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Maine Coast Semester Camp Chewonki Wilderness Trips for All Ages Outdoor Classroom for Schools Traveling Natural History Programs Pathways to a Sustainable Future

#### Cover photo by Leah Titcomb

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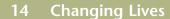
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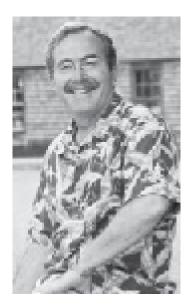
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#### On Woodpeckers and Wilderness

n extended family of Pileated Woodpeckers has been hammering away at the trees in our woods for over twenty years. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly they can render an ant-infested tree into a pile of sawdust. The 40-foot trunk of a white birch—all that is left of this elegant sentry at the bottom of the hill—is perforated by fist-sized holes. There is not much more wood for the carpenter ants to mine—no more room left to expand their galleries—and what remains of this trunk now appears to be serving as nothing more than a feeding station for the woodpeckers. Late this winter a fresh hole and nesting cavity showed up in a white pine in another corner of the woods. The work is the same for the Pileated Woodpecker year in and year out. The neighborhood hasn't changed either, though the specific details of day-to-day living have varied greatly for these birds over the past two decades.

The life and times of Chewonki are much the same too. Young people have been coming to camp for nearly a century, and they have been packing a bedroll or stuffing their sleeping bag for a trip into the woods for just as long. Some of the equipment is the same or nearly so—pots and pans—and some is radically different—sleeping bags and packs. Out into the woods, down the rivers, and along the coast we go, in search of adventure and a better understanding of the wide world around us.

The emphasis on wilderness travel and exploration has been so important an activity at Chewonki for all of this time that it became a central and organizing objective for the advisory committee charged with expanding girls programs. When we learned of the opportunity at Fourth Debsconeag Lake in the heart of Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness, suddenly the process moved from the theoretical to the very real possibility of opening the doors of Camp Chewonki for Girls in a spectacular wilderness setting. So, we're pitching camp and making a home in a new corner of Maine. It will be a red-letter date in our history, yet the activities will be as familiar and comfortable as an old wool sweater!

Our "Sheep to Shawl" program, featured in this issue, is another example of the sort of teaching and learning that have been as consistent at Chewonki as the ringing of the bell at mealtime. The same sorts of fundamental lessons about using and managing natural resources are captured in new building projects like "The Ritz" on the Lower Field. Water conservation has been a mantra here for decades. The spaces may be new, and they may even shift position on the land-scape, but the goal of reducing the footprint of our human activity on the land and water of Chewonki Neck has never changed.

Maine's first "green" dining facility is becoming greener still with lots of exciting changes and improvements. Nevertheless, it is anchored by the unchanged facade of the Barn.

There is much in the course of our lives here at Chewonki that is changing—new buildings, new programs, and even a new camp. The mission and philosophy that shape our educational experiences are sound. The important lessons about life, communities, and the natural world that we learn along the trail and in the classroom in 2008 are much the same as those learned in 1915. The more things change, the more they stay the same, as the old saw goes!

Don Hudson

#### News from the Neck



Photo by Jeremy D'Entremont, www.lighthouse.cc



#### To the Lighthouse

he first thing we'll do is establish a campsite," said Chewonki president Don Hudson after signing the license for Squirrel Point Light. Squirrel Point is less than a day's paddle from Chewonki's waterfront and will be a tremendous asset for trippers, particularly given the declining trend in public access to Maine islands. The campsite will ultimately be part of the 325-mile-long Maine Island Trail.

Automated in 1979, the light remains an active navigation aid. The buildings are not open to the public, but the grounds are, from a trail at the end of Bald Head Road in Arrowsic. "The site is gorgeous and well worth the 10-minute walk through the woods to get there," says Don.

Chewonki will work closely with the local group Citizens for Squirrel Point to determine what work will be necessary to maintain the buildings. For now, ownership of the property remains with the Coast Guard. If Chewonki eventually decides it has enough information and support to petition for ownership, it will do so. "In the meantime," says Don, "we will try to be good caretakers and stewards of the place."

#### **Chewonki Board Adopts Ambitious** Carbon Reduction Measures

t its winter meeting in Boston, Chewonki's 27member Board of Trustees unanimously adopted an ambitious goal: to reduce Chewonki's baseline 2005–2006 levels of carbon emissions 10 percent by 2010; 20 percent by 2015; and 80 percent by 2050.

"Chewonki's campus already provides an excellent example of how long-term thinking and investments in insulation, water conservation, and alternative lighting and heating methods can pay off," said board president Josh Marvil. "The latest move by our board is a formal statement of our continued commitment to carbon emission reductions in the face of imminent climate change. The targets also provide a tool to guide decision

making as it pertains to operations and our 400-acre campus."

The effort to adopt formal standards has been the focus of Chewonki's sustainability coordinator, Peter Arnold, and Maine Coast Semester head of school, Willard Morgan. The project was propelled in May 2007 when a group of MCS students presented the findings of Chewonki's first-ever carbon emission inventory to the staff and board and made a recommendation to further reduce emissions.

Chewonki will resist the popular path of organizations that buy offsets as a way to reduce their carbon emissions numbers. "Instead. we are proposing real on-theground reductions, which force us to scrutinize our behavior and to

make hard decisions about our operations. Buying carbon offsets can lead to a green-wash effect," said Willard. For this same reason, Chewonki will not claim a goal of carbon neutrality, but instead will pursue a schedule of ambitious carbon emission reductions.

The board's adoption of the carbon reduction goals opens the doorway for the next steps. Willard and Peter are now preparing a spreadsheet for the Finance Committee that will include actions Chewonki can take, their costs, and the CO<sub>2</sub> reductions they will yield. "This list is a starting point that will give board members a chance to understand the costs and benefits of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions," said Peter.

#### **New Curriculum Helps Promote Clean Water**

hanks to a collaboration between Chewonki and the Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA) in Damariscotta, a new teaching tool is available online and free of charge. The 29-page "Clean Water Activities Module" consists of hands-on activities for upper-elementary and middle-school students in science classes and informal teaching contexts. The five lessons complement Chewonki's Clean Water poster, which was unveiled in March 2007 and widely distributed in Maine and beyond.

The curriculum was developed and field-tested by PWA education coordinator Tenley Wilder (pictured here with Peter Arnold), who worked closely with Peter Arnold and Brendan Kober in Chewonki's

Sustainability Office. Designed to meet the Maine Learning Results standards, the curriculum promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills related to clean water and offers service-learning opportunities.

Rick Wilson (Camp Staff '87, '94) of Brunswick has been using the new curriculum to prepare a series of watershed initiatives and workshops and calls it "a great resource." As a longtime history teacher,



community service coordinator at Brunswick High School, and executive director of the Cathance River Educational Alliance in Topsham, Wilson brings a practiced eye to evaluating curricula. "The beauty of this one," he said, "is that it really takes teachers by the hand and shows them what the possibilities are."

Staff at both Chewonki and PWA are delighted with the results of their collaboration. PWA executive director Donna Minnis hopes the poster and new lessons "will reach a wide audience, resulting in a change in current behavior and a future filled with clean water for everyone." Peter Arnold concurred, though noted

that because the lessons are available online and free of charge, it's impossible to track their distribution. "It's possible we're saving the world and don't even know it," he quipped. He hopes teachers will continue to request the poster.

An interactive version of the poster and the "Clean Water Activities Module" are available at www.chewonki.org/pathways. Chewonki is grateful to Poland Spring Water for funding the project.

#### Lower Field Says Good-bye to Flush Toilets

ven the veterans on campus have been befuddled by all the activity on the Lower Field! In a matter of months, one building has been replaced, a new building has gone up, two buildings have been retrofitted, and another building has moved across the field. What's more, The Plaza—renamed The Ritz when it was replaced last fall—has reverted to The Plaza, owing to construction of the "real" Ritz this winter! A phone call from the *Chronicle* to Dick Thomas and Don Hudson had a bit of a "Who's on first?" quality to it, but we finally sorted things out.

The Plaza, built in 1970 to house Chewonki's first composting toilets, has been completely replaced, as have the Clivus Multrums in it. The new building was temporarily called The Ritz, but anyone who knew that should just forget it.

The cabin Boulder has moved across the field and now sits between Fo'c'sle and Quarterdeck, in a spot near a granite outcrop. As Don remarked, "Thus, thank goodness, we can conserve the name!" A new building has been erected where Boulder once stood. This is the *real* Ritz, a second composting bathroom facility, and it's a beauty. Like our other camp bathrooms, it's

named for a palatial hotel, as well as for longtime Papa Heron turned Yale lecturer Aaron Ritzenberg.

Finally, The Palace, which thankfully has not changed its location or name, has been retrofitted to house only seasonal, low-volume showers. The shower building near the path to the Waterfront is now an open freshwater rinse platform for swimmers.

The improvements were managed almost entirely in house, by facilities manager Don Lamson and carpenter Ken Wise,

with assistance from MCS students. Flush toilets are now a thing of the past on the Lower Field. The composting toilets in The Plaza and The Ritz will save 90,000 to 100,000 gallons of water a year, not to mention the electricity that would be required to pump that water.

One final note: As Dick Thomas observed, "Despite all the changes, the Lower Field actually *looks* unchanged!"



This is The Plaza, not The Ritz!

#### MCS Takes Green Message On the Road

ore than 6,700 independent school educators and administrators gathered in New York City on February 28 and 29 to attend the National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference. Maine Coast Semester head of school Willard Morgan and David Liebmann (MCS faculty '91–'96 and current Advisory Board member) offered a one-hour workshop titled "Greening the Campus and Curriculum: Next Steps."

A standing-room-only crowd of 100-plus attendees filled the room as Willard and David presented approaches to sustainability taken by MCS and Shady Side Academy, an MCS member school in Pittsburgh where David is director of programs. Shady Side, a K-12 coed day school, is more typical of independent schools nationwide, whereas MCS presents a dramatic example of integrating green facilities and curricula in a small boarding-school environment.

In concluding their talk, Willard and David encouraged schools to use carbon emission reduction initiatives as an organizing framework for greening their campus and curriculum. They also highlighted the work of colleges and universities as models for what independent schools might do next. To learn more about the presentation, visit www.nais.org and enter "Willard Morgan" in the Quick Search.



### The Countdown Begins!

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

une 24, 2008, will be a red-letter date in Chewonki's history. After ninety-three years of offering a residential camp for boys, Chewonki will proudly open the doors—or to be more precise, the yurt flaps—of Camp Chewonki for Girls.

When Katrina Morosoff Stout heard the news, she nearly burst with delight. The niece of Kay Allen (who was the wife of Chewonki's founder), Katrina not only *knows* Chewonki's long history of serving boys, she *lived* it. Katrina spent many summers on Chewonki Neck as a young girl in the 1950s and 1960s.

"I was one of the 'Girls in Gray," she recalled recently, referring to the practice of dressing young female staff children in gray Woodchuck uniforms and allowing them to participate alongside the campers. In the early 1970s, executive director Tim Ellis hired Katrina as an art counselor, and she became one of the first women (not married to a staffer) to work at the camp in a non-kitchen capacity. Years later, when it was time for her own children to go to camp, Katrina's son Stewart attended Chewonki and her daughter Katie attended Alford Lake Camp until she was old enough to enroll in Chewonki's wilderness trips.

Katrina and Katie attended one of the first gatherings held last winter in New York City exclusively dedicated to Camp Chewonki for Girls. "I am just delighted that there is now a camp for girls that has Chewonki's philosophy, planning, and *substance*," said Katrina, who is a high-school art teacher in New Jersey. "It is wonderful to know that there will be a place devoted to fostering girls' appreciation and love of the out-of-doors as well as building their capacity for self-reliance."

Katrina speculates that Kay Allen would have been greatly relieved to know that the girls camp will not be situated on

Chewonki Neck, and she believes that Kay—who herself worked at a girls camp in Minnesota—would have been a stalwart supporter of any quality programs dedicated to the strengthening and development of young women.

It turns out there are many Chewonki "moms," staff people, and former participants who feel the same way. Genell Vashro, who was hired in January 2007 to lead Chewonk's girls camp efforts, has been deluged with expressions of support. "I was amazed by the number of women on the Chewonki staff who approached me to offer their support and enthusiasm," said Genell.

Boys Camp assistant Kate Fox and acting Girls Camp assistant Chrissy Burnham are two examples. "I am just so excited that Chewonki is creating a space for girls to grow and experience the incredible benefits of attending a camp," said Chrissy, who has been a familiar face at Chewonki for years in her role as camp staff, Outreach instructor, and wilderness trip leader. "Chewonki's style of camp is so unusual and special that no other camps will compare."

Chrissy attended camp herself as a young woman, and she's a staunch advocate of the girls camp experience. "Girls need time to grow *without* the presence of boys, to bond as friends, and to experience the incredible social networking that can happen when they are allowed to live together in a community," she said. "These bonds grow with each returning year. They are deep, and they are for life."

As of this writing, Camp Chewonki for Girls has enrolled nearly all of its 64 available spaces, and it expects to be fully enrolled when the canoes hit the water on June 24. In the meantime, Genell and Chewonki's land and facilities department have drafted an ambitious punch list of on-the-ground improvements that will begin straight after ice-out in mid-May.



All significant changes to the property need approval by Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), which oversees planning and zoning for Maine's townships and unorganized areas. Chewonki's senior staff has been working closely with LURC to make sure we are in compliance.

"Working with LURC is almost always painless for Chewonki because our values of maintaining the maximum wilderness experience while having the least environmental impact are directly aligned with theirs," says Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute. Greg adds that Chewonki will do everything to protect the wooded shoreline of the girls camp (thus protecting the lake's pristine water). As it did at Big Eddy Campground, it will likely move buildings father off the waterfront and replant the water's edge with indigenous vegetation.

Included on the equipment list for the site is a magnificent cedar floating dock that will extend along the shoreline, creating an easily accessible waterfront for the girls. A floating cedar swim raft with two ladders will be anchored offshore, providing a destination for swimmers to rest and soak up the sun, as well as offering a 360-degree view of the surrounding wilderness.

The dining area will be expanded, and new tent platforms, showers, and composting toilets will be built and installed. Camp furniture, including bunks and bookshelves, was built

"I am just delighted that there is now a camp for girls that has Chewonki's philosophy, planning, and substance."

KATRINIA MOROSOFE STOLI

over the winter by MCS 40 students and Chewonki's four resident AmeriCorps volunteers. Four 24-foot-diameter yurts are already on order from Pacific Yurt Inc. And the small collection of rustic cabins at the camp will undergo maintenance and improvements to ready them for staff housing.

Don Lamson, facilities manager for all of Chewonki's properties, and sustainability coordinator Peter Arnold have created a sustainability plan for the camp, which includes solar electric panels this spring, followed by a solar hot water system next year.

In the meantime, Genell has been busy interviewing and hiring an outstanding group of women who will comprise the summer staff. In early March, Jaimie Frailey (Outdoor



Our girls camp staff (from left to right): assistant Chrissy Burnham, director Genell Vashro, and assistant director Jaimie Frailey.

#### **CAMP CHEWONKI FOR GIRLS\***

Where? Fourth Debsconeag Lake, in the heart of Maine's North Woods

Who? Girls ages 11 to 17

When? June 24-July 15 & July 20-August 11, 2008

For more information: www.chewonki.org/girlscamp

\*A one-week introductory program for girls ages 8 to 11 will be offered on Chewonki Neck August 18–22, 2008



"Girls need time to grow without the presence of boys, to bond as friends, and to experience the incredible social networking that can happen when they are allowed to live together in a community." —Chrissy Burnham

Classroom and Wilderness Trips) formally accepted the position of assistant girls camp director. During the school year, Jaimie teaches math at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine, where she also coaches girls' soccer and leads wilderness trips.

"Jaimie is just an outstanding woman. I am ecstatic to have her on board," says Genell. "Her background as a teacher, an environmental educator, and a trip leader—not to mention the fact that she is absolutely adored by everyone on the Chewonki staff—made her the ideal candidate for the job."

Chrissy Burnham, who returned to Maine in late February from Tanzania, where she nearly single-handedly set up a health clinic for young women and girls, is serving as acting assistant director until Jaimie begins. Chrissy has jumped in with both feet and is actively working on camp promotions and enrollment, as well as helping Genell develop a rich and varied activities schedule for the girls.

Josephine "Phine" Ewing, an artist who sits on the Girls Program Advisory Committee (and who is married to Chewonki president Don Hudson), has created stunning new artwork for the camp's first T-shirt. Phine has also been involved in strategic planning, mailings, and several other projects associated with the camp. Director of Development Lucy Hull has been carefully leading strategic efforts to raise funds to support the girls camp and its scholarship endowment fund (see below).

In late May a group of volunteers will travel up to camp for two consecutive work weekends. "There's a ton of work that needs to get done before camp opens," says Genell. "Heading up to Fourth Debsconeag Lake in May will provide a fabulous excuse to get into the North Woods before the blackflies hatch. Let us know if you'd like to join us!"

#### Lynn Harrison Challenge to Support New Girls Camp

ynn Harrison of Bridgton, Maine, has provided yet another challenge to support the development of girls programs at Chewonki. Over the past several years, Lynn has become a great friend to Chewonki as a member of the Girls Program Advisory Committee and a multiyear supporter of our Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls. In each of the last four years, Lynn has offered a generous challenge grant as a way to inspire gifts to the Canoe Expedition. Those challenges were met each year by a growing family of girls program supporters.

Lynn has been a tireless advocate for the unique model of developing community in a diverse group of girls that has been the Canoe Expedition. She is delighted to help us take the next step of using this model in a full camp setting. Last fall, when Chewonki traveled to Fourth Debsconeag Lake to visit that potential future girls camp site, Lynn joined us.

Shortly after the Board of Trustees voted to purchase the property, Lynn

presented us with her greatest challenge to date: she pledged \$100,000 toward Camp Chewonki for Girls. If we can raise another \$100,000 by December 31, 2008—either for on-the-ground improvements, annual scholarships, or scholarship endowment—she will provide the matching \$100,000.

"Lynn's extraordinary gift is clear evidence of how deeply committed she is to the success of Camp Chewonki for Girls," said Director of Development Lucy Hull. "She is a thoughtful individual whose quiet dedication and leadership have inspired us in every way."

Lynn, who is an avid paddler, outdoorswoman, and photographer, will likely join girls at the camp this summer as a visiting teacher, offering photography lessons and workshops in sun prints and pinhole cameras.

To join the Lynn Harrison Challenge, please contact our Development Office at 207-882-7323, or go to Donate Now at www.chewonki.org/support and choose "Camp Chewonki for Girls" under "Contribution Designation."

#### Celebrating 94 Years— Camp Chewonki for Boys!

June 24, the opening day of Camp Chewonki for Girls, will also mark the opening day of our residential camp for boys ages 8 to 15 on Chewonki Neck—our 94th season! "We've been in touch with many campers this winter and spring and can't wait to welcome them back to the Neck," says Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg. The Osprey age group has already been full for weeks, and Garth expect the Herons, Owls, and Puffins to fill as well. As of this writing, there are only 36 spaces left! Our dates this year are as follows.

**Full session** (7 weeks, ages 10–15 only): June 24–August 11 (This session is full) **NEW! Five-Week Session** (ages 10–12 only): June 24–July 29 (This session is full)

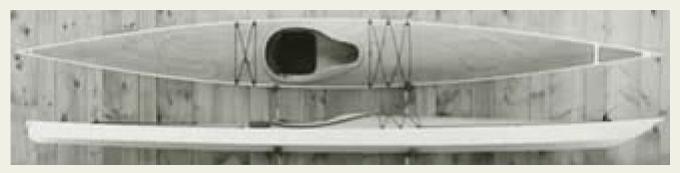
Session I (3 1/2 weeks): June 24–July 18 Session II (3 1/2 weeks): July 20–August 11

**Ten-Day Session II-A** (ages 8–11 only): July 20–29 **Ten-Day Session II-B** (ages 8–11 only): August 1–11

Guides Program (8 weeks, minimum age 16): June 17-August 13

For more information, visit www.chewonki.org and click on "Camp Chewonki for Boys," or contact Garth Altenburg at 207-882-7323 or galtenburg@chewonki.org.





#### A Sleek New Design for Chewonki Boatbuilders

hewonki's Boatbuilders Expedition, one of our most popular coed wilderness programs for teens, has been overhauled and will emerge this summer with a fresh new identity. The familiar plywood, Greenland-style kayaks, which have been the standard since Chewonki launched Boatbuilders in the late 1980s, have been replaced with the Willow Sea Kayak, an all-new lightweight design.

"We are really excited about the Willow," says Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute. "This kayak is attractive, light, seaworthy, and perfect for an extended voyage." He adds that participants will enjoy making them, but they will *especially* enjoy paddling them.

Woodworker Bill Thomas, who has been designing and building boats for thirty years in his South Berwick shop, designed the sleek 17-foot kayak. Participants will join Bill and Chewonki waterfront and woodshop manager Carob Arnold this summer in the Chewonki woodshop and learn the craft of boatbuilding from frame to finish.

Beginning with a pre-cut plywood kit and using the "stitchand-glue" method, participants will use hand tools and bronze ring nails to join and seal the kayak hull and deck panels. In between sessions in the woodshop, they will head down to the Chewonki waterfront to perfect their paddling skills. After just two weeks of construction, the boats will be ready to launch.

The second part of the program remains mostly unchanged: Participants will travel east along the bold coastlines, bays, and estuaries from Wiscasset to Penobscot Bay, spending their nights on a series of beautiful Maine islands. The trip will cover skills such as navigation, group leadership, and saltwater camping and will have a strong emphasis on coastal and maritime history.

And perhaps best of all, at summer's end the Boatbuilders will take their beautiful new kayaks home!

For a detailed description of the Willow Sea Kayak and Bill Thomas Woodworking, visit www.billthomaswoodworking.com.

A coed wilderness expedition for ages 15–17, June 29–August 1, 2008.





# From Sheep to Shawl

For twenty years, tending Chewonki's sheep and learning how to spin and weave their wool have been daily activities at MCS

ELIZABETH PIERSON

n a chilly afternoon in mid-February, five Maine Coast Semester students found themselves standing in a patch of sunlight inside the barn, staring intently at the cold, wood floor. Spread before

them was a hummocky pile of soft fleece that was deep chestnut brown with flecks of butterscotch and gray. "Isn't that Bessie?" asked Doug Gledhill, of Charlotte Country Day School in North Carolina. "Sure is," confirmed farm and woodlot manager Brad Johnson. Bessie is one of fourteen sheep that comprise Chewonki's flock, and six hours ago her wool had still been on her back.

The thirty-eight students of MCS 40 had watched the transformation during a pre-breakfast sheep-shearing demonstration. To their surprise, they learned that February is the traditional time to shear sheep, even in a cold climate like Maine's. Come March, this will ensure a safer lambing season for the ewes, Brad had explained over the buzz of his clippers. Gathered at the barn in winter boots and jackets, wool hats, and mittens, the students had marveled—and shivered—as Brad deftly removed Bessie's fleece in one long, glorious expanse. Now, for the five of them assigned to Work Program at the Farm, it was time to learn how to skirt a fleece—whatever that meant.

There to teach them was Bill Huntington, who runs a windpowered fiber mill in Hope, Maine. Bill is the person who processes most of Chewonki's fleeces into yarn, and he figures it's in his own best interests to have a well-informed customer. Skirting, he explained, simply means removing the dirt, vegetation, and any worn wool from a raw fleece and getting it ready for processing.

"The two most important things you want to look for are the length and strength of the wool," Bill said. When everyone had reached down and grabbed a pinch of wool from the middle of Bessie's fleece, he demonstrated how to test its strength both by feeling it and listening to it. "Yes, *listening*," he repeated with a smile when eyebrows went up. He gently pulled the fiber lengthwise while holding it up to his ear, and the students followed his lead. "Do you hear how it pops?" he asked. Eyebrows went up again, this time in amazement. "That's good. If it cracks, it's weak and likely to break at the mill."

So began an afternoon devoted to the art of skirting. With the rich smell of lanolin hanging in the air, the students knelt down and went to work at a job that, until today, they hadn't even known existed. Guided by Bill, they learned that the edges of a fleece typically get thrown away, not only because this is where bits of vegetation and manure tend to accumulate, but also because the fibers here tend to be coarse and easily broken. They learned that the technical term for washing a fleece is "scouring," and that it's done primarily to remove the lanolin, which is sticky and would gum up the processing machines. They learned that there's nothing processors hate more in a fleece than wood chips, which can damage the tines of carding machines, and that a skirted fleece should be stored in a closed but breathable bag. All this, and far more, passed hands that afternoon, first in the barn and then in Chapin Hall, where another eight fleeces awaited the fledgling skirters.

"I'd never seen or done anything like that in my entire life," Lucy Bates-Campbell of New York City and The Dalton School would say later.

For twenty years, working with sheep and their wool has been a daily part of the MCS experience. During morning chores before breakfast every day, it's the MCS students who provide hay and grain for the sheep and muck out their stalls. Each semester they attend a shearing demonstration, and in the



spring they take turns on lamb watch in the barn at night. Although Bill Huntington processes most of the fleeces, and returns them a few months later in beautiful skeins of 2-ply yarn, the students also process a few. In this way, they learn to wash, pull, and card wool and to spin, weave, and knit; with the exception of knitting, these tasks are also part of morning chores and Work Program.

Sue West has taught art at MCS since its inception and is widely recognized as the "mastermind" (to quote colleague Amy Rogers) of the informal program she named "Sheep to Shawl" back in 1988. In agriculture and county-fair circles, that term refers to a timed event in which teams compete to shear a sheep, prepare the fleece, and spin and weave it into a finished shawl. Winners often finish in under five hours, a concept that makes Sue almost giddy with laughter. "I grabbed the name 'Sheep to Shawl' as a nice way to describe all that we do with fiber at MCS. It seemed to fit, given that our students muck out the stalls of the same sheep from which they'll knit a hat," she said recently. At Chewonki, the journey from sheep to shawl takes a bit longer than five hours. By Sue's estimate, "it typically takes five years."

Three weeks after the skirting, Sue was upstairs in the Allen Center, where Steph Wasser and Jenna Paul-Schultz were spending their afternoon weaving and spinning in a classroom that also houses six looms, four spinning wheels, and several bags of wool. Steph came to MCS from Newark Academy in New Jersey, Jenna from Friends' Central School in Pennsylvania. As a cold rain fell outside, the two young women worked and chatted together on the bench of a two-person, twelve-harness loom.

Although both said everything they were learning in Sheep to

Shawl was entirely new to them, they quickly settled into a steady rhythm on the loom. Abby Holland, the MCS Spanish teacher, had introduced them to weaving the previous week, and they already took pride in the piece they were working on: a beautiful blanket in an overshot weave called Lee's Surrender. "It will be 7 feet long when it's done, which means there's only 1 foot more to go," said Steph. That doesn't necessarily mean Steph and Jenna will see it finished, however. The blanket was started in the spring of 2002 by MCS 28, and every student who has worked on it has signed his or her name on a series of cards tied to the loom. "Very relaxing and calming to work on at 6:45 every morning! Enjoy!" wrote Emily Bronson of MCS 28. "It's amazing to see how many people contribute to the production of one product. I'd never thought about that before," said Jenna.

For Sue West, and many others, the glacial pace of weavings at MCS is part of their appeal. English teacher Amy Rogers has been teaching students how to knit and spin for years. "The fact that so many semesters work on one piece makes them even more special," she said. Sue agrees. "These community projects emphasize the beauty of working long term over many years. We don't rush. When students ask me at the beginning of each semester how long we'll work on a particular project, I tell them "Til it's done."

Over the years, students have woven an exquisite variety of handbags, placemats, large and small pillows, baby or lap blankets, and yes, shawls. Some have been given as presents to departing faculty members; others have been raffled off at reunions. "It's a wonderful feeling to spin wool and then weave it into a loom," Sue said as she checked Steph and Jenna's work. "We make a lot of different things, and they're all beautiful."



"I think we inject something into our students' lives that is increasingly disappearing from our world, and I think that gives them a nice feeling of connection. If you can make something that keeps you warm—a hat, a shawl—it gives you a feeling of confidence that you can take care of yourself, and have some control over the goods and services you use."—Sue West

Weavings may be the jewels in the crown of Sheep to Shawl, but they are not the only end-products. The other two are hand-spun wool and knitted items. Spinning is something all students assigned to the wool-prep morning chore learn, and it is this wool that is used in the weavings. Knitting is optional, although it's the rare student who doesn't at least try it. Many an MCS student knows that sitting around on the "Flintstone" furniture in the Wallace Center and knitting is a time-honored tradition. "Quite a few boys have come and said 'I won't do that,' but many do," said Sue. At least one semester joked that MCS is "where real men learn to knit." The sense of community that students develop over these knitting projects—not only among themselves but with faculty and staff—is one of the hallmarks of Sheep to Shawl.

In a day when it is rare for anyone to be fully conscious of where the products we use come from, Sheep to Shawl as practiced at MCS enables students to see what Michael Pollan (author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*) calls "the full karmic price" of an everyday product. Like so many other things students encounter on Chewonki Neck, Sheep to Shawl brings them closer to a true understanding of where the products we consume come from, and the larger implications of that.

"There aren't a lot of ways in this era that you can see a process through from its inception to its end," says Amy Rogers. "Sheep to Shawl is a classic example of following a process—in this case, literally from the sheep's back to a finished product. I think it raises our consciousness tremendously. It's part of a larger story that people seldom know today."

"Learning a practical skill is part of it too," says Sue West.
"I think we inject something into our students' lives that is

increasingly disappearing from our world, and I think that gives them a nice feeling of connection. If you can make something that keeps you warm—a hat, a shawl—it gives you a feeling of confidence that you can take care of yourself, and have some control over the goods and services you use."

As Doug Gledhill mopped up the skirtings from the floor of Chapin Hall back in February, he confessed to having "a lot more appreciation" for his wool socks and sweaters. "I really enjoy the fact that we know where the wool comes from," said Lucy Bates-Campbell. "It definitely gives us an appreciation for what we use. The wool becomes more than a material. It's real here." Steph Wasser said, "At first, I found it difficult to see that a sheep's fleece would ever turn into something I'd knit. Now my cabinmates are teaching me how to knit a hat."

Back to that chilly afternoon in mid-February. Before Bill Huntington left Chewonki, he had something in the trunk of his Subaru to give the students. Together they walked out to his car and carried two large plastic bags upstairs into the Allen Center. Opening them, Bill produced the yarn he had processed from the last batch of fleeces. "Oh! It's beautiful!" said Sue, beaming and running one hand over a skein of soft gray yarn. The students were almost speechless. Examining the small tag attached to each skein, they realized this wasn't just Chewonki yarn. Each skein was identified by the sheep from which it had come. In their hands, the students were holding yarn from Lily, Maisy, Eva, Louise, Becca, Maude, Maddie, and Alice. Every skein would be for sale at Chewonki, and from it the students could knit their hats or scarves or sweaters.

Sheep to shawl indeed.

# CHANGING LIVES



Matt Lunt (pictured bottom left here with four of his students and OC instructor Megan Phillips) knows firsthand how Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom can change lives. He's seen it happen through three sets of eyes: as a sixth-grade participant, as a three-year instructor, and now as a public school teacher accompanying his own students on the program. We're delighted that he agreed to share not only his insights but his incredible passion for changing the lives of young people. —*The Editor* 



# Forget the ecology lessons. Sometimes the most valuable thing a student finds in Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom is a new sense of self.

MATT LUNT

f you ever visit my apartment, odds are you'll see the evaluation letter my group leader, Bruce Davis, sent me after my sixth-grade Chewonki experience. It sits on a shelf in my kitchen amidst a collection of important pictures and memories from my past. As my box of memories gets pared down with each move, I revisit the reasons I keep the letter with me, and the evolving role that Chewonki has played in my life.

My five-day encampment at Chewonki in April 1992 with my class from Cape Elizabeth Middle School was life-changing for me. I say that without the slightest bit of sarcasm or hyperbole. Many of my classmates probably remember that encampment for the midweek blizzard that forced us in from the campsites in the middle of the night. Or the fact that we spent the last day playing in over a foot of fresh snow. But that's not what brought me back to work at Chewonki eleven years later.

For most of elementary school, I was a punk. I saw little reason to be engaged in what was going on in the classroom, and spent a good deal of time *out* of the classroom and in the principal's office. In fact, when I think back to middle school, the adults that I remember most vividly are all administrators and guidance counselors.

Chewonki is my earliest memory in which being useful to a group fulfilled a basic human need. I remember taking an afternoon to move sections of tree trunks back to our campsite in order to make fireside benches. I remember trying to lead the group through challenging activities. And most of all I remember falling in love with climbing at the Barn. I felt like I had a fresh start with an adult figure and a clean slate with my peers, even if just for one week. From sixth grade on, I slowly built on the positive self-image I felt at Chewonki until it was something I felt every day, in and out of school.

The funny thing is, every time I read the letter from my leader, I realize that the fact that I was going through a revelatory experience may not have been obvious to Bruce at the time. When I read his letter again after my own first season of leading these encampments, I was better able to piece together how the week actually went. See, after writing several encampments worth of evaluations, you start to pick up on the hidden messages deftly folded into these letters of positive reinforcement.

"If you had set an example as far as listening and being respectful of others, I think your leadership could have been the key to making the week here a whole series of successes...

You were awesome around the campsite when you got motivated and stuck to a task....

I hope to see you here this summer;

I'm saving a snowball with your name on it."

—Bruce Davis (my italics)



Matt on his sixth-grade encampment at Chewonki.

Who knows, maybe from Bruce's perspective, the very same week that planted a seed of change in my adolescent heart felt like just another week sorting out preteen drama.

I certainly had weeks on staff at Chewonki when it felt like

that. Fortunately, I always had my own sixth-grade experience as a source of motivation. Each week, I put every effort into creating an experience that would stick with students throughout their lives. I

"From sixth grade on, I slowly built on the positive self-image I felt at Chewonki until it was something I felt every day, in and out of school."

was often exhausted at the end of the week and at the same time wildly inspired and satisfied by my work. My goal was to have at least one student each week who could look back and see the experience as an early opportunity to know themselves and their peers differently, to be proud of themselves and their accomplishments, and to gain a sense of community outside their family or close circle of friends. And, as is the nature of working with adolescents, I knew I would never really know who was having that experience. This was eventually the reason that I knew I needed to leave Chewonki and find a way to be a more consistent presence in the lives of children. While I may never find another job with the potential to affect students

so powerfully in such a short period of time, I now want to be around to see the impact take effect and to help nourish my students' growth along the way.

I came to teach at Chewonki with the knowledge that I wanted someday to work in a public school, but not yet. I was too excited about working in the outdoors to settle into classroom teaching. Nothing, I realize now, has prepared me better for working with young people. Each Monday, I met eight to twelve new students, some more eager than others, and began the process of creating a community in which each person could find a voice, offer a strength to the group, and learn by getting their hands dirty and interacting with the world. We accomplished impressive feats. Sometimes the feat was scaling a 12-foot wall. Sometimes it was finishing breakfast by 10:00 A.M. or showing up on time to the owl presentation. I taught a diverse mix of learners each week and met struggles and successes with all types of students. Most importantly, I learned to find the short, rejuvenating, and vital pockets hidden in each day where students and teachers can connect and simply enjoy each other's company.

I now teach in a classroom in which these skills are essential. This fall I began my first year of teaching in an alternative education classroom at a large public school. My students are slipping when they enter my classroom. There is no better way to say it. They are often a grade or two behind in reading, writing, or math, and it is often because they see little reason to try anymore. My job is to make their education more relevant,

to help them find their academic strengths, and to help them create a positive self-image at school. When I brought my students to Chewonki last fall, I knew exactly where we

had to go to get off on the right foot. I even knew which campsite I wanted.

The week was outstanding. We persevered through group challenges and ecology studies during the day; told stories, played cards, and sang songs at night; and woke to cold mornings with hot breakfasts around a fire. After two cold nights in the standard four-person tents, we set up one large canvas tent for the entire group. The group developed a unique personality, and the students began breaking down barriers between each other and their teachers.

One of my students had spent the first two weeks of school suspended because of a fistfight. At Chewonki, we all watched



"For most of elementary school, I was a punk. I saw

little reason to be engaged in what was going on in

him shine, free from the stigma he carried through the halls at school. He smiled almost constantly and helped wherever he could. He was playful and completely engaged during our lessons, and he soaked in more information that week than in the prior month in the classroom. On day two, we visited the farm, and I have never seen a boy so lifted by the idea of eating

nasturtium and kale fresh from the garden. He immediately wanted to know what we were picking and spent the afternoon memorizing the names so he could ask his mom to buy him seeds in the spring.

I had seen this sort of thing a handful of times before, but this was different. I knew that each shared experience, each meal, each challenge, each bout of giggling would be something we would share during the school year that lay ahead of us. It's spring now, and each day I look forward to seeing my students. There is more laughter in my classroom than I could have hoped for, and there are many days where my job seems easy because of the relationships I have built with my students. We began building those relationship at Chewonki, and our group personality has grown with time into something comforting and familiar to us all.

Last week, a social worker interviewed my class to hear whether they thought our program was making a difference. I offered to leave so the students could speak freely, but they insisted I stay. One student said he felt he could trust each person in the group. Another enjoyed the freedom to learn in an active and social way. A third was grateful to have teachers

he could relate to. All three of these ingredients were made possible and enhanced by our time at Chewonki. My students talked about that week as a chance to see their peers take

the classroom, and spent a good deal of time *out* of the classroom and in the principal's office."

on different, positive roles, and cited the week as a source of confidence.

As I listened to all this, I thought back to last summer, when I interviewed for this job. The interview committee asked if I had any questions, and I had only one: "Is there room in the budget to take my kids to Chewonki?" If they had said no, it would have been a pretty big deal-breaker.

After graduating from Connecticut College, Matt Lunt taught Environmental Education at Chewonki from 2003 to 2005. He now teaches alternative education at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham, Maine.

## THE GRENING

A new and improved Wallace Center will be more energy efficient than ever

Don Hudson



Don Hudson, Leon Garnett, and Amy Hinkley look at plans for the Wallace Center.



he story of making one of the "greenest" buildings in Maine even greener is one of serendipity
and surprise, and it is steeped in Chewonki
history and lore. The principle new characters
are a creative architect—Amy Hinkley—and an
inspiring carpenter and builder—Leon Garnett.

The story begins, however, ninety years ago when our campus was beginning to take its present shape.

The big red-trimmed barn and the traditional white house across the lawn have been the first things most visitors see at Chewonki since Clarence Allen tromped through the snow in December 1917 to inspect the new site for his three-year-old summer camp. When camp opened its doors the next summer, the Farmhouse, as it was soon called, became the hub of all indoor activity. It housed the kitchen, dining room, office, and a cozy living room for rainy day and evening gatherings. And "The Boss," Clarence Allen, lived upstairs! As camp grew during its first three decades, inside space was at a premium. An extension to the Farmhouse dining hall in the 1920s provided a short-term fix but was not the answer.

The kitchen and dining hall moved across the lawn from the Farmhouse to new space built on the west side of the Barn in the 1930s. The heart of the campus has been defined by these bookend structures ever since. Campers from bygone times remember sitting patiently on the lawn between the buildings after lunch for "mail call," or at strict attention on benches every Sunday evening, waiting to be called to the buffet line for their picnic supper. The mail circle is gone, but everyone in camp still lines up to begin the orderly entrance into the dining hall at mealtimes, and Sunday supper is still held on the lawn.

This second kitchen and dining hall served us well for fifty years. When a new year-round facility was envisioned for the same space, it was designed to be the "greenest" institutional building in Maine. Built between the summers of 1983 and 1984, the Wallace Center—named for George R. Wallace III, the first chair of the Board of Trustees—was a big initial step in developing our model "sustainable" campus. In the years since then, the Chewonki campus has become a small but prominent example in the Northeast of managing natural and energy resources.

The need for substantial improvements to the kitchen began to crystallize nearly ten years ago. As the farm has grown at Chewonki, so has the amount of Chewonki-grown produce and meat we consume. Common sense and health-department regulations separate food preparation from the processing of vegetables and milk coming directly from the farm. We need more space to process and store the farm's bounty. Years of heavy use have also taken a toll. Floors, walls, counters, cupboards, walk-in cold storage, and equipment are all in need of repair or replacement.

## OF THE GREEN

"Is it possible to repair and improve a space that is used almost 50 weeks of the year without interruption? Is it possible to have more space in the kitchen and dining hall and reduce energy consumption overall?" Our staff planning committee struggled with these questions for more than a year before reaching out for help. Thank goodness we found Amy Hinkley!

Amy knows us well. Her husband, Bill, teaches math in the Maine Coast Semester. Amy and Bill manage a blueberry farm in the hills of Waldoboro, and Amy maintains a solo architectural practice there. She graduated from Cornell University's College of Architecture and currently serves as an adjunct professor of architecture at the University of Maine at Augusta. In addition to previous projects for Chewonki, Amy has recently done work for Yale University's Sustainable Food Project and for the Kalaupapa National Historical Park in

Amy's first task was to help the staff Land and Buildings Committee refine an assessment of needs, not only for the kitchen and dining hall but for the campus as a whole. Amy and our facilities manager, Don Lamson, sought solutions while keeping the big picture in mind. Rather than brush our work off the table at the outset, they helped us explore our ideas thoroughly enough so that the best elements might be retained while letting go of the impractical or impossible.

The struggle to find the correct solution for the kitchen and the dining hall continued until Amy came up with the brilliant idea of moving the centerpiece of the Chewonki campus 44 feet to the east. Just like finding a keystone piece on which a puzzle hinges, Amy's move opened up a world of possibilities. With the Barn out of the way, we could build a new entrance, classroom, and kitchen in the vacated space. And we could do the work with minimal interruption to our camp or Maine Coast Semester schedules.

Leon Garnett, who led the crew of staff and students who built the original Wallace Center in 1983 and 1984, came aboard in late August to begin work. Leon is a leader in the region for building to the highest standards of resource and energy efficiency. He's had a hand in every major project on Chewonki Neck since 1983, and we have learned that he never stops refining and improving his techniques.

In addition to finessing the calendar, the plan provides substantial improvements to the working atmosphere of the kitchen, and further refines the efficiency of the entire building. A large south-facing dormer will flood the kitchen and adjoining dining room with natural light; a new entry will provide a much-needed transition space between indoors and outdoors; and three new sets of double doors, opening onto a covered deck on the south side of the building, will create a more open and airy atmosphere in the summer.

The south-facing roof will support an array of new solar panels developed by Ascendant Energy in Rockland, Maine. Ours will be the first installation of panels that produce both hot water and electricity. We look forward to documenting just how much hot water we can produce with these first-of-their-kind solar panels. The panels will substantially reduce our use of electricity from the grid and propane to heat water.

By moving eastward to build the new kitchen, space opens up for a new, larger dishroom. Hundreds of staff and students who have labored in the confines of the old dishroom will appreciate the news that the old Hobart will be replaced in a larger space by a new machine. Amy has found a machine with more than twice the capacity, yet it works with 70 percent less water and less power per cycle, providing substantial energy savings.

Solar hot water and electricity, a flood of natural light, energy-saving light fixtures, efficient appliances and refrigeration, and super insulation will make the newly improved and renovated Wallace Center even more efficient than it was when originally built twenty-five years ago. The new kitchen will be complete by June, and renovations to the dishroom, dining hall, and new south facade will follow next year. We'll continue to follow the story, and to report on the energy and resource savings we're achieving, in future issues of the *Chronicle*.

#### **Errata: The Heavy Lifting of Calculation**

We're grateful to Brandon Stafford (MCS 3; former Camp Staff, MCS faculty, and staff technology guru) for calling our attention to a few errors in our cover story last fall on carbon emissions at Chewonki. In the Electricity Emissions table, "Kilowatt Hours per Month" should have read "Kilowatt Hours per Year." In the Total Emissions table, a line was inadvertently omitted: it should have indicated that commuting accounts for 49 metric tonnes (MT), or 14 percent of total carbon emissions. And finally, we should have overridden the spell-check, which annoyingly changed "metric tonnes" to "metric tones." The Chewonki Climate Inventory is an ongoing process, and since publication of the last *Chronicle* our baseline year numbers have been revised. These back-calculations increased our 2005–2006 emissions by 17.33 MT, for a final total of 375.84 MT.

# A Fond Farewell

e're going to miss this place a great deal," says Brad Johnson, who will soon move to Vermont with his wife, Emily LeVan, and their daughter, Madeline. Brad and Emily have lived on Chewonki Neck for more than a decade, and four-year-old Maddie has grown up here. "To say that all three will be missed is an understatement," says Don Hudson, adding that the trio has won the hearts of staff and students alike during their time here.

Brad came to Chewonki in 1996 as the admissions director and Environmental Issues teacher for Maine Coast Semester and later moved to the farmfirst as the farm apprentice, then as the assistant farm manager, and since 2005 as the farm and woodlot manager. Emily was an MCS Spanish teacher, nurse's assistant, and wilderness trip leader before becoming a full-time mother, getting her nursing degree, and rising to the ranks of the top women marathoners in the United States.

"Chewonki is very much home to us," Emily said recently. "This has been the cornerstone of our lives since Brad and I graduated from Bowdoin.



Photo courtesy of Paul Cunningham, Times Re

Especially after Maddie got sick (see sidebar), we've been supported in so many ways. We have Chewonki friends scattered from Portland to Rockland, and it will be hard to leave them." At the same time, Emily and Brad agree wholeheartedly in the benefits of change. "Change is useful and good," said Brad. "I'm a strong believer in that. Every institution, and especially nonprofits, needs new people, new ideas, new energy."

Home in Vermont will be a beautiful nine-acre farm and 1850s farmhouse in Randolph Center. An important plus is its relatively easy access—about a 45-minute drive—to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire, where Maddie will continue her cancer treatments. Emily hopes to land a full-time nursing job, and Brad will look after Maddie and manage their small farm. "Maddie and I have a long list of projects to tackle on the days when she feels well," he said. "There are fences to mend, chicken and pig pens to build, and a garden to expand, to name just a few." By fall 2009, they hope Maddie will be in remission and attending kindergarten, at which time Brad will likely expand his farming operation and perhaps get involved in educational work.

The family plans to remain on campus through the end of MCS 40 and will move to their new farm in June. With a next-door neighbor who's an organic dairy farmer and lots of agricultural activity in the area, they expect to feel right at home in no time. Their new address will be 2435 Ridge Road, Randolph, VT 05061.

#### **Emily and Maddie's Two Trials**

mily LeVan, the 14th ranked qualifier for the 2008
U.S. Women's Marathon Olympic Trials, says running has taken her places she never could have imagined when she first toed the line at the

Sugarloaf Marathon in 1998. One of those places has been a world of blood transfusions, spinal taps, bone marrow biopsies, and chemotherapy. For Emily and her husband, Brad Johnson, life turned upside down when their daughter Maddie was diagnosed last November with leukemia. Emily never expected she would continue training for the Olympic Trials on April 20, 2008, but with Brad and Maddie's encouragement, she has done just that—and far more.

On January 18, in celebration of Maddie's fourth birthday, the family announced the launch of Two Trials, a fundraiser for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. They chose the name because they realized they had embarked on a new kind of marathon—one that, if all goes well, will last the next two to three years of Maddie's life. The goal is to raise \$52,400—26.2 miles x Two Trials—and that figure is indeed in sight. As the *Chronicle* went to press in late April, Two Trials had raised \$46,000.

Both at Chewonki and beyond, it's been an inspiration to watch Emily, Brad, and Maddie navigate their new world. "We feel very strongly about teaching Maddie to give back to your community—that you can take a not-so-good thing and turn it into one," Emily said recently. "We're trying to turn

this into something positive both for us and for all the kids in the future who'll have to deal with leukemia." Although Maddie is responding well to treatment, the side effects of her medications are a daily challenge. "We feel incredibly fortunate to have the resources and support of the Maine Children's Cancer Program available to us, and we want to ensure that other families can continue to benefit from it," said Emily.

To learn more about Two Trials, child-

hood leukemia, and the journey of a remarkable family through treatment and toward the Olympic Trials, visit www.twotrials.org. Donations can be made online and will continue to be accepted after the Olympic Trials. Emily and Brad say they're amazed at how many people and organizations have contributed to the fundraiser. Every donation, however big or small, will help them reach the finish line. As they said on Maddie's fourth birthday, "Step by step, we can all make a difference."



#### Margaret Steps into Brad's Boots

e're delighted that Margaret Youngs, currently the assistant farm manager, will be Chewonki's new farm and woodlot manager. Margaret turned to farming after a brief stint as an admissions counselor at College of the Atlantic (where she graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in human ecology). Over the past nine years she has worked on four diversified organic farms, including Chewonki's. Before arriving here, she spent four seasons co-managing Mandala Farm, an organic horse-powered farm in Gouldsboro, Maine.



"Margaret will do a great job," says Brad Johnson. "She's an outstanding gardener and farmer who really knows what she's doing."

Stepping into the position of assistant farm manager will be Jeremy Tardiff, formerly of Bartlett Tree Experts in Scarborough. Jeremy began work at Salt Marsh Farm in early April, so he could have time to overlap with Brad. He and his wife will move into the Gatehouse when Brad and Emily leave. Farm apprentice Abby Huckel remains an integral part of the farm staff and will be with us until late December or early January of next year, at which time her position will be filled by the next apprentice.

As Brad and his family prepare to move on, they do so knowing that Salt Marsh Farm will be in excellent hands. As Brad said recently, "Chewonki is blessed with one thing above all else: it's amazing people."

## Family Camp Goes North

Join us for a wilderness Family Camp at our newest facility in the North Woods

hen Family Camp returned to Chewonki's schedule last summer after a lapse of several years, no one was more pleased than director of alumni relations

Dick Thomas. "For staff and participants alike, it was a terrific weekend," he said. "It hadn't even ended before folks were clamoring for us to plan the next one." The only hitch was that Chewonki Neck was already booked for the Maine Coast Semester's twentieth reunion. Not a problem, Dick determined. "We'll just go north instead!"

So north it is, to Fourth Debsconeag Lake in the heart of Maine's North Woods, where families and friends of Chewonki will have the opportunity to enjoy a rare camp experience at our newest facility. Fourth Debsconeag Lake is an extraordinary place. The lake and camps are bordered by almost 90,000 acres of preserved wild lands. To the west is the state-owned, 43,000-acre Nahmakanta Unit, and to the east is The Nature Conservancy's 41,000-acre Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area. These surrounding lands provide visitors to Fourth Debsconeag an unmatched wilderness experience.

**Family Camp Particulars** 

August 14-17, 2008

Adults: \$365

Seniors and Children age 6-16: \$185

Age 5 & under: Free

Early registration discount of 10 percent before June 1

Prices include meals, activities, and a rustic cabin with bunks. Bring your own pillow, sleeping bag, or bedding. If you're interested in sharing a yurt with another family, contact us for reduced price information.

We hope you'll join us! For more information, contact Dick Thomas at dthomas@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323, ext. 124. Or download a registration form at www.chewonki.org/alumni/events.asp.

Chewonki is not a newcomer to this part of Maine. Since the early 1950s our groups have paddled and hiked throughout the region, and in 2002 we became the owner of Big Eddy Campground on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, a short raven's flight from Fourth Debsconeag.

Debsconeag Wilderness Camps is also the new home of Camp Chewonki for Girls. But for three glorious days of Family Camp, it can be your home away from home. Share a lakeside cabin with your family; enjoy delicious meals in our dining lodge; reminisce with old friends and meet new friends; explore the forest and granite ledges that surround the rustic cabins and waterfront. Join in staff-led activities or explore on your own. There will be plenty of time for fun and relaxation, including:

- Hiking nearby trails for views of Katahdin
- Hiking on the Appalachian Trail
- Walking the gentle paths that surround the camps
- Exploring Nesuntabunt Mountain
- Canoeing, sailing, and kayaking
- Fishing
- Learning about the area's rich natural history
- Swimming in the clear, pristine lake.



# Join us in celebrating 20 Years of MCS August 15-17, 2008



- Stay in cabins or camp out on Chewonki Neck
- Enjoy farm-fresh food with your classmates and MCS faculty, past and present
- Take a walk to the Point (and see how many species you can remember!)
- Get your hands dirty on Work Programs
- Cool off at the waterfront
- Catch up with friends around the Adirondack chairs
- See campus changes, including the expanded Wallace Center
- Learn about Chewonki's response to climate change
- Bring your family with you!

Scott Andrews, Sue West, Amy Rogers,
Don Hudson, Dick Thomas, Willard Morgan,
and much of the Chewonki staff will all be in
attendance. We look forward to greeting you
back on the Neck!

For more information or to register, visit www.chewonki.org/alumni/20yearsofmcs.asp.



MCS 1, Fall 1988



MCS 40, Spring 2008

#### On My Bookshelf

#### Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West by Hampton Sides

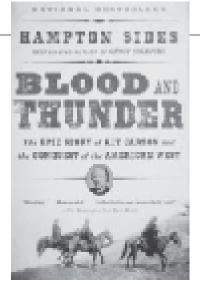
Ithough it may seem far-fetched to those of you who have been in my classes, I don't usually gravitate toward history for my pleasure reading. I enjoy novels much more and confess to devouring an occasional mystery or thriller. Once in a while, though, I jump into a good book about some aspect of American history, and Hampton Sides's *Blood and Thunder* (Anchor Books, 2006) is one of the best books I've read in a long time. I couldn't put it down.

Perhaps I found it so intriguing because it is such a huge story geographically and culturally. Sides's scope is as sweeping as the western landscape itself and includes chapters on the Anasazi, the origins of the Athapaskanspeaking Navajo, the Mexican and Civil wars, Mountain Men, and the transition from Native American nomadism to the reservation system. If you've ever traveled through the Southwest, his richly evocative descriptions—of labyrinthine canyons, lush grasslands, and "staked" plains—hit the mark perfectly.

Mostly, though, the book is about the people who made the West more than just a

geographical location: Narbona, the powerful Navajo leader and perhaps the only man who could have kept the peace, is stupidly, if accidentally, killed by the U.S. military. Charles Bent, the trader and New Mexico governor whose eponymous fort served as the crossroads of the Santa Fe Trail, is brutally murdered in the Taos uprising of 1847. John C. Frémont, the Pathfinder, whose ego

was as large as California, insinuates himself into countless schemes to achieve fame and fortune in California, both before and after it becomes a state. Others in this distinctly American pageant include Thomas Hart Benton, Frémont's father-in-law and the champion of Manifest Destiny; Nicholas Trist, who disregarded his instructions from President Polk, negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in which Mexico lost nearly half its land, and said: "Could those Mexicans have seen into my heart at that moment, they would have known that my feeling of shame as an American was strong...I was ashamed of it, most cordially and intensely ashamed of it."



Of course, the story of the settling of the American West is the story of Kit Carsonmountain man, trapper, scout, and soldier—the most famous westerner of them all. In many ways, the popularity of the dime novel (called "Blood and Thunders") in the 1840s and 1850s was sparked by Carson's exploits, both real and imagined. Diminutive, illiterate, reticent, brave, heroic, incapable of ignoring duty, Carson is the object of an impossible heroism born in the minds of easterners. He is

both the champion of the West and its inhabitants, and the chief agent of their change.

The settling of the American West was a tragic—and very human—story, and Kit Carson embodied it. Although he probably understood and respected the Navajo as well as anyone, he presided over the destruction of their way of life, and forced them on the Long Walk from their sacred mountains to the new reservation at Bosque Redondo near the Texas border. He understood what he was doing, but he couldn't disobey his commanding officer, and couldn't come up with a better way to solve the clash of cultures between Whites and Indians that he knew was inevitable.

SCOTT ANDREWS

# STEPIT

MEG GIULIANO, MCS TEACHING FELLOW

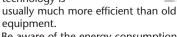
According to the EPA, the United States now has more than 180 million computers in use. These machines consume nearly 58 billion kWh per year (about 2% of our electricity consumption in 2006). The average desktop PC uses 65 to 250 watts of electricity in active mode. If your computer draws 200 watts and is left on 24 hours a day, every day, and your electricity costs \$0.10 per kWh, your annual computer-related energy costs could reach nearly \$175—and would result in emissions of almost 1,700 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents.

So, what can you do to reduce your emissions *and* your bills?

OR SUSTAINABILIT

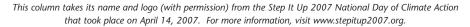
- Set your computer's options to go automatically into sleep or standby mode after 20 minutes of inactivity. This simple trick reduces energy use immensely.
- Turn your computer OFF at night. While powering on and off can cause small amounts of thermal stress in a computer, it will not adversely affect the equipment within its "technologically useful" lifespan.
- Always shut off your monitor when you won't be using it for an extended period.
- If you can, get a laptop; they use far less energy than PCs. Also, Macs tend to be more efficient than their PC counterparts.
- Update your monitor from an electricityquzzling CRT (cathode ray tube) to a

more efficient LCD (liquid crystal display). New technology is usually much more



- Be aware of the energy consumption of your computer accessories (printers, scanners, speakers, etc.), and be sure to shut them off too when not in use.
- Take note: screensavers do NOT save energy—in fact, they often use more electricity than letting the computer sit idle.

The bottom line: If you turn your computer off when not in use, you will reduce greenhouse gas emissions *and* save money on your electricity bill.



#### People

#### 1940s

Don Hudson was delighted to receive a lengthy email from Bill Risk (Camp & Camp Staff '46, '49-'51, '54, EcoWeek '73), responding to Don's promise in the last Chronicle to turn off the water when he brushes his teeth. "I have been a practicing dentist for over forty years, and in terms of water conservation I do not feel that your tooth brushing comments go far enough," wrote Bill. What really matters when brushing, he noted, is the mechanical action of the brush bristles. "Since toothpaste is desirable but not an essential part of good oral hygiene, don't use it. In the strictest ecological terms, tooth brushing could and should be accomplished without water being consumed." Bill resides in Lafayette, IN. "I think often of my happy summers that I spent at Chewonki and am grateful for the appreciation of the environment that I learned from my uncle [Clarence Allen] and his staff. Keep up the good work."

#### 1950s

It was great to see Chip Dunn (Camp '57-'59) and wife Cynthia at our booth at the Common Ground Fair last September. They stopped by and gave the Chewonki cheer!

Ned Loring (Camp '55–'58) is planning a trip to Bermuda and hopes to catch up with old Chewonki friends. He says son Teddy Loring (Camp '97–'99) is a happy sophomore at the University of Vermont.

#### **1960**s

Bob Loring (Camp '61,'64-'66) of Bethesda, MD, has warm memories of his family's long association with Chewonki. Father Bill Loring was a student of Clarence Allen's in Boston. Brother **Bill Loring** was a camper in the late '50s and then a sailing instructor. "He's now retired, cruising the Caribbean and winning trophies in some cruising rallies." Bob remembers spending most of his last year at camp, as a CIT, helping with the sailing program, ably led by Peter "Moose" Morosoff (Camp '51-'57, Camp Staff '61, '63-'67). Bob now works on "political reforms that will hopefully lead to better governance for a host of policies, including energy, environment, and ethics."

#### 1970s

Dick Thomas was excited to see a familiar face on NBC nightly news last September: Jim Balog (Camp Staff '71-'73) was featured in a segment on global warming. Jim is an internationally acclaimed nature photographer who is currently documenting the shrinkage of remote glaciers, using solar-powered cameras that automatically snap photos every hour—and will do so for more than two years. On March 1, Jim was awarded the North American Nature Photography Association's top honor, Outstanding Photographer of the Year for 2008. And on April 16, he received the prestigious Rowell Award, which honors "that adventurer whose artistic passion illuminates the wild places of the world, and whose accomplishments significantly benefit both the environment and the people who inhabit these lands and regions." You can learn more at www.jamesbalog.com.

We were delighted to hear from longtime friend **Duncan Campbell**. who has not visited Chewonki in many years but says the Chronicle and other publications keep him up to date. "You have come a long wavs from when I first visited back in the 70s," he writes, "and I congratulate you on all your conservation and environmental endeavors. Maybe one of these days before I get too old I will come back your way and stop in for a visit. I am still enjoying the South Jersey beach skiff I bought from Chewonki and can still get in and out of a canoe. So even at 81 I find life good."

"Just about everything in my life and work relates back to fifth grade when our school (Manchester, MA) spent a week at Chewonki in June 1972," writes Catie Mains (Maine Reach '79, Camp Staff '80). In 1981 Catie went on to Evergreen State College in beautiful Olympia, WA, and she has lived there ever since. "I'm a biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife—16 years so far."



#### Warm Sweet Home: Gordy Hall!

Chewonki's newest cabin, Gordy Hall in Osprey Circle, is completed and getting rave reviews. On a cold, wet day in March, when the eight young women of MCS 40 who currently live there were asked what they like best about the cabin, they all cried "the insulation!" They also cited the southern orientation and abundance of natural light, attached woodshed, and bicyclepowered generator. They're keeping a riding log, and at the end of the semester will be able to calculate how much of the cabin's power they produced. "I love riding the bike," said Steph Wasser. "I'm killing three birds with one stone: getting my exercise, reading my homework, and charging the battery." Gordy Hall was built entirely by the students and faculty of MCS 37, 38, and 39, with guidance from carpenter Ken Wise. It is named for former camper, chairman of the board, and longtime trustee and supporter Gordy Hall (pictured above with students of MCS 39). The building is also getting some national attention. It is prominently featured in the Spring 2008 issue of Independent School, a publication of the National Association of Independent Schools. To order a copy of the magazine, go to www.nais.org.

#### 1980s

Thomas Appleton (Camp '86) is enjoying life in Boston with his wife, Monique, and two-year-old son, Kai.

"Busy" seems to be the word for Maine resident **Amy Berube** (MCS 3, Camp 1989). She's working full-time as a medical social worker and community liaison for CHANS Home Health, is a field instructor for a University of New England MSW student, and is the volunteer director of social services for the OASIS Free Health Care Clinic in Brunswick.

**Paul Boothby** (Camp Staff '87–'88, '90) is a minister in the Unitarian Universalist Church, currently serving in Virginia parishes.

Chris Riley, outdoor equipment and logistics manager, was delighted to discover while leading an MCS camping trip in February that among the students was the daughter of his first Chewonki trip leader, Marie Corbin-Keane (EE Staff '82-'85). Marie led Chris on a sea kayaking trip when he was 13 years old. Who could have guessed that 20 years later Chris would take Marie's daughter, Katlyn Keane (MCS 40), on her first Chewonki trip?! Marie and husband Steve Keane (EE Staff '83-'85) are schoolteachers in Bethel, ME. In the summers they operate Wild Rivers Adventure Guide Service.

**Daniel Da Prato** (Camp '80) of Italy writes: "My daughter is 3 and

#### People

my son is yet to be born, but I am already looking forward to bring them to the US. A summer in Chewonki will definitely be a gift for the life as it was for me."

Kirstin George Edelglass (MCS 2. Camp Staff '02-'05, Advisor) and husband William are pulling up their stakes in Waterville, ME, this summer and moving to Marlboro. VT, where William will be teaching philosophy at Marlboro College. On their most recent visit there, Kirstin had lunch with history professor Tim Little (Camp '55, Camp Staff '55, '62, '65, Family Trip '78, EcoWeek '81), who had fond memories of his camper "Donnie Hudson," and students Dilyara Khasianova (MCS 38) and Geri Medina (Camp '05). It turned out Geri and Kirstin had met once before, on the banks of the Allagash when the Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls (which Kirstin designed and used to lead) replaced the broken setting poles of Geri's party! Kirstin looks forward to continuing to serve as a Chewonki Advisor and to hosting any Chewonki folks passing through southern Vermont.

Andrew Fisher (Camp '86-'88, '91-'93, Camp Staff '94, MCS 11) and wife Elda have made "a happy move to North Carolina." Elda has started a residency in maxillofacial surgery at UNC-Chapel Hill, and Andrew is practicing law in Raleigh. "We love the area but miss the Neck and hope to get back soon for a visit! Hello to all."

James Gibbs (Camp Staff '80, Maine Reach '80-'81), a faculty member at the SUNY College of **Environmental Science and** Forestry, recently received the Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award from the SUNY Research Foundation. He has also received the Distinguished Teacher Award, voted on by the student body, twice in the last four years. His interests include biodiversity conservation and ecological monitoring, conservation biology of Galapagos tortoises, endangered species in New York, and service in Tanzania. He is the author of many articles and four books.

Stephen Harmon (Umbagog '88)

has just returned to Korea, where he plays with the Army Band in the 8th Infantry Division. Brother Russell Harmon (Camp '84, '86) is still in Seattle, where he is a computer consultant.

David Torruella (Camp '86, MCS 1) and brother Pau Torruella (Camp '84–'85, '87, Camp Staff '93, MCS 8) have both settled in Boulder, CO, where they love the mountains and outdoor life.

#### 1990s

Hans Albee (Camp '90-'92, '94-'96) was married last summer on the shore of Damariscotta Lake in Jefferson, ME, to Jennifer Jackson, a graduate of Hampshire College and a seventh-generation Jeffersonian. The couple met on a windjammer out of Camden, and Hans's proposal came a year later in the back of his pickup at the Common Ground Fair. Mark Albee (Staff '90-'05) presided over the ceremony at the home of the bride's parents. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon herding island sheep with local farmer and Chewonki friend Lee Straw. They currently live in Jefferson and are looking for a house or land on which to build.

Maureen Bayer (Camp Staff '97–'98), "sick of city life and longing for redwoods and hiking trails" in her backyard, has moved to Marin County, where she's awaiting results from the California Bar Exam and responses from environmental law jobs to which she's applied in northern California. Brother Colin Bayer (Camp '93, '95–'96) is still in Los Angeles but anticipates a move to Chicago.

"I miss stormy afternoons and bitter cold winds—to remind me that there is something else out there to pay attention to." That's the word from **Sean Bohac** (MCS 4, Camp Staff '92), who is enjoying yearround sunny weather and four-season gardening in San Diego. "I am so proud of the example that Chewonki sets for all those in eye, or ear shot!" he writes.

It was wonderful to hear from the Brodys, who for the first time in 17 years didn't have a child at camp last summer! Adam Brody (Camp '90-'93, '96-'97, Camp Staff '98-'00) is living and working in Montana. Brother Luke (Camp '94-'96, '98-'01) was married last July and is living and rock climbing in Portland, OR. And sister Cara (Camp '99-'02, Camp Staff '03-'05, MCS 29) will graduate from Skidmore this spring. Her plans include a career in the theater and finishing the last 20 miles of the AT in Maine.

Jon Connolly (Camp '96–'01) is a senior at Yale. Younger brother Alex Connolly (Camp '99–'04) is a freshman at Stanford.

Congratulations to **Jean-Marc Duplantier** (Camp Staff '91-'92, '96) and wife Sarah Gillen, who welcomed a new daughter, Marielrene, on May 9, 2007. They currently reside in Indiana.

Forrest Fleischman (Camp '92, '94, '96, MCS 18, Camp Staff '01, Farm Intern '03-'04) has moved from India, where he spent 10 months as a Fulbright scholar, to Indiana, where he's started a PhD program in public policy and environmental affairs at Indiana University. "I can receive mail, and for that matter, be found in person. at 1109 S. Fess Ave. Bloomington, IN 47401, but the best way to reach me is at forrest.fleischman @stanfordalumni.org." To his surprise, Indiana is not "just a flat boring state full of soybeans and basketball fans. Bloomington is one of the nicer college towns I've seen, and the reality is that I'm as likely to run into the next Yo-Yo Ma as the next Bill Monroe here." He's especially pleased to have a fruiting paw-paw tree in his backyard and has plans to plant pecans and other fruit and nut trees. For more news, as well as photos, visit Forrest's "irregular" blog at http://forestpolicy.typepad.com/forrest.

Dan Fox (Camp '95–'00, Camp Staff '02–'05) is a certified kayaking instructor and heads up kayaking activities for the Outing Club at Duke, where he's now a senior. He's majoring in physics and math and considering a career in teaching, consulting, or nonprofit work—but not until he and a friend take six months to hike the Appalachian Trail. Last summer,

Dan kayaked the Ottawa River and some of the white waters of the West with **Jim Quivey** (Camp '95–'00, Camp Staff '01–'05). "It's good to be Dan Fox, isn't it?!" writes Dan's mom. She says that she and Jim's mom credit the Chewonki community "for helping to shape our young men into the fabulous human beings they have become."

It was great to see **Eric Hakanson** (Camp '99, Camp Staff '02–'03), who stopped by for a visit this fall while visiting his parents in Boothbay. Eric is an educational consultant for Pearson Prentice Hall in Greenville, SC.

Nick Heintz (Camp '95–'99) recently graduated from SUNY Plattsburg with a degree in Adventure Based Counseling. He is living at home in Clinton, NY, and substitute teaching in Utica while working on his resume and job hunting. "I have really advanced my skills in rock climbing over the past four years," he writes.

Ned Irons (Camp '97, Camp Staff '98-'03) is living and working in Washington, D.C., where he says "life is going pretty great right now." He works at August Jackson, a marketing communications agency. "I'm sure that people tell you this all the time," he wrote Dick Thomas, "but I think about my time as both a camper and staff member every day. There are lessons I learned at Chewonki that I apply throughout my life, and thinking about that time and place is so grounding and helpful. Thank you for all of that. Please tell everyone I say hello."

Here's all the news from Loryn Kipp (MCS 9, Camp Staff '93–'94, Kitchen Manager '01–'05): "I still live in Maine. I still bake and I look forward to shoveling a lot of snow. Maybe."

Max Lavine (Camp '96–'97, Camp Staff '02, MCS 22) is working for a production company in Los Angeles and keeping up his own writing. It's a far cry from Maine, Middlebury, or Texas, but his mom reports that he is happy there amid good friends and interesting work. Younger sister Abby Lavine (Camp '03) is enjoying her first year at Wesleyan University, and especially her involvement with the dynamic Wes Environmental Action Group. "Thanks for planting

the seed when she was a Chewonki camper," writes her mom.

It's wonderful to have Stacy Kirschner Linehan (EE & Camp Staffs '97-'01) and husband Ryan **Linehan** (Wilderness Programs staff) as neighbors just down the road. They're the owners of Treats, a small gourmet shop in Wiscasset. "Treats is going well as we greet new people and make new paths," writes Stacy. Their all-natural "red sauce," made on site from local ingredients, has been a hit, as has their honey, which comes from beehives in nearby Hope. Their best news, however, came on April 7, 2007, with the birth of Kestrel Sage, who joined big brother Sawyer. "We look forward to the day they both can experience a Chewonki program."

Matt Lunt (EE '92, EE & Camp Staffs '98-'99, '03-'05) is teaching alternative education at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham, ME. We're delighted that he agreed to write a story about his experiences at Chewonki for this issue; see p. 14 for a must-read.

Rumor has it that **Graham Majorhart** (Camp '97–'99, '01) was spotted descending from the Tiger's Leap Gorge in South China, on a break from Middlebury.

Twins **Andrew** and **William** McIntyre (Camp '98-'00, '02) are both in college, Andrew at Stanford studying engineering and William at UC Santa Cruz studying music and American Studies. Andrew is on the gymnastics team, and William is skiing, surfing, and mountain biking. Brother Duncan McIntyre (Camp '92-'94, '96) is working for a venture capital company in Boston and sailing and skiing a lot. Sister Sally McIntyre (Camp '98-'99), another outdoor lover, is a graphic designer in Boston. "Chewonki meant so much to all of them," writes their dad, Angus McIntyre.

Andy Moore (Camp '90, Camp Staff '97-'98) was forced to take some time off from fencing because of a fractured hand but otherwise is doing well. He spent last summer in Cambridge, England, studying neurobiology and European history.

Rich Mumby (Camp '93–'95) visited Chewonki over Labor Day weekend and found it "as fantastic as I remember." He's back in New York City after graduating from business school at Dartmouth. "My two years in New Hampshire were a great reprieve from the city life and certainly reminiscent of my time at Chewonki."

Max and Sam Nigrosh are both doing well out there in the big world. Max (Camp '96–'98) graduated from Colby in 2006 and is working for Amica Insurance in Boston, enjoying both the job and the city. Sam (Camp '95–'99) is a junior at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, also enjoying himself thoroughly.

Nick Pratt (Camp '96-'98) is working for LandVest real-estate consulting in Boston. He is engaged to be married in August.

Chartey Quarcoo (MCS 18, Advisor) is working as a law clerk in New York City. Later this year he will go to South Africa to research the synthesis of customary and formal law.

#### 2000s

Warmest congratulations to Christina Barrett (EE Staff '00–'01), who married Todd Robida on September 15, 2007. They are hunting for a house in or near Wayland, MA.

After two years working for North Carolina Outward Bound, Mary Beth Burch (EE & Camp Staffs '03) has settled in Denver for a bit. "Working at an expeditionary learning school and playing in the mountains, missing the ocean."

Jason Chandler (Camp Staff '02–'03, '05) sent a long note from the Republic of Armenia where he is spending two years in the town of Martuni, "starting environmental clubs at the school and going to the forest with kids. My greatest goal at this point, with my limited language skills, is to clean up the trash around these recreational picnic sites and to give these children some sort of direct experience of nature. We're playing games, hiking, and having fun. I want to say how grateful I am to Chewonki for

all of your leadership and great programs—being and working there has been wonderful for me, and I especially realize it now." Jason invites anyone who is interested in viewing his blog to email him at chandler.jm@gmail.com.

Three cheers for camp assistant **Kate Fox**, who received an Honorable Mention for a Golden Lens Award at the American Camp Association's National Conference! The photo was of Chewonki campers running along the shore at Popham Beach. Kate's photos frequently appear in the *Chronicle*.

There's big "moos" from Lola (Farm Staff): she's expecting a baby calf! Lola is Chewonki's beloved cow who keeps our dining hall (and many staff families) supplied with fresh milk, cheese, and yogurt. She isn't being milked while she's pregnant, but once her calf arrives she'll be back in production.

**Elizabeth Mehr** (Camp '00) is a senior at Smith College and looks

forward to traveling to South America after graduation. "She carries the skills she learned on her Mariner trip wherever she goes," writes her father.

Daegan Miller (MCS history teacher '03–'06) is full of good news. "Talia Epstein [EE & Camp Staff '03–'06] and I are now, finally, both living together in a small Hoyt's-ish cabin right outside the city of Ithaca. We can hear coyotes at night, see the stars, and go for a polar bear dip in our pond. Not a bad set up. We also have a new addition to the family, a kitten named Rachel Catson (clever, eh?). Anyway, we miss you all and especially the fresh-pressed Chewonki cider. Hello to everyone."

Jean Wilkinson (Trustee) should be back on the tennis court by now, following surgery last fall to correct a pinched nerve in her arm. She reports that grandson Wills Bird is very excited about attending Camp Chewonki for the first time this summer.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

John Chandler, Jr. (Camp '29-'33, former Trustee and Advisor), of Brunswick and Small Point, ME, died on December 25, 2007, at the age of 87, following many years with Alzheimer's disease. A graduate of Groton and Yale, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and then embarked on a lengthy career as an educator. He was an avid athlete and long-time skier, rower, and sailor. John was a valued and longstanding friend of Chewonki, serving as one of our earliest trustees, co-chair of the capital campaign in the early 1980s, and advisor. John was predeceased by his wife Fay. He is survived by five children, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Hasket Hildreth (Camp '71-'72) died at his home in Falmouth, ME, on February 27, 2008. Trained as an engineer, marine architect, and boatbuilder, Hasket was a great sailor and an enthusiastic supporter of sail training throughout his adult life. He is survived by his parents, three brothers, and two daughters.

We love hearing from you! A new form on our website makes it easier than ever. Visit the Keep in Touch page at www.chewonki.org/alumni to update your contact information and send us your news. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.

## The Chewonki Foundation **ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

hange is in the air at Chewonki, and it isn't just because one of the snowiest winters in years is *finally* giving way to spring! An exciting and muchanticipated era is about to begin: after years of planning, we will proudly open the doors this summer of Camp Chewonki for Girls. The camp is spectacularly situated on a beautiful lake in the North Woods, just south of our Big Eddy Campground, and promises to provide an unparalleled experience for girls ages 11 to 17. We will offer a one-week session for younger girls, ages 8 to 11, on Chewonki Neck in August. After 93 years of operating a residential camp for boys, we are thrilled to be balancing the gender equation for summer programs.

Closer to home, we've acquired the rights to use another new property: Squirrel Point Light and the 4.5 acres that surround it lie just 8 miles south of Chewonki Neck and will provide a much-needed new campsite for Chewonki trippers. This too is a gem of a spot, and we look forward to making good use of it as early as this summer.

There are also significant changes on campus, many of them in the form of construction. After watching in amazement last fall as the Barn slid 44 feet to the east without a hitch, we've marveled all winter as the Wallace Center has been transformed before our very eyes. In another month, we'll be eating in a fabulous new space that will be a show-case of energy efficiency and sustainability. (We may even be eating the first greens from Salt Marsh Farm by then!) The recent changes on the Lower Field aim to save water and energy on Chewonki Neck, and a new curriculum developed by the Sustainability Office aims to promote clean water *everywhere*.

As you'll see in these pages, we never lack for ideas at Chewonki. It is your support, however, that brings these ideas to life. Everything that's in these pages happens because of the generosity, creativity, and interests of our donors. The names that follow are far more than just lists to us; they carry stories, evoke warm memories, and remind us of gifts for which we are deeply grateful.

Thus summer we will hold a special celebration at Chewonki to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Maine Coast Semester. We do so knowing that MCS, and all of our other programs, would not be the same without all the wonderful people who make our work possible through donations large and small. We thank you one and all.

Lucy Hull
Director of Development

Can you find yourself in any of the photos that illustrate our Annual Report this year? If you're an MCS alum, you just might! The medley comprises photos from several semesters. Whether you find yourself or not, the activities pictured here should surely look familiar.

#### Gifts received between September 1, 2006, and August 31, 2007

#### **UNRESTRICTED GIFTS**

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BALANCE SHEET		Temporarily	Permanently	Total	STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	FY 2007	Tuition Less Scholarship	3,517,245 (429,979)
ASSETS					Net Tuition	3,087,266
Current Assets	1,852,970	2,430,969	2,739,838	7,023,777	Investment Income Unrestricted Contributions	119,713 373,280
Property and Equipment	9,185,087		71,910	9,256,997	Temporarily Restricted Contributions Restricted Contributions	2,425,210 700,756
Other Assets	375,000		309,964	684,964	Designated Program Contributions Unrealized Gain (loss) on Investments	51,284 85,905
Total Assets	11,413,057	2,430,69	3,121,712	16,965,738	Store Income Other Income	10,996 118,553
LIABILITIES AND FUL	ND BALANCI	-			Total	6,972,963
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE EXPENSES						
Current Liabilities	1,364,369	288,072	(197,128)	1,455,313	Program: Summer Camps & Trips	1,066,336
Long-term Debt	556,580			556,580	Center for Environmental Education Maine Coast Semester	443,394
Fund Balance	9,492,108	2,142,897	3,318,840	14,953,845	Foundation	743,528 1,457,612
Total Liabilities	11,413,057	2,430,969	3,121,712	16,965,738	Capital Expenses Total	451,966 4,162,836
					Increase in Net Assets	2,810,127

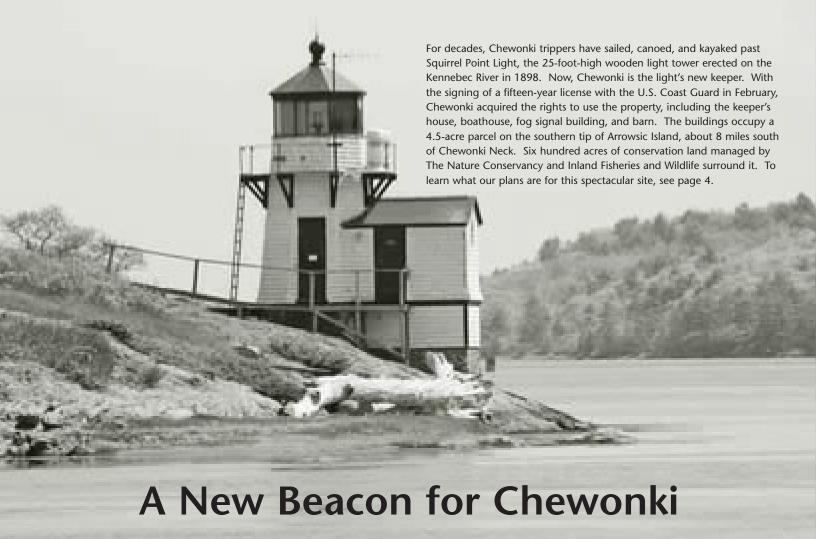


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