



MOWGLIS

SCHOOL OF THE OPEN

A summer of fun, a lifetime of friends, memories, confidence and standards.

SPRING REPORT 2013

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Keep the camp-fires burning,
Heart for Mowgli yearning –
Always have a welcome word for all the Pack....*



The song *Keep the Campfires Burning*, which was re-introduced to the boys over the past few years and is now a favorite at evening programs, resonates deeply in its simple message. This song, which for whatever reason, was not often sung during my camper years in the 1970's, has particular meaning today as Mowglis embarks on its 110th year, ever mindful of the simple, yet timeless themes upon which it was founded: Respect for yourself and others; fair play; care of our natural surroundings; and a commitment to the greater good, both within our forested walls and in the world outside. It was upon these ideals, conveyed in the *Jungle Books*, that Mrs. Holt founded Mowglis, and which subsequent leaders of the Pack, like Colonel Elwell, Bill Hart, and Bob Bengtson have embraced and nurtured.

Director Sam Punderson has taken his rightful place among these past leaders who have steadfastly guarded our traditions and instilled Mowglis' ideals to the boys and staff under his careful guidance. The summer of 2013 will be Sam's last in the Director's role as he steps down to attend the needs of his family, but he, like our other great leaders, will leave Mowglis a better place than when he arrived. A new Director will be announced in the coming months, who will, most assuredly make their own mark upon Mowglis and lead it into the coming years.

Among the articles in this newsletter are Bill Hart Jr.'s remembrances of his father, a man of incredible talents, skill and compassion who led Mowglis from 1962 to 1982. Mr. Hart remains one of the most impressive men I've ever met, and his high standards are clearly evident at Mowglis today. Many, like Bill Hart, committed much of their lives to Mowglis so that others may share in the unique and enduring experiences that a Mowglis summer brings.

There is much activity and excitement at Mowglis as the 2013 summer draws closer, much of which is detailed in this newsletter. A superb summer staff, with many familiar names has been selected, camper registration forms are pouring in to the camp office, the property is being readied for the boys' arrival, and the crew boats are nearing the end of an extensive refurbished and will be awaiting the boys arrival in June.

I can still recall the anticipation of a coming summer I felt as a boy and I'm thankful both for the opportunity then and the chance today to re-live it through my involvement with the camp. I encourage all within the Mowglis family to be a part of the fun! Get Back Give Back Work Weekend in June, alumni events over Crew Day weekend, upcoming regional gatherings, or service to Mowglis through various committees, are but some of the opportunities to participate in the excitement and help keep the campfires burning brightly.

I look forward to seeing you soon – Good Hunting!

Chris Phaneuf, '77

HOLT-ELWELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION 2013 TRUSTEES

Chris Phaneuf ('77),
President

Jim Westberg ('69),
Vice President

Dave Tower ('52),
Treasurer

Richard Morgan ('68),
Secretary

David Concannon ('79)

Forty Conklin ('74)

Jim Graff ('78)

Roel Hoekstra ('76)

Meg Hurdman

Eric Love ('91)

Greg Phaneuf ('82)

Ben Ringe ('85)

Diane Sears

Charlie Walbridge ('62)

MOWGLIS SCHOOL OF THE OPEN

Mission Statement

Mowglis' mission is to guide boys on the journey to manhood by providing a summer overnight School of the Open under the guidance and care of experienced staff members.

Mowglis provides a rite of passage, offering boys the opportunity to become young men, learning leadership, responsibility, integrity, their role in the community, and respect for nature.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Dear Mowglis,

April has arrived once again, and camp has survived a real snow filled winter with the typical storms. This was a much-welcomed average season versus last winter when the snow never came.

During the off-season we've been busy with the usual duties of recruiting, fund raising, communications and maintenance. We've had some terrific events, hosted by both generous alumni as well as eager parents. By the time you read this, we'll have hosted a few additional events, with the end goal of seeing some very full dorms this summer due to all those efforts. If you have not yet had the chance to join us at one of these events, please consider coming to one of the gatherings that we'll have at camp this summer, you'll be amazed at the fellow Mowglis that you'll meet and the connections that you'll make.

In this issue you'll find some great tidbits about what's been happening around camp. We have a group of alumni that are driving the refurbishment



of the "new" crew boats. We'll tell you about how we're revising the Yearling program, and about a new partnership that we have with the Hampton School. We'll also give you a little more insight into Mr. William (Bill) Hart's life in an article written by his son.

The last day of May and the first weekend of June will be the dates (5/31-6/2) for our annual gathering at camp for Get Back and Give Back. We'd love to see you there if you have not had the chance to come back to camp recently. It's a wonderful way to spend time at camp, do a little work to tidy up the grounds before the boys arrive, and get to know the place again.

I hope to see more of you this summer. One of my favorite parts of the job is getting the chance to talk with older Mowglis and hear your stories of camp days gone by!

Sincerely,

Sam Punderson

P.S. The wonderful response to this winter's annual fund appeal has once again reminded me of the generosity of the Mowglis community. Please, if you have not yet made a gift to Mowglis this year, consider showing your support today to help ensure that this year's campers have the same great experience as those before them.

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CREW BOAT PROJECT UPDATE

By Charles Feuer

It doesn't seem that long ago that we first launched the current Mowglis Crew Boats, but it has been over 10 years. They were custom built by John Harkness, master craftsman and boat builder of Salem, Massachusetts as exact replicas of the original boats, which had served the camp for over 90 years. The original boats were built by the Robertson Boat & Canoe Company in Newton, Massachusetts in 1911 and were modeled after Adirondack Guide Boats. Adirondack Guide Boats are very stable and allow for the boys to learn to row as a team with less of a concern for balance, as is evident with racing shells. Mr. Henry Livingston, Jr., a member of the staff under Colonel Elwell, proposed and modified the original seats to stagger them and custom built the riggers to accommodate the new seat arrangement in 1938, thus becoming the "Father of Modern Mowglis Crew." The modifications provided for faster performance and better simulating the "racing shell" experience that many boys would go on to experience in high school and college. Generations of campers rowed in the 1911 crew boats which now hang from the rafters in Gray Brothers.

I attended Crew Day last summer and had a chance to inspect the boats to see how they had fared over their first decade of use by enthusiastic campers and grueling Crew Week activities. They remain magnificent, but showed signs of wear and the need for some well-deserved attention. I took pictures of the areas of concern and relayed them to Henry Livingston, III, following in his father's footsteps, and John Harkness. We consulted with each other and moved into action, developed a refinishing and modification plan and had the boats carefully moved to John's shop back in Salem, Mass. John provides us with the following update:

"As you know, I came up in the middle of November and picked up the crew boats. I had just begun working on them when I was in a terrible bicycling accident; however, I'm about 90% back to my old self. First, I removed the seats and scrubbed and cleaned the inside of the boats and checked to see what should be done. I saw where a number of areas of concern had arisen from the camper's use of the boats. The keel and hull needed modifications as well as the installation of floor boards to protect the hull from the oar handles, as the boys raise and rest them when they're not rowing. This week I should have the keel problem solved and then onto the floor board project. Gee! I thought I was just going to clean and varnish and send them back in the spring, however, I feel these modifications will stand the test of time."

Thank you, John, for your enthusiasm and dedication to the Mowglis Crew Boats! We look forward to their safe return and another of many Crew Weeks to come. They play such an important role in the Mowglis Experience and we hope you can join us for **Crew Day, August 3rd**, to see them in action.

2013 w/sh list

Can anyone donate the following?

- New seats for Old Town Kingfisher Canoe: \$65 each
- Archery Arrows
- Archery Targets: \$180 each
- Two-man crew scull
- 2 new Aqua Finn sails: \$225 each
- Orion Astro View 120 Refractor Telescope: \$570
- Field Guides: Birds, Trees & Weather
- Plywood for tennis backstop \$250
- Full Size refrigerator for Dining Hall Kitchen
- Lightly used camping gear for Green Ribbon
- Board Games
- Wool Blankets for international campers



ATTENTION ALUMNI:



If you are interested in doing a campfire presentation this summer, please contact Tommy Greenwell at wtgreenwell@mowglis.org.

ALUMNI NOTES

JAMES BRADBURY (Den 1986) is working for the **World Resources Institute**, an environmental policy think tank. He's married with 2 daughters, ages 18 months and 3 years.

CHAD BRADBURY (Den 1983) was married 3 years ago. He works in a health food store and does massage therapy. He and his wife Leanna are very active in their church.

JEFF SHAW a Mowglis counselor from the late 70's and early 80's, has changed careers. He used to work in information technology, he is now a partner in **Wildlife Control Supplies**, which sells equipment to people involved in removing problem animals like raccoons, etc. He thinks fondly of Mowglis and hopes to return for a visit soon.

TONY DOHANOS (Den 1964) says his Mowglis skills continue to serve him every day. He traveled the world before setting in Hawaii where he's a freelance artist and an art teacher at a charter school. He lives near the ocean and is often on the water on his kayak and paddleboard. He's on Facebook and has a 7 year old grandson who he thinks should go to Mowglis too!

Mark your Calendars!

May 31 — June 2, 2013

GET BACK &
GIVE BACK
WEEKEND

Alumni, friends, and staff working together to prepare the camp for the summer.

Please contact Holly at admin@mowglis.org if you are planning to attend or if you would like more information.

Yearling Program Update

For the summer of 2013, boys who have just graduated from Den, or those 15 years of age, will have the choice to join the Yearling Program and have a more diverse experience at Mowglis, in a more mature role, building on old skills while creating new knowledge. This Yearling summer will only be offered for one post Den summer, then the expectation will be that the Yearlings will apply the skills learned to summers as Junior, and then Senior Staff.

The Yearlings will live on their own in the Yearling tent. When in camp, the majority of their time will be spent in Industries, working what the younger boys. In addition to assisting the Senior counselors, they will also have opportunities, in Sign-up and Open Period, where they will be able to continue to build skill sets. There will be some structured evening activities along with built-in free time. Special Trip Days will bring them to new destinations in the White Mountains and continued trail clearing efforts within the Mowglis trail system.

Two of the seven weeks at camp will be spent on two separate extended trips. There will be one five day backpacking trip, and a five day canoe trip. These outings will be to new destinations that the Yearlings won't have experienced as campers. The purpose of these trips is to provide an outdoor classroom, which will allow us to continue to work on both soft and hard skill sets, providing them with a stronger foundation as they transition into Junior and then Senior Staff. There will also be a community service component to the program, which will allow them to earn hours for school requirements.

The first summer after being a camper is extremely important. After being a camper at Mowglis, the transition from camper to counselor isn't always easy for young men. The Yearling program is designed to give hands-on training, providing responsibilities around camp, within Industries, as well as furthering their Mowglis knowledge on the trail. This is a great opportunity to hone their skills before being invited back into a traditional Junior Staff role.

NEW HAMPTON SCHOOL

Gives Back

Fourteen people working five hours a day is equivalent to one person working 40 hours a week for seven weeks. Students from the New Hampton School spent a collective 280 hours here at Mowglis over the course of four days in the beginning of March.

Mowglis alum Steve Fay (Den '77) works for the New Hampton School, and thought of us when they were considering possible projects for the students. He connected with us and a few weeks later; there were 12 students from 8th to 11th grade, along with one of their History teachers and the school's Registrar, who showed up to work.

They spent four days volunteering their time and labor during the New Hampton School Service Week. Upon their arrival at camp, they watched the new Mowglis video and we shared some camp stories and history with them. The group got right to work, sanding down all of the tables in the dining hall and moving fallen brush. Electric heaters in the dining hall took the edge off during a mild first week of March, and the brush crew quickly



had a large pile to feed the fire burning in the campfire circle. The fire was tended for three days and provided a great break spot from the work going on in the dining hall. All seventeen tables in the dining hall were sanded down, cleaned thoroughly, and received two fresh coats of white paint on the tops and a layer of green on the frame and benches. The tops of all the tray tables were sanded and painted as well. Finally, the pictures were temporarily removed from the yellow wall and it was painted, from the Household table on down past the serving windows, all the way to the dumb waiter. Some additional smaller

projects the group completed while here were to unload a truck of donated furniture, demolition of the inner roof in the Chefs Cottage, and putting a coat of primer onto the new bouldering wall in lower Gray Brothers.



It was a great week, and hopefully a start to what may become a tradition as the New Hampton School strives to help out their local communities. We really appreciate all the great work they did!

Reflections on William B. Hart

MOWGLIS DIRECTOR FROM 1962-1982

Written by his son, William B. Hart, Jr.

The upcoming 50th anniversary of the Holt-Elwell Memorial Foundation's first summer season and the recognition of William B. Hart as its first director has made me realize that while others could tell of my father's time as director, I could share a few things about his earlier years.

William Hart grew up in Ansonia, Connecticut, where his father was mayor of the city. He graduated in 1930 from the local high school as president and salutatorian of his senior class. He went to Yale on scholarship, majored in English, and studied with the university organist. The first in his family to play a musical instrument, he was precocious, and as an undergraduate became the organist at Yale's Dwight Chapel. In his senior year at Yale he gave an academic recital on Woolsey Hall's Newberry Memorial Organ, one of the great pipe organs of the world.

During freshman year Dad saw a posting for chapel organist and music counselor at Mowglis, School of the Open, of which he had never heard. The pay was \$25 plus room and board, acceptable enough during the Great Depression, and he applied. Colonel Elwell came to New Haven to interview him personally. As I recall the story, the Colonel, unsure of where, exactly, Dad roomed, called up in a stentorian voice from the street below to the dorm on the Old Campus, "William Hart? Mr. William Hart?" to the amusement of other classmates. I have the impression that the Colonel's only reservation, after meeting my father, was that his musical tastes might be a little highbrow for a boys' camp. But my father got the job, and thus began a long and extremely warm relationship with Colonel Elwell.

Dad returned to Mowglis every summer during his college and law school years, becoming his assistant director in the mid-1930's. And he brought with him several Yale classmates, such as Harvey Russell, who composed some of Mowglis' greatest songs, and Nelson Ordway, a brilliant medical student who served as camp doctor. My

father's brother Franklin also came as cub counselor.

As a boy I heard many stories about this era, which whetted my appetite for attending Mowglis myself. One that I recall was about Richard West (Wah Pah Nay Yah), a counselor my father particularly admired, bringing a cowering camper to Dad's office and explaining that the boy had booby-trapped the Toomai dorm door, resulting in a pail of water falling on a junior counselor. That counselor

was apparently in a rage, but as Mr. West left, he smiled broadly at Dad over the boy's shoulder. My father took his cue from this and kept the boy in his office until everything calmed down. Mr. West had a sense of humor. When he was painting the famous curtain in Grey Brothers, my father came in one morning and saw that Mowglis, instead of playing with stones, was playing with dice. These were later painted over.

On another occasion a couple of Blue Crew counselors padlocked the door to the trip closet while the tripmaster and a few other Red Crew friends were inside making Crew Week plans. Then they managed to blow the steam from dry ice (or something like it) in through the window while shouting, "poison gas, poison gas..." This created a panic in the trip closet and led to a forcible breakout. My father was expected to enact severe punishment (suspect because of his known Blue Crew loyalties), but I think he was able to defuse the situation.

After finishing Yale Law School in 1937, my father spent a few months at a New Haven firm where, he said, he learned more law than in three years at Yale. He passed the Bar, but he was unenthusiastic about the profession (and at the end of his life told me one of his few regrets was that he had not chosen to attend Yale Music School to which he had also been admitted). At the Colonel's suggestion he became Mowglis' associate director, with both summer and winter responsibilities. There were tales about this period also. One I recall was of the Colonel and Dad missing a train at White River Junction, Vt. and racing to the next station in Windsor



William B. Hart, 1934

to overtake it. I believe that the Colonel was the driver, and my father described it as a harrowing but successful chase. When the Colonel married Helen Chaffee in the Jungle House one fall after the season was over, my father was best man. The night before the wedding the great hurricane of 1938 blew through, felling large pines around camp (these would later provide the lumber for the new Gray Brothers). Dad claimed Colonel slept through the storm undisturbed and expressed surprise the next morning at the damage. This would be consistent with the Colonel's famous imperturbability.

A few years later my father accepted a position as school organist and English teacher at Choate. The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred during his first year there, and in the months ahead younger faculty began departing for military service. The FBI needed new agents for war-time responsibilities, looking particularly for men with law degrees who could complete an accelerated training program, and my father was recruited. He

married my mother and they departed Choate for Washington, D.C., living on the mall for a summer in temporary government housing. As an FBI special agent, he was assigned to New York City working in counter-espionage. While at the "Bureau," as agents called it, Dad organized the first (and perhaps only) FBI Glee Club. It performed at Carnegie Hall, and I remember hearing a recording of this concert with an intermission piano solo by my father of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" (no doubt played by ear with improvisations).

After the war my father returned to Ansonia to join his brother, Franklin, in running their father's retail business, Hart's 5 & 10's. Variety stores like this originated in the late 19th century based on the idea of selling everything at just two price points. Dad's grandfather, a Scottish immigrant, who brought his young family to Winsted, Conn. in the 1880's, was determined to set up each of his five children (daughters as well as sons) with their own five & dimes. The story in our family was that he stood on street corners in sev-

eral central Connecticut towns, counting traffic to determine favorable places to open new stores. Ultimately there were perhaps a dozen Hart's 5&10's in the state.

Colonel Elwell visited our family every winter, even before my brothers and I enrolled at Mowglis. We relished his visits. In the 1950's, when Colonel decided to relinquish the directorship and ownership of Mowglis, he sounded out my father about taking over. For whatever reasons, my parents declined to do this. The camp was sold to Darwin Kingsley and later to John Adams. In 1961 my father was asked by Joe Beckford to join several other alumni who hoped to develop a plan to continue Mowglis as a non-profit organization. This represented a

chance to help an institution he cherished, perhaps more than any other in his life.

At the time, I was crew coach at Mowglis, and those of us on the staff in 1962 knew that Mowglis was threatened with financial difficulties and closure. We had only occasional rumors of efforts by alumni to save it.



Myron Braley, William B. Hart & Stuart Klein, 1969

My father, discreet by nature, shared with me few of the background developments. It wasn't until the end of the summer that we learned of the founding of the Holt-Elwell Memorial Foundation. I still remember seeing an early photograph of the board of trustees and the surge of relief and confidence that swept through all of us at camp. Tyson Stokes, Bill MacDonald, Gaius Merwin, Lockwood Merriman, Fred Kent, Wes Pullen, Matthew Baird, Helen Elwell, Don Cummings, and others...these were famous names in Mowglis history. It seemed suddenly that Mowglis could not fail.

The next year my father began his directorship, which would last for 20 seasons. At evening campfires that summer he sat not on, but below the council rock. After a few weeks, I asked why he wasn't sitting where former directors had, and he said he didn't believe he had earned it yet. At the end of season Inner Circle Ceremony, Dad finally sat where the Colonel had, as he called out, "Look well, O ye wolves..."



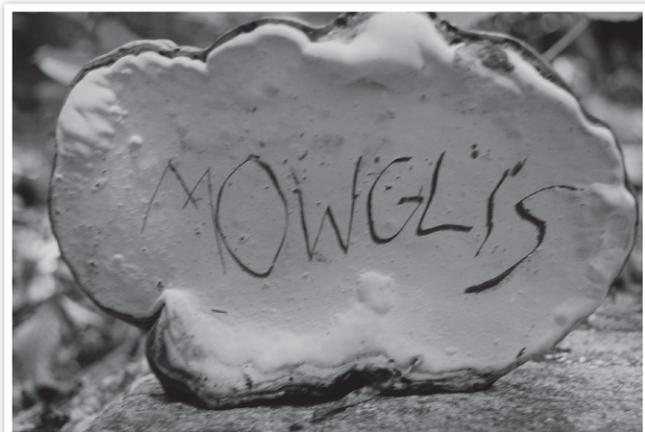
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CAMP MOWGLIS CALENDAR

MAY 31 - JUNE 2 Get Back & Give Back Weekend
JUNE 22 Opening Day!
JULY 12-14 Parents Weekend
AUGUST 2-4 Parents Weekend
AUGUST 3 Crew Day
AUGUST 10 Tennis & Archery Tournaments
AUGUST 11 Last Day at Camp



Save the Dates!

AUGUST 3

DEN REUNIONS AT 2013 CREW WEEKEND

We're hoping to start a new tradition of 10 year reunions at Crew Day:

2003 • 1993 • 1983 • 1973 • 1963 • 1953 • 1943 • 1933 • 1923 • 1913 • 1903

MAY 4-5, 2013

BRUSH BURNING WEEKEND AT CAMP

For more information on this weekend, or to RSVP contact
 Sam Punderson at director@mowglis.org

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING YOUR DEN YEAR REPRESENTATIVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CAMP
 PHONE 603-744-8095 OR EMAIL INFO@MOWGLIS.ORG