



Here beginneth the log of...

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRANTWOOD CAMP • PO Box 3350 • Peterborough, NH 03458 • 603-933-0942 • www.brantwood.org

President's Message: Celebrating 120 Years of Brantwood Camp

On the 30th of November in 1904, Rev. Donald Browne, Mary Lyon Cheney, and four supporters filed the handwritten *Articles of Association of the Trustees of Brantwood Camp* with the office of the Secretary of State of New Hampshire. The following summer, boys from Haverhill, Cambridge, and Dorchester, Massachusetts, as well as Milford and Manchester, New Hampshire took the train to Russell Station in Greenfield and trekked up the Brantwood Road for two-week camping terms. Donald Browne's vision to create a camp for boys whose families could not afford such an experience became a reality. Since that summer, more than 10,000 campers and staff members, both male and female, have had the opportunity to experience the best camp in the land.

This 120th Anniversary of our beloved Camp marks much more than the simple passage of time. Brantwood has not only endured; it has flourished. Our endurance is a testament to the vision, service, and devotion of these founders who raised funds to secure the land, built the first camp structures, and created a camping program. They laid the foundation for the Brantwood we know today. Looking back, we recognize and honor the incredible commitment of these original trustees. And, the Camp has flourished because of the countless boys and girls, men and women, who through the generations have made Brantwood their own, reaping its benefits and in turn, making their unique



Noelle Leonard

contributions that resonate into the future.

Brantwood has a rich history and a myriad of milestones – the association forged between St. Mark's School and Brantwood in 1920; the foresight of G. Gardner Monks whose Brantwood "bible" laid out the philosophy and organization of the Camp that remains

today; the building of the Girls' Camp in Peterborough; and many others. To celebrate our 120th year, the articles in this Spring newsletter and in the upcoming Fall edition highlight some of these pivotal moments in the Camp's history and share

individuals' accounts of the ways Brantwood has impacted their lives and how they have contributed to the Camp.

Nick Noble – a former St. Mark's shack counselor, PC, Director, Trustee and now Camp Historian – relates how Warren Winslow's untimely death led to the bequest that put the Camp on a sound financial footing. Nick also provides the first installment of the beginnings of the Girls' Camp. Former camper, PC, and now Trustee D'Laija Francis-Abdullah recounts a Brantwood experience that, in retrospect, demonstrates how the ethos of inclusion is embedded in the Five Ideals, planting a seed that has become her career. She also pays tribute to Cheryl Francis, a long

continued on next page



120th Anniversary Weekend Celebration

For details and to register for both events, scan the QR code or go to www.brantwood.org

Brantwood Camp, 127 Brantwood Camp Road, Greenfield, NH 03047



Saturday, August 24, 2024
Ticketed Fundraiser Event
Overlooking the view
5:00 PM–10:00 PM EDT



Sunday, August 25, 2024
Alumni Day
Morning and Afternoon
Events

President's Message

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standing sponsor and passionate Brantwood booster and her mom. Wayne Smith, a camper and counselor from the 80s and early 90s explains why he supports Brantwood. Former camper, PC, and Trustee Bilal Wilson, brings us a tale from the girls' camp of how the Brantwood beavers enrich – and challenge – the Camp experience. Amy Willey, former camper, counselor, Executive Director and now Trustee, honors Chef Pat Donaghue whose culinary skills and love for the camp spanned over 15 years. Finally, Executive Director Amy Boyd provides a preview of the staff and plans for the 2024 Summer season.

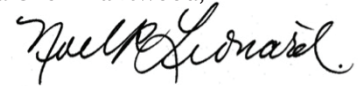
As these pieces remind us, Brantwood exists in the past, the present, and the future, all at the same time. Every camper's experience builds on decades of tradition, but it is a living tradition that is continually reshaped by those who carry the Brantwood spirit into their lives and continue to 'bend all their energies toward making this a finer camp.'

This anniversary offers the occasion to honor this legacy and dedicate ourselves to the campers of the next 120 years by maintaining the promise made by Donald Browne and Mary Lyon Cheney that no child will be turned away from Brantwood

for lack of ability to pay. Please join in celebrating this remarkable achievement by sharing your own Brantwood story along with a donation to our Annual Appeal.

And, make plans now to come up to Camp for **Alumni Weekend, Saturday, August 24th and Sunday, August 25th**. Our 120th Anniversary Celebration will begin with a ticketed fundraising event on Saturday evening, along with an invitation for those attending to go "Back to the Shack" and sleep over at camp on Saturday night. Sunday is Alumni Day which will include some new events including a Dunk Tank raffle with an opportunity to douse some well-known Brantwood personalities. I hope you can join us and please register for Alumni Weekend using the link below. Importantly, please contact those in your Brantwood network to encourage them to attend! I look forward to sharing the past, present, and future of Brantwood with you this summer.

Yours for Brantwood,



Noelle R. Leonard

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Summer 2024 Brantwood Preview

Summer is here, our favorite time of the year because it's Brantwood time. We are very excited about camp this summer. The leadership team is working hard to create a great experience for campers and staff this summer. Robbie Welcome is leading the team as the Operations Manager, Krystle Cann Keriazes is the Girls Camp Director along with Emma Luster is the Girls Assistant Director. The Boys camp is being led by Tim Sullivan and our Assistant Camp Director for the boys camp is Dejour Nesbeth.

Staffing has come along nicely. We have returning staff, new staff and internationals from Turkey and the United Kingdom joining us this summer. We have a great JC/MC crew at both camps with a total of 25. As we know our JC/MCs are the future of Brantwood. We are committed to pro-



viding a leadership experience for these young people so that they are prepared to lead Brantwood in the future.

St Mark's 3rd form students came to Brantwood the last week of May. Projects include rebuilding the boys campfire/survival area so that we have a nice place for outdoor campfires on occasion this summer. We are also working on a lighter footprint


at Brantwood this summer. Compost Bins will be constructed and be used this summer at both camps.

I had the opportunity to attend the MESH (Mental Emotional & Social Health) cohort this year from September – May. I was with other New England Camp professionals discussing and sharing best practices for taking care of our campers and staff in this ever-changing world. Another culminating event for my profes-

sional development was participating in CampWell, 2-day intensive training as part of ACA New England Conference. Brantwood is making a commitment to the well-being for our staff. It is critical that their basic needs are met as staff members. This looks like staff feeling safe, supported, connected which leads to them being able to contribute to our work at Brantwood. Our leadership team is committed to creating an environment that is safe and fun and encourages staff to come back to Brantwood.

Our Brantwood Community is special and committed to the "best camp in the land". It is so exciting to be celebrating the 120th Summer at Brantwood. Don't miss all the fun at Alumni Weekend with events planned for August 24 and 25th. I'm looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. Please come and introduce yourself.

Together for Brantwood



Amy R. Boyd

Executive Director

In The Beginning: The Girls of White and Blue

The Story of Brantwood for Girls, Part I

BY NICK NOBLE,
CAMP HISTORIAN

For 75 summers, Brantwood was solely a camp for boys. From 1904 through 1981 (with a three-year hiatus due to the First World War), more than 6000 different boys walked up the Brantwood Road and into a summer adventure among the glorious hills and woods. But in 1982, all that changed.

For 42 years now, young women have shared in the Brantwood program while carving out an independent identity and culture in the greater Camp community.

In 1972, St. Mark's School, an all-male school, began its first year of coordination with the Southborough School for Girls. In response, an item considered by the Brantwood Program Evaluation Committee created by Director Stephen DiCicco, discussed the possibility of opening Brantwood to girls, but reached no conclusion.

Five years later, at a Brantwood Trustees meeting in May of 1977, St. Mark's Headmaster Robert R. Hansel became the first voice to seriously advocate for girls at the Camp. St. Mark's was just wrapping up its first year of full coeducation, and Hansel asserted that the Brantwood experience should be available to all St. Markers. While there were divergent opinions, the Board's response was to seek input from women in the Brantwood community. Ann Peirce, Camp Nurse and wife of Director Nathaniel Peirce, made an insightful and compelling argument for Brantwood girls.

So in May of 1978, an Ad Hoc Committee on Girls' Camping was formed, chaired by trustee Jack Gillette and strongly supported by veteran Board member Charlie Cook with consultation by Margaret Cook, Charlie's daughter. The Committee worked diligently to study essential factors, explore possible scenarios, and confront potential controversies over the next two-and-a-half years. The result was a vote by the Board in January of 1981, authorizing the Director to "plan all necessary steps to implement a single girls' term during the summer of 1982."

Director Bill Gurney rose to the challenge. The summer of 1981 saw five female students from St. Mark's visit Brantwood led by faculty member Lee Pruden, to observe the Camp in action. Preparations were made to recruit female campers and counselors for the following year, and plans were underway for new program activities.

In 1982, the third term of boys was omitted and in its place was a single two-week term for girls: forty new Brantwood campers in four shacks at the boys' site. Mr. Gurney and his senior staff – Nick Noble, Paul Daigneault, John Newell, Paul Williams, Tom Almeida, Harold Ross, and Dan and David Gildea – remained. They were joined by Margaret Cook as Girls' Program Director and three permanent counselors: Lisa Anastasio, who had been part of the St. Mark's delegation the previous summer, along with Chyleene Flynn and Noelle Leonard, colleagues of Messers DiCicco and Gurney in Rhode Island. Several St. Marks' Fifth Formers volunteered as shack counselors including Diane Kurzontkowski and Kate Kieger. Among the campers was ten-year-old Amy Willey, beginning a 40-plus year connection with the Camp, along with Laurie Daigneault (younger sister of Paul), who in competition with three terms of boys was named recipient of the Cook-Hall-Peirce Cup as the best new camper of the summer: the first girl to win a Brantwood Cup.

With slight trepidation but in good humor and pride, Mr. Gurney and his staff patiently taught these new Permanent Counselors the basics of the Brantwood program. With no Brantwood experience, the female PCs received a crash course in



ABOVE: Danny and David Gildea and Jennifer Cull, camper 1982



RIGHT: PCs Noelle Leonard and Chyleene Flynn, 1982

In The Beginning continued

the traditions and myriad details that comprise a Brantwood term. While these new PCs and campers embraced Brantwood and firmly grasped the spirit

of the Camp, it also became apparent they brought their own style to the program.

Arts and crafts and aerobics periods were introduced and the campers brought a new pizzazz to skit night. Nightly rounds often culminated in a rousing chorus of “Good-night Ladies” by the male staff as the female PCs made their way back to their quarters in the Hilton. As Ms. Anastasio observed,

“a Brantwood program for girls was approached, and therefore succeeded like everything else at Brantwood – by a cooperative effort to do what needed to be done.”

Girls returned to Brantwood in 1983; this time six shacks and 60 campers, including Amy Willey. Ms. Leonard was back along with Ms. Anastasio, and six St. Markers – Cindy Chance, Tory Donovan, Christine Hurley, Allison Murray, Patty Phaneuf, and Maya Sahafi – filled the six shack counselor positions. Laurie Daigneault also returned; this time

among the first female Junior Counselors in Camp history. The following year, Brantwood for Girls would move to Camp Holiday, a Girls’ Friendly Society site in Milford, New Hampshire. The program’s next stop would be at Camp Quinapoxet, a Scouting facility in Rindge, New Hampshire. Eventually, the Girls Camp would return home to Brantwood itself, but the tales of all those adventures will be told in the second part of this series.

The legacy of that first summer of Brantwood for Girls remains with us today. Amy Willey would go on to serve as Director of the girls’ program and would then spend the better part of a decade-and-a-half as Brantwood’s Executive Director. She now serves on the Board. Noelle Leonard went on to become Director of the Girls’ camp and has served as a trustee for many years. Today she is President of the Board: the first woman to hold the top leadership role at the Camp.

Reflecting on that summer, Amy Willey noted, “those of us who were campers that first year of girls had absolutely no idea of the significance of our attendance in 1982. We were just kids running around, playing sports, passing our tests, creating friendships, competing for the B-Jerseys and enjoying everything that Brantwood had to offer. We just LOVED being there for 2 weeks!”

The voices of “the girls of white and blue” continue to resound at each evening campfire, while Brantwood for Girls continues to excel and thrive, serving generations of young women as “the best camp in the land.”



*Paul Williams, Registrar,
Greeting the first female
campers at North Station, 1982*

Thank You to Chef Pat

BY AMY WILLEY, TRUSTEE

For over 15 summers Pat Donaghue was a mainstay in the Brantwood boys’ camp kitchen. Whipping up breakfast, lunch and dinner for a hungry crew of Brantwood campers and counselors all summer, Chef Pat did it all with a great deal of caring and love for Brantwood. Being a chef at Brantwood is not an easy job, it requires long days and the flexibility to handle last-minute changes like when it rains on a hike day, or when the propane goes out an hour before a meal, or the delivery truck carrying supplies for today’s lunch doesn’t show up on time. No matter what came up, Chef Pat handled it like a pro and kept things running smoothly! We are so grateful for the many years of service Chef Pat devoted to Brantwood and wish her all the best as she departs for a new summer opportunity.



*Chef Pat and Amy Willey pose for one of
their many “Silly Selfies”*

Warren Winslow: An Enduring Brantwood Legacy

On the north wall of the Commons at Brantwood for Boys hangs a portrait of a young man, blond, in a wind-swept vestment, reading the morning's lesson at the Camp's outdoor chapel. He is Warren Winslow, the youngest director in Brantwood history, who for decades has been looking down on generations of campers and counselors at their mealtimes.

Not yet seventeen, Warren Winslow first arrived on the Brantwood hill in the summer of 1935, as a volunteer shack counselor. He was one of several members of the St. Mark's Class of 1936 – Winslow, Henry Nichols Ervin (known as “Skip”), Cyrus “Cy” Marden, Charles T. Cook – to have a significant impact on the future and fortunes of the Brantwood experience.

At St. Mark's, Winslow was an outstanding athlete. He starred on the varsity football, hockey and baseball teams, leading the baseball team in batting in his final year.

Along with his classmates, Winslow joined the Permanent Staff in 1936 while Edward T. Hall, Class of 1937 became a shack counselor. Working under Directors Cary Potter and Malcolm McVickar, the four classmates became integral to the Brantwood program. But it was Warren Winslow who truly came into his own. He guided the athletic program, took it upon himself to take charge of maintenance and repairs, led successful hikes, learned the name of every boy, and took an active part in counselor meetings.

When the Brantwood directorship fell vacant following the summer of 1936, the Board of Trustees decided to elevate the young man who had so impressively demonstrated his leadership ability. In June of 1937, less than a week after completing his freshman year at Harvard, nineteen-year-old Warren Winslow presided over his first staff meeting as the Camp's new Director.

Winslow would be in charge for both the 1937 and 1938 seasons. Skip Ervin was his Assistant Director, and Charlie Cook filled the role of Commissary. Cy Marden served as Camp Secretary that first summer, while Ned Hall succeeded him the following year.

Among Warren Winslow's priorities were the Camp's physical plant and the creation of the first Brantwood endowment fund. He presented a maintenance plan to the trustees, and he began a campaign involving the St. Mark's community,

raising ten thousand dollars: an impressive amount eight years into the Great Depression. He became the first active Brantwood director to be invited to join the Board.

The staff admired its Director. “He could run a meeting so you felt you *had* to do your best,” declared one permanent counselor. “He was a born leader,” recalled Charlie Cook, describing the Winslow years as “glorious, wonderful years. The spirit of those counselors, the friendships between all of them, was really something special.”

Winslow's vision for Brantwood's future was passionate and ambitious. “There is no reason why Brantwood shouldn't be one of the finest camps of its kind in the world,” he declared. “*God! Can't you see it all? A real pool and baseball field, more open land, better shacks . . . There is a vigor and a spirit at Brantwood that I have never seen anywhere else!*”

1938 would be Warren Winslow's final season at the helm, however, as the U.S. Naval Reserve would call him to duty in 1939.

“Filling Winslow's shoes was the most difficult thing,” admitted Ned Hall, who assumed the Brantwood directorship in 1939 with Charlie Cook as Assistant Director. Winslow went on to graduate from Harvard in 1940, and in 1941 he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. In 1942 he married Phoebe Goodhue from Connecticut, and shortly afterward Warren Winslow went to sea. The world was at war.

On January 3, 1944, the *USS Turner* was returning to New York after performing anti-submarine duty protecting a convoy crossing the Atlantic from Gibraltar. At six o'clock that morning, in the waters of lower New York northeast of Sandy Hook, the *Turner* was rocked by a series of tremendous explosions. Bursting into flames, the ship capsized and slowly sank beneath the waves, taking with it 138 of its crew, including Lt. Warren Winslow.

Winslow's tragic death, along with the earlier loss of Skip Ervin over the Pacific, stunned the

BY NICK NOBLE,
CAMP HISTORIAN



Warren Winslow

*“There is a vigor
and a spirit at
Brantwood that
I have never seen
anywhere else!”*

– WARREN WINSLOW

continued on next page

Brantwood community. Almost immediately conversations were begun about memorial tributes.

In March of 1944, Ned Hall helped organize a fundraising committee for a Winslow memorial. The result of the committee's efforts would be the Winslow Building, complete with basketball court, stage, and a wide covered porch. It was completed and dedicated in the summer of 1946.

In 1949, Warren's parents, Charles and Rosamond Winslow, announced their intention to leave a substantial bequest to the Camp. Warren had been their only child, and the Winslows felt that what would have gone to him should now be inherited by what they considered to be his most significant legacy: Brantwood. Charles died in 1950 and Rosamond passed away in 1953. It was then that the Winslow bequest, over a million dollars, became the centerpiece of the Camp's endowment. Portions of the bequest were used over the next few years to build the Winslow Commons, to replace the old shacks with modern A-frame cabins, and to help with the construction of the Murphy Building and Peirce House: all part of fulfilling Warren Winslow's ambitious vision for the Camp's future. Indeed, the Winslow bequest has been pivotal in Brantwood's survival and growth right up to the present day as it

represents the core of the Brantwood's endowment portfolio, supporting a modern program for both boys and girls, "one of the finest camps of its kind in the world."

And the Brantwood legacy of Winslow's counselor staff is significant. Between them, Charlie Cook and Ned Hall served 29 years as Brantwood directors and over a century as Brantwood trustees. Cy Marden would be a regular supporter for more than sixty years, until his death in 2001.

Warren's widow, Phoebe Goodhue Milliken, would remain a loyal supporter of the Camp throughout her long life, leaving Brantwood a substantial bequest when she died in 2019, at the age of 100. Her brother, John Goodhue, has served as an Associate Trustee on the Brantwood Board for more than two decades.

Still, the enduring legacy of Warren Winslow's Brantwood is more than money, more than buildings, books, or bequests. It is that singular, vigorous spirit, that he had "never seen anywhere else!" It is that "special" spirit that Charlie Cook remembered from those "glorious, wonderful years!" And each summer, an image from yesterday, a painting of a nineteen-year-old director, looks down on the campers and counselors of Brantwood for Boys, watching over the inheritors of that spirit in the Brantwood of today.

... The Winslows felt that what would have gone to [Warren] should now be inherited by what they considered to be his most significant legacy: Brantwood.

Open House June 1, 2024



Inclusion: A Brantwood Tradition

Welcomed, Respected, Encouraged, Safe and Apart. While not the five ideals, these words describe how I feel when I recall my Brantwood Camp experience. From ages 11 to 20, BWC was constant in my life. It was the place where I matured, challenged myself, met all types of people, and was provided with my first opportunity to learn and exhibit teamwork and leadership. I, as an African American chunky girl from the Bronx, had a summer home – yes, in the woods, down a VERY long winding road, and with a group of

provide. I reported my concerns to Camp Director Ms. Noelle Leonard, who ensured that Shawna received the assistive devices and support needed not only to be more independent in meeting her daily needs but also to be more comfortable in participating in camp activities.

Today, I would identify Shawna as a person with a visible disability. Back then I couldn't identify disability, I just knew Shawna needed support and I wanted to ensure she could enjoy BWC despite any challenges just like I did. My challenge was

BY D'LAIJA FRANCIS-
ABDULLAH



PCs Kim Townley, Erin Doherty,
Sarah Curry, Jessica Terry,
Alicia Skovera, D'Laija Francis,
Julie Merritt 1995

down-to-earth, wacky, and loving individuals from New England that I affectionately called my other family. Every summer I knew I was going home and couldn't wait to hear how the school year went for everyone, couldn't wait for all the scrimmages, the pool or for Ms. Amy Willey to play her guitar & sing at campfire. Along with other experiences my mom cultivated for me, Brantwood made my childhood extraordinary!!

During my last summer as a camper at the Quinapoxet site (aka "the real camping experience"), I bunked with Shawna. She was cool, funny and friendly – all the characteristics of someone I could hang with. Shawna hid the fact that she struggled with activities that involved the use of her hands. When we had scrimmages she played sometimes, however at times she got discouraged because it was challenging. I cheered her on and encouraged others to do the same because she was my bunkmate and friend.

I would help her make her cot, wash out her clothes, and hang them on the clothesline until one day I realized she required more help than I could

being overweight and feeling physically weak. I too needed support and encouragement to hike, play sports and feel accepted. Shawna and I both overcame challenges because embedded in the BWC mission and the Five Ideals is honoring and celebrating Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access for all. The Director and staff made both of our Brantwood experiences meaningful and enjoyable. Moreover, these experiences served as a catalyst for my lifelong career working with individuals with disabilities. I served as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for 19 years and now am the Regional Director of an organization that provides benefits and services for individuals with disabilities. I love this work and thank Brantwood for introducing and teaching me the significance and powerful impact of inclusivity at a young age.

The moral of the story . . . Welcome and embrace everyone and anyone because they are different. Each one is bound to teach one . . . if we allow it. Brantwood helped me to be open to the unknown and the possibilities that life can and will bring. BE ALL INCLUSIVE.

*I thank Brantwood
for introducing and
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Walking the Walk & Talking the Talk

For the first six decades of Brantwood's history, campers were recruited mainly from Episcopal parishes in Boston, Lowell, and surrounding towns and starting in the late 1940s, small numbers of campers from parishes in New York and New Jersey. By the 1970s, community based agencies such as Big Brothers and Boys' Clubs began sending campers to Brantwood along with Episcopal parishes.

For more than 15 years, **Cheryl Murray-Francis** actively and fully committed herself to the mission and philosophy of Brantwood Camp. Cheryl, affectionately known as Cookie, was first introduced to Brantwood in 1990 by Anne Peirce (former Brantwood nurse) and her husband Nat Peirce (former Brantwood Director). Cheryl told her colleague Anne that she was seeking a different and affordable summer experience for her 11-year-old daughter, D'Laija. Paul Daigneault, then Director of the Boys' Camp, met Cheryl at Tom's Restaurant in NYC (made famous by the hit show Seinfeld) to vet her as a Brantwood sponsor. Cheryl recalls, "I'll never forget that meeting. Paul and I got along famously and my lifelong relationship with Brantwood began." That first summer, Cheryl sponsored two campers (including her daughter D'Laija) and



as the years progressed, working in concert with the late Marlene Klyvert of The Science, Technology Entry Program (STEP) and Desiree Roach, Brooklyn Church Representative, Cheryl sponsored over 100 male and female campers. For many, Brantwood was their first camping experience and led to their first jobs as JCs, MCs, and PCs.

Due to the large number of returning campers from New York and New Jersey every year, Cheryl lobbied for a dedicated coach bus from New York rather than continuing the arduous practice of putting campers on Greyhound buses to Boston. With her signature laugh, Cheryl recounts numerous stories of lost tickets, missed and almost-missed buses, and many grouchy bus drivers which led to this needed change. Thus, the NY/NJ bus was born.

Cheryl visited and brought family up for several alumni days, and when she wasn't partaking in BBQ, she interacted with Trustees and staff and played PG ball with campers. Cheryl wanted others to experience the beauty of New Hampshire and Brantwood and she certainly accomplished that goal.

Cheryl had the pleasure of working closely with staff members including Noelle Leonard, Amy Willey, Alicia Skovera, Erin Doherty, and Jenn Carmichael and always sent "group" care packages to her daughter D'Laija, then a PC. Any interaction with Cheryl left staff members feeling encouraged and proud of the work they were doing at Camp. Cheryl was always delighted to introduce then Executive Director Amy Willey to members of her community on Ms. Willey's many camper recruitment trips to the NY/NJ area. Cheryl noted that Ms. Willey's slide show presentation to parents and potential campers, and her answers to their numerous questions, eased many parents' minds of sending their child away from home for the first time all the way to New Hampshire.

Now, some 34 years later, Cheryl is sponsoring Girl Scouts to Brantwood, starting with her granddaughter Ameerah. Cheryl continues her community advocacy work with her core understanding and belief that children matter and are our future. While she is no longer playing PG ball, one of her favorite pastimes is making warm blankets for newborns at children's hospitals.

From that first meeting with Paul Daigneault, it was clear that Cheryl, "grasped the spirit of the Camp and gained the confidence of many counselors and campers." Brantwood is so grateful for your service Cheryl!

Amazon Wish List Update!

A HUGE thank you to all those who have donated, shared, or otherwise engaged with our Amazon Wish List in the past. As many of you know, part of our mission is to remove barriers for campers who may not be able to afford to come to camp otherwise. When we limit our tuition income by offering lower



tuition costs and offering scholarships, it means we rely a lot on our donors, alumni, and families to help us reach our goals! And you all always deliver, helping us keep the promise of Brantwood alive for hundreds of campers year after year. You all pro-

vide the fabric for our new sewing program, friendship bracelet string, flashlights and headlamps, even tooth-

<https://a.co/iBYB3FX>



paste or other toiletry items for those who forgot theirs at home!

So thank you to those who have already donated, and for those of you who want to help (or want to help again!) please see the link and QR code! Every little bit helps enrich our program and help our campers create incredible new memories this summer!



Why I Support Brantwood Camp

I'm from Charlestown, Massachusetts. I was introduced to Brantwood by a close friend, Jim Sherwood, who attended the camp previously as had his brothers, Mark, Joe and Dan. In July, 1982, I boarded a bus from North Station with a small contingent of Townies – the Sherwoods, my brother Paul, and cousins Dave and Tim – and headed to Peterborough.

I was as a junior in Amoskeag, 2nd Term. I'm sure my perspective is skewed (we are all the lead characters of our own lives) but I happened upon the camp with a "Dream Team" of counselors. Mr. Flahive was my Shackie. Mr. Daigneault was my advisor. Mr. Gurney was Director and Mr. Noble was Assistant Director. My shack won the Junior Bs that term and I was awarded a stayover. I was hooked.

In retrospect, this was likely just a case of round peg meeting round hole. Brantwood made sense to me. I attended Brantwood for 9 terms over 5 years. I loved everything about it: sports all day and Tests (Challenges) all evening; shooting hoops in the Winslow and hunting for newts at the Old Pool; trying to play the janky Murphy piano; even inspection and hiking Wapack. I loved walking to my shack after Campfire in the pitch black because I knew the trail like the back of my hand. Being so tired, I could fall asleep instantly on a two inch mattress. Most of all I loved the camaraderie with counselors and my shackmates throughout.

I returned as a JC and a PC on and off from 1987 to 1992. It was great to be working alongside many

of the counselors that I had known as a camper and taking on the responsibility of maintaining Brantwood's traditions for a new generation. We had a few High Gear groups during those summers and I remember them fondly. Alums often speak of Brantwood as a place, but for me, it is more so a people. My memories are a patchwork of "Misters" – Almeida, Ross, the Gildeas, Vajda, the Lallys, Connors, Perkins, the Smiths, Long, Murray, Goodbody, Coyne, Barry and many more – names that bring back faces and days long past.

I now live on the West Coast. I chased jobs to Los Angeles and eventually wound up in Portland. I was fortunate to have some success in business and attribute a fair amount to the growth I experienced at Brantwood.

My family and I don't get back to the East Coast as much as we'd like but when we do, I always make a point to stop by the camp and visit some of my Brantwood friends. Things have changed, it's true. There are many new faces, new program wrinkles, and some new traditions. While I may bemoan some of these changes, I find that the spirit of Brantwood invariably remains and it brings me comfort to know that this spirit is still alive.

This is why I support Brantwood Camp and will continue to do so. On this momentous anniversary, I wish Brantwood Camp and her Alumni another 120 years of long, memorable summers.

Wayne Smith is a two time recipient of the Brantwood Cup. He lives in Oregon with his wife and three children.

BY WAYNE SMITH

Alums often speak of Brantwood as a place, but for me, it is more so a people. My memories are a patchwork of . . . names that bring back faces and days long past.

Spring Work Weekend 2024

Spring work weekend was a huge success. We have over 20 people come and help us get ready to host students from St. Marks as well as get cabins cleaned out and ready for campers. Everyone chipped in and make quick work of the duties. Thanks to St James Family, Puliaficos (Ed, Emma, Ryan, Aiden), Noelle Leonard, Bill Gurney, John Sweeny, Amy Boyd, Emma Luster, Krystle Keriazes, Tim Sullivan, Shawn and Jim Plourde, Cindy Lavoie, Jeff Delaware, Chris Smith, John Goodhue and grandson Will and last, but certainly not least, Amy Willey!



A True Story of Conservation, Education, and Adaptation to Changing Weather

BY BILAL WILSON,
TRUSTEE



Once upon a winding road, nestled in the heart of Brantwood Camp for Girls, lived a merry family of beavers. Their cozy pond was a hub of activity where campers' laughter and nature's whispers danced hand in hand.

For almost three decades, these industrious beavers have been hard at work, expanding their dam with such gusto that it led to adventures aplenty! And by adventures, we mean a pond that now goes on for acres and acres feeding into the brook which flows down to the Brantwood road.

The DiCicco bridge was built over the brook allowing the senior girls to travel to and from their cabins to the rest of camp. To integrate the beavers into the Brantwood camp experience, Saint Mark's Third Formers raised the Lions Lodge by the pond as a service project during their annual trip to

Brantwood in 2019. A viewing platform was also built over the Beaver's home turf. These donations helped to integrate the beavers and their habitat into the girls' camp nature periods.

But oh dear, troubles did arise! Storms brewed and rains poured, causing the beaver dam to burst destroying the DiCicco bridge and washing out the Brantwood Road. This happened in 2021 and the subsequent spring and summer since. While the DiCicco bridge was rebuilt and repairs were made to the Camp Road, more and more powerful rain storms are occurring, so this issue will become more frequent.

We love our beavers, but in those instances, emergency vehicles were halted, causing the camp to implement its contingency plans (not good). The cost to repair and expand the infrastructure to handle such flooding is substantial, running into many thousands of dollars.

Yet fear not, for a solution is in sight! With your helping hand, we can expand the culvert under the Brantwood Road, ensuring the road stays safe and sound while our beloved Brantwood beavers continue their merry construction projects. Your donations will not only protect our furry friends but also pave the way for future generations of campers to learn about conservation and sustainability!

So join us in this noble quest, where the beavers, campers, and the entire Brantwood family stand hand in paw, ready to greet each new adventure with a smile. Your support is the key to our happily ever after.



ABOVE: Brantwood Road
washout, July 2021

RIGHT: Beaver dams and ponds
at Girls' Camp



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This list is generated from donations that were received by December 31, 2023.

THE FIVE IDEALS: Honesty, Loyalty, Cooperation, Unselfishness, Good Sportsmanship



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*We have a few spots available
for campers this summer.*

FOR BOYS Term 2 July 16 – July 30
Term 3 August 2 – August 16

FOR GIRLS Term 3 August 2 – August 16

Register now so you don't miss out
on the fun at Brantwood this summer.

REGISTER HERE FOR CAMP <https://bit.ly/BWCSummer2024>

