



# THE KNOLL NEWS

William Lawrence Camp  
108th Season 1913-2020

Volume —2020/1

visit us at: [www.wlcamp.org](http://www.wlcamp.org)  
[www.facebook.com/williamlawrencecamp](https://www.facebook.com/williamlawrencecamp)

Spring 2020



## Director's Message from Nat Crane:

I believe there are a lot of people associated with William Lawrence Camp who would really like to help Camp but don't really know how. They might fear that, if they ask, it will simply be a request to donate money. Certainly, Camp needs as many people as possible to support us financially. Our incredibly low tuition only funds our operating expenses, not our noticeable improvements. But there are other ways you can help, so let me throw out a few ideas.

Attend our Open Houses. Bring your energy, passion, and enthusiasm for Camp to these venues. At Open Houses, it is so powerful to have Camp families, past and present, helping to communicate the value of Camp while providing tangible insights about their experience. In addition to the Trustees, helping us at Open Houses over the past few years have been past campers/staff Ben Marston, Thomas Cleary, Joe Caruso, Ryan Pitcairn, Kevin O'Neill, Michael Natsch, and Jon Haycock.

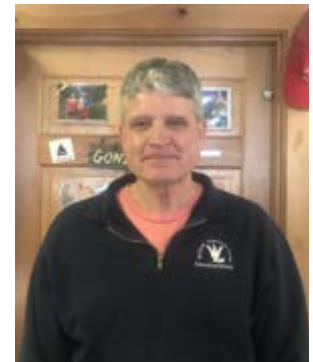
Promote Camp to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. You may be out of the child-raising years (or not in them yet) and thus are disconnected to the school-age world. But if you gave it some thought, I bet there are some logical people you could reach out to. Who in your world has camper-aged boys? Let them know about WLC and direct them to our website.

Do you know a young man who would be a great Camp counselor? Leadership at Camp provides so many skills and is a powerful entry on a resume. We're looking for a few good men.

If you have not already 'friended' Bill Larry on Facebook, please do so soon and be sure to 'like' our posts. We have just set up a LinkedIn page, so add WLC to your connections. Are there websites in your town where we could market Camp? The power of social media is huge. Are there opportunities to promote Camp through your local PTO? Are there auctions in your community that we should enter?

Before you part with belongings, ask yourself if you think Camp could use them. This might include automobiles, lawn and garden equipment, a farm tractor, a chainsaw, fishing gear, canoes, computer equipment, etc. Give us a call. We need items in decent condition that would be delivered to Camp.

(continued on page 2)



(DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE continued from page 1)

Come to our annual Service Weekend in May. It's basically just a day (Saturday, May 9th, this year) of blitzing Camp to get the facility jump-started for the season. Lots of brush to pick up, leaves to rake, cabins to open, spring cleaning, assembling items such as Adirondack chairs or aluminum bleachers, and doing some plumbing and electrical work. It's actually a lot of fun.

Do you have skills that would be useful for our staff? Maybe you are in the childcare profession and would be able to lead a pre-Camp staff training session. Ken Johnson has offered to come to Camp to spend a couple of hours with this year's rifle instructors. If you are a nurse, perhaps you could help cover days off for our full-time nurse. Do you have a special talent that might be entertaining for the campers?

Is what you do professionally helpful for Camp? Are you a marketing professional, an expert in digital advertising, a computer tech, a tree surgeon, or a plumber? Rick Brown has been our tech support guy for decades, and Nick Harvey from the late-90s has stepped in to help in this area as well.

Attend Camp events such as our Annual Reunion in early January, which is mostly attended by current and more recent campers and staff, but all are invited. Our Alumni Relations Committee is working on scheduling additional social gatherings. Make a point to attend.

Consider participating on a Board committee. In addition to Alumni Relations, opportunities to contribute might be available on our Development Committee and our Communications Committee. Su Peyton, parent of former camper and staff member Geoff Peyton, is not a Trustee but has been invaluable as the publisher of the biannual Knoll News. This committee would welcome someone to write the Profile entry for the Knoll News. And be sure to send us updates about yourself so we can include them.

And of course, you are welcome to donate money. Are you just getting going out in the real world and have little cash to throw around? Even if it's just a \$10 donation, at least you will feel that you have helped. For those already giving, can you give more? We still have aggressive plans to improve our campus and have developed a list of Naming Gifts starting at \$10,000. That would be quite a legacy!



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## SPREAD the WORD!

- Tell friends about WLC
- Post a review on Yelp
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
- Add WLC to your LinkedIn connections
- 'Like' & 'Share' our official Facebook page and 'Friend' Bill Larry
- Follow @WilliamLawrenceCamp on Instagram
- Tell friends about our Open Houses at Camp in May. Better yet, come along and help WLC staff give a tour!



# Goose Droppings...

FROM THE A.P. WIRE:

William Lawrence Camp, January 18, 2020.

On a cold October day, the masses gathered on the Knoll for a much-overdue ceremony. It had been close to two months since the now legendary Scott "Goose" Giessler had completed his 28<sup>th</sup> season at Camp.

Parked on the Knoll was a shiny new Bugatti with a William Lawrence Camp logo embossed on its hood. A parade rivaling that of Macy's made its way across the Knoll, in front of a raised platform. There, standing center, was Governor Chris Sununu, with a massive oversized check on an easel next to him, made out for a cool \$100,000. Above it all, the Blue Angels passed over the grandstand in a tight formation. It was a time of modest, albeit due, celebration.

"Nobody has put up the numbers that Goose has," remarked Office Manager 'Quorrina Jon.'  
"There's Magic and Brady, to be sure, but then there's Goose. Nobody dunks like him."

"The phone was ringing off the hook with complaints," added Anne Bullitt. "People were furious that we had not properly recognized the man, the myth, the legend."

But, Director Nat Crane probably put it best. "Sure, that plan we had to start giving each camper \$1,000 cash when they left to go home at the end of this coming season may have gone out the window, but I think, in the end, they would agree that it was all worth it to not listen to Goose complain anymore."

"Wow! This was COMPLETELY unexpected!" raved Goose at the microphone. "I can only imagine what great things you have planned after my 29<sup>th</sup> year!!"



PHOTO CAPTION: Chris Sununu presents Goose with a check for \$100,000 and a new Bugatti as Blue Angels fly overhead, in the obviously NOT Photoshopped picture.

# Keith Victor King



We have lost a great one. KV King passed away at the age of 92 this past September 25. KV was a memorable presence at WLC since 1993 up until the last few years. A renowned leader in the emerging field of experiential education, KV's legacy is all around us on the Knoll, and his lessons as an educator are imbedded in our souls. KV has had an impact on all who have come in contact with him.

A professor at Keene State College for years, one of KV's most significant endeavors was the building of a 37' wooden schooner with his college students. WLC enjoyed the use of the schooner, the Peter M. Atwood, as part of our program through the 1990s and into the 2000s. KV was a major part of the Leaders In Training experience for years. With a project as the focal point, LITs learned many life lessons from a man with incredible wisdom. A hands-on, DIY, practical man, KV worked closely with many LITs and staff to make transformative changes at Camp. KV led the building of the climbing tower and high ropes course, as well as the shelter at Perch Point. He taught many staff a lot about boat repair. He loved boat building and built several row boats and the drift boat with our LITs. But the project was really just a means to an end: a chance to educate. We will miss KV but will be reminded daily of his contributions to Camp.

KV leaves behind a daughter, a daughter-in-law, six grandchildren and two great-grandkids. He was pre-deceased by his wife Mary and son Keith.



## Reunion 2020

Thank you to everyone who came to our January reunion at the Burr School in Newton! It was a great evening catching up with campers, staff, and alumni.



# Password: Responsibility

*By Mark Hyde*

At the top of Federal Corner Road in Tuftonboro, NH, there is an extraordinary place, William Lawrence Camp (WLC). It is a place for endless summertime fun; but less obvious to the youngsters who grace the "Knoll" each summer, it is also a place of continual learning and character development. Young boys grow into responsible young men at WLC.

This transformation is the result of being in a safe environment that fosters independent decision-making and personal accountability. Every day the campers have to make choices that affect themselves and those around them.

At the sound of reveille each morning, one and all respond by getting out of bed and heading out for flag-raising, followed by breakfast. At some time during the summer, a camper has the additional role of being a waiter for his cabin's table in the dining hall. A waiter is accountable for setting the table for each meal before his cabin-mates arrive. Since every young man is hungry, the waiter can't be late and let his fellow campers down.

After breakfast, each cabin gathers for inspection; a successful outcome is reliant on everyone pitching in and doing their part to clean up their "summer home."

The ensuing day is filled with camper-chosen activities that each young man deftly manages, transitioning from one undertaking to another on time, seamlessly meeting commitments, and being responsible for himself. Campers are continually supporting each other, whether they are keeping an eye out for their buddy at the waterfront, or helping a new camper learn a camp craft skill. This interdependence leads to self-esteem and the feeling of being part of something far more significant. Each day campers are independently meeting obligations and being recognized as dependable members of the William Lawrence Family.

So, in addition to building lifelong friendships, learning how to rappel down a climbing tower, paddle a canoe, cook on a campfire, and tie a square knot, the boys of WLC are subliminally learning how to be responsible, caring members of society. That sounds like a very successful summer.

## **WLC Teams Up with Other Tuftonboro Camps and The Brewster Fund For Local Scholarships**

Camps are a huge part of the community in this area. There are six camps in Tuftonboro alone. Being a good neighbor and contributing to the community are important values that we embrace. The John Brewster Trust Poor Fund was created years ago to help provide educational opportunities for youth in Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro. Last year, the Trust approached us to see if camp attendance for needy youth in the area would be an appropriate outlet for their funds. A partnership was born. Through the elementary schools in Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro, we have established a program that identifies qualifying families and offers a financial plan that is the same for all camps. Using funds provided by the Brewster Trust and our own scholarship proceeds, we were able to sponsor three area boys last summer and expect that number to double this year.



# Congratulations, Jessica Dawson!

*By Pamela Sharpe*

You may already know her as our bubbly Camper Development Coordinator for the past few summers, but we are excited to officially welcome Jessica Dawson to Camp as a full-time employee. Jess's enthusiasm for summer camp started at age 9, when she first attended Camp Kinder Ring in New York, her home state. In fact, since that inaugural summer, Jess has spent only one summer not attending or working at camps, and she describes that missed summer as miserable!

Her experiences working at Asphalt Green Summer Day Camp in Manhattan and later as the Assistant Camp Director for Camp Cody in Freedom, New Hampshire, led her to her position at William Lawrence, first as a part-time summer employee, while she also worked as the Office Manager for Cornerstone Christian Academy in Ossipee, NH. Jess is responsible for recruiting and retaining campers and developing ways to increase enrollment and advertise WLC in the marketplace, including traveling out to meet prospective families at Open House events. Her advanced degree in Childhood Education also provided her with the necessary skills to nurture campers and ensure that each child has the best possible camp experience. To this point, Jess loves helping the occasional new camper work through homesickness, providing assistance in learning the valuable lesson of perseverance and gaining independence and confidence in the process.



In her free time, Jess loves to read, go on hikes or be outdoors, preferably in the warmer months, and spend time with her boyfriend and his two children, who visit Camp regularly.

## **Here are a few of Jess's favorite things about William Lawrence Camp:**

- **Favorite Activities** - Apache relay and mealtime, especially "anything that gets the boys rowdy" (chants, joke time, food eating contests, rafter cakes)
- **Favorite Meal** - Sloppy Joes
- **Favorite Traditions** - Mealtime (see above) and the Woodsman program because it is unique and celebrates learning many skills that have been lost over time
- **BROG Team** - Jess is on the Orange team but remains impartial!

Congratulations, Jess!

# The Value Of Summer Camp: No Internship Can Give You This Many Skills!

By Jessica Dawson

If you're reading this, then there's a good chance that Summer Camp is in your blood. Maybe you were a camper or a staff member, maybe you were both. Regardless of how camp got in your blood, it's there and it's pumping through your heart. You can remember the fun, friendships, campfires, excitement!

Now take a minute to think about working every day for the next 50 years. Can you feel the difference in the way your heart beats? The way your whole countenance just changed? Camp is special, right? It's not REAL work, right? The experience is more meaningful. It's more fun. So why wouldn't you spend another summer at Camp?

I know what you're thinking: "I need an internship in my field," "I need real work experience for my resume," "I can't ask my boss for 10 weeks off," and so on. Well, don't worry about that. I am going to tell you why you need to come back to camp and why your employer or future employer will appreciate it and the skills you've gained, honed, and will bring back with you.

The list of skills you learn at Camp could go on for pages. From social skills like **diplomacy** to learning **how to create a positive culture** by celebrating your and others' accomplishments, Camp has provided the environment to build your resume. Here are a few skills that you may not have realized you were gaining. If you're going to be applying for jobs, you can thank Camp for making you **interview ready**. You dance, eat an entire bowl of what we think is pudding, skip around the dining hall, and give a password in front of the entire Camp. You have the **confidence** to sit in an interview.

As CampMinder blog author Travis Ramos and Allison Hail say in their post [How Your Camp Counselor Experience Can Help Transform Your Career](#), you have **working autonomy**. No one at Camp is micro-managing you. You are **responsible** for what to do for two hours of free swim. You **think creatively** about how to keep a cabin of boys "quiet" during siesta. You are **flexible** in your plans in order to reengage a group of rowdy boys during a lesson. You **make decisions** on your own and feel confident in those decisions.

Ramos and Hail would also call you a **Master of Minutiae and Multi-Tasking**. Think of all the details you have to **be attentive** to and remember: your campers' health needs, personalities, home life, activity ability level, if they are eating enough, if they've made friends, if they've changed their clothes, washed their hair and brushed their teeth. You have to pay attention to all this while teaching a lesson, hustling them out the cabin door, and completing a myriad of other tasks.

Besides gaining **problem-solving** and **leadership skills**, think of the **networking skills** you are constantly practicing. You learn to **communicate with multiple personality types** clearly and humbly. You also **create professional connections** every time you speak with a co-worker, parent, or WLC alumnus.

I give you the same challenge ACA Blog author Leah Meches does in her post [Can I Really Spend Another Summer Working at Camp?](#). "I challenge you to consider this: How might another incredible summer at Camp grow and change you? What new responsibilities or tasks are you ready to take on? What skills can you continue to gain and hone if you work at Camp again?"

Call Camp and come build your resume with us!

Check out the blog posts referenced:

How Your Camp Counselor Experience Can Help Transform Your Career: <https://campminder.com/go/how-your-camp-counselor-experience-can-help-transform-your-career/>

Can I Really Spend Another Summer Working at Camp?: <https://www.acacamps.org/news-publications/blogs/camp-connection/can-i-really-spend-another-summer-working-camp>



# Mark Your Calendars!

## 2020

**May 9**

### **Service Weekend**

Come help open up Camp. After a delicious breakfast at 8:30 AM, Nat will divide attendees into work crews. A full lunch will be provided, as well as a hearty dinner. Cabin accommodations are available, and breakfast will also be provided Sunday morning at 8:30 AM, after which all will depart. No Friday meals are served, but cabin dwellers are welcome to arrive Friday evening.

**Saturdays in May Open Houses on May 9 and 16**

Two chances for prospective and new families to talk with the Director, meet some staff, and take a guided tour of Camp. Current and former staff are encouraged to attend whenever possible to help lead tours. If you wish to bring or send a prospective camper family to one of these Open Houses, please have them contact Camp to arrange a tour time.

**June 11—19**

### **Certification School**

**June 20—27**

### **Staff Training**

**June 28**

### **CAMP BEGINS!**

**Early July**

### **ACA Accreditation Visit Inspection \***

**July 18**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting at Camp**

**August 15**

### **Camp ends**

**August 16-21**

### **Camp Kesem, Dartmouth chapter**

**August 23-28**

### **Camp Kesem, Chestnut Hill chapter**

## **\* ACA Accreditation at William Lawrence Camp**

Have you ever wondered what that 4-color ACA logo on our website and promo materials really means? The American Camp Association (ACA) maintains a 2-inch binder of detailed standards on all aspects of camper care and camp facilities, from daily inspections of our waterskiing gear to qualifications of our riflery instructors and EVERYTHING in between. The senior staff at William Lawrence Camp work very hard at all times to ensure that we remain in compliance with all standards. Every 5 years the ACA sends a Visitor Team to the Camp to inspect and grade us on our compliance! A camp must pass the inspection to continue to display the ACA logo. We will be spending a lot of time this spring preparing written material, charts, etc. for this visit. The last visit occurred in 2015.





# Camp Family News

After 8 years as a camper and another 8 as a staff member, Woodsman **Thomas Cleary** reluctantly had to get a “real job” as a teacher and has not formally been on the Knoll since 2018. However, lucky for Camp, Thomas, with his many skills, always seems to be available at just the moment that we stumble upon a sudden urgent need and reach out to him.

Thomas and his girlfriend, Rebecca, decided to take a quick trip over the February school vacation, so they journeyed across the pond to South Africa. They stayed with current staff member **Gustav Wolmarans** in Cape Town and also saw another current staff member, **Kyle Schophaus**. Among the highlights of their trip were a hike up Table Mountain, a small-scale safari, and some fabulous meals at some unbelievably cheap high-end restaurants.

We were glad to have Thomas help us with the Open House in Hingham, MA, at the end of February. We all look forward to Thomas popping in for a Camp visit again at some time during Summer 2020.



Camper **Connor Mercer** competed at the 51st USA Archery Indoor Nationals and the 2020 USA Archery JOAD Indoor Nationals in Fiskdale, MA, on February 21-23, 2020. These two separate events are held at the same venue over a three-day weekend and contested at different regional sites throughout the US. The JOAD competition was first; Connor scored 534 points out of a possible 600 across the two rounds of competition, which ranks him 11th in the Northeast and 63rd nationally. The USA Archery event followed, with four rounds of shooting over two days. Connor scored 1078 points total out of a possible 1200, which ranks him 8th in the Northeast and 79th nationally. Way to go, Connor!



**Geoff Erickson** was a camper at William Lawrence from 2009 through 2014, and he returned as an LIT in 2015. “Little Geoff” is not little any more – he now stands 6’2” tall and has just finished his training as a United States Marine. Clearly Geoff has continued to perfect his riflery skills since leaving camp: he was the top marksman in his company (approximately 600 Marines). Congratulations, Geoff!



As you sweated and puffed your way up the Federal Corner Road hill on a General Store Run, did you ever wonder what earthly use this torture could be to your future? For many of you, the answer is probably “Not much.” **Tyler Mayforth** did quite a few of those runs during his time at William Lawrence as a camper from 1996 through 2000 and staff member from 2001 through 2004, and thus began a lifetime of serious running. Tyler ran competitively through college and has continued to be active in many athletic endeavors since.



EP. 140 TYLER MAYFORTH



RAMBLING RUNNER  
MATT CHITTIM

Presented By  
MercuryMile

About two years ago, he decided to take up marathon running and is finding that he really enjoys it. He was able to run in the Boston Marathon in the spring of 2019, after qualifying at an event called “Grandma’s Marathon” out in Duluth, Minnesota, in June of 2018.

Tyler continued his training throughout 2019 but with some downtime for injuries. But he’s back at it in 2020, seeking to place even higher in the 2020 Boston Marathon. You can follow Tyler’s progress in qualifying and training for the event via @tyler\_runs\_lifts on Instagram.

**Kevin Ryan Paige** is one of our Bill Larry Boys, having been at Camp for the summers of 2005 through 2009. Two years ago, Kevin became a Sheriff’s Deputy in Middlesex County, MA. Kevin is the father of Maddox, who will be 3 years old in March of 2020.



**Ben Jacobson** started as a camper in the summer of 2016. Ben will have to wait until summer 2021 to become a Bill Larry Boy as he will not be back on the Knoll for summer 2020 ... and he is not in school in Boston now either. Instead he is having a grand adventure! Ben and his family are spending a year sailing from Denmark to Australia. We received pictures from his mother in mid-February, at which time they were in the Galapagos Islands.

Ben and his family left from Denmark in July of 2019. They sailed through Northern Europe to the Canary Islands and then across the Atlantic Ocean. After that, they sailed through the Caribbean and the Panama Canal. By the time camp rolls around, Ben will be in the South Pacific! For schooling, Ben is doing 7th grade through Oak Meadows distance learning school.

For more information on the journey, visit the family’s blog at [www.silverbena.com](http://www.silverbena.com).

**Louis Doig** is one of those larger-than-life folks that you count yourself lucky to have known. Louis first left England to cross the pond to become a counselor at William Lawrence in 1999. He returned to Camp for the next four summers, then skipped a year to return in 2005. At that point he took several summers off before returning in summer 2009 for another five-year run. He held positions of increasing responsibility throughout the years and ended his time at Camp with two amazing years as our Program Director. Louis also wrote the script for our Centennial Reunion play and ran our Centennial Auction in 2013.

At that point, Louis had finished schooling and became a teacher, first in England and most recently in Dubai. But Louis was unhappy with life in Dubai and looking for a change. A chance encounter on New Year's Eve 2019 while on a school field trip in Thailand led to an interview and a job offer for an English teaching position in ...wait for it ... Chicago, Illinois, USA! On August 10, 2020, Louis will be starting work at a school in South Loop, Chicago.

We wish Louis good fortune in finding a nice place to live and settling into his new school. And, of course, we hope that he can drop by Camp at least to visit at some point in the near future!



Many of you know our current Board Member, former camper parent, and long-time friend-of-Camp **Lucy Hancock**. It saddens us to report that Lucy's mother, **Joan Newell**, died of pneumonia on December 30th of 2019. While she never worked at Camp, Joan was a long-time friend of Camp behind the scenes. Joan wintered in Hingham, MA, where she was very active in town government and the public library, but she spent her summers on Lake Winnepesaukee, playing golf at the Kingswood Golf Club and dropping by Camp periodically to check that all was well here. Joan was also a devoted supporter of our Annual Fund.

**Sam Ackerman** has done a lot of water-skiing during his three years at camp. During Second Session in summer 2019, we captured some shots of him displaying his skill. It's hard to believe that Sam is only a Middler! Sam will be returning to the Knoll in Summer 2020, so we can look forward to seeing him expand his skills even further.



**William Lawrence Camp**  
P.O. Box 52  
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

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