

# The Onaway Circle

Spring



Since 1911

2022



# Love and Legacy for Newfound

Martha Twombly, *Skytops 1964*

*Board Member, Newfound Lakes Region Association and Lakes Region Conservation*



I grew up every summer looking straight across Newfound Lake to Camp Onaway. My grandfather had built a rustic log cabin on a little hill with tall pines in Hebron, called “Owls Head” in 1929. My mother and her sister grew up there, my family and siblings did too, and now my children and grandchildren and all the rest of the extended family still cherish it. It was always a place to be in the wild: no TV, radios or phones, heating with wood, working and playing outside, hiking near and far, spending time at the beach for a picnic lunch and boating, playing board games or bridge in the evenings. My love for the great outdoors began at Owls Head.

So at twelve, I came to Onaway, leaving my younger siblings behind and looking forward to spending time with peers all around my age! It was easy for me to feel at home because camp had a similar rustic character with cabins nestled in groups among the huge pine trees that I grew up with. But it was also a world of difference - with a rigid structure and very full days of organized activities. It took me a bit to adjust, but it wasn't long before I knew so many girls and counselors, and was swept away on amazing adventures.

Camp was a real turning point for me as it may be for many young teens. I really had to learn to trust myself, speak for myself, and become proactive in a collaborative way. These lessons gave me the foundation for a circuitous life ahead and facing the many challenges of pursuing a variety of careers. From Flagstaff to Boston, raising two daughters in Vermont, doing environmental work on Cape Cod, I finally came full circle back to Newfound Lake, as many campers have done!

As soon as I returned to the Newfound area full-time in 2006, I began working with the Newfound Lake Region

Association as the program manager. My parents, who retired to Hebron in 1980, had been very active with the Association, and I knew many of their friends and members during the years I raised my kids and spent summers at Owls Head. This role put me at the hub of organizing volunteers for the many programs offered, along with creating relationships with the Camps on the lake for activities such as water quality testing and lake ecosystem education.

But land conservation was a passion for me – protecting land to protect water quality in the streams and the lake, protecting important wildlife habitats, helping working forests and farms continue in the rural economy, and maybe most importantly, helping families keep generations-held land in their family. In these times of surging development and rising taxes, many families were faced with the possibility of having to subdivide and sell their land.

I organized a volunteer task force outside of my job at the NLRA to look at options for increasing the pace of land conservation in the Newfound region. Several people who may be familiar to you (Dick Beyer, Vin Broderick, and Roger Laroche), were part of this group, along with community members from around the lake, and representatives from two land trusts. We didn't really want to create another non-profit, so we came up with a unique idea: create a partnership with three principal partners: the Newfound Lake Region Association, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (the regional land trust which wanted to expand into the Newfound region), and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (a state-wide land trust which had done work in the Newfound watershed). Voila: the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership was formed in 2009, and has been working quietly in the background (especially during Covid) ever since. The NLCP

has been involved in the permanent conservation of over 5,000 acres of land in the Newfound watershed! There have been several landmark events along the way:

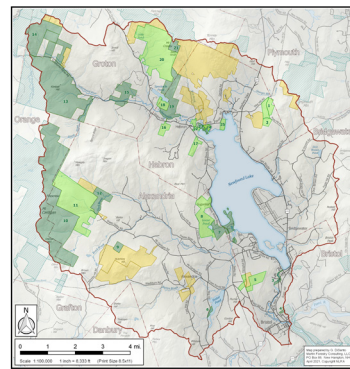
- In 2011, Onaway Alumna Helen Gemmill (Skytops 1992) established the John Gemmill Newfound Fund in memory of her father, former Camp Pasquaney Director and land conservationist. This endowment fund is available to assist landowners with “transaction” costs that come about in readying a property for conservation, such as surveys, appraisals, legal fees, and stewardship funds.

- Then in 2016, the Nature Conservancy became the fourth principal partner when they conserved 3,000 acres of land in Groton.

- Last year, in memory of my parents, Phil and Betsy Twombly, I created a “sister” fund to the John Gemmill Fund: The Forever Newfound Land Conservation Fund. My parents were devoted to the Newfound area, avid recreationists, supporters of the NLRA, fully involved in the communities, and very inspirational to everyone who knew them for their generosity and participation. This endowment fund will provide grants that can be used toward the purchase costs of land or conservation easements, in an effort to increase our ability to better balance the conservation of land with development.

Now, I am in over my head with land conservation and board work. I serve on the boards of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, the Newfound Lake Region Association, the Hebron Conservation Commission, and am the coordinator for the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership committee. Lots of related alphabet soup, and so rewarding! I am so grateful to be working in this beautiful area with so many incredible people.

Many families (and former campers) in the region share this inter-generational experience of the Newfound way of life - when you grow up living in the outdoors, you form an incredible attachment to the environment around you – the landscapes, the rivers and lakes, the forests. And many summer camp families have happily discovered this oasis and become first-generation Newfound Lake lovers. Camp Onaway became another family to me, and it is so gratifying to be living nearby and seeing all the camps in our region – Pasquaney, Onaway, Mowglis, Mayhew, Circle, Wicosuta, Berea – instill an appreciation of people and environment - and thrive with each summer’s consortium of campers.



## For Community to Thrive, Relationships are Key

*Byline*

When I opened the email from Onaway asking about Labor of Love and community engagement, I instantly thought about the work my organization, River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition (RVHCC), has been doing for the past year. In January of 2021, a concerned older adult stopped me one day and asked if I was aware that a food pantry in our community had closed due to the pandemic. It was natural for community members to come to me or my staff about food since we focused on addressing food insecurity in our rural communities in northern Oxford County in western Maine. Our mission, as an organization, is to address health disparities and improve health and wellness in our region so that members can thrive and lead healthy, productive lives. RVHCC serves all demographics but focuses on low-income, disadvantaged individuals who have limited or no other support services in place.

The Covid-19 pandemic shifted our priorities. Two years ago, we turned one of our offices into a food closet and were putting together 3-day emergency food boxes for low-income families and older adults. We hosted several USDA Farm to Family food distributions, handing out 1200 boxes of free food every month. We had families lined up for miles waiting for a 30 lb. box of produce, meat, and milk. In a rural community with a high poverty rate, these food distributions were crucial for families during the height of the pandemic.

So, when the concerned older adult told us about the food pantry closing, we knew it would be a problem. As a small non-profit organization, this task seemed overwhelming. A food pantry requires space which we didn't have. A pantry required a full team of volunteers or staff to run it and we didn't have the capacity to do that. What we had were partners. We had members of the community that cared and wanted to help.

RVHCC formed a food pantry committee and brought in key champions in the community that could help start a conversation about how to open a food pantry. RVHCC partnered with the local catholic church that had an old school building



that was for sale and the church offered to take it off the market so the space could be used for a food pantry. Our organization applied for an AmeriCorps Vista member for the year to help us manage and run the pantry. We became a partner of the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Maine so we could purchase bulk food at a discounted price and be a licensed food pantry in the state.

In October 2021, we officially opened the Old School Food Pantry in Rumford, ME. We have served over 175 families (700 individuals) in our community in the 5 months that we have been open. We have recruited 15 volunteers that come every week to help distribute food with our AmeriCorps Vista member. We have received 7,000 lbs. of fresh produce (vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, bread) as donations from Walmart and Hannaford as well as essential items like diapers and household products.

When I think back almost a year and a half ago would I have ever envisioned that our organization would be operating a food pantry? No, not at all. When I think about what it took to make it all happen, it was a lot of community engagement. I honestly believe the skills I learned at camp helped me be who I am today. Onaway taught me how to be a community member. We don't think about it when we are campers but these small organizing skills like working with your cabinmate to keep the cabin cleaned, learning to communicate clearly with your canoeing partner so you don't run into the dock doing dock landings, or working together doing camp duties, all help foster communication and community. I also believe learning to listen and be patient with fellow campers plays a huge role in the work I do now. I am constantly building relationships and developing partnerships with new organizations to help our community thrive. Relationships are key. I am also thankful for my time at Onaway for giving me the skills and instilling in me the desire to give back and help others. I am proud of the work my organization has done this past year.



## Milk Day at the Community Nursery in Wamba

*Alison Von Clemm Curtis, Aide 1953*

*Project Director and Fundraiser*

*(Compiled by Kath Keen)*

Throughout the summer, the campers and counselors contribute to their own philanthropic fund called The Girls of Onaway, a tradition that began in Director Miss Stiles' era. Proceeds from the Onaway Fair, chapel collections, and money saved from their weekly GOOD (Girls of Onaway Donation) meals are deposited into this special fund. At the end of the summer, the girls decide how the money is to be donated. The girls make a point to give locally, domestically, and globally. One of the organizations that the girls have chosen to support is the Watoto Trust in Kenya. Watoto means children in Kiswahili and they help Kenyan children reach their potential and escape the cycle of poverty. Onaway's connection with the Watoto Trust and the hospital in Wamba began in the 1980s, thanks to alumna Alison Von Clemm Curtis.

Alison sent updates this year from the Community Bases Project in Wamba and many photos so Onaway girls can see where their money is going! Alison reports that this project helps the poorest children get a better start to their early years by providing pre-schooling and nutritional support. The Girls of Onaway donations helped these children get milk, and milk day is their favorite day! They receive a carton of milk each week - this is the most precious item for the children as their families no longer have cows of their own. Alison says that this project has been a huge success and they are very thankful for the continued support of the Onaway girls.

These photos show the gratitude and happiness these children have for receiving their milk and other necessities. Thank you, Girls of Onaway!



Above: Alison, departing after delivering Onaway donation, with a grateful grandmother who has 4 grandchildren to care for who attend the Early Childhood Development Center.

## Labors of Love



*Camp Duties: Lessons for Life and Leadership (from Fall 2021 Edition)*

**C**ivic Engagement is in the fabric of Onaway. In the Fall 2021 *Onaway Circle* newsletter, Ms. Pendergast's "Camp Duties" story illustrated one of the many ways campers take responsibility for their community, experience the joy of teamwork, and learn to lead. Civic engagement can involve a wide range of political and non-political activities including voting, volunteering, and participating in group activities like community gardens and food banks. The American Psychological Association uses this definition of civic engagement and describes its value to both the community and the mental health of the individual:

"Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic engagement can take many forms, from individual voluntarism to or-

ganizational involvement to electoral participation... Civic engagement encompasses a range of specific activities such as working in a soup kitchen, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official or voting."

The pandemic certainly made it more difficult to volunteer or join a group, but communities continued to find new ways to care for their citizens. Community involvement, whether volunteer or paid, can reduce feelings of isolation and hopelessness. Many people are helping neighbors or working for organizations that serve communities, near or far. Every act of kindness makes a difference. These are labors of love. When we asked Onaway Alumnae how they are engaged in their communities, here is what we learned:

### 1950s

#### *Caroline Morgan Southall*

I am an active member of a summer camp scholarship program which works with the schools and families to help close to 100 local children go to day and residential camps every summer.

### 1960s

#### *Louise Stengel Barton*

I am a nurse volunteer with the Marin (CA) Medical Reserve Corps. As such, I give Covid 19 vaccinations in public health clinics within Marin County where I live. It feels great to "give back"

to my community using my nursing skills. Marin County has a vaccination rate of over 90%, largely due to the initiatives and professionalism of Public Health. We vaccinate both pediatric and adult clients, distribute testing kit supplies and educate the public based on the most recent science. MMRC also acts as backup staffing for natural emergencies such as wildfires, helping people who have been displaced from their homes and who need to seek shelter. It has been very rewarding and has helped me to get to know my community as well.

#### *Mary Park DeSalvo*

I am working as a volunteer helping an Afghan family settle in the Seacoast Region of NH. I credit Onaway with teaching me at an early age to help those in need, perhaps a young camper struggling to master a new skill, to be a friend to those who are new, such as a camper arriving at camp for her first summer and to respect and value the gifts that we all bring to the table.

#### *Liz Porter Hawkins*

I am part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our team creates shawls that go to people who are ill, have lost a loved one, or are celebrating the birth of a newborn.

## ALUMNAE VOICES

Knitting and crocheting the shawls is a great way to share kindness and caring.

### *Rosemary Moukad*

I help people with English, coach disabled kids at tennis, help young people and law students with resumes and interview tips, and other random volunteer opportunities.

### *Stephanie Smith*

The Natural Resources Council of Maine Board has been a tremendous opportunity for me to be part of preserving the “nature” of Maine. On a local level, I am part of a citizen’s grass roots effort to restore the Megunticook River in Camden, Maine, working to take out relic dams for the fish, flood resiliency and more. Serving on the Knox County Homeless Coalition Board of Directors is critical for those without housing and skills to maintain housing. As the housing crisis here is critical I launched a community group working to establish a housing trust in the Mid-coast of Maine. Any alumni connected to that area, please connect with me.

## !! WANTED !!

**Do you have a catalog from any of these Onaway summers?**

- Summer of 1993  
(cover says 1993/1994)
- Summer of 1982
- ANY catalogs prior to 1974

If you are willing to donate it to Onaway, please email Meredith at [mfunston@camponaway.org](mailto:mfunston@camponaway.org).

## 1970s



### *Candace Fuchs*

I am a leader at Old Lyme Rowing Association. Kids ages 12 to 70 can enjoy skimming across beautiful Rogers Lake under their own power, or joined with the power of friends. Cost is no impediment; we will make it happen, for friends we are yet to meet.

### *Meredith Funston*

My Onaway work is truly a labor of love and it’s gratifying to help sustain such an important organization and to help alumnae stay connected; I’m a board member for the Concord Chorale, a chorus I sing with; And recently, I joined the Kent Street Coalition, a New Hampshire grassroots organization of citizens interested in civic engagement. All of these things keep me feeling useful and connected to wonderful communities of people with shared values and interests.

### *Jane Luzzo*

I retired from teaching after 35 years in June 2020. I’m a volunteer at Fur-rever Friends Cat Shelter -Pet Smart Charities; Driver for Meals on Wheels; Regular blood donor; Story time reader at the local library.

### *Betsy Haggett Moschella*

I am part of the community case review panel for the Department of Children

and Family Services of western MA. Additionally I am a mentor to a now 24 year old young woman via Friends of Children, a program that supports young adults post Foster Care (2019-present).

### *Susan Riley*

Cleaning up trash in our local river. We always bring garbage bags when we kayak to collect the trash. I also volunteer to sit and hold babies overnight who are withdrawing from drugs they were exposed to in utero as part of our “eat, sleep console” program at work.

## 1980s

### *Samantha Blanchard*

I volunteer teaching dance for a grant school in Cocoa, FL. Cambridge Elementary School is a grant school of low income and brown and black majority students. They have been awesome and grateful for the opportunity for dance education.

## 1990s

### *Cristi Gunther Head*

I regularly do pro bono legal work for Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. Onaway taught me to see beyond my own experiences and seek out ways to help others using my individual skillset, so I use my law degree to advocate for low-income Virginians on a volunteer basis. I also serve on the PTA of my kids’ school and teach Sunday school because, just like Camp Duties, I know we all need to do our part to help our communities thrive!



### *Kata Nadas*

Just when the pandemic started to calm down, another crisis has hit Hungary. We share a border with Ukraine, and since the war started there in the past month, about 400,000 refugees entered the country, mainly women, kids, and the elderly as their men are fighting a war. Most of them use Hungary as a gateway to other European countries like Austria, Germany, or Switzerland, but many of these families are staying here, hoping they can return to their homes and husbands soon. Just like many friends and NGOs around us, my husband and I are also trying to help the refugees. We have a daughter who turned 1 in January, so we very much understand the needs of families with little children. We are collecting clothes, toys, and strollers from the neighbourhood and taking them to actual families or collection points. We have “adopt-

ed” a few families this way, who found accommodation through friends of ours and we are helping them with their everyday needs or with anything else they might need. It is very emotional to be so close to war and to see these mothers with their kids with hope in their eyes. Some of the mothers are expecting to give birth while fleeing from their homes. This makes me constantly think that it could be easily me and my family if we had lived just a few hundred miles from here on the “wrong side” of the border. My grandparents were Holocaust survivors and I know a few people helped them when they returned from the concentration camps/war so I cannot imagine another way other than helping these people who are in need now. This mural photo, taken 4 years ago, seems more relevant than ever.

## 2000s



### *Dresden Graff*

I've joined the Association of Professional Dog Trainers DEI team and just proposed a “Diversity in Dog Training” Scholarship to the board.



### *Kelly Smith McElroy*

As an online business owner, my community is world wide. Lately I've been working with 'Black Girls Heal' and helping establish this new brand, 'BW Cultivates', that both specialize in helping black women on their self healing journey. I am making efforts to begin the healing through working alongside black owned businesses to close rifts in society and people's lives so we can all move forward towards a brighter future. I've been proud to use my design business to boost the outreach of powerful brands like these.

## ALUMNAE VOICES

### *Edith Mudge*

I volunteer as a board member & communications director of the Alliance for Women Film Composers, where I help spread the word about opportunities for women & marginalized people in media music. Onaway taught me the power of providing opportunities for girls and women to gain confidence in their abilities, as well as the importance of taking initiative when you see a need you can fulfill. I'm so glad that I can welcome underserved people into my warm community of composers.

### *Catherine Osthoff*

My partner and I both help our elderly downstairs neighbor clear her car off after storms. I once found her trying to get ice off her car with a kitchen knife! Always happy to help with my scraper. I work for a company that sells compostable and eco-friendly food packaging.



### *Jennifer Rawson*

I work at a store in the community that sells makeup and skincare. We help people in the community everyday with their skincare and makeup needs. And camp chores came in handy when having to clean the store.

### *Isabel Ruane O'Connor*

Over the course of the pandemic, I have made soup for and built friendships with people experiencing homelessness in a nearby town. Building these relationships has also opened me to making connections with my own neighbors experiencing homelessness. The Onaway Morning Prayer is a good guide for how to build these friendships!

## 2010s

### *Jane McKelvy*

I have been volunteering at a free health clinic for uninsured patients at my medical school. I help answer the phones and schedule appointments for patients. It has been very rewarding!

### *Carter Ramquist*

I recently started a new job with a legal aid group here in Maine. Specifically, I am doing work with housing and evictions across the state. It has been an amazing opportunity to work in my community to help prevent homelessness and protect tenants' rights. Onaway helped instill in me how much good a safe and nurturing environment can do for a person's growth and development - having housing is just one step in that process.

### *Erin Vetter*

I'm working in our Center for Student Involvement putting on programs for fellow students. Onaway experiences taught me to be considerate and kind, so I'm trying to be as inclusive as I can and include representation for many different identities.

# LinkedIn

### *Join our LinkedIn Group - "Camp Onaway Alumnae and Families"*

Many of you know we have a Camp Onaway business page on LinkedIn, but did you know that we also have a private group page? "Camp Onaway Alumnae and Families" is a great place for college students, recent graduates, and all alumnae and family members to connect - or reconnect - and network with people in an industry or company of interest. But it's only as useful as it is robust! So next time you are online, please take a minute and join our group!

## Message from the Director

*Barrie Pendergast*

**T**he countdown to camp is on! Camp is nearly full with over 30 new campers excited to start their first summer at Onaway. Those of us lucky enough to attend Onaway can surely remember that combination of excitement, nerves, and anticipation that comes in the weeks leading up to camp. It's a true honor for me, the staff, and the returning campers to welcome the new campers each summer.

Our goal this summer is to return to a "normal" Onaway summer while still limiting the ability of COVID-19 to disrupt camp life. I'm grateful to the staff and families who will do their part in the days leading up to camp to make Opening Day a success. Thankfully, we know what it takes to make camp safe and cannot wait to have the campers back with us enjoying the friendships, self-discovery, and simplicity of an Onaway summer. The lake and the hills are calling!

Since the fall, the staff have made the most of the off-season months. Assistant Director Merry Richter made numerous improvements to our council and aide training programs. She has been my right hand in the hiring of over 45 staff members, and she is turning her attention now to welcoming our new families. While we like to limit our screen time, Zoom has become a key communication tool for staff and families who come from all over the country and abroad.

Programmatically, we are excited to extend Crew to our Woodchuck activity group. For several years, younger

campers have been requesting to learn to row. Last summer, our extraordinary scheduler, Miss Becca Supple, created three different schedules to accommodate our cohorting needs. We discovered ways to be creative and meet the campers interests without sacrificing our philosophy that campers participate in a wide array of activities. With one "new to Onaway" double and two single boats, we are excited to see the Woodchucks rowing this summer.

After several summers of bringing nutritious home-cooked meals to Onaway, Mrs. Nancy Gerhts stepped back from a full-time chef position, but thankfully she will stop periodically this summer. Her salad dressings, soups, and hummus are legendary! We are excited to welcome the team from Genuine Foods to Onaway to pick up the reins. We appreciate that their goal - to deliver fresh, high-quality, culturally-relevant foodservice to their communities - is in line with our mission. Thank you to Alden Cadwell, Pasquaney alumnus, for fostering this partnership!

No moss ever grows under the feet

of our talented property manager, Mr. Gene Roniker. This season, he has overseen the completion of two new staff cabins, new porches on the shell house for campers to stash their shoes and towels (no more tripping hazards on the beach), new porches by the tagboard (no more stubbed toes on cement!), two clay tennis court upgrades, a new back deck for the Woodshop, two new cabins and toilet facilities in Bunker Junior, one rowboat restoration, and built 20 new wooden bedframes for campers. He's nothing short of amazing!

Thank you to all the alumnae, families, and friends who help to make a summer at Onaway possible. We are deeply grateful and we hope our communications give you a glimpse into what your support actually does and brings to mind your own joys and memories of summers at Onaway.



*Onaway Trustees toured the camp during their April board meeting weekend. When they return for their summer meeting, these new crew shell house porches will be painted Onaway Brown and blend into the landscape.*



# Onaway's Archives at Harvard's Schlesinger Library

*Lucy Mahaffey  
Skytops 1977  
Onaway Trustee*

If you've joined the Onaway community in the last twelve years or so, you may not have heard that Onaway's archives reside at the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. Or you may have noticed a passing reference to this fact, and wondered what it could possibly mean – what are Onaway's "archives" exactly, anyway, and how did they end up in Cambridge? I'm going to explain, but I'm going to start with something that will seem like a tangent.

In the summer of 1935, the Nature counselor at Onaway led the Chippies on a walk in the woods and allowed each camper to snip the frond of a fern carefully from its stem. As a camper from the era described it, "In nature we pressed leaves... using adhesive tape because scotch tape [hadn't been invented yet]. These were pasted on pieces of paper with two holes, and tied together with string or wool to make a book."

Throughout that summer, as in many summers before and after that year, the Chippies and all the other activity groups collected and pressed ferns and flowers, sketched insects and mushrooms, learned the names of rocks and stars, and wrote poems and songs about nature. At the end of the summer the Chippies suggested to the Nature counselor that the whole camp create a special handmade book filled with examples of these specimens, drawings, and writings, which they all presented as a gift to Mrs. Hollister, then the director of camp.

Mrs. Hollister kept the book and eventually, it ended up tucked away, like so many other bits of Onaway history, in one of many boxes handed down from one director to the next. Or perhaps it ended up in one of the "rusted filing cabinets with half-chewed documents in the basement of the Margaret Stiles Dining Hall" that Helen Stokes Greven described finding in the early 2000s, while conducting research for her 2011 history of Onaway, "Let Her Strong and Ageless Be."

Some of you may remember reading an article in the Spring 2005 Onaway newsletter where Helen explained what happened next. When she described her research to a friend who worked at the Schlesinger Library (a special collection at Harvard devoted to the history of women in the United States), the friend offered to search the archives there for materials on girls' summer camps. To her surprise, she found very



*Photo of the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University*



**The Camp Onaway History,** entitled *Let Her Strong and Ageless Be: Camp*

*Onaway's First 100 Years*, was researched and written by the late alumna and camp historian Helen Stokes Greven, and edited by alumna, Susan Jackson. It is the story of a camp that has never lost sight of its purpose and always remained true to its highest ideals.

The author refers to the book as a backpack of memories and invites all curious readers to join her on a journey rich with stories, artifacts, and many, many wonderful photographs. It is a delightful read for anyone who ever attended a summer camp.

For more information and to order the book, visit the Camp Onaway website (See History of Onaway under About Us) or call the office at 610-525-0676.

## ONAWAY HISTORY

little. Several years later, the friend asked Helen whether Onaway might be interested in donating its archives to the Schlesinger, which, perhaps prompted by this episode, was now actively seeking to add materials from girls' summer camps to their collection. The library hosted a special exhibit on girls' camps in 2006, which included some materials from Onaway.

I spoke to Kathy Broderick Baird, who was the chair of the board of trustees during the decision to donate the archive, and she told me something that I thought the whole Onaway community would like to hear. Miss Frost, a counselor from Onaway's earliest days and the camp's second director, was a cousin of Kathy's grandfather – that was the connection that led Broderick girls, Kathy, Mary, and Ellen, to Onaway, and they all grew up seeing Miss Frost regularly. Kathy explained that Miss Frost lived in Arlington, MA, just outside of Boston, and loved to come into Harvard Square to visit the Schlesinger Library and meet for tea and pastries at a place on Brattle Street she called the Blacksmith Shop. This sounds simply like a charming story but the library actually held great significance for her. The Schlesinger began as a collection of papers on the women's suffrage movement, an extremely important cause to Miss Frost. Born in 1885, she was 35 years old when women finally won the right to vote in this country in 1920. So when Kathy heard Helen's proposal to donate Onaway's archives to this place that was so special to someone so central to Onaway, she felt that it was a perfect fit and that Miss Frost herself would have been delighted.

Onaway's board agreed and in the spring of 2007, a group of trustees gathered at the home of then-director Anne Conolly to wade through the dozens of boxes that had accumulated over the years. Anne described the experience in the Spring 2007 camp newsletter



Early 1930s



Early 1930s Nature Barn



Late 1930s Bunker Hill, Youngest Campers



Early 1930s Council, Miss Frost 4th from right in front row



Early 1930s Mrs. Hollister and Council

## ONAWAY HISTORY



and noted that those who participated in the sifting and sorting came away with a deep appreciation for all of the work that had gone into building and sustaining the camp over the decades. In the end, ten boxes and crates were rescued from the threats of mold and mice, stashed in the back of Kathy's car, and transported to Cambridge. More has been added since that initial deposit, and we will continue to send new materials periodically.

In 2010, the agreement between Onaway and the Schlesinger Library was finalized with a formal Deed of Gift. This detailed agreement was the result of many discussions among the camp's trustees, who spent hours carefully considering which of the donated documents should be restricted to future access. Anything that the trustees felt might reveal something too personal was placed under a 50 or 75-year restriction. Other items require a researcher to receive the permission of the board of trustees before accessing the files. (Restrictions like these are common for this sort of donation.) Kathy told me that the group making these decisions may have restricted more than was necessary, but they felt that it was important to protect people's privacy.

In November of 2010 the Schlesinger wrote to thank Onaway for confirming the gift, describing how our archive "will speak to many issues, reflect interesting times, and document the history (thus far) of this wonderful camp for girls. It will also open windows onto many aspects of women's lives, such as girlhood, leisure activities, sports, girls' writing, handcrafts, etc., which is the Library's mission." While it began as a repository for documents related to women's suffrage and other 19th-century reform movements, the Schlesinger has grown to hold thousands of manuscripts, photographs, documents, and other artifacts related to every aspect of the lives of women in the United States. Significant holdings include the archives of the National Organization for Women and the papers of Julia Child, Helen Keller, Amelia Earhart, and Angela Davis. Although it's part of Harvard, the Schlesinger is open to the public, but this doesn't mean we can just drop in anytime to look at old camp photos. The Onaway materials are actually kept in an off-site storage area that used to be a swimming pool, and while anyone may request research access, you need to arrange it in advance.

In the meantime you can go to the library's website and see this summary of our archive:

"Collection includes directors' files documenting the management of the camp; brochures; songbooks; photographs;

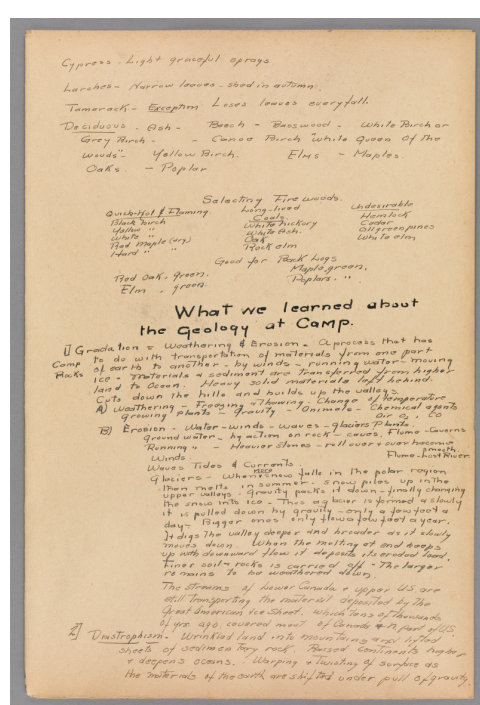
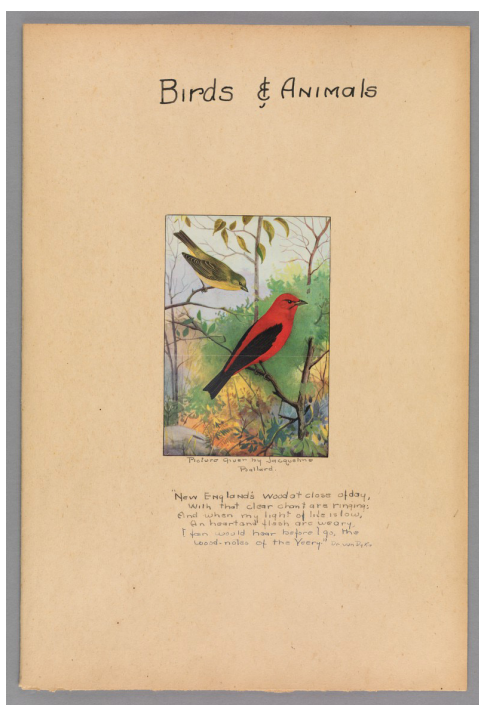
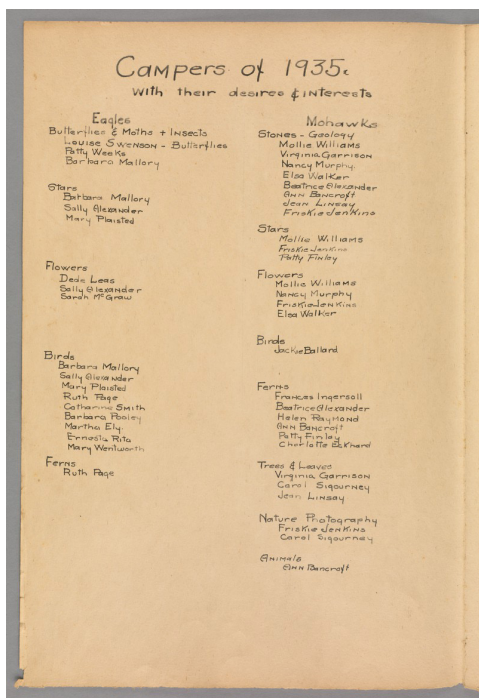
campers' letters home and reminiscences of camp; financial records; a scrapbook; writings by campers; a history of the camp; audio and videotapes and motion pictures; and a time capsule. Also includes the camp's website." The archivists have also listed relevant search terms for researchers; for example "Camps–New Hampshire" and "Girls–social life and customs–20th Century" and "Women-owned Business Enterprises". It feels a little odd to think of our magical little place in such scholarly terms, but it's fascinating to consider camp in a broader context.

Finally, the Schlesinger is in the process of digitizing many of its holdings. Miraculously, the ferns and flowers collected and pressed in 1935 are mostly intact, and the ink and pencil sketches and drawings in the book presented to Mrs. Hollister have only slightly faded. Archivists at the Schlesinger have photographed every page of the notebook and uploaded them to the internet – I urge you to look it up at this link: [https://iif.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:7295975\\$2i](https://iif.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:7295975$2i). There on the fourth page, you can read "Camp Onaway's Code Of Ethics in Nature." And in the following pages, you can see the preserved ferns, carefully clipped per the Code of Ethics, gathered by the Chippies on that long-ago nature walk. The almost-90-year-old handmade book would disintegrate in a day if all of us pawed through it, but this way it's being preserved for future scholars in an acid-free environment, and at the same time we can all enjoy access to it.

If you have a copy of Onaway's history book, "Let Her Strong and Ageless Be," you'll find photos on page 76 of three of the pages, as well as a partial transcription of the "Code of Ethics in Nature."

Maybe one of you younger people reading this will be inspired to delve into these archives when it's time to write the next chapter of Onaway's history for the 150th anniversary of camp in 2061 – and one of your future granddaughters may be the one to rediscover whatever is left of the pressed ferns from 1935 in time for Onaway's bicentennial in 2111. To those future Onaway campers or scholars who have happened upon this old newsletter in the archives decades from now: we have tried to preserve and pass on something that was meaningful to us – we hope the woods are still full of ferns, and Chippies are still coming to camp to observe them.

And to those of us still in the here and now, if you have materials you'd like to donate to the archive, please get in touch with Meredith at [mfunston@camponaway.org](mailto:mfunston@camponaway.org) or through the Onaway office at 610-525-0676.



## THE ONAWAY FUND

So many of the testimonials we hear from our alumnae and parents indicate that Camp Onaway is invaluable. It is indeed challenging to measure Onaway's worth. In addition to the skills and friendships gained, the value of an Onaway education and its intrinsic impact on a young life, even on an adult's life, can be transformative and enduring, even "magical" in the words of many.

Nonetheless, it costs money to provide this magical experience and Onaway Trustees continue to be committed to making Onaway affordable to as many families as possible, even as costs rise year after year. This means restraining tuition increases as much as possible and providing tuition assistance as needed, to ensure that Onaway is accessible to all. This is made possible by virtue of Onaway being a non-profit educational organization - thanks to the visionary founders of the Onaway Camp Trust in the 1960s. Those wise trustees saw how challenging it was for then-director Margaret Stiles to make ends meet at Onaway while offering an exceptional program at a reasonable price.

At that time, camp tuition was \$650.00 plus \$20.00 for laundry and another \$60.00 if the camper participated in horseback riding. Forming the trust enabled Onaway to raise charitable contributions, create an endowed source of tuition assistance funds, and build a strong foundation of savings to draw upon in order to protect and maintain Onaway. Today, tuition is \$8125.00, still among the most affordable sleep-away camps. This tuition covers approximately 62% of the full cost of a camper's Onaway summer. The gap is filled by a draw on our endowment and by a community of generous alumnae, families, and friends who appreciate Onaway's mission and contribute each year to the Onaway Fund.

Horseback riding became an insurance challenge and our riding ring was too close to what became a busy road. The horses departed, but sailboats arrived! There was no lack of exciting activities at camp to develop a girl's strength, skill set, and mindset, to help her find her best self and her interdependence with others. And the same is true today. But it takes a village, a much bigger village than our 1960 village, to keep Onaway afloat. So thank you for your Onaway Fund support and for helping us provide the gifts of Onaway to the campers of 2022.



## Onaway Fund 2022 Goal \$230,000

We are 7 months into the fiscal year with **\$126,000** to date, **\$104,000** to go by year-end, September 30th. But please don't wait! Your gift this spring will help Onaway prepare for her 111th Summer!

### Donating online is quick and easy!

Make a one-time gift, or make it monthly and join **Onaway All Year**.

### Donating by mail is easy too!

Send a check to Camp Onaway,  
26 Summit Grove Ave. Suite 130,  
Bryn Mawr PA 19010

### Donating appreciated stock/securities is always appreciated!

Find transfer details on our website and give us a heads-up when your transfer is on its way so we can watch for it.

## THANK YOU!



## 1950s

**Alexandra DiLuglio** Alexandra Morris Ramsay, Skytops 1956, passed away on March 4, 2022. She died of natural causes in her home in Idaho where she loved gardening, nature, and the magnificent view of the mountains. Alexandra was an Onaway camper from 1954 through 1956 and an aide in 1957. Her two daughters, Nicole di Luglio and Jessica di Luglio Lowery also enjoyed many summers at Onaway. The three traveled back to camp together in 2021 and enjoyed reminiscing about their Onaway days.

**Bobbi Childs Sampson** **David Merritt**, Council 1958-1959, news sent by Bobbi Childs Sampson, Council 1958-1959: This coming Autumn, David Merritt will be celebrating his 90th birthday at home in Melbourne, Australia. David was Camp Onaway's Head of Waterfront and assistant to Miss Stiles in 1958 and 1959. He and his wife, Joy, were co-counsellors for Onaway's youngest campers. Upon their return to Melbourne, David and Joy created a camp modeled on Onaway. Camp Cooida is a thriving summer camp to this day. If anyone's parents or



grandparents have any memories or photos from this era that include David, I'd be delighted to put them together in a greeting to him from the Onaway Community. I can be reached at: CNU\_Sampson@comcast.net. Thanks so much, Bobbi Childs Sampson ①

**Patricia McIlvain St. Georges** Patricia passed away on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at her home. She was 80 years old and lived in Glenmoore, PA, wife of the late Joseph F. St. Georges, with whom she shared 42 years of marriage prior to his passing in 2020. Trish attended The Shipley School and then received her bachelor's degree from Duke University School of Nursing. She later earned her master's degree. She worked in the Pottsgrove School District for 27 Years as a school nurse. Patricia began her Onaway summers in Bunker Senior in 1951, which back then housed the youngest girls in one big cabin. In a conversation about Onaway, she recalled camp memories, the traditions, chapel, flagline, waking up to singing on Sunday mornings. She said the skills were great but not the point. And the simple life in a natural setting was wonderful. Patricia is a member

of Onaway's Campfire Rock Society and left a generous gift to Onaway which will make her love for camp endure forever.

## 1960s

**Kate Emmons** I was a camper in the '60's, and my daughter, Emily McKenna (Matthewson), now a Pediatrician, was a camper in the 90's.

**Liz Porter Hawkins** On March 20th, Anne Conolly came to Colorado to ski and we all gathered together for the first time in 2 years. ②

Back row: Jenny Hawkins, Riley Bright, Alex Rice, Alice Matthai, Virginia Hill, Brookie Lanigan, Maddie Bright, Nancy Conolly, Merrick Stein, Sarah Scott. Front Row: Liz Hawkins (holding Luca, Riley Bright's son) Anne Conolly, Bunny McClave, Kath Keen, Ashleigh Finn. It was so good to see the OWOW (Onaway Women Out West) again, in person! Hopefully a hike is in the plans for this summer.

**Sally Jones Orr** I recently visited my new grandson in Brooklyn, 7-month-old Hunter Morgulis, son of alumna Sara (Orr) Morgulis and her hus-



band Nick. Also in the photo is Cliff, Hunter's furry BFF who is almost always at his side! ③

## 1970s

**Paul Berton** Had the pleasure to be on the council one summer at Onaway, I believe the summer of '78. Miss Sarah, Miss Betsey, Miss Leslie, Miss Netty! A fun summer. Ran into Miss Sarah last summer when her family rented my farm/retreat which overlooks Newfound. Nice to see her and meet her family. Sisters, reach out. Allow me to host you all at the Newfound Lake Farm. Would be fun to meet the people in your lives and hear what's happened over the past.....44 years! Yikes!! paulberton@gmail.com

**Elizabeth Carothers** Hi fellow Onaway alums. Any of you in northern VA / Washington, D.C.? I've just relocated for a promotion with Apple to be a Creative Pro at the Apple Clarendon store. Come by, say hi.

## 1980s

**Karen Hamilton Ammon** The Amfam has a busy spring ahead of them! Emily is getting married in June in the Outer Banks, she and Nick met their



freshman year at East Carolina University. Emily teaches sixth grade and Nick is a paramedic. Christy will graduate from Villanova in May and will be working for Lockheed Martin and is trying to fit in a trip to Alaska before the wedding. Miss Jenny is joining you at Onaway this summer and is so excited. She talks about camp all year long. We are hoping to visit camp this summer if Covid allows!

**Nici Ash Colby** Kate Moran (Hilltop 1984), Alana Jones, Nici Ash, Patty Rockensies, Angela Carini. Patty, Angela and I were all in Wendies together in 1982! 4

**Jody Forester Pierce** I'm loving being a Certified ISR Instructor, teaching infants and young children (6 months-6 years old) aquatic self-rescue skills so they can keep themselves safe while enjoying the water. I picture all of my young students leading water-loving lives, swimming, boating, canoeing, etc..., the way I did at Onaway. I wish Los Angeles weren't so far from the beauty and tranquility of Newfound Lake, but I think of camp often and carry its spirit with me.

**Kristin Vitacco Rolfe** It has been over a decade since I have been back to Newfound Lake. I started Onaway at 8 years; I was the youngest camper and even got to be a Wendy twice. Over the years Onaway never left my heart and I've been looking forward to sharing this experience with the next generation. I've only been blessed with a son; he will be a Mowgli's Cub this summer and starting his journey on the shores of Newfound Lake at the same age I started. I cannot wait to see fellow alumnae drop off weekend and hopefully visit camp.

**Allie Burke** It was great being with Carol Southall, Sarah Southall, and Amanda Rothermel at Nordic ski events across New England. 5 6

**Jennifer Plante-Johnson** We relocated to West Michigan from Sweden nearly two years ago. Last summer, after over a year of Covid delays, I started shooting my first documentary feature film about my mom, brother and the mothers group of adults with autism and Down syndrome who've been a supportive presence to each other for nearly five decades. The film is about their experience being

the first generation to raise their children with disabilities at home. It's a lot of firsts - first documentary, first very personal film, first time having my family with me on set. Looking forward to making progress on this and a few other projects in 2022. Onaway and the camp songs in my head are never far from my heart.

**Elizabeth Marshall Leeds** We moved from NYC to Palm Beach this year and love our new home. Hard to believe that the time has come for Charlotte to start Onaway; she will be a Wendy come June. Hopefully we will fit in a short trip before camp starts to see her godmother, Maria Erhardt (Skytops '97), in Spain.

## 2000s

**Melissa Briggs-Bransford** I am enjoying the arrival of spring in New Mexico, and am busy teaching dance and yoga at UNM and other arts organizations around Santa Fe, and being a solo mom to my two girls. I am super thrilled that my daughter Annabelle will be attending Onaway for the first time this summer! Annabelle had a FaceTime call with Ecy (McIlvain) Hughes's girls, Annie

and Hope, last weekend. Even though they have yet to meet in person, they are all excited to be first-time campers this summer!

**Mara Carini** Greetings Onaway Family from SW Montana! Just returned from my second river trip through the Grand Canyon and couldn't be more ecstatic. Brimming with gratitude for the month down in the canyon, riding the Emerald Ribbon for some 230 miles. Looking forward to the coming summer here in Montana and all the river play that is so readily accessible. While I am sad to not be a part of Camp's 2022 season, I am optimistic about a future return with more adventures, tools, skills, and parcels of wisdom to bring to the programs. Much love, Miss Mara! 7

**Nancy Conolly** I am still living in Denver, Colorado, where I've been for the past 5 years. In March Miss Brookie (Lanigan) and Miss Alice (Matthai) came to visit and we were able to spend the weekend skiing! We took Miss Brookie down her first double black diamond out West - we're still finishing our trip song. We finished the weekend reuniting with the OWOW (Onaway Women Out West) crew, writing our Sunday letters



and eating blondies. <sup>8</sup>

**Lucy Rice Culp** My husband and I welcomed our first child in January! A future Onababe named Campbell. So glad I discovered the digital songbook as I had been singing mashups of the handful of songs I could remember! Photo: Campbell Gloria Culp born January 7, 2022. <sup>9</sup>

**Claire Eberhardt** My husband and I welcomed our baby boy, Blake Ryan, on December 22, 2021. It's been fun settling into life as a family of three and singing camp songs at bedtime! <sup>10</sup>

**Tiffany Feldman** I gave birth to a sweet little boy in December and we named him Vincent. His big sister, Rosie, is so excited to have a buddy to play with. <sup>11</sup>

## 2010s

**Alexandra Hulme Keane** My husband Ryan and I welcomed our third son, Rhys O'Connell Keane on 3/1/22. At 9lbs and 20.5in he joins big brothers Connor and Liam, who are thrilled to welcome him to the family!

**Maita Mungah** I've been pretty well! My first semester of my senior year has ended, and so I've been able to relax a bit thankfully. College decisions have been rolling in, prom is coming up, and overall, I've been enjoying my final days in high school! During this year, I've been able to visit a few of my fellow aides, Jocie, Abby (pictured), and Lily! <sup>12</sup>

**Shelby Waters** I joined the Virginia Tech crew team this semester, and recently rowed in my first collegiate regatta (the Waterfield Cup Memorial Regatta hosted by Virginia Tech) in the varsity women's eight. Our boat won our heat and Virginia Tech went home with the cup after an amazing performance by everyone on the team! <sup>13</sup>



If you are in the area,  
please join us at camp for

## Spring Clean-Up Day!

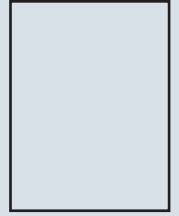
Saturday, June 4th

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Come and help us spruce up  
camp for the summer,  
enjoy lunch on the Farmhouse  
porch, and take a dip in the lake!

To sign up, email Meredith at  
[mfunston@camponaway.org](mailto:mfunston@camponaway.org) or call the  
office at 610-525-0676. *Vaccination  
required. Minors must be supervised.*





**2022 Onaway  
Camp Season**  
June 25 - August 14

