



On Squam

Fall 2023

The Annual Newsletter of the Deerwood Foundation
Since 1994

A Word from Foundation President, Tim Caffrey

I am happy to report that the Deerwood Foundation supported 29 campers this summer, which represents an increase from the 25 campers the Foundation supported in 2022. Being able to bring the Deerwood experience to an increasing number of young boys is entirely the result of your generous donations, which totaled \$181,000 (from 325 gifts) for the fiscal year that ended in June. THANK YOU!



I also want to share the good news that the Foundation added some “Mojo” this year, as beloved counselor Melissa Jones (Mojo) joined our board. Melissa grew up at Camp, as her mother, Marguerite, was Deerwood’s nurse for many years; Melissa has now been a counselor herself for many years, and this summer served as a key trip leader. In the off season, Melissa lives in Steamboat (CO), teaches high school science and coaches the ski racing program at Steamboat Mountain. Welcome Melissa!

This past year the Foundation hosted two gatherings, one in Brooklyn and one in Baltimore. The events were well attended and were a testament to the enduring friendships and lifelong bonds that Deerwood creates. It was terrific to see so many alums of all ages reconnecting, laughing, and sharing old stories with lifelong friends. Special thanks to Dan Ragsdale for organizing the Brooklyn event, and for Graham Shafer, and Clark and Leanne Wight for hosting the Baltimore event. Next spring, we plan to host gatherings in Boston and DC. More information to follow in the spring.

Deerwood Foundation co-founder, former camper, and counselor Tommy Swindell passed away this spring. Tommy loved Deerwood and believed deeply in the Foundation's mission to bring the Deerwood experience to boys who would not be able to attend camp without the financial aid the Foundation provides. We are all incredibly grateful for Tommy’s leadership, generosity, and passion. Please read more about Tommy and Melissa later in the newsletter.

2024 will mark Deerwood’s 80th summer! For those able, please join me in donating this year to the Foundation to share the gift of Deerwood with others.

Best, Tim

Scholarship/Campership Report 2023

The beginning of the 2023 Deerwood season began with the unexpected passing of Henry Damon. Henry spent many years giving of himself to help Deerwood grow and was the guiding force for the Scholarship Program. In the aftermath of losing Henry, the Deerwood community joined forces to make 2023 an immensely successful year for providing young men and their families with the help they needed to bring Deerwood into their lives. There can be no more fitting memorial to Henry.

We welcomed a record 29 boys to camp through the Scholarship program, 17 for the first session, 9 for the second session, 3 for the entire season, and 1 CIT. The Foundation awarded \$152,850 in tuition costs, and also provided assistance for travel and accommodations totaling \$4,520 to help families make the journey to Squam Lake. As in the past, individual awards ranged from a few hundred dollars to full tuitions. To go along with increased numbers of campers, the Scholarship program also brought increased diversity to the Deerwood community.

With your continued support, the Foundation will be able to promote the Scholarship Program by continuing to reach out to families in need, by strengthening current relationships with partner agencies that help us connect with prospective campers, and by seeking new agencies with whom we can ally to broaden our scope. We are immensely grateful for all you do!

Andy Smith- Scholarship/Campership Director



Newest Foundation Board Member

The Deerwood Foundation is fortunate to welcome a new Board member with current, first-hand experience, perspective, and knowledge. Melissa Jones, who most people at camp know as MoJo, has a very long history with, and great passion for Deerwood. Born and raised in Holderness, NH, her mother, Marguerite Jones, served as the camp nurse from 2000-2008. It was during this time that her love for Deerwood really started. In 2004, Melissa became a counselor, and since then has worked at many varied activities- challenge course, climbing, and waterskiing. For the last few years, she has been one of the leads in the trip program. She says that working in the trip shack has been incredibly rewarding...and not to mention fun. She's enjoyed seeing campers challenge themselves on trips, stepping far out of their comfort zones. In the "off season" you can find Melissa in Eagle, Colorado, teaching middle school science and coaching ski racing. She is thrilled to play yet another role at Deerwood, as a member of the Foundation; we are fortunate and excited to have Melissa help us.



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. Of special note...we surpassed two million dollars in awards for scholarships and camperships. Thank you.

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2023</u>
Foundation Summers	1	11	21	29
Camp Sessions Awarded	3	134	328	577
Dollars Awarded	\$6,000	\$357,475	\$1,095,458	\$2,045,600
Average Award	\$2,000	\$3,214	\$3,734	\$5,278
Number of Donors Annually	137	269	285	324

Peter Thomsen Officially Retires



After many, many years of being an incredibly impactful presence in the day-to-day running of Camp Deerwood, Peter Thomsen has decided to formally retire. Jeff Barclay has taken Peter's position as the Co-Director of camp, alongside Lorne Thomsen. Peter played every role imaginable at Deerwood-camper, counselor, kitchen help, software creator, and Director. As Director, Peter replaced Len in 2001 as the person responsible for the "business" side of camp; he did this with an experienced, deft touch. From ordering all the food for meals in Toots Shor, to payroll for the staff, to overseeing some of the many behind-the-scenes, yet essential pieces of camp, Peter was truly exceptional. Thanks for all you did for so many! Good luck in the next, wonderful stage.

Blue/Gray Competition and More

This summer's annual competition was decided by 453 points, with the Blues winning 4,629- 4,176. It included the big traditional events (Water Battle, Green Beret, Camp Relay), evening clashes, and tournaments (ping pong, horseshoes, tennis...) et cetera. The outstanding Captains this year were Billy Smyth (Blue) and Owen Gibson (Gray). Senior Deerwood went to Toby Damon, Junior Deerwood to Johnpaul Smittie, Good Fellowship to Billy Smyth, Happiest Boy to James Harris, and Achievement Cup went to Henry Biddison. Henry Biddison (tennis), Toby Damon (canoeing), Finn Estill (sailing), Bryce Smith (climbing) and Lucas Lesser (skiing) also took home hardware. Congratulations to the Blues and these Cup winners for a great summer.

Deerwood Gatherings this Spring

As Tim mentioned in his note, we had two wonderful gatherings in the spring of 2023! Fun was had by many. Details will come later, but we plan on Deerwood Foundation events this spring in Boston and Washington DC. 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: *Going to our website- www.DeerwoodFoundation.org, and hitting the *Contribute* button from our secure giving site, Anedot. * Sending a check to The Deerwood Foundation via regular post to: The Deerwood Foundation c/o Bruce Wilhelm @ 133 Edgewood Road, Cornwall, VT 05753. *Venmo...look below for details. Thank you in advance for your gifts, especially considering that this will be Deerwood's 80th summer!

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](https://www.venmo.com/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 and thank you.

Tom Swindell

The Deerwood community lost one of its brightest luminaries this year, Tom Swindell. Tom, who was unfailingly cheerful, positive, and interested in others, had a passion for camp like few others. Deerwood started in 1945, and two years later Tom had his first summer as a camper. In 1951, he was selected as the Best Camper at camp, and a few years later started his run as a counselor, which lasted until 1957.

His extraordinary connection to camp did not end there though. When Len was brainstorming about starting the Deerwood Foundation in the early 1990s, Tom was one of three board members involved in the initial organizational meetings; the meetings took place in Tom's office in Baltimore. His commitment to the Foundation never ceased, as he played many roles, including President of the Board.

Lorne Thomsen shared that *Tom had the best memory for faces and names for old timers from camp. We could show him a picture from the 1940s and 50s and he would usually know everyone in the picture.*

Tom and his wife Patsy visited camp with their family every year they could, often staying in Massey cabin on the lake. Their children and grandchildren have also had Deerwood in their lives. Our best to Patsy and the entire extended Swindell family.



Deerwood Legends on the porch of Ty. This photo is from the 75th Deerwood Reunion. Pictured from left to right are the following: Charlie Gamper, Tom Swindell, Len Thomsen, Bob Jones, and Henry Damon.

A Reflection from Friend, Denny O'Brien

I met Tommy many years ago when I was an underclassman at Gilman in Baltimore. I was just learning to play lacrosse, hoping for a spot someday on the school team. One afternoon I was throwing the ball around with a couple of friends when Tommy, who was already a senior star on Gilman's varsity, walked over to us, introduced himself, and took me aside. He began by advising me to learn to play left-handed.

This really gave me a big lift, as I was a freshman just trying to make the team. I followed his advice, got a lefty defenseman's stick, and set out to learn the game. Time and again he kept in touch and encouraged me to work hard. By the time I made the varsity, Tommy had already gone on to a big college career. He helped me tremendously, like he helped so many.

Over the years at Deerwood as campers and then counselors, I remained friends with Tommy and his family. We eventually worked together as Board members and officers of the Deerwood Foundation. We spent many happy summers at camp with the Swindell's during their annual after-camp visits to Squam.

Tommy always had a smile on his face, and he had a gracious and friendly manner to all. We sure miss him, and his many years of friendship and devotion to Deerwood and the Foundation will never be forgotten.

• **Giving During Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Squam Lakes Club-\$5000 or more

The Blair Family
The Burke Family
Tim and Amy Caffrey
The Hall Family
The Mathieson Family Foundation

Richard Pisano
The Sandor Foundation
The Opdyke Wilhelm Family
The Windward Foundation
(Chris & Cathryn Perry)

Big Buck's Club- \$1,500 to \$4,999

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Henry & Elizabeth Smyth
Tom & Susan Stepp
Biff & Jannine Sutcliffe
The Twells Family
The Warnke Family
Peter Waxter
Ted Wight

Alumni Club- \$1000 to \$1,499

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Zach Boyd
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Tim & Colette Clifford
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William "Drum" Eaton
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Jim Vose
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Stewart, Rosemary, Sarah and
John Thomsen

Gifts in-kind

Bill and Babbie Adams: Sunfish Sailboat and Hobie Kayak

Bill Maynard: Laser Sailboat

Donor List – 2022-23 Fiscal Year

The Deerwood Foundations Fiscal Year is
July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023



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Luke Wilson
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Francie & Bill Zimmerman
Dr. Stephen & Wendy Zinn



At the Foundation Board's annual meeting in August, there was an opportunity to celebrate Henry Damon and all he did for Deerwood and the Deerwood Foundation. We were joined by Henry's two children, Kate and Bob, and their respective families. Bob and Kate were presented framed prints of Squam from the view from TY. This picture is the Board with Henry's children in the beautiful new red barn that sits above the field, where "the Big House" used to be. Pictured below are Kate and Bob's families, including this summer's Senior Deerwood recipient (in the Cleveland

Browns jersey), Toby Damon, and the new red barn. Wonderful stories were shared by all about the impact that Henry had on so many others. There were lots of laughs, knowing nods, and tears.



The Barn: Site of the Saturday night movie, the waterslide, theater productions, and rainy days.



The Deerwood Foundation Inc.
133 Edgewood Rd.
Cornwall, VT 05753
www.DeerwoodFoundation.org
IRS #: 52-1880596

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.

Board of Directors:

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Jay Boynton
Don Brown
Tim Caffrey – President
Tod Campbell
Cosby Hall
Melissa Jones
Andrew F. Mathieson
G. Dennis O'Brien – Vice President
Dan Ragsdale
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David Schowalter
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Directors Emeritus:

Bob Calhoun
Bill Lee

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Executive Director

Andy Smith
Scholarship/Campership Administrator



***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, 2022-June 30, 2023, please let us know. We apologize in advance for any errors. Those who gave in someone's memory or honor, or qualified for the Squam Lakes, Big Buck's, or Alumni Clubs are featured on a unique page! ***

Contact: Bruce Wilhelm

Deerwood Foundation

Executive Director

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133 Edgewood Rd.,

Cornwall, VT 05753

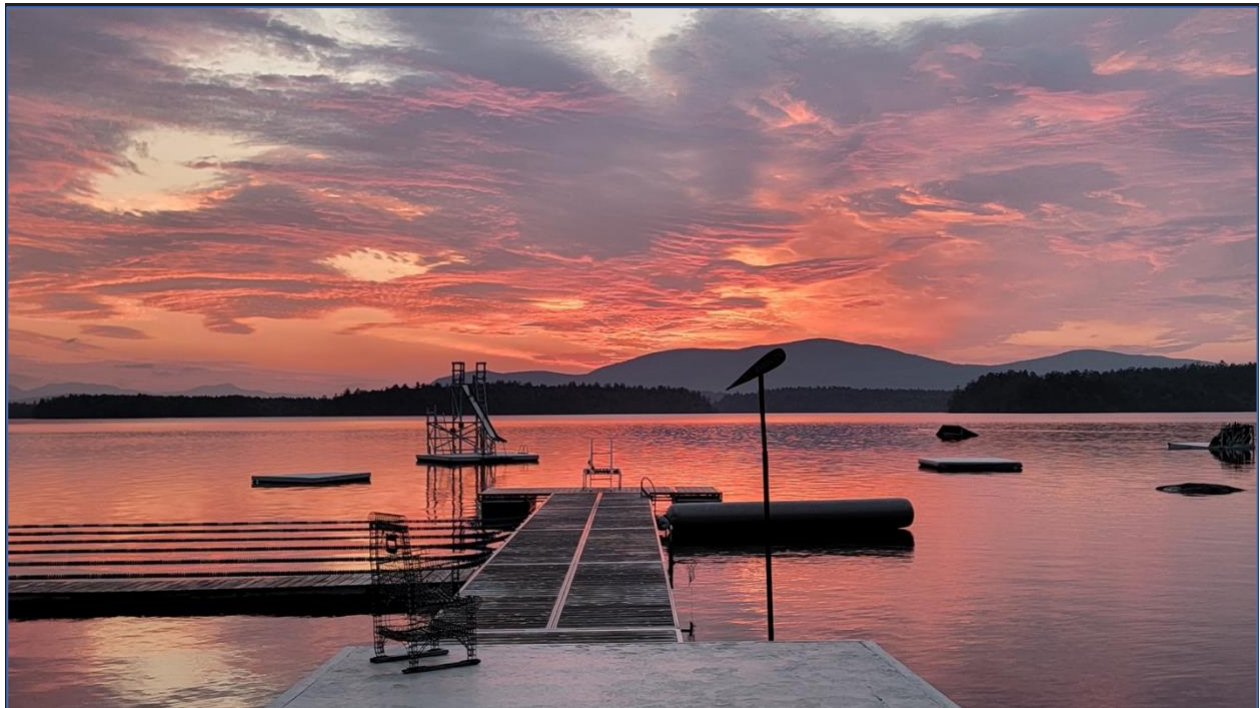
(216) 410-8089

All photos in the newsletter taken by Jeff Thomsen and other 2023 Deerwood counselors. Thank you.



The Deerwood Foundation
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133 Edgewood Rd.
Cornwall, VT 05753

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www.DeerwoodFoundation.org
www.instagram.com/deerwoodfoundation
www.facebook.com/deerwoodfoundation



Red Skies at Night, Sailor's Delight... at the magical Deerwood Waterfront.