

eWigwam

Camp Kawanhee's Online Newsletter

2015 Season Issue One

Kawanhee Kicks-Off Its 95th Summer

May in Maine worked its miraculous transformation again this year. The last of the lake's ice yielded to mayfly hatches, rising fish and gut checking swims by counselors eager to get the docks in the water. The snow-covered summit of Tumbledown gave way to blueberry bushes come to life. By early June, a committed cadre of counselors had arrived in camp, ready to tend burn piles, paint porches, launch boats, groom tennis courts, mow athletic fields, and on and on. Against seemingly long odds in April, when winter showed little inclination to give any ground, summer had come around again! It had all happened just in time for the young scholars so ready to give up traditional classrooms for the rich learning environment that is camp.



Kawanhee '15 is off to a terrific start, thanks to an impressive collection of campers and counselors intent on making the most of their days together. The season began, as it always does, with a full week of counselor training and camaraderie. Our staff, like our campers, is a rich mixture of veterans and new folks. One had just returned from touring Southeast Asia, others had just closed the books on a year at college, and a group of several first-time counselors had risen through the ranks of the leadership training program and was ready for prime-time. It was clear from the outset that our counselors understood the synergy that comes from teamwork. In addition to making ready their lodges

and assigned activities, our staff attended specialized off-site training courses in archery, life guard training, wilderness first aid and trip leading. Here in camp, they learned CPR and attended sessions focusing on everything from bug bites to homesickness to positive role-modeling. The week ended with a spirited evening of bowling, pizza and pool in Rangeley.

As soon as our campers arrived last Sunday, we were immediately reminded of what all the fuss was about. Undeterred by rain, kids tumbled out of cars and vans onto the soccer field, the frisbee pitch, the basketball and gaga courts, and wherever else there was a conversation to be had or a game to be played. They renewed last year's friendships and found new friends to be made. Veteran campers helped the first-year guys feel at home, and offered solace to those who missed their families. It's been clear all week that this year's campers and counselors are "all in," as though they understand that the time at camp is indeed short and is not to be spent frivolously.



To parents and others wanting to experience Kawanhee from afar, photos taken during the first full week of camp are now available on the website.

We're wrapping up a couple of projects this month. We're pleased to report that there is a major expansion underway of our ropes course, with several new elements due for completion within the next week or two. A guest bathroom facility, located near the center of camp, is another new and welcome addition.

To our staff, I want to say: Nice work, so far. Thanks for your efforts not just to replicate the experiences you had as campers or as younger counselors, but to make everything just a little better than it's been in the past.

To campers: Wow! You guys are an inspiration. Up early and swimming in chilly water in all kinds of weather. Leaving it all on the basketball court, the soccer field or the baseball diamond. Offering a hand to a lodge mate or younger guy.

To parents: It's your commitment and sacrifice that make summers at Kawanhee possible. That isn't lost on us, and I don't believe it's lost on your sons either. If you'd like to check in with us to see how your son is doing, please feel free to give a call. We'll certainly be in touch with you if there's something you should be aware of. Beginning on Saturday, July 4th, phone conversations between campers and parents are permitted. Until then, feel free to send along emails addressed to campermail@kawanhee.com and indicating your son's name in the subject field. We'll print and deliver your email to your son.

More later!

Dear Parents,

Now that the second week is approaching, and campers are able to make phone calls, we are letting you know our phone call policy for this season.

Beginning this weekend the following schedule will be in place:

<u>Sat/Sun</u>	<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Eagle	Deer	Wildcat	Trout
Falcon	Beaver	Lynx	Loon
Pine Tree	Moose	Coyote	Bear
Hawk	Crow	Birch	Badger

*Times to call: 11:00, 4:00, and 6:00



Campers may purchase calling cards at the camp store. We will be monitoring to make sure that campers stick with our policy of only calling home once a week. Except for pre-approved calls or emergencies.

If you find it necessary to call your son, we will be happy to take a message and ask your son to return your call on his designated day. If you have any questions about this policy, or you are not available on his designated day, please email us to make alternative arrangements.

Please know we appreciate your support as we implement this policy. We need to keep the main phone line open for camp business, but most importantly we need to limit the calls to once a week so your son can stay focused on the full camp experience.

Thank you,
Debi and Andy
Directors of Camp Life

As Kawanhee turns.... 95

It is amazing reflecting on what camp must have been in 1920. Just imagine all the items that weren't even invented.

I'm not sure when the rifle range was introduced as a camp activity, but we have written records of targets shot dated in the 40 's.

We hope you will be fortunate enough to attend the 95th reunion in August and help celebrate with us. When you are at the reunion, please stop by the Kawanhee Museum and look up your scores and medals received the years you attended camp.

We also hope you will come out to range and test your skills you learned at camp. We will also be having a time for the women to experience the sport of shooting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Range!

The Riflery staff



Range Accomplishments-June 27, 2015

Falcon Lodge

Kristian S. Qualified for the Ladder

Pine Tree Lodge

Jordan M.: Qualified

Hawk Lodge

Jed M.: Prone Small Bore

Ethan H.: Prone Sharpshooter

Deer Lodge

Ethan C.: Qualified for the ladder

Augustin M.: Qualified

Santi P. M.: Qualified

Moose Lodge

Juan C.: Qualified

Wildcat Lodge

Lorenzo A. Qualified

Coyote Lodge

Lord C.: Prone Marksman & Sharpshooter

Bear Lodge

Jose M.A.: Qualified

Borja Arteaga Qualified

Badger Lodge

Will K.: Prone Sharpshooter

Crow Lodge

Ryan D: Prone Expert

Pinwheel Award

Borja A-Bear Lodge

Hotshot Awards

Louis R- Crow Lodge

Javier B- Crow Lodge

1958- The year they couldn't find the message at the Coming of the Chief!

by Michael Altmaier

One of the great events the first week of camp is the "Coming of the Chief" ceremony. At this solemn ceremony Chief Kawanhee welcomes all Kawanhee campers into the tribe of Kawanhee. There is a corresponding ceremony at the end of the summer called the "Going of the Chief". At the "Going of the Chief" each lodge selects a representative or sachem to help write a message to the campers of the following summer. This message is buried near the central fire and dug up at the following years "Coming of the Chief" ceremony and read to all the campers.

Just to make sure the ceremony goes off without any problems, the message is usually located a day or two before the ceremony. In 1958, they couldn't find the message that the campers had written in 1957 ! At that time the Chief Sachem (the person who calls for the Chief and leads the ceremony) was Dean Ross Miller, the longtime chaplain of Camp Kawanhee. Luckily, a copy of the message was kept in the office and this "new" message was put back in the earth and no one at the ceremony realized there had been a problem with locating the original message.

Kawanhee Tournaments Get Underway

by Michael Altmaier

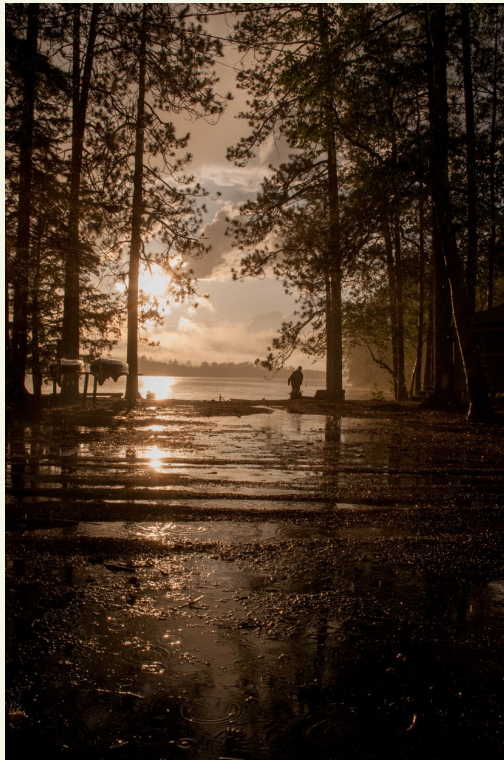
We are currently having campers sign up for the "free time" tournaments for the first four weeks of camp. Tournaments include tennis, ping pong, chess and checkers. We have had a much larger sign up this year. Many returning champions and finalists are back so it should be a great set of tournaments. In upcoming issues of the "Wigwam" I will update the progress and results of the tournament.



This lost 1957 message remained lost for about 16 years. Then in 1974, there were locating the message from 1973 and they found the 1957 message ! Dean Ross Miller had passed away in the 1960s, but Ed Chace (who was Chief Kawanhee in those days) wrote a letter to Dean's widow explaining this unique and somewhat humorous situation and also included a copy of the original message into his letter. Today, in the Camp Kawanhee Museum we have the copy of this letter and the original message of 1957!

If Trees Could Speak . . .

Majestic white pines line the shorefront and are a signature piece of the Kawanhee landscape. They border our sunset shots. They stand tall and proud above the cabins. They sway in the wind gusts through summer and winter. And if they could tell stories, . . . oh what stories they could tell. This spring, for safety purposes, it was deemed necessary to take down one of the long-standing white pines in camp. This wasn't the first tree to come down over the years, but perhaps it was one of the oldest and largest. After a friend and naturalist saw and investigated, he reported that from his accounts the tree had been 220 years old. *"The rings got really tight at the end, so it was tough to really tell, but I got to 220 rings,"* he said (Bernd Heinrich – naturalist, author, and Kawanhee Kitchen staff 1950's).



So, when I heard this news, and then shared it with another alumni friend, his response was, *"If only that tree could talk . . . think of how many have walked under that canopy, both two and four legged, and how many gap winds and Maine winters it survived"*, it really got me thinking about life at camp – not only as we know it, but as all of those before us knew it as well.

As many of you know, this year marks Camp Kawanhee's 95th season. For 94 years, that white pine stood above the grounds of Kawanhee, taking in all the activity of camp – through the hustle and bustle of the summer season from its very inception, to the peace, quiet and calm of winter (*with the exception of the howling arctic gap winds of course – and for anyone who has ever visited camp in winter, knows just how brutal that can be – thus the significance of survival*). For 125 years that tree stood above Kawanhee BEFORE George and Raymond Frank even set foot on the property. Before it was 'our' ground, it belonged to the deer and moose, bear, bobcat, hawks and loons, and other four-legged and feathered friends. Imagine, for a moment, what that tree has seen.

To attempt to put the age of this tree into further historical perspective, 220 years ago marked the year 1795. George Washington was president. This was post American Revolutionary War, but pre American Civil War time. The first documented explorers to travel through the Webb Lake basin did so in 1782. The town of Weld was incorporated in 1816, and Maine became a state in 1820.

A tree being removed from the forest may seem an insignificant piece of history, but think of all that has happened in the 220 years of that tree's life and what it has provided to us. While the skyline looking at camp from the lake may be forever changed, so might you after a summer at Kawanhee.

'Imagine what that tree has seen . . . '

Early hunters and trappers going after game to feed their family or trade for goods.

Fishermen reeling in their catch for a meal.

Loggers pushing logs down lake to float down the Webb River and beyond to the lumber mills.

Ice being cut from the lake to use for refrigeration.

Moose wading in the shallow waters for a drink.

A raft of loons ready to migrate.

George and Raymond Frank initiating, implementing, and then realizing their dream of establishing a character building force for boys.

The triumphs and tribulations, secrets and strategies, the life inspiring and sometimes changing moments that have 'survived' through generations of Kawanheesans.

A first lake swim, a finished project in shop, a Robinhood, a homerun.

A helping hand from a counselor.

Polar Bear swimmers singing at the top of their lungs to start the day.

A maroon victory in Capture-the-Flag. A grey victory in the sailing regatta.

Ghoststories.

Cheers and tears, first romances, the beginnings of forever friendships.

Hug-hellos and long good-byes.

Winter visitors.

An eagle soaring above.

The dining hall fire in 1977 and the adversity, strength, and will of the campers and staff that persevered through the remainder of

the summer season.

The countless numbers of lives impacted by the bonds of friendship and the challenges and experiences provided at camp.

The endless efforts of MANY that have worked to continue in the tradition of Kawanhee and to maintain its presence as a summer camp for boys.

. . . and this tree has been there for it all.

Ironically and coincidentally, one of my children's new favorite books is 'The Giving Tree' by Shel Silverstein. I have now read it to Mason and



Emma most nights within the past month. I cannot help but draw parallels from this book to the tree in camp. In the book, the tree has a friend – our tree had many friends. At first the tree gave its shade – part of the canopy of our forest as we walked along our paths. The boy, as he ages, periodically returns to visit the tree – as campers return to camp each summer. Eventually the tree gave itself for building supplies - which will be the case with our tree. And in the end, all that was left of the tree was a stump - a stump for the tree's friend, the boy - now an old man, to sit and rest on. "And the tree was happy."

At some point this summer, I challenge you to go and sit on that tree stump. Rest. Take in your surroundings. Enjoy. Appreciate. Think of what makes Kawanhee special to you. Time does not last forever, but memories do. What memories will you make this summer?

Even though it is sad to see a thing of such beauty go, new growth abounds and new trees will take the place of old. Veteran campers and staff will return to reignite friendships and attempt to challenge themselves in new ways. First time campers will forge new friendships and have their own unique experiences. And of course, Kawanhee will remember those that came and passed before us as we continue to strive by the everlasting Kawanhee mottos. "Learn to do by doing." "Fun with a purpose." "Finish what you start." As the 95th season comes and goes, remember to make your days count, take advantage of the opportunities presented, and cherish the environment we call home for 2 moons. You never know how it will change before the next time you return. Every one of us that has had the divine pleasure of spending a summer on the shores of Webb Lake, has a story to tell. What will yours be?

What will the trees of today have to say 220 years from now?





Lodge Photos - Week One

Eagle Lodge



Falcon Lodge

Pine Tree Lodge



Hawk Lodge





**Deer
Lodge**

Beaver Lodge





Moose Lodge



Lynx Lodge



Wildcat Lodge

A group of eleven young men posing on a wooden porch. One man is sitting on the left, leaning on a railing. Ten others are standing or sitting in two rows. They are wearing casual clothing like t-shirts and shorts. A wooden crate is visible in the bottom right corner.

Coyote Lodge



**Bear
Lodge**





Badger Lodge



Crow Lodge

Birch Lodge



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Announcements:

Please check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Camp-Kawanhee-for-Boys/132213696858301?ref=hl>

Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Kawanhee>



Week One photos have been uploaded.

The password for all of the Kawanhee Photo galleries can be found in the email that sent this newsletter to you.

Please use this link

https://campkawanhee.worldsecuresystems.com/ewigwam_signup.html

to subscribe, unsubscribe or edit your details on the Kawanhee e-Wigwam Newsletter Mailing List.

Please email gib@kawanhee.com with any questions.