

Connecting to History

*Abby Burbank
invokes a tradition
at Chewonki*

Story begins on page 8



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PROGRAMS

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

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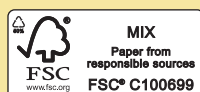
What the Internet is doing to our brains.



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Cover: Girls Camp director Abby Burbank paddling the first canoe she restored: a 1937 Old Town Guide boat, #121,233. She also carved the paddle (another first for her), from tiger maple. Photo by Chris Riley.

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



Keeping in Touch

On a sunny, cool afternoon in late April I was walking along 3rd Street in downtown San

Francisco when I heard an enthusiastic voice shout “Hey, Willard!” Startled, I looked to my left to see a smiling bicyclist unlocking his bike on the sidewalk. “It’s Dan,” he said, “Dan Fox.” It was a good way to start the evening, even if it was not completely a chance encounter. Together we walked a few blocks to the planned rendezvous point of our first Bay Area Chewonki alumni group gathering.

Dan had been thinking of getting Chewonki folks together ever since he moved to San Francisco from Victoria a couple of years ago. But it was my visit to the area and our emerging network of alumni groups in other cities that instigated the action.

By 7:00 that evening we had twenty alumni from the 1960s through the 2000s, together at the city’s only certified organic brewery. There were reunions of old friends, including semester alumni who had not seen each other in more than 10 years, and new connections made, for instance, between Boys Camp staff under each long-term camp director—Clarence Allen, Tim Ellis, Dick Thomas, and Garth Altenburg. Some alumni had already met each other through work, and I was struck by the range of careers in the group: sustainability consulting, green building, bicycle infrastructure planning, green business networking, the law, and teaching, among others.

We are excited by the start of four such regional alumni groups around the country, which Peg Willauer-Tobey writes about in this issue of the *Chronicle*. These groups are part of our multiyear Centennial effort to engage alumni with Chewonki. In News from the Neck, you can read about another part of that effort too: the organization of our archives, which is just coming into shape.




In the conversation that night there were many questions about staff, programs, sustainability, trips, and plans for the future. This issue of the *Chronicle* provides a great survey of that news. You can read about three important new staff for our summer programs, as well as get a more in-depth look at this summer’s staff for Boys Camp, which will be fully enrolled again this year.

Programs continue to evolve, and our biggest new initiative this year is the increased emphasis on boatbuilding, with a new wood-and-canvas canoe program at Girls Camp. You can also see other great additions, including a toboggan-building workshop and an expanded dairy program at the farm.

Meanwhile, although Peter Arnold and Lynne Flaccus have moved on after wonderful careers at Chewonki, we continue to move ahead with sustainability initiatives and natural science study, as you can read about in this issue. Finally, with summer upon us, we think about getting out on the coast and into the Maine Woods. I hope some of you will join us at Big Eddy or Debsconeag Lake this season, and you can read about those places here too.

As we said our good-byes in San Francisco, a small group was already planning the next alumni event. They said they want to keep in touch with Chewonki and give back however they can. I hope we can give form to that desire through our communication and with support for more alumni groups around the country. Your energy will contribute to vibrant programs, and we hope to see many of you for a 25-year Semester School reunion in August 2013 as well as a series of events to celebrate 100 years of Chewonki in 2015.

Keep in touch,


Willard

Three New Faces at Chewonki

Chewonki is pleased to welcome two new full-time, year-round assistant program leaders to its Wiscasset campus and a new assistant director for Girls Camp. "We are thrilled to be bringing some great talent to Chewonki's management team," said president Willard Morgan. "All three of these individuals not only possess great leadership skills, they have the passion for nature and outdoor learning that is essential at Chewonki."

Andrew Bezon, Assistant Director, Chewonki Outdoor Classroom for Schools and Summer Wilderness Trips

Andrew's passion for teaching and learning has been a driving force in his life, both personally and professionally. He earned a master's degree in experiential education from Minnesota State University in Mankato, and his work has led him from Mankato to Moscow and then to Wrangell, Alaska, where he guided at-risk youth on 49-day expeditions through the Alaskan wilderness.



"I feel incredibly fortunate to be with Chewonki," says Andy. "The community provides a great avenue to share my passion with others and to grow as a professional. As the season continues to gain momentum, I find myself more and more excited to be working with such an amazing organization."

Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay is delighted by this new addition to her 17-member staff. "Andy brings the perfect blend of abilities and interests to this new position," she said. "He is an experienced outdoorsman with a passion for traditional skills and wilderness travel, risk management, and thoughtful group facilitation. He is a model outdoor professional who Chewonki leaders and classroom teachers alike will respond to and respect. We're thrilled to have him on our team."

Henry R. Heyburn, Jr., Assistant Director, Chewonki Camp for Boys

Henry Heyburn of Brunswick, Maine, is a native Kentuckian who has cultivated a longtime love of the outdoors. A graduate of Milton Academy and Middlebury College, Henry worked as an instructor at Telluride Mountaineering School and Colorado Outward Bound School before returning to teach middle school in Kentucky. He eventually moved to Maine, spending five years as the head Nordic ski coach at Bowdoin College. He also worked at L.L. Bean and later at Hyde School in Bath.



Henry serves on the board of the Natural Resources Council of Maine and enjoys skiing, mountaineering, and sailing. He and his wife, Alicia, have two children, Caroline 10, and Henry 8; they spend part of each summer on a Maine island with no electricity or running water. "Pure joy," Henry exclaims.

Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg is thrilled with his newest team member. "Henry has worked with us during the summer since 2009 and has brought a tremendous amount of energy and dedication to all that we do at Chewonki," said Garth. "As a parent of two camp-age children, Henry is fully aware of the value of camping for children. His past career as a teacher combined with his enthusiasm for wilderness pursuits and his leadership during the past few summers make him the perfect partner. He is highly respected by campers and staff alike and has already hit the ground running with me as we prepare for summer 2012."

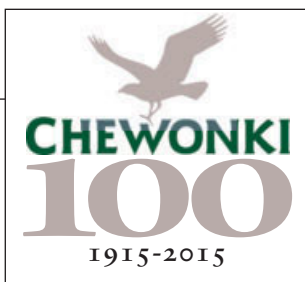
Kate Quirk, Assistant Director, Chewonki Camp for Girls

Kate Quirk has a master's degree in recreational management from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and has spent much of her life traveling and living in remote lands around the globe. For six years, together with her husband Jonny and their young son Calum, she raised livestock and tried her hand at sustainable agriculture on the Isle of Skye off the Scottish coast. Before moving to Scotland, Kate spent two years living in St. Michael on the Bering Sea coast of western Alaska, where she worked as a sled dog handler and guided weeklong trips. So it is only fitting that she joins us at our wilderness camp for girls on Fourth Debsconeag Lake this summer. "I love working with children in the outdoors and find that summer camp is a fabulous and unique setting in which to do it," says Kate. "I am delighted to be a part of a professional and forward-thinking organization like Chewonki and look forward to the wonderful experience of continued outdoor learning."

Kate worked as support staff at Girls Camp last summer and comes to Chewonki with many years of summer camp experience. She previously worked for Wyonegonic Camp in Denmark, Maine, and she was assistant camp director for Flying G Ranch Girl Scout Camp in Denver, Colorado. Kate also participated in a 30-day Outward Bound trip in New Zealand.

"I am excited to be adding Kate's vast experiences and strong leadership to our Girls Camp team," said camp director Abby Burbank. "Kate is enormously energetic, motivates staff, and knows how to work effectively and skillfully with campers."





Centennial Progress Leaps Forward with an Archivist

Last year, when Chewonki staff began seriously thinking about the upcoming centennial, there was one obvious concern that required attention: the Chewonki archive.

Archives are something that many organizations leave unmanaged because they require an uncommon and high level of expertise. Most organizations hand down their institutional memory by word of mouth, and only after decades or centuries have passed does the realization take hold that the material needs to be organized.

In other words, archives need archivists and Chewonki didn't have one. Our photographs, artifacts, and precious documents, while safe, tended to languish in the CEE conference room and the Allen Center Library, like huge neglected dinosaurs. They were big and beautiful, but no one wanted to "own" them.

Thankfully, when the Centennial Committee gathered for its first meeting last September, attention turned to an archive project. After all, how would we celebrate 100 years of Chewonki history without photographs and documents? How could we publish a book without the forgotten gems of our past?

Terry Marsh's name quickly surfaced at that meeting. Terry is a paper conservator and also a camp mom with a love for Chewonki, and she lives in nearby Bremen. She joined the Chewonki Advisory Board in 2010 and was just getting to know the staff and board on a deeper level when we approached her.

"I was sure that Terry had the expertise to point us in the right direction and possibly to lead the charge in an archiving effort," recalls Lucy Hull, Director of Development. Terry soon received a phone call from Centennial Committee co-chair Scott Beebe, and she agreed to take on the task.

It turns out Terry is a perfect fit for the job. She's had a noteworthy career in paper and art conservation. She trained in Manhattan, specializing in nineteenth-century American painting, and then apprenticed and became associate paper conservator for a high-profile New York firm whose clients included the Whitney Museum and major art galleries and auction houses. Here, Terry conserved works of art on paper by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cezanne, Henri Matisse, Jasper Johns, Chuck Close, and many other artists.

"My whole career has been caring for one item at a time," she says. Since September, Terry has quietly dedicated herself as a volunteer to



Archivist Terry Marsh at work in the Chewonki library.

BETTA STOTHART

the Chewonki archives, sometimes one, and often several days a week. She has taken what was once a neglected beast and is slowly transforming it into an organized, labeled, and *searchable* archive.

"Archives are fun because they are like a big jigsaw puzzle," says Terry. "I am happy to be able to help and grateful to have a way to say thank you for helping raise our son!"

She has uncovered a treasure of Chewonki artifacts, including a photograph of a bull moose taken by Roger Tory Peterson and given as a gift to Clarence Allen, and documents such as the open letter announcing Chewonki's historic effort to become a 501(c)(3) and "preserve this pioneer School of the Open that it may continue to serve generation after generation." Terry has also enlisted former president Don Hudson to help her mine the contents of the archive, and they're busy putting shape and organization to it.

The effort comes just as we begin to seriously consider publication of a book that will celebrate the rich and unique history of what was once a small boys camp on a peninsula in Maine.

Help Us Stay in Touch!

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

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

Thank you!

News from the Neck

Locally Grown and Built— Chewonki Toboggans!

Four oak planks and 8 frames, 64 brass screws, 2 short lengths of brass chain, 4 eye bolts, 2 fathoms light rope, 1/2 cup spar urethane, 2 quarts elbow grease, and what have you got? A Chewonki toboggan! Over the course of three days during February Vacation Camp, nine beautiful toboggans came to life in the Chewonki Woodshop at the hands of nine young builders.

Ranging in age from 11 to 15, the campers arrived outside the shop door, with their able leaders Emma Carlson and Sara Hirsch, to behold a long pine box on sawhorses with steam billowing out of its seams. A propane burner boiling a pot of water produced the steam and was connected to the box by a heavy hose. After a group inspection of *Clarence*, the 10-foot toboggan built in the shop a few years ago for racing at Toboggan Nationals in Camden, the nine builders knew what they had to do and were excited to get moving. One by one, they were each given four oak planks.

The planks had been milled by semester students from red oak logs harvested by our farmers last winter on Chewonki Neck. After drying outside for the summer and fall, they were now ready to be turned into curved sled planks. In order to bend a piece of wood into the strong curve desired for a toboggan, it must be heated to soften its lignin—a glue-like protein that bonds the cellulose wood fibers together. Once clamped in place on a bending and building jig and left to cool, the lignin and cellulose rebond to their new shape.

Laid out on the workbenches in the shop were nine jigs. The builders opened the steam-box lid and went to work. In went the planks. Half an hour later, out they came, steaming hot and ready to be rushed inside. Working in pairs, one builder inserted a hot plank on the jig and slowly



SCOTT PETERSON

bent the plank up and over as another builder held the jig in place. Wedges were driven and clamps secured. The builders quickly became a unit, pulling planks, rushing them inside, bending them over the jigs, and clamping them down like a production machine. At the close of the day, nine sleds sat cooling in their jigs and the smell of steaming oak permeated the shop.

Over the next two days the builders took great care in measuring, marking, pre-drilling, and driving brass screws to fasten their planks to frames. They sanded their sleds smooth, attached the chains, threaded the lines, and learned the basics of finishing wood as they applied two coats of urethane.

On the last day, they walked out the shop door, their very own toboggans in hand, and headed down Chewonki Neck Road in search of snow and a good hill. Their sleds flashed in the sunlight as the kids tromped past a tall stack of oak by the roadside: more Chewonki toboggans, waiting for next winter's builders. —*Scott Peterson, Waterfront and Boatshop Manager*

Zero Waste Winners Announced

The challenge went out last fall, in the form of a service-learning project for Maine's sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders. Could the students help their schools save money and resources by evaluating their waste stream and creating a plan to reduce waste? A dozen schools submitted "zero waste" plans. The winners were announced on February 1, when nearly 600 students and school officials—attended by TV cameras and news outlets—gathered at Memorial Middle School in South Portland. First place (\$3,000) went to Memorial Middle School, second place (\$2,000) to South Bristol School, and third place (\$1,000) to Massabesic Middle School in East Waterboro.

The first-place team of 50 sixth-graders worked with their science and language teachers on their project. Students traveled in teams around the school to figure out how much they were recycling and how much they were dumping in the trash. Team member Madi Smith reported that the school accumulated 90 bags of trash per week, totaling 36,000 pounds a year. "It was equivalent to the weight of *three elephants*," she announced, emphasizing how much savings can be reaped by simply diverting the school's behavior toward more recycling.



BETTA STOTHART

Chewonki president Willard Morgan, sustainability officer Tom Twist, and communications director Betta Stothart watched with delight as each of the winning teams presented their findings. "The Zero Waste Challenge has been a big success for these students and also for Chewonki," said

Chewonki Helps with Invasive Species Study

Woodlot manager Jeremy Tardif spent an afternoon last November examining the underside of hemlock twigs in the Cushman Preserve in Wiscasset—part of 482 acres of Chewonki-owned woodland. He was looking for signs of hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like insect that is decimating hemlock forests from Georgia to Maine, and unfortunately he found them. Wayne Searles of the Maine Forest Service, who had alerted Chewonki to the adelgid's presence in the area, showed Jeremy the telltale signs of an infestation: masses of cottony little balls of wax produced by the maturing females. "They're so tiny you can barely see them," Jeremy exclaimed.

Searles was at Chewonki to establish the first of five study plots in Maine to monitor the impact of the adelgid. For several reasons, he said, the Chewonki site makes an ideal study plot: it's on the leading edge of an infestation, it's accessible, and it's likely to remain forested. "Plus, with the facilities Chewonki has, and the staff and students who would show an interest in this study, it just seemed like a natural location."

Hemlock woolly adelgid was introduced to the eastern U.S. from Japan in the 1950s and first became established in Virginia. It has now spread to 17 other states. The insect has no effective natural predators here and produces two generations a year—two *hungry* generations. Adelgids use their mouthparts to pierce the base of hemlock needles and suck out the sap, thereby starving a tree of nutrition. An infestation can kill 300-year-old trees in less than a decade. In West Virginia, live hemlocks have essentially disappeared except at the highest elevations.

For many years, cold winters probably helped keep the adelgid at bay in New England, but with a combination of rising average winter temperatures and increasing cold tolerance on the part of the adelgid, the insect has crept northward. Connecticut and Massachusetts have already seen devastating hemlock losses. The adelgid was found in southern Maine in 2003 and has now been found in forests as far east as

Muscongus Bay.

Maine Forest Service entomologist Allison Kanoti is worried. "It

may take infestations longer to develop here than they did down south because our winters are colder, but we can expect a significant decline in hemlocks. We're already seeing it on the coastal peninsulas." Chemical controls are ineffective and inappropriate over large landscapes, and biological controls may be too slow-acting.

Statewide, hemlock makes up about 14 percent of Maine's forest cover and about 7 percent of the timber harvest value. The tree's primary value is ecological. "Hemlock is a keystone species, often found near water," Kanoti says. "It protects water bodies and the forest floor from erosion; buffers stream temperatures, which is important for fish and aquatic insects; and provides food and habitat for many wildlife species."

Kanoti encourages landowners to check their hemlocks for signs of the adelgid (information is available online) and to alert their state forest service if they find evidence of it. Jeremy Tardif hopes that the presence of a study plot at Chewonki will raise awareness of the adelgid among staff and participants, and that they in turn will inform others. "It would be tragic to see hemlocks go the way of chestnuts and elms, but there's evidence it could happen," he says. "We'd like to help people get a solid understanding of how serious this pest is and how municipalities are trying to monitor and control it."



Willard. "This project has raised awareness across Maine about the environmental, financial, and social benefits of reducing waste. I am excited that Chewonki has been able to engage so many schools and to lead on this important issue."

The Zero Waste Challenge was created by Chewonki and Poland Spring. Pine Tree Waste, Ecomaine, the Bowdoin College Sustainability Office, and Ferry Beach Ecology Center provided judging for the contest and have agreed to participate in the challenge again next year. Karen McNaughton, municipal marketing manager at Pine Tree, says Zero Waste helps reach a critical audience. "We love this project because it engages teachers and students and opens their eyes to ways to reduce solid waste, conserve resources, and save money."

Each of the winning schools will use its prize money to implement the waste reduction plan its students designed. Purchasing more recycling bins, starting to compost, and cutting back on paper use are just a few of the strategies the students will be pursuing.

Meanwhile, back at Chewonki, Zero Waste has become a campus-wide initiative. The Sustainability Office is working closely with Semester School students and the camp community to drastically reduce our trash stream. "There may not be a cash reward for the effort, but Chewonki's waste removal costs will be reduced dramatically," said Willard.

Campus Connectivity Gets a Major Upgrade

It is not uncommon to find Chewonki taking a limited resource and stretching it well beyond normal expectations. Connectivity has been no exception; we have existed with a tiny thread in a rapidly changing world for far too long. As of March 19, this changed!

Geography and distance from solid infrastructure are what give Chewonki its rural sense of place. Yet that distance also provides challenges; until the recent IT upgrade, our entire campus had a collective bandwidth of less than most private residences. While this didn't affect our campers, trippers, and Outdoor Classroom participants—all of whom are completely "unplugged" when with us—it did constrain our staff, and to some extent our semester students (who can use laptops but not cell phones). We limited streaming services during business hours and counted on education to help with our limitations.

After a three-year process of investigation, negotiation, and application, Time Warner has brought fiber-optic cable to Chewonki. This means we have effectively reduced and stabilized our telecommunications costs while increasing our bandwidth exponentially. With our new capacity, we can now stream informational videos at Chewonki and still run a camp-registration application or work remotely without affecting the on-campus user experience. Most importantly, we are thoughtfully ready for the future. And yes, that still means no cell phones and electronics at camp. —Rebecca Graham, Information Technology Manager



The Art of Building Canoes

A new chapter of boatbuilding begins at Chewonki

ELIZABETH PIERSON



hen Chewonki Camp for Girls opens this summer on June 26, few of the arriving campers will be likely to know much about wood-and-canvas canoes—much less how to build one. It's equally likely that

by the time they go home, these same girls will have a new vocabulary and new skills. They'll talk about *ribs* and *rails* and *thwarts*. They'll know what tumblehome is (and why it matters), and what the difference is between white cedar and red cedar. They'll know how to steam and bend a rib, how to sand and varnish planking, how to cane a seat and stretch a canvas. "Best of all," says camp director Abby Burbank, "they'll know what it feels like to launch a boat they've built with their own hands and paddle it across a lake. Nothing compares with that."

Beginning this summer, canoe building will be a centerpiece of the program at Girls Camp. It's a dream come true for Abby. Get her talking about it, and you'd best have some time on your hands. Abby is a self-proclaimed canoe "addict" with an irrepressible passion for building, repairing, and using wooden boats. She paddles wood-and-canvas canoes on her own wilderness trips, and she races them too. "Boats, and wooden boats in particular," she says, "connect us with history and with people. I love learning about the tools, the woods and methods used, and the cultures that accompany each boat that gets built or repaired."

Abby's passion for canoe building had its genesis about 10 years ago. That's when she bought her first canoe, a 1937 Old Town for \$100, and was taught how to repair it by renowned Connecticut canoe builder Schuyler Thomson. Once she got her foot in the door with Schuyler, Abby never left. "If there's been an opportunity to put my hands on a boat for learning, I've jumped at it," she said recently.

When she became director of Chewonki Camp for Girls last year, Abby began to put shape to a dream of building canoes—an entire fleet of them—at the camp. Beautiful wood-and-canvas canoes, to be paddled, cared for, and loved by

generations of campers. Abby knew canoe building would fit well with the wilderness approach at camp, where girls have been carving paddles since the beginning. She also knew that Fourth Debsconeag was the perfect place for these boats. "They just belong naturally in that pristine wilderness," she says.

Thanks to a generous gift from long-time Girls Camp supporter and Advisory Committee co-chair Lynn Harrison, a well-formulated dream will become reality this summer. Although it won't be a required activity, every girl at Chewonki Camp for Girls will have the opportunity to help build a canoe. The goal is to build two 15-foot boats—one during each of the two camp sessions. The girls will start with wood precut by Abby and Schuyler. Time is of the essence: the campers will only have three and a half weeks, and Abby wants them to have the satisfaction of seeing the boats finished and put in the water. The ribs will already be cut and shaped, but the campers will build the canoes. They'll do it without the usual power tools, instead using tools such as block planes, spoke shaves, and tack hammers. "These canoes will truly be hand built," says Schuyler.

Abby is especially excited that campers will get a chance to work with Schuyler, who will be at camp the first week of each session. A 1986 article in *Sports Illustrated* called him "one of the best and most respected wooden canoe restorers in the country" and said "enthusiasts from as far afield as Texas, Georgia and Wisconsin have brought him their boats for repair." Abby considers Chewonki "incredibly fortunate" to have his expertise to help get this program up and running.

The canoes that the campers build will become part of the fleet at Fourth Debsconeag—a fleet that Abby hopes to expand considerably. Her first goal is to build a fleet of six 15-foot canoes, a length that's well suited for young paddlers. Later she hopes to build some 17-footers to be used on trips.

In the meantime, this year's campers will find three beautiful wood-and-canvas canoes already in the water at Fourth Debsconeag. One of them is new, built by five youngsters who signed up for a special program with Abby and

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"Boats, and wooden boats in particular, connect us with history and with people. I love learning about the tools, the woods and methods used, and the cultures that accompany each boat that gets built or repaired." —ABBY BURBANK

Facing page: Girls Camp director Abby Burbank and visiting canoe builder Schuyler Thomson show off a 15-foot canoe hull built over four days by local students at Chewonki during their April vacation. Photo by Betta Stothart.



Over spring vacation week, young campers made small wooden canoe paddles while older campers built a new wood-and-canvas canoe.

Schuyler during Chewonki's April Vacation Camp this year. The other two—a 1907 Old Town HW ("heavy water") and a 1925 Old Town HW sailing canoe—were lovingly restored by Abby and this year's semester students. The 1907 boat and four other old canoes were "kind of purchased" from boat-builder Bob Bassett of Vienna, Maine. "I can't really call getting five canoes for \$200 a *purchase*," Abby says. The 1925 sailing canoe was a gift from Nancy Andrews of Connecticut, who was looking for a home for a family heirloom that was otherwise going to molder into oblivion. Abby happened to meet Nancy in Schuyler's shop, and the next thing she knew, Chewonki had a new—well, actually, a very old—canoe. Abby was thrilled when Nancy drove up to Chewonki in April to see the work that's been done on it.

Working with the semester students and the vacation campers gave Abby an exciting glimpse of what's to come this summer at Girls Camp. "I loved watching the participants' eyes open to the new skills they were learning. None of them had previous experience," she said. She also loved teaching them about the origin and history of the boats and about the respect they deserve. "Part of what we're teaching is also about sustainability. Wooden boats last forever. People think they're so fragile, but you can always repair them. When I asked some students recently 'What do you do with a plastic boat when it wears out or gets damaged?' they didn't have an answer."

Abby is grateful for the tremendous support that canoe building has received at Chewonki. "A project like this couldn't happen just anywhere," she notes. "Part of the reason it has taken hold is because so many people at Chewonki have

a passion for woodworking and for wooden boats. They use them, and they've also restored them and built them. There's a great history here, and now Girls Camp gets to start a new chapter in it."

Wood-and-canvas canoes have a rich history in eastern North America, where hunters, trappers, and recreationalists have used them since the late 1800s and where a healthy supply of talented boatbuilders fed a growing demand for the boats well into the twentieth century. After World War II, however, they were largely replaced by aluminum and plastic boats. Now, says Abby, there is renewed interest in the traditional canoes, for their beauty, warmth, usefulness, and efficiency of design. She hopes to kindle a passion for these majestic boats among the young women at Girls Camp and also instill in them a lifelong interest in wilderness paddling and woodworking.

Chewonki president Willard Morgan is equally enthused about the new endeavor. "This marks an exciting new phase at Girls Camp and honors hundreds of years of traditional wilderness travel in Maine," he said. "It's especially fitting that the activity will take place in the midst of an enormous protected region—the Debsconeag Wilderness—where canoe travel has such a long history."

With the exception of one boys camp in Maine and a few of the Canadian camps, Abby is not aware of any other summer camps in North America that incorporate canoe building or restoration into their programs. "What we are initiating at Debsconeag for the girls is really extraordinary," she says.

Two boats. Many hands. You can follow the project's progress this summer on the Girls Camp Blog at www.chewonki.org/girlscamp. ■

To meet Schuyler Thomson and watch a video of students pulling a new wood-and-canvas canoe off a form, visit Chewonki's YouTube channel at www.chewonki.org.



A Short History of Wooden Boatbuilding at Chewonki

SCOTT PETERSON

When the new boatbuilders of Chewonki Camp for Girls get down to work this summer on their first canoe, they'll become part of a steadfast tradition at Chewonki that reaches back more than 35 years. That's how long young people with little to no woodworking experience have been coming to the Neck to build, launch, and voyage in wooden boats—and in some cases, take them home.

In 1918, one of the first Chewonki campers in Wiscasset, Chippy Chase, was delivered to camp by his mother in a rowboat from their home across Montsweag Creek. Ever since that day, the wooden boat has been part of the Chewonki experience. For nearly a century, Chewonki campers have explored their nearby waters in large and small craft alike, but it wasn't until the 1970s that wooden boats began to be *built* at Chewonki.

There must have been something in the Midcoast air in those years. In 1972, just 4 miles west of Chewonki, a school for traditional wooden boatbuilding was founded in Bath on the Kennebec River. The Apprenticeshop would go on to produce 77 apprentices and more than 130 boats during its 10 years in Bath. In a 1978 article "Why Educate by Building Wooden Boats?" in *Sea History Magazine*, Apprenticeshop founder Lance Lee wrote, "Let us go on building small wooden boats then, not for the objects, and not for the process, but for the qualities to be nurtured in the practitioners of an art. Let us inspire the next generation through the practice of a demanding discipline which engages the head, hands and the heart."

If that sentiment reminds you of Chewonki, it's not a coincidence: Tim Ellis and Lance Lee were classmates at Bowdoin College, and both possessed the essential belief that "anything is possible." Tim had been the president of Chewonki since 1968 and had overseen the establishment in 1973 of the summer-long Mariner's Expedition for campers. After the program had a few seasons under its belt, Tim knew that Chewonki would need larger, more seaworthy boats. If The Apprenticeshop was building peapods, pinkies, whalers, and dories, why couldn't Chewonki?

Continued on page 12



Clockwise from top left: (1) Chewonki's 1979–1980 apprentices cutting the plank rabbit and frame pockets in *Petrel* and *Guillemot*'s oak keels. (2) Lee Huston fastening the final planks on *Auk*, the second Albemarle, in 1981. (3 & 4) Boatbuilders Expedition kayak building in 1986, the first year (photos by David Lake).





The idea was hatched: Chewonki would start a boatbuilding program and build its own vessels for wilderness trips. First, however, it would need a shop of its own.

In the summer of 1977, Chewonki offered an 8-week Shop Builders program for students age 16 and 17, led by Dave Robbins. The following summer, it offered its first boatbuilding course. Twelve students ages 16 to 61 came from across the country to learn the fundamentals of traditional wooden boatbuilding. The course was taught by Bill Highsmith, who had spent two years at The Apprenticeshop, 18 months directing the Restorationshop at Maine Maritime Museum, and had led the Mariners Expedition with Josh Marvil (Chewonki's current board chair) in 1978. The two-week course functioned both as an introduction to building technique and as a feeder program for an 11-month boatbuilding program that would begin at Chewonki in September.

In September 1978, the first yearlong Apprentice Boat Building Program began. Bill and five apprentices built three sailboats in the new woodshop: a 24-foot Albemarle Sound seiner, an 18-foot No Man's Land boat, and a 16-foot South Jersey Beach skiff. The line drawings and offset tables needed to build each boat were taken directly from the pages of Howard I. Chapelle's *American Small Sailing Craft* (1951). All three boats were prime examples of traditional sail-and-oar workboats from the 1800s. They were simply built with cedar planks on oak frames, and they flew traditional sails made by hand at Nat Wilson's loft in East Boothbay.

In June of 1979 all three boats were launched into the Sheepscot River in Wiscasset, and the next day an intrepid group cast off for the annual Mariners Expedition. Scott Andrews, who teaches history at Chewonki Semester School, recalls sailing the boats that first summer: "It was such a thrill! The boats were so fresh and brand new."

In September 1979, recent Apprenticeshop graduate Lee Huston took over running the program. He and five new apprentices embarked on the ambitious task of building two larger boats: a 25-foot Crotch Island pinky (the *Petrel*) and a 27-foot Mackinaw boat (the *Guillemot*). Both are ketch-rigged double-enders, the former a traditional Maine fishing boat from Casco Bay and the latter from the Great Lakes. The next year, Lee and a third group of apprentices built Chewonki's second Albemarle, the *Auk*. By then, Chewonki had all the boats it needed, and in 1981 the apprentice program was discontinued.

Eventually the No Man's Land and the South Jersey skiff were sold, but the Albemarles, the pinky, and the Mackinaw have carried Chewonki trippers up and down the Maine coast

Counter-clockwise from top right: (1) The 1978–1979 apprentices shaping spruce spars (masts and sprit poles) for the first three Chewonki-built boats. (2) Launching in Wiscasset of the first three boats: the South Jersey Beach skiff, the Albemarle boat *Tern*, and the No Man's Land (far left). (3) Osprey boats in the late 1980s (photo by David Lake).



now for more than 30 years. Thanks to the hard work of countless semester students, staff, and volunteers, the Mariners boats remain in superb condition and will head out again this summer. Outside of maritime museums and a small handful of boat-building schools, it is unlikely there is a comparable fleet of working traditional open boats in all of North America.

In 1986, local craftsman David Lake brought a new and exciting boatbuilding program to Chewonki: sea kayaks. The design was based on a 19-foot, 9-inch North Greenland kayak in Chapelle and Adney's book *The Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America* (1964). David simply scaled up the drawing, modified it for plywood construction, and increased the cockpit opening, realizing that "modern American

teenagers tend to be larger than 19-century Eskimos." That first year they built 11 boats. Paul Arthur and Rick Maiers led the three-week expedition, which made it all the way to Castine for the National Sea Kayaking Symposium. "They stole the show," remembers Paul. "There were all sorts of flashy lightweight modern boats on the beach, but everyone's attention was on this sun-tanned band of kids who'd just arrived by sea in boats they had built with their own bare hands!"

David Lake also helped the oldest campers—the Ospreys—build open double-paddled boats each summer, and these came to be known as Osprey boats. Today both the Boatbuilders Expedition and the Osprey boatbuilding programs continue, with one major change: the kayak design is now the lighter-weight Willow Sea Kayak from Bill Thomas, a boatbuilder in South Berwick, Maine, who also teaches at the WoodenBoat School in Brooklin.

Asked about his experience as a Chewonki Boatbuilder in 2010, current semester student Sam Wheeler said, "I really enjoyed when we went from Seal Trap Harbor on Isle Au Haut to WoodenBoat in Brooklin. That was a *huge* day for us, one of the longest on the trip, and we were fighting the wind towards the end. We got up really early and paddled hard all day. It was wonderful when we finally arrived at WoodenBoat. It was one of the happiest moments of my life."

We wish Chewonki's newest boatbuilders the best of luck this summer at Fourth Debsconeag and can't wait to see the beautiful canoes they create! ■



Thanks to the hard work of countless semester students, staff, and volunteers, the Chewonki-built Mariners boats remain in superb condition and will head out again this summer.

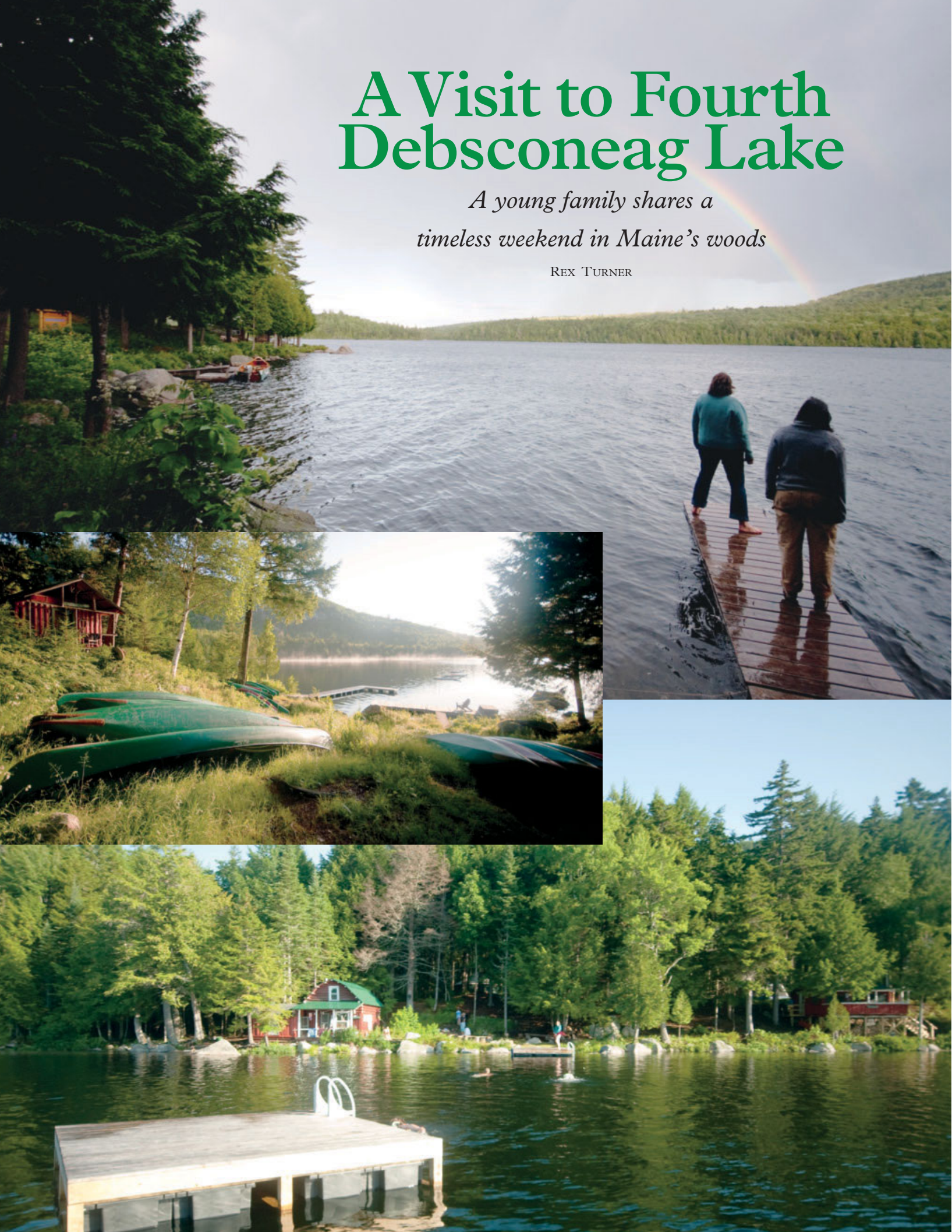
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Scott Peterson (MCS 25) is Chewonki's Waterfront and Boatshop Manager.

A Visit to Fourth Debsconeag Lake

*A young family shares a
timeless weekend in Maine's woods*

REX TURNER



My daughter is about to turn 21...months. As a father, then, I'm not worrying about her bar-hopping but rather hopping off the bed. It's a time when her language is exploding along with her ambition and bravery. I'm also learning that our family outdoor activities are pretty much shaped by her. Camping is a perfect example.

Last summer, busy schedules kept our family camping to a minimum, and day trips ruled. A Labor Day weekend trip to Fourth Debsconeag Lake, however, proved memorable and illustrative of the kinds of fun awaiting young families who take to the great outdoors.

In this case, we stayed at Chewonki's Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps, which is on land leased from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands at the Nahmakanta Public Reserved Land. This former sporting camp is now a summer camp for girls. When camp is not in session, the property is available for public stays. Cabins and more contemporary yurts are available. We tried out a yurt.

To reach our yurt, we traveled from Kokadjo to Nahmakanta, which is located within the "100 Mile Wilderness" region of Appalachian Trail fame. Our vehicle gave us access to within about a mile of the camps. From there, it was a pleasant paddle to bring ourselves and our gear to the camps.

The yurt was round, canvas-walled, and wood-floored. A door somewhat shorter than my height (as I was reminded a few times) led into the circular abode, complete with sets of bunk beds, a futon, and several dressers. A clear, round cap sat atop the roof, which rose up like a circus tent toward a single point.

As it turned out, the roughly 25-foot-wide yurt was a great feature for our young child and her sixth-grade cousin. Unlike in a confined tent, my daughter could run and play inside, and with several powerful thunderstorms passing through, the cover and space were ideal. At night, we lay under the clear dome and watched as lightning arced across the clear portal, brightly illuminating the branched silhouettes of the spruce limbs looming above.

The massive thunderstorms that rolled through brought home the feeling of an elemental experience. Likewise, the craggy ledges above the far side of the camps across a serene cove spoke of things sturdy and almost timeless. Hours of clearing skies followed the storms, and mists rose like ancient fire smoke from the small valleys running in several directions from Fourth Debsconeag Lake.

One of those gentle notches across the lake leads to a portage trail to Third Debsconeag Lake. We listened as loons wailed during our paddle to this historic link between two of the eight Debsconeag water bodies. Along the portage trail, we listened to a lively stream and witnessed an abundance of various mushroom species, which intrigued my daughter immensely and kept us on our toes ensuring they did not make their way into her mouth.

The combination of mists, mushrooms, the portage trail, and the loons was just the type of atmosphere in which I hoped to surround my daughter and her cousin. This is the timeless, unspoken, and indescribable essence I wanted to share with my family on this particular weekend.

Whether for adults or families, it's nice to have options when you head out camping. Like many of the camps that are open to the public on Maine's Public Reserved Lands, Fourth Debsconeag Lake is a great place to stay—and especially attractive if you have a massive thunderstorm, a wound-up little kid, or both. ■

Rex Turner is Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and writes for a variety of Maine publications. A slightly longer version of this essay appeared in the Bangor Daily News last September. It is reprinted here courtesy of Rex and the Maine Department of Conservation. Photos by Bridget Besaw.

Does a wilderness vacation appeal to you?

Fourth Debsconeag Lake is open to the public from mid-May to early June and again from mid-August through mid-October. Chewonki Big Eddy Campground (see p. 39) is also a great option. Learn more at www.chewonki.org.

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands also provides a variety of opportunities: www.parksandlands.com.

Chewonki Honors Two Legacies

Lynne Flaccus, Head Naturalist *A voice for wildlife*

For 23 years, Lynne was the embodiment of Chewonki's mission to "foster understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world." She was an educator, trip leader, wildlife rehabilitator, administrator, and animal overseer. She served two years as assistant director of Environmental Education, another two years as assistant director of Traveling Natural History Programs, and in 1996 became head naturalist. Whether her audience was semester students, campers, visiting school-children, or senior citizens at an Outreach presentation, Lynne was a model educator and invaluable resource for Chewonki participants and staff.

"Lynne was an inspiring mentor for so many people," says Anna Hunt, who worked with Lynne in the Center for Environmental Education for 10 years. "She is a keen observer, a quiet leader, and has set a standard for teaching natural history that we all strive toward."

Lynne's love for the natural world began during her childhood in Vermont, where her father was a botany professor at Bennington College. She earned a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Vermont and then spent four years working on wildlife projects in Montana and Idaho before coming to Chewonki in 1988. Working with every program on campus, Lynne inspired countless students—and staff—with her energy and her infectious enthusiasm for the natural world.

Although soft-spoken and never one to seek the limelight, Lynne could summon an impressive voice, especially on behalf of wildlife. "Lynne gave the most impassioned staff announcements," recalls Betta Stothart, director of communications. "She would plead with us to watch out for salamanders and turtles on the road in spring. She told us when the hawks were migrating, when the phoebes had hatched their young, and how baby porcupines defend themselves." She did the same thing with her natural history announcements at lunch. "Hundreds of boys who never thought about birds now take the time to look, listen, and learn about the birds and natural world around them because of Lynne's 'Bird of the Day' announcements," says Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg.

Lynne will long be remembered for her rehabilitation of injured animals and her training of Outreach animals; Chewonki's resident birds, mammals, and reptiles were not just friends to Lynne but teaching colleagues. She facilitated the birding and binocular program for campers that was insti-



JOCK MONTGOMERY

tuted in 2007 and, more recently, the wildly popular summer puffin-watching trips for campers. She helped teach the Semester School science course, and she developed the monitoring program for the Montsweag Brook Restoration Project.

The Chewonki community celebrated Lynne's tenure last October with "A Day in the Life of Lynne." It started with a 7:00 A.M. birdwalk, followed by "Work at breakneck pace all day" and an evening celebration. Dot Lamson, who hired Lynne and worked closely with her until her own retirement in 2009, called her "a dedicated and talented teacher who has inspired us all to look at nature more closely." Former president Don Hudson, who was himself head naturalist for 10 years, lauded Lynne for her "extraordinary curiosity, passion for the living things around her, and eagerness to share her love of nature with a twinkle in her eye."

We're delighted that Lynne remains nearby and as engaged as ever in working to preserve the natural world. She calls her new job "a stimulating challenge" and says "I still think of myself as an educator. I just have a different audience now."

Asked recently if there was anything at Chewonki that she particularly misses, Lynne paused. There was a break in her voice when she finally responded. "The animals. I really miss the animals," she said. ■

Longtime staff members Lynne Flaccus and Peter Arnold said good-bye to Chewonki last fall. On October 31, Lynne stepped into a new position as programs manager at the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, a land trust in nearby Newcastle, Maine. A month later, Peter departed for British Columbia, claiming he was retiring—"Well, temporarily, anyway." For 23 and 13 years, respectively, Lynne and Peter shared their talents, passion, and friendship with the Chewonki community and provided exceptional leadership in their positions. We miss them both and are grateful for the lasting impact of their work.

Peter Arnold, Sustainability Coordinator *Saving the world*

Peter came to Chewonki in 1998. His background included a B.Sc. in Biology from Colby College, an M.S.W. from the University of New England, three years with the Peace Corps, five years building passive solar homes, and ten years as a family therapist. "He said he was looking to change careers, that he wanted to focus on climate change, and that he would work for next to nothing," remembers Don Hudson, Chewonki's president at the time. "He wasn't a volunteer when he started here, but he was close."

The minute he'd talked himself in the door, Peter got to work. His charge was to look at all the structures within Chewonki, and all those that touch it, and figure out how to influence them toward sustainability. And for 13 years, that is precisely what he did. A master at practicing what he calls "living in a resource-restrained world," Peter strove to develop models of sustainability, and educational opportunities that lead to sustainability. Under his watch, the Sustainability Office extended its reach farther and farther—and not just to every program on campus, but far off campus as well.

The issues that have long concerned Peter most are climate change and fostering the necessary transition away from fossil fuels and toward a sustainable energy future. In charge of a program that originally had no other staff and no dedicated budget, he quickly learned the importance of creating opportunities to secure funds and personnel wherever he could and of focusing on projects that had a broad base.

One of the first big projects he spearheaded was making biodiesel at Chewonki, from used cooking oil collected from local restaurants. Biodiesel was in its infancy in Maine then, and Peter's efforts sparked interest all over the state. With grants from the Maine Technology Institute, Maine State Energy Program, and U.S. Department of Energy, Chewonki has worked since 2000 to educate potential biodiesel users and help build demand for the alternative fuel. Under Peter's leadership, Chewonki played a similar role with hydrogen, again by collaborating with partners in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors. When Chewonki unveiled its Renewable Hydrogen Project in 2006—the nation's first such system that is accessible to the public—the event was reported by media around the world.

Solar, geothermal, wind, and tidal energy. Educational posters. Energy audits. The spring Energy Conference. Sustainability lessons and tours. Peter had a hand in these



JOCK MONTGOMERY

and so many other projects. Although he would be the first to give a shout-out to his many colleagues both on and off the Neck, it was often Peter who provided the creative spark. "He demonstrated how much we had to learn about something we thought we already knew a lot about," remembers Don Hudson. "Peter fanned the flames, inviting all of us to come up with more ideas."

It was with "a great swirl of emotions" that Peter announced his retirement from Chewonki last fall. "My job was the blessing of a lifetime," he said. He's spent the intervening months on a small island off Vancouver, British Columbia, contemplating how people can learn to be more resilient and considering a move to a so-called transition town ("Google it," he says).

We aren't under any illusions that Peter is *really* retiring. He still feels called to save the world—and he is intent on recruiting others to do it too. You can hear his 2010 TED talk on the topic at <http://tedxdirigo.com/speakers/peter-arnold>.

"When you work in sustainability," he says, "you're never done." ■



JOCK MONTGOMERY

Eleven Heads Are Better Than One

Chewonki's Sustainability Committee gets to work

TOM TWIST

I've heard it said that for a committee to be effective, it should consist of no more than three people, two of whom are absent. Whoever said that obviously hadn't met our Sustainability Committee. As we work to seamlessly integrate sustainability into every aspect of Chewonki, eleven heads are definitely better than one.

It helps enormously, of course, that the Sustainability Office enjoys so much support. In other organizations, this department often has to spend most of its time beating the drum to draw attention, enthusiasm, and awareness to the cause. Not so at Chewonki—here, everyone is already on board. We have a CFO who has proclaimed that any new building should meet Passive House standards (the highest building standard, essentially requiring almost no energy in the way of space heating), a facilities manager who is pushing for a permanent biodiesel building, and a director of operations who is working to eliminate Chewonki's solid waste stream entirely.

The result of all this buy-in from the Chewonki community is that I don't have to spend my time convincing

people that climate change is real, or that renewables will save money in the long run, or that being independent of fossil fuels is a smart move. Instead, all I have to worry about is how to help us realize our goals—including an aggressive carbon emission reduction goal.

This is where the Sustainability Committee comes in. This 11-member committee, which I chair, includes the heads of most departments at Chewonki. It has been in existence for several years, but recently its role has changed a little. Recognizing that we wanted to take a more engaged approach to plotting Chewonki's future, we decided to create a Strategic Sustainability Plan. This will allow us to stay true to our goals, to map out our movements into the future, and to more easily choose projects that will be the best fit for our programs. It will also allow other Chewonki departments to know what we're going to do long before we do it, thereby increasing interdepartmental collaboration.

The process has been fun and stimulating. Laying out a strategic plan offers the opportunity to think big—to consider everything that is possible, and to look at things in a whole-system way. A particularly interesting exercise was imagining

Tom advises a camper making a solar iPod charger during the Renewable Energy activity at Boys Camp.

the campus how we'd like it to be—unconstrained by time or money or space—and then determining if our ideas were feasible. The idea that we wouldn't necessarily have to achieve our goals in a piecemeal, stepwise fashion—that we could instead knock out huge sections of our carbon emissions with a single decision or system, for example, by taking the Farm House, our main administrative building, entirely off grid—was very exciting.

Our Strategic Sustainability Plan will be finished later this year and will include mission and vision statements, an assessment of where we are now, and suggestions for moving forward. It will also include several appendices, which admittedly will probably interest only a few die-hard sustainability types. The most useful of these will be a complex spreadsheet that will take any possible sustainable action on campus and run it through a cost-benefit analysis—complete with payback period, projected carbon reduction, lifespan, and whether or not the annual maintenance on the installation will drive our facilities manager crazy.

The ultimate goal of the Sustainability Committee is seamless integration. We want program content across departments to be so well integrated with sustainability objectives that it's hard for participants to tell if they are in a designated sustainability class or just participating in a regular Chewonki program. Whether our participants are throwing leftover food into the compost, listening to a farm talk, chopping firewood, or sailing on the Maine coast, we hope they will be so enmeshed in a sustainable lifestyle that the lessons will be innate and inseparable.

The list below is by no means complete, but it will give you an idea of where we're headed—thanks to 11 heads! ■

Tom Twist is Chewonki's Sustainability Officer.

Priorities identified by the Strategic Sustainability Plan include:

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Two large wood-fired boilers for the Wallace Center, to allow for district heating of buildings around the Quad (Wallace Center, Allen Center, and Farm House)
- Blown-in cellulose insulation for the Gatehouse and Warren (staff housing)
- Real-time energy data logging for the Wallace Center
- More solar panels and expanded battery bank for Girl's Camp and Big Eddy

LONGER-TERM PRIORITIES

- Another wood-fired boiler for district heat at the south end of campus
- Solar power purchase agreement, to obtain enough solar panels to bring Chewonki's net annual electricity draw to zero
- Electric car and charging station
- Air-to-air heat pumps for space heating in outlying buildings
- Electric thermal storage units for accessing off-peak power rates

NOTICING NATURE

FRED CICHOCKI

As the new
Berkeley
Earth Surface

Temperature Study has
made abundantly clear,
we are, beyond any
reasonable doubt, in
the grip of unprece-
dented global

warming. We may

continue to question the reasons, but the
facts remain. What can we expect the
warming climate to mean for the ecology of
Maine? Well, let's turn this question into
another ...



JOCK MONTGOMERY

Natural History Mystery

Last summer one of
our campers brought
into the Nature
Museum this striking
caterpillar that he
found munching on



ornamental violets next to the Wallace
Center. I was really taken aback when I saw it,
especially when he told me there were more
where it came from. Do you know the identity
of this little beast, and why, with respect to
climate change in Maine, it surprised me so?
For the answer, go to page 37.

It Takes a Team to Run a Camp!

Spotlight on Boys Camp 2012

GARTH ALTENBURG

As Chewonki Camp for Boys prepares for its 98th summer, I'm incredibly thankful that running a camp is a team effort. There are endless details involved in getting ready for each summer, and I am most grateful to the many people who help us support nearly 300 campers and 60 summer counselors. (That's Session II from last summer pictured here.) We have a great team to help us get ready, and a loyal group of counselors and activity leaders once the campers are here. Many of our summer staff return year after year. We also have a great team working behind the scenes—the “unsung heroes” who don't have direct daily contact with campers but who are essential to our day-to-day operations. Chewonki president Willard Morgan, Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute, and Girls Camp director Abby Burbank also provide great support.

I hope you have a chance to visit us this summer and meet some of the outstanding leaders Chewonki is known for attracting. It's a pleasure to shine a spotlight on some of them here.

The Program Team

This will be my 22nd summer at Chewonki and my 7th as director. My wife, Heather, and our three children—ages 9, 7, and 5—will be close by. Heather and I are delighted to be camp parents again. Our son Will will return for his second summer as a camper living full-time in a cabin.

I'm thrilled to welcome **Henry Heyburn** to the position of assistant camp director (see p. 4). This is a new role for Henry, who served as our woodshop activity leader in 2009 and waterfront director in 2010 and 2011. Henry's wife, Alicia Pulsifer Heyburn, who works for the nearby Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, and their two children will join him, with both children attending camp.

Henry and I work closely all year with **Ryan Linehan**, director of summer wilderness trips, to plan the cabin trips. The cabin trips are a highlight of the summer for most campers. There are so many logistics involved in planning and delivering a successful trip experience. Fortunately we have a real pro in Ryan. His experience and passion for wilderness trips are unparalleled. It is quite a task to organize close to 40 cabin trips over the course of 7 weeks, not to mention our extended trips for older teenagers, but Ryan and his team make it happen.



BETTA STOTHART

Andy Richardson, Summer Assistant Director

This will be Andy's third season as summer assistant director. He focuses on assisting the activity instructors, scheduling the daily activities, and getting each camper enrolled in his desired activities. From 2007 to 2009, Andy was our Guides director. This will be his 11th summer at Chewonki.

Charlie Fear, Guides Director

Charlie will work closely with our nine counselors in training, guiding them through numerous leadership-development experiences. Charlie was head counselor for the Ospreys (ages 13–15) in 2011 and then taught in Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom. This will be his eighth summer at Chewonki.

Matt Weeks, Head Counselor

Known affectionately to our camp community as “Weeksy,” Matt will be spending his 15th consecutive summer at Chewonki. He will focus on supporting the counselors and on inspiring campers to make the most of their time with us. Matt was head counselor for the Herons (age 12) last year.



The Papas

The Papas are the head counselors for each age group. These are our most experienced counselors, helping support the campers and counselors for each age group as well as plan special group events. It's interesting to note that with one exception, our entire senior leadership team were all Papas earlier in their Chewonki careers. For most of us, it was our first significant leadership appointment. The Papas are an incredible resource for campers and counselors alike. Although we have yet to finalize the 2012 Papas, I anticipate at least 30 summers of Chewonki experience among them!

Cabin Counselors

In many ways, the most important staff presence during the summer is our cabin counselors. These are the "parents" for our campers while at camp. The rest of us really are here to support the counselors in any way we can. I am always amazed at the skills, talents, and dedication of our counselors. They bring an energy and passion that I know the more seasoned of us adults just can't match. They possess a "coolness" in the eyes of our campers because they are neither parents nor classroom teachers. The 2012 counselors look very strong. I can't wait for their arrival and to get to know them.

Behind the Scenes

Parents often call Chewonki with questions about summer opportunities, and most of the time they are greeted on the phone by receptionist **Holly Lowe**. Our program administrative assistant, **Jeannette Eaton**, helps enroll campers, organize travel logistics, and handle questions regarding pre-camp forms and equipment needs. Healthcare coordinator **Dawn Dill** and her team work with families regarding any health needs for campers and process all those pesky but needed health forms. **Edward Tittman** and his team in our business office handle all the billing for camp tuitions. **Carob Arnold** and his team on the facilities crew maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. **Bill Edgerton** and his team in the kitchen are busy planning healthy meals for the summer and will work to accommodate any special dietary needs. By feeding our campers well, Bill and his crew make the rest of our jobs easy. Having well-fed campers generally makes for happy campers!

This is but a small number of the many dedicated and hard-working people who come together at Chewonki Camp for Boys. We all look forward to Tuesday, June 26, the opening day of camp. See you there! ■

Garth Altenburg is director of Chewonki Camp for Boys.



Capturing the Essence of Semester School

Chewonki has launched three new Semester School videos produced by environmental documentarian Bridget Besaw. These 4-minute movies strikingly capture the essence of the Chewonki Semester School experience, as well as the land and beauty of Maine.

Four years ago, Bridget helped Chewonki tell the story of our new girls camp at Fourth Debsconeag Lake through vibrant, powerful images that portray both the joy and adventure of the camp and the spirit of its unique wilderness setting. “We asked Bridget to return to Chewonki, knowing that she has an innate feel for nature and storytelling,” said communications director Betta Stothart. “We are thrilled by her capacity to capture the meaning of our work and to inspire others to think beyond what they know.”



Bridget Besaw

“I love telling the story of the human connection to the natural world,” says Bridget, who is becoming a well-known

documentary photographer and videographer. “The primary inspiration for my work is environmental protection, and I love collaborating with organizations like Chewonki, which is introducing people to the inherent value of nature and wilderness.”

As a professional documentarian for The Nature Conservancy, Bridget was one of a few select photographers given access to fly over the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Her recordings of the spill can be seen at www.nature.org.

Bridget’s photographs appear in three extraordinary books. Among the publications for which she has provided feature photography are *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Geographic Adventure*.

Don’t miss the breathtaking videos Bridget created for Chewonki. Even if you have not been part of the Semester School experience, these videos have a strong message about place and the power of education. They can be found at www.chewonki.org/semester. ■

Applying to Semester School: How It Works

Chewonki Semester School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is approved by the Maine Department of Education. The application requires an online student application, two teacher recommendations, and a transcript and is reviewed by an Admissions Committee. Our Admissions Office is headed by a dedicated staff person whose major focus is attracting and enrolling a diverse group of exceptional high-school students who have a high likelihood of succeeding in our unique environment. We look for students who are ready to challenge themselves both personally and academically while living in a small community full of new experiences.

In the past year, our Admissions Office visited more than 80 schools in 14 states. Typically, one-third of our students come from our 13 member schools, the original sponsors of the school. The remaining two-thirds come from public schools and nonmember independent schools (boarding and day) from across the country. In the 2011–2012 school year, 16 of our students came from Maine.

Need-based financial aid is available. Last year Chewonki Semester School awarded \$356,000 in financial aid.

If you’d like a Semester School representative to visit your school, or would like to learn more about the school, contact Leah Boch, Director of Admissions, at lboch@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323, ext. 139. You can read the viewbook and student blog at www.chewonki.org/semester.

Got Milk? We're Working on It!

Chewonki responds to the consequences of food-safety legislation

MEGAN PHILLIPS

Milking is a twice-daily ritual that has always bookended days on the farm. We milk in the barn in winter and out on pasture from late spring through fall; we filter milk at the farm, pasteurize it in the kitchen, and drink cream-topped whole milk from thick-walled glass bottles at meals. In the pre-breakfast hours of late spring 2011, however, farmers and students—hands aching from wresting 35 pounds of milk from Lola's teats—did not filter, pasteurize, or drink Lola's milk. We poured it onto the compost pile. Lola's milk was clean and nutritious, and it represented the epitome of knowing the source of our food. But because of food-safety regulations, our pasteurization system was deemed in need of improvement. As a result, we composted milk for two weeks, dried Lola off at the peak of her milk production, and have been lacking a key system on our production- and education-focused farm for almost a year now. Everyone in the Chewonki community has missed it.

Whether our food comes from a backyard garden, a local farm, or a supermarket, food should feed us, not harm us. Thank goodness that well-intentioned food-safety regulations exist.

However, these regulations do come at a cost sometimes—an economic one that can be prohibitive for small-scale farmers and emotional for teenage semester students forced to compost their hand-milked earnings. While some regulations apply to all farms, others differentiate among farms. Some regulations make distinctions, for example, based on a farm's size; others differentiate between farms that sell directly to consumers and those that sell to restaurants and cafeterias. Here at Chewonki, the connection between farmer and consumer is intimate: we work side by side milking and gardening; we process, prepare, and eat our food together every day. And yet our farm technically "sells" (without an exchange of money) our food to a commercial kitchen serving paying participants, and so we fall under stricter regulations for dairy processing, poultry slaughter, and the like.

Logistically, this means we are in a period of transition at Chewonki, as increased regulations dictate changes in some



longstanding practices. The pigs, which used to help recycle our food waste, cannot legally eat postconsumer food waste unless it is pasteurized. Despite a strong commitment to raising pork, nobody wants to oversee heating up vats of slop, so we are moving our pigs into the woods this year; they will eat a primarily grain-based diet, and we will finish them on wild-collected acorns and apples. We have also given up—with regret at the lost educational opportunity—processing poultry on-site for the time being. Instead, our students will raise and send away 150 broiler chickens for slaughter at a USDA-inspected facility.

And the milk? We hope by this summer to have a high-tech dairy-processing facility in the Wallace Center, fit with a 15-gallon vat that can be used to legally pasteurize milk and make yogurt or cheese. Expanded dairy system, here we come! ■

Farmer Megan Phillips doesn't just grow food for the Chewonki community—she also loves to cook and write about Chewonki-grown food. We're delighted to introduce her new column here, in which she'll explore the links between the farm and kitchen. Thanks to Semester School math teacher Bill Hinkley for coming up with the column's playful title!

In order to start milking at Chewonki again, we must raise \$20,400 to construct a new milking parlor, update our existing milk-filtering room, and build a new dairy-processing facility in the Wallace Center. These new facilities will allow us to expand our dairy system to include two cows, ensuring a year-round milk supply for the Chewonki community and providing increased educational opportunities. Donations to this project would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lucy Hull in the Development Office for details (lhull@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323, ext. 127).



Calling All Alumni: Stay in Touch and Stay Involved!

“Mom, Chewonki is like my second home,” my 14-year-old son said recently. The more time I spend at Chewonki, the more I realize how true this is for other people too. Campers, trippers, students, even parents tell us about timeless and enduring memories of Chewonki. A

season lived in a cabin or yurt, mornings or afternoons at the waterfront, campfire, the sound of the bell—these and so many other sights and sounds are part of the essence of Chewonki. The people we meet here are also part of our memories. But if we aren’t careful, these memories can be frozen in time, like old photographs.

Rather than living the memories of Chewonki, we invite you to keep them alive by engaging with us. There are numerous ways to continue the relationship. Here are a few ideas:

- Start or join a regional alumni group; we can help!
- Bring your family back to visit.
- Contact our Alumni Office to connect with old friends.
- Volunteer for Chewonki or for organizations that hold similar values and goals.
- Connect via Facebook or LinkedIn; read the blogs and watch (and share!) our videos.
- Send us updates about yourself and your family. We want to know where you are and what you’ve been doing!

With your permission, we’ll share your updates (photographs welcome!) in the growing People section of the *Chronicle* and help you reconnect with Chewonki in a meaningful and enduring way.

Peg Willauer-Tobey

Assistant Development Director & Alumni Coordinator

alumni@chewonki.org or

tel. 207-882-7323 ext. 153



Chewonki friends at Sugarloaf in March.

HEATHER LOWE

Introducing Our New Alumni Groups!

We've talked about it for ages and are delighted that it's finally happening! Regional alumni groups are off the ground in New York City, Portland, Maine, Boston, and San Francisco. Each group will provide an opportunity a few times a year to get together with old and new Chewonki friends. There have already been a brown-bag picnic in Central Park, ski trips to Saddleback and Sugarloaf, trail work, and a few evening cocktail hours. Anyone who loves Chewonki is invited to participate. It's easy, it's organic, and it's fun!

Want to join one of the existing groups or start your own regional group? There are significant Chewonki populations in Atlanta, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., but all regions are welcome! Contact us and we'll set you up with an easy way to communicate with those around you.

SAVE THE DATES!

August 16–20, 2012

Family Camp. Join us in the prime days of August (see back cover).

August 23–25, 2013

Twenty-five years of Chewonki Semester School! All alums will be welcome.

January–December 2015

Chewonki is turning 100! We're already planning for a year of celebrations.

Please Give to the Annual Fund!

What do you remember from your days at Chewonki? Was it standing side by side with friends, passing wood from the woodshed to the Dumont furnace room? Was it being at the farm, harvesting potatoes? Or at the waterfront, learning to roll a kayak? No matter your particular memory, we know there is a common thread that binds all Chewonki participants. We hope you see yourself here and feel a passion to support our work.

One great way to support Chewonki is by participating in the Annual Fund. The size of contributions is not important. Rather, we are excited about the ripple effect when alumni participate together. When we work toward a common goal, we send an important message to staff, parents, board members, foundations, corporations, sending schools, and each other that our time on the Neck was precious and we want to see Chewonki, and its mission, thrive into the future.

PEOPLE

We welcome news from anyone in the Chewonki community.

E-mail your updates to

Alumni@chewonki.org or mail them to Chewonki, attention Peg Willauer-Tobey. We try hard to avoid errors. News comes to us in all kinds of ways, however, and despite our best efforts, mistakes sometimes happen. If you see one, please let us know so we can apologize—and correct our records. Unless you tell us that you do not want us to print your news, we will delight in sharing it. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity.

Thank you for being such interesting, hopeful, and purposeful people! —Ed.

1930s

John Eusden (Boys Camp '39, '42, '46–'47; Camp staff '57; advisor '00–'06; honorary trustee) sent us this tale of Massachusetts: "I had parked to go shopping. My car had Chewonki stickers on the back window and on the side. A car pulled up beside me and a young woman noticed my stickers. She immediately said something about Maine Coast Semester, where she had gone some time ago. She asked me about my connection to Chewonki and I began the usual about being a camper, counselor, director of the waterfront....I told her about getting ready for the Olympics and swimming with the tide down to the Point (but walking back when the tide had changed—over the rocks; yikes). I asked what she remembered about MCS and her account went on and on—courses she had taken, teachers, projects, friendships, and more aspects of the program. She told me MCS was the most important thing she had ever done in her life. She never thought she would be an environmentalist but that had become her life. She works for NH forest programs and is interested in the AMC and trail protection and stream and ocean preserving as well. The conversation ended and I went to do my shopping. Yeah for Chewonki! I'm so glad to be connected with it." If you were the person John bumped into, please be in touch!

1940s

Joe Scott (Boys Camp '47–'52, '54; Boys Camp staff '58–'60, '62, '64; former advisor; trustee) is "pleased to inform all those who remember 'The Tale of the Kennebec Mariner' or 'Aunt Shaw's Pet Jug' (poems by Holman Day, Poet of Maine), which you may have heard at campfire, that I know both of these poems by heart along with a dozen others. Let me know if you would like to hear any or all of them (jrscottjr@gmail.com). They were presented at Chewonki for semester students a few years ago. Perhaps again some time."

1980s

Jordon Gillis (Boys Camp '86–'89, '91; Boys Camp staff '92–'96; MCS 9) is in LA. Read more under MCS 9. **Dan Wallace** (Boys Camp '89; MCS 17) teaches in Memphis. See MCS 17.

1990s

William Abbott (Boys Camp staff '96; Outreach '01, '02; farm '02, '03; MCS 11) recently moved from CA to become the first full-time director of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust in North Conway, NH. The trust has permanently protected more than 5,200 acres from development in NH and ME. William was excited on his second day in NH to run into **Mark Albee** (farmer '90–'05)! Despite his new NH affiliation, William continues to believe that "Maine is a leader in the union on how to do conservation right." **Sam Cross** (Boys Camp '96, '97; Maine Coast Kayak '01) is immersed in a PhD program at MIT. **Ted DesMaisons** (Boys Camp staff '92, '93) writes, "In the humanities class I teach at Northfield Mount Hermon school, I ask students to map their 'Home Range,' the places that 'own' them, where they feel the 'range of their instincts,' where they tend to travel and make meaning. I was delightedly surprised to see that one of my students, **Ben Cross** [Boys Camp '07–'10; Northeast High Peaks '11; Boatbuilders '12], included a reference to Chewonki. We've since shared a number of stories and he's continued my streak of 'If the person's got a Chewonki connection, they're a good person'."

experiences. I enjoyed the piece in the latest *Chronicle* about the Natural History Mystery. We started that during the summer of '93 as a way to kindle wonder and awe for nature's unfolding. The first day, trying to be playful and theatrical, I pronounced with my best game-show announcer voice: 'It's time...for the Natural! History! Mystery! Corner!' On the second day, to my delight, the kids joined

right in and lifted their voices in a great chant. It quickly became one of the highlights of my day and, I think, of many of the kids' days as well. Those who participated the most by putting in a guess every day, right or wrong, earned a Chewonki Nature T-shirt that **Twain Braden** [Boys Camp & Wilderness Trips staffs '92, '93; OC staff '94] designed and I silk-screened. Good times. What a treat

that the tradition continues!"

Andrew Gustafson (Boys Camp '95-'97; North Woods Canoe '98; MCS 21) is publishing poetry. Read more under MCS 21. **Malia Haddock** (Boys Camp staff '99) works and blogs in Portland, ME. See MCS 21. Find news of **Ben Hindell** (Boys Camp staff '95, '96, '05; MCS 9) under MCS 9. **Hoppy Hopcroft** (Boys Camp staff '95-'00; MCS 14) works toward energy



Adam Williams and Leah Kramer Heyman.

On the Road to Changing School Lunches

Passionate about education, children, local food, outdoor exercise, and sustainability, **Leah Kramer Heyman** (OC & Wilderness Trips staff '07-'11; TNHP staff '09-'11) and **Adam Williams** (OC staff '10-'11; Wilderness Trips & foundation staffs '11) decided to do more than just bemoan childhood obesity and the tsunami of unhealthy food flooding public school cafeterias. They launched a unique consciousness- and fundraising venture called FoodCycle. Setting off from Brunswick, ME, on April 21, they are riding their bikes clear across the U.S., ending in San Francisco in mid-August. As they travel, they'll stop to draw attention to school garden projects and farm-to-school collaborations already underway. "We want to inspire and motivate others into action," Adam explains. "Healthy, locally produced ingredients help educate students about eating well while also supporting the

local economy and regenerative growing methods. We want to create access to better foods for public school children and inspire parents and educators to help children understand the value of healthy food and how what we eat impacts our bodies and the places where we live. We also want farmers to have a more active and integrated role in early education."

A handful of other riders, including **Jason Chandler** (Boys Camp staff '02, '03, '06, '10; Wilderness Trips staff '05, '11; semester teaching fellow '09-'11), will handle a few segments of the journey. Adam and Leah will ride most of the 4,500 miles themselves. They've spent months researching and fundraising. In March, musicians **Scott Peterson** (MCS 25; OC staff '08; Wilderness Trips staff '08; foundation staff '09-) and **Colin McGovern** (Boys Camp '97; Wilderness Trips '98, '99; Boys Camp staff '00, '01, '05, '07; Wilderness Trips staff '08, '10, '11; OC staff '10; Big Eddy staff '11) performed to an enthusiastic crowd at a fundraising event. Several local and regional businesses have signed on as sponsors.

Leah and Adam are fundraising not only for their bike ride but also to meet their goal of awarding \$10,000 every year to a public school committed to increasing its share of locally sourced food. In the '12-'13 school year, Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School in Brunswick will be the beneficiary of FoodCycle's efforts.

The FoodCycle team plans to stop in Burlington, VT; the Adirondacks; Buffalo, NY; Oberlin, OH; Lawrence, KS; Pueblo, CO; Cedar City, UT; Austin, NV; Point Reyes, CA; and San Francisco. To learn more, make a donation, or read their blog, go to <http://foodcycleus.com/>. Smooth roads, fair skies, healthy feasts, Adam and Leah!



Nick Morrison performing Off-Broadway.

sustainability. See MCS 14. **Brad Johnson** (asst. director MCS '96-'00; semester faculty '96-'00; farmer '00-'08), wife **Emily LeVan** (semester faculty '97-'00), and their daughter, Maddie, are flourishing in VT. "Having successfully completed treatment for her leukemia in Jan. '10, Maddie is a thriving second grader," writes Brad. "She's playing the flute, basketball, and hockey, and has still never met a stranger! Emily is finishing a nurse practitioner's degree and has accepted a job with a primary care facility in Bethel. We're excited to have her home on weekends after years of erratic schedules in the ER. She hasn't had much time to run but she's going to run another marathon in the spring. I am busy with a growing horse-logging business and raising and selling pasture-fed meat and eggs. We miss our friends there but have had the chance to see lots of Chewonki folks over here. If anyone is out our way, please get in touch and make time for a visit."

Loryn Kipp (Wilderness Trips staff '93, '94; foundation staff '01-'05; MCS 9) is continuing her culinary adventures. See MCS 9. **Olivier Krebs** (TWT '88) writes, "Hey to all! I would love to get back in touch with my fellow campers of this TWT (which changed my life), see what they became, recall nice souvenirs, share new points of

Chewonki Women Explore the Everglades

By Christina Roach (OC staff '09-'11; Girls Camp staff '10)

The night before our journey began, we converged at a little green-trimmed stucco house in Sunrise, FL. Two of the “Evergladiators,” **Emma Balazs** (TNHP staff '10-) and **Emma Mabel Carlson** (OC '08, '09; Wilderness Trips staff '09), had driven all the way from ME. One, **Sara Hirsch** (OC staff '10-), had flown in from NC. The other two—my sister, Sarah, and I—were sitting in our childhood home. As we exploded our combined gear and food supplies onto the floor, the excitement that this trip was actually happening set in.

After bartering and figuring out what to leave behind (many pairs of thick wool socks) and what to take (more sunscreen), someone pulled a cuddly stuffed manatee out of a dry bag. Our trip animal! When you bring together a group of Chewonki staff members and give them a natural environment to explore, they will bring with them some good old Chewonki Wilderness Trip traditions!

They'll also bring “the Chewonki lens”—a unique way of looking at the world. You can attach this to your regular viewfinder anytime, anywhere. This lens encourages seeking out local knowledge from local sources and especially getting to know local ecology; collective sharing and caring; and an old-school style of wilderness travel. We used our Chewonki lens on every day of our 7-day adventure, in two canoes and a kayak, in the Everglades National Park Wilderness Waterway of south Florida in January.

We learned that a chickee, an open, wooden platform with a roof, is a Native American design. We learned that the island of Chokoloskee is actually a human-made island created by the shell middens of the Calusa Indians. We delved into our traveling library, which included *A Field Guide to Florida* as well as a paddler's guide and Calvin Stone's book of stories, *Forty Years in the Everglades*. With all this plus two third-generation Floridians (Sarah and I), we immersed ourselves in this fascinating place.

The Everglades teem with wildlife. Our bird list was especially long. One day we spent half an hour watching a dolphin

herd schools of mullet while great blue herons followed in hopes of getting a tasty leftover and a gator lurked in the distance. We learned about fish from local fishermen (their vessel, which they called a “redneck catamaran,” consisted of a small motorboat with two canoes placed on either side of it). Some of us were intent on learning to distinguish black and red mangroves, while others favored listening to stories read aloud at night in a Florida Cracker accent, but we all shared a natural thirst for local intelligence.

The trip had a leisurely pace, but even so, challenges arose. We might have avoided some if we'd used a GPS. Several other paddlers and fishermen told us we were crazy to be out there without GPS and a guide. Perhaps they were right; we did take an unexpected 2-hour scenic mangrove detour one day. Without that kind of challenge, however, and the need to make decisions using our charts, compass, and brains, we would have lost a huge component of our skill building and comradery. Our Chewonki lens helped remind us that “old school” is sometimes the best school. The demands that Mother Nature presents are invaluable and help make wilderness travel a magical and cohesive learning experience.

On our last day, we spotted two manatees in a mangrove cove. We sat in silence and awe, catching brief sights of the manatees' wrinkled, whiskery noses and massive bodies just a few feet away from us. There are only 2,000 to 3,000 manatees left in Florida. Through our Chewonki lens, we recognized this as the perfect ending to our Everglades adventure.

(The Evergladiators received a mini-grant from Chewonki to support their professional development on this trip. —Ed.)



Christina Roach and Sara Hirsch in the Everglades.

views.” **Peter Kurtz** (Boys Camp '97-'00; George River '02, Mariners '03, Mistissini '04; Boys Camp staff '05; MCS 31) left his job to travel. See MCS 31. **Nick Morrison** (Boys Camp '93-'97; Boys Camp staff '00, '01, '03, '05, '07, '11) is enjoying a peripatetic existence as a freelance musician. “Last fall, I spent a month in Europe including 3 weeks in Berlin checking out that city's music scene and playing blues on the street, in the subway, and at jam sessions. Then I traveled to Amsterdam and Paris to play 2 gigs. In December, I played tenor banjo and mandolin in a 3-week run of a Yiddish Theatre Klezmer musical called *Schlemiel the First*, Off-Broadway in NYC. This spring I'm

working on recordings for what will be my first solo record.” Nick plans to return to Berlin but says, “As I try to turn myself from a free-jazz guitar player into a blues-rock singer, I'm constantly reminded where I got my start singing and playing guitar!” **Malin Pinsky** (Mariners '94; MCS 20) is hard at work in the world of academia. See his news under MCS 20. **Raisa Rexer** (MCS 21; Boys Camp staff '99, '01) is balancing motherhood and scholarship. Read MCS 21. **Betsy Bennett Stacey** (Wilderness Trips & OC staffs '96-'99), **Hanah LaBarre** (Boys Camp staff '96-'98, '00-'02; OC staff '96-'98), and **Rachel Jolly** (OC '97-'99; Boys Camp staff '04, '05) had a joyful

reunion not long ago at Hanah's house in Keene, NH. **Spencer Taylor** (Boys Camp '95-'97; Umbagog '98; MCS 21) has launched a new business. See MCS 21. **Zin Wilson** (Wilderness Trips '97, '98; Boys Camp staff '99-'02, '05; MCS 21), who lives in Idaho, writes that she and Eric have canoed “some good western wilderness rivers at a slower-than-race pace in the last couple of years. If you ever find yourself venturing (way) outside New England and want info on the Owyhee, Salmon (Middle Fork and main), Green (Dinosaur to the confluence), Rogue, Snake, or other rivers, please shoot me an email.”

2000s

Tessa van der Werff Abbott (Boys Camp staff '01; MCS 14) has a new baby! Read more under MCS 14.

Greg Shute (EE staff '86-'90; Outdoor Programs director '91-) was at Girls Camp on Fourth Debsconeag Lake last October when **Becca Abuza** (Wilderness Trips '01-'05; Boys Camp staff '07; Girls Camp Staff '08-'11; MCS 35) and **Lilly Betke-Brunswick** (Girls Camp staff '08, '10, '11; MCS 35) returned from a month-long canoe odyssey. Greg wrote: “Just at dusk I glanced across Fourth Debsconeag and saw some movement near the carry trail from Third Debsconeag Lake. Lilly and Becca had just emerged from the woods after



Becca Abuza and Lilly Betke-Brunswick on their 33-day canoe trip.



Oliver Diamond at the Chewonki waterfront.



Joe Lake and John McCormick climbing in Colorado.



Matt Weeks with Byron the Barred Owl at Chewonki.

completing the last portage of their epic 33-day canoe trip. They'd completed a circumnavigation by canoe 'round Mount Katahdin, paddling and portaging their way from Fourth Debsconeag to Nahmakanta Lake, to Rainbow Lake to Chesuncook Lake, to Black Pond up Caucomgomoc Stream to Caucomgomoc Lake to Ciss Stream to Round Pond to Allagash Lake then down Allagash Stream to Chamberlain Lake to Telos Lake, through Telos Cut to Webster Lake, down Webster Stream to Matagamon Lake, down the East Branch of the Penobscot to the confluence with the West Branch then up the West Branch to Dolby Flowage to Quakish Lake to North Twin Lake to Ambejesus Lake up the West Branch to Debsconeag Deadwater, into First Debsconeag to Second to Third and finally back to Girls Camp at Fourth! I paddled over to welcome them back. They were in high spirits. It was a magically still evening as I joined them for the paddle back across Fourth Debs toward the quickly fading sunset with an almost full moon at our backs and the Big Dipper rising to the north just over the cliffs. They didn't expect anyone to be at Fourth Debs so were very pleased to have **Ken [Wise]**; foundation staff '96-], **Carob [Arnold]**; Boys Camp '86, '87, '90; Boys Camp staff '98, '00; foundation staff '08-], and me to welcome them home. We stuffed

them full of chips, salsa, potatoes, green beans, and Chewonki-raised steak (well, Becca ate the steak; Lilly was happy with the oversized baked potatoes and green beans). It was wonderful to feel their energy and hear their stories. Chewonki staff have recently paddled the Allagash, Debsconeag lakes, and Nahamakanta Stream route, and traditional loop trips connecting Big Eddy and the West Branch with Nesowadnehunk Stream, Slaughter and McKenna ponds, Harrington Lake, and Rip Stream. It's so great to see staff out pushing the limits and experiencing what Sigurd Olsen referred to as the 'magic of the paddle.' Keep it up!" **Marley Aloe** (Boys Camp staff '00; MCS 20) is a student again. See MCS 20. **Hauns Bassett** (OC '00-'02; Wilderness Trips staff '01; Big Eddy staff '03) has been working as a master specialist with Jobs for Maine's Graduates for the past 8 years. Fellow Chewonki alumni also working for JMG include **Doug Lakin** (OC '97-'99; foundation staff '01, '02), **Jeff Kozaka** (OC '02, Outreach '02), and until recently, **Jeff Chase** (Boys Camp '96; OC '97, '98). Hauns's wife, **Kimberly** (Big Eddy manager '02-'03), runs her own tile-installation business. Their son Anders is 4; daughter Linnea will soon be 3. **Cary Blum** (Boatbuilders, Explorers, Mistissini '01-'03; Boys Camp staff '05) is a first-year med student at NYU. "I will be spending this summer

teaching gross anatomy to Italian medical students, all the while daydreaming about what's happening at the Neck." Sisters **Jennifer** (Maine Coast Kayak '09; MCS 46) and **Nadine** (Maine AT '09, Boatbuilders '10; MCS 46) **Cutler** are heading for Colorado. See MCS 46. Brothers **Julian** (Boys Camp '08-'11) and **Oliver Diamond** (Boys Camp '09-'11) will be back at Chewonki this summer! **Lydia Hagedorn** (Boys Camp staff '05; MCS 31) is engaged; more news is under MCS 31. **David Herrick** (Boys Camp '03-'06; Russian Int'l. Exchange '07; Boys Camp staff '11) is well occupied at college by his studies, his fraternity, and rowing. "I was in our fastest boat for the Head of the Spokane and Head of the Lake races. It was a great race but freezing cold at 5:45 a.m. Unfortunately, in Washington State I don't see many staff or campers, but I wish I could!" **Franklin Jacoby** (Mistissini '06, George River '07; MCS 38) appeared in a College of the Atlantic video. See MCS 38. **Ariane Lotti** (Boys Camp staff '01; MCS 23) works to support sustainable agriculture. See MCS 23. **Zand Martin** (Voyageurs '00, North Woods Canoe '01, Mistissini '03) presented a great slideshow and talk titled "Explorations by Paddle and Portage" at Chewonki in February. **John McCormick** (Boys Camp '03-'05; George River '06, TWT '07; MCS 37; Boys Camp

staff '11) takes time off from his studies at Colorado College to climb in the nearby Rocky Mountains. He enjoyed a visit from **Joe Lake** (Boys Camp '02-'07; Boys Camp staff '08, '10, '11). **Max Milliken** (Boys Camp '97, '98, '00) was the subject of an article in the winter '12 *North Yarmouth Academy Chronicle*. Max graduated from Duke in '07 and taught for 3 years with Teach for America in Hartford, CT. He then moved to Democracy Prep Charter School in NYC, where he teaches 7th grade. The school puts a heavy emphasis on each student's aspirations and college ambitions. Max is quoted saying, "Looking back, I can



Zand Martin on another long canoe trip.

really see how guidance and patience from my teachers helped me grow into the person I am today." The article says that "the opportunity to be that figure in a child's life is something that Max really enjoys about teaching."

Krystal Rogers (OC '08) and **Eric**

Nelson (OC '07, '08; Wilderness Trips staff '08), who met as OC staff, are planning a September wedding! Eric worked on a farm this year in UT. **Scott Simon-tacchi** (Boys Camp staff '07; MCS 31) is a math teacher. See MCS 31.

Annalee Sweet (Boys Camp staff '02-'04, '07; MCS 27) is back in NY. See MCS 27. **Teddy Ward** (Boys Camp '04-'07; Mariners '08; MCS 46; Torngat '11) is a bona fide theater director. See MCS 46. **Matt Weeks** (Boys Camp '98-'03; Boys Camp staff '04-'11; OC staff '11, '12) has returned to Chewonki to teach Traveling Natural History Programs.

2010s

Lauren Bangasser (OC staff '10, '11; MCS 31) wrapped up her OC work last October and celebrated with a 5-day canoe trip on the Allagash with several co-workers. Then she set out with the intention of driving down the East Coast, across I-40, and up the West Coast to home in WA, but friends in Memphis convinced her to stay—and she's loving it. She hopes anyone driving I-40 will think about stopping for a visit. **Devin Littlefield** (Boys Camp staff '11) is continuing his education at Alaska Pacific Univ., where he's learned "the necessary skills to save people

Connecting Panamanian Children to Their Natural World

When **Christine Del Vecchio** (Girls Camp staff '11) set off for Panama a few years ago with a group of Brandeis students, she didn't expect to find her calling. After graduating in '09, however, she got a job with an environmental organization there and an idea took root: she wanted to establish an environmental education program for Panamanian children. She began working on a grant application and started volunteering at a non-profit that provides a wide variety of services to at-risk youngsters in the San Felipe district of Panama City. "The more I worked with the kids, the more they inspired me to start MiMundo," she says.

In '11 Chris launched MiMundo (mimundopanama.org), a nature-based experiential learning program for underserved children in Panama City. Collaborating with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) and other partners, she created the pilot-year course "Foundation for Environmental Science" and arranged for students to work with biologists and field guides "to learn about their Panama."

Last February, after 6 months of hands-on learning, games, and activities, 35 students ages 6 to 16 became honorary guides at STRI's Punta Culebra Nature Center. "They learned to identify no fewer than 20 of the most common bird species and acquired general knowledge about their ecosystem," Chris explains. "Many of the same bird species frequent their neighborhood just across the bay. They also received a course certificate, a pair of binoculars, a bird guide, and a notebook to record their observations. Some of the kids have already gone bird-watching and are making lists of their sightings." Marine turtles, tropical dry forest ecosystems, the intertidal zone, and marine organisms are also part of the curriculum.

Christine grew up in Whitefield, ME, not far from Chewonki but a long way from Panama. Her early experiences

in the natural world profoundly affected her. "I love nature," she says. "I grew up in a loving family, in a wonderful community, in beautiful Maine, literally surrounded by opportunity. I spent spring school vacations at Chewonki."

Traveling opened her eyes to a very different kind of childhood. "As I got to know the neighborhood kids in Panama, they constantly impressed me," she explains. "I grew up with open doors all around me. They struggle to get full meals, go to the doctor, stay out of gang violence and drug circles—and let's not mention keep up in school. But they have a tenacity and passion for life that I envy. I knew how to create environmental programming—and as it turns out, the children love it."

Last summer, Chris returned to Maine to serve as a counselor at Chewonki Camp for Girls. "Spending the summer in the North Woods was a breath of fresh air," she says. "It was an inspiration, as I was developing my own ideas about program, to work with a group of highly professional, capable, and knowledgeable women. Girls Camp also reinforces the idea that spending time in nature is an important part of a balanced education."

Chris is now busy raising the core funding to support MiMundo's introductory course and a new intermediate research program for children ready for more. As she says, "Everyone has the right to learn about the world in which they live."



Christine Del Vecchio and friend in Panama.

PEOPLE

from the frigid rivers of Alaska,” along with GIS, mountain weather, statistics, and outdoor studies. He served on the ski patrol for Hilltop Ski Area in Anchorage and became director of video production at his university. “It’s been a busy year,” says Devin, “but I look forward to this summer and all the excitement it will bring at Chewonki!” **Megan Robidas** (Torngat ’11; Sem. 46) spent New Year’s Eve with happy 46ers. See Semester 46. **Caitlin Thurrell** (Girls Camp staff ’11; farm intern ’11, ’12) spent part of last fall hiking Vermont’s 270-mile Long Trail. Read about her adventures at <http://blogs.chewonki.org/girlscamp/2011/12/hiking-the-long-trail>.

SEMESTER SCHOOL

MCS 1

Fall 1988

Class Agent: Torrey McMillan, vmcmillan@gmail.com

Ed Pais lives in Burlington, VT, where he runs his own architecture firm. “As a member of the board of directors of the Vermont Green Building Network, I am leading the effort to produce a guide to green school renovations.”

MCS 2

Spring 1989

Class Agent: Critter Thompson, crittert@gmail.com

Alex Limkin recently helped host a group of high school students from NYC’s Urban Academy at the farm of an elder on the Navajo reservation outside Shiprock, NM. “The purpose of the trip was to help present the ancient traditions and sustainable practices of the Navajo people to our youth,” writes Alex. “Being around the students reminded me of my own awakening to the natural world at Chewonki, when I was 16.” We were delighted to hear from Alex, who earned his JD at Univ. of NM, served in the Army for 15 years, and now writes a powerful blog about warriors’ experience at www.warriorswithwesthusing.org.

MCS 3

Fall 1989

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

MCS 4

Spring 1990

Class Agent: Emily Rich, emily@teaguys.com

Elise Elliott-Smith is watching her twins, Sky and Niko, 2, grow! She’s also working part-time, “primarily in coordinating an international census for the federally threatened/endangered Piping Plover.” **Brooke Merriam** runs her landscape design business and plays with Sam, 7, and Cate, 5, in Bristol, RI. “I’m hoping to get them to summer camp at Chewonki in the next few years,” she writes, “though I’ll be jealous!” **Emily Rich** reports, “Every day is a new adventure with my son, Ezra, 3. And in my spare time, I’m still keeping teaguys.com going. Talking about Family Camp...anyone else interested?” Sharing life in NYC with his wife and dog, **David Silverstein** is “taking pictures and missing the mountains.”

MCS 5

Fall 1990

Class Agent: Laura Leduc, laura_howard@yahoo.com

MCS 6

Spring 1991

Class Agent: Andy Wilbur, andrew_wilbur@hotmail.com

Emily Lerner hopes everyone in MCS 6 is doing well.

MCS 7

Fall 1991

Class Agent: Brooke Guthrie, bpguthrie@gmail.com

MCS 8

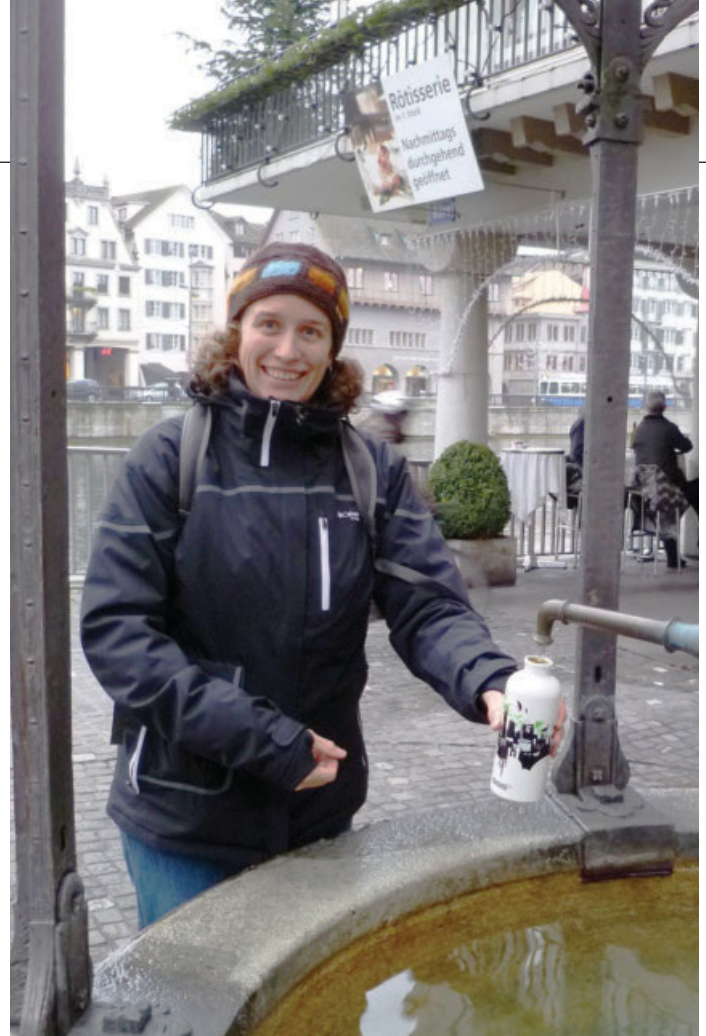
Spring 1992

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

MCS 9

Fall 1992

Class Agent: Katie Wagner, katie@katievagnersocialmedia.com



Hoppy Hopcroft in Zurich.

Ben Hindell (Boys Camp staff ’95, ’96, ’05) writes, “I can’t believe it was 20 years ago that we were at Chewonki. It remains one of the happiest times of my life.” He’s finishing a PhD in clinical psychology at the Univ. of Denver and also getting married. He and fiancée Caryn scheduled their honeymoon for after Ben ran the NYC Marathon. **Jordon Gillis** (Boys Camp ’86–’89, ’91; Boys Camp staff ’92–’96), who lives in LA, sent news of his latest accomplishments: “I’m about to become a dad for the 2nd time: a baby girl due in April will join Gavin, 2. I recently won a human beatbox competition. And today at work I accomplished the impossible: eating a bowl of chili at my desk without spilling a drop on my white shirt.” **Loryn Kipp** (Wilderness Trips staff ’93, ’94; staff ’01–’05) is the pastry chef in Anchorage, KY, where her husband, Finn MacDonald, grew up. They married in ME last fall, moved south, bought a house, and are enjoying weekends with two Great Danes. Loryn writes, “Kentucky is not Maine, but for the

first time in my life I can actually go back home to Maine to vacation!” **Kelly Levesque** recently established her own business, www.bodyworkbykelly.net, offering deep-tissue therapies. Starting her own business has been “daunting, but I’m pushing through the obstacles.” **Whitney Rapp**, a biologist at Katmai Nat’l. Park in southwest AK, reported last winter that “Without going anywhere, I’ve survived a 70-degree temperature change outside in less than a week, and it still hasn’t warmed above freezing! In the winter, I’m usually shackled to my computer,” she says, “but in the summer, I get to work in the field—about 5 million acres under our management.” **Tina Schuler** lives in Montauk, NY, and has a private practice in oriental medicine (acupuncture, herbs, etc.). She’s married and has 2 cats and a garden. “I think back on my time at Chewonki often and dream of sending my future kids there for camp or a semester one day.” **Amanda Stason** is a mind and body health coach in Mill Valley, CA. She’s “loving the ocean and

redwoods and inspiring people to love their bodies and create amazing health.” Amanda’s website is www.mindandbodyhealthcoach.com. Last fall, **Katie Wagner** visited Chewonki for the first time since MCS 9. After working as a TV anchor, she started her own social media agency with her husband (www.katiewagnersocialmedia.com). They live in Orange County, CA, with 5 rescue dogs and a horse. She tells her semester-mates, “Our MCS Facebook group is called ‘Chewonki MCSIX.’”

MCS 10

Spring 1993

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

MCS 11

Fall 1993

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

William Abbott (Boys Camp staff '96; Outreach '01, '02; farm '02, '03) has come back to New England! Read his news in the 1990s.

MCS 12

Spring 1994

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

MCS 13

Fall 1994

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

Lauren Lochner is a middle school counselor in Shoreline, WA, and she’s engaged! She finds Washingtonians a little soft: last winter, “It snowed just a bit and we got the entire week off. This would never happen in ME!” A back injury slowed Lauren last summer, but this summer she’ll “get back in the lake and swim some open water long-distance races!”

MCS 14

Spring 1995

Class Agent: Erika Brown, erikabrown1@gmail.com

Tessa van der Werff Abbott (Boys Camp staff '01) announced the arrival (“with great speed and



Arianne Zwartjes taking a break from her teaching and writing.

consideration for all involved,” she says) of Beatrice Laurel Abbott on 9/17/11. “Bea is a dedicated eater,” says Tessa. “Started nursing 3 minutes after delivery and hasn’t let up since.” All Abbotts, including Bea’s older sister, Edie, are thriving.

Hoppy Hopcroft (Boys Camp staff '95-'00) still lives in Portland, OR, and works for Fluid Market Strategies doing energy efficiency and sustainability consulting. “MCS 14ers whom I’ve seen in the last few years include **Starria [Johnson]**, **Valerie [Orth]**, and **Ari [Zwartjes]**. More visitors are always welcome!” Hoppy traveled in France, Switzerland, and Italy last winter. “The photo shows me staying hydrated thanks to a beautiful public fountain in Zurich.”

Hannah (Hanger) Kennedy wonders, “Was it really 17 years ago that we were just settling into our cabins and becoming acquainted? I have been blessed by the memories of the people I knew there and the lessons I learned. Just the other day I was telling my children about splitting wood and driving Duke back to campus... I often think of **Mark** (farmer '90-'05) and **Ingrid Albee** (nurse '90-'05) and wish they were close by so I could learn how to farm with them to guide me... We do live in a wonderful community with many agrarian-minded folks helping each other along.” Hannah, husband David Kennedy, and their 8 children revel in country life in NC. **Cynthia Rothschild** writes

that she and Oliver Jaggi are preparing for their wedding in El Cerrito, CA. **Arianne Zwartjes** is moving back to northern NM from Tucson. She’ll be director of the wilderness program at the United World College. She’s been teaching around the Southwest for the Wilderness Medicine Institute and NOLS and also writing a book of medically themed lyric essays, *Detailing Trauma: A Poetic Anatomy*, to be published this fall by Univ. of IA Press. She sits weekly with a Buddhist meditation group. “Life is really, really good—I couldn’t be happier or more grateful.”

MCS 15

Fall 1995

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

MCS 16

Spring 1996

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

MCS 17

Fall 1996

Class Agent: Page McClean, pagemcclean@gmail.com

“It has been a long time since I was last on the peninsula but the spirit of Chewonki is strong,” writes **Dan Wallace** (Boys Camp '89). “I live in Memphis with a beautiful wife, Jasmine, and busy-bodied son, Lil

Dan. Along the way, I found my calling as a teacher.” Dan teaches upper-level math at City Univ. School of Liberal Arts, a charter school in South Memphis. He writes, “Most of the students cannot get into one of the few excellent public schools for a variety of reasons, so City nurtures and pushes them to reach the next step. Many become the first in their family to go to college.”

MCS 18

Spring 1997

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

Amanda Aikman says, “Living in Geneva has been great; Switzerland and its environs are stunning and we’re hiking/skiing/snowshoeing virtually every weekend. I’m currently working at the International Labor Organization (on forced labor issues).” **Ami Mehta** is awaiting a baby! **Nick (Sven) Vail** is an online marketing specialist at *Seattle Times* and enjoys life in the Northwest.

MCS 19

Fall 1997

Class Agent: Josie Rodberg, josierodberg@gmail.com

MCS 20

Spring 1998

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

Marley Aloe (Boys Camp staff '00) has moved from the front of the classroom to the back! Still in CT, she’s now working on master’s degrees in social work and international education. She and Andrew Matlack, a teacher, are preparing for a summer wedding. **Dan Coon** is making art and ceramic tiles in Portland, OR. “If anyone’s ever in the Pacific NW, get in touch!” says Dan. **Pete Fried** is married, living in Boston, and several years into a PhD program in neuroscience. **Kelly Macleod** lives in Napa, CA, and works as a viticulturist at Hudson Vineyards. “It’s a pretty heavenly place. Grapes, pigs, chickens, vegetable gardens, a CSA, orchards, olive oil, etc. I count myself amongst the lucky that I get to

wear jeans, drive a pick-up truck, and bring my dog with me to work everyday.” She recently caught up with **Noah Brick** and **Caleb Linville** in NY. **Chase McIntosh** lives in Sumter, SC, and travels throughout the state doing quality, food safety, and customer experience audits, inspections, and evaluations for Steritech in restaurants and grocery stores. Her brand-new nephew has congenital diaphragmatic hernia, “So prayers are requested,” she says. “If anyone is remotely close to SC, I’d love to try and catch up.” **Malin Pinsky** (Mariners ’94) and his wife, Kristin, are living near Princeton Univ., where Malin’s “got a postdoc in ecology...Should be here for the next couple years,” he writes. “It would be fun to reconnect with anyone in the area.” **Andrew Price** left *GOOD magazine* after four years and now writes for Fast Company’s new sustainability channel and occasionally for *The Atlantic*. “I live in Venice, CA,” says Andrew, “where I surf with some regularity. Say hi if you’re in the neighborhood!” **Stephanie Savell**, a PhD candidate in anthropology at Brown, is living in a favela in Rio de Janeiro while doing research. She and Peter Klein, also a PhD candidate at Brown, plan to marry in ME in June.

MCS 21

Fall 1998

Class Agent: Malia Haddock, maliahaddock@gmail.com

Simon Beardmore loves New Zealand, where he’s an environmental officer for the regional government and kayaks, bikes, and fishes. Much to his surprise, he’s also in an a cappella folk group and has learned “some of New Zealand’s oldest, finest tunes.” **Laura Behrendt**, who works at Lacoste in NYC, would love to connect with any urban MCSers. **Eliza Davenport** (Boys Camp staff ’99) has relocated to Boston for grad school at Tufts. **Andrew Gustafson** (Boys Camp ’95-’98; North Woods Canoe), who lives in Brooklyn, has started a self-published *zine* featuring his own “historically realistic poetry...history from my soul,” as he puts it. Slam performances are coming up, and he’d love

to see Chewonki faces in the audience. He also researches and writes for Urban Oyster Tours, an utterly unique approach to NYC. **Malia Haddock** (Boys Camp staff ’99) works for a domestic violence agency and a modern furniture company in Portland, ME! Read her blog at ruralmodernhome.com. Give her a shout if Portland’s on your itinerary. **Raisa Rexer** (Boys Camp staff ’99, ’01) is balancing two passions: newborn son Leander and her dissertation. The dissertation “is the most rewarding aspect of my entire academic career,” says Raisa. **Steph Horowitz** directs her own green architecture and mechanical design firm, ZeroEnergy Design, in Boston, where she and her husband, Alex, alive. **Ella Moench** teaches middle school science in LA, coaches soccer, and is plotting to buy a home in WA State. For daily running inspiration, she thinks of **Katie Sargent**. Ella plans to race this spring and summer. After years at Apple, **Mal Paine** has moved to Path, a social networking site connecting users to 150 close friends and family members. New twin boys, Nathan and Matthew, keep **Jayne Ricciardi** busy! She’s had some health challenges since delivery but is making progress. **Ben Svenson**, **Eliza Whiteman**, **Margie Graham**, and **Spencer Taylor** (Boys Camp ’95-’97; Umbagog ’97) convened for dinner recently and discussed Ben’s newfound passion for ultra marathons. “He’s so gung-ho!” reported Margie, whose love for the law rivals Ben’s for the pavement. Ben and Spencer raced barefoot around the block, but results were not made public. **Spence** visited Chewonki last fall and wrote “Always good to come back...My wife, Serena, and I have moved to Boston so she can attend the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts. I’ve just started a company named Launcht that creates crowdfunding portals for socially responsible businesses. It’s an exciting new chapter in life!” The *New York Times* wrote about Launcht last December. **Zin Wilson** (Wilderness Trips ’97, ’98; Boys Camp staff ’99-’02, ’05) lives and paddles in Idaho. See more of her news in the 1990s.

MCS 22

Spring 1999

Class Agent: Louisa Pitt, lapitt@gmail.com

Zoe Chace is a radio celebrity on NPR’s Planet Money team, creating stories for “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered,” and “This American Life”; podcasts; and a blog, all focused on the global economy.

MCS 23

Fall 1999

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

Marselle Alexander-Ozinskas and her boyfriend live in Cambridge, MA, in a “gorgeous apartment with a spare room for visitors!” She travels a lot and says life is “full and wonderful.” **Rosie Dent** continues to work on her PhD on the history and sociology of science in Philadelphia. Her latest research focuses on 1960s human genetics in Brazil. **Mia Farber** is in her second year of an MBA at the Univ. of NC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School, concentrating on sustainable enterprise. **Rebecca Garfield**, a middle school Spanish teacher, and husband Paul are settling into NY’s Hudson Valley. They take advantage of the Rockefeller Preserve’s miles of trails for running and walking. In October, **Enyi Koene** will begin studying for a second master’s, this one in translation. She joined Boys Camp director **Garth Altenburg** at a Chewonki get-together in Paris last winter. **Tyler Lewis** has a new job at Crestwood Advisors in Boston after 6 years at Fidelity Investments. He manages fixed-income investing and trading while broadening his portfolio management skills. Halfway through the F.W. Olin School of Business (Babson College) MBA, Tyler skis, snowshoes, and gets to the gym in his time off. **Ariane Lotti** (Boys Camp staff ’01) works for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in D.C., doing advocacy and legislative strategy to advance sustainable agriculture policies, including in the 2012 Farm Bill, at the federal level. **Will Morris**, who earned his PhD and now lives in Denver, works on emissions control

technologies for ADA Environmental Solutions to help power plants meet EPA’s new mercury emissions limits. He’s also brainstorming acid-gas control technologies and CO₂ capture. He misses the UT mountains. **Megan Nuttall** is happy as a midwife for rural communities in Canada. She’s “living it up, catching babes and camping, skiing, knitting, and tending sheep” with her sheepdog. **Julia O’Hern** is a marine mammal observer off the coast of South Africa. She’ll be taking a safari before heading back to school to finish her PhD. **Andrew Schapiro** is a graphic designer at a small design and strategy studio in Berkeley. He spends lots of time outdoors and backpacked in Europe last summer. Now and then he sees **Meredith Benedict**, who’s in grad school at UC Berkeley. **Ellie Forrest Shepard**, a Montessori teacher in Queenstown, New Zealand, is expecting a baby girl! She’s chairperson for the Special Olympics in Queenstown Lakes. **Liz Tunick** is working at the National Gallery in D.C., where her department recently reopened the 19th-century French galleries. She ran the Philadelphia marathon last fall, loves to cook, and stays active in her community. Having graduated from Harvard Law, **Marissa Vahlsing** is in Lima, Peru, where she’s a lawyer for EarthRights Int’l, assisting communities in the Peruvian Amazon in seeking accountability from U.S. oil companies operating on their lands. **E.J. Winter** moved to Seattle last summer to begin grad studies at Bastyr Univ., a naturopathic medical school. Her coursework combines medical school studies with naturopathic healing modalities. In March, she worked at a clinic and traveled in Guatemala.

MCS 24

Spring 2000

Class Agent: Nora Gouge, nfgouge@gmail.com

MCS 25

Fall 2000

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

Lucy Van Hook is in the Hudson Valley, north of NYC, for “grad school for a master’s in climate science and policy. The tag line for



Mattias Lanas throwing a pot in the Stanford University studio.

the program is about being the communication bridge between science and policy. It's very interesting!" See the articles by **Scott Peterson** (OC staff '08; Wilderness Trips staff '08; foundation staff '09-), one about the history of Chewonki boatbuilding and the other about building toboggans, in this issue.

MCS 26

Spring 2001

Class Agent: Andrea LaRosa, andreaallarosa@gmail.com

MCS 27

Fall 2001

Class Agent: Chris Clark, clizzy@gmail.com

Annalee Sweet (Boys Camp staff '02-'04, '07) is living in NY again after finishing her MSW at Boston College. She and husband **Bryan Berge** (Boys Camp staff '05) welcomed their first child, Nora Beatrice Berge, on 9/16/11. Nora is "a great baby, very sweet and smiley," says Annalee. "We're settling into parenthood, trying our best to catch some sleep! Hello to my Chewonki friends!"

MCS 28

Spring 2002

Class Agent: Ellie Stewart, elliestew@gmail.com

Jed Weeks is doing his best to make Baltimore more bicycle-friendly. He helped found the Bikemore Advocacy Group and recently appeared in print (and photo) in a *City Paper* story about a debate swirling around bike lanes.

MCS 29

Fall 2002

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

MCS 30

Spring 2003

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

Kate Letourneau married her "longtime guy, Andy," last summer in Tenants Harbor, ME, and started a nurse practitioner program at Mass. General in September. "We're living in Somerville. I know there must be a few MCSers around here somewhere!"

MCS 31

Fall 2003

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

Sam Baldwin's been writing for the *Lincoln County News* in Newcastle, ME, just north of Wiscasset. Next stop: law school.

Lauren Bangasser (OC staff '10-'11) came back to Chewonki to teach in the Outdoor Classroom. Read more in the 2010s. **Hilary Best** is thriving in Toronto, where she has a new job at a start-up called Venture Deli, which does business planning for social enterprises. She appreciated catching up last fall with **Taylor Dryman**. Anyone else planning a trip to Toronto should drop her a line. **Connor Dow** lives in Vail, CO, bought a house, works at Beaver Creek as a rental manager, and skis about 120 days a season. "Life is great, although I often think about life on Chewonki Neck and all the great people I met and good times I had. I'll extend a warm welcome to any MCSers coming through the Vail valley."

Taylor Dryman is in Burlington, VT, and contemplating grad studies in clinical psychology. She'd love to catch up with any MCSers. **Tressa Eaton** works in Manhattan as the NY editor for TastingTable.com. A resident of Brooklyn, she's turned into a die-hard bike commuter. She's looking forward to an upcoming visit with **Olivia Dooley** and to **Jill Lingenfelter**'s wedding. Since graduating from Middlebury, **Ellen Flenniken** has made herself a home in Oregon politics. She was part of the successful campaign for U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and is continuing as campaign finance director. **Lydia Hagedorn** (Boys Camp staff '05) recently studied in Seoul, South Korea, for 6 months, as part of her master's of architecture program at Washington U. She's engaged and looks forward to moving to Colorado soon. **Helen Hare** is in Chicago working on the Obama campaign. She'd love to see any MCSers and sends her best wishes to everyone. **Peter Kurtz** (Boys Camp '97-'00; Wilderness Trips '02, '03, George River, Mariners, Mistissini; Boys Camp staff '05) spent last year working for

Google in San Francisco, then left to travel in South America.

Danielle Layton lives and works in Portland, ME, but sadly, didn't use her snowshoes once last winter (lack of snow). She's now taking advantage of the warm weather to cycle to her heart's delight. She also plays the piano and makes Irish music. After working for an ambulance service in OH, **Ben McGee** is attending Vanderbilt's acute care nurse practitioner program. "I'm integrating my undergrad degree in international studies by taking global health courses concurrently." He always has space for MCSers visiting Nashville.

Scott Simontacchi (Boys Camp staff '07) is enjoying teaching high school math at the Storm King School, a boarding school in NY State. **Courtney Smith** is studying clinical health psychology at Appalachian State Univ. and working for NC Outward Bound during the summer. **Susannah Stone** lives in Charleston, SC, and works in a stem cell research lab. She's marrying Gardner Brown in June on North Haven Is., ME, and will start at the Medical School of SC in the fall. **Hannah Waters** has been a freelance science writer in NYC but is moving to D.C. to write and manage content for the Smithsonian's ocean science website, Ocean Portal. She's excited about working in the same building as a preserved giant squid.

MCS 32

Spring 2004

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

MCS 33

Fall 2004

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

Mattias Lanas is finishing a major/master's combination in the earth systems program at Stanford and hopes to go into environmental education while continuing to make art. "I am passionate about nature and the environment. I have sought to merge the arts with the natural sciences at Stanford," he writes. "I think this will be what I strive to

do for the rest of my life.” He loves working with clay. “I like creating, quite generally, and ceramics gives so much freedom to shape, sculpt, mold a form. [It] is something I look forward to...whenever I get a break from papers, exams, upsets.”

MCS 34

Spring 2005

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

MCS 35

Fall 2005

Class Agent: Cameron McKnight, faithcameronmcknight@yahoo.com

Becca Abuza (Wilderness Trips '01-'05; Camp staff '07; Girls Camp staff '08-'11) and **Lilly Betke-Brunswick** (Girls Camp staff '08, '10, '11) took a 33-day canoe expedition in ME's North Woods last fall. Read about it under the 2000s.

Linnea Palmer Paton spoke about the Occupy movement in a clip on “Moyers & Co.” Bill Moyers's new public TV program. Her focus within Occupy is how savings and investments affect the environment. Linnea is refocusing her career on PR and media. She's also marrying Guillaume Marceau, a Quebecois she met doing climate activism.

Marjolaine Whittlesey (semester faculty '07-) spotted a gang of MCS celebrities in a College of the Atlantic video about students' experiences studying human ecology.

Kaija Klauder features prominently; **Franklin Jacoby** (Mistissini '06; George River '07; MCS 38), **Halie Morrell** (MCS 38), and **Erica Georgaklis** (MCS 40) also

share the limelight. Marjo says to listen to what is said about the program, because “much of it echoes Chewonki.” Go to www.coa.edu/coa-videos.htm.

MCS 36

Spring 2006

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

Rose Hyson graduated from Carleton and is working toward a master's in TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) at the School for Intern'l Training Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, VT. **Stephanie Rendall** met her fiancé, Clark Heijbroek, while studying at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland. They've moved to the Caribbean and “are busy playing with our cat, Finny, and growing seedlings to plant in our garden.”

MCS 37

Fall 2006

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

MCS 38

Spring 2007

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

Laura Coyne majored in human development and social relations at Earlham and spent last summer teaching history at Hopkins School Breakthrough New Haven. The program provides high-potential middle school students from New Haven public and parochial schools

with academic enrichment and preparation for excellent high schools. It also serves as a workshop for young people interested in teaching. Laura will be in Atlanta this fall as a Teach for America teacher. **Franklin Jacoby** (Mistissini '06, George River '07) and **Halie Morrell** are among several Chewonki alums appearing in video that College of the Atlantic made about students' study of human ecology. See more under MCS 35. **Ailsa McCulloch** ran into **Ben Redman** (OC staff '06; Wilderness Trips staff '07-'09; semester faculty '06-'11) near a glacier in New Zealand! Read more under Semester Faculty & Staff.

MCS 39

Fall 2007

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

MCS 40

Spring 2008

Class Agents: Rachel Madding, rmadding@middlebury.edu; Nick McLeod, nickmc10935@aol.com

Halie Morrell and **Erica**

Georgaklis are among several MCS alums who appear in a video College of the Atlantic made about studying the ocean as part of COA's human ecology curriculum. See more under MCS 35.

MCS 41

Fall 2008

Class Agent: Kevin Coleman, colemankj@gmail.com

Kevin Coleman says he sees “both of the Johns [John Russell (Boys Camp '02-'06; George River '07; Boys Camp staff '09-'11) and John McCormick (Boys Camp '03-'05; TWT '06; George River '07; Boys Camp staff '11)], Will [Durrett (Penobscot Whitewater Kayakers '07; Northeast Rivers '08)], and Fiona [Haslett] every single week [at Colorado College] and sometimes seeing them will be a major highlight of my day!” **John McCormick** finds time away from his studies at Colorado College to climb in the Rockies. See his news under the 2000s.

MCS 42

Spring 2009

Class Agent: Carly Blumenfeld, cnblumenfeld@gmail.com

Sam Colt, who goes to Kenyon, will be a reporter in Atlanta this summer for Patch Media, a subsidiary of AOL (which also owns *Huffington Post*) that focuses on “hyperlocal” journalism online. “Because all of the reporting is online, Patch doesn't have normal newsrooms,” explains Sam. “Reporters file stories from home and meet once or twice a week for staff meeting and/or training. I'll likely cover small business, education, local government, and public safety/crime in two different neighborhoods. It's paid and full time, almost unheard of for humanities majors (I'm a history major with a concentration in integrated humanities).” **Graham** (formerly Genevieve) **Oxman** writes, “I am in the process of rebirth! I'm applying to transfer to a new college for fall '12 after taking a year off to go through the emotionally draining journey of transitioning to a gender that I feel more completely describes who I am. I'm learning to enjoy the little things, and apply the lessons and skills I learned on the Neck to my life. I miss Chewonki...hope all is well with other 42ers and that this year brings happiness and success to all.”

Semester 43

Fall 2009

Class Agent: Sara Clark, saraclark146@msn.com

Kieran Hanrahan, **Emily Hollyday** (farm crew '10), **Emma Longcope**, and **Cora Thaxton** (farm crew '10) returned to Chewonki on Margaret Ellis Day last June to volunteer on gardening projects. **Kieran** spent last year at Reed, where he edited the college newspaper and served on the sustainability committee. **Emily**, who worked in the student garden and with 15 environmentally oriented non-profits during her senior year at Cape Elizabeth (ME) H.S., now studies sustainable business at College of the Atlantic. Before heading to Middlebury last winter, **Eliza Margolin** worked on

Coming Soon! Our Annual Report

To save resources and provide more room for content in the *Chronicle*, we now publish a stand-alone Annual Report electronically. Please look for it online later this spring.



Semester 46ers reunite for New Year's Eve.

a horse farm in New South Wales, Australia. **Katherine Shor** attends the Univ. of NC at Chapel Hill, where she participates in the student academic and environmental affairs committees. "I'm also involved in the student group Fair, Local, Organic and the Real Food Challenge Campaign. I'm considering majoring in public policy with a concentration in the environment and food."

Semester 44

Spring 2010

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

*Please see the In Memoriam about **Kathryn Currier** in this issue. —Ed.* "I'm missing **Kathryn [Currier]** every day. My thoughts go out to her family. She will be remembered and loved always," writes **Bella Herold**. Bella's family moved to Doylestown, PA, last fall. "I miss D.C. a lot but am slowly getting to know PA." At Cornell, Bella works for Cornell Garden-Based Learning, "an organization that aims to get youth involved with gardening and local food systems through projects and various educational training programs." **Melissa Mooradian** reports that she is busy at Kenyon. "I'm enjoying all my classes. I have

joined an organization called PEAS, which works to support sustainable agriculture in the area and I'm hoping to find a farm to work on soon. I'm also going to be leading field trips for elementary school kids at the environmental center on campus." **Deirdre Shea** says that so far, 2012 has not gone according to plan. Intending to work on a farm in WA, she discovered she was the only full-time farmhand and the only person living on the farm except for the owner, "quite frankly one of the most unpleasant and disconcerting men I've ever met." Long story short, she's now enjoying running her dance teacher's school while he recovers from surgery.

Semester 45

Fall 2010

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

Semester 46

Spring 2011

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

Leo Abbe-Schneider is headed to Grinnell, where he'll be playing basketball and enjoying the corn-

fields of Iowa! **Farallon**

Broughton was named a National Merit Scholar, Commended Student, and spent part of last summer at Cornell's Shoals Marine Lab on Appledore Island, ME, studying sharks. **Ethan Chamberlain** was an environmental education intern at his high school and implemented a small-scale composting system for his school district last winter. He also managed to do plenty of skiing in the Berkshires. **CC Conner** is looking forward to a month-long internship with the Phillies!

Jennifer Cutler (Maine Coast Kayak '09) has been immersed in 25 hours a week of gymnastics—but she never forgets to put Vaseline on every night. She's off to the U.S. Air Force Academy in the fall. **Nadine Cutler** (Maine AT '09; Boatbuilders '10) helped her Dover-Sherborn (MA) school soccer team win the Div. 3 South championship. She'll soon be attending the Univ. of Denver. **Dyaami D'Orazio** is heading to Oberlin. This year she participated in the CLEO Institute, a group of people of all ages who meet and discuss climate change. She's preparing for a Youth Summit Symposium, where she'll explain climate change and the little things that people can do to reduce their carbon footprints. **Sarah Gledhill** visited Chewonki last fall after a

Maine college tour. **Lyllie Harvey** is getting her EMT license. **Maya Johnson** was co-head of the Emma Willard Composting Club, founded in 2010 by **Kacey Jones** (Sem. 44). Maya will attend Colby, along with **Katie Kibler**, **Megan Tischbein**, and **Megan Robidas**. **Katie** received a regional honorable mention from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for one of her stories. **Maritza Padilla** will attend Pomona this fall. A hearty band (35 of 41) of Semester 46ers celebrated New Year's Eve in NYC and CT. **Megan Robidas** (Torngat '11) says it was "the best possible way to kick off 2012!" Megan's volleyball team was tops in their league last year. **Elsie Thompson** played lots of basketball last winter, then began training for her first marathon. **Teddy Ward** (Boys Camp '04-'07; Mariners '08, Torngat '11) directed a well-received play, *This Is Our Youth*, at Hotchkiss last year. He'll attend Duke this fall.

Semester 47

Fall 2011

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

SEMESTER FACULTY & STAFF

See news of **Brad Johnson** (asst. director MCS '96-'00; semester faculty '96-'00; farmer '00-'08) and **Emily LeVan** (semester faculty '97-'00) under 1990s.

Ben Redman (OC staff '06; Wilderness Trips staff '07-'09; semester faculty '06-'11) sent this tale of an unexpected Chewonki encounter: "My partner and I were travelling around New Zealand and just after the inanimate man in the photo kept me from going up to the face of Fox Glacier, I was wandering down the trail and passed some college kids heading up. I heard someone yelling my name and all of a sudden up ran **Ailsa McCulloch** (MCS 38). She's a senior at Carlton and was in New Zealand for a 10-week geology trip. You can't get away from Chewonki folks, even on the other side of the world!"

NOTABLE VISITORS TO THE NECK

Matt O'Malia and **Alan Gibson** of G-O Logic, Maine designers and builders of energy-efficient homes, visited Chewonki last November to explain net-zero homes. Among design strategies Gibson and O'Malia use is the Passive House standard pioneered in Germany. This building protocol results in a 90 percent reduction in energy needed for space heating. G-O Logic has built Maine's first Passive House in Belfast, ME.



Ben Redman and "the inanimate man" at Fox Glacier, New Zealand.

IN MEMORIAM

All of us at Chewonki were deeply saddened by the loss of **Kathryn Elizabeth Currier** (Semester 44), age 18, who died on December 8, 2011. Kathryn was a freshman at Kenyon College, where she was looking forward to pursuing her interests in English, art history, and psychology.

As a student at Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, NC, Kathryn was recognized many times for her outstanding work ethic and academic talents. In just a few months last fall, she had already made a name for herself at Kenyon too.

Farmer Megan Phillips, Kathryn's advisor at Chewonki, remembers Kathryn for being "as much my advisor as she was my advisee. She taught me about the comfort of a well-loved book, about the role of adults in the lives of teenagers, and about the transformative power of speaking our truth. Whether engaging in classroom discussions, weeding the rhubarb bed on Work Program, or bantering over the lunch table, Kathryn was quirky, witty, and exceptionally bright. She embodied a crackling intellectual spirit and advocated for and gave voice to her quieter peers."

Kathryn is survived by her parents, Libby and David Currier, and two brothers, Clark and John.

Edwin "Eddie" Hawkrige (Boys Camp '32, Boys Camp staff '42), of Wellesley and Falmouth, MA, died on March 13, 2012, at the age of 90. Eddie attended The Rivers School and in 1942 graduated from Dartmouth College. He served in the Navy on destroyers in the Pacific during World War II and then worked for 25 years in Malden, MA, at his family's business, Hawkrige Brothers Steel. Eddie earned a J.D. from Suffolk University in 1978, and from 1979 until his retirement in 1992 served as deputy court clerk to the Massachusetts Land Court. He enjoyed golf, curling, and birdwatching, and for more than 40 years sang in local choirs. Eddie is survived by his wife of 63 years, Edith Crouse Hawkrige, and their 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Robert F. Schreiber (Boys Camp staff '53-'54) of Berkeley, CA, died on October 11, 2011, after suffering a cardiac arrest following his daily run. He was 74 years old and a graduate of Harvard, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. He worked for 34 years in private practice in Berkeley and later worked at treatment facilities with emotionally disturbed children and people with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

Fly-fishing, canoeing, bird watching, and running were just a few of Bob's many interests. He had a special love of crows, which began with a pet crow he adopted at Chewonki. "Rachel" was a camp favorite, beloved for all the mischief she caused, from untying campers' shoelaces to stealing shiny objects and cawing raucously outside Clarence Allen's window.

Bob's memorial service was conducted by his cousin Wendell Goddard (Camp Staff '61-'62), and among the many speakers was Bob's niece Hester Parker (EE & Camp Staffs '87-'88). Bob is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary Lu Townley Schreiber, M.D., their four children, four grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

STEP IT UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Clean Energy Initiatives Need Your Voice!

MICHAEL HUGHES, SUSTAINABILITY FELLOW

On March 1, Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico introduced a bill that, if approved, would require the largest U.S. utilities selling electricity on the retail market to source an increasing percentage of clean energy each year. The proposal would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. power sector approximately 20 percent by 2025 and 40 percent by 2035. The “Clean Energy Standard Act of 2012” would be a huge win for human health and the environment, but would it raise electricity costs for consumers?

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reviewed Bingaman’s proposal and concluded with a resounding “no”—the policy would have little or no effect on electricity rates. Under this act, credits would be granted to a utility according to the carbon intensity of its sources. As the carbon footprint of a utility’s electricity sources went *down*, the number of credits awarded would go *up*. The mandated number of credits would increase incrementally over time.

A Clean Energy Standard system is not a new idea. It functions the same as a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) but also credits nuclear, natural gas, coal with carbon-capture-and-storage, and combined heat and power units, as their carbon intensity is less than that of conventional electricity generated from coal and oil. At present, 24 states plus the District of Columbia have successful RPS policies.

Maine, in fact, has the strongest RPS in the nation, at 40 percent by 2017, from the perspective of percentage of mandated renewable supply to total supply in the state. The Maine Public Utilities Commission calculated that the total cost to ratepayers during 2009 resulting from its RPS was only .06 cents per kilowatt-hour—a monthly increase on the typical home electricity bill of about 35 cents.

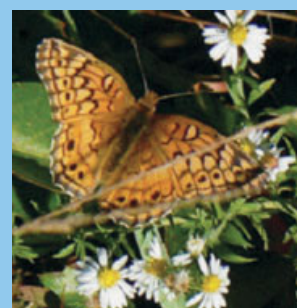
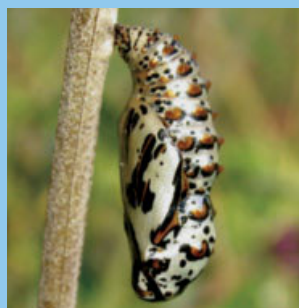
Last November, a bill titled “An Act to Increase Investment in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” was initiated that would not only increase Maine’s RPS to 50 percent by 2020 but might also *lower* electricity costs for ratepayers by requiring utilities to invest in energy efficiency. A citizen’s organization, Maine Citizens for Clean Energy, is seeking volunteers to help collect the signatures needed to have a statewide referendum on this issue in 2013.

Clean energy is, quite simply, essential for the health of our planet and children. So, whether you live in Maine or elsewhere, get involved and join the discussion on how to best develop clean energy at local, state, and national levels.

The bottom line: By speaking up for clean energy, you may find that by the end of the decade you have a stronger community, a fuller wallet, and a better feeling about our future.

Natural History Mystery: The caterpillar shown on page 19 was unmistakably that of the Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*) butterfly. Although, I couldn’t find either a chrysalis or an adult (and I spent lots of time searching), they look like this.

The Variegated Fritillary is mainly a butterfly of the south, and one that rarely strays as far north as Maine. In fact, accordingly to the Maine Butterfly Survey website, hosted by the University of Maine at Farmington, it has been positively reported (and only recently, at that) from fewer than 10 scattered localities in the state. What’s more, the Chewonki record is apparently the first record from Lincoln County. As with several other animal species, it is likely that climate warming is allowing this butterfly to extend its range more widely into Maine. And it is definitely breeding here, although only time will tell whether it can actually establish a resident population. Now that the Variegated Fritillary is on our Chewonki “radar” screen, we intend to keep monitoring its status. Stay tuned.



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

What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains

ANNE LESLIE

I recently read *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr. Willard asked the entire staff to read it, in preparation for a retreat focused on technology use at Chewonki. You should read this book too, even—especially—if you think you already know what it says.

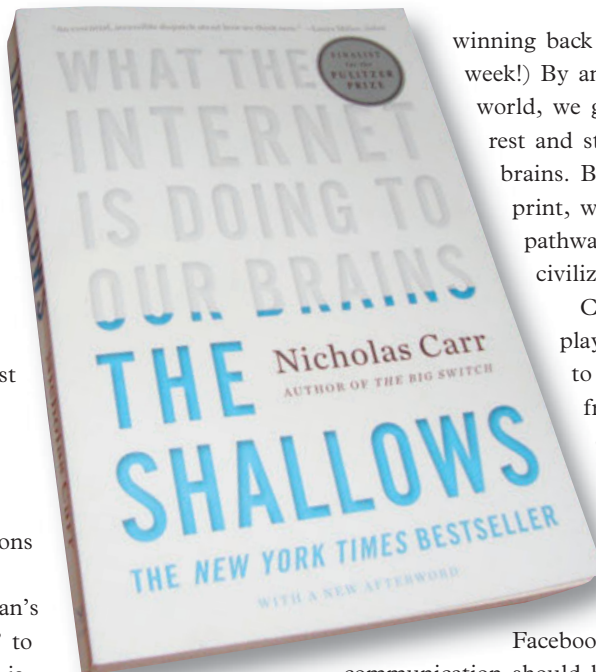
Carr draws on experience, history, and science to assert that the Internet is *not* just another learning tool. Instead, it is a “machine of immeasurable power... subsuming most of our other intellectual technologies” as well as our ability to concentrate, memorize, and make connections between realms of information to create knowledge. Carr invokes Marshall McLuhan’s famous line “The medium is the message” to warn that people who believe the Internet is harmless are victims of “the inability to see how a change in a medium’s form is also a change in its content.”

The Internet develops our ability to scan at high speed, but “It also turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers to get tiny pellets of social or intellectual nourishment,” says Carr. And it “delivers precisely the kind of sensory and cognitive stimuli—repetitive, intensive, interactive, addictive—that have been shown to result in strong and rapid alterations in brain circuits and functions.” As we surf sites and hopscotch through links, we establish new pathways in our brains that improve our performance of those tasks but diminish the pathways that facilitate more complex reading and deep thinking.

Does that matter? Carr notes that “ever since Gutenberg’s printing press made book reading a popular pursuit, the linear, literary mind has been at the center of art, science, and society...it’s been the imaginative mind of the Renaissance, the rational mind of the Enlightenment, the inventive mind of the Industrial Revolution, even the subversive mind of Modernism.” In other words, book learning has served humankind pretty well and we should think twice (can we?) before moving on.

Carr acknowledges the benefits of the medium. He also locates it in the lineage of other inventions, such as the alphabet and the clock, that have changed the way we think. Still, he wants us to consider whether we like the kind of thinking we’re permitting the Internet to train our brains to do.

Each of us has to navigate a personal relationship with the Internet. Regular times to disconnect appeal to me. (Imagine



winning back hours of uncommitted time each week!) By ambling and playing in the natural world, we give our super-scanning selves a rest and stimulate other parts of our brains. By continuing to read books, in print, we’ll keep strong the neural pathways upon which humans built civilization.

Chewonki has an important role to play too. We should lead students to recognize when they’re drifting from purpose to pointlessness online and encourage them not to abandon books, nature, and human conversations. As an institution, we should do some soul-searching. Should we nurture Chewonki

Facebook groups? How much of our communication should be online? How much connectivity is enough? Too much? We’ve talked about blacking out our website periodically and posting a simple message: “Chewonki is darkening this website from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. to urge you to find time today to read a book or get outside. See you later!”

Carr is hopeful that young, Internet-savvy users will eventually lead a backlash. He points out that “Net culture isn’t youth culture; it’s mainstream culture,” and heavily corporate. A reckoning might occur when we understand that “the idea that those who grow up peering at screens will somehow manage to avoid the cognitive toll exacted by multitasking and persistent interruption is a fantasy contradicted by neuroscientific research.”

I could hear Carr cheering when my 19-year-old recently mentioned that she’d given up Facebook. “It’s a huge waste of time,” she said. This might not stick, but I’m glad she has come to question not only what she was doing on Facebook but also what she wasn’t doing when she was there.

After reading Carr’s book, I too am quicker to recognize when I’ve gone down “the Internet rabbit hole.” This happened the other day. I stopped, stood up, walked outside, and turned my face toward the wind and sunlight. I listened to the spring peepers sending up their ringing, love-struck chorus as they have done thousands of springs before—a ritual more powerful and mysterious than anything the Internet can conjure. I was filled with gratitude to be planted firmly on planet Earth, nothing virtual about it.

Anne Leslie works in Chewonki’s Development Office.

Big Eddy:

Gem of the North

After 10 years under Chewonki's ownership, Chewonki Big Eddy Campground on the West Branch of the Penobscot is evolving into a destination for visitors. Our historic campground lies just outside Baxter State Park. Fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, rafting, and wildlife viewing are all right here! Come on your own or for one of the special events listed below. The campground is open from mid-May to mid-October.

Second Annual Fly-Fishing 101 Weekend: July 27–29

For those who'd like to learn more about fly fishing, including equipment, safety, instruction, technique, and fly-tying. Limit of 20 per day.

West Branch River Reunion: August 3–5

Back by popular demand: for all paddling/river enthusiasts. We'll gather again with our stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, and canoes for a second annual reunion. During this year's gathering we will reflect on the 25th anniversary of the Big A Dam proposal. This is the time for old river rats to introduce their families and future generations to the West Branch.

Women's Fly-Fishing Weekend: August 24–26

Casting for Recovery lead guide and supporter Bonnie Holden is teaming up with Chewonki Big Eddy for a weekend of instruction, encouragement, and camaraderie. Space is limited.

For more information on the above programs, go to www.bigeddy.org and note your interest in the comment section of your campsite or cabin reservation. Details about the program will follow.



JOCK MONTGOMERY

Campground manager Susan Adams casts a line at Big Eddy.



BETTA STOTHART

An evening paddle on Chesuncook Lake.

From the Big Eddy Cabin Logbook: *My Fishing Trip, by Jack O'Mahony*

We left my house at 7 in the morning. Me and my dad went to go pick up Greg from New Hampshire. On the way up we went on the Golden Road. Ten minutes down the road we saw a young moose with two small antlers. We stopped for a minute or two to get pictures. Then it ran right off into the woods. Thirty minutes later we got to our cabin. Then we went down to the eddy. The second cast, Greg caught a 10-inch salmon. Then shortly after my dad caught a 14-inch salmon. So I said to myself I have to start catching something. Then two minutes later I hooked into my first landlocked salmon on the Big Eddy. It was 11 inches long. Then 4-5 minutes later I hooked into a 14-inch salmon in the same spot. After that everyone was laughing and so happy, especially me.

Thirteen-year-old Jack O'Mahony of Maynard, MA, visited Big Eddy for the first time last spring with his dad and a family friend, and they'll return this spring. As with many visitors, the campground is their only connection to Chewonki. "Big Eddy is a place for everyone to gather and gain an appreciation for the natural world," says campground manager Susan Adams (pictured above). "This is an extension of Chewonki, where the general public can connect with friends, family, and other guests and enjoy some of Maine's most magnificent natural features. It's a natural gem that is open to all."



GREG CLARKE

Jack and his first landlocked salmon on the Big Eddy.



Come Join Us!

AUGUST 16-20 ON CHEWONKI NECK FAMILY CAMP 2012

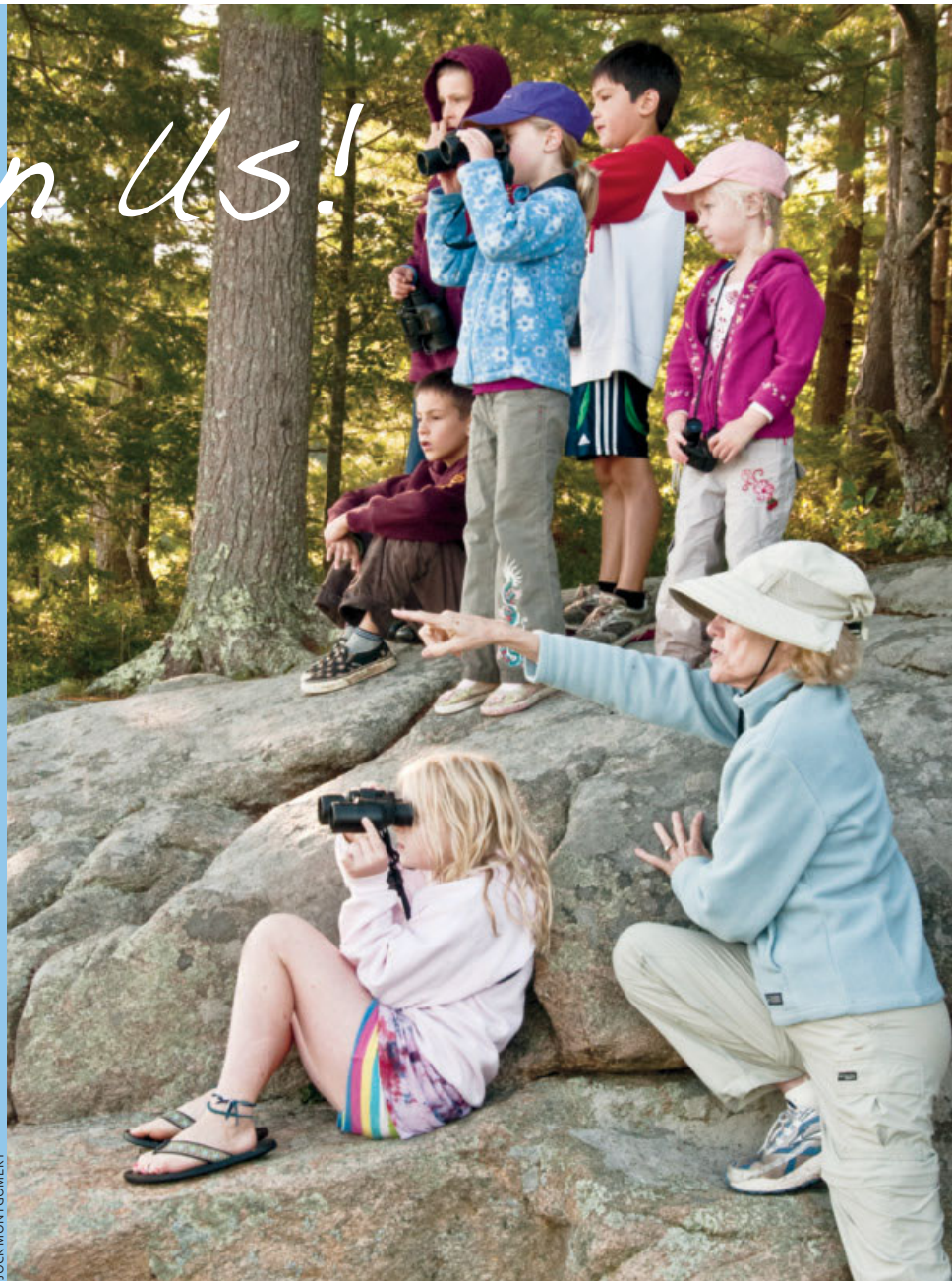
Hiking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, nature study, building bird boxes, birdwatching, fishing, and so much more! Family Camp is an opportunity for friends of all ages to enjoy a fully outfitted Maine vacation with us. You don't need to have kids to come. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, visit our website or call us at 207-882-7323.

What last year's participants had to say:

"We really enjoyed family camp. The staff and activities were amazing. What a treat to eat food we helped to harvest! We are leaving feeling energized and more connected as a family. Thank you!"

"Some of the best parts of Family Camp were: Having fun activities that the whole family could enjoy, organized by someone else! Having a safe place where our kids could walk around, explore, and play for long periods of time freely and creatively. Being blessed to share in Chewonki's environment."



JOCK MONTGOMERY