



To the Point

THE SMALL POINT SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



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President's Letter

AS THE INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE SPSS BOARD, I want to thank out-going president Lynne Mitchell for her dedication and leadership these past few years, and to say how much we all appreciate the many great things that took place at the Summer School during her tenure. It is truly an honor to be part of such a fine organization.

This year we bid farewell to John Herrigel and Ben Lewis, who have served us ably as co-directors for the past two seasons. John and Ben did an excellent job and we are grateful for their hard work and all their contributions. We wish both of them well as they move on to develop their professional careers beyond the Summer School, and I look forward to their continued involvement with SPSS.

And so we approach another transition, as we initiate a search for our next director (or directors.) The Summer School is constantly evolving, in an effort to be as responsive as possible to the needs and interests of all Small Pointers: parents, grandparents, and above all, children. Our enrollment last summer was the highest it has ever been—a wonderful tribute to the camp and its staff and leadership, but also a real challenge. Having more kids involved places greater demands on our counselors and directors, our physical plant, and our vehicles and boats. The Board is working hard to position the Summer School to meet those demands while retaining the camp's treasured friendliness and informality.

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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.

Thank you Small Pointers!

We were swimming on Big Beach with 80 degree weather on October 9. Three weeks later, there were 4" of snow on our Halloween pumpkin here in New Hampshire! Gotta love that New England weather!

As I relinquish my duties as SPSS president and Grey Terry assumes the chair, I am looking forward to a continuing role on the board, and especially to working on the annual fund with Small Pointers young and oldish. I wish Grey well and know we will all benefit from his leadership. As I step down, I want to thank the hard-working staff, board members who roll

up their sleeves in every direction, a vibrant program, dedicated families, and a crowd of enthusiastic campers. SPSS wouldn't be growing in leaps and bounds without your energy, ideas, and direction (and your annual contributions!) So, thank you Small Pointers for giving so generously to your camp as it continues to grow and change, with an ever-increasing crop of campers. And, if you haven't yet made your annual contribution for 2011, our fiscal year ends December 31. You know who you are! We welcome and appreciate your support.

—Lynne Mitchell



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Our goal at SPSS is to provide a creative and nurturing environment for children—a community, not just a camp. It is a community of people, young and old, who cherish the friendships and skills gained at Sumer School. All of you play a part in the camp's success as well, and I wanted to take this time to thank everyone in Small Point for all the work you've done over the years, and the contributions you've made—both monetary and personal, and small as well as large—to keep that community alive and thriving. I look forward to serving with all of you and I hope that working together we can keep creating incredible memories.

For many years my wife and I lived on the west coast, but came back to Maine every summer. The fond memories of Small Point and the Summer School are what brought us back year after year and what ultimately led to our decision to relocate from Oregon to Maine almost four years ago. As SPSS president I am dedicated to ensuring sure that we can continue to build those unforgettable memories.... memories that last a lifetime.

Thanks,
"Little" Grey Terry

SPSS Board of Trustees

Like all non-profit organizations, the Small Point Summer School is governed and led by a volunteer board. SPSS trustees – your friends, relatives and neighbors – willingly invest their time, energy, and expertise to keep the Summer School solvent and stable, providing high quality experiences for campers now and on into the future.

The current SPSS Board of Trustees is composed of:

Grey Terry, Chair
Kelly Adams
Leslie Belz
Malcolm Coates, Jr.
Bill Harnett
Merritt Heminway
Sarah Hoffman
Martie Janeway
Adrian King
Tevere MacFadyen
Lynne Mitchell-Lewis
Abbie Rowley
Sarah Sewall
Trina White Tober
Lee Warner

The composition of the board changes regularly, as members' terms expire, and we are always eager to welcome new board members. If you would be interested in serving in the future, please let one of us know.

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

As some of you may have heard by now, I will not be returning as your SPSS Co-Director in 2012. Having recently graduated from college, I reluctantly decided that it wasn't wise to lock myself into a summer job when I know that I'll eventually (soon!) have to find a "real" job. So now I'm in Colorado, doing an internship and getting paid very little, in hopes that it might lead to something more permanent... I'm not sure these "real" jobs are everything they are cracked up to be!

Being so far from the ocean and from Maine, I've come to realize how important Small Point is for me, in

so many ways. Is Small Point really as magical as we all think? I believe so, and that's why I'll surely be back next summer in some form, one way or another. I won't be at SPSS every day, driving vans, fixing boats, or playing Duck-Duck-Goose! But you can bet that I'll turn up for a Seguin Thursday trip or a scavenger hunt to the Point. Winter is upon us in Colorado, but I'm constantly dreaming of those warm August days! Have a great holiday season everyone, and I can't wait to see all of your smiling faces next summer!

All my best,
—Ben Mitchell-Lewis



2011 Season Review

Sailing Report

2011 was another great sailing season for the SPSS crew, with plenty of messing about in boats. Novices explored basic skills in the Opti's while more seasoned sailors competed in the 420's and earned an introduction to one of our community's deepest traditions, campaigning Small Pointers in the weekly races. With our beloved *Tadpole* in need of a total makeover, we are so thankful to the generous owners who allowed us to use their boats.

In-coming trustee and crack skipper Merrit Heminway promises continued improvement in our sailing programs next summer, with something for everyone, whether you're eager to master light air strategies or simply want to get out on the water. Look for full details in the spring issue of *To the Point*.



2011 Season Review cont.

Tennis Report

Crowded courts, fierce but friendly competition, comfortable chaos, and balls flying every which way—what’s not to love about tennis at SPSS? It’s wonderful that we had SO many tennis players last season, and next year we promise we’re going to figure out ways to get everyone a little more time on the courts. For now, a small sampling of some of our favorite camper comments:

“I love to woolly the ball.

No, I think I mean volley the ball!”

“Sam was awesome to everyone, if you were super good or really kinda stunk!”

“My plan for next summer is to hit it over the net two times in a row.”

“I love arts and nature and didn’t really want to play tennis, but actually it was totally fun... especially jailbreak!”

“Tournaments rock!”

Check the spring issue of *To the Point* for more information on next summer’s tennis program, schedule, and staffing.
— Sarah Hoffman



Drama Report

This summer, Small Pointers of all ages brought the story of Cinderella to life under the direction of our beloved Debba Curtis.

In late July, our younger thespians performed a truncated version of the traditional story with wonderful aplomb. The August production added older actors, more songs, and an expanded script with more detail. It featured a reprising prince, a captivating triple-cast Princess, a colorful Royal Couple, and a surprise ending. While charming small mice threatened to steal the show, it was the ebullient ensemble acting and singing that ultimately brought down the house. The spontaneous outbreak of a musical number during the cast party attests to the group’s spirit. Congratulations, SPSS casts!

This year’s productions enjoyed expert accompaniment from pianist

Chrystal Cawley; Lane Terry’s keen costume supervision; and Sydney Harnett’s original set design as well as contributions from many other community members. Thank you, Debba and team.

Fenno Award honors for 2011 went to Sara Windhorst. The Award is given every year to a community member who has made important contributions to the SPSS drama program. Sarah Hoffman and Lane Terry presented the award in recognition of Sara’s multiple roles—enthusiastic actor in countless productions, assistant to the July play director, choreographer, stylist/makeup artist, and mentor to so many aspiring actors! We congratulate Sara and look forward to her continued contributions to summer drama in Brad’s Barn.

— Sarah Sewall



SPSS August Fund Raiser

Thanks to the efforts of the stalwart August Event Committee and the SPSS Board, another successful fundraising evening was held on August 6th. The theme was **Keep It Simple SPSS**.

We started off the beautiful day with a Fun Run/Walk, beginning for runners at the tennis courts on the Club Rd., down Rt. 216 to Morse Mt. Rd., where the runners were joined by walkers, who then proceeded up Morse Mt. and down the other side to the beach. The beach was extremely soft that day, making it a challenging finish. Clay and Henry Ijams did a great job organizing this race and rewarding the finishers with congratulations, food and prizes. A new course record was set by Patrick Lynch,



“The Winnah!”

winning the race in 27:07, almost a full minute faster than the past. Next over the finish line were Jordi St. John, Bob Tusso and Tripp McLaughlin. We had 51 runners and walkers ranging in age from 10 to ageless?!!

Wonderful Bluegrass music played by the Sandy River Ramblers set the tone for an evening of fundraising and merriment. Excitement soon mounted as the evening’s festivities progressed—socializing—dinner—dessert—silent auction—live auction & dancing. The 25%/75% Raffle drawing was postponed until the August Play so that so that we could sell more \$100/chance raffle tickets. A total

of 149 tickets were sold and the winner—selected by the oldest and youngest audience members Arthur Turner (age 90) and his great grand-daughter Elle (age 2)—was Becky Cuthbert. Thank You to All who bought raffle tickets.

In the meantime, we held a wonderful potluck supper in which the entire community participated, bringing prized appetizers, winning salads and disappearing desserts to add to the main dishes which SPSS Board members contributed. Boy-o-boy, can this community cook AND eat!

With the expert “hawking” skills of Grey Terry, we had a live auction of 5 items, as well as 25 more items in a silent auction. Thanks to all who generously donated everything from airplane rides over the beach, to an hour of college counseling, daily poems and pictures for a year.

The evening was capped off with dancing in the Barn to music provided by Sheilah Pesek and Julie Barna—their iTunes, that is!

Thanks to all for the success of this SPSS event. Together we contributed just over 29K towards SPSS operations. Wooo Wooo!

— *Abbie Rowley & Liza Chandler*



SPSS recognizes the generous contributions of James Harnett, Crozer Martin, and Dan Peacock (with the Golden Gloves).



A Garden Grows in Small Point

Big plans are underway in Small Point. Zack Barna and Sara Tierce-Hazard have been spearheading efforts to start a community garden in the field across Small Point Road from the Summer School. They've turned the soil and planted a winter cover crop, and they're busily planning for spring planting. There are all sorts of ideas bouncing around, so keep your ears open for more news and opportunities to get involved!

Sara and Zack are looking forward to getting SPSS kids involved in the garden, so next summer's campers can look forward to new horticultural learning experiences. Start thinking about fresh greens, tomatoes, and much more. And of course, volunteers with green thumbs are welcome! Send questions, thoughts, or ideas to Zack or Sara at <smallpointgarden@gmail.com>.

SPSS Director Search

SPSS is looking for a new director. We are eager to hear from anyone who might be an applicant for this leadership position, and we would appreciate your help in spreading the word about the opportunity. We are especially interested in speaking with candidates who have a professional background in formal or informal education, whether at school or camp. Our preference would be for someone familiar with Small Point and the Summer School, but we are open to other possibilities. For more information and a copy of the SPSS director's job description, please contact Trina White Tober at <ktober23@msn.com>



2012 Counselor & CIT Applications

Anyone interested in joining the SPSS community next summer as a counselor or counselor-in-training is invited to contact Malcolm Coates at <mcoatesjr@hotmail.com>. Counselors should have previous experience in educational or camp settings. CIT's must be 15 years old and/or entering 10th grade.

