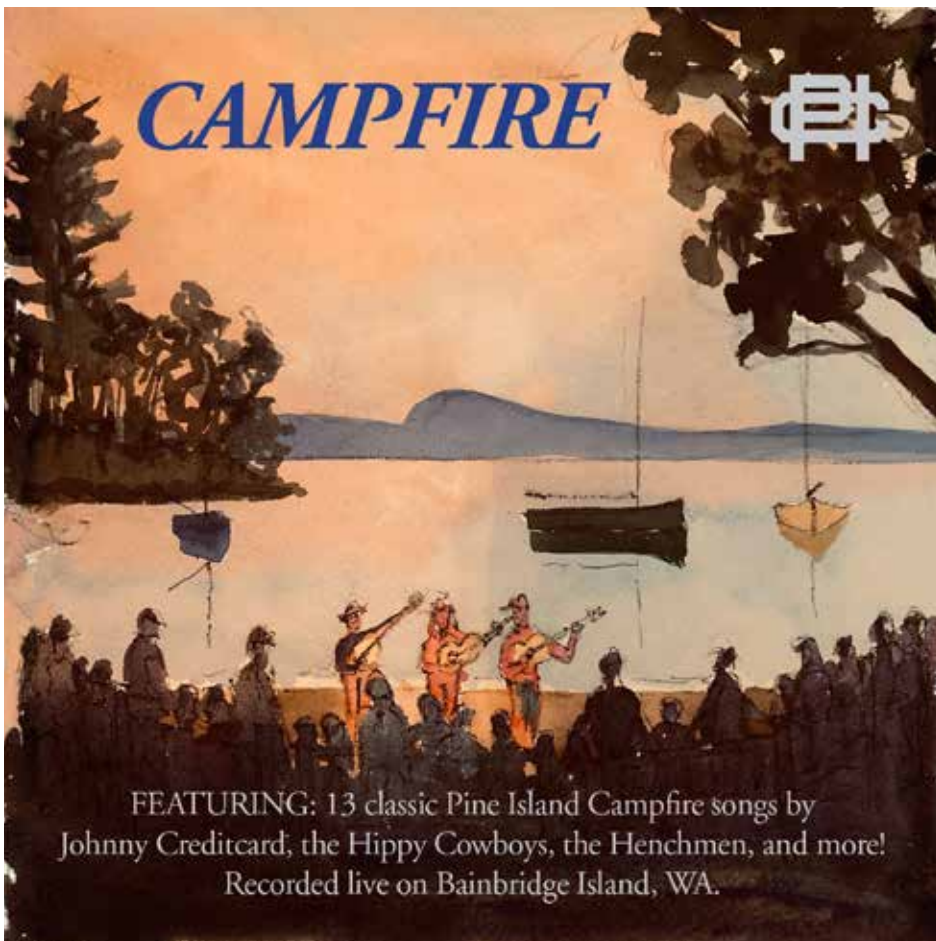


CAMPFIRE: PINE ISLAND'S MUSICAL TRADITION HIGHLIGHTED ON HIT ALBUM

As long as campers and counselors have been sitting around the campfire down in the cove they have been singing songs. It would be fascinating to be able to hear a recording of the songs they were singing around 1910 and to trace the evolution of campfire songs at Pine Island over the years. No doubt some of the songs sung years ago would sound dated, some in pretty uncomfortable ways, but the mere fact that boys, men,

and women have been singing songs together virtually every night of every one of Pine Island's 118 summers is remarkable.

During the past 30 years or so, in addition to the traditional campfire songs such as "The Titanic," "Mountain Dew," and "Charlie and the MTA," a new tradition has taken root in which campers and staff rewrite the lyrics to popular songs to make them specific to Pine Is-



The cover of the CAMPFIRE album, a watercolor done by Pine Islander John Alsop



The Henchmen recording backing vocals at PIC parent Johnny Bregar's studio on Bainbridge Island, WA



Finally! Mark Pierce's smiling face on the cover

land. This hybrid form of songwriting fits well into the PIC schedule, in which creative energy tends to suddenly erupt without a great deal of time to produce

or practice. Since the late 1980s, in addition to singing traditional and currently popular songs, Pine Islanders have written Pine Island-related lyrics to well over 30 songs. Ten of them, plus two traditional songs, make up an album now for sale with all proceeds going to the Sidney Lovett Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Making *CAMPFIRE: The Album* happened as the result of a number of stars aligning plus a lot of hard work. Toby Bregar, from Bainbridge Island near Seattle, was a new camper during the summer of 2017. His tent counselor, Noah Brodsky, discovered that Toby

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GRAYS WIN! SCORE DECISIVE VICTORY AT NORRIDGEWOCK AFTER 9-YEAR DROUGHT

by Sumner Ford

Everyone's bags were packed, and campers hurried to bed. Exhaustion from a busy evening that included the annual mock declaration of war, the explanation of the game by Ned Bishop, and a short campfire led to a peaceful sleep. In the morning, everyone would depart for the 107th playing of the War Game. Campers fell asleep to dreams of York's Crossing, the fictitious town set in the pine woods of Norridgewock. The old white pines tower into the blue sky above. Years of growth leave a deep bed of needles. The undergrowth is dense. Close to the forest floor is darkness and cover from the searching eyes of scouts. The campsite is perfect. Fresh water is drawn up from a cold, clear aquifer. The canvas tents up against the

forest edge paint a scene worthy of General Washington and his continental army.

At precisely 9 am, the group of 28 alumni who compromised the 2019 crew of umpires blew their Fox-40 whistles, and the 2019 War Game commenced. Whistles also signify that play is off, and often mean that an army has scored. The shrill sound can be heard around the playing site and results in moments of quiet and intense speculation about what has just happened. The whistles sounded early, and they signaled the Blue Army's success from meticulous and creative attacks. They seemed to score at will and frequently were one step ahead of the Gray Army.

While the Gray Army faced a defi-

nit in War Game experience, they were pleasantly surprised by the stellar gate leading of two LTIPS (counselors-in-training), Oliver Sahlman and Chris Ward, each of whom had played the game many times as campers but had never led a gate. Chris earned the first points for the defending Gray army on a gutsy bounce of his pole at South Gate, and his gate was stalwart throughout the period. His scouts' sharp eyes spied parties far off in the woods, and his squadron was lightning quick. He picked up the only points of the period for the Grays, leaving the score Blues-95, Grays-8.

After 2½ hours of exhausting play, campers and staff clamored for sandwiches carefully prepared by Quannah,

Amelia, and the kitchen crew, including guest KC Natalie Burr. Rest hour fell short of the promised hour, but the intermittent rain that had fallen through the morning cleared to blue skies and beautiful weather. It was the Gray Army's turn to attack, and they hoped to exceed the Blue Army's impressive score of 95 points. Both armies prepared by sharing quiet conversations and deep stretching routines. After the Gray Army disappeared into the woods to prepare their offensive, Blue General Noah Brodsky led his army in a rousing speech that left them ready to repel the Gray attacks.

The attack began immediately and

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played guitar and eventually convinced him to perform at campfire. Toby was great! For the rest of the summer Toby frequently borrowed director Ben Swan's old Gibson acoustic and played a number of times, including at the Final Campfire on the last day of camp. Turns out this was the first time Toby's parents had ever seen him perform. They were delighted and moved, and this led to a conversation in which Ben learned that Johnny Bregar is a record producer and professional musician who runs Brickyard Studio on Bainbridge Island. Not long after Toby and his family returned home from Pine Island, they recorded "My Sweet Pine Island," a Matt Clarke/Ben Swan rewrite of the Ryan Adams song "Sweet Carolina" that has been featured as the last song of the summer for about 15 years.

Hearing this professionally recorded and mixed version of a song Ben had only heard in various forms on the sandy stage in Pine Island's campfire circle prompted him to ask Johnny if it might be possible to record more campfire songs and make an album. Johnny's response was quick and simple: "Come on out. We'll do it. It will be fun." Ben began what turned out to be a two-year effort to pull some PIC musicians together for a weekend all the way out in Washington state. At a couple of points it seemed too ambitious to attempt, but with Johnny's encouragement and some financial help for air fare for some of the younger musicians, it all came together on a weekend in October when five Pine Islanders flew to Seattle and took the short ferry ride to Bainbridge Island where they were welcomed and fed by



Sam Chester, banjo player extraordinaire, in the studio

the Bregar/Ahearne family. Ben arrived Thursday afternoon to help arrange the weekend, Pope Ward arrived Friday afternoon along with Mark Pierce, Robert Brent arrived Friday night, and poor Sam Chester ran into a few delays on his journey all the way from Middlebury College and finally caught the last ferry in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Both Ben and Pope recorded songs Friday, but it was after the "varsity" musicians Mark and Sam arrived that production both sped up and became more complex. Over the course of the weekend, thanks to Johnny's incredible experience, technical ability, and musical talent, the group recorded a dozen songs,



Pope Ward preparing to sing "Titanic" in the studio

ate a lot of good food, and had a ton of fun. Pine Islanders Nicky Isles, Ted and Will Siebert, and Charlie Krause visited the studio, and Nicky laid down a verse of "Mountain Dew" and was a member of the Henchmen, who performed the backing vocals on several songs. Two songs were recorded elsewhere. Edwin McCain, former counselor, current camp parent, and successful singer-songwriter, generously agreed to record "I'm a Camper at PIC" at his studio in Greenville, SC, and Corinne Alsop, Natalie Burr and Mark Pierce recorded "We're Women at PIC" at Columbia University in New York.

Thanks to Johnny's generous dona-

tion of hundreds of hours of work, Tom Yoder's assistance with air fare, and John Alsop's gift of the cover art, all proceeds from the sale of the album will go directly to the Lovett Fund. Our hope is that *CAMPFIRE: The Album* will both raise significant funds for scholarships and inspire the next generation of writers and rewriters to keep the musical tradition at Pine Island strong and growing. You can order an album download or a CD at the PIC website: www.pineisland.org, where you'll also find all the lyrics and detailed background about the production and songs.

TIM NAGLER'S "BULK" LEGACY HONORED IN NEW LTIP RESIDENCE

"We're builders! We build!" was the required response by those engaged in Island Buildup, when the activity's creator assistant director Tim Nagler would shout, "Who are we?!" Island buildup consisted of standing knee-deep in Great Pond on the north side of the island throwing, or struggling ashore with, stones from the bottom of the lake. I think campers actually signed up for Island Buildup, a fact that illustrates the power of Tim Nagler's persuasion born of sheer energetic enthusiasm. It was like a spell cast. You were powerless in the face of it. During his many years as a counselor, assistant director, and then member of the board of directors, Tim has always been building up Pine Island. And it is not just the stones still protecting the north side of the island from erosion after 40 years that have endured. To honor Tim's spearheading and Naglerization legacy, the new residence that will be built on Honk Hill to house the five rising high school seniors selected to participate in the Leadership Training Internship Program (LTIP) each summer will be named "The Bulk-

head" and will be built with funds raised among the many Pine Islanders who are eager to tell Tim how much they appreciate all he has done for PIC.

The building, to be built in the fall of 2020 by volunteers under the direction of builder and engineer Rip Swan, will be located in a grove of trees to the northwest of Honk Hall, looking out past Magoon with a view of Oak and Hoyt's Islands and of course Mt. Philip. Its design will reflect the Honk design, complete with cedar shingles, a scaled-down diamond window, and of course a skylight, one of Tim's favorite Pine Island innovations that have brightened the interiors of PIC buildings new and old. It is supremely fitting that a building named in Tim's honor should house five young men whose job for the summer is to take care of Pine Island and to make sure that all is ship shape at all times, and to do so with good humor and enthusiasm. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the materials for "The Bulkhead," please contact Tom Yoder at tyoder@quarterfold.com.



The cast bronze plaque to be bolted to "The Bulkhead"



Gray General Tommy Mottur



First Year Head Umpire Nicky Isles



Happiness is a plugged gate

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showed a new side of the Gray offense. Rather than stepping into the road right next to the gate, the Grays stepped into the road far away from the gate and ran down the road hand in hand. It succeeded twice in a row, scoring over 20 points for the Grays early in the period. The Blue defense's confidence soared as they capitalized on Gray mistakes, earning 27 challenge points, but the Grays answered by garnering 16 challenge points. The first half of play proved to be one of the most exciting in recent times, with 51 challenge points scored. At the end of the first day, the Blue Army led the Gray Army by a score of 120-87.

Gracious living, somewhat modified, is still our goal at the War Game. A part of that is continuing with campfires each evening, but the weather caused us to wrap up campfire early the first night. Boys collected their rain gear, and without complaint headed to the comfort of their tents as the rain began to fall in sheets. The static sound of rain on canvas and the long day everyone had had sent them to sleep without delay, and the campsite was quickly quiet.

The dew of the night's rain and a chorus of birds greeted those willing to wake early for a moment of quiet. 6:30 marked the end of the calm. Boys hurried down to the unique campsite showers, but the bracing cold water was unnecessary, as everyone was quickly wide awake because of the excitement of what lay ahead.

Play began with the Gray Army attacking again. They faced an uphill battle, overcoming a 33-point deficit and putting enough points on the board to cushion their final defensive period. Charge after charge seemed to unnerve the Blue defense, and the Grays found far more success than during their previous day's attack and scored over 100

points in the period - 66 scoring points and an astounding 36 challenge points. The Blues, however, scored 24 challenge points so in spite of their impressive efforts, the Grays began the final period leading by only 45 points.

For those unfamiliar with the War Game, up by 45 points with both of your army's attack periods behind it is a tiny lead. The Blues scored 96 points in their first attack period. It's like facing the top of the order with two on base and no outs with a one-run lead. The Grays would have no margin for error. Privately many expected that the Blue winning streak would enter double digits. However, the Grays had other intentions.

Early success did not lead to continued success for the Blue Army. It led to a brick wall that was the Gray defense. I positioned myself at South and West gates, led by the LTIP duo of Sahlman and Ward. The Blues tried to pick on the green gate-leaders, but the Gray scouts again were like hawks, picking out parties from far away. The line to the squadron signal trembled in Oliver Sahlman's hand as calculations ran through his head. He opted not to call his squadron and defended the gate without them. His teeth ground, and his focus was unbreakable. He tempted the Blue party leader to step, but the Blues' confidence did not match Oliver's. The Grays repelled attack after attack. They caught many Blue ragged steps. The Blue offense floundered, but they fought forward with steely grit. From the youngest campers to the general, all put forth a maximum effort. Squadrons flew across the inside of the town line. One Gray squadron led by Ryan Schlosser, despite total exhaustion, made the nearly impossible run from East to West gate. Blue parties whipped around the town



Arlo and Charles



Wells



Corinne Alsop

line, poking and prodding in search of the one weak gate.

The umpires' whistles sounded for the final time in 2019, signifying the end of play. Both armies gathered in the center of town and began the anxious wait. Would the score signal the continuation of a nine-year Blue winning streak, or stunned celebration by the Gray Army, only two members of which had ever experienced a War Game win? With careful consideration, the 28 umpires tabulated the scores. Nicky Isles, a veteran umpire but in his first year as the Head Umpire, came out of the crowd of umpires to announce the score. The

umpires' poker faces were impossible to read. Nicky read the score "221-194... Grays win!" There was a split second of complete silence while the Grays' minds processed what they had just heard and then absolute joyful pandemonium. It also took a few moments for the Blues to comprehend the fact of an actual loss, but after graciously allowing the Grays to celebrate fully, the Blue Army proved to be valiant in loss and congratulated their compatriots on their victory. The Akka Lakka cheer rang out and once again Pine Island was victorious, emerging from this unique game stronger than ever.



The Gray Army awaits the reading of the final score . . .



Grays Win!

JASPER LOWE'S SHORT TAKES

by Harry Swan

A defining aspect of the Pine Island experience has always been rusticity, the opportunity to spend an extended period of time away from the technologically enhanced hustle and bustle of the modern world. Electricity was already well established when PIC was founded in 1902, but even in those heady early days, Dr. Swan recognized the value of, if not a full return to earlier times, then at least a simulation of the simpler life that defined them. The complex relationship between PIC and modern technology has been evolving ever since; from the use of flashlights for nighttime tasks to portable music players for campfire acts to the Doppler radar smartphone apps that allow us to track nearby thunderstorms, the goal has always been to strike a balance between improving the functionality of the camp and preserving the rustic quality that makes it so special.

Motion pictures, too, had technically been invented when the camp opened, though the technology was still very much in its infancy, and it would be nearly a century before it developed sufficiently to be feasible to use in the still-mostly-unplugged setting of Pine Island. So it is perhaps fitting that (along with some particularly well-written and descriptive camper letters undoubtedly languishing in the archives of old PIC families) the most authentic depictions of camp today can be found in the most emphatically modern of places: a series of short videos, deftly assembled using the latest technology and readily accessible via the Internet.

The person behind these cinematic gems is Jasper Lowe: lifelong friend of the Swan family, brother of two Pine Islanders, and first-rate videographic talent. To watch the four videos he has created thus far—capturing everyday life at PIC in 2015, 2017 and 2018, and a typical hiking trip this past summer—is not only to gain an unprecedentedly detailed look at Pine Island in the 21st century, it's a chance to watch a preternaturally gifted filmmaker at the top of his game. These could easily have been the kind of bland promotional videos that corporations churn out on a daily basis; in Lowe's hands, they're documentary short subject masterworks.

How does he do it? Closer examination of Lowe's work reveals the numerous, smart creative choices that make these videos so compelling. There are, first of all, certain elements that define the body of work as a whole, structural choices and filmmaking techniques that he uses to equal effect in four different videos spanning five years. The soothing yet lively indie-folk soundtracks set the tone, each in its own way capturing the unique vibe of Pine Island. Lowe lets these pleasant musical accompaniments guide his editing without letting it become a gimmick; he often cuts along with the beat, but not every time, and in ways varied enough that it never becomes predictable. The shots change

fairly quickly, which can be grating in feature films but works well for a video that seeks to give a general sense of a place in a relatively short time—and Lowe always gives us enough time to register and appreciate the composition of each image. These include small, telling details that might not make it into a letter or a verbal account of some camp adventure, but that do a lot to give the viewer an intimate, grounded idea of the place: a cleat being tied when the KWS docks, a songbird on a tree branch, a flower box on the side of a building, a leaf cleverly made into a spout for filling water bottles, and many more. Most impressive of all is Lowe's exceptional ability to combine narrative and simple observational elements. There's a clear chronological progression in each video (from morning to evening in *Day in the Life I, II and III*; from trip sign-up to the summit of Old Speck in *Three Days on the Appalachian Trail*) but they move easily between different people and settings, aiming to give a general sense of camp life rather than tell a clearly delineated story. And yet, Lowe also manages to insert a number of miniature narratives into this seemingly free-flowing structure, cutting back to the same moment several times within a fairly short time period, gesturing towards the countless individual stories and moments that make up the Pine Island experience. Elements such as these, consistent across all four videos, mean that they work not just on their own, but as a unified series, a remarkably detailed collective depiction of PIC life.

At the same time, however, the videos are far from interchangeable. Lowe's second great accomplishment is to make each distinctive in its own way, so that even watching all four of them in a row never becomes repetitive. From the first video to the most recent, we can also see him progressing as a filmmaker, utilizing new tools and trying out new techniques. *Day in the Life I* (2015) is broadly centered on activities, dustball, and campfire, capturing the way these more structured aspects of PIC life foster fun and personal growth. *Day in the Life II* (2017), while it certainly touches on activities and campfire, is more focused on the moments in between: socializing at mealtimes, reading in hammocks, playing ping pong, learning musical instruments—what happens in the liberal amounts of relatively unstructured free time that define the PIC experience. *Day in the Life III* (2018) is slightly more abstract, and represents a major technical leap forward: more creative camera angles offer interesting new perspectives on the setting, activities and moments that we've seen before are now rendered in dazzling slow-motion, and the final time-lapse shot captures the remarkable variety and creativity of a single night's campfire. And *Three Days on the Appalachian Trail* (2019) sees Lowe combine the best elements of his earlier work to portray a radically dif-

ferent feature of Pine Island life, one that had largely remained a mystery to those who hadn't experienced it. With the concise visual storytelling that has become his trademark, he captures all the crucial stages of a PIC hiking trip: the initial sign-up, the pre-trip preparations, the van journey, the collection of water and cooking of meals on the trail. He includes small details that ground us in the wilderness setting; brief, carefully observed moments that show how valuable the experience is for all involved; even a few stunning drone shots that capture the majesty of the Maine woods, and wouldn't be out of place in any Hollywood blockbuster. It's a remarkable three and a half minutes of filmmaking,

and by far the most authentic depiction I've yet seen of a Pine Island camping trip.

The videos that Jasper Lowe has made over the past five years are compelling viewing any way you slice it, and they give those who have never spent a summer at PIC a remarkably detailed look into the way camp works. And they're a reminder that even though the latest technology usually doesn't figure into daily life on Pine Island, it can still allow people to connect with this special place in new and interesting ways.

To view these wonderful videos go to www.pineisland.org and click on "videos."

NO SLOWING DOWN FOR SARAH HUNTER AND FAMILY



The Hunter family's outdoor adventures continue. For several years now, our communications director Sarah Hunter has been on a mission to hike all 67 of the high peaks in New England (summits over 4,000 feet). There are 48 high peaks in New Hampshire, 14 in Maine, and five in Vermont. Pine Island sends trips to many of these peaks each summer, which is what initially drew Sarah to the mountains. In September Sarah wrapped up this goal with her son Silas on Mount Ellen in Vermont. Silas is close behind. He finished off his 48 New Hampshire high peaks list in November after a 13-mile out-and-back trek (including 10 water crossings!) to Mount Isolation. He has just a few more mountains in Maine left on his NE67 list.

Meanwhile, Caleb competed in the Biathlon National Championships in Jericho, VT in 2019, and he plans to travel to Montana for the 2020 races. His

year-round training involves rollerskiing and shooting in the off-season. He was briefly featured on the Maine Public Television show *Bill Green's Maine* recently while competing in a Rollerski Cross Country Cross race (a brand-new sport, which involves navigating jumps, uneven ramps, and other obstacles, on rollerskis).

As a family, all of the Hunters embarked on (and successfully completed) a three-day, self-supported bicycle trip on the White Rim Trail in Canyonlands National Park last April. Steep switchbacks took them down into a multi-colored landscape of mesas and cliffs and along the edge of the canyon. They carried all their gear, food, and water on their bikes (no water sources on the trail), and camped all alone in the desert. It was their most adventurous bike trip yet. It's no surprise that they're mentioned in a recent edition of *Adventure Cycling*.

YESTERDAY COMES SUDDENLY: PROJECT UNDERWAY TO CREATE PLANS FOR BUILDING PINE ISLAND SKIFFS



Rob Whitehouse at work on the next and newest Pine Island Skiff in his shop in Brunswick, ME

It is hard to believe that it was nearly 25 years ago that acclaimed boat designer and builder David Stimson set to work with input from director Ben Swan to design just the right rowboat for Pine Island Camp. David's creation of the "Pine Island Skiff" design was an important step in the long, somewhat circular history of rowing and rowboats at Pine Island. The next step, encouraged and undertaken by alumnus Rob Whitehouse, is to preserve that wonderful design and begin the replacement of the current aging fleet.

The oldest photos of the camp show that for many years most of the rowboats at Pine Island were lapstrake dories of the Amesbury Skiff design, thousands of which were built and used by fishermen and recreational rowers for nearly a century. These boats eventually wore out and they were replaced in the 1950s by flat-bottomed skiffs built by lobsterman and boat builder Harold "Dynamite" Payson in South Thomaston, ME. These skiffs were clunky and, frankly, not well suited to introducing campers to the joys of rowing. In the late '60s radical boat designer Philip Bolger created numerous designs for easy-to-build small boats made of plywood. One of these designs, the Gloucester Gull, caught the eye of both director Jun Swan and Dynamite Payson. In 1968 six Gulls, built by Dynamite and painted bright primary colors, were delivered to Pine Island. Thanks to the boats and the unquenchable enthusiasm of counselor Jim Chapman, interest in rowing as an activity at Pine Island bloomed. Jim created OAR (the Organization for the Advancement of Rowing) and DORY (Don't Overlook Rowing Y'all), and instituted the Dynamite Payson Rowing Regatta as an annual event. The Gulls were fast and easy to row from the middle seat, but double banking required the presence of a coxswain and rowing in the bow was difficult. Hundreds of boys learned to row in the Gulls and many Pine Islanders were sad to learn that after nearly 30 years of service they were falling apart.

Director Ben Swan appealed to Pine Islander and the dean of traditional small craft, the late John Gardner, for

help as he researched potential replacements for the Gulls. John generously agreed to recreate from photographs the lines of the original Amesbury Skiffs and recommended strongly that David Stimson, a boat designer and builder in Boothbay, ME, build them. David eventually built four of the boats and they were added to the PIC fleet. The Gulls, however leaky and soft, continued both to be both the boats boys most wanted to row and to fall apart, so Ben asked David if he would build some Gulls for the camp. David responded that he thought he could design a boat that would be better for teaching and even more enjoyable to row, so he and Ben sat down and listed the attributes that were important for the perfect Pine Island rowboat. The result was the Pine Island Skiff, which answered the challenge in every way. Gifts from generous alumni, including George Castell and Earl Smith, provided the funds for construction, and in 1997 four Pine Island Skiffs were delivered. Since there were four of them, it was decided that they would be named *John*, *Paul*, *George*, and *Ringo*. A fifth was added later and after some discussion about what to name it, the name *Stu* was selected. Stuart Sutcliffe, who was the group's original bass player and who died in 1962, is one of two people often referred to as "the fifth Beatle."

Fast forward almost 25 years and, in spite of the meticulous care the boats have received, they are beginning to show their age. Rob Whitehouse, who has participated in the Sloan Critchfield Memorial Boat Maintenance Weekend at Pine Island since its inception, has probably done more work on the Skiffs than anyone else, and during the past couple of years he has quietly made the point that the boats won't actually last forever. Rob, a retired engineer who has recently completed the construction of the gorgeous *Tip Your Cap* in his Brunswick shop (see *Needlenews Briefs*) and likes to get things *done*, has with Ben's blessing started a project that will result in the creation and archiving of plans from which one could build a Pine Island Skiff. And, he will build a sixth

Skiff (*Pete?*) from the plans this winter in his shop.

The esoteric weeds of boat design are deep and thick, but Rob seems comfortable in them. For all us non-engineers, suffice it to say that Rob has *Ringo* in his shop, has taken the lines off the boat, and is in the process of creating a traditional boat builder's lines plan from which anyone so inclined could build a Pine Island Skiff. Rob has already put in nearly 100 volunteer hours on this project and will donate all his labor to

build *Pete*. We are hoping that rowing enthusiasts from many generations will make gifts to cover the \$4000 that materials, oars, and some outside labor for cutting frames and parts will cost. It is wonderful that the design for one of the best rowboats ever built will be both preserved and accessible long into the future and that PIC will be able to commission the construction of replacements for the aging Beatles. Thank you, Rob and David!

"BRING 'EM UP. WE'LL FIX 'EM!"

Richie Nelson Carries on the Work of the Late Arthur Gauthier

Where to go when a couple of your propane-powered refrigerators need repair? This question faced Ben Swan several years ago, and after asking around locally to no avail, as a last resort he typed "propane refrigerator repair" into his computer and found a rudimentary website with a phone number. When he called the number, Arthur Gauthier answered and after Ben yammered on for a couple of minutes about his fridges, Arthur simply said, "Bring 'em up. We'll fix 'em." Ben got the address and a few weeks later headed up to Burlington, ME with two ailing propane refrigerators in the truck. Miraculously, Ben's GPS brought him right to Mr. Gauthier's establishment — several small buildings, including his shop, right on the shore of a remote and beautiful lake.

Arthur was into his eighties, and it was his assistant Richie Nelson who helped Ben unload the two fridges into Arthur's shop, which was full of propane refrigerators and other appliances in various states of repair. A few weeks later Ben returned to pick up two fully repaired refrigerators (payment in cash of course) and to receive a number of tips on how to maintain them and to troubleshoot in the future. A couple of years later Ben returned with three more refrigerators, including an ancient Servel that had sat idle for at least twenty years at Whitehead Island. By that time Arthur was near ninety, and Richie gave Ben the news that Arthur had been diagnosed with inoperable cancer. Arthur was right there though, now sitting down but, as Richie said in a recent interview, "right on top of me all the time!" Once again, a few weeks later the refrigerators, including the 50+ year old Servel, were back in business.

That would be Ben's last visit with Arthur, who worked as a machinist in Massachusetts after serving in the navy in WWII. He hunted and fished up around Burlington, ME for many years and finally moved up full time in 1984. Arthur and Richie met several times at

the local store and eventually Arthur started asking Richie to come and assist him in all kinds of repairs. "Art was a tinkerer but a really smart one," Richie said. "He could fix anything. Made his own windmill and solar system. People brought refrigerators from all over. One time a guy shipped us an old side-by-side from Tennessee. Arthur converted it from kerosene to gas and made a few other repairs and it worked perfectly." Arthur Gauthier died August 24, 2018. "He was sitting in that chair in the shop telling me what to do just two days before he passed away," said Richie. And before he died he told Richie, "When I'm gone, someone has to do it and it should be you." Richie Nelson does indeed put all that Arthur taught him to good use in a community that needs his skills and the can-do spirit that Arthur embodied. "If we don't know how to fix it, we will figure out a way," Richie said to conclude our interview.

After Arthur died, as a tribute to his friend and mentor, Richie had a beautiful and remarkable headstone made to mark Arthur Gauthier's grave. It is the front of a classic Servel propane refrigerator.



Arthur Gauthier's headstone created by his friend Richie Nelson

BUSIEST EVER FALL WORK SCHEDULE MADE POSSIBLE BY VOLUNTEERS AT PIC AND WLS

Last year's *Pine Needle* exhorted Pine Islanders to "Return, Repair, Relax, and Reconnect". Many responded to the call, got a huge amount of valuable work done at both Pine Island and the Whitehead Light Station, and enjoyed good company, great food, and the chance to spend a bit of time on two beautiful islands.

At Whitehead Light Station Work Nearly Complete on Yoder House II

As shocking as it was to lose Yoder House I to fire in the fall of 2017, the silver lining to this cloud might be considered a gold one. Once the dust had settled and we had counted our blessings that the wind was blowing southwest during the fire, we looked into the art and science of the small sewage disposal plant. James Eklund, an early supporter of the WLS project and resident of Shelter Island off Long Island, called Ben to recommend a system he had seen installed on his island with success and with a contact right in mid-coast Maine. Consultation with technical polymath and supervolunteer Matt Wall yielded the decision to go with the Fujiclean system, which was much more compact and less complicated than the system that burned. The bonus was that it would not need a building to house it. In the end, because of the availability of skilled, hardworking volunteers (see *Needle* February 2019), we were able to purchase and install the new system *and* build Yoder House II on the site of Yoder House I and create the desperately needed workshop and storage building now in use. During the spring and summer of 2019 volunteers under the direction of WLS director Gigi Lirot and Matt Wall completed all the exterior work, and this spring electrical work will be completed by a licensed electrician, and we will install all the beautiful shop tools given to Pine Island by Whit Fisher and Dennis Gagne. Thanks to the "A Team" volunteers and everyone else who worked on Yoder House II.

Staff Housing Upgrade

Volunteers under the direction of James Eklund, who also provided many of the materials, built a much-needed 12'x15' building several years ago to house WLS staff in order to keep all the bedrooms in the Keeper's House available for paying participants in the enrichment programs. Hilltop is so named because it sits on the site where a second keeper's house once stood, high above the WLS compound. Built well but incredibly inexpensively (thanks, James!), it is now ready for work on the interior. Plans call for a pine floor over the current plywood, sheathing for the walls, the installation of two interior walls, built-in bunk beds, shelving, and a simple kitchenette. We hope to assemble the "A Team" (tryouts this spring...) to

complete the work in May. The wood for the project will be white pine milled from two gigantic trees that needed to be cut along the PIC camp road during the winter of 2019. This will be the first project completed using the fully-equipped Yoder House II shop. The improved interior space will allow for added flexibility in hiring and housing WLS staff.

Topside Gets the "A Team" Treatment

Topside is a remarkable building that sits on the very edge of a granite pier at the site of a defunct granite quarry on the mainland near Whitehead Island. It was named by the late Lillian Swan, wife of the late Ripley Swan, Jun Swan's brother, long-time Pine Islander, Whitehead Island summer resident, and revered builder who lived and worked in South Londonderry, VT from the mid '40s until his death in 1996. Lil was great at coming up with names: the Swan Dive, Topside, and even Sur le Pont de Noilly Prat for a bridge on their property in Vermont. Topside was so named because it contains a cozy apartment and fantastic deck (off which Lil used to dive at high tide well into her 70s) above a boathouse. The circular staircase to the apartment is housed in a small lighthouse structure! Topside was a project Rip and Lil and some of their friends (their own "A Team") worked on over a period of about 30 years but never really finished. Pine Island Camp bought the property from Rip's nephew Ripley Swan II in 2006 and it has been available to rent since then.

Finishing the Topside interior and making repairs to the exterior have been on the list of projects for many years. We replaced the aging deck three years ago, and further work began in the fall of 2018 with minor interior upgrades completed by Ben Swan. A complete renovation is well underway, thanks to volunteers who showed up this fall, including David Pope, Matt Wall, and another Rip Swan, Ben and Emily's son, who is following in his great uncle's footsteps as a builder. A local contractor has been engaged to upgrade the bathroom and kitchen, and we are on the hunt for new furniture. Topside is for rent by the week from June through October and is the perfect snug getaway. To find out more see the ad in this publication or go to www.whiteheadlightstation.org.

At Pine Island First Cabin Crew Takes on Step II of the Great Shingling Project

There are lots of shingles on Pine Island. The roofs are shingled and so are the exterior walls of most buildings. Roof shingles take quite a beating and need to be replaced every 20 years or so. The cedar shingles on the exterior walls of the buildings last a lot longer. Seven buildings burned in the 1995 fire at Pine Island and all were shingled. While vol-



Sam Bristol, Cole Gibson, and Satchel Toole preparing the Dining Hall for reshingling

unteers stained the smaller buildings, Ben engaged professional painters to stain the two biggest buildings, Honk Hall and the Dining Hall/Kitchen building. Ben still regrets being talked into the pro's use of latex stain instead of the time-tested oil-based stain used for decades — and lasting for decades — on PIC buildings. It was clear in short order that the latex wasn't going to wear well, and within a year it began to peel, espe-

cially where the shingles caught direct sunlight. After valiant attempts to mitigate the latex debacle through scraping and filling in, the decision was made simply to replace the offending shingles and leave them unstained, while at the same time replacing trim. This would be done over a period of years, a couple of walls at a time.

The first round of reshingling and trim replacement, on the south and west sides of the kitchen building, was completed in the fall of 2017 by local contractor Dan Trembly. We skipped a year and got back to it this past fall. Dan was overbooked and unavailable, but he very generously came to the island twice to advise Ben and the First Cabin Crew (Satchel Toole, Dawson Loewen, Sam Bristol, and Cole Gibson) on methods and materials. The results were great! The entire Dining Hall and the rest of the Kitchen building have new shingles and trim. It was at times tedious work, but the Crew stuck with it and the results were given an A rating by both Dan Trembly and Rip Swan. The Crew also completed important smaller projects, including some major cleanup on the Mainland, replenishing firewood for 2020 campfires, and some work on the Camp Road.

Volunteer John Also Spearheads Pump House Renovation and More

Another project that has been on the list for a number of years was the repair of the Pump House and the replacement of the log cribbing in front of it. Years of splashing water around the hand pump had rotted the sill and steps, and band-



Looking good! The Dining Hall with new shingles and trim



John Alsop at work on the new kitchen dock bench

aid repairs were no longer going to be sufficient. Ben engaged John Alsop, resident of Cornville, ME and recently retired Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maine, to come and help him with the work. John quickly sized up the situation and he and Ben set to work. The job presented many challenges, including moving the massive pressure tank inside the building in order to replace the floor and structure beneath it. Ultimately about a third of the floor, some of the underpinnings, and all of the structure in which the hand pump is housed were replaced with some improvements made.

As part of the project John and Ben also made improvements to the log structure in front of the Pump House. Past and future Kitchen Crew will be very happy to learn that the steps to the kitchen have been reconfigured to allow easy access to the hand pump, to and from which the Crew must go dozens of times a day to pump drinking water and water for bug juice, coffee, etc. In addition, Ben's longtime desire to incorporate a bench into the front of the log structure was realized. John's exceptional chainsaw skills, honed in the forests of Palermo, came to the fore as he cut a long cedar log in half along its length and fitted the two halves together with a lap joint. The result was a comfortable bench in front of the Pump House where one can relax and survey the busy scene at the kitchen dock. Sitting on the new bench, John immediately posited that the old hanging bench by the dock was "in the way of the view." Traditionalist Ben Swan strongly protested that John Bunker's amazing log bench "wasn't going anywhere." Alsop's 35 years arguing cases in various courtrooms quickly overpowered Ben's defenses (and the bench was about to fall down anyway) and the hanging bench hung no more. But we needed a bench. Fortuitously, John had recently taken a back route to PIC from his Cornville estate and had come across an interesting business in Oakland – Mr. Woodchuck, a small lumber mill specializing in milling very large trees. Mr. Woodchuck has a very bulk band saw with a 40-horsepower diesel engine. Ben and John made a trip to Mr. Woodchuck and returned to PIC with two enormous white pine planks.



John Alsop building steps to the newly renovated Pump House

John went to work and in a couple of days fashioned a beautiful and very comfortable 12' bench that now sits by the kitchen dock. It will seat many more people than the hanging bench and does not obstruct the view from the Pump House bench. Mission Accomplished. Many thanks, John.

Rob Whitehouse Returns with Rebuild of Prototype Handwashing Station

In an effort to stem the spread of bugs like the great barf bug of 2012, Emily Swan promoted the idea of installing a handwashing station to augment or replace the dispensers of cleansing liquid in the perches. Ben picked up the idea and ran with it, enlisting retired engineer and Pine Islander Rob Whitehouse, one of the original volunteers for the Sloan Critchfield Memorial Boat Maintenance Weekend, to help with the project. Rob was able to translate Ben's distinctly non-engineer ideas into something that would work, and for the past two summers campers and staff using the South Perch were able to step on a foot pedal and wash their hands with... warm water! For some, the presence of anything resembling hot water anywhere but in the kitchen at Pine Island is anathema, but preventing the



Amanda and Cecily Pulver in the PIC kitchen during Volunteer Week



Ben Swan and Henry Clauson ready for action

spread of bugs that can really affect a camp season seems like a good reason to make an exception. The prototype installed in 2018 had a beautiful copper sink and an elegant mixing valve Rob installed inside the Maintenance Shed, but the rest of it was pretty darned ugly, consisting mostly of a lot of PVC pipe. Rob arrived in the rain this past fall with its elegant mahogany replacement that he had made in his shop in Brunswick, ME. All who have seen it remark on how beautiful it is. Thank you, Rob, and campers.... Wash Your Hands!!

Sloan Critchfield Memorial Boat Maintenance Weekend and Volunteer Week

Pine Island's 13th weekend of boat repair and maintenance by volunteers was the 13th in a row that was a huge success. By the end of the September weekend *all* of Pine Island's many beautiful, but hard-used, wooden boats sat gleaming in their winter berths, in either Honk Hall or the Boat House. It is no exaggeration to say that the work done on our boats on just 13 weekends has extended the life of the boats by many years, not to mention the wonderful message having every boat 100% ship shape at the beginning of the season sends to counselors, staff, parents and alumni. And, the weekend is always a lot of fun and we always have lots of great food. This year saw the return of long-time ace PIC head chef Amanda Pulver to the kitchen to cook for the weekend and most of the week following. Amanda was joined for part of the time by sister Cecily, another PIC kitchen veteran. Camp parent and baker extraordinaire Sandy Holland provided brutally good desserts, and we all benefited from the quiet and expert leadership of Abe Stimson, former counselor and extremely knowledgeable wooden boat expert. Twenty volunteers took part over the course of nine days. We recommend carving out the weekend of September 18-20, 2020 to come

enjoy Great Pond in the fall and pitch in. We will have a chef and work leader available all the way through the morning of September 27 for those who want to stay longer or who can't make the first weekend.

No Slipups Allowed — Henry Clauson Spearheads the Great Pumpout

With the exception of a few counselors who remember the Grease Pit in days of yore, most Pine Islanders don't give a second thought to what happens to the water that goes down the kitchen drains after washing several hundred dishes, utensils, and pots and pans. Henry Clauson does, and as a long-time Pine Island camper, counselor, assistant director, camp parent, and member of the board with a background in environmental engineering, he is uniquely well suited to give more than a second thought to the difficulties engendered by the incontrovertible fact that one simply cannot back a septic pumping truck up to the permitted septic system that lurks beneath the Dust Court on Pine Island. For the past 15 years Henry has dutifully shown up at the beginning of Staff Week to unearth the lids of our three septic tanks and hand dip the foul-smelling grease that has collected at the top of the gray water over the winter. Triple bagged, it is then taken to our friend Pat Jackson Septic Service's grease disposal plant. Working with Henry and delivering the remarkably smelly stuff is one of those Pine Island jobs, like honeydipping in the old days and raking today, that has entered the realm of legend.

For several years Henry has underscored the fact that we needed, one way or another, to pump out the tanks. But how to do it? Convince Pat Jackson to drive one of their trucks over the ice? Not likely. Dip by hand hundreds of gal-

(Continued on page 8)

TRAVELS WITH JONO

By Sumner Ford



Jono Bryant at the helm of Blue Belle

As a 19-year-old, second-year counselor, I finally signed up for the pre-season course I had dreamed of taking for years. I enrolled to earn my Wilderness First Responder (WFR) at Pine Island. Not only was I excited about unlocking a wealth of knowledge, but since every trip at Pine Island must have at least one WFR, I was bound to lead more trips. The instructor was in his third year teaching Pine Island counselors important wilderness first aid skills, and he had already achieved legendary status.

(Continued from page 7)

lons of foul water *and* the solids? Please no. The solution took shape over a couple of years and Henry and his sidekick Ben Swan accomplished the evil mission this past fall. Think powerful trash pump, 100' of 4-inch hose, two huge tanks aboard the KWS, and you get the picture — and you may be asking, “what could possibly go wrong?” The original idea was to convert one of our floating docks to an outboard-powered barge (done) to transport the tanks. Testing early in the week by volunteers Ben “Shopguy” Herman, Kevin Hubbard, and Chase Hall revealed that the barge sank under the weight of the tanks filled with water. The lads immediately transformed the barge into a party boat, so our efforts were not in vain. Later that week with relatively few hiccoughs the KWS, laden with hundreds of gallons of greasy sludge in two tanks, made two trips to the mainland where the Pat Jackson truck awaited with another 100' hose. Success, but a very long day and the end for a full set of clothes in spite of the Tyvek suits. Henry says we're good for another 10-15 years! Woah, King Kababa!

Volunteers Flock to Assist New Head Umpire Nicky Isles

One of the most demanding but least known and appreciated volunteer tasks at Pine Island is umpiring for the War

The WFR course is 80 hours long and teaches trip leaders how to treat injuries out on the trail. The course teaches both medical skills and how to improvise and adapt in a wilderness setting. Jono Bryant was our instructor back then and still is today. I cannot imagine anyone better suited to teach wilderness medicine.

Along with teaching the WFR course, Jono helps with setting up the island for the season, and evenings are spent in the dining hall telling stories from the past year. During past WFR weeks, Jono had talked about his newfound passion - sailing. This year, Jono invited me to tag along on a late-summer sailing trip in Penobscot Bay. How could I resist? Jono wrapped up his final WFR scenario, and before I knew it, the summer was upon us.

As the Farewell Feed wrapped up and the last group of staff left, I gratefully shifted gears and focused on the sailing trip. I met up with Jono in Belfast, we bought supplies for five nights on the water, and I went aboard the splendid *Blue Belle*, a 17-foot Pearson's Overnighter with a junk rig, the famous Chinese sailboat design, with a gaff and battens. Jono built the entire junk set up, from crafting the mast to sewing the sails. We launched without error and began our journey from Gouldsboro to Belfast.

Game. Many think that it's all fun and a chance to sort of participate in the Game and to hang out with friends at the Rink. Think again. Being an umpire *is* fun, and the hanging out at the Rink happens, but being an umpire also means being on top of the rules, potentially spending several hours at a time during which your only excitement is swatting horse flies and mosquitoes and eagerly awaiting news from the next orderly about what is going on in the game. And there's no place to hide if it starts to rain! And yet, after some recruiting of younger candidates by head umpire Nicky Isles, 27 umpires were available to fill the slots over the two days of play! These included veterans like Sandy Crane (head umpire emeritus), Tad Gibson, Paul Ronson, Ned Bishop, and Andrew Goodale, and many recently-minted umpires and rookies.

Sandy Crane established the practice of assigning rookies to work with experienced umpires until they are ready for the awesome responsibility of whistling “Play is off!” and getting the calls right.

Nicky Isles is looking forward to the next contest and said, “With the first Gray victory in nine years in the books, it is likely that competition will only intensify, if that is possible, so having well-trained, on-the-ball umpires is more important than ever. Many thanks to everyone who has returned for this important volunteer opportunity.”

Underway, but not under sail, I quickly learned some essential distinctions between sailing at Pine Island and sailing to reach a destination. We immediately started the motor as the wind was light and right on our nose. We putted along, and a significant advantage of sailing became apparent to me; it's much easier to chat while sailing than while hiking or paddling. Jono and I passed the time exchanging stories, his far more exciting than mine. We would spend our first night in Birch Harbor only a few nautical miles away and sheltered from the prevailing wind. Jono read from the guide that we'd have to navigate the “Roaring Bull,” a shoal at the cove's entrance that could present some challenges. Jono expertly worked around the danger, and we found ourselves snug as a bug, safe in the harbor.

A 17-foot boat does not provide a ton of space, especially when your captain is 6'4", but Jono carefully designed the cabin to fit two beds and a galley. The galley slides out from under the step down into the cabin and features a single-burner stove. Jono is an expert at cooking on the trail, so we enjoyed curries, delicious plates of pasta, and I treated him to chili Annie's. In true Pine Island fashion, our phones were stashed away.

Our second day of sailing involved a long stretch of open water, and our first opportunity to raise sail. Summer mansions perched atop granite cliffs greeted us as we approached Mt. Desert Island (MDI). We turned past Northeast Harbor and made our way down Some Sound. The sound is an ancient fjord, sometimes referred to as the East's only fjord. Years of erosion have softened the mountains surrounding the waterway, but they still towered over us as we made our way across the turquoise water. We made harbor after sailing 3 ½ nautical miles down the sound, and in true Pine Island form celebrated with a dip.

Every place we dropped anchor was spectacular. Sometimes we would row into port for dinner and other nights we would eat aboard. During our evenings, I learned that Jono's first lengthy experience on the water was sailing with his uncle from Britain down to Gibraltar and back. He has continued his passion for sailing on his own and with his uncle, acquiring an impressive amount of knowledge. Their most recent adventure was in *Blue Belle*, sailing from the Florida Keys across the Straits of Florida to Cuba.

Our next day began with a fantastic sail out of the MDI region. We tacked our way past Cranberry Island and reached Bass Harbor Bay, where we were forced to drop sail to pass through the narrow channel, and we slipped into a cove on McGlathery Island.

We again spent our evening trading stories, and I learned that, after sailing around the eastern edge of the Atlantic, Jono returned to school and earned a

Master's degree in Resource Management from the University of Edinburgh. He was then hired by an outfitter in the Peruvian Amazon to show tourists around the jungle and teach them about rainforest ecology. Jono spent more and more time in the rainforest, and he was soon an expert at leading expeditions and jungle travel in Nicaragua, India, Costa Rica, Brazil, Borneo, and Belize. Amidst the boom of survival TV, Jono even led Jack Osbourne (son of Ozzy), and a TV crew through the rainforest. Jono took first-aid courses but never felt like the training available was sufficient. He learned about the Wilderness Medicine School, SOLO, and their Wilderness EMT class. After the four-week-long course, the instructors were so impressed by Jono's ability that they asked if he would be interested in becoming an instructor. After teaching at their school in North Conway, New Hampshire, for a couple of years, they asked if he would start another campus in North Carolina. During his time teaching in North Carolina, Jono taught long-time counselor, Assistant Director, and Whitehead Assistant Director Joe Kovaz. In Jono Joe immediately recognized a true Pine Islander, and he suggested that Jono make the trip up to Belgrade to teach the WFR course to the staff. That spring, Jono flew up to Maine and taught his first class of Pine Islanders.

The next couple of days provided spectacular sailing. The weather was clear, and the wind was a perfect 5-10 knots. We sailed past Isle au Haut and the hundreds of little islands between it and Stonington and through the Fox Island Thoroughfare, and we anchored in Perry Cove — a safe spot for lobster boats during hurricanes.

Jono and I said goodbye to our final port early the next morning and began our sail up the east side of Penobscot Bay. It was a sailor's dream; the wind was strong, and from the west. It allowed us to make the entire ten nautical mile sail up the bay on a single tack. We talked about plans for the coming days. Jono had more sailing ahead while I prepared for life on land. After sailing, Jono would head back down to Bryson City, NC, to resume teaching EMT and WFR courses, and the challenging job of a paramedic. He also was planning two expeditions with Wofford College students, one to Chile and one to Ecuador.

Our last bit of sailing into Belfast was exhilarating. Whitecaps lapped at our bow, and we heeled the boat over until the water gushed over our gunwales.

Jono recently bought a bigger sailboat, also a junk rig. He's spent much of his fall rebuilding the boat and trying to come up with a name for her. He hopes to sail it up to Maine for the summer and spend more time exploring the Maine coast after teaching another lucky bunch of counselors the all-important WFR skills.

CAMPERS WRITE

No Tech on the Island by Frank Brockett

One of the great things about Pine Island Camp is that you don't have access to any computers at all. If you're used to air conditioning, you'll be surprised when you go into Honk Hall to cool off on a hot day. When you go in it is cooler, but only slightly. The heat builds up and Honk Hall can get really stuffy. So, sit in the shade if you want to cool off! If you have a habit of reaching to turn off your light, you'll have to make a new habit of turning off your headlamp.

Walk around camp. Do you see any wires, outlets, or other signs of electricity? You may see some radios or Kindles, but nothing with an internet connection.

For entertainment, you have to depend on books, rest, dustball, staffball, and other games and people on the island. I personally really like campfire. It beats computers in almost every way.

The bottom line is that not having technology on Pine Island is pretty great.

Oak Island Trip Report by Charlie Gibbons

Early in the summer there was a trip announcement for the Oak Island trip. I found the idea of going on a trip very exciting, and I needed to go on a trip to get my Islander rank in woodcraft. I signed up for Oak Island in the activity line, and had my fingers crossed I would make it in.

At lunch Noah Donoghue announced I had made the trip along with seven other boys. We practiced on the War Yacht during Boats Out and this made our excitement grow even more. As our packing, dinner, breakfast, and password dragged on, it was finally time to go.

Once we were in the boat time flew by and we were at Oak Island in no time. As we set up our tents, our minds wandered. Would we have a campfire? Would it count if we missed 100%? How do we put on this rain fly? Our questions

were answered with: Yes, there would be a campfire and everyone would be in it; on trips there is a pass for 100%; and no, the rainfly goes on this way. Noah and Sam Lanoff answered all our questions.

As we took a swim, we wondered some more about what to do for campfire. Some chose games, some chose special talents, but I chose a murder mystery skit. It was an easy skit and a little stupid, but no one cared. It was fun just to put ourselves out there and that was all that mattered. Even if some games and songs were a bit better, it didn't matter, which was a valuable lesson I took away from the beginning of what will hopefully be a great Pine Island experience.

After we roasted and burned all of our marshmallows and s'mores, we tiredly hit the sack, ready for another beautiful day. When we woke up from a good night's sleep we thought it was early, given there were no boats out on the water.

It was a beautiful day as we ate our slightly cold eggs, and took down tents, and made sure we left no trace. Within an hour we hit the road (lake) in the War Yacht. We passed Runioa and some interesting 4th of July decorations. We went to Day's Store and played mafia, ate lunch, and got ice cream and headed back. As we headed back to Great Pond in the War Yacht we became part of a water parade. It was great!

As we came out of the parade we passed some boats celebrating July 4th almost as happily as us. We got a couple of offers of a tow. We refused and had a GORP break. We got back to Pine Island exhausted. Then we remembered that there were going to be fireworks! It was two days, but felt like two minutes. Our trip was nothing short of great!

Saturday Night Show Review: *The Loon King* by Charlie Packer

This SNS, *The Loon King*, was a traditional Pine Island parody of the long-standing family favorite *The Lion King*. The protagonist, Simba the lion, was

represented by Will Hartley who played Sumner Ford. The villain, Uncle Scar, was represented by Teddy Trippe paying Miles Frank. Scar's brother and Simba's father, Mufasa, was represented by Aiden Skillman playing Ben Swan. Following the plotline of the original *Lion King* movie, Ben Swan passes the position of director on to Sumner Ford, not Miles Frank. Miles concocts a plan to steal camp for himself. He murders Ben Swan and frames Sumner, who runs away, leaving the camp in Miles's hands.

When an LTIP finds Sumner and tells him that he isn't responsible for Ben Swan's death, Sumner returns to Pine Island, challenges Miles to a crawfish race, and wins, taking back the camp.

The plot of this SNS was pitch perfect, painting a clear picture for the audience. Every joke and witticism added to the overall atmosphere but still connected to the storyline. I think the funniest moment of the performance was when Miles shouted at Sumner, after murdering Ben Swan, "He's dead, you idiot!" The way Teddy Trippe said the line was just hilarious. The way Miles's evil character was portrayed was beautiful right down to his being fed Goldfish by his servants, the LTIPs, while the rest of the camp starved.

The show ended with a dramatic crawfish race, which still added to the character development, with Miles threatening to cut off his crawfish's claws in a last-ditch attempt to keep control of the camp, and Sumner encouraging his crawfish. Following the original plot,

Sumner's crawfish won the race, and Sumner took back the camp.

In conclusion, this was a funny, well done SNS that deserves five stars. Given the resources on hand, they did a great job.

"The show was long, and the breaks were short, but performing was worthwhile," says Caden Clark, who played an LTIP and Noah Brodsky in the show.

Club Honk Preparations Underway by Brendan Conrad

Club Honk is the one night of the summer when the whole camp comes together to enjoy the music of their fellow Pine Islanders. I went to watch the performers rehearse and see what the show was all about. The energy in Honk Hall was lively as counselors Mark Pierce and Jack Reed coached the young musicians practicing their pieces. Mark called Club Honk "the best night of the summer!"

"Tell your friends to come on out," added Jack.

Instruments in the show include guitars, ukuleles, clarinets, drums, and bass guitars, to name a few. As everyone practices, you can sense the excitement and nerves in the atmosphere. I believe this Club Honk will be the best yet. Everyone is excited for the music and candy.

"The most important part is the music," says camper Sam Tulupman. So stick around all evening to enjoy the show!



GLUB, 'ZUMA, AND GU'S NEW SHOES: A SACRED 2019

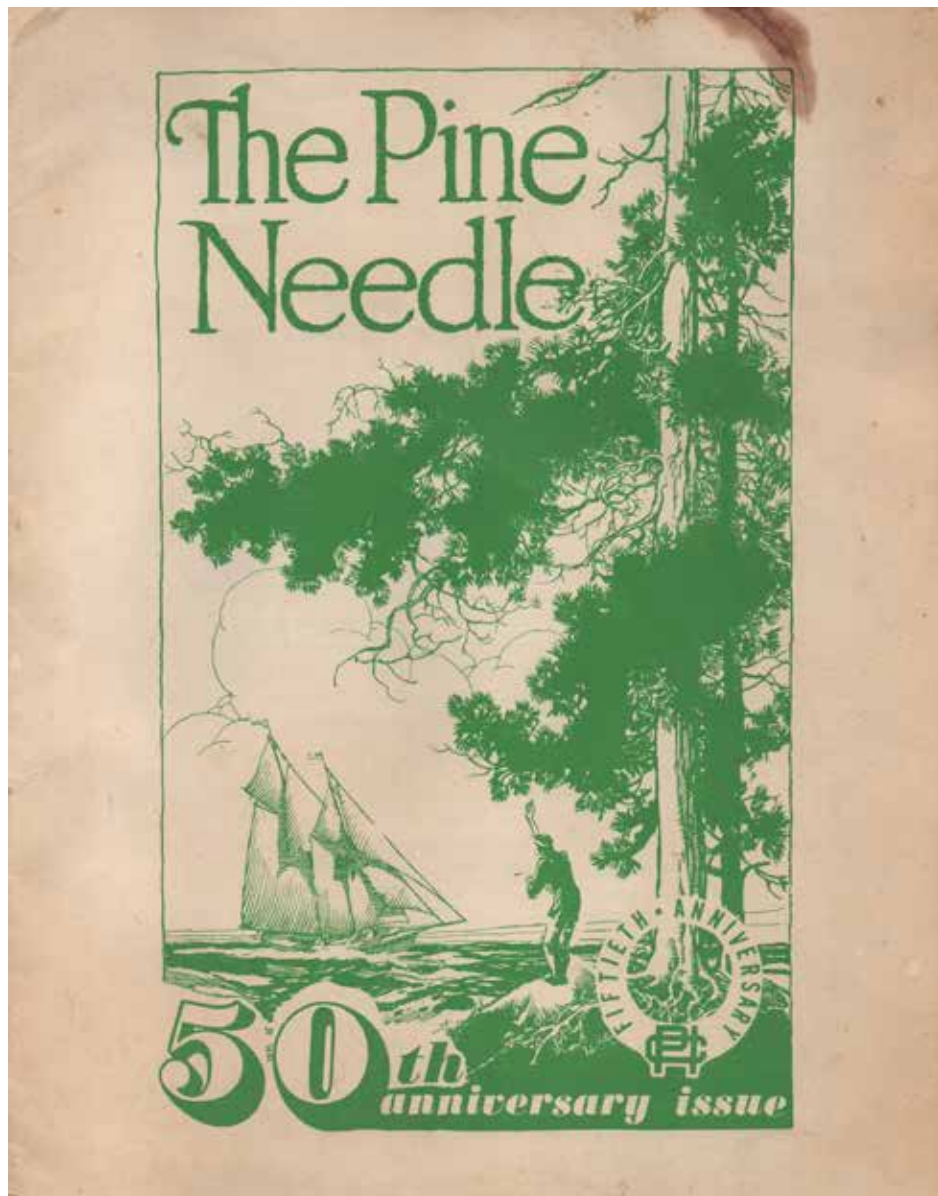
This summer was full of sacred goings-on. The King sent many signs praising the campers' hard work in activities, campfire acts, and trips. He was so pleased, he even bestowed Gu the Ru with a shiny new pair of metal shoes. The Sacred Journey was led by long-time camper and newly anointed Kababologist-in-Training, Xander Schwartz. Xander led the trip with great pride and brought life back to old, somewhat forgotten chants. He is currently attending the Yale School of Kababology to return as a fully-fledged kababologist next summer. The highlight of the summer, however, is that the King chose to grace the camp with more than one sacred animal: Glub the Gormandizing Grouper, a brass-covered, golden-tailed wooden Grouper, whose mouth is held wide open by fly-fishing expert, Bezuma the Frog. Bezuma, a returning animal, is the mother of the Bezumarangs, who proudly hang in Honk Hall. The chants for these animals must

be done together, one right after the other. The first is for Glub: "GLUB Glub GLUB glub, Appetizer, Hyperphasia, Gormandizer" repeated thrice, then immediately followed by Bezuma's chant, which speeds up as it progresses: "Fastah! Fastah! Gotta catch'ah! 'Zuma is a mastah castah!" repeated thrice. Joining Glub and Bezuma was none other than Nimaj Naws, the Fantastically Credit-Rejected Sigmus Vulpus. Nimaj is a fox that sits proudly atop a guitar adorned with driftwood. Friend to Nimaj, Limey Naws, the Southern Greenwing Chickadee, sits atop the guitar, surrounded by mushrooms, crosswords, and binoculars. Her chant goes, "The Southern Greenwing Says 'Don't Run, Sashay! Sashay! Sashay!'" Nimaj's chant goes as follows: "Fantastic Fellow; brings the noise; card's rejected; 'Hello, Boys!'" Filled with signs, chants, animals, and loyalty to the King, the summer of 2019 was one to remember.



FROM THE ARCHIVES...

This past fall Ben Swan received a copy of the 50th anniversary issue of the Pine Needle, published during the winter of 1950-51 by Jun Swan, who was then living on Riverside Drive and teaching at the Collegiate School in New York City where Pine Islander Wilson Parkhill was headmaster. The historic document was sent by Ethel Woolverton, who was married to Chalmers "Chip" Handy when he was Jun's assistant director during the 1950s. Many thanks to Ethel for sending it along. Below are some excerpts of a publication that looked back from what now seems such a long time ago.



By 1915 the NEEDLE was a well-established part of Pine Island life. . .

The Pine Needle

July 15, 1915 Pine Island, Maine Number 2

A paper arranged and edited by the campers of Pine Island, having as its purpose the idea of fostering the literary and artistic efforts of all. It will contain all those events and happenings which shall have helped make the camp season pleasant and healthful.

...and Editor J.P. Marston reports a great modern step...

IN THE OLDEN DAYS.

A trip from camp to the "Cygnus" went about as follows:
Boat to camp landing, team from No. Belgrade to Oakland, trolley from Oakland to Waterville, hike across town to R. R. station, choo-choo to Burnham Junction, all change! Please have your ticket ready! Transfer to Belfast Branch, choo-choo to Belfast, hike across town—all aboard!

Now!

Camp Landing—Chug! Chug! Honk! Honk! Belfast! All out. How? Simple! Ford (automobiles?) direct from the camp farm across country to Belfast.

Due to the ease, speed and added comfort of the latter method of transportation it has become obligatory to add an extra 50 cents for each camper who trusts himself in these Down East Taxi-cabs.



The Cygnus



Captain Pratt

The Memorial Library was being built in 1924...



The Memorial Building

Of the many first-night reviews published in the Pine Needle none is more representative than this one which Tom McCance printed in 1924...

First Thoughts On Saturday Nights

THE open air theatre was filled to capacity—The curtain had not yet risen and the motley crowd was rather listlessly singing some of Wagner's more popular love songs. There was a strained and tense atmosphere as this highly aesthetic audience waited for a sequel to "Sherlock Ho'mes," "Nell of the plains," and some of the other masterpieces of the repertoire company. Suddenly like a herring gull swooping out of the water, Director Harding stepped in front of the curtain, picturesquely clad in Roman gunnesack and a bathing jersey. Had someone dropped a handkerchief, no doubt murder would have resulted so keen were the audience to catch every word of the director—"The performance this evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, is to be * * * Julius Caesar in revamped form."

When Mr. Sargent appeared upon the stage as Brutus, we were reminded of those famous lines "Some one had blundered * * * there's not to reason why; there's but to do and die." We soon forgot first appearances, however, and it seemed to our critical eye that Mr. Sargent showed up better in this role than even in his famous bull scene of two weeks past. With his combination of Roman dignity he gave an interpretation of Brutus that would make John Barrymore turn green with envy.

In all fairness, we must give the first prize to Mr. Harding, who in the role of Caesar turned in a piece of acting that would fill a Broadway theatre 367 nights of the year. His delicacy of gesture, his gesture, his gentle treatment of his beloved wife Calpernia, his dramatic death at the hand of Brutus were high lights in his presentation of his role. As a ghost, Mr. Harding was most natural and even winsome. We cannot close without telling the true pleasure that we derived from Mr. Harding's exquisite diction with its Emersonian choice of word and phrase.

As Cassius, Mr. Affeld was stupendous in the literal sense of the word—both forceful and gentle at the same time. Joe McCance as Cascara upheld the envious reputation that he made in "Nell of the Plains." Mr. Eaton as Calpernia was enticing, lovable and pathetic. He won the heart of his audience in exactly the same manner as he does the rest of the world. We must not forget Anthony—noble big-hearted Anthony—and his passionate heart-rending eulogy so ably and naively interpreted by none other than our Mr. Kidd. Lost but by no means least we must give a world of credit to Jack Davenport who did a very beautiful piece of acting in the role of Solomon Levi. Then of course there were courtiers, servants, mobs and other stage properties which are vital to the success of the play. This list includes such celebrities as Atherton, Merrow, Nick Picard in person, Wilkes, R. Smith, Warren, A. Kendall, and a few others who have not yet turned in their vouchers. Our only regret is that more were not able to view this bit of dramatic art.

The Blues and the Grays, 1924...

Through the Needle's Eye

By the time this issue is published everyone will be too excited to read it. "On to Mercer" is the cry.

The following telegrams have been received:

To the Blue Army:

I have devised a plan of defense which will make it impossible for the Grays to score a single man. Put nine men in each of the four gates.
(Signed) Sidney Lovett.

To the Gray Army:

I have studied the situation carefully and am convinced that if you could arrange to have four strong parties instead of three strong parties and a weak one, the Gray army could win with ease.

(Signed) Philip T. Cate.

THESPIANS ABOUND AT PINE ISLAND CAMP, IMPRESSING CAMP COMMUNITY

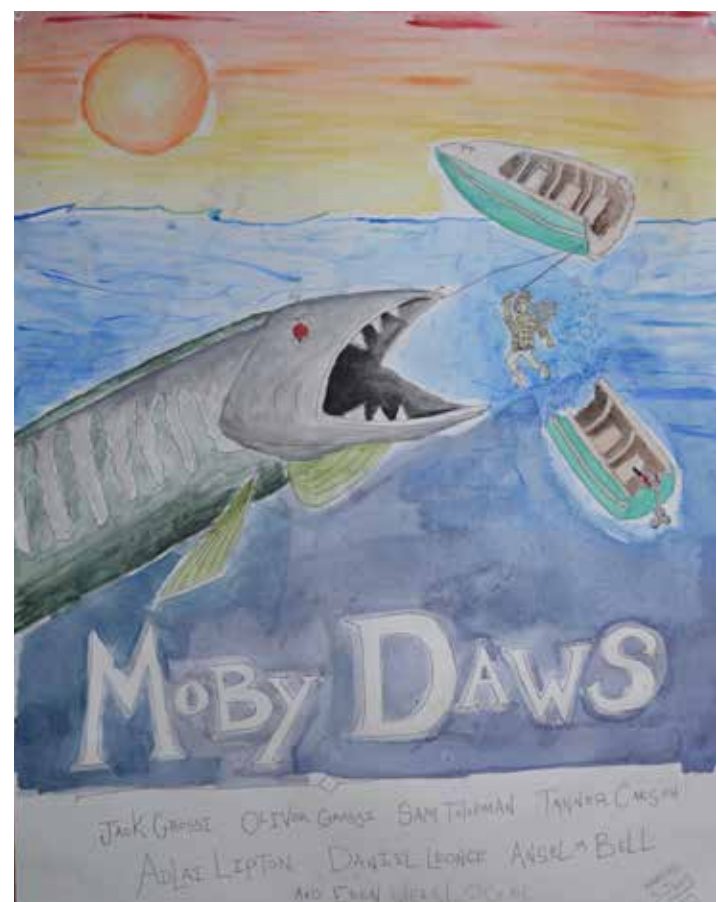
By Corinne Alsop, Matt Miller, and Mark Pierce

The 2019 PIC season was another filled with theatrical brilliance. Each Saturday Night Show (conceived of and produced in a single day) somehow brought a new level of spectacle and mastery to the stage. The summer started with the retelling of the classic story, *Moby Dick*. Cleverly renamed *Moby Daws*, this show was directed by Kaja Surborg and Matthew Hawkins. The show begins with director Sumner (played with spunk by Adlai Lipton) in need of a fly-fishing instructor. He hires Will Stack (portrayed with necessary panache by Sam Tulupman) who quickly meets notoriously passionate fishing camper Eben Wieslogel (playing himself with brilliance). Dawson (Daws) Loewen (played passionately by Tanner Carson), a famed fishing expert, appears and warns everyone of his vendetta against the Great White Pike for eating his favorite fly years ago. Thirsty for revenge, Daws, along with Stack, Eben, and a fellow camper (played by veteran actor Daniel Leonce) set off in *Mr. Battie*, the camp's classic Old Town fishing boat. They pass Ben Swan (authoritatively played by Anselm Bell) who tells them he's sighted the White Pike behind Oak Island. Along the way to Oak, they run into Skipper Bobby (portrayed with chilling accuracy by Jack Grossi). Stack spots the Pike (hilariously played by Oliver Grossi wearing goggles and a white sheet). In a fateful battle, Daws and the pike fight until finally the pike rams into *Mr. Battie* and splits it in two. Stack is the only survivor, and must return to camp with Skipper Bobby to write the tale of *Moby Daws*.

The second show of the season, directed by Matt Miller and Corinne Alsop, was based upon the classic Disney musical, *The Lion King*. This Pine Island adaptation, *The Loon King*, featured the adventuresome Will Hartley as Sumba Ford, young heir to the PIC director throne. Counseled by Ben Swan (played by a convincingly wizened Aiden Skillman), Sumba learns that someday, everything Great Pond touches will be his. Elsewhere on the island, Miles Frank (played by the scene-stealing Teddy Trippe) is plotting to steal the throne with the help of his evil LTIP Hyenas (played by the talented Max Bell, Wyatt Thornton, and Caden Clark). After an incident during regatta day, Sumba is exiled from the island by Miles. Adrift, he meets Noah and Walker (hilariously played by Madron Joyce and Caden Clark, respectively.) The cast performed rewrites of all the classic numbers, including "Can You Hear the Loons Tonight," "I Just Can't Wait to Run Things," and "The Island of Pine" (performed fabulously by Arlo Skogen to open and close the show). With a rousing chorus of "Whoa, King Kababa" (based on "Hakuna Matata"), Sumba is convinced to go back to the island and defeat Miles to take his rightful place as director.

Expedition Camp, led by Noah Brodsky and Walker MacDonald, wrote and directed *Midsummer*, a thrilling and frightening remake of the blockbuster movie, *Midsummer*. Irving Baldwin (playing himself with impressive accuracy) is introduced to an alternative and scary Pine Island Camp, where members of a cult of King Kababa offer him gruesome sacrifices. Irving also meets the cruel LTIPs (played by veteran actors Alec Ritchie and Max Klivans), and his tent counselor, evil Johnson Pope (played chillingly by Ryan Gilbert). Things get stranger as, one by one, Irving's tent mates (Silas Hunter, Akul Sethi, David Efron, and Connor Carrington-House) disappear and are killed by the horrible High Priestess of the Island, Corinne Alsop (masterfully played by Charles Schell) along with her LTIPs. Inspired by the bone-chilling movie of the same title, the campers went to impressive extremes with special effects, using loads of fake blood and even creating a false heart for Efron that Corinne and the LTIPs rip out and eat. When this stunning scene concludes, Irving sees no choice but to succumb to the madness of this grim Pine Island and all its weirdness in a final epic scene where he is adorned with blood in a ceremonial campfire.

Next, the curtain rose on a show directed by Mark Pierce and Jack Reed: *Napoleon Pineamite*, a fabulous retelling of the classic movie, *Napoleon Dynamite*. An unusual boy from the start, Napoleon (a standout performance by Caden Clark) is heckled by his fellow campers for his strange hobbies and enthusiasm. Full of familiar faces, this tale is set in 2004 and features young Nicky Isles (skillfully played by Ben Lew), Ben Swan at 48 (played with the necessary gusto by Caleb Choe), and Sumner Ford at 14 (played by Hans Baurmeister in a breakout performance). During morning activities, Napoleon is in woodcraft, building a new contraption. He explains to his counselor (the talented Simon de Beistegui) that he is far advanced in the studies of woodcraft; he's creating a Vietnamese panda bear trap. At lunch, the LTIP Wrangler Giles Frank (played with authority by Jaden Scutero) reminds everyone of the importance of LTIPs and the buddy check. Napoleon is once again reminded that he has no buddy here at camp. At rest hour, Napoleon's tentmate Kip Klivans (played by the versatile Adlai Lipton) tells Napoleon he has plans to meet his special lady, Lucinda, at the Runioa docks later in the week. Napoleon, jealous, attempts to talk to Susie (Kitchen Crew member Lucie Bhisitkul). Bronson Pope (played by the talented Wyatt Thornton) goes and gets Susie for Napoleon. Alas, Napoleon only ends up embarrassing himself further. At campfire, Napoleon approaches a shy French camper, Patrice (portrayed gracefully by Dimitri



Clamageran), and finally finds a friend! However, in a crucial ping pong match, the pair loses miserably to Nicky and Sumner. During Kip's escapade to Runioa, Robby Flynn, the skipper, (played once again with style by Jack Grossi) senses "a disturbance in his chakras and therefore on the water," so he takes the Whaler over to Kip and drags his dory home to Pine Island. Back in Kopa, Napoleon prays to King Kababa, explaining he doesn't fit in and he feels lost. He asks for a sign. After a trip to Mt. Phillip, Napoleon's faith is restored and he returns to camp, rejuvenated and ready to be himself and share his creative efforts with everyone. Napoleon, determined to be himself, dances freely, befriends Susie, and finds confidence in his uniqueness after all.

The final show took place on a Monday, making it an "MNS." Directed by iconic duo Ryan Schlosser and Dawson Loewen, this original production was titled *Rock, Paper, Scissors Casino*. The story follows three unlikely heroes, Mark Pierce (enthusiastically played by

Navi Vaisbort), Corinne Alsop (expertly portrayed by AJ Powers), and Tommy Mottur (played by Mottur expert, Teddy Mottur) on their quest to investigate a newly opened casino in Norridgewock. To begin, the audience is brought 20 years into the future, where our heroes meet at the "Thirsty Mule" to catch up and talk about old times. They are served by a waiter (a lovely cameo by Sam Molko). They recall being sent on a mission from Sumner (played by the versatile Eben Wieslogel) to bust up a waiter-game casino. The trio is driven to the Rock-Paper-Scissors Casino by veteran driver Nicky Isles (masterfully portrayed by Jimmy Leuchten). Winning a series of games at the casino (against all odds), the trio advances to the final game that will reveal the man who began the casino. It is none other than former counselor and Assistant Director Dan Bristol (played with suavity by Edgar Caude).

The hijinks, adventures, and plot twists of the 2019 SNS season made it one of the best ever.



Jimmy and one of his many big catches



Wyatt and counselor Noah Solt working on lyrics for a Club Honk performance



Kai performs on the Steinway at Club Honk



Daniel at Club Honk



Ben pulling hard during a regatta rowing race



Fly fishermen at the Baita House getting ready for the activity period



Arlo at the keyboard



Oliver, Kai, and Max hanging out



Danny, Caden, Tanner, Ben, and swimming instructor Sophie Nikolenko



“We’re Women at PIC”



Pierre-Victor and Adlai look on as Isaac lands a fish caught on his homemade rod



Sam backed by Mark Pierce and Jack Reed at Club Honk



Jacob, Gabriel, and Noah at Whitehead Island



Jack and his fabulous 4th of July Raft



AJ, Teddy, and Owen in in the Shop



Cleo guarding Magoon



Crooner Jacob Donoghue backed by brother Noah (right) and Sam Chester at Club Honk



Junior Katahdin at the summit!



Johnny Creditcard on his farewell tour playing Club Honk



Charles at Big Eddy



Tennis class waiting for the activity run: Jack Reed, Tanner, Edgar, PV, Anselm, and Jacob Donoghue



2019 Expedition Campers



At the top of Mt. Bigelow

JOIN THE CENTER OF TOWN SOCIETY TODAY!

As every Pine Islander can tell you, once you score for the last time during the War Game, you are “dead” and you go to the center of town, a pretty peaceful spot if you have a little bug spray. A friend or two for good conversation, a bit of cool water, and a shady spot under a pine tree help as well. The Game still swirls around you, but for now you can rest and talk with your friends about the summer and the few days of camp that remain. You’ve played hard and done all you can to help your army win the game, and now you can at last relax while you await the whistle announcing that “Play is off!” for the final time that season.

When, over a fine lunch in the dining hall last July, Ben and Emily first described to alumnus Tom Macfie their idea to create the Center of Town Society to honor those alumni, parents, and friends who have included a gift to Pine Island Camp in their will, he knew they were onto something well worth pursuing, and wrote recently,

The Center of Town Society is yet another example of the way in which Pine Island—“gracious living is our goal”—can tackle even the thorniest of issues. This new idea, hatched by Ben and Emily, to create the Center of Town Society as a way to encourage planned giving to Pine Island Camp, holds a certain peaceful, pleasant appeal, much like time under a shade tree. We get a chance to shape Pine Island for generations to come merely by asking our financial planner, our lawyer, and our family, to include Pine Island in our estate planning. The results are as easy as a few simple conversations and a line or two in our wills and final documents.

There are parts of planning for the end of life that are hard and painful. For over 20 years, I have served as a priest in one

small community in Tennessee (the same college town, Sewanee, where Emily and I were students a long time ago and where Ben and Emily were married). So, I have had more than a few conversations about final things. Yes, it can be serious and somber, talking about death and the end of life. But it can also be light and joyful. Last night I talked on the phone to a contemporary whose mother died over the weekend. We have important work to do planning her burial. But there was also levity and joy in our conversation.

“What was the board game in the kitchen of your parents’ home?”

“Chinese checkers; they played every night.”

“Maybe I’ll work that into the homily for your mother.”

“That sounds great to me.”

Come to think of it, a game of Chinese checkers might be a good addition to the center of town. See you there. We can tell a few stories.

Akka Lakka!
Tom

Charter members of the Center of Town Society are Jim Breeden, Tom Macfie, Alex Burland, Ned Bishop, Tom Yoder, Jim Vaughn, Nick Ohly, and Kimme Sloane.

Pine Island has already received very generous gifts from Pine Islanders who have included Pine Island in their wills, and this simple method of helping to secure Pine Island’s future is one of the most important elements of our ongoing fundraising efforts.

All you have to do to sign up and be recognized in next year’s *Pine Needle* as a member of the Center of Town Society is to write to Ben Swan at P.O. Box 242, Brunswick, ME 04011 or email him at benswan@pineisland.org.

THE MASTER STORYTELLERS

By Sam Brown, Jr.

Almost everyone reading this essay has sat spellbound during one of Monte Ball’s electrifying Lion Hunts. Monte is the most recent master storyteller to appear regularly at Pine Island’s nightly campfires, but he was preceded for decades by a remarkable group.

First among them was Sid Lovett, PIC’s first camper (1902) and at one point the camp’s Acting Director. Sid appeared at countless campfires, including those held at reunions, where he was usually called on to recall the camp’s early days. During his last such appearance, during the camp’s 70th Anniversary Reunion in 1972, “Uncle Sid” regaled both armies at York’s Crossing with recollections of the game, pointing out that as one of the inventors of this unique contest he was too biased ever to serve as an umpire. Sid’s tenure as a Yale University chaplain also attested to his skill as an orator; his undergraduate course in “The Bible as Literature” was one of the most popular ever offered.

Sid was followed as storyteller by Dr. Swan, who loved the campfire limelight and delivered serial anecdotes about his time as a physician in Europe during the First World War. After the Second World War, he was followed by alumnus Wilson Parkhill, a Great Pond neighbor and headmaster of the Collegiate School in New York City. Mr. Parkhill devised a string of stories about what he called the “rubber island,” an imaginary place with pun-filled references based largely on PIC. Examples of his wit, in that era of simple humor, were the musical group “The Elastic Band” and the “rubber chicken” Sunday dinners.

Jun Swan, a teacher at Mr. Parkhill’s school, became PIC’s next master storyteller when he became Director in 1947. Jun’s primary invention was a character

named Pauline Bunyan, the sister of famed woodsman Paul Bunyan. Pauline was always engaged in tests of strength pitting her successfully against apparently stronger males. Jun developed this theme in his later more serious moments, noting that Pine Island’s Loyalty Award had been named successively after women who had been fundamental to the camp: Sid Lovett’s wife, Rebekah Mills Lovett and Jun’s own mother, Mollie Ripley Swan. They were Jun’s moral equivalents to his Pauline Bunyan.

Other master storytellers came along later. Frank Baldwin, great-great-uncle of current Baldwin Pine Islanders, kept a series of 1950’s campfires spellbound with tales of a great whale, whose sad exploits brought tears to many eyes. Stew Pierson inaugurated the lengthy saga of the Seven Keys for several summers. Monte Ball continued the tradition, and his weekly almost campfire-long tales of the slow attrition of the “100 leaders in the fields of art and science” are firmly lodged in a couple of generations of Pine Islanders’ minds. A close second were Monte’s hilarious and sometimes harrowing tales that grew out of his six years in the US Navy.

But the most illustrious master storyteller before Monte was Bill Crawford, Jun’s Associate Director for nine summers who adapted one of the Arabian Night’s Tales, “Sparrow the Lucky,” into a hilarious parody of Pine Island itself. Nowhere else could you hear of a sultan winning the inspection flag, or a grand vizier (wizard) passing up a royal banquet in order to go to Rummel’s (now Gifford’s) for licorice ice cream. And where else but at Pine Island could we find such a memorable tradition of campfire delights as those offered over decades by our own master storytellers.

FETCH ME A LADDLE: PRESERVING A BIT OF PIC/KC HISTORY

By Alice Packard



When I heard that the big island with drawers in the PIC kitchen was being refinished, I surmised that the masking tape labels that someone had put on the unique pull-through drawers would have to go. While I applauded the long-overdue refinishing, it broke my heart just a little. In many ways, I grew up in that kitchen. The sound of the Hobart, the smell of lemon cleaning solution, the satisfaction of pulling an island drawer all the way through to grab an item from the opposite drawer; these are sensory memories of mine that I associate with my treasured time at camp. So when I heard of the update, I volunteered my services to recreate the beloved labels, including the now endearingly mis-

spelled LADDLES (aka ladles). During boat maintenance weekend last year, I took photos and, when I returned to my city life, imported them into Photoshop. The quality was not up to par for a direct duplication, but I think I got pretty close. I outlined the script to make them as accurate as possible. Then I placed them onto a stock footage masking tape image allowing them to look as they did when they were first applied. They will be printed on durable material, ideally Dibond, an aluminum composite that will insure they stand the test of time, and when the kitchen island needs refinishing again, these quirky labels will be able to stay.

13 YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO WAIT FOR A STORE STOP!

Trip Report
Appalachian Trail Completion:
July 26, 2019
Pat (Appy) Apperson
Counselor '77, '78, '79 from
Greenville, SC

On April 1, 2006, David Weinstein (another former PIC counselor from Greenville recruited by Monte Ball in the 1970's) and I began our adventure to section-hike the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain, GA to Mount Katahdin, ME. The idea came to us after our successful completion of the 80-odd mile "Foothills Trail" that basically follows the SC-NC border across the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Carolinas. On our very first leg we hiked 83 miles from Springer Mountain, finishing at Deep Gap, NC.

In October of 2006, we hit the trail with a couple of day hikes on the AT in Virginia between Petites Gap and Saddle Gap that were close to where I was living at the time in Lynchburg, VA. In the spring of 2007, we returned to Deep Gap, NC to hike for another week up to Fontana Dam, about 81 miles. On this trip I had my two labs Mac and Shadow with me, but David must have not liked the dog food as he had to bail out at Nantahala with food poisoning, although he later came back to finish that section.

In the spring of 2008, we took what had become our usual week off and hiked from Davenport Gap, NC to Sam's Gap, NC on the AT, bypassing the Smokies for a later trip. But by 2009, we were starting to become a little more anxious to complete more of the trail; we were tired of just getting our legs a bit fit when we had to return to the real world. Thus, we took two weeks off in the spring of 2009 and hiked from Sam's Gap NC to Damascus, VA, a whopping 146 miles in just under two weeks (our confidence was building!).

In the Fall of 2009, we hit the Smokies, hiking about 33 miles from Clingman's Dome down to Fontana Dam. On these last two trips, we were joined by another Greenville, SC native and elder statesman, Hayne Hipp. Hayne had set out to hike the AT two years before in sections but had a bad fall and had to rest his leg for a while. Hayne joined us for several excursions, but his plan was to finish the AT over a much shorter period of time than we could manage. He actually completed section hiking the AT in seven years, all before he reached the young age of 76. Though we performed the role of sherpa from time to time for Hayne, it was a pleasure.

In March of 2010, the three of us set out to tackle the section that runs from Damascus, VA to Atkins, VA. Well, Hayne and David completed the journey, but I developed some tendonitis in my knee and had to bail out; but before I bailed I'd covered another 50 miles of the 2000-mile journey. In late summer and early fall of 2010, David and I returned to the Smokies to complete that section, experiencing bear activity both

on the day hike and the overnights. A 350- to 400-pound black bear can be pretty daunting when it gets within a few feet of you, especially when it smells food. In the spring of 2011, we returned to Virginia, hiking from Pearisburg to Craig's Creek Valley west of Highway 81. This is a gorgeous part of Virginia.

The adventure cranked up again in July of 2011 when Hayne flew us all up to New Hampshire to begin tackling the White Mountains. We covered over 90 miles between Dorchester Road and Pinkham Notch in about 10 days via a combination of overnights in huts and slackpacking day hikes. The sad part of that trip was that David dislocated his shoulder coming down a steep trail late in the day (under wet conditions) and had to return to South Carolina.

In the spring of 2012, it was back to Virginia to hike from Highway 11 (Troutville) to Craig's Creek Valley, about 43 miles. David had to return to South Carolina, so I went back down to complete the section between Pearisburg and Sugar Run Gap that I had missed. But the eagerness was growing as I set out in June and covered 102 miles between Sugar Run Gap back to Massie's Gap in the Virginia Highlands. For that track I was joined by George McCall and his son Arthur and their dog Louie (my dog Mac also enjoyed the company), both originally from Greenville. Being a graduate student at Clemson University at this stage, I had the entire summer to cover some ground, so David, Hayne, and I flew up to Vermont and did 155 miles between Pattison Road, MA and the NH-VT state line near Hanover, NH. It was a great 12-day adventure. The two weeks consisted of overnights and day hikes covering the AT in VT.

In the spring of 2013, we returned to Virginia, where David, Mac and I covered 45 miles between Troutville and Petits Gap. This was followed by another 41 miles between Saddle Gap and Tye River (a cold outing if I recall).

In the summer of 2013, it was back north but this time to New York with Hayne and David. As I had to return to South Carolina for some reason, my part of the trip was cut short, but I managed to tackle 49 miles of the AT, despite the wet May weather. In August 2014, David and I were back on the trail tackling the 100-mile Wilderness in Maine. This turned out to be one of the most enjoyable two-week stretches - 109 miles - on the AT. We had great weather and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful Maine wilderness. The bad news is that I knew something was wrong with my dog Mac; after returning home from the trip, he was diagnosed with cancer and died within a year of receiving treatments. He was a great dog, retriever and hiker, and he completed 808 miles on the AT. Fortunately, he had one more trip in the spring of 2015 when David and I hiked the 30 miles between Tye River VA and Rockfish Gap, VA.

In early summer 2015, it was time to tackle Pennsylvania (rocks and more

rocks) with David, who had now decided to devote his summer to getting as many miles in as he could. The first leg was between Conodoguinet Creek and Fort Franklin Road, about 110 miles. Later that summer and fall, I headed back to Virginia to tackle the AT along Skyline Drive with my wife Elaine; we covered about 85 miles between Rockfish Gap and Jeremy's Run. It was not until November 2016 that I was able to return to the AT where David, my new yellow lab Kip, and I completed the section from Jeremy's Run to Manassas Gap VA, about 32 miles over a long weekend.

Then, in 2017, the real work started. With David having covered more miles the previous summer, it was my turn since I now had the summer off from teaching at Clemson University. Kip and I began hiking on May 30th from Manassas Gap, VA and filled in the sections we had missed all the way to July 21st at Dorchester Road, NH, a whopping 472 miles, completing sections in VA, MD, WV, PA, NY, NJ, MA, CT, and NH. It was the most hiking I had ever done at one time!

The next summer, 2018, it was another 174 miles in New Hampshire and Maine with David and Kip. David and I were now about even again on mileage. We completed all parts of the AT except the last 52 miles between Pinkham Notch, NH and Grafton Notch, ME. I assaulted Katahdin on my own (dogs are not allowed in Baxter State Park

and David had to bail out with bad tendonitis in one of his knees). See what happens when you wait too long to do things? I was also suffering with "bone on bone" in my left knee but Kip and I were able to cover much ground.

Finally, this past summer on July 26, Kip and I completed the last 52 miles of the AT, finishing at Grafton Notch. After a partial knee replacement in December 2018, the pain was gone (not the swelling) and the job was finally done after 13 years. Unfortunately, David had to bail again as he slipped coming down Saddleback, so he will have to be of the AT class of 2020. It was disappointing not to finish with the buddy with whom I started, but David gave Kip and me the clearance to push on.

Many people ask what I enjoyed most. Every part of the AT is wonderful in its own right (except for the rocks in PA). But what I will remember most is seeing parts of the US that I would not have experienced if I had not section-hiked the AT. Through-hikers push on and get into their mileage mode; but despite the aches and pains and the constant logistical planning (motel rooms, provisions, shuttle services, weather), I was able to spend time in meeting people, seeing places, and encountering cultures different from my own. As Monte Ball used to say, "Your summer is what you make of it." Likewise hiking the AT is what you make of it!



Appy Apperson and his trusty hiking companion on the Appalachian Trail

THE MISSING YEARS

Help Us Retrieve Bits of PIC History

All of the awards and War Game plaques in Honk Hall were lost in the fire of 1995. Through the use of photographs, we were able to recover most of what was lost. However, there are still gaps and we'd like to fill them with accurate information. If you know of an award winner or a War Game score that is missing, please email Ben Swan at benswan@pineisland.org. Missing are:

Workshop Award: 1951, 1960-71, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1995

Watermanship Award: 1987, 1989, 1990

Best Camper Award: 1961

Loyalty Award: 1989, 1993

War Game scores: 1951, 1960-67



THE KEEPER'S LOG

Another Busy Season at Whitehead Light Station

It would be hard to overstate how restorative and wonderful it is to spend a few nights at Whitehead Light Station. If there is anywhere that provides the perfect antidote to today's worrisome world, it is here. The air is clean, tinged with moisture and salt. The accommodations are simple but super comfortable. The food is always great. The view is remarkable, even when the fog has rolled in. As Pine Island Camp's young founder wrote of Pine Island in 1904, it is a place for re-creation and not merely recreation.

The 2019 WLS season was Gigi Lirot's first as director, and it was a great one. Over 100 people came to WLS between May and October. Some enrolled in enrichment courses, some came as renters, some came for a meeting retreat, some for Open Lighthouse Day, and others came to give their time to help us finish some projects and perform routine maintenance. As you can imagine, the light station's spectacular location demands more of that routine

maintenance than most facilities, and we are very grateful to those who show up to help us. The 2019 WLS season included several volunteer opportunities, Maine Open Lighthouse Day, three rental weeks, five enrichment programs, and two long weekend retreats.

A few highlights:

An exceptional volunteer crew helped to build Yoder House II, a much-needed workshop and storage building.

Our popular July Knitting Retreat filled so quickly that we made room for a second retreat in September.

Charlie Papazian returned after a one-year hiatus to bring us another hugely successful Craft Beer Appreciation workshop.

Once again our October Getaway filled almost before it was announced. The secret is out that fall is a particularly beautiful time to visit Whitehead.

Many returning guests in 2019 made Whitehead feel like an extended family. And we have room for more. We hope you will join us next year.



All it takes is...



People!

Photo credit: Jim Morse



Participants in the guitar workshop in the Whistle House classroom/studio

Whitehead Light Station Schedule 2020

Volunteer Opportunities

April 24-26

June 6-14

Programs

June 29-July 3: Craft Beer Appreciation

July 5-8: Chili Pepper Cuisine & Beer Pairing Experience

July 10-13: Farm to Fork Culinary Weekend

July 16-21: Knitting Retreat

July 23-29: Men's Writing Retreat

Aug. 6-9: Summer Getaway Weekend

Aug. 14-19: Knitting Retreat

Sept. 3-8: Mindfulness under the Stars

Sept. 10-15: Knitting Retreat

Sept. 17-22: Blues Guitar

Oct. 2-5: October Getaway Weekend

Subject to change; check whiteheadlightstation.org for more information and updates.

Rentals

August 21-September 2

FROM THE HELM

What is a typical stay for a guest at Whitehead Light Station?

Wake to see the sun rise on the water and wander out on the rocks for some quiet solitude, perhaps surprising a deer doing the same, or choose to lounge in bed enjoying the sounds of the ocean and the aroma of fresh coffee brewing downstairs. Occasional sunrise boat excursions treat the early risers to the morning light dancing on the water and the opportunity to see morning fog lifting to reveal sights such as seals or loons at play, lobster boats with their hard workers hauling traps, and bald eagles soaring above.

A full healthy breakfast is served at the dining room table shared with the other participants who just yesterday

were strangers but are already becoming friends. Mid-morning in the classroom of the Whistle House, your instructor will present an engaging lecture sparking conversation. The porch bell signals that it is lunch time already! After a delicious homemade meal made with fresh local ingredients, spend some free time soaking up sun while relaxing in an Adirondack chair listening to the high tide waves crash against the rocks and the now familiar bell buoy faintly reminding you of where you are. Take a walk along the Sunrise Path and look out through mossy spruce trees up the Mussel Ridge Channel. Following an afternoon workshop in the Whistle House, you might go for a quick brisk swim in the water off the dock and upon your return be led to the dining room by the smell of fresh baked cookies.

After dinner and a light dessert, spend some time in the early evening learning tidbits of Whitehead Island history from the log books preserved from the 1800's. Wander outside to look up and see the Milky Way as it can only be seen far away from city lights. One evening you will enjoy a lobster feast cooked on a wood fire out on the rocks. It's a special treat to catch the full moon rising on the horizon drawing a bright yellow trail on the water. Sitting around the fire watching for meteors is a relaxing way to end the day before retiring to bed to read a few pages of one of the many books in the WLS library. At the end of your stay it will be more difficult and sad than you imagined to leave not only the special place that Whitehead is, but the people you enjoyed this experience with who now feel like family.



Out in front of the Keeper's House

— Gigi Lirot, WLS Director
December 2019



Birthday party at Keeper's House



Volunteers work on shingling Yoder House II, the new workshop



Yoder House II finished and ready for use as the workshop



Always a bit more painting to do



Volunteers painting. We try to paint one side of the Keeper's House every year.



Splitting granite. Volunteers Miles Frank and Natalie Burr contemplate their next move.

GRAFTING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE: JOHN BUNKER'S PALERMO PERSPECTIVE

By Corinne Alsop

Legendary Pine Islander John Bunker, founder of the Fedco Tree catalogue and author of two books, *Not Far from the Tree: A Brief History of the Apples and the Orchards of Palermo, Maine*, and *Apples and the Art of Detection*, has been living in Palermo, ME for nearly 50 years. Engulfed by the “Back to the Land” movement, Bunker moved to his plot of land shortly after graduating from Colby College in 1972 and began planting gardens and building cabins with friends, including Pine Islanders John Alsop, John Shaw, and Dave Carmen.

He explains how eventually he began noticing the many apple trees around town that were “dumping” apples on people’s lawns. He would knock on doors, asking if he could take the surplus of free fruit that no one seemed to want. This became a yearly practice. He also noticed the different varieties that each tree would drop. There are far more apple varieties than most people are aware of. Bunker expertly explains the unusual way that apples grow: “From a seed, an apple is always unique. You plant a Macintosh seed, it grows into a tree, but it won’t be a Macintosh. Every seed is like a human being. Every seed has a botanical mother and father and it will be unique... each seed in each apple is unique.” When you want to replicate an apple, you graft a little section of twig from the tree you want to replicate, and attach it to a larger tree; then the variety continues. “That’s how varieties get started. Some farmer would recognize a seedling as having some trait of merit: it was huge, it grew early, it grew late, it made a good pie, sauce, cider, did something. He would graft that tree and grow more of those apples.” After gathering fruit from so many different trees around his town, often hearing a bit of a story about how the tree came to be, Bunker decided that what he needed to do was “track down, identify, and preserve these historic apples.”

“We’re enjoying the stone walls and the roads and the trees that other people created for us. We are the beneficiaries of thousands of years of other people doing stuff for us.” These trees that drop fruit on lawns, Bunker says, “got me thinking, okay, so here I am, I arrive on Earth, I’m given all these wonderful old apples ...And I also started to think about, what’s gonna happen when these are gone? Is this a gift to me, but to hell with everybody who comes after me?” For Bunker, writing these books, preserving and identifying ancient apples, and even his time working as a Shop counselor at Pine Island, were an opportunity to give a gift to future generations.

“To me, opportunity and responsibility are really flip sides of the same coin, you can call it either. Do you have an opportunity to change lives when you work at Pine Island, or is it a responsi-

bility to change lives? Well, maybe it’s the same thing.”

Bunker entirely revitalized the Shop curriculum during his years at Pine Island. He brought to Pine Island designs of an old shop project from Camp Merriweather across the lake, teaching campers to create beautiful Merriweather boats as their first and often only shop project of the summer. This taught them perseverance, artistry, and the uses of various tools and woodworking techniques. “I got to be a teacher to people who, all they wanted to do was be in the shop. And for somebody who likes to teach, it was like being in heaven. It was the best job I ever had.” Bunker was able to preserve a project from the past by carrying it to the present, through the campers in the shop. He grafted the history of one camp to another, and allowed the past to grow into the future.

Turning his thoughts back to his decision to write a book, he explains, “[Palermo] has done a lot for me.” He wanted to find a way to do something in return. “I could write a history of the Palermo apples and no one else could do that...it would be a gift to all these people that have helped me, and to future generations.” Through his efforts, and with the help of the Maine Heritage Orchard he created at the headquarters of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) in Unity, ME, he has preserved countless varieties of apples and the stories that they hold within them.

To distribute apples and his books, as well as to educate people on his work, Bunker has a website for his Apple CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture). Throughout the fall, members get bags of apples. “In that bag are about four or five different varieties, each bagged in its own bag and labeled...they’re all weird apples that no one’s ever heard of; that’s the point. It gives people an opportunity to taste things they’ve never tasted before. And it helps folks that are growers to sell varieties that they can’t sell because no one knows about them. Our customers love it — the weirder, the better, as far as they’re concerned.”

He wisely remarks, “To me, there are two basic ways to live your life... One is, you pick a place to live, and you find work there... The other is, you find work, and you go live there.” To many people, especially young people, the notion of growing roots in one place seems difficult, daunting. To Bunker, it can be done anywhere. “It’s not an urban versus a rural thing at all. Neither option is ‘righter’ or ‘wronger,’ but they’re both viable.” Remembering his summer on Great Pond as an eleven-year old, he explains choosing option number one: “I said to myself, ‘Okay. When I grow up (whenever that is) I’m gonna move to Maine.’ It was a decision that was, in some ways, insane, because I was eleven when I made the defining decision of

my life: to move to Maine.” With that decision done, he could spend his youth “scheming about how [he] was going to get to Maine each summer, because that was [his] place.”

After so many years, Bunker can look back and see that yes, staying in one place, one sacrifices a lot by giving up seeing and experiencing things that roaming brings. But the benefits of staying put are boundless. Bunker explains, “I have gardens that were once the woods. And now, in those gardens, the soil is just beautiful. And I have trees that I planted that now I get to climb in.” To invest in a home, wherever that home is, can only bring good. Bunker believes in the importance of seeing the ‘macro’ in the ‘micro,’ and, “that really fits with staying in one place. To me, if you really want to understand life, you contemplate a cell. So I felt like, whatever it is that I need to learn in life, I can learn it by learning about what’s right here;

That’s the ‘micro.’ The ‘macro’ is what I need to learn.” Instead of traveling far and wide to explore apples, he pursues what he loves at home, and does something that no one else is doing: preserving the historic apples of Maine.

This past October, Maine Governor Janet Mills and Agriculture Commissioner Amanda Beal presented the 2019 Commissioner’s Distinguished Service Award to John Bunker at an apple-tasting event at the governor’s mansion in Augusta. Bunker was selected because of his outstanding contributions to preserving Maine’s historic apple heritage. The award has been presented annually for the past 18 years and acknowledges significant contributions to Maine agriculture.

You can find John Bunker’s books, and read many other articles about his contributions to Maine’s agricultural community by visiting <http://www.out-onalimbapples.com/>.



John Bunker receiving the Commissioner’s Distinguished Service Award from Maine Governor Janet Mills



NEEDLENOTES FROM NEEDLENEWS THE NEEDLENOSED NEWSHOUND

Chris Newlin, his wife Meg, daughter Maple, and son Eider welcomed Wilfred Washburn Thistle Newlin, on August 7, 2019. The Newlins moved this past summer from Wisconsin to Wolcott, Vermont. Mild-mannered titan of industry **Victor Dillard**, after a thorough job search following the sale of his company, recently accepted an offer from a company called Owkin to help them establish some commercial operations. It's still in the field of pharma/biotech as well as software and artificial intelligence, which is a nice continuation of his previous enterprise. His brother **Félicien Dillard** has been busy, mostly because he has three little boys. Felicien and his family are living in Dubai but he will be in Eu, France with the family for Christmas. Victor has seen various cousins recently, including **Charles-Elie Laly**, **Xafi Guyard**, and **Pierre-Victor Sansons-Desjonquieres**. **Simon de Beistegui** is looking forward to returning to PIC for the 2020 season and has asked for a fishing rod for Christmas. Brother **Philippe** is finishing a six-month internship at an investment fund (LFPI) in Paris and will start his second year at l'ESSEC in January. He is also lining up a volunteer job to teach French to refugees. The French connection reaches far and wide: **Lucien Malle** is working in marketing at L'Oréal in New York City, **Paul Malle** is the assistant to the head of physical production at Spyglass Media in Los Angeles. **Frédéric Malle** continues to run Éditions de Parfums Frédéric Malle. **Alex Audi**, a counselor last summer at Pine Island, continues his studies at McGill University in Montreal along with **Matthew Hawkins** and **Joseph Boulet**.

Portland, Maine has become a place where a number of Pine Islanders have come to roost. **Rip Swan** (the younger) lives in an apartment with PIC videographer **Jasper Lowe**, and until recently **Jack Faherty**. Jack has returned to Washington, D.C. to serve on Senator Angus King's legislative team with a focus on foreign policy and military affairs. **Rip** caught up with most of the **Effron** clan in Hong Kong on a recent trip to China and Viet Nam and also with **Krista Wiberg**, who is teaching in Guangzhou. **Katie Swan** and **Tom Nagler** live just a few blocks from Rip and Jasper. Katie has begun work for a digital marketing firm after two years in Los Angeles. She has visited **Corinne O'Connor** in Austin, TX where Corinne is finishing up a master's degree in social work, and **Cece Carey-Snow**, who is living in Boston and working at uConnect, an education technology company. **Lindsay Clarke** lives in Portland with her daughter **Sagan**, and so does her cousin **Carrie Turner**. They both work at the Waynflete School in Portland and so does **Ben Mini**. **Satchel Toole** is in Portland and recently started work at Efficiency Maine. Brother **Nick** is back in town, continuing his job at Allagash Brewing. Brother **Alex** is en-

gaged and will be married this summer. **Will Webb** has left the classroom and is currently doing software support for Tyler Technologies, a national software company that focuses on government offices and schools. **Emily Swan** had a chat with **Zach Heiden** at the new Portland offices of the ACLU of Maine, where Zach is the Legal Director. A bit further north you will find **Harry Swan** and **Ben Herman** working at Sugarloaf. Harry continues to publish his "Good Movies for the New Millennium" list and monthly essays about specific films at www.rewatchlist.net. His short movie will be available for viewing in 2020. Ben and partners are owners and managers of a newly renovated apartment building in Brunswick with new apartments becoming available every couple of months. **John Alsop** retired this fall after a brilliant legal career that concluded with several years as Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maine. John is now busy with his violin, his watercolors, his grandchildren, his skidder, and volunteering at PIC among other things. His daughter **Corinne** is on a year off from her studies at NYU and is busy writing, studying ceramics, and sometimes doing off-season work at PIC. John often sees **Barbara Sullivan** who is an artist and teacher. **Rip Swan** (the elder) is happily farming in Lisbon, ME and has spent time with **Nick Buck** and **Chip Gregory** recently and visited with **Lise Aubry**, who lives in Hallowell, over Christmas. **Tahnthawan Coffin-Gartside** lives in Brunswick with her husband and three boys. She has recently become the director of Harpswell Community Nursery School. She is a member a group providing translation, transportation, housing, and other assistance to asylum-seeking families that recently moved to Brunswick, and **Emily Swan** is part of her team. **Gates Sanford** lives in Portland, ME with his wife Caroline and one-year-old old son Victor. **Cooper Sanford** lives in Portland, OR, where he works for Jacobsen Salt and runs Party Shirt International with one of his childhood friends. **Henry Beck** is the Treasurer of the State of Maine and is enjoying working with Maine's new governor.

Baxter Worthing is in year two of five working on his PhD in molecular and computational biology in plant sciences at UVM. **Ben Schachner** is living nearby, having moved with housemate **Sumner Ford** to Richmond, VT where **Keith Kasper** has been living for many years. **Karl** and **Debbie Kasper** live in Bozeman, MT. **Niel Kasper** is married and lives in Tahoe, CA, **Ben Kasper** was married in June and lives in Reno, NV. **Kelly Kasper** lives in Tahoe, CA. **Sebastian Brandt** is a student at Northfield Mount Hermon and is now rowing crew. **Dr. Jason Fisher** and his son Lyle made a road trip to Maine in August and spent a night on Oak Island. **Spike** and **Sandy Enck** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary and visit

often with **Betsy**, **Bill**, **Suzanne** and **Aidan**.

Forrest Brown is now living in New York City along with many other Pine Islanders, including **Simon** and **Zander Abranowicz**, **Miles Frank**, **Natalie Burr**, **Chris Cascells**, **Bill Dean**, **Chris** and **Charles Schell**, **Erik**, **Marc**, and **David Lombardo**, **Max Huber**, and **Charlie Boutwell**. Simon Abranowicz has recently been appointed Art Director at *GQ Magazine* and brother Zander is a writer for Athletics, a Brooklyn based design and branding agency. Max Huber is a surgery resident at Mount Sinai hospital.

Amanda Pulver is the head of prepared salads and has many other responsibilities at Wegmans in Framingham, MA. **Cecily Pulver** teaches biology and chemistry at Worcester Academy in Worcester, MA to 9th and 10th graders. She loves it. **Millie Pulver** is living in Amsterdam and continues to work on her PhD in molecular pathology. **Maddie Pulver** will finish her medical rotations this coming May and will receive her doctorate in Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota. **Eve Whitehouse** was married on June 28, 2019 and is the Dean of Students at the Millbrook School.

Rob Chandler lives in Gloucester, MA and is an architect in Boston. He is trying to retire and recently sailed for two weeks off the coast of Croatia with his wife Rhonda. **Rob Gowen** lives in Charlottesville, VA and after a sabbatical from his work at the CFA Institute, he has returned in a different role. He and his wife Seamane are always busy with adventures here and there and caring for their small menagerie of pets.

Rex Bates continues his work for the Annie Wright School in Tacoma, WA, for which he has overseen the opening of its campus in partnership with the Baisihan School in Quingdao, China. Rex has also been working with **Monte Ball** supporting the Lao Children's Workshop connected with an orphanage in Luang Prabang, Laos where the students



Max McKendry, Ian Ford, Satchel Toole, and Alice Packard in Jackson, WY

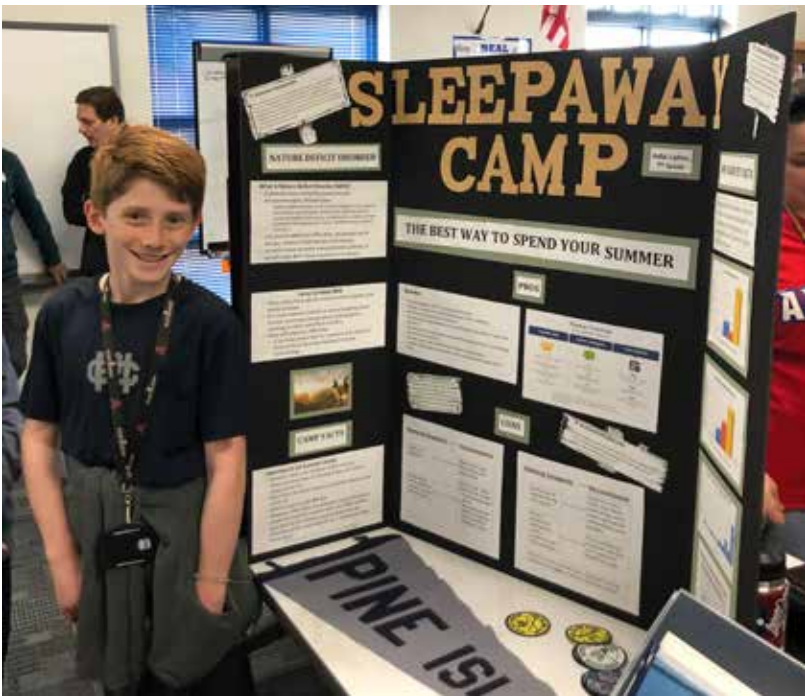


Chris Newlin and his son Wilfred at their new home in Vermont

are being taught basic computer and photography skills. Monte continues to live graciously in Chaing Mai, Thailand. Monte and Rex joined **Tom Yoder** and **Jim Breeden** on a visit to **Tim Nagler** in Indianapolis. **Andrew Chapman** reports that he is working on retiring to catch up with his brothers **Fred**, **Denny** and **Jim**. **James Eklund** continues to operate the Ram's Head Inn on Shelter Island while also running a successful construction company, restoring boats, racing his sloop, caring for grandchildren and various folks on the island. **Jonathan Eklund** lives in Brooklyn and **Andy** lives on Shelter Island.



Leah and Teddy Hincks with Jacob Merrill at Jacob's family's restaurant, Worthy Kitchen



Sarah Hunter, Lindsay Clarke, Sumner Ford, Emily Swan, and Ben Swan, July 2019

THE BENEFITS OF SLEEPAWAY CAMP

By Adlai Lipton

My name is Adlai Lipton and this will be my third summer at PIC. I attend Ingleside Middle School in Phoenix Arizona. My school does a semester-long project twice a year called the independent quest, in which we pursue a topic of interest to us. This fall I argued sleepaway camp is the best way to spend your summer. I used evidence from research and data from a survey that I conducted with current and former sleepaway campers.

The main benefits of sleepaway camp are the opportunities to be physically active and gain independence. Also, I found that camps like PIC help fight a phenomenon known as Nature Deficit Disorder, an unofficial diagnosis that describes human alienation from na-

ture. Nature Deficit Disorder can lead to attention difficulties and obesity. Interestingly, I found when I asked my survey respondents about the impact their camp experience had on their lives the average impact was 8.7 out of 10. Also, if you could zoom in on my poster, you would see I quoted PIC director, Sumner Ford, on how the role of camp in kids' lives has changed over the years. He commented, "They [kids] complete their years at camp with more independence and are better prepared for college and adult life without others making decisions for them." The best part of my project was the chance to talk to an audience about one of my favorite things to talk about, Pine Island!

WARREN "EDGE" EGINTON 1924-2019



Pine Island lost a loyal and longtime friend on October 7, 2019 when the Honorable Warren W. Eginton died at his home in Redding, CT. Edge, as he was affectionately known to Pine Islanders, served on the original Pine Island board of directors and continued to serve until his death. He was elected as an emeritus member of the board in 2014. Even when he suffered from the infirmities of advancing age, Edge faithfully attended board meetings at Pine Island, where his attendance required tremendous physical exertion. Edge

served as the tennis counselor in 1941 and his son John attended Pine Island as a camper and served as a renowned rowing counselor in the 1970s. Edge's contributions to Pine Island were legion. He often provided sage advice to his friend, the late Eugene L. Swan, Jr., and he served for many years as Head Umpire of the War Game. Pine Island long prided itself for having a federal judge as the War Game's Head Umpire.

Edge had a long and distinguished career. He was a graduate of the Loomis-Chaffee school in Windsor, CT and went on to Princeton University, but his undergraduate years were interrupted in 1944 when he was commissioned as an officer in the US Army. He served overseas in the Philippines, and at the war's end he served as a war crimes investigator for the trials of several Japanese generals. While awaiting return to the US, he was severely wounded in cross-fire between Filipino constabulary and Japanese prisoners. His inju-

PIC LEADERSHIP TRANSITION UPDATE

In my career I have seen many leadership transitions, from several different perspectives — as an employee adapting to new leadership, as a board member overseeing a transition, and as a leader handing off my own responsibilities. Every one of these experiences has reinforced three lessons: first, leadership transitions are devilishly hard to get right; second, the best transitions often occur when the new leadership grows up within the organization; and finally, timing and good luck matter a lot. We are not done yet, but Pine Island has navigated the process quite well so far, setting the camp up to emerge from the transition stronger than before.

We were fortunate that Pope Ward, my predecessor as board chair, along with Ben and Emily, recognized how difficult and important it was to get this transition right. We started early — more than five years ago — by learning everything we could from other camps that had undergone similar transition.

We are grateful to all of them for being open about what went well and what did not. We were also fortunate to find a new team with just the right skills and experience to take over. For this we owe a lot to Ben and Emily, who have applied the same insight and care that they used to recruit camp staff over the years. At the same time, Sumner, Sarah, and Lindsay have found their own way to cover all that is needed to keep the camp running smoothly.

Finally, as those of you who have sent boys to camp have experienced first hand, letting go is not easy. Ben and Emily have managed to strike a very good balance between stepping back far enough and soon enough to let the new team take charge, while also providing the right amount of guidance, documentation, and encouragement to ensure that they succeed.

— John Goodhue, Board Chairman,
December 2019

ries required hospital convalescence for several months. Edge arrived back at Princeton in the fall of 1946 and graduated in 1948. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1951. He practiced law briefly in New York City at Donavon, Leisure and at Davis, Polk and then became a partner at Cummings and Lockwood in Stamford, CT. In 1979 Senator Lowell Weicker nominated Edge for the federal bench, and President Carter appointed him as the United States District Judge for Connecticut. The only hitch in Edge's appointment came when those checking his background came across voluminous correspondence concerning something called the "War

Game." Needless to say, the explanation was somewhat convoluted. At his death Edge was the longest serving federal judge in the history of the Connecticut federal courts.

Edge served on many boards, but he often told his friends that his service as a Pine Island director was the most meaningful of all to him. The Pine Island board of directors has lamented Edge's death and expresses its deep appreciation of his valuable service and many, many contributions to Pine Island Camp and will appropriately honor Edge at its April meeting.

— Jim Breeden
December 2019

NEEDLE NEWS BRIEFS

26 Summers and Counting: Peter Klivans Remembers His Inauspicious Intro to Pine Island

It was 40 years ago this month that my mom, dad, and I toured PIC on the first day of War Game practice. In those days there were two (ugh!) days of practice and one army was practicing on the island. It was pouring rain, and the main thing I remember is campers and counselors practicing poling on the dust court in giant puddles. Everyone looked miserable. Monte Ball was the director then, and he told me later that as we pulled away he turned to bookkeeper Louise Varney and said, "Well, that's the last we'll be seeing of the Klivans family." And then this morning I added it up and realized that since that day, the Klivanses (including the now-Williams/Olds families) have spent a total of 26 person-summer on the island. I'm not sure what it was that made me decide that PIC was the place for me, but I'm grateful for whatever it was. Akka Lakka! Peter

Josh Treat Beats His Own Birthday Fundraising Record

Last year the *Needle* reported that, at Josh Treat's suggestion, his birthday gifts were mostly gifts to Pine Island's Annual Fund. Josh was so pleased with the results that he did it again this year and topped the amount he raised in 2018 with a total of \$820! What a great way to celebrate. Happy Birthday, Josh, and many thanks.

Rob Whitehouse Launches *Tip Your Cap* after 4 Years of Work

Many people dream of building their own boat. Some even buy the plans, but few actually undertake the painstaking, sometimes extremely frustrating task of building something that will float and safely transport them in a variety of conditions from one place to another. We have reported on the plans and progress made by alumnus Rob Whitehouse in recent *Pine Needles* on the construction of his 26' Doug Hylan-designed outboard cruiser, and we can now re-

port that, after four years of work, Rob launched *Tip Your Cap* in the spring of 2019 and that she's a beauty. The Hylan design is lovely, but Rob's meticulous attention to detail and his conquering of a truly steep learning curve are what translated the design into a strong, elegant boat. Rob and his wife Sophie have already taken numerous short journeys and hope to take some longer ones next summer.

"If I had a bell..." Morrison Family Gives Steam Locomotive Bell to PIC

When alumnus and camp parent Taylor Morrison wrote to Ben Swan to ask if PIC would be interested in a 350-pound locomotive bell, Ben's immediate response was, "Definitely!" Ben had no idea what PIC would actually do with the bell, but such opportunities don't come around every day. Ben drove the camp truck down to Truro, MA last fall and loaded the beautiful bronze bell into the truck with the help of Taylor and his brothers James (also a Pine Islander) and Mike. They secured the clapper so that fellow motorists were not constantly thinking a locomotive was driving up the highway. The bell, strapped to a pallet, sat for quite a while on the mainland dock and finally made it across the lake and up into Honk Hall for the winter. The plan is to mount the bell out in the Honk "yard," provide hearing protection, and have the OD ring the bell five minutes before each meal and campfire. One of the most irritating, and thus frequently inadequately performed, OD jobs has been to go from one tip of the island to the other blowing the whistle to announce meals and campfire. An added ill effect of this practice was that everyone would be jammed up at the door of the Dining Hall waiting for the OD to show up. With the Morrison bell, the OD should be able to sprint up the hill, ring the bell, and head straight back down to the Dining Hall to quell the hungry mob. The bell was originally on a steam locomotive and was a gift to Taylor's grandfather, Lawrence Morrison. It stood at Lawrence's home in West Hartford, CT for many years until Taylor's father Walter moved it to his house

in Truro. Until everyone gets used to it, we may find that members of the Blue Army have a slightly elevated heart rate when the bell rings, given its tone's similarity to a certain other locomotive bell.

Henry and Florence Clauson's Ledge Hill Farm Named One of Maine's Favorite Places to Cut Your Own Christmas Tree

Yankee Magazine recently named the Clausons' Readfield, ME Christmas tree operation one of six they recommend. Henry is quick to point out that it is his wife Flo who has done all the work and made the operation a success. Pine Islander Thomas Clauson and his sister Anna might point out that their mom was not the only one out there slaving away. Congratulations to the successfully entrepreneurial Clausons!

Sticks, Bats, and Custom-Made T-Shirts – Kit Smith Continues at StringKing

Hockey sticks, metal baseball bats, and custom apparel have been added to the slate of products made at StringKing, where Kit Smith is head of product development. Hockey players reported

durability as the biggest shortcoming of today's hockey stick technology, so StringKing developed the "Composite Pro," with the aim of giving hockey players the toughest high-performing hockey stick on the market. On the baseball bat front, StringKing focused on quality materials and precision manufacturing with the end goal of maxing out the "trampoline effect" at all points along the barrel. They succeeded and improved performance in many other areas while keeping the price lower than most. Kit reports that the most exciting new StringKing products are a lot softer than bats or sticks. They have developed technology that enables them to custom make clothes to fit everyone. The answers to a few quick questions allow them to predict your body dimensions using an algorithm trained on over 25,000 human body scans. When the algorithm finishes the pattern design, their laser system cuts out the panels and StringKing employees sew everything together right at StringKing's home in Los Angeles so they can ship it to you within 24 hours. And they write your name on the tag so you don't have to label it when you pack up for camp this summer!

NO HORSING AROUND: ANDREW IRVINE'S KAYAK POLO TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew Irvine, former camper and kayaking counselor (not to mention the inimitable "Little Jimmy" in one of the funniest and weirdest serial campfire skits in recent memory, and the original "Camper Hunter") is a teacher, husband, and father living in Boulder Creek, CA up in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We learned in last year's *Pine Needle* that Andrew's kayak polo career started in 2010. Below is a report from Andrew, whose place in the sport was cemented this summer.

In my 9th year of playing kayak polo with the San Francisco kayak polo club, I was invited to play with our A team, the

San Francisco Pelicans. The 2019 national tournament was hosted by the Austin, TX kayak polo club at the Twin Lakes YMCA compound.

Not only do we fly to these tournaments, we fly all of our gear, kayaks included! It makes getting to and from the airport a different experience!

We were 4-2 going into the finals and in 2nd place. We beat Boston in the semi-finals. In the final game against Austin we were losing 0-1 at the end of the first half. We tied the game 1-1 in the last 2 minutes of contest. The game continued into golden-goal over-time. I initiated the final play after making a save and starting a transition that led to the final goal! Previously we had lost to Austin twice in the round-robin, and Austin had been the national champion for the past seven years, so this was an unexpected and extremely satisfying victory!

I got to fly home with the Cambria Cup. The SF Pelicans are officially the USA national kayak polo champions of 2019!

I'm hoping to play for the USA team in the Worlds 2020 in Rome next fall.

Good luck, Andrew, and remember — Pine Island Always Wins!



Smooth sailing for Rob and Sophie Whitehouse aboard *Tip Your Cap* near Brunswick, ME



Andrew Irvine clings to the trophy

NICK BELLAMY AND CHARLIE BOUTWELL JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nick Bellamy was a camper and a counselor at PIC in the late 1970s. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont and Columbia Business School and works in the power and infrastructure investment business. He currently lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife Robyn and reports that he is excited about collaborating with fellow Pine Island alumni, staff, parents, and his cousin Sumner Ford on all things Pine Island.

Charlie Boutwell spent his first summer on Pine Island in 1997 when he was nine years old, and the lure of Great Pond brought him back for another four years as a camper (1998-1999, 2001-2002). He went on to become a counselor and sailing instructor for three summers (2007-2008, 2010) during his college years at Harvard University (AB Government, 2010). He currently resides in New York City's Greenwich

Village with his wife Lara Nadosy and their golden retriever Daly. Charlie has worked in the real estate industry at Beacon Capital Partners in Boston and Atlas Capital Group in New York. He is currently employed by Common Living Inc., a tech-enabled, community-focused residential brand designing and operating dense multifamily housing in order to make city living more affordable and convenient for young urban renters. Charlie recently wrote, "My time spent at Pine Island Camp included some of the most important and formative experiences of my life, fostering a spirit of self-reliance and a lifelong love of the outdoors. I am excited to join the board to help ensure the continued vitality of the camp for the next generation and look forward to engaging with the entire PIC community in Maine and beyond. Akka Lakka!"

VIEW FROM THE DOCTOR'S CABIN PORCH

By Director Sumner Ford

The scene I observe from the window of my winter office is oddly reminiscent of what I observe from the windows of the Staff Office during the summer at Pine Island. Snow is falling in thick, fluffy clumps. The nearby holly bush is aflutter with chickadees whose commotion nearly rivals the PIC dining hall during lunch. The snow evokes a feeling of comfort in me, a hushed silence only interrupted by brief puffs of wind. The iconic scene of a New England town draped in snow, smoke billowing out of a chimney, is the epitome of coziness. One can imagine a family gathered around a fire in their warmest pajamas, hot cocoa warming their hands - not a scene you would expect to trigger visions of Pine Island. Yet, the coziness of the moment matches the feeling of an afternoon at camp perfectly. Watching a couple of campers wander past the staff office window, unaware that they are being observed because they are too engrossed in their conversation. They pass a camper nestled in his hammock, deep in an imagined world and unbothered by the loon cackle just to his left. Other campers help a friend pack for the trip on which he will depart the next day.

Pine Island's tremendous value to its campers was clearly understood in its earliest days. Dr. E.L. Swan wrote about what's best for a camper-aged boy in *Harpers Camping and Scouting*, "Even in the best hotels is the life, the hours, the food, and examples the best thing for him? There is much to amuse him, of course, but at the end of the summer how much is he benefited? How many lessons in self-control...Has he been

taught to swim and dive correctly, to paddle, row fish, sail, tramp, make camp, cook out-of-doors? And has he come to know and love Nature because of intimate association?" Dr. Swan wrote this in 1911. He knew that there was much competition for a boy's interest. What would he think of today? I imagine he would be pleased that Pine Island has stood the test of time, and continues to offer tremendously valuable and important alternatives to Disneyworld, hours in front of a screen, flights around the globe, and sports camps. I'm sure Dr. Swan would see as I do that what a season at Pine Island has to offer is more important than ever.

For most people the appeal of winter is not spending time outside but enjoying shelter from the elements. The comfort that grows at Pine Island is like that of a winter day and being sheltered from the challenging elements outside. The trials of a day are like the cold - passing a rank, getting through a rough patch with a tent mate, summiting a peak, or running rapids. The shelter is the friend who helps you pass a rank, the counselor who serves you a delicious treat on your camping trip, and the numerous people at PIC who always look to help others before themselves.

Leaving Pine Island is not easy. During the last ride across the lake, I never can take my eyes off of the island. I agree with Dr. Swan. Pine Island offers lessons you cannot learn anywhere else. What makes Pine Island such a special place is that you experience those lessons with a caring community around you.

IN MEMORIAM

George Morfogen died peacefully in March at the age of 86. George was a camper from 1947-1949 and won the Loyalty Award in 1948. He was a counselor from 1950-1954 and stayed in touch with the Swan family throughout his life. Jun Swan said he knew George would be the great stage actor that he became when George directed and acted in "The Telltale Heart," the Poe short story he adapted for a Saturday Night Show in which someone sat beneath the stage floor and thumped out the telltale heartbeat with increasing volume. The performance was so terrifying that a young camper in the front row threw up and the show ended prematurely. "There were a lot of parents on hand for some reason," Jun used to say ruefully when he told the story. George, a resident of New York City his entire life, graduated from Brown University and the Yale School of Drama and went on to a long and successful career as a stage, television, and film actor. While many of George's most memorable performances were on the stage, he was probably best known for his portrayal of Bob Rebadow in the HBO series "Oz." A brilliant stage actor, George appeared on and off Broadway, including the Public Theater and Shakespeare in the Park. He was a resident actor for 17 seasons at The Williamstown Theater Festival. George's final stage appearance was in "Traveling Lady" by Horton Foote, directed by Austin Pendleton at the Cherry Lane Theater in 2017. George is survived by his husband and life partner of 51 years, Gene Laughorne.

Akka Lakka, George.

Scott Danser, a camper from 1989-1992, died June 7, 2019.

Gardner Defoe died January 25, 2019. He was 82. Gardner, an incredibly energetic and charismatic person, lived in Kingfield, ME for most of his life and was a renowned Maine Guide and expert on the wild rivers of Maine. He ran dozens of trips with young people down the Allagash and St. John Rivers for many years and was briefly associated with Pine Island Camp in the late

1960s and 1970s when he and Jun Swan published a catalogue together. Gardner also ran Sugarloafers Ski Camp for many years, packing busses in southern New England, New York, and New Jersey with eager young people on their school vacations. Pine Islanders John Alsop, Mike Monahan, and Tim Nagler and his five sons maintained longtime friendships with Gardner. Tim shared a tent with Gardner during a 2017 reunion trip down the Allagash that was chronicled in the LL Bean-commissioned film *Defoe's Way*. Tim wrote, "At 80 he could still put effortless distance between his canoe and mine."

Blue Kovaz, Joe Kovaz's faithful dog, died on April 29, 2019 at the age of 17. Joe wrote to share some highlights of Blue's long life, which included many happy summers on Pine Island, where he undoubtedly filled an important role for many campers who were missing their pets back home: *Blue was a one hundred percenter and could take a dip whenever he wanted. Many mornings, he would wake up early and swim behind me all the way around the island, sometimes twice. I had to swim fast to keep him from scratching my feet with his paws. For a dog with such short legs, he was an incredible swimmer. Blue was present at the very end of the kitchen dock to send off all trips on the KWS and present to greet trips upon their return with his own version of the Akka Lakka... AAWWW-Wwwwwoooooo!!! Blue could roam freely on the island — but never past the Campfire Circle or Honk Hall unless he wanted to get pummeled by the Swans' cats Tip and Lynx. Blue found an unlimited supply (albeit temporary) of snacks, which he stole regularly during campfire until I busted him one evening with his head in a boy's trunk pulling out a bag of unopened beef jerky. I eventually found evidence of previous thefts underneath the Kopa Kababa — several empty beef jerky bags with his signature X slash to open the bag. And probably the most important highlight of all — 90+ boys giving him love and attention all summer long. Every dog's dream! Akka Lakka, Blue.*



Blue at Pine Island

BIG MAN, TINY HOUSE

Long-time counselor Nick Miller has spent recent months working steadily on a little place he's proud to call home.

At PIC, when campers and staff needed to meet to discuss pre-tripping, a campfire act, or a trip report, they frequently meet at the small shed-like structure on the Dustball Court. Sometimes called the “Dragon’s Lair” or the “Disco Dungeon,” this summer, the structure took on a new name: “Nick Miller’s Tiny House.”

This name is based in fact: long-time Pine Islander Nick Miller has been designing and building a Tiny House of his own at his home in Reading, Massachusetts. Working as an Expedition Camp counselor in the summer of 2018, he began describing his plans for the build to members of the PIC community. In some ways, his talking about the house with Pine Islanders helped him gain momentum to begin the project and see it through.

Indeed, Nick has been working on his Tiny House nearly nonstop for the past several months. When asked what inspired the massive undertaking of designing and creating his own Tiny House, Nick remarks that building a sustainable home in Maine of any size is a dream of his, however, even a smaller-than-average house “has kicked my butt all year long. There’s no way I could have built a full-size house and had a full-time job at the same time by myself.” In addition to the somewhat reduced workload, the portability and sustainability of a Tiny House gave it a special allure to Nick. He got to work and now the house proudly stands, fully roofed, insulated, and windowed, in the Millers’ driveway, ready to withstand the Reading winter.

Nick has taken every opportunity to make the home energy-efficient and environmentally conscious. The roof, built in a monopitch saltbox style, evokes a lean-to shelter from the AT. The roof can be lowered flat for transport on the open road. Nick ruefully remarks that, if the house were to stand at its full height while moving, “overpasses would take the thing right off.” Additionally, the south-facing wall is 60% glass by surface area. This is intended to maximize incoming solar heat energy and will be sufficient to heat the house during the day in northern Maine January temperatures. The roof overhang is angled such that the low sun in winter comes right in and the high sun in summer is shaded out during the hottest parts of the day. Supplemental heat will be provided by a 12,000 V2 Mini Split Heat Pump. However, according to Nick, “in the winter in northern Maine, the sunlight coming in in just those windows in January will be more than enough to heat it during the day. I should only have to run the heat pump on the coldest nights in the winter...which means I might never have to run the heat pump. But if I do, it’ll be nice to have.”

Crunching the numbers to determine architectural decisions has been

no tiny task. Nick has relied on help from his close friend, Nat Strack. “Nat is the one that came up with all the data. A student electrical engineer, Nat has a lot of knowledge in that field,” Nick says. Nat has also been instrumental as Nick’s helper in all Tiny house tasks that require two people, and as one can imagine, many of them do.

And just how Tiny is this House? The structure sits on a triple-axle trailer base that is 24 feet long and ten feet wide. When the roof is pitched and the trailer is sitting on its cement pilings, it will be a whopping 20 feet tall, about the size of a standard single-story house. “It is, without a doubt, the tallest tiny house on wheels in the world. In terms of length, I’ve seen others that are up to 40 feet long, so I would call it a ‘medium tiny.’ The extra volume from the height really helps,” Nick says. “For example, there are seven feet of head height under the loft and six feet above. To put this in perspective, most THOWs (Tiny Houses on Wheels) have just six-and-a-half feet under the loft and three feet above.”

Although the interior is not completed just yet, the blueprints are impressive. Nick has designed his dream home, maximizing space and comfort. “It has two lofts. The master loft is where I will sleep, with enough space for a queen-size bed and a lot of storage. This loft is accessible via a normal (ish... it’s still a bit steeper than standard stairs) staircase with storage underneath (and a ventless combo washer dryer!). The guest loft has enough room for a twin XL and some storage and is only accessible via a ladder that doubles as a pantry (the ladder rungs line up with the shelves so you can reach through as well as climb). There will also be an optional rock wall ascent for the adventurous.” The kitchen has the appliances you would find in a standard home, but more efficient: a fridge, a full-sized kitchen sink, an induction cooktop with a combo microwave convection oven, and a half-rack dishwasher. Nick, ready to defend his choices, remarks, “a modern dishwasher is actually much more energy and water efficient than washing in the sink — sorry Whitehead.”

Even his table maximizes efficiency. “The dining table is full sized and is on wheels so that it can be rolled into the main space so diners can sit all around. Another advantage here is that I can plate food directly onto the table from the cooking stations to minimize shuffling past people with hot food. It is then rolled out for people to sit. Once the meal is concluded...the table [can be pushed] back into its spot at the counter to ‘assembly line’ the dishes right into the sink — no waiter games needed.” In terms of a living room, Nick has plans for a six-foot-long couch that can be converted into a queen-size bed for guests. “The couch will be made of wood from my grandmother’s couch. She wished very much to support this project in any way she could.” Under the couch there will be storage and subwoofers strong enough to shake every-



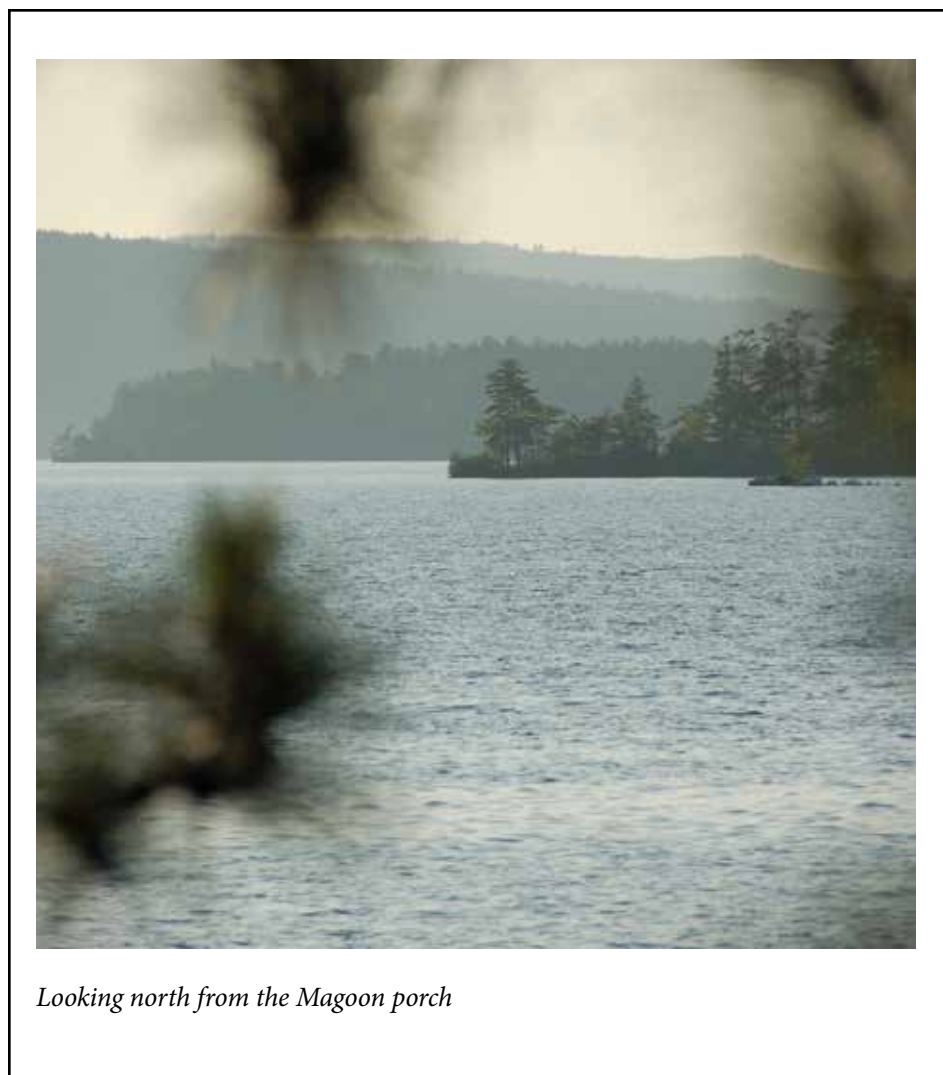
Nick Miller in the doorway of his Tiny(?) house

thing during intense movie scenes being projected onto a pull-down screen on the opposite wall.”

Then comes the bathroom. The floor will drain the whole room to a single point. This allows you to use the room as a shower and use the whole space when the shower is not in use. The toilet will be a high efficiency flush toilet that is hooked up to a bio digester outside the house in a shed. Interestingly, Nick comments, “[The toilet] was originally going to be just like Whitehead, with a five-gallon bucket filled with peat moss to aid composting. I’ve now decided to go with a low-water-usage toilet that can go into a septic system.” Finally, the sink will be just big enough for hand washing, tooth brushing and shaving, and Nick plans on having an outdoor shaving station inspired by the one at Pine Island.

Despite the Tiny space, Nick has used every inch available to him for all

he can. He has spent countless hours problem-solving, trying, failing, succeeding, and learning a great deal about building, designing, and perseverance. “I have had plenty of help. Friends and family, mostly. In the beginning I thought I could do it all by myself, but I can’t. If you want anything that resembles a modern house, you are going to need help. Which I think is a very ‘Pine Island-y’ thing in and of itself: you can’t do it alone,” Nick says gratefully. The most essential aspect of the construction process so far has been the collaboration required to create his Tiny House. He plans to pause construction for the winter but will resume when the temperatures rise and the hours of daylight lengthen. When it’s all completed and settled, Nick Miller’s Tiny House will proudly stand somewhere in the woods of Maine, a stately counterpart to the Dustball Court structure sharing the name.



Looking north from the Magoon porch



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The deck at Topside early morning



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