FALL 2010

CHEWONKI

CHRONICLE

Celebrating 40 Years in the Outdoor Classroom
Contents

3 President’s Notes

4 News from the Neck

8 The Outdoor Classroom

Chewonki’s unique and popular program is more relevant than ever.

11 Community Service

With a push from students, a longtime activity expands its reach.

14 Log of a Backwoods Cruise

Willard Morgan retraces the steps of Clarence Allen in Vermont.

19 Lessons Learned at Monstweag Brook

Removing a dam, we learned, is not for the feint of heart.

22 Dirty Jobs—Clean Energy

Saving the world, one greasy batch of biodiesel at a time.

24 Singing Their Hearts Out

Song is everywhere at Girls Camp!

26 Sunday Service at Boys Camp

Imagine 170 boys sitting still in the woods for almost an hour. It happens every week at Boys Camp.

31 People

47 On My Mind

Lynne Flaccus has a passion for turtles.

47 Step It Up for Sustainability

Manage your household waste.

Cover photo by Chris Riley.
A Vision for Chewonki

Clarence Allen had a vision for Chewonki even before founding a boys camp on the shores of Lake Champlain in 1915. Intrigued by an excerpt from his journal in 1904, last summer I set out to retrace his steps and in the process connect with the roots of both our founder and our philosophy. My account of that adventure, which you’ll find on page 14, includes some reflections on my new role as president of Chewonki. It has been an exciting first four months focused on making connections across programs, staff, participants, neighbors, alumni, and friends.

Our cover story celebrates 40 years of teaching in the Outdoor Classroom, which began in 1971 when the Rivers School in Massachusetts sent its entire eighth grade to Chewonki for the first time. Four decades later, the Outdoor Classroom program remains rich with meaning and relevance in a world where children spend less and less time outdoors. This story also links all three of Chewonki’s previous leaders. Clarence was headmaster at Rivers, and Tim Ellis is an alumnus. Don Hudson helped lead the first Rivers encampment. Last spring I met some of the teachers and students, and we expect them back for a 41st program in May 2011.

As I settle in to my new role, we have been reaching out to our neighbors, which is why I am glad to have the story about community service in this issue. Our students and staff have been contributing more and more time in our local communities in recent years. As we go to press, we have just hosted the third delegation of local government and school officials to campus so they may learn more about our programs and help us create stronger connections to our local community. Together we seek common ground in education and community development for Wiscasset and surrounding towns through environmental education. We will keep you posted on this effort.

As you thumb through this issue, you will notice the increase in pages. We have integrated the venerable semester publication, Coastlines, into the People section of the Chronicle, to reflect that all of our programs share the same home. I think you will enjoy seeing the connections between different Chewonki programs and reading about what our alumni are doing.

Meanwhile, our staff, trustees, and advisors are hard at work on a strategic planning process. The Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Josh Marvil, has convened a process to set Chewonki’s course through 2015, our centennial. As I travel this winter, I will be sharing some of our progress with alumni and friends and asking for feedback. We will report our progress in the 2011 Chronicles. Finally, for those of you accustomed to seeing our annual report in the Chronicle, know that we will publish it electronically in February 2011.

Chewonki’s work is more relevant today than ever, and I am deeply motivated to make our programs accessible to more children. I look forward with great excitement to the work ahead, and I appreciate all the support that comes from our family of friends and supporters.

Best regards,
Willard
News from the Neck

Chewonki Asks White House to Go Solar

If you think you may have seen this photo somewhere else, well, you probably have. Communications director Betta Stothart Connor said she snapped it in front of the dining hall in early September, and a few weeks later it was front and center on climate activist Bill McKibben’s blog at 350.org. “How cool is that?” said Betta.

Chewonki Semester School students and staff were asking President Obama to put solar back on the White House. In 1979, President Carter put solar panels on the White House. In 1986, President Reagan removed them, and they were never replaced. Years later, Unity College in Maine adopted the panels, where they have lived ever since. Until September—when McKibben and three Unity students drove one of the panels from Maine to Washington, D.C. Activists around the country, including our group shown here, supported the effort by getting the word out about the Solar Road Trip.

Although the trip ended on a disappointing note—the White House refused to accept the panel or commit to installing a new array—success came a few weeks later. On October 5, the White House announced that solar panels will be installed above the First Family’s living quarters by spring 2011, providing hot water and some electricity.

“We did it!” said an elated McKibben, who thanked everyone who wrote letters, signed petitions, and supported the effort. “Solar panels on one house, even this house, won’t save the climate,” he told supporters. “But they’re a powerful symbol to the whole nation about where the future lies.”

Chewonki Adds Wind to Renewable Energy Mix

It’s the largest renewable energy installation on campus to date. On September 16, as staff, students, the local press, and a few neighbors gathered to watch and let out a cheer, Chewonki’s new 100-foot wind tower rose from the ground. All it took was an ingeniously simple rig called a gin pole, a winch, a dump truck full of gravel as counterbalance, and an excavator to pull it up—together with some careful planning. Getting this to day, however, wasn’t simple. It was a four-year effort on the part of Sustainability coordinator Peter Arnold, who raised the funds for the tower and helped the Town of Wiscasset craft a model wind ordinance that has become nationally recognized. “This entire project has been a tribute to Peter’s tenacity and creativity,” said Chewonki president Willard Morgan.

The tower sits at Saltmarsh Farm and carries a two-blade, 6.6-kilowatt turbine that immediately began providing power to the Warren, Chewonki’s largest staff housing building. Peter expects the turbine to produce about 6,000 kilowatt-hours per year, slightly more than the 5900 the Warren uses. The system is grid-tied, meaning any excess power not used by the Warren will reverse the electric meter and generate credits.

As of mid-November, Peter was thoroughly satisfied with the turbine’s performance. “It’s making power, and as we get more wind this fall and winter, we expect it to make even more.” Asked if he’d had any complaints about noise, he replied, “Not a one. It isn’t silent, but no one has complained about it.”

Funding for the system came from the Horizon Foundation in Portland, the Orchard Foundation in South Portland, an anonymous donor, and Chewonki. In addition to contributing to savings in operations, the wind turbine expands Chewonki’s renewable-energy portfolio, enhances its model campus, and provides the Sustainability Office with a valuable teaching tool. Peter expects the tower to reduce the amount of electricity Chewonki buys by about 7 percent. Chewonki pledged to reduce its carbon emissions 10 percent from baseline 2005–2006 levels by 2010; 20 percent by 2015; and 80 percent by 2050.

Peter takes particular pleasure in the tower’s location on the farm. “I’m excited that Chewonki can produce an electricity crop as well as a food crop,” he says.

A link for getting real-time wind and energy production data from the new turbine will be posted on our website soon.

Welcome, Greenlanders

Chewonki has welcomed international campers for decades, but Summer 2010 marked the first time we welcomed Greenlanders. “Jens Zeeb and Jens Thomassen were a wonderful addition to our Maine Coast Kayak trip,” said Summer Trips director Ryan Linehan. The two 17-year-olds live on the west coast of Greenland in the village of Uummannaq, about 600 miles north of the Arctic Circle. They came to Chewonki through a connection with the Uummannaq Children’s House, a government-run institution that serves young people who have been orphaned or suffered from neglect. “The boys were a delight and, among other things, taught their fellow trippers some wonderful traditional Inuit games,” said Ryan. Chewonki hopes to continue the relationship with the Children’s House and at some point would like to take a group from Chewonki to Uummannaq.

Jens and Jens were among 55 international campers and trippers from 13 foreign countries who joined us for a Chewonki program this summer. In their honor—and in hopes of welcoming future Greenlanders—we’ll be adding the red-and-white flag of Greenland to the flag collection in the dining hall that represents the homes of our participants.
Twenty-nine adventurous folks joined Chewonki in September for a 10-day cruise to the Arctic with the Inuit-owned company Cruise North Expeditions. They sailed from Resolute on Cornwallis Island in Nunavut, 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle, more than 2,000 miles south to Kuujjuaq in northern Quebec.

The landscape was spectacular, and the history and culture, including that of polar exploration, were fascinating. There were numerous opportunities to observe birds, marine mammals, plants, and rocks. The group saw many impressive icebergs, regularly spotted polar bears (25 in total), and even saw a wolf. Shipboard lectures and opportunities to go ashore made for an exceptionally well-rounded experience.

"I think it is fair to say that without fail every participant was truly overwhelmed, in the best definition of the word, with the Arctic and Cruise North," said Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute. "Learning to develop an itinerary and menus, pack food and equipment, manage risk, use a map and compass, read whitewater, and conduct a rescue and evacuation are just a few of the skills our participants will hone. They'll be well prepared to be future leaders."

Boys Camp director Garth Altenburg notes that in any given year, 25 to 40 percent of Boys Camp counselors have completed the Guides Program. "It's become the backbone of our staff," he says. Girls Camp director Genell Vashro looks forward to seeing the same tradition evolve at Girls Camp, which will mark its fourth year of operation next summer.

For more information on the programs, visit our website or contact Garth, Genell, or Greg.

Chewonki cruise participants on a hike near Cape Dyer on the east coast of Baffin Island.

Chewonki will join Cruise North again next year, for its High Arctic and Northwest Passage Cruise, August 30–September 13. The group will rendezvous in Edmonton, Alberta; fly by charter plane to Cambridge Bay, Nunavut; travel east through the Northwest Passage to Greenland; and return by charter aircraft to Montreal. Greg expects the trip to fill quickly and encourages interested travelers to contact him to reserve a spot: gshute@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323.

**Arctic Travelers “Truly Overwhelmed” by Cruise**

**Wanted: Your Up-to-date Address!**

Are you 40 years old and still getting mail from Chewonki at Mom and Dad's address? Or getting mail from us at two addresses? Or getting it under an incorrect name? Please help us stay connected (and save resources) by updating your address and email. You can call us at 207-882-7323 or update online on the alumni pages at www.chewonki.org/alumni/keep_in_touch.

In an effort to save resources, Chewonki is moving toward more e-communications and less printing. If you'd like to help with that effort, please go to our website and sign up for e-news. Click the lower left-hand button, "go paperless. get enews." Once there, you can select the areas of interest for which you'd like to receive occasional emails. Thank you!

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org / 5
For the second year in a row, Chewonki leaders guided 10 high-school students on a 9-day exploration of Baxter State Park. The Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program was created after a Baxter State Park study revealed that the majority of park visitors are older adults. The Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP), an independent citizen group that promotes the values of wilderness preservation, spearheaded the program in an effort to boost visits by Maine youth.

In 2009, FBSP contacted Chewonki Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute in search of leadership. “I was excited by their model,” says Greg. “The backcountry of Baxter provides an extraordinary landscape for exploration and learning. I was happy to support the effort with Chewonki leadership.” Greg worked with FBSP board president Barbara Bentley to develop a program whereby Chewonki annually provides two trained guides to lead the group.

This year, Registered Maine Guides and Chewonki wilderness trip leaders Keith Crowley and Leah Titcomb led the teenagers from South Branch Pond down the Pogy Notch Trail to the summit of Katahdin. Along the way they met with Maine senior geologist Bob Johnston, Penobscot cultural educator Barry Dana, park naturalist and resource manager Jean Hoekwater, Bangor Daily News journalist Brad Viles (who later published a feature-length piece in the paper), and others. These “guest speakers” met with the group and provided workshops in everything from natural history to photography, painting, journaling, canoeing, and campsite maintenance.

John Fox, a participant from Unity, Maine, said about the trip, “I can honestly say it was one of the most fun and memorable weeks of my life!” The program has received funding from the Quimby Family Foundation for three years, and there has been no cost to students. New funding sources will be needed for 2012. To learn more about the program or to download an application, go to www.friendsofbaxter.org.

Chewonki Increases Financial Aid Awarded

Chewonki is proud to announce that it awarded $782,000 in scholarship and financial aid for campers, trippers, Chewonki Semester School students, and school subsidies for the Outdoor Classroom and Traveling Natural History Programs in fiscal year 2010 (which ended on August 31). This amount represents 26.2 percent of Chewonki’s total tuition revenue for the year.

Chewonki is able to fund financial aid largely through the generous contributions of donors, both to our Annual Fund and to our Capital Campaign, where financial aid endowment represents the largest of the five campaign goals.

The aid is awarded in two ways: need-based and through a series of partnered summer scholarship programs. In 2010, need-based aid totaled $660,000 across all programs, and scholarship program aid totaled $122,000. Our largest partnership is with Summer Search, a national leadership development program for low-income high-school students with which Chewonki has partnered for 19 years. Last summer, 33 Summer Searchers participated in our extended wilderness trips across Maine. Chewonki also has scholarship partnerships with organizations in Russia, Greenland, the Bahamas, and Maine.

The semester school awarded $245,000 in need-based financial aid for fiscal year 2010, representing 14.6 percent of gross tuition. For the current school year, this figure will increase to more than 17 percent, mirroring the increase in family need experienced by independent schools and other programs across the country.

“Chewonki needs a robust financial aid program to make our programs affordable and accessible across the socioeconomic spectrum,” says president Willard Morgan. “How we continue to meet this need going into the future, especially in light of the current economic climate, is a mission-critical issue for Chewonki.”
Chewonki History Available Online

Although Chewonki founder Clarence Allen liked to say “the briefest history of the camp is that it started in 1915 and is still running,” there’s a lot more to our history than that! A short history of Chewonki written in 2005 by former counselor, trip leader, and assistant camp director Jesse Dukes is now available online. And as our centennial approaches, we are beginning to envision a 100-year history project and celebration. To download our short history, please visit www.chewonki.org/alumni and click on Alumni Publications.

Summer 2011 Programs Already Enrolling

If early registrations are any indication, it looks like Summer 2011 may see record enrollments at Chewonki. Whether it’s Boys Camp, Girls Camp, or Wilderness Trips for Teens, you can register your child online or download a registration form at www.chewonki.org and mail it to us. The deadline for financial aid applications is February 15.

Please feel free to contact us by phone, email, or mail with any questions you might have about our summer programs.

Family Camp participants jumped for joy in front of the Barn at Chewonki. It was mid-August, the days were hot, the nights were cool, bugs were gone, skies were blue, and 38 hearty souls (more than half of them under the age of 10) made the pilgrimage to Chewonki Neck for five days of Family Camp. There were tasty meals in the dining hall, swimming and sailing at the waterfront, campfire, nature, and of course old acquaintances and new friends made. We hope to see you again next year. Mark your calendars: August 17–21, 2011.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org / 7
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ehonki celebrates a significant milestone this year: our fortieth year of teaching in the Outdoor Classroom. We welcomed our first overnight school group in the fall of 1971, when former executive director Tim Ellis arranged for the entire eighth grade from Rivers School in Weston, Massachusetts, to spend 10 days camping on Chewonki Neck.

It was a natural partnership. Chewonki founder Clarence Allen was a former headmaster at Rivers; Hardy Ellis was assistant camp director at Chewonki and for many years assistant headmaster at Rivers; Roger Tory Peterson taught art at Rivers and nature at Camp Chewonki; and Tim himself was a Rivers alumnus.

“That first program was a challenge program with little natural history,” Tim recalled recently. “But we were learning, and over the years inserted more of a balance between natural history and challenge. We learned a lot about the valuable place that experiential learning and the development of character and community can and should have in formal curricula, and we continued to build on it.”

Former Chewonki president Don Hudson, still a college student then, was on the small staff that led the Rivers encampment, and he remembers it well. “The essential pieces of
“For too long, we somehow forgot that some of the most important learning happens outside of these brick buildings called schools”
William Shuttleworth, superintendent of Maine Regional School Unit 1

today’s Outdoor Classroom were assembled in those 10 days,” he says. Forty students were divided into four groups, and for each group there was a Chewonki teacher and a Rivers teacher. Together, they camped in tents and cooked their meals outdoors, explored with map and compass, crossed the Gulch, and canoed in the salt marsh. “The schedule was pretty loose,” Don recalls. “This was one time when we were making it up as we went along!”

What Chewonki was “making up” in 1971 has endured the test of time. Our Outdoor Classroom (originally called Environmental Education) now serves more than 2,000 students a year in programs that range in length from one to seven days and that incorporate lessons in ecology, sustainability, teambuilding, and outdoor living. A highly trained staff that numbers more than 20 offers day programs, overnight encampments, and wilderness trips—all of them custom-designed to meet a school’s own interests and curricula.

For all its growth, the Outdoor Classroom remains remarkably unchanged in spirit. This June, 40 Rivers students once again set up tents and cooked outdoors on Chewonki Neck. It was the entire seventh grade, and though they stayed only 3 nights instead of 10, their trip looked remarkably like the one in 1971. These kids also crossed the Gulch, canoed in the salt marsh, and explored with map and compass. Their eyes grew wide when they learned their trip marked the fortieth year Rivers has come to Chewonki—longer than any other school. “That’s so cool!” they said in chorus.

These kids can also tell you why the program is valuable. “At Chewonki you’re away from technology. You don’t see media, and that’s good,” said one of the students.

“I like that you rely on each other. It’s a good way to see how teamwork works,” said another.

And from another: “I’ve always wanted to camp in a tent and cook over a fire. Here I get to do it!”

Outdoor Classroom director Katie Tremblay has been at Chewonki since 2001 and has watched with satisfaction as the program has grown in size and scope. “This year alone we’ll serve 62 schools, including 3 collages,” she said recently. Most come from Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, a few from as far away as Pennsylvania and North Carolina. For many, their visit is an annual event and is much anticipated by students and teachers alike.

Julie Raines teaches AP biology at Yarmouth High School in Maine and has been bringing students to Chewonki for 27 years. “Chewonki has been a great place for my classes to compare a variety of ecosystems, practice field techniques, and learn more about animals and preserved specimens,” she said this fall. “In preparing for the AP exam we’re able to review all of their coursework, do lab work, and enrich their understanding, making lots of connections. Add in the terrific teaching approach of the Chewonki teachers, the flexibility of the program to meet my learning objectives, and it has been a perfect program for us.”

The program’s popularity and growth have not come without challenges, however, especially in the past few years. Declining enrollment may well be at the top of the list, but it is not the only challenge.

There’s a trend toward more schools coming to Chewonki for fewer days with fewer students, Katie explains. Interestingly, budget cuts are not the only reason. “The culture of what kids can do has really changed,” she says. Standardized testing limits the number of days students can be away from the classroom, and many kids can’t miss mandatory sports practice.

Katie also notes that parents seem more protective and less willing to let their children venture outside their comfort levels. “A four-day trip for a fifth-grader is a much bigger deal with parents than it used to be,” she says. The result of these shorter stays is a decline in enrollment but an increase in administrative work.

Continued on page 10
Health issues have added another, and much more serious, layer of complexity. Katie sits on a state committee dealing with the epidemic of overweight youth. “One-third of Maine children are overweight or obese, and it’s taking a terrible toll on their fitness,” she says.

Food allergies are also on the rise, resulting in students who need custom-designed menus and sometimes even separate pots and pans and dishwashing stations. Outdoor Classroom staff put an enormous amount of time into coordinating such needs.

And then there are the medications. Katie recalls the days when asthma and Attention Deficit Disorder were as complicated as things got in the Outdoor Classroom. Today the staff routinely works with students who have diabetes, bipolar disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, and other serious conditions. “It used to be that when a group arrived they might hand us a zip-lock bag with a couple of inhalers in it. Now it’s not uncommon for a school to hand us a duffel bag—a large duffel bag—of meds when they get off the bus,” says Katie.

As challenging as the administrative and student management issues are, Katie feels Chewonki is managing them well. The Outdoor Classroom structures its activities so every student can participate, and although it’s requiring the staff to make more and more accommodations—and even to add staff positions—Katie wouldn’t have it any other way. “What the growing behavioral and medical needs say to me is that providing kids with outdoor experiences is more important than ever,” she says emphatically.

What Katie comes back to—what worries her most—is the drop in enrollment, particularly from public schools. “Even a relatively minor budget cut can make the difference in a school’s ability to bring students to Chewonki,” she says. Katie hates to lose a school, but if current trends continue, she expects to see it happen more and more frequently. She cites the cases of Bath Middle School and Woolwich Central School, both of which have come to Chewonki for almost 30 years—until this year. “It’s a shame when the schools closest to us can’t come,” she says.

Chewonki is working on a strategic response to address the situation. “The bottom line is that we need more financial aid,” says Chewonki president Willard Morgan. Willard would love to see Chewonki be able to serve all local students within a certain geographical distance, and he and Katie have initiated discussions with school administrators. “I hope we’ll be successful,” says Katie.

So does William Shuttleworth, superintendent of Maine Regional School Unit 1, which encompasses five midcoast towns. Shuttleworth believes passionately in the value of outdoor education and says he is “fighting like crazy” to find funding for it. “For too long,” he says, “we somehow forgot that some of the most important learning happens outside of these brick buildings called schools. When students have a canoe paddle in their hand, or are scaling across a ravine or working with a team to identify wildlife and trees, they begin to learn a lot about themselves as being competent, capable, and confident.”

To spend a day, or even a few hours, in the Outdoor Classroom is to understand how much this program has to offer—especially in an age when Nature Deficit Disorder is a recognized pandemic. Visit the Chewonki campus on almost any school day, and you will see kids living, playing, and learning in the out-of-doors. They might be catching frogs or watching earthworms, snowshoeing across a marsh, climbing in the Barn, running across a field, cooking tacos over an open fire, or meeting Aquila, our resident Golden Eagle. You will see them engaged both in organized adventures and in simple, unstructured play.

Katie Tremblay sums up the value of all this in two simple sentences: “The more time children spend outdoors, the more they care about the environment. And getting children to care about the environment ensures that we will have a future generation of environmental stewards.”

For more information on the Outdoor Classroom, or to schedule a program, contact Katie Tremblay at 207-882-7323 or ktremblay@chewonki.org.
Community Service

It’s about giving back and connecting with people

Every Wednesday afternoon during the school year, a small group of semester students and a teacher head off campus. It isn’t always the same students or teacher, and the destination changes too. It might be the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta one week, the Lincoln County Animal Shelter in Wiscasset another week.

Wednesday afternoons, like two other afternoons a week, are devoted to work program, a signature activity for the semester since it opened its doors in 1988. Working together in small crews, students and faculty glaze windows, stack wood, harvest vegetables, shingle a building, sweep the kitchen, or make biodiesel. They help keep the Chewonki community humming. But increasingly, students are also expressing a desire to help keep our larger local community humming. As a result, every Wednesday work program now involves an opportunity to do community service off campus.

Chewonki students are reading to kindergartners at Wiscasset Primary School, visiting with residents at the Maine Veterans Home, singing for patients who have Alzheimer’s disease, and helping local farmers. They have done yard work for neighbors in need, helped socialize abandoned dogs, and cleaned up the flooded basement at a local family shelter. On a canoe trip down the St. Croix River last spring, they even spread gravel for a new campsite.

Continued on page 12
Bill Hinkley, math teacher and interim head of school this year, is delighted with the range of activities. “If one of the reasons students come to Chewonki is to learn about the Maine coast, then learning about the people and the lives they lead here is important too,” he says.

Community service has always been part of the semester experience, but it wasn’t always a scheduled activity. That changed shortly after Bill joined the faculty, in 2001. “We’ve always helped our neighbors. And we’ve always emphasized the power of service,” says Chewonki president Willard Morgan, who was head of school for the last six years. “But when Bill offered to coordinate a more formal community service program, he took our efforts to a new level.” It began with one full day of service a semester, in which all the students and faculty participated. Now, smaller groups do weekly activities.

Bill is a Maine native who runs an organic blueberry farm with his wife and their three young boys. He also teaches math at the Maine State Prison in Thomaston. “The regularity of going off campus with students is good,” he says, “and the long-term relationships we’re establishing are great. We want to continue expanding that. We want to help people on a regular basis, especially in our immediate area.”

No one has been more grateful for help than Art and Lee Campbell of Dresden. At least once a semester for the past five years, Chewonki students have helped split and stack the Campbells’ firewood. The couple heats their small home primarily with wood. “I’m still a young fella, and I can still do some things. But this sure saves me a lot of time and energy I don’t have,” said 82-year-old Art recently. “I’m very thankful to Chewonki for sending those kids up here. I know it’s part of their education, but still, I really appreciate it.” He and his wife enjoy the students’ visits and “try to make things fun for ’em.”

The students enjoy the Campbells too. In fact, inviting the Campbells to dinner at Chewonki each semester has become something of a tradition. “It’s always a great evening,” says Bill. “Our students often comment on how meaningful their contact is with the people and agencies for whom they do community service. At many schools now, community service is mandatory, something to check off. There often isn’t any significant connection with people. Our students see another way to do service, and many of them continue it after they go home.”

While Willard has high praise for Bill and the emphasis he has put on service at Chewonki, Bill deflects that praise to the students. “They’ve really pushed us to do more,” he says. “The initiative they’ve taken in expanding Chewonki’s presence in the local community is remarkable.”

A case in point is Leah Cooper and Callum McCulloch of Semester 44, who last spring pushed to make community service a weekly option. For anyone whose faith in young people may be faltering, Leah’s essay (opposite) will be a powerful and moving antidote. Her words—“I now know that each individual in this world has the power to make a positive and lasting impact”—will make you a believer too.

Chewonki Semester School is the epitome of community service. From watching the documentary King Corn to cleaning the Hilton toilets, the Chewonki education and work programs (even the less enjoyable ones) are founded on the philosophy that one individual can change the world. Each semester, 40 adventurous, passionate, and slightly quirky juniors leave their high schools and dive into a kibbutz-esque community where everyone is on a first-name basis and where dinner discussions begin with questions like “So guys—if you were plugged into the matrix…. ” The students leave behind cell phones, say goodbye to 24-hour Internet access, and learn to create their own fun. We all come back a little bit changed.

Some of us leave Chewonki proclaiming “I now know I want to be a glaciologist!” Others, once picky eaters, arrive home with a new love of sauerkraut. But I think all Chewonki alumni share one thing in common: if they didn’t already believe in the power of the individual, they certainly leave imbued with this doctrine. For the Chewonki farm and school would barely function if each individual did not help out.

After four fleeting months of being part of the Chewonki community, we alumni are released back into the “real world,” where we turn our agency into action.

During my semester at Chewonki, in the spring of 2010, I initiated a weekly community service option. Prior to this, the school facilitated a service day outside the Chewonki community once each semester. After returning from spring break, I felt a strong desire to volunteer outside the Chewonki community, and to do it more frequently than just once. This desire may have stemmed in part from a bit of—no pun intended—cabin fever. But I think my drive to volunteer was mostly the result of a strong feeling that came over me once I stepped back on campus after a week at home. It was a feeling that I needed to give back.

I remember sharing my desire to start a weekly service program with my advisor, math teacher Ben Redman. His response? “You should talk to Bill about this. He would be really into it.” And Ben was right. Bill Hinkley suggested that I present my proposal at a faculty meeting; he also facilitated our first service trip, to the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta. After sharing the idea with my classmate Callum McCulloch, we presented the proposal. No surprise—our teachers were just as excited to get involved as our friends were.

One service trip in particular stands out in my memory. Amy Rogers, English teacher and beloved Decomposers conductor, Deirdre Shea, Adriana Walsh, and I drove to the Alzheimer’s wing of The Highlands retirement home in Topsham to sing for Amy’s father and other residents. As we drove down Route 1, interlaced lyrics of “Amazing Grace,” “Swing Low Sweet Chariot,” and “Siyahamba” poured out of Amy’s car windows. We would soon meet “Frank.” A
former policeman, church choir member, and opera lover, Frank seemed to have a memory for every song we sang. “You are bringing my past back to life,” he said, with tears in his eyes.

In addition to singing for and speaking with residents of nursing homes, students and faculty made trips to an animal shelter where we helped socialize rescued dogs. Callum and Bill also organized a trip to the Campbells, an elderly couple whom Chewonki students have helped out in many years past. There, students chopped enough wood to heat the Campbells’ home well into the frosty Maine winter.

Semester 44 made the switch from being Chewonki students to Chewonki alumni five months ago. We are now part of that network of super-empowered individuals, sloshing around the country, connecting different corners of the world. Since my transformation to alumna status, I have founded a singing group at my school called “Musical Memories.” Each time we sing at a retirement home, I think of my Chewonki semester.

I am so thankful that I attended the semester school; I am very grateful to have met Amy Rogers and Bill Hinkley, whose personal commitments to volunteerism were essential for the success of the service program. I do not want to be a glaciologist, and I still loathe sauerkraut, but I now know that each individual in this world has the power to make a positive and lasting impact. Chewonki is the epitome of global community service for this reason—it empowers students by catalyzing the realization that just one person, that you, can change the world, glacier by glacier, nursing home by nursing home.

Leah Cooper is from Washington, Connecticut, and is a senior at Loomis Chaffee School.
My journey to New Discovery, District No. 9, in Marshfield, Vermont, started with an email in July of this year from Schuyler Gould, step-grandson of Clarence Allen, the founder of Camp Chewonki. Schuyler had transcribed a journal entry written by Clarence on December 3, 1904. That winter, at the ripe age of seventeen, Clarence worked a 10-week stint as schoolmaster in a one-room schoolhouse, instructing over a dozen pupils ages 5 through 18, often in temperatures so low they had to thaw the inkwells on the woodstove.

This particular entry documented a Saturday hike by Clarence from his host family’s house across country and up a nearby mountain. Reading it, I realized the rich well of natural history information it contained. After an early encounter with a skunk, which lured away his canine companion, Pompey, Clarence recounted the next leg of his solo hike (spelling and grammar verbatim).
The foothill I struck first was covered with beautiful firs. They ranged from a foot high to fifty all rich green and being so thickly intergrown gave that heathy firry odor in profusion. On the other side of this ridge of firs I came to a clearing. The trees had been felled and left branches and all as they were so that the thickly matted branches made a sort of mattress, which was appropriately covered with a blanket of snow. The blanket concealed the hollow places and wanting to rough it rather than going around, I started to cross. My foot would strike first a hollow and sink down to my hips, then a slippery branch or I’d stub my toe and go headlong. It was great fun and exercise and I reached the other side in a little while. Another strip of firs, which like the first was literally covered with rabbit, mice, skunk, and many other tracks and beyond another clearing like the first.

Clarence's description of this high country above Marshfield village is classically post-agricultural New England. By 1904 much cropland and pasture had been abandoned in favor of rich soils in the Midwest. Thirty- to 70-year-old forests were fine sources of lumber and firewood as loggers cleared much of the mountains across northern New England at the turn of the century. The slash left behind fed a series of conflagrations that incinerated peaks in the Adirondacks, Green Mountains, White Mountains, and western Maine, leaving soils exposed to erosion. Rocky bald peaks and a constellation of fire towers, familiar to today's hikers, are long-lived reminders of that era.

By 1904 deer, moose, beaver, mountain lions, wolves, and other large mammals were extirpated from the region, so rabbits and skunk would have been some of the larger wildlife left in Marshfield. Clarence knew his trees and his tracks, and he had a keen eye for detail. I wondered, could I retrace his trail and compare the landscape of 1904 to 2010?

Although natural history was my first interest, I soon realized this would give me an opportunity to walk in Clarence's footsteps and consider my own role as the heir to his Chewonki vision less than two months into my term as president.

It was early August, with camps in session, trips scattered across the state, Family Camp close at hand, and the semester on the horizon, but I chose a date, August 28, and made plans.
Driving east along Route 2 from Marshfield village, I scan the woods all around, trying to make out the original roadway along this grade. I usually drive the speed limit, but with a story to follow, I slow down to wonder. Curiosity brings me extra patience going up the hill and, right blinker, onto Route 232 South. Past the Cabot–Marshfield town boundary I cross a creek and head up the final grade toward the neighborhood where Clarence lived and worked as he sought a winter reprieve from the chronic bronchitis that dogged him in Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Thanks to historical maps and modern aerial photography, I know what I am looking for. The 1873 Beers Atlas recorded the No. 9 schoolhouse across the road from the New Discovery Cemetery. The map also located a “T. Lamberton” house within a half-mile of the school; Clarence boarded with and described the Lamberton family in his journal. He walked back and forth to the school each day; it had to be close to his residence, and this fit the facts.

I find the cemetery first and soon find some Lamberton graves. Across Route 232, where the schoolhouse should have stood, I see only apple trees and shrubby regrowth. I crash through the goldenrod and blackberries, hoping to find some sign of the schoolhouse. Only 20 feet and I stop: my feet are resting on the old schoolhouse foundation.

A rush of amazement floods over me. On this very spot Clarence battled a smoky woodstove, learned his first lessons in classroom management, and on some days struggled against numb hands to open the lock on this far-flung outpost of primary education. What of this winter in New Discovery influenced his later choices, including his pursuit of a career in education and, in 1915, the founding of Camp Chewonki?

Buoyed by my success, I turn to finding the Lamberton house. East along 232 and on the right, I am quite sure I see it. Up the driveway I walk, just as a woman pulls out from the parking pad. She turns out to be the owner and yes, this home was owned by Lambertons.

The family lets me park in the field so I can follow the December 3, 1904, hike. I leave a blackberry pie from the village general store as a thank you to my hosts, load up a small daypack, and set out southwest toward Burnt Mountain, a name that appears only on twentieth-century maps—after the widespread slash fires.
Within another 10 minutes, I find a seasonal hunting camp at the edge of a recent cut, with a steep hill covered by a tight network of ferns and blackberry bushes ahead of me. Because of the heat, I had worn only shorts and running shoes, to my dismay now. I recall Clarence’s account at this point as I rouse my enthusiasm for a brutal bushwhack.

The task before me was no easy one. This hill has all been burned over and a tangle or rather miniature jungle or thicket of thorny berry bushes has sprung up around the burned stumps and the fallen logs. Then too the mountain is not one that a person looking for pleasure would pick out there being innumerable large boulders on every side. But it couldn’t have been better for me if it had been made to order. I dig into the bushes and boulders and fallen logs, pausing rarely but just going up and keeping a sharp look out for animals. The tracks were scarce on the mountainside and I looked in vain until I reached the very summit.

There I was rewarded by the sight of a fine white rabbit. The view from the top was inspiring. All around were mountains of equal size with mine, and rolling back to the horizon they served as mere foothills to the larger and grander mountains. I could look all around the circle, seeing Camels Hump and others of the same height. They were of course covered with snow and many of them reminded me of the sacred mountain of Japan. The general impression of the green mountains I had been told was of an ocean rolling away. It is so—only grander and more impressive and when one sees the whole circumference as I have today it awes you and goes deeper than cathedrals or any works of man.

Encouraged by the Clarence Allen spirit, I plow ahead through ferns and blackberries, which turn out to hide a tangle of logging slash underneath. A few headlong falls and “innumerable” scratches on my legs later, I climb out of this thicket and into a beautiful mid-successional northern hardwood forest. American beech, sugar maple, red maple, and yellow birch dominate the canopy, with some striped maple and scattered balsam fir in the understory. As I climb, the forest becomes a woodland with a wide-open understory carpeted with hayscented and bracken ferns.

Continued on page 18
In the fern carpet, I noticed periodic scurrying and associated jiggling of the fern fronds. Curious, I stop and ease myself to ground level. Looking under the fronds I catch sight of a hare in its summer coat of brown fur. Here is Clarence’s “rabbit,” the snowshoe hare, which is ubiquitous in the north county year-round.

I encounter a few boulders, but no sign of the burn that earned Burnt Mountain its name; that evidence has long since decayed and been reused in the forest of today. In fact, that forest-woodland continues clear to the summit plateau from where Clarence observed the snow-covered Green Mountains rolling away into the distance.

For the first time today, I feel disappointment. Yes, I found the school foundation, the Lamberton house, wildlife signs, and plenty of sharp objects to thrash my legs, all in the spirit of Clarence Allen. But as a hiker and mountaineer, I had looked forward to a summit view. The reference to Mt. Fuji had been especially intriguing; I wanted to see for myself.

So, I push on, wandering in search of sky through the trees, hoping to find a vista point. Then I see an opening and wend through a stand of American beech trunks. All of a sudden I emerge onto the only rocky bald left on Burnt Mountain. It is on the south exposure, where 100 years of sun and prevailing winds have seared and scarred saplings so that lichen, low-bush blueberry, and some hardy grasses still cover much of the rock.

One red spruce has overcome the odds to grow to 30 feet and mostly obscure my view of the mountains that Clarence described. Quietly asking forgiveness of my students and colleagues for ignoring the Chewonki rule against climbing trees, I scratch my way up through the spruce branches until, finally, needle-covered and sap-encrusted, about 25 feet up, I have an unobstructed view to the west of Camel’s Hump, Vermont’s second highest peak.

Much as a “solo” on a Chewonki program provides a camper, tripper, or semester student a respite to reflect, this journey has given me the space to consider my place in Chewonki history. Clarence Allen was a remarkable young man, full of adventure and bold in vision. He had the audacity to do at an early age and the curiosity to back that up with knowledge. He had a deep appreciation for the natural world, and was inspired by its beauty, which invoked a near spiritual response in him.

Over 100 hundred years later, pursuing his roots has given me space to mentally integrate my skills and vision with Clarence’s legacy. Only two months into my tenure as president, I am struck by the strength accrued to Chewonki over time. It is clear to me that natural history continues to have a vital place at the core of our programs, for both literal and metaphorical teaching. And the elation I feel sitting in this red spruce, somewhat battered and bruised, reminds me that outdoor adventure—what professor and writer David Sobel calls “wild play”—is fundamental to a Chewonki education.

In keeping with the style of Clarence Allen in 1904, I had intentionally set out without a map or compass. As befits a naturalist, I spend much of my time looking around as I descend what I thought to be the reverse of my path up. Whereas climbing a peak is self-correcting—if you keep going up, you get to the top—descending a peak gives one many choices to stray, especially since I had not ascended a fall line, but rather bushwhacked a circuitous route through various points of interest.

I soon find myself astray in a swampy dim lowland, where I trip over a forgotten rusty strand of barbed wire still strung along some tree trunks, further abrading my shin. The swamp drains north via the stream I had crossed that morning on Route 232 just east of the Cabot–Marshfield line.

So I come full circle, walking along Route 232 past farmhouses and field still largely the same as they were in 1904. I pass the cemetery and old schoolhouse foundation on my way to the Lamberton house. Turning up the driveway, I imagine a young schoolmaster walking home to an afternoon of reading and writing in his journal.

At the house I wave thanks to the family gathered in the kitchen and continue to my truck. There, on the hood, I find an offering from them—a quart of maple syrup, boiled right here on their land, the Lamberton land.

As I drive downhill to Marshfield village, I smile, satisfied. I now know something of the place that Clarence Allen called home for a few months 106 years ago, and something more of my own connection to Chewonki. I have a long drive ahead to consider how New Discovery shaped us and also to plan the next trip, to the shores of Lake Champlain, where Clarence founded Camp Chewonki 11 years later in 1915.
Removing a dam, it turns out, is not an enterprise for the faint of heart. First, there's the sheer cost of the job (nearly $800,000 in the case of Lower Montsweag Dam, which is entirely grant-funded), then the local politics (not everyone supports dam removals, especially when ponds are lost), and then there's the practical matter of actually taking down an enormous concrete structure and restoring a habitat to its natural state.

As this article is being written, Lower Montsweag Dam, situated a mile north of the Chewonki campus, is being demolished. Project manager Dan Creek is spending heroically long days at the site keeping an eye on heavy equipment and a crew hard at work. Chewonki head naturalist Lynne Flaccus has spent countless hours at the site, setting up monitoring stations and reseeding the drained impoundment with indigenous vegetation. By the time the Chronicle reaches your mailbox, the dam will be gone. The story of how we got there, however, will not be forgotten.

Lower Montsweag Dam was transferred to Chewonki as part of a natural resource damages settlement with the former Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Four years ago, when former Chewonki president Don Hudson proposed the Montsweag Brook Restoration Project at a staff retreat, there was great enthusiasm. Back then, the idea of a long-term endeavor to restore an ecosystem and its fish-breeding habitat sounded relatively straightforward: find partners, raise funds, hire project manager, prepare a demolition design, procure necessary permits, remove barrier, restore fishery, be part of wonderful habitat restoration project in own backyard.

Continued on page 20

Fred Cichocki and a camper sample fish below the dam last summer.
In the end, this is what will be remembered. But the actual journey toward completion of this project has taught us valuable lessons about how we connect with our neighbors; how we work with town government, elected officials, and local newspapers; and how we deal with controversy when it arises. The journey includes a surveyor’s tree-cutting error on a neighbor’s land; a series of challenging meetings with town leaders in order to explain the project and procure local work permits; and a series of unfortunate newspaper headlines, among them “Resistance to Chewonki Proposal Grows.”

Despite a swirl of controversy and various levels of local disapproval, staff at Chewonki continued to applaud the effort, and the project received broad support from environmental, state, and federal agencies, many of which have helped fund this project. On September 29, Chewonki hosted a public discussion and tour at Montsweag Brook, and attendance was impressive. Speakers and guests came from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Rivers, Maine Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, and other organizations.

Speaker after speaker made similar observations: first, stream and river barriers constitute an enormous problem for fish populations in the Gulf of Maine, and second, dam removal projects such as Montsweag need partners like Chewonki to succeed.

Standing at the dam, Brian Graber, a fluvial geomorphologist and water resources engineer with American Rivers, and John Catena, northeast regional supervisor for the NOAA Restoration Center, spoke about the importance of the project.

“Dam removal has become a very important tool in our efforts to bring back fishery resources to the Gulf of Maine,” said Catena. “We try to get fish back to their natal streams where they can spawn and return to the ocean. Dams have been a critical factor in the reduction of the natural species that are inhabiting these streams.”

Graber concurred: “There is no single better way to restore habitat quicker and more effectively than removing a dam.” The U.S. has removed more than 830 dams over the last few decades, said Graber, and many of the projects have included controversy. “The change that occurs when you take out a structure like this is significant for people who have lived here a long time. Change can be a challenge for anybody.”

But both Graber and Catena agree that the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

According to Catena, the Montsweag project is one of many in Maine that NOAA is funding. The migratory fish being targeted here—alewives, American eel, and sea-run brook trout—are linked to the Gulf of Maine and the broader Eastern Seaboard, he says. “This is an interconnective project from a

Lynne Flaccus, Chewonki’s head naturalist, gathers data at the dam site.
“There is no single better way to restore habitat quicker and more effectively than removing a dam.”

—BRIAN GRABER, AMERICAN RIVERS

fisheries point of view that helps the species themselves, but these are also very important forage fish for Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic tuna, striped bass, blue fish, and any number of fish.”

The dam removal improves habitat for these fish, and it also helps improve water quality, adds Graber. “As water sits in the sun during the summer in the impoundment, it warms up, and warmer water means lower dissolved oxygen, and that affects everything in the pond and downstream.”

The intangible goals of dam removal projects are perhaps more onerous than the removals themselves. “NOAA is helping to restore the environment, but in so doing we are also trying to bring the community into a given site, to get stewardship going, and to instill some real understanding about the environment,” says Catena. This is where Chewonki’s involvement becomes notable.

“Having an organization like Chewonki come in and do the monitoring and weave that into the education is a tremendous benefit,” says Catena. “We work with a whole range of organizations and municipalities, and having one that is here and will be involved at the site from a monitoring point of view is just tremendous. We don’t get that a lot.”

Graber is enthusiastic too: “What a fantastic living classroom out here! There are so many things for students to look at, from macro-invertebrates that live in the river bed, to migratory and non-migratory fish and how populations will change when you convert a pond back to its native river habitat.” Graber sees great value in involving students and neighbors in this project. “We were excited to get involved with this project, and one of the things that appealed to us was the long-term educational possibilities Chewonki is intending to implement here both with educating students at the site, but also by having a long-term monitoring plan to help us see the impacts and benefits we are having.”

At the end of the day, what many of us at Chewonki have learned is that dam removals are almost always controversial, but they are also essential. “Not many schools or communities can claim to have a real-life restoration and monitoring effort in their backyard,” said Chewonki president Willard Morgan. “Aside from the environmental gains here, the educational value of this project will benefit our programs and our local community for years to come.”

To learn more about the Montsweag Brook Restoration Project and to see videos, go to www.chewonki.org/about/montsweag.

ALL PHOTOS BY BRIAN PETERS, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.
Working in Chewonki’s Biodiesel Shed is kind of like being in a sauna, with the proviso that the sauna was first used to render lard. The building has its own particular smell, and every touchable surface is covered with a greasy sheen. I like to tell people it is by far the least aesthetically pleasing part of Chewonki, and no one seems to disagree.

This is where we convert waste vegetable oil into biodiesel, which fuels Chewonki’s fleet of diesel vehicles: tractors, vans, commuter cars, and a heavy-duty pickup truck. Each summer we produce about 1,000 gallons, which is enough to displace a quarter of our year-round diesel fuel use. The polyethylene-covered shed is effectively a greenhouse, and in the summer it can produce temperatures up to 120 degrees F—which is good for making biodiesel but bad for one’s personal hydration level.

On this early September day, I have a Chewonki Semester School student with me for work program. The students routinely help with our sustainability projects, doing everything from making biodiesel to installing solar hot-water systems to building their own solar iPod chargers. The students are always excited about these projects, and the one helping me today—Tucker Deane-Krantz from Riverdale Country School in New York City—is no exception.

Tucker and I get right to work in the Biodiesel Shed, tearing out the old plumbing and replacing it with a new, and we hope more efficient, system. It’s a hot, sunny day, and the temperature as I step inside immediately makes me start looking for a chair to sit down on. Right away it’s clear to me that Tucker is so enthused about the work that he is taking no notice of the sweltering heat. We get to work on the plumbing. About 20 minutes into the task, sweat is running down my nose and dripping onto my work, and my hands are becoming too sweaty to properly push the plumbing connections together. I glance over at Tucker—he is working away, blithely unaffected by the staggering temperature. After about 30 minutes, little rivulets of sweat are poring into my eyes, making it hard to see. Tucker turns to me and good-naturedly says, “It’s starting to get pretty warm in here.” I grimace and say “Mmm.” I’m afraid that if I open my mouth, sweat will pour in. Squinting in the direction of Tucker, who is now only a wavy blur, I say, “I think the plumbing’s about done. Let’s see if it holds.”

Tucker moves over to the control panel, as I stay near the newly plumbed vegetable oil tank. “OK, turn it on.” Tucker switches on the pump.

Even through my squinting eyes and fogged-up safety glasses, I can tell immediately that something is wrong. From a loose connection, a flume of warm vegetable oil is spraying horizontally across the room. I move toward the plumbing to close the leak but succeed only in changing the direction of the spray so that it’s instead hitting me in the face. “Nope! Turn it uggghhh,” I yell over to Tucker, my words garbled by the vegetable oil spraying into my mouth. “Turn it off,” I say again, this time more with resignation. Tucker switches off the pump, and the grease fountain cascades slowly to the ground. I stand there for a few seconds, my head, shoulders, and chest covered with vegetable oil. I can definitely taste that this particular batch of oil was used to fry fish. I reach for a nearby towel and start to wipe my face off, wondering vaguely about what effect this will have on my pores.

I look back at Tucker and start phrasing an apology for this disastrous work program. “I’m sorry it didn’t work. We can try fixing it again tomorrow….” His expression cuts me off.
“That was amazing,” he says, beaming. I find that I’m grinning in spite of myself.

This is a working picture of a day in my job at Chewonki’s Sustainability Office—and like a working harbor, it is only picturesque from a distance. The Sustainability Office is tasked with making Chewonki’s campus more sustainable in all aspects, as well as teaching and developing curricula for the 35,000 students that partake of a Chewonki program annually. The job is inspiring, technical, and complex. Some days it is also dirty and grimy.

There are three of us in the office: Peter Arnold, Ruth Poland, and myself. Ruth is a teaching fellow for the semester school and teaches its weekly renewable energy class. Peter is the head of the Sustainability Office. He and former Chewonki president Don Hudson founded it 12 years ago, at a time when few other people were talking about climate change or carbon footprints. The office began with the writing of a waste management manual. In 1999 Peter moved the endeavor into the national spotlight with the first of two groundbreaking projects: the biodiesel production facility, followed a few years later by our renewable hydrogen system (the first such system in the nation that was publicly accessible).

Today we are working on so many different projects that it occasionally makes my head spin. And though we are often on “the bleeding edge of technology,” the depth and breadth of our renewable energy systems have placed Chewonki at the forefront of education on sustainability. Year-round, we develop lessons and demonstrations on topics that range from geothermal systems and wind power to climate change, sustainable agriculture, clean water, solar energy, solid-waste management, and more.

There is not a single department on campus now that isn’t involved with renewable energy, and the synergies and collaborations that occur among the programs are really inspiring. The Maintenance Department routinely comes to us with new ideas about reducing the campus’s carbon footprint, and the teaching programs are constantly looking for ways to make their renewable energy classes more thoughtful and engaging.

Our work also extends beyond Chewonki Neck. Chewonki manages over 1,200 acres outside Wiscasset, including four coastal islands and our Girls Camp and Big Eddy Campground in the North Woods. The Sustainability Office has played a significant role in energy education in Maine for many years, and our annual Sustainability Conference is known throughout New England. The office has also begun to play a role in helping to advance new commercial technologies, as Peter is currently doing with tidal power in collaboration with the Town of Wiscasset.

There is a palpable momentum to sustainability at Chewonki, and it is wonderful to see. And though I sometimes leave work covered in grime of some sort or another, I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Don Hudson, when asked what his job was, would occasionally answer, glibly, “Saving the world.” This is how I feel about working in the Sustainability Office—saving the world, one greasy batch of biodiesel at a time.

Tom Twist (right) with semester students during work program at the Biodiesel Shed.

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Project To-Do List

A typical weekly to-do list for the Sustainability assistant—this one from early September—illustrates the multifaceted nature of the Sustainability Office.

- Help install wind turbine
- Organize energy audits and student-led weatherization on oldest buildings
- Repair solar-powered waterslide at waterfront
- Replace batteries on electric truck
- Make batch of biodiesel
- Figure out new electricity monitor for CEE
- Design solar iPod chargers for summer camp
- Assemble and plumb solar hot-water system on Hoyt’s with semester students
- Work on wind power podcast
- Work on concept for new Zero Waste initiative

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Tom Twist is Chewonki’s sustainability assistant. Thanks to his constant work with used vegetable oil, he claims to have the softest skin of anyone on campus.
It starts early, and it ends late—every day, rain or shine. It happens in the dining hall and on the dock. In the yurts and in canoes. Over dishes and on the trail. And especially at campfire. It’s singing, of course, and as anyone who has spent time at Chewonki Camp for Girls knows, it happens all day long.

In its third year of existence, our camp on the exquisite shores of Fourth Debsconeag Lake has fully embraced the making of a small, unique community. One of the most treasured traditions the girls have established is singing. From the youngest camper to the oldest staff member, we all join in the fun. On summer days and nights, the voices of young girls and women ricochet off the cliffs from the west side of the lake. Song fills the camp daily, almost hourly, marking transitions and daily routines.

The harmonies often start as early as 7:00 A.M., when the counselors sing to wake the girls from their slumber. The singing increases as, three times a day, we join voices to mark the end of our meals together. It is not uncommon to walk around camp during the day and hear the rhythm of a song being tapped on a wooden paddle, the picnic table, or the dock, accompanied by humming, made-up lyrics, and often belly laughs.

Many campers will tell you that campfire is one of their favorite activities at camp. The musical instruments make their way out of their cases and into campfire circle for an evening filled with skits, songs, and storytelling. But it wouldn’t be a campfire without first jumping to your feet and belting out the Girls Camp cheer! Just as our campfires start with a song, they also end with a song. Slowly walking away from campfire, we all sing “River” to mark the close of the day.

Every yurt group at Girls Camp goes on a wilderness trip, which can be anywhere from 2 to 22 days long. The day a group returns to camp is especially full of song. Once a group is spotted paddling back to camp, the girls in camp run to the costume box to get ready for the “welcome.” What follows is an ongoing call-back of the Girls Camp cheer and multiple rounds of singing. Anyone who has witnessed this “welcome home” ceremony knows the excitement and energy that fill the air. Both from the canoes and the shore, the girls’ voices are strong, loud, and confident. Later, at campfire, the trippers often share their trail experience by singing a familiar tune with made-up lyrics that tell the story of their adventures.

Songs have been uniting the Girls Camp community since its inception. Girls and women from all over the world join their voices to the lyrics of “River,” “Voyageur Song,” “I Knew This Place,” and many more songs that speak to their adventures and experiences at camp. As the summer progresses, the songs become more and more familiar, and many are memorized, so that the use of the songbook the staff created—and that continues to grow with recommendations from campers and staff alike—is no longer necessary. Even the page number a song is on gets memorized; when someone announces the page number of the song we’ll be singing, you can see the smiles widen and hear voices saying “Oh, I love this song” even before the songbooks are cracked open.

Visitors often comment on how wonderful the singing is. “Song is everywhere at Girls Camp. It’s just a part of life,” says communications director Betta Stothart Connor, who visits each summer. “The singing is beautiful and fun and powerful. I’m always moved by what a joyful community it creates.”

I think our campers feel the same way. They must, if the time and energy they devote to singing are any indication! I look forward to watching this tradition they’ve established grow and prosper through the years. In the meantime, I’m already looking forward to Summer 2011, when the voices of Chewonki Camp for Girls will once again rise in unison above the lake.

Genell Vashro is the director of Chewonki Camp for Girls.
Summer 2010 Highlights at Girls Camp

• If all goes as expected, Girls Camp will soon receive American Camping Association accreditation! A two-member accreditation team visited Fourth Debsconeag Lake on August 5 and had a great time exploring the campus. “It is an amazing program, held in a magical location. You and your staff do a wonderful job,” one of the visitors later wrote to camp director Genell Vashro. The 100-year-old ACA accredits more than 2,400 camps, ensuring that they meet recognized standards for health, safety, and program quality. Girls Camp attained 100 percent compliance with ACA standards. A formal vote on the accreditation will be held at the November ACA board meeting.

• Campers and staff celebrated the dedication of the Lynn Harrison Lodge with an official ceremony on July 19. The lodge is named in honor of long-time Girls Camp supporter Lynn Harrison of Bridgton, Maine, who was on hand for the celebration. The building that houses the dining room and kitchen was sorely in need of expansion and renovation. Don Lamson, Chewonki’s director of operations, and a hardworking crew undertook the work last fall and spring. In addition to being more spacious and comfortable, the refurbished lodge has an updated kitchen, expanded office and library, solar electricity, and new south-facing windows that make the building considerably brighter and more attractive.

• Girls Camp continues to grow! Our wilderness offerings for girls ages 8–18 now include eight programs and this year served 102 girls—an impressive increase from 74 in 2008, when Girls Camp opened. In 2010, campers and 28 staff came from all over the U.S. as well as South Africa, Australia, Spain, France, Kuwait, and Russia. Twenty-seven percent of campers received financial aid.

Girls Camp Cheer
(Sung to the same tune as the Boys Camp Cheer)

Debsconeag Lake, awake, awake
Nahmakanta, ata, ama
Katahdin pow, Allagash now
Paddle and dip
Chewonki, what?
Chewonki, what?
Chewonki girls!

“I have NEVER seen [our daughter] as happy as she was when we picked her up after her ten days at Girl’s Camp!! She was glowing, beaming!.... This was, by far, the best thing we have ever done for [her]. We will be signing her up for Session I, 2011.” ~A camp parent from Ohio
Imagine asking 170 boys to sit still in the woods for close to an hour, engaging in quiet contemplation, singing, and sharing their reflections on community, the natural world, and friendship. What may seem close to impossible to an outsider happens weekly at our Sunday Service under the Pines, just below Campfire Circle.

The concept of a Sunday “Service” is a bit of a misnomer in that our time together is not a religious service, but rather a time for our entire community to slow down, come together, and reflect on the week that has just passed and the opportunities that are forthcoming in the week ahead. I begin the service with our traditional reading of the “Salutation to the Dawn” from the Sanskrit, much as Dick Thomas and Tim Ellis did before me, reminding our campers to “Look to this Day…”

From here, the service follows a Quaker-style meeting format, with an open floor for songs, readings, and expressions of gratitude. I am always impressed when a young boy is able to stand in front of the entire camp and express thanks to his counselors for his experiences at Chewonki.
In the middle of the service, we are treated to a skit based on a story with a theme or parable that we can apply to life at Chewonki. Earlier skits have included Dr. Seuss’s *The Lorax*. Campers are always surprised to learn that this book was first published in 1971, and saddened to learn that we still haven’t solved our environmental challenges in the almost 40 years since then. This summer we enjoyed a presentation by the Jungle cabin of Leo Lionni’s *Pezzettino*. The moral of this story is that we all have unique elements to our personality, elements that are so valuable in a community like Chewonki and in our larger home communities.

Guides director Jason Chandler considers Sunday Service a time of peace and calm, away from the bustle of camp life. “Time slows down, you remember where you are and why and what lies beyond Chewonki Neck. The words and lessons of campers and counselors are filled with light and space in that forested clearing. And the lessons shared there tend to infiltrate your life outside Chewonki.”

Jason also speaks movingly about one of the greatest gifts he received last summer. “At the final Sunday Service, I stood up to give thanks to friends and colleagues and to former campers of mine who were now counselors. I shared feelings I hadn’t yet described—fatherly feelings of seeing those you have taught and counseled grow into themselves and help others in turn. I had spent the previous three summers away from Chewonki. On return, to see my former campers Matt Weeks, Charlie Fear, Sam Pelgrift, and Zack Alfonse all working hard and well as counselors was fulfilling in unforeseen ways. It was a huge part of my wonderful welcome back into the Chewonki community.”

Papa Osprey Wiley Robinson recalls a significant turning point for one of his campers during Sunday Service. “I had a camper this past summer who made it a point to let us all know that he would definitely break down during the final Sunday Service because it reminded him of how much he loved not only Sunday Service but Chewonki as a whole.” Remember, Ospreys are teenage boys, who are not known for their introspection!

While I know Sunday Service will probably never rank at the top of the list of favorite Chewonki activities such as Rocks, dodgeball, or a cabin trip, I know our campers are often surprised to realize that some quiet time for reflection is indeed valuable, especially in a community as busy as ours. Our final Sunday Service is traditionally held at the Point, at the southern tip of our peninsula. During one final service, an Osprey took flight over the water within view of the entire camp. I will never forget the collective “Wow” that was uttered by our community. It was a symbolic moment as our campers prepared to take wing and head home.

On Sundays during the school year I try to incorporate a little Chewonki Sunday Service into my morning. Sometimes I think of a favorite song such as “Willie’s Song” or “Caledonia.” At other times I go for a quiet walk to listen to and observe the world around me. I also try to find a few moments to give thanks for the many blessings in my life, including my place in the Chewonki community.

It is my hope that our campers will also find time to connect with the lessons of a Chewonki Sunday Service throughout their lives, as children or adults, campers or counselors.

Garth Altenburg is the director of Chewonki Camp for Boys.
I’m often amazed at what we accomplish when we work together. On August 26—day two of Semester 45—all 40 students and much of the faculty of Chewonki Semester School came down to the farm for work program. The tasks we completed in that two-hour block were significant: more than 600 pounds of potatoes were harvested, washed, dried, and packed away to store in the root cellar, and four rows of onions and two rows of dry beans were pulled and set aside to cure. For some of the students, it was the first time they had ever really stopped to consider that potatoes grow underground—let alone that harvesting them is hard work.

Now, five weeks later, these same students seem like old hands on the farm. Today seven of them are digging sweet potatoes. Our new laying hens—bolder than our old girls—are intermingling with the diggers, pecking at the newly harvested potatoes. From time to time, we unearth a burrow of mice: they scurry, we shriek. During shared harvests like these, I have tried to be both fully present with my dirty knees and my current company, and also to honor all that I recall experiencing in my exact location over the past months. Here, I remember plowing this garden with our draft horse, Sal, in late spring; planting spindly sweet potato babies in early June; reuniting with a former student returning to work a few weeks on the farm; and weeding for days with our stellar farm crew under the blazing summer sun.

Loading the farm truck with buckets of sweet potatoes, I head to the wash station, where two students, Ben and Lydia, are dutifully rinsing each tuber. There, standing in the mud that inevitably forms here, these two potato washers have—without encouragement—included a group of sixth graders into their efforts. My heart swells. I came to the farm crew last November after three years on the Outdoor Classroom staff and have worked in these past months to connect those two pieces of Chewonki that I love so much, the OC and the farm. This OC group just completed harvesting all of our leeks, some destined for the root cellar, some for Packout, where the leek is the featured “Vegetable of the Week” for school groups on campus. The farm crew has imagined and offered opportunities for OC students to get dirty on the farm, to do work here that is real and meaningful as a way of connecting to the source of their food and furthermore to this place. And here, unprompted, our semester school students are making that connection happen. Lydia is using her best teacher voice: “It looks like some new help has just arrived. Thanks so much for helping with all the potato washing.” This is a simple thing, this particular form of outreach by Lydia and Ben to some starry-eyed—because-big-kids-are-talking-to-us sixth graders, but a significant thing too—a reaching out through the shared work of hands.

That heart-hands-head connection is further evident—and certainly at its tastiest—when we consider what happens to all...
the food that moves from the farm to the kitchen. Words fail me when I consider what our kitchen staff has done all summer and fall, what they do three times a day, every day. There is much to celebrate here, beginning with the weekly conversation to establish what produce should be harvested for the kitchen on the upcoming Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Once harvested, that food is made into delicious meals that nourish more than just our bellies. We have turnips hidden so that eight-year-old boys cannot even find them. We have kale stew, roasted potatoes, spinach salad, baked squash, tomato soup, pesto. We have a kitchen crew that pours itself into its work daily, that thinks creatively and flexibly about what and how to cook in order to accommodate what is most fresh and in season. These days, each meal begins with an announcement: “Today from the farm we have…. And from other local farms we have ….” Some meals end with an ovation for the cooks, usually impromptu, always deserved.

This growing season has been a precious time on the farm, one of fullness and bounty and sheer exhaustion, and there is so much more to come. It is an amazing contrast to last year, when we were reeling from the combined effects of torrential rains, late blight, and pests. Midsummer, one particularly enterprising young camper looked at our garden cart of vegetables bound for the kitchen and asked why we don’t sell our vegetables off the Neck. “Just think,” he said, “how much more money you would make. You could expand the farm. You could buy tractors.”

My response was a rambling one that touched on the ability of this land and our farm crew to support diverse but limited vegetables and pastured animals, and went on to extol the value of horsepower. But mostly what I had to say was this: we grow food for people we love, for a community of which we are a valued part. And that is a good and a right thing to do. We on the farm are rooted deeply here, and so grateful to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

Thank you for supporting our work. Come visit—there are many more stories to tell.

Megan Phillips is a Chewonki farmer/educator and former Outdoor Classroom teacher.
On a bright day in late July, Ellen Gould-Silcott (Maine Reach ’78–’79) returned to Chewonki Neck with her family. Ellen and her brother, David, have a long connection to the land here: they remember with obvious love the days they spent as children visiting their family’s farm. The details are still vivid: there was a hand pump just outside the house; David was tucked into bed under a thick layer of “horse blankets” in that little upstairs bedroom. It was Ellen and David’s parents, Donald and Josephine Gould, who sold what is now Saltmarsh Farm and approximately 150 acres to the Chewonki Foundation in 1974. This property comprises much of the eastern side of Chewonki Neck.

Years later, Ellen returned to Chewonki Neck to participate in Maine Reach. On this July morning, she was delighted to reminisce about that experience too. It was a “wonderful, formative time” for her, she said, and she fondly remembers her faculty and fellow students, including Craig Kesselheim and Beth Dilley, Mark and Deborah Altemus, Kate McClain, Scott Andrews and Sue West, and Tim Ellis. Together we looked around campus, stopped in to see Doc Fred at the Nature Museum, paused for Julian (age three) to ring the bell, and enjoyed lunch together in the Wallace Center.

On the day of their visit, the family’s mission was a poignant one. Donald and Josephine had always requested that their ashes be spread on Chewonki Neck when the time came; this was the time. The mission was buoyed by the lovely summer weather, the possibility of finding old haunts along Chewonki Creek, and especially by the ebullience of Ellen and her husband Tom’s children. Harris (12), mature and responsible, asked to carry his grandfather’s ashes; Naamah (5) and Julian bounced between their parents, their uncle David, and their aunt Sandra.

We set out along the Back River Trail, dodging wet areas along the way. Harris, Sandra, and I came out on a lovely, narrow point that juts north into Chewonki Creek. The tide was high, and the lush grass and green trees made a vibrant contrast to the blue sky and water. I doubled back to find Ellen and David, who were standing motionless on the shore, just south of the point.

Ellen breathed, “This is the place!” David pointed to a flat rock. “We used to swim right here! I didn’t know if we would recognize it.” The memories came thick and fast, tumbling out of both of them, the return to this spot a deep pleasure for which they had distantly hoped. I was privileged to witness this family “coming home” to an iconic place, and I left them to their family rite of passage.

Being with the Gould descendants reminded me that there are countless stories rooted on this saltwater peninsula. Some are known, some we will never know, but all are part of Chewonki’s history. I like knowing that Donald and Josephine Gould are back for good.

Lucy Hull is director of development at Chewonki.
People

1930s
Douglas Allen (boys camp '33–'41; camp staff '42, '46, '47; former trustee); son of Chewonki founder Clarence Allen, made the trip from his home in Salem, MA, to attend the send-off celebration for Don Hudson at Chewonki on 6-5-10.

1950s
Ted Haffenreffer (boys camp '56–'59), who lives in Cape Elizabeth, ME, writes that his son George is “best friends” with Will Altenburg, son of Garth Altenburg, director of Chewonki Camp for Boys. George attended Chewonki Vacation Camp last spring.

1960s
Otis “Mac” Jernigan (boys camp staff '62, '63, '67, '93–'04) sent the happy news that he married Susan McBane on 8-16-10 in Boulder, CO. Mac and Susan live in San Francisco, where he offers free help with repair and maintenance of Volvo 544s and 122s.

Spencer Woodward Simonds (boys camp '63) enjoyed seeing another Chewonki generation at the '08 wedding of his nephew Spencer Taylor (MCS 21; see MCS Class Notes).

1970s
Julius Alexander (boys camp '75, '76; Wilderness Trips; former advisor; current trustee) reports that his daughter, Emi, spent the summer working with special-needs kids and is now a freshman at Princeton University. Son Jack, 15, continues to love water polo, a passion he has pursued in California every summer.

John Robbins (boys camp '78–'82; boys camp staff '86, '87, '89, '90, '92–'95, '97, '98) and his wife, Shaye (Wilderness Trips & camp staff '93, '94, '95, '98; former advisor), live near Spruce Creek in Kittery, ME, with views to the Piscataqua River and beyond.

1980s
Vera Buchanan (boys camp staff '81, '93, '94, '96–'01; former advisor), who served for years as a volunteer librarian at Chewonki, wrote that at age 88 she's not doing a lot of traveling, although her note shows that her memory is as sharp as ever. She has enjoyed seeing pictures of Colton Thomas (boys camp '00, '03, '07; boys camp staff '08, '10) and Charlie (boys camp '91–'93, '95–'99; boys camp staff '02, '03; MCS 24) and Reuben Hudson (boys camp '95–'03; boys camp staff '07–'10) “so handsomely grown-up,” in recent issues of the Chronicle. Her son Rob (Wilderness Trips '77) is a boat builder and yacht rigger, whose work takes him around the world. Son David works for the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Sabbath Sanchez (Wilderness Trips '88) recently moved north from Florida with his wife, two teenage stepchildren, and two English bulldogs. He is studying for a master's degree in education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, through the Boston Teacher Residency.

1990s
Ken Berndt (boys camp staff '97–'99) oversees the remote Knights Cove campsite for Camp O-AF-KA in Sebago, ME.

Luke Brody (boys camp '94–'96; Wilderness Trips '99–'01) and Kelsey joyfully welcomed a son, Arlo, on 12-22-09.

Gib Brown (boys camp staff '93–'95, '01, '02) enjoyed a few months of paternity leave in Maine last spring thanks to his new daughter, Ada Kay Brown.

Jeffry Chase (boys camp staff '96–'98; OC staff '97, '98) and his wife, Carey, made it to Chewonki to toast Don Hudson at the June 5 party for his retirement.

Aaron Paul (boys camp '97–'00, '02; boys camp & Wilderness Trip staff '03–'06, '08) celebrated his 7-31-10 marriage in Waltham, MA, to Kristin Russell with a hearty Chewonki contingent (see photo, left to right: Ryan Rodel (MCS 27; boys camp staff '02–'05), Will Ginn (boys camp '97, '99; boys camp staff '02, '03, '05, '08, '10), Aaron, Kristin, Lindsay Urquhart (boys camp staff '02–'05, '08, '10), Jeremy Johnson (boys camp staff '06), and Malte Reiss (boys camp staff '01–'04, '07). Aaron is now a student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Jabali Sawicki (Wilderness Trips '94) is living in NYC, where he founded and is the principal of Excellence Boys Charter School, an all-boys public school in Brooklyn. “I hope to one day achieve what you’ve achieved with Chewonki,” he wrote to Don Hudson. Excellence Boys is the top-performing public elementary school out of 700 in NYC! To hear more about Jabali’s story, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKA8i66TLEG. Chewonki coincidence: Brooks Eaton (MCS 39; maintenance crew '09) worked on this video for NOLS!

Bob Smith-Petersen (boys camp '92, '94, '96–'99; boys camp staff '00–'05, '07–'09) came to Chewonki for Don Hudson’s send-off party. Bob is a second-grade aide at the Carlise, MA, elementary school. When not teaching, he enjoys hiking, kayaking, art, fire dancing, and blacksmithing.

Kiko Urquijo (boys camp '98–'01) wrote a great letter reminiscing about camp, especially his friendship with Dick Thomas. Kiko was an international politics and economics major at Middlebury College; he graduated in June. He's looking for a job in investment banking and consulting in Europe. Kiko’s young cousins Juan and Jose Urquijo were at Chewonki this summer, the latest members of their extended family to bring Spanish culture to Chewonki Neck.
2000s

Jason Chandler (camp staff ‘02, ’03, ’06; Wilderness Trips staff ’05; semester school teaching fellow ’09, ’10; semester school faculty ’10) now teaches Environmental Issues at semester school. Before coming back to Chewonki in ’09, Jason served in the Peace Corps for two years. He worked in Armenia with Green Camps, “a grassroots environmental youth program that since 2001 has educated underrepresented communities in ecology, conservation, and environmental responsibility...energizing and empowering educators and students toward community action,” writes Jason. To learn more, see http://greenovash.org/content/.

Hadley Clark (camp staff & MCS staff ’07, ’06) writes that she is enjoying life in Cambridge as a student. “It is a lot of work...but the more I learn, the more it all falls together and the more interesting and intriguing it becomes,” she says. “I think about Chewonki often and miss all of the wonderful people and amazing work that is being done up there!”

Corwith Cramer (boys camp staff ’08, ’10) earned his master’s degree in education from Columbia University in June, then led trips for Chewonki Camp for Boys before heading to Midland School in California, where he’s teaching English and an integrated humanities course, helping with the outdoor program, and coaching soccer.

Emma Hallowell (OC staff ’05, ’06; boys camp staff & farm apprentice ’06, ’07) attends Antioch University-New England, pursuing environmental studies and getting her certification for teaching elementary school. She’s keeping her hand in farming by working part-time for a local organic farm in southern Vermont and grows a big garden of her own.

Alexander Martin (Wilderness Trips ’00, ’01, ’03) paddled down a stretch of the Presumpscot River and landed at East Beach in Portland, ME, after completing a 4,300-mile human-powered trip across the U.S. from Portland, OR. He traveled all but 800 miles by canoe, using a bicycle to haul his vessel across land when necessary. See www.ajc.com/news/nationworld/cross-country-paddler-completes-621947.html. He’s already thinking about his next trip!

Susan Rodriguez (former advisor; current trustee) announced in June ’10 that her architecture practice has a new name: Ennead Architects. “Ennead” is the Greek term for a group of nine, reflecting the number of architects in the firm. “We believe in architecture and design as open, shared, and enduring,” reads the announcement, “in collaborating with our clients for the benefit for their communities and the public realm; and in the creation of sustainable architecture.”

Caitlin Scott (boys camp staff ’01, ’02, ’06; semester school staff ’09, ’10) spent last year at Chewonki as a fellow in the semester school admissions office. She is now teaching grades K–4 in Tallahassee, FL, and recently became engaged to Bob Ellis.

Genell Vashro (director of Chewonki Camp for Girls ’08–’10) married Saer Huston on 9–4–10 on Cow Island in Casco Bay, ME.

Connecting with Margaret Ellis

As many Chewonki friends already know, the vivacious Margaret Ellis is undergoing treatment for a rare form of intestinal lymphoma cancer. You can read her journal and write a note to her at www.caringbridge.org/visit/margaretellis. Both Margaret and Tim love hearing from friends and cherish the messages of love and support that come in almost daily. “I feel surrounded by such amazing support and strength,” Margaret wrote in late October.

Dear Maine Coast Semester and Chewonki Semester School alumni,

I n this issue, we are incorporating your Class Notes into the Chronicle for the first time. Your news has been accumulating since 2007, when we put Coastlines, the magazine of MCS, on hold as we sought to trim our budget. We were overjoyed this fall when everyone here decided it was important to include semester school news with updates from other programs in every Chronicle—a symbolic unifying step.

This presented a daunting dilemma, however. We were sitting on a LOT of news. Two and half years ago, many of you were in very different situations than you are today. You may have a different job, hobby, or pet. You may live in a different corner of the world. The child you wrote us about then may now be trotting off to pre-school—or to Chewonki!

We considered all this as we discussed whether to print the dated information or simply delete it and start anew. But you are too wonderful. Your news, even old news, was too important to ignore. We wanted to honor the amazing kaleidoscope you have created and the many paths you’ve taken since you were here.

So, here is a historical snapshot of what’s been happening over the past few years in your lives. With a new home in the Chronicle, semester news can now be shared in a much more timely way.

Thanks for your understanding. We look forward to your updates and corrections. Please stay in touch! Your lives provide us with constant inspiration.

Bill Hinkley, Interim Head of School, Chewonki Semester School
Elizabeth Pierson, Editor, Chronicle

MCS & SEMESTER SCHOOL CLASS NOTES

MCS 1
Fall 1988
Class Agent: Torrey McMillan, vmcmilla@alumni.princeton.edu

Kate McElderry (Wilderness Trips ’89) and her husband, David Carson, welcomed a daughter, Mary Kells Huber Curson, on 10-6-09. Little Mary joins big brother Seamus and “is a peaceful, easy baby thus far…. We’re all happy and doing really well,” writes Kate.

MCS 2
Spring 1989
Class Agent: Critter Thompson, critter@gmail.com

Kate Goodrich Day (boys camp staff ’93, ’96; former trustee; current advisor) lives in Portland, OR, with her husband, Adam (boys camp staff ’96), and their sons, Nolan and Quinn. Adam is manager of the Nike Founda-
MCS 3
Fall 1989
Class Agent: Teal Krech Paynter,
tkpaynter@gmail.com; & Will Redfield,
wwredfield@gmail.com

Liz Bluhm has been living in Washington, D.C., “working on some National Institutes of Health studies of environmental causes of cancer and genetic-environmental interactions,” she reports, but is about to begin a job at the Washington Hospital Center, “where I hope we can put more of the research into action.” She also serves as a mentor for public-school students through a program called College Bound. Tina Hartell works at the Mountain School in Vermont. “Recently, I’ve been writing college recommendation letters, weaning myself off coffee,” she writes. “I’m looking forward to a surf trip to the Dominican Republic next month.” Sarah Kapocias Maheras teaches kindergarten in Walla Walla, WA, where she also enjoys “sweet, sweet daughter” Mattie and “inquisitive and wild stepson” Mason. “I am forever grateful for the positive impact of MCS 3,” writes Sarah.

Chelsie Wheeler Olney gave birth to Scout Elsie Olney on 10-24-08. Scout and her older brother, Myles, are keeping Chelsie busy but very happy. Teal Krech Paynter moved to Washington, D.C., from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in ’09, with her husband, Nat Paynter (boys camp ’83), and their daughter, Clara. “It was fun driving around Tanzania with a Chewonki bumper sticker on the back of our car,” recalls Krech. “We met one person who had spent time on the Neck!” Will Redfield, who lives in Chicago, sat out the ’08 presidential election in Mexico with his young son.

Brandon Stafford (boys camp staff ’93–’95, ’97; staff ’04–’06), while working for GreenMountain Engineering, designed a 180 L ethanol fermentation system that uses woodchips as its feedstock. Brandon and girlfriend Sharon Komarov (boys camp staff ’04) bought a purple house in Somerville, MA. If he were to ignore traffic laws, he says, he could coast to work on his bike. Goody-B. Wiseman is an artist living and working in Castine, ME. Her bronze sculptures will be exhibited over the next few months in Toronto, Los Angeles, Miami, and NYC.

MCS 4
Spring 1990
Class Agent: Mitch Levesque,
mitchlevesque@tuebingen.mpg.de

Briana Eickhoff Brumaghim and husband Neal are relishing time with their daughter Cady (born 1-11-05) as well as four dogs and six cats (“from many years of volunteering/fostering with rescue organizations”). Briana works as a trusts and estates paralegal in Hartford, CT. Gregg Carville (boys camp ’85–’88) received a master of fine arts degree in lighting design from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and is now the technical director for Merrill Auditorium and the City of Portland, ME. Elise Elliott-Smith studied birds and works in Oregon for the U.S. Geological Survey. She organizes large-scale monitoring of shorebirds of conservation concern, “no doubt due in a large part to my field biology class at Chewonki,” she writes. Hilary Trenkamp Greenwood lives in Zurich, Switzerland, with her husband and their son Bryn. They are enjoying great hikes in the Alps!

Kristin Listerman Indge lives in Leominster, MA, and teaches first and second graders in the Acton public schools, while her husband, Tom, serves as a police officer at Bentley College. Kristin enjoys being godmother to Haley Morland, daughter of Aimee Clark Morland (boys camp staff ’93, ’95, ’96). Aimee lives in Miami, Angeles, Miami, and NYC.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org / 33
T.R. Amsler (boys camp staff '95, '96) makes his home in San Francisco, “a little slice of urban Chewonki. We just hosted a pig roast with a pasture-raised pig from north of the city.” He and wife Chalida are now parents, and T.R. teaches English and history at the June Jordan School for Equity. “It’s not quite the Wonk, but we bring a real community spirit to the tough situation in urban public schools,” he writes. “My experiences at Chewonki definitely shaped my educational philosophy.” Amber Melosi Aponte (boys camp staff ‘94) welcomed a daughter, Sophia (boys camp staff ’94) and her husband, Craig, and their young daughter, Tessa, live in New Jersey. Jason Bilanin works for AIG and lives in his wife’s home state of New Jersey. Sarah Davies teaches second grade at a private school in Park Slope, Brooklyn. She now has a daughter, Eleanor, born New Year’s Eve ‘07. She has shown her husband around Chewonki “and even joked around in Binnacle.” Joy Fyfield lives just outside Portland in Milwaukie, OR. She and her husband are teaching children, Stella (5), Cyril (3), and Cole (1), to flyfish. Emma Jacobson-Sive is enjoying life in Los Angeles. She is acting when not working in public relations at a Pasadena museum. Laura Howard Leduc, her husband, Craig, and their young daughter, Tessa, live in Arlington, MA. Laura’s finishing her residency in anesthesia and will start a fellowship in pediatric anesthesia. Debbie Perelman and her husband live in New York City with Maia (4 years), Jacob (2 ½ years), and Charlie (4 months). She reports, “I have been back to Chewonki once with my husband...It still looked the same—even Binnacle.” Bill Pugh and his wife moved to Alexandria, VA, after two years in Hong Kong. She teaches English at Episcopal High School while Bill works in urban planning, sharpening an interest in policy and advocacy. “If any of you work or have friends working in sustainability, transportation, urban policy, etc., especially in the D.C. area, I’d love to chat,” he says. Mo Saldanha is “head of online” for Jamie Oliver, the celebrity chef. “We launched Jamie’s Ministry of Food [go to www.jamieoliver.com] to promote people teaching each other to cook, and then launched his new lifestyle brand, for now only available in Europe,” she writes. “In my free time, I am captain of my women’s doubles tennis team, do loads of ashtanga yoga, and run Momaya Press, promoting the short story amongst writers and readers worldwide and accepting entries for the annual Momaya Short Story Competition. Last but not least, I’m single again.” Jeff Urbanus is “still waiting for a Chewonki event in Anchorage!” Jodie Townsend Willis now has three children and is “trying to stop practicing law.”

MCS 5 Fall 1990

Class Agent: Laura Howard Leduc,

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MCS 6 Spring 1991

Class Agent: Andy Wilbur,

andrew_wilbur@hotmail.com

Adam Hoverman (boys camp ’87, ’88, ’90, boys camp staff ’91, ’92, ’95) is a doctor of orthopaedic medicine and works for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers as a family physician. He sometimes walks at a Don Hudson Pace and still savors Lao Tzu. Ben Lipson has been “living and studying in Israel ever since Emily Kellert Lerner, Jennie Kalberer, and Nivi Nord left me here on their way to India. I am married with five lively children between the ages of 1 and 11 and am currently studying and teaching in the Raanana Community Kolel in central Israel.” Veronica Vasquez teaches algebra 2, geometry, and a course called Concepts of Advanced Mathematics at the Tatnall School. She’s teaching her son Malachi that boys can be anything they want to be: “astronauts, fire chiefs, doctors, math teachers, or princesses!” Will Willis is director of international programs and sustainability coordinator at Mercersburg Academy. His children are 3 and almost 5, “and growing too fast.”

Liz Brown (Wilderness Trips, camp staff ’92, ’93) writes, “Looking forward to additional excuses to come to Maine in the future when my son is old enough to attend Chewonki!” Liz and her husband run a digital studio in NYC called StudioE9, where they “create emerging media solutions that help non-profits, educational institutions, and online publishers. We are working with TrueCarbon.org to help bring accountability to carbon offsets and incentives for commercial entities to participate.” Katie Stein Fahey recently moved to Concord, MA, with her husband and their children, TJ and Ella. Rachel Godlewski now has a master’s degree in education. Brooke Peelle Guthrie welcomed twin girls on 8-22-08. She writes that her older daughter, Lyla, has been having fun with them, and Brooke “can’t wait ’til they are old enough to go to Chewonki Camp for Girls.” Meghan Jeans (boys camp staff ’92–’94, ’98) is “still living the good life in San Fran and enjoying the tropical adventures that come along with working in international marine conservation.” Liz Carmeny Perret is now a daughter, Annie, and likes living just outside NYC. Sara Wight (Wilderness Trips ’92) and her husband, Michael, live in New Hampshire, where she is a sixth-grade teacher at a small elementary school. “Though my students do not know me as ‘Wigit,’” she says, “I have held onto the persona and am known as ‘Auntie Wigit’ to my nieces and nephews.”

MCS 7 Fall 1991

Class Agent: Brooke Peelle Guthrie,

bguthrie@hotmail.com

MCS 8 Spring 1992

Class Agents: Jenn Parfet Gudelski,

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saraihinkley@hotmail.com

Dylan (formerly Gabby) Bosseau (camp staff ’92, ’94, ’95) has a dual degree in social work and education with an emphasis in early development (infants and toddlers) and families. Dylan writes, “My partner of 6 years, Barb O’Neill, completed her dissertation this spring, earning a doctorate in early childhood special education.” They live in Brooklyn, and Dylan studies acrobatics and static trapeze with a company called LAVA, where she sees Zach Strassburger (MCS 26). Aaron Kadoch, an architect at ORW Associates in White River Junction, VT, married Camille Hensler, an attorney. They built their home in Quechee and love Vermont life. We are both sad and happy to print this note from Sam Maier (boys camp staff ’92), who died in March ‘09. A memorial to Sam appeared in the Spring ’10 Chronicle. In this note, received in February ‘09, Sam warmly describes his life: “The twins, Liv and Dag, are 4, and Solveig Grace is 2…. We have really found community in Maud’s little hometown on the west coast of Norway. Quiet street, everything you need within walking distance, lovely walking trails and right on the ocean. Perfect for the kids, and we have Maud’s family here…. Thanks for all the good memories of Chewonki.” Kendall
writes that her husband, Paul, “is still deployed as an Embedded Tactical Trainer in Afghanistan. That means I’m taking care of our small farm and eight dogs by myself!” She and Paul are “working on a memoir about the time we’ve spent apart,” in hopes of helping other military families. Alison Kemlitz, her husband, Josh, and their son, Zachary, have moved from Cambridge, England, to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Alison is “loving the healthcare field,” and Josh teaches geology at the University of Minnesota. Whitney Rapp’s work for the National Park Service takes her to Katmai, Alagnak, Aniakchak, and Lake Clark in southwestern Alaska. Brookie Wilkerson (boys camp staff ’94, ’99, ’00), who is married to Shule Rosen, studies forest fragmentation in Uganda but is based in Bergen, Norway. She writes, “We truly would enjoy having Chewonki visitors here, so if you’re itching to climb some mountains, sample some liver-paste (liver paste), or wear your raincoat in the rainiest city in Europe, we’d be happy to have you!”

**MCS 10 Spring 1993**

Class Agent: Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, betsyrluth@gmail.com

Amie Arlen and her partner, Matt, live in Brunswick, ME, and have “started an initiative that picks up food waste from local restaurants and composts it,” she writes. “My big dream is to establish a community-wide composting program for the town.” Amy also works as a massage therapist and sells her own line of body-care products, Safar Bodycare. Adam Borden is now the father of two children and runs a food-focused venture capital firm called Bradner Foods, while his wife, Meredith, works for the Maryland attorney general’s office as the Medicaid regulatory counsel. Adam serves on the board of their synagogue and heads the D.C./Baltimore Alumni Club of the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business. Heidi Fessenden lives in Boston and is “having a great time teaching second graders about geology, maps, affordable housing, and Boston neighborhoods.” She leads wilderness trips, too, and gets to the White Mountains to hike as often as she can. Josh Haddock (boys camp staff ’93, ’94) has been living in Cambridge, England, and working for a start-up company, which is “both exciting and exhausting,” he writes. “As I was writing this, the Spin Doctors’ ‘2 Princes’ came on the radio. What are the odds?” Taylor Swanson Holley works on sustainable sourcing initiatives for the home division of Walmart. “Never thought I’d end up in Arkansas,” she writes, “but we really like it.” Betsy Stubblefield Loucks (boys camp staff ’94–’96, ’98) has earned a master’s degree in business administration and is looking for work in sustainability and business strategy while her husband, Eric, teaches at Brown University. Their twin daughters were born in May ’10. “I got to see Allie Burke (MCS 9) this summer with her little nugget, Parker,” writes Betsy. Jane Spencer does environmental reporting for the Wall Street Journal. She has spent a lot of time overseas, especially in Hong Kong. Becky Silverstein Tinsley received a master of science in animals and public policy from the Tufts-Cummings Veterinary School and hopes for a career in either animal law or animal welfare. She and her husband live in Paxton, MA.

**MCS 11 Fall 1993**

Class Agent: Jessica Montgomery Green, jebbygreen@gmail.com

William Abbott (boys camp staff ’96, ‘01–’03) has married Brunswick, ME, native David Paige in California, where they live and tend 3 milking goats and 20+ cover-crop-fed broilers. William is the conservation director for the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County; David is cultural geography editor at
ABC-CLIO publishers. Kenden Alford (advisor) married Charles Vincent in ’08 in Boston and gave birth to a daughter, Yael Chava Alford-Vincent, on 1-5-10. Charles is head of the World Food Bank, and Kenden works at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Jessica Montgomery Green, her husband, Greg, and their daughter, Abi, welcomed little James on 12-27-07. Jess still teaches high-school English in Pittsburgh. She writes, “Montgomery and Rust, once my father’s and now my husband’s company, just built a house in 106 hours for ‘Extreme Makeover: Home Edition!’” Hampton Kew has been working in the ski industry in the Rockies, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Montana, and New Zealand but is now settled at Backcountry.com in Park City, UT. “No marriage or babies yet,” writes Hampton, “but hopefully now that I am in one place it might actually happen and I will have something more interesting to write about next time!” Fiona Kouyoundjian (boys camp staff ’04), a medical doctor, is also finishing her Ph.D. Justin Reich (boys camp ’87–91, boys camp staff ’94–’97, ’99–’05; advisor) and his wife, Elsa Olivetti (boys camp staff ’01–’04), split a share of community-supported agriculture vegetables with Ben Urquhart (boys camp staff ’97, ’99, ’01–’03) and his wife, Julie Shoemaker (OC and Outreach staff ’01, ’02), and Brandon Stafford (boys camp staff ’93–’95, ’97, MCS 3; staff ’04–’06) and partner Sharon Komarow (boys camp staff ’04). Says Justin, “The social network that buys vegetables together, stays together.” Elsa is working in the Materials Systems Lab at MIT. Justin is working on his Ph.D., researching how K–12 students use Wikis.

MCS 12 Spring 1994

Class Agents: Becky Palmer Dickson, rebeccapdickson@gmail.com; & Lara Freedman, larafreedman@gmail.com

Claire Anderson still loves teaching at Nightingale-Bamford in Manhattan and living in Park Slope, Brooklyn. She recently shared lunch and good conversation with David Liebmann (MCS faculty ’91–’96; chair of the semester school advisory board; trustee). India Landrigan Bayley is married and recently did a pediatric residency at New York Hospital/Cornell. Becky Palmer Dickson lives happily in NC with Silas (born 3-29-07) and Virginia (born 3-30-05). Mike Ellsberg lives in Brooklyn with his girlfriend. His book The Power of Eye Contact, a guide to using eye contact effectively in business, sales, public speaking, and romance, has received glowing reviews. He writes, “Getting a book deal has been one of my biggest life-long dreams, and it finally came true!” Ginny Gardiner reported from Macau, where she was attending the World Toilets Summit. “I made a waterless toilet for my degree project in industrial design,” she writes. “Would love to hear what you think and get constructive criticism from the Chewonki community.” Gen Pence Kent and her husband, Mark, who live in Cape Town, South Africa, welcomed a daughter in November ’08. “Zoe Grace came six weeks early (nearly on an airplane), weighing just 4 pounds,” writes Gen, “but is now a chubby, grinning, gurgling baby girl!” Alex McMackin spends almost all of her life on wheels, she says. “When I’m not biking, I roller-skate for the Gotham Girls, New York’s roller derby league, currently ranked #1 in the country. For money, I am a gardener in Brooklyn, which I alternately love and detest.”

Michael Morgenstern (boys camp ’87; boys camp staff ’93, ’95, ’96, ’98–’00, ’02–’04) and his wife, Mish (OC ’99, ’00, ’05; Wilderness Trips leader ’02, ’03), now have two children, Dylan and Lucy, and live in Rockland, ME. Jo Reardon Prince (boys camp staff ’96, ’97, ’99) teaches in the Elementary Education Department at the University of Maine, Farmington. She and her husband, Steve, live in Kingfield, ME, a good base for skiing, hiking, and gardening. Congratulations to Hayden Smith Temin, who married Jon Temin in Atlanta, GA, in June ’07.

MCS 13 Fall 1994

Class Agents: Erin Quinn, erin.quinn@alumni.brown.edu; & Besenia Rodriguez, besenia@yahoo.com

Meghan Brennan is finishing her residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin and looking forward to an upcoming fellowship in infectious disease. When not working, she often kayaks on Wisconsin’s lakes. Erica Catlin married Galeet Cohen in San Francisco. Erica loves teaching math at a charter high school in Philadelphia. Paul Davis is still working in the movie business, based in Los Angeles but frequently shooting elsewhere. He recently worked on Brothers, which he says “should be a pretty powerful film,” in Santa Fe, and Dear John in Charleston.

SC. Danny Field and Jimbo Schley shared a stupendous journey from Bariloche, Argentina, where Jim was an Outward Bound instructor, west through the Andes and on to the coast of Chile, where they finished with sea kayaking and camping at hot springs. “Once, lost in the mountains, we tested ourselves by attempting to name every single MCS 13 member,” recalls Danny. “It took us some time, but you’ll all be relieved to hear that we succeeded. We haven’t forgotten even one of you.” Jimbo now lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where he is logging and renovating his house. Caroline Murphy Freedman and her husband, Joey, welcomed a daughter, Audrey Anna Freedman, on 5-1-08. They are busy renovating a home in the hills of Austin, TX. Melissa Jencks teaches reading during the school year and arts and crafts in the summer—a perfect balance. Jess Kemper (boys camp staff ’96, ’97) completed the NYC marathon, calling it “an incredible, eye-opening journey through the five boroughs. Very inspirational!” She’s pursuing a master’s degree in public administration while working at a nonprofit called PENCIL. Chen-I Lin is living in Boston, where she’s getting her Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering and racing “dragon boats”: Lauren Lochner is providing academic, social, and emotional counseling to seventh-graders at a middle school in Shoreline, WA. Carrie Judd Miller and husband Brett are...
Enjoying parenthood in Eugene, OR. With a master’s degree in education from Pacific University, Carrie works as the dean of students and admissions director at Oak Hill School. She was thrilled to write a letter of recommendation for a student who became part of MCS 41! Erin Quinn enjoys catching up with other MCS alums in NYC. She works at Credit Suisse in fixed-income research and says this “has been an interesting and educational time to have started a career in this field, to say the least.” Kate Renner (boys camp staff ’95–’98, ’00–’01) lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Ben Mirkin, and works at the White Mountain School.

“once perk of my job is that I get to live and work in the same dorm as Torrey McMillan (MCS 1),” writes Kate. (Torrey has since moved to the Boston area.) Sarah S ally, happily sharing married life with Anthony Stevenson, is the assistant horticulturist for the State of Maine. Ben Thompson has had a front-row view of the market tumult: he produces a CNBC financial news show in NYC. Ben married Courtney Ufer on 8-21-10 in Seal Harbor, ME. Sarah Wolf finished law school at Rutgers and now works at a Manhattan law firm. She and her husband, Carlos, live in Jersey City.

Kirsten Klimt Zef ting completed her first half-marathon and likes her work as a physical therapist, but she and her husband are scheming a move west from Syracuse, NY, to “put down some roots that stick.”

MCS 14 Spring 1995
Class Agents: Erika Brown, erikabrown@b1otmail.com; & Colly McGavin, cmgavin@stanfordalumni.org

Jess Braceley LeClair and her husband, Matt, live in Durham, ME, where Jess has started her own photography studio, Jess LeClair Photography. “Check out: www.jessleclair.com,” writes Jess. “I do portraits, events, weddings, and photo restoration. I even offer discounts for MCS alums!” Cynthia Rothchild

Glynnis Roberts and Emily Goodwin.

Macleod is simultaneously building the sustainability practice at Fitzgerald Analytics, the specialized consulting firm where she works, and her own straw-bale, timber-frame house in Vermont. Loren Merrill is an official candidate for a Ph.D. As his work moves forward, he’ll spend time “in the labs of a few researchers who do work on ecological immunology and endocrinology…an opportunity for me to learn some new techniques for measuring levels of immunity and hormones in wild animals.” He builds in time for volleyball, mountain biking, and surfing. Drew Mowery is engaged to Lucy Seche and has started a new job with Genentech in San Francisco. Singer/songwriter Valerie Orth gave a memorable performance at the 20 Years of MCS Reunion in August ’08 (hear her at http://valerieorth.com). Jamie Shutzer married Jenny Morgan on 8-29-09 on Cape Cod. They are now the proud parents of Julian, born 9-22-10. Tessa van der Werff Abbott (camp staff ’01) and her husband, Robert, are busy with farming and marketing, although Robert recently found time to write a magazine article about his grandfather. Arianne Zwar rjes lives with her “sweetie and their two dogs” in Tucson, AZ, where she teaches English at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. She also leads courses for NOLS and is an EMT teaching wilderness medicine courses for the Wilderness Medicine Institute. Her first collection of poetry, (Stitched) A Surface Open, was published by New Michigan Press.

MCS 15 Fall 1995
Class Agents: Fitz Cahill, dirtbagdario@earthlink.net; Emily Delias, emily7@gmail.com; & Glynnis Roberts, glynnis.roberts@gmail.com

Kate Figge is a social worker in Los Angeles. Damaris Wol lenburg Macleon (boys camp staff ’96, ’97) is the associate director of college counseling at the Nightingale-Bamford School in NYC. Ben Thompson (MCS 8) had been their roommate for three years but is now himself engaged! Glynnis Roberts works for NOAA in Washington, D.C.

MCS 16 Spring 1996
Class Agent: Bailey McCallum, bailey.mccallum@mac.com

Lucy Diekmann (camp staff ’94) married Lee Panich in June ’08. They asked that guests give donations to Chewonki to support MCS, the MCS Scholarship Fund, or the Andrews Fund, in lieu of wedding presents. Thank you so much, Lucy and Lee! Kyle Durrie spent a year in Asheville, NC, working at a letterpress print shop. He has moved to a winery in Washington where he spends “most of my days stomping grapes and wandering around outside” and is setting up his own letterpress print shop. Lizzy Grubin works on urban environmental policy in San Francisco. Annie Levy moved to San Francisco after living in India researching and monitoring education initiatives for seasonal migrant communities. She’s working for a foundation that focuses on economic and social development programs in India. “I also just started my first knitting project since MCS!” she writes. “It’s all coming back to me and I intend to move on to Lopi sweaters as soon as possible.” Hilary Williams finished her master of fine arts degree in graphic design at the University of Tennessee with a thesis exhibition on local foods. “If curious, please visit www.arokintheroad.org to see photos and resources,” writes Hilary. She now teaches graphic design at Drake University in Des Moines and continues to investigate “how design can prompt people to change individual habits for the common good.”

MCS 17 Fall 1996
Class Agent: Pag e Mc Clean, pagemcemail@gmail.com

Susannah Clark enjoyed an internship at a farm in Tuscany, helping to harvest grapes and olives, prune olive trees, feed chickens and pigs, and do other tasks around the farm. She enjoyed “going to lots of small-town food and harvest-themed festivals (wine celebrations, sausage, mushrooms, chocolate, cheeses, chestnuts).” Tim Kidman (camp staff ’97) earned a master’s degree in environmental science and management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is working on developing greenhouse gas offset standards in Los Angeles with the California Climate Action Registry. Merrielle Macleod has been living in Washington, D.C., and working for the World Wildlife Fund since receiving her master’s degree from Brown University. “I am definitely dreaming of when I can move somewhere that is quiet and starry at night but in the meantime things are fine here,” she writes. Morley McBride is at the Yale School of Management after living in Aspen, CO, working for an environmental research and consulting firm, Rocky Mountain Institute, and the Aspen Art Museum. Two of her roommates in Aspen were Allison Lassiter and Bailey Todd.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org / 37
McCallum (MCS 16) Page McLean (MCS faculty ‘03–‘04) studied non-fiction writing and editing at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, ME, and was recently in Argentina. Rose Minier still lives in Seattle, where as a grassroots organizer she led many different aspects of the Obama campaign, including helping to set up the meeting Obama had with Crow tribe elders. She’s considering further adventures into politics. Youssouf Nadiri graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, then spent a year in his native Afghanistan working for the UN and American University. He’s hoping to work in the field of environmental education. Stewart Peery teaches biology at Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, NC, where his wife, Ellen Runnels, teaches English. Jesse Reich (boys camp ’88, ’90, ’93; camp staff ’97, ’98, ’01), who still believes that “Orchard House rules,” got his Ph.D. in chemistry from Texas A & M University and is an assistant professor of chemistry at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He has started two businesses: Berkshire Community Wind Power and Baystate Biofuels, a 10-million-gallon-per-year biodiesel facility in Massachusetts. He is also running for state representative. Jesse and his “very understanding, patient, and charming” wife, Alene, live in Ayer, MA, with new daughter Isabella, born March ’10. Molly Rosenman left Wyoming (“sleeping in, spending long, lovely hours hiking in my favorite mountains”) to begin graduate school in Boston. She invites MCS folk to make use of “the most comfortable sofa in the whole world” if they are in the Boston area. Carter Scott lives in Portland, ME, with her longtime partner and works for First Wind, a wind development company. Nalyn Siripong works for UNAIDS on a joint UNAIDS/ADB project in Bangkok. Billy Wailand and his wife, Heidi, have moved to the great state of Alaska, where Billy is practicing law. Geoff Wood has followed a path that’s already included massage training in California, Thailand, and Massachusetts; the School of Natural Cookery in Colorado; a story-telling course in England; and studies in “eurhythmy” at the Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento. “I feel like I am jumping into the deep end of the richest compost bin with tinted goggles,” writes Geoff, “but I am pretty sure they have little windshield wipers and solar-paneled rims, and I know I can swim, so I’m not too scared.”

MCS 18 Spring 1997
Class Agent: Sarah Klein, s.klain@gmail.com

Amanda Aikman is a lawyer at the Department of Justice. She married Stephen Townley (boys camp ’92–’94) in August ’08. Nicole Casper is studying for her master’s degree in marine and estuarine science at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. Jaed Coffin’s first book, A Chant to Soothe Wild Elephants, received very positive reviews and launched Jaed’s national book tour. He and his wife live in Portland, ME, where they are enjoying daughter Jae-Yen, born 7-21-08. Her name means “cool heart,” ‘cool’ as in a summer breeze,” writes Jaed. His next book will be about “roughhouse boxing” in Alaska. Sierra Curtis-McLanen is studying how trees are expected to migrate in response to climate change as part of her Ph.D. program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. “My partner, Denny, and I stay sane by doing fieldwork in the summers and by hiking to school and hitting the mountain bike and backcountry ski trails,” writes Sierra. Lauren Downey teaches Latin at Needham (MA) High School. Her two parrots, Lucy and Olive, keep her company while she’s grading papers. Anne Figgee earned a master of science degree in international development from the University of Bristol, England, before working for the nonprofit organization Five Talents in Tanzania. Her husband, a bone surgeon, joined her en route to Malawi. Henry Gummer recorded an album of songs written by Peter Field called Wolfe Sings Field. Henry performs under the name “Henry Wolfe.” You can hear two songs, “Birdseeds” and “Nobody Does Nothing,” on Henry Wolfe’s music page. Sarah Klain (camp staff ’97–’99) is in a master’s program at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. Sierra, who is a fellow student there, gave Sarah a good welcome to Vancouver. Sarah Low lives in Venice, CA, with husband Michael Cyrlutnik, whom she married in October ’07. Sarah is doing post-production work on television commercials while she plans her next move. Chad Martin lives in NYC with his wife and young daughter and works for a management consulting firm with a client base consisting of social-sector entities in the US and Canada. “Chowenki lit a spark causing me to spend years working in and around the nonprofit sector,” writes Chad.
Katie McAlaine has taught social studies and art at the Deep Creek Middle School in South Eleuthera, the Bahamas. With Katie’s help, two girls and two boys from Deep Creek came to camp at Chewonki last summer. Chantey Quarcoop (advisor) and her wife, Ashley McCants, who met at Harvard University, are living in Washington, D.C., where Chantey works at a law firm. Elise Trucks (camp staff ’98) is studying for her master’s degree in art history in London. Nick Vail is the operations manager at Seattle’s Nalanda West, “a Buddhist meditation center that offers classes, programs, and events promoting ecumenical contemplative inquiry into the science of mind,” writes Nick. He wants “to build a cedar yurt in the Pacific Northwest and get off the grid as soon as possible!”

MCS 19 Fall 1997
Class Agent: Josie Rodberg, josie.rodberg@gmail.com

Michael Andrews lives in Providence, RI, where she teaches middle-school English and history at the Lincoln School, an all-girls Quaker school for grades K–12. She spent three weeks in Japan with the Japan Fullbright program and enjoys incorporating that experience into her classes. Brewster McCall is an actor and bartender in NYC. His family has released its first vintage of wine from their farm on the North Fork of Long Island, NY, and they are converting the farm to wind power. Jess Rochester is earning a master’s degree in public health from the University of Minnesota. “Aside from class work, I keep busy with paid work at a food bank doing development and hanging out in all of the urban nooks and crannies of Minneapolis and the wonderful state parks,” writes Jess. Becky Seel is also studying public health at the University of Minnesota, and she’s enjoying Minneapolis with her husband, Jared Goodman. Chloe Stevenson (camp staff ’98–’02) sent happy news of her marriage to Nachiket Pandya on 7-23-09.

MCS 20 Spring 1998
Class Agent: Marley Aloe, marleya@umbc.edu; & Kerry Quinn Granfield, kkquinn@gmail.com

Jenny Olmsted Herring (boys camp staff ‘98) married “the most wonderful Renaissance man” in March ’08 and also became curator at the Coastal Georgia Historical Society. Malin Pinsky (Wilderness Trips ’94) and her wife, Kristin Hunter-Thomson, whom he met at Williams College, married in August ’09.
They asked wedding guests to make donations to Chewonki in lieu of gifts. Thank you, Malin and Kristin! Chewonki “continues to echo and resonate through my life and the paths that I choose,” writes Malin. They are living in Monterey, CA, where Kristin is getting a master’s degree in marine science while Malin works on his Ph.D. in biology.

**MCS 21 Fall 1998**

*Class Agent: Malia Haddock, maliahaddock@gmail.com*

Matt Altman has been studying hard at Harvard Medical School but found time to plant “a sizeable patch of corn, butternut squash, peas, sunflowers, daisies, kale, and the like in the Fenway just across from my apartment,” he writes. “City officials were not amused.” Ella Goodbrod teaches outdoor education and ecology at Prescott College. Margie Graham (boys camp staff ’99), who finished two years in the Peace Corps, is “living in NYC…happily in law school,” Peace Corps, is “living in NYC…happily in law school,”

**MCS 22 Spring 1999**

*Class Agent: Louisa Pitt, lapitt@comcast.net*

Clare Creighton lives in Oregon and is finishing graduate school in the Student Services Administration. Emily Isaachsen received a master’s degree in choral conducting from the University of Oregon and is now a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She got married in Maine over the summer. Jon Perez earned a master’s degree in English and American studies at the University of Virginia and is now part of the new class of Ph.D. students at Rutgers University, where he will be pursuing his doctorate “under the guidance of an interdisciplinary faculty dedicated to social change and progress.” Jon lives in Brooklyn. Chris Shuter married Georgia Walle in September ’07. Chris is a student of counseling psychology for school students,” says Rebecca, “which has been fun and challenging.” Lindsey Horton moved back from the Marshall Islands after three years and enrolled in a program in global environmental health at Emory University. “I spend most of my free time studying,” she writes, “but have also decided to train for my first half-marathon and am working to start a mentoring program for high school girls who are refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, East Africa, etc.” She and her sister, Lauren Horton (MCS 29), recently enjoyed a trip through Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

Enyi Koene (advisor) studied for a graduate degree while enjoying the local culture in Pointiers, France. Tyler Lewis lives in Boston’s South End and works on the trading floor for Fidelity Investments for “the fixed-income sales people and traders.” He skis whenever he can. Devon Liddell won a Fulbright grant to do research on Moroccan immigration to southern Spain and hopes to get a Ph.D. in anthropology. Ariane Lotti (boys camp staff ’01) was an intern with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in Washington, D.C., before working on a “community-supported agriculture” farm in the heart of corn country in Iowa. While there, she wrote a column for the environmental blog *Grist*. She is now in Washington, serving as a senior policy analyst at the Organic Farming Research Foundation, focused on helping to develop organic policy positions for Farm Bill 2012. Will Morris is finishing up his master’s degree in chemical engineering at the University of Utah. His research focuses on oxy-fuel combustion, a promising technique for carbon capture and sequestration. Megan Nuttall is working her way toward a midwifery degree in Toronto while also loving life on her sheep farm. Julia O’Hern spends a lot of time at sea while she works on her Ph.D. in oceanography from Texas A & M University. Her field research focuses on the ocean between Ecuador and the Galapagos, where she studies whale habitat. Andrew Schapiro is a designer at Chronicle Books in San Francisco.
Francisco. “We publish really terrific books,” he writes, “and I’m proud that there is quite an effort to be eco-conscious, even though our products are all printed on paper.” Andrew has a huge garden, “sure to bring me back to the days of compost and dirt on the knees.” Ellie Shepard lives in New Zealand, where she is engaged to a Kiwi and works as a travel agent in Queenstown. She’s a bungee-jumper and skydiver on her days off. Callie Gates Slocum (boys camp staff ’00) married Jason Slocum, whom she met at Bowdoin College, in June ’08. Jason attends Harvard Business School, and Callie works at New Profit, a venture philanthropy firm in Cambridge. Caroline Clark Sterkel got married in Vail, CO, in July ’08. She still teaches and leads hut trips at Vail Mountain School.

Liz Tunick finally left New York and is back in New England, getting a master’s degree in the history of art at Williams College. After living in Guatemala, Marissa Vahlsing returned to the U.S. by riding a bicycle through Baja California and now attends Harvard Law School. She wants to emerge as a human rights lawyer ready to litigate cases to hold corporations more accountable.

MCS 25 Fall 2000
Class Agent: M. A. Moutoussis, maryaangela.moutoussis@gmail.com; & Chris White, ctnarztwhite@gmail.com

Stephanie Kellam married Chris White in Charleston, SC, in March ’08. Congratulations to both! Dave Liebowitz teaches high-school English in New Orleans. “Having students read Thoreau’s ‘Walking’… tends to bring me back to New England enough to make the bayou swamp bearable,” he writes. M.A. Moutoussis has resigned from PETS2VETS to pursue a master’s degree. Molly Wilson is a teacher and dorm parent, “one of the hardest jobs you’ll ever love,” at Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, PA, one of Chewonki’s member schools.

MCS 24 Spring 2000
Class Agent: Nora Gouge, ngouge@gmail.com

Rich Crowley is getting a master’s degree in environmental management at Duke University. When not studying, he plays defense on the Duke hockey team. Miki Glasser lives in New Orleans and would love to host any alums volunteering in that city. Nora Gouge completed her master’s degree at New York University and is getting her doctorate in clinical psychology at Yeshiva University. Charlie Hudson (boys camp ’91–’93, ’95–’99; camp staff ’02, ’03) spent two years teaching English in Japan and is now a freelance videographer living in Maine. Noah Levy, senior editor at In Touch Weekly, likes spending time with his dog, Sophie, and boyfriend, Luke. He lives just a few blocks away from fellow MCSers Kate Moller and Paige Ieradi, with whom he regularly meets at Starbucks for a “Chew and Chat.” Kate loves Manhattan, where she and her mother, Dr. Christiane Northrup, run Team Northrup (www.team-northrup.com), which combines women’s entrepreneurship and wellness. Allie Silverman has been working on energy policy issues in Chile. “It would be great if Chewonki alumni could be made aware of an absurd mega-hydroelectric scheme slated for Patagonia,” writes Allie. “This project would not only destroy the beauty, ecological value, and uniqueness of Chilean Patagonia but also set a precedent for unsustainable energy development in the region” (see www.savebio-gems.org/patagonia/slideshow).

MCS 26 Spring 2001
Class Agent: Andrea LaRosa, andreallarosa@gmail.com

BJ Atchley received a Fulbright grant to do research in India. Lucy Baumrind works for an athletic/cultural/educational nonprofit in the Vail (CO) Valley, where she skis on the weekends. Nadja Blagojevic lives in San Francisco and works for a small public relations firm that helps.

“really geeky start-ups get talked about in the press and online.” Betsy Bradford also lives in San Francisco; she works at Bain as a management consultant. Remy Mansfield (boys camp ’94, ’95; boys camp staff ’00–’03, ‘05) moved to Sausalito, CA, where he’s exploring nearby trails and the Sierras. “I’ve been keeping busy with a digital storytelling project (http://themodernstory.wordpress.com/) that I co-founded in India earlier this year,” writes Remy. “A lot of what I learned from working at Chewonki… profoundly impacted me in a positive way and now I’m looking to apply that somewhere else.”

Day Peery has been in Charlotte, NC, since graduating from Elon University and works for a recruiting firm. Annie Stamell (Wilderness Trips ’98, ’99) lives in Santa Monica, CA. She and Alexander White work at the same representation company, where he is in film finance while Annie works in market research and consulting. Zach Strassburger, who lives in Brooklyn, works at the Legal Aid Society helping poor people gain access to public health insurance. Zach married Kate Jenkins in October ’10. They asked their guests to make donations to Chewonki and several other organizations important to them. Thank you, Zach and Kate! Zach and Dylan Bosseau (MCS 8) are part of the same trapese and acrobatics group, LAVA. Elsie White (boys camp staff ’02, ’03) is in a master’s degree program in Spanish and Portuguese in Bloomington, IN, and also teaches Spanish to college freshmen.

Alden Alexander has worked as a deckhand on a Ron Holland 72-ft. sailboat in the Caribbean; raced on boats out of Newport, RI; served on the race crew of the 134-ft. schooner Alair from France; and helped deliver a Swan 70-ft. to Sicily, Italy. She hopes “to do a few more boat deliveries” and then return to the Mediterranean. Alyvadas Alexander-Ozinskas is studying holistic and herbal sciences at Bastyr University in Seattle. Rosie Bogan works at Columbia Medical Center in NYC. Megan Flenniken, who graduated from Mt. Holyoke, is studying marine biology at Stony Brook University. Laura Hartz (boys camp staff ’04) earned a master of
and Brunswick, ME, with married Alex Hay on 11-7-09 in on our local network of ridiculous Pacific Ocean, or sand-boarding sandstone cliffs overlooking the forests with giant trees, on of the Oregon coast. He may also the North Bend/Coos Bay region nator at a historical museum in Washington, D.C. She’s headed to Temuco, Chile, thanks to a Fullbright ETA fellowship. Danielle Horowitz, after graduating from Lafayette College, was an intern at the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee in Washington, D.C. She’s headed to Campus College to write her thesis on the Chilen forestry industry. Rock climbing, environmental education, and writing continue to inspire her. Danielle Horowitz, after graduating from Lafayette College, was an intern at the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee in Washing- tions, DC. She’s headed to Temuco, Chile, thanks to a Fullbright ETA fellowship. Lily Mitchell (boys camp staff ’03) finished her studies in human biology at Stanford University and is living with 11 roommates in Palo Alto. She’s interested in public health, especially preventative care for conditions such as diabetes and obesity. James Monaco graduated with high distinction and honors in chemical engineering from Penn State's Schreyer Honors College and is now studying at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. Matt Stenovec is a teaching intern in Nevada City, CA, at the Woolman Semester, a program for high-school juniors, seniors, and post-grads focusing on peace, justice, and sustainability. Pippa White (boys camp staff ’04, ’05) has settled into NYC after a hiking/biking trip in Greece and time spent on the Obama campaign in central Florida.

MCS 28 Spring 2002
Class Agent: Ellie Stuart, elliestew@gmail.com

Jacob Dana (boys camp staff ’02) is taking time off from school and works for a small company that makes water bottles in Boulder, CO. Matt Dillon is a senior project associate, doing land acquisitions in New York, for the Trust for Public Land. In June ’09 he married Justina Kaminskaite in Vilnus, Lithuania. Jon Guss, a member of AmeriCorps, is working as an education coordinator at a historical museum in the North Bend/Coos Bay region of the Oregon coast. He may also be found “hiking through lush forests with giant trees, on sandstone cliffs looking over the Pacific Ocean, or sand-boarding on our local network of ridiculous giant sand dunes.” Blair Lamb has been teaching in Princeton, NJ, but is contemplating a move to Boulder, CO. Elspeth Pierson married Alex Hay on 11-7-09 in Brunswick, ME, with Casey Harwood and Lauren Miller in attendance. Elspeth and Alex live in Wellfleet, MA, where Elspeth is a food writer and creator of “The Local Food Report,” a weekly radio show on NPR affiliate WCAI. You can find a link to the show at her blog (www.dairyofalocavore.com). Jed Weeks lives in Newark, DE, and has worked for the Democratic nominee for governor. He also tends “a big garden full of rapidly dying vegetables.”

MCS 29 Fall 2002
Class Agents: Nellie Black, nellie.peters.black@gmail.com; Cara Brody, cara.brody@gmail.com; & Greg Daggett, gdaggett1@gmail.com

Nellie Black writes that all is well in NYC. Cara Brody (Wilderness Trips ’99–’02; boys camp staff ’03–’05) graduated from Skidmore College before heading to Los Angeles, where she enjoyed an internship helping to produce the Emmy Awards. Willy Crichton spent a summer in Berlin, “speaking German and enjoying a city that’s full of wild activity,” as well as gathering information for his Bard College thesis on “the use of the Prometheus myth through German literature of the past 200 years!” Greg Daggett is in a veterinary medical science program at Drexel University, thinking about vet school, and training for triathlons. Katie Eberle lives in Emeryville, CA, and works for a green-energy consulting firm called Heschong Mahone Group (HMG). She’s researching climate, heating, and cooling systems for the State of California, a job with “potential for true impact on how buildings get permitted and what materials must be used,” she says. Corinne Fay (boys camp staff ’03, ’04) graduated from Smith College and works full-time for a food and cooking website called Cookthink.com. Christina Feng, having graduated from Colby College, is teaching high-school social studies in NYC through Teach for America. Caroline Goodbody works as a field organizer for the Colorado Democratic Party and heads to the mountains when she needs a break. Zach Goodnough, another Colby grad, is studying in Nanjing at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for U.S.-China Studies. Emily Guerin (boys camp staff ’04) spent a summer in Chile before returning to Bowdoin College to write her thesis on the Chilean forestry industry. Rock climbing, environmental education, and writing continue to inspire her. Danielle Horowitz, after graduating from Lafayette College, was an intern at the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee in Washing-
Whittier ran an arts program for 42 Chewonki Chronicle environmental science and now manager for the Center for Maine to become assistant Kansas City before returning to home. He has a pair of corn snakes and Nicaraguan boa.

hilary best writes, “missing the warmth of the Binnacle woodstove… into the home stretch at McGill, serving as an environmental reporter for a campus publication and working away on my thesis on an ecological economics approach to land use around ‘toronto.’”

sarah kirk enjoyed working at gourmet in NYC “and getting to see jill lingenfelter and peter kurtz in the city… [and] Olivia dooley every day at school!”

Ellen flenniken graduated from Middlebury College after studying international relations and chinese and hopes to do international environmental work. Sarah kirk is researching urban development and designing costumes for student plays during her last year at middlebury college. Danielle layton is studying at the university of St. Andrews in Scotland, “after a difficult year of health problems. As I find my feet again, I’m in my bliss hiking in the Highlands.” Hannah waters is headed to costa Rica over winter break to research leaf-cutting ants—a big change from college in minnesota!

Dave Brodell graduated from Washington University with a degree in biology and women and gender studies. Contemplating medical school, he’s chosen instead to work at Bank of America in charlotte, NC, inspired in part by his fascination with the unfolding economic crisis. Katie Chomiak is a senior at Penn State, pursuing her interest in communications and public service. Leading up to the presidential election of ’08, Katie attended both major party conventions with Andrea Mitchell from NBC. Sarah Dobro has studied biology and English at Skidmore College and is thinking about medical school. Emily Grady is an environmental studies major at Bates College, concentrating in global environment and social change. Emily Tupper Jackson works in the Wise Lab of Genetic & Environmental Toxicology at the University of Southern Maine. She helped fundraise for the RV Odyssey, which was scheduled to collect tissue samples from marine organisms before and after exposure to oil and oil-cleaning chemicals in the Gulf of Mexico. Maria McMorrow, who’s studying environmental science at Mount Allison University, was camping beside the Penobscot River in Maine when she ran into Dave Wells (MCS 33) and Noah Isaacson (MCS 34). They shared a great meal and a campfire. Nina Murray (boys camp staff ’08) is studying in Ireland, where she’s soaking up the traditional music. Liz O’Neill, a Colby College student, is studying English at Oxford University.

Grace Rumford took a semester away from middlebury college, where she’s focusing on geography, to study in Argentina.

Merry band of MCS 33 alums came together on the neck for the Five-Year Reunion in early June. Among those in attendance: Ellis Bomsht, Lisa Dadian, Hannah Gallo, Jane Koopman, Matt Larkin, Mikayla Lytton, Ruth Sawyer, Rachel Schwerin, and Evie Smith. Ellis wrote to Chewonki president Willard Morgan afterward: “so many subtle parts of the semester did not impact me at the time…. Upon returning for the reunion, I began to see what you and the rest of my semester experience did for me…the sense of community, the connection to the land, the deliberateness that goes into each decision.”
Max Cady is finishing Macalester College with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Lisa Dadian is working with special-needs children on Cape Cod. Jane Koopman (boys camp staff ’08, ’10) is sailing and kayaking when she’s not hitting the books at Bowdoin College. She enjoyed being back at Chewonki for her summer job. Mattias Lasas loved his gap year in South America (mostly Ecuador). More recently, he’s worked as a field assistant at a research station in southern Arizona (see www.stanford.edu/group/seeds/photos.html). Matt Larkin and Alec Morrison rode their bikes from Maine to Georgia starting right here on Chewonki Neck. After Matt hurt his knee, they resorted to hitchhiking to get to California. Katrina Moreno writes, “Chewonki really sparked my environmental interest! I am now a history major concentrating in environmentalism and I will be studying sustainability and human ecology in the Brazilian rainforest.” Mary Ellen Pearce spent a semester in Ecuador studying ecology and conservation through the School for International Training. “Many aspects of the program reminded me of MCS,” noted Mary Ellen, “especially our field trips to many different ecosystems.” Taylor Phillips spent the summer in Yellowstone National Park. Ian Rutkowski is focused on environmental studies and botany at the University of Pittsburgh. His particular interest is farm strategic planning. Evie Smith is taking a year off from the University of California, Davis, and works as an intern at the Boothbay Region Land Trust, trying to get local high-school seniors out of the classroom and into a community-based mentorship program. The land trust has a scholarship for students headed to Chewonki Semester School! Jaz Smith (Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls ’04; boys camp staff ’05; girls camp staff ’08, ’09; advisor) taught environmental science at the Woolman Semester, a Quaker school run by the Sierra Friends Center, before becoming a teacher of science and social studies to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in Northeast Harbor, ME. She’s a student herself, taking education classes part-time at nearby College of the Atlantic. She taught at Chewonki Camp for Girls this summer. David Wells is in his senior year at Bowdoin College. Last summer he raft-guided on the Penobscot River and worked at Chewonki’s Big Eddy Campground.

MCS 34 Spring 2005
Class Agents: Alex Beebee, 11/ans@williams.edu, & Liz Franchot, efancho@gmail.com

Among those from Semester 34 who made it to Chewonki for the Five-Year Reunion in June were Peter Eustis, Liz Franchot, Peter Garber, Danny Growald, Kit Hamley, Noah Isaacs, Rachel Jacobs, Andrew Karp, Emily Kuehn, Stephanie Schmiege, Cloe Shasha, Sarah Smith, and David Sonneborn. It was a great weekend!

Zarine Alam had a wonderful summer in NYC with Kate Bell-Hart, Sally Lemonyk, Annika Alexander-Ozinskas, and Cloe Shasha. Zarine is now studying in London for a semester. Annika Alexander-Ozinskas studied earth systems, specializing in ocean studies, at Stanford University. She’s now back at Chewonki as a teaching fellow in mathematics in the semester school! Caroline Beattie graduated with a degree in Spanish from St. Olaf College and moved to St. Paul, MN, where she’ll be a literacy tutor (grades K–3) with the Minnesota Literacy Council’s AmeriCorps program. She’s become a passionate ice-hockey player! Chris Biddle writes, “The more time that passes since I was there, the more I feel as though I was part of something really important out there in the woods. I’m so proud of what we learned there.” Chris is a nonfiction writer at Warren Wilson College. Find his blog at http://othersidechina.wordpress.com. Danny Growald is in his senior year at Princeton, where he’s studying ecology and evolution and very active in climate-change issues. Kit Hamley (boys camp staff ’09, girls camp staff ’10) is studying tropical ecology and conservation in Costa Rica. Rachel Jacobs is enjoying an academic semester in Singapore and plans to visit the dragons in Komodo National Park in Indonesia. Andrew Karp moved to Portland, ME, after graduating from Bates College and is now assistant media planner at Universal McCann. He has also co-created a clothing label, JAQK Apparel. Emily Kuehn had a summer job in Utah working “on a small aquaponics system for a summer camp that grows fish and vegetables in a re-circulating aquaculture system,” she writes. “These systems reuse water by establishing a complete nitrogen cycle, so I set one up in the kitchen of my house and have been enjoying fresh lettuce all year.” Cloe Shasha (Wilderness Trips ’02, ’03) spent the summer at ABC News as an intern reporter and writer. At Middlebury College, Cloe enjoys writing for the newspaper, playing in the band, and singing in an all-female a cappella group. Katherine Ripulone is taking a year off from her British university to work on irrigation projects in the Dominican Republic and to serve as a paramedic in Peru.

MCS 35 Fall 2005
Class Agent: Cameron McKnight, faithcameronmcknight@yahoo.com

Becca Abuza worked at Chewonki Camp for Girls for her third straight summer. Lilly Betke-Brunswick also worked

Save the Date!
MCS 35 & 36 ALUMS

Have you milked a cow lately, spent time weeding carrots, or done a polar bear swim? Your chance to reconnect with your MCS classmates and with Chewonki is approaching!

Come to your Five-Year Reunion on the weekend of June 10–12, 2011!

More details will be forthcoming, but for now, mark your calendars. We hope to see you on the Neck next June!
there, before returning to Carleton College, where she is captain of the women’s ice-hockey team. **Trafton Bean** spent a summer studying in Shanghai, China, where he discovered that “having red hair and white skin makes you some sort of a celebrity.” He is now in his last year at the University of Oregon. **Linnea Paton** spent a semester in Morocco and wrote about her experiences at www.moroccoa08.blogspot.com. She recently won an Honorable Mention from the Udall Foundation. **Elliot Steinhardt** is a geography major at Clark University, “studying global climate change and utopian theory in urban reality!”

**Amanda Warren** is at Middlebury College, where she is an environmental studies major with a concentration in conservation biology. Over the summer she ran a children’s program at the college’s organic garden, and she lives in a student house that serves primarily local food.

**Kelly Canfield** is pursuing a double major at the University of Maryland, combining civil and environmental engineering with agriculture and resource economics. Her international focus and work with Engineers Without Borders and the Ashoka Foundation are taking her around the world, including France, Burkino Faso, and Peru. **Cathy Courson** went to Seoul, Korea, to learn about NGOs and “sold slush in a movie theater side-by-side a 12-foot-tall cardboard superhero.” She is now at Bard College, “studying psychology, organizing film festivals, working as an EMT, and occasionally raking Chiu’s Achebe’s yard.” **Marian Messing** is happy at Princeton University, where her favorite class of every semester is Arabic. She volunteers for Amnesty International, plays the clarinet in a campus orchestra, is an academic tutor, and partici-

pates in the university’s Sustained Dialogue on Race. **Teddy Neewyker**, a student at Wesleyan University, visited Chewonki last spring while his brother **James** was a Semester 44 student. **Meredith Ruhl** spent two summers in the Practical Farm Training Program at the Farm School in Athol, MA. She is a student at Wellesley College. **Rebecca Siegel** enjoyed working at Chewonki Camp for Girls last summer, while her younger sister was a camper.

**MCS 37 Fall 2006**

**Class Agent: Lizzy Tare, lizet345@gmail.com**

**Karl Berger** bumped into **Willard Morgan** at the Portland, ME, airport last winter, just as Karl was heading back to Lewis and Clark College. Karl is enjoying his studies and art. **Tarara Deane-Krantz** continues to work in the NYC mayor’s office each summer and is active at Bowdoin College, managing a cafe and volunteering for Maine State Representative Seth Berry. **Maddie Hobbs** graduated from Milton Academy, then backed-packed around Europe to celebrate. She’s now attending Emory University in Georgia. **Hugh McCormick** returned to Chewonki, with his guitar, last summer to serve as a counselor in South Hall for Chewonki Camp for Boys. **Irene Syphers** finished high school by serving on the board of directors of the Cathance River Education Alliance and organizing Live Maine, a festival on the Mall in Brunswick, ME. She is now studying environmental writing at Unity College.

**MCS 38 Fall 2006**

**Class Agent: Franklin Jacoby, fjaocy@verizon.net; & Maddy Schwartz, madeleinescbwartz@gmail.com**

**Laura Coyne** is thriving at Earlham College in Indiana. **Evon Deutsch** showed up in Cumberland Island, GA, last spring with some Middlebury friends and enjoyed catching up with president-elect **Willard Morgan**, **Jenn**, and **Sierra** as well as Outdoor Classroom assistant director **Emma Carlson**, who were leading a trip there with Semester 44 students. **Liddy Hepner** attends Virginia Tech, where she’s pursuing a degree in biology in the college of sciences. **Alisa McCulloch** is spending the fall studying with an international group of students in Norway. **Annie Sprogell** is heading for France after having taught English in Uganda. **Drew Tanabe** was in Copenhagen with SustainUS and worked on finance policy in the United Nations Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. He writes, “I’ve been looking at things like where all of the needed money will come from, how countries will raise it, and how it should be effectively distributed on the ground to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.” **Zemora Tehav** enjoyed working with two community-theater projects in Puerto Rico during her gap year. One project was a collective dance and theater experience with university students; the other involved “working with inmates to create a play together about their experiences both inside and outside of the prison.” Zemora is learning to play the banjo as she prepares for Hampshire College. **Olivia Woodlam** is traveling in Europe, relishing “time away from the frantic race to the finish line that is the norm in American high schools.”

**MCS 39 Fall 2007**

**Class Agents: Dana Golden, riversga@hotmail.com; & Maddy Woodle, scramrunner4260@hotmail.com**

**Angela Bagnone** has had some great mini-reunions with fellow MCSers, including **Dana Golden**, **Annelise Haskell**, and **Wyatt Davis**, who joined her for the Head of the Charles crew races in Boston. **Brooks Eaton** (boys camp staff & maintenance staff ’09) spent part of his gap year in Patagonia with NOLS. He’s also learning to cook and serving as an intern producing videos for NOLS in Wyoming. He worked on a great video of **Jawali Sawicki** (Wilderness Trips ’04) that appears on the NOLS website! **Cammie Taylor** is “enjoying and exploring the Appalachian Mountains through environmental activism, community service, work, and classes” at Warren Wilson College. She’s also “addressing the global food distribution issue at a local level through Food Not Bombs, cooking otherwise ‘dumpstered’ foods into delicious vegetarian meals to share with the hungry of downtown Asheville, NC.” **Cammie Taylor** is pursuing environmental studies with concentrations in environmental policy and sustainable agriculture and forestry.

**MCS 40 Spring 2008**

**Class Agents: Rachel Madding, maddingrg@yahoo.com; & Nick McLeod, nickm1095@uvm.com**

**Lucy Bates-Campbell** is enjoying art, theater, basketball, and “finding things I love about NYC and my school.” **Audrey Boochever** and Danny **Forrester** started a movement at their school called “Fossil Fuel Free Fridays,” to encourage students and teachers to carpool, take the metro, bike, or walk to school one day a week. **Gabriella Gentile** visited Chewonki in late summer to drop off her sister, **Francesca**, for the start of Semester 45. **Douglas Gledhill** is immersed in life as a student in China. “There’s a lot to do here and almost everything is an adventure,” he writes. **Zoe Mason** is taking a semester off from Prescott College, working at Treats in Wiscasset, and learning Italian at the Penniscol School, a language school in Rockland, ME. **Malcolm Richardson** (Wilderness Trips ’08) is studying sculpture at the Putney School in Vermont and mountain-biking whenever he can. **Eliza Taylor** came to Chewonki in August to deliver her younger sister, **Lily**, a member of Semester 45.
The text is in natural readable format.
IN MEMORIAM

Chewonki lost as devoted a fan as it has ever had when Marguerite McConnell Hudson died on August 4, 2010, at the age of 91 in Northampton, Massachusetts. “Mardi” came to Chewonki in 1962, when her husband, Bill Hudson, a Methodist minister, agreed to spend the first of several summers as Camp Chewonki’s assistant director. The couple’s four children, the oldest of whom had come to camp in 1959, accompanied them. Never one to sit idly on the sidelines, Mardi jumped wholeheartedly into camp life, helping out wherever a hand was needed. She remained an ardent fan of Chewonki for the rest of her life.

That life was long and full. After graduating from college, Mardi served in the Red Cross in England during World War II. After her marriage, she nurtured her family and oversaw several moves as her husband took charge of churches in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Colorado. She loved jazz, cheered tirelessly for the Boston Red Sox, and never shrank from an adventure.

When her husband died unexpectedly in 1971, Mardi took a job in the Alumni Office of Groton School, where she worked for 16 years, retiring just before her 70th birthday. She moved to Arrowsic, Maine, in 1988 to live close to her daughter Don, who retired this past July after 44 years of service. When the Maine winters took their toll, Mardi moved in 1999 to live near her daughter in Massachusetts.

In addition to her son Don, Mardi is survived by her sons David (Camp ’59–’63; Camp Staff ’65–’68, ’73–’79) and Ben (Camp ’62–’63, ’67, Camp Staff ’68–’70, ’74), daughter Mardi Jane Abuzu (Maine Reach ’73–’74; Camp Staff ’76), a sister, and eight grandchildren, who have also spent significant time at Chewonki.

Gifts in Mardi’s memory may be made to the Bill and Mardi Hudson Fund at Chewonki.

Henry L. Smith (Camp ’34–’36, ’40) of Brattleboro, Vermont, died on April 25, 2010, at the age of 82. “Hank loved the time spent at Camp Chewonki, which gave him many fond memories,” wrote Barbara Smith, his wife of 58 years.

After attending Marlboro College in Vermont, Hank served in the U.S. Navy and then worked for many years at the Brattleboro Daily Reformer. From 1967 until his retirement in 1987, he was a senior safety supervisor for Ebasco Constructors in New Jersey.

Hank was an avid outdoorsman and especially enjoyed backpacking, canoeing, skiing, and biking. After he retired, he and Barbara became serious bicycle tourists, traveling “self-contained” with camping equipment throughout Europe, New Zealand, and the U.S.

Hank is survived by his wife, his oldest brother, and seven nieces and nephews.

Please Write! We love hearing from you, whether by regular mail or email. If the latter, we’re just a click away, at www.chewonki.org/alumni. You can update your contact information and send us your news.

Please be sure we have your up-to-date mailing name and address—see our plea on page 5!
Turtle Seasons
Lynne Flaccus

Almost everyone at Chewonki knows I have a passion for turtles. Greg and Kyle would call it an obsession. I am simply amazed by turtles—their beauty and their evolutionary history.

Each of us marks the seasons in our own way, and my seasons are remembered and marked by turtles. In spring I look forward to ice-out and the first warming rays of sun, when the temperatures rise enough that the wood turtles emerge; April is the best time to find them, before riparian vegetation provides cover. The painted turtles appear later, and about the time the snapping turtles also emerge. The painted turtles, with their black shells shining and twinkling in the late morning sun, bask on logs and rocks. Though easy to spot from a distance, they are wary this early.

June brings nesting season for Maine’s turtles and means more turtles crossing roads and wandering in search of nest sites. When I’m traveling, my eyes are glued to the roads so I can stop and help turtles cross to the other side safely. One June day traveling down Route 1 with Kyle and a friend of his, I pulled over and did a U-turn to go back and rescue a turtle. Much to Kyle’s embarrassment, the turtle turned out to be a bagel. In my mind, everything on the road in June is a turtle in need of help!

Summers are marked by explorations through long grass and alders along riverbanks, or canoeing quiet pond coves. A perfect day off is one spent “turtle hunting.” Just to look for, hold, and admire a turtle, and then release it, is one of my favorite things to do. This year was marked by four turtles that were each missing feet or legs, all healed and healthy. Sometimes these appendages are eaten by raccoons or otters, but as long as the turtles don’t lose too much tissue, they manage to heal and move on. Each turtle I find tells a story, even if I can’t read all of it.

When fall arrives I once again watch the roads for those turtles wandering back to their winter hibernacula, or young turtles that may be hatching late in the season. There are always a few warm fall days when turtles take advantage of the low hanging sun to warm and feed before their long winter under the ice. A warm November day has not stopped me from jumping into the icy water to check out a basking musk turtle—a brisk swim for the reward of handling a usually secretive turtle.

In another month or so, I will see turtles only in books and in my dreams until next April. Maybe one day I will learn from the turtles how to appreciate the warm sunny days at a turtle’s pace and perspective.

Lynne Flaccus is Chewonki’s head naturalist. She lives in Alna, Maine, with her husband, Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute, and their son, Kyle.

STEP IT UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Manage Your Household Waste
Ruth Poland, Science and Sustainability Fellow

“Reduce, reuse, recycle”—it’s been the mantra of the Green Movement ever since the first Earth Day in 1970. While there is much to celebrate about recycling, garbage generation is still rising. Today the average American generates 4.6 pounds of trash daily, up from 3.25 in 1970. This translates to 251 million tons of garbage a year. Managing this volume raises a host of issues, including greenhouse gas production, pollution, land use, social and environmental justice, and exploitation of natural resources to replace the things we throw away.

To make matters worse, much of our garbage doesn’t even make it to landfills, leading to environmental calamities such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch: a swath of ocean twice as large as Texas that’s filled with floating plastic (listen to Charles Moore’s talk at www.ted.com). So what can we do to improve? First, we need to educate ourselves and others. Some great resources include two short films: Isla de las Floras (a Brazilian film with subtitles) and The Story of Stuff (available at www.storyofstuff.com). For some incredible visuals, check out www.chrisjordan.com and click on his artwork “Intolerable Beauty.”

Second, we can throw away less. You can reduce your garbage generation by practicing the following:

Compost—Biodegradable goods represent over 50 percent of our garbage! See www.composters.com for tips on how to get your pile started.

Recycle—Call your local recycling or redemption center to find out what they process. Visit www.obviously.com/recycle for more general info.

Reduce—Buy items with minimal packaging. Unnecessary packaging of food and other goods is a major cause of increased garbage production in recent decades. Write to companies that use excess packaging and let them know your thoughts; they provide this packaging because they think consumers want it.

Reuse—The little things count. Bring reusable bags to the store, get clothes and furniture at thrift stores or have swap parties with friends, and close the recycling loop by buying recycled goods whenever possible.

For more tips and info on the 3Rs, visit www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve.

Finally, we can get involved in town and government policy to address the issue using a top-down approach. Look for opportunities to incentivize better waste management, such as supporting “pay as you throw” programs, in which communities charge for garbage bags or waste removal. These programs provide financial incentive to decrease your volume of household trash.

The bottom line: Decreasing the amount of landfill-bound garbage you produce is one of the best things you can do to reduce your personal environmental impact.
Chewonki Joins Global Day of Service

On 10/10/10, Chewonki joined activists around the world for 350.org’s Global Work Party. We got behind the effort early and invited all of our constituents—staff, trustees, students, and alumni—to join. The passion and the action were impressive! Chewonki organized or participated in 15 events from Maine to Seattle.

In Wiscasset, we improved trails, wrote to legislators, and served the “35 Mile Meal,” a delicious community supper using foods grown within 35 miles. Semester students gathered the ingredients from local farmers and cooked the meal themselves. We also partnered with Habitat for Humanity to weatherize 10 local homes and sailed out to Penobscot Bay to help the Hurricane Island Foundation rejuvenate its facilities.

Spirits were high, the weather crisp and gorgeous, and the power of community strong. “It was gratifying to see the enthusiasm for service so evident among our alumni and friends, not only in Maine but across the country,” said Chewonki president Willard Morgan.

We hope you’ll take part in our next Chewonki Day of Service on June 4, 2011—National Trails Day. Plan to partner with a local agency to maintain the trails that get you out on the land, bring some Chewonki friends together, and let us know about it. We’ll keep you posted about our collective efforts at www.chewonki.org.