

The Pine Needle

Belgrade Lakes, Maine

July 2023

The Mid-Summer Pine Needle is a collection of articles, poetry, and artwork that seeks to provide a glimpse into the creative, imaginative, and active lives campers lead at Pine Island.

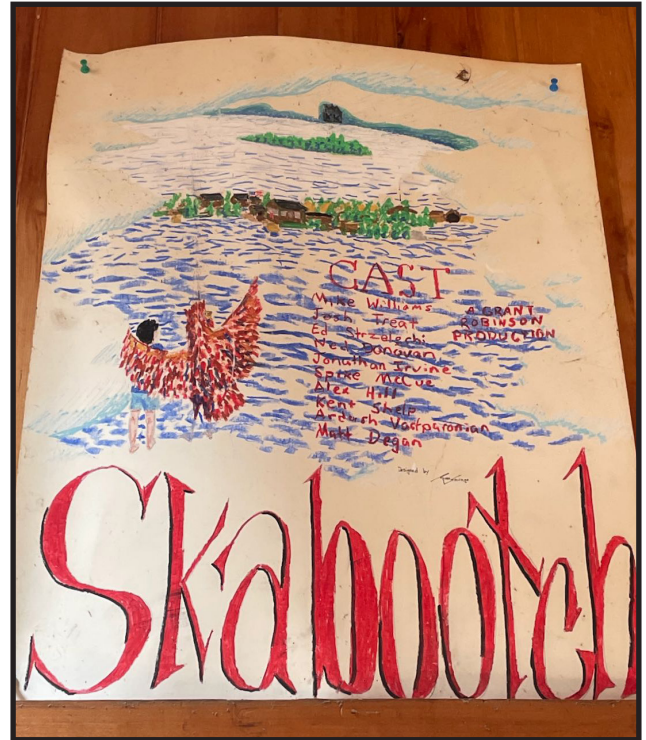
Skabootch the Rooster...Mystery Solved? By Moses Ferney

We all know about Skabootch the Rooster. He was the very first sacred animal, gifted to the earliest Pine Islanders by King Kababa for following his guidance.* Skabootch first appeared atop the flagpole, watching over Pine Island with unending vigilance. But one day in 1995, the Great Fire caused almost all the sacred animals to flee, returning to King Kababa's home on Mount Philip. Most of the missing sacred animals have returned to Pine Island in the years since, but one is still missing: Skabootch the Rooster!

So now we must ask: why did Skabootch not return after the fire? Why does Skabootch, the first sacred animal of them all, seem to have permanently abandoned his post? Well, I have a theory.

The Fire of '95 is what caused the sacred animals to leave, so it would be wise to start there. The story goes that the fire started when some propane accidentally ignited. But what if I told you that the real culprit is above us, in the rafters of the dining hall? I think the real culprit is actually Venus de Flylow the Flaming Go, who arrived in 1994.

"But why would he do it?" I hear you asking. But never fear, I have an explanation. Imagine how would it feel to be one of only four sacred birds on Pine Island, but to find yourself constantly overshadowed by the other three, who had been there for far longer.



Skabootch the Rooster has long been a subject of speculation, including in this SNS from the early 2000's.

I think Venus de Flylow became so frustrated that he lost control of his flames for a moment, accidentally setting the island alight. Then, as the sacred animals evacuated, Venus de Flylow ambushed Skabootch and trapped him inside Mount Bigelow, never to be seen again!

No Kababologists were available at press time to confirm (or deny!) this theory.

* King Kababa desires that campers be Good Humored and demonstrate Honesty, Independence coupled with a Concern for Others, Responsibility, Cooperation, and a Generous Spirit.

Wet Weather

By Hudson Eklund

In the first week of camp, it was raining about five times every day. The tents were always battened down, yet there was only one day where the rainfall was so heavy that we had to have rainy day activities.

Recently, there was a new hiking trip sent out called Big Crocker, a combination of Bigelow and Crocker. These two trips had to be combined because it had rained so much that some of the trails were flooded. So the parts of the Bigelow and Crocker routes that weren't flooded were combined to make Big Crocker.

Now it's not raining nearly as much. The other day, temperatures got up to 95 degrees! We're so happy that the weather has gotten much, much better.



Interview with Director Sumner Ford

By Ryker Baum

Q: How is your day going?

A: Great!

Q: What is your life like outside of camp?

A: My life outside of camp is very relaxing and slow-moving.

Q: What was it like when you were a camper?

A: Really fun, but a bit like the wild west.

Q: What was your favorite activity as a camper?

A: I had three: Sailing, Canoeing, and Rowing.

Q: What was your least favorite activity as a camper?

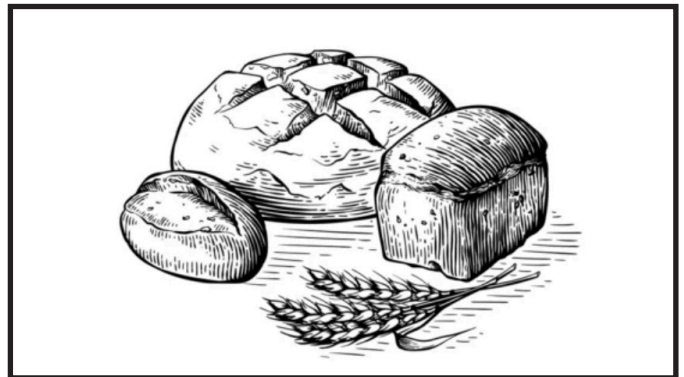
A: No comment.



Food Review

By Alexander Tulupman

The fresh bread without butter is good, but a bit plain. With butter it is much better, so have it with butter if possible!



My Favorite Activity

By Asher Tulupman

There's nothing like sailing at PIC. From days with whitecaps to when you can see your reflection in the glassy water, I think it never gets old!

Trip Report: Maine Peaks

By Bram Renick and Jojo Murray

Maine Peaks is one of Pine Island's senior hiking trips. It covers Saddleback, Saddleback Junior, The Horn, Sugarloaf, and Spaulding Mountains.

On the first day, we drove to our drop-off spot, ate lunch, and started hiking towards our first campsite. It was 1.7 miles uphill in the rain, but we finally got there, set up our tents, ate dinner, and went right to sleep.

The second day was the hardest: 9 miles over Saddleback, The Horn, and Saddleback Junior. At the beginning of the day, we hiked Saddleback. It was a hard but fun trek up. After quickly reaching the peak, we hiked even more quickly up The Horn. We ate lunch at the summit, then went over Saddleback Junior to our campsite.

On Day 3, we were supposed to hike 8 miles. We had gone 1 mile when one of our friends injured his leg and had to be hiked out. It all went smoothly, but it

took a long time, so we decided to change our plan: we went 1 more mile to the closest campsite and stayed there for the night.

On the fourth day, we decided to go the whole 10.4 miles to our pick-up spot. We did a solo hike* for 1.5 miles and then met up for a quick detour to the summit of Sugarloaf, where we had some great views of the mountains all around. We finished the day by trekking the last 2.5 miles to the campsite closest to our pick-up spot.

On Day 5, we hiked 5 miles down an old logging road and waited for the van. On the drive back, we stopped at McDonald's and ate very well. We were exhausted, but it had been a great trip and we were happy to be back at Pine Island.

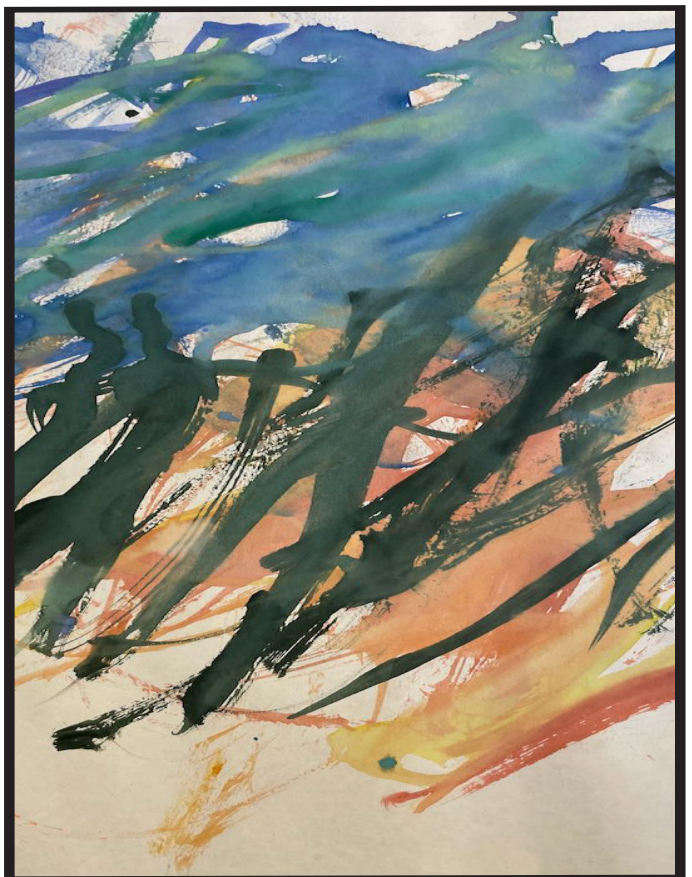
**Solo hiking is a tradition on PIC senior hiking trips. Campers set out on the trail one at a time, allowing enough space between them for each hiker to experience the feeling of hiking all on their own.*



Chess on the Dock

Passion
Poem and Artwork By Jack Johnson

*Passion can be seen
Bursting forth,
An everlasting spring
Upon the summer tide.*



Why I Love Fishing By Johnny Miller

I've been fishing for about a week and in one day I caught three fish, and that goes to show how amazing fishing is at Pine Island. One of the reasons I love fishing is that when you've been fishing for a while and you finally catch a fish, it's such a great feeling. One of the best fishing spots at PIC is on the Second Island, because there are more fish.



Survey: What's Your Favorite Activity at Pine Island? By Cosmo Oglesby

Moses Ferney

Activity: Kayaking

Reason: "It's always open and fun. I don't know why some people don't like it."

Johnny Miller

Activity: Shop

Reason: "I get to build stuff"

Sam Breese

Activity: Fly Fishing

Reason: "It's chill."

Roman Ferney

Activity: Riflery

Reason: "I'm too good."

Thomas Heenan

Activity: Swimming

Reason: "It's relaxing."

Jack Johnson

Activity: Canoeing

Reason: "It's fire, and all the other activities are aggressively mid."

Teo Fiorella-Baptista

Activity: Sailing

Reason: "It's lit."

Conclusion: Out of the campers I asked, Swimming and Canoeing were the most popular activities at Pine Island.



Sand Dunes By Alex Tsiopanas



Sunset on the Lake By Tim Comer

