



*Here beginneth the log of...*

SPRING 2026

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

## A Message from the Executive Director



Amy Willey, Executive Director

In just a few short weeks, staff and campers will arrive at Brantwood ready to experience all that camp has to offer. This time of year always feels a bit like the night before a holiday—the excitement and anticipation building as we get closer to opening day. Soon, the quiet of the offseason will give way to ringing bells, cheering shacks, campfire songs, and dining halls filled with great food and laughter. While there is still much to accomplish in these final weeks of preparation, we cannot wait for summer to begin.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported annual giving in 2025 and helped us achieve our goal in the Major Donor Campaign. Contributions were put to work immediately, funding critical maintenance projects across our campuses, including reroofing four buildings and supporting the ongoing renovation of the boys' camp pool. Additional projects are underway before campers arrive, including upgrades to the girls' camp water system, and we are on track to complete them in time for the season. Maintaining our facilities while remaining steadfast in our commitment to never turn a camper away because of financial circumstances is no small undertaking, and none



of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our donors and supporters.

As we look ahead to another summer, we are reminded of the remarkable legacy of Brantwood and the generations of young people whose lives have been shaped here over the past 120 years. For more than a century, this camp has provided opportunity, belonging, and life-long memories to youth, and we are profoundly grateful to all those who have carried that mission forward. At the same time, honoring our history means preparing responsibly for the future. We must continue investing in our facilities, our programs, and our people so that future generations of campers and staff can thrive at Brantwood for decades to come.

*Amy E. Willey*  
AMY E. WILLEY



# A Letter From The President



Noelle Leonard

Summer is almost here, and we are eagerly preparing to welcome new and returning campers and counselors to Brantwood's 122nd summer!

Every summer at Brantwood is made possible by the countless men and women whose dedication, generosity, and spirit have shaped the camp experience across generations. This month, we proudly celebrate two extraordinary individuals whose enduring contributions have left a lasting mark on Brantwood and continue to inspire campers and counselors.

Our camp historian, Nick Noble, brings to life the remarkable story of Rev. G. Gardner Monks, whose vision and attention to detail solidified the Brantwood program. His most enduring contribution, affectionately known as the Brantwood Bible, serves as a template for our daily camp program and endures to this day. We also celebrate Linzee Coolidge, who recently stepped down after serving as the longest-tenured member of the Brantwood Board of Trustees. Linzee's 73 years of service as a counselor and Board member continue in his

role as Honorary Trustee and reflect a devotion to Brantwood that is unprecedented.

Celebrating these luminaries also embodies something larger: the century-long bond between Brantwood Camp and St. Mark's School. as both Rev. Monks and Linzee graduated from St. Mark's. Monks was Director in the early days of the Brantwood/St. Mark's relationship which began in 1920. Thirty-three years later, Linzee walked down the Brantwood Road to begin his first term as a volunteer shack counselor.

But luminaries are not only found in our history books. They are the countless alumni who, through the generations, have, in Rev. Monks' words from the Brantwood Prayer, "bent all their energies toward making this a finer camp." Your gifts of time, labor and resources renew the Brantwood spirit for the current crop of campers and staff and in turn, enriches your families and communities.

To our donors, families, and alumni: thank you for your faith in our ability to provide the Brantwood experience to our campers and counselors. Because of you, Brantwood endures.

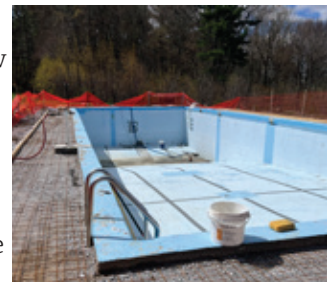
*Save the Date*  
**Alumni Day**  
**August 23,**  
**2026**

## Major Donor Campaign Gifts – Hard at Work!

The success of the Major Donor Campaign has enabled Brantwood to begin 2026 with several critical infrastructure and maintenance projects. First, three roofs in need of replacement—the Winslow, the Senior Wayside at the Boys' Camp, and the Infirmary at the Girls' Camp—were completed before the end of April.



At the Boys' Camp, the pool project is now nearing completion. The plumbing and equipment replacements are finished, and next steps include pouring the new deck, installing French drains, and adding a new fence. We are on schedule to complete these improvements by the end of May.



Maintaining our cherished camp and its buildings is essential, and we are deeply grateful for every dollar contributed to the campaign that helps us move the needle on camp maintenance projects.

There are more large projects in the pipeline for 2026 and we look forward to updating you on those in the fall newsletter.

# Linzee Coolidge: An Historic Brantwood Legacy

BY NICK NOBLE,  
CAMP HISTORIAN

On Saturday, June 20, J. Linzee Coolidge will be honored for his longtime service to Brantwood Camp with a celebration at Choate House on the campus of St. Mark's School.

Linzee Coolidge's Brantwood résumé is unprecedented in the annals of the Camp. He began as a volunteer Shack counselor from St. Mark's School in the summer of 1953 and he repeated that experience the following year. His abilities were acknowledged when he was asked to stay on for an additional term as a Permanent Counselor.

Starting with his first full summer as a PC after graduating from St. Mark's in 1955, Mr. Coolidge was an integral part of the Camp's Permanent Staff over the next few summers, culminating in his serving Assistant Director in 1957 and Associate Director in 1958, helping to run the day-to-day operations of the Camp in support of Director Charlie Cook.

It was in 1961 that Linzee Coolidge, just 24 years old, was elected to the Brantwood Board of Trustees. For 65 years he has served in that capacity—the longest tenure of any trustee of the Camp. In 1977 he joined the Executive Committee as Board Treasurer, a position he would fill for a record 19 years. He would then serve as President of the Brantwood Board for four summers, before settling comfortably and effectively into the role of the Board's elder statesman.

One of St. Mark's School's greatest Brantwood legacies, Linzee has time and again

demonstrated his value to and love for Brantwood through his outstanding stewardship of its finances, his unwavering support for girls' program over the years, his effective fundraising, and his wise counsel—collegial and collaborative—always with the best interests of the Camp foremost in his mind and heart. In an article Linzee wrote for the Brantwood newsletter entitled, *Why I Support Brantwood*, Linzee described the Camp's impact on him personally.

"When I was a teenager," he recalled, "Brantwood was a magical education for me. As a camp counselor I learned how to deal with a world that I was growing into and becoming an adult. It's always been a source of joy to me that this place was open to all children, regardless of background or ability to pay. As you might have guessed, the magic worked, and from being a somewhat unaware juvenile I graduated as a responsible person, respecting and loving the experience I'd had as a Brantwood counselor. It began in 1953, and I'm still loving the *magic* that Brantwood gives."



## Spring Work Weekend: Thank You, Volunteers!

Brantwood has always relied on the energy and generosity of our work weekend volunteers, and we're so grateful to everyone who joined us this spring to help get camp ready for the season. Volunteers worked on splitting firewood, clearing brush and small trees from around buildings, light cleaning, kitchen prep and organizing, and general cleanup around the campuses. In addition to now having a big supply of firewood ready for those summer campfires, both campuses look so much better after a bit of TLC!

# The Brantwood Bible and the Origins of the Brantwood Program

BY NICK NOBLE,  
CAMP HISTORIAN

Over a century and more the Brantwood program has adapted and evolved to meet the challenges of a changing world. At its core, however, with shack competition, inspection, hikes, stayovers, and rowdy singing campfires, it has been essentially the same since the early 1920s.

When Brantwood Camp reopened under the auspices of St. Mark's School in 1920, its first director was St. Mark's faculty member Maurice Cary Blake. A veteran of the Great War, Mr. Blake had considerable experience as both camper and counselor at Camp Pasquaney in New Hampshire, and he tried to adopt many features of the Pasquaney program on to Brantwood. Some worked, some didn't, and ever-observant was Blake's right-hand man, G. Gardner Monks, St. Mark's Class of 1917.



G. Gardner Monks

By 1922, Monks was Brantwood's director, and over two summers he had seen and learned enough to know what the ideal Brantwood program should be and how it best be administered. The result, put together during his three summers at the helm, was *The Brantwood Bible*, a 126-page typed manuscript, string-bound in a blue hard-cover loose-leaf lecture notebook. In it, Monks covered in meticulous detail all areas of the Camp's program, often going beyond mere logistics to reflect both his concerns and his philosophy.

"The camp is really an organic entity," Monks begins, "and as such, it grows, and activities must be arranged which will stimulate this growth in the desired direction." He established the Camp's Ideals, followed by details of how to organize the period (or "term" as it would later be known), the daily schedule, inspection, athletic competition, and hikes follow.

Also included were instructions for counselors, both shack and permanent:

*The most important single thing is for the shack counselor to get to know his boys as soon and as thoroughly as possible; he should size them up early and learn how to handle each*

*one... He must take an active interest in the shack if he expects the boys to do so. In cleaning up, he must do his share and more, getting the boys interested in things and shaming the loafer into taking part. He is not to do the work for them, but to do it with them; there is a profound difference.*

Monks emphasized the need for permanent counselors to learn all campers' names as soon as possible, noting that there were several ways to accomplish this: "So obvious that it is often forgotten is the simple alternative of asking a boy his name when you see him."

The Brantwood Bible went on to outline standards and procedures for Stayovers and other awards and recognitions acknowledging the successes of both shacks and individual campers.

Over the years, subsequent directors would expand the *Brantwood Bible's* coverage of Camp activities. Brinley Hall, St. Mark's Class of 1930 and Brantwood Director from 1932-1934, added sections on opening and closing the Camp facility each summer. Monks' great work was updated by Warren Winslow (St. Mark's Class of 1936) in 1937 and 1938, regarding the administrative duties of various Permanent Counselor "directorships" and more current opportunities for ordering supplies, transportation options, and hiking venues. Again, in 1942, Ned Hall (St. Mark's 1937) revised the *Brantwood Bible* with innovations and improvements to reflect wartime challenges, including adding a fourth term. Hall's longtime fellow-director Charlie Cook (St. Mark's 1936) would make additions and adjustments dealing with food rationing, restrictions on material, counselor recruitment, and fundraising, from 1943 through 1945. And so Brantwood survived the great Depression, a world at war, and on beyond as Brantwood grew and prospered, always supported by the principles and processes first expressed in Gardner Monks' *Brantwood Bible*.

\* \* \* \*

So what actually does the Brantwood of today owe to the *Brantwood Bible*?

It begins with the five Brantwood ideals – Honesty, Loyalty, Cooperation, Good Sportsmanship, and

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## The Brantwood Bible

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Unselfishness—first articulated by Gardner Monks. They remain central to the Camp’s philosophy and live at the heart of its programs. They are reflected in the daily program. Sportsmanship is fostered in athletic competition. The shack experience, including inspection and challenges, nurtures Cooperation, Unselfishness, and Loyalty. The interaction between campers and counselors is built on Honesty.

And under these overarching ideals, Monks, and those men and women who tweaked, expanded, and adapted his vision, created something to endure. The challenges (originally called “tests”) work both to instill a sense of progress—from 3rd class up to 1st class and then specialization (Advanced Swimming, First Aid, Camping, Leadership, etc.)—and a sense of connection, as the requirement that each challenge and special project at every level be supervised/signed off by individual counselors,

develop mutual respect and understanding between campers and counselors, especially benefiting those girls and boys not athletically inclined. Stayovers give campers something to aspire to and help to encourage former campers to return to Brantwood, supporting the Camp sometime as counselors and most often as loyal alumni. Evening campfires, filled with songs, stories, and other adventures, engenders a camaraderie of community and create memories to last a lifetime.

Thus, while as a document the *Brantwood Bible* is no longer in use, its central tenets are still observed and celebrated in the 21st century Brantwood experience, while continually adapted to recognize the needs and necessities of the modern camping world. Brantwood remains more than a fresh-air camp, more than a sports camp. It is a place where you learn and grow, but that learning goes beyond the various challenges studied and passed by its campers. It is an idealistic place formed by realities. It is a realistic place dedicated to its ideals.

**Brantwood**  
would like to  
connect with you  
via email!



We’d love to hear  
from you!

Please send us your  
email address to  
**brantwoodcamp@  
gmail.com** and include  
your first and last name  
(and maiden name)  
including your years at  
camp (or your affiliation  
if not an alum).

We always have exciting  
things to share!

## The Summer Staff Can’t Wait for Camp to Begin!



Krystle Keriazes and  
Emma Luster



Da’Jour Nesbeth



The Brantwood Camp staff are gearing up to deliver the Brantwood program to the new and returning campers! The Leadership team has been working hard building on the activities and programs that are beloved by campers. Krystle Keriazes and Emma Luster are returning and are now Co-Directors of the Girls’ Camp while Da’Jour Nesbeth has been promoted to Boys’ Camp Director. We have new Assistant Directors who are excited to learn about Brantwood and contribute their fresh perspectives. Elise Randall will be the new Assistant Director at the Girls’ camp staff and at the Boys’ Camp we have two new Assistant Directors – Gabriel Cahhal-Laudert and Michael Sheehan. We are delighted to welcome back Chefs Pat Donaghue (Yeah Chef Pat!) to the Boys’ Camp and Cliff Fields (Yeah Chef Cliff!) to the Girls’ Camp! Shawn Plough, our caretaker for over 20 years, will continue keeping the camp safe and in tip top shape.

We have many familiar faces returning as Permanent Counselors, Middle Counselors, and Junior Counselors as well as new staff members joining us from both our local communities and

abroad. Osazi Khaliq will join the staff as the new C.I.T. (Counselor in Training) Coordinator to provide professional development opportunities for our Junior and Middle Counselors. We are also creating exciting wilderness adventure courses to help campers deepen their understanding of the natural world and develop valuable outdoor survival skills. And a big thanks to all who have contributed to Brantwood Camp Library! If you are doing spring cleaning, please send those books for tweens and teens our way! (see page 6 for instructions).

Brantwood staff members provide an unforgettable experience for campers and grow in self-confidence and independence along with the campers. Do you know a college age/young adult who has a desire to work hard while having fun, mentor and be a role model for young adolescents, and gain valuable experience? **We still have a few openings for Permanent Counselors this summer at both camps!** Applicants should be 18 or older and have some of the following qualities:camp experience (not necessarily Brantwood), experience working with kids between

continued on next page

# Old Camper, New Donor

BY BILAL WILSON,  
TRUSTEE



Mike Lacey

Below: Mike with Ed Puliafico  
at work weekend.



Mike Lacey grew up in Charlestown, MA and first walked down the Brantwood Road in the Summer of 1991. He was sponsored by a former Brantwood camper and counselor Charlie Clabaugh who also hails from Charlestown. Mike attended Brantwood as both a junior and senior camper and fondly remembers living in the cabins of Pentucket, Amoskeag, and Naumkeag. Mike reflects that Brantwood taught him to “be honest with himself,” “develop loyalty,” and “cooperate better.”

After camp, more than a decade passed before an unexpected moment brought Brantwood back into Mike’s life. While working one evening as a tow truck driver on a winding road, Mike received a call for a flat tire. When he arrived, he discovered the stranded driver was former Brantwood Director and current Board member Ed Puliafico. Pleasantries were

exchanged, and Mike felt it was time to reconnect with Brantwood.

A few years later, Mike saw information about Alumni Day and decided to return to camp to rekindle those Brantwood memories. Walking the grounds and cabins brought back a flood of emotions and reminded him of the impact camp had on his life.

Following the loss of both of his parents within a year, Mike began thinking more deeply about how he could give back to Brantwood in the same way someone once gave to him. Not long after, Mike’s company formed a charitable giving committee. Mike proposed Brantwood Camp as a recipient, and through his efforts, the committee awarded the camp a \$2,000 contribution – enough to sponsor approximately eight campers!

Mike’s persistence in finding ways to give back reflects the very core of what Brantwood stands for. His story is a reminder that we all have resources we can use to support others, whether through time, donations, professional networks, skills, or personal connections.

Old camper, new donor – and the tradition of paying it forward continues.

## Summer Staff

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the ages of 10 and 15, enjoy working outdoors, team sports experience, and a strong desire to work with and mentor young adolescents. Email [brantwoodcamp@gmail.com](mailto:brantwoodcamp@gmail.com) to learn about current openings. As one former Permanent Counselor noted, “While I knew the campers got so much out of the Brantwood experience, I did not realize until later how working at Brantwood built my leadership skills, my ability to quickly adapt to changing situations, and my communication skills with both kids and co-workers.”

## Amazon Wish List for Summer Supplies

This summer, your support can help create unforgettable experiences for campers at Brantwood Camp. By purchasing supplies from our Amazon Wish List, you’ll provide the every-day program materials that make camp activities, creativity, and friendships possible. Every item – big or small – helps campers learn, grow, and experience the best of Brantwood all summer long.



## Book Drive at Brantwood

At Brantwood Camp, summer is screen-free—giving campers time to slow down, connect, and rediscover the joy of reading. From picture books to page-turning novels, we are excited to build a library of books for campers to choose from.

We’re collecting new and gently used books for all ages and reading levels, especially stories that reflect diverse characters and experiences. All donations will be reviewed by our staff. You can help by:

- *Mailing books to:* Brantwood Camp, 20 Depot Street, Suite 3-400, Peterborough, NH 03458
- *Purchasing directly* from our Amazon Book Drive List using the QR code.



Every book helps create meaningful summer memories and inspires a lifelong love of reading. Thank you for supporting our campers!

# Grateful for All Our Supporters in 2025!

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to Brantwood's 2025 Annual Appeal and the Major Donor Campaign.

Anonymous	Ruth Ferguson	James McKillop
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		Jane Simpson
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This list represents donations to the Annual Appeal received through December 31, 2025 along with gifts to the Major Donor Campaign. Please contact us at 603-933-0942 if there is an unintended error or omission.

Charles Steedman	Target Corporation
Robert Stevens Newsboys Reading Room Assoc.	Fredrick Utley III
Natalie Streeter	Anton Vetterlein
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The Estate of Anthony Thacher	The Estate of Winifred Webster
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For pricing information, call 603-933-0942 or email [brantwoodcamp@gmail.com](mailto:brantwoodcamp@gmail.com).



# BRANTWOOD CAMP

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Nick Noble, SM '76



## Term Dates Summer 2026

**Term 1** June 28 – July 12

**Term 2** July 15 – 29

**Term 3** August 1 – 15

*Registration is Open Now!*



## Brantwood Camp Store

*Get all your favorite Brantwood gear here!*



*Buy BWC Gear*



<https://bit.ly/BrantwoodCampGear>

# Brantwood Camp

June 2026

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Paul E. Faison

## CAMP HISTORIAN

Nick Noble, SM '76

## BRANTWOOD STAFF

Amy Willey,  
*Executive Director*

Robert Welcome,  
*Operations Director*

## Dear Friends of Brantwood:

The sounds of summer are about to return to the glorious hills and woods of Brantwood Camp!

Soon, campers will be jumping into the pool, cheering for their cabin, singing at campfire, challenging themselves in new ways, and forming life-long friendships. For generations, Brantwood has been a place where young people discover confidence, independence, resilience, and belonging. And thanks to your generosity, this summer will be even better.

**While the actual cost of sending a camper to Brantwood exceeds \$3,000, families are asked to pay a \$300 registration fee – and that fee is reduced for many families.**

Last year, nearly 300 campers attended camp and because of your generosity, no child was turned away due to financial need.

Your support has helped make significant improvements this year including:

- ◆ Re-roofing four camp buildings to protect and preserve our critical facilities
- ◆ Continued renovation of the Boys' Camp pool
- ◆ Important upgrades to the Girls' Camp water system
- ◆ Improvements to the Boys' Waysides

We are planning several vital projects including repairs to the Boys' Camp bell tower and a long-overdue renovation of the Boys' Headquarters building. While these improvements may not always be the most visible parts of camp, they are essential to creating the safe, welcoming, and memorable experience every camper deserves.

What makes Brantwood so special isn't just the beautiful view or the traditions – it's the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to experience camp. As another summer begins, we invite you to continue that tradition.

Will you make a gift to Brantwood's Annual Appeal today?

Make your tax-deductible contributions via credit card or bank transfer at <https://brantwood.org/support-brantwood/> or mail your check to: PO Box 3350 Peterborough, NH 03458. For gifts of stock or securities, donor-advised funds, or bequests, please contact Amy Willey, Executive Director at 603-933-0942.



Thank you!

*For Brantwood We Stand,*

Amy Willey,  
*Executive Director*

Julie Merritt, *Trustee*  
*Development Chair*

Noelle R. Leonard, *President*  
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