



November 2015

Dear Pine Islanders,

In the late 1990s, I drove down the camp road for the first time in nearly a decade. I was a bit nervous. Would Pine Island feel the same? Would anyone remember me? As I pulled to a stop near the mainland dock, Tats Swan stepped out of the office with a cry of delight, her arms spread as though I was the one person in the world she most wanted to see.

Often, when I share that story, other Pine Islanders reciprocate with similar accounts. It's not remarkable that they have equally fond memories of Tats. Her warmth and animation are old news to all who knew her. What's remarkable is that Tats is just one of many people cited in various versions of the story. Ben, Emily, Ned, a favorite counselor—in every instance, *someone* welcomed them back into the fold as though no time has passed. While the people are important, their shared disposition to uplift and include is what I love about these stories, as the trait has distinguished our community for more than a century.

After ten years, I'm passing the reins of the Pine Island board to fellow board member, John Goodhue. John is a former camper and camp parent, and he's one of the most talented leaders I know. To learn more about him, check out Ben's great profile in the February 2011 Pine Needle: <http://www.pineisland.org/pdf/pic-needle-2011.pdf>.

The people in the story may change, but the disposition remains the same. John and the board remain intently focused on preserving camp, both the physical environment and the essence of the community, for future generations. Right now that means paying for land, refurbishing facilities, and setting aside money for an overlap period between the Swans and the next Pine Island leaders.

These expenses are hard to cover for a small camp like ours. We rely on the annual fund to meet the camp's needs, so I hope you will be generous to Pine Island this season. Every dollar donated to Pine Island goes directly toward revitalizing the place we cherish. We would be very grateful for your help.

Akka Lakka!

Pope Ward, President  
PIC Board of Directors

P.S. If you haven't already done so, please check out the wonderful new short video created to give a glimpse of daily life at PIC. You'll find a link to it on our home page at [www.pineisland.org](http://www.pineisland.org). We think it accurately captures what it feels like to live at camp and to be an integral part of building another successful Pine Island season each summer, and we hope you agree.