



THE KNOLL NEWS

William Lawrence Camp
110th Season 1913-2022

Volume —2022/2

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Fall 2022



Director's Message from Nat Crane:



Although our enrollment has not bounced back to 2019 levels, we had a very successful summer. FINALLY we were able to run our normal program with the full slate of activities. Finding staff remains a challenge, but, with travel restrictions easing, we had a nice complement of overseas staff. We had the right number of staff for the number of campers we had.

Whereas last year we were following strict COVID protocols, that burden was eased significantly this summer. There was no cohorting so we were back in Pratt Hall eating as usual. We ran our normal outcamping program, with the Senior Mount Washington hike back on the schedule. No longer taking the 'bubble' approach, staff were able to go off-site on their days off.

During the summer (particularly in second session), our Nurse Amy was busy with what we call 'Cold-Vid': COVID-like symptoms. Each time we tested someone for COVID, they were negative. Was there COVID in camp? This will forever be the mystery of 2022.

Sadly, this was our long-time Assistant Director Scott Giessler's final year at Camp. He and I have had an amazing relationship for all the years that we have worked together. His awareness of what Camp should be, his dedication to youth development, his grounding in clearly understanding right from wrong, and our friendship have been important contributors to both Camp and myself. In his 31 years at Camp and ever the performer, it can be expected that one develops a lot of nicknames and chants that accompany your name. For sure, Goose takes the award in this category.

(Director's Message continued on page 3)



Don't forget to **light your WLC Candle** on New Year's Eve and rekindle your Camp memories!

Mark your calendars NOW and watch for details about our **Annual Camper/ Staff Reunion** on January 6, 2023!

Ask us about earning **Boy Scout badges** over the summer!

Don't be **DISAPPOINTED!** Submit your **2023 camp application form PLUS the \$500 deposit** by DEC. 1 to get your Early Enrollment Discount!

To see more upcoming WLC activities, such as Alumni events and **IN-PERSON Open Houses**, visit the **Calendar of Events** on our website www.wlcamp.org!



The 2022 Scott Giessler Award Goes to....



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The Scott Giessler Award, created in 2016 to honor Goose's then-25 years at WLC, is "awarded to the first-year counselor who best exemplifies the Camp's commitment to excellence in the areas of camper care and program." Shown here with Goose is **Theo Braatz**. Congratulations Theo!



(Director's Message continued from page 1)

So what does one do to honor his retirement from Camp? He has all the milestone gifts, and his wardrobe is well-stocked with Camp apparel. Somewhat in honor of his casting as our joke time leader in the dining hall, we decided to make a giant trophy (see picture). Built in Woodworking, this monolith features a large Goose as well as a plaque with many of the sayings and nicknames associated with Scott. To say it is unique is an understatement! And we're not sure what one does with such a gift!

We'll miss you, Goose Goosestoffer, Sarge, F. Scott Fitzgiessler, Emperor Goose, God of War, etc. After all, "may your hammer be mighty" and "what's love got to do with it". Thank you for all of your amazing contributions to Camp. This is definitely a better place because you were here.



Things We Could Use

Our budget remains very tight as we continue to work out from under COVID's influence, so our list of needs/wants continues to be long. All of the items would be put to good use, and some are immediate needs. We would be grateful for all help received in this area!

- ◆ 3 New Chest Freezers at \$750 each
- ◆ New Commercial Ice Machine at \$2,000
- ◆ Used Golf Cart: \$3,000 and up
- ◆ New Food Bar: \$2,500
- ◆ Clothes Dryer: \$750
- ◆ New Air Compressor: \$350
- ◆ Variable Speed Scrolling Saw: \$300
- ◆ Bunk Beds: \$1,500 each
- ◆ Riflery Supplies/Bullets: \$2,500
- ◆ Archery Equipment (new bows and targets): \$3,000
- ◆ Tripping Supplies (tents, dry bags, PFDs): \$2,500
- ◆ New Old Town Penobscot Canoe: \$1,500
- ◆ Skeet Supplies (20 gauge rounds and clay pigeons): \$1,500

We thank all of you who have responded to our requests for help purchasing particular items in the past. Although it would be great if we could get full donations for each area/item, please feel free to donate what you can.



Spotlight Profile: Scott Giessler

Be Your Best Self and You Will Have Value

After 31 years of association with William Lawrence, our dedicated Assistant Director Scott Giessler has decided not to return to Camp in a professional capacity. Goose, as he is affectionately known to many generations of campers and staff, has been as constant a figure at Camp as the Knoll itself.

Scott Giessler made his first appearance on the Knoll in 1984. After his family read the American Camping Association catalogue, they chose WLC because we seemed to have the longest list of activities offered. Goose said, “To steal the phrase, WLC had me at ‘hello.’ Sure I was homesick for about four days, but once I got past that, I was in love with the place.” As a counselor he worked in Arts and Crafts, Boating and then as Waterfront Director. In 1992, he passed his Lone Vigil and became a member of the Honor Society. In reflecting on his initial years at WLC, Goose said, “Camp really gave me a fresh start and taught me that I had value, or at least I could have value if I was my best self. That idea would stay with me through high school and college and out into the working world.” Goose finished his first stint at Camp in 1994 and could not have anticipated how much larger a role Camp would play in his life down the road.

After graduating college, Scott bounced around to a few different jobs, but he found that nothing stoked his fire like Camp had. In the spring of 2001, he was laid off from the public relations firm Bragman Nyman Cafarelli in Los Angeles. At that point, Scott’s wife Phoebe made a life-altering suggestion: what if they returned to Tuftonboro? The stars aligned, and Goose joined the WLC central staff. They aligned again in the form of a theater teaching job at Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfeboro, which gave Goose and Phoebe a reason to stay in the area year-round. For the last 22 years, Goose has dedicated himself to advancing the theater program at Kingswood during the school year and to bettering campers’ experience at William Lawrence during the summer. On the serendipity of the events leading him back to Camp, Goose said, “Had I been fired any later or earlier, had Nat not made room for me in the 2001 staff or not put us up in the farmhouse through the following winter, or if Kingswood was not absolutely desperate to find a theater teacher in the fall of 2001 (with no applicants), I shudder to think where I would be now.”

Goose’s accomplishments will continue to have an effect on Camp’s culture for many years to come. As a member of the central staff, he reinvigorated old Camp programs like Olympic Day and Gold Rush and transformed the tired Blue/White program into the beloved BROG. Goose also introduced Nitro, one of Camp’s most popular evening programs across all three units involving dodgeballs and lots of rockin’ music in the barn. Goose also remembers the work done by himself and others on the Honor Society. As always, his priority was on the camper experience and he is proud that the Woodsmen Program is now completely camper-focused. In addition to all these pieces of his legacy, Goose’s name will always live on at Camp through the Scott Giessler Award, given to an outstanding first-year counselor.

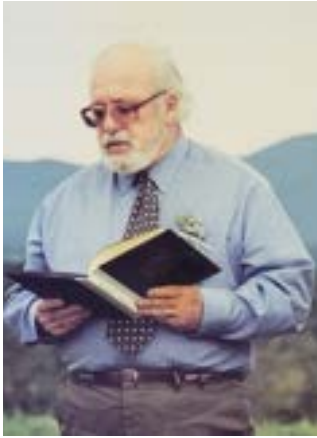
Goose’s decision to step back from Camp was not easy, but ultimately having the summer with his family became the priority. He says, “I am absolutely grateful for all the people who have been a part of my life at Camp since 1984. They have all been a part of the rich tapestry of my existence and helped write the script on all that I hold dear.” Goose lives a short fifteen-minute drive from Camp and does not plan to be a stranger to the community he has helped to build. He will continue his work at Kingswood where he has built a stellar theater program to rank at the top in the state of New Hampshire. He also teaches TV Studio Production, Movie Making, and Set Design, just to name a few.

“Perhaps it’s best put like this...the whole point of Camp is to help us become who we really want ourselves to be, and then to go out into the world and be leaders. However, this requires all of us to eventually fly the nest. I guess I just needed way more time than most others.”



In Memoriam

David R. Hopkinson



Our long-time Head Counselor Dave Hopkinson passed away on May 9th of this year at the age of 77. Dave had been struggling with cancer for a number of years. Featured in a Knoll News profile in 2016, Dave was a mainstay at Camp beginning in 1997. Ever calm and reassuring, he was widely respected within the Camp community. An avid outdoorsman, in addition to his duties as Head Counselor, Dave was in charge of our Skeet program. We will be dedicating our new skeet shed in Dave's name at our 110th anniversary next August. During Dave's career, he was first and foremost an educator and an early proponent of experiential learning. It was his relationship with KV King that brought him to WLC. Born and raised in Beverly, MA, Dave had resided in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont for most of his life. Most recently, Dave and his wife Karan have been living in Cornwall, VT. In addition to his wife Karan, he leaves behind four children: Anne, Rob, Dan, and Heidi. Dave will certainly be missed.

E. Lester McDowell



Les McDowell, of Scarborough, Maine, passed away on April 26, 2022, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife Shirley, his brother Dean, two sons, and multiple grandchildren. He received his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College and his MBA from Harvard University. A member of ROTC in college, Les was commissioned in the U. S. Army upon graduation and was stationed in the U.S. His tour of duty included Fort Lee in Virginia, Fort Drum in New York, and Fort Devens in Massachusetts. Les worked in various sales positions and bank operations before he started a career in software service, working primarily in finance and administration positions in New England. In the early 1990's, Les and his wife moved to Maine and opened Shirley's Hallmark Shop. Les also worked seasonally with L.L. Bean, and that turned into a 23-year career in Portland, Maine. Les and Shirley lived in Scarborough but frequently visited their cottage in South Bristol, Maine. Les was a camper at William Lawrence Camp from 1949 to 1953 and a counselor in 1954 and 1955, and it was at Camp that he developed his love for sports. (For more information about Les, see the Profile article in the Spring 2021 issue of the Knoll News.)

Peter E. Warren



Peter Edward Warren, of Harvard Massachusetts, passed away on March 18, 2022, at the age of 84 after a brief illness. He is survived by June, his wife of 62 years, his son Peter (Rob) Warren and wife Sherry, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his daughter Deborah Warren Perry. A graduate of Curry College, Peter lived in Harvard, MA, for many years. He became a real estate agent in the early 1960's and eventually founded Harvard Realty. In 1964, he joined the Harvard Fire Department, and he worked his way up through the ranks to become Chief of Department in 1996. He served as Chief until his retirement from the fire service in 2004. Peter was a founding member of the Harvard Ambulance Service, and he was very active in the community, serving on several Town boards. He also was a Master Mason for 62 years. Peter spent weekends and summer vacations at his home on Lake Wentworth in Wolfeboro, NH. He served on the Point Breeze Association Board and the Holden Shore Association Board. Peter was a camper at William Lawrence Camp in 1948 and 1949, and he always had a special place in his heart for WLC.

A Few Special Pictures from Summer 2022



SAVE THE DATE
110th Reunion on The Knoll
Saturday, August 26, 2023

Please join us in celebrating 110 years* of William Lawrence Camp with staff, fellow alumni, and families! Come reminisce about Camp and participate in your favorite activities. Cabins may be reserved for Friday and/or Saturday - get your request in early! Stay tuned for more info coming soon.

*** delayed a year due to COVID-19**

Our 2022 Annual Fund was a Great Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Annual Fund in the past year! The QR code at right takes you to the list of donors.



Honor Society News

Becoming a member of the Camp's Honor Society is a tremendous commitment requiring a great deal of effort and sacrifice. It is physically demanding for campers, and finding the time for passing the 18 tests requires difficult trade-offs. For campers interested in pursuing this worthy accomplishment, we have made it a priority to support them on their journey. We are proud of camper Ben Crellin and LITs Emmett Krantz and Aidan Whitaker for becoming Woodsmen this summer!



Ben Crellin is from Dover, MA. This was his seventh summer at William Lawrence Camp. Although injured at the beginning of the summer, Ben returned as a Senior camper in second session to ensure he completed his final 5 tests. Albeit one of the rainiest and windiest nights of the summer, Ben held strong through his lone vigil!

Emmett Krantz is from Pittsfield, MA. He joined us for the first time as a Senior in 2021. Returning as an LIT in 2022, Emmett worked extremely hard to balance his responsibilities as an LIT with completing all his tests in one summer.



Aidan Whitaker is from Windham, NH. This was his sixth summer at William Lawrence Camp; five as a camper and summer 2022 as an LIT. Aidan has been pursuing Woodsman for a few summers and completed his journey this summer. He may be the unofficial fastest tree-feller in WLC history!

Woodsmen for Summer 2022:
Row 1, from left: Theo Braatz, Elliott Giessler, Sam Anastasio, Jim Bullitt, Emmett Krantz, Ben Crellin
Row 2, from left: Nat Crane, Scott Giessler, Jon Neske, Aidan Whitaker



Password: Determination

By Ben Crellin

They say "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again". Failure isn't easy but can fuel your determination to come back and try again. I didn't make it through my Lone Vigil in 2021 but, instead of giving up, I was more determined to succeed in 2022. I planned in the off-season and counted down the days for Camp to start. I was determined to succeed this year and got my campsite readied in record time. I didn't let an injury defeat me; just delay me for a few weeks. I came back to Camp determined to come through my Lone Vigil successfully and made it through the night, through the downpours, with my fire blazing to see the sunrise.



Planned Giving to Support Camp's Future

Planned giving is your opportunity to make an enduring statement of your belief in the programs of WLC. The bridge between you and future generations at the Camp is your planned gift.

For over a century, William Lawrence Camp has provided a foundation for boys to become responsible leaders in their communities. While many of us reminisce of our past times at Camp, the Camp looks at today's challenges and plans for tomorrow's generation. William Lawrence Camp will continue to be creative and innovative while keeping with its traditions and mission.

The challenges of the past few years have shown the importance of your giving. We plan to build an endowment to ensure the Camp's mission, especially in years when income streams are uneven or impacted in some way.

Your legacy to WLC may be made to support the endowment, specific programs, scholarships, building, or for the general needs of the Camp. There are many ways to create your legacy to WLC. Some ways, such as a gift through your will, are usually very simple. Other methods, such as using a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, can provide you an income while a portion will be set aside for WLC.

The most common methods of planned giving are:

- Gift or bequest from your will
- Retirement account distributions
- Life Insurance
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Real estate

We will have short columns on these and other Planned Giving topics in future editions of the Knoll News, as well as via email and on WLCamp.org

For the Boys of White and Blue !!!



M. Osgood, D. Butterford, K. Swanson, F. Crellin, J. Avery, J. Ball, C. Mansfield, C. Cleary, D. Kappf, C. Roe

2023 Annual Fund is Underway

The 2023 Annual Fund is now underway. Make your donation by December 31, 2022, to count in this year's charitable contributions on your taxes. Donate now using the QR code at right.



Camp Family News



On a beautiful late summer afternoon, **Thomas Cleary** married Rebecca Gray at the William Lawrence Camp chapel. The benches were full of friends and family, and the views of the hills and Lake Winnepesaukee during the ceremony were spectacular. The reception was held in the Centennial Lodge which proved to be a spacious and accommodating venue. Many of the wedding guests, visiting WLC for the first time, expressed astonishment at the natural beauty of the Camp property.

In 2003, Thomas was an eight-year-old Junior at Camp and continued to spend his summers there for the next 15 years. He still commits time to WLC at staff training, open houses for new campers and as a volunteer to the Board of Trustees to support alumni relations. Rebecca Gray has been a frequent visitor to William Lawrence in recent years and fully supports its mission.

There were quite a few family connections to William Lawrence Camp in attendance at the wedding including: Thomas' father **Charlie Cleary** (1975-1984), uncles **David Cleary** (1976-1985) and **Peter Cleary** (1977-1986), cousins **William Supple** (1999-2007) and **Jared Supple** (1999-2007), and Rebecca's brother **Wilson Gray** aka BIL (2021). (Summer camp runs deep in the Cleary family as Thomas' mother Rebecca, sister Esther, and aunt Jen Supple attended Camp Huckins in Freedom, New Hampshire, for a combined 28 years.) Director Nat Crane and wife Lara along with Associate Director Jessica Paquette were present and were invaluable in making sure the Camp was at its best for the event. Other WLC alumni in attendance were **Ryan Pitcairn**, **Ross Fidler**, **Kevin O'Neill**, **Joe Caruso**, and **Gustav Wolmarans**.



In true William Lawrence Camp spirit, Thomas and Rebecca passed on the five-star hotel in Wolfeboro and spent their wedding night in peaceful and rustic quarters on the Knoll.

In the spring, we received a news update from alum **Joe Bell**. Joe was a staff member for 4 years in the late 90's. He reports that he and his wife Laura returned from the Middle East a few years ago with his sons Jonah and Logan. They are now settled in the English countryside to be closer to family. Joe transitioned from teaching and retrained as a behavioral psychologist; he is currently consulting with the odd bit of lecturing. Joe is hoping to bring Laura and the boys over to the Knoll in Summer 2023.

During the Trustee weekend in July, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Nat's tenure as Director. He was surprised to receive not only a suitable cake but also a beautiful flag!



After sharing their passion for MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) and their love for their 1 ½ year old son, Wallace, **Ted Ludwig** and his beautiful bride, Anneliese exchanged vows in the WLC Chapel. It was mid-September 2022, the NH weather was cooling down, and the wind was picking up. In a beautiful display of compassion and forethought, the couple offered blankets to the guests to keep them warm during the ceremony. This was just the start to a very elegant yet campy feeling evening.



The days leading up to the wedding were full of cleaning and moving furniture for Ted and his group of helpers while Anneliese and her girlfriends decorated and made the space beautiful. The couple kept with the camp theme, naming their tables after WLC cabins and laying the tables with wood cuttings and vintage crystal.

On the day of the wedding, Ted was in charge of chasing Wallace while the women got their hair and makeup done. Everyone looked stunning! Though the couple exchanged vows in the Chapel and had their reception in the Lodge, they decided to do their First-Look down at the waterfront. Ted's love

and admiration for Anneliese was evident.

So on Friday, September 16th, surrounded by close friends and family, Ted and Anneliese said their vows, ate from their delicious Mexican food truck, and danced the night away!

We were honored to be part of such a special day for the couple. Ted has a long relationship with William Lawrence. Besides being the son of Director Nat Crane's cousin, Ted (AKA Shotgun Jack or Tedwig) attended Camp as a camper from 1996-2001 and then became a staff member from 2002-2007, missing summer 2004 and becoming a member of the Honor Society in 2006. He later returned in 2013 and 2014. Ted started as an Archery counselor, served as Junior Unit Leader, and eventually became Program Director. He also led Joke Time which made for some of the funniest lunches at WLC!



Thank you for letting us host your special day!

WLC riflery teams beware—**John Swanson** (camper and staff member from the 2000's) and his wife Kate have just birthed another FDL team competitor! On August 19, 2022, Lily Swanson was born. Her 3-year-old sister Emily is really enjoying being a big sister, and the whole family is doing well.



In March of 2022, after many years as publisher of the Knoll News, Su Peyton relinquished this role and handed the reins over to Anne Bullitt. Su decided that she needed more time to volunteer with a local artisans group, to work with a local marketing group, to pursue her painting avocation, and to travel. Su was a key player in the production of the Knoll News, and we thank her for her service to WLC. Anne has graciously agreed to step into the publisher role. Not only does she have the technical skills to put together the newsletter, she also is a great editor!

According to [Derick Kopff](#), he caught the hiking bug at camp (1980-1985, 1990). In 2017, he became an Adirondack 46er, summiting the 46 high peaks (in New York's Adirondack Mountains) above 4000 feet. In the summer of 2019, he walked from France, across Spain, to the ocean, along the Camino de Santiago - roughly 560 miles. Derick also became a winter 46er in March 2022, completing the Adirondack High Peaks between December 21 and March 21 over the last couple of winters. He still lives and teaches outside Albany and remembers Camp fondly. Derick was a camper, counselor, member of the Honor Society, and past member of the Board of Trustees. Both of his sons are Bill Larry Boys.



Left: Derick finishing Winter 46 on Colden Mountain, Mar. 2022

Right: Derrick finishing the Camino in Finisterre, Spain, Aug. 2019



Board of Trustees News

The current members of the WLC Board of Trustees are Gail Avery (President), Charles Cleary, Seana Crellin, Lucy Hancock, Neil Hulbert, Mark Hyde, Sharon Paul, Betsy Roguet (Treasurer), Keith Schnaars, Pam Sharpe, Christopher Summersgill (Secretary), and Jon White.

Jeff Stump retired from the Board in September 2022 after 7 years of service as a Trustee and Member of the Corporation. Richard Brown stepped down from the Board in 2018 after 32 years as a Trustee, and he retired from the Corporation in March 2022 after 36 years as a Member. Rick's affiliation with WLC included being a camper, counselor, and parent of a camper. He also served as President of the Board for 8 years.

Many thanks to Rick and Jeff for their years of service to Camp!



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