



Sunrise on Mt. Percival
Photo by Renee Aubrey

On Squam

Fall 2022

The Annual Newsletter of the Deerwood Foundation
Since 1994

A Word from Foundation President, Tim Caffrey

As a result of your generosity, the Foundation was able to support twenty-five camperships this summer and one Tree Talk Fellowship. Thank you! Given the challenges that Covid restrictions and isolation imposed on so many young people, I can think of no better medicine than the active, adventurous, fun-filled summer that Camp Deerwood provides.

This year the Foundation received \$210,000 in donations – a record, which was driven by over 475 donors. Many contributed in honor of Luke Wilhelm. Luke, who grew up at Deerwood and was a legendary trip counselor and professional mountain guide, died in a tragic climbing accident this spring in the North Cascades of Washington state. Our collective Deerwood family's heart aches for the Wilhelm's - Tracy, Bruce, Henry, and Greg. It is with great sadness and deep gratitude that I thank you for these gifts, which will enable boys to attend Deerwood and experience what Luke loved so much. There is a piece later in this newsletter about Luke, written by his brother, Henry.



Thank you, Henry Damon, and welcome Andy Smith.

After having worked in every capacity on the Foundation - first as a Board Member, then as the Executive Director, and for the last five years as our Campership Administrator - Henry has decided to step down from this position. Please join me in thanking Henry for all of his efforts over the years in helping the Foundation achieve its mission and get where it is today. And, we are fortunate to have Andy Smith succeed Henry as the Campership Administrator. In May, Andy retired after 48 years at St. Christopher's School (Richmond, VA). With this newly found free time, Andy will continue all of the hard work Henry started in building relationships with organizations that have sent many campers to Deerwood. Having a deeper relationship with these organizations will hopefully lead to a more knowledgeable and meaningful connection with the boys coming to Deerwood. For those of you, like me, who spent summers in camp during the 70's and 80's, you are well aware of Andy's outstanding organizational skills, as he and Palmer Bell turned the middle office into a fine-tuned machine. We are thrilled to have him in this role.

We hope to host a couple of gatherings next spring in NYC and Baltimore. Stay tuned. For those able, please join me in donating to the Foundation! Thank you.

Support for the Foundation, over the years

Below is a simple graph that exposes how the support for boys, and their families, has grown through the Deerwood Foundation from the inaugural year of giving, 1995, to this summer. Thank you.

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
Foundation Summers	1	11	21	28
Camp Sessions Awarded	3	134	328	547
Dollars Awarded	\$6,000	\$357,475	\$1,095,458	\$1,887,250
Average Award	\$2,000	\$3,214	\$3,734	\$4,308
Number of Donors Annually	137	269	285	481

Tree Talk Fellowships

In 2019, the Deerwood Foundation established the Tree Talk Fellowship program with the intent of enticing young, college-age people of diverse backgrounds to spend summers in leadership positions, as counselors, on staff at Deerwood. It is the Foundation's hope, that with providing a worthy candidate this Fellowship to help with educational tuitions/expenses, that it will be an attractive option for summer employment. The award may be a match up to the salary negotiated with Deerwood. Upon being offered a contract with Camp Deerwood, a candidate will then submit a request to be considered for a Fellowship. If awarded, the Foundation will send funds directly to the educational program or institution of higher learning. If you know someone who might benefit from this program, please encourage an application. More information can be found at: www.DeerwoodFoundation.org or www.CampDeerwood.com

Covid Quilt Project

During Covid shutdown, Beth Barclay had an idea. Let's get the women of Deerwood to make a quilt to celebrate Deerwood's 75th Anniversary. Tracy Wilhelm and Sandy Bemis joined the project, and soon 45 envelopes, with colorful fabric, and loose guidelines, were in the mail to Deerwood women across the country. The end result was incredible. The next time you visit Deerwood, stop in the Red Barn to see the 75th Anniversary quilt hanging in the rafters. Thanks to the following quilters: Beth, Julia, Livia Barclay; Jannine, Sage Sutcliffe; CC, Peggy Conner; Laurie, Emily, Breah Burke; Marguerite, Melissa Jones; Ana, Lila, Alex, Louisa, Laura, Kelly, Casey, Coleen, Kate, Laurie, Megan Bakke Thomsen; Debbie, Laura Wiley; Naomi Appel, Sandy Bemis, Karen Brown, Amy Carey, Julie Thomsen Carr, Cindy Gengras, Sara Gimeno, Price Hall, Heather Kros, Brittany Perrott, Dena Pistor, Sue Smith, Carolyn Wiley Taber, Brandi Watterson, Tracy Wilhelm, and Kate Williams.



Blue/Gray Competition

You may remember that last summer the Blue/Gray competition was a tie for the first time in the camp's history. This year that was not the case. The Blues won the competition, comprised of big traditional events (Water Battle, Green Beret, Camp Relay), evening clashes, tournaments (ping pong, horseshoes, tennis...), Cups, and, mostly, individual activity points by a margin of roughly 175 points. The outstanding Captains this year were Bohlen Brooks (Blue) and Tommy Gowen (Gray). Congratulations to the Blues!

Deerwood Gatherings this spring. We are trying again!

Covid got the best of this fun idea last year, but we are going to try again in the spring of 2023! We are crossing our fingers, and are therefore planning on having a couple of gatherings (NYC- April; Baltimore- May), sponsored by the Deerwood Foundation. Venues and times are still TBD, but we will use social media and email to communicate that information as soon as it is solidified. We hope you can join us. Stay tuned.



Donate to the Foundation

It is still quite easy to donate: 1. Going to our website- www.DeerwoodFoundation.org, and hitting the *Contribute* button from our secure giving site, Anedot. 2. Sending a check via regular post to: The Deerwood Foundation c/o Bruce Wilhelm @ 133 Edgewood Road, Cornwall, VT 05753. 3. Venmo...look below for details. Thank you in advance for your gifts!

Venmo is here (@DeerwoodFoundation)

For those who are users of Venmo, please know that we have now set up an account to receive your generous donations to the Foundation- **@DeerwoodFoundation**. If you elect to use this efficient method of payment, and are giving for the first time, please email me your contact information to: brucewilhelm11@gmail.com. This will allow me to send you a proper thank you, as Venmo does not provide us with any contact information beyond your name. Cheers.

Foundation Auction

Over the years, at the final Parents' Weekend of camp, the Foundation has hosted a silent auction to benefit camperships. Many wonderfully talented people have made unique items for this annual piece. Although covid wreaked havoc on so many aspects of our lives, it actually gave camp a chance to positively reflect on the end-of-session events. With this pivot to an afternoon parent visit, we have decided to pause on the auction. Thank you.

Giving During Fiscal Year 2021-22

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David and Karen Ix
The Mathieson Family Foundation

Andy, Peggy, Peter Mathieson
Richard Pisano
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Sports dans la Ville (P. Oddou)
Widgeon Point Charitable Foundation

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Donor List – 2021-22 Fiscal Year

Number in ()'s represents the total number of years of giving to the Foundation.



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The Deerwood Foundation Inc.
133 Edgewood Rd.
Cornwall, VT 05753
www.DeerwoodFoundation.org

The Deerwood Foundation is a non-profit
501©3 organization committed to
supporting families of diversity for their
sons to experience a summer at Camp
Deerwood.

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***We do our very best to be as accurate as possible in the reporting of our generous donors. Inevitably, we may make mistakes. If you feel as if you might have been left from any of the lists from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022, please let us know. We apologize in advance for any errors. ***

Contact: Bruce Wilhelm

Deerwood Foundation

Executive Director

Brucewilhelm11@gmail.com

133 Edgewood Rd.,

Cornwall, VT 05753

(216) 410-8089

Gifts “In Honor of”

Charles, Bill, & David McCleary- Barbara McCleary
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(April 7, 1995- March 6, 2022)



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Luke Wilhelm (continued)

"When nothing is going right, go left!"

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Clarke & SJ Wilhelm
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*"Talk doesn't cook rice. Get out there and get uncomfortable.
It's a BEAUTIFUL thing!"*

In Memoriam

In March, my dear oldest son, and beloved former counselor and camper (winning captain of the Blues in 2011), Luke Wilhelm, died from a fall in the North Cascade Mountains (WA). Camp Deerwood was his favorite place on earth. Yes, he loved all that Squam Lake and camp has to offer, but it was the exceptionally fun, healthy, smart, and balanced people of Deerwood that made him yearn for camp every summer. If Luke could have been a camper until age 30, he would not have hesitated for a second to do so (I know the same is true for many who are reading this now!).

We give thanks to the roughly 165 people who gifted to the Deerwood Foundation in Luke's memory. The significant funds are going to be used for many years to come to keep Luke's spirit alive at camp. Firstly, the trip program will benefit with updates to their equipment each year- tents, sleeping bags, pots and pans, Sierra cups, freeze dried ice cream... These improvements will hopefully allow for all campers to have better canoe or mountain trip experiences. Our feeling is that Foundation campers will truly benefit from this incredible generosity.

Secondly, the Climbing Cup at Deerwood now has an actual cup that rivals the beautiful, and significant, Canoe Cup. From now on, the top climber in camp will receive the ***Luke Wilhelm Memorial Climbing Cup*** at the final campfire of the summer. Amazing. Luke would be blushing, big time.

Luke was an amazing athlete, mountain guide, camp counselor, and person. Climbing became his genuine passion, after being alongside the likes of Ross Perrot, Sam Estano, and Ian Grant at Deerwood's climbing wall. Like many Deerwood campers, their passions were discovered while they were being mentored and guided by Buck, Tommy, Len, Lorne, Peter, and Barx... amongst MANY others.

Below is an excerpt from a piece that one of Luke's younger brothers, Henry, wrote for *Guide Bulletin*. Henry, who is also a long-time camper and counselor at Deerwood, captured Luke's entirely positive spirit. Enjoy.

LUKE WILHELM Better Suited for the Mountains

For most of our time together, my relationship with Luke was grounded in the shared experience and understanding of brotherhood. We shared an attic bedroom in our home in Baltimore, directly above our younger brother, Greg. We ruined the drywall in our basement shooting tennis balls at each other with hockey sticks. When we moved to Cleveland, we shared time on our high school's soccer field. He was in goal; I played in the midfield. He was fearless. He could catch anything.

In his 26 years, Luke's life presented him with a number of obvious and easy-to-follow paths. He took none of them. He struggled to find the best route. In a way, he was always searching, but man, did he find a life that made him happy. It's one of the things for which I'll always look up to Luke. It's the thing for which I'm the most proud.

While he occasionally struggled to give such grace to himself, Luke extended his bottomless well of optimism to everyone around him, whether they be clients, friends, family, or near strangers. He could find celebration buried under 6 inches of rain in a tent on Shuksan, in hypoxia-ridden traverses on Denali, or sitting around the kitchen table playing cards with his family. It's what made him an incredible guide, adventurer, son, brother, role model, and friend.

He would always do this thing, which I was lucky to see more and more of as Luke took off in life. It's a great comfort to know that he did it lots, before he fell, fatally, from Colonial Peak on March 6, 2022. He'd spread his arms to the moment, not in the full Simba-like spread of ownership, but with the elbows-bent, hands-open position of a kind of communion, his knees buckling both in excitement and under the weight of his gratitude to be sharing the wilderness he cherished with the people he loved, and say something like "Isn't this amazing?"

It was amazing, Luke.



Please note: Because this year's issue of "On Squam" was already printed when we learned of Henry Damon's passing, we have included this insert to begin to honor Henry's many outstanding contributions to the Foundation.

On September 28th, 2022, our Deerwood community lost one of its most ardent champions. Henry Damon fell while hiking near his beloved Squam home in the Chamberlain Reynolds Forest. As a result of his injuries, Henry passed away at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center on September 28th, surrounded by his loved ones. His family of three generations of devoted Deerwood campers and counselors sang "Good Night Dear Deerwood" at his bedside before Henry passed.

Henry was introduced to Camp as a camper in 1955 and spent 7 summers as a camper and counselor over the next 13 years. His last year as a counselor was in 1968, but he did not leave the Deerwood community far behind. His family fell in love with Squam, and his parents purchased land in Dog Cove and built a family home there. It is on this property that Henry and his wife Susan Villani recently built his own year-round home that he and his family now cherish. In 1994, Henry became actively involved in the formation of the Deerwood Foundation and has been a major force within the organization since. As a member of the Board of Directors, as Executive Director, and, more recently, as Campership Administrator, Henry offered never-ending enthusiasm, insight, and hard work to further the goals of the Foundation. He was an ardent champion to the cause of making sure parents in underserved populations had the chance to send their sons to the camp that meant so much to him.

Henry was a cheerleader extraordinaire for all things Deerwood and especially the Foundation. When Foundation Secretary, Jim Vose, learned of Henry's passing he shared the following that sums up Henry perfectly: "I have known Henry since my first year at Deerwood in 1963. I admired, and was motivated by, his enthusiasm for the Foundation and his tireless efforts to further our goals. I will miss his steady guiding hand and cheerful good nature."

The Damon family has always been a mainstay at Deerwood; Henry's son (Bob) and two grandsons (Toby and Ryan) have also been campers and/or counselors. This brought untold pleasure to Henry, as he witnessed how much the "Deerwood Experience" has meant to each one. Love of community; love of challenging youth in encouraging ways; respecting others with compassion, and making lifelong commitments are what Henry cherished and committed so much of his life to. We are all grateful for not only what Henry has done for our community, but also for what he inspired in each of us. He will be missed by so many in the Deerwood family.



Henry Damon, former camper, counselor, and proud father and grandfather of campers Bob (son) and Toby Damon, and Ryan Igo (grandsons) passed away September 28th surrounded by loving family, including his wife, children, and grandchildren. Deerwood held a very special place in Henry's heart, as he was passionate about Camp life, the Foundation, and its Board. As well as being his first love, Camp introduced his family to Squam Lake, his favorite place on earth.



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