# Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Fall 2018

#### Can He Fix It?

## Yes, He Can!

Howard Trask has led our Maintenance Department for 32 summers. Through rain or shine, flood and snow, Howard was there for Camp and our campers. He is "a man of all trades." During his tenure, Camp has grown from 40 to 65 buildings and Howard knows every detail of the plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. He has plowed, shoveled, plunged, built, painted, served as camp mechanic for our boats and vehicles, acted as our onsite computer expert and performed a myriad of other duties as assigned. We thank Howard for his leadership in managing and teaching our maintenance staff of local and



Howard with his camp directors (I to r): Judy Snell, Audrey Vorperian and Jody Skelton.

international youth (over 50 throughout his summers).

Howard's retirement party was a very special event. He was honored by camp family and friends with a special visit from his daughter and granddaughter who came from Hawaii. Many of the former maintenance staff sent video clips which voiced their appreciation for his

kindness, patience, friendship and his ability to teach about maintenance and life. Howard will retire in December. We hope that he will travel (travel vouchers were presented at the party) and that he will enjoy having time for rest and relaxation. Congratulations to Howard on a job well done. We will miss you!



Howard with his daughter Ashley, granddaughter Freya and sons Sandy and Cory.

## **Empowerment Day**

by Mara Breen, 2018 Program Director

One of our favorite days this past summer was our annual Women Empowerment Day on July 29th. During the morning we visited different stations,



Jody with Britt Conway, who performed her re-enlistment ceremony at morning flag. Britt is an Information Systems Technician, First Class Petty Officer (IT1) on active duty in the US Navy.

learning about women empowerment and sparking important conversations.

At counselor's free time, 33 alumnae volunteers joined cabin groups to share camp and life stories. At the waitress bugle, our Empowerment March began. Starting in the leadership division and looping through the senior, middler,

and junior divisions, we marched to the dining hall chanting and holding our empowerment signs high.

After lunch, alumnae divided into groups based on their professional and non-professional experiences. The staff were invited to network and learn more about careers in variety of fields. Women Empowerment Day was empowering and left campers, staff, and alumnae feeling like the beautiful, powerful women they are.



## 2018 Summer Highlights

by Jody Hutchinson Skelton

The summer of 2018 was gone in a flash. Camp opened with a party celebrating Howard's amazing 32 summers as our Maintenance Director. He will be missed when he officially retires in December.

As Session One began we were excited to show off our new mountain bike trail named the "Lollipop Loop," a mile-long trail through the woods adjacent to our Horse Barn. Campers love being on the trail and trying the tricky switch backs. Other additions in 2018 were new elements on the Ropes Course and Junior and Middler Gaga Ball (knees down dodge ball) courts—thank you to our CITS and Maintenance staff for building them.

Each change day families lined up for tours of our newly completed Camp Director's Home. One of our new campers was heard saying "Now I know why they call it "THE PALACE." The great room is welcoming and sunny and the downstairs community space with four bunk beds proved a popular place for staff days off. The renovation and addition to the Health Center brought

much needed family housing for our Nurses, and great new housing options for Family Campers with young and old family members.

The weather was warm during the month of July and our campers spent many days enjoying the waterfront, swimming, playing on the aqua mat, kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, and sailing. With all of the sunshine, lake temperatures soared over 80 degrees. Hydration was the word of the summer and everyone carried their water bottles. August's damp weather forced our amazing program staff to work overtime coming up with fun and novel program days. The summer weather brought bountiful harvests in our gardens. We even found a few unexpected cantaloupe and watermelons growing in our camp composted soil.

The Huckster and Candlelight ceremonies magically ended each session with 185 campers becoming Hucksters and 14 of our staff earning their 10-year double Huckster awards. Lauren Kehoe, Annie Colbert, Ellie Jones, Peter King

all became triple Hucksters (15 years at Huckins) and Alisson Borowski Kolodner celebrated her 20th summer.

How quickly the summer was gone and we had to say our goodbyes. As campers and staff drove out the driveway our Tri-athletes and Family Campers roared in. Our groups and programs after camp have been amazing—over 300 students from our local schools attended teambuilding activities on the ropes course and our Mother/Daughter weekend continues to be our biggest event of the year with 293 campers.

As we pull the final boats out of the water, we are sad to have another season end. We must give special thanks to all of the many volunteers who help Huckins open, run pre and post camp programs and participate in summer programming. We extend a big Alamen to our three volunteers who spent over three months at Huckins. Hope Spruell spent her summer making a maintenance manual, and once again Peter and Jill King volunteered above and beyond - helping in the office, with the fishing, and doing all duties as assigned. The Huckins spirit is alive and well and can be felt the instant you walk through the white gates.

# Kitchen Report

by Joel Weeman

Hello again from the Huckins Kitchen. As summer starts to fade and Camp quiets down, the ebb of people that filled our kitchen grows stronger. Every few days, one more face is gone, back to life outside of camp, school, family, work.

At the onset of summer the kitchen is filled with people, new faces, old friends, many languages and cultures, personalities and temperaments. It takes 15 people to feed Camp in full swing and we are so fortunate to have the opportunity to hire our staff from all over the globe. This summer our kitchen staff came to us from Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Mexico, Hungary and the United States. In years past, we have had staff members from Colombia, Russia, England, Scotland, Czech Republic and many more. This stew of international influence brings such richness and texture to our days as we learn to understand each other, learn to be patient with and respect one another, learn about each other's countries and dream of visiting each one.

Each year I am inspired by the courage and dedication of our kitchen staff. They work so hard and with such a sense of humor through the blood, sweat, tears and laughter. Truly, we have had broken bones, stitches and uncountable burns



and yet every morning there are smiling faces. Cooking 500 meals, three times a day is no easy task and our crew finds a way to do it with little experience and still have fun.

At times the world and our connection to it can seem so contentious and fragile but summers spent in the Huckins kitchen, elbow deep in the dish pit or sweating over thousands of grilled cheese sandwiches with friends from so many far-flung places reminds me that, really, we are all on the same team.

Thank you to the Kitchen Crew of 2018 and all those that came before you. No matter what language you speak, a Huckins Heart is universal.

#### YMCA CAMP HUCKINS

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#### CAMP HUCKINS YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYEES

Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton Executive Director Jody@camphuckins.org

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Joel Weeman

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#### CARROLL COUNTY YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### Legacy Society Member

## **Christie Cannell**

luctins love has come to me, I

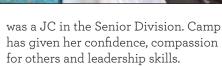
The reasons I decided to become a member of the Legacy Society are many:

As a child, my father sent me to Camp Huckins for one month every summer from 1978 to 1985. My father, sisters and nieces all went to Huckins and Camp Huckins had been a big part of our families' lives.

With little supervision at home,

camp was a blessing. I made lifelong friends and I was consistently encouraged to try new things, explore and the most important, to be myself.

In 1986, I was a Junior Counselor then returned 17 years later with my family as the Senior Division Leader. Being a division leader for 5 summers was the best gift that I could have given my kids; a gift that I don't think I could have afforded to give them had I not worked at camp. My daughter has continued to attend camp and this year



I would not have been able to send her to camp had it not been for the camp scholarship program. I am so appreciative for the years of assistance. Now, I volunteer when I am able, give what I can and through joining the Legacy Society I am giving for the future so that other girls have the opportunity to benefit from the magic of Camp Huckins.

Legacy Society members are those alumni and friends who have decided to include Huckins in their estate plans. You may do this through a bequest in your will, a gift of stocks, real estate, or other assets, a beneficiary designation on an IRA, 401K or other retirement plan, a life insurance beneficiary designation or by including Huckins as a recipient of memorial gifts "in lieu of flowers."

We are hoping to have 100 members by our 100th in 2027. Please consider including Huckins in your plans. This act will help to ensure that Huckins is around for generations to come. Information on these and other planned giving options is available from YMCA Camp Huckins. Please contact Stephanie Paine, via email at Stephanie@camphuckins.org or call (603)539-4710.

It is the mission of the Carroll County YMCA through its many programs, to strengthen the Spirit, Mind, and Body of youth, families, and communities.



### He liked to teach the world to sing

## Remembering Ron Shaw



On a beautiful day in early August, friends, family and alums gathered at Camp to honor and remember Ron Shaw, a former Camp Huckins camper, kitchen boy, and staff member. Ron and Rick (Ron's twin) are most remembered at camp in the early 70's for their singing at the Lodge. The Shaw Brothers went on to a successful singing

career performing all over the world. They are well known for their song "We like to teach the World to sing" which is exactly what they did for many of our Huckins campers.

The celebration was filled with lots of storytelling, singing and a cookout by the waterfront. The campers serenaded the visitors with camp songs.



Judie Dolliver Taylor, Rick Shaw and Sue Appleton Walker at Ron Shaw's Celebration of Life.

"The sun shined down from the sky above as we sang the songs all Huckonians love"—it was a beautiful way to honor Ron. Following the event, many of the alums and visitors stayed to enjoy a boat ride on the lake.

# Share the Spirit of Huckins

Please join 100% of our Leadership, Program and Counseling staff in supporting this year's annual appeal — the Huckins Fund.

Help us meet our goal of 1000 donors.

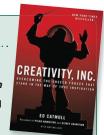
Gifts can be made online at

camphuckins.org/donate/

or by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for supporting Camp Huckins.

#### The Huckins Virtual Book Group

A few weeks ago we held our second virtual book group to discuss the book *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. All who attended agreed that meeting virtually works, is easy and that it is fun to share books with Huckins



friends and family. Our next book group will be held in early November. We will be reading *Creativity, Inc.* by Ed Catmull and Amy Wallace. The invitation to sign-up for the group will be sent via email in mid-October so please make sure that we have your current contact information by using the following link: https://camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/

We are looking for book recommendations as well as volunteers to lead the group. Please contact Stephanie via email Stephanie@camphuckins.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in book group.



## What ever happened to...

## **Leslie Smith**

I am grateful my parents (Rush and Pat Smith) decided to send me & my sisters (Kim Guerster & Tina Paul) to Huckins. Starting in Cabin V in 1980, I continued on to be a CIT, and Counselor (JC, SC, Double SC) in the Senior Division. In 1991, I was an Assistant Waterfront Director and then in 1992 and 1993, I got to be a Waterfront Director, greatest "job" on earth. While I luckily spent fourteen summers at camp, it's a place that's always in my heart.

I'm proud that my nieces are carrying on the family tradition (Mason & Brooke Guerster and soon, Finley Paul will be, too). My husband, Greg and I feel very lucky to have a 2 and a half-year old daughter, Hannah Jannetta. We are counting down the years until she, too, can go to Huckins.

During my years at camp, I have a lot of great memories from every stage, from the sailing to the waterskiing, to the bonding we did at the waterfront. What has most impacted me include the friendships, mentors and tight community. Jody's steady leadership and dedication, including all the off-season activities make the alumni bond stronger than ever.

As camp counselors, we learned the art of "bringing the best out" of each one of our campers. I use the skills I learned at camp every day in my work with high school students, trying to help them realize and highlight their unique strengths as they transition from high school to college. After leaving Huckins in 1993, I started my career in college admissions,



Leslie, Hannah and Jody

enjoying Lake Ossipee.



Leslie, Hannah and Greg.

working for the undergraduate admissions office at my alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania. While there, I also went on to get a Master's in Higher Education Administration and an MBA. Additional work at Stanford University's admissions and in the private sector (including two educa-

tional start-up companies) led me to ultimately start my own educational consulting company www.lesliesmith. com , which is what I enjoy managing today I thank camp for helping to give me the confidence and independence to lead, to travel, to explore, not to mention a passion for education.

Some of my best days of the summer are the ones I get to visit Huckins. This year, I loved meeting the JC's and talking with them about colleges, and participating in the Triathaloon was a blast. I still get the excited feeling driving into camp, and even the sadness when it's time to go, but leaving with pine needles in my sneakers seems to make the departure a little bit easier.



Our
Spring 2019
Huckonian
will focus on
this Huckins
alum... can
you guess
who it is?

## The Triathloon is a Huckster!

Sunny skies and warm temperatures (air and water) reigned as 117 athletes took their places for the beginning of Huckins 5th Annual Triathloon—a sprint Triathlon for women, youth and teams. The event which combined the athleticism of a competitive Tri and the enthusiasm and energy of Camp Huckins was a fun and empowering experience for new and seasoned triathletes and young and older competitors. Many Huckins alumni and current staff participated in the competition—led, of course, by Jody Hutchinson Skelton, a fifth time Triathlooner!

This year approximately \$7000 was raised for the Huckins Fund, our annual appeal.



#### Women

- 1 Brandy Hugo
- 2 Elizabeth Costello
- 3 Cat Maker

#### Loon

- 1 Henry Piec
- 2 Adeline Ziobro
- 3 Olivia Lamper

#### **Little Loons**

- 1 Nolan Plummer
- 2 Jane Lamberton





Two of our foreign Staff Kid Counselors finishing the Tri: Rachel Akhondi-Asi and Shannon Scollin



Thank you to all of the competitors, volunteers, staff and fans who made this such a special day. A special thank you to Joel and the kitchen staff for providing a delicious postrace BBQ lunch and to Laura Howson for managing our volunteers. Finally, a huge thank you to our event sponsors:





















## Welcome to the Huckins family!

# **Weddings and Babies**







Liza Bruno (06) got married on August 12, 2017 with camp friends Laurence Cadoret Kipp (06), Jess Palmer Greenberg (06), Lindsay Wetmore Murachver (06) and Carolyn Goodwin Leary (06) in attendance.

Nellie girls celebrate
Kristina
Cutter's wedding:
Casey Leathers,
Laura Howson, Kat
Lafferty and Katie
Archer.



Isabelle Cora was born on May 13, 2018 to **Katie Briggs** (13) and John Towie of the United Kingdom.

Lotte was born to Floor Toxopeus
(10) and Jorn van Haren on August 20, 2018. She joins big brother Wester at home in the Netherlands.

Lauren
Roberts
Long with
Huckins friends
at her wedding in
May 2018 (Maxine
Wolfe Cadman,
Lauren Long, Emily
McCarthy, Janna
Dwyer and Mark
Cadman).







# All About the Alumni ...



Ali Martin Jack (97) and Megan Kearny Brown (97), friends for 28 years, had a wonderful visit this summer with their children (photo A).

The Laver Cup in
Chicago reunited
two Nellie girls,
Polly Medved
(99) and Michelle Clemente
Braasch (01), after
almost 20 years (photo B).



When **Kendall Brown Reed** (02) was in Los Angeles she visited long-time camp friend, **Kate Sullivan** (04) (photo C).

While visiting
Maine, Bethany
Landry Williard
(01) saw Maraga
Flynn Martens



**Kathleen Mulkern**, Certified Nurse Midwife (alum, staff parent, Board

# **CampMinder**

Update your Alumni Information

Huckins strives to keep our database up to date and complete. Please take a minute to check that we have your current contact information, relationships, and alumni history. Campminder allows you to connect with other alumni in the system.

Please go to www.camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/

Member) recently surpassed her 1,000th baby delivery at Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. She has delivered virtually an entire village over her 15 years of service!

While eating dinner at Flatbread Company in North Conway, NH, **Katie Croyle, Kara Smith Couture** (18) and **Jess Brandt Eisner** (18) were surprised and excited to bump into **Erin Kenison** (06) (photo D). Erin recently received her PhD from Purdue University. Great job!



### Get Social!



Facebook | YMCA Camp Huckins



**Twitter** | @CampHuckins



LinkedIn |
Camp Nellie Huckins
Alumni group



Instagram | YMCACampHuckins



Alison Goslee
Memoli, Becky
Siegel Mollett
and Kate Golden
Wood, JCs of 1996,
had a Huckins
gathering with
their children this
summer.

Gabby Glickman ran into Paige Ferrell at her company summer social. Gabby was her CIT in the mid div and her W counselor in 2013. Meredith Haff Breiland and Meghan Simone – 1996 SC's reporting in for ice cream!

Long-time
Huckins
friends Ellie
Gordon, Debbie
Jabbari and
Lauren Trumbull
got together in
Concord, NH over
the summer for
good conversation
and sunshine!





Nellie girls
in Texas!
Courtney
Masland
Skerritt (97) and
Frederique Dupré
(07) connected at a
college counseling
conference in San
Antonio.







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

## **Huckins Reunions**



It was great to see so many Huckins friends at our events in New York City ①, Wolfeboro, NH ②, Philadelphia ③ and Maine ④.







## 53 Years of Friendship

by Lexi Haskell Hoffman

It started in 1964 in Cabin R, when Lexi Haskell and Debbie Gumner fell in love with Camp Huckins and began a lifelong friendship. Both enjoyed camp through their years as campers and



Debbie (Gumner) Jabbari and her granddaughter Mia.

counselors until 1973 when each moved on to careers, marriage and family. The pull of camp drew Lexi back to Huckins in 1989 to serve as Junior Division leader and later, Leadership Division leader until 1991.

Although they each led their own lives on opposite sides of the country, their friendship did not end. They reconnected at family camp in 1991, where they discovered that their deep connection showed up in mysterious ways. They each had two sons named Alexander and Aaron.

Their bond has only strengthened over the years, checking in with each other frequently and visiting each other twice a year. Visits alternate between California and New Hampshire, and include their other camp friends, Ellie Gordon and Linda "Spitzie" Spitzburg.

In 2016 Lexi and Debbie shared exciting news with each other—their sons named Aaron were both expect-



Lexi (Haskell) Hoffman with daughter Emma and granddaughter Persi.

ing daughters on July 14th, 2017. To the surprise of everyone, both mothers went into labor on July 3rd, just before midnight and Debbie's granddaughter, Mia was born within minutes of Lexi's granddaughter, Persi on the 4th of July, 2017.

Their grandmothers hope that they will become lifelong friends and Nellie Girls, as Mia and Persi are scheduled to attend Camp Huckins in 2026.

Register now to join Persi and Mia in the Junior Division in 2026. Spaces for second session are filling up fast!

## Huckins Love Story

# Sylvia Thayer and Philip Zaeder

by Stephanie Paine

On a cool day in mid-April, Jody and I made our way to Center Ossipee and the Junction Restaurant to meet with Huckins Alumni Sylvia Thayer and Philip Zaeder. Married over 60 years, the Thayer/Zaeder romance began at Camp Huckins—a true Huckins Love Story. The two met when they were both on staff in the mid-fifties. Sylvia, a former camper and Wellesley student was working as a counselor in 1956. Philip started at Huckins in 1952 as a "kitchen boy" and moved up to the posi-

tion of cook in 56. Philip, a Yale undergraduate, had a friend from school who told him he knew of a Wellesley girl who was a counselor at Camp Huckins. The two met in 1956 and became friends. That summer Philip started writing letters in French to another counselor at the camp. A bit jealous, Sylvia told him that he should stop writing the letters because the counselor did not speak French and she was having to translate. The two started dating and the rest is history. On June



14 1958, they were married and spent their last summer at camp. Sylvia was the Junior Division Leader and Philip served as the Mountain Trip Director.

Outside the kitchen Philip, a diver, remembers fondly participating in the famous Water Carnival and "Christmas in July" festivities. In those days the camp ate in the Lodge.

Sylvia studied astronomy at Wellesley and Philip studied theology at Yale. Philip went on to Theological School and working at Yale Divinity and

serving as a school chaplain and administrator at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. Sylvia taught science in an allgirls junior/senior high school, then as the mother of three she worked in a variety of roles from a liturgical dancer to astronomy teacher to dean at Phillips Academy.

Today, Sylvia and Philip live in an old farm house in Milton, New Hampshire. They have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

## Carroll County YMCA

# **Community Impact!**



- 1. Counselors in Training help build the Gaga pit for the Middler Division.
- 2. The July CITs spent the morning at Thomas the Tank in North Conway, NH volunteering in the MWV Children's Museum's activity tent.
- 3. North Country Independent Living (NCIL) clients go for a bike ride around camp.
- 4. The leadership members of the of the Kennett High School Kiwanis Key Club work as a team to conquer the ropes course!







# Mother/Son Weekend



Mother 3/Son Weekend continues to expand. It was fun to have so many sisters ② and their sons ①.





# **Staff Family Day 2018**

















































Pine

Raslowsky

Weisel

# Mother/Daughter Weekend







Our biggest weekend of camping season—girls and moms sharing the magic of Camp Huckins.

- 1. Juniors
- 2. Middlers
- 3. Seniors
- 4. Leadership



## Labor Day Weekend



A great way to finish the summer with all these happy Labor Day Seniors (1), Juniors (2) and Middlers (3).





# Family Camp 2018



Family Camp Hucksters — an amazing ceremony with 5-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 25-year and 30-year families recognized!



**Junior Division** 



Middler Division



**Senior Division** 



**Leadership Division** 



## Women's Wellness Weekend

Treat yourself to a wonderful weekend at Camp. Mark your calendars for next September 27–29, 2019.



2018 skillet champs



Weekend participants



Paddling with friends on Lake Ossipee



**Meditation workshop** 

# Leadership Training Institute



# Alumni Weekend



Thank you to all of our alumni who come each June to help us get the boats and floats in the water, open the shutters and sweep out the pine needles.

YMCA Camp Huckins 17 Camp Huckins Road Freedom NH 03836-4403

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## YMCA Camp Huckins

#### **IMPORTANT DATES ~ 2018-2019 SEASON**

Oct. 20 Boston Alumni Gathering, Blackmoor Bar & Kitchen, 1 Chelsea Street, Boston

Nov. 9 Colorado Alumni Gathering, Boulder

Nov. 16 Boston University Club Event

Feb. 23 Huckins Snow Day

May 31-June 2 Alumni Weekend

June 7-9 Mother/Son Weekend

June 10-15 Early Bird Week

June 16-21 Staff Training Week

June 22-July 6 1st Session

July 6-20 2nd Session

July 21-Aug. 3 3rd Session

Aug. 3-17 4th Session

July 27 Staff Parent's Day

Aug. 19-24 Family Camp

Aug. 30-Sept. 2 Labor Day Family Camp

Sept. 13-15 Mother/Daughter Weekend

Sept. 27-29 Women's Wellness Weekend

#### Support Camp Huckins via Amazon Smile!

It couldn't be easier. Just visit smile.amazon.com and select Carroll County YMCA - Camp Huckins as your charity. Amazon will make a donation to Huckins every time you make a qualifying purchase!

#### **Get Your Nellie Gear!**

The online store will be open Dec. 1-15, 2018.

#### www.camphuckinsshop.com

There will be many new items and all the old favorites.

#### Questions?

sarahcnhstore@gmail.com

