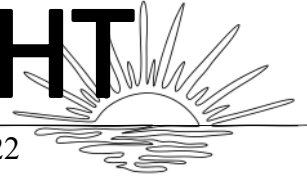




# the LANTERN'S LIGHT

by The Many Point Alumni Association



Vol. 34, Issue 2

Spring, 2022

It's Spring, and we have a lot coming around the corner for everyone to enjoy.

To kick off Spring, we have the Spring Fling—and in person at the American Legion in Chanhassen. The facility is well lit and welcoming for our event. We will have some special events, will be welcoming the new Camping Director, Alex Farrell who is working hard to make sure camp has a bright future. At the Fling, we'll also have music, excellent food, great socializing, there will be some silent auctions, a chance to win a Trek Marlin 6 Bike, and much more. Scott Wentworth and his team are organizing a pre-event bike ride that may have a couple of stops along the way. If you haven't yet, mark your calendar for April 30th. Doors will open at 5:30PM. We will also be opening up our elections during the Fling as well for all members to participate either in person or virtually. Details to come soon on the elections.

On May 12th, we welcome anyone who would like to come up to camp to help with some projects. The MPSAA will be continuing to help finish up the Outdoor Skills areas in each of the subcamps. We will also be working on learning stations to provide the tools to support Many Point's Outdoor Skills Directors so they have a successful summer with great program and merit badges.

Additional opportunities to support Many Point throughout the summer will surface as well.

If you were not able to come up for the campout last Fall, it was a blast. Be sure to mark your calendars for August 26-28th. Campsites and Cabins are available.

Hat's off to an excellent start of the summer. I hope to see everyone soon!

-Mike Kuklok, MPSAA President

## Upcoming Events

### April 30 - Pre-Fling Bike Ride

Chanhassen American Legion  
Details coming on April 19th.

### April 30 - Spring Fling!

Chanhassen American Legion  
Doors open at 5:30PM

### May 12th, 2022

MPSAA Work Party  
Contact Jack Hoyer for Details

### May 20th, 2022

Board Meeting  
Virtual—All welcome . Contact Mike Kuklok

### June 3-5th, 2022

Many Point Work Party

### June 26th, 2022

First week of Scouts!

### August 26th-28th, 2022

Alumni Campout Celebration Yee Hah - Bring Your Boots for Chuck Wagon themed party. A BBQ supper is provided.  
[www.mpalumni.org/campout](http://www.mpalumni.org/campout)

Check out our Events on [mpalumni.org](http://mpalumni.org) and on our Facebook Pag. Monthly events being published soon.



## MOUNTAIN BIKING

*More details inside the newsletter on the Mountain Biking Program progress and how you can help. Keep reading!*

*Left: Updated Key Chain Design with the name of the Mountain Bike Trail System: Yeti Creek Trails.*

## Contents

Jean Benson .....	2
Spring Fling .....	6
Where are they Now— Mike McCollor .....	8
Where are they Now— Jo Benson .....	9
The 75th Celebration .....	10
Heritage Fund .....	12
Welcome Alex .....	13
Bike Update .....	13
Troop 22 Beanie .....	14
MPSAA Work Party .....	15
2022 Election & Thanks .....	16

## GROWING UP AT MANY POINT: PART II

My Mom, in addition to teaching school, raising three daughters, and taking care of her home, was a very good unofficial Many Point Hostess. She entertained a lot of people and often at a moment's notice. Dad was always bringing someone up for afternoon coffee. The coffee pot was always on, and Mom without exception had some goodies on hand, cookies, bars, or cake. Even being so far from a store, she could put a meal together with what she had on hand. We mainly grocery shopped in Detroit Lakes or Park Rapids.

Continued from Part I:

In emergencies like milk or bread, we could go to Fasteen's store on Elbow Lake or Masog's store in Ponsford. Mom did have a vegetable garden, but it was mostly for fresh eating-she didn't do a lot of canning. My Mom taught by example and was a perfect role model.

Before building the new Administration Building, all the camp traffic went by our house. On opening Sundays, all the troops arriving on the council buses and private cars unloaded by the flag pole, which was just down from our house.

There was a temporary check-in station there – a table with benches, a portable phone with a tarp over everything. Sometimes there would be scouts and luggage piled in our yard. The camp trucks would then take the scouts and their gear to their campsites. There was a lot of commotion for a few hours until everyone was safely in their campsites. After a summer with all



1954 - Left to Right - Boots, Meme, Olga, and Jean.

the people and vehicles coming and going, it took a few days to adjust to the silence when the two large, noisy generators were shut down. Then it was just our family and Dad's assistant and his family, so it was tranquil.

We didn't have a telephone in the camp until after I got out of high school. Before that, if someone needed to contact someone at camp, they would call the Manner's home, and someone from their family would bring the message to camp. When Dad had to make phone calls in the offseason, he would go to Osage or Park Rapids to call-probably because the Manner's phone was on a party line. Before the arrival of phone service, the camp used ham radio to call the Minneapolis Scout Office. The ham radio was in our house, and every weekday morning at a designated time, someone from the

Administration Building would come and talk to Minneapolis.

As children, we had a lot of pets. We once had a rabbit; always had a dog, a cat, and kittens. Our mother cat sometimes had two litters of kittens a year.

Sometimes we had raccoons and fox for pets. One time they were going to have ducks at the Conservation Lodge. The baby ducks arrived before camp opened, so we kept them penned in our yard. They were messy little things and would have to be moved from one area of our yard to another so they also could mess that up.

Our first dog was a black Labrador named Major, then a little dog named Fido, then Smokey, then Ginger and her six puppies. I think everyone enjoyed those six puppies. They made their way over to Tent City and entertained the staff with their little puppy ways, probably not



so much when they were fighting and interrupting the boy's sleep. They would go as they wanted, but they always would return home for their meals. We kept Rusty, one of Ginger's puppies, and the other five were given away.

I don't ever remember being afraid of wild animals or people. We always had a dog, and they were good watchdogs, barking when animals or people were around. One time a person who came to our house often came when we weren't home. He later told my parents that our dog wouldn't let him near the house. So he slowly got in his vehicle and left. Dad kept a gun in the corner by our front door. He told us it was loaded, and we were not to touch it. We never touched it, and I don't know if it was loaded (In later years it was over the front door.) Through our parents teaching us, guns were weapons, not toys; and you never pointed a gun (even a toy gun) at a person. We never had toy guns – even when our cousins got cap guns for the Fourth of July, we didn't get any.

As for threatening weather, because we lived in the woods, we were sheltered from atrocious snowstorms. The snow didn't drift in the trees, so until we reached the Prairie, we wouldn't know how bad a storm was. We were never stranded because Dad's jeep had a plow, and if the snow was too deep, Dad would put the V plow on the big truck. Because of all the trees, we didn't see much of the sky, so we didn't see storms approaching. Although, I do remember the unusual color of the sky when Fargo, ND, had that big tornado in June of 1957.

My sisters and I had the run of

the Main Area when the camp wasn't in session. We explored the Buckskin trails, like finding our way to Sunset Point, the little point in Buckskin where the turn is into Fishhook Bay. We would go into the woods by ourselves; I don't think our parents worried about us. We never got lost and always came home to eat. We liked following the creek from the beaver dam to the lake. There was a trail on both sides of the creek, but sometimes the trail on one side would be pretty steep, so we would have to cross to the other side. That was fun to cross over on a log or rocks in the creek and not get our feet wet.

One time we did go when there was still snow and Meme slid into the creek. One of us stayed and hurried Meme home, while the other one rushed home to fill the bathtub with hot water (to warm her up quickly). We were afraid that she might die. Meme complained the water was hot. Thankfully, she didn't get sick. By the way, our parents weren't home, one of the very few times we were left alone.

Also, in the spring of the year, when the suckers were in the creek, Meme and Barbara would reach in and pick them up with their hands. They didn't keep them; it was just like catching and releasing.

One of our close friends at the lake was Severt Rasmuson. He at one time owned a resort, which he sold to Henry Weick. Over many years, Severt helped at the camp using his log building and furniture making skills.

Some other men who worked for my Dad early on were Dallas and Donald Lindsay. Ted Bakken was Irene Niemi's father and worked with my Dad. Nester

Hendrickson and his wife Olga also worked at the camp.

Mr. Robert Gaylord was one of the landowners that sold his Many Point property to the Viking Council. Before there were telephones, when Mr. Gaylord would come to camp, he would write a letter to my Dad, telling him to open up the cabin, get it cleaned, etc. Mr. Gaylord would say his help would be up on such and such a date. Berta was the cook, and Dewey was the chauffeur and butler.

We girls went to the Gaylord cabin when Dewey and Berta were there, but not after Mr. Gaylord came. The Gaylord site, in addition to the main house, had a boathouse, ice house, three-sided garage with a small sitting/bedroom with a little porch on one end where the help stayed. There was also an outhouse. Berta cooked on a cookstove. Also, there were iceboxes on the porch and a hand-pump in the yard for drinking water. At that time, I don't think they had electricity. Dad and his crew cut ice in the winter for the camp ice houses (Main Area, Gaylord's, and Family Camp). I only remember seeing Mr. Gaylord once. For some reason, I went to his cabin and he was out in the yard target practicing using his pistol. He scared the life out of me. Whoa. We girls always referred to him as Mr. Gaylord.

Orly Thornsjo talked about a Secret Hill. Although I'm not exactly sure where Secret Hill was, yes, there was a Secret Hill. At the end of each period, the Buckskin Scouts had their closing campfire at Secret Hill. The troops would gather at the flagpole (while it was still down from our house). When it got dark, they would line up single





file behind a staff person with a lantern-very quiet, no talking, – staff families would be at the end of the line. We followed a trail that started over by where the warehouse is now. When we arrived at an opening in the woods where a large campfire was burning, we sat on logs. When the campfire was over, we went back the same way -single file and quietly. We didn't cross Beaver Creek, so the Secret Hill was somewhere between the creek and the camp road.

To refresh my memory about 'momism,' I checked with Barbara and Meme. Here are a few: 'Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.' 'Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.' 'Golden rule.' 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.' 'Nothing ventured nothing gained.' 'Good, better, best, never let it rest, 'til the good is better and the better best.' Also, she always told us to stand up straight. If we said, 'I can't do that,' she would reply, 'don't say can't say I'll try,' and 'you'll have a lot of acquaintances, but few friends.'

My Dad offered: 'It's not how many people you know, but who you know.' 'Be careful what you wish for.' A penny saved is a penny earned.' You get what you pay for.' Summer or winter, our Dad pulled a lot of people out of the ditch, and he would never take any payment when offered. He would tell the person to 'pass it on and do something for someone else!'

What encouraged me to become a teacher? At that time, there weren't a lot of options for girls - secretary, nurse, teacher-of those three being a teacher seemed the best fit for me. I think my Mom,

being a teacher, may have had an influence, although she did not sugar coat the job: long hours, bringing your work home, etc. She didn't encourage or discourage me. Mom was a fantastic person to take three small children to the wilds of Minnesota.

The Many Point I remember growing up was likening it to a little city in the woods in the summer...complete with a fire truck, fire warden, and deputy sheriff. When the camp was open, two CITs lived in the Gate Lodge for two weeks at a time.

They tended the gate – opening it and closing it when vehicles entered or exited camp. During the day, one of the guys would come into the Main Area for a work detail. Their means of transportation was walking. They usually could get a ride in the morning with a delivery truck – but going back at night, the chances of a ride weren't great. They would often borrow our bicycle-then they were also assured of wheels for their next day's commute.

Main Area was the city center – the assistant ranger's home was the first building one saw, then the ranger's house down the hill (our home). As a child, when asked what my Dad did, I proudly said he was a Camp Ranger, Fire Warden, and a Deputy Sheriff. Just down from our house, in the middle of the road, was the flagpole – with large boulders circling it. We girls like jumping from boulder to boulder. In addition to sliding down this hill in the winter, I remember going down that hill in a wagon. Not the best ideal I remember a lot of skinned knees.

To the left of the flag pole and

up the hill was Tent City, where the Main Area Staff lived. Off to the right was the Maintenance Shop, Dining Hall, and the Health Lodge. The hub of the city was the Maintenance Shop...always, a lot of activity there. It was also the Garage for the camp vehicles. The trucks had specific personalities, and the drivers often named them. The drivers had a busy daily schedule – starting in the morning with the first of three hot stack runs (delivering hot meals) to the staff in the areas around the lake to Family Camp. On the third run, they also brought the evening meal to the troops in Ten Chiefs and Flintlock as well as to the staff. In addition to those trips, they delivered groceries, equipment, mail, and ice to the troops around the lake, picking up garbage on the way back to bring to the Main Area garbage pit.

The garage also housed the fire truck, road grader and caterpillar, the generators, the tool room, and the Shop.

There was also a big truck, a big Chevy truck. If I remember right, that was used to make trips back and forth to Minneapolis to pick up supplies and maybe also to take things down to the city. This was the truck that the big V-plow attached to in the winter when there was LOTS of snow. Sometimes in the winter, the road from the edge of the woods to Manners' farm had snowbanks on each side of the road that were taller than our car. Anyway, in the summer, that truck took the staff to Detroit Lakes on their Saturdays off. The staff rode in the back on benches on the sides. Later on, I think they used a bus for that purpose.

Continuing down the hill from



the flag pole, the Administration Building (old Ad bldg overlooking the lake), with the post office, telephone switchboard, library, offices and a bunk room for the staff), Boat House on the Main Area Beach, the Trading Post with a grocery on one side and an outfitter on the other and an Ice House outback. Across the road was a Public Latrine and down the road, and up the hill were eight little cabins and a wash house (with toilets, showers, and a wringer washing machine) for the married staff and administrative staff.

Further down the road were the Catholic Chapel and the Conservation Lodge, complete with a “zoo,” museum, and across the road, the rifle range. Gaylords was at the end of the City Center. The camp road continued around the lake – following the lake wherever possible – driving through Ten Chiefs and Flintlock – the road was one way from the top of the Ten Chiefs hill to the Flintlock headquarters. After crossing the Ottertail River, the road made a sharp right staying close to the lake and went directly



1998 - Left to Right - Wayne Benson, Jean Hanson Benson, Meme Hanson May

behind the Moberg’s cabins and continued to Pioneer and Family Camp.

My last summer at Many Point was 1963. The next spring, I graduated from college, got married, and moved to St. Paul Park, where I taught first grade. We came back to Many Point a lot to visit my parents. After Dad retired and they moved to Detroit Lakes, I would visit Many Point with my Dad. I still go back occasionally.

I have a lot of good memories, and it was a wonderful place to grow up. We went to work with our Mom, and Dad was just down the hill in the Shop. We met a lot of people, a lot of interesting people. Through the years, I have occasionally met people with connections to Many Point. The most surprising was when volunteering at the nursing home a few years ago, one of the other volunteers told me about a female resident named Charlie, who went to country school with me. I

couldn’t imagine who it might be because I didn’t go to school with any girl named Charlie.

Curiosity got the best of me, so I went down to her room. Charlie was Joe Nickaboine’s oldest daughter, Rochilda, who I hadn’t seen since the 1950s. I didn’t recognize her but recognized the picture she had of her parents. Her family had moved to Texas, and she had recently moved back to this area. What a small world.

These are my memories growing up a girl in a boy scout camp. I checked my Dad’s day timers for some clarifications on people and dates and also talked with my sisters. However, my sisters and I don’t always remember the same things, and we sometimes remember them in different ways. And that is okay. This is the way I remember my years at Many Point.

For more great stories from staff, visit our webpage at [www.mpalumni.org](http://www.mpalumni.org).

## CONNECT ON LINKEDIN



**MPSAA - Many Point Staff  
Alumni Association**  
LinkedIn Group







MANY POINT STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# SPRING FLING

APR 30 CHANHASSEN AMERICAN LEGION  
★ DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM ★



SOCIAL

FOOD

SILENT AUCTION

TREK MARLIN 6 BIKE RAFFLE

MUSIC

BIKE RIDE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

AND MORE





# SPRING FLING

## 2022 SPRING FLING

- Join us at the Chanhassen American Legion
- 290 Lake Dr E, Chanhassen, MN 55317
- Doors open at 5:30PM
- Cost is \$10 per person. 2022 Current Staff - Free
- Free Soda, Appetizers provided. Cash beverages.

## To Do:

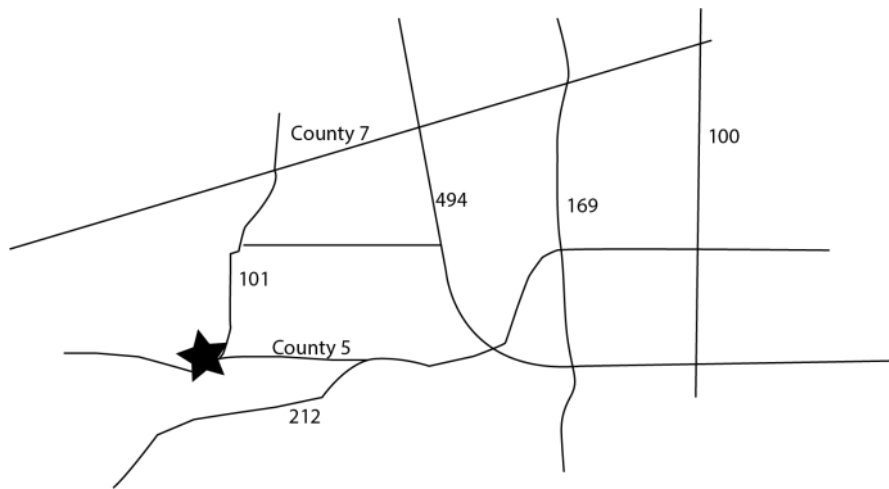
- A Great time to catch up with folks you haven't seen in a while.
- Pre-Event Bike Ride - sign up link at [www.mpalumni.org/news](http://www.mpalumni.org/news)
- Special presentation / introduction of Many Point's Camping Director, Alex Farrell
- Raffle and Silent Auction for Many Point gear, and a raffle for a Trek Marlin 6 Bike

## PRE-EVENT BIKE RIDE

Visit [www.mpalumni.org/news/](http://www.mpalumni.org/news/) for the latest on the pre-event Bike Ride hosted by Scott Wentworth. Details on the ride will be available on April 19th, 2022.

## SUPPER:

- **American Legion** - Great selection of American Food. <http://www.almost580-chanhassenmn.org/index.php?id=145>
- **Brindisi's Pub**—Casual American Eats.
- **Soya Sushi & Grill** - Sushi, grilled fare, bento boxes and a few Asian eats.
- **Tavern 4&5**—Burgers, Wood Fired Pizzas, Salads, Classics
- Quick Serve establishments also available



## LODGING OPTIONS:

AmericInn by Wyndham ★★★

570 Pond Promenade, Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317

(10min walk / 3min drive)

612-293-6930

Country Inn & Suites by Raddision ★★★

591 W 78th St, Chanhassen, MN 55317

(13min walk / 4min drive)

952-937-2424

Holiday Inn Express & Suites by IHG Hotel ★★★

7855 Century Blvd, Chanhassen, MN 55317

(7min Drive)

952-401-8850

## QUESTIONS:

Call Mike Kuklok or Jay Belschner for any questions regarding the event.

Mike: 763-234-7642, [kukl0016@gmail.com](mailto:kukl0016@gmail.com)

Jay: 612-619-2267, [jay.belschner@certifi.com](mailto:jay.belschner@certifi.com)



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## - Mike McCollor -

Mike McCollor lives life with gusto! Fortunately for Many Point Scouters and staff Mike decided to share his energy with Many Point! Mike started as a CIT in 1978 and was a C-Lodge aid for 1979-1980. He took a year off for other adventures but returned in 1982 as a climbing director – followed by another off year (1983) as a Ranger at Philmont. Fortunately he found his way back to Many Point and was the Buckskin program director in 1984, the Flintlock director in 1985, and the Ten Chiefs director in 1986-1988 ---followed by another year off when he hiked the part of the Appalachian Trail with his brother Brian, went to Alaska and returned to camp that for the remainder of the summer work in main area as a dynamic member of the main area program staff. From 1990-1992 Mike was the Voyageur Camp director. He returned in 1996 as the Voyageur Camp Director – just in time for the Fiftieth Many Point Anniversary! He also wrote Always There is a Lantern Bright, a history of Many Point written in a James Michener style with stories representative of each decade at camp. It is a delight to read – if you worked at Many Point you will enjoy reading the book!

Mike notes that his time at Many Point did much to teach him about communication, team

building, the Importance of staff training and leadership. These skills served Mike well with leadership roles in his fraternity and education...plus any avenue of life that he entered. Mike also valued learning how to work with a wide swath of people in a variety of situations. Mike learned that it is important to collaborate, have fun and stay focused on the mission at hand. It was interesting to note that Mike valued learning from the negative experiences – not that he sought to have negative experiences but when they happened he believes that one should cull the important lessons and use those lessons for future growth.

Mike's energy is too great to only "do Many Point." When not at camp Mike taught science at Battle Creek Middle School and, in short time, became an assistant principal at Battle Creek, Washington Technology Magnet School and Como Park High School. From there he spent 17 years as the principal of the Washington Technology Magnet School

supervising a great staff, curriculum and outstanding remodeling of the building. Along the way Mike earned Doctorate degree in education and named the Minnesota Principal of the Year in 2019! Mike also served on the St. Paul Teacher's Retirement Fund and has been the president since 2020. Mike retired from the St. Paul School District in 2019. (Do you think he foresaw the pandemic?!?)

Mike's wife, Melissa was a St. Paul principal, his daughter Maddie is an accomplish horseback rider and is currently an engineer with Cargill. Their son Mathew earned the rank of Eagle Scout and is enrolled at the University of Minnesota. Mike's energy never falters! Mike still does running, biking, plus hiking on the Superior Hiking Trail, the Kekekabic Trail and the Border Route Trail. In the summers of 2020 and 2021 Mike was the Associate Camp Program Director at Many Point and will return in the summer of 2022. Mike has been an assistant Scoutmaster and you may still find him working at Northwind when he and /or family are not traveling the world's "hotspots". Mike continues to live life with gusto! He is Scoutriffic!

Written by: Chuck Fisher







# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



· Jo (Larson) Benson ·

Jo (Larson) Benson was a leader – a trail breaker for others. She was the first woman hired to work in a program area at Many Point Scout Camp! In 1978 Jo was hired to work in Buckskin. At that time the Buckskin director was also responsible for the trading post and the dining hall! Jo worked in the trading post and got to know staff and Scouters. In addition, Jo helped with program and even taught a merit badge class while working in the trading post. Jo stated that she rode the staff bus to camp and instantly had a group of big brothers! No staff member questioned a woman on staff. She had a great can-do attitude. She had been active in Camp Fire Girls and in Exploring. In fact, she had planned to work at a Camp Fire Girl camp – until it was closed down. It was at a social gathering where it was suggested that she apply at Many Point. She did! She was at the Scout office for an interview and Al Thomas, a district executive at the time, came out looking for Jo – expecting a guy. When the gender was clarified Jo went in for the interview and was hired by Buckskin Camp director Al Thomas.

Jo returned for a second year at Buckskin – and this time as a commissioner. Because the adult

leaders and many Scouts knew Jo from the year before when she worked in the trading post she was well accepted in her new role at camp. The only real concern by adult leaders was about use of the shower house but a system was worked out to satisfy those that might have been nervous. Jo was well trained with lifesaving skills learned while in Camp Fire Girls plus, between the camping seasons of 1978 and 1979 Jo had earned her WSI. The outdoor skills she had learned through Campfire Girls and Exploring provided a good base for her work at Many Point! More importantly, Jo brought a positive attitude, an infectious personality and a desire to do the best possible job for the Scouters and the troops.

Jo learned a lot from Many Point! She learned how to work and talk with a wide swath of personalities, the fun of comradery, leadership, goal setting, the value of training, the need to follow through and so much more! Jo was not able to return to camp after the summer of 1979 because her goal was to go into law enforcement and that preparation would continue into the summer of 1980. Another great element that Jo was able to leave camp with – was Jim Benson! He had been the aquatics director at Buckskin.

Jo went to work for the University of Minnesota police department and worked there for 30 years until her 2012 retirement. She was a sergeant for half her time on the force and divided her time between patrol work and investigations. During her time with the University of Minnesota Police Department Jo was named Officer of the Year in 1995 by the Minnesota Association of Women Police. In the same year, Jo was recognized by the International Association of Women with the Medal of Valor! Jo never volunteered these recognitions, but Jim proudly shared them with me when I asked the two of them to check the article. Her actions were meritorious!! She and Jim have two children. Her son earned his Eagle! Her daughter was very active in the Y camps and even worked at Camp Menogyn! To this day Jo and Jim are active with a Scout troop. Jo was a trailblazer that opened the door for so many women to work at Many Point. And Many Point is better because of what Jo started! Jo is Scoutriffic!

Written by Chuck Fisher.



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY AT MANY POINT SCOUT CAMP!

Many Point Scout Camp celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a number of ways with special activities for troops and Scouts. It also opened camp to families and former staff – for a week! From July 4<sup>th</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup> families and individuals could camp at Voyageur in Many Point or rent Family Camp cabins – and former staff did just that. The idea was conceived by Camping Director, Evan Yingst, Camp Program Director, Doug Gerrick, Associate Camp Program Director, Mike McCollor and other staff. It was a grand idea!

What this type of celebration did was to open the current camp activities and programs to former staff and their families. The fact that so many former staff attended with their families was exciting! Former staff wanted their partners and children to understand what they had experienced as staff members, what they had been talking about for all the years and for their families to experience the wonders of Many Point! Other

former staff came to just reignite connections with past colleagues. It was fun to see the reunions occur. Kent Krueger grew up at camp when his father Paul Krueger was Reservation Program Director. He wanted his wife and daughter to see the place that had been his summer home. It was energizing to hear his excitement and when he was told that Lee Cornell was present. Kent and his family ran to find Lee. That type of meeting was reenacted all week and all day on Saturday – the day of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet. Sean Dooley was there from New Mexico. Doran Kissenger had been on staff as international staffer from Israel and his time as a staff member meant so much to him he HAD to return for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another former international commissioner was there – Runa Erbs Hanson Welch now married to former staff member Aaron Welch. Mark Yelich spent two weeks at camp plus filled in at a number of spots where staff were missing and helped with special projects. Ron

Schroeder and his family staked out a campsite in Family Camp. Former Reservation Camp Director Bob Gagner and his wife, Chris Gagner (also a former staff member), spent a week at Family Camp and helped in planting trees. Each camper this summer got to plant a tree and the total hit over 1500 pine trees in honor of Many Points' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition campers were taught how



*Mark Yelich and Doran Kissenger*

to mark the tree with GPS to find the tree in the future. Quite a living testimony to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Please accept the author's apologies for being guilty of the "sin of omission". Many former staff and family took advantage of the opportunity to be at Many Point or a week, a few days or for Saturday...but there were too many to list them all. The important point is that everyone at Many Point could participate in program opportunities, relive the past, be introduced to the present and reconnect with former staff!





Some former staff chose to come for just the weekend or just Saturday. Jim Spevacek was there! Jim was a member of the first troop to camp at Many Point – troop 22! How exciting to have him in attendance! The Bollig family is a Scouting family and especially a Many Point family with so many family members having worked at Many Point. All staff visiting for the weekend also had the opportunity to tour the history center, climb the fire tower, attend the five point shotgun stand, use the beach, go sailing or go canoeing and simply visit other former staff and families. It was also exciting to see and hear the interaction of former staff even if they never worked together or had worked at camp the same time – they were all part of the Many Point family and the Many Point heritage. The culmination came with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on Saturday night.

An astounding number of over three hundred former staff and family members showed up for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet on Saturday. There were staff from all

eight decades. Family members of Boots and Ale were both at the banquet. Tables were designated as to the eight decades of Many Point so attendees could sit by era or wherever they wanted to sit. It was a great meal prepared by Anna Waaraniemi, Steve Young and crew – with help from volunteers!

Meme (Hanson) Watson spoke about Many Point. She was followed by Mindy Schroeder-Kragness who, also, grew up at Many Point. This writer had the pleasure of watching Mindy grow up with her excitement for Many Point...even if it meant long bus rides to and from school during the winter! Mindy, and her sister Erin, both ended up working at Many Point. Mindy's husband (Chad Kragness) is a former Many Point staff member. Mindy gave a wonderful insight to her world. After Meme and Mindy each living director of Many Point spoke about their time as a director, the challenges they faced and the growth of Many Point.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is the diamond jubilee and just as a diamond is formed through time and pressure so Many Point has emerged bright and shining after experiencing heat and pressure. Many Point shines bright because of how it has responded to the pressure of time. Jim Spevacek was in attendance at the banquet. Jim was a member of the troop 22 – the first troop to camp at Many Point Scout Camp! What an exciting event! Jim represents the beginning of Many Point while another speaker, Atman Jahagirder, who is a current Scout with troop



Chuck Fisher and Dan Trudeau

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### **Many Point Camping Director**

Alex Farrell  
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3048 spoke of the present and what Scouting and what Many Point has done for him. Atman's accomplishments are many but at the banquet he focused on what Scouting and Many Point had provided him in terms of skills and attitudes that have served him well as he has grown. He thanked Many Point and the thousands of staff that have brought Many Point to life, that have brought the Mission to life and that has brought Scouting to life in the hearts of all the campers at Many Point for seventy five summers. After Atman spoke it was announced that a Many Point Endowment Fund has been established to maintain the spirit of Many Point. It's goal is to augment the financial stability of Many Point and ensure that the mission of Many Point will continue long into the future!

In the end representatives from each decade were called forward to light the lantern of their era. The banquet concluded with the Ballad of Many Point – how else?! People adjourned to a campfire on Voyageur beach with music and the chance to visit with former staff and family members. The campfire lasted well into the night and as people drifted away with their memories of the event of their time at Many Point. Hearts were warm as "...the heritage that is your's and mine..." was renewed and share with family members and friends. It was most fitting!

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary was different than the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary but perhaps the difference highlights the growth and maturity of Many Point. It

was mixture of the past and the future of Many Point as past staff members introduced their family and children to the "Wonders of Many Point" and therein perhaps spawn the next staff members to carry on the Mission, the magic and the excitement of Many Point!



Gage Vizecky, Jakob Dotterer, Brianna Eggers, Terry Pumper, Ashley Schober



## MANY POINT HERITAGE FUND

Since the "soft launch" of our new **Many Point Heritage Fund** Endowment this past summer, we've raised over \$2 million dollars in committed "life-long" support of camp! We're now working on things like ongoing program governance, Camp "wish lists", and best ways to get the word out about how a donation to the Heritage Fund is a donation for the life of camp. As the balance grows, the interest the fund earns will be made available to camp for things like capital improvements outside of the operating budget, unforeseen financial challenges from things like "a pandemic", etc. etc.

The bottom line is that this initiative will protect and grow Many Point specifically as an arm of Northern Star's *Make Your Mark Campaign*. If you would like to help us with this exciting project or contribute to the fund in dollars or with an estate plan, we'd love to talk to you! To get involved or to contribute contact Many Point volunteer Jay Belschner at [jayandshelley@hotmail.com](mailto:jayandshelley@hotmail.com) or Matt Magers, Northern Star's Major Gifts/Planned Giving Director at [mmagers@northernstar.org](mailto:mmagers@northernstar.org). Stay tuned!





# WELCOME ALEX FARRELL!

Welcome Alex Farrell as the newest Camping Director for Many Point Scout Camp. Alex is no stranger to Scouting or to Many Point. Alex started his Scouting career in Cub Scouts and worked his way up through the



ranks—earning his Eagle Scout Award in 2016. While working through his ranks, he visited Many Point each summer, and became interested in working on Staff. In 2013, with guidance from Peter Larsen as his CIT Director, Alex explored the wonders of being on the Many Point Staff.

To get a jump start, Alex worked on the North Wind Staff in the winter of 2014 and started his first summer at camp in 2014 as a Program Counselor in Buckskin. Alex has also been a Handicrafts Director, Nature Director, Commissioner, Aquatics Director, and Camp Director. The diverse knowledge that Alex has of different camp positions is accompanied by a background in education. He graduated in 2021 from the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire. Like his dedication to Many Point during the summer, while at college, Alex focused on advancing his skills. He was a Resident Assistant and went on to leadership roles for the Resident programs. Alex was also involved with other training committees and was beginning a Master's program which focused on his passion for diversity and student affairs.

As someone who has worked with Alex since he started, I can tell you that Many Point is in great hands. Alex's love of Many Point paired with his background, his charismatic personality, his eagerness to learn, his amiable persona, his inspiring attitude, and his understanding and acceptance of what Many Point means to all of us, will create an unstoppable harmony that will serve Scouts and Staff as Many Point continues to pave the way for Scout Camps.

Welcome Aboard Alex, You'll Do Great!

-Mike Kuklok, MPSAA



## MAKING IT HAPPEN MOUNTAIN BIKING OUTPOST @ MPSC

Thanks to all of the members, we are getting closer to reaching the goal of being able to completely outfit the Mountain Bike Outpost Program. Contributions are still welcome which will support the remaining obstacles and equipment.

The goal of the effort was to have each bike named, and those who grouped up with others for a total contribution \$1000 could have the naming rights. It's not too late to do so. If you have already donated, and forgot to get on a team, send Mike Kuklok an email at [kukl0016@gmail.com](mailto:kukl0016@gmail.com), and he will help you out. For those who do not have a preference, but have an idea for a name, at least seven (7) of the bikes will have a name that is voted on by the entire Alumni Association. If you have an idea for a Bike Name, and would like to have it on the list of candidates, email that to Mike Kuklok at [kukl0016@gmail.com](mailto:kukl0016@gmail.com).

If you still would like to contribute to this incredible program spearheaded by Isaac Swift and Alex Farrell, you can do so. Go to [www.mpalumni.org/give/](http://www.mpalumni.org/give/) and you can pay your dues and help with the Mountain Biking effort.



Get more information on the Mountain Biking Program at [www.mpalumni.org/bike](http://www.mpalumni.org/bike)





**TROOP 22 - FIRST TROOP TO CAMP AT MANY POINT**

Troop 22 camped at Many Point in August of 1946, the year before the camp officially opened.

In this photo, taken of the troop at Many Point in 1947, is Jim Spevacek (he's second row, third from the left).

As a Scout, Jim earned the rank of Life. He later graduated from the U of M, started his career at 1<sup>st</sup> Bank in Minneapolis, married, and raised four sons and a daughter. All four of his sons became Scouts, and all four earned the rank of Eagle.

Two of his sons worked at Many Point, and two worked at Philmont. A generation later, his granddaughter worked on the staff at Many Point.

Seventy-five summers after this photo was taken, Jim, at age 88, was brought to Many Point's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 by two of his sons. He brought his old Troop 22 beanie, worn by some in the photo, and donated it to the History Center.



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- Submitted by Dave Price



Jim Spevacek—1947



Two of his sons worked at many Point, and



# MANY POINT STAFF ALUMNI WORK PARTY MAY 13-15

Your help is requested at the Many Point Staff Alumni Work Party on May 13-15.

## **WHO:**

Any staffer who has worked at Many Point are welcome. Guests welcome too.

## **WHAT & WHY:**

We'll be working to finish the final traverses in the Outdoor Skills / Scout Craft areas. Over the past few summers, staff and alumni have constructed permanent structures that can be used from year to year. This year, we are focusing on the final traverse and learning stations (permanent learning centers that focus on materials to support staffers when they teach skills during merit badges and troop activities.)

The goal of this effort is to provide a base for the young staffers that come into the role of Outdoor Skills / Scout Craft. Instead of having an empty area, they will always have a good

foothold to kick the summer off. From there, they can create addition elements with Scouts to further enhance the space.

## **WHEN & WHERE:**

Many Point Scout Camp on May 13-15. Arrive on Friday, and we'll do projects on Saturday and Sunday. It will be a good time, so come prepared to laugh and enjoy yourself.

Food and Lodging are provided for the weekend.

## **HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?**

Give Jack a call or text: 763-234-3357 OR email at [jackhoye4@gmail.com](mailto:jackhoye4@gmail.com).

He can fill you in and make sure you have everything for the weekend.

# 2022 ELECTION: THANK YOU TO JEREMY, CORWIN, AND JENCE

Chuck Fisher was the nomination committee chair this season and lead the effort in filling nominations for Board positions for the 2022-2024 Board Members and President. Staff Alumni Elizabeth Pascuzzi, Marty Carter, and Nikki Johnson were suggested by the Nomination committee and presented to the Board to fill the 2022-2025 Board Member positions. Alumni Mike Kuklok was also nominated by the committee to continue as President of the Alumni Association. Al Boyce would continue as Treasurer and Jay Belschner would continue as Vice-President of the organization.

On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM, online voting will open and be managed by the nomination committee. The polls will close on Sunday April 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00PM.

## A NOTE OF THANKS:

The organization is becoming stronger every year, and the MPSAA is excited for what is to come this year at Many Point. The MPSAA is working closely with Alex Farrell and Many Point's leadership to ensure this summer is a success where

people are harmoniously utilizing opportunities to make each organization grow together. We're off to a great start and each see it getting stronger as weeks go on. The growth of the Alumni Association is because of the members that continue to support the organization and Many Point, but also the leadership that continues to guide the organization in a positive direction. For the past seven years, both Corwin Diamond and Jeremy Linton have brought their minds to the table, rolled up their sleeves, voiced their opinions, and worked next to staff members to make the organization and Many Point better. For four years, David Jansen brought his creative abilities, simplistic solutions, and realism to the organization. We thank each of you for your participation, the hours of muscling through bringing ideas into reality where fairness to the campers, the staff, the camp and the MPSAA are balanced. Many Point and the MPSAA is better because of you three. Thank you.

We encourage everyone to come to the Spring Fling (or even just stop by to say, "Hi"), encourage you to participate in upcoming events leading up, during, and after the summer.

Keep your wicks trimmed and your Lantern's bright!

-Mike Kuklok



Photo By: Marie Miller

