



Here beginneth the log of...

WINTER 2022-2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRANTWOOD CAMP • PO Box 3350 • Peterborough, NH 03458 • (603) 924-3542 • www.brantwood.org

Memorial for
Margaret Cook Gurney,
October 15, 2022



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings, Brantwood Community!

The most exciting news as we head into 2023 is that the Board of Trustees has hired Amy R. Boyd as our new Executive Director. Amy's selection was the culmination of an extensive search and we look forward to Amy starting in mid-January. You can learn more about Amy on page 2.

Amy will be supported by a new slate of officers of the Board of Trustees, elected at the Annual Meeting in August: myself as President, Julie Merritt as Vice President, Mike Razza as Secretary, and John Newell as Treasurer. John, the newest member of the board, was a camper and counselor in the late 70s and 80s. His stint as Camp Commissary just may have paved the way for his 25+ year career in the Comptroller's office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are delighted that John is bringing that expertise back to his Brantwood roots.

After a summer without camp in 2020 and an abbreviated season in 2021, a returning camper declared, "This summer felt like a normal Brantwood summer - and I got my second class hat!" With Brantwood veteran Bill Gurney at the helm as Interim Executive Director, both camps ran three two-week terms. Campers hiked up North Pack, took trips to the Friendly Farm and the Squam Lake Science Center and had several overnights at Silver Lake, where they stayed in spacious new waterproof

tents. Importantly, Mr. Gurney and the senior staff were well prepared for our American Camp Association accreditation visit where we passed with flying colors and are now ACA accredited until 2027!

Camp took on a quieter tone on a spectacularly beautiful day in October, when over 50 members of the Brantwood community—alumni, family, and friends—gathered to celebrate the life of Margaret Cook Gurney, Bill's beloved wife, who died in April. Speakers reflected on Margaret's lifelong connection to Brantwood, from visits when her father was camp director to her key role in developing Brantwood for Girls. The youngest guest was Bill and Margaret's first grandchild, Margaret (Margo) Paula Gurney, just one month old.

For 2023, we look forward to holding three 15-day terms with a full complement of campers, keeping the health and safety of our campers and staff as the top priority. We look forward to many returning staff and hope to welcome international counselors again this summer. We are always searching for new staff members so please consider referring any dynamic young adults who love working with kids to apply to work as a counselor at Brantwood this summer.

As the winter snows settle over Mount Monadnock, I wish you and yours a wonderful New Year.

Yours for Brantwood,

Noelle R. Leonard

President, Brantwood Board of Trustees



Noelle Leonard

An Update on Buildings and Grounds

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of dedicated staff, alumni, and friends, Brantwood hosted two successful work days, in May and June, to help prepare both camps for the 2023 summer.

At the boys' camp, painting and minor repairs were completed before the summer began. Our major project during the off season includes replacing the aging plumbing system that supports the pool and renovation on some older buildings.

At the girls' camp, the new covered porch on Coolidge Commons has been a great success. A new DiCicco Bridge was built as it was destroyed when the beaver dam broke in 2021. The new bridge includes spotlights that illuminate the paths that lead to the senior shacks and wayside. Future projects include a new residence cabin for the Girls' Program Director and proposed options to improve the girls' basketball facility.



Ms. Willey and Mr. Gurney oversee the care and maintenance of all Brantwood facilities. They particularly want to thank

Brantwood alumnus and former counselor John Sweeny and his crew for his help and support.

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Amy R. Boyd

The Board of Trustees of Brantwood Camp is thrilled to announce the hiring of Amy R. Boyd as the new Brantwood Executive Director. Amy spent her early years at summer camp which sparked a desire for a career bringing the joys of the outdoors to youth. Amy brings 40 years of experience in non-profit facility management and youth development in a variety of camp and other outdoor settings. Brantwood is lucky to have found Amy.

Among her many leadership experiences, Amy formerly served as the CEO at Camp Fire USA in Central Ohio, and she is leaving her current post as Executive Director of Procter Camp and Conference Center in the outskirts of Columbus, Ohio to assume the leadership of Brantwood. In her many leadership roles, Amy has developed creative programming for youth and innovative strategies for fundraising. At the Procter Camp, Amy initiated a store to sell produce and meat in the local community from the Camp's working farm. She has been a member of the American Camp Association for decades and has served on

the Board of ACA Ohio. Amy prides herself on cultivating strong relationships with the people and organizations in the local communities of the camps and organizations she has led.

Amy's passion is to provide youth the opportunity to experience and live together in the outdoors where they can learn from each other and develop ways of working out differences. As CEO of the Camp Fire camp, she secured funding to provide youth who never had the opportunity to attend summer camp. "It was magical," she said, "to watch them relax, try new and challenging outdoor experiences, and enjoy the freedom that is a unique feature of summer camp." Amy is also passionate about teaching and inspiring young adults to be leaders, face adversity, work as a team, and persevere during the camping season and beyond.

Amy has been described as a "visionary who makes it happen." The Board believes that her experience and leadership will be a great fit for the future of Brantwood. Amy takes the helm of Brantwood in mid-January.

Congratulations to All Cup Winners for a Terrific 2022 Brantwood Summer



TERM DATES FOR
2023
Term 1 June 30–July 14
Term 2 July 17–31
Term 3 August 3–17
For more information,
please contact us at
brantwoodcamp@gmail.com



BRANTWOOD CAMP

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Supporting Brantwood

As the new year begins, we are once again reminded of how truly grateful we are for our Brantwood Family — our incredible staff, alumni, families, and friends. Thanks to all of your generosity and support, we were able to make another summer truly magical for so many kids!

We are especially grateful this year for a series of generous memorial gifts: donations to Brantwood honoring the memory of departed Brantwood friends like Margaret Cook Gurney, Frank Kozak, John “Jack” Thomas, Bill Biswanger, and Henry Large.

At this time of year, we are in preparation mode, budgeting, hiring, and laying the groundwork for all the campers and families with whom we’ll be able to share Brantwood next summer.

This is also the time we need your support most of all.

During this season of giving, we hope that we can count on you once again. Your gift ensures that we can maintain camp, provide safe, high-quality programming with dedicated counselors and keep Brantwood accessible to all campers, especially those most in need.

**Here’s to a Happy, Healthy, and Joyous New Year,
keeping the Brantwood traditions alive and creating new,
lasting memories for generations to come.**

Donations can be made online, easily and securely, at www.brantwood.org, scanning the QR code, or by mailing a check to Brantwood Camp, PO Box 3350, Peterborough, NH, 03458. If you are interested in other gifts, including stocks, securities, planned giving, etc., please contact [Ashley Denning](mailto:AshleyDenning@brantwoodcamp@gmail.com) at brantwoodcamp@gmail.com

