

THE KNOLL NEWS

William Lawrence Camp



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Camp Community,

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a busy and productive fall as I've moved into the Executive Director role here at William Lawrence Camp. As many of you know, I am new to the WLC Family and have been spending much of my time these past months reaching out to and speaking with alumni to learn about their connection to Camp. I want to better understand what non-negotiable values William Lawrence Camp represents and to listen to their stories about the wonderful traditions and experiences they've been part of as campers and staff.

My takeaway from these wonderful (and informative) conversations is that William Lawrence Camp is a place that will forever be near and dear to anyone who has had the opportunity to spend a summer on the Knoll. That the friendships built here last a lifetime. That the lessons learned (and taught) still resonate with folks years and years after they've left Camp. These conversations have deeply impacted me, and I want you all to know how humbled I am to be afforded this opportunity to be a steward of the Camp and the William Lawrence Way.

My job as the new Director is threefold: nurture the Roots that make William Lawrence Camp strong (our culture, values and traditions); branch out with new mission-focused programs that inspire new generations of campers to become Bill Larry Boys & Bill Larry Men; and re-engage Alumni and utilize their knowledge, commitment and passion to help strengthen our mission of giving boys the tools to become good, strong and responsible young men.

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Things to Remember!

- ✓ Early Enrollment Discount Deadline is December 1st.
- ✓ Annual Fund donations are a tax write-off because WLC is a Not-For-Profit.
- ✓ Don't Forget to light your WLC Candle on New Year's Eve to join your WLC brotherhood in spreading light across the world.

Message From the Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)

If you haven't already, in the very near future you will be receiving the following calls to action:

1. Help us fill the Camp with boys - Every one of us has a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor who has a camp-age boy who would be a good fit for Camp. Tell them about the William Lawrence Camp experience. Show them our website. And most importantly, share my contact information so I can speak with them.

2. The Annual Campaign - These funds are vital resources for the maintenance of our facilities, including critical repairs and refurbishments to our waysides and cabins. This campaign is led by our Trustees.

3. The New Director's Fund - This campaign is being guided by several longtime alumni who are invested in funding additional programming at Camp that will attract new campers and help retain current campers. Their goal is to raise \$150,000.

4. Alumni Camp - In the Summer of 2025, I would like to invite alumni to spend time at Camp while leading chants in the Dining Hall, facilitating programs and most importantly, inspiring and engaging campers by building generational connections.

I very much look forward to connecting with each of you and hope to see you on the Knoll this summer.

Thanks for all you do,
David

A Summer of Legacy at William Lawrence Camp

The summer of 2024 brought over a dozen legacy families back to the Knoll at William Lawrence Camp. For many, this means continuing a family tradition—where fathers, uncles or grandfathers once created unforgettable memories.

The magic of William Lawrence is undeniable. It's a place where friendships blossom and life lessons unfold. For many alumni, the camp experience was transformative, and this summer's return reminded us of that enduring spirit.

As we celebrate these families, we invite alumni to share their own stories. What moments defined your time at Camp?

For parents considering the legacy of their sons, sending them to William Lawrence isn't just about summer fun—it's about joining a cherished tradition that has enriched lives for generations.

Join us in celebrating the magic of Camp—where every summer is a new chapter in an enduring story.

Former campers/staff and brothers with their legacy camper sons!
L-R, Chris Rae, Camden Rae, Gavin Rae and Patrick Rae





DID YOU KNOW?

CANDLELIGHT

By Richard C. Brown

To understand the Candlelight Ceremony, you need to understand the Password Ceremony. Monday through Saturday, after breakfast, the Camp would assemble in the Chapel where a Senior Counselor would give a word for the day, a Password, and explain how that Password related to them in their lives and at Camp. At the conclusion of the day, the Camp Family would assemble on the Knoll for evening prayers and a song and would repeat the Password for that day. Then, off to the waysides and cabins to prepare for bed.

Password was so important at Camp that it was one of the sixteen tests that a boy/young man would need to pass in order to join the Camp Honor Society (the Braves, in my time).

At the conclusion of each session, at dusk, the entire Camp Family would gather in the

Chapel for the Candlelight Ceremony. Upon entering the Chapel, each person was given a birch candleholder and candle. On the altar was one lit candle in a hurricane globe. The Director (Edwin B. Pratt, in my time) and the Senior Counselors would walk to the front and face the Camp Family. The Director would light his candle from the altar and explain the ceremony. He would turn to a Senior Counselor at his side, light that person's candle and that person would give a final Password for the boys to remember and take home with them. The Senior Counselor would then move to end of the line on his side, and the process would repeat itself alternating left and right. Slowly the front of the Chapel would fill with light. The Senior Counselors were then instructed to walk up the center, one stopping at each row, to light the candle of person next to him who would then light the candle of the person next to him, and so forth. The Director would explain that this was representing the growth of the William Lawrence Camp Spirit (Willingness, Loyalty, Comradeship and Sportsmanship). Soon the Chapel was filled with the light of many candles.
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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." In the 2024 season, WLC awarded Cai Thomas with this honor.

Nat's Retirement Extravaganza Camp Family Reunion & Androscoggin Trip August 23-29, 2024



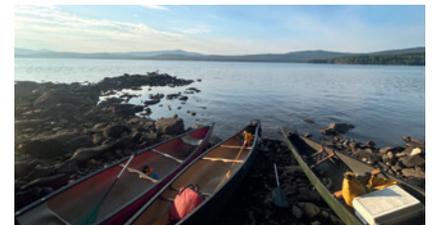
It was a wonderfully sunny weekend to celebrate Nat and his 32 years of service to WLC! Many Camp alumni, former staff, current campers and their families were in attendance, some traveling from such far-away distances as New Zealand. There were plenty of program areas open to enjoy, including the ever-popular archery, riflery and the Waterfront, and of course, lots of codging to be had! The Dining Hall was so packed for Banquet and our WLC spirit so strong that chants could probably be heard for miles. It was a weekend for reconnecting, reminiscing and recognizing Nat's great leadership over the years.

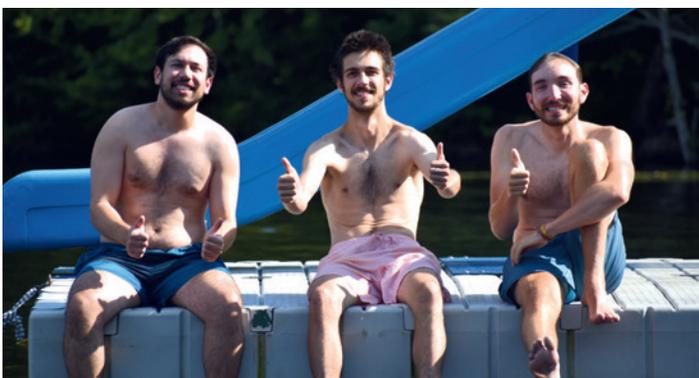
In honor of Nat's long and successful tenure, the Centennial Lodge has been renamed The Crane Centennial Lodge. During Saturday's festivities, Nat was presented with a new sign that will hang in the entrance to the Lodge.

Here is some sample evidence of the great time that was had by all - more photos can be found by scanning the QR code on Page 5. If this gives you FOMO, then stay tuned for more alumni events to be announced soon!



Following the NRE, a small group of alumni traveled north to the famed Androscoggin River. The crew consisted of Uncle Natty, Shaun Howarth, some international staff (and their families) from the late '90's and some domestic staff and campers from the mid-2000's. Everyone had a fantastic time gliding across Lake Umbagog before charging down the Androscoggin River. Just like many camp trips go, some of the participants went for a swim after capsizing their canoes in the Errol Rapids.





Camp Family News



Tyler Kopff, from Ridgewood, NJ, is currently a sophomore attending Brown University and plays for their Division I Men's Ice Hockey Team. He attended WLC from ages 8-11 and loved classic WLC games like Nitro

and the camp-wide ping-pong tournament. During Tyler's freshman season at Brown, he tallied 6 goals and 12 assists. He was also invited to the Vegas Golden Knights NHL Development Camp this past summer. With aspirations of playing in the NHL, Tyler continues training year-round while studying Applied Mathematics-Economics at Brown.

He has also started his own business, Marathon Hockey Development, where he and his fellow mentors work with young athletes in an online mentorship-style program by discussing modern training techniques, navigating the college recruiting path, and how to develop efficiently in the world of athletics. This business started mostly hockey-focused but is expanding into other sports such as lacrosse and football, as well.

(<https://sites.google.com/view/marathonhockeydevelopment/home>)

William Lawrence helped teach him how to make the most of every day with their jam-packed schedules of fun activities. Tyler looks back on his experience at Camp very fondly and credits WLC for growing his love of athletics and competition.

Lastly, Tyler welcomes any questions or inquiries about hockey, school, his business, or otherwise. He can be reached at 551-245-2358 or tylerkopff@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW? (Continued from Page 3)



The Director asked all to remember to relight their candle on Christmas Eve to rekindle the William Lawrence Camp Spirit. The Director would then lead the Camp in the singing of "Kumbaya." The Senior Counselors would then move to the back of the Chapel to help extinguish all of the candles as people left the Chapel.

It is a very memorable experience. My brother and my son were both Campers at William Lawrence Camp. We all have birch candleholders and candles, and we light our candles every Christmas Eve. (Sometimes more often when I need some Camp Spirit!)

A short history of the birch candleholders. My original memory of the candleholders was that they were made of white birch, were about 5 inches tall, and were split lengthwise top to bottom using a splitting axe, thus creating 2 candleholders. The hole for the candle was drilled using a bit and bit brace. It was a very arduous process and one usually delegated to candidates for the Honor Society. In later years, they were made from either white or grey birch and were 5 inches tall, with the hole for the candle drilled in the top using an electric drill or drill press. Progress. The candles are generically called plumber's candles.

2024 WOODSMEN



The Honor Society gained 3 new Woodsmen this past summer. In addition to Cooper Hohenstein of Framingham, MA, and Jack Smith of Medfield, MA, joining the ranks, Shaun Howarth was made an Honorary Woodsman as well.

We welcome and congratulate these fine young men. From the group photo, in the front row are Cooper Hohenstein, Anatole Mahone and Hugh Fitzgerald. In the second row are Theo Braatz, Ben Crellin, Carl Kirchhoff and Jim Bullitt. The back row includes Ido Kirson, Jack Smith, Tom Oxtoby, Shaun Howarth and Nat Crane.

OWEN M. CARLE AWARDS

The most prestigious award at Camp is the Owen M. Carle Trophy which is given to individuals for “extraordinary service, devotion and love for Camp.” Since the award had not been given since 2013, the NRE was the perfect time to catch up and recognize all 11 recipients.

Congratulations to all who have made such a positive impact on Camp and the lives of the boys and men that have been a part of the WLC experience.

- 2014 Lexi Hoffman
- 2015 Lara Crane
- 2016 Lynda Goldkamp
- 2017 Diane Walton
- 2018 David Hopkinson
- 2019 Gail Avery
- 2020 Anne & Jim Bullitt
- 2021 Neil Hulbert
- 2022 Louis Doig
- 2023 Shaun Howarth
- 2024 Tom Oxtoby



Camp Family News (Continued from Page 6)

Larry Carle has been back in touch with WLC recently. Over the course of 14 summers, Larry was a camper, counselor and staff member, including Associate Director. He also has strong family ties to Camp through his parents, former Director Owen Carle and his wife Lorraine, and his brother Glenn. We thank Larry for his recent generous contribution to and lasting support of Camp.



Bobby McCabe (pictured center above) of Ridgewood, NJ, recently achieved the honor of Eagle Scout. Only 8% of all Boy Scouts attain this highest level of scouting. Bobby’s Eagle Project involved installing benches and planters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in his hometown of Ridgewood to create a more welcoming and organized space.

Bobby’s brothers, Kevin and Timmy McCabe, are following in Bobby’s footsteps by also pursuing Eagle Scout. Kevin was able to complete some of his badge requirements while at WLC with the help of John and Heidi Danforth, who are both Certified Scout Counselors for certain badges. By getting these badges completed at Camp, Kevin was able to attain Life Scout Rank this Fall. He still has some considerable work to do but next step - Eagle Scout!

Bobby, Timmy and Kevin, former and current campers, are the sons of WLC Trustee and Alum, Bill McCabe.

Thank You to Our Host and Recruiting Families

We would like to thank the families who stepped up this past year to help host open houses and recruit new campers. Their assistance is invaluable as we continue to spread the word about William Lawrence Camp and create a new, expanding and enthusiastic cohort of campers of all ages. In 2023-2024, we hosted 12 open houses from Cambridge, MA to Ridgewood, NJ. Thank you to the Ferriman, Freeborn, McCabe, McNamara, Rae, Rudberg, Sharpe and Summersgill families for your important efforts!



Beyond open houses, word-of-mouth and personal connections are another proven way to bring in new campers. All returning campers who recruit new families receive limited-edition “Home Run Derby” hats as a thank-you for their efforts. This year, we would like to acknowledge the additional efforts of families who recruited new campers. Thank you to the Aryee, Cariddi, Cormas, Dana, Engle-Kess, Evitts, Ferriman, Freeborn, Gill, Haddad, Harper, Hirunaller, Ibrahim, Kirson, McCabe, McNamara, Paquette, Rutherford, and Warner families. We truly appreciate everyone’s efforts!

If you would like to host an open house this year or help recruit attendees for an open house, please reach out to David at knoll@wlcamp.org.

2025 Recruiting Update

Our 2025 Recruiting Season kicked off in October with a weekend in Ridgewood, NJ to connect with current families and alums and introduce WLC to new families in the area. Alum and trustee, Bill McCabe, worked with current parent, Zach Pace, to bring William Lawrence to Ridgewood’s Flag Football Championship Weekend. David and Bill hosted a WLC table full of branded chocolate bars and lots of WLC swag giveaways. Jen McCabe and senior campers Kevin McCabe and John Gaffoglio helped engage families under the tent. They enjoyed great conversations with alums and current and prospective families and shared their love for WLC. Alumni campers and families included Tom & Andy Gorman, Jay Chuck, Chris “Norm” Smith, and the Marchetti and Scali families. Current families that stopped by or connected on the field included the Paolillo, Horry, Cariddi, Freeborn, Halpert and Pace families. David and Bill especially enjoyed meeting all of the potential new families and hope to see many new faces on the Knoll in 2025.



The McNamara and Ferriman families have also stepped up this Fall to help with recruiting by hosting an open house in Wayland and a “Meet Our New Executive Director” reception at the Craft Food Hall in Waltham, MA in early November.



Check the website often as we continue to schedule more open houses and host virtual recruiting sessions. Mark your calendars for our Annual Reunion on January 5, 2025, from 4-6pm at the Craft Food Hall, 200 5th Avenue, Waltham, MA.

We welcome your support with recruiting and spreading the good word about WLC. If you would like to be a part of the recruiting effort, please reach out to David at knoll@wlcamp.org.

New Mailing Address!

Please note that our mailing address has changed to:

**William Lawrence Camp
35 Center Street #177
Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896**

Spread the Word! Enrollment for 2025 is now OPEN!

Please be on the lookout for Open House dates and invite your nephews, grandsons, neighbors, son's teammates, daughter's classmates, etc. to join us! Visit www.wlcamp.org or call 603-569-3698 for more info!

Connect with Fellow Alums!

We will be hosting regional Alumni gatherings, both in-person and via Zoom, throughout the off-season. Our Annual WLC Reunion will be held on January 5, 2025 at the Craft Food Hall in Waltham, MA. Stay tuned for more details soon!



MEMORIAL John Avery Sr.

By Jon Haycock

In January, 1973, John Avery Sr. and his 10-year-old son, Doug, attended a camp recruiting slide show at Christ Episcopal Church in Needham, MA. Doug enrolled that summer which began a 21-consecutive-year run of having an Avery on the Knoll. John's middle son, Chuck, started in 1976 along with youngest son, John Jr., in 1979. All three would become counselors. John Sr. strongly believed in the fun, friendship development and growth William Lawrence provided for boys and, with his late wife Florence, recruited dozens of boys to attend. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1981 and served as President from 1983-1993.

During his tenure, the Camp expanded its capacity to 110 with the construction of Gillis cabin. It also built the George and Gail Jessup Tennis Courts, improved the waterfront with a new dock system, beach, changing building and play area. He also oversaw the Camp's 75th reunion celebration in 1987. John passed away on April 24, 2024, and is survived by his three sons, five grandchildren and his second wife, Judith. William Lawrence owes a debt of gratitude for his wonderful service.

We Thank **YOU** for Supporting William Lawrence Camp!

In the next issue of the Knoll News, you will see a new format to recognize you, our donors. We have created recognition levels, which acknowledge the type of gift made.

Recognition Levels

- Beech Pond – for annual gifts at or above \$10,000
- Winnepesaukee – for gifts between \$5,000 and \$10,000
- Androscoggin - for gifts between \$1000 and \$5000
- Saco – for gifts between \$500 and \$1000
- Pemigewasset – for gifts between \$250 and \$500

The 2025 Annual Fund is now underway. Make your donation by December 31, 2024, to count in this year's charitable contributions on your taxes. You may donate now using the QR code below.

We encourage those who have named William Lawrence Camp in their will or trust to contact us at knoll@wlcamp.org or 603-569-3698 so that we may record your planned gift and include you in our annual Recognition of Donors.

**We thank you for your generosity and support of the Boys of White and Blue!
The Development Committee of WLC**



Summer 2024





WLC Board of Trustees News

The current members of the WLC Board of Trustees are Charles Cleary, Seana Crellin, Ben Damon, Lucy Hancock (President), Neil Hulbert, Mark Hyde, Bill McCabe, Sharon Paul (Secretary), Patrick Rae, Betsy Roguet (Treasurer), Keith Schnaars (Vice President) and Pamela Sharpe. Members of the Corporation include Alex Camerino, Joe Caruso, Ben Marston and John Swanson. Gail Avery retired from her position as President and Trustee in May of 2024. We are grateful for her 15 years of service to WLC. Jon White retired as a Trustee in March of 2024. We thank him for his service.



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A scenic landscape photograph showing a sunset over a range of mountains. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue at the top. Silhouettes of trees are visible in the foreground, and a body of water is nestled in a valley between the mountains.

Helping Good Boys Become Great Men