



A nonprofit corporation

THE BIRCH BARK

P.O. Box 148, Waterford, Maine 04088

Winter: (207) 741-2930 Summer: (207) 583-4478

birchrock@birchrock.org www.birchrock.org

Rich Deering '73, Alumni Director • Michael Mattson '83, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWS LETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP

BIRCH ROCK TRUSTEES

Lindsay Alexander
 Geoffrey Alexander
 Ryck Birch
 Toby Brewster
 Becca Brewster
 Carol Brewster
 Seth Brewster
 Francie Campbell
 Nancy Cole
 Doug Cole
 Tom Clemence
 Nancy Dreyer
 David Gleason
 Spaulding Goetze
 JoJo Herzig
 Peter Herzig
 Michael Herzig
 Fred Howard
 Michele Howard
 Joan Koffman
 Julie McLaughlin
 Mark McLaughlin
 C.J. Neshor
 Allison Smith
 Win Smith
 Bob Stone
 Beverly Stone
 Bob Tuffy
 Gerry Tuffy
 David Weeks
 Amy Young
 Peter Young

DR. JOHN ORDWAY '27 – 33 - ONE OF BIRCH ROCK'S ORIGINALS

Arriving by train at age 7 from Newtonville, MA to St. John Street in Downtown Portland, ME – John Ordway began his lifelong association with Birch Rock Camp in 1927. After seven summers of round-trips to East Waterford, ME, John recalls his Birch Rock summers as the moments that made him the man he is today. Here are some of the many vivid excerpts John recalled sharing his memories of Birch Rock Camp – in his own words:



1927

I heard about BRC from Bill "Chief" Brewster as I attended the Country Day School. We arrived at camp in the model T and disembarked from the top of the hill past the tennis court and were shown to Tent #2. There were four cabins in that part of camp. The first two were roofed-in for the younger campers; the other two were tent platforms for the older boys.... I remember Allen Kearns at Birch Rock. He was an engaging and warm-hearted older camper... I remember the loud water pump in the washhouse with the big tin sink, that's where we all gathered to clean up.

Bartlett Boyden was a lively, intelligent and warm man. He and Chief Brewster ran the camp my first couple of seasons. Chief was tall and very formidable. He had a deep voice with a 6'2" charm to him. You knew that Chief was in charge and kept things moving. He was always preaching safety first, John – safety first!

After being a camper for a few years, I returned as an aide to help with tennis and riflery. Those were the activities I enjoyed and excelled. I

held the record for swimming across the lake and back.

The daily program at Birch Rock was very health conscious and thoughtfully planned each day. We had lots of activities; good periods of rest and the camp would watch your weight. I gained a lot of weight through good exercise the Albert's food. It was a good healthy regimen.

I remember winning the tennis tournament one year. That was one of the highlights of my Birch Rock time. When we compared with other camps, we were not the athletes, but we were the gentlemen who did our best.

We took some great fishing trips up past the deserted Narrow Gauge Railways. We had some particularly remembered times in the woods and loved casting lines to catch fish during the sunset over the lake. The trout were just amazing, caught on three lines almost routinely.

BRC brought each of us freedom. We learned to become responsible and make new friends. We learned the value of helping others and giving to others. We learned survival skills and the value of hard work. This is what I remember and used in my professional practice all through my life.



2011

John Ordway graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard College and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons where he met his wife of sixty years, Janet. They have five children. Both were medical doctors specializing in psychiatry. The Ordways resided in Cincinnati, Ohio for 18 years before moving to Bangor, ME for 38 years. They now are retired and live in Old Orchard Beach, ME.



American Camping Association®

REFLECTIONS FROM THE ROCK



by Rich Deering, Alumni Director '73

Why is Birch Rock Camp so important? We get boys out from the familial comfort zone, unplugged from their computer and virtual world. We empower boys to enjoy Mother Nature's classroom of innate resources and majestic beauty. Birch Rock provides a nurturing, structured environment for boys to foster new friendships, learn life skills and take some positive stepping-stones on the road

to adulthood. We partner with parents and share talented mentors who want to make the difference for others. There is an extraordinary enchantment about our camp community that includes our veteran staff, diverse camper population, beautiful hillside campus and Waterford, Maine.

One of the most integral parts of the Birch Rock experience is weaving the traditions and folklore of yesteryear with today's community. We always want to actively engage each other to try new things and learn from those who have come before us. We want our campers to learn the value of giving to others, but also that it is meaningful to ask for help.

In this spring edition of the **Birch Bark**, we are pleased to have a few generations of Birch Rockers share their exclusive camp experience with us. We have a recollection from one of our original Birch Rocker's, John Ordway who attended from 1927 to 1933. Additionally we have our spring essays from our current graduating high school seniors (and future leaders) about their personal journeys and influences from the Rock. We hope you enjoy their unique stories, as we appreciate them freely sharing with you.

Finally, Birch Rock Camp is celebrating its 85 Birthday! We hope that you and your family can join us for the day, the Family Camp session, or least make a visit to East Waterford, ME this summer. The Birch Rock Community welcomes the opportunity to hear and share your irreplaceable BRC moments. Please join us on FACEBOOK or send us a message on email: birchrock@birchrock.org. We looking forward to sharing the past, today and tomorrow with you!

THE MAGIC OF BRC

By Ben Howard '00s



Each year since I was seven years old, I've spent the summer at my favorite place in the world, Birch Rock Camp. Some people don't understand how I can spend all day, every day with kids (and the whole summer with no girls!). But what makes this place unlike anywhere else in the world is the total absence of bullies, and that allows for incredible emotional growth.

I've been a part of the Birch Rock community for eleven years, starting out as the youngest camper and moving up to being a staff member last summer. This progression has allowed me to understand the magic of Birch Rock on all levels. As a child, I remember looking up to the counselors, thinking they could do no wrong. Campers really think of counselors as superheroes. Last summer when I asked campers to guess my age, they figured I was six years older than I really am!

Every one of our campers wants to be liked by 'cool' kids---and in school, that can mean the bullies. At camp, though, these boys look for approval from the counselors, and we are there to be kind and patient and understanding with all our campers. This 'bully-free' environment allows kids to open up more in seven weeks than they do during the whole school year. No one is making fun of anyone; instead, our community lets boys know that being themselves is okay. This allows kids to fully express who they really are, and not who others want them to be.

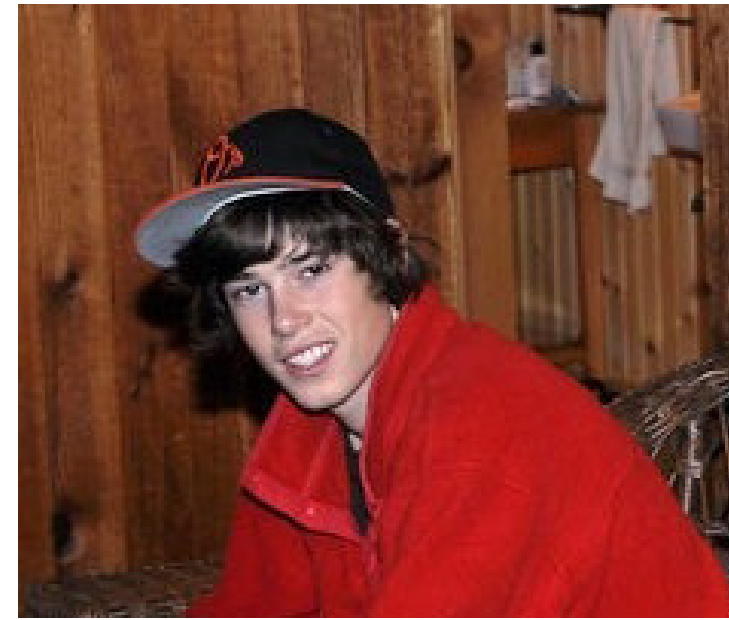
I've seen boys who started the summer a bit shy and awkward make friends at camp and feel comfortable with their peers. It's a powerful experience to feel accepted by the whole community. That's exactly what happens at our camp.

Birch Rock helped me find out who I really am. It has a special place in my heart because of the magic that can happen. I credit Birch Rock for who I am today, because of the compassion that it allows me to show for everybody and everything.

Ben will be attending a university of his choosing this fall for an engineering program.

MY WHALE

by Will Brewster '00s



I am no Michael Phelps. However, I do hold a swimming distinction- the record for the slowest "Whale" swim at Birch Rock Camp. The "Whale" swim has been a camp tradition ever since my grandfather decided one hot afternoon in the 1950's to swim the 6-mile circumference of Lake McWain. Campers swim their "Whale" during their senior camper year as a 15 year old. It involves three weeks of training prior to an unexpected awakening at the crack of dawn. The camper then proceeds to the swimming docks, applies "Crisco" (cooking lard) to his body for warmth and jumps in the lake in pursuit of the rowboat in front of him. Those who complete the "Whale" receive recognition from the camp community and a plaque displaying their name and swim time on the wall of the main lodge.

I had never woken up to such a feeling of anxiety. Although it was July, I shivered in the brisk morning air on my walk down to the waterfront. Once I reached the changing tent I stripped and coated my bare body with Crisco, stubbornly placing my goggles on my face as the final prep for the swim. I walked out onto the dock which is shaped like a "T", and took a left, choosing to swim the same direction my grandfather did half a decade before me. The lake was completely still with the exception of the ripples radiating from the rowboat in which my cabin counselor sat with the red safety buoy. He counted down from ten, and as the butterflies in my stomach reached their peak at one, I broke the stillness of the lake and began swimming.

About a minute into my swim the Crisco fogged the lenses on my goggles making them too much of a nuisance to continue with and I draped them around my neck. My eyes have always been sensitive to lake water and by losing the goggles I limited myself to swimming with my head above the water. By the time I reached the far end of the lake and began making the turn around the corner I had developed a minor cramp in my neck

from maintaining the same position (head above water) for over an hour. As I swam along the opposite shore my pace gradually slowed down and my counselor tossed me bits of banana and chocolate to keep me going. The sound of the bell ringing at camp which marked the beginning and end of activity periods echoed across the water, giving me a sense of my swim time. At four hours I had finished struggling my way across the length of the opposite shore with my body tiring, a headache forming and numbness in my legs and feet.

At this point the counselor rowing, seeing my increasing pain, asked if I wanted to get out of the water. This was a tough decision for me; I had a little under a mile to go and from the perspectives of self-interest and rationale I felt that to continue would put my health at risk. However, the urge to accomplish the goal I had set out to finish overcame the threat of hypothermia. When I reached the homestretch, about a half mile from camp, I could see the entire camp standing on the docks cheering me on. I felt as if I had an obligation with myself and the camp community to succeed in completing the "Whale". I knew I had already broken the record for the longest "Whale" time ever, but it had become a matter of accomplishment rather than time at this point. Disoriented and agonized, I reached the dock to the sound of roaring applause and cheers. I was heaved out of the water by counselors, wrapped in several wool blankets and immediately shipped up to the warmth of the health lodge. I was greeted there by a steaming shower, "Gojo" soap to wash the greasy lard off my body, and Advil.

I find my "Whale" experience to be a lesson of perseverance; I took a risk in continuing to swim and in doing so accomplished what I set out to complete. I learned that when facing a difficult task that hard work requires serious commitment. Regardless of the 5 hours it took me to swim around the lake and the hypothermic symptoms I was experiencing while doing so, I made the decision to finish the swim and accomplish the same feat my grandfather did before me. This past summer I had the pleasure of rowing my younger brothers "Whale". As he stood on the dock, about to begin the swim, I bet him that he couldn't break my record time.

Will Brewster will be attending a College of his choosing fall.

There are a number of exciting programs this 2011 Season at Birch Rock. What program might work for your son and his friends? We appreciate your support in being our Birch Rock Camp Ambassador



BOYS CAMP

Our residential boys' camp program encourages cooperation, confidence and a willingness to try new things. We challenge campers to take responsibility for their own lives and help them appreciate the needs of others in emphasizing our camp motto: HELP THE OTHER FELLOW.

Full Season	June 26 – August 13	48 days
First Session	June 26 – July 23	24 days
Cubs Camp I	June 26 – July 9	14 days
Cubs Camp II	July 10 – July 23	14 days
Second Session	July 18 – August 10	24 days

For more information: www.birchrock.org or 207 741 2930

MAINE WILDERNESS ADVENTURE 2011

July 24 – August 13

An extraordinary adventure and challenge in the grand state of Maine Birch

Rock Camp's Maine Wilderness Adventure (MWA) program combines challenge, teamwork, and a genuine appreciation for the natural world in which we live. Most of all, this program provides a special opportunity to expand upon one's overall camping experience and develop skills in outdoor living and survival.

The various venues explored during this 20 day exploration include: six days of backpacking and exploring the lakes and mountains of Baxter State Park before summiting spectacular Mount Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine; five days on the St. Croix River, one of the most remote waterways of the state; followed by three days and nights you will kayak among the islands and inlets of "Downeast" Maine from Cobscook base camp; and the adventure continues for two days of climbing at Acadia National Park to ramp around the coastal hills and take a trip to the beach. The last stop is the mighty Kennebec River for a wet, wild day of laughter and screams of exhilaration as we raft through sharp turns, dramatic drops and standing waves.

The MWA Program is for boys who have completed grade 8 and have demonstrated exemplary character in their community. All applicants will be considered on a first-come basis and review of application. There is a limited enrollment of 8 boys for this outstanding adventure so act now.



Come One Come All.....

Season 11 is filling up, and we hope you and your family can join us too.....

Birch Rock's Family Camp provides an opportunity for families to experience a combination of recreation and fun in the Maine woods on McWain Pond. These special days are designed for families to retreat and refresh themselves for the "work and school" world and rediscover their own enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Most of all, Birch Rock Family Camp is a time to relax and enjoy!

Family Camp is a wonderful venue for all ages to enjoy camp life in group activities or just do your own thing! Each family member may sign up for daily activity offerings which are facilitated by Birch Rock's talented staff. This program is offered in August 19 – 23 with flexible days of attendance. For more information, visit our website: www.birchrock.org.



Family Campers 2010

WISH LIST

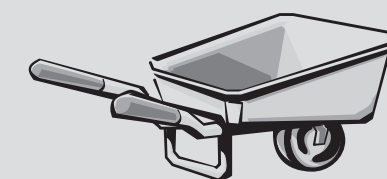
BRC appreciates your contribution to the camp community. Some items we wish for are:

- Industrial Weed Whacker \$300
- New SunFish Sailboat \$3000
- Art Supplies \$400
- Pottery Wheel \$500
- Nature Program Equipment
- Lacrosse Equipment – Helmets & Pads

Birch "Rock is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All donations received are tax-deductible.

Please contact us birchrock@birchrock.org if you might be able to accommodate any of those wishes.

Thank you!



SPRING CLEAN UP!

Saturday, May 21st

9am – 4pm

**Bring Your Work Gloves
Energy & Enthusiasm & Grit!**

We'll have gardens, brush, windows & much more Plus some good grilling for you all to devour and enjoy!

RSVP birchrock@birchrock.org if you can join us!

THANK YOU!

By Campaign Chair, David C. Weeks '70s

Your donation is an acknowledgment of the value of Birch Rock in character and community development. Just as we are appreciative of the "gifts" BRC has given to you, the camp is grateful for your "gift." Your contribution and support has helped us to enhance and sustain Birch Rock's special summer camp experience. We graciously applaud the following 2010 Capital, Endowment, Annual, Scholarship and In Kind gifts to the Birch Rock Camp Community.....and all the Birch Rock Parents!

ACA/ NE
 Anonymous (13)
 Christian & Margaret Abajian
 Amy & Steve Abbott
 Geoffrey & Lindsay Alexander
 Peter & Ellen Bamberger
 Tom & Rosemarie Bancroft
 Colleen Bedard
 Vertis Belcher
 Glenn & Amber Brengel
 George & Deborah Brett
 Ryck Birch & Brian Cavanaugh
 Charlie Blaney
 Peter & Susan Bowser
 Sandy Bowser
 Bruce Brown
 Seth Brewster
 Carol Brewster
 Toby & Becca Brewster
 Wenda Brewster & James O'Reilly
 Phil & Janet Bruen
 Tom Bull
 Lee Burton
 Jeff & Susan Cahill
 Frank & Carolyn Carney
 Chris & Karen Carney
 Jill Carroll
 Francie Campbell & Roger Netzer
 Bruce Clayton
 Whitney Clayton
 Tom Clemence
 Jay & Elizabeth Chandler
 Bill & Rosalina Cheung
 The Kisuk Cheung Family
 Tom Clephane
 Mark & Stasha Cohen
 David & Kathy Cohen
 Doug & Nancy Cole
 George Collins
 Joesph Curry
 Melvin S Cutler Charitable
 Mike & Kathy Coster
 Doug & Mickey Dalissandro
 Rich Deeran & Cathy Stivers
 Mike & Sue Davis
 Jack & Ann Deering
 Richard Deering
 Ann Deneault & Frances Smith
 Diana & Stanley Dreyer
 Doug & Kathy Dickey
 Nancy Dreyer & Joan Koffman
 Dick & Tina Duffy
 Ann Duvall & Jenny Dundon
 John & Martha Eaton
 Liz Engel

Jen & Brad Foley
 Jean & Doug Follett Thompson
 Jill Gaziano & Chuck Mitchell
 Eileen Geiger
 Spaulding & Sarah Goetze
 Dan & Cindy Gacetta
 Philip Goodwin
 Charlie & Blaine Grimes
 Jim Gunderson & Valerie Boom
 Tim & Gretchen Guttman
 Claire Hanaan & Steve Von Vogt
 Bob & Deanna Hargraves
 Peter & Rosie Haas
 Mark & Louise Hastings
 Alan Herzig
 Peter & Sophie Herzig
 Michael & Jojo Herzig
 Fred & Pat Howard
 Fred & Michele Howard
 Edward & Melanie Huycke
 Brian & Laura Hull
 Peter & Kerry Ingold
 John & Ann Ingraham
 Peter & Annie Ingraham
 Woody & Penny Jenkins
 Steve & Lisa Jenks
 Erik Joelsson
 Margaretha Joelsson
 Ginny Joyce
 Jeff & Judy Kane
 Zachary Karabell
 Srinu & Kranthi Potluri
 Harry Keates & Robin Silverman
 David & Linda Knights
 Paul Koepke
 Peter & Kay Leslie
 Robert Letovsky & Sheila Stober
 Alan & Anne Levine
 JR & Karen Lindquist
 Jeff & Kris Lindquist
 David & Lynne Liebrock
 Harry Keates & Robin Silverman
 Paul Koepke
 Andy Lynn & Susan Schwartz
 Harvey & Carol Ann Mackay
 Peter Madigan
 Mike Mattson
 Ron Mattson & Pam Sirois
 Robert Massey
 John McCrillis
 Charlie MacDonald
 Jeanne McDonald
 Michael & Maureen McLaughlin
 Mark & Julie McLaughlin
 Jerry Mead

McWain Pond Assn
 Marty & Maxine Mendelsohn
 Charles & Jill Mitchell
 Cris & Marcia Miller
 Doug & Barbara Miller
 Douglass Miller
 Tom & Barbara Miller
 Don Munn & Janice Walker
 Cort Morgan
 Miller Medical Foundation
 Hugh & Marcia Montgomery
 Frank & Dana Musciano
 Roger Netzer & Francie Campbell
 NH Charitable Foundation
 Paul & Gay Neilson
 Laurie & Brooks Nelson
 Mayo & Susan Noerdlinger
 Ted & Ann Noyes
 Rodger Nordblom
 CJ & Jess Neshier
 David Neshier
 John & Janet Ordway
 Kevin & Susan Perkins
 Henry & Joy Plate
 Josh Pincus & Clare Caldwell
 Stephen Rines
 Tom & Allison Robbins
 Cathy Roland
 Josh & Sarah Roy
 David Schlafman
 Curt Scribner
 Betty Spear
 Steve & Dianne Smith
 Win & Allison Smith
 Win & Peg Smith
 Rob Stone
 Bob & Bev Stone
 Mike & Sarah Sullivan
 Scott Thompson
 Unum
 Bob & Gerry Tuffy
 Arthur Veasey
 Hale Veasey
 Bill Vincentsen
 Todd Vincentsen
 Lyle & Patty Voss
 Paul & Susan Voss
 David & Marie Weeks
 John & Kitty Weeks
 Will Weeks
 Seth & Bea Wheeler
 Whizzer & Meg Wheeler
 Steve & Libby Whittier
 Keith & Lilo Willoughby
 Peter & Amy Young

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



85TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, August 20, 2011

The 2011 summer marks the Birch Rock Camp's 85th SEASON for boys. We are excited to celebrate this event with you, our camp friends, alumni and community on August 20, 2011. In conjunction with our Family Camp Program, Birch Rock Camp will dedicate a day of relaxation, reflection and reuniting with family and friends of the camp community. Here's a caption of our afternoon 85th program:

2:30	Family/Group Field Activity
4:30	General Swim
5:30-6:30	Salty Snacks
6:30 85th	Celebration Lobster Bake (Lobsters & Chicken)
7:30	Community Remarks and Memories
8:00	Blue Grass/Country Band and Dancing
10:00	Adult Hilltop Gathering

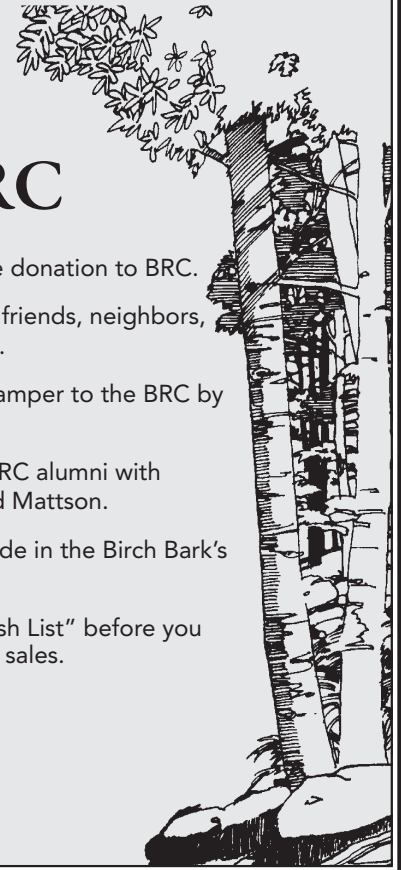
For more information & registration please visit www.birchrock.org

Mark Your Calendars for 2011!



BRC Summer Office Opens	Wednesday, June 1, 2011
BRC Staff Orientation	Thursday, June 16, 2011
C.I.T. Orientation	Wednesday, June 22, 2011
BRC Opening	Sunday, June 26, 2011
Cubs' Camp I First Session	Sunday, June 26, 2011
Cubs' Camp I - Ends	Saturday, July 9, 2011
PARENT VISITING DAY	Sunday, July 10, 2011
Cubs' Camp II - Begins	Sunday, July 10, 2011
First Session End	Saturday, July 23, 2011
Cubs' Camp II - Ends	Saturday, July 23, 2011
BRC Opening 2nd Session	Sunday, July 24, 2011
Maine Wilderness Adventure	Sunday, July 24, 2011
BRC for Boys & MWA - Ends	Saturday, August 13, 2011
BRC Family Camp	Friday, August 19 -23, 2011
85th Reunion	Saturday, August 20, 2011
BRC Family Camp ends	Tuesday, August 23, 2011

It's Easy to Help BRC



- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to the BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Send us news to include in the Birch Bark's Alumni News column.
- Ask us about our "Wish List" before you have your spring yard sales.



BIRCH ROCK CAMP

P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED