Director’s Message from Nat Crane:

It was an exciting time on the Knoll this summer: a great staff, happy campers, perfect weather and dramatic improvements to the facility. Enrollment continues to remain strong and is growing. The spirit and enthusiasm during Camp was fantastic.

The improvements to the waterfront are transformative, essentially creating a camp within a camp. Although flushing toilets were not a feature in 2019, they’re being finished up this fall. Meanwhile, we enjoyed the ability to assemble/shelter large groups of campers and staff, all able to sit on the inside bleachers. There is a lot of storage space and a boat maintenance area. Fly tying and fly fishing utilize the upstairs room. The new field at the ‘Front’ is loafed and seeded, and there is much more open space. There is a smooth trail to the waterfront (no more jumping from rock to rock) and the service road is vastly improved. The new docks are a major plus.

Over the course of the Camp season, we saw a lot of achievement on the part of the campers. Six members of the community became Woodsmen. We had a record number of competitions with other camps in all sports and did very well. We were the champions of a regional archery tournament at Camp OATKA in Maine and defeated Fleur de Lis in archery (but not rifley). Winner of the Color Wars/BROG (Blue, Red, Orange and Green) for both sessions was the House of Rivers (Orange). After years of coming up empty, the House of Rivers has now won three of the last four sessions. Congratulations, House of Rivers.

We are working on other improvements for next summer, not the least of which is properly loaming and seeding the Field of Dreams. As enrollment grows, we are in need of additional playing surfaces so this will be a significant addition. Arts & Crafts is getting a re-birth, as is the ropes course. In addition to the new Vertical Playpen and Shiver Pole, the Tension Traverse has recently been upgraded. And we will continue our new approach to the Senior Unit program, which was enthusiastically embraced.

I hope to see everyone at our Annual Reunion on Friday January 10 in Newton, MA, or at one of our Open Houses. Have a fantastic off-season and be sure to tell your friends about Bill Larry.
Employment Opportunity at WLC! Are you interested in being a Camp nurse? Or, do you know someone who has the interest and qualifications? If so, please contact Nat Crane at 603-569-3698 or knoll@wlcamp.org.
Open Houses are a SUCCESS!

While the Internet can answer any query (“boys overnight camp in NH”) in seconds, personal contact and word of mouth still prove to be the most effective ways to bring the WLC experience to life. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of current families, alumni, and board members to recruit new families through local Open Houses, the Summer of 2019 saw camper enrollment reach a five-year high. We had 99 “first-timers” this summer; that is more than double the number of new campers from just five years ago!

In 2018/19 we held 10 Open Houses from New Hampshire to New Jersey. Prospective families enjoyed the laid-back nature of the events and appreciated being able to ask their questions of Camp staff and, just as importantly, current Camp families and former counselors. We know that 25% of our “first-timers” came directly from an Open House experience and that many more families registered based on their feedback and recommendations.

Personal recruitment is key to growing and sustaining WLC. If you’d like to host an Open House for the 2020 Camp season, Nat would be happy to talk with you about the opportunity. Contact him at knoll@wlcamp.org.

The new waterfront facilities are looking good and were a huge hit this summer!
Goose Droppings...

I have been approached once again to write my usual newsletter article. To be honest, it was a little difficult for me to get started. As I come to the end of my 28th year - now officially the most years that anyone has ever attended Camp - more than John Haycock and more than Nat Crane, I look back with a sense of... severe disappointment.

Some of you in the camp community may not be aware of this, but there was no parade! No renaming the Camp in my name! There was no Governor’s proclamation naming a day after me.

Morning after morning I would wake up, telling myself that this must be the day that the Camp community recognizes my longevity and surprises me with a new engraved Bugatti with the Camp logo on it.

That didn't happen.

No video message from any major motion picture celebrities letting me know that, after all these years, I was their inspiration. Nothing.

As one would reasonably understand, I had cleared off the living room wall, preparing for the myriad of photos that I would be hanging up. Photos of me on the erected stage in the middle of the Knoll, receiving my check for $100,000, while the Blue Angels flew in tight formation overhead. Now I stare at a blank living room wall; a wall that stares back at me, as if to say "They never loved you, and they never will."

My son, Elliott, would say things like "It's possible, Dad...and hear me out...that maybe this is not that big of a deal." I would then send him to his room, and make him watch me through a window as I'd burn all his earthly possessions outside.

Listen... I'm a professional. I'm not going to let it affect my performance. Moving forward, I'm going to do the same great job that I've done the past 28 years, running Nitro, and...well... plenty of other things that I can't remember right now.

I mean, I'm not a headcase.

But if, in the meantime, a 2020 convertible Ferrari were to show up in my driveway, I'll swallow my pride and accept it. Why? It's what professionals do.

— Scott Giessler

The 2019 Scott Giessler Award goes to....

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, this year there were two worthy recipients: Phillip Warren (at left) and Peter Laskin (right). Congratulations to both!
Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events for 2019 - 2020

Early Enrollment  December 1 -- Submit your Camp enrollment for Summer 2020 with the non-refundable deposit of $500 by this date and receive an Early Enrollment discount! As usual, enrollments for a full session (3, 4, or 7 weeks) by December 1 will receive a $300 discount; we will give a discount of $150 for enrollment by December 1 in a 2-week Camp period.

Camp Remembrance  December 24 -- Don’t forget to light your Camp Candle on Christmas Eve to keep the Bill Larry spirit alive!

January Reunion  January 10, 2020 -- Present and past campers, staff, and trustees will gather at the Burr School in Auburndale, MA, for our annual winter Camp Reunion. The fun begins at 6:30 PM with basketball, sodas, and snacks available, to be followed by pizza and cake and then Goose’s video from the summer of 2019. Bring your friends! There will be door prizes!

January—March  There will be Open Houses scheduled throughout the Northeast where prospective campers and their parents can chat with senior staff, view a little presentation, have some pizza, and learn about Camp. Last year, we had events in Attitash, NH, in Brooklyn, NY, in Cambridge, Danvers, Dover, Hingham, Marshfield, and Wellesley in Massachusetts, and in Montclair and Ridgewood in New Jersey. Dates and locations for 2020 will be announced once events are scheduled. If you are willing to host an Open House, please contact Camp.

Service Weekend  May 9, 2020 -- Come help open up Camp. After a delicious breakfast at 8:30 AM, Nat will divide attendees into work crews. A full lunch and a hearty dinner will be provided. Cabin accommodations are available, and breakfast will also be provided Sunday morning at 8:30 AM, after which all will depart. No Friday meals will be served, but cabin dwellers are welcome to arrive Friday evening.

June 28  Camp begins!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you age 70 1/2 and receiving required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your tax-deferred retirement accounts? If so, you may want to reduce or eliminate the tax impact of this income by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian to a qualified charity. For more information, contact your IRA custodian. A QCD to William Lawrence Camp will benefit you and Camp!
Spotlight Profile: John Thorndike
Glad To Serve WLC

John Thorndike’s introduction to WLC came in 1953 in the form of a suggestion made by his uncle, Phillips Ketchum, a charter member of William Lawrence Camp, Inc. and long-time Trustee, during one of their shared commuter rail rides into Boston. There’s nothing unusual about this; many come to WLC as a result of personal contact. Often, it’s a family member. What was a bit unusual about this referral is that his uncle was looking not to bring John to WLC as a camper, but as a trustee, specifically as Treasurer.

John recalls offering that he had no direct knowledge of WLC and his most recent camp experience had been ten years prior as a camp counselor in Maine. His uncle persisted though and John agreed – gladly as he recalls – to join the WLC Trustees and indeed be elected Treasurer.

John may have been new to William Lawrence Camp, but not to William Lawrence. The Right Reverend William Lawrence, the man that John would come to know growing up as Uncle Willie, had christened his great-nephew years before, toward the end of his long tenure as Bishop of Massachusetts.

John’s early school years were spent in Brookline – hard by Braves Field – and then Milton and Andover before landing for college at Harvard. His father had been the team doctor there for both the football and ice hockey teams for many years, and John had entered college thinking that he would play football. By his junior year, the 230-pound prospective tackle would indeed find his niche at Soldiers Field, not for football but as a hammer thrower on the track and field team.

At the time of his introduction to WLC, John was recently graduated from college, recently married, and recently relocated in Dover, MA. Looking back, it’s possible that he was just particularly open to change and new things, but whatever the motivation, we can be thankful that he decided to add service to WLC to his list of interests.

Trustees’ meetings were held in Boston then, but John remembers making several visits to Camp in the fall with his uncle Phil. What better way to share an Election Day holiday than with a ride to Camp? John remembers Eddie Pratt, then the Camp Director, as “a treasurer’s dream: ...very, very conscious of the Camp’s finances and always under budget.” Control of operating expenses and frugality weren’t the whole fiscal story though. There would be some notable expenditures during John’s tenure as Treasurer that changed the face of Camp, among them the acquisition of additional land (including what is now Owen Carle Field) and construction of a new dining hall.

(continued on page 7)
Something about the experience of service as Trustee for WLC must have resonated powerfully with John. The commitment to service that began with WLC would continue well beyond his tenure as WLC Trustee, and he would go on to serve as Trustee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for twenty years, ten as Treasurer and several more as Vice President.

One position seemed to lead to another. John would also serve as Trustee for Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Treasurer of the Cotting School; Director, later Chairman, of the Massachusetts Audubon Society; Secretary, later Chairman, of the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority, Boston; and as Town Moderator in the Town of Dover (MA), to name only some of his engagements.

For most people, any one of these endeavors would likely have been a signature lifetime achievement. For John, it’s a partial list of service commitments that complements a full investment career. After starting as a broker and spending several years managing Harvard’s bond fund, the greater part of his professional career was devoted to a long engagement with Fiduciary Trust Company.

Thanks, John, for answering the call to serve WLC. In your service to WLC and beyond, it would be hard to imagine a better example of one who embodies the Camp’s value of Willingness. We appreciate your contributions to Camp, and we’re proud to have played a part in starting you out on a long and distinguished life of service. Truth be told, we’re feeling pretty lucky that you began with us.

At the WLC Board meeting in March 2019, Pam Sharpe was elected as a Member and Trustee. Pam lives in Hingham, MA. She and her husband Chris have two sons, Owen and Graham, both of whom are WLC campers. In other Board news, Betsy Roguet succeeded Steve Tingle as Treasurer, and Chris Summersgill succeeded Bob Gallagher as Secretary.
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. A number of campers and LITs made it to the final test, the Lone Vigil, in summer 2019. We are proud to note that Harry Wyndorf, Sam Anastasio, Griffin Wilson, Peter Dicce, Anthony Stigliano, and Jin Purdy all became Woodsmen this summer.

Harry Wyndorf is from Woodbridge, Connecticut, and this was his sixth year as a camper. He will be an LIT next summer.

Sam Anastasio is from Woodbridge, Connecticut, and this was his seventh year as a camper. He is the third of the Anastasio boys to attend Camp. As a first-year senior, he is the youngest new member of the Honor Society.

Griffin Wilson was an LIT this summer. He is from East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and this was his seventh summer at Camp. His older brother Turner preceded Grif as a camper.

Peter Dicce is originally from Landenberg, Pennsylvania, and currently lives in Dubai. Following a long line of Dicce boys, this was Peter’s fourth year at Camp. He will be an LIT next summer.

Anthony Stigliano is from New Hyde Park, New York, and was an LIT this summer. His brother, Frankie, has also attended Camp in previous years as a camper and LIT. This was Anthony’s sixth summer on the Knoll.

Jin Purdy is from Lynn, Massachusetts, and had a very helpful role at Camp this summer as an all-purpose handyman. This was Jin’s sixth summer on the Knoll.
Ryan Hyde (at right in the picture below) is a full-time student at the University of Denver, majoring in public policy. In his free time and during school breaks, he serves as a Firefighter/EMT in Golden, Colorado, and Hollis, New Hampshire. As a member of the Golden Fire Department, he has undergone advanced training in swift water, ice, and high angle rescue. Also, he is integrally involved with the University’s Emergency Medical Service, serving as the club’s Co-President. After college, Ryan looks forward to a career in the Fire Service and Emergency Management.

Ronnie Mackillop dropped in for a surprise visit to Camp in mid-September. Ronnie lives in Oban, Scotland, and is currently working as a Ferry Captain on the Sound of Harris. His 52-meter-long ferry can transport up to 250 people and 40 cars on daily trips between the Island of Berneray and the Island of Harris. Ronnie was a staff member at Camp for the summers of ’95 and ’96. Ronnie was the Boating Head in 1995 and the Head Counselor in 1996.

He is pictured here with Nat Crane and Stephanie Buttrick. Stephanie served as the Camp’s Office Manager for 5 years, from 1998 through 2002. Until recently, Stephanie had been running the project management company, Smart Project Solutions LLC, in Pembroke, NH. She has just taken on a new job as Chief Administrative Officer of the Plants & Property Division for the State of New Hampshire, working in Concord, NH. She continues to live in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire, with her husband, Dan.

Lynda Goldkamp, who was our Camp Nurse for many years (1996 through 2013), wrote us last spring with news of her 2 sons:

James Goldkamp was a camper from 1996 through 2001 and stayed on as a staff member for 2002 and 2003. James and his wife Enisa had a son, Edhem Clarke Goldkamp, on August 21 of 2018, making Lynda a very happy “Grandma Lynda”.

Her other son, Robert Goldkamp, who was a camper and then a counselor during the same years, married Lesley Jainchill on May 3rd of 2019.

Stephen Hauschka was a camper at WLC for one year (1997), and now he’s a placekicker in the National Football League! As reported in WBUR’s “Only a Game” in August 2019, Steve was a student from Needham, MA, who arrived at Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT) in 2003, hoping to play varsity soccer. He ended up as a placekicker and punter for the Middlebury varsity football team (Division III). After graduation in 2007, Steve played a year of post-grad football for North Carolina State (Division I) as the starting kicker. Then he decided to try professional football. He signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2008 and soon thereafter signed with the Baltimore Ravens. Jumping ahead a few years, Steve was the kicker for the Seattle Seahawks when they won the Super Bowl in 2013. In 2017, he signed with the Buffalo Bills, and, in the fall of 2019, he started his 12th NFL season!
In April 2019, alum **Steve Cox** (himself a former camper, from 1962 through 1968) wrote us with news of his son, Nathan. **Nathan Cox** was on the Knoll as a camper from 1995 through 1998. Nathan is now a Tech Sergeant with the 52nd Fighter Wing of the US Air Force 9 (shown at left in picture below on right), which is stationed at the Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. Back in March, the 52nd Fighter Wing hosted members of the 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, for Combat Shield. Combat Shield is an annual Air-Force-wide program to assess the electronic warfare systems on aircraft to ensure combat readiness. As the quality assurance Inspector for the 52nd Maintenance Group, Nathan was heavily involved in the testing of the 52nd Fighter Wing’s F16 Fighting Falcons (shown here). Nathan’s assessment of the exercise was that, “It was a long week, we learned a lot and are looking forward to next year.” Nathan has been living in Germany for the last few years with his wife and their 3 young children.

Assistant Director **Scott Giessler** took over first place in longevity at WLC having just completed his 28th season. **Jon Haycock** and **Nat Crane** are close behind at 27 seasons each. Congratulations Goose, your contributions are greatly appreciated. However, we’re afraid to say that there is not a Bugatti or Ferrari that comes with this honor.

**John Swanson** spent many years here at William Lawrence, as a camper from 1998 through 2001 and then as a staff member in ‘02, ‘03, ‘05, ‘06, and ‘08, with frequent summer visits in other years. Savvy readers of our Knoll News newsletters may remember that John brought his girlfriend Kate Doyle to the Centennial Reunion and, as part of the Centennial work/fun, they became engaged that weekend (see Fall 2013 issue). On March 11th, Emily Paige Swanson joined their family, and all are doing fine. For those of the Camp community who may remember John’s dedication to our rifle program and the honing of his own shooting skills during his staff years, John would like to apologize to the camp community now for any future FDL rifle match wins!

**Jon Haycock, Rick Clark, and John Rudberg** went to Fenway Park in mid-September for a concert by The Who. In the small world that is the WLC Camp Family, they ran into **Dave Jessup** at the event! Pictured from left to right are Rick, John R, Dave, and Jon H. Jon started as a camper in 1968 and basically never left until 1992; Rick Clark was a camper in 1970 and 1971, took a few years off, then returned as a counselor for 1975 through 1982; John Rudberg started as a camper in 1970, transitioned to staff in 1974 and continued through 1980 with a 1 Year return in 1984; Dave Jessup was a camper in 1979 and 1980, then on staff from 1981 through 1986.
2019 Annual Fund Donor List

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Roberta S. Golledge

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Do Something Next Summer - Bring a Friend to Camp!