

# the Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Fall 2017

*Good food, friends and fun at*

## Nellie's 90th celebration!

Nellie sure knows how to throw a party! On the weekend of June 17–18, over 415 alumni, friends and staff gathered on the shores of Ossipee to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Camp Nellie Huckins. It was an amazing time put on by a group of amazing, hard-working people.

The celebration was 10 months in the making with Kristen Fischer at the helm as the 90th Planning Committee Chairman. The committee included Jody Skelton, Stephanie Paine and about 16 alumni volunteers. There was also a decorations committee made up of alumni Lexi Haskell Hoffman, Jennifer Snow, Kate Dwyer and Kara Couture, who did everything from decorating the lodge with camp memorabilia to creating lovely lake centerpieces and pine & loon paper bag luminaries that lined the paths at night.

The weekend started with the annual Tri-Ath-Loon on Saturday morning

followed by awards and a barbecue. In the afternoon, all the activity areas were open and guests made the most of the beautiful weather, swimming, kayaking, walking the grounds, and taking boat rides with Peter King around the lake.

For an hour on the Craft Shop porch, Jody met with interested individuals to brainstorm the future of Huckins. The meeting generated a lot of great ideas about goals for camp, including the establishment of a new camp library.

Later in the afternoon, alumni and their guests attended smaller gatherings based on when they attended camp.



*Janet Atherton Snow, Tom Simmonds and June Loud*

There were six individuals in the 1928–1950 group, including Tom Simmonds (yes, there used to be boys at Camp Huckins!), Heloise (Gilmore) Depew, June Loud and Joan (Grant) Haskell. During their get-together, a loon came by and paused, as if to honor their return to camp after all these years.

Dinner on Saturday was held in a large tent on the ball field and featured everything from salmon and steak, to salads and (yes!) chocolate chip pudding. Joel Weeman and his fabulous kitchen staff prepared and served all of the food. Mckaella Schmitt provided four to-die-for sheet cakes.

Before dinner, Jody welcomed all the guests and thanked the staff and

*Left: Sue Blondell Lindblad, Karen Greene Shackford, Leslie Guenther, Joanne Howard Landry, and Howard Trask.*





volunteers. She also took time to recognize Legacy Society members, as well as Hope Spruell for her outstanding volunteer service. There was a video that was shown from clips taken earlier in the day. There was also a special ceremony where the Maintenance Garage was dedicated to Howard Trask and the late Lyman Kenison. Some of Lyman's children were there to represent him.

After dinner, everyone headed to the chapel on the lake, where alumni from the early 2000s performed their

1. 70's staff (from left): Carol Blondell Tuttle, Sue Little Doyle, Priscilla Rowe, Becky Allen and Ellie Gordon.

2. From left: Tony Higgs, Lorna Higgs, Peter King, Layne Higgs and Hathlee Higgs.

3. From left: Krista Marschner, Noel Thompson, Sara Schwartz, Bethany Landry Willard, Heidi Packard, Kristen MacDermott, Leora Seri, Tammy Clark Metzha, and Heather Daley Lamberton.



clever adaptation of *The Giving Tree*. A candlelight ceremony followed, with a lot of sweet and soulful singing. For those who came just for the day, the anniversary celebration was over. However, over 200 guests spent the night and sat clustered around campfires in each division, talking and laughing into the wee hours of the morning.

On Sunday, there was one last gathering in the dining hall for breakfast. The singing continued until eventually Jody had to clear everyone out, since

the 2017 summer staff was arriving that afternoon.

In Jody's welcome talk to all who came to the 90th celebration, she said:

"There are the brightest stars, the Huckins Sword, the sound of songs floating on the wind, hands being held, hugs being shared, and more love than the heart can imagine. This weekend, drink in this spirit and refill your Nellie self as you enjoy your time here. For you all belong to Huckins and Huckins belongs to you."



We love our volunteers—this amazing group spent a good part of a week helping Huckins get ready for the 90th! From left: Emilie Pinkham, Kathleen MacIntosh, Katie Archer, Laura Howson, Amy Kallmerten, and Kat Lafferty.

## Huckins 90th Celebration on DVD

Live—or relive—the 90th Celebration Weekend whether or not you were able to attend. A videographer documented the day and interviewed alumni. We have a limited amount of DVDs available for sale for \$10. Please contact Kara Evans at [kevans@camphuckins.org](mailto:kevans@camphuckins.org) to find out how you can get a copy.

Do not miss this chance to own a piece of Huckins history!

**YMCA Camp Huckins**  
17 Camp Huckins Road  
Freedom NH 03836-4403  
(603) 539-4710  
camphuckins.org

### **Camp Huckins Year Round Employees**

Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton  
*Executive Director*  
Kara (Smith) Couture  
*Director of Community Outreach*  
Kara Evans  
*Assistant Camp Director*  
Angela Lavoie  
*Registrar*  
Sue Fullerton  
*Admin. Asst*  
Stephanie Paine  
*Director of Alumni Development*  
Peter King  
*Director of Donor Relations*  
Howard Trask  
*Director of Maintenance*  
Mike St. Onge  
*Maintenance*  
Joel Weeman  
*Director of Food Services*

### **Carroll County YMCA/ Camp Huckins Board of Directors**

Leslie Guenther, *President*  
Eleni Eliades, *Vice President*  
Kristen Fischer, *Secretary*  
Elizabeth (Sanborn) Ventre,  
*Treasurer*  
Sarah Bird  
Cynthia Churchill  
Anne Depew  
Ian Dowe  
Chris Duprey  
Richard Fleming  
Brian Kelsch  
Robin (Cranage) Lapoint  
Kathleen Mulkern  
Caitlin Mulligan  
Nat Peirce  
Karen (Greene) Shackford  
Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth



*Camp keeps getting greener!!! Photovoltaic solar panels—140 of them—were added to the roof to generate electricity from the sun!*

Camp opened with the 90th celebration weekend and the party continued throughout the summer until the last camper drove through the gates on August 19th. Camp Huckin's 90th was an amazing time to be at Camp. With lots of sunny days, campers enjoyed "just being at Camp". Our Small Crafts beach was bursting with activity with new paddleboards, more kayaks and two new sunfish. The renovations to the Health Center were appreciated by our staff of amazing nurses and all the campers, staff and families who used our health services this summer. This fall the Nurses Wing will be completed. The new Director's home construction site was toured by many alumni and friends. Construction resumes after Labor Day and Jody and John hope to move into the completed home later this year. The Sports Field, the Waterfront and the Craft Shop were busy: campers helped make fleece blankets for the Linus Project and Fourth Ses-

sion campers enjoyed tennis matches and a swim meet against Camp Belknap. Huckins continues to be blessed with a truly dedicated staff and our Program Days were full of fun and creative ideas and events. A favorite special program was Harry Potter Day. Owls delivered Hogwarts acceptance letters to every single camper — Oh, the magic of Huckins!

The post season camping season continues with Family Camps, Mother/Daughter, Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and special events every weekend throughout September. During the week, the staff works with school groups doing team building on our ropes Course.

415 alumni and friends at the 90th Celebration, 1397 campers, 129 staff members, 391 Family Campers, 71 Mother/Son campers, 300 Mother/Daughter campers, 33 Women's Wellness Weekend campers, 533 students from school groups — so much Huckins love!

*"2017 At Huckins Camp, no other year the same"  
- Thank you to all who made our 90th summer unforgettable.*

## *Your Gift is Important*

*The 90th Anniversary summer camping season is in the books (or Laughing Loon). As we look to the next 90, please consider a gift to Camp Huckins. To make a gift go to [camphuckins.org/donate/](http://camphuckins.org/donate/)*



# Fourth Annual Tri-Ath-Loon Completed at YMCA Camp Huckins



On Saturday, June 17, 66 participants braved the chilly waters of Lake Ossipee to complete a USTA certified Sprint Triathlon. The individuals raised over \$24,000 to support the scholarship program at Camp Huckins. Camp Director and Tri Participant Jody Skelton greeted all the participants and led the dive into the lake. Skelton told the group gathered at the lake shore “I am so proud of all the participants, volun-

teers and sponsors who made this wonderful day possible. Camp Huckins works hard to ensure that any deserving girl may come to Camp regardless of her family’s financial circumstances.”

Participants came from 8 states and as far away as Michigan. For information on the 2018 Tri contact Peter@camphuckins.org

## Constant, True & Forever Huckins

### The Legacy Society

In 1928 New Hampshire native Samuel Huckins gave land for a residential youth camp to the NH YMCA in loving memory of his young wife, Nellie Harmon Huckins. Because of this gift, we have Camp Nellie Huckins, a magical place beneath the pines where campers have lived, laughed and learned for 90 years. Please join the members of the Camp Huckins Legacy Society who through a planned gift are helping to ensure the Huckins that we know and love will be around for generations to come.

### Ways You Can Leave a Legacy:

- A bequest in your will
- Gifts of stock, real estate, or other assets
- A beneficiary designation on an IRA, 401K or other retirement plan
- Life Insurance beneficiary designation

*Kim Mavor Hollowell was a camper and counselor in the early 70's to the early 80's. Here is why she has joined the Huckins Legacy Society:*

“I have chosen to have Camp Huckins in my will for the simple fact that it is my family.

It doesn't matter that I was at Camp 34 years ago, I feel a connection to everyone that has ever been to Huckins, now or in the past.

Putting Camp Huckins in my will affirms my deep appreciation for how it helped form who I am. “

*Information on these and other planned giving options is available from YMCA Camp Huckins.*

*Please contact Peter King, Director of Development, via email at Peter@Camphuckins.org or call him at (603) 539-4710.*



# Alumni Weekend 2017



Above: Tri-Ath-Loon training.

Left: kayaking on Lake Ossipee.

*What ever happened to...*

## Sarah Daley Popescu

There is no equal to Camp Huckins' impact on my life. My name is Sarah Daley Popescu (aka "Pickle" to many a Nellie girl), and I attended camp from 1984-1995. From an early age, I knew Huckins was special. My mother, aunt and uncles were all Hucksters, and camp songs, stories and lore filled idle time on many a car trip. My experience as a camper was transformative, and I forged friendships that remain strong 30 years later. These friends are the girls who first noticed my sense of humor and never stopped laughing.

It was the summers I spent as a counselor and Small Crafts Director that first sparked an interest in education. When I decided to go back to



school and become a teacher, the unparalleled Huckins network helped me land my first job as a fifth grade teacher. Fifteen years later, I teach history at Greenwich Academy which brings me full circle, back to working with all girls.

I am forever thankful to Camp Huckins for the formative touchstones it provided. In moments of self-doubt,

I reflect upon the persistence that helped me pass the outside area test and the courage I mustered to take out a Sunfish by myself for the first time. A few years ago, I found myself looking at a flat tire on a hot, rural roadside in Romania. Flustered, sweat dripping on the manual I was trying to "translate," I thought to myself, "It can't be more difficult than putting in the outside area floats during Pre-Early Bird Week," and quickly set to changing the tire. Feeling capable and confident is something Huckins fosters.

Today, I live in Connecticut with my husband and 7-year-old son. The highlight of my year is taking John to Mother-son Weekend. Every June, alongside some of my favorite grown-up Nellie girls, I get to watch John thrive in nature, make friends and get a glimpse of the Huckins spirit that sustained two generations before him. I don't think he will be nicknamed after a brined vegetable any time soon, but I can dream.

*Our Spring 2018*

*Huckonian will focus on this Huckins alum... can you guess who it is?*



*Carroll County goes to camp!*

# Building a team, building a community

The Carroll County YMCA offers several programs for children and families in the surrounding communities. The CCYMCA/Camp Huckins staff welcomes local schools and groups to camp during the pre and post camp season! We love that we can offer these groups the many benefits that a quality camp experience provides. Our teambuilding retreats focus on communication, trust, self confidence and leadership activities. Our ultimate goal is to provide the tools for a group to transition into a cohesive team.



Above: Carroll County YMCA sponsored the Walk of Ages at Freedom Elementary. The Walk of Ages is a statewide health initiative, centered on bringing together towns, cities, schools, organizations and businesses in New Hampshire. This walk focuses on prevention, decreased physical inactivity, and increased employee health.

1. Local students using the "Commitment Bridge" on the ropes course.
2. The 5th and 6th graders from John Fuller Elementary in North Conway, NH, gather for a photo after a fun day of team-building.
3. North County Independent Living (NCIL) provides an alternative to institutionalized and campus living for persons with an acquired brain injury and is located in North Conway, NH. They come to camp every fall!
4. Students from Kennett Middle School in Conway, NH practice their trust fall skills with the Camp Director, Jody Skelton.
5. In June, Pine Tree Elementary brings 260 students to camp for their Health & Wellness Day. At the end of the day, the school ends together at the Chapel for some entertainment!



# Welcome to the Huckins family!

## Weddings and Babies

**1** On July 5, 2017, **Maggie Doben** proposed to Dawn McGrath on Camp Huckins' very own Loon Island. Maggie made the ring box and it was a surprise for Dawn.



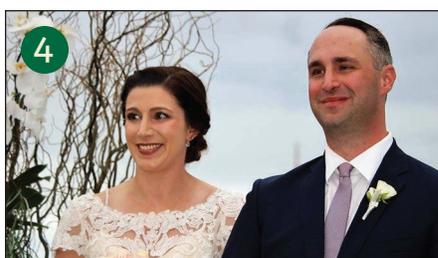
**2** Theodore (Teddy) Francis was born on ne 7, 2017 to **Liz Mulligan** (98) and Nick Murzycki.



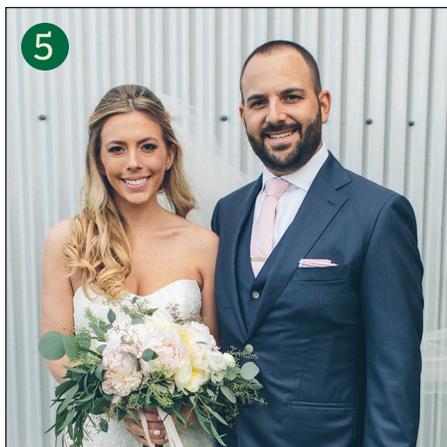
**3** **Cindy Churchill** (Board Member) married Ed Benjamin on August 5, 2017 in their backyard in Cumberland Foreside, ME.



**4** **Nicole Scalfani** (04) married Johnathan Tontone on August 5, 2017 in Mattapoisett, MA.



**5** **Tori Belkin** (13) married Dan Schapiro on June 3, 2017 in Groton, MA.



**6** Henry was born on August 17, 2017 to **Emily Lund** (00) and Daniel Eslingerand joins sister, Evalyn, 4, at home.



**7** Elizabeth Adair was born on June 1, 2017 to **Dannie Goddu** (00) and Sergeant Clayton McFarland. She joins siblings, Lilly, 5, and Rowan, 3, at home.



**8** Addi Rae Hollowell was born on May 16, 2017 and is here with proud grandmother, **Kim Mavor Hollowell** (82).



**9** ucker was born on June 5, 2017 to **Meghan Piotrowski** (01) and Jeremy Kenison. He joins brother, Carter, 2, at home.



**10** Charlotte was born on March 15, 2017 to **Emily McCarthy** (08) and Nate Stevens.

# All About the Alumni ...

**Jennifer Candee** started a new job in April as the Global Head of Talent Acquisition for Mondelez International (a 26 billion consumer goods org with 100k employees in 168 countries). She's lived in London for 11 years now and will remain there in this role.

**Meredith Breiland** (96), who works in Marketing at Concept2, is eager to welcome athletes and spectators at the Head of The Charles Regatta, October 21–22, 2017, in Boston, MA. Stop by the Concept2 CTS booth with a Huckins heart for Meredith and you'll receive not only a heart in return... but a special giveaway! The world's largest two-day rowing race is a great celebration of the sport, and also a welcoming place to meet up with Huckins friends!

**Bethany Landry Williard** (01) was promoted to membership director at the Bryan YMCA in Greensboro, NC. She has been working full time for the Y for 13 years.

**Anne Vaughan Riley** (06) and her daughters, **Lindsay Riley Nelson** (10) and **Sarah Riley Silva** (12) give a Huckins heart while wearing their matching sweatshirts.

**Skelton, Kristin Packer Schuler, Elsie Daddow** (17) and **Kara Evans**.

**2** Camp Huckins staff attends the opening of None-such River Brewing on 201 Gorham Road in Scarborough, ME. **Kristin Schuler Packer** (91) opened in the beginning of September. It is a full service restaurant with a brewery onsite and the chef inspired cuisine compliments their craft beer. Pictured left to right: **Becky Birrell Smith**, **Becky's daughter Cecila, Jody**



## CampMinder

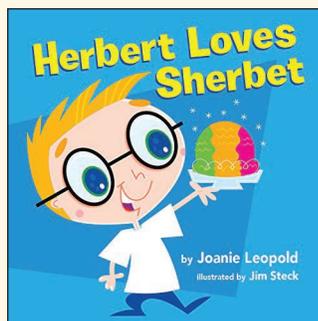
### Update your Alumni Information

Huckins has a new database and we need all of our alumni to put in their connections to other Nellie Girls and their alumni history. The new database allows you to connect with other alumni.

So please go to [camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/](http://camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/)

## Alumnae Bookshelf

Below: Check out **Joanie Rogers Leopold's** (88) new book, *Hebert Loves Sherbet*, for readers aged 4 to 7 years old. Her book was available in the camp store all summer and will be available on our online store.

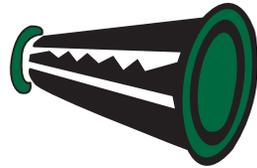


Right: **Molly Ness** (93) published a book, *Think Big with Think Alouds*, written for teachers and parents. It is meant to help parents and teachers plan and implement effective think alouds, which are the oral explanations of thinking that proficient readers do while they encounter a text. It is available on Amazon—published with Corwin Press—and her website, [www.drmmollyness.com](http://www.drmmollyness.com)





Our 3rd Annual Women's Empowerment Day hosted 29 alums who came from "far and near" to share their wisdom with the campers and the staff alike.



Please send us news about your accomplishments — or brag about someone else — fellow Huckonians want to know! Email Kara at [kara@camphuckins.org](mailto:kara@camphuckins.org).



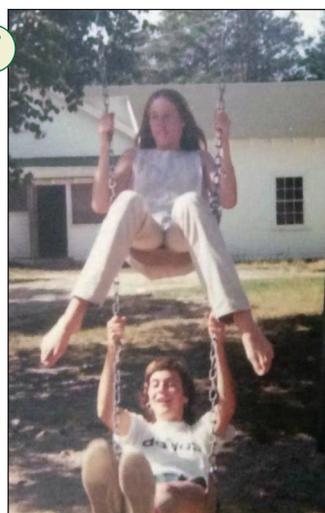
**3** **Dannie Goddu** (00) McFarland lives in Hampton, VA with her husband and 3 children. Her husband is in the VA National Guard.

**4** Huckins alums stop dancing and gather for a photo with bride **Tori Belkin** (13), at her wedding in June 2017.

**5** On July 14th, 2017, camp friends gathered at **Sarah "Pickle" Daley Popescu's** home in Stamford, CT for a yearly reunion.

**6** **Cindy Churchill** celebrates her recent wedding with daughters **Leah** (08), **Cristina** (04) and **Tessa** (09).

**7** **Mary "Fez" Tuttle Albertelli** (77) and **Helen Pelletier** (80) recreated a photo from their CIT summer in 1975 while at Family Camp this year.



## Get Social!

 **Facebook** | YMCA Camp Huckins

 **Twitter** | @CampHuckins

 **LinkedIn** | Camp Nellie Huckins Alumni group

 **Instagram** | YMCACampHuckins

# Mother/Son Weekend 2017



Above: Mother/Son Hucksters

Left: Mother/Son Weekend Fun for all large or small — this weekend doubled from last year, truly a favorite time for all who attend. Huck-ins Magic happens here!!!

# Labor Day Family Camp 2017



## Mark Your 2018 Calendar!

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mother/Son Weekend •<br>June 8–10 | Labor Day Family Camp •<br>August 31–September 3 |
| Staff Parents' Day • July 28      | Mother/Daughter Weekend<br>• September 14–16     |
| Family Camp • August<br>20–25     |  |

1. Labor Day Hucksters.
2. Jim, James and Elaina Ventre, 10 years
3. Labor Day Seniors.
4. Labor Day Middlers.
5. Labor Day Juniors.



# Family Camp Week 2017



1. Family Camp Leadership Division

3. Family Camp Juniors

2. Family Camp Senior Division

4. Family Camp Middlers

# Staff Family Day 2017



Babcock



Blanchard



Brennan



Cordy



Coscia



Donahue



Himmelburger



Johnson



Larson



Lunney



Ranocha



Raslowski



Simmons



Sheehy



Wiebus

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## Save the Date

### Women's Wellness Weekend

September 29–October 1, 2017 | Camp Huckins

### Leadership Division Reunion (W's and CITs of 2107)

Saturday afternoon, October 21, 2017 | Hancock  
United Church of Christ, Lexington, MA

### Boston Alumni Gathering

Saturday evening, October 21, 2017 | Location  
TBA

### CT Alumni Gathering

Thursday, November 16, 2017 | at the home of  
Sarah (Daley) Popescu, Stamford, CT

### Boston University Club Event

Friday, December 1, 2017

## YMCA Camp Huckins 2018 Season • Important Dates

Snow Day at Camp • February 24

Spaghetti Supper/Alumni Weekend • June 1–3

Mother/Son Weekend • June 8–10

Early Bird Week • June 11–15

Staff Training Week • June 17–22

1st Session • June 23–July 7

2nd Session • July 7–21

3rd Session • July 22–August 4

4th Session • August 4–18

**Tri-Ath-Loon • August 19**

Staff Parent's Day • July 28

Family Camp • August 20–25

Labor Day Family Camp • August 31–  
September 3

Mother/Daughter Weekend • September 14–16