

# SKOOKUMEE



# Honoring the Standens

We honored our longtime Executive Directors Mark and Liz Standen at the 2025 Awards Ceremony. Mark and Liz's roots to Kawanhee go back more than 50 years, but we are especially grateful for their service as Executive Directors from the summers of 2006-2024. Kate Estabrook Schoedinger and Ben Hoffhine, on behalf of the Frank Foundation and the entire Kawanhee family, thanked Mark and Liz for their decades of care and love of Camp. Kate remarked, "Over their 19 dedicated years as directors, Mark and Liz didn't just run a camp. They built a community rooted in trust. They earned the confidence of parents who, summer after summer, entrusted them with their sons, knowing they would be cared for, guided and truly known." Kate and Ben presented the Standen's with a rare picture of the Kawanhee shoreline from the 1940s, a hand-made table built by Robert Sherman at the time of Kawanhee's Centennial to honor those who had provided dedicated service to Camp, and announced that the new Tripping building will be henceforth known as the Mark and Liz Standen Tripping Center. We are comforted and delighted to know that Mark and Liz won't be far away on Pine Point and that their legacy will live on in the lives of our campers. As Liz remarked, "As you know, people come and go, but the spirit of Kawanhee lives on." Thank you, Mark and Liz.

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# Reflections on my First Season

KENLEY PERRY

The 105th Camp Kawanhee has come to a close and I could not have imagined a better summer for my 1st as the executive director. Throughout the past year I have been welcomed with open arms and warm hearts by everyone in the Camp Kawanhee family. Campers, parents, alumni, board members, and current Kawanhee staff all made it clear that they were excited to work with me. And as I prepared for my first summer on the sacred ground along Webb Lake, I was filled with a mix of excitement, confidence, and nervousness. Excitement because Camp Kawanhee was a dream job for me and the Kawanhee community was living up to every one of my expectations. Confidence because of all the hard work that went into preparing for this summer with the incredible leadership team of Danny, Robbie, and Therese. Not to mention the excellent group of counselors, activity leaders, and support staff who signed on to make summer 2025 a special one. Nervousness, because you just never know what summer will bring. What the summer 2025 brought me was countless highlights and memories that I will treasure forever. Here are just a few that come to mind.



*Me & my boys with our end of summer awards*

First, I got to share Camp Kawanhee with my family. Two of my boys, Elliott & Tate, were campers this summer and absolutely loved their time at Camp Kawanhee. Tate took to sailing like a duck to water, while Elliott couldn't choose what activity he liked most. I think everyone who was there this summer will tell you it was open mic nights or making announcements at lunch. My wife, 13 year old daughter, and 17 year old son also came for a quick visit. They were able to see Camp Kawanhee at its best; full of campers involved in activities building skills and creating memories. My eldest daughter and her fiance also stopped by in July to see what the fuss was about and were very impressed. My daughter, who grew up at a camp, was impressed with the beautiful setting and positive atmosphere. She was happy her little brothers were getting to experience 'camp life' like she did at their age. I'm so very grateful for the impact Camp Kawanhee has had on them already and look forward to many future summers with my family at Camp Kawanhee.

Second was being adopted into the Camp Kawanhee family. It is such a privilege to work with a group of people committed to the same goal; giving boys an unforgettable summer experience where they have the freedom to be themselves, seek out new challenges, form lifelong friendships and grow. Camp Kawanhee is blessed to have so many veteran staff providing exceptional programs & activities. I was astounded by the excellence of our waterfront staff. Ferd ran waterskiing tirelessly giving the campers every opportunity to get out on the water to improve their skill and shred it up on Webb Lake. Meanwhile Rees, Camille, & Forest had sailing popping every day with an unbelievable number of campers learning to sail. It seemed like the lake was always filled with sailboats. Returning to camp after a 40 year break, was Peter Hauser who led a boating crew that honed our campers skills and made boater of the week a coveted prize at campfire. Our lifeguards raised the bar on swimming as boys clamored to earn the required levels for the cove, lake, Bass Rock, and head-of-the-lake swims. Hector, a long time Camp Kawanhee vet, was our waterfront director and kept kayaking as popular, and safe, as ever. I was blown away by the excellence on the lake.

But it didn't stop at the shore's edge. Look over my shoulder and I see Mary Birch and Sandy Winkles running the range for their 40th & 25th years respectively. Ralph Tice, after a multi-decade break from Camp Kawanhee has camp craft as the most popular activity in camp. Gordo, a legend among Maine summer camps for his sharp attire and easy-going nature organized jr & sr basketball leagues, some inter-camp competitions, and led our JC's for the summer. On Saturdays, Bennett Calcagni and Jack Wilson organized Grey & Maroon competitions with so much energy & enthusiasm, it was a joy to watch.

Camp Kawanhee veterans, along with many others I have failed to name, welcomed me, along with many other new faces, into the Camp Kawanhee family. Whether it was working with BA in the camp store, checking in with Bailey in the kitchen, watching Susan take care of the entire camp from the infirmary and at meal times, or tracking down Wallis to help figure out the latest crisis at the Fort, these folks were so kind, gracious, and patient with me. They might have called me the 'boss' but they treated me like an old friend which is exactly what I had hoped for in my first summer.



Finally, I got to experience the magic of Kawanhee. I came into my first summer at Camp Kawanhee with no agenda other than to help support the staff, campers, and families in any way I can and to learn. I wanted to learn about what makes Camp Kawanhee so special. That being said, I did have questions and curiosities. I wondered why there was so much free time on the schedule. I was curious about how the philosophy of a 'freedom within a framework' played out in real life. What happens when you give these boys so much freedom and responsibility? What I learned is that they thrive. Our boys are never bored or getting into trouble because 'there's nothing to do.' Rather they are pursuing their interests, forming deep friendships, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We are giving these young men what they crave (and need) most; unstructured time with their friends.



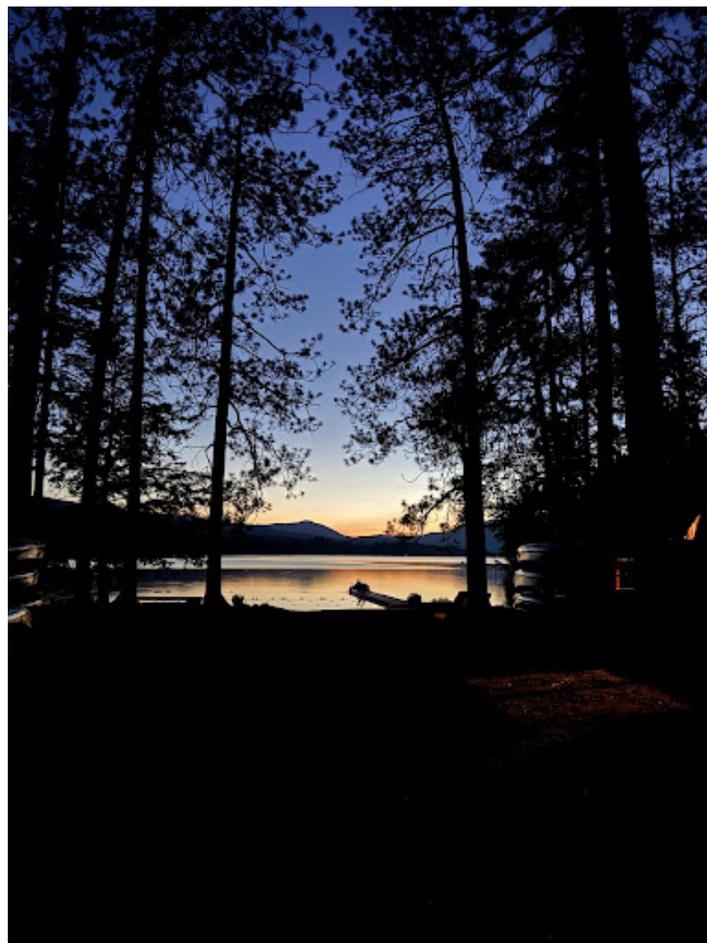
Over the summer I shared an article from [The Atlantic](#) about how to get kids off their smartphones. The article highlights that what kids desire most is freedom. Freedom to play with their friends or by themselves. To explore, create, and discover. However, in our ever increasingly anxious society, with stranger danger supposedly lurking around every corner, kids are rarely afforded the freedom to play with friends unsupervised, except for one place - online. Today's youth are not just addicted to social media, but are hooked on the freedom that the digital world gives them. In the real world they are scheduled, supervised, and sequestered mostly indoors. In order to get kids off screens and developing positive character qualities such as creativity, perseverance, leadership, ingenuity, kindness they need the space and freedom to do so. Camp Kawanhee is such a place where parents can partner with us to provide that for their boys.



*Tate sailing on our lake at home*

Kawanhee is a place where boys can just be. Be with their friends, be in nature, be deep in thought or conversation. They can pursue interests which can become passions. I watched my son Tate sail for the first time and completely fall in love with sailing. Once he discovered sailing, it was his main focus at camp and after camp was over. I witnessed boys chasing goals like high point winner, blue star marksmanship, the challenging JMG certification, or the coveted boater of the year! I also saw campers just hanging out with each other. Whether it was on the basketball court, soccer pitch, or in the hammocks on senior side, these boys were enjoying conversation and camaraderie without having to hurry to the next scheduled 'thing.' It was beautiful and is what, in part, makes Kawanhee so magical.

As I reflect on my first summer as Executive Director, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. Gratitude for the campers who bring their energy and curiosity each day. Gratitude for the staff whose dedication and spirit make the camp run with such excellence. Gratitude for the alumni, board members, and families who continue to support and strengthen Camp Kawanhee's mission. And gratitude for being entrusted with the privilege of leading this extraordinary camp into its next chapter. I cannot wait to build on the momentum of this year, to welcome new and returning campers, and to continue learning from the incredible community that has embraced me so warmly. Looking forward to seeing you all in less than 10 moons!



# Greetings from Weld!

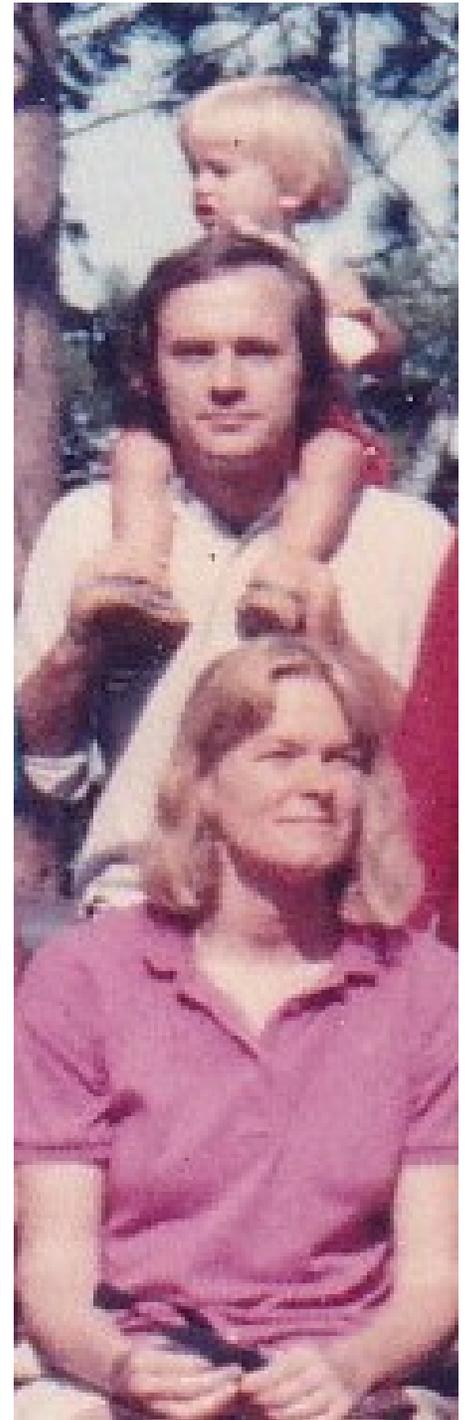
MARK AND LIZ STANDEN

Yet another summer has flown by somehow, and the sultry days of July have given way to the crystalline days and chilly nights of late August. The speed at which a Maine summer moves along is very familiar to us, but so much about this season has been different.

As recently retired directors of Kawanhee, we've been settling into our new role as camp alums with more time on our hands. This has been a welcome change in many ways, as we've had more space in our days to enjoy our three children and three grandchildren, all of whom were with us in Weld for much of the summer. We've had more opportunities to read books, take walks, attend to long-deferred maintenance on our cabin and repair at least one of our canoes.

So, yes, it has been a fine and unusually relaxing summer. But we also feel a sense of some loss, as we miss the intense day-to-day engagement with campers, staff, parents and Frank Foundation board members all dedicated to a singular place and its people. Helping carry the torch for Kawanhee for the past 18 years has been a rich and rewarding experience, has taught us much and has kept us young. As next-door neighbors to Kawanhee, we know that camp will continue to thrive. We hear the ringing of the bell that measures a day at camp, the Maroon-Grey cheers, the familiar song of the early-morning swimmers, and the chants from the dining hall. These are comforting sounds. Kawanhee is in good, strong hands, and we look forward to witnessing some of its future in the years to come.

May there always be . . . !



*Photo from the  
Kawanhee History Museum*

# Meet the New Frank Foundation Board Members



## DONALD MYKRANTZ

I've enjoyed a long and wonderful relationship with Kawanhee. My father, Peter Mykrantz, was a camper at Kawanhee for a few summers in the early 1940's. He was among the many Columbus, Ohio boys who would travel via train from Ohio to Maine each summer to attend camp. My older brother, Peter Jr., and I attended Kawanhee for several summers during the early 1970's and we enjoyed our camp experience immensely. I was fortunate to have amazing counselors, including Mike Meserole and Mark Standen among others, during my summers at Kawanhee. My youngest son, Christopher, became the third generation of Mykrantz boys to attend Kawanhee when he spent five summers at camp from 2010-2014.

The Kawanhee experience was deeply meaningful to each of us and helped to develop our confidence, independence, and character. Although we enjoyed different activities and experiences during our summers at camp, each one of us made enduring friendships and enjoyed opportunities that only special places like Kawanhee can offer.

As I drove away from Kawanhee with my son Chris following his final summer at camp, I was saddened to consider it may be my last visit to Kawanhee. Fortunately, the Centennial offered me the chance to revisit camp and reconnect with many old friends. Following that visit, I joined the Investment Committee of the Frank Foundation board which maintains oversight for the endowment and other financial assets of Kawanhee. Partnering with board member Jose Otero, we drafted and implemented the investment policies now in place to steward the endowment funds for future generations of campers. Finally, just this past summer, I was honored to join the board of the George and Raymond Frank Foundation, which is responsible for managing and operating Kawanhee. I'm excited to continue my longstanding relationship with Kawanhee by serving on the board and look forward to being involved as camp continues to move forward for the benefit of future generations of boys.



# Meet the New Frank Foundation Board Members

## ANNIE MAYOL



My family's history is so closely connected to the history of Camp Kawanhee that I have to start there in order to explain why I love its mission and vision, and why I am so excited and honored to join the Board of Directors.

For those who don't know, my mother's brothers, Carlos and Diego Del Valle, along with my godfather (for whom my son is named), were the first Puerto Rican campers to attend Kawanhee in 1957. My grandmother was searching for a boys' camp near a girls' camp so she could send her two boys and her daughter (my mother) at the same time. Their cousins were already spending summers at Camp Kineowatha in Wilton, ME, and it was through them that they learned about Camp Kawanhee.

That is how it all started! My mom went to Kineowatha, my uncles went to Kawanhee, and my grandmother rented a room at a bed and breakfast for three weeks with her two younger boys (one of whom attended Kawanhee 10 years later) so she could stay close to them while they were far from home.

Sixty-eight years later, three generations of Del Valles—11 boys so far—have carried on this tradition. I am blessed to be the mother of two of those boys, José and Diego, who have both experienced the unique and transformative “Camp Kawanhee Magic.” I call it magic because that is the only word that truly fits. Even my naturally quiet and shy oldest son, José, found confidence and joy there. Kawanhee gave him the chance to be comfortable with himself, to connect with new people, to discover hidden talents, and even to find the courage to stand up and speak in front of everyone during trivia time in the dining hall. I also attended camp as a child, and it had a tremendous impact on my life. I know firsthand how important it is to spend summers away from home, immersed in the simple beauty of nature, and learning basic yet lifelong skills that shape us into leaders, professionals, friends, and parents. Today's younger generations need this more than ever. They need opportunities to step away from the virtual world, to rediscover who they truly are, and to experience the joy of connecting with others and with nature. At the same time, camp teaches them resilience, personal growth, and the value of being recognized for their accomplishments.

As a member of the Board, my goal is to support the mission and vision of Camp Kawanhee and to expand opportunities for more boys—including more Del Valles—to experience this extraordinary tradition and spend the summer in Weld, Maine, a magical place!

# A Perfect Start to the 2025 Kawanhee Season

BAILEY SCOTT

The 2025 Kawanhee season kicked off with a special evening welcoming members of the Weld community to camp for delicious hors d'oeuvres and cold beverages. The reception was held in the Katahdin Pavilion on a beautiful Friday night. Though the wind blew steadily throughout the day, it quieted just in time as guests arrived to tour the center of camp—freshly prepared to welcome the incoming boys.

It was a picture-perfect evening: lively conversation and laughter filled the air, a stunning sunset lit up the sky, and the iconic calls of loons echoed in the distance.

Kawanhee's new Executive Director, Kenley Perry, had the pleasure of meeting many individuals active in Weld's community organizations and businesses. Several guests who had never visited camp before received short, informative tours from Kawanhee staff, who were more than happy to answer questions and share the spirit of camp.

This event traces its roots back to the late 1970s, after the fire that destroyed the Dining Hall. At that time, a town dinner was hosted to thank the people of Weld for their overwhelming support. The last town dinner was held in the Dining Hall in 2019, and with Kenley joining the Kawanhee family, we felt the time was right to revive this cherished tradition in the beautiful Katahdin Pavilion.

One guest captured the evening perfectly, writing:

"Living in Weld has been one of the best choices my wife and I have ever made. The friends and experiences have been amazing. No event has been more memorable than the gala event we attended last night. We will never take for granted what we have and the friends we've made along the way. Bailey knocked it out of the park last night, for which you should be so proud."

We are so grateful for our community and look forward to continuing this tradition for many summers to come.



# Thoughts from the History Museum

LEXI INNES

In my three (non-consecutive) years as Kawanhee History Museum curator, I've had the privilege of witnessing first-hand just how deeply Camp Kawanhee ingrains itself in those who find themselves here. Campers arrive as seven, or twelve, or sixteen year olds, and through the bonds built here at camp, never really stop being campers, no matter how many years they've spent away. I've met my fair share of alumni, some who attended in more recent years and returned as staff, and others who have lived long, full lives, and still manage to find their way back to Camp. Many have said it before me, and I expect it is a sentiment that will continue to be echoed by future Kawanhees: Camp Kawanhee is a special place. It is like there are invisible threads that connect everyone to this place, and gently tug at them to eventually return, even if it takes decades.

Over a century's worth of summers have passed here, each one leaving behind a historical breadcrumb trail of photos, files, and videos. Looking back through all this documentation, it becomes clear that a great deal has changed over the course of 105 years; but it is also apparent that many aspects of Camp haven't changed a bit. The human experience is remarkably consistent, and is something that unites us all across time. The essence of the Camp experience--building lasting friendships, honing skills, spending time alone with yourself, enjoying weeks of fun in a beautiful place--can be seen in every year of Camp Kawanhee's existence. Boys in their canoes surrounding Bass Rock on a Sunday in 1923, boys proudly displaying their woodworking craftsmanship in 1955, or boys in the present captured, grinning and laughing, in lively videos. It is clear that something about a summer at Kawanhee transcends the changing of the times.

I look forward to seeing how Camp changes as the years march on. I also look forward to seeing the ways the spirit of Camp remains exactly the same, embodied in new ways by new staff and new campers. It is so magical to witness the beauty of a sunset sinking past the mountains and into the lake, and there is something so human about marveling at it with others. For as long as there are the mountains, and the lake, and the occasional beautiful sunset, people will continue to gather at Camp Kawanhee. May there always be.



# With Gratitude and Appreciation:

## A Tribute to Mary Birch and Sandy Winkles

KATE ESTABROOK SCHOEDINGER



They are the heartbeat of our camp history and we are lucky to have had Mary Birch and Sandy Winkles as a part of the Kawanhee family for so many decades. Their commitment spans generations of campers touched by their guidance, humor, and heart.

Mary Birch has been at Kawanhee for 45 years having begun her career in the kitchen for five years and served as Head Table Waiter. Mary Roziewski married Bruce Birch then joined him at the Range.

Sandy Winkles has been in the Kawanhee family for 23 years having begun her career in the office. She worked in the office for five years and then in 2007 she joined Mary in the Range.

Together, they have been important influences on so many campers' lives. Their presence has made camp not just a place but a home: a home on the range. Campers leave with skills, confidence, and joy thanks to the seeds they planted.

Mary and Sandy have stood at the heart of Range guiding campers with patience, knowledge, and a whole lot of love. Their steady hands have helped thousands find their aim. We have full hearts and endless gratitude for them as we celebrate them on in this new chapter. There will always be a place for them here at camp. While cheering their retirement, we are even louder in our excitement to have them back next summer to visit and train the new staff.

The range will echo with their wisdom again next year:

Ready on the Left!

Ready on the Right!

Ready on the Firing Line!

Ready! Aim! Retire!

Thanks for all you've done for Kawanhee campers over the years!  
Congratulations to Mary and Sandy!



# Scenes from the Season



# Kawanhee Community Life Updates

## BIRTHS

Trevor Branch and Jack Baughman welcomed Jude Wilder Branch on May 12, 2024

Anna (Spencer) Nguyen and MJ welcomed Jade on November 2, 2024

Andrew and Courtney Altmaier welcomed Arie on February 8, 2025

Sean and Katherine Duncan welcomed Bobby on March 25, 2025

Meredith (Brown) Hooke and Sterling welcomed Benji on May 23, 2025

Ben and Alison Zambito welcomed Gwen Helen on May 26, 2025

Johnny and Laura Sengelmann welcomed Henry on June 10, 2025

Dan and Kate Alexander welcomed Rees on June 23, 2025

Tim and Kelby Walsh welcomed Noah on July 12, 2025

## Share news with us!

Share your life updates (or the life updates of your friends & family members!) with the camp community by emailing us at [skookumee@gmail.com](mailto:skookumee@gmail.com) and we'll include them in a future issue of Skookumee. Jobs, births, deaths, graduations, publications, and more. We want to hear it all and share it!

If you send your address with your birth announcement we'll send you a Kawanhee onesie for your new arrival!

