



SKOOKUMEE

HOLIDAY 2025

From the Editor

The semester after my first summer at Kawanhee, it seemed like I talked about nothing but camp. I shared facts from the history cabin, laughed about silly moments with the campers, reminisced over day off antics, and gushed over the beauty of the Maine woods. That was 2018. I've now edited this newsletter far longer than I worked at Kawanhee. But Kawanhee still had a big impact on my life

I babysat constantly as a teen and was a day camp counselor in the summers. I volunteered at my local library and even worked at the Library of Congress, but it wasn't until spending my first summer at Kawanhee that I knew that working with kids would be my career.

I'm a children's librarian in a small town on the south coast in Massachusetts. I work directly with kids every single day from facilitating storytimes to leading programs and directing library volunteers. My library is a non-profit, so I engage directly with our board of directors, participate in fundraising initiatives, and manage budgets. All of this work requires skills I got to practice in the history museum, the camp library, and the camp store.

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I love being in a small town because I love building and developing communities. I see new moms find solidarity with each other, kids geek out during a book club knowing they won't be judged, homeschooled students socializing, and multiple generations interacting in the same space. Kawanhee still remains one of the best examples of community that I have ever been a part of - and it serves as a model for the work that I do. For two, three, four, or seven weeks - campers and staff lock in, let loose, and engage deeply. If kids see my library as a place they can engage deeply, be themselves, set aside their phones and be present - then I've succeeded at my work.

Sometimes, I feel like my Kawanhee story is small, because I only worked here for two summers. But, when we look at the long-term impacts, no Kawanhee story is small. If you've shared your Kawanhee story with us in Skookumee over the last five years - thank you.

MACY DAVIS

P.S. If you like our new graphic and title font, it's inspired by Kawanhee catalogs in 1939 and 1940

A Tribute to the Standens

In early November Jon Morgan & Will Fleming, Chair & Vice-Chair of the Frank Foundation Board, along with Jo Doherty, Foundation Board member visited with Mark and Liz Standen to present them with the tribute video produced by Kawanhee alumni & past Board member Graham Marvin.

"Mark & I are overcome with gratitude for the many gestures of appreciation shown to us. I can't imagine a more meaningful send off" Liz remarked.

The video has been shared with the Kawanhee community but should you not yet have seen it, here's your chance. We promise it will warm your heart ... maybe even bring a tear to your eye.

And it reminds all of us how many lives have been changed by their leadership and contributions to Kawanhee.

Our thanks to Graham for creating such a memorable tribute & for all those who contributed their thanks. If you want to add your own thanks to those already on the video, feel free to reach out to Mark and Liz directly at: mark@kawanhee.com and liz@kawanhee.com.

May there always be a Kawanhee.





From the Frank Foundation

Three decades ago, the generosity of the Estabrook Family and other legacy Kawanhee families allowed for the creation of the George and Raymond Frank Foundation. The Frank Foundation is the non-profit organization that operates Camp. The Foundation has a board, whose current members are Dan Alexander, Don Casto, Jo Doherty, Will Fleming, Ben Hoffhine, Annie Mayol, Jon Morgan, Don Mykrantz, Butch O'Neill, Kate Estabrook Schoedinger, Jacqueline Telgheder and Will Ryan. In addition, we have three fantastic Emeritus Directors: BA Altmaier, John Estabrook and Steve Yale. Together with Kenley Perry, Executive Director, the Board works to support the mission and financial stability of Kawanhee.

In 2024, we said goodbye to two long-time board members, Bill Dargusch and Jose Otero. Both Bill and Jose made significant contributions to Kawanhee over the course of many years: Bill in personally overseeing many of the larger building projects including most recently the Katahdin Pavillion and the Rec Hall renovation (as well as co-running numerous Kawanhee reunions); Jose was our Treasurer and created the financial structures for our Endowment and scholarship funds. Thanks to you both. In 2025, we welcomed Don Mykrantz and Annie Mayol to the Board and they are bringing great energy to our work.

We also want to invite anybody from our community to volunteer if they would like to help the Frank Foundation in any way. I'd like to personally thank three non-Board members who are making important contributions to our work: Macy Davis, who is largely responsible for every edition of Skookumee, Cam Kaubris, who organizes our Kawanhee Night Out events, and Ryan Barrett, who has joined our new Finance Committee. Camp can always benefit from people that want to lend their special talents. And if you want to organize a recruiting event in your area, please reach out to Kenley! Thanks again to this amazing community for another great season. We can't do it without the help and support of all of you.

JON MORGAN,

President of the George and Raymond Frank Foundation

Recognition of Donors

Imagine starting a business that is open seven weeks of the year and located in rural Maine where you are under snow cover for seven months of the year. Imagine needing to import nearly every one of your customers and your staff. Imagine that your business is taking care of young boys where the margin for safety mistakes is zero. What were George and Raymond Frank thinking? They must have been thinking that the mission of Kawanhee is so important to the lives of our sons, grandsons, brothers and friends, that we forge ahead anyway. And we have been doing it for over 105 years. But I highlight these challenges because we should never take Kawanhee for granted. It has endured because of the efforts of a community that every year shows that it cares, that it is dedicated to our mission. “May There Always Be a Kawanhee” is more than our slogan, it is our commitment.

This past year has been especially gratifying for a couple of reasons. The first is the important generosity of Jeff Rice and the Abbott Family, whose gifts allowed us to make important renovations to the Dining Hall and Abbott Lodge. Both gifts were offered without being solicited. Jeff and John Abbott reached out because they wanted to help. Thank you, to the Rice and Abbott Families.

Just as important was the tremendous response we got to the fundraising campaign for Mark and Liz Standen that finished at the end of our 2025 fiscal year. Mark and Liz had identified camper scholarships and outdoor activities (think Tripping, Fishing, Ropes and Campcraft) as the two areas where they hoped we could generate legacy gifts in their honor. Our campaign started with an ambitious goal of \$200,000. We are proud to announce that the campaign finished on October 31, 2025 with a total raise of just over \$234,000. Half of the unrestricted monies will go to scholarships and half will go to outdoor activities. We are so grateful to Mark and Liz for their leadership and to all of those in our community who partnered with us.

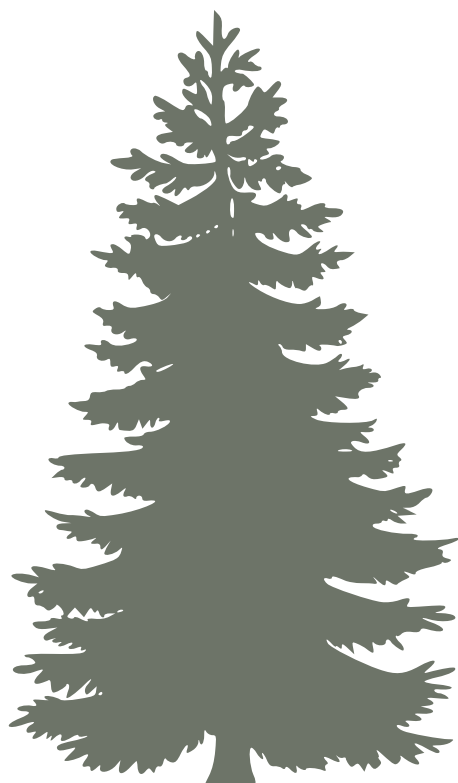
With gratitude to contributors from November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025:

Recognition of Donors

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Recognition of Donors cont.

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Kawanhee in the Wild

CHRIS YARDLEY

More like Kawanhee in the Kuauai Wild!

I know it happens more than I realize: small world Kawanheean path cross, and the Four Winds intersect. Those Kawanhee (K) connections many times are unseen/unknown, though the longer we talk, the more those K connections are revealed. When they happen its so serendipitous and heart warming. As I live in Farmington, Maine my connections to K occur often. While in Oahu, with my sisters, a side trip to Kauai brought us to the North of that island.

While on Island, Kate Estadinger texted me regarding summer 2025 stuff. I meant to text her, yet elder phone skills and a butt dial occurred. Kate and I spoke, and she said Matt Duncan operated Living Foods in South Kauai. My sister was going to take us to another restaurant (where Matt had worked previously!) though it wouldn't open until dinner hours, so we looked up Living Foods and we were only one mile away.

Matt was so gracious, sitting with us, calling his father, John my contemporary and another aged-in-Maine character. The market cafe was amazing, in an ideal setting and the food and offerings were top notch. Highly recommended! I speculate that Matt cut his teeth in the restaurant business and earned his S-3 level, by losing (or winning) stack signs and doing waiter duty at Camp K. When these K connections happen , personally I love it, the Spirit of Kawanhee, so connected, so personal .

Ka-Wan-H-double E ! Kauai-H-double-E !

"Four Weeks isn't Long Enough"

A Conversation with Tate Perry on the Power of Staying Longer at Camp Kawanhee

INTERVIEW BY KENLEY PERRY

My fifteen-year-old son, Tate Perry, came to Camp Kawanhee last summer for his very first season. What began with nerves, uncertainty, and even a request to go home early transformed into a summer of friendships, skill-building, and the realization that a longer stay unlocks the true Kawanhee experience.

In this edited Q&A, Tate reflects on his journey—and why he now wishes he'd started as a full-season camper from the very beginning.

Q: Tate, start by introducing yourself. How old are you, and how long have you been at Kawanhee?

Tate: My name's Tate Perry. I'm 15, and this was my first year at Camp Kawanhee.

Q: Before Kawanhee, had you ever attended an overnight camp? What were those experiences like?

Tate: Yeah, I did, but it was only for a couple of days—three nights maybe. It was... okay. I didn't really know anyone, and because it didn't last long, I didn't get to know anyone either. There wasn't enough time.

When you first arrived at Kawanhee, you were nervous about staying for four weeks. Why?

I was far from home, going to a new place for a long time, and I didn't know anyone. That's hard.

Do you remember those first few days? Did they make your nerves worse?

Yeah. The first day, you're just listening to all the safety speeches. You don't get to talk to anyone or do anything yet. I didn't really make friends until the third or fourth day.



I remember you coming up to my lodge and asking if you could leave early.

The first two days felt so long that I thought every day was going to feel like that—just as long and just as bad. But I quickly found out it gets better. Way better.

When did things start to change for you? When did camp begin to feel enjoyable?

Probably during the first week—once I actually got to try all the activities. I tried almost every single one I could. Learning all these new things was super fun.

When did Kawanhee start to feel like home?

End of week one and into week two. I started figuring out what I liked, what I wanted to focus on. And Skit Night was big. Doing something as a lodge really brought us closer together.

What was week three like? Were you still missing home?

Week three I was just grinding all the activities I liked most. I focused on like four activities—mainly sailing. I just wanted to do as much as I could with the time I had. At that point, I wasn't missing home. I was having too much fun.

At the start of week four, you were scheduled to go home for a pre-planned trip. You told me four weeks wasn't long enough. What did you mean?

Four weeks doesn't give you enough time to do everything you want to do. I wanted to get as far as I could in sailing, and in four weeks you get the basics... but not the best parts. Those happen at the end—with everyone together, doing all the really fun stuff.

And during that fourth week, what did you ask me?

I asked if I could come back for week six or seven.



Timing only allowed you to come back for the final week. What was it like returning?

It was really fun. I got to see all the three-weekers and the seven-weekers again. The last few days—Final Campfire, the award ceremony—those were some of the best parts of the whole summer.

If you could go back in time and start your Kawanhee journey at age 10, what would you do?

I'd try everything—find out what I really liked and wanted to do more of. If I were in Eagle Lodge, I'd just be trying to find my groove and make friends. I'm a little jealous of my younger brother, Elliott, because he's only 10 and is just starting out at Kawanhee. He gets to have so many more summers at camp than I will.



Do you feel like you made strong friendships at camp? What helped that happen?

Yeah, definitely. Spending time together during activities and in the lodge at night—that makes you talk to your friends more. It brings you close fast.

So if you were a young camper again, would you try to be at camp for as many weeks as possible?

Yeah. If I was 10, I'd probably be a seven-weeker.

What sticks out as your best memories from the summer?

Getting to know not just the campers but also the counselors. Making memories together. Doing some of the best things you can do during a summer.

So in your view, the longer you can be a Kawanhee camper, the better?

Mmhmm. (laughs)

Tate arrived worried about being away from home for four weeks. By the end, he realized four weeks isn't nearly enough.

His experience shows what many Kawanhee families come to understand: The full-season (7-week) session provides the time, space, and depth that turn camp from a place you visit into a place you belong.

We understand that with increasing demands of the summer schedule with diverging school schedules, sports camps, and family vacations, a full season experience is harder for many families to accommodate. However, if interested in a 5 or 6 week summer experience, don't hesitate to reach out to Kenley. If possible, Camp Kawanhee will accommodate an session extension, because we truly believe that the longer, the better in every way.



My Kawanhee Story

JEFFERY S MONROE

The wind howled like a banshee, whipping rain against the windows of my car as I lurched along the narrow heavily forested road on my first day in June of 1970, when I arrived at Camp Kawanhee. It was my first time in Maine, and I was to be a counselor of young men... then I found out it was to work with Richie Davis as Co-Counselor and those kids assigned to the Crow's Nest, which was the loft above the old creaky boat house. If I had known I was to be responsible for 14 & 15 year old boys I might have turned down the summer job. But alas, I was in Maine and had no money to get home.

It turned out to be a great assignment. I was studying to be an Athletic Trainer at The Ohio State University and wanted a summer job that would let me work with kids and the Crow's Nest residents were challenging as young adults, but by summer's end, they were strong campers with some going on to be Junior Counselors.

I had never heard of Camp Kawanhee before the spring of 1970 and only had a marginal degree of understanding about resident camps. I was the Wrestling Athletic Trainer for OSU and was assigned to be the Camp Kawanhee Wrestling coach for those kids interested in wrestling. Mark Standen was the Jr. Counselor assigned to me with wrestling. With him having a solid knowledge of Camp Kawanhee, I was soon able to understand the ebb and flow of the days of summer, particularly, the highlight of the Maroon and Grey Wrestling Tournament.

The Maroon and Grey competition was amazing. All the campers were involved, and the team with the most points by summer's end were going to be the winners and would have bragging rights for the rest of the year.

Since the Wrestling tournament was held the last week of the season, it was very important to the outcome of the Maroon and Grey competition.

The Rec Hall was the sight of the Wrestling competition, and it was packed to the rafters, with some kids in the rafters! The match was close - all tied up with one match to go. It was the heavyweight class that finished the match with the winner of the heavy weight division claiming victory for their colors. Since I was the Wrestling Instructor, I was the referee for the match. After three periods the match was still tied, and the room was a buzz of action and noise. Overtime was called for and it was to be sudden death or victory, depending on your point of view. So, a "take down" would determine the winner... The two lads circled each other and as one of them shot to the others leg, the lights went out. Oh, my goodness! Pandemonium and chaos erupted as the two exhausted boys lay panting, each holding the others leg, no clear winner.

As the Referee I called the final match a draw, and equal points were allocated to each of the colors. Nobody was happy, after all a tie is like kissing your sister and nobody had a sister in a boys camp.



A Tribute to Alex Dunn

DAN ALEXANDER

Alex Dunn, a camper and counselor at Kawanhee from 1998 to 2008, died of a heart attack Aug. 20. He was 36 years old.

I was lucky enough to share a cabin with Alex his first year, when we were both in Falcon lodge (now Eagle). He was a one-of-a-kind personality, the kind of character that only exists in novels... or at Camp Kawanhee. He had a quick laugh, an adventurous mind and a hug ready for anyone. He also happened to be the best athlete in our age group, dominating every activity, every sport. His best was basketball, where the Kawanhee championship was decided on draft day. Whoever was on Dunn's team was going to win it all.

There are too many stories to tell about Dunn. He once stepped on a nail on the soccer field. The counselors hammered it into a board, painted it, and handed it back to him as the "tough-as-nails" trophy at the award ceremony. He was a big guy, who used his size intentionally. I remember him once informing a bully, while glaring down at him, that he needed to reconsider how he was treating one of his lodgemates. The bully suddenly became a lot nicer.

Dunn's dreams were as big as he was. He and I would talk for hours, before taps and sometimes after, about friends, school, hoops, music, religion, life. In the offseason, we would share book recommendations with each other. He failed JMG by one test his first year, then spent his second year helping the rest of us pass. Thirteen of 14 of us did, which I think set a record for the most JMGs in a summer at Kawanhee. Dunn did the best, passing every single test that year.

He also had a mischievous side. He loved pranks. One of his most notorious was hiding the archery targets the day before another camp arrived for a head-to-head event. He and two of his lodgemates put targets in each of the positions on the baseball field and scattered others throughout camp. As we got older, his mischievousness descended into more serious troublemaking. He struggled with addiction and wound up in heartbreaking cycles of recovering, then relapse, then recovery.

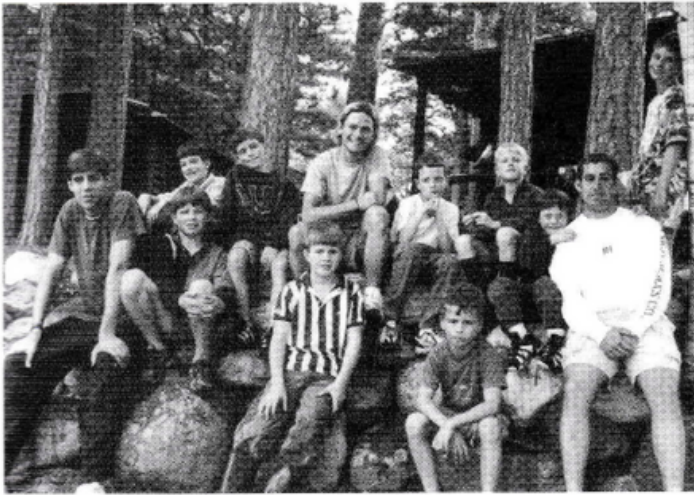
Through it all, Dunn somehow kept a smile on his face. I remember him telling me tragic stories—of him getting robbed, begging for money, things I could not imagine. Somehow, he smiled as he told these stories, laughing at his own misfortune and foolishness. It was impossible not to smile with him. I've never known anyone who could tell a sad story so happily.

He stayed in touch with his Kawanhee brethren as the years went by. He married a sweet woman named Christine, and a few of us attended the ceremony, in Maine. He came to the reunion a couple of years ago as well. I was only there briefly, and I think he may have been in and out as well, but we sat on the big rock at council point, with the fire blazing as he made wisecracks throughout the campfire. Everyone around him buckled over in laughter.



Dunn had a big presence on Instagram, where he promoted his rap albums, videos and continuing pranks. He shut down the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles a handful of years ago by climbing onto a highway sign, dressed in his underwear, to protest pollution. When the police scaled the sign to get him, he jumped onto two massive blow-up mats they had laid out on the highway, backflipping, just as he used to off the high-dive at camp. He was honest about his challenges, too. His latest post, shared one week before his passing, featured him working out as text flashed on the screen. "I struggle with addiction," said one frame. "If you're struggling, I salute you. Don't quit, it will get better." Another frame showed him talking straight into the camera. "I'm not going back," he said. "This is my future."

LODGES 1998



FALCON LODGE

1st Row: Gerardo Carreras, J.C., Alex Dunn, Devereux Smith, Alastair MacPhail, River Gimbel, Joe DeSapri, S.C. 2nd Row: Dan Alexander, Mason Tice, Kurtis Coursen, S.C., Spencer Branch, Ned Carson.

Dunn's sister shared the news of his passing with his camp buddy (and fellow archery-target-hider) Gavin Cadwallader in a text. "My brother had a heart attack on the evening of August 20, shortly after having dinner with his wife Christine and a friend," she wrote. "He was in a really great period of his life, having just seen his oldest son Augustus (5 yrs) off to his first day of kindergarten and so, so proud of Augustus and his little brother Thaddeus (1.5 yrs) and what joyful, confident, adventurous, and kind kiddos they are. He was truly the best dad ever—free, funny, playful, super imaginative and creative."

Just the way he was at camp.

One great thing about Kawanhee is that it liberates people to be who they truly are. The result is that people often have a camp persona and a real-world persona—related, but not quite the same. At his funeral in November, it became clear that Dunn didn't have two personas. Wherever he went, he was playful, defiant, wise and protective. He made everyone around him feel like they could be themselves. That might explain why so many grown men, including me, openly wept as they told stories about him at the service.

I had long assumed Dunn, like so many of us, was so open and carefree because of camp. Hearing all the stories at the service made me think I might have had it backward, though. Camp, at least as I experienced it, was so open and carefree partly because of Dunn.

KAWANHEE LIFE UPDATES

Births

Alex Standen and his wife Alex welcomed Ana Belén Elizabeth on October 2, 2025

Cam Kaubris and Coco Murphy welcomed Charlie Anne on November 15, 2015

Will and Jen Ryan and big brother Billy welcomed Robert Andrew “Robbie” on November 24, 2025

Marriages

Macy Davis married Jake Kinney on October 18, 2025 in Wareham, MA

Deaths

Alex Dunn
December 15, 1988 - August 20, 2025

Lydia Ann (Chawner) Hadley
September 21, 1938 - December 09, 2025
With her first husband Big John Detrick, they raised John, Sam, Andrew, and Lucia. She was grandmother to Gordon, Forrest, and many others. She spent many summers co-managing the Kawanhee Inn Restaurant with her dear friend Jane Estabrook. Lydia and Big John Detrick remained close friends for the duration of their lives often spending time together with her husband Kawanheean Ben Hadley, and John’s wife Helen Legg, who accompanied him to many Kawanhee reunions.

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!

