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President's Letter

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY IN NEW ENGLAND as I write this, and unusually warm for November, with temperatures hovering around 60°. Anyone for a dip in the breakers?

As the Summer School board turns its attention to necessary but not necessarily fun winter work (budgets, policies, program planning) we can't help but reflect on the pleasures and successes of this past summer. John and Ben stepped into their roles as new co-directors in a nearly seamless fashion and gracefully incorporated new programs, new campers, and new parents, while carrying forward the traditions and classic activities that make SPSS so special, year after year, for campers and their families.

Taking advantage of an almost perfect summer, weather-wise, John and Ben and their troupe of committed counselors organized trips to Seguin for all ages (The Harnett family has a special memory of that outing) and staged a blissfully rain free campout. They juggled tennis and sailing, Explorers and Navigators, and Arts and Nature. They balanced weeks when the counselors outnumbered campers with weeks when the lawn in front of Brad's Barn was so thick with kids that you couldn't see the grass. Overall attendance was up, and campers and parents alike enjoyed a fun-filled SPSS summer. We applaud our new directors' hard work, creativity and dedication, and we thank John and Ben for a great season.

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

This issue of *To the Point* is being distributed exclusively in digital form. This is more efficient, less expensive, and far more environmentally friendly than printing and mailing. However, we realize that some people will not be able to receive the newsletter digitally. If you or someone you know would like a printed version, please let us know. Just send us an email (<tevere@mainstreetdesign.com>) with the recipient's name and address and we'll gladly pop a copy in the mail.

Greetings from Maine!

Summer ended months ago and fall is quickly winding down, and a few snowflakes yesterday serve as a harbinger of the winter to come! Looking back, we couldn't be happier with how it all went, thanks largely to our counselors... they are the real stars. Many veterans and a great mix of new CIT's worked together to create countless happy camper experiences, old and new!

Navigators, our new program for ages 12 and up, started off a bit slowly, but by August it really exploded and became one of our most popular activities, thanks to the leadership of Mac Burton and Will Owen who led their merry band on excursions such as tubing in the Basin and scavenger hunting around the Point.

Explorers and Arts & Nature, led by Phoebe Ijams and Nina Coates, continued to be a great success. With plenty of time at the beach, baking delectable snacks, arts and crafts projects, and nature excursions led by Peggy

Peacock — who once again put together a full-blown saltwater aquarium stocked with lobsters, hermit crabs, and various other diverse and fascinating marine creatures!

Tennis continued to cultivate plenty of up-and-coming pros! With attentive management by Sam Hyland, kids got great instruction both on and off the court. Once again the Junior Tennis Tournament went off without a hitch with great sportsmanlike competition throughout.

Sailing underwent a few changes this year as we created a challenging racing program led by Byron Malcolm. The kids loved it and had a great time competing against each other in 420's, Opti's, and Small Pointers. The culmination was an end of summer race win by *Allegro*, with an all-camper crew. (Thanks to Merritt Heminway for making this possible.) Our traditional sailing programs, led by Wes Lewis, Crary Chandler and Will



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The drama program, headed by Sydney Harnett for July and Susie Whipple for August, nurtured yet another terrific crop of apprentice thespians. This year's productions (*Many Moons* in July and *The Pajama Game* in August) engaged campers of all ages (and plenty of parents, too!) and played to full houses. Thank you to Sydney and Susie for their talent, energy and expertise in guiding our budding actors and actresses to the stage, and to folks throughout the Small Point community who pitched in to make both productions a success. Elizabeth Vaughan's heartfelt remarks upon receiving the Fenno Award are a testament to the enduring power and value of the SPSS drama program.

Casino Night yielded countless winners, as expert dealers (?) choreographed the action and hardened gamblers (?) played for HIGH stakes. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all — we even managed not to run out of food! — and Small Pointers of several generations enjoyed both the variety of games and entertainment and the opportunity to gather and socialize. When the gambling ended, the late night crowd danced to the irresistible rhythms of Colby College's Palace Flophouse band, as another fabulous fundraiser drew to a close. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed.

Finally, I send my utmost gratitude and appreciation to all of the parents and

grandparents; former campers; current and former counselors; current, former, and future board members; and other family and friends who contribute so generously to keeping SPSS healthy and vibrant. Without your support, our programming and buildings and grounds could not be sustained. Tuition covers only a portion of the expenses needed to maintain the Summer School, and as this beloved institution continues to evolve into a broader community resource, your contributions are vital to our mission and sustainability. We thank you, and look forward to next summer. —Lynne Mitchell

2010 Season Review

Tennis

Another fantastic summer on the courts! Once again, Sam Hyland and company offered awesome tutelage to a record number of campers. The kids got enthusiastic support, improved their skills, played a lot of King/Queen of the Court and Jailbreak, and had tons of fun. The weather was delightfully cooperative, with only a few wet days sending everyone to The Barn. The spirits were high across the board, with Morgan Warner and Colin Lynch earning awards for their exemplary sportsmanship.

The junior tournament was hugely popular and featured numerous well played matches. On the girls' side, Chase Warner and Estelle Pfitzer took top honors in the doubles against Mary Hyland and Katie Owen, and after a long and hard-fought contest versus Estelle, Chase earned the singles title. The boys had an usually large bracket, which is a good sign that there are more kids in the pipeline. Thorne Kieffer defeated Josh Hoffman in a close singles finals, and Thorne and Josh took home the doubles trophy after their match against the Bannister-Parker brothers. Stay tuned, as many of these players will face off against each other again next year!

— Sarah Hoffman

Sailing

The 2010 sailing program was blessed with fine weather, fair winds, and talented instructors from top to bottom. Byron Malcolm headed our newly created racing program; Wes Lewis and Crary Chandler navigated our traditional sailing class, and Will Owen steered the beginners. They were ably assisted by a fantastic support staff including Adam Koski, Molly Koski, Aaron Carterfield and Acadia Moyerson.

The addition of two 420's to our fleet, coupled with the generous donation of the use of *Appeal* for the whole season, enabled our racers to truly hone their skills all summer long. Tacking, Jibing, and attending a regatta in southern Maine made the racing program was a great success.

Numbers were up in both of our traditional sailing programs... a very encouraging sign for the health of our community's vital sailing tradition. Wes and Crary worked hard to create a balanced blend of sailing drills combined with fun filled water activities. Will Owen and his able troupe inspired our youngest sailors, making them laugh and simply feel comfortable on the water, fueling their desire to advance their sailing skills in the future.

—John Herrigel



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Owen, continued to produce marked improvement in the skills and confidence of young sailors – perhaps the growing demand is evidence that SPSS is making a comeback!

Plus the return of the beach campout on Split Beach, with ghost stories, s'mores, sandy sleeping bags and more... and a foggy ride out to Seguin... and a sail aboard a 70-foot schooner in Portland... All in all, a summer to be

remembered.

Thanks to all of our wonderful campers, incredible counselors, and excellent support from the community at large. As winter approaches we're already hatching new plans and ideas to ensure that the Summer School continues to be the magical place it has been for so many generations. We both had a ball, and we and can't wait to see everyone next year!

—Ben Lewis and John Herrigel

Tadpole Restoration Fund

We have initiated an effort to restore *Tadpole* to her former glory. At this point, we are looking for folks who might be willing to help us out by providing financial support for this endeavor, and soliciting support from others. All contributions are tax deductible. Please direct inquiries to <smallpointsummerschool@gmail.com>. Thanks!

2010 Season Review cont.

Drama

JULY PLAY:

Once upon a July, Sydney Harnett shared with us a magical story based on the book *Many Moons* by James Thurber. The story was conveyed by a wildly attired assortment of younger persons, including a King, a Princess, a Jester, and many fine ladies and strong soldiers. The cast sang, danced, and acted out the tale of a father seeking to make his daughter well by giving her what she wanted most – the moon. Narrated with love and panache, the show also featured resident accompanist Pinkie Whipple.

AUGUST PLAY:

August brought a rousing musical version of *The Pajama Game* to the Brad's Barn theatre, replete with all the avarice, politics, romance, and humor of the average apparel manufacturing company. The cast seized control of this

production, working with Directors Suzie Whipple and Kenny Francoeur to create an original adaptation featuring favorite songs, fabulous choreography and inspiring ensemble work. While the effort encountered bumps along the way, the players' remarkable grit and spirit triumphed over adversity, and the performances were all the sweeter as a result.

Drama at Small Point continues to evolve in concert with the shifting demographics of our resident August thespians, the availability of local directing talent, and the competing pressures of an often truncated modern summer. We are searching now for a director for the August 2011 play; all suggestions welcome.

—Sarah Sewall



August Play Director

SPSS is actively seeking an experienced director to join us for 2-3 weeks next summer to lead the development of a low-fuss, high-fun musical theatre production to be performed the third week of August 2011. Compensation includes a stipend, lodging, and great memories. Director will be supported by a senior and a junior SPSS counselor. Prerequisites: experience directing youth theater, enthusiasm, flexibility, and a sense of humor. Please contact Sarah Sewall at <sewallconroy@comcast.net>.

Buildings and Grounds

As I walked around the Summer School grounds this fall it was great to see all the improvements to the property. Thanks to all of your support we were able to create a beautiful addition to the arts and nature building, greatly enhancing its usefulness. Thanks to Hans Warner, who generously donated his time and talents to design this very pleasing project. Construction was done by Tim Dumont at Kennebec Builders, who also donated some of his time and money to the project. We thank both Tim and Hans for their hard work and are very excited to have been able to work with them in the process of building this new space to be used by generations to come.

Another project that we are very excited about is the Memorial Garden, located on the hill behind Brad's Barn and funded by all the generous donations that we received in memory of Sydney

Smith. We created the Memorial Garden to provide a unique retreat within the landscape where Small Pointers could come together to reflect upon the memories of loved ones. A symbol of unity, the circle was selected to anchor the design of the garden and symbolize our strong sense of community. We encourage everyone to stop by and visit this beautiful spot.

As we look toward next year we have no large-scale projects on the horizon, but I am sure the winter winds will provide us with plenty of work for the spring. We will continue updating the electrical system in the barn and add some paint to some of the high use areas on the property. We welcome the community's help and input as we strive to keep the school safe and attractive and accessible to all of us who are fortunate enough to be part of this organization.

—*Grey Terry*

Call for Volunteers

Are you a community member with local knowledge (flora, fauna, ocean, weather)? Small Point memories/stories about people, places or events? Special skills (making fairy cookies, finding mussels, appeasing trolls, building shelters)? Are you willing to share your expertise with the younger generation? SPSS invites you to visit with a program for a day! The Summer School is looking for volunteers willing to donate a day of their time next summer as we work to further integrate our campers with the Small Point culture and the many wonderful members of our community. Yoga, ecology, weaving, whatever.... don't be shy! Please reach out to Ben and John at <smallpointsummerschool@gmail.com> or call us at 207/650-5383.

Fundraising and Development

Our appreciation goes out to those of you who have made gifts to the 2010 Annual Fund! Your continued generosity is vital to the existence of the SPSS. As of November 15, 2010, we have received \$25,740 from 131 Small Pointers. Of this amount, \$3,170 was received through the Winter Address Book.

If you have not yet made a donation and wish to do so, please send your gift to the SPSS Annual Fund, c/o Amy Coes, 7600 Pine Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. Thank you for your support!

—*Amy Coes*



SPSS Annual Fundraiser

Once again the Small Point Community turned out in strong numbers to support the SPSS annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 14th. Four events were part of the day's excitement this year: the 2nd annual Small Point Small Marathon; a pot luck dinner; casino night; and a dance.

Thirty participants in the Small Marathon made for a robust competition, setting off down Rt. 216, over Morse's Mountain and down the beach, finishing in front of the Club. What a magnificent sight, to see such a varied group cross the finish line to the cheers of enthusiastic supporters. The first place finisher was Yisroel Leibowitz, with second place going to Jordi St. John, third place Annie Dear, fourth place Zach Barna, and fifth place Patrick Lynch.



The pot luck continues to be a great community event and a centerpiece of our fundraising efforts. Over two hundred adults and children gathered outside Brad's Barn for pulled pork from Beale Street Barbeque, salads, cornbread, desserts and beverages. Games for children, including bingo, were provided by the counseling staff, while adults participated in a raffle for items and services generously offered by community members – a week at Quimby House, a kayak, a weekend at the Club, a week of SPSS tuition, a catered dinner, a handknit sweater, a boat trip to Holbrooks, to name just a few!

The casino portion of the evening was planned on a much grander scale, but owing to the State of Maine's restrictions on gambling our vision was somewhat curtailed! Small Pointers jumped in regardless, and we still had a lot of fun and laughter. Special thanks go to our skilled dealers – Sally, Jack, Seton and Henry Ijams and their helpers Grey Terry, Sam Adams, Sarah Sewall, and Sewall Janeway. Big winners of the night were: Wes Mitchell-Lewis (a week at Quimby House donated by Kennon and Sabra Jayne) and Tucker Hyland (a kayak donated by Putnam and Amy Coes).

The evening wrapped up with the Palace Flophouse, Ben Mitchell-Lewis' Colby friends, getting everyone up and dancing. Good music, lots of fun, another amazing evening with good friends! Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Small Point Summer School.

—*Martie Janeway*



2011 Season Preview

The 2011 Summer School season will open on June 27th, and the last day of camp will be August 19th. The date for the July play has been tentatively set for July 30th; the August play schedule has not yet been finalized, pending the selection of a director. Our annual auction and community supper will occur on August 13th.

The Navigators program for 12 – 14 year olds will return next summer with the same sense of fun and adventure and a whole new slate of activities. After a transition year in the counselor-in-training program, John and Ben are

looking for new applicants to be CIT's for the 2011 summer season. We have revised the qualifications, and the CIT program is now open to anyone who is 15 years old or entering 10th grade. CIT's have been integral to the success of SPSS for years, and we look forward to working with a new team of capable teens. CIT's will be working primarily in the mornings and on Thursday trips, and we strongly encourage them to also participate in Navigators.

Look for more information about next summer's programs and activities in the spring issue of *To the Point*.

SPSS Memorial Garden

Is there someone special in your life whom you'd like to honor with a spot in our Memorial Garden? For a tax deductible contribution of \$250.00, SPSS will engrave a natural stone of your choosing to recognize a friend or family member. To learn more, please contact Amy Coes (amysco926@earthlink.net) or Grey Terry at 207/899-1997 or [<writegrey@yahoo.com>](mailto:writegrey@yahoo.com). Stones ordered this winter will be placed in the garden next spring.

