



December 2014

President's Letter

The temperature has fallen, along with an abundance of snow. Pinewoods is in winter hibernation. Quite a change from "the season". No more sailboat races, long walks in the woods, dockside bagpipe serenades. No more dining hall with this year's Hawaiian night and fabulous 25th anniversary party for Kathy Piehl. One leaves Pinewoods with great memories, memories that bring one back year after year.

The dining hall is a great part of what makes the season "THE SEASON". The meal count has been down for the last few years, a trend we all hope will be reversed. Unfortunately this year was the lowest meal count in decades. Because it was so low, we really need to have everyone stay current with their financial commitment to Pinewoods. The dining hall is not just a place to eat, it is the center of our community. We want to make sure it stays vital for many years to come.

As you get ready for the holiday season, think about Summer 2015 and think about how much you will enjoy Higgins Lake and Pinewoods. For those of you who haven't read her blog, look into MeaghanMundy.com and check out her early essays "Deeply Rooted" and "A Labor of Love" for a look at why we all love the camp so much.

I hope everyone has a joyous Holiday season. We will see you soon Pinewoods.

* If you did not receive an invoice, please contact our accountant, Robin Smith, by email at robin@smithassocmi.com or by phone at 989.348.2811. You can also talk to Taylor Smith if Robin is not available.



From Kathy Piehl...

I want to thank everyone for their contributions to the tip fund. It was very generous overall. Angela has been very busy with her magnets. She just gave the Animal shelter \$57 dollars and is going to a craft sale Dec. 6. She is so excited that people like her work and that she can help the animals. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a glorious New Year. Already looking forward to next summer with some new recipes!

From the Editor...

Thank you all who have sent in news and pics to *Pinewords*. Apologies for any omissions, misspellings or grammatical errors.

Wishing all our Pinewoods family and friends a very happy holiday season and a New Year full of laughter and good health!

Kristen Larkin, EBT Cottage

Loss and Memories

Two life-long Pinewoodsers died recently, ***Sharkey Fink*** and ***John Baumgartel***. We remember them with love and fondness:

From John and Andy Fink for the Fink and Flintermann Families...

It is with tears in our eyes but light in our hearts that we inform you that our spectacular wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher Sharkey Fink died gracefully and peacefully in the early morning of Tuesday, September 16th, after a brief battle with cancer. She passed away with a smile, surrounded by her family.

For all of her nearly 70 years, Higgins Lake and Pinewoods were her heart's true home. We look forward to celebrating her life with you at the Lake next summer.

In the late afternoon, Saturday, July 18th, 2015 before dinner and around the cocktail hour, we plan to celebrate Sharkey's life in and around our pavilion, weather permitting – or if not, then at our cottage.

Of course anyone interested in being there is invited.

So many of us thought we'd be long gone before that force-of-nature even considered leaving the planet. I guess it shows you that certain assumptions in life don't hold much stock.



From Mona Baumgartel...

My brother John Baumgartel, known to many as JB, died on Saturday night September 27th of metastatic (i.e., horrible) melanoma. This

disease overtook his physical body but, we're sure, not his love or your memories of him.

The Memorial (Celebration of Life) for our brother, John Baumgartel, took place on October 25, 2014, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, his home for over 30 years and also the home for the engineering firm he founded many years ago. About 200 people were there, including a few from Pinewoods (Sim Lyons, Leesy Taggart, Beth Schultz, and Tom Cochran).

It was a sad and humorous time, as members of his family and other long-time friends and associates spoke, including his widow Carol, her children, and their grandchildren.

The Memorial was followed by a lively dinner for family members and out-of-town guests.

He was 66 when died, having made his last trip to Pinewoods, which he loved, in June of 2014.

From Carol Baumgartel...

He was...in fact...my hero...in every sense of the word.



From Carol Herndon...

My father, Edward Beverly Herndon III, born in Shreveport, Louisiana on May 10, 1919, died Saturday, Nov 22, 2014, in Silver Spring Maryland. He served in WWII as a Naval Officer, and retired with 20 years of service, to become one of the early main-frame operating system programmers with IBM. He had two very successful careers, before he retired for real, and then ran a volunteer organization for 20 more years.

From Wendy Robinson...

Alissa Dilworth and Miceail Coghlan are pleased to announce the arrival of Declan Robert Coghlan born Aug 13th, 2014. We look forward to introducing Dex to Pinewoods this coming summer!



From Jane Link Ferguson...

She Said Yes!!

Labor Day weekend heralded happy news from the ALT Pavilion down at the lake! Robin Link accepted Ravi Fernando's surprise proposal of marriage while sister Katie and Mom lurked at the top of the runway with champagne, hugs and tears!! A summer 2015 wedding is planned in Florida before the new Mr. and Mrs. start their married life in Charlotte, NC.



and then we celebrated at Spikes!!



From Erik Geupel...

Their expressions and sweat-shirts say it all: "Higgins Lake is WAY better than Paris."



From Bitsy Fitzsimmons...

As some of you know, but many may not, Bob has been diagnosed with lung cancer. We didn't plan to spend our fall this way, but sometimes there are bumps in the road that you never saw coming. He has begun chemotherapy and has three treatments down and three to go ... the last one is November 20th. Side effects are the worst part, and we may be looking at turkey flavored Gatorade for Thanksgiving. I wonder if they make it in sweet potato? But regardless, we are grateful for many things, we are optimistic, we take things one day at a time, and we are already looking forward to Opening Day at the Dining Hall next summer!!

From Sim Lyons...

It's been a period of intense pain and grief, mixed with lots of love and compassion.

Sim returned from a memorial in Santa Fe. It was an incredibly moving experience and some wonderful time with friends and relatives from Pinewoods. There was also a very deep and personal

sense of loss for the brother of the heart that I (Sim) felt during the memorial for "JB". It's tremendously sad that I'll never see him again.

Earlier in the year word of everyone's loss of Sharkey hit very hard, too. There was only one of the kind with Shark. She was always there, for all and any. We'll all miss her and "the Lake" will never be the same.

Today, October 28, 2014, we said our final goodbyes to our loyal, loving and irreplaceable friend "Calvin". Of all his time on this earth I am sure his time at the EBT and Pinewoods were the most joyful. Grief is so very tangible around our place.

We are both looking forward to next summer and some time back at Higgins to move on to a happier place.

We have much to be thankful for this past year: Jerry and Marilyn's visit during their busy vacation to Oregon was a highlight this past spring. We hope for more in the not-distant future.

Time with Mona and John DeBeer this past summer was really wonderful and relaxing. Grandsons Ben and Sage came with Grandpa (Sim) to get some quality sailing experience. They also learned about the famous Higgins "LOW" (Loss Of Wind) when at the farthest end of the West bay. It was a long time getting back to the EBT, just in time for the dinner bell.

That's all for now. Happy Holidays to all!



From Lauris Wade...

Lin Wade was able to fly to Higgins Lake for a quick Fall visit. Caught a spell of rainy wet almost perfectly. Michael Wade and

Katie made it up for a very nice September weekend with Jack and Liz Wade. Killian and Ciaren Wade are now both at the University of Colorado. The empty nest is upon us!!

From Liz Wade...

Both senior Wades tested the ambulance system in Roscommon County (and Traverse for Liz) in September, and have nothing but praises for our medical support system up north. We're both fine for two oldsters, and can report that the weather never improved, that Jean Lawrence is a heroine, as is our precious daughter-in-law Lin who came to take care of Liz and her recovering spine (it had ruptured) as well as to accompany her back to Florida while Jack drove the car back solo.

Both younger Wade families have gone empty nest - actually on the very same day. Ciaren joined Killian at the University of Colorado, and twins Alexis and Aislinn are attending La Lumiere, a small Indiana boarding school. Parents are reporting that the houses have never been so clean or tidy. I suspect, however, that parents are also having to adjust to cooking quite differently, and an awful lot of quiet.

From the Schultz cottage...

Elizabeth Schultz, a professor emeritus of English at Kansas University has become a prolific writer later in life. Many Pinewooders know of her work through the memoir "Shoreline: Seasons at the Lake" recalling her time spent at Higgins.

This year alone she has published three new poetry books. "The Sauntering Eye," "Mrs. Noah Takes the Helm" and "The Quickening".

In response to mention of her work for this article, Elizabeth humbly responded that she would be honored and "I look forward to sharing the poems with friends at Higgins."

Congrats on your success Beth!

From Jane Hoey...

I spent 3 1/2 months in Pinewoods this summer and loved every minute. I was coming and going from my old home, Grosse Pointe, that in some way I still call home....but I was so glad to get back to my new home, San Diego, by the middle of September. Just yesterday, my grandson, Riley said he would love to be in the snow for Christmas, but the airlines seems to price us out of a big family reunion there. To be able to go to the cottage in mid-winter was one of the reason we built that new cottage.

The Cass family and I drove up in a day to Santa Barbara in early October for a west coast celebration of Cousin Sharkey's life. We were so glad we went, and glad to see family and Pinewoods friends who could drive up the coast for that afternoon. There were marvelous remembrances of a remarkable woman. We shall miss her next summer, but her spirit will always be with us.

From Stephanie Fitzgerald...

Frank and I flew to Utah in October and were joined by our Alaska family, Jessica and Nathan, and grand kids, Lily age 10 and Jackson, almost 8. We spent a wonderful five days together being “wowing” at the spectacular scenery, hiking, rafting, and mostly just enjoying our time being together.



The melons were SO delicious!

From Phil Will...

I am writing a blog with a URL of HigginsLakeSliceIntime.Tumblr.com. There is also a public group on Facebook called Higgins Lake Slice in Time. It is dealing with a mix of environmental issues and history. I was at the lake for about a week in early October enjoying the color, attending some meetings, and doing some library research. Mike Taggart and Tony Barnard were around to provide some good company. Tony took me to a couple of nearby fracking sites, something to be aware of.

From John Bennett...

The reason for the unprecedented absence of Bennett's at last July's annual meeting was the wedding of our younger son, Andrew, to Maggie Gray on July 26, in Pearl River, New York. It was a wonderful celebration enjoyed by all who attended. Andrew is employed as a mechanical engineer. Maggie is a sports broadcaster working for Sports Illustrated where she is host of the SI Now webcast. Maggie is very eager to get to the lake, and we are hoping she and Andrew will make it next summer.

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