

# The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

FEBRUARY 2012

## THE 100 YEARS WAR PINE ISLAND'S 100th WAR GAME TO BE PLAYED THIS SUMMER

It is played only once a year and nowhere else in the world. It is the great annual test of the community Pine Islanders have built in the course of the camp season, and Pine Island Always Wins. With obscure origins that some believe began with an apple fight, Pine Island's War Game was the invention of Dr. E.L. Swan and some of his associates. A children's book called *The Trouble With Father* about Theodore Roosevelt (the trouble, for his children, was that he was President of the United States) includes references to a game the children played on the White House lawn and it includes gates and lots of running around. This is the only,

and rather vague, reference to anything even resembling the War Game, and certainly today there is nothing played anywhere else that is remotely like the game into which it has developed over the past century. How lucky Pine Islanders are to be able to partake in this wild and imaginative game each summer and to be given the twin opportunities of building a solid community and then testing its strength and integrity.

Over the years many ideas have been bandied about as to what would be the best way to mark the 100th War Game. One idea that has cropped up over and over again is to have an Alumni War Game. When asked about it Director

Ben Swan has responded that he "...will not oversee the first War Game in which someone actually dies." Indeed, the idea of playing the game with adults quickly conjures up visions of heat stroke, violent arguments, and besides...who would serve as umpires?

With that wild notion firmly quashed, a committee of Pine Island's Board of Directors has moved on to far more realistic and far less terrifying ways in which we can mark the 100th playing of a game played in only one place in the world. Journalist Robert Moor has been collecting stories and photos of past games and hopes to place an article in *Yankee Magazine*. We are

creating a website that will be dedicated entirely to the War Game and its centennial. When it is ready one will be able to go directly to it from the PIC website, which is [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org). The site will contain a lot of history of the game and will highlight significant developments in the game, including its moving from site to site before settling in its permanent home in Norridgewock. We are designing a commemorative map of the current site that will include a time line of significant moments in the Game's long history. Keep an eye on the website or perhaps even the U.S. Mail to see the map and to find out how you can buy commemorative gear displaying it.



Ferry across Sandy River between War Game towns of Starks and Mercer, called the Davis Ferry, c. 1915. Ferryman Davis was paid for his services in whiskey.



Defenders waiting, c. 1913. Note the absence of a pole.



Plugged gate! War Game, 1959.



Gray general Jim Chapman (second from left) attacks South Gate at Fogg's Forks. Brother Andrew Chapman is to his right. 1969.



Action at East Gate in Norridgewock, c.1975.

# BLUE ARMY VICTORIOUS IN NORRIDGEWOCK

Making it two in a row, the Blue Army, led by General Harry Swan, soundly defeated the Grays, led by General Josh Treat, by a score of 175 to 145. As always it was a spirited and hard fought campaign and a challenging test of the community that had been built over the course of the camp season. Pine Island won again in spite of the usual stress-induced heated tempers, addled brains and fatigue-weakened limbs and judgment. The weather cooperated superbly and the food was terrific.

The Declaration of War included the usual bombast and calumny and elicited spectacularly loud cheering that must have alarmed residents of Great Pond who had not spent enough summers on the lake to learn not to be alarmed by almost anything short of smoke emanating from Pine Island. Ned Bishop delivered his Explanation of the Game after the Declaration, and after a short campfire the campers were off to bed while the staff swilled coffee and prepared for a long night of planning.

Practice day began early for everyone and soon the busses pulled out of the Camp Road and headed down the familiar (except for the pavement on the Martin Stream Road) route to York's Crossing. Blues and Grays split up and worked hard all day to perfect stepping and familiarize themselves with the site, including the newly cut Northwest Gate and road, and the strange new terrain in the northwest quadrant opened up by selective cutting done the year before. Mandatory showers sharpened everyone's appetites and the ACE Kitchen crew made sure dinner arrived on time.

There was a new wrinkle for both armies to contend with this year. The number of scoring points one could score, always limited to two, after which one is "dead" and must sit in the center of town, had been upped to three. The idea behind the change was to see if it would create less waiting around and more action for both the attackers and the defenders. Certainly everyone got to enjoy the thrill of scoring three times instead of

two, but whether the change actually led to less sitting around is uncertain.

The Blues attacked first and during the morning used a lot of mixed stepping, taking advantage of the new three-point rule, and it seemed to set the Gray defense back on its heels. The Blues got a lot of scoring points and also gained some crucial offensive challenge points. The Gray attack in the afternoon stalled early on and they had more trouble scoring than is customary. The first day ended with things looking fairly rosy for the Blues. Day two brought a much improved attack strategy in the morning for the Grays and the score tightened up a bit, but the Blues went into the last period needing a fairly modest number of scoring points to cement the win. Still, with the fog of war ever present at Norridgewock, General Swan sat nervously in the center of town, wondering about the score until his brother Rip informed him of two significant challenge plays that had gone in favor of the Blues during the afternoon, including the first

successful Blue Flag challenge play (engineered by Blue officer Nicky Isles) in many years. During the last hour of the game, as more thrice-scored Blues came in from the woods to the center of town and the large total of Blue challenge points was confirmed, the outcome of the game became certain. And yet, as is always the case no matter how certain the outcome appears, there is that moment when the head umpire steps forward to read the score when hope lives and doubt does too, and then there is wild jubilation or resignation followed quickly by the traditional Akka Lakka cheer that brings Pine Islanders together again to end the summer and start the endless retelling of the game.

More than one observer commented that the 2011 War Game was played with really superb attention to sportsmanship and to the sometimes hard-to-remember fact that it is a game for kids. Congratulations to the staff and particularly to the Generals and Executive Officers whose leadership set the tone.



*Blue General Harry Swan leaps in the air moments after hearing the final score.*



*Gray General Josh Treat counts Blue attackers at North Gate.*



*Medic Caroline Moughon in the infirmary tent*



*Squadron!!*



*Heading up to the Center of Town*



*Chow line*



# WATER SKIING INTRODUCED AT PINE ISLAND!

You thought it would never happen... but before you rush to your computer to fire off an angry email to Director Ben Swan about the decline of the old values, take a look at the photos that accompany this article. As hard as it may be to believe, a Pine Island camper, albeit a very small one, got up on water skis last summer behind the new war canoe powered only by human muscle! The old values are safe, and given the amount of energy expended by the paddlers for a short ski adventure, it is unlikely that water skiing will become anything more than an annual novelty.

Last winter's *Pine Needle* reported the generous gift of a completely restored Old Town war canoe to Pine Island Camp by Pine Island counselor, assistant director, parent, and member of the Board of Directors Tim Nagler. This gorgeous 25' craft arrived at Pine Island last June and was placed on the new cedar rack built the previous fall in anticipation of her arrival. The boat, yet to receive a name, quickly became a favorite among campers and staff alike because of her gleaming woodwork, her ability to handle a dozen paddlers, and her speed. While the Stimson-designed, custom-built, ultra-light War Yacht is known for her extraordinary seaworthiness, the meticulously restored canoe is truly fast. So fast, in fact, that an idea long dormant in the Director's brain began to reassert itself as the summer went on. Ben had heard somewhere that at another camp a boy had gotten up on water skis behind a war canoe. "Pine Island always wins!" said Swan confidently as he began to discuss the idea with pretty much anyone who would listen.

There were many doubters, and their numbers increased and became more vocal on July 15, the day of the Annual Regatta at Pine Island. As the rowing, kayaking, and canoeing races wound down, the focus was on the War Canoe time trials. These races had been run in the War Yacht in years past, but the new sleek war canoe, so clearly built for speed, was the obvious choice for the 2011 trials. It was toward the end of the time trials that a sudden energy took hold of Director Swan. "Where are those old water skis?" he urgently asked, much to everyone's confusion, "...and the tow rope?" An ancient pair of skis was found and a makeshift tow rope produced, complete with a grip fashioned from an axe handle. Down at the cove the excitement, and skepticism, were building. Swan asked the Ex-

pedition Campers, recently back from a sixteen-day canoe trip and in perfect condition for power paddling, to man the war canoe for the attempt and began searching for a skier. He was looking for someone with at least a bit of experience on water skis who was also very small.

Mateo Rodriguez Cortina, a nine-year-old first-year camper from Monterrey, Mexico was the first to bravely attempt to go where no Pine Islander had gone before. Mateo donned a life jacket, put on the skis and was held upright in the water by two members of the staff. The paddlers, led by Expedition Camp staffers Forrest Brown and Kit Smith, secured the extra-long tow rope to the stern of the war canoe and backed slowly into position. By this time an excited crowd had gathered and much advice was being proffered. Some said a speed of 30 m.p.h. was the minimum speed at which one could get up on water skis.

Finally the signal was given and the crowd began to shout encouragement as the war canoe surged forward, up to and then past the waiting skier. As the rope was about to become taut, the counselors holding Mateo up in the water gave him a gentle shove and... he did a face plant in the lake. Two more valiant attempts with Mateo wearing the skis came close to succeeding but fell a bit short, and the naysayers began to sway the crowd. "He's obsessed!" shouted someone from the back of the crowd. "Can't be done!" someone scoffed. "When's dinner?" shouted another.

Unwilling to give up quite yet, Swan called for another volunteer and up stepped the diminutive but fierce second-year camper Will Pomerantz of Brooklyn, NY. Will strapped in and the stalwart paddlers swung their craft around for another run at glory. Off they went and this time... "He's up!" yelled the unbelieving crowd. Indeed, Will Pomerantz not only got up on the skis but waterskied for a convincing distance before the paddlers had to slacken their pace. So energized were the Expedition Campers that they circled around and power paddled Will to a second successful run.

Displaying a generous spirit that surely made the ever observant King Kababa happy, Mateo and Will embraced as he emerged from the water, acknowledging by their solidarity that this historic moment was a shared one. We look forward to another attempt next summer on regatta day, so start bulking up, all you Expedition Campers!



*Launch imminent*



*He's up!*



*And skiing*



*And still skiing*



*Expedition Campers and counselors prepare to paddle.*



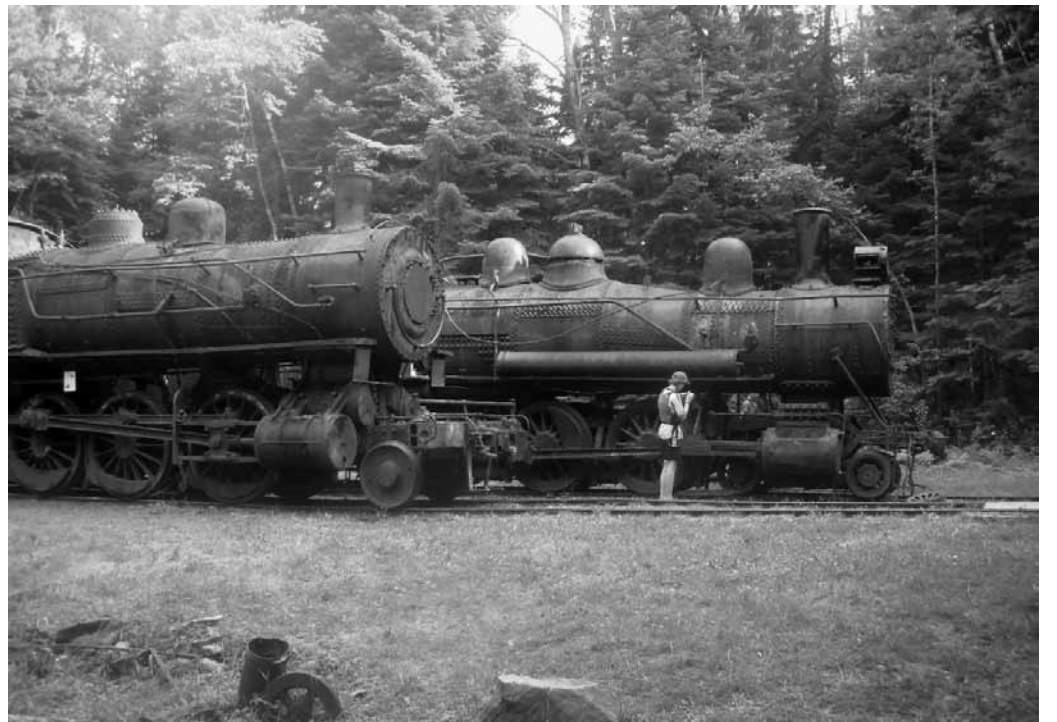
*Walking the canoes up Caucomgomoc Stream*



*Sunset from  
Caucomogomoc  
Dam*



*Sunrise in  
the Green  
Mountains  
of Vermont*



*Steam engines rusting near Eagle Lake*

## DREAM TRIP: EXPEDITION CAMP 2011

by Owen “Kit” Smith. Photos by Expedition Camper Ben Withbroe

In the movie *Inception* a skilled thief named Dom Cobb uses advanced biotechnology to subdue people in their own dreams and steal information from their subconscious. Played by Leonardo DiCaprio, Cobb is given a chance to make his past problems disappear if he can pull off one last job. Instead of stealing information, however, this time he must plant an idea in the mind of young man who has recently been named head of corporation with an uncertain future. Cobb must perform “Inception” using methods that tend to blur the line between dream and reality.

What does this movie directed and written by Christopher Nolan have to do with Pine Island Camp? Members of the 2011 Expedition Camp performed a one-hour rendition of this story in a Saturday Night Show—one of Pine Island’s most challenging yet rewarding activities. Though the characters and plot of our performance may have taken on a style more relevant to Pine Island, the idea was roughly the same. In the show, called *Ex-emption*, Will Mason and Max Huber decide that they are going to plant the idea in counselor David Kemp’s mind that he is actually a camper, but in a twist involving David’s brother, former

counselor Steve Kemp, it turns out that David has been the mastermind in control of the situation all along. During the rehearsals for the show, I could not help reflecting that these were not the only moments of Expedition Camp that had reminded me of *Inception*.

In the movie, time slows down when the characters enter someone’s dream. For instance, one hour in reality may be an entire day in the dream. This reminded me of the way the hours slid by on our 16-day canoe trip down the Allagash. There were some points during our journey when we were all alone, far away from the familiar, dull buzz of cars speeding along the freeway, far away from a cell tower, from a grocery store, just paddling stroke after stroke. In the dream world, one forgets about the past and future. Cobb explains that in dreams you can’t remember how you got to where you are. For anyone new to the great outdoors, this can sometimes be a scary reality to face. The quiet, empty space in the woods can become disconcerting.

Out on the river, we had no way to gauge real time other than the watch that I wore on my wrist and the abandoned one that Forrest had picked up

from a girls camp ahead of us. Each day we would brave the rapids, the wind and sometimes the rain as each of these obstacles came at us. Our never-failing and ever-turning Job Wheel kept us busy with the necessary day-to-day chores yet still left us with plenty of time to sprawl out on a pine needle bed at Scofield Point for a nap or read a few chapters from *Arundel* as we watched the sun go down over Gero Island. Whatever we were doing was the most important thing in our lives. And when we got back to Pine Island, we felt as if we had been gone for months. It was as if time had slowed down during our trip. Our dream had held an eternity within a pair of weeks.

Leaving our van and the highway behind, our hiking trip began with a goal in mind. We sought to reach the end of the trail and Mount Mansfield. We had our itinerary and we knew when we would face tough inclines. Forrest and I had made it the goal of the Expedition Camp program that the campers would ultimately take total control of leading the trip. The boys would have to discover this themselves, however. We had to plant the idea in their heads that they could successfully survive out in the wil-

derness. We had to perform *Inception*.

The first line of our Saturday Night Show mirrored the first line of the movie. DiCaprio’s voice speaks slowly, “You’re waiting for a train. A train that will take you far away. You know where you hope this train will take you; but you don’t know for sure. But it doesn’t matter. Because you’ll be together.” Floating down the river together late on a summer afternoon, our dream had become our reality. We had nowhere to go but with the current, down the trail, in search of something we couldn’t quite put our finger on.

When it was all over, we felt slightly different singing “Abide with Me” around the glowing embers of Pine Island’s campfire. A week later, we felt strange as we hurtled back in our cars to our cities and suburbs, to our practices and classes. I guess we had woken up, but something was left planted in our minds. We had lived an eternity, a dream within a dream. It didn’t matter where we were going or what train we were taking because we were doing it together. In any case, I would recommend seeing the movie if you get a chance, or, better yet, spend a couple of weeks on the Allagash. You will get the idea.



# POST AND PRE-SEASON MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PIC

## Tent Platforms Replaced, Moved, Quandary Created

For the third year in a row generous donations to Pine Island's Annual Fund have made it possible to move forward with much-needed improvements on both the island and the mainland. Local contractor Dan Trembly teamed up again this past fall with Pine Island staff member Ben Rausch to take on another Major Maintenance project. During the fall of 2010 the ace team, aided by Josh Treat and Rip Swan, replaced sills and the entire floor system in the boathouse, built steps, re-roofed the Cottage and installed new skylights, and shored up the precarious underpinnings of the O.A.R. office. This past fall Dan, Ben and Josh replaced six aging tent platforms on the West Range and in the Aristocracy.

We have established an efficient and effective routine for the fall maintenance projects. We approve the project or projects for the coming fall at the spring Board meeting, giving Dan plenty of time to fit a few weeks of work at PIC into his schedule. We then order all the materials for delivery the day after the campers leave while we still have 30 or so strong (and captive?) young people, the staff, in residence who can very quickly transport the materials to the island. We also leave the *K.W.S.* in the lake and the mainland and kitchen docks in to make transportation safer and more certain. The First Cabin on the mainland is now a cozy and efficient living space reminiscent of a hunting lodge and was home to Ben Rausch for the past two falls while he worked for Pine Island.

Ben took a short break to check in at home and line up winter work out in ski country and then began work on the island in September. He worked alone and with occasional help from former Major Maintenance teammate Josh Treat on the demolition and cleanup of the six tent platforms scheduled for replacement, three on the West Range and three in the Aristocracy. Dan arrived for some long days and work on the new tent platforms progressed quickly in spite of some rainy days. Working from the super-durable tent platform design created by Richard Beck and Rhoads Miller, Dan and Ben, using hemlock 4x6s, Port Orford cedar decking, and cedar logs from central Maine's cedar tsar Dave Peppers, built the platforms in about two weeks.

### Where is Tent 15?

Ever eager to improve life for campers and staff on Pine Island, Director Ben Swan came up with the idea that we could remove one tent platform from the overcrowded, barrio-like West Range, and add a tent platform to the prime real estate of the Aristocracy. Thus we have eliminated Tent 15 and spread out tents 14, 16 and 17, while shoring up the crumbling hillside between the Ridge and the Range and moving the three new platforms up the hill a crucial five feet or so. The result is a major improve-

ment to the West Range with beautiful new, well-spaced tent platforms and a much broader path between them and the lake. The platforms are built to last and some nice touches were added, including the use of cedar branches for diagonal supports. Meanwhile, the tent platforms for Tents 9, 10, and 11 had been removed and four beautiful new platforms fit nicely into the space they vacated. This gives us space for four more campers to live in the coveted Aristocracy.

These innovations of course created a quandary - what to name the new tent in the Aristocracy? Someone new to Pine Island might simply suggest that we start over at Tent 1 and rename all the tents after Tent 7. This would work except that certain tent numbers have certain personalities and associations that could not simply be ignored. For instance, Tent 12 would become Tent 13...an outrage...to the histories of both 12 and 13! Great minds have been hard at work on what to call the tent between Tents 9 and 10. One suggestion is to call it 15A, for aristocracy. Others suggested 9 ½, which of course led to the suggestion that we name it 9 ¾, in honor of the famous train platform in the Harry Potter books. What to do? Perhaps one simply calls it Tent 15, which of course would afford the seasoned Pine Islander the opportunity to answer the novice's question, "Where is Tent 15?" with a bluff, "Between Tents 9 and 10 of course!" We hope to have this worked out by the time we make up the tent list for the 2012 season.

### Further Improvements Made to the Camp Road, More in the Planning Stages

The decade-long campaign to improve the condition of the Camp Road and to eliminate runoff from the road into Great Pond continues. This fall we hired logger Duane Farmer of Norridge-wock to thin out the insurgent growth down the length of the road. Several truckloads of trees were removed, but one can hardly notice any difference. Care was taken to leave the most promising and healthiest big trees standing and to clear out dead and unsightly smaller ones. Once that task was finished a crew came in with a bucket truck to trim the dead limbs from the trees along the road. Ben Rausch also undertook the overdue clearing of insurgent trees that were crowding and threatening to promote rot on the Freight Shed. Road artist Maurice Childs of Belgrade will perform cleanup, ditch repair, grading and top dressing on the road once the frost is out of the ground this spring and the road is dry enough to work on. In the meantime, discussions have started with a local engineer who will help with the design of the final piece of the runoff-prevention puzzle. We hope to do this work next fall.

### Third Cabin and KCI Will Be Extensively Renovated This Spring Will House Expedition Campers

For six of the past seven summers Pine Island has offered a program known as Expedition Camp. It is a program focused on taking eight fifteen-year-old boys to the next level of independence and leadership through extended camping trips and a service project. The X-Campers, as they have come to be known, have lived either in two tents or in the Kopa or Northampton. Given the very few days X-Campers are in camp during the summer, we thought it would work well for them to live on the mainland and to have their meals and recreate on the island. Moving them to the mainland would have the advantage of eliminating Tent 21, originally meant to be a temporary dwelling built just below Honk's West Porch, thus allowing work to begin on restoring the path that once ran from Tent 18 to Magoon. In addition, Pine Island would be able to increase its enrollment from 87 to 91 campers without making the island more crowded.

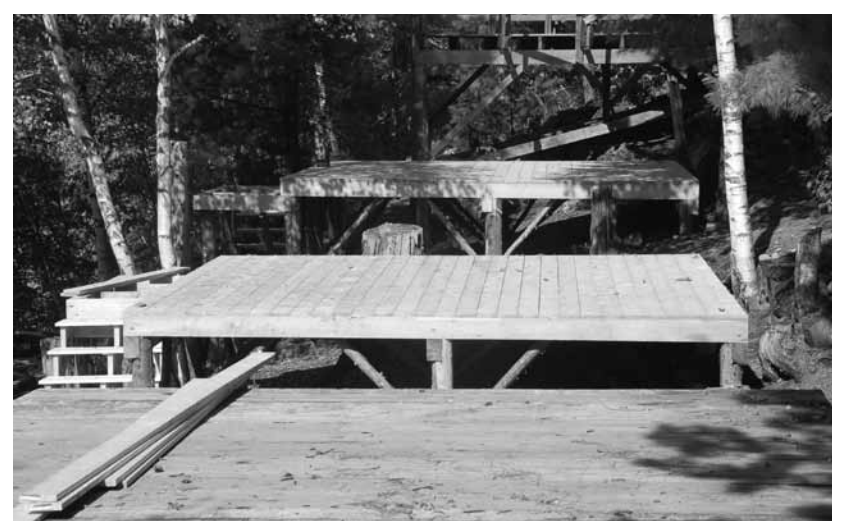
One of the three buildings that will comprise Expedition Camp's exclusive compound is the First Cabin. This building, once part of the old Junior Camp and at one time summer residence of Jun and Tats Swan, was extensively renovated in 2010 by Joel Taplin and will serve as the residence of the two Expedition Camp staff. The Third Cabin is also an original Junior Camp building and became first a day camp in

the early 1960s and then infamous as a counselor hangout during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s and '80s. This spring the old car seats and dilapidated propane refrigerator will go and Dan and his crew will put in a new floor, add two more windows, install four large skylights, and build in eight extra-long bunks of the type recently installed in Northampton. Next the KCI, which arrived along with the Santa Maria and the Office in the mid 1960s, served for many years as the summer school known as the Kababa Classical Institute. In recent years it has occasionally housed visitors. The KCI will be moved slightly to fit better visually into the circle of buildings and it will become the central building for Expedition Camp. The crew will open up the west and south walls to replace the windows with openings like those in the Pine Island dining hall, install a woodstove, build in seating along the walls, and replace the front door and front steps. The KCI will be further furnished with a large table and other comfortable furniture. The crew will rebuild some of the boardwalks connecting the three buildings, build a new dock and set up a permanent fire pit and benches for the telling and retelling of adventures out on the trail.

We wish to thank the many loyal supporters of Pine Island's Annual Fund for making it possible for Pine Island Camp to keep up with the maintenance of our many buildings, docks, boats, and the Camp Road and to undertake new projects as additional needs arise.



Tents 10, 9, and 8



New platforms on the West Range

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# VOLUNTEERS FOR SLOAN CRITCHFIELD MEMORIAL BOAT WORKSHOP WEEKEND ENJOY FALL SPLENDOR ON GREAT POND

Attendance was even higher for the 2011 Sloan Critchfield Weekend than it was in 2010 and the volunteers who joined in accomplished much. It is a tribute to the great work accomplished during the fall work weekend over the past few years that we were able to relax the pace a bit and even take on some non-boat maintenance work. We had gorgeous weather and as always wonderful food and a lot of fun.

With expert guidance from boat builder and Sloan Weekend boss Becky Farley, volunteers sanded, painted and repaired rowboats and sailboats, paddles and oars so that the Pine Island fleet will be in tiptop condition when we open the doors to the boathouse to

begin the 2012 season. When we ran out of boat work to do, Josh Treat and Will Webb rallied some of the younger folk and took ashore a couple of loads of planks and boards produced by the fall maintenance crew when they demolished several tent platforms. Evan Frank sustained a spectacular shiner in the operation. Some volunteers arrived Friday night and settled into their quarters in the Kopa Kababa, Northampton, and various other dwellings, and several arrived early Saturday morning. A combination of cooking by Amanda Pulver, Cecily Pulver, Eve Whitehouse and Sandy Holland produced the gourmet fare that Sloan Weekend regulars have come to expect, and once again the Saturday



*David Critchfield prepares to work on one of the Sloan 12 1/2s.*

night dinner by lantern light in front of the fire was spectacular. After dinner there was an extended period of hanging out, digesting, laughter, and some great blues guitar and harmonica by Rob Whitehouse and Walt Wakeman.

The volunteers ranged in age from single digits to 70s and included Amanda and Cecily Pulver; Eve and Rob Whitehouse; Becca Waldo; David Critchfield; Bobby Monks; Lowell Libby; Malcolm, Miles, Evan, and Isaac

Frank; Walt and Addison Wakeman; Alex and Jenny Shultz; Bert Lachmann; Nico and Ellen Walsh; Josh Treat; Carrie Turner; Sandy Holland; Ben Swan; Will Webb and David Kemp. Many thanks and Akka Lakka to everyone. Keep an eye on the Pine Island website and plan to join us next September for another beautiful weekend of good work, great people, gourmet dining, and the beauty of Great Pond in September.

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## LTIPS TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS, AS USUAL

by Simon Abranowicz, LTIP

Some readers of the *Pine Needle* may still not be familiar with what LTIP stands for. The letters stand for Leadership Training Internship Program, Pine Island's program for training great counselors of the future. Each summer five seventeen-year-olds are selected to work under the guidance of the "LTIP Wrangler" to learn everything they can about how Pine Island operates and how to be a great counselor. LTIPs are responsible for many of the less glamorous chores around camp but also undertake some interesting and creative projects.

In order to better deal with the firewood storage situation at PIC, we, the 2011 LTIPs, decided to undergo the grueling yet rewarding work of designing and constructing what quickly became known as the "Split 'n Pit." "The Pit" is a wooden structure on the mainland adjacent to the tennis courts where all the firewood for the island is split, stacked, and dried. Our goal was to be able to stack and access wood in a more efficient way. Ben Rausch, the LTIP wrangler, had the idea of making an arena where LTIPs could split wood like maniacs, stack and dry wood, and have a good, safe time doing it.

Rausch had a way of letting us know his plans without ever explicitly telling them to us. His instructions were something along the lines of "Let's do this," and we were on our way. First, we had to dig two-foot-deep holes in the ground about 12 feet apart. Then we put 12-foot tall cedar poles into the holes, and filled them with dirt so they poles would stand stable and sturdy. After that, we screwed long 2x4s between the poles and started moving the wood into place on the shelves. Once all of the "TIPs began to understand the plans that Rausch had been forming in his head, we began offering our own modifications. "Let's make an archway," one of us said. "Let's make a roof," said someone else. "Let's make it closed off." Fellow LTIP Adam Schachner was put in charge of creating the "Split 'n Pit" sign out of 2x6, parachute cord, and screws to hang over the arched entrance to the pit, the LTIP center of manliness. We are proud that our effort as a team and our skills as Pine Islanders allowed us to create an outdoor functional man cave of split wood that will serve PIC for many years to come.



*LTIPs Thomas Cox and Max McKendry help wrangler Ben Rausch with a railing project last summer.*



*Silas, Sarah, Jason, and Caleb Hunter*

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## SARAH HUNTER JOINS YEAR-ROUND PIC STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Hunter to Pine Island Camp's year-round staff. Sarah has been doing invaluable work for Pine Island for the past year maintaining our database, managing our social media presence, and assisting with recruiting and other communications matters. This fall we formalized her position, expanding her hours and creating the part-time post of Communications Director.

Many of you have already encountered Sarah through her work helping Ben set up recruiting events, respond-

ing to requests for information about Pine Island Camp and the Whitehead Light Station, and interacting with Pine Islanders on Facebook, among other things. She has quickly made herself indispensable through her efficient work habits, computer and social media savvy, organizational skills, and exceptional ability to work well both on her own and in collaboration with others.

Sarah lives in Durham, Maine with her husband Jason and their sons Caleb, age 9 and Silas, age 7. She is an avid outdoorswoman and spends consider-

# FAMILY CAMP

You can have as much fun on Pine Island as these folks are having by signing up for Family Camp 2012! Anyone who has attended will tell you that it is a memorable and relaxing long weekend of great food, excellent company, and an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of Pine Island with your family.

Family Camp falls the first weekend after the close of the regular camp season and is open to any and all, whether a current or former Pine Islander or not. Family Camp 2012 will take place August 9-12. It includes tent accommodations, three delicious meals a day, use of all Pine Island boats and facilities, and activity periods for children each day. Babysitting is available for the youngest children during the activity periods. Short excursions are organized to hike Mt. Philip, paddle to the bog, and ride the KWS to Belgrade Lakes, and we entertain each other around the campfire every night, just as Pine Islanders have done for over 100 years.

If you are interested in finding out more about Family Camp, go to [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org) and click on "Family Camp," or contact us at [eswan@pineisland.org](mailto:eswan@pineisland.org) or (207) 729-7714.



*When I go to camp, my mom won't be able to do this...*



*Nap time in Tent 12*



*Looking for some swimming gear?*



*Life on the beach*



*Dust Court action*

able time hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, and more with her family in all seasons. Following in her grandmother's footsteps, she has also become a beekeeper, establishing her first hive last year after extensive study of the literature and numerous conversations with experts, including a friend of the Swan family, with whom we have found her on several occasions immersed in earnest discussion of the finer points of hive management that are utterly befuddling to the uninitiated among us! She is an accomplished knitter and recently organized a monthly knitting group in her town. A graduate of the University of New England, Sarah is currently serving on the board of alumni, where she works to ensure that the traditions of her alma mater are preserved. Sarah is also the author of *Talking Hearts*, a collection of quotes and mini-stories about her boys that reveal universal truths shared by all children. Her book is archived in the Maine Women Writers Collection as the voice of a young mother in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Next summer Sarah will be spending at least one day a week at PIC, giving her the opportunity to get to know Pine Island campers and staff and to learn more about Pine Island traditions and the day-to-day operations of the camp. Welcome to Pine Island, Sarah!



## KING KABABA SENDS BEAUTIFUL, ANGRY TERRAPIN TO 2011 PINE ISLANDERS

King Kababa kept watch over Pine Island once again this summer, his view of the island from atop Mount Philip seldom obstructed by fog or clouds. A noticeably larger number of birch-bark-and-ballpoint-pen signs, all interpreted in an efficient and timely manner by resident Kababologists Harry Swan, Josh Treat, and Nicky Isles, kept us well informed of his feelings.

At the end of the summer, a special sign was received, indicating the King's wish that we embark on a sacred journey. A number of the younger campers were selected, and they and the Kababologists embarked on a day-long journey, receiving instructions via new signs that the henchman deposited along the way. The trek took them from the Colby playing fields, to the War Game site at Norridgewock, to Gifford's Ice Cream, and finally to the sacred home of King Kababa on Mt. Philip. It seemed that the King was pleased with us, and on the night before the Farewell Feed, campfire was once again interrupted by the sounds of drums and the high-pitched language of the henchmen. When everyone returned to the cove with their

hair safely concealed beneath their towels, the Campfire Circle was elaborately festooned with the henchmen's traditional decorations of torches and pine boughs. One of the henchmen transported Kababologist Josh Treat in a canoe out to the swim float, where he conversed with the head henchman, relaying his words back to shore. Eventually, the new animal was revealed, and we were informed of his name, Terrible

Thomas the Terrapin, and his chant:

"Cling clang, nonagon shell  
Terrible Thomas, mad as hell!"

Terrible Thomas is a large, turtle-like creature, with a nine-sided (nonagon) shell containing a small bell inside. Many thanks to the Kababologists and to the entire PIC community, who once again upheld the principles of the King.



*Terrible Thomas the Terrapin*



# BORN TO TEACH, PINE ISLAND'S WHITEHEAD DIRECTOR ANNE STIRES

by Ben Swan

When Anne Stires was 15 years old, Ben and Emily Swan hired her to be their son Harry's babysitter for the summer. The next summer, when Harry was 2½ years old, Anne supported Harry the reader as he began to memorize the full text of many of his favorite books and as his spoken vocabulary exploded (she wrote down all 262 words he learned—including kayak and camper). Neither Ben nor Emily had asked Anne to teach Harry anything. They just wanted Anne to keep him safe and happy as they went about the 24-hour-a-day job of keeping the Pine Island campers and staff safe and happy. Teaching Harry was Anne's idea, and it is likely that it wasn't so much her idea as it was her instinct. Anne has been teaching ever since and this fall fulfilled a decades-old dream of starting her own school, the Juniper Hill School for Place-Based Education in Alna, Maine. Anne's road to Juniper Hill wound through many places and experiences, one of which, fortunately for Pine Island Camp, was Whitehead Island.

Anne's own education, which she absolutely insists continues every day, included elementary school in Wiscasset, Maine, a year at the progressive Bank Street School in New York City, and 7th and 8th grades at the Great Salt Bay School in Damariscotta, Maine. For high school Anne attended St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, from which she graduated in 1994. She graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, in 1998 with a double major in Biology and English. Eventually Anne received an M.Ed. in Integrated Learning and Humanities and Science from Antioch and became certified to teach pre-K through 8th grade. Throughout her academic life, and even before she started school, Anne has had a connection to Whitehead Island, a place where she has learned, and taught, much.

When Anne was two years old she came to Whitehead with her parents to visit her father Kinne's Lincoln Acad-

emy colleague David Pope who, with his wife Linda, was directing the several trips Pine Island sent out to Whitehead each summer. In 1980 Kinne took over the reins of the Pine Island Whitehead Program, and for the next 14 years Anne spent as many as eight weeks each summer on the island with her father, mother, and sister Julia. "Much of what I do now as director of the Whitehead program is based loosely on the framework set forth by my father," Anne explains. "Tidepools, knot tying (including use of the board that he made), semaphores (using the flags and drawings that he asked Peggy Grant to make), and night/owl walks are all things my father did. I was greatly inspired by the way he led those activities, not to mention my desire to be barefoot just like him! As young girls at Whitehead in the summer, my sister and I picked blueberries and raspberries along the path to the Coast Guard boathouse, made seashell necklaces on Brown's Island, fished for crabs with periwinkles off the Swan Dock, played Toggle Toss and Nupletucker, ate lobster. Much remains the same on Whitehead even after 30 years of being out there."

After many summers at Whitehead, Anne moved to Pine Island and was caregiver for Harry Swan on Pine Island during the summers of 1991-1992. She returned to Whitehead Island to work in 1993-1994 when she became the cook for the Pine Island trips. As cook she found time to roam the island as she had as a girl and, always instinctively seeking ways to teach and to help teach, she assisted her father as he sought ways to make Whitehead Island an effective outdoor classroom. Even while she was cook she engaged Pine Island boys and staff in all kinds of educational adventures on the island. In 2002, when Anne was just 25, Ben hired her to fill her father's old job. She has been the director of Pine Island's Whitehead program ever since and will return for her 11th season in 2012.

Anne wrote recently,

"I have learned so much about myself as a teacher from my experiences as Whitehead director. I began at 25 years old, when I was also teaching residential environmental education and natural history school programs for the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset. I worked there for three years and saw the great intrinsic value in teaching/being with students in the outdoors in the form of increased engagement, knowledge retention, and healthy living. I began that first summer by 'teaching' a lot. I led natural history walks, we explored, created books, etc. By the following summer I realized that the last thing these boys needed was one more person to talk at them...instead, they needed to connect with being boys. They needed to explore the island on their own time, climb spruce trees after being chased and crawl on their bellies through sphagnum moss muck with mud on their faces searching for someone during the Whitehead Game, and sit on the rocks watching the waves roll in one at a time while holding a tiny sea urchin in their wet salty hand, feeling the spines move against their palm. These boys needed to reconnect to wildness, to slow down, and to be quiet. And to challenge themselves in Nupletucker, the Whitehead Olympics, or cold water swimming, walking in the woods at night, knot tying, or dueling the Barrel Roll. They also needed to jump from rock to rock, build forts from beached objects, and paint with saltwater. My job is to give the green light, to direct meaningful activities to help them accomplish safe and fun reconnection, and, then...to step out of the way. I have made close friend/mentorships with these boys, now having watched at least three 'generations' go from being nine-year-old campers to counselors in charge of the trips. We collect wild edibles for a feast and deeply explore the tide pools, writing guidebooks to both. We go on long ambling walks to special places around the island, often making up games, or building forts with story lines along the

way. Sometimes, we simply do solos...a quiet and introspective time to take in nature's rhythms and beauty—and a time to appreciate quiet and the magic of a spectacular island place."

Since graduating from Hamilton, during Anne's "off season" (the 11 months she is not at Whitehead) she has taught and studied in a few different locations, including the Chewonki Foundation, the Darling Marine Research Center, the Tanglewood Learning Center, the Sheepscot Valley Children's House Montessori School, and even back at the Bank Street School in New York. Throughout that time both of Anne's parents have been teaching and studying and encouraging her in her educational pursuits. Susan Stires holds an Ed.D. in literacy education and, a nationally recognized expert in literacy, was a founding teacher at the Center for Teaching and Learning in Edgecomb, Maine and is currently a professor of Education at Bank Street College in New York City. Anne's father Kinne taught for many years at Lincoln Academy in Damariscotta, Maine, and has been teaching for the past several years at the Fieldston School in Riverdale, New York. He hopes to retire soon so that he and Susan can return to the family home in Westport Island, Maine. Anne is hoping they will return to Maine soon so that she can utilize their vast experience and talent as she develops and expands the Juniper Hill School.

Juniper Hill, located in the former home of Anne's paternal grandmother, Jane Keyes, is not the first school of its kind but still represents a bold move in the world of elementary education. Anne became familiar with various forms of place-based education in the course of her graduate work, while working at the Chewonki Foundation as an environmental education teacher, and perhaps most importantly through the place-based education that Pine Island campers and staff have experienced at Whitehead Island since the 1950s (and Pine Island Camp since 1902), with-



Anne (smiling at the camera) on the dock at Whitehead with Susan Stires, Tats and Jun Swan, and David and Linda Pope



At a tide pool on Whitehead Island with camper Cormac Ryan



out ever having given the experience a name. It was in 2010 that Anne came to the realization that, with a bit of luck and a great deal of hard work, she could start her own place-based school. When her late grandmother's farmhouse and outbuildings became available she had the place, and the work began.

I visited Juniper Hill recently and found a thriving and beautiful school that felt like it had been there far longer than a few months. Anne and her co-teacher Zoe Foster have 25 students in their first year, ranging in age from 4 to 8 and covering Pre K - 2nd grade. Anne wrote recently,

“Our curricular philosophy is rooted in Place-Based Education (environmental education with the local natural/human community considered). The school is modeled after Nature Kindergartens or Forest Kindergartens - schools that believe that children benefit tremendously from spending part, most, or all of the day outdoors in all weather and conditions (except thunderstorms). We also subscribe to play theory -which seems an odd concept for which to have to advocate strongly since play is this age group's primary mode of learning and making sense of their world. We know so much about how children learn best and about their developing brains, and yet the larger educational system continues to push for rigid standards and now testing for young children. We also focus on something I am calling ‘heart education’ (some call it ‘humane education’), in which we do a lot of social modeling and teaching around loving kindness, emotions work and empathy, yoga, breath work, daily rhythm, and stillness. Even our kids at Juniper, whose families value all of the aforementioned, lead very busy lives, with one or two very hardworking busy parent(s). There are a few programs I emulate, one at Wilderness Awareness Schools and several at Waldorf schools in the US and Europe.”

Anne and Zoe arrive each school day between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. and the students arrive between 8:30 and 8:45. Anne has structured the school day around the idea of breathing out and breathing in. The students are outside until about 9:30, supervised and roaming around the fields and woods immediately surrounding the farmhouse, which sits by a meadow on a hill looking out over the valley through which runs the Sheepscot River. Moving indoors, they have a morning meeting for about half an hour at which they discuss their observations of the weather, wildlife they have seen, the trees and plants, the season, and each other. Anne and Zoe write down their observations each day and have already compiled a book of quotations. Morning meeting also includes singing, drumming, and lots of other musical interaction. Ten to 11:30 is “Work Time.” Some Montessori methods are employed here with the students choosing various projects that interest them from the shelves in the two main rooms. Some work on their own and others get guidance from Anne and Zoe. Besides teaching and administrating, Anne also spends time observing and essentially doing research to find out what works and what doesn't. Her only complaint

about her current situation is that she wears too many hats. She hopes to hire another teacher next year, but she is well aware that the too many hats syndrome simply goes with the territory of a new venture, educational or otherwise.

At 11:30 it's time to head back outside for “Golden Hour” before lunch. This time is dedicated to some specific nature lesson. One might wonder how, in the middle of winter in Maine, these kids stay warm. “Layers,” says Anne, and lots of movement. On the afternoon I visited Juniper Hill it was gray with temperatures in the low 30s. I got a bit chilly, but it was clear that not one of the children was at all cold. One little boy had shed his gloves because his hands were too warm. I lamented not having brought my snow pants and a better hat. After lunch at tables built by school parents (along with all the shelves and cubbies), it is quiet time until about 1:30, during which the students are engaged in drawing and reading. The house has been beautifully renovated to create five rooms that meet the school's indoor needs. One room just inside the front door houses the cubbies and has plenty of room for the students to change in and out of their outdoor clothes. Two rooms are given to Montessori-inspired shelves and work surfaces. One small room is a cozy reading room, and then there is the large kitchen where food is prepared and where everyone eats. The school is light and immaculate and full of interesting objects and beautiful, restful colors and lighting. Anne, her husband Jon Weislogel, her father Kinne, her five-year-old son Eben, and numerous school parents and friends have done nearly all the work, and the students help keep the place neat.

At 1:30 they head back outdoors until 3:15 when they have their Goodbye Circle. Parents arrive to pick up most of the students at 3:30. The whole group sings “Happy Birthday” to one school dad as he comes up the driveway. While we are waiting the children are happily busy in the woods behind the farmhouse. One little boy brings a bug up to Anne to ask what it is. We all marvel that there is any bug at all abroad on such a chilly day and Anne resolves to find out more about it.

Many readers may be wondering how such a seemingly open and free school can be sure of teaching children what they need to know to function well in school once they leave Juniper Hill. Anne writes, “The children are deeply connected to themselves, each other, and their environment here at Juniper Hill School. They will be prepared to stand on their own socially, academically, physically, but, look out, they may demand that they be taught in ways that are meaningful to them and in ways they can learn. Children here are getting all the same materials that other children are (for example, we take into account state/national benchmarks as we develop curriculum), but they are empowered to understand, ask questions, help each other, and experience what it is like to hold an education, as opposed to simply going through 13 years of schooling.”

Throughout my visit to Juniper Hill my main observations are that it is

clearly a school; that the students are engaged, busy, friendly, and communicative; and that Anne is relaxed and supremely happy, so clearly in a role she was meant to fulfill. Plans for Juniper Hill are ambitious. Already, with all the partial-day students now full-day, the three-day-a-week students now five-day, and two new students in the last month, they are outgrowing the house. Plans are afoot to put up a yurt on the property (anybody have a spare yurt?) and to convert Anne's late grandmother's guesthouse into another classroom space. Anne hopes to continue adding grades until the school serves students up through the 8th grade.

The Juniper Hill School is already a remarkable achievement, and anyone who has ever been part of starting a school or any other institution knows the myriad hoops that Anne and her

supporters have jumped through just to arrive at this point. One small example is the last-minute change in policy by the Alna planning board that forced Juniper Hill, all set to go last September, to hold its first three weeks of school elsewhere while the red tape was slowly removed. The drive, resolution, and sheer faith required to navigate such hurdles are not born simply of ideas and wishes, but of study, experience, and care. At only 35, Anne Stires has a surprising wealth of all three. But then again she had an early start!

I am very pleased to add that in spite of her heavy load of work relating to Juniper Hill, Anne will continue as Director of the Pine Island programs for campers on Whitehead Island. “Being at Whitehead Island is a rest for me. It resets everything. It is the most perfect classroom I've ever taught in.”



*Anne Stires with Harry Swan during the summer of 1991*



*Learning knots from counselor Harry Swan*



*Anne Stires and some of her Juniper Hill students*

PINE ISLAND CAMP 2011—ANOTHER GREAT SUMMER



Josh Byman weeps crocodile tears as Sam Lanoff and Harry Vollmer grin.



Sailing gets ready to head out.



Burning the midnight ke...



Loading canoes on Regatta day in preparation for a race



Sweet new built-in, extra-long bunks in Northampton



Mateo and Lucas Rodriguez Cor...



Anticipation at campfire



Fourth of July raft ready for ignition



Fourth of July raft ready for igni...



Assistant Director Will Mason with Justin Gaspard on Regatta day



Gracious Living in the Kopa with new oriental rugs



Skipper Kevin Hubbard helps load Senior Canoe.



Raccoon coat in hand, Kababologist Harry Swan returns from the Sacred Journey.



Danny Lewis and Dario Falcone carry food and equipment for Senior Canoe to the boat.



Counselor Josh Treat and another person yucking it up after dinner





*rosene in the Staff Office*



*Andrew Duncombe and Matt Hawkins*



*LTIP Nick Toole practices a song for campfire on his ukulele.*



*Martina and James Morton*



*Counselors Cody Smith and Kate Rausch*



*Gaelen Hall in kayaking*



*ition*



*Campfire on the Fourth of July with the rafts anchored off shore waiting for dark*



*One from the Ridge, One from the Range.....*



*equipment and food for*



*Counselor Emil Henry and Will Drury*



*Herman Zullow getting the hang of it in kayaking*



*istant Cook Eve Whitehouse*



*Lucas Rodriguez Cortina ready for fly-fishing class*



*Enthusiastic Island Cleanup crew on a Sunday morning*



## THE KEEPER'S LOG

A Successful Season of Growth, Learning and Re-Creation at Pine Island Camp's Whitehead Light Station

The 2011 Courses: Yarn, Craft Beer, Meditation and a Hurricane

The 2011 WLS season began with a very productive and enjoyable Spring Volunteer Week, which prepared the buildings and grounds for our summer students and guests. We ran four weeks of superb Adult Enrichment Courses, and welcomed two different groups who rented the facility, one for a long weekend, and another for a full week, both in mid-August. The courses were well attended, with students coming from many parts of the country. Our feedback questionnaires were full of rave reviews of the food, the staff, the instructors, and of course the place.

The 2011 courses included two sessions of *Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction*, *The Art and Science of Beer* and *Knitting from the Yarn Up*. Instructors Dr Robert Cox, Charlie Papazian and Shannon Okey worked very hard and generously gave of their time and expertise to make all the courses memorable and valuable for the students. Returning WLS cook Mary Podevin was able again to take time from her home in Avignon, France to cook fabulous meals for everyone. Captain Matt Wall returned for his second season to take great care of the boats and also to make countless improvements to the buildings and systems to keep everything shipshape. He also took course participants out on *Biscuit* cruises in the early morning and in the evenings to share the beauty and richness of the local scenery. New in 2011 was Island Manager Gigi Lirot from Arlington, MA. She managed the logistics and tirelessly assisted with cooking and captain duties. Ashore WLS was assisted in many different ways by Spruce Head resident Dorothy Meriwether. Dorothy took care of the trash and recycling and made runs to Rockland and to the Portland airport to pick up and drop off students.

### Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

During the peak of mid-summer when heat and humidity made being outside unbearable in many parts of

the country, those attending the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction courses enjoyed beautiful days with a nice sea breeze, never-ending views across the water, and cool comfortable nights for sleeping. For some Mindfulness students days began early with a boat excursion on local waters to watch seals bask in the morning light, to see beautiful yachts making their way into and out of Penobscot Bay, and to enjoy the beauty of the water itself. Robert Cox's masterful instruction took up much of the rest of the morning, while afternoons provided some free time for walks in the beautiful spruce forests or along the flat rocks by the sea. As always, the staff served beautiful and healthy meals and provided snacks made with local fruit at the tea breaks between course work and relaxation. For many the course was truly an opportunity for re-creation and a life-changing experience.

### The Art and Science of Beer

Hurricane Irene threatened to dampen the mood of Charlie Papazian's Beer course, but she only provided entertainment in the form of howling winds and wild sea spray for the beer enthusiasts. Like the local fishermen preparing their boats and piers for the impending storm, the WLS staff prepared the Light Station for whatever weather might come their way. As Irene grew in strength, course participants enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon playing "hurricane croquet" in the meadow, protected from the winds by the dense spruce forests. By nightfall, winds were over 50 knots, waves were breaking on the Whistle House, and spray was flying well over the top of the lighthouse. Everyone on the island came through unscathed as Irene weakened to a tropical storm and passed west of the area, allowing students to venture over to the mainland for the beer course's annual pilgrimage to a local brewery. Students enjoyed instructor Charlie Papazian's company and deep beer knowledge all week as well as the

company of other students from around the country, wonderful food, and even some honey mead a returning student had made and left in the basement to age over the winter.

### Knitting from the Yarn Up

Those who know knitters know they are serious about their habit - I mean hobby. Knitters from all over the country came together for Shannon Okey's knitting course and formed a very close-knit group. Even before the trip aboard *Biscuit* to the island, the needles had come out! Course participants dyed yarns on the old foundation, rinsed them in saltwater, and then hung them to dry in the shadow of the lighthouse. One could constantly hear the sound of needles working away in the hands of knitters sitting outside on the Adirondack chairs and in the sitting rooms of the Keeper's House, connecting the students to residents of the Light Station in its earliest days. On the last evening of the course the students presented each of the staff with soft, warm, and beautiful hats they had made and a "recipe" for a perfect Whitehead Light Station experience.

### Rentals and an October Getaway

Rental groups in 2011 wrote that they had a spectacular time, loved the incredible setting, felt privileged to have spent time at Whitehead and are eager to come back again! The 2012 schedule again includes some time that the entire facility is available for rent, including the services of a captain and use of the lobster boat *Biscuit*. Check the website for details and availability.

2011 also brought a new concept at Whitehead Light Station, a long weekend get-away held in early October. The Light Station was opened to the public, offering single and double rooms for a spectacular, all-inclusive relaxing weekend. Guests were treated to fabulously warm summer-like weather, crystal

clear skies for stargazing, a sunny boat excursion through the neighboring islands, and wonderful food, including a traditional lobster feast on the rocks. All of the guests have already requested a spot in a repeat of the long weekend for 2012.

## Looking Forward To The 2012 Season

### Volunteers

We will begin the season with the usual Volunteer Week (June 2-9). It appears that we have already accepted as many new volunteers as we can for 2012. It is a lot of work but a lot of fun, and of course it's the Whitehead Light Station! If you are interested in joining the volunteers at WLS at some point, contact Island Manager Gigi Lorot at [info@whiteheadlightstation.org](mailto:info@whiteheadlightstation.org).

### Open House for Local Families

This year we will celebrate the Summer Solstice with an open house in June. Whitehead will be open to local families and fishermen for the day, during which we will bring local people up to date on how the Light Station is being used and the work we have done to preserve the historic station. We hope to gather stories and information about the station's rich history from the many family members of past keepers who still live in the area.

### Wedding Bells!

Also in June we feel privileged to be hosting the wedding ceremony of a woman who spent the first year of her life at Whitehead Light Station. She is the daughter of a former Coast Guardsman who was a light keeper at Whitehead.

### The Courses

The 2012 Whitehead Light Station season is going to be a very busy one! This year we welcome two new instructors: Lily Sibley and Susan Beebe. Lily Sibley, owner of Ocean Spirit Yoga in Portsmouth, NH, will teach our Heart of Yoga Course July 5-10. Susan Beebe of Rockland, ME, will teach Plein-Air Oil Painting, "The Magic of Maine Woods & Water," August 3-9.

Dr Robert Cox will again teach his popular "Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction" July 19-25, as well as a much requested advanced version for Intermediate Meditators planned for July 12-18. Charlie Papazian's fourth annual "The Craft of Beer & Brewing" course is scheduled for July 27 - August 1. The knitting course in 2011 was so well re-



Mindfulness Meditation in the Whistle House



Out on the rocks by the Whistle House





2011 Beer course participants enjoy beer post lobster feast on the rocks!

ceived that it just must be repeated. Shannon Okey will again hold a Beginner/Intermediate knitting course to round out our season, running August 31-Sept 5. Daisy Martinez plans to be back by popular demand with a cooking course, also in August.

Check out the WLS website: [www.whiteheadlightstation.org](http://www.whiteheadlightstation.org) for further information on courses, rental and volunteer opportunities.

## Projects Completed and Projects Planned

Thanks to the efforts of many hard-working volunteers during the June 2011 Volunteer Week, a number of projects were completed in addition to the annual mowing, window washing, and cleaning at the light station. Volunteers did a great deal of work on the Whistle House, installing a large storage closet, removing an old and very heavy stove, scraping and washing the brick walls, and reworking the shop space by the door. Volunteers gave the Fuel House its own electricity and composting toilet and did a lot of work on the cupola. The results were a very snug living space. In addition, valiant and determined volunteers finally completed scraping and painting the trim on the School House exterior.

A few projects are in the works to maintain and improve the facilities. A smaller but critical project is the commissioning of a second cistern. After 3 weeks of heavy use and almost no rain, the Whitehead well went dry in early August of 2011. Staff scrambled to haul



2011 WLS Staff:  
Mary Podevin,  
Gigi Lirot, and  
Matt Wall

fresh water from the mainland and put water conservation practices in place, and all went smoothly. A few days of rain storms brought water back to the well, but we all learned our lesson. The additional water storage will ensure adequate water supply for an entire summer of courses and rentals.

The big project for 2012 is the construction of staff housing. Plans have been drawn for a two-bedroom, one-bathroom structure to be located near the foundation of the Keeper's House that was torn down in the 1970s. Volunteers will transport materials and build the structure this spring.

If you would like to contribute to the staff housing project, email director Ben Swan at [benswan@pineisland.org](mailto:benswan@pineisland.org) to find out more about the projects and its costs.



Volunteer Lou Reeck touching up the Keeper's House

## Whitehead Light Station 2012 Courses

*The Heart of Yoga with Lily Sibley*  
July 5 - July 10, 2012

*Deepening the Mindfulness Practice with Dr. Robert Cox*  
July 12 - July 18, 2012

*Beginning Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction with Dr. Robert Cox*  
July 19 - July 25, 2012

*The Craft of Beer & Brewing with Charlie Papazian*  
July 27 - August 1, 2012

*Oil Painting: Magic of Maine Woods and Waters with Susan Beebe*  
August 3 - August 9, 2012

*Cooking With Daisy with Daisy Martinez*  
August 17 - August 22, 2012

*Beginner/Intermediate Knitting with Shannon Okey*  
August 31 - September 5, 2012

Registration form and further details available at [Whiteheadlightstation.org](http://Whiteheadlightstation.org)

Please email [info@whiteheadlightstation.org](mailto:info@whiteheadlightstation.org) with any questions or to register by email!

Call (207)2007WLS or (207)200-7957



New plywood moving machine...

## CAMPERS WRITE

Since 2007, former camper, counselor and assistant director Michael Robertson has been making an annual summer pilgrimage to Pine Island to conduct a day or two of journalism seminars with campers. Upon his return to civilization each summer, he has compiled the fruits of these campers' labors into an on-line Mid-Summer Pine Needle. Distributed electronically to camp parents and other Pine Islanders in the middle of the camp season, it offers a wonderful glimpse into the spirit and activities of each Pine Island summer while it is in progress. The pieces below are excerpts from last summer's Mid-Summer Pine Needle.

### THE NEXT MEAL

by Tucker Johnston, age 14

One of many campers' favorite aspects of Pine Island Camp is the delicacies served in the Dining Hall. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, you can count on something delicious being on your table. The Kitchen Crew dedicates many hours of their day feeding the hungry boys of PIC. Every day I find a bowl of granola is the perfect way to start your day. But if you're not a cereal person, there is always some delicious breakfast course, whether it be French toast and bacon, or muffins and sausage.

For lunch you can find meatball subs or quesadillas upon your table. But many say the best meal of the day at PIC is dinner. For dinner you have an array of spicy Mexican food, or any form of pasta with delicious garlic bread.

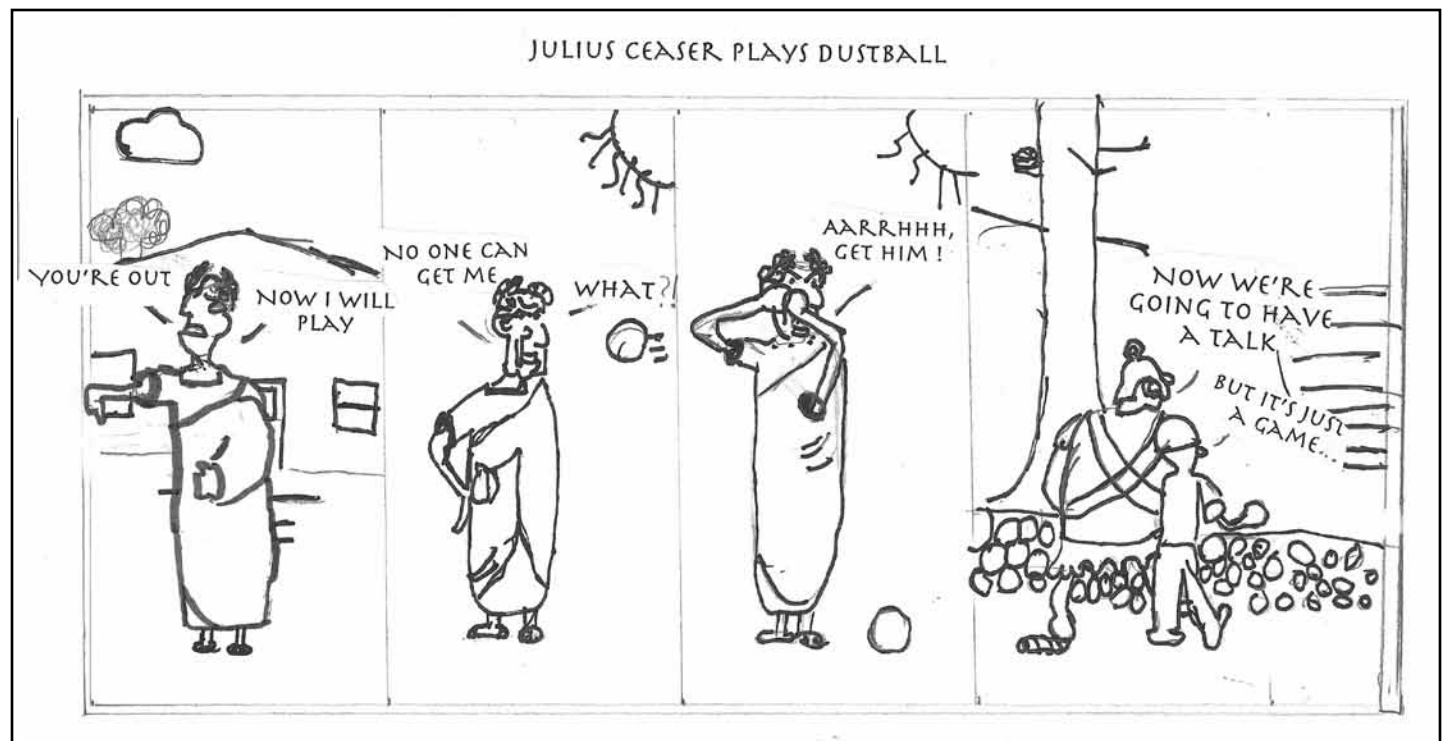
But the thing the Kitchen Crew does best is dessert. At the end of every meal, you anxiously await the arrival of the dessert. Whether it is sugar cookies or a delicious array of cakes, you're sure to enjoy it. At the end of a hard day's work rowing or playing tennis or whatever you may do, you always look forward to the next meal.

### THE LAST MILE

by Noah Brodsky, age 13

Feeling the burning sensation in my legs, tiredness washed over me as I climbed over the rock that stood towering over me. One last mile, one last mile was all I was thinking as we neared our destination on the second day of Maine Peaks. Maine Peaks is one of the many amazing trips that were sent out at the beginning of the summer. This particular day we had been going on a difficult part of the Appalachian Trail for about eight miles. We all wanted to reach the end for the long-awaited sleep that was one of the two things keeping us going. The other was food.

We came to a sign that said "Piazza Rock Campsite, 1 mile." Now I knew for sure that there was only one mile left. We stopped for one last break, and I let the cool, smooth, clean taste of water flow down my throat. I knew that for this last mile I wouldn't stop. And I didn't. We started up again at a relatively fast pace. After about 15 more minutes of the burning sensation still lingering in my legs slowing growing worse, we caught sight of the campsite. Finally, after what seemed like eternity but was probably three seconds, we set down our packs and let the tiredness take over. That was the last mile.



by Benedict Santos-Pearcy, age 11

### DUSTBALL

by Matt Miller, age 12

Picture a game of dodgeball with only one ball and no sides. Roughly . . . that is what dustball is. The game is played in a large dirt court outside the Dining Hall. Any number of people will play at a time. At the beginning of the game someone will spike the ball into the air, then a frenzy breaks out to try and claim it. Some smaller campers will take this time to run back to the corners, where

they are less likely to be hit. By now one camper will have the ball and have gotten out those still standing around him. One rule in the game is that the person with the ball may only take three steps before throwing the ball.

What really brings a twist into the play is that if the person that got you out gets out, then you're back in. It becomes extremely difficult to win, because you have to get each and every one else who is playing out or else you can't get someone out without letting people in. People have a large variety of strategies.

Some people create alliances with their friends. The only problem with this strategy is that in the end there is not one else to get but those friends. Others will stay back and only when the ball comes to them will they pick it up and get a few people out. The system works pretty well, but only if you are quick to get the ball. Whatever way your play, though, you are sure to enjoy the game and its diverse gameplay . . . . I know I do.

### THE YACHTS OF PINE ISLAND

by Matt Hawkins, age 12

Pine Island has a variety of boats that are used in activities and Boats Out. Our sailboats are two custom catboats, four JY15 racing yachts, and two Bezumerangs, which are small boats a bit bigger than a Sunfish. Our fleet also includes five dories, named after the Beatles – John, Paul, George, Ringo and Stu. We also have many canoes and kayaks, which are sometimes used for trips.

Boating at Pine Island can range from extremely difficult to easy. Each activity has different ranks, and as you reach a higher rank, you are given new options to explore in boats.

My own experience in boating includes rowing two miles, soloing a Bezumerang, and bracing a kayak. Ranks are achieved by completing "blocks," which are separate skill achievements. I have my first two ranks in both sailing and kayaking, and my first rank in canoeing and rowing. Overall, I think that sailing Pine Island's fleet is a great way to spend a morning, or afternoon, or both.

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES: RECOLLECTIONS OF PINE ISLAND CAMP BY THE LATE DR. FRANK WHITEHOUSE

Board member Tim Nagler traveled to Lynchburg, Virginia in October of 2008 and interviewed Dr. Whitehouse just three months before the Doctor passed away at age 95. Dr. Whitehouse was a highly regarded physician, academic, and marksman. He was a camper at Pine Island during the summers of 1927-30 and was the oldest alumnus to attend the camp's centennial in 2002. Below are some of his recollections of Pine Island over 80 years ago. Our thanks to Tim for making the trip and for transcribing Dr. Whitehouse's recollections.

Dr. Swan came to Lynchburg in about 1926 and my brother and I went to PIC in 1927. I was a senior camper and my brother a junior camper. I last attended in 1930 when I went to Hampden-Sidney that fall as a freshman. I was in Tent 12 with Arnold Sammis and Matt Guyer.

To take out a boat then it was required that one could swim a quarter mile, which I did. It began at the upper end of the Island and ended near the Cove. A PIC pin that I still have framed was given at the end of about ten achievements I did with pleasure. I can't remember what they were, but they had to do with boating skills, some sports, and a run the length of the Camp Road. The tennis court was on the Island and a baseball diamond was on the mainland. I was active in that. I think there was also a rifle range that I excelled in.

The big trip was on the *Cygnus* and we had a week's cruise on the Maine coast with Captain Pratt. We found this to have many fine harbors. I well recall the water was phosphorescent at times. In a bet I swam around the yacht with pleasure in the cold water. I think we also fished, and I recall Captain Pratt called us "damn frigging rats" when we were throwing white jellyfish - the floating sea creatures - at each other.

The camping trips were great and included the Seven Lakes and Eleven Lakes canoe trips. A hike over the Mt. Washington range was great, as was a

combined canoe and hike on Mt. Bigelow. Katahdin was great, but we ran out of food the last day but rigged fishing gear and had brook trout and blueberries. A trip down the Kennebec was great by canoe and in those days timber was floated down the river that we enjoyed coping with.

The workshop was headed by John Gardner, and I made model sailboats and enjoyed the time spent there. John later became quite a man in boat design. I was a Hundred Percenter. My tent mates were great friends all three years. Arnold also became an M.D. later and Mace was a top tennis player. There were three clubs: Welder (I was such), Leaguer, and Far Superior that competed in various things. Also I was in the Gray Army for the War Games. I was on the flying squadron. My son Frank Jr. was also a counselor and General of the Gray Army and won over the Blue Army. He also updated the rifle range.

The sacred animal was quite an affair and a lot of fun. My first year it was Flo-Flo, the Fuzzy-headed Hockadorus, and the second it was Boo-Boo, the Bucolic Black Bear. A play each Saturday night in the Big Dorm [Honk Hall] and the library also was there. A weekly pamphlet (the *Pine Needle*) gave all the events of the week and it is a shame the big fire destroyed them all.

Campfire had varied programs and all ended when we gathered around the campfire in a circle and sang "Abide with Me."

The trip to PIC was by train [from Lynchburg] to New York, where we had a Pullman car for the PIC group. We were met at the station in North Belgrade for the trip to camp by bus.



Frank Whitehouse  
1929



Head of the Camp Road in 1929 when Frank Whitehouse was a camper

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN BELGRADE AREA CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS

### Maine Lakes Resource Center Opens in Belgrade Lakes

Located in the heart of Belgrade Lakes Village at 137 Main St., the Maine Lakes Resource Center is an initiative of Docks to Doorways — a coalition of Colby College, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) and the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA). The group raised \$2.5 million with a \$450,000 challenge grant from the Harold Alford Foundation to acquire the property and build the center, which held its grand opening on September 2, 2011. Kathi Wall, executive director of the center, said the center's focus is to make lake conservation a tradition. She's hoping the center will help increase awareness throughout the watershed, so decisions regarding everything from land development to road work will take into consideration the effect they will have on lakes. Polly Beatie, Pine Island parent, neighbor, friend, and daughter of Belgrade Lakes Association founder and PIC alum Wilson Parkhill, is now president of the Belgrade Lakes Association, which recently opened an office in the Center. Beatie said she is glad to be in the same space with other organizations the association collaborates with on a regular basis. "The ability to meet with everybody we ordinarily like to stay in contact with is going to be excellent, and the fact that we'll support each other and work together on programs and events is amazing." Pine Island parent Jack Schultz and his wife Diana were instrumental in this Herculean effort.

#### Another Important Piece of Property on Great Pond Saved by the BRCA

Thirteen years ago the Belgrade Lakes Association purchased 207 acres on an area known as The Mountain and donated the property to the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance for long-term stewardship. The BRCA

and BLA worked together to design and construct the current "Long Pond Loop" hiking trails, parking lot and kiosk. The property is now heavily used by BRCA and BLA members, Pine Islanders, local residents, and visitors for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Last February the BRCA purchased an additional 41 acres that includes the highest point on The Mountain. Acquiring this property will enable the BRCA to protect the top of The Mountain from development, add to the existing trails, permanently protect almost half a mile of existing trails and open up additional views, especially of Great Pond. Additionally, it will permanently protect and preserve the view of the skyline from Great Pond.

#### Pine Island Parent and Grandparent Bob Joly Dies, Leaves Conservation Legacy

Robert Joly, father of Pine Islander Michael Joly and grandfather of Bobby Joly, died at the age of 83 on February 9, 2011. Bob moved his young family from Waterville, ME to the shores of East Pond in Smithfield in 1956. He became a champion of lake water quality and was actively involved in the founding of the Conservation Corps, an organization that employs young people from the local area to work on maintaining and improving water quality in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. He worked tirelessly in all areas of conservation and it was largely because of his vision and energy that much of the conservation work from which we are all now benefiting got started and kept going. Bob's work and his commitment will be honored each year with the Bob Joly Youth Conservation Corps Award, which will go to the outstanding Corps crewmember at the end of each summer work season.



The new Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes

# SECOND ANNUAL WINTER CAMPFIRE IN NEW YORK CITY!

## Pine Islanders from Across the Country Gather to Celebrate

New Yorkers were quick to point out that Ben and Emily Swan had once again brought winter weather with them from Maine to the Big Apple, but few Pine Islanders were deterred by the snow and sleet and there was a big crowd on hand for another great evening of delicious food, catching up, and of course campfire. Pine Islanders, including returning campers, parents, alumni, returning and recent counselors, and prospective campers, began arriving at the loft space in the DUMBO section of Brooklyn around 6 p.m. and immediately tucked into the local gourmet pizza and dazzling hors d'oeuvres. Thanks to the efforts of alumnus Charlie Birney, who arrived from Washington, DC in an ice-encrusted car the morning of the Campfire, the loft was again transformed into a very Honk Hall-like space that made everyone feel right at home. Catching up and sharing tales of past summers brought the volume up, and around 7:15 Charlie and his crew put most of the tables away and arranged the space for Campfire. Additions this year included a small stage and two oriental rugs.

OD Ben Swan got the campfire started when he asked alumnus Peter Klivans, who had made the trip all the way from San Francisco with his family, to "light" the campfire. Rip Swan was first up with the rousing A-Ree-Chee-Cha audience participation "song" designed to get everyone on his or her feet and into the campfire spirit. Music director Matt Clarke was up next with a rousing rendition of the old favorite "Charlie and the MTA." He got help from Will Mason on the drums and Charlie Birney on banjo and vocals. Next was a campfire game called EecheemeenieHoy that involved six camper-age participants. Returning camper Noah Brodsky, with help from Matt Clarke on guitar and vocals, Will Mason on drums and recent camper Moss "The Boss" Robeson on keyboards, performed the Guster song "Satellite," followed by the appearance of

Kababologist Josh Treat, resplendent in the traditional raccoon coat.

Earlier in the day Josh had visited the Natural History Museum and much to his amazement found a faint sign from King Kababa on a birch tree inside one of the dioramas. He was, of course, unable to bring the sign to campfire, but the message was clear: the King had delivered the long-lost chant for the sacred animal Bazooma the Frog, and had instructed Josh to teach it to the gathering. The new chant, "Ba... BaZOO...BaZoomaZOOMaZOOMa!" rang out three times followed by the traditional "Whoa King Kababa!" repeated three times in the direction of Mt. Philip. Some confusion preceded the chant concerning the direction of the sacred mountain after Kh.D. Treat consulted his iPhone's compass app, but the volume of the chant ensured that it would eventually reach the King's home.

Next up was the big musical hit of the evening, "Two Letter Blues," written and performed by camp parent Stephen Lewis about the bittersweet experience of having a child away at Pine Island for six weeks, first performed by Stephen at Family Camp. The stage was then quickly transformed into a decidedly Pine Island version of the Jeopardy set and Rip Swan and Jack Faherty chose three contestants to vie for the title of Pine Island Jeopardy champion. Using flashlights to indicate they had the answer, the contestants, Harry Vollmer, Ned Rossman, and Jacob Ronson racked their brains to find the answers to questions about Pine Island. The categories included Kababology, Pine Island History, Activities, and the War Game. The Final Jeopardy category was Trips. Jacob Ronson took top honors in a spirited contest.

Matt Clarke, Will Mason and Moss Robeson then performed the ballad about the Man Gulch forest fire tragedy "Cold Missouri Waters," followed by an original jazz tune by Moss Robeson with help from Will on drums. The final

number of the evening was a re-write of "Wagon Wheel" by the Old Crow Medicine Show performed by all the musicians who had already performed, plus returning campers Will Pomerantz on guitar and Matt Hawkins on ukulele. Having eschewed the PA system that had over-amplified the music in 2011, we found it difficult to hear the customized lyrics, but everyone joined in on the chorus and rocked the loft. The campfire ended with the traditional singing of "Abide With Me."

Many stuck around after campfire for more visiting and to enjoy the fabulous "Kababa Krunch" ice cream made especially for the occasion by alumnus and artisanal ice cream maker and Brooklyn entrepreneur Jonathan Eklund. Eventually the revelers headed out into the cold to their cars and the subway, but everyone was warmed by the glow of the evening.

### Save the Date!!! 3rd Annual Campfire in New York: January 26, 2013

The third annual Campfire in New York is already on the calendar: Saturday, January 26, 2013. This is the weekend before the Super Bowl and we have already booked the DUMBO Loft for the occasion. If we have your email address, you will receive reminders and instructions on how to reserve your tickets. If we don't have your email address, by all means contact PIC Communications Director Sarah Hunter at [shunter@pineisland.org](mailto:shunter@pineisland.org) and be sure we have it. You can also be sure of keeping up to date by joining the Pine Island Alumni Society. Just go to [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org) and click on "Join the Alumni Society."

We are already planning improvements and looking for good acts to entertain the lucky folks who will be there with us. Send your ideas to OD Ben Swan at [benswan@pineisland.org](mailto:benswan@pineisland.org). See you there!



Alumnus Matt Clarke and current camper Noah Brodsky performing at Campfire in New York

## AWARD WINNERS 2011



San Francisco alumnus Peter Klivans and his family at Campfire in New York



Director Ben Swan with 2011 Loyalty Award winner Jacob Ronson of Richmond, VA. Dario Falcone of Villanova, PA won the Watermanship Award, and Miles Frank of Wellesley, MA won the Best Camper award.



## NEEDLE NEWS BRIEFS

### Gracious Living With Martha Stewart

The May issue of *Martha Stewart Living*, which might be called the journal of Gracious Living, will contain an essay by a 60-year-old author about his memories of going to camp (not, poor guy, Pine Island). The article will be accompanied by photographs taken last summer at Pine Island by camp parent and generous supporter William Abramowicz. As late director Eugene Swan, Jr. used to say, "One of our problems is that very few people believe that a place like this still exists!" And that was fifty years ago! The May issue of Martha Stewart living magazine will be available on news stands in late April.

### Tarp Funds Fund Tarps

Pine Islander Rob Whitehouse confesses to be something of a "gearhead." Not the Kevin Hubbard variety of gearhead whose idea of recreation is rebuilding a '70s Camaro, but more of the Stephen Manker variety who is always looking for better, lighter, more efficient camping gear. So Director Ben Swan was not overwhelmingly surprised when Rob showed up for the Sloan Critchfield Memorial Boat Workshop Weekend last September with a new piece of gear to show off, a classic camping tarp redesigned by Kelty. Rob set it up on the Dust Court and it was impressive in its versatility and efficiency. Rob has since sent four of the supertarps to Director Ben Swan, along with sufficient cordage to set all four of them up in a variety of configurations, and they will be available to Pine Island trippers next summer. Thanks and Akka Lakka, Rob!

### Rare Pack Basket Made by Late Small Craft Luminary John Gardner Arrives at PIC

Last winter's *Needle* reported on the gift of a beautiful split ash pack basket made during the summer of 1931 at Pine Island by then Pine Island counselor John Gardner. This past August Alan Towbin and Lisa Barlow arrived

at PIC to pick up their son Henry, who had just finished another great summer as head Woodcraft counselor, and they brought the basket with them. They had been to the Adirondacks to pick it up from donor Sidney Whelan. The Gardner pack basket will be displayed in the Pine Island library and will be identified by a small brass plaque. Many thanks to the Towbins for making this acquisition possible.

### Updated Policy Keeps Video Games, TV, Phones, and Internet off Pine Island

Director Ben Swan has always encouraged campers and staff alike to listen to music, play it, trade it, and write it. When he was a camper one was always being told to "turn it down!" as transistor radios blared from various tents. The advent of the Walkman quieted things down considerably, allowing boys and staff to listen to music, share it, and not bother their neighbors. From the beginning it was strictly forbidden to wear headphones or earphones anywhere but in one's tent. Soon the Walkman was replaced by the Discman and then along came the iPod. The original iPods were ideal because they stored so much music and eliminated the clutter of discs and the potential damage to them, but all too quickly technology closed that perfect window. In fact, it opened the little window through which one can see far too much. Suddenly devices that play music also became capable of playing video games, making phone calls, surfing the Internet, and watching movies. Tired of policing various devices, Ben has updated the policy for the coming season. Already all members of the staff, except the head cook and the medic, are required to leave their phones on the mainland, and of course campers have never been allowed to have a phone on the island. This summer the new policy will simply be that nobody can bring a device to the island, without special permission from the Director, that is capable of doing anything more than playing music.

### ATC Hawg Crew Continues Trail Work and Is Featured in MAINetainer Newsletter

Pine Islanders have been maintaining a portion of the Appalachian Trail since the early '50s when Chalmers "Chip" Handy started the program. Trail maintenance has developed into a highly organized pursuit with much oversight, and Pine Islanders are still doing their part. A recent Pine Island ATC crew was photographed by maintainer Dave Field and the photo ran in the Early Spring 2011 issue of the MAINetainer newsletter. We could not get a copy of that photo by press time, but include this photo of Chip Handy and an ATC crew from the summer of 1960.

### Apple Expert John Bunker Sets up Rare Apple CSA

In Maine, Pine Islander John Bunker has set up a rare apple "community supported agriculture" program where people pay in advance for a portion of his harvest. When customers pick up their shares, Bunker provides them with explanations of how best to use the fruit and recipes for sauce, pies and other dishes. Bunker also spends much of his time tracking down and rescuing heirloom apple varieties in New England, intent on saving them from extinction. "If we are smart about it we can redevelop, reclaim a whole system of local varieties all over the place," he said. "So just as France has its wines in each district, we once again could have apples in each district."



Chip Handy and Pine Islanders on one of the early ATC trips

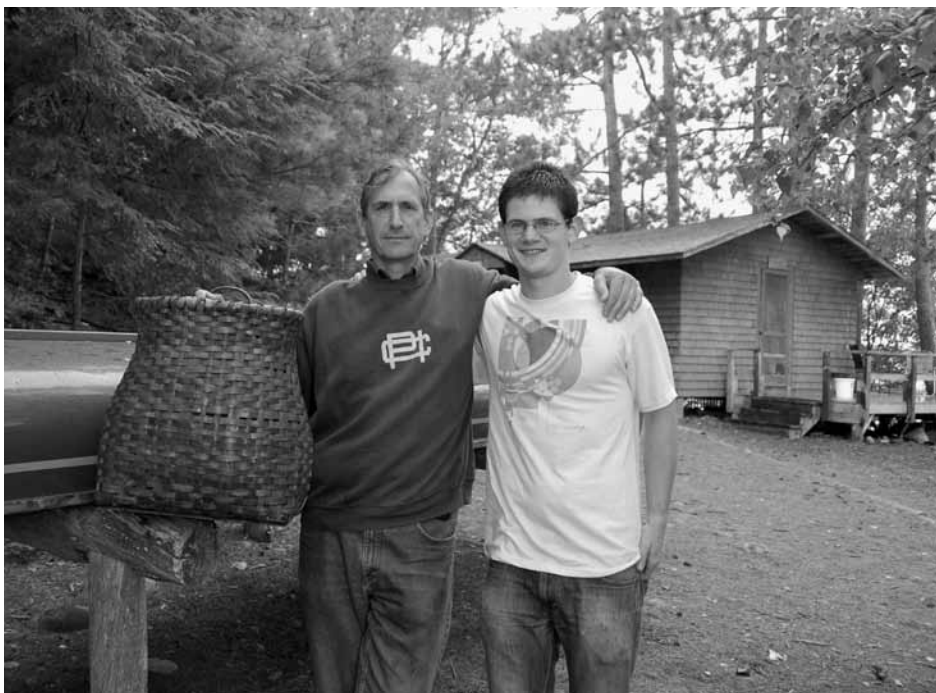
## IN MEMORIAM

**Ruth Chapman Ford** died August 14, 2011. Known as June, she was the mother of four Pine Islanders, Fred, Denny, Jim, and Andrew Chapman, all of whom were both campers and counselors in the 1960s and '70s. June was a great believer in the value of the Pine Island experience, and she was a generous supporter, especially following the Fire of '95. Director Ben Swan has countless fond memories of time spent at the Chapman home in Farmington, CT and of many trips with Ruth and the family.

**Harold "Dynamite" Payson** died March 23, 2011. Dynamite first became involved with Pine Island when he gave Jun and Tats Swan and Lise Aubry a ride to Whitehead Island in 1956 for their first look at the island. Dynamite was a lobsterman at the time but soon came ashore to begin building boats. He built the first skiff used by Pine Island at Whitehead, sev-

eral skiffs used on Great Pond, and in the late 1960s built the Bolger-designed Gloucester Gull dories used at Pine Island for 25 years. Those dories sparked the formation of O.A.R. (the Organization for the Advancement of Rowing) at Pine Island and established rowing as a popular activity. Dynamite was the author of many books and later in life became a well-known designer and builder of wooden boat models. He and his wife Amy had a lifelong friendship with Jun and Tats Swan and Lise Aubry and were frequent visitors to Whitehead Island.

**James Lester** died May 17, 2011. Jim was a camper in 1937 and 1938 and a counselor in 1941 while a student at Williams College. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific in 1944 and 1945, and gained an MS from Princeton. Jim and his wife Jane were in touch with Pine Island during their retirement to Westport Island in Maine in recent years.



Ben Swan, Henry Towbin and the pack basket made at Pine Island in 1931

# Remembering Mal Jones

by Tim Nagler

Malcolm Jones, the founding director of Pine Island's Kababa Classical Institute, known as the KCI, and a figure at the Camp for some 30 years, died in a Hartford, Connecticut, hospital on January 26, 2012, a month shy of his 90th birthday. Vigor and acuity to the end were to be expected from Mal, for he always seemed to have read more — and more thoroughly — than the best educated counselor, and nothing was so predictable as seeing him in the camp office or on the porch of his home in the Second Cabin reading the *New York Times*, only pausing — sometimes bemused, always skeptical — to look over his glasses to observe the Mainland scene.

And what a scene it was. By day in the camp office his wife (and childhood sweetheart) Marion held sway, sternly guarding Pine Island's bare resources from counselors seemingly bent on breaking the budget by buying new paddles, supplies and camping equipment that were truly out of reach, while she simultaneously ordered food, kept in touch with parents and managed myriad other duties. Mal, as everyone called him, assisted Marion with phone calls and messages and with keeping track of instructions and questions hurled to no one in particular as trips left, or returned, or as emergencies arose in the whirling vortex of a summer at Pine Island. Then, as if nothing were happening — ever — one could count on seeing Mal and Marion enjoying dinner on the porch of their cabin, always engaged in conversation, as calm and happy if they were having the time of their life among Bar Harbor's swells.

That halcyon evening dinner moment was a brief respite, however, for by night the Jones' cabin could as well have been located on Times Square. In the 1960s and 1970s, the nearby Third Cabin was the counselor's after-hours hangout. From time to time Mal and Marion complained about the noise, but their overall response seemed more amusement than anger. Occasionally, there was excitement beyond the usual shouting from the dock and dories, or the noise of the speeding junkyard refugees that served as staff vehicles back then, or the raucous parties that the laxer rules of an earlier time permitted.

One night in 1967, for instance, an explosion and a fire brought the tiny pumper truck belonging to the Belgrade Fire Department all the way down the Camp Road to the large, silver gasoline tank that sat just across the road from the Jones's cabin. Needing gas for his 1953 Ford, a counselor had been pumping gas from the tank and, uncertain whether he had pumped enough and either lacking a flashlight or hoping to avoid detection by not using one, he lit a match to see if his tank was yet full. The result was predictable. So were the Joneses. Standing tall and calm in his pajamas, Mal surveyed this crime scene in silence, his arms crossed, with the ironic detachment he would bring to rereading Flaubert, while Marion, a one-woman

Greek chorus, repeatedly shouted the obvious, "He was stealing camp gas!"

To those unacquainted with Pine Island's ability to triumph over mere logic, it might have seemed the odds did not favor establishing an academy in such a spot. Yet, for some 23 years, the Kababa Classical Institute annually attracted four or five boys needing what today is called academic "enrichment." The combination of Mal's patience and rigor in this tiny classroom married to the regular camp program made the KCI unique and highly successful. That success surprised no one who spent a moment in conversation with Mal. The broad Worcester accent of his boyhood and undergraduate years at Clark University had not been softened much by his Master's degree in Romance Languages from Harvard — why should it be, after all, Mal would have asked — but beneath the seeming sternness was a wry gentleness and a patient understanding that had much in common with Jun Swan's attitude toward students.

Beyond his Great Pond classroom, Mal enjoyed a distinguished 36-year career teaching French and Spanish at Kingswood (now Kingswood-Oxford School) in Hartford. This successful wrestling coach brought toughness imbued with wit to his Great Pond classroom. He could hold anyone spellbound with his memory and recollections of Pine Island boys and staff and their successes and lesser moments.

Normally under wraps was Mal's musicianship, though occasionally he played the Steinway grand at the Sunday chapel service, making everyone

wish he played every day. In the early 1960s Mal brought luster to a full-scale staff production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "H.M.S. Pinafore" with a piano accompaniment that, it was said a decade later, found its match only on Broadway. The striking, over-sized poster for that famous show graced Honk Hall until both were lost in the 1995 fire.

Forty years before the locavore movement found a beachhead on Pine Island, the entire summer's supply of food — almost all of it in #10 cans — was delivered as soon as the docks were in by the legendary Boston purveyor S.S. Pierce. Loading those cases of food on the boat was hard work for counselors who had been mostly accustomed to handling food at their colleges with a fork, but for them even stranger was the sight of Mal, a smiling sentinel on the dock with his pocket watch, observing carefully as the food was quickly unloaded from the trucks, carried at high speed down the dock, tossed onto the boat and rushed to the dock so the boat could race back for the next load. What was the rush? And what on earth could this man be doing? With his usual detached humor, Mal was merely timing the operation to see whether this year's crew could beat the previous record! And by doing that he was also spurring a great race. No wonder he was smiling.

Mal is survived by his wife Marion and by his sons Michael and Mark, both Pine Islanders. As Mal wished, his ashes will be scattered in Great Pond.

AKKA LAKKA, MAL!



*Mal Jones, director of Pine Island's summer school; long-time business manager Marion Jones; Director Jun Swan; and, Tats Swan, 1961*



# In Memoriam (continued)

**Margaret Chandler** died on September 29, 2011. Margaret and Bob Chandler's three sons, Rob, John, and Roger were all campers and counselors at Pine Island in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. They, and their sons, were avid sailors and once owned a charter business. One of their sailboats was named *Akka Lakka*. Margaret was badly injured aboard one of their boats in the late 1990s and she was confined to a wheelchair. Her remarkably ebullient outlook on life was undiminished by this turn. She and Bob lived in Maine throughout their retirement.

**Andy Hoyt** died suddenly of a brain aneurism February 26, 2011 at his home in Maine. Andy's memorial gathering was held in Honk Hall on Pine Island on May 14, 2011. In attendance were many Pine Islanders, including his parents Bill Hoyt and Alison Farrar, his brothers Steve and Coleman "Coly" Hoyt, his nephews Sam and Coleman "Woody" Hoyt and boyhood friend John Goodhue. Josh Treat was skipper and helped organize the occasion. Andy's memorial gathering included a "trip report" and a "password." Andy was a camper for four summers, from 1966-70. He served as a corpsman with the Marines in Korea and Okinawa and eventually became the medic at the Navy Search, Escape, and Rescue School in Maine. He was a skilled woodworker and came back to Pine Island as a volunteer.

**Kip Weeks** died December 31 at his home in Keene, New Hampshire after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. He was 63. His wife Chris, his daughter Meg and his son Sam, who was a camper and counselor at Pine Island, were with him. Kip was a very loyal supporter of Pine Island, a place that meant a great deal to him in his youth. Pine Island again became important to him when his son Sam became first a camper and then a very valuable counselor. Kip was originally from New York City, attended the Brooks School and Princeton University. He spent two years as a town clerk for a village in Alaska north of the Arctic Circle, an experience that gave him a life-long interest in Alaska. In 1972 he moved to Keene, New Hampshire, where he had summered in his youth on his parents' farm, and began working as a journalist. In 1978 Kip was hired to work in Washington, DC on the Alaska Lands Bill and attended law school while there. He moved back to Keene in 1982 and started work for an established law firm, eventually starting his own. In 2000 he was appointed Cheshire County Probate Court Judge, a position he held until his illness forced him to retire in 2011. Kip was a lot of fun to be around and believed in the value of hard work.

*Mal Jones, and students in front of the KCI, which stood for the Kababa Classical Institute, c.1965*



# NEEDLENOTES FROM NEEDLENEWS THE NEEDLENOSED NEWSHOUND

**John Sawyer Miller** was born to **Rhoads** and **Michelle Miller** on December 21, 2011. **Chris** and **Jennie Skelton** welcomed a daughter, **Rawlings Riley Skelton**, May 29th. Chris is closing in on graduating from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific this spring. **Alex Walsh** and **Brendan O'Brien** welcomed their third child, daughter **Phoebe Marshall O'Brien** on October 10, 2011. Alex continues to work as an attorney in Washington, DC. **Gabe Padget**, daughter of **Barbara Sullivan**, welcomed **Isabella Charlotte** on April 29. **Joel Taplin**, **McKenzie Burrus-Granger** and **Gere Taplin** welcomed **Ona Amelia Taplin** on October 16, 2011. **Jack** and **Tanya Ohly** welcomed **Benjamin Nihal Ohly** on January 31, 2012.

**Felicien Dillard** was married to **Aline Proudaian** on September 10, 2011 in Seine Maritime, France and the rumors in Tinsletown are true: **Adam Peck** is indeed marrying longtime girlfriend acclaimed TV and film writer **Jenny Bicks** this April at Ian Fleming's old house Goldeneye in Oracabessa, Jamaica!

**Chris Comer** is living in Seattle, WA with his wife and two boys, **Ben** and **Tim**. He recently left Accenture to join the consumer marketing team at Microsoft. **Tim Wills**, a senior at Carleton College, set the all-time scoring record and overall points scored record for the men's soccer team, while his sister **Abby Wills**, a midfielder for the Carleton women's team, has been named to the all-conference team twice. **Nate Parton** is a freshman at the University of Washington majoring in Jazz Studies. **Will Stewart** is a senior at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA and spent last summer in Kafue National Park in Zambia working on the Elephant Orphanage Project. At the end of his internship he headed out on his own and traveled to Victoria Falls and rafted down the Zambezi River, employing the river skills he gained at PIC. **Montague Ball, Jr.** continues to live graciously in Bali and recently entertained Tim Nagler and his entourage. **John Nagler** is in his second year of graduate school at the London School of Economics and will receive a master's degree in Economic History. John might run into **Lindsay Clarke** between classes. She is also there working on a master's degree in International History, having completed the first year of the program at Columbia last year. **Jim "No Sweat" Hassold** has surfaced at last! After years slugging it out in the corporate world he has become the sales manager for Richmond, Virginia's best wholesale nursery. He says he loves his new job and hopes to get up to Pine Island sometime soon. **Doug Phillips** and **Will Mason**, both assistant directors last summer at PIC, are graduate students at Columbia. Doug is working on a master's in public health and Will is headed for a Ph.D. in music theory. He lives one floor above **Michael Robertson** and his wife **Kate Heideman**. Kate is also pur-

suing a Ph.D in music theory and Michael is working for The College Board. **Jim Nagler** is in his second year of a Masters program in Chinese language at Indiana University, where he is also learning Uighur, the language of Xinjiang province, while brother **Peter** is working on a Ph.D in physics at Brown University. **Bill Nagler** is working with father **Tim** at the Jungclaus-Campbell construction firm in Indianapolis, and **Tom** is a sophomore at Colby College where he might run into senior **Luke Siebert** and next year perhaps see **Harry Nicholas** tearing up the turf for the Colby Mules lacrosse team. **Rip Swan** is a freshman at the Tufts University School of Engineering, where he might run into **Calvin Hopkins**, a senior in the engineering school and headed for a job with Microsoft. **Harry Swan** is a junior at Hamilton College and is spending the year studying in Paris, where he attended a PIC gathering and caught up with returning campers **Alex Audi** and **Philippe de Beistegui**. Over his fall break Harry traveled to Great Britain and visited with **Lindsay Clarke** in London; **Victor Dillard** in Cambridge, where he is pursuing a graduate degree in Bioscience Enterprises after graduating from Imperial College, London; and **Ben Schachner**, who was studying at the University of Edinburgh. **Duncan Lowe** is also a student at Hamilton and is studying in South Africa this semester. **Oliver Lowe** is a junior at Holderness where **Ian Ford** is a senior. **Wlad Wirth** is in his first year at University College London. **Xavier-Ferdinand Guyard** is in his first year at McGill University in Montreal. **Paul Malle** is a sophomore at Bard College and his brother **Lucien** will graduate from the Eaglebrook School this spring. **Jack Faherty** and **Sumner Ford** are students at St. Lawrence University. Also in the neighborhood are **Millie Pulver** and **Zander Abranowicz** at Cornell, **Stephen Manker** at Hobart, and **Kyle Bucklin** at Union. **Henry Gabriel** is a sophomore at Bucknell. **Christian Schneider** is studying and acting at Wesleyan University and **Alex Toole** is a sophomore at Dickinson. **Olivia Lobdell** is a sophomore at James Madison University. **Kevin Hubbard** is in his second year at the University of Maine at Farmington. **Nicky Isles** is a sophomore at the College of Wooster. **Forest Brown** has graduated from Warren Wilson College and will return to PIC to head up the 2012 Expedition Camp with Sumner Ford. **Cece Carey-Snow** will attend Bates College next year, where she will be in school with **Cody Smith** and **Emily Meade**. **Emil Henry** is in a p.g. year at Westminster School. **Amanda** and **Cecily Pulver** are now living in South Korea and teaching English. **Jack Walsh** will be in South Korea soon, starting college at Underwood International College, which is part of Yonsei University in Seoul. He has recently returned from four months of travel in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Brother **Willie Walsh** is in his third

year at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and is currently aboard the *USN Flint* serving in the Persian Gulf. **Kate Rausch** will graduate from Boston University this spring. **Greg Marcil** has graduated from Davidson College and is working in Columbia, SC and applying to graduate schools. **Joe Kovaz** is also in Columbia teaching chemistry and physics and playing and coaching soccer. Also teaching are **Matt Clarke** - Boston public schools; **Max Huber** - Flint Ridge Prep in Pasadena, CA; **Kit Smith** - Hebron Academy, Hebron, ME; **Jesslyn Mullet**, the Hilltop Montessori School in Brattleboro, VT; and **Andrew Irvine** in California. **Eve Whitehouse** is a dorm parent, coach and Art History teacher at Phillips Academy, Andover, where she might have **Robby Schwartz** as a student and where **Becca Waldo** is coaching crew part time. Becca is spending the winter in Tahoe, California and living with **Leila Malcom** and **Ben Kasper**. Brother **Niel Kasper** is also in Tahoe. **Ben Rausch** is also in the ski biz in his second winter at Steamboat Springs. **Tish Claiborne Biesemeyer** reports in from time to time from her home in Keene, NY. Daughter **Lily** is finishing up law school in New York City and hopes to work for legal aid, while son Tommy is skiing downhill for the U.S. Ski Team. Ben Swan caught up with 2011 PIC medic **Caroline Moughon** in Charlottesville, VA, where she is in her last year of nursing school. She reports that 2010 medic **Page Dunbar** is working hard as a nurse in Maryland.

**Ned Bishop** was named an Associate Professor of Physical Education at Connecticut College. **Jim Thomson** announced his "full retirement" from Simensky and Engstrom, the accounting firm he founded in Saco, ME, and has moved with his wife Nancy to Seattle to be close to children and grandchildren. **Coleman "Woody" Hoyt** will marry **Kate Drazner** in New Buffalo, MI on August 25, 2012 and is living in Denver, CO, where he sees **Spencer "Head Tennis Instructor" Abrahamson** often. **Sam Hoyt** is living in Irvine, CA and doing video production for an internet marketing company. **Clem Wright** is living in San Francisco and working in marketing at Google. He lives in the same building as **Jamie Hand**, who is working for an energy efficiency company. Clem and Jamie play a lot of music and do a lot of hiking together. Clem wrote, "Basically we do everything we can to make life as much like Pine Island as possible." **Abe Stimson** is living and working on a horse farm in northern France, but his father **David** wants him to return to help with his latest boat project, a 50' schooner made of steel. **George Cutting III** lives in Silt, CO and is, among other things, a photographer and runs a photography gallery ([www.crackinthewallgallery.com](http://www.crackinthewallgallery.com)). **Alice Packard** has moved to Wilmington, NC and is working at various jobs, including producer's assistant at the Lighthouse Film Company.



*Emily Swan, Rhoads Miller, John Miller, Michelle Miller, and Ben Swan*



*Ona Taplin*



*Jack Ohly, his wife Tanya, and their newborn Benjamin Nihal Ohly*

## COME TO PIC AND BRING YOUR FAMILY!

If reading this issue of the *Pine Needle* has made you nostalgic for Great Pond, then Pine Island's Family Camp is the thing for you! Anyone in the morning and two hours in the afternoon each day. Short excursions are organized to hike Mt. Philip, to paddle to the bog, and to ride the KWS to Belgrade Lakes. We have campfire every night.

If you are interested in finding out more about Family Camp, go to [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org), contact Ben or Emily Swan at [eswan@pineisland.org](mailto:eswan@pineisland.org), or call 207-729-7714.

2012 will take place August 9-12. Come is open to any and all. Family Camp in Island Camp season each summer and end after the close of the regular Pine Family Camp comes the first week-



*Ready for the KWS Cruise to Belgrade Lakes*

## “TOPSIDE” BOATHOUSE APARTMENT FOR RENT NEAR WHITEHEAD

Pine Island Camp is offering for rent a charming two-bedroom apartment with a deck that hangs right out over the water. The late Rip Swan, a master builder from Vermont, Pine Islander, and brother of Jun Swan, built Topside as his personal vacation project over a period of years in the 1960s. The apartment is small but complete, with a kitchen/dining/sitting area with a propane “wood-stove”, a full bathroom, two bedrooms (one with twin beds, one with a queen), and a large deck. The building is perched on the edge of Emery’s Wharf, a granite pier built to handle freight traffic for the old quarry that sits on the property. Pine Island’s new ramp and float are available for launching kayaks or for tying up other boats. Great birding on the flats at low tide. Activity by lobstermen next door is fun to watch. Available early June–end of September.

Cost: \$650 per week  
Contact: 207-200-7957 or [info@whiteheadlightstation.org](mailto:info@whiteheadlightstation.org).



*Master bedroom at Topside*



*Living/Dining/Kitchen area looking out on the deck at Topside*



*The deck at Topside early morning*



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