

Camp Kawanhee for Boys - 90th REUNION Newsletter 1920 - 2010 - (Issue #9)

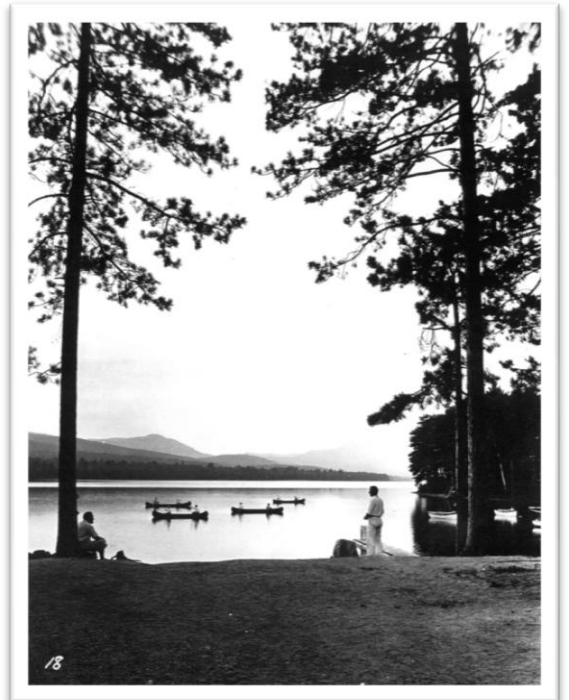


90th Anniversary Reunion

“Wonder what G.R. and Raymond were thinking about camp as they stood here in 1920?”

A friend posed this rhetorical question to a group of us, as friends, families and alumni gathered to celebrate the 90 year of Camp Kawanhee, August 12th through August 15th, 2010. By Thursday night, 130 people had registered and that number swelled to 200 by Saturday night.

Polar Bear each morning easily had 50 participants ranging in age from 5 to well old enough to know how invigorating Webb Lake can be in August at 7:00 in the morning. Many people experienced all of the great in camp activities such as canoeing, archery, sailing, ropes, the water front; they ventured to Tumbledown, Small's Falls, Coos, and Monhegan; the JCs, as usual won the softball game (B.A. Altamaier came out of retirement to pitch for the JCs, he is too old to be a JC!), Sean Minear and his kitchen staff prepared fabulous food all weekend; new achievements were memorialized on paddles in the shop; Bass Rock was conquered again and again by





men, women, young and dare I say older (finish what you start); Ferd Schoedinger and Keith Erf coaxed people to water ski with whatever skill they possessed (learn to do by doing); we had many opportunities for women to participate in all the activities but more importantly they introduced new ventures such as Yoga to Camp Kawanhee (fun with purpose! “No I can’t put my foot there.”); Mark Gibson took 4,192 pictures not all of which were flattering; and we ended with a breathtaking Sunday service lead by Judy Hoffhine asking us to acknowledge and appreciate all that Camp Kawanhee gives us. We

packed in a whole bunch of experiences in at the most beeeeeaaauutiful place on earth. But as wonderful as all of the activates can be and also place where we do them, the great spirit of why we gather always culminates with the coming and going of Chief Kawanhee around the campfire at Counsel Point on Saturday night. When we call the Chief, he teaches us of the need to serve, sacrifice, be cheerful, be humble, love, work hard, be fair.....be of good character.

Before us have come George and Raymond Frank, Jane and Walter Estabrook, and Herb Birch. They extolled the virtues of the “Kawanhee Way”. So as we told many story, most of which are true, we really came together remember those who taught us what it means to be a good person, and it is our duty to see to it there is always a Kawanhee.

I think after 90 years, G.R. and Raymond would be extremely proud of a job well done by all that have embraced their vision .



B. A. Altamaier, John Estabrook and I are signed up, see all of you in August 2015!





KAWANHEE 90TH REUNION SERMON, AUGUST 15, 2010

Rev. Judy Myers Hoffhine



Prologue:

Thank you for inviting me to speak this morning. It is a privilege. I do so in memory of all who have stood here in this capacity: from Dr. Sid Sweet, Dr. Elmore, Dean Miller, Bill Taylor, Stan McCleave, Hal Myers and other guests; to the directors of Kawanhee - Franks, Estabrooks, and Standens; and to all Camp leaders who have dared, with careful thought and prayer, to share their faith and values with 90 years of campers and staff, and have played an integral part in the lives of thousands.

I have been thinking about the roots of Camp Kawanhee. It was definitely established in a Christian tradition, as was confirmed in my reading of "Maine Echoes," a collection of Dean Miller's sermons, sayings, and prayers. These days campers may come with many faiths and even no faith. But for this occasion I draw from the Judeo-Christian tradition. I have chosen four passages from both the old and new testaments of the Bible. These spell out God's intention that people develop strong friendships and loyalties that carry them across the years, places, and circumstances. Listen carefully for the roots of the Kawanhee experience.

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|----|------------|---------------|
| #1 | Psalms 133 | Judy Hoffhine |
| #2 | Genesis 45 | Mike Altmaier |
| #3 | Mark 2 | Bob Zechiel |
| #4 | John 21 | Bob Altmaier |



Joseph, son of Jacob, grandson of Isaac, great-grandson of Abraham – sounds like a Kawanhee rundown of the generations, doesn't it? – was a snobby, arrogant kid. His brothers couldn't stand him; so they sold him to slave traders going to Egypt and told their father he was dead. Nasty business. But as you just heard from Mike, their crime ended up saving their lives, for Joseph could offer them a home during a seven year famine.

The guilt these 11 brothers felt silenced them as Joseph revealed his identity. They couldn't speak. But Joseph was so glad to see them that he wept, hugged them, welcomed his old father and put them to work in Egypt. They end up praising God for a plan that they could never have foreseen. When Joseph forgave them, they could talk again, and what a reunion it must have been! Love and loyalty overcame the crime; and they were fortunate to have time to establish a new and deeper relationship that included faith, openness, and hope.

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In the gospel of Mark, an event focuses on a paralyzed man who was confined to his mat for many years. The word about the healing powers of Jesus circulated, and hundreds flocked to be healed of both mental and physical ailments. This paralyzed man had some good friends. They picked him up on his mat and carried him to Jesus' home in Capernaum. The place was so crowded, they couldn't get close to him, so they climbed the ladder up to the roof, took away the adobe and lattice and lowered him in front of Jesus. Now that's friend-ship! Jesus says that it was THEIR faith, not just HIS faith, that made him well.

One late afternoon Raymond Frank called my grandfather, Harold Myers, to ask if he could help a group of counselors bring an injured camper down from Tumbledown. Four of them took a stretcher and flashlights and scrambled up that mountain. They carried the boy down in the night to safety and treatment. That's friendship. When tragedies have occurred in the Kawanhee family, Camp friends flock around to offer support, memories, perspective and strength. Just think of the terrible fire of the Dining Hall.... It doesn't matter if you were at camp the same years as someone. Once you discover that you are both alumni, you are automatically bound and bonded friends.

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The last story reminds me of this weekend. The followers of Jesus had returned to commercial fishing – that was their career. They were still grieving the horrific death and loss of Jesus and were trying to reestablish their lives. They were out all night and didn't catch anything – you know the feeling! – but they were together. As dawn broke they heard a voice telling them how to fish – the audacity! But they did as he said and brought in 153 big fish. Immediately they knew it was their leader, Jesus. They made for the shore where they all sat down and had a fish fry on the beach.

This is one of my favorite stories. How often did the camp cooks fry the fish you all caught? How often have you sat on a beach or on top of a mountain with your friends and eaten a meal, toasted marshmallows, or partied. When we do that again its immediate recognition, and we all wonder why the heck we don't form a big compound and live in community together. It would be so much fun! But

something called work gets in the way, I guess.



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The fact that we see each other every few years makes this time even more precious. Like the disciples, we get caught up in the occasion, relish our time together, and talk of the future of Kawanhee, camping, and the values and principles that we have learned here. As my uncle, Bill Myers, said last Sunday over dinner, the values that he holds dear he learned here. The four winds carry them. You don't forget.

This is our challenge today. We need to push this thing – this devotion and friendship – beyond Kawanhee, beyond the shores of Lake Webb. If Camp really has formed you into who you are today, spread it – give it to others. What made it work here? What made this community congeal?

- Leaders who opened all your senses and opportunities; who helped make sense of things and who have faith and live it and talk about it;
- An appreciation of powers greater than ourselves – God viewed in nature, relationships, examples of elders who have faith;
- Experiences that stretch us, that challenge us to be better than we thought we could be;
- Honesty and openness that leads to help for the other person and acceptance and love for ourselves – everyone has a right to shine.

What does every neighborhood, town and city, nation and the whole world need now? Strong leaders, faith, confidence, and honesty. We must share these at work and at home; instill them in our children as they grow; participate in the communities and world in which we dwell.



This is about legacy – it is the basis of generations of people who are part of the Kawanhee experience. But it is much more than that. It is about treasuring the present and forming a future in which all children and grandchildren have a chance to survive, grow, and even prosper, including those who can't afford a Camp K. What you know and have is the antidote for the destruction of the planet and society. It's about pulling together – like the tug of war – but all on the same side, to pull our cultures back from the edge of the cliff.

This reunion is about a lot more than seeing old friends. It is about reigniting and maintaining the spirit and values of this experience, of embracing this as a gift from God that can be shared around the world – wherever you go and with whomever you meet. It's saving people from the famine of the empty soul; finding creative ways to correct problems that seem unfixable, but aren't; joining together around a campfire periodically to strategize about what comes next and how to get

there. May God bless us on our way and keep us faithful to God, to creation, and to one another. Amen.



The following images can be found by clicking here:

[90th Anniversary Photo Gallery](#)

Feel free to order prints or download any image you would like. To download move your mouse over the photograph and click on the folder icon.



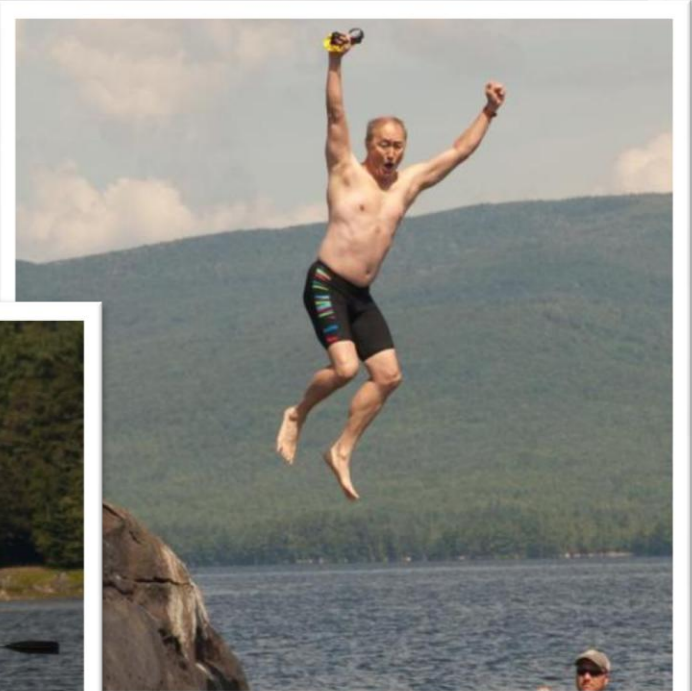
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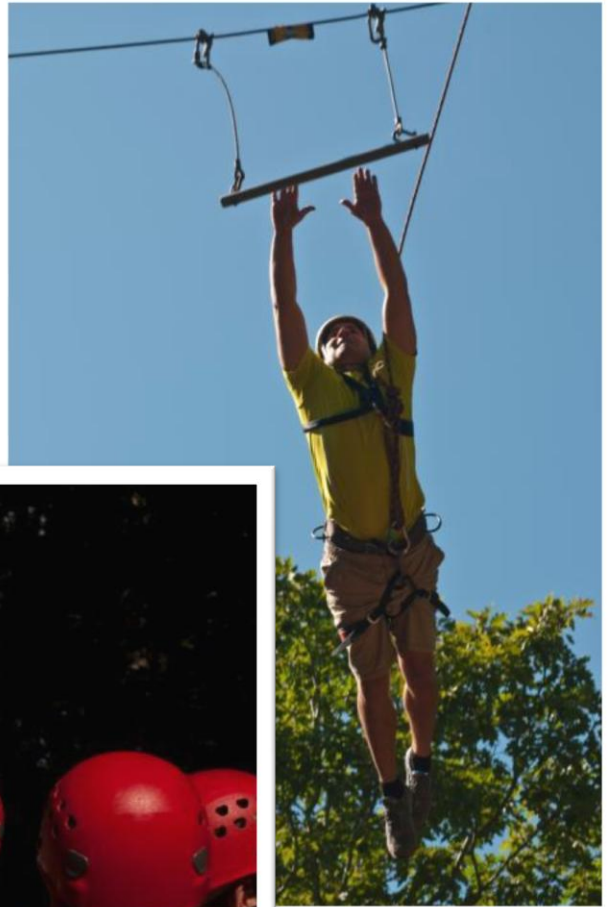




Everyone loves frogs!

Bass Rock Swim!









Thanks for coming!
see you in 2015
at the 95th