

THE CHIRRRUP

December 23* 101 Years of the Pioneer Spirit * edited by Darcey Wijsenbeek

Director's Notebook

We often see what we THINK we're going to see instead of what's really there. The snow of New England's winter landscape is a good example. Look closely, and the white snow often isn't white at all.

The 19th century Impressionists startled the art world with their paintings. Their subjects were often landscapes and seascapes, but instead of grass painted with green paint, and water painted with blue paint, they painted both with a wide range of colors – gold, red, blue, purple, orange... almost anything but green and blue. It gives the "impression" of green grass and blue water without using green or blue paint.

The other day, I went walking in the snowy woods near sunset. I was looking for something to write about, so I took a careful look at the color of the snow around me. As I looked "up-sun", towards the sunset, the snow sparkled with gold, orange, and fluorescent green. White was hardly present. Shadows were mostly green and yellow with a bit of blue. Turn the other direction, and the snow was blue, green, purple, gray, and indigo.

So take a walk in the winter woods, preferably either early or late in the day, and take a good look around. You'll be amazed at what you discover. - Mike

Chirrup & Songs by Darcey Wijsenbeek

There is snow on the ground here in Vermont and the winter solstice is a little over a week away. All this makes sunny days at the pond feel very far away! But don't fret - I have just the things to bring you right back to camp and hold you over until we meet again.

The first is our Summer Chirrup! I have uploaded this summer's editions to the website so you can enjoy pictures of your adventures, remember fun with friends, and enjoy the trials and tribulations of Yannick's quest for hydration.



The second is a Spotify playlist! That's right, I have created a playlist of our favorite camp songs for you to enjoy anytime. You can find it here:

open.spotify.com/playlist/2tuHtpgItCOtxSl0R1a1p4?si=87a603adcf3941bb

Reach out if I forgot your favorite and I'll add it into the mix.

Sangamon merchandise is available on our website! Check out all that is on offer by visiting www.campsangamon.com/shop. T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs, and even a 100 year commemorative coin. Items will be shipped out 6-9 days after purchase.



Updates

by Jed Byrom

Greetings from the first snow day of the year in Pittsford! Camp is newly buried under wet early winter snow, and while it likely won't last, it's made the place beautiful in a winter wonderland sort of way.

It's been a busy fall here, with Wren Tavern getting a makeover from Gary and Nina Hodder, some further farm beautification, and some general manicuring of the bushes and trees around the property. The pond has yet to fully freeze, so no skating yet. Our new diving board finally arrived and we're looking forward to getting it set up. The farm animals have journeyed back down to their winter home in Brandon, joined this year by Creole the Horse and Mogwai the mini goat. Creole seems to enjoy the goats and sheep as pasture mates- it's his first time with them and all are frolicking happily. Willa and Iris continue to enjoy the occasional cavort around camp, with more birds and chipmunks to chase without you all driving them off.

The new woodshop and farm barn both look lovely in the snow, and we're grateful on the warmer days to have spaces where physical plant work is possible inside this time of year. Looking ahead, we'll be taking a year off from any full reconstructions of buildings and focusing on renovation and beautification projects. There's always plenty to do, but it is nice to have a few smaller projects for the time being rather than any giant ones.

We're always happy to welcome intrepid winter visitors. If a walk around camp is of interest, please email me at jed@campsangamon.com to let me know and I can advise on ways to see the property in winter. The trek is a significant one from any parking, but it is worth a look!

I hope that this finds you all well, and that peace is present in your own lives as we see a world that could use more of it. Our thoughts are always with all people this time of year, and I hope that this season sees an increase in kindness and love from where we are right now. Looking forward to seeing you all in the summer!



The Vermont Campership Fund

Not only is this the season of thanks, it is also the season of giving. When it comes time for your family to make your end of year donations, please consider the Vermont Campership Fund. We devote a large portion of our annual budget to bring kids to camp who otherwise couldn't afford to join us. The Vermont Campership Fund collects money from parents, friends, and alumni to support us in those efforts. Last summer we helped more than 40 boys come to camp! Please share the benefits of camp with others by designating a gift to Camp Sangamon this season.

You can find more information at their website: www.vtcampership.org.



Sangamon!

382 Camp Lane Pittsford, VT 05763

**Who is coming to camp?
Stay tuned for a list of campers in the next edition!**

**Camp filled quickly last summer and we are
on track to do again this year.**

Even if you haven't completely nailed down your summer plans, get in touch and let us know that you are planning to return so you don't miss your chance to be part of Summer 2024!

And don't forget - you can earn an early enrollment discount if you send in your application by December 31st with a \$500 deposit. (*Tuition payment schedule is different with this plan, see website for info*)

Call (802) 665-7505 or email darcey@campsangamon.com with questions!

2024 CIT candidates: Your applications are due on *December 15th*.

2024 Apprentice candidates: Your applications are also due on *January 15th*. Don't forget to check your passport to make sure it hasn't expired and if you don't have one, start the process now!

If you need an application or an extension, please reach out.
You can email darcey@campsangamon.com or call (802) 665-7505.