



CHEWONKI

CHRONICLE

WINTER 2020





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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.

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Our thanks go to the staff members, students, and friends who took the photographs in this issue of the *Chewonki Chronicle*.

President's Notes

The Chewonki we know in 2020 is very different from the early days of Clarence Allen's "Saltwater Camp for Boys," which, in 1918, consisted of open fields and canvas tents sprawled across a newly purchased sheep farm.

In those early days, some campers arrived by boat, and then later, when the bridge over the Kennebec River was completed in 1927, by train, to experience eight weeks of simple living in nature, far away from the industrial bustle of America's growing cities.

Since that time, Chewonki has grown and changed with intention, adding cabins, campsites, aviaries, solar arrays, forest trails, green spaces, staff housing, and education spaces as our programs have expanded to serve more young people, year-round.

This summer will mark the most dramatic improvement to Chewonki Neck in a generation: the grand opening of new camp facilities on the east side of the peninsula (see page 2). The new additions include five new camper cabins, staff housing, and a washhouse, all carefully designed to make the best use of the landscape in an environmentally aware and sustainable fashion.

Camp Chewonki for Girls will occupy these cabins in the summer of 2020, marking a new chapter in our history. For the first time, Girls Camp and Boys Camp programs will operate on both sides of the peninsula, with largely separate programming, but taking turns with favorite activity spaces such as the farm, Packout, Challenge Course, and campsites on the points. We will continue to use Debsconeag Lake as a treasured trip destination for campers and students of all ages and genders.

Our staff has also used this opportunity to think holistically about the best way to serve young people in a camp environment. This work is important, necessary, and inspiring. It requires that we examine and integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, acknowledge our past and present relationship with the land, and incorporate the latest understanding about child and brain development. We are fiercely committed to providing child-centered experiences immersed in nature, sustainability, and community.

None of this exciting new work would have been possible without the time, advice, and generosity of so many passionate Chewonki supporters. I invite you to learn more about many of them in the following pages.

Warm regards,

Willard Morgan
President



Rising in the East

New Cabins, New Spaces Open in June 2020

Chewonki Neck has been a bustling hive of activity since last fall and as we launched a major set of upgrades and additions to the Wiscasset campus.

“We are expanding with new buildings and facilities on the east side of the peninsula,” explains Nancy Kennedy, vice president for Camp Chewonki. “And this June will mark the first season of Girls Camp on the Neck. It’s an incredibly exciting moment.”

Five new cabins accommodating 40 campers, plus a support staff cabin, a washhouse, and a field for activities will give Camp Chewonki for Girls a place of their own. Girls will also enjoy a new waterfront area, updated kitchen and dining facilities in Chapin Hall, and their own health center.

The Camp Chewonki program team (Girls Camp Director Emily Bell-Hoerth, Boys Camp Director Charlie Fear, and Wilderness Trips Manager Jen Adams) is busy working with Kennedy to plan every aspect of the camp programs. They are aligning Girls Camp and Boys Camp around a common curriculum.

“We want to make sure that every camper who arrives here will experience Chewonki’s fundamental strengths,” Kennedy says, “natural history and connection to place; overnight camping trips; community-building; farm, food, and sustainability; outdoor living skills; excellent educators; and a chance to become one’s best self.”

While campers will share a similar curriculum, most camp experiences—living, dining, activities, and overnight trips—will still take place in separate Boys Camp and Girls Camp spheres. The two programs will take turns sharing core facilities including Salt Marsh Farm, the Challenge Course, campsites, and Packout.

“It’s only the first step,” says Kennedy. “The long-term goal is to add additional



Above: A rendered view of Chewonki Neck from above looking to the northwest. Red lines and shapes indicate the location of projects, including five new cabins, green spaces, a new private swim area just south of Hoyt’s Point, and a satellite health center and kitchen updates in the Center for Environmental Education.

cabins in phases to achieve balanced programs, with up to 160 girls and 160 boys in residence at any one time.

Support from generous donors in 2019 moved the project from planning into action early last fall. “We are building on our mission and vision,” says President Willard Morgan. “This is not just about camp. These new facilities support all of Chewonki.”

“We are very carefully planning how we protect and use this beloved peninsula, with far more understanding of environmental science than when Clarence Allen founded Camp Chewonki over 100 years ago,” says Morgan.

“Modern building codes, environmental standards, and our own commitment to stewarding the property have shaped every aspect of the design

and construction.”

“For example,” says Morgan, “in the construction process, we built around a specific wetland areas to avoid any damage, and decided to call attention to a vernal pool as a feature, making it a special place to enjoy and learn about nature.”

It helps that Chewonki is working with excellent partners (see stories on the

following pages). “They have given us perspective and skills that we haven’t had before on staff,” says Morgan, “helping us think holistically about what the land is capable of, what the environment can do for us if we tend it with care. We are especially focused on minimizing visual and ecological impact, so we have taken more than five years to develop the plans we are implementing now.”

Looking ahead to opening day of Camp Chewonki in June 2020, Nancy Kennedy says, “I feel grateful. The beautiful winding path to the Girls Camp will be an invitation to continue this journey with renewed energy and inspiration. I can’t wait to welcome the campers on opening day.”

The opportunity to design the quintessential camp cabin for today is a rarity. Many summer camps came to life in the heyday of the early 1900s, an anything-goes era of camp development when everything from log cabins to chicken shacks were

appreciation grows over time with greater confidence and skills. The place--the land and the buildings--are what frame the experiences. Creating a new space that reinforces a connection to the natural world was essential in the design of the new cabins." A particular challenge for

SUSAN T RODRIGUEZ
ARCHITECTURE • DESIGN

A New View of Cabin Life

repurposed into summer cabins.

With the launch of our new campus expansion, the time was right to reimagine the camp cabin with a blend of modern and timeless design elements.

Susie Rodriguez (Chewonki advisor '08-'10; trustee '10-present; camp parent) stepped forward, offering her skill and experience to conceive a cabin design that honors the past and innovates for the future.

"It's more important today than ever for girls to have a permanent residential space on Chewonki Neck, and I'm thrilled to have been asked to design the new cabins," she says. "Coming 'home' to the Neck will secure that experience for girls, and the cabins need to be a memorable part of their journey. To inform the design process, I thought a lot about the unique traditions and culture that define Chewonki to this day and are important to cherish and protect."

Rodriguez founded her namesake firm, Susan T Rodriguez | Architecture • Design, in 2016, after more than 30 years of high-profile work for distinguished group practices. She lives with her husband, Charlie Lowrey, in New York City and on a Maine island. They are parents of alumnus Jamie Lowrey (Boys Camp '06-'09; Wilderness Trips '10,'11,'13).

"I've learned a lot about Chewonki history during my time on the board over the last decade--incredible stories and memories of spending summers at Chewonki and the shared values that develop," says Rodriguez. "The heart and soul of the experience are a child's first independent engagement with the natural world and how that

Rodriguez was to establish a form that complements existing structures, blends with the forest, and provides a durable, sustainable, comfortable home for campers.

"Leading into Chewonki's second century, how does the organization's history factor into creating a new model for future cabins?" asks Rodriguez. "Looking carefully at the wide range of cabins that have evolved over the decades, particularly on the Lower Field, I felt it was essential to build upon tradition to develop a design that resonates with the simplicity of the original structures. Gordy Hall, my co-chairperson on the Land and Buildings Committee, shared an idea from a summer cabin in the Maine woods that he visited often as he was growing up. He remembers how important it was to have a view out to nature from his bunk through a small window and asked me how I could capture that in the new cabin design."

"What emerged is something that will provide just that. These cabins are simple, uplifting, full of light, built from locally harvested timbers, and there will be a view to the outside from each bunk, as well as a shared space in the cabin center. It's really exciting to see the eastern side of Chewonki Neck emerging as a vibrant new home. I am honored to be part of a great team working together to make it happen."



Above: A row of five cabins will provide housing for Camp Chewonki for Girls on the east side of Chewonki Neck. High ceilings and wraparound windows provide excellent ventilation and illumination inside. On the lower level, each bed has an operable shuttered window to let in the light--or keep out the commotion--as the occupant prefers. The post-and-beam cabins are sheathed in spruce with a natural finish that will blend into the forest backdrop over time.

Right: Rodriguez reviews a detail of the cabin design with a member of the construction crew during a site visit in January.





Left: The assembly team from Shelter Institute anchors hand-hewn hackmatack beams to the cabin platform. Above: Nancy Kennedy, vice president for Camp Chewonki, and Emily Bell-Hoerth, director of Camp Chewonki for Girls, visit the first full-sided cabin on a frosty January morning. Below: The post-and-beam design requires meticulous planning, cutting, and assembly.



Join Us on Opening Day!

Don't miss out! Be a part of our inaugural group of girl campers on Chewonki Neck for Summer 2020. Visit our website to view the available 10-day and 3-week program opportunities: <https://girls.chewonki.org>

Building on Tradition

Campers will spend their days immersed in classic summer camp activities, exploring local waters by canoe, discovering animals in Chewonki's wildlife center, or learning about vegetables and livestock on the farm. Each camp experience culminates in an overnight wilderness trip, tailored to the age and ability of the group. We emphasize engaging children's heads, hearts, and hands as they develop connections with the natural world, participate in a joyful community, and deepen their understanding of themselves.

Innovative Campus Design

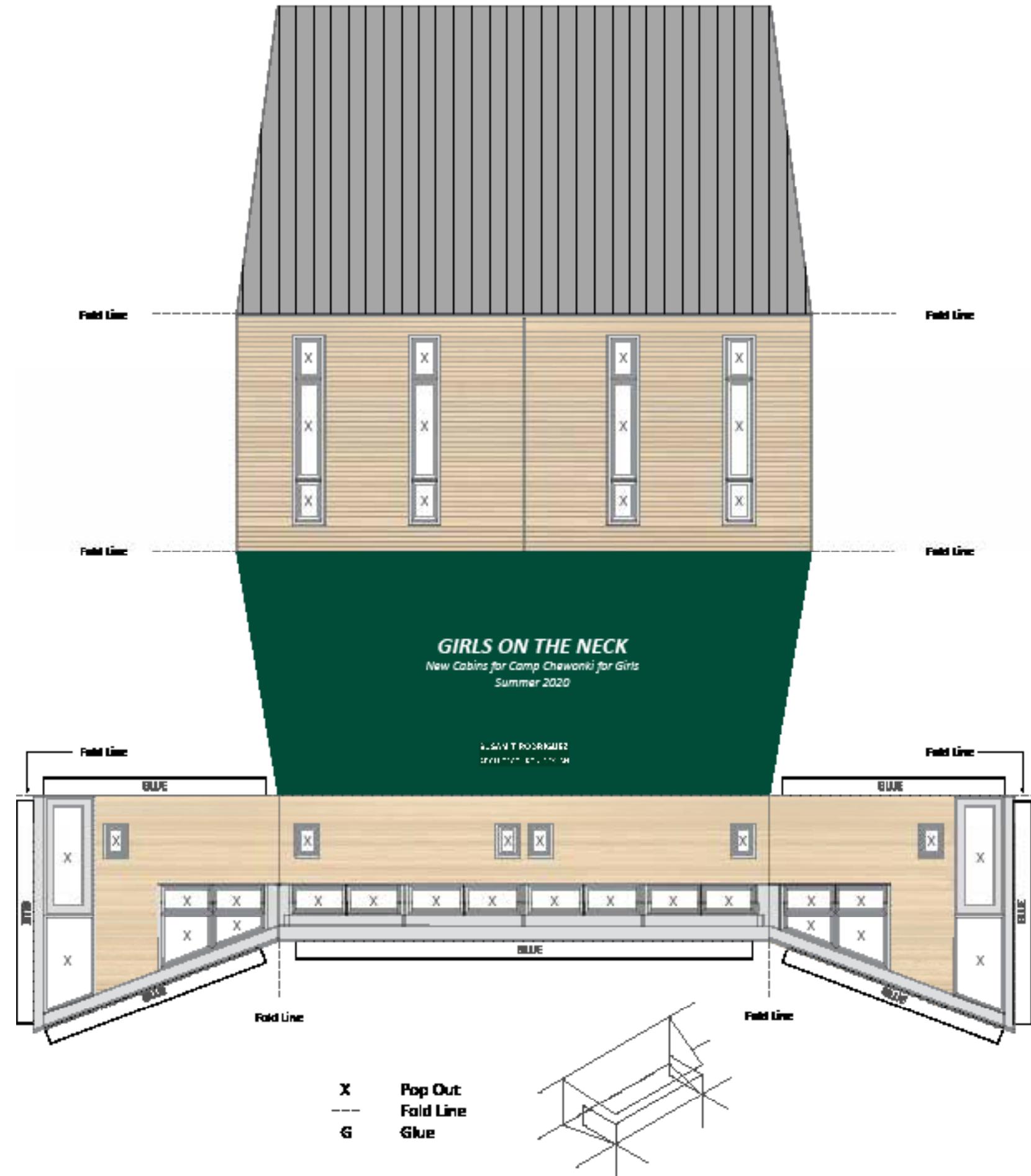
With the help of expert designers, our new Girls Camp cabins create a new standard for Maine summer camps. These fresh, friendly spaces give special attention to program and sustainability goals. Celebrating morning light and unique natural features, the new eastside facilities will provide the next generation of girls and young women the chance to call Chewonki home.

Girls Camp Leadership

Nancy Kennedy (Vice President for Camp Chewonki) holds a master's of divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in natural resources and environmental studies from the University of New Hampshire. She is passionate about mentoring youth, always encouraging them to seek and find their best selves.

Emily Bell-Hoerth (Director, Camp Chewonki for Girls) holds a B.A. from Earlham College, where she majored in environmental science with a focus on outdoor education. She is an accomplished musician, a creative and inspiring educator. Emily has been a teacher in our place-based elementary school for the past four years.

Jen Adams (Wilderness Trips Manager) is an avid canoeist and explorer of Maine's woods and waters. A native Floridian, she holds a B.A. in outdoor education and anthropology from the Florida Gulf Coast University, where she concentrated on how to create a sense of place through outdoor education. Jen has been leading wilderness trips for Chewonki since 2013.



Dale Wright leans back in his chair as if he has all the time in the world. He sports a trim mustache. His eyes twinkle under the brim of a camouflage cap from a local lumber company, with a "Chewonki" button pinned to it. On his right arm, a

sculpted earth and stone all over Chewonki Neck. He has been working on this peninsula for more than 40 years. His father worked here for 20 years before that and passed on all he knew to his son, who is now passing it on to his son.

"One of Dale's greatest assets is how much

Build It the Wright Way

marlin leaps from aquamarine water, reminding him that he hopes to be fishing in Mexico come dead winter in Maine.

"I'm a dirt digger," he says merrily. "We're a family business. My kids understand it. That's who we are."

Wright leads the excavation company established by his late father, Chester, and his grandfather. Now Wright's son Kyle is the fifth generation to do this work, upholding his family's reputation.

"Dale is an artist with an excavator," says Chewonki Facilities Manager Carob Arnold. Wright has cleared, dug, and



Above: Dale Wright

he loves Chewonki," says Arnold. "That translates, in a professional and personal sense, into him looking out for our best interests."

"I love this place," says Wright, gesturing across the scene before him as he stands on the Center for Environmental Education porch. "It's my heart. It's my soul. It's home. Every building, every field."

Dale has worked on the Wallace Center, the Allen Center, the farm, the tennis courts, and the Center for Environmental Education (the CEE). ("I shoveled all the crushed stone under here by hand," he says, gesturing toward the floor in Chapin Hall. "My father

put it through the crusher and I shoveled it.").

More recently, he restored the Nature Trail, landscaped the area behind the CEE, and did the site work for new faculty housing. He has laid septic lines, water lines, and electrical lines; shaped slopes, pastures, and mounds; moved rock; created parking lots; and graded roads.

"What I'm doing now, it's historic," Wright says, beaming. "I was out there today and I said, 'This is historic! When is the groundbreaking?' We need a celebration!"

Wright has five granddaughters and two grandsons, and he is excited that the girls as well as the boys will now be able to go to Camp Chewonki. "We're getting Chewonki ready for them," he says. "I am so excited. I can see it. I am an artist; I just



work on a huge scale. It's vision. That's why I think so far ahead."

Wright is admired at Chewonki for his work ethic, his expertise, his belief in Chewonki ideals, and his refusal to betray them. "I sit on the board of advisors here at Chewonki," he says. "This is the crown I wear. It's an honor. Chewonki does things the way everybody should."

Solid Beams, Strong Friendship

The timber frames and joinery that support the new camp cabins on Chewonki Neck are being made at Shelter Institute, a longtime Chewonki associate in the neighboring town of Woolwich.

Shelter Institute was founded in the early 1970s by husband and wife Pat and Patsy Hennin and Charlie Wing, a Bowdoin College physics instructor and friend of

their father, offering specialized building classes, design-build services, high-quality tools, and their own realty company.

Back in the 1970s, a gaggle of Chewonki's Maine Reach and Environmental Education staff took an early Shelter Institute course together "to get inspired about building their own houses," former Chewonki President Don Hudson recalls. The two



Land and Buildings Committee

Gordy Hall, Co-Chairperson
Susie Rodriguez, Co-Chairperson

Harold Burnett	Willard Morgan, <i>ex officio</i>
Kevin Connors	Roseanne Saalfeld, <i>ex officio</i>
Tim Ellis	Ben Spiess
Jay Gudebski	John Warren
Don Hudson	Dale Wright
Rebecca Marvil	
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Suzanne McGinn	



A special thank you to the Trustees and Advisors who volunteer their time to participate on the Land and Buildings Committee, and oversee planning, design, and project implementation.

then-Executive Director Tim Ellis. Wing went his own way a few years later, but the Hennins, who had designed and built what admirers consider the first off-the-grid, energy-efficient, passive solar home for less than half of what most houses cost to build at the time, dug in.

Inspired by the practical and philosophical possibilities of energy-efficient, owner-built homes, a tide of hands-on idealists flowed to the Hennins' school to learn how to do it. Forty-five years later, two younger Hennins are leading Shelter Institute with

organizations are continuing to build on that foundation.



The new Chewonki cabins will have timber frames provided by Shelter Institute, explains Shelter Vice President Blueberry Hennin Beeton. "Our team has worked closely with Chewonki and architect Susan Rodriguez to produce a timber frame design that is structurally sound, beautiful, fits the

ethos of Chewonki, and meets the needs of the new camp," says Beeton. "Our goal is to design buildings that are durable, sustainable, and adaptable."

Project Partners

CABIN ARCHITECTURE

Susan T Rodriguez |
Architecture • Design
New York, New York
Susan Rodriguez

STAFF HOUSING AND WASHHOUSE ARCHITECTURE

OPAL Global, LLC
Architecture | Research | Design
Belfast, Maine
Matthew O'Malia, Timothy Lock, and Riley Pratt

CONSTRUCTION

Medomak Construction
Damariscotta, Maine
Cameron Creamer

TIMBER FRAME DESIGN AND JOINERY

Shelter Institute
Woolwich, Maine
Gaius Hennin, P.E., and Ethan Courand

SITE WORK

H. Chester Wright Inc.
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Dale Wright and Kyle Wright

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Two Trees Forestry
Winthrop, Maine
Harold Burnett

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Wright-Pierce
Topsham, Maine
Jan Wiegman, P.E.

MASTER PLANNING

Murphy Burnham &
Buttrick Architects
New York, New York

Nelson Byrd Woltz
Landscape Architects
New York, New York

CAMP CHEWONKI

FOR BOYS



Summer Notes

“May you never forget that you are loved.” That re-frain from “Willy’s Song” rose from Camp Chewonki for Boys as we wrapped up our final service on the Point, overlooking Montsweag Bay, in August 2019.

After the song, campers and counselors meandered down to the water’s edge and searched the borders of the glade for a keepsake from the natural world by which to remember their summer.

During the gathering, first-timers as well as seasoned campers offered gratitude for the people who had enriched their camp experience. Among them, young Puffins thanked their bunkmates and counselors for being there when homesickness set in; and Chewonki Ironman competitors commended their fellow participants for sportsmanship and encouragement throughout the challenging race on Waterfront Day.

The night before, we celebrated Master Farmers, Junior Woodsmen, and our sixth Camp Chewonki Master Naturalist, Ollie Scott-Hansen (Boys Camp ‘15-’19). We honored the community we had developed over the course of a collective 164 nights in the field.

Camp Chewonki boys: Think back on the summer we shared. I hope your memories give you greater confidence in yourselves and determination to get to know and take care of the world around you. Remember, there are Chewonki friends around the country and the world who love you and will support you when times get tough.

I am already looking forward to welcoming you back to Chewonki for summer 2020. See you then!



Charlie Fear
Director,
Camp
Chewonki
for Boys

Snapshot: Alex Chasse

Karmic calm and a buoyant sense of humor are valuable assets for Osprey counselors, who spend the summer with 14- and 15-year-old boys. Alex Chasse (Boys Camp staff ‘18,’19; Outdoor Classroom staff ‘19,’20; Wilderness Trips staff ‘18) possesses both. Last summer, Chasse and Evan Landon (Boys Camp staff ‘16,’17,’19) were co-counselors in Gordy Hall cabin, leading 10 stout-hearted Ospreys on countless big and small adventures.

Chasse grew up in Fort Kent, Maine, a town of about 4,000 on the northernmost section of the Canadian border. He discovered his enthusiasm for the outdoors as a middle schooler, when his father took him on a canoe trip. “I got hooked on expeditioning,” he recalls with a grin.

A big part of what led Chasse to camp counseling is his love for his home state. He learned about Chewonki when he participated in the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program run by Friends of Baxter State Park. The program accepts ten outstanding Maine high school sophomores and juniors each year through a competitive process, and aims to cultivate emerging young wilderness proponents. Chewonki provides leaders and logistical support for the hiking trip that anchors the program, and Keith Crowley, now director of Education Partnerships, was one of Chasse’s leaders. He noticed how much Chasse enjoyed being outdoors and his positive attitude toward people and learning.

“Alex is a thoughtful team player in his

work with campers and staff alike,” says Boys Camp Director Charlie Fear. “He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and love for Maine’s wilderness with the boys, and he supports his peers with good communication and mentorship.”

Chasse sees camp counseling as leadership and teacher training as well as a great adventure. Anyone who thinks being a counselor means a summer off misses the value of the experience, he says. “I’ve learned a lot here about how to engage professionally and personally...The growth is difficult sometimes, but as you move past those moments, you feel Chewonki’s great camaraderie.”

A graduate of the University of Maine, Orono, Chasse completed a dual major in secondary education and history. He finds inspiration in the work of Joseph Campbell, the scholar who revived interest in mythology. Studying Campbell’s analysis of archetypal heroes’ journeys



“helped me with my teaching style—how I deliver programs with meaning,” says Chasse. Perhaps that’s why being Alex Chasse’s camper is fun—and a whole lot more.

At Boys Camp, the pocket of time between Session I and Session II belongs exclusively to seven-week campers. It's one of the long haulers' perks, a sort of bonus round.

During last summer's intersession, seven-week Heron campers from South Hall cabin undertook a never-before Chewonki adventure that counselor Shane Killen (Boys Camp '11-'14; Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail '15; Guide '16; Boys Camp staff '17-'19), who conceived of the trip, dubbed the Tour de Salt. It was a six-day saltwater canoe expedition featuring salt and vinegar potato chips, saltwater taffy, and a land-based finale at the Salt Pump Climbing Company rock gym in Scarborough.

Killen, a Carnegie Mellon University student majoring in vocal performance, wanted the expedition to be unusual and replicable, something future Chewonki campers could enjoy. He worked with Nancy Kennedy (vice president for Camp Chewonki), Jen Adams (wilderness trips manager), and Greg Shute (senior vice



Le Tour De Salt

president) to design the trip.

Co-counselor Harrison Chapin (Boys Camp '12-'15; Boatbuilders '16; Appalachian Trail '17; Gaspé '18; Boys Camp staff '19) led the campers with Killen. Wilderness Trips leader Jackie Ricca, a Bowdoin College graduate and an alumna of Bowdoin's Outdoor Leadership Training Program, took responsibility for navigating, cooking, "and ensuring everyone's fun and safety," Ricca says.

"It was a privilege to lead these intrepid explorers into their challenge zones," she notes.

Killen relished "watching campers succeed in improving their paddling, particularly on the days when we were facing harsh winds that even I found very challenging," he says.



Camping on Chewonki's Huckleberry Island was a highpoint. "I will never forget creating a makeshift campsite on the island and then waking up at 3:00 a.m. to go for an incredible sunrise paddle," Killen says.

Camper Hudson Davis appreciated that the island showed no sign of human use. "We had to clear our own campsite," he says. "I felt like we were really far away."

Arthur Friedman chimes in, "We actually weren't too far from Chewonki, but it felt so different."

"It was a great trip," says James Martin. "I loved the variety of wildlife we saw: eagles, herons, crabs, ospreys, horseshoe crabs, lots of fish."

These salty dogs paddled under three bridges; swam in the cold, briny Sheepscot River on a roasting-hot day; and feasted on pita pizzas

and brownies. They outlasted gnats and greenhead flies and overcame the tide as they paddled against it in their canoes.

On the last day of the Tour de Salt, they returned to the mainland and ventured to Salt Pump Climbing Co. to scramble around a 40-foot-high climbing wall. A gelato stop en route back to Chewonki was a sweet ending to this intersession adventure. Salted caramel, anyone?



I Made This Paddle Upholding a Hands-on Tradition

As they have done every summer for more than a century, Camp Chewonki boys are hard at work in the Wood Shop. A group of Ospreys (the oldest campers) bend over their paddles, using spoke-

hundreds of flat wooden templates: paddle designs; spoon patterns; shapes for making birdhouses, toy boats, bat boxes, cabin plaques. Summer after summer, these patterns help campers make things.



Above: Orville Mooney (center)

shaves and block planes to sculpt the wood.

"They've put in about six hours to get to this point," says Orville Mooney, facilities team member, carpenter, Maine Guide, and the summer's undisputed boss of the Wood Shop. "They're doing great. After today, all they'll have to do is sand and put on a layer of polyurethane."

The Wood Shop feels a world away from camp's boisterous center, although it's just down the dirt road. There is a lot going on here but there is also the underlying peace of people wholly, happily engaged in their work. The boys have everything they need: materials, tools, camaraderie, and a teacher who loves what he and they are doing.

Hanging in the Pattern Closet are

patience, concentration, self-discipline, humility, persistence.

"I've been very impressed with the campers' commitment to their projects," says Mooney. "Even when the work gets tiring, they stick with it. And they're taking pride in it."

Part of the allure is "knowing that you will have made something yourself," says camper Colin Clough. Across the workbench, fellow Osprey James Decker agrees: "I really like the idea of being able to tell people I made this paddle," he says. With their own hands, they are creating something useful. It will remind them of this summer each time they pick it up.

Mooney has built houses, teardrop campers, and countless smaller projects. He is known around Chewonki for his sense of humor and wide range of life experiences: he is a graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy and served in the Navy for nine years. He also has a master's degree in nonprofit management.

"Of all the trades I've ever done, carpentry is the one that keeps challenging me," says Mooney. "I will never get to perfection." That's why he values the work--and why he is happy in the Wood Shop with these campers, all striving for perfection.

Wood Shop is a legacy activity, something founder Clarence Allen deemed important in the camp's very first years. Woodworking puts people in direct contact with trees. It is aesthetic as well as practical. It celebrates tradition and innovation; hand craftsmanship and technology. It combines precise skills such as measurement and safety procedures with less tangible skills valuable forever: listening, respect,



Flashback

A Dapper Young Man on a Grand Adventure

"Thought I would share this picture of Clarence E. Allen (my grandfather) circa 1915," wrote Melissa Allen Heath on Facebook last February 8, his birth date in 1888. "He was an ornithologist, naturalist, science teacher, headmaster, and founder of Camp Chewonki in Wiscasset, Maine--one of the most wonderful places on earth."



The photograph shows Allen sitting in a field with his dog in the very year he established a camp on New York's Lake Champlain. After two summers, he moved the enterprise to an old sheep farm in Wiscasset and opened Camp Chewonki in 1918.

Allen retired from Chewonki in 1965 and died in 1974. His granddaughter Melissa Allen Heath, former associate regional counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, now directs GreenEdge Georgia, which, according to its website, "advises individuals and companies in greening the things that matter." Her grandfather would be proud.

If you unearth old Chewonki photos or papers in your attic or archives, we would love to see them. Please contact Anne Schlitt at aschlitt@chewonki.org.



Noticing Nature

Attack of the Fly-Zombie Fungus

By Fred Cichocki, Ph.D.

Scattered here and there, they were stuck (more like plastered) to the underside of tree leaves, mostly those of maples and yellow birches. Every one was a dead snipe fly (*Rhagio mystaceus*), still sporting its delicate yellow-black patterned wings. All were the unwitting victims of the gruesome zombie fungus, *Furia ithacensis*.

While many people have heard about (even seen on TV) the sensational, if macabre, ant-zombifying fungi *Ophiocordyceps*, of the tropics, few realize that similar body-snatching, *entomopathogenic* fungi occur in their own back-



yard. The 700-odd species of such fungi happens to land on it. If the relative humidity is right (say, 90 percent or above), the spore germinates, growing into a network of fine fungal threads called *hyphae*. These invade the fly's body and begin to digest it slowly from within. Before that happens, however, the fungus produces certain poorly understood chemicals, some of which seem to be antimicrobials that discourage competition with other kinds of fungi and bacteria. Others, perhaps *amines* similar to our own dopamine, hijack the fly's nervous system, literally turning the still-living insect into a zombie and forcing



it to do *Furia's* bidding! What happens next is amazing. Under the thrall of the fungus, the hapless snipe fly makes its way up to an elevated position on the underside of a tree leaf. This adaptive, so-called "summitting behavior" occurs commonly among the hosts of many zombifying parasites. Both humid and cool conditions are necessary for *Furia*

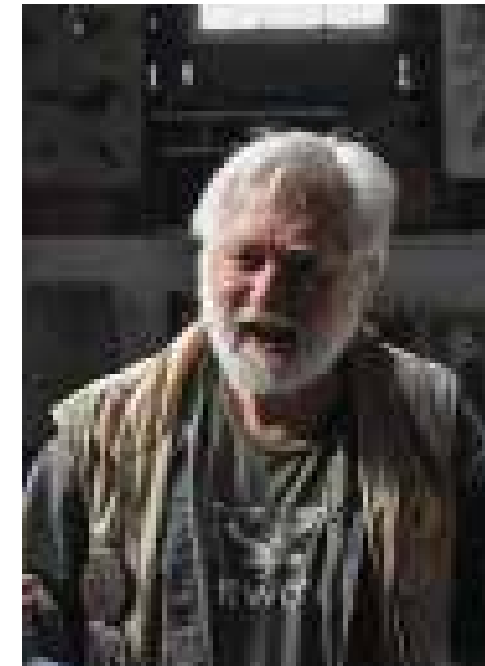
to carry out its life cycle. Since the tiny "pores," or *stomates*, that facilitate *evapotranspiration* lie mainly on a leaf's lower surface, that's exactly where you, if you're *Furia*, want your little zombie host to take you.

Once the zombie fly is well situated, the fungus sends out specialized hyphae called *rhizoids* to stick it tight to the leaf. Next, spore-bearing hyphae, or *conidiophores*, sprout from the fly cadaver, covering it with a fine, gauzy fuzz. And here we find another benefit of being stuck to the underside, rather than the top, of a leaf: the infectious spores can rain down, unchecked, on new victims below.

Now for the really juicy part. There's more to *Furia's* reproductive strategy than mere passive spore dispersal. For reasons unknown, healthy male snipe flies seeking mates are more strongly attracted to those grotesque fungus-bloated and spore-ridden snipe fly corpses than to healthy female flies. In a cruel twist, when the male flies copulate with the zombies (fruitlessly, of course), they succeed only in infecting themselves--and afterward, any unfortunate females with which they happen to mate.

Although this may not be the zombie apocalypse of lurid movies and TV, puppet-master parasites like *Furia* are in their own way horrifying enough. They show just how far evolution can go to achieve its ultimate end: reproductive success. One can only marvel at the creativity.

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





**CAMP
CHEWONKI**
FOR BOYS



**CAMP
CHEWONKI**
FOR GIRLS

Summer Notes

Camp Chewonki for Girls last summer was full of deep belly laughs, life-changing learning, and discovery of self, nature, and community. All of this is possible when people connect with others and the world around them in authentic ways.

From our opening campfire to our closing celebration, campers boldly accepted the invitation to embody joy, be courageous, and create friendships with other girls, counselors, and trip leaders. Every day, they stepped into new challenges with gusto, developing the skill to carve a spoon, sleeping in a tent for the first time, navigating with a map and a compass, and baking blueberry delights over a campfire.

Together we hiked mountains and paddled lakes and streams, learned the names of birds and trees, shared our hopes and dreams. We took Polar Bear Dips, created campfire skits, and participated in after-dinner sing-alongs. We heard the wind in the trees, stared into the vast, starry night sky, breathed in the smell of pines, heard loons calling, and enjoyed time on the farm. And we came to understand that the time we spend at camp can be the foundation for living as our best selves in a community that cares about us and this beautiful world.

One of many things that made us proud last summer was the renaissance of the Girls Camp birding program. A record number of girls woke in the wee hours of the morning to learn to identify a wide variety of birds. Given Chewonki's rich heritage of birding and roots in the Audubon Society, we were pleased that the girls embraced this activity and grateful for the opportunity to inspire another generation of birders and nature stewards.

We loved spending last summer with our amazing campers and can barely wait for summer 2020.



Emily Bell-Hoeth
Director,
Camp Chewonki
for Girls

Reesey Partlow (Girls Camp staff '18,'19; Outdoor Classroom staff '17-present; Wilderness Trips staff '17,'18) floats into the Wallace Dining Hall in a brightly colored silk dress with a full skirt. It's not typical garb for the Camp Chewonki for Girls counselor she was last summer, but Partlow is an Outdoor Classroom instructor for the fall and Friday Flair is *de rigueur* for OC staff. "I love silk," she says, rubbing the sleeves.

Chebeague's population swells in the summer but hovers around 340 during the rest of the year.

"You know everyone," says Partlow. "The ferry dictates your schedule. It makes you think carefully about everything you need--and what you can get along with--out." Like a wilderness trip, island life teaches you to be prepared or live with the consequences.

Island neighbors depend on each other for companionship, learning, support, and

Snapshot: Reeseey Partlow

This is Partlow, equally at ease leading girls through the wilderness and wearing a dress from a costume box when everyone else is in jeans. Her apparent peace with herself is part of what makes her an outstanding counselor for girls.

"I love how they teach me about compassion," she says of the 10- to 13-year-olds she led on two Explorers expeditions over the summer with co-leaders CC Clapp and Morgan Blyberg. "These girls interact so kindly with one another. They see the benefit of getting along." Together they backpacked; paddled and portaged canoes; cooked over campfires; sang; told stories; and did a lot of goofing around.

"Reeseey has a very open, positive way of communicating with the girls," says Nancy Kennedy, vice president for Camp Chewonki. "Her genuine enjoyment of working with young people in the outdoors shines through in every group she leads."

Partlow spent her early childhood on Chebeague Island in Casco Bay, and the constraints and freedoms of island life shaped her.

entertainment--just as outdoor adventurers do. Just as in camp, the attitude you show up with affects everyone.

She describes her Chewonki girls as "very adventurous. And they still like to be silly, but they can also reflect deeply." Sometimes they need comforting and support; other times, they are "all about being out there," no holds barred. She rolls with her campers because she truly enjoys them.

Partlow describes Chewonki as "a great place for an educator to be...And I keep learning."





CAMP CHEWONKI

WILDERNESS TRIPS



Summer Notes

Hello, all Wilderness Trippers! What a fun and exciting summer we had together in 2019. I've been reflecting on the many memories made on Chewonki trips in Maine and Quebec, whether out on the sea, in the mountains, or on rivers and lakes

One particular story that has stuck with me comes all the way from our most northern trip, the five-week George River Expedition. This group experienced many cold, rainy days during their trip, but what got them through was singing. Sometimes all you need to endure a torrential downpour soaking everyone to their base layers is someone to take the lead, stand up in the boat, assume the role of conductor, and conduct the group through a rousing rendition of "River" by Bill Staines.

Another great 2019 story comes from one of our Maine Appalachian Trail backpacking trips. When the group got to the summit of White Cap Mountain (elevation 3,644 feet), they encountered volunteers from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy replacing the sign marking the summit and showing mileage to other campsites and stream crossings. The Chewonki backpackers jumped at the opportunity to help. (Their biggest contribution might have been carrying the old sign down the mountain.)

Acts of courage, selflessness, and imagination happen on every Chewonki wilderness trip. Singing in the rain truly embodies what we aim to do here.

I hope you will join us for an adventure in the summer to come. Till then, if you come upon a challenge, try singing.



Jen Adams
Wilderness
Trips Manager,
Camp
Chewonki

TWT Redux

A decade ago, Conor Burke (Boys Camp '07,'08; Wilderness Trips '09,'10,'12; Boys Camp staff '13-'16; Wilderness Trips staff '17-'19; Outdoor Classroom staff '18-present), then 14 years old, arrived at Chewonki from Maryland to join three other boys for the Thoreau-Wabanaki Canoe Trail trip, known as TWT. Burke had spent the two previous summers at Camp Chewonki for Boys, but this was different, a challenging three-week canoe expedition that crisscrossed vast forest lands by way of Moosehead Lake, the West Branch of the Penobscot River, the Allagash River, Webster Brook as it travels through Baxter State Park, and the East Branch of the Penobscot (in what recently became the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument).

Burke was eager and ready to go—he had heard lots about this epic Chewonki wilderness trip from his camp counselor John Parker (Boys Camp '01-'04; Wilderness Trips '05; Boys Camp Guide '06; Boys Camp staff '07,'08,'18,'19), but Megan Phillips, who co-led with Aaron LaFlamme and is now manager of Chewonki's Salt Marsh Farm, took note: Burke was "a full head or more shorter than the three other trippers," she recalls.

"The physical aspect of that trip—yikes," says Burke, rolling his eyes. The other three trippers were unusually strong and experienced. "We did a 14-mile day and summited Katahdin, and when we sat down to catch our breath, one of the [much bigger] boys, Ryan Holm [Boys Camp '04-'06; Wilderness Trip '08,'09; facilities staff '10], immediately asked, 'What shall we do next?'"

The pace did not quell Burke. "Conor took everything in stride," says Phillips. "He was unflappable."

Burke laughs as he remembers Phillips asking him if he could handle portaging his canoe. "I said, 'Yeah, I can do that!' Megan helped flip the canoe up over me," he says,

"and as I took the weight of it, it just kept sinking lower and lower over my head while I kept saying, 'I can do it. I can do it.' After that, Megan always made sure she was my portage partner."

Burke says Phillips was "a dream" as a leader. She read aloud to the group each night—Thoreau's *In the Maine Woods*, Lew Dietz's *The Allagash*, and Helen Hamlin's *Nine Mile Bridge*, an account of Hamlin's experiences in far northern Maine. Hamlin's book makes references to her French-Canadian heritage, which puzzled young Burke as he listened to





Above: Conor Burke (orange) and Megan Phillips (blue) and friends in 2009.

Phillips reading in her Virginia drawl.

"He looked at me earnestly," Phillips recalls, "and asked, 'Why does this French-Canadian lady have a Southern accent?'"

The wheel has turned. Burke, a strapping 25-year-old with four summers of Boys Camp counseling, three Wilderness Trips, and two summers of trip leading behind him, was one of two Thoreau-Wabanaki Canoe Trail leaders last summer, partnering with Sydney Kahl to guide ten teens through the trip.

Burke calls the experience "absolutely fabulous. Tricky whitewater, long

portages, and a thunderstorm chasing us into camp one night gave us with some long days," he says, "but nothing we couldn't handle. Five moose, baking bread and apple pie, fishing for trout and cooking it over the fire--there were lots of highlights."

He notes that portages are still hard, but they had "quite a different vibe" this time. "I liked being able to say to my trippers, 'Hey, I know how you feel right now because I have been in your role. I also know you can do it.' That feels more meaningful than just pushing someone



Above: Trip Leader Burke in 2019.

through a difficult moment."

"Learning to handle challenges is part of what you take from wilderness tripping, along with the joy," Burke reflects. "You build your tolerance for adversity. I tell trippers, 'Hey, this is just practice for the next challenge in your life. You can manage this.'" His confidence in them helps young people find it in themselves, just as Phillips's faith did for Burke's 14-year-old self.

Phillips is delighted but not surprised that Burke has grown into an outstanding leader. "He had all the pieces to be a great wilderness tripper," she says. "He just needed to grow into them. He is as meticulous about being a trip leader now as he was as a participant then."

Burke and Phillips now and then reminisce about the 2009 TWT trip. "Over lunch we sometimes just have to say, 'Remember that time...?'" says Burke. They laugh as they relive Phillips dishing encouragement as she walked alongside Burke's canoe while he tried poling his way upriver; or recall the endless games of "My Grandmother Owned a Grocery Store" they played as they paddled. Now Burke has two TWTs in his pocket and a decade of memories to share.



Allagash Memories

The irrepressible Gordon Hall III shared this reminiscence of his first canoe trip on the Allagash River, 73 years ago. Hall, 89 years old, wrote it after making another memorable Allagash expedition last summer. See Hall's formidable list of Chewonki engagements in "Bringing the Mounrtain to Chewonki" on page 32. Suffice to say, he and Chewonki know each other well.



Last August, my wife, Taffy, and eight friends went on an Allagash trip, Chewonki equipped and led. It came off perfectly--great people, good weather punctuated by one doozy of a thunderstorm, and many laughs.

I had a conversation with a senior Maine Parks and Lands officer who greeted us at Churchill Dam at the beginning of our trip. He asked who and when any of us had done the trip, a perfunctory question that was part of doing appropriate public relations with the public. When I told him I had done it in 1946, he looked at me very hard, thinking I was being a wiseguy. When he decided I was on the level, he asked many questions, and in answering them, I realized that my '46 trip

with my friend Fred Preston described a bygone age of the north Maine woods, in sharp contrast with the scene there today.

When Fred and I did it, Japan's surrender on Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, which ended World War II, had taken place only a few months prior. In Maine, because logs were still driven to the mills down rivers, there were very few roads in the woods that hadn't been there in the 1920s. Hence, we had to start at Ripogenus Dam at the south end of Chesuncook

Lake and end at Fort Kent on the St. John River, from where we were able to ride in a boxcar with our canoe and gear back to Greenville. That rail trip is no longer possible, so the Allagash trip then was almost twice as long as it is today, I'll guess



140 miles.

Our canoe was an old canvas 20' guide's canoe that weighed an easy 110-120 pounds. Today's standard 17' ABS canoe weighs 65 pounds and is far less vulnerable to damage in rapids.

There were no formal campsites. Most of ours were the clearings (yards or depots) on the edge of lakes and the river where

logs had been collected over the winter and rolled into the spring river drive.

We paddled for about two weeks and saw only one person, Frank Cowan, a retired from Great Northern Paper woodsman, to whom we took some mail. He lived in a barn on the shore of Umbazooksus Lake, where he took care of eight enormous work horses over the summer. They would work in the winter, when all logging was done, using snow on which to move the logs. Today almost all logging takes place before and after snow, with no horses, and using a variety of machines over a vast network of newly built roads.

Fred and I did the trip two more times several years after college, with some other friends. With each successive trip, the campsites were messier and dirtier than before. Supreme Court Chief Justice Douglas then took his somewhat famous trip down the river, saw its plight, and threatened the State of Maine with making it a national park if the State would not take action. Maine created the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in 1966.

The long and short of it is that it's a well-cared-for park, and still a pleasure and a solace for me. Some of my ashes are

to go to one particular site on the river. In 1946, I don't think anyone paddled the river, certainly not the whole thing, and it tickles me so to watch the jaws drop when I tell Maine woodsmen about my early adventure.



**CAMP
CHEWONKI**
WILDERNESS TRIPS




Bringing the Mountain to Chewonki

Step through the double doors of Chewonki's Center for Environmental Education and follow the trail markers to Katahdin. Katahdin: Maine's highest mountain! It is the subject of legends among generations of native people and Chewonki folk.

Baxter State Park in fall 2018, Crowell and Hall bought a three-dimensional, painted fiberglass model of the mountain showing all the peaks, cirques, and trails. It had stood at the park's Roaring Brook ranger station for decades; people tracing the trails with their fingers wore the paint off



Above: Gordy Hall, Paul Crowell, and Paul's father David Crowell

Thanks to Gordon Hall III (Boys Camp staff '51-'53; Chewonki trustee '72-present; alumnus of more than 20 Chewonki wilderness expeditions) and Paul Crowell (Boys Camp '77, '78; Thoreau Wilderness Trip '80; Boys Camp staff '81-'84, '86; advisor 2000-present), we have our own little Katahdin right here at Chewonki.

At a fundraising auction for Friends of

the most popular routes.

Crowell and Hall then gave the model to Chewonki in honor of James Whittlesey Crowell (b. 1925-d. 2014; Boys Camp staff '71; Chewonki wilderness expedition '05), an adventurer, teacher, and outdoorsman who loved Katahdin and was Hall's close friend (they climbed the mountain



Above: Tim Ellis (3rd from the right), 1963



together) and Paul Crowell's beloved uncle.

Penobscot Nation historian James Francis shared his people's perspective on "the greatest mountain" with us for a small exhibition accompanying the model.

Also included are photographs and writings that reveal Katahdin's important place in Chewonki culture.

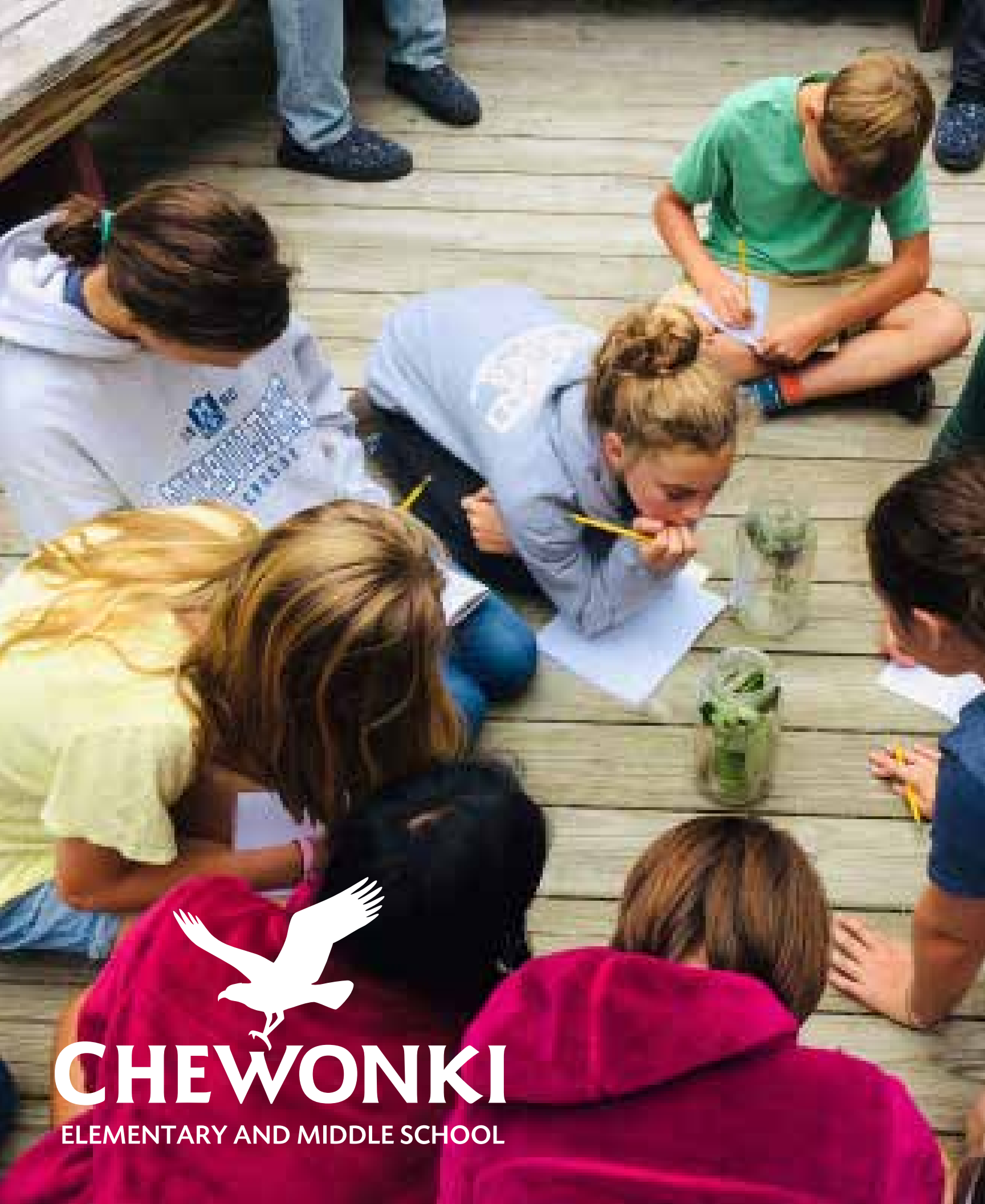
If you come by Chewonki, be sure to make your way to the entrance hall of the Center of Environmental Education to see this venerable model for yourself. Our thanks to Gordy and Paul for bringing the mountain to us.

CHEWONKI
DEBSCONIAG LAKE
WILDERNESS CAMPS

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

Nahmakanta Reserve Lands, Maine
Email: djwc@chewonki.org
Phone: 207-460-5226
<https://debsconic.chewonki.org>





Applause and cheers from students, parents, teachers, and Chewonki staff last fall marked the unveiling of a new name for Elementary School at Chewonki, now officially **Chewonki Elementary and Middle School**.

the children, and their parents, I was really nervous! I felt very supported when I looked around.”
After a round of snacks and singing, it was time for classes to begin again. Congratulations Chewonki Elementary and Middle School!

successful.”
“A sense of self is critical so that the social-emotional realm is being tended to,” Cassidy explains. “This needs to happen before any academics can occur. We are intentionally setting up a culture of care and understanding.”

A New Name for a Growing School

The program began in 2015 as a small venture powered by a big dream, one teacher, one teaching assistant, and nine students in grades 3-5. It now has 31 students in grades 1-8, four teachers, a teaching assistant, an art teacher, and two music teachers.

In her remarks to the gathering, Head of Elementary and Middle School/Grades 7/8 Teacher Kat Cassidy spoke about the importance of names, something these students understand because they have been exploring the many possible meanings of

Getting to Know You

The first days of a new school year often involve jockeying for position: Who has the coolest haircut? Who are “the smart kids” in the class? Who’s going to be the class clown? Chewonki Elementary and Middle School starts the year a different way, diving deeper and asking students to find meaningful ways to explain who they are to help them understand themselves and each other.

“Identity work is an essential part of the first six weeks of our school, for students in all grades, first through eighth,” explains Head of School Kat Cassidy. “We emphasize getting to know each other and oneself through a series of activities including art, writing, reflection, and interaction. It’s important for students to be able to fully share who



“Chewonki,” a word of Native American (Wabanaki) origin. “A school name should accurately represent its student body, just as the school’s mission and vision should describe what we do here,” Cassidy said. The seventh and eighth-graders are particularly pleased that the new name reflects their status as middle school students.

“Usually I am completely at ease speaking in front of people,” said Cassidy, “but because this school is so important to me,

they are. We explore...physical characteristics that can be seen by others and things that are harder to see, such as values and beliefs.”

Taking time for this process prepares students “to collaborate and tackle challenging academics,” says Cassidy. As they focus on identity, the students also “set goals for the school year, voice their hopes and dreams, and create classroom norms that will allow all of us to be



Last fall, Chewonki Elementary and Middle School students explored many ways to explain who they are:

Grades 1/2/3 students created “identity bowls” with papier-mâché and collaged fabric, incorporating a word they chose to represent their sense of self.

Grades 5/6 students painted and decorated their own silhouettes with mixed-media materials and wrote an identity poem modeled after writer George Ella Lyon’s poem, “Where I’m From.”

Grades 7/8 students created a work of art inspired by a photograph of their eyes. They also wrote an essay about a place important to them and a narrative about their class wilderness trip to the Bigelow Range, including reflection on Chewonki’s mission statement, group values, learning zones, and goals for the trip and the school year.

Welcome, New Teachers

Chewonki Elementary and Middle School



Lorna Fake
Teacher, grades 1, 2, and 3

Lorna Fake grew up in rural England and spent lots of time playing outdoors. Her first job was at the American School in London and working there inspired her to become a teacher. She graduated from the University of Sussex with a bachelor's degree in education and taught for several years but then got "itchy feet" and decided to work for a ski company in the Swiss Alps. She went on to sail on Mediterranean, Caribbean, and U.S. waters and eventually landed in Maine.

Lorna and her family moved to Newcastle 20 years ago and have raised their children there, enjoying many family adventures outdoors. She taught at Great Salt Bay Community School in Damariscotta for 17 years.

She loves seven-year-olds' enthusiasm for all aspects of school life. She is passionate about taking children outside and providing opportunities for them to be active as they learn. She enjoys spending time in her garden, maintaining woodland trails, and volunteering for the Midcoast Conservancy.



Greta Righter
Teacher, grades 5 and 6

Greta Righter grew up exploring the valleys and creeks of central Pennsylvania and attended Pennsylvania State University, studying community, environment, and development. She recently completed her master's of education in curriculum and instruction at the University of Washington, where she focused on environmental and place-based education.

For the past two years, Righter has been teaching at IslandWood, a residential environmental education program for fifth-graders on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound. She is committed to creating equitable and inclusive learning environments that celebrate diversity in its many forms.

When she isn't in the woods with a group of students, Righter might be taking a run with her dog, Molly, reading, biking with friends, practicing or teaching yoga, or exploring by sailboat or kayak.



Rachel Bouttenot
Math Specialist, all grades

Rachel Bouttenot grew up in Lewiston, Maine, and attended Saint Dominic Regional High School, where she was an outstanding athlete, president of the student senate, and a member of the state champion mock trial team. She graduated from Georgetown University, where she majored in biology and pursued pre-medical studies.

Bouttenot worked at the National Institutes of Health before starting a Ph.D. program in molecular cell biology at Washington University in St. Louis. Over the course of four years, she found that teaching and mentoring other students were what she loved most. She decided to leave graduate school after earning a master's degree in order to pursue a teaching career.

She then moved to Berkeley, California, to teach high school math and science courses at Tilden Preparatory School and Oakland Charter High School. There she also met her wife, Katherine. They recently moved to Bouttenot's home state to raise their daughter, Sylvie, who was born in early 2018.

Island Teachers Conference

Two teachers from the Chewonki Elementary and Middle School led workshops at the Island Teachers Conference in Rockland, Maine, in October. The Island Institute, which supports Maine coastal communities and their efforts to achieve a sustainable future, hosts the annual conference, which began in 1987. It gives educators from geographically isolated locations opportunities for professional development, networking, sharing and discussing common challenges and successes, and creating collaborative projects.

Head of Elementary and Middle School/Grades 7/8 Teacher Kat Cassidy spoke about "theme study units," an approach to curriculum design that supports "integrated, place-based learning, engaging the whole child," she explains. Her workshop focused on "designing authentic theme study units for grades 1-8 that are both place-based and student-centered and meet required core-content learning benchmarks and targets for science, social studies, literacy, and math."

Cassidy provided examples of successful theme study units, a how-to guide for teachers, and "strategies for engaging learners through academic choice and differentiation and focusing on students' social-emotional needs," she says.

Art Teacher Coreysha Stone described how to integrate art throughout the curriculum in multi-age classroom settings. Stone designs lessons with integrated art projects that help students meet educational goals.

"Participants developed strategies for collaborating with art educators in multi-age learning environments," she says, "and learned to design highly engaging lessons including embedded art projects to support students' academic achievement and align with Maine's education benchmarks." She presented examples of collaborative protocols, lesson plans, and successful lessons from her own teaching at Chewonki.

An Edible Schoolyard

Chewonki Elementary and Middle School students prepared a school-community meal once a week in the fall as part of a new initiative called the Edible Schoolyard. Each class carried out specific, age-appropriate tasks, sometimes with older students helping younger ones. Much of the food came right from Salt Marsh Farm, where these students often lend a hand and learn.

Head of School Kat Cassidy notes, "Our Edible Schoolyard classes were an

ingredients. Students identified the vegetables they harvested on the farm earlier in the week, and also learned about those that came from farther away: nori, soy sauce, wasabi, and ginger. We learned that 'salsa' is the Spanish word for any sauce, and here in the United States it is usually a tomato-based sauce featuring raw ingredients. In our salsa we had farm tomatoes, garlic, onions, and jalapeños. Our eighth-graders partnered with a younger buddy to prepare and roll sushi



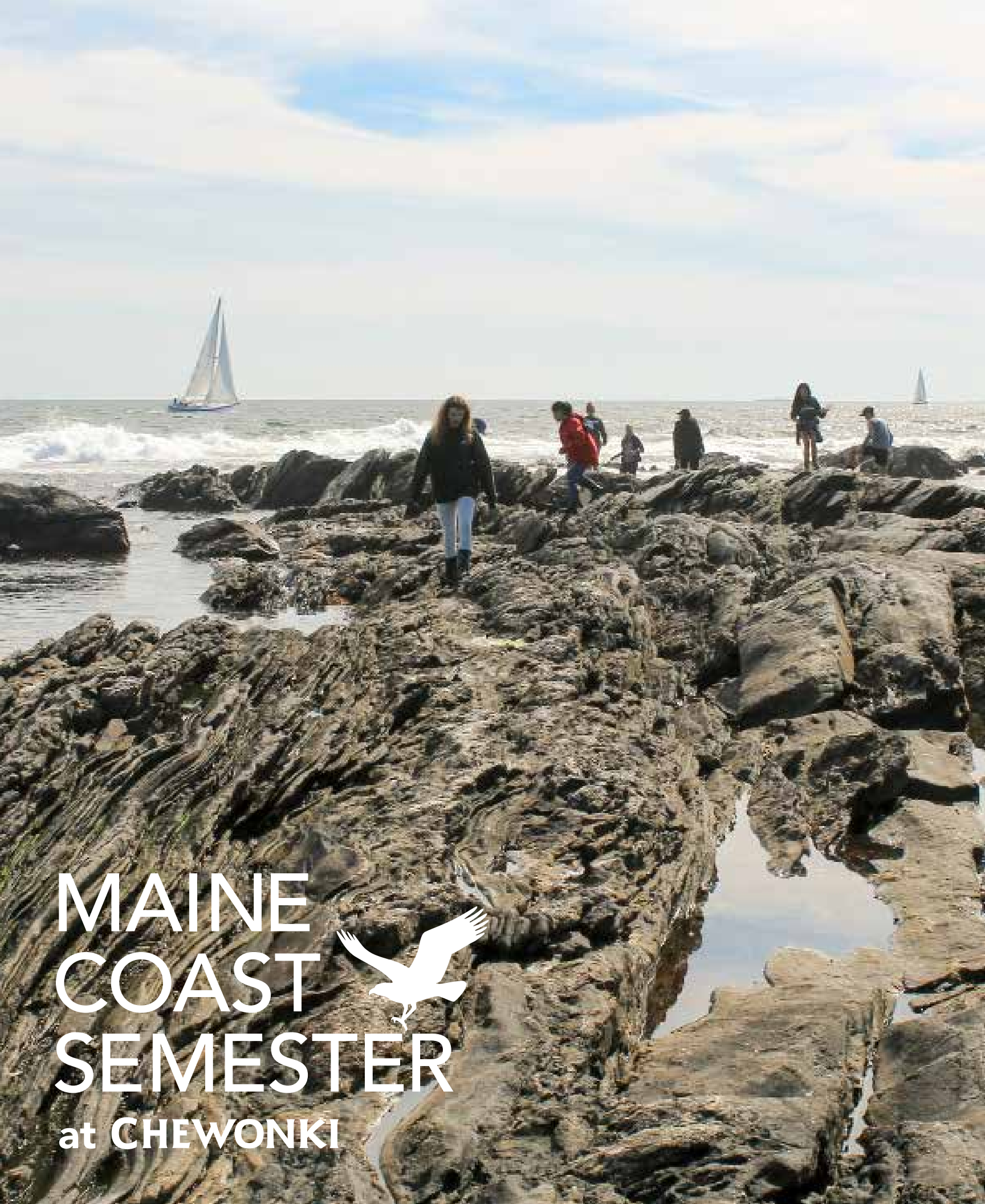
incredibly fun learning opportunity. The students gained culinary knowledge and technical cooking skills, applied their math learning, and expanded their food horizons, as they worked collaboratively to prepare meals for everyone to enjoy." They also researched ingredients and created informative posters showing where in the world various vegetables originated.

For one September banquet, the students made vegetarian *makizushi* and fresh salsa using seasonal, fresh, and local

together, set the table, and gather fresh flower bouquets."

Students, teachers, and farmers sat at one long table (they dine outside or in, depending on weather). Before eating, each person told how they had helped. "I made the biscuits!" said one girl. "I drove workhorse Bob as he pulled the plow to prepare the land for planting," Farm Manager Megan Phillips noted. "I gathered flowers for the table," another student offered. Lunch was inspiring as well as delicious.





MAINE
COAST
SEMESTER
at CHEWONKI



Maine Coast Semester 63
Fall 2019



New Maine Coast Semester Faculty and Fellows, 2019-2020



Julie Barnes

Dean of Students



Julie has felt a strong draw to the Chewonki community since she first set foot on the campus 15 years ago to visit friends who were then teaching at Maine Coast Semester. In recent years, Julie served as the director of Marin Academy's Wilderness Outing Program and taught a variety of courses including Comparative Religion and English. She was also part of the team that designed and implemented the school's orientation curriculum for new students and the Passage Program, which marks the end of a senior's time there. Barnes observed that this work "fueled my belief that how we welcome one another into community and how we prepare to integrate our experiences into our next stage in life matters, and has an impact on our capacity to live into our full potential. Tending to these elements of semester students' lives is something I look forward to."

Barnes received her B.A. in anthropology from Bowdoin College and earned a master of divinity from the San Francisco Theological Seminary and a master of spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union.

Rachel Bouttenot

Math Teacher



Rachel grew up in Lewiston, Maine, and graduated from Saint Dominic Regional High School. She was deeply involved in sports, the Student Senate, and the Mock Trial Team. She studied biology and worked in a research laboratory while attending Georgetown University, and after college spent a year working at the National Institutes of Health. She then began a Ph.D. program in molecular cell biology at Washington University.

Though the research aspect of graduate school was compelling, Rachel quickly found that time spent teaching and mentoring other students was what she loved

most. She left with a master's degree and moved to California to begin her teaching career.

Rachel taught math and science courses at Tilden Preparatory School and Oakland Charter High School. While in California, she also met her now-wife, Katherine, and they decided to move back to Maine to raise their daughter, Sylvie, who was born in early 2018.

Misha Klimov

French Teacher



Misha has taught French, Russian, and English to students of different nationalities, backgrounds, and ages in various educational institutions, from public secondary schools and schools of higher education to private schools and colleges, in Ukraine, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States.

Misha writes, "I have traveled extensively. Nature has always played a huge part in my life and I have always tried to spend as much time as possible outdoors. I am very much into hiking, meditation, and

yoga. I am a certified Sierra Club Outings Leader. I enjoy spending time with my five-year-old grandson, Felix, and three-year-old twin granddaughters, Athena and Amelia, learning from them how to be spontaneous and live in the moment."

Misha studied English and French at the Kyiv National Linguistic University in Ukraine. He took language and culture courses through Alliance Française in Ukraine and Thailand and advanced French at the Institut Linguistique du Peyrou in Montpellier, France. He is a candidate for a doctorate in modern languages (Russian and French) at Middlebury College.

Eric McIntyre

Science Teacher



Eric first came to Chewonki in 2017 to serve as a leader and instructor for the summer Boatbuilders Expedition. He then spent two years as a science teaching fellow for Maine Coast Semesters 59, 60, 61, and 62. He has brought to each role a robust set of skills and understanding that mirror his affinity for the natural world and his lifelong-learner's disposition. Last fall he became full faculty member.

Reflecting on Chewonki, he writes, "I believe in the value of our organization's mission and know that one of the most tangible ways we achieve our high aim is by teaching students to be critical observers of and engaged participants in the world around them." He is constantly sharing his love of the natural world, passion for working with adolescent students in a residential setting, and capacity to work collaboratively with students and colleagues.

Eric received his B.S. in conservation biology from St. Lawrence University and participated in the university's Adirondack Semester.

Megan McOsker

Math Teacher



Megan came to Maine seeking a closer connection to the natural world and to attend the College of the Atlantic. At college she focused on the whale and

seabird world and spent time living at Mount Desert Rock to study finback and humpback whales, an ongoing passion. She received a B.A. in human ecology with a focus on marine science.

Megan has worked in a variety of settings as a field biologist and naturalist. After earning her master's in teaching from the University of Maine, she first taught physical and life science at Connors-Emerson School and then "gifted and talented" students at Mount Desert Island High School, where she also coordinated student internships.

Megan loves to learn. She writes, "The journey matters, as does the destination... the day-to-day of classes, field trips, and experiences are where the learning happens. Sometimes things go according to plan, but I'm always ready for the unexpected."

Hannah Ryde

Teaching Fellow
Environmental Issues



An alumna of Maine Coast Semester 48, Hannah graduated from Tufts University in 2017 with a B.A. in anthropology and completed a minor in child study and human development. While attending Tufts, Hannah was active in a variety of wilderness-based programs, including the university's Wilderness Orientation and the Tufts Mountain Club. She has served as a counselor at Waukeela Camp for Girls and recently completed a one-year Wilderness Educator residency at the Outdoor Academy in North Carolina.

Hannah explains, "My motivation for teaching stems from my love of working with youth as well as my belief that dedicated teachers and engaging material promote student curiosity and investment. I am enthusiastic about helping students find topics they are passionate about and empowering them to take ownership of their learning...I am excited to grow at a school that celebrates experiential learning, curiosity, and responsibility. I am drawn to Maine Coast Semester because of its strong identity, which includes room for innovating and experimenting without compromising... academics and community values."

Ethan Winter

Teaching Fellow
U.S. History



Ethan graduated from Bowdoin College with a B.A. in government and legal studies and a minor in mathematics. During all four years of college, he was a teaching assistant at a nearby elementary school, where he worked with approximately 80 students, writing lesson plans and adapting instruction methods to individuals.

Ethan was an active member of the Bowdoin Outing Club and completed the club's highly respect Leadership Training Course. The course teaches technical skills as well as the soft skills that ensure good working relationships among leaders and expedition participants.

As a high school junior, Ethan spent a semester at the Mountain School of Milton Academy, giving him a first-hand understanding of semester school life. "I've experienced the awkwardness of showing up on the first day, building community among individuals from all over the country (if not the world), and the rhythm of life that the school falls into," he says--all of which he has welcomed at Chewonki.



Why in the world sit in the cold for an hour, paper and pencil in wet hands, rain creeping through the seams of your slicker, and draw a leaf?

what is front of them. They gain confidence as we go along." No imagination or invention required; just deep looking. At the beginning of the course, McIntyre provides introductory training in illustration,

can be an incredibly rich experience... strengthening your ability to see what is around you." Students record their observations in the yellow field journals they carry during weekly science field trips, and in the notebooks they take to their phenology spot, a specific Chewonki Neck site assigned to them where they go repeatedly to study cyclic, seasonal changes in nature.

They do this in all kinds of weather--cold, hot, wet, windy, and this, say their teachers, is another benefit: "They learn to



The Art & Science of the Field Journal

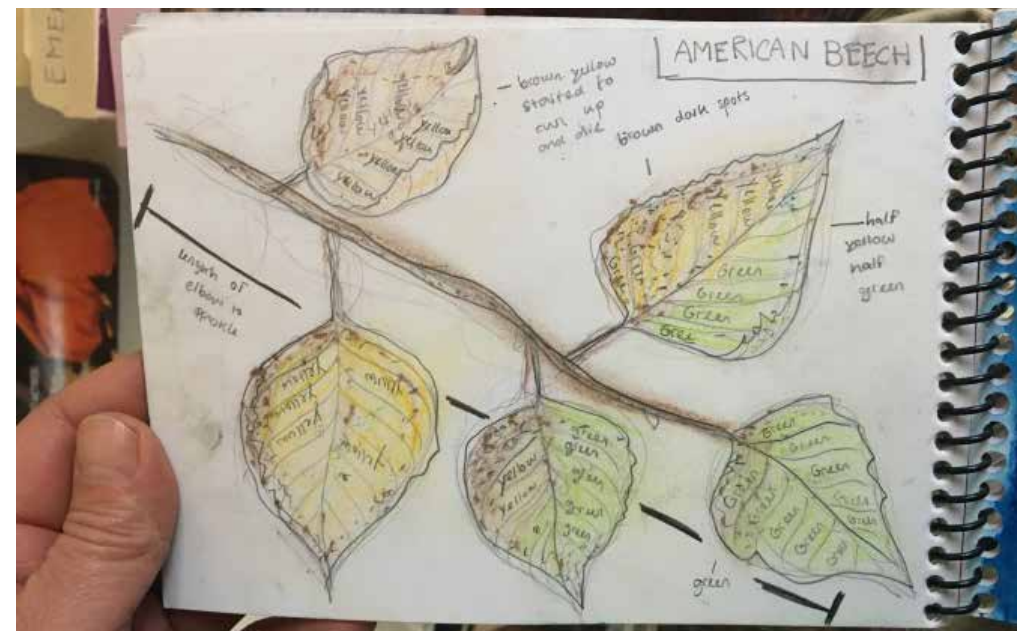
Maine Coast Semester alumni know why. In their science course, "Natural History of the Maine Coast," students draw directly from nature every week, often twice a week. Each of them is both artist and scientist; the class cannot bifurcate into artsy kids and science nerds. They are carrying forward a legacy established by Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996), the renowned wildlife artist and author who developed Camp Chewonki's nature program.

"There is usually some initial resistance to the drawing requirement," says Eric McIntyre, who leads the course with colleagues Katie Curtis and Megan McOsker and teaching fellow Hannah Ryde. A few students always insist at first that they cannot possibly draw. "We reassure them that we want them to begin wherever they are with their drawing and develop it further."

McOsker adds, "We tell them we are liberating them--they only have to draw

tion, helping students develop a sense of proportion, outline basic shapes, and refine with details. McOsker explains, "We de-emphasize making a beautiful picture and instead emphasize accurate representation. We want them to create drawings someone else could use to identify what they saw."

As to why they have their students hunkering down in any weather to record what they see around them, "We do it for a couple of reasons," says McIntyre. "First, drawing is a way to document in the field,



It is an important kind of data. What is seen with your own eyes counts."

Second, drawing "builds the muscle of observation," he says. "The exact shape of a bird's bill; every point of a crab carapace--those details are easy to gloss over until you have to draw them"

"A good example is the branching of twigs," says McOsker. "Twigs can have opposite or alternating branching. You don't necessarily notice or appreciate this until you have to look very closely. Observation

tolerate adversity," says McIntyre, a skill they can use in many aspects of life.

While these students' artistic endeavors help connect them deeply to the peninsula where they spend four months, they are learning to perceive and appreciate the natural world wherever they go. Whether or not they ever draw from nature again, they will be better at discerning the rich details of their environment, making life more interesting.

Where Are They Now? Maine Semesters 59 and 60



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-Bannatayne
Lily Fittinghoff
Ray George
Reid Hill
Lucie Hoeschen
Grace Holmstrom
Sydney Ireland
Fer Juarez
Lucy Khaner
Andrew Kunik
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
Diana Sanchez
Cali Salinas
Mia Salinas
Andrei Shpilenok
Phoebe Snyder
Clara Vonderheide
Ava Westlin
Oliver Zhao

Connecticut College
Davidson College
Macalester College
Colorado College
Maine Maritime Academy
St. Lawrence University
Univ. of Southern California
Duke University
Bowdoin College
Tufts University
Colorado College
Undecided
The New School
Undecided
Carleton College
Barnard College
Bowdoin College
Montana State University
Whitman College
Pitzer College
Amherst College
Colorado College
Colgate College
University of Florida
Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
In Kenya doing AIDS research
Brown University
Skidmore College
Wheaton College
Colorado College
Colby College
Dartmouth College
Tufts University
St. Lawrence University
University of Vermont
University of New England
Wesleyan University
St. Olaf College
Tufts University
University of Denver
Reed College
Wesleyan University
Amherst College
Lewis and Clark College
Hamilton College



Maine Coast Semester 60

Miles Ackerman
Tzevi Aho
Guy Anello

Abigail Berganza
Courtney Berzolla
Grace Blunt
Dani Bohart
Joey Brown
Nico Brown
Blythe Chace
Allie Colvard
Hannah Conkin
Max Davis
Devon De Paola
Celia Draycott
Annie Groner
Leigh Frankel
Evie Horton
Charlie Kanner
Sarah Kern
Nick Laroche
Amanda Leibmann
Howard Li
Ashley Loh
Bea Mace
Roxy MacGregor
Maisie McDonald
Booth McGowan
Fiona McLaughlin
True Miller
Eva Noble
Bridget Patterson
Mckenzie Piehl
Lorisse Quarries
Cali Salinas
Jess Sang
Amaya Sangurima-Jimenez
Claire Scott
Louisa Stevens
Alex Stengel
Wyeth Tobey

Sophie Wanzer
Tamar Wolfson

Colorado College
Skidmore College
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute or Syracuse University
Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Vermont
Bates College
Colorado College
Lafayette University
Bowdoin College
Bowdoin College
Cornell College (Iowa)
Bates College
University of Michigan
University of Michigan
Pitzer College
Bucknell University
Colorado College
U. of North Carolina, Asheville
Vassar College
Cornell University
University of Massachusetts
U. of Wisconsin, Madison
Bowdoin College
Amherst College
Cornell University
Maine Maritime Academy
Cornell University
Colorado College
Colorado College
Warren Wilson College
Smith College
Bowdoin College
Unknown
Undecided
Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston
Swarthmore College
Boston College
Smith College
Middlebury College
University of Virginia
Post-grad year at New
Hampton School
Vassar College
Vassar College





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Living the O.C. Life

Katie Yakubowski and Tanner Shepherd are the dynamic duo on the ground, in the field, and at their desks making the Chewonki Outdoor Classroom happen.



As program co-coordinators, they handle relationships with school administrators and teachers, design curricula, oversee the Outdoor Classroom educators, and handle logistics.

Outdoor Classroom offers multi-day, encampments and wilderness expeditions for school groups from across Maine and New England. Compassion for others, building self-confidence, and learning about stewardship of the natural world are the core goals of this program.

Tanner Shepherd is originally from Maryland but travelled the world in search of new wilderness adventures

before coming to Chewonki. He has served as an AmeriCorps team leader focused on sustainable trail building in the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park; taught 30+ classes in leadership



and science-related topics in California; and facilitated canoeing, rock climbing, and group challenges in Australia. In California, Tanner was also a program coordinator for the Pali Institute, where school partner management was a primary focus. Most recently, he worked for The Outdoor Education Group in Eildon, Victoria, which runs a camp-based program with parallels to Chewonki's encampment model. His favorite part of outdoor education is captivating young people with astronomy.

Katie Yakubowski, an Ohio native, started her career as an educator at zoos, nature centers, and museums. After serving on a trail crew with the Montana Conservation Corps, she moved to the White Mountain National Forest in 2014 to work with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). During that time, Katie held roles as an AMC outdoor educator, a guide, and a naturalist. In 2016, she moved to Greenville, Maine, and earned her Maine Guide license in recreation and fishing. Her experience in delivering curriculum to school groups, training staff, and facilitating outdoor adventures is a strong asset to the Outdoor Classroom and the foundation as a whole. If she's not on a canoe trip or hiking a 4,000-footer, you can find her knitting, tying flies, or playing her ukulele.

Right: The Spring 2019 Outdoor Classroom educators give their best Osprey impressions.



Happy 45th! Outdoor Classroom Reaches a Milestone

April 5, 2019, marked the 45th anniversary of the Outdoor Classroom program at Chewonki. The original curriculum has remained remarkably popular with local and regional school groups.

President Emeritus Don Hudson, who served as a Maine Reach instructor in the early 1970s, says Chewonki had previously offered short environmental work-



shops but 1974 marked the beginning of regularly scheduled spring and fall programming for schools.

"I remember our first group was a school from Boothbay, and it snowed the night before they arrived. The staff said 'Don! What are we going to do? Play in the snow, I told them.'"

Forty-five years later, the Outdoor Classroom is going strong thanks to outstanding staff and sustained interest in ecology and outdoor living skills by local school partners.

According to Director of Education Partnerships Keith Crowley, Chewonki will welcome more than 65 school groups and 1,500 participants to Chewonki Neck for Outdoor Classroom adventures this year.

As the Crow Flies Corvus Brachyrhynchos Joins the TNHP Team

Chewonki Traveling Natural History Program educators are looking forward to giving people a greater appreciation for American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) with the help of our two new resident crows, A and Z (proper names to come). They arrived at Chewonki from a Verona, Pennsylvania, wildlife rehabilitation center, where both were delivered as hatch-year birds in summer 2018.

"They seek out human interaction," explains Traveling Natural History Program Coordinator Emma Balazs. "That is helpful for training, but unfortunately they can't fend for themselves."

"They can get nervous about new items and people in their cage," she says. "We're observing carefully how they react to different visitors and situations."

With the loss last winter of longtime star Peepers, a mallard duck, Traveling Natural History Program staff are happy to have some diversity back in their bird population, which is mostly raptors. The crows will

participate in at least four presentations: Animal Adaptations; Predators; Fur, Feet, and Feathers; and Beautiful Biomes.

Humans often give crows the cold shoulder. In literature and film, these glossy black birds frequently portend death or bad luck. The collective noun for a flock of them, "a murder of crows," doesn't help. Their call is loud and unmelodic, and because they roost together at night (when they are young or not breeding), they raise a ruckus.

Balazs says crows deserve respect. They are smart, resourceful, and humorous. She and her staff are enjoying working with A and Z. "They're very intelligent, very



curious," says Balazs. "They are doing well here."

"Because they are so smart," she explains, "these birds need a lot of stimulation." Freshmen from Morse High School in Bath recently lent a hand when they visited Chewonki to make "puzzle feeders" for the crows. Using simple materials including PVC and egg cartons, the students, all participants in the Chewonki Waypoint Program, put together feeders that require A and Z to problem-solve in order to get a yummy reward.

Crows are scavengers and gourmands. They relish carrion, garbage, reptiles, amphibians, mouse bits, nuts and grains, fruit, eggs, and worms (mealworms are the filet mignon of A and Z's world).

The crows' strong attachment to each other presents an interesting problem. "It's great that there are two of them, but that also makes training more challenging," Balazs says. "Sometimes they progress at different rates." Traveling Natural History Program staff may separate them for certain lessons or have two staff members working side-by-side, one-on-one. "We move as quickly as we can," says Balazs. "Ultimately, as is so often true with crows, A and Z are running the show."



Chewonki Waypoint Students Venture Into the North Woods

On a beautiful August morning, Chewonki Waypoint Program Coordinator Austin Moore and ten local students, now in their freshman year at Morse High School in Bath, Maine, made the five-hour trip to Chewonki's Debsconeag Lake Wilderness

rod, at that."

Waypoint mentors on this expedition were: Larry Bartlett, an electrical engineer and Morse High School debate coach; Susan Bauer, Bath City Councilor and nutrition team leader at Midcoast Maine

Community Action Head Start; Ally Muir, a science teacher at The New School in Kennebunk, Maine; and Leslie Trundy, school counselor at Morse High School. Thank you very much to all of them.

These North Woods adventurers participated in Waypoint in eighth grade and will stick together as a cohort until their high school graduation. The Chewonki



Camps, on a pristine lake in the midst of thousands of acres of conserved land.

The group swam, paddled canoes, hiked to the top of the cliffs above the lake to pick a treasure-load of blueberries, and fished. They slept in yurts, cooked over a campfire, and learned how to wash their bowls, utensils, pots, and pans. They shared stories about their lives and their hopes for the future. And they laughed in the water, under the stars, and with mouths full of blueberry cobbler. It was a special pocket of time when the group could relax, learn, and strengthen their relationships with one another, their mentors, and Muir before the momentous shift to high school's much bigger community.

"We had so much fun," says Muir. "The spirit was great. Three kids caught their first fish--on a fly



Waypoint Program is one of seven youth development programs participating in the Aspirations Incubator, a six-year mentoring-based initiative aimed at raising and sustaining the aspirations of young people in rural Maine communities. The Aspirations Incubator program is funded and supported by the Emanuel & Pauline A. Lerner Foundation in Portland, Maine.



Izzy Janzen Finding Her Way to Waypoint

Izzy Janzen joined the Chewonki Waypoint Program last September as the leader of the second cohort of Regional School Unit 1 (RSU 1) students to participate in this experimental program.

Janzen is leading the eight-grade cohort this year in extra-curricular activities designed to support them and help them develop high expectations of themselves.



Janzen works closely with Chewonki Waypoint Coordinator Austin Muir, who is continuing to lead the first-cohort students, now high school freshmen.

Janzen grew up in Philadelphia but spent her summers exploring Maine's rocky coastline with her family. A 2014 graduate of Hamilton College, she led fellow students there on hiking and backpacking trips. During the summer months, she also worked as a trip leader for teenagers in both Maine and Washington State.

She spent four years as assistant director with Apogee Adventures, a Maine outdoor adventure program for young adults, and has worked as a substitute teacher and coach at the middle and high school levels in Portland. She served as a volunteer mentor with Waypoint for the past two school years and is enjoying having a formal role to play in this innovative adventure for local students.

Janzen loves playing board games, cooking, and hiking. She is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Chewonki People

CAMP CHEWONKI

1950s

Since his summers at Chewonki, **Rupert Scofield** (BC '58-'63; BC staff '65,'67) has founded and run a social enterprise, FINCA International, which works in microfinance in 40 countries. "I have also found time to wed, have three kids, and pen two books," Rupert writes.

1980s

Last summer, **Daniel Witting da Prato** (BC '80), his wife, Simonetta, daughter, **Eleonora** (GC '17,'18); and son Edoardo, enjoyed a hike in the Dolomites, in northern Italy.



Daniel Witting da Prato with Edoardo, Eleonora, and Simonetta

1990s

Ted DesMaisons (BC staff '92,'93) has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for five years and teaches at Stanford Continuing Studies. His book, *Playful Mindfulness: a joyful journey to everyday confidence, calm, and connection*, came out last spring. **Rob Broderick** (BC '93-'99) enjoys living on the big island of Hawaii. On December 8 in Portland, Maine, **Ginny Freeman** (BC staff '93-'10) celebrated the publication of *A Dangerous New World: Maine Voices on Climate Change*, a collection of works, including one of Ginny's poems, by 65 Maine writers, plus images by 27 artists, all expressing climate change's impact on

their lives, communities, and planet. **Brad Johnson** (BC staff '99,'00,'02-'07; farm manager Semesters 17-40), his wife, **Emily Levan** (semester faculty '97-'00), and their daughter, Maddie, have been enjoying their new house in Northfield, VT., which includes woods and river frontage "to walk, ski, and enjoy during all seasons," writes Brad.



Rob Broderick

The property also includes a large woodlot, which they manage "for recreation, wildlife habitat, timber, and carbon sequestration. It feels great to live in a place that feels like home!" Maddie just started her sophomore year at Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, MA, where she's enjoying her studies and plenty of riding. Emily, a nurse practitioner, continues to work at a local hospital while also pursuing her doctor of nursing practice degree part-time at Duke Univ. She is still an avid runner. "This summer, we completed a year-long goal, hiking and running Vermont's Long Trail in just under 10 days," says Brad. He is logging full time with horses, as co-owner and operator of Third Branch Horse Logging. **Aaron Paul** (BC '97-'99,'00; BC staff '02-'06,'08), Bonnie Frye Hemphill, and their son, Gideon, live in Seattle. Aaron continues to work in conservation finance.



Brad Johnson and Emily Levan

Greg Stellato (BC '97,'99-'02) and his wife, Jamie, live in Brooklyn; they have a 1-year-old daughter and another daughter due in January.



Aaron Paul Gideon

Matt Weeks (BC '98-'03; BC staff '04,'05,'07-'13,'18) completed the Extended Teacher Education Program at the University of Southern Maine in spring 2019. He is now a second-grade teacher at Farwell Elementary School in Lewiston, ME.



Matt Weeks (right)

Since May 2017, **Rachel Jolly** (WT staff '98,'04,'05) has been the director of the Burlington Community Justice Center in Burlington, VT.



Jason Chandler and Caitlin Thurrell

The Labor of Living with the Land

Jason Chandler (Boys Camp staff '02,'03,'06,'10; Wilderness Trips staff '11-'14,'17,'18; Sustainability Fellow '09) and Caitlin Thurrell (Girls Camp staff '11,'16,'18,'19; farmer/educator '12-'14) are two teachers with a passion for the ways human beings connect to a place. Together they first journeyed to Ladakh, a dry, mountainous region of northern India, in 2014 to learn about the culture and agricultural practices of the indigenous people who have lived for generations in that rugged Himalayan landscape.

They have spent two of the last five years in Ladakh, establishing deep-rooted friendships in the village of Tar. They have participated in the community's work and life, coming to understand how people raise food and livestock in an environment that receives just four inches of rain each year.

While in Ladakh last spring, Thurrell and Chandler decided to reach across the globe on behalf of the community, in search of "someone who loves walking in mountains and wants to carry on shepherding work in the village through this summer," they wrote on their blog. "If you or someone you know would seriously consider it, living with folks here, eating wholesome food from this land, bringing bundles of wild winter fodder back all summer, please be in touch with us... This place and these people have changed our lives and they are an endless source of inspiration to us." A friend responded to their call.

There is talk in the village of building a school so children can gain an education without abandoning their homes, farms,

and traditional ways of learning from elders. In pondering the kind of person who might serve this community-based initiative, Chandler wrote, "The best kind would be those who will stay for months, do labor, learn language, potentially return in years to come, and thus not just take pictures of a place, not just go gather an experience for themselves, but actually help provide for the nourishment and revitalization... and collectively do so in a long-lasting way... all our friends among the young people of Tar regret being away from the village so much--this would give them another reason to stay."

"How will future years come to this place?" muse Thurrell and Chandler. "What are good ways to live here now? We are asking these questions as we can, trying to learn."

When they are in the United States, Chandler and Thurrell continue building their timber-frame-and-strawbale house in Franklin, Maine. Among their dreams: opening a place-based school on this side of the globe.



See Semester 20 for news of **Malin Pinsky** (WT '94) and Semester 21 for news of **Spencer Taylor** (BC '95-'98).

2000s

Cory Cramer (Semester English Fellow '07,'08; BC staff '08,'11; WT staff '10,'12,'15) and **Kate Fox** (BC staff '03-'08,'11,'12) welcomed their second child, a boy, **Field Henry Cramer Fox**, on 10-3-2019.



Field Henry Cramer Fox

He'll be sharing his birthday parties with Cory's two brothers, who have the same birthday! **Caitlin Scott Ellis** (BC staff '01,'02,'06; Semester Admissions Fellow Sems 43-44), her husband, Bob, and their two little boys, Will and Camden, still live in St. Petersburg, where Caitlin teaches Lower Elementary Montessori and Bob is a research scientist for Florida.



Caitlin, Camden, Bob, & Will Ellis

Last November, **Madeline Bachner Lane** (BC staff '03-'05; GC staff '06) and her husband, Dan, welcomed their first child, Evelyn Rose, "a born nature girl," reports Madline. **Bethany Laursen** (OC, WT staff '09-'11) and her husband, Patrick McKown, spent their honeymoon

in June on a five-day West Branch of the Penobscot River canoe trip, re-living the first Chewonki Wilderness Trip that Bethany led.



Patrick McKown and Bethany Laursen

See Semester 26 for news of **Elsie White** (BC staff '02,'03) and Semester 38 for news of **Ariel Picton** (WT '04).

2010s

In September, **Darren Wang** (BC '15,'16) started his freshman year at Brewster Academy in NH. **Frederik von Klitzing** (BC '16,'17) spent his junior year of high

school at The Gunnery in Washington, CT, and is now back in Stuttgart, Germany, for his senior year.

See 1980s for news of **Eleonora da Prato** (GC '17,'18).

MAINE COAST SEMESTER

2 (Spring 1989)

Alex Limkin was recently selected to be one of the National Ski Patrol's Subaru Ambassadors for the 2019/2020 season. He has spent the last five years patrolling at his local mountain, Sipapu, in northern New Mexico. See Semester 43 for news of **Kirstin Edelglass**.



10 (Spring 1993)

In March, **Adam Borden** started a new job as marketing director at SAGE

Dining, the largest independent school food service operator in the US, based in Baltimore. He enjoyed connecting with Clark Nelson recently in New York City. Adam's children, **Emma** (GC '17-'19) and **Ian** (BC '18,'19), have been writing their own Chewonki story.



Emma and Ian Borden

12 (Spring 1994)

India (Landrigan) Bayley and her husband, Ryan, live in Chapel Hill, NC, with their three daughters, ages 8, 6, and 3. India teaches psychology to high school seniors.

Hans Zhou

Conservation Scholar

Hans Zhou is a senior at Pomona College and an alumnus of Maine Coast Semester 54 and Chewonki's 2015 George River Leadership Expedition. Zhou spent the summers of 2018 and 2019 as a fellow in the Doris Duke Conservation Scholar Program. He recently sent Chewonki President Willard Morgan some personal reflections.

"During the first-summer, I participated in the program at the University of Washington, which has a strong emphasis on environmental justice, the intersection between cultural and environmental conservation, and storytelling."

"With other members of my cohort, I learned about urban conservation in Seattle (including mapping projects that commemorate the historical waterline and indigenous knowledge of the city, 1970s cross-racial organizing

against gentrification, the restoration of the Seattle waterfront), dam construction in the North Cascades, fire ecology in eastern Washington, citizen science projects on wildflowers on Mount Rainier, waterway restoration on Indian reservations, and more. The summer was full of listening to stories about how people from different communities and backgrounds are making contributions to the field of conservation."

"My fellow cohort members ended up working at a number of sites, including the Department of Natural Resources at an Indian reservation, a University of Washington lab on the San Juan Islands, the zoo in Seattle, etc. I was working for a non-profit organization named InterIm Community Development Association in Seattle's China-International District. InterIm's mission is to provide affordable housing to residents of the district, especially those from the Asian Pacific Islander immigrant/refugee



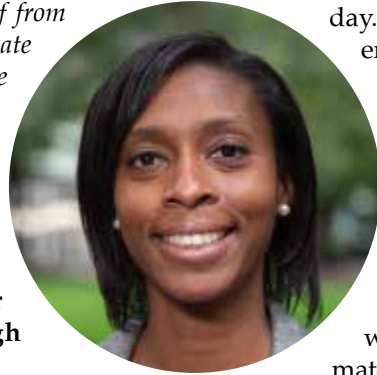
community. InterIm also established a community garden in the neighborhood back in 1975, serving low-income elders from the neighborhoods, most of whom are of Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese descent. Our hope was to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge along with the intergenerational knowledge about growing food and neighborhood history. We assisted with lessons in the garden for two local preschool programs.

"These past two summers were definitely tough as I did a lot of personal reflection on myself and my family history, or as I call it, soul searching. I don't want to say that I exactly found my place in the conservation field, but I for sure want to continue to explore the ways that we could tie different cultures and personal stories into the work of environmental conservation.

"As I am reflecting upon my journey that took me where I am now, I surely appreciate the time that I spent at Chewonki, the mentors that I had there, and the friends that I made there."

Charkie Quarcoo Trustee Spotlight

Charkie Quarcoo is an alumna of Maine Coast Semester 25 and has been a Chewonki trustee since 2013 (she previously served as an advisor for five years). She is currently chairperson of the board's Committee on Trustees. Quarcoo grew up in Brooklyn and now lives about a mile and a half from her childhood home. A graduate of Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, Quarcoo earned a B.S. in psychology and educational studies at Trinity College.



What made you come to Maine Coast Semester when you were in high school?

I wanted to go to Maine Coast Semester after visiting Chewonki Neck during my brother's semester (Stephen Charkey Quarcoo, Sem 25). I saw the close friendships that he had built with his semester mates. As someone who went to camp from the age of eight, I loved the outdoors, and I was attracted to the chance to be away from my normal surroundings so that I could have the freedom to discover who I was independent of my friends and family from Brooklyn. I wanted to continue to learn about myself and who I wanted to be in the world.

Any favorite Chewonki memories?

One of my laughable and eye-opening experiences was my first week of morning chores. I was assigned compost duty. Coming from NYC, I didn't know what compost was and certainly didn't know what compost duty meant for me.

The first morning, I woke up early to take a shower and I got all dressed up for compost duty—in white corduroy pants and black knee-high boots (trying to be fashionable). When I got to the farmhouse to meet my chore partner, I noticed his grin and saw that he was trying not to laugh at me. (He happened to have grown up in Maine.)

As we walked to the kitchen to start our morning chore, he asked innocently, "Do you know what compost duty means?" I quickly replied, "No, not a clue." He then

let out a chuckle and said, "Okay, well, you will definitely want to rethink your clothing tomorrow after you experience it today."

Boy, was he right. Once I learned what compost was and that we had to turn the compost and also feed the pigs, I realized that the white pants and boots were a very bad idea. Let's just say my pants weren't white after morning chores and I came dressed very differently the next day. But it was a great experience to do something so different than I would ever do in NYC, and it helped me feel very connected to my food in the true meaning of farm-to-table [and table-to-farm].

Another moment that really changed my life was my time with my cabin mates. I had always loved camp and built amazing relationships with the rest of the campers, but I struggled in high school to fit the norms that I thought were so important. My cabin mates were from all over and had varying personalities, backgrounds, experiences, opinions, etc. We were seven strangers who had to figure out living together. It wasn't always perfect and we butted heads at times, but we also had the best laughs and some very honest and vulnerable conversations from which I learned so much. I remember that we danced up a storm on many nights and had a morning ritual of blasting Celine Dion before morning chores. Those women taught me

about myself and helped me broaden my knowledge of the country and world with their experiences. Because of that, I approach everyone without judgment and with an open mind, making sure to assume best intentions.



about myself and helped me broaden my knowledge of the country and world with their experiences. Because of that, I approach everyone without judgment and with an open mind, making sure to assume best intentions.

Does your life and/or work today resonate in any way with your Maine Coast Semester experience?

My life and work are very much connected to my Maine Coast Semester experience. I work for Genesys Works, enhancing and developing the systems and processes that support the full lifecycle for employees... all through the lens of supporting a diverse and inclusive work environment.

I am very fortunate to have built strong, deep relationships with a select group of people who love me unconditionally but also hold me accountable to be the best version of myself. Maine Coast Semester helped me realize what true friendship looked and felt like, starting with trust, the ability to be vulnerable without judgment, and honest feedback. I owe Chewonki for the authentic and fulfilling connections I've made, which have led to some of the deepest friendships I've ever had.

Chewonki is working to become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Any suggestions?

My biggest suggestion is to embrace difficult and uncomfortable conversations/experiences as part of digging deep in the DEI space. Everyone has their own lived experiences and it's really important for people to be exposed to stories of other people's challenges and struggles, based on different demographics. People listening shouldn't take on the ownership of others' experiences, but just listen and put themselves in the shoes of others. The more we do that, the more we will think about how we can have a diverse community that is both inclusive and equitable for all.

Chewonki has already done a great job of creating an inclusive community and has worked hard to increase diversity in different dimensions. I think Chewonki should continue to do the hard work and think about how the experience for all participants can be equally strong, which doesn't mean it needs to be the same. Different experiences are okay as long as the differences are fair and just.

Hannah Lafleur Wings on Her Heels

Hannah Lafleur (Outdoor Education staff '10, '11) loves being in motion. She used that passion to power her way up Alaska's crazy-steep Mount Marathon (average steepness: 34 degrees), down the mountainside of wretched scree, and across the finish line to be the first female finisher in the 2019 Mount Marathon Race, considered by running aficionados to be the most difficult 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race in the world.

Aside from running, what are you up to these days?

I am living in Seward, Alaska, and loving it. I am the operations manager at Kayak Adventures Worldwide, a sea kayak tour company that my partner, Trent Gould, and I run. We take people paddling in Kenai Fjords National Park and Resurrection Bay. I also spend a lot of time in the mountains around Seward, which is the perfect playground.

How did you get ready for the Mount Marathon Race?

I run year-round just because I enjoy it, but the first time I made it up to Race Point [the halfway point of the race, at the treeline] on Mount Marathon this year was on April 2—it was still snowy but finally safe to climb. You could say I started training specifically for the race then, but runners in Seward think about Mount Marathon all the time. It's a pretty big event if you're a runner in this town, and it's a fun thing to rally around.



How did you feel after your winning finish?

Winning Mount Marathon felt incredible and a little surreal. It felt like such an honor to run alongside the women I was competing with, whom I really look up to as mountain runners. I was also so happy to be able to share the win with my dad, who was visiting me from New Hampshire for that week. The trail-running community in Seward is strong, so the win was also a testament to all the support and motivation I'd received from fellow runners. I was proud of all of us for really showing up this year.

And then of course, physically, I felt like my heels were on fire. I'd gotten huge blisters on the way down the mountain that covered the entire heel pads of both feet, and one ripped open. It was a challenge to walk for a few days, but totally worth it.



13 (Fall 1994)

Carrie (Judd) Miller lives with her husband and two sons in Park City, UT. She is "excited about her doctoral studies with Johns Hopkins Univ., exploring the low Native American student graduation rates with the School of Education."

16 (Spring 1996)

Hilary (Williams) Walrod has started a new position as dean for the School of Arts and Sciences at Colby-Sawyer College.

17 (Fall 1996)

Page McClean (Semester faculty '03-'05) is doing dissertation research in Chile. Semester

18 (Spring 1997)

Katie McAlaine moved to Portland, ME, in 2012. After being an educator for 12 years, she is now pursuing a master's degree to become a school counselor. She and her husband have two sons: Quinn (2) and Riley (8 mos).



Katie McAlaine with Quinn and Riley

20 (Spring 1998)

Malin Pinsky (WT '94; advisor '16-'19) and family have moved to Leipzig, Germany, for the year. Malin is on sabbatical at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, working on questions of climate change and its impacts on ecosystems around the world.

21 (Fall 1998)

Spencer Taylor's (BC '95-'98) company, Fenik, is "on the ground testing its electricity-independent refrigeration solution with 400 families in rural Morocco," he writes. "The field trial is funded by USAID, National Geographic, and the Siemens Stiftung Foundation. Our goal is to get third-party validation of the technology before approaching large NGO and government relief organizations as a vendor for their rural nutrition, food security, and rural development projects in arid developing markets."



22 (Spring 1999)

Clare Gupta and her husband, Drew Myers, live in San Francisco with their two children, Theo (4) and June (2).

23 (Fall 1999)

Emily Algranati and family live in Portland, OR; Their daughter, Samara, is now 1.5 yrs old. Emily works as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. Liz Cedar lives in Brooklyn and continues to manage global cultural programs for the Smithsonian Institution. "My son, Will, is walking and talking up a storm," Liz writes, "and he will be welcoming a baby sister this December." Rebecca Garfield was thrilled to spend time with Enyi Koene last summer. Rebecca writes that her children, Pippa (5) and Ayla (3), and Enyi's children, James (5) and Sidney (2), hit it off quickly. Rebecca's family recently bought a home in Pawtucket, RI, and after 10 years of teaching Spanish, Rebecca is now teaching middle school humanities at the Gordon School in East Providence.

Betsy Stubblefield Loucks "My Time at Chewonki Is Still Feeding Me"

Betsy Stubblefield Loucks (Maine Coast Semester 10; Boys Camp staff '94-'96,'98) is an independent contractor working as the director of research partnerships at Brown University, as well as a senior consultant at Spartina Consulting, where she focuses on serving nonprofits, small businesses, social ventures, academia, and government agencies. She is married to Erik Loucks, founder and director of the Mindfulness Center at Brown. They have twin daughters, Stella and Monica, who are in fourth grade.

On the other end of the telephone line, Loucks's voice conveys intense focus and refreshing openness. She loves her work but is honest about the challenge of balancing professional aspirations with mother-hood. "I have been working primarily by contract ever since my girls were born nine years ago," she says. "I have wanted to work at the top of my ability and skill set, but I also want to raise our children. It's been difficult. I am constantly trying to make clear to the world what it is I do." In her consulting work, she prefers to stay behind the scenes to make organizations work, a style that serves her clients well but makes it harder to promote herself. "Titles matter when you are competing for the most interesting work," she says.

She has proved that she is up to the challenge. She specializes in leadership development and organizational development for mission-driven organizations. "For-profit, non-profit, social ventures, government initiatives," she says. "The business structure is not as important as what the purpose is."

Loucks earned a B.A. from Brown University. "My undergraduate major was something I cobbled together because what I wanted didn't exist," she says, "and Brown was willing to accept it: American Civilization and Women's Health." Afterwards, she earned a master's of science in social epidemiology from the

Harvard School of Public Health and then a master's of business with a focus on environmental sustainability from Concordia University in Montreal.

Does anything from Maine Coast Semester correspond with what she is doing today? She hesitates, laughs, and then says, "Oh, just everything."

"I remember stacking firewood in the first few days of my semester--about 25 people standing in a line, working together. We were always taking care of



the community. Our society has gotten way too far away from that practice--people working side-by-side for the good of the community."

She also has vivid memories of working on the farm for Farm Manager Mark Albee. "I think about him all the time," she says. "He was a mean basketball player."

"River," a song she learned at Chewonki, is one Loucks used to sing her young daughters to sleep. It is probably not surprising that the twins "love to camp and be outside," she says. "They love talking about the planet." Loucks is a trustee of the Gordon School, which the girls attend.

When she heard that Camp Chewonki is establishing a girls' campus on Chewonki Neck, Loucks was overjoyed. "That's wonderful news!" she said. "There was a whole group of women and men at Chewonki when I worked there who wanted girls to be part of camp."

Bailey McCallum Fueling Sustainable Energy Solutions

Bailey McCallum (Maine Coast Semester 16; Wilderness Trips staff '00; advisor '10; trustee '17-present) earned a B.A. in biology and neuroscience from Williams College and a master's of energy management and a master's of business administration from Yale University. He is now director of Paragon Advisors in Madison, Connecticut, which creates energy management strategies for businesses.



One of your projects at the moment is to put together financing for an anaerobic digester-to-energy plant in New Jersey. How will it work and why is it promising?

The facility will receive food waste from households, restaurants, and wholesale

produce markets from New York to Philadelphia and use anaerobic digestion to convert the food waste into methane.

The methane will then be used to produce electricity in a typical combustion turbine. I like the fact that this project not only reduces waste heading to landfills but also produces valuable electricity and reduces the carbon emissions that would occur if these materials decomposed in a landfill and were released as methane.

What's the most important thing an everyday person can do to support the transition to renewable energy?

Vote, both at the ballot box and with your wallet. For your wallet, go to <https://www.energysage.com/community-solar/projects-companies/> to find green energy produced in your area at rates lower than the cost of brown energy from your utility.

Are there resonances between your Chewonki experience and your life and work now?

Absolutely. For me, Chewonki illuminated so many areas of life where collective effort and a conscientious approach can make a difference. While the energy system may seem incredibly complex and immovable, it is now changing rapidly thanks to the collective effort of legislators, regulators, engineers, tradespeople, and investors each doing their part. There has not been a single champion, but instead millions of individuals acting in loose community to effect change.



Enyi Koene and Rebecca Garfield

Ariane Lotti continues to run Tenuta San Carlo, an organic rice, grain, and legume farm in Southern Tuscany. **Megan McCarrell** is still a registered midwife, and has been working at Canada's first and only Alongside Midwifery Unit as a hospitalist midwife for the past year. She also earned a master's degree in public health in May, focusing on public policy and harm reduction measures for people using substances in pregnancy.



Megan McCarrell and family

Will Morris is still living in Salt Lake City with wife, Elise, and daughter Vera. He works in CO2 capture, and lately in CO2 conversion in the U.S. and Asia. Marissa Vahlsing had a baby, Mateo Patricio, last May. She continues to work at EarthRights International as a human rights and environmental justice lawyer, representing communities in Latin America in cases against American oil/mining and agribusiness companies that have violated local rights.

26 (Spring 2001)

Zach Strassburger has moved to Philadelphia with his wife and two

children. He is doing appellate litigation in the City of Philadelphia Law Department. **Elsie White** (BC staff '02,'03) got married in October 2017 to Peter Madsen. They live in Chatham, NY, where they have a musical collaboration called Good Grief; they'll have an album out by the year's end! Elsie is also a practitioner and teacher of biodynamic craniosacral therapy and an astrologer.

27 (Fall 2001)

After graduating from the Univ. of North Carolina in 2007, **Alden Alexander** worked as a professional mariner for several years. She earned her 100-ton captain's license and spent time sailing off New England, in the Caribbean, and in the Mediterranean, North, and Irish seas. She lives with her husband, Kevin Costello, and works as an associate at Mallard Creek Capital Partners.

33 (Fall 2004)

Ellie Bomstein married Alex Wigmore on 9-6-2019 in Delaware. Ellie works at the Wallace Center, which supports sustainable food systems. She was pleased

to find out that her new colleague, **Jane Jordan**, is an alumna of Semester 49. **Mattias Lanas** (Sem 33; Teaching Fellow, Sems 49-50; faculty, Sems 51-52; BC staff '14) visited Chewonki in late August with Andrew Crosson shortly before they were married. Their base is Bogota, Colombia, where Crosson serves in the U.S. Foreign Service, but they were en route to Paris, where Lanas is making use of a Fulbright Open Study/Research Award focused on botanical illustration. All his work will take place at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. Lanas said of being back at Chewonki, "It feels great. This place is so close to

my heart." Visiting simultaneously to see Mattias and other Chewonki friends were **James Kary** (Semester faculty '13-'19) and **Esther Kary** (Semester faculty '12-'19) and their children, **Aiden and Cecilia**--a former Maine Coast Semester faculty family who recently moved to Quebec.



Linnea Paton We Must All Take Up the Next Challenge

In September, at the Association of Energy Engineers World Conference in Washington, D.C., Linnea Paton (Maine Coast Semester 35) stepped up to accept the International Young Energy Professional of the Year award. Later that day, she posted the news on social media: "Received the award at my work in energy management at JLL [where she works] and climate action on the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote in the U.S. It wasn't until 50 years after women's suffrage that most engineering colleges opened their doors to women. We still have a long way to go, but I wouldn't have come this far without the actions of those who fought for equal rights. Now, we must all take up the next challenge and #ActOnClimate."



What did you study to prepare you for this work?

I received my B.S. from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a double major in 1) civil and environmental engineering and 2) environmental policy and development. Later I earned my master of science degree in Sustainability in the Urban Environment from the City College of New York.

You are a portfolio energy manager. Tells us what that means.

My company, JLL in New York City, partners with large corporate clients to provide facilities management services. As an energy manager, I'm responsible for identifying ways to save energy in our buildings, building the financial case for the projects, and working with our building managers and vendors to implement savings initiatives. For example, I've worked with our clients to develop lighting, solar, fuel cell, and building controls projects and received funding from state energy agencies and utilities to offset the costs of the projects. Many of our clients have set goals for achieving 100 percent renewable electricity or significant carbon emissions reduction goals. I get to work on national and global portfolios of buildings (usually 100-5,000 buildings).

What keeps you engaged in your work?

As Greta Thunberg [16-year-old Swedish climate activist] says, "There is no hope without action." I get a lot of satisfaction from knowing my work is reducing carbon emissions. I also get involved in local and national climate policy to help shape

35 (Fall 2005)

Linnea Paton received the Young Energy Professional of the Year Award from the Global Association of Energy Engineers for her work in climate activism (notably the campaign to divest NYC pension funds from fossil fuels) and professional work in energy efficiency. "And I passed the exam to become a certified energy manager (CEM) last May, which has been a long-time goal for me," she writes. "This year, I'm also proud to have orchestrated the sale of my grandparents' folk-music label, Folk-Legacy, to the Smithsonian Institution." Photo below.

effective laws around building energy efficiency. The building sector accounts for 40 percent of carbon emissions in the U.S. Oftentimes, we know what to do, but we need to solve the business challenges around funding improvements. There has been a lot of innovation in this area recently. That said, there are so many ways for people to be involved in reducing emission and the bigger, structural-change ones are most important.

Does what you do now ever make you think of Maine Coast Semester?

Yes, a lot. Though I was already on the path to doing environmental work when I went to Chewonki, Maine Coast Semester gave me the opportunity to feel more fully engaged and self-directed in my work, a feeling I enjoy to this day. I am lucky to have found a career where I feel that way every day.

Anything you want to share about your current life?

My three-year-old daughter, Adaline, just started a French immersion preschool program. We're excited about her being bilingual; we visit my husband's family in Montreal often. I'd love to connect with other semester alumni in Quebec. I'm also really proud about getting my Certified Energy Manager designation. There are so few women in this field, I hope to help change that!

38 (Spring 2007)

Ariel Picton (WT '04) married Adam Kobayashi on 8-10-2019, with fellow Maine Coast Semester alumni **Cameron Picton and Wells Andres** in attendance.



Ariel Picton and Adam Kobayashi

39 (Fall 2007)

Schuyler Dalton writes: "I had the great fortune of catching up with Wells Andres at our 10-year Taft School reunion this spring."



43 (Fall 2009)

Katie Burns is working on PhD research at University College Dublin. She is studying the contributions of different pollinator groups to Irish crops, as well as assessing the public perceptions of Irish pollinators in order to improve future public engagement in pollinator conservation. While visiting a friend who was WOOFing at the Edelglass Homestead in Vermont, **Sara Clark** discovered that her host, **Kirstin Edelglass**, is an MCS 2 alumna! See photo.



Kirstin Edelglass and Sara Clark

Sara still lives in New York City and works at Democracy Works, helping young people vote. She is applying to law school for entrance in fall 2020.

47 (Fall 2011)

Last year, **Olivia Cameron** participated in an international research project inspecting how drug trafficking causes deforestation in Central American Protected Areas, which later became her honors thesis at Oregon State Univ. Since graduating last March, she has been camping, climbing, skiing, and road-tripping through the western U.S.. This winter, she will be working on the ski patrol at SnowBasin Resort in Huntsville, UT.



Olivia Cameron

55 (Fall 2015)

Sarah Estey just started her junior year of college. She is an anthropology major at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA.

57 (Fall 2016)

Emmett Nunes is a sophomore at Wesleyan Univ., where he's pulling his weight on the crew team. Photo below.



59 (Fall 2017)

Emily Robbins was awarded a Mitchell

Scholarship last spring and is now a double major in English and religion at the Univ. of Vermont.

60 (Spring 2018)

Evie Horton was awarded a Scholastic Gold Key at the regional level and a Scholastic Silver Key at the national level for her linoleum print entitled, "Don't Worry, It's Only Hair." She says: "I designed it as a print in an attempt to normalize body hair for women."

61 (Fall 2018)

Alex Chapelle on 8-19-2019 has been teaching his very own sustainability class back at his school. He is also looking into getting beehives there, too. **Claire Lynch** is on the training team at Sunrise Boston, an organization spanning the country to promote the Green New Deal and increase people power for climate change.



Claire Lynch (middle, fourth from the left)

62 (Spring 2019)

Emi Schneider's band, Flight 317, has been performing at fairs and festivals throughout Maine.

FACULTY & STAFF

Jane Freedman (Semesters 1-2) lives in Santa Cruz, CA, with her husband and daughter. They run Sea Level Farm, and a yoga studio and runs an online program called Rebirth Your Worth. **Morgan Curtis** (Sustainability Fellow '14,'15) has continued her work as an organizer and educator in the climate justice movement.

See 1990s for news of **Brad Johnson**; 2000s for news of **Caitlin Scott Ellis**; Semester 17 for news of **Page McClean**; and Semester 33 for news of **Mattias Lanas** and **James and Esther Kary**.

Making a Splash to Save Lives

Team Chewonki Raises Money for Lifelight of Maine

If you think Farm Manager Megan Phillips is tethered to terra firma, think again. In fact, every summer, Phillips transforms into a harbor seal to swim 3.1 miles through West Penobscot Bay's brisk waters during the Islesboro Crossing, a fundraiser for Lifelight of Maine. Lifelight is a non-profit service that provides critical care and medical transport via helicopter and plane across Maine, no matter how remote.

Phillips led a team of eight intrepid, Chewonki-connected participants making the swim from the mainland town of Northport to the island town of Islesboro on August 18. Nine other Chewonki friends, designated "safety-boaters," paddled within five feet of the swimmers to provide encouragement and a resting perch if needed.

"In my life, safety-boaters take the form of family and friends who listen hard, women who quilt for charitable purposes, colleagues who do the good work of Chewonki every day, and farmers who plant straight rows while integrating kids of all ages into the work at hand," wrote Phillips before this year's swim.

"LifeFlight of Maine is a metaphorical safety-boater for the whole of the state where I live, ensuring that all Mainers can have access to advanced medical care should the unthinkable happen," she says. (The unthinkable does, unfortunately, sometimes happen. Chewonki has friends who would have lost their lives in separate incidents, a plane crash and a snowmobile crash, had LifeFlight not been available.)

Phillips set a \$4,000 personal fundraising goal and the team as a whole shot for \$15,000. Both she and the team exceeded their goal, raising \$20,000 in total.

Congratulations, Team Chewonki! Thank you.



Megan Phillips, Anna Hunt, and Greg Shute raised funds by jumping into Montsweag Brook wearing helicopter beanies.

2019 Team Chewonki Swimmers:

Katie Curtis
Lorna Fake
Alicia Heyburn
Stacy and Ryan Linehan
Megan Phillips
Lili Pugh
Matt Russ

2019 Team Chewonki Safety-boaters:

Anna Hunt
Sawyer Linehan
Kestrel Linehan
KC Ford
Alex Pugh
Henry Heyburn
Katie Curtis
Tom Fake
Conor Burke

Chewonki Welcomes Two New Trustees

Elizabeth Mygatt



Elizabeth Mygatt has moved from the Chewonki board of advisors to the board of trustees. She is an associate partner in McKinsey & Company's Boston office and a leader in the organization practice. She has wide experience in healthcare and other sectors, on topics including organizational and performance transformations, organizational health and culture change, non-clinical functional excellence, leadership, and governance and decision rights.

Her recent work focuses on organizational effectiveness, organizational design, increased collaboration across functions, and leadership and capability-building. Liz was previously a consultant with an environmental strategy firm, focusing on energy and carbon management, water management, and communications.

She holds an M.B.A. from Cornell University and a B.A. from Williams College. She grew up frolicking in the New Hampshire mountains and coastal Rhode Island and Maine. She is an alumna of Maine Coast Semester 20 and says that during her semester, she learned a great deal about community, showing up as her authentic self, and squirrels. In a former lifetime she was an elite rower but has transitioned to competing in an occasional marathon or triathlon.

Danforth Townley



Danforth Townley is a new member of the Chewonki board of trustees. Dan lives in Boston, Massachusetts, and Rye, New York, and is the general counsel of Bracebridge Capital, an investment firm he joined in 2017. In this capacity, he leads the legal team at Bracebridge in its day-to-day responsibilities and provides strategic legal counsel regarding firm initiatives.

Dan was a partner for almost 20 years with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City, advising private fund sponsors regarding the structuring and offering of funds, ongoing operations and mergers and acquisitions, and regulatory compliance. He then served from 2013 to 2017 as an attorney fellow in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division

of Investment Management, where he provided leadership on the commission's rulemaking activities as well as policy advice on asset management initiatives. Dan graduated from Yale College with a B.A. in history and received his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Dan and his wife, Birgit, who just resigned from the board of trustees, have two sons and a daughter (ages 23, 21, and 18), each of whom has been a Chewonki camper and wilderness tripper. Dan enjoys hiking, gardening, singing, traveling, and a variety of sports (including golf and table tennis). He has been active in his community as a member of the board of the Rye Presbyterian Church and as a Rye Youth Soccer coach for his daughter's team.



Chewonki Board of Trustees, Fall 2019

Margaret Ellis Day

May 29, 2019

They came, they saw, they gardened! Chewonki staff, Elementary School students, and friends gathered on a cool May morning to plant, weed, and wake up the Chewonki gardens in honor of the late Margaret Ellis, who died in 2011. The energy and spirit of the day, not to mention the work that got done, would have delighted her. Executive Director emeritus Tim Ellis was there in her stead to cast a wise eye over all the activity.

Along with creating and directing Chewonki's health center, Ellis, a nurse



Megan Phillips (center) with volunteers



Lisa Paige

practitioner, established perennial beds around the central campus and led Chewonki headlong into organic gardening, planting vegetable beds and bringing livestock back to the farm. She always involved students in gardening and farming, believing in the benefits of a hands-on relationship with nature and hard work. As Tim Ellis's wife, Margaret Ellis also wore just about every hat there was to wear at this place from 1966 to 1991, with confidence, competence, compassion, humor, and brisk English flair.

Margaret Ellis Day had an even greater impact this year because it took place on a weekday, so the whole staff could participate. They tackled a wide range of essential spring projects while gardening was in full swing. Painting? Check. Raking? Check. Stacking wood? Deep cleaning? Trail maintenance? Check, check, check.

Thank you, volunteers!



Tim Ellis



Susie Stedman and Jen Barton



Emily Bell-Hoerth and Willard Morgan with young volunteers



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The Dirt on Chewonki Neck

By Megan Phillips

Sheep are grazing the east side of Chewonki Neck for the first time in more than 100 years.

In fall 2017, Chewonki embarked on transitioning 11 acres of diversified forest to a pasture ecosystem. This land, hemmed in by stone walls and a wetland, was sheep pasture in the merino wool boom of the 1800s.

At the start of the Eastside Pasture Restoration Project, I laid out the steps on a color-coded timeline in a spreadsheet that featured all sorts of bells and whistles. I assumed that I could predict when and how every part of this transition would occur. Simply put, nothing has gone exactly according to plan, and yet—if I can get out of the way and let the land dictate the terms of this great transformation—it’s all been just right.

Given that my point of reference for efficiency is what a few farmers and a horse can do in a day, the pace of the initial clearing of the Eastside Pasture was dramatic, with heavy equipment removing trees and grinding stumps in a matter of weeks. Since then, the rate of progress has slowed to a more sustainable, ecosystems-centric pace. What is happening is nothing short of scientific, the transition of a primarily fungus-based (forest) soil community to a primarily bacteria-based (pasture) soil community. And it is nothing short of miraculous. That first cover crop of oats poked through the carbon-heavy mulch of freshly ground stumps with

sheer temerity, and a range of seeded and volunteer plants have followed. Sowing equipment broke and broke again, 2018 summer temperatures soared to the high 90s at the most inopportune moments, our wet spring in 2019 left parts of the fields soggy until July, and still the grass came up—not everywhere, but in verdant patches that prove again that life wants to live.

All last summer, I walked and watched this land, bore witness to the deer grazing each evening (including one fawn with twins), and excavated an old farm dump in the middle of the pasture with the help of Boys Camp campers (favorite find: all the metal



The running of the sheep: students help move the flock to the new pasture for the first time



Megan Phillips and a group of Chewonki Elementary and Middle Students take their class to the new pasture

parts of an old horse harness). Finally, many months after I had assumed our farm animals would start grazing, we introduced three cows onto the land. Feeling triumphant and slightly smug back at the barn a few minutes later, I was chagrined to look up and see one of the steers we’d laboriously moved onto the Eastside Pasture calmly strolling back towards where the dairy cows were pastured on the “home farm.”

Our more recent introduction of the Chewonki sheep flock—all baa-ing and running down Chewonki Neck Road towards the pasture entrance with Chewonki Elementary and Middle school students and staff acting as shepherds and human fences—was much more successful. All our woolly friends are staying inside their electric fences, and we rotate the flock daily onto a new patch of grass, mimicking the natural movement and intensive grazing practices of bison on the prairies. Good rotational grazing practices will significantly increase, not deplete, soil fertility and biodiversity over decades and centuries.

There is still much to be done, including manure spreading, fertilizing, reseeding bare spots, and soil testing, not to mention building more permanent fences and water lines in future years. But where we are right now is right here, and that is fine.

This work has been nothing short of humbling. And awe-inspiring, exhausting, frustrating, and joyful. In learning to watch this land for cues, to ask critical questions, to step consciously and confidently into the not-knowing of exactly what comes next, I’ve been reflecting on how much the experience of cultivating land is like the experience our participants have when they step onto Chewonki Neck and engage in relationship-driven education. It turns out that transformative growth, whether that be the growth of grass or the growth of participants, is a long-term endeavor.

Megan Phillips manages Chewonki’s Salt Marsh Farm.



A Year of Sunbeams

Over the past year, Chewonki has significantly reduced its CO2 emissions and increased production of solar electricity megawatts here on campus.

In 2015, Chewonki produced 20 megawatt hours (Mwh) of solar electricity. In 2019, we produced **116.37 MWh!**

Our carbon output last year has been likewise been reduced by 295.89 tons because of solar generation, and we've replaced the equivalent of 68.6 barrels of oil with good ole sunshine.

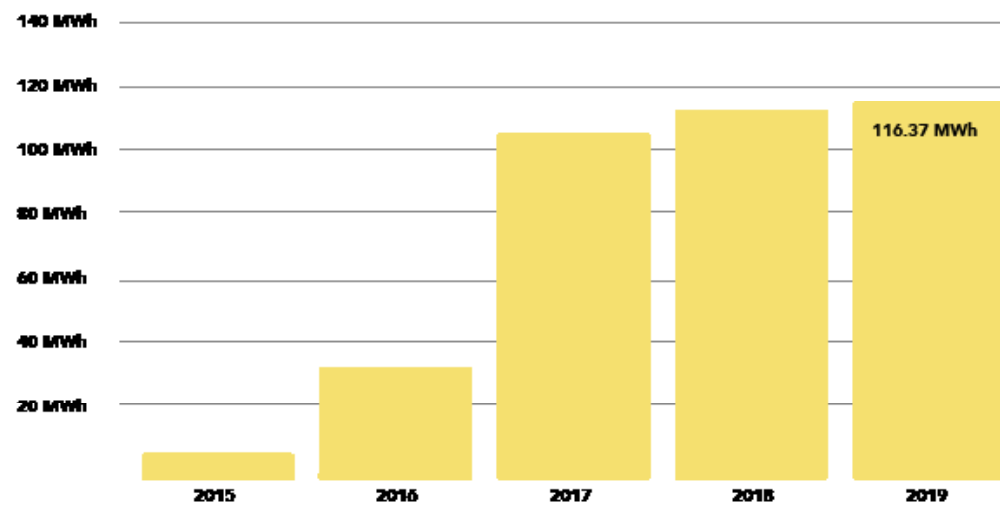
Facilities Manager Carob Arnold explains, "The greatest agents of change came from new landscaping behind the Center for Environmental Education and the removal of a few trees so the solar panels on that building were exposed to more sunlight, as well as expanding the solar arrays on the Wallace, the Allen Center, and the CEE."

Output has reflected a snowy winter, wet spring, and gorgeous, sunny summer.

If you'd like to learn more about our solar generation system, you can find real-time data online: <https://revisionenergy.solarlog-web.net/chewonki/>



Total Chewonki Solar Yield 2015 - 2019



New CEE Lights Brighter, Smarter

When the Center for Environmental Education (CEE) opened back in 2001, it boasted state-of-the-art, energy-efficient interior wall lights. Times have changed and lighting technology has evolved.

Last summer, we replaced 18 of the old, high-pressure sodium halide fixtures with light-emitting diode (LED) lights. "The new fixtures produce more light, a more attractive color of light, and are almost exactly half the wattage of the old ones," says Facilities Manager Carob Arnold.

The new lights also solved what had become an aggravation: the old lights took a long time to warm up, so if you did a

good deed by turning them off and later needed them back on, you'd have to wait 10 minutes for them to get to full brightness. With the Elementary School in the building and going in and out all day, the delay was so frequent and annoying that people had started to leave the lights on to avoid it, using more electricity.

"Now, because we can easily and quickly turn the lights off and on," says Arnold, "we can get students into the habit of turning off the lights whenever they leave a room," an excellent habit for grown-ups too.



All Hands for Haying

When the farmers at Salt Marsh Farm say the hay is ready to come into the barn, we know the grass is sweet and dry and the weather is right and there is not a moment to spare. The task is challenging. The sun is hot. But the rhythm of working together to accomplish something useful and the sight and smell of the golden-green pile in the loft are more than enough reward. Haying seems to celebrate nature and human beings in proper friendship.

*A Song of the good green grass!
A song no more of the city streets;
A song of farms -- a song of the soil
of fields.*

*A song with the smell of sun-dried
hay, where the nimble pitchers handle
the pitch-fork...*

*Walt Whitman, "A Carol of Harvest,
for 1867"*





CHEWONKI

485 Chewonki Neck Road
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

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

