

THE CHIRRUP

November 2020 * 98 Years of the Pioneer Spirit * edited by Darcey Wijsenbeek

Director's Notebook

Of all the animals we encounter at camp, Chipmunks are almost always on the list. They chirp at us from trees, paths, cabins, and stone walls. These are Eastern Chipmunks, (pygmy Squirrels), part of 21 North American chipmunk species.

They are pretty much omnivores, whose favorite food at camp seems to be acorns, but they also eat lots of pinecones, berries, seeds and grains. They are a helpful seed spreader of plants, trees, and fungi. They round out their diet with insects, spiders, centipedes, and millipedes.

They dig tunnels and burrows which are sometimes 10 feet long, to store food and live. They create many food caches and often seem to forget where they are.

They don't put on winter fat and are "superficial hibernators" who enter a dormant state with lowered temperature and heartbeat. Chipmunks can lower their heartbeat from 350 down to 4 beats per minute. Body temperature can drop from 94 to 40 degrees. "Torpor," this partial hibernation, allows them to wake up on warm winter days.

Sadly, global warming will hurt the chipmunks by bringing them out of hibernation too often. — Mike

I don't think I realized the impact that the past four years have had on me personally until the other day, November 4th, when my kids asked me who was going to be the next president. I opened my mouth to speak, and instead I began to cry. That's as far as I got. My three girls, 10, 7 and 5, stared at my tears. My voice cracked, and I paused.

Politics in the last four years morphed into good versus evil, and we at Sangamon choose to pursue kindness, empathy, and acceptance rather than succumb to willful ignorance. The nation needs a shift, needs to turn from divisive rhetoric towards unified acceptance that we have many things we must work on if our future is to be bright. And so I shift here, towards the positive, towards the work we will do to help our community see love and hope in their lives.

The values we believe in at Sangamon supersede the political landscape, and we believe these values should be universal. Kindness should be apolitical, and never shameful. Camp Sangamon embraces the choices that each of us make in our lives that move us towards love, towards honor and respect for each other. As a community we believe that antipathy is wrong, that kindness is essential, and that every human is a unique and wonderful creation with thousands of facets. We will learn together each summer about our likes and dislikes, our needs and wants, and how we all can live in a way that helps us feel fulfilled in life.

We who run Sangamon understand that our own learning is a work in progress, and we are actively pursuing knowledge aimed at helping us gain understanding of what we can do to be allies to the disenfranchised and disempowered members of our society. We will continue do our best to embody the ideals we espouse. We will provide access to a pool of people, adults and children, who will become lifelong friends. We are a community that takes care of each other, that celebrates together whenever possible, and mourns together when life turns hard.

Members of the Sangamon community will learn that it's important to strive to be better than the status quo. They will learn that respect for women is not optional, that Black lives must matter, and that the better part of the 20th century in the United States was devoted to anti-Fascism for good reason.

The people in the US voted by and large voted for change, and for hope, and for kindness. As a group, we sometimes seem to think we discharge our obligation to the world by voting alone. We at Sangamon don't believe that our contributions should stop there. We are committed to using what power and influence we have to nudge the world towards compassion and away from scorn. We will teach not political doctrine, but right and wrong, and love and kindness. We will never become a place of lectures or preaching, but rather will always be a place that leads by example, where counselors embody empathy and respect.

Back to my dining room table. I felt relief settle into my chest, and the girls gathered tentatively around me. Priya asked if I was ok. I couldn't answer without my voice again cracking. I am ok. The country? Not yet. The world? Not yet. But there is hope, and that is an ember to breathe on, and a fire to stoke in our hearts and the hearts of our children. Already our kids have surpassed us in tolerance in so many ways, and it will be the young who will lead our country forward into the light. We are there to offer support, and wisdom when possible. As always, we will embrace our role in meeting the challenges ahead, and moving us towards a world that is better than ok by learning, and listening, and helping raise young boys to be kind, thoughtful, caring, and accepting men.

— Jed

From the Attic: Advertising in the Past

By Mike Byrom

Camp Sangamon began its camp life in July, 1922. This was long before websites, computers, and cell phones. It was almost before RADIO! (the first radio broadcast was on November 2, 1920) Back in the earliest days, the camp printed booklets with photos and descriptions of camp. Parents wrote to ask to be sent a booklet. Here is a sampling from the very first year

Sangamon means “plenty”. Camp Sangamon intends to enthuse and interest boys in God’s great outdoors, in the rights of others, in clean wholesome sport, and in agriculture and handicraft. We are all going to be pioneers this summer. Camp Sangamon is going to be the Camp “made by boys, for boys, and where boys do things.” We expect some of the work will be done by the boys and we want boys who will be willing to help out and enjoy it. We want boys who will be willing to help build the boats, rafts, chutes, basketball goals, chop wood, blaze trails..”

What to bring: Wear your second best clothes. Bring or send two heavy woolen blankets, or four heavy single blankets. You will need an agate or tin dish, bowl, cup, and a knife, fork, large and small spoon. Bring a rubber poncho or something to keep off the rain, a change of underwear, a bathing suit or trunks, thick shirt, sweater, towels, soap, comb and brush, tooth brush and toothpaste. There is no official camp uniform but we think gray flannel jerseys and shorts give best service. Tennis shoes or sneakers, baseball equipment, a camera, and musical instruments will come in handy. Boys will live in lodges 10 by 12 feet and are equipped with double deck bunks. Camp will be limited to 24 boys between the ages of 13 to 16.

Pittsford is on the main line of the Rutland Railroad from Boston or New York to Montreal. Transportation from the camp to the Pittsford train station is available for a dollar. Telegrams will be phoned in from Rutland on Sundays and nights.



November News

By Jed Byrom

What an autumn it has been! Camp was far quieter than normal over the summer, obviously, but our local camp folks made good use of our environs. We enjoyed letting the property be more natural and less manicured (I know, we’re not overly manicured even in a normal summer) and seeing the grasses and plants grow high in the pasture. Our animal population clearly showed that they’re ready to take the place over if given the word as we saw more wildlife than ever found in a summer with campers.

We spent a good portion of the spring and the summer thinking about how to manage camp through the pandemic, and how to position ourselves going forward to be ready for next summer. Various grants and loans helped us financially, but most of them came through towards the middle or end of our season. Because of that, we’re gearing up right now in a way that we normally aren’t- this is often a quiet month, with Camp shut down for the winter and work halted until the lane thaws in April. This year, though, we’re midway through the building of the new hilltop bathroom, starting the teardown of the cabin one bathrooms and sink house, and working on planning for some other projects.

We’ve had our first snow, and we’ve seen a return to seventy degrees. The water is off, and the antifreeze is in the plumbing lines, yet the insects have had a resurgence this week in the sunny faux summer weather. The sunsets have been particularly spectacular of late, and the cold weather has brought some of the best stargazing evenings that I can remember.

Foliage season saw a few socially distanced visitors, and it was nice to see familiar faces behind their masks. One of the most difficult things about not opening was not being able to share our space with all of those who love it. Pictures don’t do justice to the glory of a Sangamon day, whether it’s spring, summer, foliage fall or even stick season November. We’re very much looking forward to a time when we can come together again in a safe and successful way. We look forward to sharing the facilities improvements we’re making, and the new look some of your old favorite camp areas. Here’s hoping you have a lovely November, and that you have much to be thankful for in the coming days.



SAVE THE DATE!

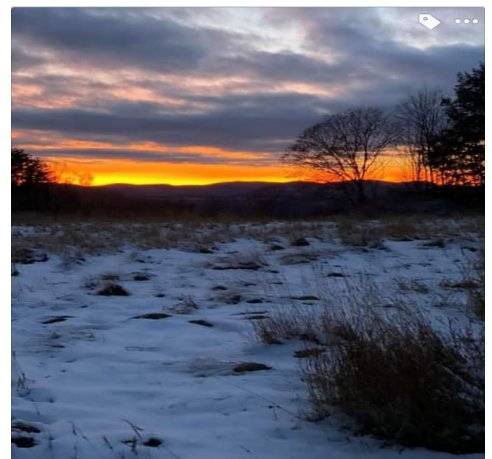
Applications and information will arrive in your mailbox next week.

Mark your calendars for Summer 2021 now!

Session 1	3 weeks	June 27—July 17
Session 2	2 weeks	July 18—July 31
Session 3A	2 weeks	August 1—August 15
Session 3B	3 weeks	August 1—August 21



**Views of camp
in November.
Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram to
see more!**



"Hey Everybody! Guess what? We have a birthday!"

Happiest of birthdays to the following Sangamen who have celebrated a birthday in September, October, and November.

Since we're all social distancing and wearing masks, sing loudly!

Joel Adler, Diego Ayala, Hank Banks, Caleb Bargsley, Ciaran Blair, Anton Boerema, Zaden Bohannon, Thor Bowers, William Brueggeman, Myles Chang, Luca Cifone, Keegan Claunch, Harper Davidson, Casey Dimock, Jack Ehlinger, Tristan Emmet, Jude Finkelstein, Rijel Fuller, Charlie Germon, Davis Gilles-Holt, AJ Golding, Andy Harris, Milo Horstch-Kearney, Luca Iriti, Varun Khanna, Rowan Laird, Cedric Last, Isaac Lazaroff, Noah Letendre, Rowan Lott, Caleb Mccaleb-Pauly, Gus Mccaleb-Pauly, Rio McKay, Tyler Miller, Odin Murphy-Yetman, George Mutrie, Jonny Nazzaro, Daniel Orellana, Dylan Patsch, Isaac Rabinowitz, Henry Richards, Octave Rovalle de Rouville, Leo Samaha, Asher Schermerhorn, Zephyr Schermerhorn, Nolan Schmitt, Austin Schneider, Graham Schrodel, Arlo Shapiro, Peter Skutch, Kayden Stockledger, Malek Walton-McManus, and James Young.