# **Campfire Chatter**

# "All About Family Camping"

Official Publication of

North America Family Campers Association

Visit us at www.NAFCA.org



NAFCA

# President's

Message

Know that July will fly by with Chapter campouts and NAFCAree but NAFCA Full Board will be here before you know it. Aug. 6-8 at Traveler's Woods is the place. Hoping that we have a great turnout with reports, suggestions, answers, and support abound. We have some of the answers and want to work together. We have all had a rough 2020 and seem to be able to still remain "intact" and willing to keep going. Join us, jump on the "bandwagon" and help us to make NAFCA the "go to" camping group. I thank ALL of you who are working so hard! Summer is not over yet, Happing Camping! Linda Ostiguy **NAFCA** President

#### **Current Membership 578**

For the month of June there were 5 new members. Two for Chapter 33, 1 for Chapter 126, 1 from Maine and 1 from Mass.

#### **NAFCA Cares Guidelines**

NAFCA Cares was started about 22 years ago for the purpose of sharing news of NAFCA friends with members all over New England, Canada and beyond. It is published in Chatter every month. Information goes to NAFCA Sunshine Lady, Doris Lewis, <a href="mailto:bobndoris04@gmail.com">bobndoris04@gmail.com</a> 978-302-4003.

We are looking for good news, anniversaries, graduations, etc. as well as sad news, deaths of members, and past members or people who have a connection with NAFCA. It is at the discretion of the NAFCA Cares editor to decide what is allowable to be published in Chatter. If the individual shares their own news or puts it on Facebook or email, there is no question about its authenticity and will be shared. If it is in a newsletter or comes as word of mouth from another person, we do our best to have the members ok and be sure the information is accurate.

Quite often, obituaries are published. They are very helpful but we also like to have NAFCA history as well, such as when joined, offices held, committees worked on etc. to recognize their contribution. It is up to members of NAFCA to supply this information to NAFCA Cares and the editor will also include items mentioned seen on public records. If there is a family name and address for sympathy cards to be sent to, that will be included.



The Chatter comes out monthly and occasionally there will be information needing to be shared ASAP. This info often includes deaths and major illnesses and is sent out at the discretion of the NC editor to Dena Rickson who is also on the committee. She has the emails of members which has been compiled over the years and sends it out ASAP. If anyone does not get these emails and would like to, please notify Doris.

I hope this clarifies any questions anyone may have about this subject. Bottom line, the editor uses their discretion as to what is and isn't included, there are no "rules".

Doris Lewis NAFCA Cares Lady 978-302-4003 bobndoris04@gmail.com

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## Campers, Family & Friends:

Summer is in full swing! We were fortunate to enjoy some family time in Maine over the 4th. The weather was not too great but we got a few beach days in. Things seemed almost "normal" out and about at the campground. Looking forward to planning some more excursions before the kids return to school. The summer days although long, seem to go by so fast! Enjoy every minute of every day. Especially those nice ones!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the NAFCAree with safe travels to and from the event. It looked like a packed agenda! There are also so many great events coming up for the rest of the summer and into the Fall. I am hopeful that we continue on the right trend to make those events happen.

All for now, until next month when we will be winding down and getting ready for the leaves to change, wishing you health and happiness in camping!

Janell Forget, Co-editor

## **NAFCA NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

If you or an eligible member of your chapter would like to run for a National Office PLEASE see your State Director (or any State Director) and let your wishes be heard! Or email us at

Membership@NAFCA.org.

All National positions are open for election. A slate of candidates will be presented at the Council of Chapters in October. Elections will be held in January for a two year term starting April 1, 2022. All you need to be eligible is to have served as an elected State or Chapter officer.

The requirements and duties of each position are listed in the NAFCA handbook. Any present or past National officer I am sure would also be happy to explain to you the expectations of your office. Don't sit back and complain....come forward!

Thanks for your consideration, Linda Ostiguy, NAFCA President

#### 2021 Calendar Events

August 5-8 Multi-Chapter

Travelers Wood Bernardston, MA

September 13-15

NH&VT Fall Frolic Apple Island Resort

S.Hero, VT

September 16-19

Camp-O-Rama Second Beach Middletown, RI

September 23-26

MA Fall Frolic Spencer Fairgrounds Spencer, MA

NAFCA Conservation Work Wknd Otter River State Forest

January 28-30

October 15-17

MA Dinner Dance Southbridge Hotel & Conference Ctr.

Southbridge, MA

Baldwinville, MA

# **North American Family** Campers Association, Inc. Leadership

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CampfireChatter@nafca.org

#### Vermont & New Hampshire Fall Frolic 2021 Information

#### The "Frolic"

The Vermont & New Hampshire Fall Frolic will be held September 13, 14 & 15th. Yes, we are having the Fall Frolic on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. This exciting event will be held at the Apple Island Resort in South Hero, Vermont. The cost per night is only \$45 plus Vermont tax. You need to call the Apple Island Resort (802-372-3800) and make your reservation directly. Tell them that you are with the Vermont & New Hampshire NAFCA Event. You can come early and extend your stay for the same \$45 per night.

#### **Frolic Activities**

Fall Frolic activities will occur on Tuesday, September 14th. Activities include Games during the day, Root Beer Floats in the afternoon, a Pot-Luck-Supper at dinner time & a Brown Bag Auction in the evening. Campfires are planned in the evenings. If you have Games please bring them with you.

# Please Let Us Know that You are Coming.

After making your reservation with the Apple Island Resort please contact us. We would like to know the dates you have reserved, the number of people in your rig and your assigned campsite. We would also like to know your email address and phone number.

Please contact Jim Hurley via email at werv4fun@hotmail.com, or via phone call or text at 603-209-2006 with your information. This is important as we are assembling Goodie Bags for participating rigs.

#### NAFCA Conservation Weekend Otter River State Forest October 15, 16, 17, 2021

Hello to everyone and especially faithful followers and helpers of your NAFCA Otter River State Forest Conservation camping and working weekend.

You have the dates now. We of NAFCA need you to come and be a part of the Mass State Forest where NAFCA was born of the idea of banding together to form this Association of ours in 1957.

As you may know no reservation or camping fee is need in exchange for a few hours of help with those tasks assigned to us by the Forest staff. Most, if not all, the tasks will be on Saturday of this weekend and those tasks are not very strenuous nor will they take all day. There will be lots of time before and after our efforts to enjoy the company and surrounding area.

Please remember there are no hookups or dump station. We will have a portajon for our use over the weekend. With that, please plan accordingly. We'll have a campfire on Friday and Saturday evening. Please bring a goodie to share.

Otter River State Forest is location on U.S. Route 202 in Baldwinville, MA. Just a short distance from the center of town. Camping will be in the parking lot at the end of the entrance driveway. The gate must be closed over each time you enter or exit the driveway.

Thanks for considering Otter River at this time when NAFCA is moving back into our very familiar patterns. It has been a long and rough road for us to get to this point.

If you have any concerns please call Don Daniel at (978) 664-4294.

Yours in NAFCA, Don Daniel – Chairman 2022

# Do you have an: RV Departure Checklist?

Even seasoned campers can use a reminder list. Try this list out and add your own twist to it!

- Bars in pantry cabinets
- Secure all cabinets and drawers
- Secure breakables
- Check for items that will impede slide
- If it's on turn it off
- Secure TV
- Tie everything down that needs it
- Close doors
- Turn propane off
- Unplug from shore power and pack cable
- Empty black and gray tanks
- Disconnect and pack
   Discharge hose(s)
- Awning in
- Stabilizer jacks up and jack pads packed
- Connect securely to vehicle
- Stabilizer bars on
- Electrical hooked up to vehicle
- Emergency cable on
- Chains on
- Trailer Jack Up
- Unchock wheels



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# MASS Multi Chapter Weekend Aug 5-8 2021

COVID 19 Restrictions may still apply – will advise when we know more

Inviting all NAFCA members to join us for the 2021 Massachusetts Multi Chapter Weekend, as we are returning to Travelers Wood in Bernardston MA.

Thursday arrival available for those who wish for a longer weekend. Let's do a "wind down the week" on Friday night. Bring a treat to share by the fire. Any leftover treats from Friday will be available Saturday by the fire. If possible, individually wrap your goodies to be safe.

We will again enjoy a spaghetti dinner on Saturday 5:30 PM -6:30 PM put on by the campground – their fundraiser for the Shriners. Dinner includes meatballs, salad, roll and dessert. Bring your own set up. Let us know if you want to attend and we will order the tickets. We will advise the cost. We will collect payment on Friday.

After dinner on Saturday, we will have the reuseable bag auction – bring any new or gently used items for the auction. Put the item be in a reusable bag. It can be a gift bag, shopping bag – you get the idea.

The cost for the weekend is \$55 (Fri-Sun) or \$80 (Thru – Sun). We are in the safari field with use of the pavilion and fire pit.

NOTE: NACFA will be holding their meeting on Saturday 10 am. No charge for guests attending just the meeting. If you are planning to stay the day, a visitor's fee will be collected. All please stop in at the office to register and get a guest tag.

**<u>Directions:</u>** They are located at 152 River St in Bernardston, Massachusetts

\*\*CAUTION\*\*: If using GPS, make sure you enter "River STREET" as there is a River ROAD within the same postal area code. The River Road address will send you to a dirt road in a neighboring town where you will have to turn around in a farmer's field. From I-91 take New Exit 50A/B (old exit 28A/ B northbound or southbound). Take a right off the Exit onto Route 10. Follow Route 10 to the STOP sign. Take a left on Routes 5 and 10, left on Cross Street, right at fork in road, right on River Street. Campground is on the left. From Route 2 (Mohawk Trail) westbound, take the second right past the Gill traffic light (Adams Road), follow for approximately 4 miles, campground is on the right.

Go to <a href="https://newmassexits.com/">https://newmassexits.com/</a> - for list of new exit numbers

MASS Multi Chapter Weekend Aug 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> 2021 Travelers Woods Bernardston MA DEADLINE: July 15, 2021

Cost for the weekend: TOTAL
ENCLOSED \$
\$80.00 Thurs – Sun or
\$55.00 Fri - Sun
NAME:
_
Address:
_
PHONE:
EMAIL:
Number of people
Type of Rig & length

Handicapped Yes\_\_

(We can put you closer to the pavilion – please note: the main office & restrooms are not ADA compliant.)

Spaghetti Supper Yes \_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK OUT TO: Mass
Coordinating Comm. Of NAFCA
MAIL TO: Ed & Diane Gauthier
53 Dewey Ave
Leominster MA 01453
Questions? Call 978-403-4283 /
dianeg.july@comcast.net

#### **SMOKE SIGNALS**

# Penobscot Valley Acres Chapter #37

As is usual this summer seems to be going way too fast but the weather has been great and we are truly enjoying our vacation time here. There was a wonderful surprise celebration held in the club house for JoAnn & Sheldon Leonard's 50th Anniversary. We wish them all our best and many more to come. The 4th activities include some games and of course good eats and local fireworks. Isn't it wonderful that we can go back to celebrating and sharing wonderful activities with family and friends. I somehow missed a condolence in my last post for a past member Larry Sanford who lost a courageous battle with cancer this past winter. He was a very kind man with a great sense of humor. Our sympathy goes out to his partner Nancy Bragan and all of his family especially his sister, Wanda and brother-in-law Jim Martin who are also members of PVA. He will be greatly missed. I will close again with a wish for vou all to have Safe Travels

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Janet Bagley

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#### The Wanderers #184

Hello from chapter 184! We've all been busy with friends and family but we met at Pats Pizza in Hampden on several occasions to discuss and plan some activities. We have a pot luck planned for Sunday July 4th at Jeff and Sandi Macomber's lot at PVA! We are getting to know new friends as well as enjoy our time with longtime friends. Camping in Maine has been wonderful this year! Jeff and Sandi Macomber found a very nice campground closer to their kids in the Bangor area that they have decided to move to. The plan was to move to the new campground next spring, but they had an opening earlier so they are taking it in July 2021!! They plan to have potlucks and chapter meetings at the new campground once they are all moved. We have missed vice president Andrew and his wife Sheila at the campground, all though we have seen them outside of the campground many times, it's just not the same around the campfire without them! They had some difficulty getting parts to fix some minor issues with their RV. but they hope to be pulling in in July before the Macomber's move. We sure hope everyone has a wonderful summer!!



#### Canvasback #157

Here we are again putting pen to paper and trying to write something of general interest on Canvasback Chapter.

By the time anyone reads this we will have returned from our fun filled week at NAFCAree held at Drummer Boy Camping Resort. As you may remember this week was in Gettysburg, PA. If you couldn't or wouldn't go, we all missed you and hope you'll go to NAFCAree 2022 at Rideau Acres Campground in lovely Kingston, Ontario, Canada and enjoy another wonderful family NAFCAree.

Next up for this chapter is the Mass. Multi- Chapter weekend (August 5-8, 2021) to be held at Travelers Woods Campground in Bernardston, MA. This campground and weekend will also be the site and date of NAFCA's Summer Full Board Meeting. All of NAFCA has been invited to come and camp together.if you still have not made your reservation please call Wagon Masters Ed and Diane Gauthier at (978) 403-4283 or email: Diane.july@comcast.net. There will be a reusable bag auction; Saturday Spaghetti Supper – fee charged; coffee – you bring the an's, campfires and great fun people to camp with. Won't you come with us and be part of this NAFCA family group?

Please have a fun time out camping this summer as things have been turned on it's ear still. There are several weekends planned so maybe we can join together with another Chapter or NAFCA weekend. Please remember deadlines to help committees better plan for a smooth flowing family camping weekend. Keep safe in your travels and add another stick of wood to the campfire.

Don Daniel – Corespondent

## **Save Your Food Scraps**

Compost is comprised of decomposed organic materials. Recycling is a must, but to further reduce you trash, start composting. "Thirty percent of a household's trash is organic matter that could be composted. "Return those scraps to the earth, and you'll cut your garbage by 25 percent and reduce methane emissions from landfills." You will improve your garden and enrich the soil. It will be good for Mother Earth and you.

Worms and other creatures will help the compost meld with the soil. Mulching is not only an easy way to apply compost but also keeps down weeds and helps your soil retain moisture.



## **How to Compost**

Select a dry, shady spot in your yard for a compost pile.

Add food scraps (fruits and vegetables, eggshells, coffee grounds and tea bags are okay; skip meat and animal products, which attract pest). Cover with roughly the same amount of grass clippings, leaves or straw.

Turn the compost regularly with a shovel or pitchfork; if the pile looks dry, sprinkle with a hose. (You can cover the pile with a tarp to keep things moist.) When the material is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use on your garden. HAPPY GARDENING!

#### **HOUSE SPARROW**

Sometimes people have a habit of overlooking, or ignoring things that are right in front of them on a daily basis. You might have set up a bird feeder near a convenient window where you can comfortably sit and watch the activity as different birds come and go. You might even keep a notebook handy so can write down how many of each bird visit your feeder.

Of course, the great challenge to their activity is acquiring the skill needed to identify all of those birds and it requires time, patience and a little help. You might use field guides or some people use an app on their phone.

The house sparrow is one of the most numerous common birds in town and cities. It was introduced to North America by some of the first colonists to arrive on this continent.

The house sparrow is a small chunky bird; it is actually a bit on the large side for a sparrow. The bird has a grey head, chocolate brown feathers on the sides of the head, a black beak, a small black "mask" that covers the eyes and a black "bib" that extends down a throat that is

covered in grey feathers. It turns out that the older a male bird gets, the larger and darker that patch of feathers get. Thus you can tell a bird's age and "rank" by simply looking at the black chin.



Female house sparrows have a very different appearance. They have no black feathers at all and have a more subtle plumage pattern of light brown, tans, medium browns. Also, females have tan "eyebrow" stripes over each eye. The one thing that is the same is the basic shape and size of the bird's beaks. The females are never far from their mate.

So set up a feeder, set up a place to sit by a window and get yourself a notebook to jot down your observations. Give it a try and see what you see! Many of you might live in an area where house sparrows are common. Visit www.speakingofnaturer.com

# NAFCAree 2022 Rideau Acres Campground Kingston, Ontario, Canada July 16 -23, 2022

Have you set aside the 2022 NAFCAree week in Canada yet? If you haven't, why wait? Pencil the dates in on your calendar so you won't be left out.

The week is, for the most part, planned. We as a committee are waiting on our vendors and campground to come back to us with venue and transportation prices. We are also waiting on Rideau Acres to give the camping site prices for 2022. The committee should have all of the above set to put out a reservation form in September. At that time we will start taking reservations from you our NAFCA members.

Something to keep in mind, if you have the time, you can start your Canada NAFCAree adventure a day early, coming on Friday, July 15 and or stay one day after close of NAFCAree by departing on Sunday, July24. As you will note each extra days stay will incur an extra camping fee. If you come a day early or stay a day late you will have even more time and fun to explore this wonderful area of Kingston.

The following is a short list of trips being planned, but not yet finalized:

- -Tour of downtown area of Kingston
- -Luncheon Cruise on Rideau River
- -Tour of Ottawa and a boat ride
- Tour of Upper Canada Village
- -Live theatre performance
- -NAFCAree Day meal
- -Community Campfire
- -NAFCA Games
- -Fishing trip

There may be other things to do planned at the campground and surrounding area for our NAFCA friends to take part in. The committee continues to plan for your fun and entertainment.

Don & Maureen Daniel For the NAFCAree 2022 Committee



# Sustaining Members CONNECTICUT

\$\$ Hide-A-Way Cove 1060 North Road PO Box 129 East Killingly, CT 06243 860-774-1128 hide-away-covefamilycampground.com

Mineral Springs Family Campground 135 Leonard Road Stafford Springs, CT. 06076 860-684-2993 www.mineralspringscampround.com Groups receive 10%

Nelson's Family Campground 71 Mott Hill Road East Hampton, CT. 06424 860-267-5300 www.nelsonscampground.com 10% discount not including holiday or discounted weekends

Ross Hill Campground 170 Ross Hill Road Lisbon, CT 06351-2922 860-376-9606 www.rosshillpark.com

\$\$ RV Parts & Electric 2385 S. Leonard Street Waterbury, CT 06706 203-754-5962 a1awning@snet.com

Wolf's Den Family Campground 256 Town Street East Haddam, CT 06434 860-873-9681 www.wolfsdencampground.com 10% discount not including holiday or discounted weekends

Pete's RV Center 417 John Fitch Blvd South Windsor, CT 06074 860-528-9800 petesrvct.com

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Bonny Rigg Camping Club, Inc. 59 Main Street, PO Box 417 Becket, MA 01223 413-623-5366 www.bonnyriggcampground.com

\$\$ Circle CG Farm Inc. 131 North Main Street Bellingham, MA 02019 508-966-1136 info@circlecgfarm.com Country Aire Campground 1735 Route 2 Shelbourne Falls, MA 01370 413-625-2996 www.Country-Aire.com

Flagg RV Center 66 W. Boylston St. W. Boylston, MA 01583 800-678-9278 www.flaggrv.com

Lamb City Campground 85 Royalston Road Phillipston, MA. 01331 800-292-5262 www.lambcity.com

\$\$Mann's RV 52 Barre Paxton Road Rutland, MA. 01543 800-677-4476 www.mannsrv.com

\$\$Oak Haven Family Campground 22 Main Street, PO Box 166 Wales, MA. 01081 413-245-7148 www.OakHavenCampground.com

\$\$ Pout & Trout Campground 94 River Road Rutland, MA. 01543 508-886-6677

\$\$Prospect Lake Park 50 Prospect Lake Road No. Egremont, MA 01230 413-528-4158 www.prospectlakepark.com

Prospect Mountain Campground 1349 Main Rd./Rte. 57, PO Box 323 Granville, MA 01034 413-357-6494 www.prospectmountaincampground.com

Spencer Agricultureal Association PO Box 46 Spencer, MA. 01562 508-885-5814 www.spencerfair.org

Village Green Family Campground 228 Sturbridge Rd/Route 20 Brimfield, MA 01010-9641 413-245-3504 www.villagegreencampground.com

Walker Island Campground 27 Route 20 Chester, MA 01011 413-354-2295 www.walkerislandcamping.com Pete's RV Center 171 Washington St Plainville, MA 02762 508-695-9241 petesrymass.com

#### **MAINE**

\$\$ Old Orchard Beach Campground 27 Ocean Park Road Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064 207-934-4477 www.gocamping.com 10% discount. Spring and Fall rates only. Not valid on weekly rates.

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

\$\$ Chocorua Campaign Village KOA 893 White Mountain Highway Chocorua, NH 03817 603-323-8536; chocoruacamping.com

\$\$\* Shir-Roy Camping Area 136 Athol Road Richmond, NH 03470 603-239-4768; shir-roy.com \*10 or more rigs (no holiday weekends)

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Long Cove Marina Campsites 325 Point Judith Road Narragansett, RI. 02882 401-783-4902

#### **VERMONT**

\$\$ Apple Island Resort 71 US Rte. 2 South Hero, VT 05486 802-372-3800; <u>appleislandresort.com</u>

Abel Mountain Campground 354 Mobile Acres Road Braintree, VT. 05060 802-728-5548; ablemountain.com

Pete's RV Center 4016 Williston Road So. Burlington, VT. 05403 802-864-7495 petesrvvt.com

\$\$ Indicates campgrounds that offer 10% discount off of their regular daily rate.

\$\$\$ Indicates a 15% discount (GR) Indicates Group Rates are available.

# Campfire Chatter PO Box 345 Billerica, MA 01821

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### NAFCA CARES

This month is short and sweet and all good news!!

Paula Bradley is home at last, doing better every day!

Leona Barratt is home and climbing stairs already!!

Betty Corti fell and crushed her ankle, hopefully she is home from the hospital and getting back on her feet.

Bud and Sharon Leaman celebrated 57 years of marriage on July 1st.

Jeff and Deb Bell are great grandparents!!!!!!!!
Their grand daughter and her husband
announced the arrival of a baby girl. She was
born 2 weeks after they left California on a visit
but at least she's here!

On the mend: Darlene Kruckas who fell and broke both ankles but is getting around now, slow but sure! I haven't heard anymore about Joe Santos after his bad fall, hope he is home and on the mend.

Please keep our men and women in the US Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers.

Doris Lewis NAFCA Cares Lady bobndoris04@gmail.com

Please send info of our NAFCA friends and family to be shared with other members. Info provided in this issue of Chatter.

