



The Cachalotter

News, Information, and Memories by and for the Members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

Homecoming 2011

Welcoming the Next Class of Wall of Fame Inductees

All the ballots have been cast. All the votes are tallied. All that's left is to join us at Homecoming 2011 to help us celebrate the induction of our second group of Wall of Fame honorees.

Our seventh annual Homecoming kicks off at noon on July 9th with a cookout lunch of burgers and dogs in the pine grove by Tom Cullen Field. We'll get a quick update on the last year of Alumni Association happenings, and a preview of the year to come, at 1:00PM, then at 1:30PM we'll welcome our newest Wall of Fame members in the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field. For the first time at Homecoming, we'll also be holding a silent auction to help raise funds for the construction of the permanent Wall of Fame memorial. We'll also have our final concept artwork on display for the Wall of Fame for you to check out. Cachalot will remain open to you for the rest of the afternoon, until 5:00PM, if you want to check out your old camp site, get a last look at Prescott Dining Hall before renovations on the building begin this fall, or just hang around and talk with old friends.

Homecoming is a free event, although we appreciate donations to help us cover the cost of lunch if you decide to dine with us (\$5 suggested). We recommend bringing out a camp chair for yourself if you'd like to be sure of a seat during the induction ceremony, as only limited seating will be available and priority will be given to the inductees and their families.

Our honorees have spent many years making a difference for all of us at Cachalot; we hope you'll be able to come out and help us celebrate their contributions! 🐟

Homecoming will take place rain or shine, although in the event of rain the induction ceremony will move indoors. If this becomes necessary, details will be provided when you arrive. Please email homecoming2011@cachalotalumni.org with any questions.

Wall of Fame Class of 2011



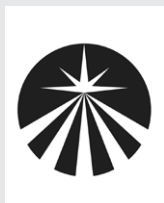
Edmund "Ed" Tavares

Long-time volunteer, sometime Scouting professional, Explorer, Venturer, and Scouter, Mr. Tavares' continuing contributions are too numerous to count, and span from his service as a member of Cachalot's first summer camp staff to helping to found our Alumni Association.



William "Bill" Joyce

A tireless volunteer and Scoutmaster, Mr. Joyce's legacy at Cachalot is one of innumerable lessons to Scouts, many projects to improve or restore the ecology of the camp, and helping establish many programs that continue to this day.



NSTAR and Its Employees

The bringers and maintainers of light and power, the employees of NSTAR, Scouters and non-Scouters alike, have a long history of volunteer work at Cachalot, from bringing the earliest power lines into camp in the early 1950s through maintenance and upgrades today.

Full coverage of our honorees and their induction coming in the Fall Cachalotter!

Homecoming Details

July 9th, 2011
12:00PM until 5:00PM

Wall of Fame Induction
begins at 1:00PM

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Send email to
homecoming@cachalotalumni.org

Free admission for members and
non-members alike
(\$5 suggested donation for lunch)

or visit us at
www.cachalotalumni.org
for more information.

The Cachaletter

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Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

The Cachaletter is the newsletter of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association. It is published twice annually: once in the spring and once in the fall, by the Communications Committee.

Questions or other feedback related to *The Cachaletter* can be sent via email to cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org.

Editor
Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors
Brian Bastarache
Eric Oulette
Victor Sylvia

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association was founded in 2004 with the express purpose of supporting Camp Cachalot and being a social organization for the extended family of the Camp. Anyone who has ever had any involvement with Camp Cachalot, the former Moby Dick Council, or any of the predecessor camps or Councils is eligible for membership. It is a not-for-profit organization operated under the auspices of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Our membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th, and all membership fees contribute directly to our endowment fund, the proceeds of which go directly towards the support of Camp Cachalot.

More information about the Alumni Association, including membership forms, back issues of *The Cachaletter*, Camp history, and online discussion forums, can be found online at our web site:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/>

We can also be reached via US Mail at the following address:

Camp Cachalot Alumni Association
c/o Narragansett Council, BSA
P.O. Box 14777
Providence, RI 02914



Where Are You, Fred?

Vic Sylvia, Association Chairman

A few weeks ago while rummaging through the attic I found some slides from around 1962 of a troop camping trip. After two hours of going through storage boxes to find my old slide viewer and a trip to CVS to buy batteries, I was able to relive some fond memories. One slide in particular hit home. There we were, the Black Raven patrol, sitting around what looked like a pretty neat campfire. I'm sure it was at Camp Cachalot but haven't the slightest idea where, the landscape has sure changed over the years.

I couldn't help but continually stare at the faces and wonder where my patrol mates are now. I'm sure they would all have some interesting stories to tell. Over the last fifty or so years I have bumped into two or three and said all the proper pleasantries, but never really sat with them and discussed what was for me a great period of my life. I'm sure some of them are still living in the area, but embarrassingly, I haven't tried to find them. As they become older and like me, and think back on those wild and crazy days of our youth, I can only hope that at some point they will become curious about Scouting and Cachalot and search the web and, with luck, find us.

The hard part is finding those lost Scouts...

If they do, what will they find? I think they'll find a great group of former Scouts and Scouters that care about Camp Cachalot and an Association that is dedicated to keeping those memories alive. Viewing our web site they'll be able to learn about the history of the 21 Club, Waterfront Tower, Prescott Hall, The Trading Post, Cabins 1 and 2, the Council Ring and the efforts of our membership through work related activities to improve and maintain them. Browsing through past copies of our publication, *The Cachaletter*, they'll be able to see our efforts to gather together for fellowship at Winter Gatherings, Homecomings and family camp-outs. They may even see photographs of themselves through the numerous slides and photos we have compiled in our museum and gallery. With luck they might post a message in one of our forums. Hopefully they will be interested and join our Association. All the information is on our web site and registration can easily be done on line.

The hard part is finding those lost Scouts and Scouters and getting the information into their hands. I guess the rest is up to me to track down my old friends and give them an opportunity to rejoin our Cachalot family. Not being very computer savvy, I'm sure it will take some time, but like you I feel strongly enough about our Association to make the attempt. Please join me and make an extra effort to contact those people that made Scouting and Camp Cachalot an important aspect of our lives, and give them the opportunity to join with us in our future endeavors. Fred Shabotnic, where are you? 🐸



Meet Eric

Eric Oulette, Reservation Director



Greetings Cachalot Alumni,

I just wanted to start off by introducing myself; my name is Eric Oulette and I am excited to serve as the Reservation Director for the summer of 2011 at Cachalot Scout Reservation. This is my 13th summer working at a summer camp, my second at Cachalot.

This summer looks to be a great one; celebrating our 66th season as a summer camp operation shows great dedication not only on the staff's part, but on your part as well. Cachalot wouldn't be what it is today without the help from all of you and I commend everyone on their efforts to make Cachalot what it is today. This year we have added our very own horizontal wall at our eXtreme Scouting Area and an improved C.I.T. program where leadership development and teamwork will take place to develop and enrich the lives of these young adults. I have no doubt that everyone including the staff will benefit from this great program.

In addition to the improvements to the program, we have made several physical enhancements to camp. Our Waterfront has a new mooring system for docking our boats, as well as an easy to use foot washing station. Several dozen internal tent frames have been built by

our exceptional Ranger Karrie Dumais. Finally, our biggest enhancement to our facilities will be to Prescott Dining Hall. That will take place directly after Summer Camp.

I look forward to meeting everyone as they come through to visit this summer, as well as the Homecoming taking place on July 9th. The Program Director and members of the Senior Staff

will be available to show you around and answer any questions you might have about the new programs we have.

As I said before, it looks to be a promising summer. With upwards of 400 youth attending, Cachalot will be in full bloom in no time! I look forward to meeting everyone at Homecoming in July, and from the staff of Cachalot I would like to say THANK YOU for all that you do. 🐻

Cachalot wouldn't be what it is today without the help from all of you...

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

June 30th, 2011
End of 2010-2011 Membership Year

July 9th, 2011
12:00PM through 5:00PM
Homecoming 2011 and Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Camp Cachalot

September 2nd -5th, 2011
Alumni Labor Day Family Camping Weekend
Camp Cachalot

Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

Victor Sylvia
Association Chairman
chairman@cachalotalumni.org

Richard F. Partridge
Treasurer
treasurer@cachalotalumni.org

David A. Goldrick
Secretary
secretary@cachalotalumni.org

Peter W. Ashworth
Council Representative
pashworth@narragansettbsa.org

Membership Committee
membership@cachalotalumni.org

Staff Scholarship Information
staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org

Homecoming 2011 Information
homecoming2011@cachalotalumni.org

Family Camping Information
familycamping@cachalotalumni.org

To Submit Historical Information
curator@cachalotalumni.org

Other Inquiries
info@cachalotalumni.org

Wild Cachalot

A Good Day Fishing...

BY BRIAN BASTARACHE

Cachalot has many unique and memorable features, but the one that everyone seems to remember most is the water. Many of us have uttered, "You have never seen such clear and beautiful lakes," when trying to explain the coastal plain ponds of Cachalot to one who has never experienced them. A trip to camp without visiting at least Five Mile Pond is unthinkable...even in the middle of winter. While the fondest memories of the Cachalot lakes are likely those of swimming, many have also enjoyed spectacular sunsets, quiet moments of contemplation, sailing and of course FISHING!

While the diversity of fish species at Cachalot is rather poor it is typical for most freshwaters in eastern New England. A mere ten thousand years ago – a blink of an eye in geologic history – New England was covered by glacial ice nearly two miles thick. Gigantic lobes of ice pushed southward forming Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and Cape Cod. Cachalot and its lakes are also artifacts of the ice age. All fish in the region's rivers were pushed out to sea as the ice advanced. Salt water is lethal to most freshwater fish (and visa versa) and when the ice finally receded many of the local rivers and lakes were devoid of fish.

Other northern states, such as Minnesota, are drained by huge river systems that extend for hundreds of miles to the south. Freshwater fish pushed out of Minnesota by advancing glaciers simply swam farther south down their river systems. Safe in these warm water refugia, these fish could simply swim back to reclaim ancestral homes when the ice receded. Even though both Massachusetts and Minnesota were covered in ice. Minnesota boasts more than 150 native species of freshwater fish while Massachusetts can claim only about 45.

At least nine species of freshwater fish can be found at Cachalot. The most sought-after game fish in the nation, and likely at camp, is the largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides*. This favorite of anglers naturally occurs in the southeastern United States and is not native to New England. Introduction efforts, both public and private, began more than a century ago and by the mid 1800s millions of small bass were introduced to nearly every lake and pond in the commonwealth to increase recreational angling opportunities for the public. No bass swam in our ponds when the Pilgrims landed.

Smallmouth bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, has also been introduced to Massachusetts waters. This species requires cold water and while it could likely survive in Five Mile and Abner's Ponds, I have never found any at camp.



Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

The bluegill sunfish, *Lepomis macrochirus*, is native to the Midwestern states and was introduced to Massachusetts for similar reasons. A population pan fish, the bluegill grows larger and therefore produces a larger fillet than our native pumpkinseed sunfish, *Lepomis gibbosus*. Both bluegills and pumpkinseeds make crater like nests in the sandy bottoms of lakes and rivers in the spring. Pumpkinseed nests are always solitary while bluegills nest close to one another. Both are important prey species for larger predators such as largemouth bass.

Pumpkin seeds are not the only native fish swimming in our lakes. Yellow perch, *Percha flavescens*, and chain pickerel, *Esox niger*, are common in many of the Cachalot Ponds. Yellow perch are popular and tasty pan fish. Snorkeling BSA classes are often treated to the beautiful spectacle of summer rays shining through the clear water onto a school of young yellow perch. Growing as long as your forearm, chain pickerel prey on frogs and smaller fish. Pickerel offer the angler a great fight, but removing a hook from their toothy mouth can be difficult.

Everyone has seen the schools of small fish that cruise the very edges of the sandy lake shores. These are not minnows at all, (minnow refers to a particular family of fish, the *Cyprinidae*, not all of which are small) but a killifish. The term killifish comes from the Dutch word for stream, "kill" (American Killifish Association, nd). Although many native "killies" live in brackish or seawater, the Banded Killifish, *Fundulus diaphanous*, is common in freshwaters. This killi is native to our lakes and streams.

The Banded Killi prefers a sandy bottom and

does not stray far from shore as bass and pickerel lurk in the deeper water. These tiny fish consume vast numbers of mosquito larvae and are in turn prey for larger fish and other animals. Quietly sneak up to the water's edge in the spring to see the male killies displaying gorgeous blue markings in the hopes of attracting a mate. Try this from March to April from under the pines on the north edge of the water front. Polarized sun glasses will help.

One of my favorite Cachalot memories was

Turtle Update

In the last issue of *The Cachalotter*, we reported on Brian collecting a few clutches of Painted Turtle (*Chrysemis picta*) eggs that had been laid by turtles "caught in the act" by several of the alumni kids in attendance at our Memorial Day 2010 Family Camping Weekend. Brian brought the eggs home to incubate, hatched out several young turtles, and gave them a fast start. At this year's Memorial Day event, he brought out seven young turtles, and helped the alumni kids release them back into the lagoon area of Five Mile Pond while explaining how he had taken care of them over the winter.

Check out pages 6 and 7 for a few pictures of the turtles and the kids helping release them!

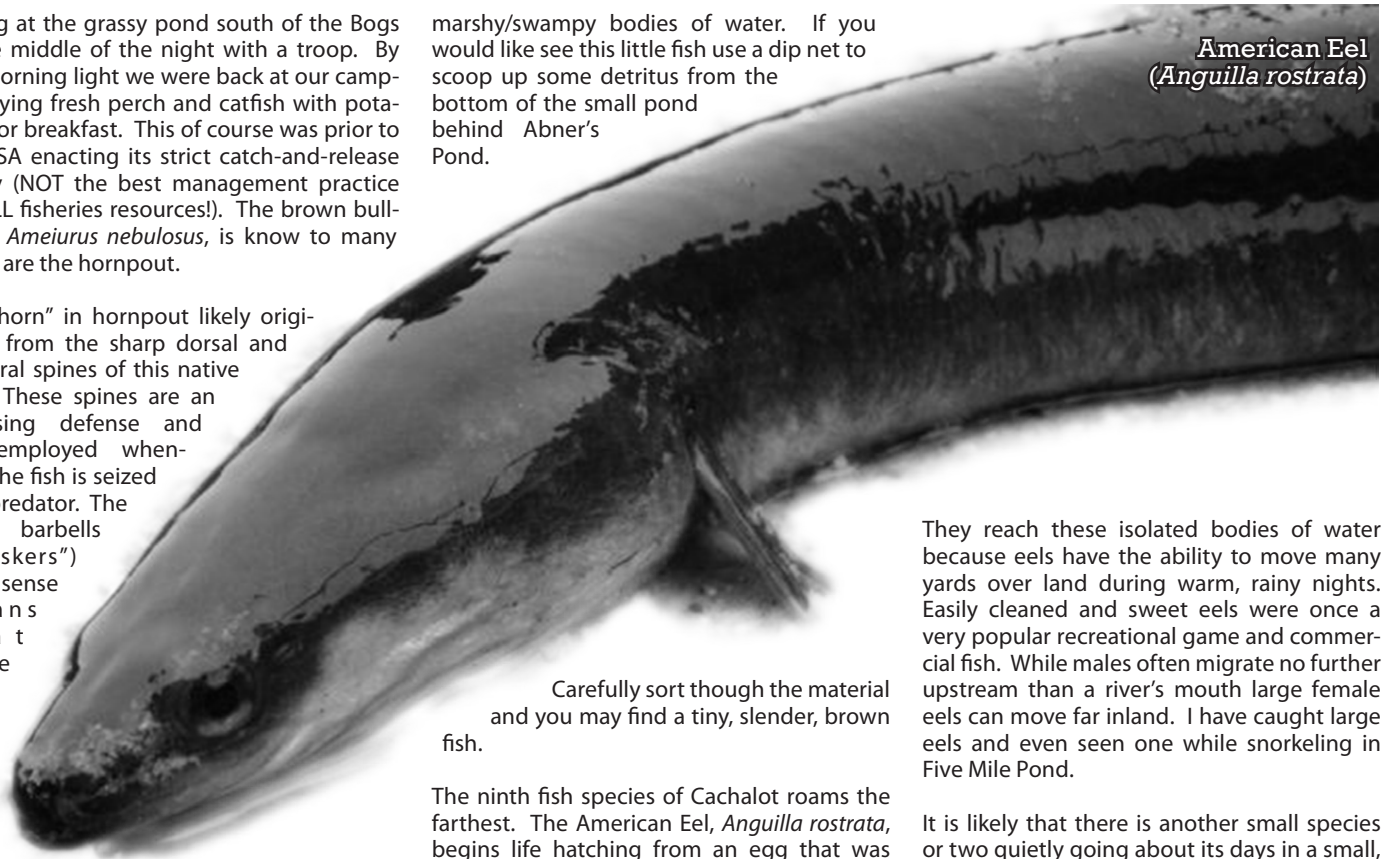
Remember, Brian is a trained professional with experience doing exactly this. It is illegal to possess many wild turtle species in Massachusetts without a permit. Be a citizen scientist. Report turtle sightings at www.turtleatlas.org

fishing at the grassy pond south of the Bogs in the middle of the night with a troop. By the morning light we were back at our campsite frying fresh perch and catfish with potatoes for breakfast. This of course was prior to the BSA enacting its strict catch-and-release policy (NOT the best management practice for ALL fisheries resources!). The brown bullhead, *Ameiurus nebulosus*, is known to many locals as the hornpout.

The "horn" in hornpout likely originates from the sharp dorsal and pectoral spines of this native fish. These spines are an imposing defense and are employed whenever the fish is seized by a predator. The fleshy barbells ("whiskers") are sense organs that sense

marshy/swampy bodies of water. If you would like to see this little fish use a dip net to scoop up some detritus from the bottom of the small pond behind Abner's Pond.

American Eel
(*Anguilla rostrata*)



Carefully sort through the material and you may find a tiny, slender, brown fish.

The ninth fish species of Cachalot roams the farthest. The American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, begins life hatching from an egg that was laid in the Sargasso Sea somewhere between Georgia and the Caribbean. Because of their snake-like shape eels are often thought to be something other than a fish. Eels are just as much a fish as a bass or hornpout, but they exhibit a very different life cycle than all other fish at camp. A small eel begins its long journey north from the Sargasso Sea and is only a few inches long by the time it reaches New England.

chemicals (like taste or smell) and allow this mainly nocturnal fish to find food in the dark. The lucky fish watcher may see schools of inch-long bullhead scouring the shallows, even by day, using their barbells to search out morsels.

The most easily overlooked species of Cachalot fish is, not surprisingly, the smallest. The tiny Swamp Darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme*, only grows to an inch or two. At Cachalot the Swamp Darter is most common in the smaller,

The elvers (juvenile eels) swim up a rivers and streams. Eels are often found in lakes and ponds that have no connection to the sea.

They reach these isolated bodies of water because eels have the ability to move many yards over land during warm, rainy nights. Easily cleaned and sweet eels were once a very popular recreational game and commercial fish. While males often migrate no further upstream than a river's mouth large female eels can move far inland. I have caught large eels and even seen one while snorkeling in Five Mile Pond.

It is likely that there is another small species or two quietly going about its days in a small, weedy kettle hole somewhere in Cachalot waiting to be "discovered" by nature lovers. There is never a reason to be bored at camp. If you are not hiking, swimming, or fishing you can search for some of the smaller little creatures in the quieter corners of camp. There are a few resources available to help you to identify your fishy quarry. You can obtain a copy of the Fishes of Massachusetts brochure by mailing a self-addressed, business sized, 61-cent stamped to: Fish Brochure, Mass Wildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA 01581. 🐟

Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



Literature Cited

American Killifish Association. (nd). American Killifish Association website. Taken from <http://www.aka.org/aka/modules/content/index.php?id=64> on 18 March 2011.

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Pumpkinseed photo on this page used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user "drainhook".

American eel photo on this page used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user "Charles & Clint".

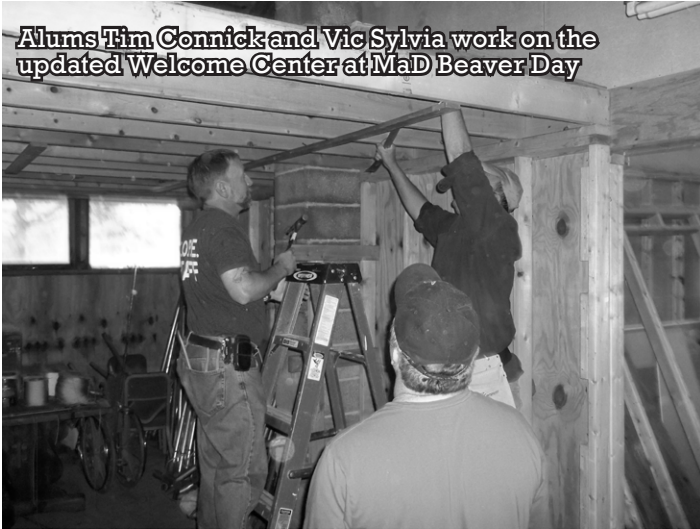
A Few Thousand More Words...

Pictures from our Recent Alumni Association Events

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then what we've got here should blow our word count out of the water for this issue! Here are some photos from the Association events since our last issue was published: the

Klondike Derby in January (where we man the warming station), our Winter Gathering, the "Make a Difference" Beaver Day in June, and our Memorial Day Family Camping weekend in May. If you attended one of these events,

but still don't spot yourself in one of these photos, there are more on the Association's web site as well as in our Flickr and Facebook groups, so pay us a visit online and check those out, too (or share your own)! 🐾



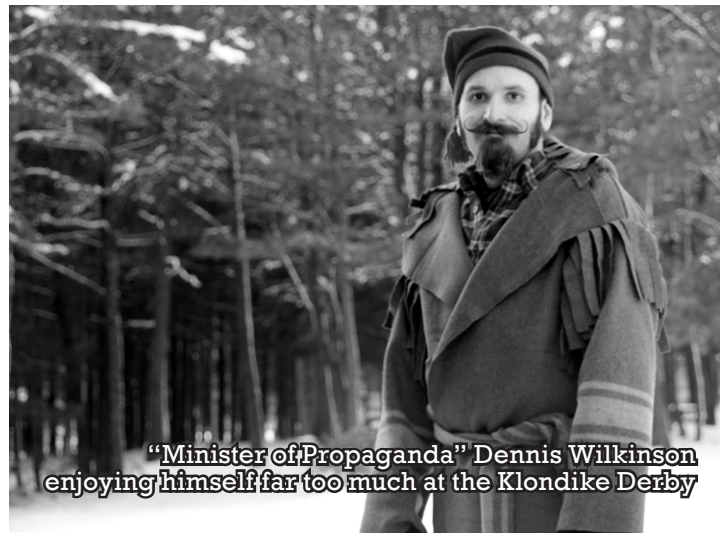
Alums Tim Connick and Vic Sylvia work on the updated Welcome Center at MaD Beaver Day



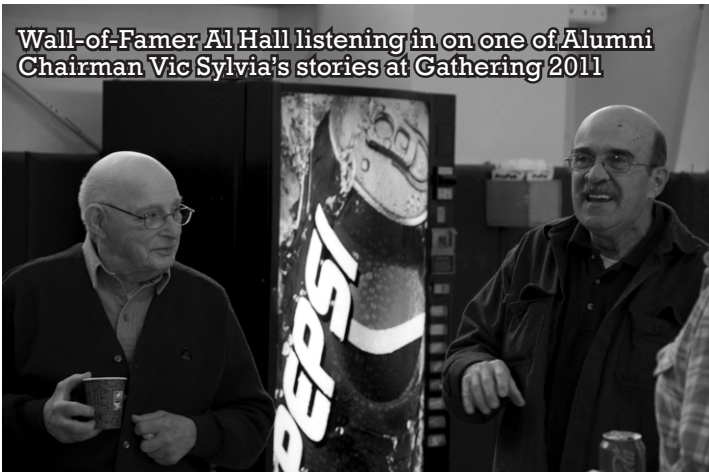
Everett Gravel showing the Gathering crowd a "master plan" for Cachalot from the early 1970s



Another alum frames up the old garage door opening on the updated Welcome Center



"Minister of Propaganda" Dennis Wilkinson enjoying himself far too much at the Klondike Derby



Wall-of-Famer Al Hall listening in on one of Alumni Chairman Vic Sylvia's stories at Gathering 2011



Fast-started Painted Turtles eager for their release into the wild, Memorial Day Weekend



Alumni kids releasing a Painted Turtle into the lagoon



Brian Bastarache helping one of the kids release a turtle



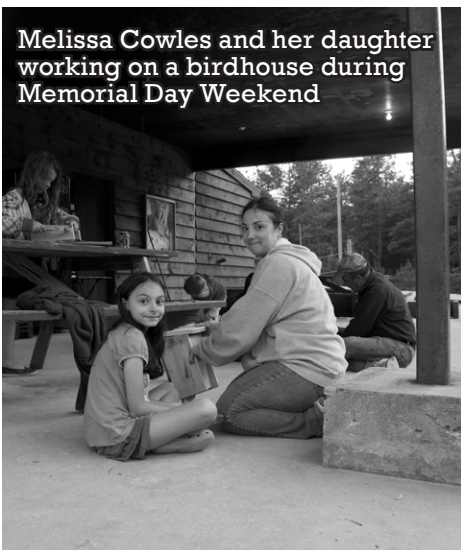
Dutch oven apricot-pecan upside-down cake on display, Memorial Day Weekend



Melissa Semple and Brian Bastarache pointing out one of the newly-released turtles to some of the alumni kids



Peter Ashworth stoking a Memorial Day campfire



Melissa Cowles and her daughter working on a birdhouse during Memorial Day Weekend



Toasting marshmallows around the campfire, Memorial Day Weekend

A Gathering in Westport

Alumni Updates, a History Lesson, and We Celebrate Another Wall-of-Famer

Several dozen alumni turned out on the cold, sunny morning of January 22nd at Our Lady of Grace church in Westport for our annual Winter Gathering. Those in attendance got an update on our plans for the year from our intrepid Chairman, Vic Sylvia, plus information on the current financial state of our Association, our membership drive, and information on how to get information about the Association both in print and online.

Cachalot's Ranger, Karrie Dumais, also presented her request to the Association to assist with a project out at camp: the expansion of the current Welcome Center in the front of the Boathouse. The revamped space will serve not only as the gateway to the property for incoming Scouts and Scouters, but will also provide office space during summer camp

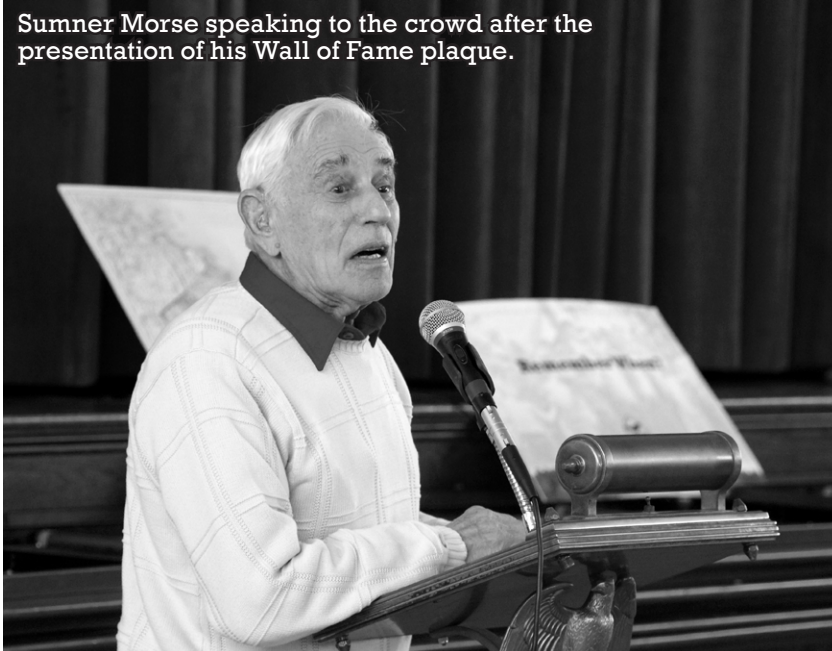
and allow for a small museum space that will be curated by the Association. We got started on this project during our "Make a Difference" (MaD) Beaver work day in June—check out the pictures on page 6!

Retired Scouting professional and volunteer Scouter Everett Graviel then regaled us all with his memories of the work done by the Conservation Committee in the 1970s. The Conservation Committee helped to reforest Cachalot and did numerous other conservation projects at Cachalot. Everett showed not only photographs of several of the service weekends, but also examples of the memorabilia presented to participants.

We were also fortunate to be able to formally welcome one of last year's honorees on the Wall of Fame, former Moby Dick Council Scout Executive Sumner Morse, back to the area, and present him with his Wall of Fame plaque. Mr. Morse was still living in Florida last summer, and had been unable to attend the festivities at Homecoming, but has since returned to Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

Thanks to all the alumni who were able to attend! 🐻

Sumner Morse speaking to the crowd after the presentation of his Wall of Fame plaque.



Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA

P. O. Box 14777

East Providence, RI 02914