

The Pine Needle

Belgrade Lakes, Maine

July 2022

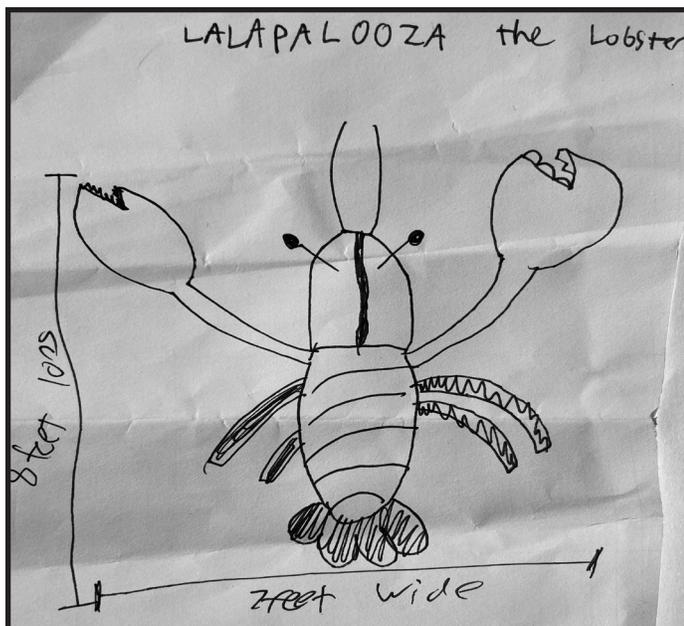
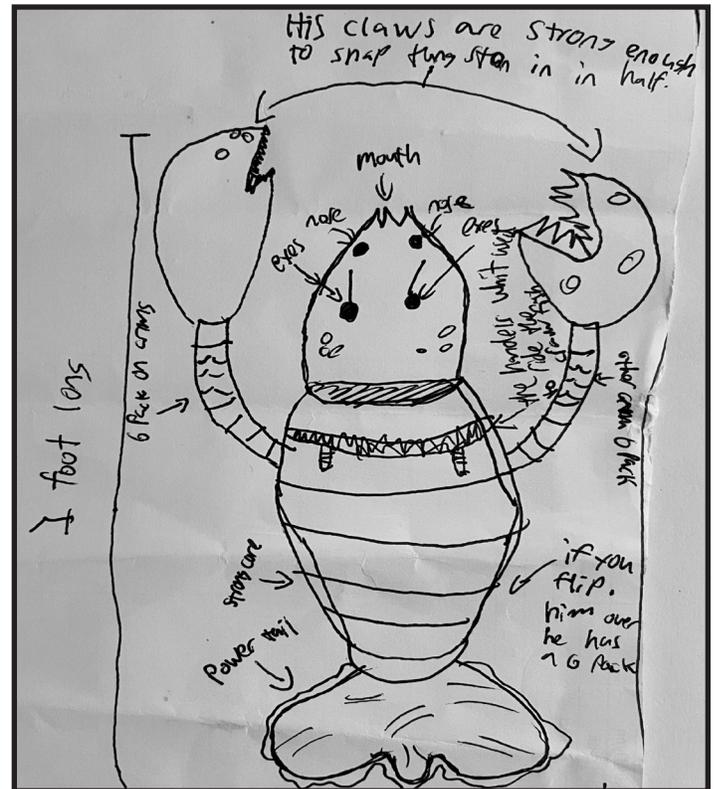
The Mid-Summer Pine Needle is a collection of articles, poetry, and artwork that seeks to provide a glimpse into the creative, imaginative, and active lives campers lead at Pine Island.

The Secret Legendary Crawfish By Austin Kimball

I woke up one morning and it was a normal day. During rest hour, I was in the library and one book caught my eye: a book on Pine Island's "Secret Legendary Crawfish" written by Sumner Ford himself. I was intrigued.

I picked it up and soon learned that this creature was 1-foot long and 0.5-foot wide and it would eat ducks. If you ever see a duck or loon disappear, it is the Secret Legendary Crawfish. Many have even seen him eating ducks on the dock at night.

The creature was originally a science experiment but when it was getting transported to a museum, it fell into the lake and escaped. It showed up at Pine Island and even participated in crawfish races; one flap and it would win! Sometimes it will crawl into the kitchen sink and pinch the hands of the kitchen crew.



Today during Afternoon General Swim you should try to look for him. Places you can find the Secret Legendary Crawfish are: under the swim float or anywhere in the lake. It was last seen by the LTIPs in the kitchen when it tried to pinch Madron's hand. It is over 100 years old. Whit Fisher claims he has ridden on it but no one believes him besides his cousin. They say that Ben Cabot, the fishing instructor, is actually trying to catch the Secret Legendary Crawfish instead of catching fish. Some Pine Island campers say that Sumner made it up but everyone knows that it exists.

Fun fact: Some people believe that the Secret Legendary Crawfish is actually Potwarp the Lalapalalopalooza Lobster. However, in Sumner's book he says that they do not connect at all. And as you can see from the drawings, they are clearly different.

The Rise of P.I.C.H.O. By Taylor Clyde

Early this summer I was approached by Sumner at the breakfast table and received an unexpected promotion. Every day at Pine Island, campers are reminded to drink water by a random counselor during staff announcements. Sumner saw this as an opportunity for a new position on the island, and P.I.C.H.O. was born.

The Pine Island Chief Hydration Officer is tasked with encouraging campers to always have a water bottle with them and to drink from it consistently throughout the day. Though a seemingly easy task, it takes considerable time, effort, and creativity. In addition to the usual reminders throughout the day, spontaneous public service announcements during Campfire are also critical to the cause. To make matters more difficult, while I was off the island leading Maine Peaks, a new character emerged: N.O.P.E.E. (Nemesis of P.I.C.H.O. Excavating Evil).

N.O.P.E.E. came to the island to spread propaganda about eating salty foods, and how drinking water is not cool. I quickly realized I could not fight this battle alone and soon promoted Nick Newbold to P.I.C.H.O.I.T. (Pine Island Chief Hydration Officer in Training).

Though the “War on Water” remains a struggle, our analysts believe that island hydration levels are improving steadily. I look forward to future hydration successes, and hope to send N.O.P.E.E. back to the desert.

P.I.C.H.O. out.



The Mysterious Bed Disappearance By Frank Brockett

Lately, a counselor’s bed has been disappearing. First, it reappeared on the shop porch. Then, below the Skybox. Most recently it turned up on the Range dock, and the counselor afterwards said, “If it turns up at the Range dock again, please don’t put your feet on it, just walk around it.” This may be the work of N.O.P.E.E. (Nemesis of P.I.C.H.O. Excavating Evil) because the counselor is in fact Taylor Clyde, the P.I.C.H.O. at the time. Who knows? But I think Taylor would like answers...



Senior Campers: Good or Bad

By Miller Elston

As a first-year camper, I feel that I can accurately depict senior campers in their true nature.

Senior campers have been depicted as unapproachable and intimidating for too long, so I am here to denounce these accusations. But to figure out if this is a common opinion or not, I have interviewed the Tent 7 campers to solve this mystery.

Interview 1:

Q: How have senior campers been treating you?

A: They have been treating me with respect but some say otherwise.

Q: Do you interact with senior campers often?

A: Yes I do, and there are many activities you can do to get to know them.

Q: What do you think about senior campers in general?

A: I think they are nice. They can be very helpful.

Interview 2:

Q: How have senior campers been treating you?

A: Nice. They like me.

Q: Do you interact with senior campers often?

A: Yes I do, during games.

Q: What do you think about senior campers in general?

A: They are nice.

Interview 3:

Q: How have senior campers been treating you?

A: They are kind.

Q: Do you interact with senior campers often?

A: I do during meals and they are nice during them.

Q: What do you think about senior campers in general?

A: They are nice but it's scary to talk to them because they are older.

Conclusion:

So, overall many campers approve of how senior campers have been treating them with only some small complaints.



Senior Campers head out on Old Speck, a 4-day hike following the Appalachian Trail through the famous Mahoosuc Notch.

Favorite Sacred Animal

By Ethan Ethridge

The tradition of Sacred Animals dates back to Pine Island's earliest days. These mythical creatures are bestowed to camp at the end of each season as a way to celebrate the success of the unique community that flourished that summer. In this piece, Ethan interviews several campers and staff to determine their favorites.

Name: Austin Kimball

Favorite Animal: Potwarp the Lalapalalalooza
Lobster

Why: Because he likes lobster

Given to Pine Island: 1964

Location: Dining Hall (left and returned after fire)

Chant of Animal: Lalapa-lalapa-lalapa-loooooza

Description: Five feet wide, large red lobster, huge pincers



Name: Kai Harashima

Favorite Animal: Fin-against-wake, the Great Northern Methampikosis

Why: Cool animal, really cool chant, glasses

Given to Pine Island: 1992

Location: Dining Hall

Chant of Animal: Fin-against-wake, Fin-against-wake, swims in circles, guards the lake

Description: Large grayish-blue pike

Name: Max Klivans

Favorite Animal: Buzz the Husky Varnished Beaver

Why: Good chant

Given to Pine Island: 2010

Location: Library

Chant of Animal: Vroom vroom logging fever, Buzz the Husky Varnished Beaver

Description: Small beaver with chainsaw teeth



Name: Sumner Ford
Favorite Animal: Sez Who the Delivery Owl
Why: Because it arrived Sumner's first year
Given to Pine Island: 2000
Location: Dining Hall
Chant of Animal: Ahoo, Ahaa, Ahoo-ahaa-ahoo-ahaa
Description: Small brown owl with yellow eyes



Name: Rowan Reeves
Favorite Animal: Gar the Misdirected Goyle
Why: The chant; hiding in plain sight, only Sacred Animal that survived the fire
Given to Pine Island: 1982
Location: Sign pole
Chant of Animal: They say the pot will never boil
aye-aye, aye-aye / They say the gar will never goyle
aye-aye, aye-aye
Description: Looks like a skinny monkey with 3-fingered backward hands and a horse-like snout

Everyone loves Centissimo the High-Strung Steinwhale!



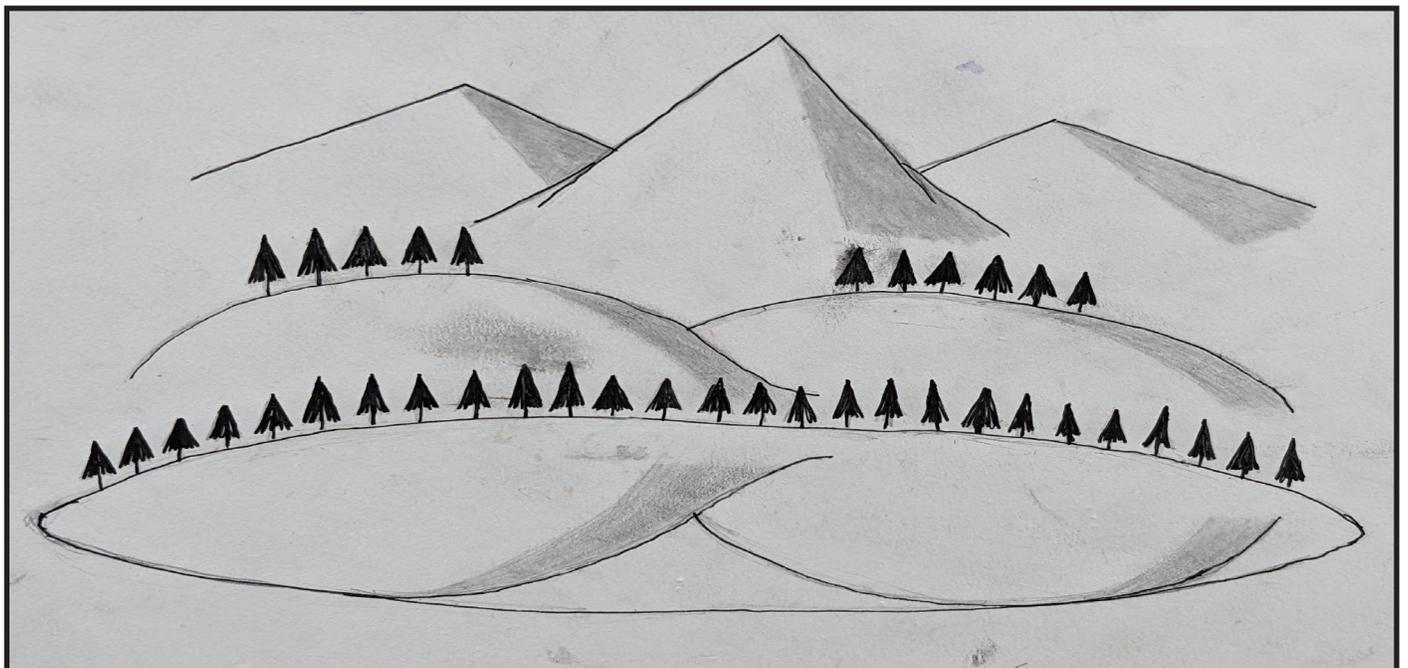
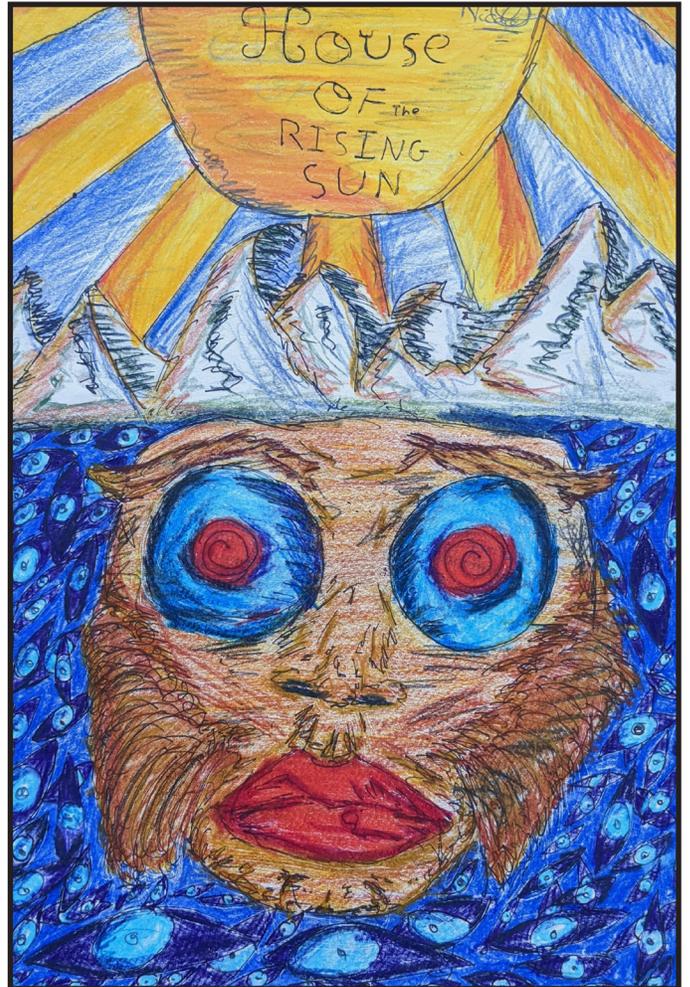
Shop van Gogh: Artistic Expression at Whitehead Island

Our remarkably beautiful saltwater outpost has long been a source of artistic inspiration. For many years now we've celebrated this with Shop van Gogh, a Whitehead trip devoted to the arts.

This summer campers were engaged in a variety of physical and performance art; improv and acting with our very own Matt Miller; drawings and pastels; and natural art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.

These are just a few of the pieces that were produced during this summer's Shop van Gogh.

*Artwork credits:
Nico Yadigaroglu, right
Luke Beatie, below*



Whitehead

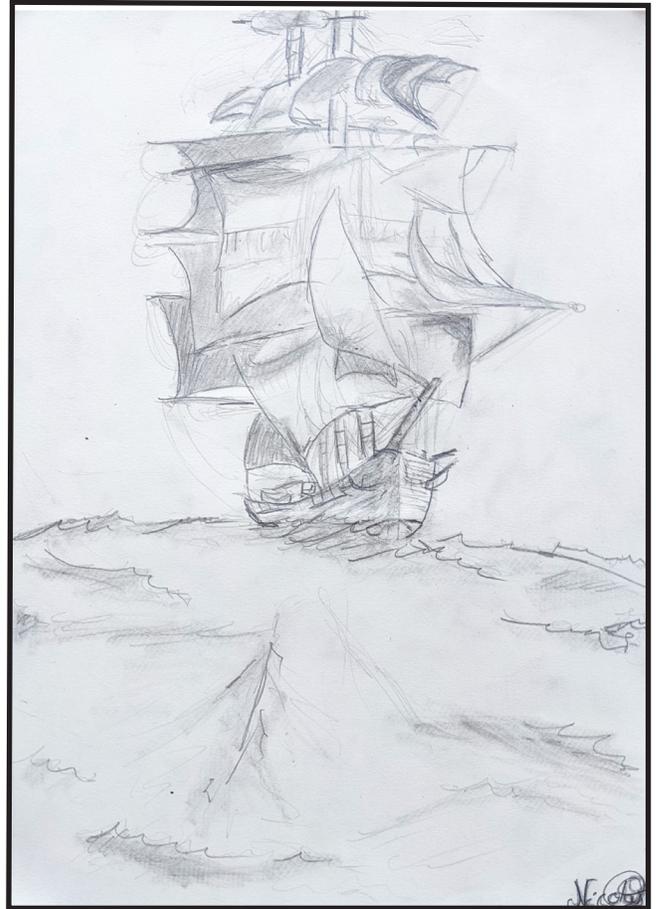
By Kai Harashima

*The crashing of waves, a rhythmic toll,
A Great Northern wind, the sailor's goal,
The granite beaches and skies of gold,
The ancient buildings, their stories untold,
Mysterious lights under misty skies,
Antiquated wights, far away cries,
Mossy stones and sky-bound pines,
Forest floors and draping vines.
These ancient forests and structures of old
Make Whitehead Island feel like gold.*

Artwork credits:

Nico Yadigaroglu, right

Charlie Gibbons, below



Trip Report: Moosilauke

By Hudson Eklund

One day I signed up for the Moosilauke Mountain Trip, AKA Moose Trail, along with six other people: Alvaro, Oliver, Finley, Desmond, Sam P, and Ethan. The leaders were Lily, Nick, and Connor.

It was a 4-hour drive to the base of the mountain. Once we got there we started our 1.5-mile hike uphill with bags weighing about 20-40 pounds. The views along the way were amazing. When we got to our first campsite we were all drenched in sweat. We took off our heavy bags and set up our tents.

We woke up the next morning at about 6 a.m., had a good breakfast, packed up our camp, and started our 2.3-mile hike up to the summit. When we got there, we all touched the sign that says 4,807 feet. This is one of the highest peaks in the White Mountains! From the summit, we had a 4-mile hike down to our next campsite. We were happy to unpack, set up our tents, and eat.

The last day was the easiest day. It was only a 1-mile hike to the road. We were excited to get picked up! We got sandwiches at the store stop, and then returned to PIC. We had a great time!

A few photos from the trip cameras

