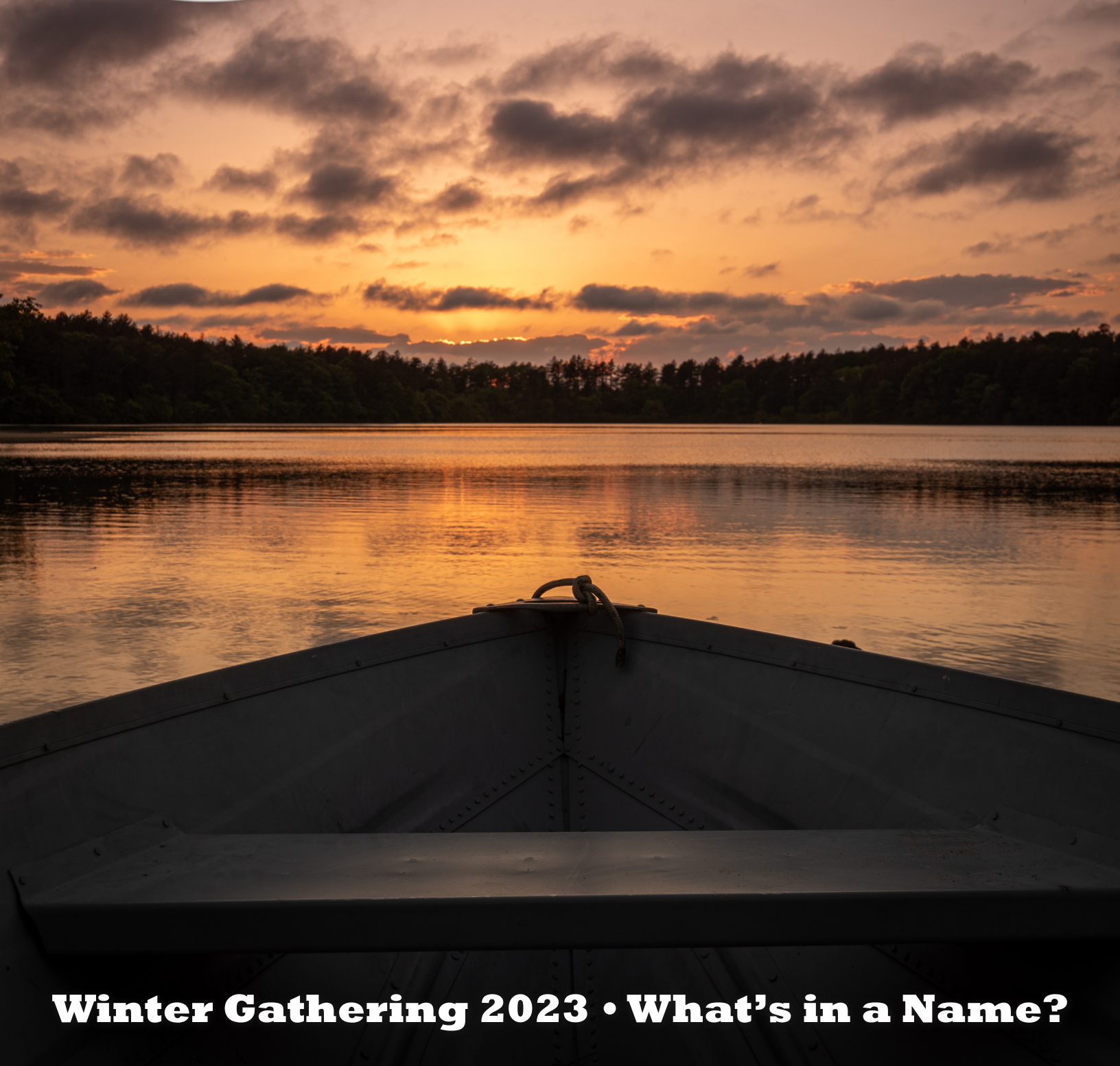


Fall 2022 & Winter 2023



The **Cachalotter**

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



Winter Gathering 2023 • What's in a Name?

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

On the cover: One of Cachalot's Sea Nymph rowboats heads towards the setting sun on Five Mile Pond.

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:

www.cachalotalumni.org

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

Camp Cachalot Alumni Association
c/o Narragansett Council, BSA
223 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI 02921



Collaborations & Nominations

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

Dear Cachalot Family,

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association is beginning to find its footing and move forward. Several of our Executive Board members have attended a meeting of the Camp Norse Alumni Association executive board, at their invitation. The Norse Alumni have been quite welcoming and willing to work with our Association. One of the first cooperative projects is finding a new home for our Cachalot Wall of Fame (currently stored in my yard) at Camp Norse. The Norse Alumni have even offered a case in their museum for the creation of a Camp Cachalot exhibit, and we are looking for appropriate artifacts to put on display there.

Since the Cachalot Wall of Fame will rise again, we are still very much in need of your nominations for the 2023 ballot of potential inductees. Cachalot should never be forgotten, nor should those that so faithfully served her and all those that loved her. You can find more information about nominating a Cachalot hero on the Association's website or at the upcoming Cachalot Alumni Association Winter Gathering.

**The Cachalot
Wall of Fame will
rise again...**

The Winter Gathering is a great opportunity to reconnect with your old camp friends and discuss ways that you can become involved with the Association's Executive Board or one of our committees. The board typically meets monthly to discuss Association business, coordinate our events, set our budgets, and make plans for our future. While we hope to see you at the Winter Gathering we hope that some of you are interested in helping us to serve our members and the Cachalot Family, either on our board or on another committee, to help us take the Association into the future. 🐟



In Search Of... Local History

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II, Association Archivist

This issue, I'm doffing my "Communications Guy" hat and swapping it with my "History Guy" hat.

One of our goals as an Association has always been to document the history of Cachalot, the camps that preceded it, and Scouting in Southeastern Massachusetts, especially in the footprints of the old Moby Dick Council and its predecessors. I hope anyone reading this would agree that we've made a lot of progress in that regard over the last 19 years, with a lot of what we've learned on display in video and book form during our celebration of Cachalot's 75th anniversary.

But, there's always more to learn, and we still have some significant gaps in our archives. It certainly doesn't help that there were many documents lost to water damage in the old office on Grove Street, or outright discarded in different office moves. The vast majority of the archive we've built has come from our members and their personal collections, which they've generously allowed us to borrow and digitize.

Spring cleaning season is approaching, and with that I suspect that some of you might be heading into closets, attics, basements, crawl-spaces, and garages, either to put something away or maybe move something out of the house altogether. When you do that, if you could take a moment to look for old Scouting-related items, we would greatly appreciate anything you could find that might help plug those gaps. We don't ask that you donate what you find, only that you allow us to borrow it and make digital copies.

We love patches as much as the next Scout collector, but that's not really what we're looking for. We're always happy to get photographs, old videos, or film, and we're more than happy to digitize those and return the originals to you, along with digital copies for yourself. What we're really in search of are documents from district and council events of the past, especially the various newsletters of the councils, districts, and lodges of the area. These documents are often key to fleshing out the details of our history and getting the dates and people right. Newsletters remain a challenge: our collection is missing more than it has.

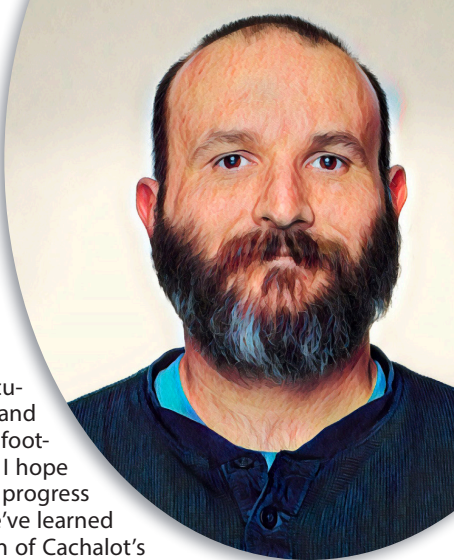
If you don't remember the names of those newsletters, they are:

- **Spouter**, the Cachalot Council's newsletter (so far we have found no surviving copies)
- **Topside**, the Moby Dick Council's newsletter (we have only 30 issues, where this was published at least a half a dozen times a year for nearly 30 years!)
- Any newsletters published by the Fall River or Massasoit Councils
- **The Gam**, the Agawam Lodge newsletter (we have only 6 issues)
- **The Arrow, Leaves of Holly, or The Peacepipe**, all newsletters of Noquochoke Lodge (we have a single issue of **The Peacepipe**)
- **The Totem Pole**, the Neemat Lodge newsletter (we have 37 issues; this was not published on a consistent schedule so it is hard to know how many issues there are from its 30 year run)

There were also some summer camp seasons where mimeographed or photocopied "newspapers" were made; we have many of the dittoed **Squachalot** issues from the joint Squanto-Cachalot post-fire seasons, but little else.

Committee meeting minutes, program materials and news clippings from summer camp, district and council camporees, Klondike Derbies, Scout-o-Ramas, and other local Scouting events are also very helpful. We are fortunate that many, but not all, of the Massasoit Council's news clipping scrapbooks survived and are being cared for by the Fall River Historical Association, and we have digitized copies of them in our archives, but there is nothing that even comes close for the Cachalot Council or the Moby Dick Council.

So, please keep us in mind when you come across old Scouting materials! If you have questions, or want to let us know about some new finding, please reach out to curator@cachalotalumni.org and we'll see what we can do. 🐸



2023 Cachalot Alumni Events

As always, our events will be announced on our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org, via our mailing list, and on social media including our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds.

February 25th, 2022 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Winter Gathering 2023

Holy Name of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus Church

121 Mount Pleasant Street

New Bedford MA

gathering@cachalotalumni.org

To Be Announced

Cachalot Alumni Reunion 2023

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Our "First"

"Homecoming" Is No More; Long Live Our "Summer Reunion"! September Brought Us to the Freetown VFW to Spend



"Reunion

and a Day With the Rest of the Cachalot Family and Celebrate Mike Ramos' Elevation On to the Cachalot Wall of Fame.



Winter Gathering 2023

Saturday, February 25th, 2023
11:00AM – 3:00PM

Holy Name of the Sacred Heart
Parish Hall
121 Mount Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA

Free and open to anyone

Please RSVP at
www.cachalotalumni.org/gathering
before February 23rd

Gathering in New Bedford Once More

We will be gathering the Cachalot family at the Holy Name of the Sacred Heart parish hall on Saturday, February 25th, 2023, beginning at 11:00AM. As always, our Winter Gathering is open to all, and is free to attend. In lieu of an admission fee, we ask that all attendees bring two nonperishable food items to be donated to the food pantry operated by the parish.

We have a door prize this year: a \$100 gift card to a local grocery store will be presented to one lucky attendee. (You must be present when the drawing is held to win.)

After you arrive, you'll have some time to socialize with your fellow alumni, check out some of our Association merchandise, and enjoy a pot luck lunch starting at noon. Our members always awe us with a wide variety of food and desserts, so if you want to show off your culinary talents

we hope you'll contribute a dish of your own. Think about your biggest crowd-pleaser: a \$25 grocery card will be awarded to the favorite pot luck dish! Association Secretary Bill Begin is again coordinating dishes for the pot luck. If you are planning to bring food, please contact him via email at wlb2750@comcast.net so we can avoid duplicated dishes.

As always, after lunch, we'll have a brief meeting of the Association to discuss our usual topics, including our finances, membership, and things we are seeking help with. We'll also talk a bit about plans to re-assemble the Wall of Fame at Camp Norse. We are in need of nominations for the Wall of Fame, so we will spend a little time talking about how to nominate your own Cachalot heroes for consideration on this year's ballot. Who do you think deserves a spot on the Wall? 🐟

In Memoriam

In Recognition of Members of the Cachalot Family Who Have Gone Home



Kathleen (Kelley) Ferreira 68, passed Sunday, October 2, 2022 after a period of declining health.

Born in New Bedford, daughter of the late John and Lennie Abbie (Perry) Kelley, she lived in New Bedford all of her life.

Kathleen was a graduate of New Bedford High School.

She was formerly the proprietor of Tiny Toes Daycare in New Bedford. She later worked as a school bus driver for Tremblay's Bus Company until her retirement.

Kathleen was known at Cachalot as the Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 1 of New Bedford. She had a passion for camping, loved children, and enjoyed bowling.

She is survived by her husband, Gary; two children, Heidi and Jonathan; her grandson, Killian Morse; and her step-son, Nicholas Ferreira.



Joseph W. "Bill" Janak of New Bedford, passed away Monday, December 12, 2022 in The Oaks. He was the husband of Barbara Martel.

A lifelong resident of New Bedford, Bill was a graduate of New Bedford High School

and received his Associates degree in Electrical Engineering from UMass Dartmouth. He drove buses for several years and was a substitute teacher. Bill loved his family dearly; he enjoyed Scouting, camping, fishing and dancing.

Bill was well-known at Cachalot as a year-round volunteer, as a member of Cachalot's Campmaster corps, a frequent Cadre Scoutmaster during summer camp, and as the longtime chairman of Troop 70 in New Bedford.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Beth LaBossiere and her husband Bruce, Ruth Janak and Jay Janak and his wife Kim; his stepchildren, Pamela LeBlanc and her husband David, Charles Haskell, Jr., and Karyn Haskell; a brother, Robert Janak and his wife Lisa; 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



Ethan James Kielec, aged 17, of Swansea was taken from us on November 4th driving a friend home from his new job.

An avid outdoorsman who enjoyed working with his hands and the company of his friends, Ethan was a

Life Rank Scout in Troop 303 Swansea and was working towards his Eagle Rank. He spent many years in leadership positions within the Troop and was a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Tulpe Lodge. Ethan loved fishing and could often be found in the local ponds in a

canoe with his buddies or pulling in bluefish out of Long Island Sound.

He loved woodworking and craftsmanship, always assisting his father in building everything from shelves to Klondike Derby sleds to bird houses, not to mention a full-size trebuchet for the Pumpkin Chunkin' Camporee. Ethan was a hard worker, spending every summer mowing the lawn and spreading mulch and every winter shoveling and salting the driveway.

In the Troop, Ethan was known as the trainer for knots and lashings, especially for building rope bridges. He was also the primary trainer for Totin' Chip, Fireman Chit, and using flint and steel. In the OA, Ethan spent weeks and weekends performing service at council camps, including Cachalot. He also spent countless hours volunteering at the Somerset Food Pantry, replacing flags for veterans at the local cemeteries and volunteering in Eagle Scout projects around Swansea.

Ethan was a kind and loving brother to his sisters. He loved rock climbing and mountain hiking which included a venture up Mount Washington with the Troop.

He is survived by his parents, Matthew and Stacey Kielec, his sisters Hannah and Emily Kielec, his maternal grandmother Nancy Costa and his paternal grandparents, Joseph and Carolyn Kielec. 🐟

If you should learn of the passing of a member of the Cachalot family, please let us know by sending email to info@cachalotalumni.org

What's in a Name?

It's in Our Cover Photo. We Dedicate Our Friday Social Media Posts to Celebrate It. But Why Is It Called Five Mile Pond?

BY DENNIS WILKINSON

Many years ago, Vic Sylvia came to me with what seemed like a simple question: where did Five Mile Pond get its name?

It took me over a decade to find the answer.

I had heard a lot of obviously incorrect explanations over my time at camp, from a lot of different people. No, it's not five miles long (in fact, the traditional three laps across the pond the long way is only a Mile Swim if your path wanders a wee bit). It isn't five miles around. It isn't five square miles in area. If you were to stick in pin in the center and measure out a huge, five-mile-radius circle around it, you'd find that it's just about five miles as the crow flies from a lot of things, including Wareham, the turn onto Cranberry Road in Carver, even the Cape Cod Canal. Just to confuse matters a bit more, there's a *second* Five Mile Pond in Massachusetts, in Springfield.

For a while the most convincing explanation was that the name came from the company the Cachalot Council had purchased the land from: The Five Mile Corporation, a group led by Theodore Steinway. This hypothesis fell apart when it became easier to find old maps of the area, and it became clear that the pond had that name for a lot longer. It was already called Five Mile Pond as early as the earliest detailed map of the area, an 1830 map of Plymouth drawn by Sylvanus Bourne. The File Mile Corporation was named for the pond, not the other way around.

first mentioned, excepting and reserving the right of way which was formerly traveled by the Public across said lot from Agawam to Plymouth by five mile Ponds. To have and to hold the aforementioned

The age of the name brought us back to the "five miles from..." theory. The pond wasn't notable enough to even merit a mention in any of the histories of Plymouth, Tihonet, or Wareham we were able to find. The nearby Halfway Pond to Cachalot's northeast was notable enough, though: in the 1884 *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts, with biographical sketches of many of its pioneers and prominent men*, by D. Hamilton Hurd, That book claimed Halfway Pond earned its name by marking the rough half-way point on the stage road from Plymouth to Sandwich. That gave us a bit more confirmation that "five miles from..." was a reasonable origin. But five miles from what?

We consulted with a few local historic associations, including Pilgrim Hall, with no luck. It looked like all the available sources had dried up, so the search went on the back burner for a while.

One of the other history projects we've been working on periodically has been trying to track the land that became Cachalot through its previous owners, to see what other stories and local history we can connect to it. One of the ways we had pursued that was to look at the deeds for the land, and several years ago Bill Ashworth had volunteered his time to go get copies made of all the deeds we could find. Our primary interest was the owners, and most of a deed is usually a description the land sits on. As it happens, we stumbled across the clue we needed in one of those deeds.

In a quitclaim deed dated May 2, 1842, conveying the lot that includes what is now Cachalot from Benjamin Ellis to James H. Lock, George Peirce, Moses Swift, and Lewis Kinney, text below to the left appears.

For those of you who don't try to parse mid-19th century script regularly, that highlighted section, a part of the lot description, reads:

"...excepting and reserving the right of way which was formerly traveled by the public across said lot from Agawam to Plymouth by Five Mile Ponds."

So, a way-point between Agawam and Plymouth? Is it five miles from either? And, would you look at that? The Bourne map only shows a road heading south, toward what, in 1842, was called Agawam Village. Consulting a few more old maps to look at the roads gave us our answer.



The old road out of camp ("Squirrel's Nest Road", the road that runs above Camporee Road) ran from Five Mile, along Agawam Road, then on to Glen Charlie Road, eventually leading to the area that was then known as Agawam Village (and is now more often referred to as East Wareham). The center of Agawam Village was roughly where Glen Charlie Road meets the modern Route 6, which also just happened to be the former location of the Squirrel's Nest Inn. Measuring out the distance along the roads that existed at that time (which mostly survive today), it was a trip of just about five miles.

That's a convincing enough argument for us: Five Mile Pond got its name because it was five miles from Agawam Village. 🐿️

What about Abner Pond? We may never know for sure, but most of the evidence points to it being named for Abner Bartlett, whose father Sylvanus once owned land in the area in the 18th century.



Wall of Fame Nominations Are Open!

*We need your help to identify worthy nominees for the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame!
Information on eligibility requirements and the nomination form can be found on our web site at:*

www.cachalotalumni.org/walloffame

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