



# NEWSLETTER



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“Minikani, I’m coming home to you...” It’s on our logo, part of our website, and in all of our hearts. Minikani IS our summer homeland. With all that happens around and through us today, we all can always take that short mind-trip back to camp. Remember the food, the cabins, the skills, the people, and, most of all, our friends? It’s a safe place I find myself visiting more often lately.

It’s always been difficult to try to explain ‘camp’ to our non-camp friends, but you get it. Friendships started at camp can be separated by miles and months without losing any of their strength.

“There’s no place like home” says Dorothy, as she clicks her ruby red shoes and returns to Kansas.

In this issue, you’ll read about kids at camp last summer, people who are working to make camp a better home for kids, some ‘famous’ counselors, a counselor from 66 years ago, and a great challenge to help make camp available to many more kids in 2021.

There is no place like Minikani, our summer homeland. As we say good bye to the summer of 2020 and look forward to better times, we can all keep The Minikani Spirit alive in our hearts.



# Campership Challenge

by Joe Alioto

How does a MAC Holiday Gala work when we can't all be in a room together? Here's how: it goes online, and it gets weird! Given the world around us, we're reshaping this year's event and will be holding the first ever **VIRTUAL MAC CAMPERSHIP CHALLENGE**. Here's how it'll work:

1. In the coming weeks, we'll be reaching out over email, Facebook, and Instagram to request volunteers who are willing to do wild and crazy, safe and family friendly things (a "Challenge") to help us raise money. For example, I'll commit to a mid-winter swim in Amy Belle.
2. Next, **YOU** have the opportunity "bid" on the Challenges that you want to happen.
3. Finally, the Challenges that have the most money "bid" towards them will occur, and we'll all be able to watch videos of our goofy friends doing goofy things! In other words, if you donate enough money, I'll be going for a very, very cold swim.

Here's the best part: all the money we raise will go towards enabling camperships. In other words, every dollar you donate will help give a kid the life-changing experience of a summer at Camp Minikani.



That's well worth a cold swim in Amy Belle, and certainly worth opening our wallets and hearts.

Watch your emails and social media platforms for more information starting on November 2, 2020, and please reach out to [minikanistafflodge@gmail.com](mailto:minikanistafflodge@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Camp Benefits

A survey of campers was taken by the American Camping Association:

- ◆ 96% of campers said that being at camp helped them make new friends.
- ◆ 93% said that camp helped them to get to know kids who were different from them.
- ◆ 92% said that people at camp helped them feel good about themselves.
- ◆ 74% said that they did things that they were afraid to do at first.

**"School prepares you for college.  
Camp prepares you for life."**



## The MAC Mission

The Minikani Alumni Community is a group of former staff members dedicated to maintaining our connection with our summer homeland. Through acts of fellowship and service, we strive to honor our past experiences, support current summer programming, and preserve Minikani traditions for the future.



Are you looking for just the right gift for that special someone? You can now order Minikani Alumni T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, kid's clothing, mugs, and lots of other stuff. Go to the MAC website to access the Camp Store.

Minikani Alumni Community is a 501(c)(3) organization, independent from the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee.

<http://minikanistafflodge.com/>



Minikani  
Alumni  
Community

# Day Camp Report

by Alex Hushek

The time was 8:00AM on June 22, 2020. Minikani sprang to life with the first day of nine weeks of Day Camp. Parents, staff, and campers all arrived at Minikani with their own first-day-butterflies, but different from previous summers. Without overnight camping in session, there was uncertainty in the air. But then, as sleepy campers climbed out of their cars and met their counselors and cabin mates for the first time, a truly unique and magical summer began.



Despite all the apprehension and changes, it was clear even on that first day - Minikani had in no way given up or was defeated by the pandemic. Within groups of kids there was plenty of opportunities to continue the traditions and games that counselors and campers know and love.



There's always been an emphasis at Minikani of health & safety, but it didn't need to over shadow another camp emphasis – having fun.

Groups were assigned “home bases”, which acted as their cabin or group area. (GU, BU, AC, Corral, Waterfront, and Gun N’ Run.) Kids were dropped off and picked up at these home base locations and stayed with their group for the entire day. Everyone was provided with thin, comfortable masks that allowed for more relaxed social distancing limits. Some even took advantage of time on the Craft Porch to make and decorate their own masks, which helped keep them out of the lost and found!

Skills in the morning were a little different this summer, with counselors and campers staying together with their cabin group and rotating through skill areas. Because of this the groups spent a lot of time together, which allowed kids to grow closer together more than they would have during a normal summer, and we all got to experience everything camp had to offer.



For the counselors, they needed to lead and run different skills all over camp. Those who normally taught ‘chickens’ were now leading ‘pottery’, and those who used to be on ‘sailing’ found themselves ordering commands on the



Prairie. It was a shift in the normal camp skills, but it was a special treat to experience and lead skills in all different areas. As a craft staff member myself, the idea of leaving the porch and working on our rival skill, Waterfront, was unsettling to say the least. But by the end of the summer I caught myself constantly checking up on Belunda and looking forward to mornings in the guard boat on Amy Belle.

Contrary to morning skills, cabin acts in the afternoon remained the same in comparison to other summers. During these times you could still see weddings, secret agents, and even royalty wandering around Minikani. Unit Days were specially planned to be safe, while still being as immersive as always. Kids tagged each other with pool noodles, clapped and scared off ghouls, and participated in group challenges. I'm surprised Minikani didn't make headlines nation-wide this summer after a nuclear reactor had a meltdown in the pool and turned the head scientist and some of his lab assistants mad with power.



Luckily, the campers and counselors were able to wash off the radiation and concoct a cure in no time.

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The Lizard King was also able to visit during our Minikani Festival and was showered with tons of earthly presents - like mud, grass, worms, and more mud. Their mysterious disappearance soon after left some campers with more questions than answers.



Minikani was quick to elect a new president and vice president. It wasn't an easy decision, but after lots of debates about giving each camper their own personal chicken and providing a better snack for everyone, the Wizard Party beat out the Lizard Party.



We couldn't use the swimming pool this summer, so it was never filled with water. Well, almost never. Lots of rainy days in the early summer filled the bottom of the pool with water and brought an onslaught of wandering frogs who decided to make it their home. The green soupy stuff attracted frogs, toads, tadpoles and even a turtle. It was up to the campers to rescue as many as they could for release to Amy Belle Lake. Over 200 amphibians were saved to live another day - at another place.



Then, just like that, the summer was gone. It's common to hear "The days are like Marathons, but the weeks are just a Blink". This summer the whole nine weeks were a Blink. If you weren't careful, you would easily miss how impactful this summer was for Minikani. Many campers and staff started the summer after weeks of seclusion. Looking up through the trees in Pine Forest or looking out across the lake from the Waterfront cabins brought a special sense of serenity compared to white ceilings, computer screens, and cramped backyards. Minikani offered everyone chance to talk, yell, dream, whisper, scream, or complain in an absurd Italian accent. It may not have been the classic Minikani summer that you remember, but it was one that will not easily be forgotten. You'll be glad to know the Spirit of Minikani was shining bright at Day Camp all this summer.



## Update Your MAC Information

Have you changed your mailing address or your email address recently? No longer using your college or an old work email address? Wonder why all your Minikani friends receive email messages from the MAC but you don't? It could be we don't have your current addresses. If so, please send an update to the MAC so we can keep in touch with you. All you have to do is send your correct address to [minikanistafflodge@gmail.com](mailto:minikanistafflodge@gmail.com). We'll take care of the rest, and you'll be able to keep connected with our community.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back on November 1st.



# Lee Stevens '54

*Editor's Note:*

*Lee Stevens, who lives outside Minneapolis, recently joined the Minikani Alumni Community. What makes this so special is that he was a Minikani counselor back in 1954.*

*That date pre-dates when the 3 units we know were created as Indian, Pioneer and Explorer in '56. Also that year 13 cabins and 3 REC building were built, as well as the Infirmary. A couple years later the first horse corral was built and Norris Field was developed.*

*Please welcome Lee as the 'oldest' member of the MAC. I asked him if he would share some of his memories about camp 66 years ago and he came up with this:*

A high school friend's family were active members of the YMCA. Coming up to summer break, my junior year in high school, my friend told me of his plans to take a counselor's job at YMCA's Camp Minikani. I don't recall details of the hiring process but I vaguely remember meeting at the downtown Milwaukee YMCA interviewing with Amos Larsen, the camp director. The pay was not impressive but the opportunity to be outdoors and have social interaction was attractive.

The camp was located on a long, wide hill leading down to the shore of Lake Amy Bell. The cabins were lined up side by side toward the top of the hill. <sup>1</sup> My assigned cabin was named (politically incorrect now) Comanche. The other cabins also had American Indian names. Down the hill, on the right side was the mess hall. <sup>2</sup> Between the cabins and

the mess hall was an outhouse – the infamous KYBO (keep your bowels open). Near the lake was the counselor's lodge bldg. A couple of tables and couches gave staff a place to relax. On the other side of the hill <sup>3</sup> was a meeting area and fire pit.

Three meals per day were served in the mess hall. All cabin groups came to the meals with their counselor. A very active and noisy time. At the end of the noon meal Amos would make announcements (e.g. which cabin won the clean house award, which camper swam across the lake, etc.) and then lead singing. We repeatedly bowed and chanted — for the 1st few meals before campers finally “got it” — — “OH-WA .... TA-GOO .... SIAM!” Say it faster, say it faster. Many songs were sung which really charged up the mob. Brace yourself — here's one I still remember now — “Oh, they built the ship Titanic to sail the ocean blue. And they thought they'd built a ship that the waves would ne'er go through. But the Lord's almighty hand said the ship would never land. Oh, it was sad. Husbands and wives, (falsetto voice) little kiddies lost their lives! It was sad when that great ship went down.” Campers went nuts. Probably couldn't get away with that one today.

My small cabin had screened window openings with sliding covers inside. Three double bunkbeds were on each side of the room. One bed was mine with room for 10-11 campers. As I recall campers were ages 10-12. Very little room for luggage. Every couple of days, clean up, sweep up was scheduled in the cabins and as I recall there were inspections and awards were made. Homesickness, during the two weeks, popped

up. One of my campers succumbed to homesickness and was picked up by his parents. Rainy days meant slide the windows closed and sit around while I came up with some kind of story to tell. Definitely much different than today's WiFi, phones and tablet times.

My two assignments were to teach swimming in the morning and sailing in the afternoon. I worked with a senior counselor named Tom. During swimming classes buddy assignments were always observed. If I blew a whistle each swimmer would find his buddy, stand up, grab hands and raise their arms. During the 2nd week swimmers were given the chance to demo their new skill and swim across Lake Amy Bell. I'd row alongside and encourage swimmers to make it across — Amy Bell was more of a pond than a lake. Short swim. Two or three single sail, approx. 10 foot long sailboats were available for us to use. Once sailors learned the boat equipment and had a couple of trial sail sessions they could take the boats out on their own.



Each camper had a chance to go horseback riding once during their camp session. <sup>4</sup> Toward the end of the 2 weeks a hike out into the back woods with food (hot dogs, marshmallows, and canned beans over a fire) and beverages was



scheduled. Do not remember if that was an overnight or not. One counselor was in charge of arts and crafts. Campers could make things to take home — bracelets, lanyards, etc. At the end of the first week a big Minikani Festival or Carnival was planned that pitted cabins against each other to create costumes and skits or games for everyone. Winners were picked. During that time scraps of paper, cardboard, or crepe paper (like gold and found in the counselor’s lodge) were scavenged throughout the camp.

The nature lore counselor conducted hikes to identify plants and trees of all kinds. At one time during the summer some berries in the area ripened as well as a low plant that produced an egg-shaped fruit we called a Mandrake. Rapidly, campers stripped the area and ate all berries and Mandrakes. Luckily everyone survived eating the Mandrakes. Later someone told me they could be toxic. <sup>5</sup> Sumac heads were also dried and theoretically were going to be taken home and brewed as a tea. Hope they didn’t do that. I saw many moms, at pickup time say, “what the heck is this?” and toss the dry sumac.

After dark, the last night of the camper’s time at Minikani, a big campfire was built in the amphitheater and all cabins and staff gathered around. A lot of tired bodies and sunburned faces. As I recall, each cabin counselor went up and tossed a stick into the fire. Amos Larsen reviewed camper’s experiences, awards, and the meaning of friendship and sharing. Very wistful. Each camper was given a tiny brass Indian figure button (see next column) and inducted into — the order of Minikani Men. The button was



usually worn inserted into one of the holes of your belt.

Lee Stevens ‘54

- <sup>1</sup> *This is where the Dining Hall is now located.*
- <sup>2</sup> *Fireside Lodge today*
- <sup>3</sup> *Toward Council Bluff*
- <sup>4</sup> *The 1<sup>st</sup> Corral was built in 1959.*
- <sup>5</sup> *Most of us today know this plant as a “may apple”, whose unripe fruit is toxic in large amounts.*



## Candy Corn

Paper or Plastic? Pepsi or Coke? Republican or Democrat? We have so many choices today. Here’s one that finds people pretty evenly distributed on both sides – Candy Corn or No Candy Corn?

It turns out that 49% of Americans find candy corn tasty, 23% find it gross, and 21% don’t like it but admit that it’s an important part of Halloween. It has a long history as a candy treat. It was ‘invented’ in the 1880s by a candy company employee named George Renninger. Originally called "Chicken Feed", its three layered colors proved to be eye-catching and novel enough to make it a major hit.

35 million pounds of candy corn are produced each year. That’s just about 9 billion pieces, which is over a billion more than there are people on Earth. Now that’s a lot of chicken feed.



Over the years, the recipe hasn’t changed at all (lots of sugar, of course). But not everyone agrees on the best way to eat it. (Here we go again...) 47% of people surveyed ate the whole thing at once, while the rest ate it layer by layer. Of those, 43% nibble the small white end first, with only 10% starting with the wide yellow layer.

So what makes candy corn so popular in this day and age? One candy expert suggests it’s just one of many generational differences. For baby boomers, candy corn was a delicious, once-a-year treat that was a huge deal. They love it because it brings memories of childhood to anyone who was coming-of-age in the '50s and '60s, the same way later generations may think of more modern candies like Starburst and Skittles.

But do these candies have their own day? I don’t think so. National Candy Corn Day is celebrated yearly on October 30th — the day before Halloween. It’s your choice to celebrate it or not. But probably only 49% of you will.



## Famous Counselors

Chances are you know a bunch of people who worked as a summer camp counselor – yourself included - as well as most of your camp friends. But you’re not the only ones to be proud of your summer work history. You may recognize a few of the following people who proudly included “Camp Counselor” in their biographies.

**Penny Marshall** The famed actress spent most of her youth attending summer camps, before appearing on the television sitcom *Laverne & Shirley* in 1976 as Laverne DeFazio. She was a camp counselor at the Catskills’ Camp Diana-Dalmaqua.



**Drew Carey** Before he appeared on his self-titled show in the 90’s, and as the host of *The Price Is Right*, Carey spent summers in the 70’s as a counselor at YMCA Camp Y-Noah in Akron, OH. Update: On 8/31/20 Care donated \$5,000 to the camp to “make sure the camp he once worked for sticks around for another summer.”

**Jennifer Nettles** Lead singer of Sugarland, songwriter, TV host, and actress. Nettles was a camp counselor for three summers at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in GA.

**Denzel Washington** Actor, worked as a camp counselor at Camp Sloane YMCA in Lakeville, CT.



**Michelle Obama**, Former First Lady, worked as a camp counselor at Camp Anita Bliss Coler in NY. BTW, as a 10 year old camper she remembers her counselor saying on the last day of camp “You know, you would have been the best camper in your age group, but you curse too much.” (With ICR’s, I don’t think that would have happened at Minikani!)

**Jonah Hill** comedian, actor (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, *21 Jump Street*) started out his days attending Camp Indian Head Camp in PA. Actually, Jonah’s parents met as staff working at IHC before he started attending each year as a camper.

**Zac Brown** The “Chicken Fried” singer was such a huge fan of his experiences as a camp counselor that he founded Camp Southern Ground in Fayetteville, GA. Brown was a summer camp counselor at Camp Glisson in Dahlenega, GA (where his new camp is now).

**Bruce Beck** This NBC-TV sportscaster was a camper and counselor at Tyler Hill Camp in PA.

**Drew Lachey** Former 98 Degrees member, (*Dancing With the Stars* winner) and actor was a camp counselor at Camp Joy in Clarksville, OH.

**Carly Simon** Singer/songwriter, was a camp counselor in the ’60s at a camp where she met co-writer Jacob Brackman.

**Francis Ford Coppola** film director (*The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*) was a counselor at Camp Agawam in Raymond, ME. "If I have to be remembered for something, I want it remembered that I really liked children and was a good camp counselor."

**Marvin Hamlisch** Musician, was music counselor for 4 years at Camp Geneva, in Lake Como, PA.



**Lady Gaga** Way back when, when she was known as Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, she was a camp counselor. Instead of donning gowns made of meat and writing power ballads, Gaga spent her summer at YMCA Camp Hi-Rock in Mt. Washington, MA.

**Michael Eisner** Ex-Disney CEO, says he learned everything about leadership as a camp counselor. At 16, he got his first gig - as a summer camp counselor, making \$100 for eight weeks. The experience was “pivotal”. At Camp Keewaydin, in Salisbury, VT, he learned some of the most important leadership lessons of his career. For one thing, he learned to be part of a team, working with others.



# SpotLight

On Alumni

By Gwenn Chamberlin  
and Haley Adams

Haley and Gwenn met each other at their very first Fall Weekend as OLT's in 2009 and have been camp friends ever since. They recently joined the MAC Board of Directors and have focused on promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism in the Camp community. They joined together to answer my following questions:

◆ **What is your history at camp?**

(Gwenn) My first year at Minikani was when I was eight- I was able to go with my cousins to ease the anxiety of a week away from home, but quickly adapted and never looked back. I went every year after that- I was typically packed by early spring. I left the summer after my explorer counselor experience to take a job at Children's Hospital. It was an inevitable, bittersweet decision but I have kept Minikani close ever since.

[Haley] I also started at camp when I was eight in the GU -- back when the IRs were called Cabins 20, 21, and 22 (someone tried to convince me this wasn't true but I strongly believe it...). Gwenn and I were OLTs from 2009-2011. I was a counselor from 2012-2014, spent half of my third year summer as AC Director, and my last summer in 2015 as Minicamp Director.

◆ **Did you have a 'favorite' job at Minikani?**

(Gwenn) Definitely my time as an explorer counselor (and as an explorer myself). It was Minikani in a whole different light than I knew prior to that summer. My time up north allowed me to develop my own wilderness skills, trip planning approaches, and spend time with some incredible kids that I still am close with today.

[Haley] It's a tie between being an explorer counselor, for the same reasons as Gwenn, and my time as Minicamp Director. Directing Minicamp was exhausting but truly some of the most fun I've ever had. It was a really empowering experience to run my own unit, and I will never forget the weird and hilarious things five- and six-year-olds say when they think no one's listening.

◆ **Favorite camp food?**

(Gwenn) To this day I have not found a more delicious buttery biscuit than at Minikani. I also always looked forward to the frozen juice boxes in the afternoon- they allowed us a cool treat but we also as a camp had to slow down for them. They often provided daily opportunities to check in and chit-chat.



[Haley] (Why don't I remember having biscuits at camp???) Mine is hands down grilled cheese and tomato soup. You couldn't get those onto plates fast enough so waiters could bring you a refill.



Gwenn (l) and Haley (r) celebrating outside Robertson. Was it Opening Day or Closing Day??? You'll have to read the article to find out...

◆ **Any fond memories of camp?**

(Gwenn) I'll never forget the time spent with those in my own year, in particular. Countless memories, any and all.

[Haley] Not a specific memory, but I will always have a tenderness for closing day. I was always the kid who was trying to hold back tears as I saw my parents coming through the Gunnel -- I didn't want to leave! It was always bittersweet to see that in my campers, and was always a good reminder of how special camp is, especially when you're a camper. There's nothing like it!

◆ **What song always makes you think of camp?**

[BOTH] Soak up the Sun, Sheryl Crow! Our year sang this at a closing campfire when we were third years. Because half of us were on trips every week, that campfire was the first time all summer that we were all together. I'll never forget practicing on the boating dock during free time.

*Continued on the next page*



**"Soak Up the Sun"**



**◆ Any special skills you learned at camp?**

(Gwenn) Definitely the classic fire building skills- at camp, in the rain, off the grid, you name it. My personal favorite has been a beach wood fire on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, during a storm. So many years with so much practice really pays off, not to mention it's such a calming and meditative activity for me.

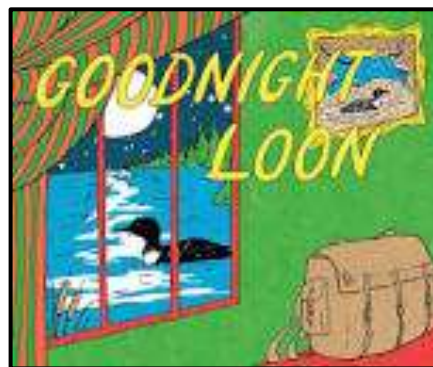
[Haley] Totally agree with Gwenn -- I'm so glad I know how to build a fire! I spent a few nights solo camping this summer, and feeling confident in my ability to build a fire was so important. Also, I learned how to make a mean golden-brown marshmallow at camp.



**◆ How did you make the move from camp to the "real" world?**

(Gwenn) I was fortunate to have a slow transition into the workplace- starting at Children's while I was in nursing school (while still at camp) and then taking a job in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit based on that experience. Children's was a platform that allowed me to channel 'camp' into my work.

When I started working at Children's, I promised myself to bring Minikani with me - the energy is so essential for the professional network of providers and for the babies and kids. In the NICU I am often playing Bon Iver as I am able, wrapping the babes in their Wisconsin/woodland blankets, reading "Goodnight Loon" on a regular basis.



After all, these kids are future campers, so I'm always sure to set them up for success. I have also recently taken an on-call position through Children's ER/Child Advocacy- this was prompted by my work to advocate for some of the most acute/vulnerable populations that come into the ER.

[Haley] Transitioning to the "real" world was hard! Here's a Pro tip: stay at camp as long as you can. But in all seriousness, the skills I learned at camp have been so much more impactful in my "big kid" job than any internship could have

taught me. I've brought my goal-setting habits, frequent feedback sessions, and even the occasional pump-up to my job. I guess it's working for me -- all of my coworkers know me as "the girl who worked at summer camp," in the best way possible!

**◆ Right now you're working on a new MAC initiative to engage with fellow alumni interested in diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism work at camp in our communities. Please share your progress and how alumni can get involved.**

Last month we hosted a kickoff meeting for any MAC members interested in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism in the Camp community. We had a great, candid conversation about our experiences at Camp, and discussed ways we'd like to see Camp improve. You can reach out to us at [minikanialumniengagement@gmail.com](mailto:minikanialumniengagement@gmail.com) if you'd like to see those meeting minutes, or if you'd like to be added to our listserv for opportunities to get involved moving forward!

**◆ Do you have anything else you'd like to share with Minikani alumni?**

We're both grateful to have had great experiences at Minikani and to be a part of the Minikani Alumni Community, for the rich memories we've created, the strong bonds we have today, and the ways we hope to improve our community moving forward. We're excited to see Camp develop into a place that combines tradition with justice to serve as a place where all kids feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves.



# Nature Notes

By Bruce

## Rodents

I know what you're probably thinking, "Rodents?" What's going on here? The last 2 Nature Notes have been about spiders and snakes. And now it's about rats and mice? Don't worry. Although over 40% of mammals are classified as rodents (order Rodentia, or gnawing animals), there's plenty of not-scary rodents. Hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs are all rodents. One large family of rodents is the squirrel family (Sciuridae), which includes woodchucks, chipmunks, ground squirrels and, of course, tree squirrels.



Chipmunks are basically tiny squirrels (3 to 5 ounces) that have adapted to burrowing in the ground. They prefer forested areas and can climb trees, shrubs and birdfeeders. At Minikani they were common in the forested areas, including most of the cabin areas in the Units and the over-night camping sites.

The name chipmunk comes from the "chip-chip" sound that they make. A male chipmunk is called a buck; a female chipmunk is called a doe; a baby chipmunk is called kit, kitten, or pup; and a group of chipmunks is called a scurry. They fulfill several important functions in



forest ecosystems. Their activities of harvesting and hoarding tree seeds play a crucial role in seedling establishment - one chipmunk can gather up to 165 acorns in a day. They rarely venture further than 1/3 mile from their burrows at any time.

Chipmunks are active in the daytime during spring, summer and fall. They remain in their deep burrow systems during the winter, where they enter patterns of torpor (deep sleep and lower body temperature). They wake up in their burrow every 3 days or so and eat from their stored cache.

When they run right past you it's sometimes difficult to tell if you just experienced a chipmunk or a ground squirrel. Here are some 'pointers' you can use to tell them apart:

1) Ground squirrels prefer grassy areas such as yards, golf courses and pastures, and generally avoid wooded areas. At Minikani that would put them in Norris Field, assorted range areas, and the corral.



2) Chipmunks have fuzzy, bushy tails. They often run with their tails held high. The ground squirrel has a long, streamlined tail that is usually low to the ground as it moves along.

3) Chipmunks are great climbers, whereas ground squirrels don't climb at all.

Another key difference between the two is that only chipmunks store food for winter. They'll gather nuts and seeds to store in their burrows to eat during winter. Ground squirrels don't wake up at all during their hibernation, so they have no need to create food stores. Instead, they double their body weight in the fall to increase their fat stores that they then live off during the winter.



Like most wild animals, chipmunks and ground squirrels are best left alone. We know that some wild animals can carry diseases that can be spread to you and your family.

Although both chipmunks and ground squirrels are not aggressive creatures, they will bite or scratch if they are cornered or feel threatened. So enjoy them at a distance, and hope they don't get into your tent when you're camping!

