Director’s Message from Nat Crane:

These are exciting times at Camp, with the new waterfront building progressing and a transformation of the waterfront taking place before our eyes. Our fundraising to date has allowed us to proceed, but Mother Nature has been a bit of a hindrance. November cold temperatures and snow impacted what we had hoped to get done in the fall. Nevertheless, the land was cleared, the foundation was poured, and framing is underway. Working conditions are tough, and the commute down the waterfront road is touch and go, but progress moves on.

Now that the land has been cleared and the building is taking shape, we can get a truer picture of the incredible new space and functionality we will have at our disposal. The building will provide much-needed shelter during inclement weather, proper bathroom facilities, storage space, a boat maintenance area, and a large second-floor room with an incredible view of the pond.

Just as importantly, we have gained significant open space for recreational opportunities. In addition to the existing volleyball and gaga pit, there will be a flat surface behind the building for tossing a football or Frisbee or to set up for some croquet or bocce. There will also be a barbeque area. With additional funding, it is our hope to make all this a reality, along with grooming the waterfront trail all the way to archery, smoothing it up and making for a less treacherous journey. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.
Staff Hiring 2019

We may still have some spaces available for employment opportunities this summer, so if you haven’t solidified your plans, there’s no harm in checking in. We definitely have spaces in our Leader in Training (LIT) Program, which is for those finishing up their 10th grade year and has a small tuition associated with it. We likely could use a few more domestic staff. And each year, it seems someone from the distant past pops up to spend another summer at Camp. So give us a call!

Don’t miss out on this offer: Campers earn a 2019 WLC baseball cap for recruiting friends!
Goose Droppings...

One hundred and six years of Camp. That’s a huge number. What was going on in the world 106 years ago? The first Sedan is just introduced. The Titanic had just sunk the year before. It would be another year until the first commercial flight would happen. So most people were travelling from London to New York by boat. How is it that Camp has not gone out of style?

Back in its infancy, the WLC program was primarily a waterfront one and only lasted a week. In order to refrigerate food, blocks of ice would be retrieved from the Tuftonboro General Store; hence the phrase: “General Store Run.” Campers would have to run the four miles, two of it with a forty-pound block of ice in their hand. That last part is probably not true; I’m just contemplating it as an E.P. for next year.

At some point in the middle of the century, we had boxing. Yes BOXING at Camp! I wasn’t a camper back then. If I was, the entire Camp would have been treated to a pudgy kid running around the ring, dodging his opponent, yelling “Not in the face! Not in the face!” As our understanding of best practices for child care evolved, boxing was phased out.

I was a camper in 1984. That was 35 years ago, which can’t be right because that would make me really old. Kids didn’t have computers at home, let alone there being no internet, cell phones, or even cordless phones. George Orwell’s vision of an apocalyptic future where aliens from another dimension now ruled the world with their Crystal Skull Powers did not come true. (I didn’t actually read the book. Thanks Wikipedia!) Even then, I was being told that our new generation was a mess. Maybe they were just saying that to me. Maybe I was the problem. Maybe...you know what, this isn’t about me.

Historically speaking, each generation grew up very differently; each with its own challenges; each with its own advantages. Each generation had parents wringing their hands worrying: “Are the kids all right?” Roger Daltrey tried to answer the question, but, due to all the screaming, guitars, and smoke, people didn’t hear it. Well they HEARD it, but they didn’t understand it. Again, in those 35 years, so much has changed at Camp, as it should.

Yet, somehow, to visitors of yesteryear, it all feels the same.

Why? What’s the common thread? Perhaps you can look at it this way: Camp becomes the antidote for what ails every generation. The first generations were finally given access to a waterfront, sailing, swimming, waterskiing, etc. The next generations were given stability while their fathers and older brothers were at war. The ones after that were given an outdoor space in a growing industrial environment. In the eighties, I was given a place to discover my self-esteem. The current generation is given the opportunity to unplug.

Across all these generations, each camper was given a second family and a second home. Even now there’s a family connection between campers who were there 40 years ago. That hasn’t changed, and it never will, and that’s why, in 106 years, Camp has never gone out of style.
New for 2019... a Shiver Pole

What is a shiver pole, you ask? It is a very challenging and scary (but safe) ropes course element that we installed this past fall. You climb to the top of a tall telephone pole that is now standing in the middle of the high ropes course. Then you get yourself into a standing position on the top (about 12” diameter) of the pole, which is not easy. Once standing, it’s pretty much guaranteed that your knees will be knocking. To finish, you jump out and try and grab a trapeze bar. Don’t worry if you miss the bar, because you are on belay.

Additionally, we have re-built the Vertical Playpen which provides a different route to the top than before. New challenges await the adventuresome for the summer of 2019!

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**THINGS WE COULD USE**

Some of our important needs for the 2019 season include:

- New Aqua Finn sailboat ($4,000)
- Several new or used laptop computers
- New or used golf/utility cart
- LL Bean Adirondack chairs ($300 per chair)
- Aluminum frame/wood top picnic tables ($500 each)
- Used, inspectable, full-size 4X4 pick-up truck
- Tailgate salt and sand spreader ($2,000)
- Used farm tractor

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Nat at (603)569-3698. Your help is greatly appreciated!
Password: Freedom

By the Crellin Family

Summertime is fast approaching, and summertime spent at William Lawrence is about freedom. After a school year of learning what is taught rather than what you are interested in, keeping up with an overbooked schedule, and waking up way too early just to beat the first bell, summer on the Knoll will give back some of the freedom that has been missing. Freedom to choose the activities you are interested in, try something new (can we say shiver pole?), or keep working on your mastery of an old favorite. Freedom to roam from the ping pong tables of the dining hall to the waterfront, playing fields, or gala pit. Freedom to make new friends while reconnecting with the old. And freedom to take risks surrounded by campers and staff to encourage you along the way, reach the top of Mount Washington, try that solo overnight for the Honor Society, or light the campfire in front of the WHOLE Camp with just one match. These risks may meet with success or with failure. But, if you aren't given the freedom to try, you'll never know. In fact, studies show that children who go to summer camp are much more prepared for life and to deal with challenges on their own. Come make the most of your summertime this year!

Waterfront Donors as of February 14, 2019

Dave Arnold
A. Chapman Bailey
Daniel & Elizabeth Baker
Patricia Baker
Sheppard & Amy Bartlett
Bruce & Sarah Barton
Charles & Kimberly Berents
Cara & William Beston
Biber Foundation
Dinah & J. Alexander Bodkin
Casey Bolger
Meredith Hanrahan Boshes
George & Patricia Brown
Paul & Amy Brown
Richard & Donna Brown
Phyllis Burke
David Cancian
Frances Carl
John Paul Chuck
Charles & Becca Cleary
Copper Beech original grant
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William & Karin Coutts
Scott & Kacy Dow
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John "Ike" Fortini
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Nancy & Bill Gaver
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Lucy & Skip Hancock
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Joan R. Dunn Hendrickson
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Kim & Elizabeth Kirk
David Kohn
David Kress
Jill Larsen
Liz Larson Dills
MFS Investment gift match - Liz Larson gift
George Lewis
C. David MacPherson
Laura Macs
Paul Rickel & Pamela Madden
William & Jennifer McCabe
David G. Neal
Joan Newell
Richard & Alice Osgood
Sharon Paul
Chris & Julie Peters
Francis & Janet Proctor
Janet E. Proctor
Winslow & Gabrielle Robbins
Betsy Roguet
Scott Rudberg
John Rudberg
Richard Rush
Richard Russell
Keith Schnaars
Gregory Zuch & Carolyn Sirois
Norma & John Stephenson
Bridge & Jeffrey Stump
Chris Summersgill & Stephanie Ressel
Abby & Robert Summersgill
Robert & Ann Swan
Joe & Edie Thompson
John L. Thorndike
Steven & Heather Tingle
Melissa A. Torres
Gail Avery & Kirk Trachy
Robert G. Walker
Peter E. Warren
Steve & Mary Weeks
Susan Wood
Arlene Rozelle & Donald Wray
Julie Perlman & Harry Wyndorf
Spotlight Profile: The Oxtobys
At Home Away from Home – at WLC

We speak often about the transformative power of Camp on the boys spending summers on the Knoll, but staff are often affected in much the same way. This has certainly been the case for Tom Oxtoby and Katarzyna Pietrzykowska, known more familiarly to the WLC community as Tom “Rah” Oxtoby and Kate Unpronounceable. They came to WLC from different places, Kate from Poland, Tom from the U.K., and between 1999 and 2006 they would spend more than 15 summers (and one winter) between them at Camp.

Their roles at Camp were different – Tom in several roles including Program Director; Kate also in several roles on the administrative side of things – but the lasting impressions left by WLC are much the same for both. More than 10 years after their last full-time summer at Camp, the Camp experience still resonates with them. In talking about Camp, Tom and Kate find themselves not only casually completing the other’s thoughts, but often with precisely the words of another from their shared experience. Tom recalls a discussion with K.V. King in which K.V. asked Tom: “What are you doing [as program director]? Anyone can be a good program director. To be excellent ...” Before Tom could finish retelling K.V.’s words, Kate offered them: “... it’s the tiny little stinking details.”

Tom had come to WLC feeling well-prepared – and he was – for whatever challenges awaited him after completing his college program in outdoor education. Since graduation he had been working at the Climbing Centre of Glasgow, based in a converted church, and so he was quite naturally assigned in his first year to assist with the ropes course at WLC.

Early on, he remembers Nat asking if he would be interested in a 7-day wilderness trip, and replying: “Sure. When does it begin?” Not yet a Camp veteran steeled to expect the unexpected, Nat’s response caught him a bit by surprise: “It was scheduled to depart half an hour ago.” One of the two trip leaders was a late scratch, and Tom was on his way for his first WLC tripping experience. He remembers it as a challenging trip, complete with some serious rapids and a mile-plus portage. It was a crash course in leadership and a learning experience by immersion – most of the boats had capsized before the trip was over. Tom remembers returning to Camp exhilarated, energized, and confident. And ready to go again.

(The Oxtobys—continued on page 7)
Kate’s path to WLC was a bit different. Looking to build on an earlier positive experience in the U.S. during a family visit north of New York City on the Hudson, she replied to an ad for American camps. Someone named Nat Crane called to interview her, and, before the process was over, Katarzyna became Kate and she was on her way to New Hampshire. The first summer on the Knoll went well enough that subsequent summers would extend a bit longer each year until she was persuaded one year (2002-3) to stay the winter.

Once at Camp, it didn’t take long for both Kate and Tom to realize that the Camp experience was extending beyond Camp. Kate remembers taking a job working for a bank in Poland, thinking that it should have been a dream job based on her schooling preparation. She says quickly of the experience: “I hated every single minute [of the job]. I didn’t have a life [like at Camp].” So, what was it about the Camp experience that made it special? In Kate’s words: “It’s all about the people.” Tom offers: “Comradeship.”

In addition to the group camaraderie, there was also a special fondness developing between the two. As they prepared to leave Camp in 2004, Kate recalls Tom asking what she would be doing after the summer and whether she would consider Glasgow. Indeed, she would consider Glasgow and joined him there. And his two flatmates. Tom offers in his defense that it was “better than a student flat.”

After a bit of steady employment and income, they found they had saved up a bit and remember debating the relative merits of putting the savings into a deposit on a house or, as they say, “blowing it.” The pull of adventure was too much and they embarked on what they call their early retirement. Channeling Horace Greeley, Nat advised “Go West,” and so they did. Tom flew to Los Angeles and rented a car for the drive north to Vancouver where he met up with Kate to begin two months of exploration in the Rockies. In the spirit of true exploration, they hadn’t pre-planned an itinerary. Tom recalls passing a sign somewhere in Montana for Glacier National Park and saying to Kate that maybe they should check it out. She agreed. They made a u-turn. After exploring the Rockies, they continued traveling west until west became east – on to Fiji, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand – before depleting their funds.

Post early retirement, Tom continues to work in outdoor education, and Kate works as an HR project manager for Dell Technologies. They married in 2012 and make their home in the Scottish Highlands when they’re not at WLC. Their daughter Ellie was born in May of 2017. For one so young, Ellie is well-travelled: New Hampshire, Texas, Australia, Poland, and France. Who knows what things may lie ahead for her? Perhaps something as wonderfully improbable as her parents’ meeting in the woods at WLC.

We know that Camp holds a special place in memory for you, Tom and Kate. Know that you both hold a special place in our Camp family memories as well. Come home to us any time and often.

• Tell friends about WLC
• Post a review on Yelp
• Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
• ‘Like’ & ‘Share’ our official Facebook page and ‘Friend’ Bill Larry
• Follow us on Instagram: @William Lawrence Camp
• Tell friends about our Open Houses at Camp in May. Better yet, come along and help WLC staff give a tour!
Mark Your Calendars!  
2019

May 4  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 4 and 18
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 6—14  Certification School
June 15—22  Staff Training
June 23  CAMP BEGINS!
July 13  Board of Trustees Meeting at Camp
August 10  Camp ends
August 12-17  Camp Kesem, UVM chapter
August 17-22  Camp Kesem, Dartmouth chapter
August 19-24  Camp Kesem, Chestnut Hill chapter

Waterfront Capital Campaign – donations are still welcome and needed, by mail or via the website.
**Camp Family News**

*Will Croom* and *Jackson Fefferman* have known each other since they were newborns, and they are now William Lawrence Camp friends, too. They celebrated their 12th birthdays together in December. They had to work together and use their minds and creativity to solve an escape-the-room scenario at Breakout Games Boston. They look forward to more teamwork activities and adventures at Camp this coming summer!

In the Fall 2018 Knoll News, we announced that *Ryan Baker Dunn* (RBD to his Camp friends!) has taken a job with the Vermont Dept. of State Parks. Since that time, RBD has earned his U.S. Coast Guard Captain’s license (50-ton) and been named to the position of Marine Operation Supervisor for Vermont State Parks. He is also one of the Media Contacts for their Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Congratulations, Ryan! WLC alums are welcome to reach out to Ryan at ryan.bakedunn@vermont.gov and to come pitch a tent or enjoy a day hike in one of the beautiful parks.

WLC Trustee Betsy Roguet reports that there was a great showing of WLC boys recently at the NHARA Eastern Division State Qualifiers in Slalom Skiing. In the U12 top 10 results, we had *Harry Karr* of Exeter, NH, *Declan O’Driscoll* of West Newton, MA, and *Liam Keane* of Concord, MA. In the U14 top 10, we had *Alex Roguet* of Marshfield, MA. We wish all of the competitors the best in the Finals and Championships that will occur in March.

*Will Hancock* married Cori Denis on October 2, 2018. Will is currently working as a police officer in Rollinsford, NH, while Cori works in the health care field. They are living in Dover, NH, with their three dogs. Will was a camper for 8 years starting in the year 2000 and then a staff member for 5 more.

*Charlie Hancock* married Austin Moore on February 6, 2018. Charlie has a forestry consulting business in northern Vermont. Austin also works in the health care field. This couple is living in Montgomery, VT, with one dog. Charlie was a camper from 1994 through 1997.

Sorry that we have no photos, friends – both couples eloped!
**Matt Nathanson** was a camper from 1982 through 1988 and spent 1 year on staff in 1989. He then began seriously pursuing his musical career, which has been increasingly successful! His singles “Faster” and “Run” were awarded RIAA Gold on January 31, 2019. Then on February 9th, his album “Used To Be” broke into Billboard’s Top 20!

In January of this year, Matt reflected back on his Camp time. He grew up in Massachusetts but spent every summer from ages 9 through 17 at William Lawrence. While he wasn’t keen on being away from home all summer since he was also away at boarding school during the school year, in his words: “Camp ended up being a crucial part of my life.”

“It was a gas lanterns & flashlights kind of place. We woke up every morning to a trumpet recording of ‘reveille’ blasting over a PA system strung throughout the woods. We had no TV, no electricity (in the cabins). We showered in places called ‘waysides’, where the hot water would run out fast and the space between the roof and the walls was open to the elements (and the bugs). For my suburban a**, this was 2 months of R.O.U.G.H.I.N.G. I.T.!”

“Every Thursday, we’d have an all-Camp day trip out into civilization called ‘unit days’. After breakfast, we’d all pile into 2 buses and a thing called ‘The Green Machine’ (think cattle herding truck with no windows and big benches with no seatbelts) and drive anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours to hang at a beach or a boardwalk and be amongst actual non-camp humans. This photo is from one of those trips to either Weirs Beach or the Mount Whittier water slide. I’m the heavy-set kid waving. **Pete Crellin** is ahead of me in line. **Garrett Frawley**’s to my right, and my still-best-friends-on-earth, **Gregor & Brendan Makechnie**, are next to Garrett. Gregor, Brendan, and I went to high school together, too.

It’s safe to say that 40% of the people I stay in contact with in my life are kids from this camp, and whenever any of us hang out or talk on the phone, we pretty much pick up right where we left off. It’s effortless! At the time, if you’d told me that my Camp friends would be more of a family to me at age 45 than most of my actual family, I would’ve told you that you were nuts. But, that’s the way it is...”

Recent campers will remember our Australian Woodworking instructor of the last two summers, **Shaun “Shaun Cena” Needham**. Shaun will not be returning to Camp for summer 2019 because he has been accepted into the Masters of Primary Teaching program at Edith Cowen University in Western Australia. After two years of study, he will be a qualified teacher to work with kids in Australia. Shaun is grateful to his WLC family for helping him make the decision to undertake this program of study.
Some of our earlier alums will remember Jeanette Kuhl. Jeanette was the Camp Nurse from 1965 through 1968. Jeanette reports that she really enjoyed her eight weeks at William Lawrence each summer, and she was grateful to the hospital where she worked as they were willing to give her the summer off and rehire her each September. Jeanette reports that she learned to waterski during her time here but can’t seem to remember how the road to the waterfront looked. There’s no question that it looks different now, Jeanette!

Shaun Howarth, a teacher in Indiana and our Skeet instructor, Head Counselor, and general Jack-of-all-Trades at WLC since 1998, came east to Washington, DC, during school vacation, to attend the Model UN Conference on February 16, 2019. To his surprise, he met up with Michael Natsch there. Michael was a camper from 2007 through 2012, LIT in 2013, and counselor in 2014 and 2015. Michael is now a senior at Georgetown University, which is one of the main sponsors of this event. We look forward to seeing Shaun back on the Knoll in summer 2019 and wish Michael the best in his senior year!

Reunion 2019

Thank you to everyone who came to our reunion in January! It was a great evening catching up with campers, staff, and alumni.
William Lawrence Camp
P.O. Box 52
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Do Something This Summer - Bring a Friend to Camp!