

May 2022

President's Letter

Happy Spring to all! Spring is a bit late at Pinewoods this year, but the ice melted last weekend while Lynn and I were there and although it was snowing again the day we left, all of the accumulated snow had melted and the ground should stay free of snow now. Ed Babcock is ready to start checking cottages, clearing the properties, and opening things up. If you have any particular wishes or projects for Ed, please let him know – he prioritizes requests based on urgency (plumbing, electrical, structural, etc) but also based on when he receives the request. Among other things, let Ed know if (like me and Lynn) you prefer for him not to clear the front path of pine needles and leaves (which we believe keep the path from eroding and exposing roots and ruts). We noticed last week that the front path and trails are actually pretty smooth and level with the leaves and pine needles that have accumulated since last summer. Think about leaving them there and letting the path build back up after years of erosion from clearing all that material off - and let Ed know your preference.

Update and call to action on the Higgins Lake sewer project: The sewer project is at a crucial stage, and I need your help to make it happen. The sewer board created by the two townships is going to finalize the plan and the area of properties that will be affected (called the Special Assessment District) on May 2 (tomorrow as I write this). That plan will be submitted to each of the townships for their approval in the next few weeks. There is a public hearing on May 23 regarding potential funding that could pay for the entire amount of the capital costs of the project (now estimated at about \$115 million), and I and others have been working with HLPOA, Higgins Lake Foundation, and the sewer board to secure additional grant funding from the State of Michigan. The public hearing on the Special Assessment District will be June 6. The goal is to move the main funding application forward at the May 23 hearing and get the plan approved by June 6, which will help get the full grant funding in place

over the next few months. If this all works out, we will have a permanent and effective solution to continuing degradation of Higgins Lake water quality, and recent evidence of contamination of drinking water wells around the lake, at no cost to us or other properties within the Special Assessment District other than very minor electrical and plumbing connections from our cottages to the tank that will be installed right next to our cottages (which is where the full system begins) and then operation and maintenance charges (basically a user fee) which will be charged to all of the participating properties every six months. Even if we can't get full grant funding, we expect to be able to fund any remaining amounts with long-term, low interest loans, so the worst case capital costs charged to us property owners should be minimal, very likely cheaper than maintaining our existing septic systems. A sewer will be far more protective of drinking water and Higgins Lake, and recent federal and state infrastructure funding will make it cheaper to do that now than at any other time in our lifetimes. To help this happen, I need you to send me an email or give me a call to confirm your family - maybe not every member of your family, but the official "ownership voice" for your cottage - supports this project. I believe every Pinewoods Association property does support the project, but I want to be sure that's correct so I can say that publicly over the next few weeks (the boards of Cottage Grove and Lakeside are doing the same thing). I would appreciate affirmative confirmation, but at a minimum I need to know ASAP if any Pinewoods Association member family does not support the sewer project. If you need more information before you make that determination, please contact me right away. Also, please let me know if you are willing to attend either or both of the two hearings (May 23 and June 6) or to send letters of support (in which case I'll give you a list of when and where to send those). Now is the time, the next several weeks are crucial. Again, contact me with questions.

Now is also a great time to provide any directory updates to Phil Will and any family tree updates to Amy McCreary Smith or Lucy Calvin Skeldon.

Your Pinewoods Board has great news to share on several topics. First, Covid seems to be cooperating - we are planning on normal dining hall operations this summer (see separate update from the dining hall committee and Treasurer Kayden Will). We need your help with that – we were in desperate need of several more dining

hall employees last summer and Kathy reports she still needs people this year. We are looking at recruiting one or more interns from local culinary schools, but we also would like you to think of any family or friends who might be willing to spend their summer at Pinewoods and work at the dining hall. We might even make the dorm/annex available for out of town employees (a room and board deal in addition to the usual compensation). If you know of anyone, please contact me, Kayden Will, Gretchen Stanton, any Dining Hall Committee member, or Kathy Piehl directly.

Second, we will have two new tennis courts (one of which will be lined for two pickleball courts) and a new volleyball court before the end of 2022. We had hoped to have them ready before the dining hall opens in late June and we even announced separately that would happen. But as I was doing the final site walk and project review with the contractor just a few days ago, he mentioned he might need to trim or remove some small trees to clear access for the excavation and paving equipment, and I remembered from the recent Cottage Grove logging operations that there are restrictions on that sort of thing within close proximity to the eagles' nest. I did some research and confirmed the limited tree removal or trimming would be OK - but operation of the heavy excavation and paving equipment is prohibited between December 1 and August 31. So the project is on hold til September 1. However, that will allow all of you to get familiar with the plans and provide comments over the summer. The great news is we have received generous donations for about half the cost of the courts, and for a new swimming and diving raft that will arrive in July. We would love to get some more donations – see Kayden Will's Treasurer's Report for how to do that. Thanks to John Fink for starting the tennis court project years ago, Anne Cass and Amanda Rooth-Geupel for reviving the project and identifying potential contractors, and David Greenleaf for getting the fundraising and budgeting going last year – and to all of you who have donated and pledged support. Every dollar of contributions improves the Association's bottom line, which is healthy but can always use help.

Third, thanks to Lily Fink Harrington and the Centennial Committee, the Centennial Celebration, delayed two years due to Covid, will occur on or about July 30. Lily provides details in a separate item in this Pinewords edition.

Fourth, the installation of the natural gas main line under Old Stage Road is complete. I understand DTE has completed all the requested service connections, but if you are not sure of that, contact DTE.

Finally, Kristen Larkin still is looking for someone to take over future Pinewords editing and publishing duties. Kristen has done a fantastic job for a very long time but she is justifiably ready for a break – and ready to train her successor.

As you can see, lots going on, lots to do, and lots to celebrate! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next several months, especially for the annual meeting and Centennial Celebration at the end of July. Thanks to all of you for coming together, as always, to support the recreational facility projects and to mend and strengthen our common bond with the place we love so much.

Curt DeVoe

President Pinewoods Association 2021-2022

From the Board Treasurer...

The Board is glad to report that Pinewoods finished 2021 in a financially healthy place for our overall operations. We also received over \$32,000 in donations towards the tennis court project, which has allowed us to move forward with this much anticipated recreation facility renovation.

The Board is thrilled by the donations and pledges that Pinewoods members and friends have contributed to this project so far, now totalling over \$50,000 towards a \$114,000 project. We hope to raise an additional \$15,000 in donations to limit what we need to take out of our reserves as we anticipate a year of rising costs and continued uncertainty. If you would like to contribute to this project, you can send your check to Pinewoods Association through Smith & Associates (make note that it is for the tennis court project). Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated!

Additionally, we were very pleased with attendance at the Dining Hall last summer, and we hope to see the tables full again this year. The Dining Hall will open with **dinner on Friday June 24** and will close with **lunch on Sunday August 28**. As costs rise everywhere, our board rates will go up slightly this summer as well, although we have

chosen to keep those increases well below the inflation rate to ease the impact on members and friends.

Board Rates for 2022	Adult	Youth	Child
		<i>9 to 12 yrs</i>	<i>5 to 8 yrs</i>
Breakfast	\$8.65	5.95	4.55
Lunch	10.30	7.35	4.55
Dinner	16.70	12.25	7.85
Total	35.65	25.55	16.95

Please note that one way you can help to keep costs down at the Dining Hall is to notify Kathy Piehl in advance of your arrival and departure. You can email Kathy at kjpiehl60@gmail.com.

A more detailed Treasurer's Report will be provided to Shareholders at this summer's **Annual Meeting July 30**, but we wanted to be sure to share some of this key information before we head into what we hope will be a lively and busy season.

From the Dining Hall Committee...

Last year Kathy and crew did a wonderful job keeping us happy and fed, in spite of the problems that arose. The meal count of 10,546 meals was impressive when you factor in the absence of Wednesday meals. (Our highest annual meal count is 11,400)

When Kathy lost staff, the Pinewoods community rallied. Thanks to the ice cream scoopers and the kids who bussed tables. A special thanks to Kate Eubanks who spent many shifts bussing tables, loading the dishwasher, and organizing the helpers.

Looking to this coming year, we are asking everyone to please stack dishes at the end of the table when finished with your meal. This will save time (and money) for staff. Please do not place dirty dishes on the center tables.

It is important to let Kathy know your arrival/departure dates. Even tentative dates are better than no notice. This will save needless trips to Family Fare for Kathy, saving her time and money.

Let's fill the Dining Hall, set a new meal count record, and celebrate our Centennial.

From Kathy Piehl...

Kathy is looking for a good used laptop for the Pinewoods kitchen. Doesn't need to be anything fancy. The old bulky computer takes up too much room and cords are everywhere. Just looking to update.
Thanks

I am really excited for this summer. Staffing is coming along nicely. It will be so nice to be back to "normal". Can't wait to see everybody!
Love to All

From Duncan Lawrence...

Gypsy Moth Update

It appears that we will have another year of significant Gypsy (Spongy) moth in our woods in 2022. Roscommon County will be spraying some areas this year, but not very much. The PWA board and I considered asking the County to include Pinewoods in its spray area, but decided against it based on advice from experts in the area.

For example, even if you spray....it would be effective for about a week (assuming no rain), while the caterpillars typically emerge over several weeks (warmer areas hatch before others, such as the south and north sides of a house). The good news is there is increasing evidence of natural predation - birds/mammals/insects are eating the egg cases. In addition, a fungus and a virus, both naturally occurring, also can reduce moth populations under the right conditions – and those conditions are looking likely this spring around the time of the moth larvae hatch. So spraying may not be as important this year and hopefully damage to trees will be limited even without the spraying.

For those of us trying to protect oak trees on our property or nearby, we suggest: 1) Removing egg cases on our property by the end of April (Jean Lawrence is actively taking some of this on) and, 2) Wrapping duct tape around tree with grease/vaseline and/or possibly folding over burlap to trap these pests (which then need to be removed regularly into a soapy bucket). See
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhttZXvWJ2k> for example.

For more information on what is going on in Roscommon County, you can check <https://roscommoncounty.net/218/Gypsy-Moth-Program> for the latest information. We are very lucky to have a dedicated team leading control efforts in Roscommon County. If you feel strongly about whether Pinewoods should or should not opt into the Roscommon County spraying program for 2023, please let me or one of the PWA board members know.

From Lily Fink Harrington...

The Pinewoods Centennial Celebration Committee is delighted to announce that IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING! We are so excited to celebrate 100 years (plus a couple...) of lake magic at Pinewoods! Please come together for lunch and an afternoon of fun on the not-yet-refurbished tennis courts (and enjoy the eagles) following the annual meeting on Saturday, July 30th!

If you won't be able to be in camp that weekend, do not despair: there will be other parties, tournaments, and activities throughout the whole season so everyone can participate in the fun!

We have so much to celebrate as a community and we can't wait to raise a glass with you all to a century of Pinewoods - and to the next 100 years!

From Lindsey Phillips...

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Pinewoods Merch is coming to a cottage near you!! We've got t-shirts, hoodies, hats, mugs, flags and something for EVERYBODY!! Tell your family, tell all of your friends!

Looking forward to outfitting everyone this summer with Pinewoods Merchandise!

See y'all real soon!

From Rocky Flintermann...



I run our Farmers Market in Winnetka, IL. Come see us every Saturday 6/4-10/29/22. Love doing this!



Grace and I at Pujol in Mexico City in February. Great trip!



Still walking dogs on Chicago's North Shore. It's a living and I get my exercise.



Grace and my grandson, Ted, at a dog-friendly restaurant in Winnetka. What a good boy!



Bought a cute little farmhouse in Three Oaks, MI last year. Heaven on Earth. Dew drop in on your way to/from O'Hare!!!

From Amy Tinkham & Eric Stromer...

Here is a fun article of our son, Dusty Stromer, grandson of Marilyn (Schirmer) Berling, from the Schirmer/Geupel Cottage.

<https://www.dailynews.com/2022/04/03/daily-news-2022-player-of-the-year-basketball-is-in-dusty-stromers-family-and-its-in-his-blood/>

From Bitsy Taggart Fitzsimmons...

I am sure it was covered, but wearing my Dining Hall Committee hat, I would remind people that it is more important than ever to let Kathy Piehl know as early and as accurately as possible, the first and last meals for everyone in a cottage.

Wearing my Centennial Committee hat, I would remind people that this summer is going to be one of the most fun ever because of all the Centennial surprises we have planned.

Wearing my Cousin hat, I would remind people that Eric Cline and Kasey Mahony are getting married in Pinewoods on September and are hoping to find some campers willing to share bedrooms with well behaved wedding guests.

And finally, wearing my tennis visor, I can't wait to try out the new courts!!

See everyone soon, at the most magical place on earth!!

From Alyssa Taylor Wendt...

My news is that I'm finishing a second Master's degree in Museum Studies at Harvard and opening a museum

called the Museum for Cultural Artifacts (MFCA) in Detroit, Michigan! This nonprofit organization is based on my personal collection of unusual

objects. Our mission is: "The MFCA believes in recognizing the historical narratives of unique and unusual objects to celebrate the beauty and significance

of marginalized cultures. The stewardship of our collections aims to curate selections of artifacts to inspire wonder and to educate visitors about the importance

of objects regardless of their monetary value."



We found a cool old bank from 1928 to house the project and will be starting a fundraising campaign to build it out this fall.

If anyone wants to hear more about this project, they can reach out to me at: alyssataylorwendt@gmail.com.

From Jane Hoey...

I was just settling into San Diego's spring, when I was diagnosed with COVID! I was experiencing what I thought was allergy symptoms...scratchy throat, slight cough and drippy nose. Daughter Anne reported she had the same mild symptoms, and suggested we take a Covid test. We both tested positive. Ugh!



Anne moved into my apartment so as not to expose the rest of the Cass family. We settled into isolation, and enjoyed the 10 days

together....lots of laughs, good TV shows, and hours of tennis tournaments played in Miami on the Tennis Channel.....dreaming of the new courts coming to PWA. Anne went home after 10 days of isolation, and I headed out to the grocery store.

Now I am ready for the next couple of months. In late April I head to Seattle to visit son John and family for a week. Nothing like being with 2 - 8 year old twin boys for good fun and laughs. Then June 1 I head to Aurora, N.Y. on Lake Cayuga for my Wells College 60th reunion! And around June 20th I fly to sister Mary's to drive to the lake for the opening of the PWA Dining Hall and family reunions with all. Summer can't come soon enough.

Looking forward to seeing dear Pinewoods friends starting in late June.

From Louise B. Bennett...

We continue to enjoy our lives at Kendal, as COVID-related restrictions decrease, and we can have dinner all together with our friends in our central dining hall. Spring is "popping out all over", as they used to say in "Oklahoma" !

We look forward to seeing everyone at Higgins this summer.



Charlie, oldest child of our son, Tim, and his wife Lauren, on the first day of T-ball practice



Our son, Andrew,
with his wife
Maggie Gray and
their son, Lucas



John reading to
Lucas

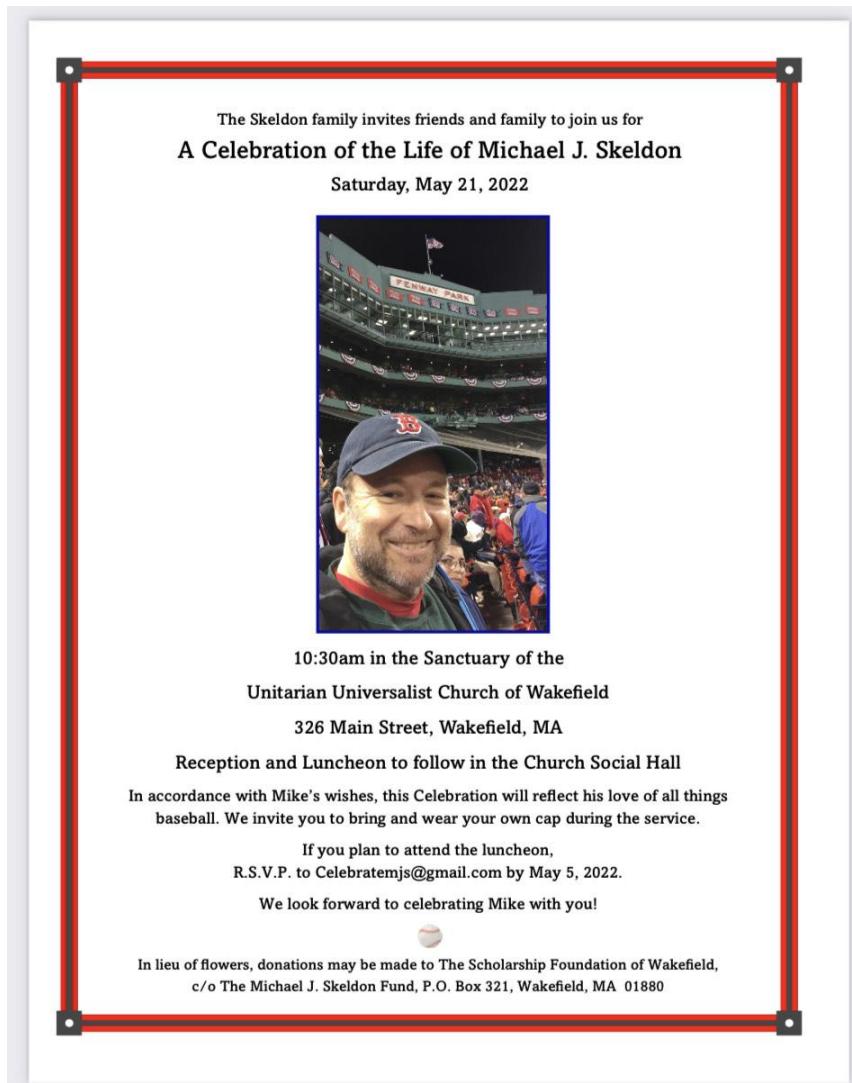


John playing on the floor with left to right, Max, Charlie, and Ivy, the
children of Tim and Lauren

From Coe Hoeksema...

Now that both Craig and I are both working remotely, we're looking forward to a long stretch at Higgins this summer (from late June through July). While we'll be spending most of our workdays at the computer, at least Owen, Luca, Eliot and their cousins can run/toddle around together outside—and we don't have to cook! Counting down the days...

From Lucy Skeldon...



From John and Liz Wade...

It's been a musical chairs month for many of the Wades. Where to start? Jack and Liz decided that the senior living arrangement wasn't working - huge staffing problems - so they said goodbye to some wonderful people and headed southeast to be near Trevor and Jacquie in Ocala, Florida. In the meantime, Trevor and Jacquie are building a new home in the same complex, sold their house and are temporarily occupying her parents home, also in Stone Creek. So the two couples are within two miles of each other, reassuring to parents, with younger Wades being wonderful about checking in on their elders every now and then - and good company for walks and learning about the community.

In the meantime Lauris and Lin have just left Hawaii to move to Scottsdale, Arizona where Lauris is joining a new-t-him radiology firm and will be close to his best friend of many years.

We still boast one of the most adorable great grandchildren at Pinewoods, and are looking forward to a second one in early Fall. All's going well so far. No, I won't tell what it is.

We love our new digs and are meeting lots of nice people. Being on the edge of Stone Creek, we reside next to farmland and find ourselves constantly amused by the antics of a variety of cows - male, female and calves.

Not too bad for some old folks.

From Terry Gaus...

I am delighted to announce the birth of my two newest granddaughters: Rosalie Yvonne Gaus born in September 2021 to Edward Gaus and Michelle Kautz, and Colette (Coco) Renee Feuer born in December 2021 to Annie Gaus and Ben Feuer. They all live in San Francisco and look forward to visiting Pinewoods in the future!

From Mark Morgan...

Beth Sinclair & Mark Morgan are overjoyed to announce that on 2/2/22 our daughter Emily married Ian Doubleday in a small ceremony at our house. They followed up 3 weeks later with a public

vows ceremony at the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden with parents present.





They are currently in the process of moving to Pittsburgh PA where, in addition to being only 4 hours from Emily's parents in the DC area, they are 4 hours closer to the lake.



From Stephanie Fitzgerald

Frank Cochran and I spent two weeks in late March touring Alabama. We visited Civil Rights sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma and Tuskegee before heading south to the Gulf Coast. Our first real getaway since the beginning of Covid. We enjoyed new people, food, neighborhoods and nature!



2021-2022 Pinewoods Leadership
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