



To the Point



CONTENTS

- President's Letter
- SPSS Board of Trustees
- Tennis
- Drama
- Sailing
- SPSS 2012 Summer Fundraiser
- Small Point Garden

President's Letter

HELLO AND GREETINGS FROM MAINE! One of the many things I love about living in Maine is the ability to visit Small Point during the peak of the fall foliage. What a spectacular time to be in Small Point! The fall is a time of reflection for me in Small Point. It reminds me of the annual trips with my dad to Maine to hunt and stay with my grandfather. It was always a bittersweet time for me. I was excited to get into the woods, but I was always overcome with emotion from all the good times I had had the summer before. Part of me wished I could turn the clock back to summer forever.

As you might know, I have a five year-old daughter, Boden, who attended SPSS for the first time this year. She also accompanied me on this year's fall trip. When we arrived in Small Point, she wanted to go by the Summer School to see if anybody was around. As we drove down the driveway, she was so excited, and although there was no one there, she showed me all around the grounds with little stories attached to each place we visited. She wished that camp was still open, so that she could see all her new friends.

Yes, Boden was hooked on Summer School. The same place where she cried for hours during her first couple of days was now quite possibly the best place on Earth to her. It was amazing to witness the beginnings of another child's lifelong love of the SPSS.

Continued on page 2 ►

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.



▼ Continued from page 1

These life-long memories are built on a remarkable foundation of support from community members like you. I would like to personally thank all the many individuals and families who have helped to sustain the Summer School over the years, and who continue to support our camp. Whether it is donation of time or money, or pitching in with day-to-day tasks, your contributions are deeply appreciated. The SPSS Board, the kids, and the community appreciate all you have done. I experienced very personally what all this hard work means when Boden and I visited this fall, and I thank you all for that.

I would also like to thank our Director, Nellie Coes; Assistant Director Will Eberle; and all the SPSS counselors and CITs. Nellie and Will were new to their roles this summer and they did a great job. Finally, I want to express our thanks to Sam Hyland, our ace tennis instructor, who we're sad to have to

report will not be returning next summer. Sam has done an exceptional job over the years, and he will be missed.

This was a great summer at SPSS. We experienced the highest number of campers ever! Moving forward, the Board and staff are working hard to balance the Summer School's traditional values with our community's changing needs and interests. In order to maintain a fun and safe summer experience and to accommodate growth in the years to come, we realize that we will have to make adjustments to our programs and operations. We are committed to making sure that these changes also help us preserve our history, community and spirit.

I appreciate your continued support in the year ahead. I will be in touch in the Spring to plan for another season of great memories at SPSS.

*Thanks,
"Little" Grey Terry*

SPSS Board Changes

At its fall meeting, the SPSS Board of Trustees welcomed several new members and reluctantly said goodbye to several others whose terms are expiring. Incoming Board members include Leslie Potter, Connie Kniffin, and John Chandler. Departing, with our deepest gratitude for their years of dedicated service, are Kelly Adams, Bill Harnett, and past Board Chairperson Lynne Mitchell-Lewis.

The current SPSS Board of Trustees is:

- Leslie Belz
- John Chandler
- Malcolm Coates, Jr.
- Merritt Heminway
- Sarah Hoffman
- Martie Janeway
- Adrian King
- Connie Kniffin
- Tevere MacFadyen
- Leslie Potter
- Abbie Rowley
- Sarah Sewall
- Grey Terry, Chair
- Trina White Tober
- Lee Warner

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



Director's Note

We had another amazing summer at the Small Point Summer School. A record number of campers attended the summer school this year, and my kids and I felt lucky to be a part of it. Our counselors, most of whom had once been SPSS campers themselves, are a gifted group of friends and mentors whose excitement for Small Point and for teaching and nurturing children is second nature.

As always, our campers walked miles of beaches, sailed for countless hours, played tennis for many days, ate thousands of icy pops, and caught

hundreds of crabs. They also produced two versions of *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and, most importantly, created new friendships and continued existing relationships among children and cousins and siblings of all ages.

It was a great summer because of this special community, SPSS campers and staff, families and friends, and all of the volunteers who make the Summer School possible.

Thanks to everyone!

—Nellie Coes



2012 Season Review

Tennis Report

As I write this report in western Massachusetts, 50 mile per hour winds from Superstorm Sandy are blowing tennis balls over the fence – just like a game of “jailbreak” at SPSS!

Well, we had another great summer on the courts, with a whole new crew of novice and experienced players expertly trained by Sam Hyland. We are tremendously grateful for his enthusiastic mentorship over the past many summers, and sad that this was his last (at least for a while...!) Sam has contributed so much to SPSS tennis, overseeing the growth of the program in both numbers and skill. Many adults have also benefitted from his patient, helpful lessons. He certainly leaves big sneakers to fill, but we're sure there's someone special out there who'll fit right in. Please let the Board know if you have ideas about who might be part of the future tennis leadership at the Summer School.



2012 Season Review cont.

Drama Report

The summer's smash hit SPSS drama production was *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Directed once again by our own Debba Curtis, with music accompaniment by Chrystal Cawley, the play brought smiles to all attending the July and August versions. We were treated to our campers' unique interpretations of timeless characters: a pathetic but inspiring Charlie, a domineering while endearing Lucy, a delightful if self-absorbed Snoopy, and countless other favorites.

Theatrical camaraderie and song reverberated far beyond Brad's Barn, as impromptu versions of the baseball game number were heard at birthday parties and even on the beach! Thank you so much, Debba and Chrystal!

Lane Terry once again wrangled costumes and props and otherwise contributed in myriad ways to making both plays happen. The Green Room was named in honor of Lane, in recognition of her many years of making

Small Point "scenes" possible while remaining determinedly behind the scenes herself! For her reprise role leading SPSS drama, Debba Curtis was presented with the 2012 Fenno Award, the second time her name has graced that venerable plaque.

Given the decreasing average age of SPSS campers, and the increasingly limited availability of Small Point youth to participate in the drama program for extended periods during the summer, we will be rethinking the program over the winter and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Whether you fondly recall the bygone days of full-on Shakespeare dramas or wish we could do a Small Point version of *Dancing with the Stars!*, we'd love to have your input.

Finally, we are excited to report that incoming board member Connie Kniffin will assume responsibility for oversight of the drama program starting next summer. Good luck, Connie, and thanks!
— Sarah Sewall

Sailing Report

Ahoy mates! So its 4:30PM here in Portland and darkness is upon us already! What a far cry from the mid-August sailing season when we would just be arriving back at Brad's Barn after a fun-filled day out on the water...

Sailing at SPSS this past season was a huge success! A fantastic, energetic and wonderful staff helped create a strong foundation for our campers to learn a myriad of skills such as tacking, jibing, rigging, landing, racing and more all while having a fun and safe time on the water!

This summer also witnessed the first annual Billy Smith Memorial regatta, which took place with campers sailing in our beloved Small Point One Design fleet. What a wonderful a sight to behold, and hopefully a tradition that will be carried on for many years to come!

All counselors and campers should pat themselves on the back for making this past season so safe, happy and successful – definitely one to build upon for many more summers to come, sailing or simply messing about in boats in one of the best places on earth!

— John Herrigel



SPSS 2012 Summer Fundraiser

Thanks to the determined efforts of the August Event Committee and the SPSS Board, August 6th proved to be another fun and successful day of Summer School fundraising activities. A few sprinkles in the morning failed to discourage runners and walkers who braved the cool temps and cloudy skies to bring in another year of fast course times in the early morning Fun Run. We were especially fortunate to have Clay and Henry organizing this event again this year, and as has been the tradition, prizes were awarded across many categories.

Overall Cyrus Martin came in first with a time of 25.09, followed closely by Henry Ijams and John Herrigel in second and third place. Melinda Harnett was the women's winner, with Seton Ijams tops in the kid category. Lots of other "youngsters" populated the results page, including Dagne St. John, Louise Hoffman, and Adrian King (who was spotted practicing the course on many occasions.)

With the Westminster Kennel Club Show as our inspiration, this year marked the inaugural of the SPSS Pet Show. Held in Brad's Barn due to threatening

weather, there were almost 20 entrants. While dogs dominated the field of contestants, the African frog entered with handler Oscar Coes deserves special mention. Kelly Adams's creative categories for competition provided the judges with many entertaining options, and lots of laughs for all ages. Judges chose winners across groupings such as: black dog, white dog, and various iterations on the color theme, long-haired, short-haired, dog and handler look alike, smart dog (2 tricks), junior handler (under 10), best costume, obedience, and most unusual. Filled with lots of amusement and some impressive tricks, the show concluded with prizes and treats for pets and their owners. We greatly appreciate the generous commitment of time and humorous commentary by our notable judging panel, including Sandy Mitchell, Tish Whipple, Louise Hoffman and Bill Hoffman.

Our evening festivities kicked off with a delicious collection of appetizers, salads and desserts contributed by the entire Small Point community. Main dishes

Continued on page 6 ▶



SPSS is clearly going to the dogs.





Our experienced and unbiased judges perform their due diligence.



Onlookers kibitz. Any resemblance between pets and their owners is purely coincidental.



▼ Continued from page 5

provided by SPSS Board members included some fabulous culinary demonstrations – those were some amazing ribs! While the food options available at the Potluck were scrumptious, certainly the Contra Dancing and extensive (sweaty) participation by ALL ages was the highlight of the evening. Truly representative of the multi-age culture in Small Point, and fun that can transcend generations, the Ti’ Acadie Band with fearless ring-leader Bill Olsen played until around 9:00, when the median age of partygoers started to plummet and the iPod

provided alternative dancing beats.

This year, the fundraising committee intentionally opted for a smaller event at less cost to attendees and fewer “requests for contributions” throughout the summer – acknowledging our small community, its many needs, and the plethora of events in August. Our hope is to improve the coordination of fundraising efforts across the community and the various interest groups, yielding some summers that are more focused on concentrated fundraising initiatives and others that are “off-years.” With goals

that were not particularly lofty in this recent “off” year, we still managed to contribute about \$3,000 to SPSS operations. But we are looking forward to some exciting events next summer as we kick back into high gear with fundraising activities that support continued improvements in program, operations, and the highly valued experience SPSS provides to our kids.

Sincere thank you to all for the success of these SPSS events!
 — Lee Warner, Kelly Adams, Martie Janeway, Adrian King, Abbie Rowley

Annual Fund Report

On May 1, 2012, we sent 442 annual appeal requests to Summer School families and friends. Several appeal letters were mailed to the many donors who live near SPSS, while the rest were mailed to donors who live in 30 states and 7 foreign countries during the winter months. As the fiscal year draws to a close, we are pleased to report that we have received 120 donations. Ninety-three donors increased their gifts this year, or made a donation after having missed a year or two. A family from England and several recent college graduates sent in their first donations. One young woman sent \$10 and a note stating, "Go SPSS!" Fourteen families sustained their yearly contributions and

13 families decreased their donation amount. Unfortunately, 19 request letters were returned without any forwarding information. As of October 31, 2012, we are excited to share with you that we are nearing our goal of \$30,000. To all of you who gave to the Annual Fund, we THANK YOU. Your gift helps to sustain facilities, programs, and staffing. To all of you who would still like to make a contribution before the end of the year, it's not too late; all donations, both big and small, are important and helpful. Please send your tax deductible donation for SPSS to:

Lynne Mitchell
5 Keeble Street
Plymouth, New Hampshire 03264



2013 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.

