a NOLS instructor course in Lander, WY, and after that, I simply do not know what’s in store, but hope I will be leading trips in exotic places all over the world.” **Hannah Larkin** continues to teach 9th graders at the MATCH charter school in Boston and loves her work. **Sarah Sincere-beaux** has moved to Hartland, VT. “This summer I completed my second internship with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. My job was to give educational programs and handle birds of prey as well as work in the bird rehabilitation department. This fall I’ll enter a master’s program for environmental education at Antioch in Keene, NH. If you are traveling to the area, be sure to let me know; you always have a place to stay.”

MCS 30

Spring 2003

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

MCS 31

Fall 2003

Class Agents: Sarah Kirk, ss Kirk@gmail.com; Ben McGee, benjamin.e.mcgee@gmail.com

Lauren Bangasser is giving urban life a go in Memphis while working hard on a new Farm to School initiative. “I’m one of three farm managers/educators recently hired by the Memphis City schools to build school gardens and get kids more connected with healthy food through experiential, garden-based education. Keeps me busy, but I am loving it!” **Sam Bell-Hart** is living in Austin, TX, working with wood, making furniture, and enjoying the warm weather. **Axie Blundon** graduated from James Madison Univ. with a degree in media arts and design and music industry. After spending his final semester studying media and working with a music promoter in London, he saw a bit of the world busking with his bagpipes. He has temporarily satiated his wanderlust by moving from central Virginia to NYC to pursue music and work as a freelance writer/designer. **Meredith Dryman** has moved to Philadelphia to begin a PhD in clinical psychology at Temple Univ. “I was fortunate to spend a summer afternoon with **Olivia Dooley** on North Haven Island,” says Meredith. “I would love to see any other MCS alumni who are near the Philly area!”

MCS 32

Spring 2004

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

Mimi Gallo just started her first semester in veterinary school. “I think about the Neck so often,” she writes. **Maria McMorro** was an instructor at the Stone Environmental School last spring and led wilderness canoe trips for Darrow School last summer. **Phaelon O’Donnell** is back in Maine to teach in the performing arts department at Waynflete School in Portland. Phaelon studied theater and dance at the Univ. of Maine’s Honors College before receiving an MFA in choreography and dance from Smith College. She recently led a great hip-hop dance workshop at Semester School! “After living and working in China for the last 2



Margaret Ellis Day, June 2, 2012

Welcoming a new season, enthusiastic gardeners of many ages and abilities worked wonders in the perennial beds that Margaret Ellis began. Front row: Don Hudson, Rachel Evans, Richard Evans, Evie Field, Kate Ziminsky. Middle row: John McClellan, Roy and Anne Nakamura, Anne Leslie, Tim Ellis, Phine Ewing, Mary Gene Myer, Margaret Mathis, Ruth Appleyard, Anne Stires, Eben Weislogel, Sierra Morgan, Jan Slater, Jenn Barton, Sara Walbridge, Henry Barber. Back row: Warren Bell, Julia Dalphin, Kieran Hanrahan, Susan Bell, Willard Morgan, Susie Stedman, Joan Fink, L.K. Fink, Eliot Field, Kate Wilkinson. Missing from photo: Patti Mendes

years,” writes **Grace Rumford**, “I have recently moved to NYC to work at Bloomberg LP in their New Energy Finance division. Hope to come for a visit to the Maine coast soon!”

MCS 33

Fall 2004

Class Agents: Bryce Koukopoulos, bkoukopoulos@chewonki.org; Jaz Smith, jasmine.whitney@gmail.com

Ellie Bomstein is hard at work on her master’s at Cornell. She’s studying the economic analysis of food systems. Having finished his studies at Stanford, **Mattias Lan** has come back to Chewonki as Semester School’s first fellow in art. He’s using the other side of his brain to tutor students in math. **Matt Larkin** graduated in June from Wesleyan with a degree in sculpture, then proceeded to worry his parents by hopping freight trains to the West Coast, where he worked in a winery for the summer. He came home for a few months to work in a metalworking shop, but after a 10-day trip to Hong Kong he moved back to Brooklyn to be with his artistic soul mates.

MCS 34

Spring 2005

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

Peter Eustis has moved to Durham, NC, and works at Revolution Bio-

based Lubricants, a distributor of environmentally friendly lubricants and cleaning products for a wide-range of applications. **Sarah Smith** signed the Chewonki guest book on 2/19/2012 this way: “So happy to see Chewonki’s positive growth and development. Have had a wonderful weekend visiting my dear friend **Bryce Koukopoulos** (MCS 33)! We searched for porcupines to no avail. Hope to be back soon!”

MCS 35

Fall 2005

Class Agent: Cameron McKnight, faithcameronmcknight@yahoo.com

Becca Abuza (WT ’01-’05; BC staff ’07; GC staff ’08-’11), a graduate of College of the Atlantic, has been training COA’s orientation trip leaders for the past 2 summers and leading an Allagash trip for first-year students. Last summer she also spent time “in the High Sierras in Yosemite, working on amphibian surveys with the Park Service. We backpacked on- and off-trail between alpine meadows and lakes. Living and working between 8,000 and 12,000 ft. was fantastic.” **Amanda Warren** (farm ’06) is a head resident at Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport, ME, an all-girls science and leadership semester school. “I’m so excited to spend the year with a group of talented young women scientists!” she says. “I couldn’t be happier to be living on the rocky coast again!”



MCS 37 and 38 alumni returned to Chewonki June 8-10 to celebrate their 5th reunion. They ate, drank, and made merry—and split wood, did farm chores, took a geology tour, paddled, gathered 'round the campfire, took a bird walk, and traded stories, old and new. Shown here: Laura Coyne, Charlotte Woolf, Jack McKean, Julia Munson, Hamish Haddow, Madeleine Schwartz, Sue West (faculty), Franklin Jacoby, Halie Morrell, Olivia Woollam, Hannah Colbert, Meg Lundy, Natalie Friedman, Willard Morgan (president), Will Thompson, and Amy Rogers (faculty).

MCS 36

Spring 2006

Class Agents: Teddy Newmyer, tnewmyer@wesleyan.edu; Chelsea Pompadur, cpompadur@gmail.com

Mary Cox had a great perch for watching the fall elections: she was "still working at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, trying to hold the Senate. Post-election, I'm going to do some TBD adventuring and then hope to go to grad school for public policy in fall '13." **Marian Messing** graduated from Princeton in '11, having majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with certificates in Arabic and Near Eastern studies. A recipient of Princeton's Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative fellowship, which provides full tuition for a master's in public affairs at the Wilson School and salary support for 2 years of service in the federal government, Marian spent the next year at Princeton studying. She now resides in D.C., where she's working in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Rule of Law and Detainee Policy on human rights and rule-of-law development in U.S. government security cooperation activities. She hopes to do rotations on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and at a U.S. embassy in the Middle East before returning to Princeton to complete her master's.

After graduation, **Chelsea**

Pompadur joined the workforce for several months and then traveled to New Zealand, Australia, Tibet, China, and Hong Kong. She moved to London in June and worked for NBC during the Olympics, which she calls "a fantastic experience. Starting in September I will be a City Year London corps member, working as a tutor and mentor in a school that serves underprivileged kids. I'm looking forward to the year ahead!" **Stephanie Rendall** and Clark Alexander Heijbroek were married on 6/11/12 on the highest point in Kralendijk, Bonaire (Dutch Caribbean), surrounded by close family. They now live in Bonaire and are planting a fruiting forest and native herb garden and building a rainwater collection system.

MCS 37

Fall 2006

Class Agent: Lizzy Tarr, lizzy.tarr@gmail.com

Hannah Colbert, Natalie Friedman, and Will Thompson (Timberline '04) made it back to Chewonki for their 5th reunion last June. See reunion photo.

MCS 38

Spring 2007

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

Several MCS 38ers were on the Neck in June for their 5th reunion. See photo. **Evan Deutsch** presented his architecture senior thesis project and environmental studies senior work at Middlebury last spring (he aims to graduate in Feb. '13). "For our environmental class, we did a comprehensive study of the effects of Tropical Storm Irene on Vermont citizens from a sociological, geological, economic, and political perspective. This summer I've been working as an intern at Massport's Environmental Affairs Dept. at Logan Airport in Boston. I've analyzed the in-flight and airside recycling systems for domestic airlines at Logan to help create a more efficient and cost-effective system." Last winter, a busy **Liddy Hepner** wrote, "I'm on track to graduate and am very excited. I've applied to vet schools and so far have gotten into Penn, was wait-listed at Cornell, and have an interview at Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. This summer, as a graduation present, my mom is taking me to Turkey and the Greek Isles for 10 days." **Franklin Jacoby** spent spring break with his biology class in Costa Rica. He wrote his senior thesis at College of the Atlantic about a canoe trip he once took.

Megan Lundy graduated from Penn State and plans to go to medical school after taking a year off "either to continue my research in infectious disease or work at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia." At college she kept busy between the ski club and fundraising for the Penn State Dance Marathon, which raises money for kids with cancer. **Ailsa McCulluch** is a staff resident at Coastal Studies for Girls in Freeport, ME, where she sees a lot of **Amanda Warren** (MCS 35; farm '06), also a staff resident.

Halie Morrell graduated from College of the Atlantic and wrote, "Though I'm very sad to leave this great school, I am ready for new adventures." Her senior project was the natural and human history of a property owned by COA. **Julia Munson** (GC staff '11, '12) reports, "After graduating from Oberlin, I spent the summer working with **Loryn Kipp** [see MCS 9] in the kitchen of Chewonki Camp for Girls (several other semester alums were also at camp). This fall, I'm moving to Tucson, AZ (where I spent last fall on the Earlham College Border

Studies Program) to work with Tohono O'odham Community Action through FoodCorps."

MCS 39

Fall 2007

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

Rachel Bristol is a senior at Hamilton, majoring in environmental studies and art. "I'm Student Assembly President and a DJ for Hamilton College Radio. In August, I led a canoe trip in the Adirondacks for the pre-orientation wilderness program, which reminds me so much of Chewonki! My younger brother, **Benjamin** [Sem. 47], was at Semester School last fall and I enjoyed hearing that the spirit is still the same!" **Sarah Consagra** recently visited Chewonki with two friends from Middlebury, where she's a senior. **Cammie Taylor** graduated from Warren Wilson College with a BS in environmental studies and a concentration in sustainable agriculture. Soon after, she left for a 3-month farm internship at the Spannoccchia Foundation near Siena, Italy. She had her eye on a cow/goat dairy and creamery in the Italian Alps bordering Switzerland for her next stint of work.

MCS 40

Spring 2008

Class Agents: Rachel Madding, rmadding@middlebury.edu; Nick McLeod, namcleod@syr.edu

Catch up with the adventures of Middlebury student **Rachel Madding** by reading her blogs about Uganda (<http://globemeditatmid.wordpress.com>) and Chile (cheddercheesewedge.wordpress.com). **Douglas Gledhill**, another Middlebury student, is spending the fall in Kunming, China. "I'm an



Grady Hogan and Lila Wilmerding

international politics and economics major and am highly involved in the Model UN, Chinese Club, and service organizations on campus.” He plans to spend the spring in Niteroi, Brazil. **Grady Hogan** and **Lila Wilmerding** (see photo), both at Bates, were among the throng of Chewonki revelers at the Common Ground Fair in September.

MCS 41

Fall 2008

Class Agent: Kevin Coleman,
colemankj@gmail.com

MCS 42

Spring 2009

Class Agent: Carly Blumenfeld,
cnblumenfeld@gmail.com

Lyla Amini (farm '10) is passionate about traditional canoes. She writes from Minnesota: “My back aches, and my feet throb. I’ve spent nearly all day...stooped over countless wood canvas canoes, pondering the puzzle of damages that can plague these beautiful boats; so many characteristics of these canoes can be damaged, and it’s my job to fix them. I love this craft; its history is immensely rich, and I find much joy in restoring these pieces of fine craftsmanship and being able to take them out on the water again. I have come to truly value the work I do with my hands, and am proud to be part of an effort that preserves and continues one particular strain of knowledge and methods of wooden boat building. My interest in wood-working began at Chewonki, with having access to the wood shop while I was a student. Since then, it has blossomed and grown to its current form: I am constructing an E. M. White guide canoe of my own.”

Semester 43

Fall 2009

Class Agent: Sara Clark,
saraclark146@msn.com

Bowdoin student **Matthew Goodrich** made his first visit back to Chewonki last April. **Kieran Hanrahan** came back to Chewonki on Margaret Ellis Day to help prepare the gardens for summer. He’s enjoying his studies at Reed College. **Patrick Hilbert** spent the summer working in West Glacier, MT, as a fishing and rafting guide. He’s now at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Semester 44

Spring 2010

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

Several 44ers and **Aidan Berkey** (Sem. 45) returned to Chewonki on June 2 to honor the life of **Kathryn Currier**. See photo and story. After the weekend, **Adriana Walsh** wrote, “Each time I return to Chewonki, I find myself surrounded by thoughtful people who really deeply care about those around them, and it’s one of the best feelings I can imagine. I feel so lucky to be a part of this incredible community, within Semester 44 and Chewonki in general.” **Chris Broecker** is pursuing a double major in environmental studies and geology at Emory, where he also serves on the judicial board. He’s been competing on the collegiate climbing circuit across the Southeast. He spent last summer taking a climate change ecology course at Highlands Biological Station in North Carolina. “I’ve been involved in field work, including the change of habitats of wildlife and their migration patterns as a result of climate change and the analysis of specific fauna that is being considered for artificial migration.” Fieldwork took Chris from Great Smoky Mountains N.P. to the Appalachians of north Georgia. In July he went west to take a wilderness EMT course with **Callum McCulloch**. Afterward they enjoyed a week of hiking, climbing, and camping in Yosemite. **Hannah Perkins** spent part of her gap year working at the Spannocchia Foundation’s beautiful organic farm near Siena, Italy, and enjoyed the fall semester in Indonesia with Where There Be Dragons. **Norah Young**, who’s at the Univ. of Maine, and **Delger Erdenesanaa**, who’s at Bowdoin, visited Chewonki last April.

Semester 45

Fall 2010

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

Lee Barker ran into **Thea Pierce** in Wyoming, and they had a great time catching up. Lee spent the summer working for the National Park Service in law enforcement.

A Bench Made by and for Friends

In early June, alumni of Semester 44 and one from 45 gathered at Chewonki to honor the life of Kathryn Currier (Sem. 44), who died last December. Kathryn’s friends, advisor Megan Phillips, and woodworker Ken Wise built a beautiful bench for two for Spartina, a peaceful spot on the northwest side of the Neck. Afterward they gathered in the workshop at the farm for a remembrance, and on Sunday they carried the bench out to Spartina and chose a spot for it overlooking the salt marsh. As Aidan Berkey (Sem. 45) quietly recited a poem, the group gathered in a loose circle holding hands. The plaque on Kathryn’s bench includes some of her own words: “What all could we see if we opened ourselves up to the world and paid attention to our surroundings?”



Crouching: Suhas Vijaykumar, Lindsey Sinicki, Emily Ockert, and Megan Phillips. Standing: Charlotte Allyn, Degi Erdenesanaa, Willard Morgan, Aidan Berkey, Kasey Jones, Deirdre Shea, Hannah Perkins, Jessica Nichols, Melissa Mooradian, and Adriana Walsh.

Hannah Cabot and **Jake Stamell** (Torngat '11) stopped by in August on their way to North Haven. Jake is at Penn, studying economics and business in the Wharton School.

Ben Clark (BC staff '12) is at Middlebury. **Walker Conyngham** masterminded a new composting project at Thacher School and spent his break volunteering in Yellowstone for the Buffalo Field Campaign, an effort to protect wild buffalo from slaughter. **Tyler Deane-Krantz** visited Chewonki with his father, **Richard Deane-Krantz** (Semester School Advisory Committee), last spring. **Francesca Gentile** (farm '12) dropped off her cousin, **Madeline Miller**, at the start of Sem. 48. **Francesca** and **Maggie St. Jean** appear in a film about the effort to ban bottled water in Concord, MA. The ban passed last April, and the film was headed to the Sundance Film Festival! **Sarah Hemphill** went to Ultimate

Frisbee Youth club nationals last summer when she wasn’t working at a gluten-free bakery in Portland, ME. **Leila Rezvani** spent 6 weeks of her summer in Thailand. **Eloise Schultz** (GC staff '11, '12) is at College of the Atlantic. Last April she and **Corey Miller** and **Anna Schwab** joined admissions director **Leah Boch** in NYC at a get-together at Anna’s home for students considering Semester School. **Ben Semmes** made a 3-week trek through Ladakh, India, and has been writing HTML and copy as an advertising intern. He’s preparing for a gap year of WWOOFing and world travel. **Noah Stone** (BC '03-'05; Maine Island Camp '06; Mariners '08; Ultra Light Hiking '09; BC staff '11, '12) is hiking the Appalachian Trail this fall. He’s discovered a love for throwing pottery! **Alana Thurston** worked over the summer for a vegetarian fast-food restaurant

that supports Massachusetts farms. **Katherine Wasynczuk** represented the U.S. in the International 420 Sailing World Championship in Austria last summer.

Semester 46

Spring 2011

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

Ethan Chamberlain made school history when his baseball team finished second in the state. He's trekked to NYC and Boston for Chewonki mini-reunions. **Jennifer Cutler** (Maine Coast Kayak '09) has been accepted in the cadet wing and is now considered a "4th degree" (aka "doolie") after learning the ins and outs of Air Force life at Basic Cadet Training. **Ruthie Gourevitch** is a freshman at Brown. She spent part of last year trying to get her high school to establish a composting program. Shut down there, she went out to restaurants in her town (Hastings, NY) and signed up 11 that were willing to compost, in coordination with the town, which picks up the compost. **Niall Griffin** (BC '05-'08; Umbagog '09) worked in the geology department at the Field Museum of Natural History last summer and started an afternoon Frisbee game among his fellow interns. **Margot Hughan** worked in Oregon for 6 weeks last summer, camping and doing conservation work as part of the Northwest Youth Corps. **Maya Johnson** was a summer PR intern at Citybuzz/Vidicom. **Paul Kendall** climbed Mts. Adams, St. Helens, Baker, and Olympus during a mountaineering trip in Washington. **Katie Kibler** worked as a housekeeper at her aunt and uncle's B&B in Texas for 6 weeks. **Xochi Maberry-Gaulke** traveled to Phoenix, AZ, with her church to learn about unjust treatment of immigrants under recent Arizona law. She writes that what she observed was disturbing and eye-opening. **Clarke Rudick** did a 2-month summer internship at Carolina Nitsch Contemporary Art in NYC and is now a freshman at Hamilton. **Adam Schachner** and **Louis Warner-Kamsler** joined other alumni to talk about Chewonki with prospective students in NYC last April. **Alex Siebert** helped maintain the Mill

River Park in Stamford, CT, last summer, and also spent 2 weeks hiking in Switzerland with his family. He's now at Wesleyan. **Elsie Thompson** is spending a gap year mentoring students at Gompers Middle School in South L.A. with City Year. **Shauna Yuan** finally got her driving permit!

Semester 47

Fall 2011

Class Agents: Francesca Governali, francesca@maine.rr.com; Paige Williams, paigewilliams@westminster.net

Greg Berube spent the summer working on his Eagle Scout project: building bat nurseries to be placed at a local farm. He's continuing his solo in the woods of Massachusetts.

Ben Bristol is working on his table tennis game, trying to beat "Majora's mask," and aspiring to grow a beard by December. Last summer, **Paige Buchanan** and **Claire Manny** ventured to Ireland for a month-long WWOOFing adventure. They stayed in a small caravan on a 1-acre vegetable farm. "With three poly tunnels and several outside beds, this farm grew garlic, onions, lettuces, beet root, peas, tomatoes, rocket, broccoli, tomatoes, and the occasional strawberry. Spending only 6 to 8 hours on the farm each day, we were able to explore the lush countryside during walks and hikes in our free time. Ending with a 2-night stay in



Ursa Beckford



Marjo Whittlesey (left) with Semester 48ers Miranda Mahmoud, Julia Dornbush, Eva Sherman, Kailina Mills, and Marlo Stein

Dublin, we were thrilled with how much we'd seen and learned."

Olivia Cameron found returning to her high school a bit rough after the semester but then realized she could do some neat stuff there, so worked with the assistant head to start a garden. She's looking forward to joining the environmental club. **Harper Estey** spent 4 weeks doing community service in Peru, where he built an artisans' market with native villagers. **Francesca Governali** raised two goats last summer and worked for 2 weeks at Saltmarsh Farm. **Dani Hupper** spent the summer studying sea turtles off the Georgia coast and working on trail maintenance in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan. For the school year, she's planning to work for Riverdale's Sustainability Club, learn to play harmonica, and continue to find excuses to visit Maine. **Maggie (MJ) Johnson** spent a month in Nicaragua last summer and put solar panels on a school in a small town where electricity was almost unheard of. She worked at other schools too, building gray-water septic tanks and completing other service projects, and also surfed and did a home stay. Later she taught sailing in Frenchman Bay at the Winter Harbor Yacht Club and traveled out west with her family. In April, **Ruby Koch-Fienberg** joined other alumni to discuss Semester School with interested high-school students in NYC. **Lizzie Landau** worked at a farm near her home in New Jersey last summer. **Nick Wray** went to Henley to row for his school in the

Henley Royal Regatta and, last heard, was training in hopes of rowing at the Head of the Charles in October. He enjoys his work for Friends of Acadia on the youth technology team, working to incorporate technology into the park and promote stewardship through technology. **Sasha Stahl** was a counselor at her camp in Canada last summer.

Semester 48

Spring 2012

Class Agents: Chris Coughlin, cdcoughlin@gmail.com; Miranda Mahmoud, miranda.mahmoud@gmail.com; Madeline Miller, livelaughluv094@gmail.com; Elizabeth O'Connor, oconnore@gfacademy.org

Ursa Beckford took his bagpipes to Scotland last summer and competed at the largest Highland games there, the Cowal Highland Gathering. Competing against professional pipers, Ursa dazzled the judges and won three trophies! He only got to enjoy them for one night, but his name was engraved on each for posterity. See photo. **Julia Dornbush**, **Miranda Mahmoud**, **Kailina Mills**, **Eva Sherman**, and **Marlo Stein** had fun catching up with **Marjo Whittlesey** (faculty '07-'12) in September at the Common Ground Fair. See photo. **Jess Dorsky** was a camp counselor at a farm last summer and enjoyed sharing his new knowledge of sustainability and local foods. **Kat Harling** spent most of last summer in Kunming, China, working at a school for children of migrant



David Lake (right) with waterfront and boatshop manager Scott Peterson (MCS 25; OC & WT staffs '08)

workers. "Migrants attempting to enter major Chinese cities are unable to apply for jobs, residency, or licenses without permission from the government," writes Kat. "Without it they are forced to live on the margins of the city and take up low-paying jobs. Oftentimes they abandon their children because they simply cannot afford to raise them, and schools like De Xin open their doors to the vast number of abandoned migrant children left on the outskirts of cities." Back home, Kat and some friends began a campaign called HelpDeXin "to continue to give these strong-spirited children educational opportunities." Learn more at www.helpdexin.org. **Miranda Mahmoud** won a special scholarship from College of the Atlantic for its Farm to Fork summer experience, which **Abigail Taubman** (Sem. 47) was also planning to pursue. **Ellie Wachtel** worked for Common Cause in D.C. last summer and also had an organic farming adventure in Mexico with **Ella Driscoll** (Sem. 47).

SEMESTER FACULTY & STAFF

See the 2000s for a photo of **Cory Cramer** (fellow, MCS 39-40) and his bride, Kate Fox. **Meadow Linn** (faculty '01-'04) and her mother have coauthored *The Mystic Cookbook*, due out this fall. "It's not a traditional cookbook," says Meadow. "It's more a recipe book for eating and living well by connecting with your meals on a soul level." Meadow is a chef and a writer living in California. **Erin Quinn** (faculty '00, '01) is knitting for a good reason! Read more under MCS 13. **Marjo Whittlesey** (faculty '07-'12) is working part-time at

North Yarmouth Academy (Maine), helping launch their French mastery program at the middle-school level. "When not teaching, I'm working on my master's thesis, a study of contemporary French identity in Maine as portrayed through theater. My new life in the city is full of theater, music, and dance, but I still miss my students and quiet walks to Ideal Point!"

NOTABLE VISITORS TO THE NECK

Stephen Kellert (advisor, father of **Emily Kellert** (MCS '06) and a professor of social ecology and senior research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, spoke to semester students, faculty, staff, and trustees on 5/18/12. His talk focused on the relationship between humans and nature and the benefits of "biophilic" design and development rooted in environmental conservation and sustainable practices. **David Lake**, a local craftsman and boat-builder who in '86 brought to Chewonki the design for the first boat that Boatbuilders expeditioners built, came by last summer to give us the original plans for the boat—a North Greenland kayak. David also provided the design for the first boat that the Ospreys, the oldest boys campers, built. See photo. **Lucy Van Hook** (MCS 25) of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association spoke to Semester School's Environmental Issues class on 10/3/12. Lucy works with policy makers at the state, regional, and federal level to create policies to support sustainable fisheries in the Gulf.

Two Parents Reflect on—and Radiate—Chewonki

Susan and Hank Bristol, parents of Rachel (MCS 39) and Benjamin (Semester 47), sent Chewonki this thoughtful, and much appreciated, letter last spring.

We feel like a "Chewonki Family," not just as parents of two alumni (with an affection for and happy memories of a place) but also as two people continually influenced by the place. We have not only watched our children grow in unimaginable ways but we have let them influence our thinking and our living. Chewonki has infiltrated our home in terms of how we think and very specifically, what we do. We are grateful to Princeton Day School, a member school of Chewonki, for allowing our kids to attend and then supporting them as they returned to school. We also appreciate the work of the school's sustainability coordinator, Liz Cutler, who is doing similarly good work here in New Jersey.

So what practices can we attribute to Chewonki?

- Gardening and actually producing *food* in our own garden
- Composting and consciously evaluating our trash and recyclables
- Professional education and certifications (LEED AP Certification in Green Design for SPB Architecture LLC, Susan's firm)
- Supporting local agriculture and farmers markets
- Incorporating sustainability into our work and teaching

These are the reasons we believe that every child should have a Chewonki experience:

- Community living and working
- Site-specific learning
- Academic excellence
- Creative expression
- Experiencing and studying environmental systems
- Respect for the earth and creation
- Farm productivity and caring for plants and animals
- Contributing to long-range sustainability plans

Rachel will be graduating from Hamilton in 2013 with majors in environmental studies (policy emphasis) and fine art. She's been an enthusiastic Adirondack Adventure Leader during freshman orientation '11 and '12. Ben will be applying to college this fall. Thank you for enhancing our lives with the Chewonki experience!

Susan and Hank Bristol

IN MEMORIAM

Eric Tietze (BC staff '07), age 31, died on July 12, 2012, in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. Eric fell 500 feet off the Cathedral Traverse in the Teton Range while hiking with two friends and his fiancée, Zinnia Wilson (MCS 21; WT '97-'98; WT staff '99-'02, '05). A 2003 graduate of Williams College, Eric was a long-time Bridger-Teton National Forest employee and had worked for 10 seasons on a trail crew in the forest. A few days after his death, his family, fellow Forest Service crew members, and those friends able to be in attendance celebrated his life under a starlit sky around a blazing bonfire in the Wyoming woods and mountains that Eric loved so much.

Former Chewonki president Don Hudson knew Eric well. "His time at Chewonki was short, yet he left a large impression. Eric was loved and appreciated in all the wide circles in which he lived."

Eric is survived by Zinnia; parents Chris and Becky Tietze; siblings Johanna (BC staff '05) and Niels; and a wide circle of devoted friends, including many from Chewonki.

Ducklings in the Limelight

Do you know the Chewonki Ducklings? These are the little ones who enjoy a summer program for staff children not yet of camp age. On July 30, the Ducklings transformed the barn at Saltmarsh Farm into a theater with lights and curtain and entertained us all with their production of *Click, Click, Moo: Cows That Type*. As teacher Vicky Hughes read the picture book of the same name, first Farmer Brown and then a series of his livestock took the stage, breathing life into this tale of a working farm. The cast sparkled, and the play was a smashing success. Kudos to the Ducklings and many thanks to Miss Vicky and summer staffers Nick McLeod and Emily McMillan for a great afternoon of summer theater!



Front row: Isabelle Eaton and Alexa Peck. Back row: Ema Mareckova, Sawyer Linehan, Sierra Morgan, and Gavin Peck



A Polar Bear Lunch

Chewonki alumni studying at Bowdoin enjoyed sharing lunch last April with other members of the Chewonki community. Back row: Wylie Mitchell (Semester School advisor), Matthew Goodrich (Sem. 43), Julie Piñero (MCS 41), Joshua Burger-Caplan (BC '03-'06; Umbagog '07; George River '08; BC staff '10), Ann Carson (head of school), Willard Morgan (president). Front row: Lizzy Tarr (MCS 37), Leah Boch (admissions director), Delger Erdenesanna (Sem. 44; farm '10).

STEP IT UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Why We Need to Save the Bees

LAURA HARTZ,
SUSTAINABILITY FELLOW

Bees are incredibly important participants in our food system. Without their pollination services—valued at \$15 billion annually—many of our favorite fruits, vegetables, and nuts would not develop from flowers into comestibles. The USDA estimates that about a third of our diet benefits from bee pollination. Squashes, melons, and almonds depend almost exclusively on pollination by bees. Yet since 2006, many bee colonies in the United States have experienced colony collapse disorder (CCD)—the

unexpected loss of some or all of the population in a hive.

Many potential sources of CCD have been hypothesized—Is it cell phones? A bacterial infection? Stress?—but recent data point to one particular culprit: neonicotinoid pesticides. Neonicotinoids are a class of systemic pesticides that were developed in the mid-1990s because they were less toxic to birds and other wildlife than previous pesticides were. Crops that are treated with systemic pesticides incorporate the pesticidal traits into their flesh as they grow. Conventional sunflowers, corn, and canola seeds are commonly coated with neonicotinoids. A honey bee passing through a

sunflower field may pick up neonicotinoid-bearing pollen, nectar, or dust. Even the soil retains neonicotinoid dust, from applications up to two years earlier. Fruit and nut orchards are routinely sprayed with neonicotinoids.

Usually only small amounts of pesticide make it into the pollen or nectar. These sublethal doses are not enough to kill a bee outright, yet new data suggest they are enough to disorient a bee, impairing its memory and navigational ability, and ultimately preventing its return to the hive. Worse yet, if a bee does return to the hive with contaminated pollen or nectar, it spreads the damage, resulting in even higher population losses and increasing the risk of CCD.

What can you do? Fortunately, standards set by the National Organic Standards Board prohibit the use of neonicotinoids on certified organic crops. In purchasing certified organic produce and grains, you can help protect bees by avoiding the application of the

neonicotinoids in the first place. Also, carefully read the packaging of your lawn and garden treatments and consider eliminating, or at least reducing, their application. Some of these products contain neonicotinoids and have higher suggested application rates—potentially bee-lethal doses—than do agricultural pesticides. The USDA also suggests planting bee-friendly plants to enhance bees' resilience to CCD. Good options include foxglove, red clover, bee balm, and other plants native to your region; the Internet can provide numerous other suggestions.

The bottom line: We need bees! If we want to ensure the diversity, and thus nutritional value, of our food system, we need to protect them.





Coming Home to New England

STEVE KERCHNER

A little over a year ago, our 28-foot yellow Penske moving truck followed closely by a Subaru Forester in tow lumbered from Colorado to Maine, passing through 10 states and racking up 2,300 miles. It had been exactly 30 years since I had last left my New England homeland fresh from Middlebury College and headed to my first adventure in teaching at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. And now I was beginning a new adventure, back in New England again, teaching at Chewonki Semester School.

The summer of 2011 was dry as a bone in the West, but as Ann and I rolled onto Chewonki Neck we were warmly greeted by light rain and 10 campers who quickly and enthusiastically unloaded our worldly possessions into our new home, Chateau. The 24 hands made the move seem effortless, and in a mere four hours our things fell perfectly into our new home. Ken Wise, a woodworker extraordinaire who was working on a Chateau improvement project at the time, volunteered to be my personal Maine newcomer guide and promised me a lesson a day on the do's and don'ts for folks "from away." His tutorial that first day was an explanation of the common saying "up to camp," while his homework assignment was to "get a Maine gazetteer." Anxious to explore our new state, we reached out to any and all for recommendations of places to visit and within several hours had a long list of Maine "must sees."

We left the following day for a grand circumnavigation of Maine. Westward we went to Weld for a day of mountain biking in Mt. Blue State Park followed by a dip in Webb Lake. Next we traveled up the famous Kennebec River to Moosehead Lake, reading along the way of this storied waterway, and imagining its future free from dams and full of salmon. The following day we were introduced to logging as we drove the Golden Road on our way to Chewonki Big Eddy Campground and the fine hospitality of caretakers Susan



and Mark Adams. Being whitewater paddlers, we jumped into an empty canoe for an exciting run through Big Eddy Rapid on our way down past Ambagesus Falls to Horserace Brook and finished the day with a satisfying hike to Blueberry Ledges—a place that lived up to its name. On Greg Shute's recommendation, we hiked Katahdin the next day, including the Knife's Edge. On the 5,267-foot summit, we snacked and reminisced about our Colorado home situated at 6,600 feet. We had traveled quite a distance in a week, yet the summit

felt strangely like Colorado.

Over the past year we have continued to discover more adventure in Maine. With semester students we have snowshoed into Little Holbrook Pond, cross-country skied into Fourth Debsconeag Lake, hiked to the top of Cadillac Mountain, and visited Monhegan Island. On school breaks we have skied the Maine Huts and Trails system surrounding Flagstaff Lake, mountain biked through Bradbury Mountain State Park, and played on the sandy beaches at Morse Mountain and Popham Beach State Park. On our road bikes we have covered nearly 700 miles from Blue Hill to Merrymeeting Bay. On the ocean we have paddled sea kayaks through Muscongus Bay and Merchant's Row, and in June I finally made the five-day journey down the Allagash in the company of Chewonki trustee Gordy Hall.

Over the past 12 months I've thought a lot about coming home to New England. I can say that Maine has more in common with Colorado than I imagined. Both states share a natural beauty and diversity of life that has fed my soul. Their people also share a special spirit of adventure and individualism. More exploration certainly lies ahead, and I am both inspired and thankful for the warm embrace of Mainers, native and non-native, in the coming home of a fellow New Englander. It feels good to be home. ■

Steve Kerchner teaches math at Chewonki Semester School. His wife, Ann Carson, is head of school.



485 Chewonki Neck Road
Wiscasset, Maine 04578-4822
(207) 882-7323

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lewiston, ME
Permit #82



Chewonki Milk Is Back!

As anyone who visited us in the past year knows all too well, Chewonki milk and yogurt have been conspicuously missing from the dining hall. When food-safety regulations deemed our milk-pasteurization facilities out of date, we had no choice but to dry off our cow and revamp our approach. A call went out to raise \$20,400 to construct a new milking parlor, update the existing milk-filtering room, and build a new dairy-processing facility in the Wallace Center.

In August, director of development Lucy Hull announced with delight that we had raised the funds. Thanks to several generous donors, many of them Semester 45 and 46 students and parents, Chewonki milk and yogurt are back! What's more, the new facilities will allow us to expand our dairy system to two cows, ensuring a year-round milk supply for our community and providing increased educational opportunities. Farmer Megan Phillips, shown here filling milk bottles, is ecstatic.

Everyone at Chewonki missed the milk—and the milking. To the many people who helped us restore this cornerstone of our production- and education-focused farm, *thank you!* The next time you're at Chewonki, please be sure to open the dining hall refrigerator and take a peek at all those thick glass bottles topped with cream. Then, pour yourself a glass and enjoy some cold, delicious, nutritious Chewonki milk.



DANIEL CASADO PHOTO

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