



# CHEWONKI CHRONICLE

2018







# CAMP CHEWONKI

Boys Camp • Girls Camp • Wilderness Trips



Creating Unforgettable Summer Memories  
on the Coast of Maine Since 1915

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*Chewonki inspires  
transformative growth,  
teaches appreciation and  
stewardship of the natural  
world, and challenges people  
to build thriving, sustainable  
communities throughout  
their lives.*

## CONTENTS

- 2 Brief History of Chewonki Neck
- 4 Eastside Pasture Restoration
- 6 Joy and Jubilation
- 8 Polar Bears
- 9 Blue Frogs
- 10 Power of 8 Girls
- 12 Big World, Small Island
- 14 Gathering Tools: EI
- 15 Elementary School map
- 15 Waypoint
- 16 Nashoba Brooks School
- 19 You Call That a Toilet?
- 21 Farewell to an Owl
- 23 People
- 34 A Chewonki Year
- 40 Honoring a Sister
- 41 Thank you, John
- 42 Meet the Woolies
- 43 New Home for Fiber Arts
- 44 Measuring the Sun
- 55 Sustainable Forestry

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Peninsula waterfall

Back cover: A (kind of) secret fort on  
Chewonki Neck

Many thanks to all of our photographers:  
Chris Percy, Alexis Grillo, and many other  
staff members and friends.



Printed in Maine on paper that contains  
30 percent FSC-certified post-consumer fiber  
and was manufactured using biogas energy.

# President's Notes

One evening last June, I sat down at Campfire Circle with counselors and trip leaders who had just finished a very full staff training. The opening day of Camp Chewonki was on the horizon and their collective energy was rising like the tide.

I reminded the group how special it is to gather at Campfire Circle; in doing so, we were repeating a Chewonki tradition. For more than 100 years, educators and outdoor enthusiasts have come to this particular spot, at this particular time of year, to do the precious work of nurturing young people and teaching them about the world around them.

I also shared with summer staff the story of this land. More than 450 million years ago, sediment accumulated on the bottom of a shallow ocean that eventually became what is now called coastal Maine. In the 200 million years that followed, the sediment went through three major tectonic events that squeezed and cooked it with tremendous heat and pressure. Many times over the past 2 million years (a blink of the eye in geological time), glaciers advanced and retreated across this land, even as recently as 13,000 years ago. At times the ice casing the land was nearly a mile thick. As the last ice retreated, the Atlantic Ocean rose to cover Chewonki Neck under at least 200 feet of water. Since then, the waters have subsided and different biomes, from tundra to oak and pine forests, have drifted over Chewonki Neck in response to the ever-changing climate.

Humans have also shaped this place, starting about 11,000 years ago, as the first peoples created settlements, harvested wildlife and shellfish, and began cultivating plants. Later, waves of Europeans cleared the forests for agriculture and mined the thick deposits of ocean-bottom clay left when the sea level dropped, shaping it into the bricks for building early Boston and many other coastal towns. In the last 100 years, Chewonki has re-shaped this land again, transforming some of it into an educational campus and revitalizing pastures and gardens, while encouraging other parts to grow back as forest. Now, global human activity has created a climate crisis that's changing our peninsula yet again.

Explaining the ecological history of this place and our role within it is a critical part of Chewonki's work. It creates the framework we use to teach both staff and students (see p. 14 and p. 44); make thoughtful changes on Chewonki Neck (see p. 4); send young adventurers into the wild (see p. 6 and p. 10); and encourage them simply to enjoy being together in this beautiful place (see p. 8).

As I looked at the summer staff at Campfire Circle, I felt full of hope. Knowing the past, these young leaders are looking toward the future, writing the next chapter. I trust them to do it well.

Thank you for helping us carry out Chewonki's mission.

Willard Morgan  
President



# A Brief History of Chewonki Neck



**The Ice Age: 2.5 million-8,000 BCE**  
Glaciers as much as a mile thick cover Maine.



**First Peoples Arrive: 20,000-10,000 BCE**  
Glaciers retreat. Migratory people flow into coastal areas of the Northeast.



**The Rise of the Abenaki: Between 10,000 BCE – 1600s AD**

The Eastern Abenaki occupy much of midcoast Maine.



**The French Arrive: 1605**

Geographer and cartographer Samuel de Champlain sails into Wiscasset harbor.



**The English Arrive: 1605**

George Weymouth explores the coast.



**Salt Marsh Farm Revived: 1975-early 1980s**

Maine Reach students help restore the North Pasture and expand vegetable gardens. In 1981, Ted Bridge-Koenigsberg becomes full-time farmer.



**Establishing a Garden Legacy: 1940s onward**

Gardening becomes part of Chewonki life. From the 1960s-1991, Margaret Ellis champions cultivation, involving campers and students.



**Camp Chewonki Established: 1918**

Allen buys the land. The place name has morphed from Jewaukee to Chewonki.



**Clarence Allen Goes Snowshoeing: 1917**

Young educator Clarence Allen, on snowshoes, tours the former Nason sheep farm, which is for sale. Looking for a place to settle his camp, he enjoys open views down the peninsula to Montsweag Bay.



**Aerial View of Chewonki: about 1941**

Earliest known aerial view of Chewonki.



**Harold Burnett and Woodlot Management: 1985**

Harold Burnett (Maine Reach 3) becomes farm and woodlot manager, drafting first forest management plan in 1988. (He still manages our forest.)



**Food Philosophy Established: 2014**

Chewonki farm staff, led by Megan Phillips, and kitchen staff, led by Bill Edgerton, draft a food philosophy to guide farming, cooking, and program curriculum.



**Mark Albee Outlines the Future: 1991**

Farm manager Mark Albee makes a detailed plan for Salt Marsh Farm's future and deepens student engagement.



**Sustainable Farm and Forest Grow Benefits: 2017**

Salt Marsh Farm produces eggs, vegetables, meat, milk, hay, manure, compost, wool, and firewood. Students work on the farm, in the kitchen, and in the woodlot.



**Eastside Pasture Restoration Project: Late 2017-2019**

Chewonki restores an 11-acre area of former Bailey farm pasture to allow more production and educational opportunities, and a more sustainable community food system.





### The Great Dying: 1616 – 1619

Diseases introduced by Europeans kill 70-90% of native people in the region.



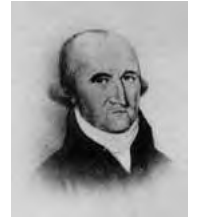
### The Wabanaki Confederacy: 1680s

Five Wabanaki tribes create an alliance with common interests.



### Brickmaking and Mills: Late 1700s

Entrepreneurs mine clay from Pumphouse Ravine for brickmaking and cut trees to fuel kilns on Jewankee Neck. Seven sawmills and grist mills line Montsweag Brook.



### Reverend Toppan and the Second English Settlement: 1734

Christopher Toppan of Massachusetts buys land including Jewankee Neck.

### George Davie Briefly Stakes a Claim: 1662

An English sailor buys land including "Jewankee Neck" but abandons it when conflict breaks out among the native people, English, and French. Eighty years of fighting follow.



### The Dominion of New England: 1686

England's King James II consolidates colonies into a single political entity.

About this time, there were a few families at Wiscasset. One George Davie settled here in 1665. It is said he lived about half a mile north of the Point, on an eminence, fifty rods from the river. A brother of his, and two others, lived here at the same period. But they all died in 1680. The widow of one of these Davies died in Newton, near Boston, in 1705, aged 116. There is a portrait of her in the room of the Historical Society. George Davie had also purchased a large tract of land of some Indians. "This came by inheritance and transfer to a number of wealthy men, who, in 1753, associated under the name of the Business company. Wiscasset Point is in this tract."



### Smelting: 1903

Bailey records the sale of \$44.44 worth of smelts caught in the "Jewankee Weir."



### Shell Middens Uncovered: 1880s

Coastal farmers uncover shell middens, including some on our shores, confirming the presence of pre-colonial people.



### Clearing and Farming: 1800s

Settlers clear most of the peninsula. The Baileys and Nasons raise sheep, pigs, hens, cows, wheat, oats, and apples and trap smelts.



### Pownalborough, Inc.: 1760

The Town of Pownalborough is incorporated, including lands that will become Wiscasset.



### Making Hay While the Sun Shines: 1902

One August day, farmer Clint Bailey takes 34 ox-loads of hay from his fields.



### Parceled Out: 1868

At least 13 separate parcels of land on the Neck are marked on town map.



### Selective Cutting: December 2017

A local logger removes trees, leaving some for shade and buffers. Harvested wood goes in many directions (sawmills, a pulp mill, a Maine buyer, a Maine biomass plant).



### Subsoiling: Spring 2018

Subsoiling machine grinds stumps and brush with top layer of soil.



### Grazing Begins: Spring 2019

Cows and sheep begin grazing on the Eastside Pasture. Farmers convert some pasture on the farm's west side to gardens.



### Everybody Eats!

We look forward to studying, cultivating, and stewarding the new (old) pasture, a link to the past and an opportunity for future learning and healthy, delicious meals.



### Lying Fallow: Winter 2018

Cleared ground settles under the snow.



### New Growth: Spring and Summer 2018

New pasture is amended after soil tests and then seeded. Farmers establish fencing.



# The Eastside Pasture

## Expanding the farm and our stewardship ethic

**W**hen returning students and campers arrive at Chewonki this summer, they will notice a dramatic break in the trees on the east side of the Chewonki Neck Road. During the winter, we began the first phase of a three-year project to restore approximately 11 acres of forest back to grassy pasture, following the stone walls and contours of earlier farms.

This pasture restoration is the latest chapter in the historical relationship between human beings and our saltwater peninsula. Farm Manager Megan Phillips says, “This most recent clearing is part of a long history of land use here on Chewonki Neck. I don’t say that to make light of the impacts of transitioning land from one use and predominant vegetation to another but, rather, to celebrate and sit humbly in the recognition that I am, we are, taking part in the story of the stewardship of this land.”

Chewonki’s Salt Marsh Farm presently encompasses 14 acres of pasture and 150 acres of woodlot, which we manage with low-impact forestry principles. The reclaimed pasture will allow the farm to provide a larger share of vegetables, meat, and milk to the Chewonki community year-

round. Grazing land on the east side of the Neck will give the farmers an opportunity to use more land on the west side of the Neck for vegetable production.

The project will also restore some of the pastoral views that first attracted Chewonki founder Clarence Allen when he visited an old sheep farm for sale on Chewonki Neck in 1917. The open fields and outlooks to tidal waters that compelled him to establish his camp here have largely disappeared over time.

The eastside pasture will provide greater resiliency within the farm ecosystem to deal with increasingly unpredictable climate conditions affecting growing cycles. And it will give our farmers new opportunities to educate students about rotational grazing and responsible land management. The sale of harvested timber from the land will largely pay for the cost of the project, which forester Harold Burnett (Maine Reach 3, farm and woodlot manager 1985-87), who has managed Chewonki’s forests for the past 32 years, is overseeing.

By far the largest part of Chewonki land remains forest, but the expanded farm area honors a gardening and farming legacy essential to our ethos. Clarence Allen’s wife

Katherine, an avid gardener, maintained a garden for the Boys Camp (some speculate that weeding was a camper’s penance). When Tim Ellis became head of Chewonki, his wife, Margaret, brought her very English enthusiasm for gardening and farming. She established a large organic garden near the Gatehouse and enticed campers to help her with chores for the sheer joy of the work and learning, a practice that continues. Through the second half of 1970s, Maine Reach students expanded the gardening operation, restoring North Pasture and tending Highland cattle, pigs, and sheep. Ted Bridge-Koenigsberg was hired in 1981 to be the first farmer on Chewonki Neck since the Nasons and the Baileys in the early part of the 20th century. He added horses, cows, chickens, and even, for a short time, goats. With student help, he also managed vegetable beds and wood harvesting.

A number of excellent farmers have worked this land since then. Mark Albee, who managed the farm from 1991 to 2005, had the greatest influence on the modern-day operation, says current Farm Manager Megan Phillips, who has been tending Salt Marsh Farm since 2009. Phillips, too, has





# Restoration Project

had a profound impact, helping to draft the Chewonki Food Philosophy in 2014 and integrating farming into every Chewonki program.

“Looking out over this recently opened space,” says Phillips of the clearing, “I feel a heady sense of responsibility and potential. Pasture management, like forest management, is a long-term commitment. I feel buoyed by the sense of what this transition will come to be.”

She envisions “rolling hills, patches of trees left for shade. I see the future fence lines and the cows and sheep that will graze there, and I hold an awareness of the increased meat, vegetable, and fiber production that will nourish the Chewonki community in future years.”

Phillips followed the timber harvesting closely, educating students and staff at every stage. Last November and December, trees were cut and sorted according to destination. Roughly 35 percent of the roundwood (not including the tops and branches) went to sawmills, with the remainder going to a pulp mill. Pine logs went to two Maine lumber companies; some were exported to Canada. The spruce and oak logs were delivered to a buyer in



Palermo. Most of the treetops and branches went to a biomass plant in Livermore Falls.

A subsoiling machine will grind remaining stumps and branches within the top four inches of the soil to establish a proper field. This summer, the farmers will amend the soil, based on testing, and then seed it. By summer 2019, there will be cows and sheep grazing in rotation there.

“Daily, I feel the responsibility inherent in stepping into the relationship between human beings and land, and seeking to manage our farming systems ecologically,” says Phillips. “In farming and expanding our farm to include this historical pastureland, we support and are in turn supported by the land itself.”





# “Joy and Jubilance” on the Gaspé Peninsula

Backpacking in a place of otherworldly beauty



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The Gaspé Peninsula is an arm of the Province of Quebec stretching northeast along the mighty St. Lawrence River, pushing a fist into the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. On this unspoiled territory, Chewonki staff members Olivia Lukacic and Johnson Whippie adventured last summer with seven students, three women and four men, ages 15-17. This was the 2017 Gaspé Expedition, a Chewonki backpacking trip along a breathtaking stretch of the International Appalachian Trail.

Lukacic is passionate about plants and animals. Whippie's focus is outdoor leadership development. Their complementary

skills infused the group as it made its way through the Réserve faunique de Matane and the Parc national de la Gaspésie, including sweeping views of the St. Lawrence River, cascading waterfalls, giant ferns, and rolling mountains.

“There were outrageously beautiful waterfalls, amazing alpine campsites, gorgeous mountains,” says Whippie. Lukacic adds, “I felt we were constantly in another world. There

were incredible areas where the ferns were taller than us.”

“As we were pressing through them,” Whippie says, “all the different butterflies and moths flew out. It was like a fairyland. There's a special feeling of remoteness” in this part of the Gaspé Peninsula

If Lukacic and Whippie brought their enthusiasm to the students, these two leaders are quick to say that the students' brought their own energy and good spirits to help make the trip unforgettable for everyone.

“They were phenomenal people to work with,” says Lukacic, and Whippie agrees.



“What I was so amazed by was how uninhabited it felt—only slightly touched.” — Miles Ackerman, participant



“Their ability to communicate with one another, get excited for one another, was outstanding,” he explains. “There was such a spark right from the beginning. Leaders often have to drive the group energy, but in this case, the collective group lifted us up.”

Lukacic notes, “They were able to read each other’s energy well. It was a collective team trying to support each individual.”

One of last summer’s Gaspé Expedition participants was Miles Ackerman, now at Chewonki as a member of Maine Coast Semester 60. Ackerman embraced the sense of being far away from ordinary life. He remembers how tricky it often was to distinguish their trail from moose trails. “It’s incredibly, truly beautiful,” he says. “What I was so amazed by was how uninhabited it felt—only slightly touched.” Several times it crossed his mind that he might be the first human to set foot on the particular spot on this earth where he was standing.

“It’s a magical feeling to be away from the whole civilization that we create,” he says. “It’s so good to be away from unnecessary stress. Stress out there is necessary. Everything is immediate. ‘I need to find shelter before the storm hits.’ ‘I need get out of the way of that bear.’ It’s much more real.”

Ackerman, Whippie, and Lukacic all remember one particular day of “necessary” stress—a day when the group backpacked 15 miles, the last few hours in the dark. “That was really mentally challenging,” Ackerman recalls. “We got up so early, 4:30 a.m., because we had a resupply



halfway through that day’s hike and we wanted to get to the resupply spot early so we could be ready to do it smoothly. We hiked really, really fast,” he says, and got to the resupply site with time to spare. And then they waited. And waited. Due to a clerical error on the Canadian side, the resupply was delayed. By the time supplies arrived and were sorted and packed, it was evening. Campsites in the vicinity were reserved. There was nothing to do but pick up and set forth on the remaining 11 miles to their campsite. Difficult? Yes, but they pulled it off and their stories resound with laughter and pride.

Whippie says, “Our goal was excellence, in everything we did.” The remote setting and the leaders’ guidance made it easier for each person to put aside personal interests and support the group as a whole.

“You really don’t have much of a choice out there,” Ackerman says of getting along

with near-strangers in the wild. “You have to look past conflicts and interests and background.”

Lukacic and Whippie have been busy with their year-round jobs at Chewonki: she is the senior outdoor educator and science specialist; he, the Outdoor Classroom coordinator. Yet they think often of the Gaspé Expedition.

“You learn enough about these students to imagine where they want to be,” says Whippie. “You get to know who wants to be a team captain or start a particular club or project at their school. You know who hopes to study what; who’s had what kind of challenges and successes.”

“They’re going to do amazing things,” says Lukacic. “We really want to know about them. There was a lot of joy in this group.”

As Whippie puts it, “Joy and jubilation. All along the way.”



## Gaspé Expedition 2017

**Leaders:** Olivia Lukacic and Johnson Whippie

**Participants:** Miles Ackerman, Francis Barth, Caroline Heyburn, Alex Moreau, Fiona Morrison, Anna Naggert, and David Rubin



# *“Polar Bears, Come on Out!”*

A Tradition as Fresh as a Splash of Cold Water



At 6:45 on a summer morning, Chewonki's waterfront lifeguards make the rounds. Outside campers' cabins, they toss two words into the air with operatic flare: “Polar Bearrrs! Polar Bearrrs!”

This is an invitation all Chewonki campers and counselors recognize. “Polar Bears, come on out!” the lifeguards urge. The implicit message is: “Come dare to jump into chilly Montsweag Creek with us to start the day. Come enjoy being young, healthy, and at Chewonki!”

In cool or rainy weather, only the most stalwart counselors and campers heed the call. On a bright, warm morning, 30 or 40 people leap from their beds. “Campers either say, ‘Okay, I’ll get up and do it!’ or they pull a pillow over their heads. It’s totally voluntary,” says Assistant Boys Camp Director Henry Heyburn. “The boys grab a towel (if they remember), walk toward the waterfront and down the gangway, jump off the boat dock, and swim to the swim dock and back. It’s ideal when the tide’s coming in—one stroke and you’re there.”

This ritual “plays a singular role in camp culture,” says Heyburn, a Polar Bears regular (some might say, fanatic). “I’m sure all who participate would say it’s a wonderful way to begin the day. It’s kind of an

expression of free spirit and a carefree life. It’s so elementally simple.” No equipment, no score, no hierarchy—just the joy of slipping into the cold salt water with a couple dozen other happy, wide-awake people splashing around you under a summer sky..

“It makes you feel alive,” Boys Camp Director Garth Altenburg says. Although he now rarely has time for Polar Bears, he participated in many as a counselor. “It’s a way of blasting away any cobwebs in your head. Sometimes whole cabins do it together. I think it captures a sense of adventure, this spirit we embody, whether on the challenge course or on a wilderness trip or first thing in the morning at our waterfront.”

At breakfast after Polar Bears, conspiratorial patter often surfaces during announcements.

Counselor Ben: “Johnny Smith, you are looking particularly bright-eyed and chipper this morning.”

Camper Johnny: “Well, thank you, Ben. Maybe that’s because I swam with the Polar Bears this morning.”

On it goes.

Starting the day with a swim is a practice as old as camp. Werner Rothbacher, who ran the waterfront program for six

summers (BC staff ’73-’77,’80), was probably the person who formalized it and named it Polar Bears. Rothbacher, an Austrian who first came to America as a Fulbright scholar, was a joyful, no-holds-barred outdoorsman. He coached and taught swimming, skiing, and German at Maine colleges and schools for decades (his wife, Betsy, served as the camp accountant and secretary). Rothbacher’s booming, enthusiastic call for Polar Bears, delivered in a heavy Austrian accent, swept many a sleepy camper out of bed.

“Joining in the fun with others is part of the appeal,” says Altenburg. “Young campers have heard about it. It’s a tradition. Boys see other campers and counselors doing it; it builds a great feeling of community.”

These days, boys are not the only Polar Bears at Chewonki. Girls at our Fourth Debsconeag site often begin the day with a leap into the lake. And Maine Coast Semester students take the plunge once a week right through the winter. So if you can’t wait for summer, there are some Polar Bears waiting to join you on a quick trip to the waterfront.

“It makes you feel alive.” — Boys Camp Director Garth Altenburg



# NOTICING NATURE

## Blue Frogs

FRED CICHOCKI



FRED CICHOCKI PHOTO

**Q**uasi-ordered photonic nanostructure. It sounds like something from a *Star Trek* episode, but it's actually the basis for the most mysterious natural history phenomenon of the Chewonki summer: the amazing blue frog.

We commonly presume that the color of things comes from special chemicals called *pigments*, which absorb and reflect or radiate certain colors (wavelengths) of light and not others. However, there are notable exceptions. The sky is blue not because it contains blue pigment but because the atmosphere consists of randomly arranged air molecules of just the right size to *incoherently* backscatter blue *photons* (particles of light) to our eyes. More to the point, the beautiful blue feathers of blue jays and bluebirds, as well as the gorgeous iridescence of hummingbirds, are not due to pigmentation at all, but to the feathers' *quasi-ordered photonic nanostructure*, which, unlike the sky, somewhat directionally (i.e., *semicoherently*) scatters light. In fact, with a single known exception, no backbone animal of any kind produces blue pigment. Almost always, *blueness* (along with violet, some greens, and iridescence) results from *schemochromes*—the name for all biological, color-producing, photonic nanostructures.

For several years now, spectacular blue variants of our typically “green” green frog (*Lithobates clamitans*) have been showing up regularly in the pond at Chewonki's Salt Marsh Farm. And recently, we've been finding some truly exotic blue-and-yellow-patterned frogs that look like they belong in the Amazon rainforest, not Midcoast Maine. Regardless of species, the skin of typically green-colored frogs contains three separate layers of color cells, collectively called *chromatophores*. From superficial to deep, these are: the *xanthophores*, containing yellow pigment; the unpigmented *iridophores*, with their quasi-ordered nanostructured packets of reflective, light-scattering *purine* crystals; and finally, the *melanophores*, filled with dark *melanin* granules. That these layers are only moderately populated with their respective color cells, allowing some light to pass unimpeded to layers beneath, is crucial.

Normal green coloration works like this. All colors of light striking the xanthophores are absorbed, save yellow, which is reflected. Where light bypasses the xanthophores and impinges directly on underlying iridophores, blue photons are semicoherently backscattered; but iridophores *appear* blue only when they are immediately backed up by dark melanophores. The mix of yellow and blue produces the green we expect in green frogs.



FRED CICHOCKI PHOTO

The occasional blue frog is simply a mutant with genetically defective xanthophores lacking yellow pigment. Additionally, in a blue frog, the underlying iridophores are modified, having thinner and more regularly arranged purine crystal packets, enhancing the blue effect. Mystery solved.

What about those outlandish blue and yellow frogs? Well, we know that like some other animals (including humans), frogs have tissues (especially the skin) that routinely contain a variety of genetically different cells, the result of *somatic mutations* (genetic changes handed on from cell to cell during cell division and development). As cells reproduce, genes are sometimes deleted, duplicated, or otherwise altered, and various chromosomal aberrations may occur. Suppose that in the course of frog development, either of two opposite somatic mutations arise. In one case, patches of skin develop having mutant xanthophores, enriched in yellow pigment and so dense as to completely block light from the iridophores. In the other, skin patches develop containing mutant xanthophores that entirely lack yellow pigment. Voila! A blue and yellow mosaic of a frog.

These frogs are not the only mysterious chromatic oddities we have observed on Chewonki Neck. Over the years, we've found several mutant, blue-bellied and -striped garter snakes, resulting from the same basic genetic defect that produces blue frogs. And then there was that bizarre golden tadpole that, despite its advanced age, never grew up. But that's a story for another time.



Fred Cichocki, aka Doc Fred, is a retired professor with a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology. He has led the nature program at Boys Camp since 2007.



# The Power of 8 Girls and 2 Women in Canoes

Last summer's Allagash Canoe Adventure was one to remember



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FOR GIRLS

**“T**here was something magical about this Girls Camp trip that convinced me of the power and importance of all-girls experiences,” says Emmy Held, who co-led the Allagash Canoe Adventure with Abi Ruksznis last summer. The two women traveled 150 miles by canoe with eight girls, ages 13-15, during three weeks on the West Branch of the Penobscot River and the Allagash River Waterway. “It will forever stand out in my memory as a time filled with happiness—a wonderful balance of hard work and relaxing and playing,” says Rukznis.

Like all wilderness trips, this one had highs and lows. Ruksznis says “great

wilderness trips have some combination of challenges that unite the group, unique and fun experiences in beautiful places, and a daily routine that allows every member of the group to be appreciated. Last summer’s Allagash trip was the essence this definition.” Her favorite part was the gunnel swimming. “We would paddle hard for a few hours and then take a break to jump out of our canoes and cool off,” she says.

Held remembers the three-mile portage from Round Pond to Allagash Lake. “It’s an incredible challenge,” she says. “The night before, we practiced putting boats on our backs and picked portage partners. It was so cool to talk to

the girls, acknowledging that it would be hard, really hard, but that there was no one else to carry the boats for us, and we were strong ladies and could and would do it.”

On some coed wilderness trips, Held has observed “girls taking a step back and letting boys do more work or get more recognition for physical achievements. That dynamic was eliminated on this trip. The girls crushed it. A ranger passed us during that portage and mentioned that several all-boys groups had had their canoes and gear shuttled around the portage for them. He said that we were the toughest group he had seen all summer, and the most cheerful (there was a loud Disney sing-along happening).”



## Allagash Canoe Expedition 2017

**Leaders:** Emmy Held and Abi Ruksznis

**Participants:** Sana Anand, Sabina Feder, Maria Figueroa, Ursula Fusco, Maya Khesin, Christine Lei, Claire Sifton, Angie Wright

One Allagash Canoe Expedition participant, Maya Khesin, says she “felt cleansed and revitalized” after the trip. “It really helped me return to basics, regain some of my confidence and self-esteem, as well as reconnect with my wilderness self.” Another paddler, Ursula Fusco, says the expedition taught her “the importance of living in the moment. I practiced staying present and it helped me learn more about what was happening around us.”

Both girls appreciated making the trip with other girls. “It’s easier for me to be completely myself when I’m surrounded by girls,” says Khesin, especially those who have “a strong love of the wilderness in common.” Fusco valued “being challenged and pushed, while also having a little family to fall back on if I needed to. The Chewonki experience of living in the wild and getting to know some cool people is really special.”

Tripping with other girls “allows for an open dialogue on all topics, and I think the girls feel empowered to be themselves,” Ruksznis says. Girls Camp Director Nancy Kennedy agrees. “We want our campers to develop a sense of who they are and what they bring to the table,” she says. “Abi and Emmy created support and openness,” so these young expeditioners could “stop being aware of everyone else’s sense of who they are and start being themselves.”

Held believes outdoor experiences ground girls. “It is hard to be a girl in so many ways these days,” she says. “These girls talked about the competitiveness and cattiness they deal with in school. They thrive on trips like this because those barriers and groups do not exist. The wilderness has a wonderful way of humbling and empowering.”

“The girls are the ones who made the trip,” insists Held. “Abi and I feel honored to have been part of it. I can’t wait to see what’s next for these incredible individuals.”





# Discovering the Big World of a Small Island

Monhegan's a pretty nice place to practice research methods

On a clear October day, Maine Coast Semester 59 set out to sea. The destination was Monhegan Island, four square miles in area and 12 nautical miles off the coast. Monhegan's spare fishing village, rugged cliffs, Edenesque woods, and ocean views have drawn artists and tourists since the mid 19th century.

Semester 59 students were looking for more than the beauty, however. They approached Monhegan as a case study, practicing research methods to find out about the systems, conditions, practices, and attitudes that allow the year-round population of about 70 people to take care of themselves and their island. Their investigation helped them develop skills they needed for their end-of-semester Human Ecology Capstones (HECs), independent, place-based research projects on a subject that fascinates them.

"We told the students, 'As you approach your capstones, draw on this experience,'" says Drew Higgins, a Maine Coast Semester and Carleton College alumna and this year's Human Ecology Capstone Fellow. She teaches the Human Ecology Seminar, a required course in which semester students learn how to develop and carry out their HECs.

The students broke into eight groups, each focusing on a particular aspect of island life: waste management, education, food systems, water, tourism, energy and sustainability, transportation, and employment. They did pre-trip research on their subject and also heard from former Chewonki staff member Tess Beam, now an educator at the Island Institute, a nonprofit organization devoted to helping island and coastal communities develop and maintain sustainability. Beam explained some of the

conditions that shape island life, such as isolation, limited resources, and seasonal tourism.

Once on Monhegan, the students roamed by group, observing, exploring, and interviewing local residents. They met up later at the lighthouse to share what they'd learned and then spent a couple of hours hiking before taking the boat back to the mainland.

The Monhegan trip was "an opportunity to be in a stunningly beautiful place, see a Maine island community up close, and also do investigation and learning that felt real," says Higgins. "There was a sense of, 'We're doing this because we're truly interested.'"

That's just the kind of energy she wants her students to feel as they work on their capstone projects. "HECs are a challenge," she acknowledges. "They are a huge experience for our students, involving research, time management, critical analytical skills, and independence." That glorious day on Monhegan? Great way to get ready.

MAINE  
COAST  
SEMESTER  
at CHEWONKI



Sem 59 students researched and relaxed on Monhegan Island.



## A Partial List of 2017 Human Ecology Capstone Projects

Biodiesel Policy Proposal for the State of New Jersey

The Impact of the Maine Yankee Power Plant Closing on Wiscasset Public Schools

Building a Birchbark Box

Expanding Maple Sugaring on Chewonki Neck

Unpacking Environmental Racism

How Chewonki Can Sustainably Grow Quahogs

The Power of Storytelling in a Polarized World

Creating Communication for Maine's Lobster Fishing Industry

Natural Medicine on Chewonki Neck

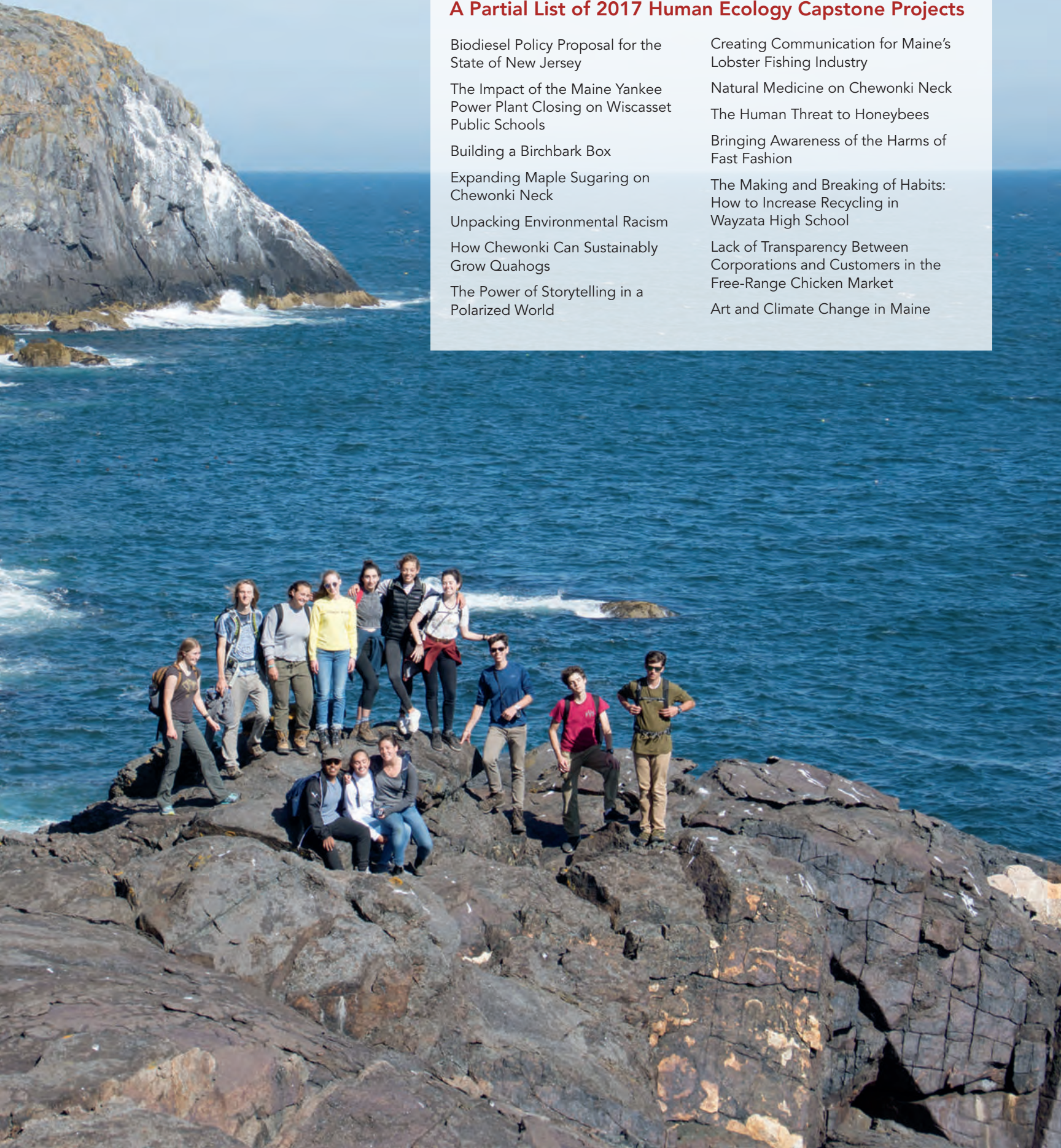
The Human Threat to Honeybees

Bringing Awareness of the Harms of Fast Fashion

The Making and Breaking of Habits: How to Increase Recycling in Wayzata High School

Lack of Transparency Between Corporations and Customers in the Free-Range Chicken Market

Art and Climate Change in Maine





## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CLASS

# Gathering Tools to Build a Better World

**M**aine Coast Semester's Environmental Issues class has never seemed more timely. Science teacher Peter Sniffen has given "E.I." a fresh take this year as he's been teaching it for the first time. (Sniffen previously taught Natural History of the Maine Coast for nine years.)

"I'm excited and enjoying it because it feels truly relevant," says Sniffen. "The young people coming here are fired up about this stuff. This is a class where opinions matter and understanding others' opinions matters. I really get to know my students as people."

The class begins with classic environmental texts by writers such as Aldo Leopold, Garrett Hardin, and John McPhee; then moves to contemporary thinkers such as Winona LaDuke. With that background, students dive into climate change.

"They are passionately pleading for answers to the climate crisis," says Sniffen. "What is going to happen? How bad is it going to be? Why don't some people believe it? What can we do? These questions come up again and again."

Sniffen is up-front with his students: global climate change is terrifying. "It's not good, and I say so out loud," he expains. "What's great about the course is that we look at the problems and then focus on active steps. So many people look at climate change and turn away. Our class is about looking at it and then looking harder, looking deeper, and deciding what we can do."

Hope is also part of the curriculum. "[Former Chewonki Sustainability Coordinator] Tom Twist used to say, 'Hope is a choice, not a calculation,'" says Sniffen. "It's a stance you can cultivate and hold onto. And I do."

Semester 60 student Booth McGowan appreciates "the freedom we have to express our opinions and talk them out. And I like



Peter Sniffen (right) teaches Environmental Issues.

the connections between what I'm learning in this course and other courses here like AP US History."

McGowan also likes the opportunity to develop and test his own point of view. "We've been doing a lot of reading about different world views, and they don't all agree," he says. "It's forcing me to sort out what my beliefs are. It's up to our generation to do good, to save the world. So these conversations are helping us figure out what we believe and can do."

As the course continues, Sniffen shifts the focus from climate to fisheries, examining fishing as a "place-based, real-world collision of cultural values, economic realities, and environmental devastation," he says.

Students finish Environmental Issues with a

project that shows their understanding of a current environmental problem and their proposal for addressing it. This might be a formal debate, a position paper, or a letter of advocacy mailed to a decision-maker.

"What I want is for them to leave the course being good consumers of information, knowing themselves as thinkers,

understanding their biases, shifting their choices to align with their values, and knowing the ways they can act to bring about change," Sniffen says.

Everyone could use these tools, but few have them. Peter Sniffen is handing them to his students. "Working with these kids," he says, "I feel very hopeful."



Students at Maine climate march

**"This is a class where opinions matter and understanding others' opinions matters. I really get to know my students as people."** — Environmental Issues Teacher Peter Sniffen



# Maine Coast Semester Reunion Weekend



## August 17-19, 2018

Celebrate 60 semesters of place-based learning!

## You're Invited!

Please join us August 17-19 at the Maine Coast Semester Reunion Weekend and celebrate 60 semesters of place-based learning in the natural world.



Alumni and faculty from all 60 semesters are invited to return to our 400-acre, saltwater peninsula for a full weekend of activities and events. Reclaim your semester cabin and enjoy waterfront swimming, polar bear dips, farm chores, nature walks, paddling, workshops, campfires, Salt Marsh Farm feasts, and a Maine Coast Semester contra dance.

An alumni reception will be held on Saturday night, hosted by Chewonki President Willard Morgan and Head of Semester School Susan L. Feibelman.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with old friends and new. We hope you'll join us for a memorable weekend on Chewonki Neck this August!

Register online at: <http://chewonki.org/reunion>

Cabins, yurts, and tent site accommodations available.





## Elementary School Students Map Chewonki Ecosystems

Third- and fourth-graders from the Elementary School at Chewonki combed Chewonki Neck on foot to gather information for a 31 ¼" x 65 ½" map they drew of the peninsula's ecosystems and natural and human-made features. The project was part of the school's integrated science and social studies curriculum and represents "the whole vision of place-based education," says teacher Emily Bell-Hoerth. "We try to root our students in the world around them by connecting them to the place they can see and touch and smell."

As the children documented ecosystems, discoveries led to new research questions. "We found scat that looked a lot like bobcat scat on Blueberry Hill," says Bell-Hoerth. "We don't know of any bobcats living around Chewonki Neck, but it led us to ask, 'What would life be like here for a bobcat? What does a bobcat need to survive?'"

The students created a colored map showing the location of all the Neck's ecosystems: brackish water, rocky shore, salt marsh, forest, agricultural, residential,

and human-dominated. Also marked are natural and human-made features and "special spots," such as Blueberry Hill and the Pineapple Forest. This map will serve as a useful tool for Outdoor Classroom instructors teaching visiting school groups about local ecology.

Every student also did in-depth research on an animal that lives or could live on the peninsula, then wrote, illustrated, and fabricated an accordion-shaped book with her or his animal as the main character. Bell-Hoerth says children at this age identify strongly with animals, which makes learning about nature compelling. "We have a turtle living in our classroom and we spend time with the animals at the farm," she says. "These are wonderful ways to get students to care about their world and think about their impact on it."

"We're trying to cultivate in them a sense of stewardship for this place," says Bell-Hoerth. "If they learn about this world right here, they can take that and build on it wherever they go."



## Waypoint

The start of something big

Twenty seventh-graders from nearby Maine Regional School Unit 1 and Chewonki Waypoint Program Coordinator Austin Muir are starting a promising new relationship in an experimental six-year program funded by the Emanuel and Pauline A. Lerner Foundation. Waypoint aims to raise and sustain the aspirations of Maine middle school and high school students by providing mentorship, training, and place-based outdoor challenges.

"Transition to maturity is a really vulnerable time," says Muir. "These students are figuring out who they are and they want to feel valued." He meets regularly with them and has been enjoying going to their games and school events and taking them hiking and camping. Watch for Waypoint news as the program grows!





# Nashoba Brooks and Chewonki: Partnering for Inspiration and Impact

BY JACQUELINE WATERS

Photos courtesy of Nashoba Brooks School

**Nashoba Brooks School is an independent day school in Concord, Massachusetts. For more than 40 years, students from Nashoba's all-girls middle school have come to the Outdoor Classroom. A longer version of this story ran in the *Nashoba Brooks Bulletin*. This edited version appears with the school's kind permission.**

A group of eager, energetic Nashoba Brooks eighth-graders tumble out of a school bus in Wiscasset, Maine. It is early September, and the students disembark with backpacks slung over their shoulders and sleeping bags tucked under their arms. They are warmly greeted by Chewonki staff, who introduce the girls to their home for the next few days: the great outdoors. Quickly, they split into groups of no more than ten and play games to assist their camp leaders in learning names. Then, they take a short walk to pick up camping supplies before heading off through the woods to the campsite to pitch tents and discuss chores.

Martha Svatek, a retired Nashoba Brooks science teacher, has made many trips to Maine with the school during its long-standing partnership with the dynamic environmental education program. In fact, Nashoba Brooks students and teachers have been heading north to Chewonki for more than four decades.

As Nancy Kennedy, who directs girls' programs at Chewonki, articulates, "Chewonki is about educating in every way: attuning to nature, finding your voice, learning about your footprint."

Core goals include compassion, building self-confidence, and stewardship for the natural world.

For Fiona Haslett, a 2006 graduate of Nashoba Brooks, the eighth-grade trip to Chewonki was the first time she'd had "an enjoyable experience in the outdoors." Haslett, who went on to St. Mark's School,



returned to Chewonki years later for the Maine Coast Semester, a 14-week program for outstanding high school juniors. She went on to Colorado College, where she majored in environmental science and co-chaired the Outdoor Recreation Club, and has led backpacking trips throughout New Mexico, Utah, and Switzerland. After graduation, she taught sustainability at the Maine Coast Semester. Looking back,

Haslett realizes the power of her first trip to Wiscasset with Nashoba Brooks.

"Chewonki was a huge pivot point, opening my awareness and understanding of what I could do and what my role in the community could be," she says. "Personal growth is at the core of the Chewonki experience."

In Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom, there are a variety of activity choices avail-





## CHEWONKI EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS



**“This [is] truly an experience of partnership between two caring and forward-thinking institutions.”**

—Martha Svatek  
retired Nashoba Brooks teacher

“The girls are insightful, energetic, positive, and articulate.” As she observes them in the outdoors, interacting and engaging with the hands-on science lessons, she praises their willingness to “engage each other in communication and not take the easy way out.” Her enthusiasm for the students is palpable. “These are the kind of women I want working here. They’re going to save this planet!” she says.

What do students take away from their Chewonki experience? According to Svatek, “The Maine coastal setting, a few hours from the comfort of Nashoba Brooks, is a perfect place for students to learn more about themselves and others. When a small band of randomly selected kids comes together and bonds, it opens them up to new possibilities and opens their minds to new ideas and perspectives. For most of the students, this is an amazing time.”

“The years at Chewonki...gave me a strong, positive feeling about the future,” gushes Svatek. “This [is] truly an experience of partnership between two caring and forward thinking institutions.” Kennedy is equally appreciative: “I gain inspiration, direction, vision, and focus from the work Nashoba Brooks is doing.”

able to students: a challenge course, salt marsh studies, nature studies, history of the area, and beach studies. Students use maps and compasses. They debate. They paddle canoes, swim, rock climb, and participate in community service. All of this group work encourages team-building and prompts self-reflection. “The girls live on the land in tents and cook out there over open fires, regardless of weather,” explains Kennedy. “There are no hair dryers. There’s no primping, no showering. All that’s left is character—on full display.”

Kennedy is clearly impressed by the character of Nashoba Brooks students.



## Outdoor Classroom Partners 2017-2018

Applewild School  
Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation  
for students in the St. John River Valley,  
Caribou, and Easton  
Bath Middle School  
Camden-Rockport Middle School  
Cape Cod Academy  
Cape Elizabeth Schools  
Cardigan Mountain School  
Chewonki Waypoint Program  
East Grand Middle School  
Edgecomb Eddy School  
Elementary School at Chewonki  
Ethel Walker School  
Friends Academy  
Friends of Portland  
Mathew Gaffney Foundation  
Georgetown Elementary School  
Glen Urquhart School  
Green Farms Academy  
Hall Elementary School  
Harpwell Community School  
Inly School  
Katahdin Region Schools  
Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki  
Maranacook School  
Mattanawcook Junior High School  
Mast Landing School  
Monadnock Waldorf School  
Montessori School of Raleigh  
Montessori School of Greater Hartford  
Nashoba Brooks School  
North Yarmouth Academy  
nXu  
Peaks Island School  
Pine Cobble School  
Pownal Elementary School  
Providence Country Day School  
Summit School  
Waynflete School  
West Bath School  
Wiscasset Middle High School  
Woolwich Central School

## Outdoor Classroom Instructors

Olivia Lukacic  
Jen Adams  
Sam Bernstein  
Karen Blakelock  
Conor Burke  
Amy Dorfman  
Abigail Gardner  
Emmy Held  
Taylor Jackson  
Jack Kimball  
Hannah Marshall  
Maria McMorrow  
Eric Nathanson  
Reesey Partlow  
Connor Phillips  
Rachel Tauber  
Mark Thomas  
Ben Wiley





# You Call That a Composting Toilet?

BY ANGIE LUCHT

Photos courtesy of Maine Huts & Trails

Last fall, Chewonki stepped into an imaginative new partnership with Maine Huts & Trails, a nonprofit with four backcountry lodges connected by an 80-mile trail network in Maine's Western Mountains region. The arrangement provides mission-aligned work for our Outdoor Classroom staff during their off season from Chewonki and promises to enrich educational experiences for participants at both organizations.

Outdoor Classroom instructors **Jen Adams, Conor Burke, Emmy Held, and Hannah Marshall** were "on loan" to Maine Huts & Trails from November until March. They provided nature-based lessons to hut visitors and helped with trail maintenance, food preparation, and keeping skiers and snowshoers happy in three of the huts, which are modeled after Europe's alpine trail huts but enhanced with creature comforts and state-of-the-art, off-the-grid architectural design. Maine Huts & Trails operates year-round, so plan an outing.

**A**s a business, how do you minimize environmental impact? Ten years ago, when Maine Huts & Trails built their first off-the-grid hut, this was a key question. How do you create something that is beneficial, minimizing impact and protecting fragile natural habitats, and still offer a valuable resource for local communities to enjoy?

Luckily, innovation is making energy-efficient devices readily available for corporations and individuals to implement conservation in daily life. Building sustainable trails, reducing waste at our headquarters, and using state-of-the-art technologies for hut utilities are some of the tools we use to reduce our impact.

**Let's take a closer look at how our huts reduce energy needs.** The most popular device might surprise you.

## Toilets

When you think of composting toilets, what comes to mind? A tiny shack in the middle of the woods with a very deep hole dug into the ground? We promise there is more to composting toilets; the technology that goes into them will blow you away.

One of the most popular topics of conversation and one of the top five favorite things about guest visits are the composting toilets. The Clivus Multrum neoprene foam-flush toilet system is the

best in the business. The technology was inspired by the forest, where organic matter is exposed to oxygen and moisture and broken down by microorganisms. This simple system allows human waste, with the addition of softwood shavings for bulk, water for moisture, and air for oxygen, to be broken down into a fertilizer while releasing a minimal amount of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. Each hut produces about two wheelbarrows' worth of fertilizer every four years and no sewer system is required.

## Solar Panels

Every hut has a solar panel array, either affixed to the roof or pole-mounted. At





three of the huts, these power a battery storage system that powers the huts. Stratton Brook Hut has solar panels that feed back into the electric grid.

Solar is finally gaining traction throughout communities in Maine and around the world. Later this year, there will be solar panel shingles for your home, available at local hardware stores (thank you, Elon Musk and team).

### Hydro

Poplar Hut harnesses the energy of Poplar Stream, which takes a 40-foot drop from the reservoir to the hydro station, generating power for batteries and the hot water system, including the radiant floor heating system.

### Wood heat

While not considered a new technology, the wood heating systems at the huts are actually pretty advanced. While you will find a cozy wood-stove at every hut, there's a lot more going on behind the scenes. Each hut is equipped with a wood-gasification boiler that supplies hot water both for domestic uses and the radiant floor heating system. Emissions are very low compared to a standard wood stove, and efficiency is around 85 percent. The boiler uses about 12 cords of wood per year from responsibly managed local woodlots.



### Gardening/Composting/Recycling

While the huts source as much food as possible from local farmers, we also produce as much as we can onsite. Local schools have had a lot of fun planting the gardens every spring and watching their progress.

Ensuring the smallest amount of waste is crucial since all materials must be packed out. Recycling and composting help the huts reduce waste.

So, as you can see, there are many options to explore that make it more convenient for businesses and communities to reduce their impact on the environment. Technology continues to grow, and we sure look forward to seeing what comes next.



# BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES

4 Eco-Lodges | 80 Miles of Trails

Biking | Hiking | Paddling | Fishing | Fat-Biking | Nordic Skiing | Snowshoeing



(207) 265-2400 | [mainehuts.org](http://mainehuts.org) | [#mainehuts](https://twitter.com/mainehuts)



# Farewell to an Extraordinary Owl



Chewonki lost a legend last winter: Byron, a barred owl whose dignity and beauty captivated approximately 80,000 Traveling Natural History Program participants over her lifetime, died on January 6. A long life for a barred owl in captivity is generally about 23 years; Byron was 27.

In 1990, during her first year of life, someone, for reasons unknown, shot Byron in the right wing. The story might have ended there, but somebody else found the wounded owl and delivered it to Brunswick veterinarian Amy Wood. The wing was irretrievably damaged. Wood knew the bird might not survive amputation, and if it did, it would never fly again; but it would almost certainly die without amputation.

Wood took off the wing. After the operation, the owl was delivered to Chewonki to recuperate in an aviary alongside other non-releasable (due to permanent incapacitations of one kind or another) wild animals that the Traveling Natural History Program staff care for and integrate into educational programs. She had already acquired the name Lord Byron from a passing reference someone made to the English Romantic poet who wrote, "There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore, There is a society where none intrudes, By the deep Sea, and music in its roar: I love not Man the less, but Nature more..." When it became clear the owl was female, Lord was dropped. Byron stuck.





“I remember Byron’s arrival at Chewonki,” former Chewonki naturalist Lynne Flaccus recalls. “We opened the box and looked down into those dark, beautiful eyes and she didn’t make a peep. No bill clapping, no defensive behaviors. She just stepped up onto a glove and looked around. We were all amazed...Tough little nugget she was!”

The owl recovered, then thrived. Staff found her easy to work with and self-possessed in front of crowds. She became a star, accompanying Chewonki educators all over Maine and beyond as they presented natural history lessons in schools, libraries, veterans’ homes, elder housing — wherever there was a request for owl education. Over the past four years, she appeared in front of an average of 153 audiences every year.

“Her personality was majestic, really mellow,” says Emma Balazs, Traveling Natural History Program coordinator. “She was a favorite of all of us because of that extraordinary personality and her tolerance for any situation. She fostered a deep connection.”

Fellow educator Jessica Woodend noticed that connection too. “She had a



Educator Emma Balazs and Byron at work

JOHN MEADER PHOTO

way of causing an emotional reaction in people who met her,” says Woodend. “I think people responded so well because of her calm and peaceful demeanor. At times of stress, I would go visit Byron in the hope that her calmness was contagious. Knowing her changed me, and while I was teaching others about her, I was learning from her every day.”

“She was one of the sweetest, gentlest animals I’ve ever known,” adds Siobhan Prout, another member of the Chewonki staff. “She spent 27 years as an ambassador for her species and Chewonki and inspired tens of thousands of students and adults to appreciate nature’s beauty and resilience.”

She was the owl of choice for training new Traveling Natural History Program staff, patiently putting up with dozens of young educators learning to work with live animals. Educator Matt Weeks remembers “her tolerance of our slower and more cautious movements as we learned. We try not to anthropomorphize too much, but I always thought of Byron as the kind, patient elder helping to show us the ropes. She helped me become more patient with students learning something new.”

Balazs notes that “After overcoming her difficult beginning, Byron inspired students of every age to learn about and care for the natural world. It’s an amazing thing.” There are two other barred owls living at Chewonki and they will take Byron’s place in programs, but a generation of Mainers will not forget Byron.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website describes the barred owl as an “attractive owl with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white-striped plumage, [that] can... pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy...” Early on, Byron lost her ability to fly. As a teacher, she soared.

*(Note: Under today’s laws, birds with injuries requiring amputation of a wing at the elbow or above are euthanized.)*

## Traveling Natural History Program Educators 2017-2018

Emma Balazs  
Colleen Moreau  
Siobhan Prout  
Matthew Weeks  
Jessica Woodend

Byron was a frequent visitor to Maine Coast Semester art teacher Sue West’s classes, where the bird patiently modeled as students captured her likeness with pencils, pens, and brushes. “I think they were more engaged with Byron because of the missing wing,” says West. “That made them curious, and thoughtful about fragility. They were moved by how that completely changed her life.” Byron also inspired Elementary School student Laila Brady’s illustrated book about her.



Lily Schrecengost (Sem 47)



Ben Bristol (Sem 47)



Maggie Johnson (Sem 47)



Laila Brady, Elementary School



# Chewonki People

## CAMP CHEWONKI

### 1960s

**Jennifer Booth Dolan** (BC kitchen staff '60-'63)'s grandson arrived at Chewonki in late January to join Maine Coast Semester 60. See **1980s**.

### 1970s

See In Memoriam.

### 1980s

**Katherine Dolan McGowan** (summer kitchen staff '83,'84) accompanied her son, **Booth McGowan**, to Chewonki for the start of Maine Coast Semester 60. See box.

### 1990s

See MCS 10 for news of **Franny Parker**.

### 2000s

**Nathan Arnold**, a helicopter pilot and flight instructor, is living in Hampden, ME, with his wife, Dawn, and children Reese and Tiara. See box.

**Brad Johnson** (MCS staff '99-'00, farmer '00-'08) and **Emily LeVan** (MCS faculty '97-'01) now live in Northfield, VT, where they've been building a new home with wood cut on site. **Claire Nelson** (WT staff '09-'10) welcomed daughter Zola-Faye Nelson Taylor on 4-19-17. **Sarge Pepper** (BC '01-'02) married Emily Anne Scott on 3-25-17.

**Frosty Pepper** (WT '02) is in his first year of medical school. **Jan "Yascheck" & Ola Ruskowski** (Jan: BC staff '97-'98, '00-'01, '03; Ola: BC staff '00-'02) sent greetings from "the Polish post of the Chewonki community," where he works for an environmental NGO and they are enjoying parenting Barbara, Tony, and Theo. See photo.



The Ruskowski family

## KATHERINE DOLAN MCGOWAN and BOOTH MCGOWAN *Putting a new twist on a legacy*

Continuing a friendship between his family and Chewonki that began in the early 1960s, **Booth McGowan** joined Maine Coast Semester 60 this January. His mother, **Katherine ("Kate") Dolan McGowan**, worked in the Chewonki kitchen for two summers in the early 1980s; so did his grandmother, **Jennifer Booth Dolan**, in the early 1960s.

Kate McGowan says that "Along with experiencing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota and Canada as a girl, Chewonki was instrumental in laying a foundation for my appreciation of nature and



my thoughts and values regarding conservation. Also, I'll always remember the smell of balsam fir."

Booth McGowan jumped right into the community on opening day, and his mother was not surprised. "I felt comfortable and exhilarated because I have so much confidence in the program, and I knew it would be a good fit for him," she says. The Dolan-McGowan story continues!

## NEAL C. CLARK (1949-2018) *In Memoriam*

Chewonki friend Pete Nye let us know that Neal Clark, a naturalist, educator, and writer, died on January 6 in Keene, New Hampshire, at age 68. "Although Neal enjoyed only one summer ('71) as a Chewonki nature counselor, that rich experience influenced his direction in life," says Nye.

"He regularly returned to Chewonki Neck to bird watch and reminisce," Nye continues, "and he often spoke or wrote about Chewonki. After one spring visit in 1998, he wrote a tribute to Chewonki in his newspaper column:

*Chewonki helped teach us what's really important—part of it being that if you never grow up, you'll never grow old. It was probably the best year of our lives, even though we didn't know it at the time...or how long-lasting the effects would be on our lives.*

*It's uplifting to return to an old haunt and actually like what you find there. At the Chewonki Foundation, tradition and environmental ethics run deep. And the camp's logo—[ornithologist, artist, and author Roger Tory] Peterson's osprey—still hovers around The Point, whistling wildly like boys happy just to be alive.*

—Keene Sunday Sentinel, 3-19-1998



Clark received a degree in environmental conservation and wildlife from the University of New Hampshire in 1973. He was a prodigious writer and conservation advocate. He published two books, *Eastern Birds of Prey* and *Birds on the Move*, and wrote countless articles for newspapers, magazines, and wildlife organizations, spreading his passion for the outdoors. He was for many years the resident naturalist at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock, New Hampshire.

"Neal shared his love of nature with many, leading outdoor adventures, birding treks, and nature walks for five decades," says Nye. "A generous man and an inspiration."





Nathan Arnold flying a water tank to the island of Criehaven for firefighting.

## NATHAN ARNOLD

### *Flying high, above Katahdin or Kuwait*

**Nathan Arnold** (BC '83-'87; WT '88,'89; BC staff '91,'93,'97-'00; systems engineer '96-'00), a Maine Army National Guard major, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, and an Army flight instructor, politely asks if the interviewer on the phone could hold for a minute; a cockpit door has unexpectedly opened on an aircraft approaching Bangor International Airport. He returns a moment later, unruffled. This is part of what makes Arnold very good at flying military helicopters: he is calm.

"It's a pilot thing," says Arnold modestly. "They teach us that. Being excited doesn't really help your thinking. And you often have very few seconds to make a decision."

At the start of his military career, Arnold wasn't envisioning such dramatic work. He liked drafting and surveying. He's methodical. He understands systems and how things work. With those skills, he became an Army construction manager. He oversaw construction of the National Guard's multi-million-dollar school building in Bangor in 2008. Like his brother, **Carob Arnold** (BC '86,'87,'90; BC staff '98,'00,'08,'09; Chewonki facilities manager), and their father, **Peter Arnold** (who led renewable-energy efforts at Chewonki '06-'12), Nathan Arnold possesses a deep interest in sustainability, so he advocated for a design that earned silver LEED certification and became a Department of Defense showpiece.

Still, Arnold said yes when the National Guard asked if he wanted flight training. He was just finishing when the U.S. invaded Iraq, and he was promptly deployed. "I did all my mission training 'in theater,'" he says, that is, in combat zones in Kuwait and Iraq.

In 2007, he went back to Iraq to provide medevac services. After that deployment, he became a flight instructor, work he discovered he loved. He has taught ever since, in a Black Hawk helicopter, an aircraft he's spent 2,700 hours flying. "It's kind of like a Swiss Army knife: it can do lots of things," he says. "It's got tremendous power and it's very rugged, designed to be in combat and survivable."

Arnold carried out medevac operations once again in Kuwait in 2011. He was promoted in 2013 to operations officer in charge of all Maine Army National Guard full-time instructor pilots. He and his family now live near Bangor.

Arnold knows Maine's landscape and coast as few others do. He's evacuated people from Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park multiple times. He has also delivered cords of firewood and lean-to's to remote campsites and firefighting equipment to a tiny island community.

He sums up his high-flying vocation with no undue flourishes: "It's a lot of fun. And it can be amazingly rewarding."

See **Education Partnerships** for news of **Elly Pepper**; MCS 38 for news of **Charlie Governali**; MCS 54 for **Elly Thomas**.

## 2010s

**Khalid Mahamed** (BC '17-) smiles from the pages of the *Portland (ME) Press Herald* in a February article about a fabulous ukulele camp he attended. Boys Camp Director Garth Altenburg hopes Khalid will bring his ukulele to camp this summer! **Lee Pennebaker** (BC staff '16) completed hiking the whole Appalachian Trail last fall. He made a quick pit stop at Chewonki's Fourth Debsconeag Lake site, not far from the AT's northern terminus, Mount Katahdin. See photo.

See MCS 47 for news of **Olivia Cameron**; MCS 56 for news of **Anna Dickson**.

## EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

**Kerri McAllister** (OC staff '02,'03) is now the program manager and place-based educator at Shelburne Farms, a 1,400-acre working farm, forest, and National Historic Landmark in VT that provides a wide range of educational programs focused on environmental sustainability. **Elly Pepper** (BC staff '01-'02; Outreach staff '07) was recently promoted to Advocate III at the Natural Resources Defense Council. See box.



Lee Pennebaker





Elly Pepper with a young friend

## ELLY PEPPER

### *Defending the creatures we've put in peril*

"I knew from a very young age that I wanted to work to protect the environment," says **Elly Pepper** (BC staff '00, '01; Outreach '07), deputy director of the Wildlife Trade Initiative at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and a wildlife advocate. Growing up on Mount Desert Island, Maine, she was "that kid writing letters to President George H. W. Bush asking for enhanced sea turtle protections and raising money from lemonade stands to save the rainforest."

Around the time that Pepper worked as a Camp Chewonki sailing instructor, her parents mentioned NRDC to her. "From then on, that was where I wanted to be," she recalls.

After graduating from Bowdoin College, Pepper came back to Chewonki to work as an Outreach educator and began writing law school applications to move toward her dream of doing environmental law and policy work. "Somehow I finagled a job at NRDC after graduating [from the Univ. of Richmond Law School]," she says.

Pepper works mostly from her Portland, Maine, home, but her view is global and she understands the intersecting inter-national

and local forces putting wildlife in peril. "Habitat destruction and wildlife trafficking are the top two threats to species worldwide," she explains. "In Africa, where many of the species I focus on live, urbanization, agriculture, and extractive activities like mining have decimated wildlife populations—in large part by eradicating wildlife corridors that enable genetic exchange. And wildlife trafficking has become a huge problem, with wildlife being sold for everything from pets (e.g., snakes) to traditional medicines (e.g., rhino horn, pangolin scales) to food (e.g. totoaba) to decorative items (e.g. ivory)."

Her young son focuses her passion. "I want Jack [age 3] to see these animals some day and know that I played a part in keeping them around," says Pepper. "I'm also constantly inspired by NRDC's 3 million members and activists. When I feel discouraged, I read their comments on social media to remind myself that they're relying on me to literally help save the earth, which is a huge honor. I have the best job in the world, and it's easy to work hard when you feel like that."

## MAINE REACH

**Leslie Hammer-Palen** (MR 2,'74-'75) has been active in Parents for the Planet, a nonprofit that "shares good news about all sorts of planet-related topics happening all over the world," she says. "Out of that group, we formed something called The Thank You Brigade—people who want to share some love with the scientists and many of the organizations that have come under siege since Trump was elected...We began by creating signs saying 'Thank you for your efforts on our behalf' and then, along with baked goodies, we stood outside offices and thanked people as they went into work. Our first location was at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and once people understood what we were doing, they started coming out asking to take pictures with us and thanked us for making their day. We have also visited the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service with the same intent and result."

## SEMESTER SCHOOL

### 1 (Fall 1988)

**Paige Ruane** and her husband, Jack, recently moved to Ghent, NY. Paige has been producing radio and podcast stories of people building ecologically and socially responsible economies. She's working on a new version of her radio show, *Oxide*, which "seeks to understand economic innovation emerging from necessity and goodwill. The show offers stories of people questioning cultural beliefs around commerce, currency and exchange of any kind, to widen our understanding of wealth and wellbeing." It's terrific to reconnect with **Lulu von Rumohr Davis** on the Neck! See box.

### 2 (Spring 1989)

**Marsha Lenz**, who teaches at South Bay School in Eureka, CA, participated in a 21-day survey of pollock populations in the Gulf of Alaska last June as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Teacher at Sea program, which bridges science and education through real-world research experiences. "Making learning relevant through my own hands-on experiences is vital to getting students excited about science," she said. She added: "Thank you for your inspiration so many years ago. You helped plant a seed that grew into a lifestyle." **Diana Rudolph** is an expert fly fisherman whose life revolves around this passion. She has won tournaments all over the world, writes about fly fishing, and teaches women how to do it through an organization called Able Women.





Thad, Max, & Lulu Davis

## LULU VON RUMOHR DAVIS and MAX DAVIS

### *Setting milestones in Maine Coast Semester history*

Lulu von Rumohr Davis (Sem 1) returned to Chewonki this winter with her husband, Thad Davis, to drop off their son, **Max Davis**, for Maine Coast Semester 60. “It was fantastic to come back,” she says. “It felt exciting and hopeful—exciting to remember my time on Chewonki Neck and hopeful that Max is going to find as

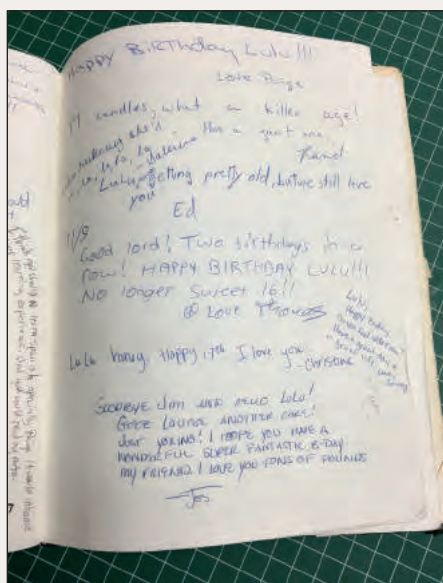
much joy there as I did. I feel reassured that in this political-social climate, there is such a special place as Chewonki, and very fortunate that my son is getting the opportunity to soak it in.” As far as we know, Max is the first Maine Coast Semester alumni child to come to the program, so, like his mother, he’s a groundbreaker.

## FLASHBACK

With impish humor, members of the first Maine Coast Semester scribed their good wishes to fellow student **Lulu von Rumohr Davis** in their shared journal on November 9, 1988. She came to Chewonki from the Noble and Greenough School in Massachusetts (and returned to Maine to attend Bates College). Davis and her semester-mates did something remarkable by choosing to spend four months in a brand-new program, learning and working in a small community in Maine. At the time, semester programs were rare.

These students took their historic role lightly, however. “About traditions,” someone mused on another journal page. “We are the first MCS and we can create things that will be here in many years to come. Any ideas?” Below the query, student **Josi O’Brien Brune** wrote, “A donut shop, perhaps?”

The Maine Coast Semester I journal is one of 59 (soon to be 60) similar black books in the archives. Each offers glimpses—often silly, sometimes profound—into the personalities and goings-on of a particular



Page from Semester 1 journal

group of people at a particular time on Chewonki Neck. Alumni returning for the 30-year celebration this August might want to take a peek.

## 3 (Fall 1989)

The “Set Sail Learn” STEM programs designed by **Chelsie Olney** bring San Francisco public school fourth-graders to Treasure Island Sailing Center for a day of math-, science-, and history-based learning while sailing in San Francisco Bay. Recently, the program welcomed its 5,000<sup>th</sup> student.

## 9 (Fall 1992)

**Karrie Amsler** is living in the Bay Area, where she’s the mother of 9-year-old identical twin girls and assistant director at a San Mateo County charter school. **Katie Wagner’s** digital marketing agency, Katie Wagner Social Media, just celebrated its seventh year in Orange County, CA, and the first anniversary of its Atlanta, GA, office. Katie and her husband, Stephen, divide their time between the two cities. See photo.



Katie Wagner





Tyler Stewart (l) with Boo, Riley, & Blake

### 10 (Spring 1993)

**Franny Parker** (BC staff '93) is an adjunct professor in the psychology graduate school at Pepperdine Univ. She is also in the licensure process to be able to practice as a clinical psychologist.

### 13 (Fall 1994)

**Jamie Shea** tied the knot across semesters when he and **Caitie Bradley** (Sem 20) married in February.

### 14 (Spring 1995)

**Tyler Stewart** lives in Sausalito, CA, with his boyfriend and their dogs. Tyler and his brother develop residential real estate in Marin County. Tyler also rides in show jumping competitions. See photo. **Charles Wetherill** lives in Finland and is country program manager at the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), responsible for planning, structuring, and managing programs across multiple geographies and sectors. NDF is the joint climate finance institution of the five Nordic countries financing investments in adaptation and mitigation in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. **Arianne Zwartjes** and her wife, Anna, balance their time between Leadville, CO, and Santa Fe, NM. Arianne teaches English at a Santa Fe Community College and wilderness medicine for NOLS. She's also writing a book chronicling the refugee crisis that unfolded while she and Anna lived in the Netherlands in 2015-'16.

### 16 (Spring 1996)

"We had a boy!" **Courtney Clinkscales** writes. "He's our favorite little person in the world."

**Noah Winer** and his partner, Sarah, also have a son, Isaiah "Izzy" Rafael Zlotnik, born 1-5-17. Noah is a senior partner at Dragonfly Partners, a company that helps "changemakers inside and outside the political system work through strategic, organizational, or interpersonal challenges." Dragonfly's 2017 clients included the Women's March, Mobilisation Lab, Philadelphia Student Union, and MADRE.

### 17 (Fall 1996)

Cross your fingers for **Page McClean**, who's waiting to hear whether she'll receive a grant to do research in Chile. See box.

## PAGE MCCLEAN

### *Exploring places where so-called progress encounters culture*

It's no secret that **Page McClean** (Sem 17) has a beautiful voice. Luckily, she doesn't hide her light under a bushel; she sings wherever she is, made a CD ("Departures") a few years ago, and performs her own and others' songs regularly in and around her current base, Boulder, Colorado.

Music is just one of the creative tides moving through McClean's mind, however. She's an adventurer who wants to know what culture looks like from the inside out. A Harvard graduate with an M.A. in visual anthropology from Goldsmiths, University of London, she's also an editor, a filmmaker, and a food-lover who speaks Spanish, French, and Portuguese, as well as English. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

"I do research in Chile on how large, state-sponsored infrastructural projects interact with and impact rural communities in Patagonia," she explains. "In practical terms, that means I do a lot of interviewing and hanging out with people to understand their worldviews, fears, and aspirations, and how they intersect with other sets of values they may or may not share." Last spring, she received a Society for Visual Anthropology/Robert Lemelson Foundation fellowship for her research. Now she's got her fingers crossed as she waits to hear about a possible grant to get her back to Chile.

McClean attributes her intellectual drive to her "high standards and occasional perfectionism. More poetically, I might say that the world is a big and beautiful place that deserves time, exploration, and care."

### 18 (Spring 1997)

**Nicole Casper** is enjoying being in the Pacific Northwest with her family: her son (16 months), stepson (13), stepdaughter (11), and husband. She is a water resources analyst for the Swinomish Tribe. **Kristin Holcomb** and her husband, Ben, still live in Winston-Salem, NC, with their daughters, Millie (5) and Aubrey (2).



An alumna of Maine Coast Semester, McClean was later the program's Spanish teacher for two years ('03-'05). As a student and a teacher at Chewonki, she "really loved my afternoon walks to the Point," she says. "I loved how it changed in the seasons, how I could take a little cat nap in the sun in early autumn, go out there on my cross-country skis in winter, or hear all the [Environmental Education/Outdoor Classroom] kids' laughter filtering through the woods. Those walks helped me come to know a place and appreciate its daily and seasonal variations."

No matter where she is or what she does ahead, music will be there. "Grad school keeps me way too busy to be performing to the extent I'd like to," she concedes, "but when I go to Chile, I would like to learn some folk songs from local musicians and see what develops out of that." It will be something that tells us more about what's going on both in Chile and in Page McClean's mind—something worth hearing.





Samuel Pi

## 20 (Spring 1998)

Maine Coast Semester wedding bells: **Caitie Bradley** married **Jamie Shea** (Sem 13) in February. **Liz Mygatt** and her husband, Alex, welcomed baby Samuel Hazard Pi on 1-10-18, "after a somewhat fierce and furious labor," reports Liz. We are happy and healthy...Lots of learning all around, and much love and delight. Not so much sleep." See photo.

## 21 (Fall 1998)

**Nate Wessler** is one of the few people getting a lot done in Washington, DC. See box.

## 23 (Fall 1999)

"All is well for us in Portland, OR," writes **Emily Algranati**. "Meg and I are due with a baby girl in late February/early March so we are excited and nervous and all the rest." **Liz Cedar** continues her work at the Smithsonian, which recently took her to Bahrain, Kuwait, and Armenia. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Brooklyn, and are expecting their first baby in April. **Rosie Dent** finished her PhD in May and is spending this year as a post-doc in Montreal. **Rebecca Garfield** is enjoying a year at home with daughters Pippa (3) and Ayla (1). The family is looking forward to a move back to New England this summer. **Will Morris** and his wife, Elise, welcomed daughter Vera on 3-6-2017 in Salt Lake City, UT. Will is working on several projects, including one to convert poultry litter to electrical power in NC and another with international partners to capture CO2 from a WY power plant. **Andrew Schapiro** continues to enjoy life in San Francisco, where



Miller Wood, Nellie Black Brewer, Greg Daggett Jr., & Lauren Horton King

he's been a creative director at Airbnb for 6 years.

**Marissa Vahlsing** is still a human rights and environmental justice lawyer at EarthRights International. She lives in Washington, DC, and travels frequently to the Andean Amazon region for work. She married Patricio Zambrano Barragan on 10-1-2016 in Princeton, NJ. **Ollie Whitney** began working for the Sierra Club in Washington, DC, last July.

energy and energy management at Comcast.

**Emily Guerin** is the environment reporter with KPCC public radio in Los Angeles, covering topics such as urban oil and gas, wildfires, air pollution, wildlife, drought, and water quality. **Julia Haines** has finished her field work in Mauritius and is writing her dissertation at the Univ. of Virginia. **Constanza Ontaneda** (MCS

See news of **Ariane Lotti** under **Semester School Faculty & Staff**.

## 27 (Fall 2001)

**Jess Hoy** graduates from her residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital in June and will be moving to New Mexico to work as a primary care physician at the Indian Health Services.

## 28 (Spring 2002)

Over the past several years, **Blair Lamb** has been on a mission to visit all 50 states. Only Alaska remains!

## 29 (Fall 2002)

**Nellie Brewer** and her husband, Eli, moved to Atlanta, GA, last year. Nellie works at the law firm of Morris Manning & Martin. **Greg Daggett** completed his veterinary residency in July 2016 and his fellowship at Emory Univ. a year later. He is now a veterinarian at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, caring for their nonhuman primate biomedical research colony. See photo. This fall, **Caroline Goodbody** relocated to Philadelphia, where she works on business opportunities in



Drew Anderson & Becca Spiro



## NATE WESSLER

*Mapping the complex terrain of privacy, technology, and law*

Last November 29, **Nathan Freed Wessler**, an alumnus of Maine Coast Semester 21 and a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), walked up the steps of the Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., to argue before the court in an important Fourth Amendment case, *Carpenter v. United States*. The case revolves around whether the government and law enforcement have the right to seize customers' site location data from wireless phone providers.

Wessler admits it was a momentous day. "This was the big time," he says. "Nothing can quite compare to standing a few feet in front of those nine justices. They asked deep and probing questions. It was quite an experience."

Wessler argued that the government needs probable cause and a search warrant to find out where cell phone customers have been, data the phone is constantly beaming. The case is still pending, but



"Based on how [the justices] were approaching the questions and how they've ruled in similar cases, we're optimistic that they will put reasonable limits on law enforcement in this area," he says.

The case puts Wessler in the middle of the debate about how public our personal digital life should be. He hopes the outcome of *Carpenter v. United States* will "open the door" to many precedent-setting cases that

will define how businesses, governments, and individuals manage "highly sensitive data: emails, medical information, information from in-home devices... This will hopefully set the stage for future opportunities to grapple with and set some limits."

"Many of us who do this work talk about digital privacy not as an issue of secrecy but rather as an issue of control," he says. "It's important that people exercise control over sensitive digital information... There's a pressing need to strike a good balance between privacy and government."

After graduating from Swarthmore College, Wessler worked in the ACLU's national legislative office as a field organizer and then went to New York University School of Law. Public interest law, civil rights, and civil liberties issues continued to beckon, and after working for a federal appeals court, he returned to the ACLU. He sees America today as "particularly fraught" with challenges to constitutional rights. "It feels good to be in a place where I can chip away at those problems," he says.

Wessler describes Maine Coast Semester as "a really formative and important experience—something I think of with significant frequency." Certain memories stand out. "I think about the community," he says, "the way that it functions as a whole... It was a wonderful place to spend a few months. And the academics were challenging and great." He particularly enjoyed Environmental Issues class and English class, where he explored sense of place, a concept that's stuck with him. In Brooklyn, New York, where he and his wife and their little daughter live, he makes a point of going often to the nearby park alongside New York Harbor.

"Right now in this country," Wessler says, "I can't imagine not being able to devote myself to trying to extend constitutional protections and ensure that these rights we have come to rely on will stay relevant."

faculty, Sem's 47-50) just launched a very creative soap making company, Give Soap. This May, **Annie Shepard** will receive her masters in art direction from VCU Brandcenter (a program specializing in advertising and creative problem solving) in Richmond, VA. In September 2017, **Becca Spiro** married Drew Anderson in Breckenridge, CO. See photo. For the last three years, Becca has been the director of learning and engagement for Breckenridge Creative Arts. She manages the artist-in-residence program, docent program, intern programs, and year-round art classes on the Arts District Campus in Breckenridge. **Sarah (Sincerbeaux) Strew** wed Todd Strew on 8-26-2017. See photo. They live in South Pomfret, VT. Sarah is the camp director for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, an environmental education and bird rehabilitation organization.



Todd Strew & Sarah Sincerbeaux





Ariel & Cameron Picton

### 31 (Fall 2003)

**Cameron Picton** and his sister, **Ariel Picton** (Sem 38), were recently in the same place at the same time. See photo.

### 34 (Spring 2005)

**Cloe Shasha** is profiled in the winter 2018 issue of *Middlebury Magazine*. She is director of speaker development on the team that curates TED Talks. "The essence of my job is to make TED Talks as good as they can be," she says,

"both through finding good speakers and pitching them up the chain, and working individually with speakers to make their talks stronger."

### 37 (Fall 2006)

**Natalie Friedman** married Gary Lampert on 6-18-2017. They live in NYC, where Natalie works in the insurance industry as a catastrophe modeler and Gary is a credit analyst. See photo.

### 38 (Spring 2007)

**Charlie Governali** (BC '03) is working in Seattle in conservation. **Liddy Hepner** recently moved to Catonsville, MD, where she is a veterinarian at a small animal clinic. **Ariel Picton** (WT '04) lives in the Hudson Valley with her boyfriend Adam. She coaches a junior ski jumping program in northwest Connecticut and will be going back to school at the State University of New York-Purchase this spring to finish her undergraduate degree. See photo.

### 39 (Fall 2007)

**Rachel Bristol** is happily married and living in South Portland, ME.

### 43 (Fall 2009)

**Katie Burns** recently began a PhD program in the botany and plant science department of the National Univ. of Ireland, Galway. See box. **Sara Clark** has moved to NYC after taking a job at Democracy Works, the civic tech nonprofit that makes TurboVote. She's enjoying reconnecting with Sem 43 friends in the city. **Matt Goodrich** is working on the Sunrise Movement with **Ben Bristol** (MCS 47). See box.

### 46 (Spring 2011)

**CC Conner** will be heading to nursing school soon. **Farallon Gerstmann** is pursuing her PhD in biology and was recently awarded an National Science Foundation grant for her work.

**Alexandra Kahn** has begun a PhD program in Berkeley's environmental biology and policy program.

### 47 (Fall 2011)

**Benjamin Bristol** graduated from Bowdoin in 2017 and has started a new adventure called Sunrise. See box. **Olivia Cameron** (BC staff '14) just moved back to Corvallis, OR, to complete her undergraduate degree after five months of working for a marine conservation group in Puerto López, Ecuador. **Ella Driscoll**, another Bowdoin grad, worked for adventure travel and corporate social responsibility companies before starting her job at Backroads Active Travel. "I can't thank you enough for the experience that is Chewonki," she wrote. "Chewonki was the singlehandedly my defining opportunity that has ever been gifted to me, and I am endlessly thankful for the lessons and friends that have come from 47." She recently enjoyed catching up with former semester head **Ann Carson** and her husband, math teacher **Steve Kerchner**, in Colorado, where they teach at the Dawson School. **Francesca Governali**, a Dartmouth senior, did research last summer in Greenland for a professor's grant and her senior thesis.

**Maggie Johnson** is finishing up her senior year at Oberlin College, where she is majoring in environmental studies and economics. Throughout college, she has studied and done research in Patagonia and Oklahoma State Univ. Upon graduation, she plans to work in conservation or sustainable development. **Kate McNally** is a Fulbright scholar living in Salvage, Newfoundland and Labrador, researching the ways scientists and local fishermen collaborate to manage ecosystems.

### 50 (Spring 2013)

**Eleanor Gerstmann** plans to pursue a law degree after college.

### 51 (Fall 2013)

**Henry Hasbrouck** has been elected a captain of the Rhodes College lacrosse team. He spent last fall in England, Greece, and Italy with the Rhodes College European Studies Program.

### 52 (Spring 2014)

A professor in the Univ. of Vermont's environmental studies program sent a contribution to Chewonki with a note saying, "I am giving because I have seen how Chewonki has inspired one of my students, **Kate Longfield**, who is such a powerful force for good in the world. Thank you, Chewonki, for making a difference."



Gary Lampert & Natalie Friedman



## KATIE BURNS

*Busy as a bee and determined to find answers*

Honeybees carry the world's future on their tiny wings, and **Katie Burns** (Sem 43) is worried. Honeybees and other pollinators are vital to agriculture and ecology, but their populations are declining.

Burns, who was an environmental science major with a concentration in biology at Wheaton College, is now in her first year of the National University of Ireland Galway's Ph.D. program in botany and plant science. She's focusing on

"the relative contributions of wild and managed pollinators to Irish crop pollination," she says. She previously worked as a research assistant and community outreach facilitator "on many innovative, fascinating projects relating to pollination ecology and pollinator conservation" in the U.S.

Burns has "always loved insects and been fascinated by the miniature world that surrounds us, yet often goes unnoticed," she says. That, combined with her "passion for the conservation of wildlife and wild spaces," made her career choice natural.

"There are over 4,000 species of wild bees in the United States alone and thousands of other species of native insect pollinators worldwide, including wasps, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, and beetles," she says. "Maintaining this diversity is crucial to our survival, since these critters account for the pollination of almost 80 percent of the world's native flowering plants, including about 70 percent of agricultural crops. No single pollinator can do the work of the multitudes required to carry out these essential ecosystem services."

Pollinators face many threats, from habitat destruction to pesticides to disease to climate change. Along with becoming advocates and activists, we can help by planting native wildflowers to create "pollinator oases."

Burns hopes to work someday "for an institution committed to sustainably managing natural resources and fostering environmental stewardship, with a focus on pollinator conservation," she says. "I want to work closely with farmers and land managers to come up with solutions that will increase the value of their land while still preserving native insects. I also hope to facilitate public engagement."

Burns is finding Ireland "an amazing place to live and work," a little like her native Maine but with an up tempo. When she's not deep in research, she likes "to put on my most comfortable shoes and dance for hours to live music performances at my favorite pub."



## BENJAMIN BRISTOL and MATTHEW MILES GOODRICH

*Spreading the light of Sunrise*

*The dismantling of environmental laws and policies taking place in Washington, D.C., is moving people to take action in a wide variety of ways. Maine Coast Semester alumni Ben Bristol (Sem 47) and Matthew Goodrich (Sem 43), both graduates of Bowdoin College, have chosen to work for the Sunrise Movement, mobilizing young people to recognize climate change as an urgent global priority and insist that elected officials address it.*



Living as a millennial is an act of faith. Our cohort moves into a world radically different from any other in history, offering uncertain livelihoods on an uncertain planet. The tumult we felt as semester students setting foot upon Chewonki Neck for the first time has returned. The stakes, this time, are higher.

Chewonki students cannot hide from climate change. They know that the Popham Beach dunes face probable annihilation from torrential storms. They've heard that the Gulf of Maine is warming at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country. They saw how last summer rained hell upon Houston. And they've taken note that months after a ruinous hurricane, more than a million Puerto Ricans still struggle to meet basic needs. What we discussed in the abstract in our Environmental Issues class ten years ago is now real and terrifying.

Chewonki afforded us a clear view of the climate crisis. It wasn't so much the curriculum as the experience of the Chewonki community that taught us climate change is about the wolf pines of the pastures and the rivalries inside South Hall and Binnacle. It is about the people and places we love.

You wouldn't know this from the current state of climate-reckoning in our country. After Donald Trump's victory, this much was clear: our generation must break the hold of the old order. The two of us play our part through the Sunrise Movement, a new grassroots army of young people trying to sweep away the disfunction and corruption inside American political institutions. We see climate change as a heist of everything we love. Our mission is to elect a new generation of leaders beholden to their communities, not donors.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Government has been a fossil; it should be a plant." We sow our seeds with love and fight for that glimmer on the horizon.

Chewonki offered us our first chance both to forge community and to think seriously about climate change. Sunrise seeks souls like those on the Neck, where people live their salty convictions, compassion is a ritual, and regard for earth, water, and sky strengthens our relationships with each other.

Maybe our seeds will grow. Hope is a word we haven't trusted in a while, but it was there, on the boardwalk to the Allen Center, and it is here with us now. In the dimness of despair, let us spark that hope a little higher. Our faith is as fervent as it was a decade ago, at 5:00 a.m. in a puddle of sleeping bags on Osprey Point: Sunrise is coming.

—Benjamin Bristol and Matthew Miles Goodrich





Elly Thomas

### 54 (Spring 2015)

"I'm currently studying in the TREE—Teaching of Research in Environmental Education—semester program in Woodland Park, CO," writes **Daniel Allen**, "getting hands-on teaching experience with 5th-graders at our mountain campus once a week." Last year, **Elly Thomas** (GC '09, '11) completed a 151-day thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. See photo.

### 55 (Fall 2015)

**Carolyn Silverstein** graduated from Loomis Chaffee School in last May and now attends Dartmouth College.

### 56 (Spring 2016)

**Anna Dickson** (GC '10) is in her first year at Bowdoin College. **Essie Martin** convinced her school to switch to gender-neutral graduation gowns (all black) before she headed off to Bates College.

## FACULTY & STAFF

Last October, **Mark & Ingrid Albee** (Mark: farm manager '90-'05; Ingrid: nurse/health coordinator '90-'05) spent a week in Grosseto, Italy, with **Ariane Lotti** (MCS 23) on her family's farm. The Albees report that "Ariane is doing great work on 1,200 acres of Tuscan coastal farmland that has been in her family for three generations. It was a time to celebrate the first organically certified rice crop on her farm, nearly 20 metric tons!" See news of **Ann Carson** and **Steve Kerchner** under Sem 47. See news of **Constanza Ontaneda** under Sem 29.

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Lucas Janszky  
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June 2018)

59 (Fall 2017)  
To come





## A Chewonki Year

Here are the people who made last year memorable. Can you find your face? Thanks for being part of the adventure. We look forward to seeing you at Chewonki *this year!*







## 2017 Camp Chewonki for Girls

Nancy Kennedy, Director

Omaima AlHanfy	Scarlett Kennedy
Abigail Ames	Katya Khesin
Sana Anand	Maya Khesin
Elsa Andren	Loryn Kipp
Cassandra Bacon	Dorothy Lamson
Grace Barker	Aquinnah Lane-Thurlow
Emelia Barker	Cullen LaPointe
Katherine Bartlett	Hwai-Zhi Lei
Amy Baumel	Grace Leschey
Emily Bell-Hoerth	Per Lisy
Maya Bilanin	Frances MacNeish
Avery Bilanin	Lillian MacNeish
Emma Borden	Julia Mammen
Ana Burroughs	Ema Mareckova
Lily Carr	Maria McMorrow
Hadley Carr	Zoe Meister
Natalie Chamberlain	Genevieve Miner
Beatrix Connor	Maya Monroy
Anna Cornwall	Emilia Morgan
Kleanthi Cunningham	Lousig Morris
Haven Davis	Elsa Nunez
Zoe Dinnerstein	Alice Polen
Sterling Dintersmith	Rebecca Postman
Erica Erdenesanaa	Hirvania Rodriguez
Sabina Feder	Magdalena Rogers
Margaret Feely	Abigail Ruksznis
Stella Field	Josephine Ryan
Maria Figueroa	Sarah Schewe
Marin Frasca	Julia Siegel
Wren Fraser	Claire Sifton
Marion Fusco	Liliana Smolen
Ursula Fusco	Halina Smolen
Bianca Gonya	Gigi Sobczak
Hannah Granik Scheuer	Adalaide Tholen
Abigail Gschwind	Blythe Thompson
Hannah Halberstam	Maizley Tone
Sylvie Hartley	Olivia Urbanek
Veronica Hatch	Courtney Vashro
Aimée Heard	Eleonora Witting Da Prato
Zoë Heard	Leilani Wizner
Emily Held	Angela Wright
Cate Hicks	Itzel Yanez
Anna Hildreth	Maria Yumbla
Ava Holton	Susanna Zahn
Mykala Jordan	





## 2017 Camp Chewonki for Boys

Garth Altenburg, Director

Henry Heyburn, Assistant Director

Aaron Altabet	Ian Emme
Benjamin Altenburg	Jeremy Epstein
Tomas Alvarez Saavedra	Michelle Erdenesanaa
Misha Andrews Bender	Grant Erickson
Brian Armando	Tucker Evans
Benjamin Arnold	Angus Fake
Abolaji Awoyomi	Danny Fales
Charles Baldinger	Theodore Fales
Weston Barker	Jesse Federico
Teo Barrachin	Walter Field
Milo Bartels	Felix Field
Haddon Barth	Charles Fleisher
Samuel Barth	Nicholas Fleisher
Augustus Barth	Keaton Fleisher
Grant Bennett	Luke Flyer
Theodore Berman	Mason Foehl
Joseph Berman	Thomas Foley
Martin Blasdel	Thaddeus Foote
Sam Blasdel	James Foote
Ari Bloomstein	Kendrick Fowler
Adam Blyberg	Quinn Frank
Brad Boers	Charles Frankel
Raif Boit	Arthur Friedman
Georgia Bolduc	Charles Friedman
Kurt Bower	Ollie Fuchs
Arne Bredesen	Eli Fuller
Davis Brewster	John Fulton
Quinton Brewster	William Gardner
Wyatt Bruce	Vir Gargi
Joseph Bullock	Carter Gemmell
Hugo Bundy	Levi Gewirz
John Burns	Ian Gilbertson
Jack Carignan	Griffin Gingrich
Micah Cary	Andrew Gioannetti
Alan Celis	Martin Gioannetti
Theodore Chalecki	Sebastian Gold
Martin Chamberlin	Ben Goldston
Earl Chase	William Gould
Tobey Chase	Strider Grant
Julien Chernick	Keith Habarta
Loren Chernick	George Haffenreffer
Walker Christo	William Hartnett
Ferdinand Chwoyka	Jack Hayes
Frederick Cichocki	Archer Heffern
William Cline	Tobias Heller
Colin Clough	David Henderson
Aidan Connor	Jasper Herzog
Giann Cortes	Abraham Heymann
Jonah Crema	Isaac Heymann
Robert Crerar	Matthew Hicks
Rogers Crowley	Isaac Hinton
Kenneth Crump	Alexi Horne
Felix Cunningham	Miles Horner
Ben Curtis	Bevan Howard
Mateus Da Costa	Nate Howell
Alissa Dahmert	Finley Howell
Holling Danzoll	Jonah Howell
Jasper Davenport	Huckleberry Huber-Rees
Hudson Davis	Ethan Hughes
Nelvin De La Rosa	Caspian Hunt Thomas
Asa Decker	Jasper Hunt Thomas
Theodore Deinard	Charlie Hynes
Casey DeJong	Graham Hynes
Julian Delogu	Quinn Hynes
Damille Devenyi	John Jennings
Tristan Diep	Jace Jodzio
Alexandra Donahue	Brennan Johnson
Aidan Dorn	John Kaneb
Blinn Dorsey	Ned Kaneb
James Dorsey	Aiden Kary
Phoebe Downer	Bartow Kelly
Yichen Du	Brian Kemp
Oliver Duhigg	Bryn Kerslake
Cooper Dwight	Julian Khandalavala
Erik Elferson	Hugo Khandalavala
Maxwell Elmore	Shane Killen
Sam Elmore	Breckenridge Kling







Henry Kling  
Thomas Knight  
Henry Koenig  
Christopher Kondak  
Jackson Kondak  
Jonathan Kranzley  
Stewart Kristiansen  
Isaac Kruger  
Omer Kurt  
Rowen Kuzminski  
Sam Lambert  
Evan Landon  
Soren Langord  
Alexander Laudano  
Gabriel Laudano  
Jessy Lee  
Alexander Leicht  
Jamie Lennon  
Thomas Lewandowski  
Sawyer Linehan  
Alejandro Lockhart  
Nicolas Lockhart  
Preston Long  
Renner Lucas  
Maxen Lucas  
Rhys Luce  
Bryn Luce  
Jacob Luce-Thurber  
Ming Ngai Luk  
Conrad Lynch  
Sam MacFadyen  
Rufus MacVane  
Henry Madsen  
Evon Magnusson  
Kaltun Mahamed  
Anis Mahamed  
Khalid Mahamed  
Duncan Mahony  
Luke Mangual  
Drew Marecek  
James Martin  
Andrew Martin  
Cameron Martin  
Alejandro Martin Artajo  
Pablo Martin Rubio  
John May  
Collin McDade  
Finnegan McGowan  
George McLean  
Pearce Medford  
Solomon Medintz  
Jasper Meyboom  
Dylan Mikulka  
Aidan Milner  
Hud Mohamed  
William Moody  
Manlio Moreno  
John Morrison  
Stuart Morton  
Maximilien Motte  
Mac Motz  
Walter Murdoch  
Emerson Murdoch  
Xavier Myrtill  
Mbulelo Andile Namba  
Lucca Nasello  
William Nguyen  
Marcus Nichols  
Dominik Nowak  
John O'Brien  
Ryan O'Connor  
Liam O'Donnell  
Sol Obregon  
Morris Pawlik  
Calvin Percy  
Lowell Percy  
Leandro Perez  
William Perkins  
Magnus Peterson-Horner  
Ethan Pierce  
Xavier Poissonnier  
Julian Prentice

Taylor Pulsifer  
Hale Pulsifer  
Beckett Quirk  
Jack Ray  
Felix Reardon  
Saishan Reddy  
Ezra Richter  
Syrus Richter  
Finley Roberts  
Owen Robertson  
Tyr Ronco  
Jack Roselund  
Andrew Ross  
William Ross  
George Rukan  
George Ryan  
Alvaro Santaella  
Joshua Schachter  
Eli Schair-Rigoletti  
William Scheu  
Robert Scheu  
Federico Schmidt  
Maximiliano Schmidt  
Forrest Schmitt  
Henry Schuur  
Oliver Scott-Hansen  
Emmett Scribner  
Aiden Scully  
Dennis Sermeno Ormeno  
Sascha Shapiro  
Jesse Shapiro  
Abaseen Shir  
Atticus Short  
Monroe Short  
Ben Shulman  
Joshua Silverman  
Carolyn Silverstein  
Bruno Sire  
Jonah Siskel  
Nathan Siskel  
Carter Smith  
Bennett Smith  
Bruno Spadola  
Robert Spiess-Ahmasuk  
Austin Splint  
Shayne Splint  
August Steiger  
Malcolm Stewart  
Ayden Sullivan  
Seamus Sullivan  
Samuel Sullivan  
Liam Surrusco  
Jack Sussmann  
Lukas Tavassoli  
Levi Tipton  
Georges Toulouse  
Cameron Tucker  
Landon Turgeon  
Nate Tyler  
Selim Ulug  
Willem van Eck  
Lucio Vellutino  
Nicholas von Klitzing  
Frederik von Klitzing  
Henry Wagg  
Anne Waugh  
William Whiting  
Harold Whitney  
Colby Whitney  
Joshua Wiener  
Daniel Williams  
George Wilson  
Allyson Wolski  
Adrian Wu  
Jayden Xu  
Yumo Yang  
Kyle Young  
Thiago Yumbla  
EnXiang Zhang  
Collier Zug  
Livingston Zug



# Maine Coast Semester 58

Carolyn Blackman  
Olivia Brooks  
Ryan Brown  
Lucy Chatfield  
Leo Costa  
Liv Cramer  
Jolie Curran  
Maggie Daddmun  
Rains Draper  
Jesse Federico  
Char Fox  
Genny Gottdiener  
Steven Hu  
Ellie Jacoby  
Lucas Janszky  
Jack Johnson  
Neta Kafka  
Harleen Kaur  
Oscar Kimzey  
Molly Klein  
Annie Langan



Cherilyn Lau  
Melody Lee  
Charlie Lowell  
Betsy Marcel  
Louie Martir  
Grace McCartney

Thomas McClellan  
Simon Morin  
Caroline Newbery  
Belle Payette  
Lydia Pratt  
Will Rooney

Lydia Ruffin  
Eric Schank  
Juliet Schulman-Hall  
Dani Schweitzer  
Michael Simons  
Nadia Taranta

Lucy Voss  
Kai Wayman  
Lionel Whitehead  
Alana Winston-Khan

# Maine Coast Semester 59

Sarah Acker-Krzywicki  
Amelia Andreano  
Anna Andreasen  
Niku Angier  
Matt Beard  
John Bernhardt  
Arielle Chen  
Kyra Cooperman  
Theo Curran  
Emmy Daro  
Sam Davis  
Gretel Dougherty  
Sascha Drice  
Adam Feins  
Maya Feldberg-Bannatyne  
Lily Fittinghoff  
Ray George  
Reid Hill  
Lucie Hoeschen  
Grace Holmstrom  
Sydney Ireland  
Fer Juarez  
Lucy Khaner  
Andrew Kunik



Heather Lee  
Stef Lueders  
Juls Meeder  
Tyler Melwani  
Anna Naggert  
Phoebe Nerone

Sophia Nolan  
Dominic Pelosi  
Grant Pinkston  
Maya Pockrose  
Ariel Power  
Emily Robbins

Aino Rudloff-Eastman  
Savy Russo  
Mia Salinas  
Cali Salinas  
Diana Sanchez  
Andrei Shpilenok

Phoebe Snyder  
Clara Vonderheide  
Ava Westlin  
Oliver Zhao

# Elementary School at Chewonki 2017-2018

**Back row:** Lizzie Kenny (teaching assistant), Gavin, Leiden, Seamus, Sierra, Laila, Harriet, Caden, Connor, Trevor Slater (grades 7 & 8 teacher)  
**Middle row:** Vernon, Maeve, Ana, Greer, Theona  
**Front row:** Kat Cassidy (grades 5 & 6 teacher and lead teacher), Huckleberry, Flannery, Mira, Piper, Julien, Emily Bell-Hoerth (grades 3 & 4 teacher)



# 2017 Camp Chewonki Wilderness Trips

Aaron LaFlamme, Interim Coordinator

Miles Ackerman	Alex Lane
Frances Adams	Lucas Leicht
Jennifer Adams	Ryan Linehan
David Allman	Roadney Louis
Margaret Anderson	Olivia Lukacic
Hannah Baggs	Roxanna MacGregor
Francis Barth	Hannah Marshall
Sarah Bartlett	Eric McIntyre
Parker Bath	Orlando Mendoza
Henry Bernard	Nicholas Mercier
Samuel Bernstein	Matea Mills-Andruk
James Black	Hud Mohamed
Karen Blakelock	William Moody
James Blasdel	Alex Moreau
Morgan Blyberg	Fiona Morrison
Gerrit Bosch	Anna Naggert
James Bostrup	Eric Nathanson
Conor Burke	Liam Nawara
Grace Carter	Sarah Nutt
Rodson Celestin	Maeve O'Donnell
Andres Celis	Charles Ottman
Jack Champlain-Hendrix	Theresa Partlow
Jason Chandler	Elias Peirce
Jason Chandler	Michelle Perez Romero
Harrison Chapin	Aidan Perkinson
Jackson Chapin	Connor Phillips
Matthew Chapman	Michelle Pitcher
Alex Chau	Nicolas Poggio
Megan DeLong	Samuel Power
Asiatou Diallo	Augusto Prulhiere
Amanda Dias	Benjamin Pugh
Jose Diaz de Rabago	Elizabeth Raab
Isaac Dinnerstein	Jacob Risch
Amy Dorfman	Chris Rodriguez
Kyle Duran	Rose Roskey
Kenia Edouard	David Rubin
Cormac Feely	Ann Sabin
Charlotte Flannery	Santiago Santaella
Joseph Fleming	Joshua Scheidt
Arika Freeman-Gitter	Semolina Schillberg
Christian Fulton	Alexander Scott-Hansen
Marin Gallien	Fiona Scribner
Lukas Glist	Andry Sermenio Ormeno
Jennifer Goldstein	Magnolia Sinisi
Aidan Graham	Oliver Slater-Pons
Osmara Gutierrez	Nathan Smith
Oscar Habarta	Douglas Soholt
Miles Hagedorn	Timothy Stephenson
Finn Hartnett	Benjamin Sziklas
Caroline Heyburn	Rachel Tauber
Samuel Hopkins	Laura Telek
Margaret Howard	Lucy Tompkins
Amina Hughes	Oscar Torres
Taylor Jackson	Charlotte Urbanek
Jaelle James	Theo Usher
Lewis James	Lizet Vazquez
Campbell Johnston	Johnson Whippie
Aminata Kargbo	Zachary Whiting
Khalil Kilani	Benjamin Wiley
Jack Kimball	Heather Witzel Lakin
Galen King	Owen Woodard
Dylan Kingsbury	Yaritza Zelaya
Alexander Knight	









# Honoring a Sister Who Served

“Stories make my work meaningful,” says Director of Development Peg Willauer-Tobey. “It’s an honor to hear them.” Sometimes these stories are about love of a person. Sometimes they’re about commitment to Chewonki’s work. Sometimes they’re about affection for this place. Stephanie Tipton’s story is about all three.

Tipton lives in Chicago with her husband, John, and son, Levi. Levi has come to Boys Camp every summer since 2014, and during drop-off and pick-up days on Chewonki Neck, Tipton began to wonder about establishing a scholarship endowment for Maine girls, to memorialize her sister, who died in 2012 at age 42.

Tipton’s sister, Jessica Wing, was an Army staff sergeant and an ace avionics mechanic (she tended the electronics aboard helicopters). She spent 23 years in the service, first in the regular Army and then in the Maine Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, where she was part of a medevac unit. She went across the country and the world with the Army, including two combat tours in Iraq and U.N. missions in Bosnia and Haiti, but she never abandoned her love for her native Maine.

Tipton wanted to do something to celebrate her sister’s tomboy spirit, generous heart, passion for the natural world, and deep connection to her home state. Her telephone call to Chewonki led to the new Jessica Marie Wing Scholarship Fund, which supports scholarships for Maine girls who want to come to Chewonki but whose families cannot meet full tuition.

“Honestly, there’s no way my parents would ever have been able to send us to Chewonki,” Tipton says. “Because of the person Jess was and how much she loved Maine, this seemed like a good way to honor her.”

The sisters grew up in Bowdoinham, about a half-hour from Chewonki. Jessica Wing was the baby of the family. “Even as a young child, she went tramping through the woods,” says Tipton. She spent her boundless energy outdoors, fishing, hunting, hiking, exploring.

Her love of nature grew into awe and respect for the environment as a whole, but she had a particular affinity for animals. She always had a few canine orphans in tow; they seemed to come looking for her. “She collected and took care of strays—human and animal—all her life,” Tipton says.

As a girl in the early 1970s, Stephanie Tipton came to a Chewonki program with her school. (She thinks her sister did the same.) The experience left an impression. “Chewonki shaped my views,” she says. “It had a profound effect on me, even as a day camper. It started me down my path of awareness of environmental issues, awareness of Maine.” Tipton went on to major in geology in college and became an environmental consultant.

She and her husband have made sure to bring Levi to Maine often from urban Chicago. Her father still lives here, and she wanted Levi to know him and get a sense of how she grew up.



Jessica Wing

“And we wanted him to know Maine,” she says. Camp Chewonki for Boys seemed like the natural next step.

Sisters Jessica Wing and Stephanie Tipton were born into a family who heated with wood, cooked on a wood stove, raised animals, and put up vegetables, so she is particularly grateful that Salt Marsh Farm is part of Levi’s camp life. He got to know a pig named Malcolm at the farm one summer; during another, he enjoyed a feast made possible by Malcolm. “He told us that Malcolm was very tasty,” Tipton recalls. “I was glad he got that experience.”

Jessica Wing’s military service seemed to fulfil her inner drive to take care of the world. In the Army, she earned respect for intelligence, courage, and competence. She was someone you could trust, and younger soldiers looked to her for guidance and support. “People counted on her to show the way, to shepherd the younger ones,” says Tipton.

Through the Jessica Marie Wing Scholarship Fund, her legacy of caring will continue. The Maine girls her endowment will support can’t get to know her in person, but we will do everything we can to cultivate in them her love of the outdoors, compassion for animals and human beings, and sense of responsibility. We want them to enjoy “tramping through the woods,” as she did.

*(Editor’s note: While interviewing Nathan Arnold [see box], we discovered that he and Jessica Wing had served together in the Maine Army National Guard. “She was a great mechanic and a great person,” Arnold said, noting that she had sometimes been the crew chief aboard his helicopter. “She took care of the young ones. They called her Mama Wing.”)*

**“People counted on her to show the way...”** — Stephanie Tipton



# Steady hand, brave heart: thank you, John Warren, for your leadership

For 11 years, John Warren has been a steady presence behind the scenes at Chewonki, someone you'd be glad to have steering your canoe through any weather. He became a Chewonki advisor in 2007, a trustee in 2010, and in 2012, chair of the board of trustees. He will step down to resume his role as a regular trustee in May.

"He listens, understands, makes thoughtful decisions, and leads based on them," Gordon Hall III, a longtime Chewonki trustee and advisor, says. Roseanne Saalfeld, another trustee, describes Warren as "an outstanding board chair, bringing to his role not only an evident devotion to Chewonki's mission...but also thoughtful leadership about the critical role the board plays in advancing that mission."

President Willard Morgan calls Warren "an ideal board chair for this time in Chewonki's history, as we've moved from the end of our first century into the start of our second. During John's tenure, we have celebrated our legacy and taken exciting steps to build on our foundation with new initiatives."

Warren is known as both a perceptive listener and a decisive actor. In mapping Chewonki's path forward, he has drawn from his conviction that encounters with nature, guided by good educators, can truly transform a young person. He makes decisions within the context of long career in education. He's been the headmaster of St. Mark's School, his alma mater, in Southborough, Massachusetts, since 2007 and previously worked at two other schools. He earned a B.A. and an M.A. from Stanford University and an M.Ed. and Ed.D. from Harvard.

Warren insists that "It was very easy to yes" each time he was asked to take on a greater leadership role at Chewonki, even as a busy headmaster. "I agreed to serve because of my belief in the power of what Chewonki does."

He and his wife, Laura P. Appell-Warren, also a Chewonki trustee, came to Chewonki first with their daughter, Amanda, in 2005, when she joined Semester 35. "All the implications of transformative experiences in nature, we saw in Amanda during and after her time at Chewonki," he says.

Morgan was teaching science and serving as the new head of Maine Coast Semester at the time. "Ever since," he says, "John and Laura have joined me as partners in contributing to and leading Chewonki...I am forever grateful for the many ways he has made Chewonki stronger."

The partnership between the two educators has been exceptionally close, bound by mutual respect and a shared sense of Chewonki's purpose and potential. Warren responds quickly when asked what the high point of his service has been. "I am most proud of the opportunity to partner with Willard to support the implementation of his vision," he says. "When I think about the vision that he has identified, my greatest hope is that Chewonki is able to secure the capital it needs to upgrade and expand facilities so that we're able to fulfill our mission even more fully."

He looks forward to having a girls camp on Chewonki Neck, a challenging decision, he acknowledges, and he is "very proud of the board for choosing to make it." Saalfeld says the board culture Warren has cultivated supported thorough discussion of the idea from all angles. "His respect for diverse opinions and certainty that their expression is healthy allows us to be open and honest with each other," she says. "John has made the hard work joyful, as well as organized and productive."

Luckily, John Warren, alongside Laura Appell-Warren, will remain fully engaged in his role as board member. It's hard to imagine Chewonki without him. Thank you, John.



John Warren

Enjoy a family getaway to the pristine heart of Maine's north woods at Chewonki's Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps

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Phone: 207-460-5226  
Web: [debsconeag.chewonki.org](http://debsconeag.chewonki.org)



THE DIRT ON  
CHEWONKI NECK**Meet the  
Woolies**

MEGAN PHILLIPS

**T**he barn is teeming with new life, and Chewonki friends are taking advantage of the Lamb Cam (a live video feed) in the barn to check out the superstar mothers and their micro-sheep. Here's a brief introduction to some of the Chewonki sheep who produce fiber and meat for our community.

Theresa (#23) is the farm drama queen. She had a retained placenta after birthing twins as a first-time mother and then immediately returned to a svelte pre-baby body. The following year at shearing time, she was one chubby beast and started groaning loudly whenever she was lying down. We anticipated twins but she turned out to be not pregnant at all but a total hay hog. Last year when she started groaning around the clock and was as big as ever, we promised ourselves not to be fooled. She surprised us by delivering a single black ram lamb one full month after every other ewe gave birth. And she did it in front of a barn full of future campers and families during the Summer Programs Open House.

Emily (#27) is a dark ewe named for and by our sheep shearer, Emily Garnett (MCS 9). Emily (the ewe) was a first-time mama last year, delivering twins, each of whom weighed 9.5 pounds. We found the first of her lambs, a ram, standing next to her and nursing; a ewe lamb soon followed. Emily seems poised to follow in the mothering tradition of her mom, Hermione, which is exactly what we hoped for; mothering instinct is oftentimes passed on genetically.

Edith (#28) is a two-year-old white ewe bred for the first time this year. In 2016, she had a shocking entrance into the world: two Semester 56 students on midnight lamb watch discovered her



Megan Phillips is Chewonki's farm manager.



moments after birth, tangled in a hot electric fence. Quick action on their part saved her life, though she was a bit scrambled for a few days. Ultimately she became a beloved bottle-fed lamb, and for the first year, she bounded toward anyone who called, "Edi, Edi, Edi!" Edith is the daughter of Imogene, a regular Houdini who used to escape through all means of fencing.

Ira Grass, whose name honors NPR radio host Ira Glass, is our North Country Cheviot ram and the father of all the lambs born this year. He was born on an island off the coast of Maine that is home to a flock of 100 wild ewes. The ram accounts for 50 percent of the genetic material in a flock and by introducing the hearty and self-sufficient traits of a North Country



Cheviot, we hope for easy births and strong lambs this season.

Lou McNally is a wether, a castrated male sheep. He is named after a famous Maine weatherman (strictly because their job titles sound alike). He produced a gorgeous white fleece this year and is Ira's primary companion, an important task given that the ram needs to be separated from the ewes for most of the year, although sheep are herd animals and prefer living in groups. In my favorite photo from the 2017 lambing season, students stand around a lambing pen, holding each other and that sacred space with great intensity. I had my hand and wrist fully inside Hermione, whose labor had stalled. What I felt was an upside-down lamb. I carefully turned it and Lou dove into the world.

Alongside the practical aspects of sheep farming are the hope and respect humans show during a ewe's final contractions; grief for a lamb who doesn't survive; and that how-can-my-chest-hold-a-heart-this-full moment when a 20-minute-old creature stands to nudge its mom's udder. Chewonki farming takes place at the intersection of pragmatism and reverence.

## New Home for Fiber Arts

The yards of thick wool shorn from Chewonki sheep in late winter make knitters and weavers dream. Weaving, knitting, and spinning have always been part of Maine Coast Semester culture. With art teacher Sue West's careful guidance, hundreds of students have enjoyed working with sheep's wool. Now, Hilary Crowell, the assistant farm manager and an accomplished weaver, is carrying fiber arts forward.

A first-floor room in the Gatehouse has become the Fiber Arts Studio. The room has wooden beams and windows facing east and south, so it's full of natural light for most of the day. Four looms stand ready. Spools of thread, baskets of wool, and drawers of shuttles are all within reach.

Crowell looks as happy in this room as she does in her gardens. She learned to weave in grade school, when her mother asked a weaver to teach little Hilary to work on a table loom. The Waldorf School she attended encouraged her interest. A



Learning to weave

farmer's life is busy, but Crowell finds time to weave when she can. She runs a small weaving business called the Cultivated Thread, and her exquisite placemats, dish towels, scarves, and other creations are popular among Chewonki staff and friends.

Crowell loves teaching others to weave. "Students always really enjoy it," she says. "They appreciate the sense of balance. It's very repetitive work but you also have to follow a pattern. It's tactile, but also mathematical. It's linear, but also artistic. Sometimes we tend to think of these things as opposites, but they come together in weaving. And it's very rhythmic."

During the semester, roughly 20 students a week elect to participate in the fiber arts activity. For some, once is enough. Others get hooked, and "once students know how to use the looms, they can come here any time" to work and enjoy the peace, says Crowell. Summer campers can also try weaving during a three-day activity block focused on sheep, wool, and fiber arts.

Weaving takes time, so students never start and finish their own individual projects—which is part of the point, says Crowell, opening a card attached to a swath of textile still on a loom. Every student who has worked on it has signed their name on the card; those to come will do the same. Together, through time, Chewonki students are learning to weave cloth—and a community.



Hilary Crowell





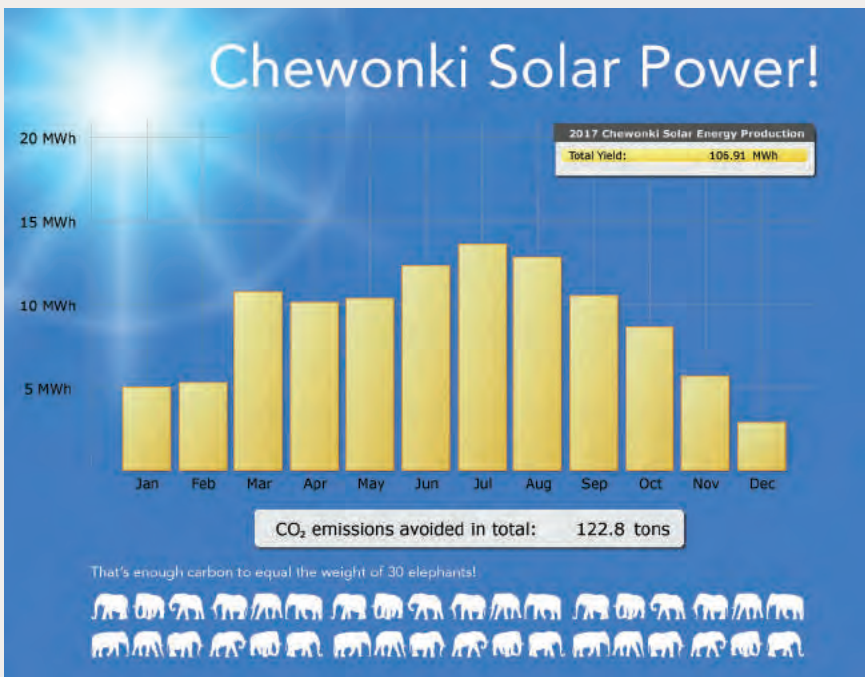
## Measuring the Sun's Power

Have you ever mused, as you went about your life far from Chewonki Neck, “I wonder how much energy Chewonki’s solar panels are producing right now?”

You can satisfy your curiosity day or night by visiting our real-time solar energy dashboard: <http://revisionenergy.solarlog-web.net/chewonki/>. This digital display shows just how much electricity each of our solar installations is generating, minute by minute.

“It’s great information,” says Facilities Manager Carob Arnold. “It highlights the sun’s power and shows what we’re offsetting in terms of fossil fuel-based energy like oil and coal. The dashboard brings solar data to life.”

The data will also inform our plans for the future. In 2017, Chewonki produced 106.91 MWh (megawatt hours) of solar energy, offsetting more than 122 tons of carbon emissions. Tracking the relationship between production and consumption helps clarify what sustainability really means. Solar panels now offset about 50 percent of our total energy use. More work to do!



## Sustainable Forestry Day 2018

Maine Coast Semester 60 students learned about sustainable forest management and the history of Maine woods work on February 16-17. “We approach this as an opportunity to teach understanding of and build skills around sustainable forestry practices,” says Farm Manager Megan Phillips.

It’s also tons of fun. On Friday evening, students watched “In the Blood,” a documentary film by Sumner McKane about the lives and work of turn-of-the-century Maine lumbermen and “river drivers” who moved logs by water from remote forest sites to industrial towns for processing. They also learned about Chewonki’s forest management plan, and Phillips talked about the dimensions of the horse-and-human relationship in woods work.

Science teacher James Kary introduced the students to forestry tools in preparation for Saturday morning’s spirited team competition in events that showcased traditional woodsmen’s skills, including pulp toss, quarter split, log roll, twitching, and fire building. Congratulations to the winners, Team 2: Courtney Berzolla, Allie Colvant, Bea Mace, Dani Bohart, Amaya Sangurima-Jimenez, Tamar Wolfson, and Nick Laroche!





## CHEWONKI ANNUAL FUND

Life-changing learning in nature has helped generations of young Chewonki adventurers reach the peak of their potential. Thank you for the essential part you play in making these experiences possible.



Thank you for your generous support.





# CHEWONKI

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and set us straight.  
Thank you!*

