



January 2021

President's Letter

Happy New Year Pinewoods family! Best wishes to all of you. I know that many of you, myself included were not able to travel to Pinewoods in 2020, but I hope that the New Year brings positive changes, and we will be able to be together in the place that is so special to us next summer. A positive outcome this summer was the online ordering platform developed by the Dining Hall Committee. This creative solution enabled our Dining Hall to function effectively and adapt to the new circumstances. Another beneficial development this year was the establishment of a new online billing system which will save on costs and facilitate the financial management of Pinewoods.

When thinking about Pinewoods the words home and family come to mind. For me, as for many of you, it is a place of peace and joy where we gather with those we love. I have a true feeling of home and belonging here. My family's absence from Pinewoods this summer made me keenly aware of this.

Another word that comes to mind when thinking about Pinewoods is history. In our cottage hangs a photograph of George Augustus Harman, my great-great-grandfather. An English immigrant, he built the cottage around 1900. I think about all of the generations that have come to Pinewoods, each facing their own unique challenges. As we celebrate our centennial, I reflect on the fact that our nation was also emerging from a pandemic in 1920, the year of the founding of the Pinewoods Association. I have faith that our Pinewoods family will meet these challenges as previous generations did with creativity, strength and unity.

We are all looking forward with hope to the Summer of 2021, when we can take walks on the path or the trails, enjoy sailing, sunsets, swimming, the picnic after the annual meeting and celebrate our awaited Centennial!

Warm regards,

Joseph “Jody” Harman Foster
President Pinewoods Association 2020-2021

From the Editor...

After such a tumultuous year, we hope this finds all our Pinewoods friends and family staying healthy, safe and sane! Here's to a brighter year ahead!

We were fortunate enough to spend the most time we have ever spent at the cottage this summer. For that we feel so incredibly fortunate as it helped heal our collective psyche.

While at home, our family has taken the time we have had to feed our minds (lots of reading), nourish our bodies (lots of cooking), and tend to our community (helping those in need and giving voice to the voiceless). We've learned a lot about ourselves and the world and are energized in the years ahead to make our world a little better while we are here.

We hope you have found ways to make the most of this difficult year and that you see some silver linings in the cloudy skies.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the trails again this summer.

Until then, take care and be well.

Kristen Larkin

From Ann Taylor...

Happy Holidays to you all!

By now, most of you have seen the Pinewoods Centennial book. I sincerely hope you have enjoyed looking at it as much as I did making it. Creating books is one of my serious vocations, in addition to making paintings. For the past forty-five years, I have created literally dozens of them for both publication as well as private commission,

including family anthologies, autobiographies, photographic travelogues and art exhibitions, among others.

I am writing to offer my services for creating such books, small or large, for you and your families. Feel free to reach out to me via email to discuss what type of book you might like or with any questions you might have. I am available at anntaylorltd@gmail.com.

Happy 2021! I look forward to hearing from you.

Love - Ann

From Howie Schultz...

Longtime University of Kansas professor Elizabeth Schultz is the latest recipient of an annual award given to Douglas County citizens or organizations whose work has advanced peace or justice.



Ecumenical Campus Ministries recently awarded the 2020 Tom and Anne Moore Peace and Justice Award to Schultz, who taught at KU for 34 years until her retirement in 2001. She is well known for her scholarly works on Herman Melville and helped launch the African American Studies department at KU, according to a news release from ECM, a nonprofit interfaith organization that serves KU and the surrounding community. Schultz also helped organize KU's first

Earth Day, a 24-hour long celebration that included poetry, art, acting and Henry David Thoreau readings, according to the release.

According to previous Journal-World reporting, *Schultz helped establish* the annual Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award as well as the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund, which supports local efforts in preservation and environmental education. She was also involved in the planting of numerous *peace poles in Lawrence*. It was a fact which Schultz' nominator, Teresa Wilke, mentioned in her nomination. Wilke called Schultz "tireless in her lifelong pursuit of peace."

From Bitsy Taggart Fitzsimmons...



If we follow the rabbit's advice, there is a decent chance that summer will find Pinewoods operating in a more normal fashion than last summer and we just might get to celebrate our much deserved Centennial!

Stay safe and be well everyone. Draw on the strength that is Pinewoods.

From Curt DeVoe...

One of the benefits of isolating during the pandemic has been spending much more time at Pinewoods – with Covid-19 raging in Indianapolis, we have spent as much time as possible in sparsely populated, and therefore relatively virus free, Roscommon County.

Being at Pinewoods always is a joy, but Lynn and I have really appreciated being there for long periods of time and during the offseason. We have particularly enjoyed walking the trails in the woods, and noting the changes in light, textures, colors, vegetation, mushrooms (LOTS of mushrooms this year), even the different birds seen and heard at different times of the year.

One experience – which we probably would not have seen if we had not spent so much time at Pinewoods this fall – stands out and seems worth reporting to you all. Like many of you, Lynn and I have enjoyed watching the bald eagles that have taken up residence at Pinewoods over the past several years – watching them soar, fish, perch in the tall pines behind the big Taggart cottage, and build and occupy their nest near the tennis courts. But about a month ago, they put on a very special show.

I received a frantic phone call from Ed Babcock, telling me two bald eagles had crashed to the ground just outside our bedroom windows, between our cottage (our “new” one, the former Robinson/Mitchell cottage) and the E.B. Taggart back cottage (the Grampus).

Ed thought the eagles had gotten into something in our trash or gotten tangled in wires or fishing line because they were flopping on the ground, unable to fly away. But he also had seen them locked in flight, crashing through the trees and onto the ground, so we really did not know what was going on. I looked out the window, and there they were, about 8 feet from our window. They weren’t moving, but when I went outside to inspect and approached them, they appeared to be tangled and tied together by their feet – they flopped around a bit but they seemed to be tightly bound and so could not move much and certainly could not fly.



I did not want to get too close (as a good environmental attorney, I know eagles are protected, and it is illegal to harass or touch one – and they’re also really big), so we called the Michigan DNR (actually Lynn figured out you have to call the Roscommon County Sheriff and they dispatch the DNR), and when the officer arrived, he immediately said he thought the eagles probably were mating. He approached the eagles and got much closer than I did, and they quickly separated and flew away.

Jeannie Lawrence thinks the eagles may have been locked in a battle for territory, but from what Lynn and I observed, the two birds were not in any hurry to separate even when I got pretty close to them. Eagles do lock talons in the air and crash to the ground during both mating and territory fights, and they sometimes even injure or kill themselves when they hit the ground or tree branches on the way down.

See this article in the Baltimore Sun:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/features/bs-ae-tangled-bald-eagles-20150127-story.html> (and there’s an even better article with amazing photos if you’re a National Geographic subscriber at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/07/basic-instances-bald-eagle-mating-dance/>).

Either way, it was an incredible and extremely rare sight and a welcome positive moment in an otherwise mostly forgettable year.

From Stephanie Fitzgerald...

2020 started like most any other year. Although the near disappearance of cold and snow, and reports from the other side of the world could have been understood as heralds, we mostly did not choose to heed the warnings. Our plan to spend two weeks in March in Louisiana had been completed; we did not cancel.

A college-sponsored cruise around Spain for September was so enticing that we plunked down our deposit. And flew to New Orleans for all of its history-music-food we had for decades longed to feel. And had a fine time, even attending a famous nightclub to be regaled by a singer who wrote a "Covid-19 Blues" the same day. Then came the great lockdown. We continued to appreciate the outdoors - Louisiana's parks, bayous, zoo and a beach and strolls in numerous municipalities increasingly empty of fellow tourists.



We flew home on almost empty planes, ending all "exotic travel" for the year. In July we drove to Higgins Lake where our beloved Pinewoods had figured out how to run the Dining Hall as a compliant take-out

operation, postpone its Centennial celebrations for a year, and hold the Annual Meeting as a 2-part hybrid. Socializing with old friends on woodland paths is remarkably easy with masks on.



Since returning to New Haven in early August we have visited at least 40 nearby parks and hiking spots we had not walked before, learned how to follow directional signs on the floor of stores, how to greet people we might know if they weren't wearing masks and done what we can to maintain various semblances of normality.



For a while Stephanie sewed masks for an organization that distributes them to front line workers. She has enjoyed trying out new recipes, such as French onion soup made with onions caramelized for hours, and real NY style cheesecake. Her steel band class has resumed via Zoom, and just this month she reconnected with her Nashville high school acquaintances from the 1950's.

Lucy continues her work in the children's room at the public library and Frank continues to catalog new acquisitions at the Institute Library. The "Alaskans", Jessica, Nathan, Lily (16) and Jackson (almost 14) have maintained jobs and schooling, mostly virtually, and numerous outdoor activities as well as their health.

So far so good.

There are some real (i.e. NOT virtual) positives. Volunteering in parks and open-space trail work and clean-up has increased - a positive for both physical fitness and socializing. We have each read a lot of interesting stuff and enjoyed following the adventures of Dr. Anthony Fauci. But we haven't been able to share in-person time and stories with most of you. We hope to pick that up in 2021, as both the Covid virus and the toddler-in-chief are swept off into the sunset.

We wish you a healthy, meaningful and enjoyable New Year.

From Bruce Bishop...

On October 10th, 2020, Taylor Bishop, son of Bruce and Lynn Bishop, married Mackenzie Hamilton, daughter of William and Kelly Hamilton of Berkley, Michigan. The newlyweds are both graduates of Grand Valley State University. They are getting settled into their new home in Holland, Michigan. They look forward to many future Pinewoods experiences.



From Andy Tinkham and Sarah Walz...

After twenty years in an efficient 900 square foot house, we decided to move to a new house this past July. The additional space seemed a necessity as Andy had been working from home and Mac was attending school on-line.

We were loving our new home with its big south-facing windows and lovely mature trees. Then, on August 10, we watched the derecho sweep through and one-by-one destroy our trees.



Four days with no power. A month without internet or cable. Three months before a forester was available to clean up the downed and damaged trees. We are still loving the house and managed to save two-thirds of a pin oak.



Our cat surveying the damage.

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