



A nonprofit corporation

THE BIRCH BARK

Fall 2016

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Rich Deering '73, Alumni & Community Director • Michael Mattson '83, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP

REFLECTIONS FROM THE ROCK

By Rich Deering

Alumni & Community Director '73 –

Happy 90th, Birch Rock Camp! What a spectacular season we had re-energizing, re-igniting and re-uniting on our Hillside campus. On July 30th campers and staff welcomed past, present and prospective Birch Rockers with handshakes, hugs, and chivalrous spirit as we celebrated our Diamond Anniversary. Our birthday unfolded in great style: We applauded two epic Whale swims. We shared tales of BRC yesteryears. We gathered at the flagpole to remember those who had recently passed away. We bonded in fellowship, hearing about olden times with old and new friends. We feasted with glee on an old-fashioned Downeast Maine Lobster Bake with campers, families, neighbors and veteran Birch Rockers. Finally, we capped off the day with a blockbuster All-Star Campfire performance, complemented by a majestic sunset and rousing Birch Rock sing-a-long. It was the classic Birch Rock Camp end-of-day where “...a good time was had by all.”

Thanks to all of you who joined us, and to those who called, wrote, texted, and visited throughout the season to share your stories of BRC. Your responses to our anniversary celebration were extraordinary! We had alums from as far as Hong Kong, the U.K., and Australia — plus a few families with three generations of Birch Rock history to boot! The spirit of the Rock is powerful, and our camp's vibrancy is a tribute to your enduring commitment.

In this edition of The Birch Bark, we continue to celebrate our 90th season by highlighting the history of our loyal neighbors and hillside friends at C.A.M.P. — a.k.a. The Cottages at McWain Point. The Muzik and Whichard families have a long and devoted history to Waterford, McWain Pond and Birch Rock Camp.

As ever, we ask that you please join us in giving boys opportunities for exceptional experiences that build character, confidence and civility. Your leads for prospective campers and donations to our Birch Rock Fund fuel our cherished mission — HELP THE OTHER FELLOW.

With gratitude,

Rich



AN OUTSTANDING CELEBRATION OF BIRCH ROCK'S 90TH

By Senior Camper Sebastian Tringale

Wow! Woah! Jeezum Crow!

All of these phrases were used to exclaim over the action on July 30th, and did so perfectly. After wolfing down copious portions of eggs, bacon, and spuds, campers fanned out to work on badges, goals and 90th party preparations. Swimmers bustled back and forth across the lake through the ripples of Luke and Josh's fantastic Whale swims. Aidan S. and Campbell H. quacked through their Ducks and Standish C. swam his Loon, leaving a shimmering wake behind him. Nearby, Stu W. and Eric T. paddled their boats



Birch Log 2016

in various circles and lines topped off by a round of “That's What Makes You Beautiful” to earn their Junior Kayaking badges.

Campers and counselors got all fired up about the big to-do celebrating our 90th summer. Former campers, staff members and legends of



Sebastian Tringale

all kinds journeyed up for the good times that included a reminiscin' panel, lobster bake and the biggest Campfire since veteran emcees/counselors Gabe and Ben did The Tonight Show in 2013.

The afternoon offered awesome activities for campers and visiting Birch Rockers alike. The waterfront was opened to campers, where lower camp embarked on the second Punic War of the day. Upper Campers hopped into the Cradle for many rounds of Greased Watermelon. The one word to describe the whole ordeal would be “rad.”

As the waterfront skirmishes continued, most visitors flocked to the lodge, where great sages of Birch Rock's past regaled the gathering with stories of “back in my day.” Hub Burton ('70s) might have been the popular favorite, recalling a time of a heavily-wooded Birch Rock with

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An Outstanding Celebration...
Continued from Page 1

narrow pathways and low hanging branches on the scramble down to the lake. Years ago, most of campus was dominated by forests similar to that of lower camp today.



Super Whales

The day was crowned by a delicious old-fashioned Maine feast of lobster, chicken and hamburgers orchestrated by former Camp Chef Randy Bowden and crew. Generations of Birch Rock families came together over quintessential Maine food to catch up. For some former campers, it had been 30 years since seeing each other.

The evening brought back Birch Rock's famed Campfire to the basketball court. The program featured all-time favorite skits such as "Chief Oquendo and the Elements," "The Eye Book," and "Secret Papers," to name a few. Music was covered by Counselors Gordon, Gage, and Gabe, with the rousing tunes of "Wagon Wheel" and "Country Road" ringing out over the Oxford Hills. Birch Rock neighbor David Sanderson contributed an astounding fiddle repertoire that wowed even the most discerning ears.

While camp prepared for the Return

of Oquendo, this reporter caught up with some of Birch Rock's greats to inquire about their favorite part of the big day. Director Mike Mattson loved Campfire, as some of the greatest skits of camp returned in that incomparable location featur-

ing the hills and sunset. Sea Dragon Conqueror Matt C. was excited that former campers came back with memories from the earliest days of camp, while Master Sailor and Program Director Erik Joelsson was astounded to see the vast array of Birch Rockers, old and

new. Birch Rock guru and Senior Counselor Don Miguel said, "I don't really know what is going on today, but I know everyone's got their stuff together. Calm, cool, and collected. Tout va bien." Director Rich Deering was thrilled to see faces from the earliest days of camp, to see people again who had been out of touch, and to experience the warm-up to Birch Rock's 100th.

For one long, boisterous, perfectly glorious day on the shores of Lake McWain, we celebrated the past, present, and future of the camp we call home.



DECADE CLUB ADDS THREE MORE

The Birch Rock Community was proud to honor **Toby Young, Ryan Royalty** and **Chris Cogswell** for 10 years at Birch Rock Camp.



Toby Young



Ryan Royalty & Chris Cogswell

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FOUR BIRCH ROCK CHEERS TO OUR NEWEST WHALES!!!

This season saw a dozen Birch Rockers conquer the challenge of the five-mile swim around the lake. The Whales started early in the summer and kept on coming. We also celebrated our first CIT whale since 2009. Completing this tremendous feat this summer were (from top left): **Brad Schlauder, Luke Feeney, Kenneth Hurtado, Cole Madden, Stu Whittier, Devon Anderson, Asa Kaplan, Sebastian Tringale, Chris Klein, Kyle Perkins, Josh Cooke and David Herzig.**



The 2016 Whales

SIX OUTSTANDING BIRCH ROCKERS COMPLETE COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM

Under the direction of Russ "Coach" Wilson, six fine young gentlemen completed the BRC leadership program. We salute their hard work and determination this summer. Congrats to **Henry Farnham, Matt Rotman, Liam Feeney, Kenneth Hurtado, Jack Culver and Jack Duggan.** All six CITs also completed American Red Cross Lifeguard training.



Counselors-In-Training

THIRTEEN CAMPERS ACCEPT CHALLENGE OF THE ANNUAL TRIATHLON

The action-packed Birch Rock Triathlon saw 13 competitors swim, bike and run for glory in and around Lake McWain. **Cole Davin** surged out to an early lead in the swimming phase, but **Devon Anderson** closed the gap after he hopped on his bike and tore down Passaconaway Road, made the Camp Waziyatah turn and pumped up McWain Hill past Camp Waganaki. However, **Cooper**

Durcan was within striking distance after dismounting for the final run back to camp, and was hot on Devon's heels as they



Will Madden

sprinted up the driveway. Devon prevailed to become this year's Triathlon champion in the closest finish in several years. The other all-star finishers were **James Long, Brad Schlauder, Luke Feeney, David Colasin, Stu Whittier, Sebastian Tringale, David Herzig, Seth Brewster, Will Madden, and Kyle Perkins.**



Triathletes 2016

COME ONE; COME ALL....

READY TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE BRC?

It's never too early to start planning your next great August adventure — why not consider Family Camp at Birch Rock?! Here's a blog entry from 'Coach' from this past season, and it sounds like a rollicking good time...

Oh, geez, Family Camp 2016 is well underway. What's been happening? Here's the rundown:

On Thursday, the first wave arrived mid-afternoon, dumped some luggage in their cabins, and wasted no time jumping into Lake McWain, mumbling something about "hot in the city" as they dashed downhill. The only thing that could get them out of the water was the announcement of Salty Snacks, and it served to do the trick. After much snacking and socializing and a spaghetti-and-meatball dinner, the evening fare featured a condensed version of Quorum from Old Grove to New Grove and some live-streamed Olympics action.

By Friday morning we realized we were surrounded by a whole pack of children young and old, so out came the good 'ol sign-up sheets. Brandon and Leo took a shot at Archery; Sebastian, Gus, Theo and a few others shot some hoops; Counselor Noah turned a trip to the water fountain into a full activity for the youngest kiddos; and the parents joined Becca in a limbering session of

yoga in the Lodge. The afternoon once again mellowed out to lots of time paddling and swimming out on the water to beat the heat, hit another level of mellowness with Salty Snacks, and progressed to a scrumptious chicken dinner. Afterward all gathered down at the Campcraft area for marshmallow roasting and a three-piece band playing Neil Diamond covers on the fly.

To learn more about Family Camp, contact Rich or Mike...



Family Camp

THE BEGINNING OF: COTTAGES AT MCWAIN POINT

By Bobbi Muzik Whichard

In 1915, Helen Sanderson was given property on Long Pond, known today as Lake McWain, by her father Leroy Sanderson. Helen was a great, great grand niece of David McWain, the first settler on McWain Hill. This property is where Helen Sanderson built her summer home.

Durning the summer of 1923, Helen Sanderson and Mary Marshall enlarged Helen's home, which was an original kit home, sold through Sears and Roebuck. The home was shipped via the Grand Trunk Railroad to South Paris, Maine from Chicago. This "new Birch Lodge" was the start of Camp McWain. The original Birch Lodge still stands on the shores of Lake McWain. The first brochures of Camp McWain advertised it as a "Camp for Delicate Girls", girls who needed to gain weight, who were pale, and who tired easily. The delicate girls got plenty of

fresh air with all their outdoor activities, swimming, boating, horseback riding, tennis, hiking, just to mention a few. Helen Sanderson was a nurse, so the girls activities were closely watched, they had daily weigh ins, and were given four meals a day, plus snacks from fresh, locally grown food and the milk came from a nearby dairy farm from a herd of "tuberculin-free tested cows".



CAMP McWain for Girls in 1930's

Then in 1931, Helen Sanderson used the camp for adult vacationers, until her retirement in the late 1930's.

In 1944, Walter and Kathleen Gardell, owners of Camp Waganaki, a boys camp down McWain Hill Road, bought Camp McWain. At that time, with WWII going on, it was difficult for Camps to get single young men as staff and counselors, as most were overseas fighting in the war.

Walter Gardell hired “older married men” to staff Waganaki. Gardell built more cabins, as Camp McWain was then used to house the wives and families of the Waganaki staff. After the war, Camp McWain was converted into a family camp, which the Gardells operated until 1963.

Ruth and Emile Muzik, who were on the Waganaki staff, purchased Camp McWain in 1963 and continued running it for the enjoyment of family groups, having ten cabins to rent out. After 17 years Ruth and Emile Muzik gradually turned over the responsibility and ownership of

still operate C.A.M.P. Bruce’s brother Glenn and his wife Ruth Whichard of Tampa Florida also assist with operating C.A.M.P. They are constantly maintaining and improving C.A.M.P., after all, 90 plus years of long, cold Maine winters does take its toll on buildings. C.A.M.P. still provides great times to families, friends and neighbors, some of those families have now been vacationing with them for over 50 years.

Today, Bobbi and Chuck Whichard are still a working part of C.A.M.P. They can be seen down at the Point visiting and swimming with the guests, eating lobsters on Thursday evenings, out on the local golf courses, and taking part in various Waterford community activities. Bobbi and Chuck winter every year in Florida.

Arlene and Bruce are very busy operating C.A.M.P., they are also both board members of Birch Rock Camp, board members of Honor Flight Maine, and board members of the Lake McWain Association. They can be seen taking active roles in the Waterford community as well.

Jared Whichard, the fourth generation on the Hill, was a BRC camper, a CIT, he has worked in the BRC kitchen, plus this year Jared worked at BRC as the sailing instructor, and assisted with the waterfront and long distance swims. Jared also helps out at BRC after all the campers have left, assisting Charlie McDonald with some of the larger BRC projects. In Jared’s “spare time”, he assists his parents with maintenance and up keep of C.A.M.P., and assists his cousins with the maintenance of Camp McWain. Jared also is the lead volunteer for Honor Flight Maine, and volunteers for Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation, and Veterans No Boundaries up at Sunday River ski resort in Bethel Maine. He has also been know to commute up and down the east coast in his fire engine red Dodge Charger.

The Whichard and Muzik families have now been in the Waterford area for over 80 years, and still loving the picturesque area, the beautiful sunsets, the clear, clean lake and the peacefulness of the tiny village of Waterford Maine!



Arlene, Jared & Bruce Whichard



Chuck, Bobbi, Champ & Bruce Whichard



CAMP McWain for Girls in 1930's



"We thank you for a wonderful day of celebration! It was perfect in every way – the beautiful weather, the warm greetings from campers & staff, the chatter with friends, the marvelous lobster feast, and the majestic sunset campfire on the hill..... all details executed with style and ease! What a tribute to Birch Rock Camp's 90th Anniversary."



10 COMPLETE MAINE WILDERNESS ADVENTURE PROGRAM

With two fantastic leaders in Brian Farley and Chris Cogswell, the Maine Wilderness Adventure trip was an outstanding success. The three-week trip included hiking the Mahoosuc Range & Mt. Katahdin, canoeing on the St. Croix River, whitewater rafting the Kennebec River, sea kayaking off the coast of Maine in Jonesport and wrapping up with rock climbing in Acadia National Park. Congratulations to **Gus Tringale, Jeffery Naipier-Kane, Andrew Chingos, Jack Flynn, Hugh Jacks, John Lucey, Sam Rotman, Gus Von Vogt, Hunter Grimes** and **Matt Straut**.



Maine Wilderness Adventure Program

JUNIOR MAINE GUIDE PROGRAM

This summer Birch Rock was well represented at the Junior Maine Guide testing camp at the Stephens Phillips Preserve in Oquossoc, Maine. Our strong camper candidates **Asa Kaplan** and **Chris Klein** spent five days undergoing testing on their axemanship, canoeing skills, shelter building and encampment skills, cooking and fire building skills (among many other things). Asa passed for certification, this being his second attempt at the notoriously difficult and rigorous standards of the Junior Maine Guide program. Chris looks forward to his own second attempt next season and was grateful for the opportunity and experience.



Chris Klein & Asa Kaplan

WISH LIST

BRC appreciates your contributions to the camp community. Some items we wish for are:

Framed Backpacks (\$100 each)
Pottery Wheel (\$500)
Tennis & Baseballs (\$100)
Outdoor Basketballs (\$25 each)
Tennis Racquets (\$50 each)
3 to 4 Man Tents (\$250)
Kayak Paddles (\$50 per)

Mechanical Bike Stand (\$250)
Bike Tools and Repair (\$100)
Art & Nature Supplies
Used Pick-Up Truck
Commercial Food Mixer
Gator Motor Car
Sunfish Sailboat (\$4000)

Birch Rock Camp is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All donations received are tax-deductible.

Please contact us at birchrock@birchrock.org if you might be able to accommodate any of those wishes.

BIRCH ROCK CAMP ACCEPTS
VISA/MASTERCARD

Thank you!

BIRCH ROCK CAMP

P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

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CAMP

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It's Easy to Help BRC

- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni/prospects with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Send us news to include in The Birch Bark's Alumni News Column.
- Ask us about our 'Wish List' before you have your spring yard sales.
- Update your contact information via www.birchrock.org.

Mark Your Calendars for 2017!



Clean & Pick up Saturday	May 20
BRC Summer Office Opens	June 1
BRC Staff Orientation	June 16
C.I.T. Orientation	June 21
Opening - First Session / Cubs I	June 25
Cubs Camp I - End	July 8
Cubs Camp II	July 9
First Session & Cubs II End	July 22
Opening 2nd Session	July 24
Maine Wilderness Adventure	
Cubs Camp III	
Cubs Camp III - End	August 5
BRC for Boys & MWA - End	August 12
BRC Family Camp	August 17
BRC Family Camp End	August 21