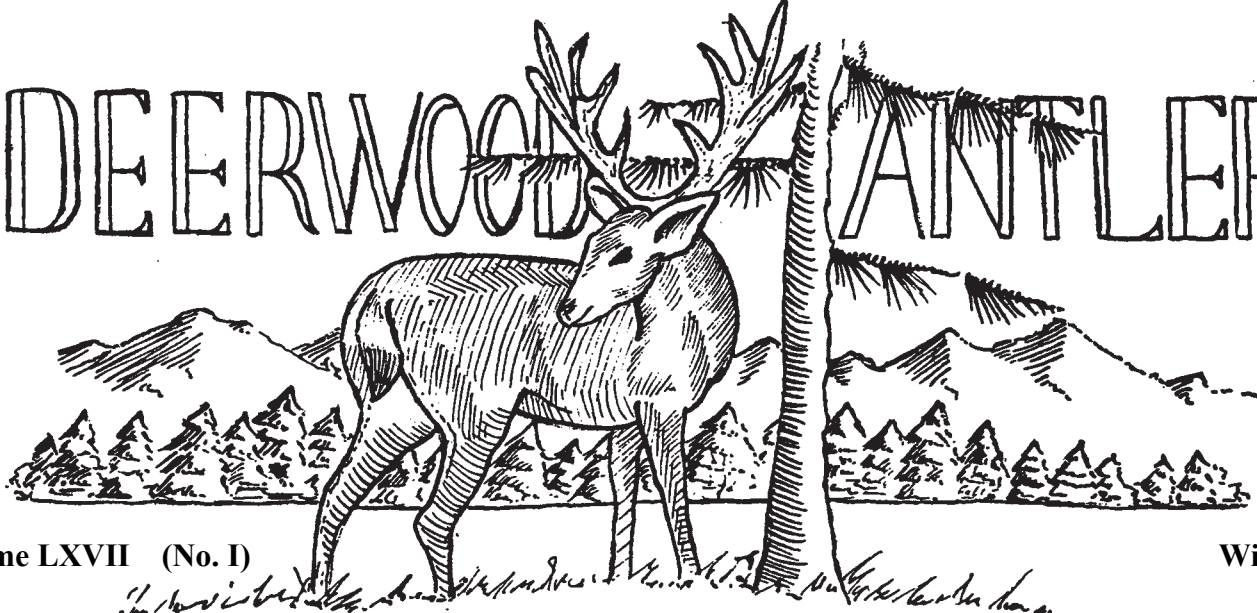


DEERWOOD ANTLER



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Winter 2011

FROM STONE BUILDING TO SILVER SCREEN...

What does a former Deerwood camper remember most about his summers at camp? Some say it is the trips, some say the chapel talks and tree talks, and others remember their cabin counselors, special events and pranks. After speaking with many alumni recently, however, we have been reminded of another aspect of camp life that alumni hold particularly dear – the Sunday night cabin skits and songs on the front porch of Ty and the end-of-session productions performed on the Stone Building stage. A common sight on a Sunday night these days is a younger camper tipped over backward in his trail chair from belly-aching laughs. A few of the boys responsible for bringing on those laughs have since gone on to careers in acting, and this winter's edition of the *Antler* begins by sharing them with you.

Alumni from the 1960s and early 1970s will remember **Brad Mott**. Peter Thomsen certainly remembers Brad and complains that his cabin group never won a prize for the Sunday skits because Brad's group always stole the show! Brad remembers "writing a skit or song for every Sunday ...it was like an eight-week television season." Since his Deerwood skit-writing days, Brad has gone on to appear in several films, television shows, commercials and theatre performances (his real love). Brad just finished *Spamalot*, a 2005 Tony award winning musical production of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, at Chicago's Drury Lane theatre. He says that the audiences just adore it and that "two hours of nothing but laughter is wonderful medicine in winter." For Mott, the challenge and excitement of live theatre come from having to "connect with a different audience each night." He has enjoyed seeing "high school groups get caught up in the magic of Shakespeare" through productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and has recently acted in Neil Simon's *Sunshine Boys*.

Brad's work has not been limited to the theatre and he has appeared in 5 or 6 major motion pictures including *The Accidental Tourist* in 1988, *Meet the Applegates* in 1990 and *Stranger than Fiction* in 2006. Based in New

Jersey and Chicago now, Mott did live in Los Angeles for a time and when there found more work through television and commercials. His TV appearances have included *Roseanne*, *ER*, *A Different World* and recently he has been working on an HBO series called *Mildred Pierce*.



Brad Mott (second from Left) as Sir Bedevere in *Spamalot*

After acting at Deerwood and "some in high school," Brad earned a theatre degree from Northwestern University. For almost thirty years he has been teaching acting at Columbia College in Chicago and especially enjoys taking students to Hollywood during "J-Term" and introducing them to professional actors, agents, casting directors and the like. Mott remembers being part of the Deerwood musicals each year and working with John and Diane Boynton, Bob Morgan and Heather Thomsen. He has particularly fond memories of writing and directing "My Dear Woody" (a take-off on *My Fair Lady*) with co-counselor Wayne Wilkins.

Another alumnus with vivid memories of skits and plays at Deerwood is professional actor, **Charlie Hewson** (1993-2001). Charlie testifies that "it is absolutely true that I started acting at Camp Deerwood. I was forced to attend an audition by [my cabin-mate] Conor Fetting-Smith." Charlie's first camp role was playing The Scarecrow (Bruce

Wilhelm) in a Deerwood version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Charlie remembers feeling quite nervous before the show! For several summers in the 90s, Charlie, Connor and their cabin-mates had the whole camp in stitches on Sunday nights with comedy skits, songs and raps. Charlie claims that one of his highlights was singing “Mak-O” (an adaptation of “Day-O” by Harry Belafonte) when he played Shawn Pistor in one of the year-end musicals. Looking back on his Deerwood days, Charlie commented “I never realized until now what a comprehensive education in performance it was. I had Heather teaching me how to sing, Craig [Evans] teaching me how to act, and my friends teaching me how to write each week.”

After being in “every play at camp,” Charlie participated in any show he could in high school and college (6-7 each year), and confessed that his involvement in the professionally produced shows with Princeton University’s drama department took priority over his English (major) classes. Since moving to New York in 2004, Charlie has taken roles on stage in plays such as *Sophistry* and *Streamers* (which came back to NY after running for 3 months in Boston), on television shows including *Law and Order*, *Gossip Girl*, and *White Collar* and in several films. Hewson’s film appearances have included some independent films (*Holy Rollers* and *The Bleeding House*) that have done well at festivals, and some larger movies – *Awake*, *Going the Distance*, *The Bounty Hunter* and *The Nanny Diaries*. Of course, the *Deerwood Antler’s* perspective is that Charlie “co-starred” with Jessica Alba, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Aniston and Scarlett Johansson!

Perhaps we’ll need to write another story soon about other Deerwood alumni in the business. Rumor has it **Mark Lord** and **Conor Fetting-Smith** have re-located to Los Angeles. Mark has done some work on screenplay writing and Conor is in film school pursuing his interest in writing and directing. Another Deerwood alumnus from LA with whom we just connected is actor and producer **Scott Dupont**. When living in Florida, Scott worked mainly on commercials, but has recently focused more on the production of documentaries. After acting in the romantic comedy *Who Stole the Electric Car?*, Scott became fascinated by 100% electric cars and produced a documentary called *What is the Electric Car?* which he hopes will serve to educate the masses about this green form of transportation. He is starting to tour the country screening in select theaters, high schools & colleges where he is spreading the word about the future of transportation. Congratulations to Brad, Charlie, Mark, Conor and Scott on all your accomplishments. We have no doubt that many more campers and future campers will be similarly inspired at Deerwood, and will be motivated by your achievements. As Scott Dupont said, “One of the main lessons I took away from Deerwood was to try things that might scare you the most ... keep persisting, and never give up.”



Charlie Hewson with Jessica Alba in a scene from Awake

ANOTHER MOTT MAKES GOOD (Beer)

Some of you, while reading about Brad Mott’s acting career, may have been thinking to yourselves, “I wonder what Brad’s younger brother, Tod, is up to?” Not surprisingly, Tod Mott has been in the news recently as well. Tod is the head brewer at the Portsmouth Brewery in Portsmouth, NH where his Imperial Stout called “Kate the Great” has been a huge success. According to The Portsmouth Herald, “Kate the Great was ranked No. 2 in the world and best beer in America by Beer Advocate Magazine in 2006. Since then, ‘Kate mania’ has prompted long lines for bottles and for the beer on tap.” In fact, Governor John Lynch issued a proclamation declaring March 7th “Kate the Great Day, recognizing the impact of the stout and its role for the Portsmouth Brewery as a unique beer ambassador for the state.” Ten thousand scratch tickets were sold for a chance to buy bottles of the beer, and they sold out in 27 hours, raising \$20,000 for two local charities. We still think the stir over Kate the Great pales in comparison to the wild uproar (and loudest cheers ever in Toots Shor) that ensued when Tod delivered a keg of root beer to the campers’ banquet. If you are a beer lover and want to get a taste of Kate the Great next year, you will most likely have to camp out and take a number just like everyone else!



Tod Mott holding Governor Lynch’s official proclamation of “Kate the Great Day” on March 7th

I remember when...

Dozens of alumni had fun completing the phrase above. Here are some of their memories:

1950s “...Bill Ackley, a very imaginative and creative guy, who among other things wrote plays that we campers would perform at the Stone Building. I also remember him entertaining us in the cabin (I think it was Waldorf) after lights out with ghost stories, very powerfully delivered.”

1960s “...when Buck borrowed the town’s fire truck and hid it behind the Archery Shack to tip the scales in an early Water Battle.”

1970s “...Merce’s golden retriever, Sam, would climb the ladder and jump off the low tower...and would dive down 8 feet to fetch wiffle balls filled with rocks off the bottom.”

“...portaging a wood-canvas Old Town canoe up Rapid River with ‘Rock’ [Hudson] and shooting the rapids with him standing up with his long paddle!”

1980s “...Playing Mazzocca Ball with Gus Mazzocca.”

“...All of the plates, silverware, and stainless from Toots Shor lining the docks at the Waterfront, including the tower.”

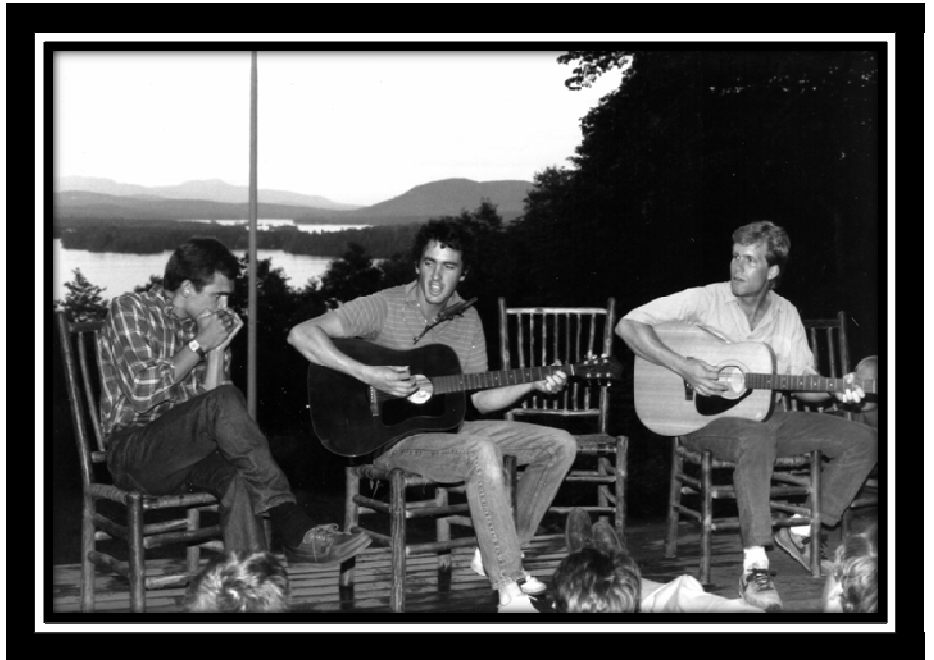
1990s “...Birch Bending with Len on Students’ Island on the Rangeley Lakes trip.”

“...The infamous Beth Barclay/Tracy Wilhelm vs. Mako/Jesse Perkins tennis match.”

“...Sailing the Sponson canoe on the Aziscohos trip, breaking the mast, and watching Tommy personally fix it when we returned.”

“...coming back from my first summer and trying to impress my parents by cooking them one of my favorite meals from the summer, ‘Spamghetti,’ followed by utter disappointment by all parties, as you can’t recreate the magic of the well seasoned fry pans and camaraderie around the fire.”

2000s “...Cosby’s Tree Talk in either 2000 or 2001 that absolutely nailed how special a place Deerwood is.”



1980-Something

Can you recognize any of the faces, above or below?



Top of Page: Probably taken in 1985, this photograph depicts a typical Sunday night scene, just before Tree Talk, when counselors get their turn to entertain the campers. Billy Piper, with harmonica at left, was on staff in ’85, but we think Tod Campbell (center) and Jim Wooster (right) were just back for a visit then (they were on staff a few years earlier). In fact, Tod still stops in to play on Ty’s Front Porch now and again, sometimes with a Mandolin!

Above: This is the CIT group from 1988, on a trip called “Notch to Notch” (Crawford to Franconia), posing for a photo near Thoreau Falls. Left to Right: Mike Marco, Craig Warnke, Vinny White, Justin Peters, Bill Bush, Jason Hollander, Shawn Pistor, Judd Donnelly (counselor) and Jeremy Martin. Apologies to Colston Young who must be the one cropped out at right (we’ll search for the negative!)



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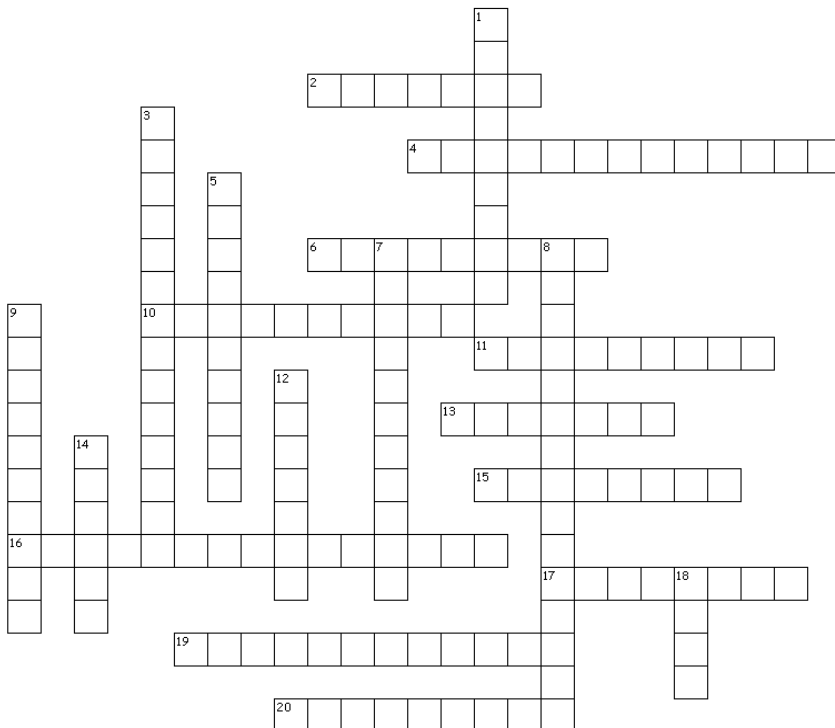


D-SHIRTS Around the World

This photograph was sent in by Ben Acheson after an enthusiastic reunion in Ballynahinch, Northern Ireland. From left to right, are former counselors Liam Paterson, Ben, David Livey and "Joc" O'Connor. Liam and Joc are planning to return to the Deerwood staff this summer. How far away from Holderness has your D-shirt traveled? Has it made it to any exciting places? Send us a photo and we'll put it on the web-site!

DEERWOOD CROSSWORD PUZZLE Try Your Luck!

Clues



Across

- 2. Not quite a Senior
- 4. Longest running overnight trip
- 6. Most recent addition to "Ty"
- 10. Wagers for this must be physical
- 11. Camping gear stored here
- 13. L-shaped cabin, but once rectangular
- 15. Long before "The Spa," there was...
- 16. Original name for Ritz
- 17. Game played on the front porch of Ty
- 19. "_____, _____, can you tell...?"
- 20. Often misspelled dining room name

Down

- 1. Deerwood's Chris Craft
- 3. I replaced "The Rubber Raft"
- 5. Newest cabin in camp
- 7. Tuesday evening tradition
- 8. Title on plaque at Chapel
- 9. Deerwood's Dodgeball
- 12. Cabin with famous 3rd rafter
- 14. Top half of Sunday uniform
- 18. Deerwood's Mr. Fix-it