

# The Huckonian



A Publication for Alumni and Friends

Fall 2022

## Community: A Reflection on Life Under the Pines

### 2022 at Huckins Camp

saw a return to our new normal. We welcomed back hikes, horseback riding, dance and drama, international staff, and cart people. There was lots of singing, friendships made, friendships strengthened, tight races in cabin inspections, "wicked good" talent shows, and friendly competition on College and Olympic Days. Camp days were filled with opportunities for campers and staff to stretch, practice, and learn as they discovered more about who they want to be and all they are capable of.

We also saw a return to normal for our alumni, family and community building programs. We welcomed back Family Campers, Labor Day Family Campers, Mother Son, Mother Daughter, and Women's Wellness programs. Watching parents, grandparents, future Huckins campers, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles making memories together, here under the pines, filled my heart with joy.

In September we welcomed back Carroll County students who began their school year team building on the Huckins ropes course. In total, we served over 600 local students, introducing them to Huckins' core values as they learned more about their classmates and how to work together.

### The strength of CCYMCA Camp Huckins is grounded in the generosity and commitment of all parts of this interconnected Huckins family.

lighting, windows, fans, new basketball hoop, and opened walls for airflow. The mezzanine created a space for staff to hang out and work out. One of the biggest changes was the new "Megafield" created to connect the Sports Complex to the tennis courts. By removing trees, moving some of the ropes course elements, and planting grass, we doubled the size of the sports field. The Dining Hall saw some changes, too. A grassy yard was created out front for campers and



Summer 2022 also brought some new things to Huckins. The Sports Complex renovations were completed, making it a popular destination with new

staff to enjoy, and we started to prepare for an addition where the Middler Division tent was set up.

During staff training, we did an activity that compared the Huckins community to an ecosystem. With yarn, we created webs that connected staff to one another and looked at how the actions of one member of the web impacted others. The activity inspired conversation about how to support one another and what we could do to care for our Huckins camp community. It was a theme we returned to throughout the summer to support one another through the challenges and opportunities that emerged. Staff demonstrated remarkable care, resiliency, flexibility, and creativity to make every day special!

As I reflect on the summer and fall, I recognize that the "ecosystem" of our summer camp community is part of a much larger Huckins network. The strength of CCYMCA Camp Huckins is grounded in the generosity and commitment of all parts of this interconnected Huckins family. We could not deliver the Huckins Experience without the dedicated staff and volunteers, families, campers, alumni, and donors. Each member of this community is essential in helping to create, prepare for, care for, and deliver programs that bring the Huckins spirit to life.

Volunteers shared their expertise and time to make camps happen. Our Medical Advisory Committee helped staff develop guidelines for a safe and healthy summer and responded quickly when we had questions during camp.



**Three generations work together lowering the flag during Family Camp.**

The Huckins Board of Directors was fully engaged throughout the year, sharing valuable perspectives to guide decision making and planning. Alumni joined staff in June to open camp – moving boats, mooring floats, cleaning the Craft Shop and Sports Shed, and expanding the camp garden. Many hands really do make light work!

Volunteers stepped up on Check-in Day to make sure families felt welcome and knew where to go. After 2 years, we were finally able to celebrate Jody Skelton’s 51 years of service, and alumni volunteers led in the planning and delivery of this special day. We would not have been able to run such successful Family Camps or Mother/Daughter/Son weekends without our experienced team of program volunteers stepping in to help run departments. When we put a call out for donations of yarn, magazines, and mugs, this community made sure we had the supplies we needed.

We are grateful for each of you that shared your time, expertise, and resources. Be sure to check out the 2023 Camp Schedule on page 16 and mark your calendar to join us for our June and September Alumni Volunteer Weekends. Visit the volunteer opportunities page of our website to share your interest in being part of the 2023 volunteer team.

As we put camp to bed, we are already thinking about welcoming campers, staff, alumni, and families back next summer. In the months ahead, I hope you make time to look up at the night sky, write letters to camp friends, sing some songs, and remember that our Huckins Family remains connected no matter how far apart we are. Keep in touch and we can’t wait to see you in 2023.

In the Huckins Spirit,

Heather

**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. We strive to provide an honest, respectful and caring atmosphere where each person can grow to realize their full potential.**

## **CARROLL COUNTY YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Maddy Clapp**  
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- Beth (Coffey) McKay**  
Director of Development &  
Alumni Relations
- Katie Miressi**  
Community Programs  
Coordinator
- Michael Pfluger**  
Facility Director
- Joel Weeman**  
Director of Food Services



# We Welcome You to Huckins...



In September, Huckins welcomed Katie Miressi to the year-round staff team as the new Community Programs Coordinator. Katie's role will focus on developing and delivering programs to youth, families and individuals in communities across Carroll County. This includes taking programs into local spaces,

such as community centers and schools, and by hosting local groups at the Huckins facility during the spring and fall. In addition, Katie will work closely with other local groups and partners to help support community needs.

Katie is no stranger to Huckins! Katie attended Summer Camp from 1993 to 1998 and her favorite memories at Huckins include canoeing, working with younger campers, and making lifelong friendships. Katie brings a wealth of knowledge to Huckins from her previous youth development work including coaching youth sports, providing before and after school programs for elementary students, tutoring school age children within special education, and working as the director of multiple children's fitness and developmental centers.

**"Some of my greatest passions are meeting new people and facilitating programs to help others achieve healthy living. I am so excited to be able to bring people of all ages together in the community through fun, inclusive and positive activities."**

**Katie Miressi**

provide after-school care to support local families, while providing a space for positive peer interaction, homework support, and a variety of enrichment activities.

Katie lives in Carroll County with her wife Amy and their daughter, Josie. They enjoy being new parents, getting involved outside in the community, and making new memories!

In her role as Community Programs Coordinator, Katie will focus on developing and delivering our flagship community programs, such as Squeaky Sneakers, Short Sports, Senior Sneakers, and New Hampshire's YMCA Youth & Government program. Katie will also take over as the primary lead for on-site school groups. This fall, Huckins hosted over 600 local students in teambuilding activities and ropes course as the school year kicked off. Katie is currently working on developing a new Afterschool Program for Freedom Elementary School students. This program will



**Katie in action with Squeaky Sneakers.**

## The Legacy Society 100 by 100

**L**egacy Society members are individuals who have chosen to include Camp Huckins in their planned giving. This can be done through a bequest in a will, a gift of stock, 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 the recipient of memorial gifts "in lieu of flowers".

We are halfway to our goal of 100 Legacy Society members by our 100th anniversary. Please contact Beth McKay, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at [beth@camphuckins.org](mailto:beth@camphuckins.org) or by phone (603) 539-4710 to find out how you can include Huckins in your estate plans.

# Connections & Green Spaces

by Mark Cadman

The Dining Hall grounds have a fresh look thanks to the skills of the Huckins Facilities team. Under the leadership of Mike Pfluger and Jeremy Fullerton, we have some new green spaces at Camp! In the fall of 2020, a new covered entry canopy was added to the Dining Hall to help make the building more accessible and to provide a facelift to the entrance way. This was then followed by a much larger landscaping improvement in the Fall 2021. The field in front of the Dining Hall was leveled and the team then seeded the area with the hope mother nature would provide a constant supply of rain to transform the space. The result did not disappoint! The space was completed with two plant beds, located on either side of the doorway, along with a stone fire pit. The team planted a variety of plants in the gardens,

including giant sunflowers that shone down on campers and staff all summer long. Our pre and post season groups especially loved to gather around the Dining Hall campfire on chilly mornings to enjoy a cup of hot coffee or cocoa and great conversation. The area has become a hub for morning and evening gatherings for many in our community.

The Sportsfield and Sports Complex have also benefited from thoughtful landscaping improvements this year. The 2017 Master Plan called for the trees between the field and complex to be removed to generate added playing field space and to connect the Sportsfield with the Sports Complex. After the clearing, the team reclaimed



Front of Dining Hall with firepit and sunflowers.

and supplemented the existing soil and seeded the area, effectively doubling the size of the playing area and connecting the field with the Sports Complex. This has resulted in more space for games and has improved the visibility and accessibility to the Sports Complex and Archery range. The final phase of this project will commence in Spring 2023 as pavers will be placed under the pergola, flower beds will be added, shrubs will be planted, and other final landscaping is completed.

Alamen to Mike, Jeremy and the entire Facilities team for transforming these spaces. The improvements are incredible and have been remarked upon by all who frequented the Dining Hall and Sportsfield this summer. These beautiful gathering spaces enhance opportunities for connection within our community.



New grass in front of the Dining Hall.



The Sports Complex from the Sports Shed.



# Jody's Retirement Party

by Beth McKay

**O**n Sunday, August 21, 2022, the Huckins community was finally able to come together to celebrate Jody Skelton's retirement as the Executive Director of the Carroll County YMCA. Four hundred friends and family enjoyed an afternoon of camp activities, including a swim meet, and then came together under a tent on the Sportsfield for a meal and heartfelt tributes to Jody's 51 years at Huckins. The day was capped off with a twilight Candlelight ceremony at the Chapel, where Jody led the group in her favorite vespers songs and presented leadership blankets to her past Assistant Camp Directors. Pictures from the day and videos of the tributes and Candlelight ceremony are available on Camp's website [www.camphuckins.org/jodys-party/](http://www.camphuckins.org/jodys-party/).

Huckins Board member Krista Marschner and former staff member Kara Couture headed the committee that made this monumental event possible and a team of over 50 volunteers worked together to ensure the day went smoothly from start to finish. The Huckins community donated almost \$51,000 in honor of Jody's contribution to Huckins — another acknowledgement of Jody's impact on countless individuals. In addition to her retirement gifts, the Huckins board will recognize Jody by naming the future archive and alumni library in her honor.

Thank you, Jody, for your indelible impact on Camp Huckins and the Carroll County YMCA.



Jody, Becca and cut-out Jody.



Some of the 50 volunteers who helped out with the event.



Jody with Smackie and Mara.



Party attendees.



Party attendees.

# Thoughts from the Kitchen

by Joel Weeman

The wild intensity of a summer in the Huckins kitchen so quickly segues to the cool and quiet that it almost makes it seem unreal. Could all of that really just have happened?! In the blink of an eye, it is over, and I am left with a feeling of swaying in the wake of the tornado that just passed.

Mid-summer there is barely time to think as meal after meal come and go in their all-consuming way. Most thoughts and feelings about what works, and what doesn't, are kept at bay. Scribbled notes of equipment needed, menu ideas, recipe changes and other random thoughts litter my desk, office, and brain in the hopes that they will still be there in October when I pick up the pieces. I recall texting my wife, Smackie, at the beginning of first session, 2013, "Well, see you at the end of 4th session..." It was my first summer and it had just dawned on me the magnitude of making good food happen on this scale.

And so it goes every year. October is the first chance I get to be pensive and contemplate the food program at Huckins. It's the time I get to think about the wins and losses of the summer. Aside from the more mundane minutia of inventories, equipment lists, budgets, and corner dustings, two things stand out from Summer of 2022.

First was the marking of my 10th summer here. It was an occasion to walk barefoot through the pine needles, hold a candle, and join twenty or so campers and staff celebrating their milestone years and truly feel part of something much bigger than me or a job. An occasion to immerse myself in this community, outside of the dining hall walls, for just a few minutes and hear evidence of the magic of Camp Huckins and take an oath to uphold this magic.

Second, was the jubilant return of a full international staff to Huckins. After two summers with only a handful of international staffers, we were so grateful to welcome 25 people from all over the world. The richness and texture that our community gains from this influx of cultures and languages and personalities is incredible. The energy and fun that it brings to the kitchen is unmatched. I had not realized how much I missed this element of my Camp experience until it returned.

This summer in the kitchen we had folks from Colombia, Mexico, Poland, Turkey, Hungary, and the US. This cultural exchange is, I think, just as beneficial for Camp as it is for the participants. I get to experience Turkish coffee and Polish breakfasts while sharing recipes for many Huckins meals. I get to watch tentative first timers make fast friends and smile through the messiest of clean-ups, talk after-camp travel plans, and see the joy that New Hampshire's lakes, mountains, and coast bring. I get to be present for someone's first encounter with a live lobster and see the mingling of wonder and fear at the thought of eating it! Most importantly, we all get to experience the connectedness of us as people and see how alike we all

are whether we live in Europe, Western Asia, North America, or South America.

A few words from some of this year's kitchen crew probably echo the experience of many campers and staff alike, no matter where they are from:

*"My time at Camp Huckins was incredible, I met people who made my experience and my time in the kitchen wonderful. For me, as an international staff, it was not easy at the beginning of the summer, but the friendly people, the peaceful lake and all the good and fun times made me want to go back and keep joining the lovely Camp Huckins team for the next years. I feel very grateful for this rewarding opportunity!" – Wolf, Colombia*

*"Coming to work on a camp in the States has been my goal for quite a few years. But I believe it's Camp Huckins specifically that made it a life changing experience. Upon arrival, as many of my international friends that I met this summer, I had many fears related to finding my place in a completely new environment. Turns out, they were not accurate at all. Meeting so many wonderful people, out of whom many became really close friends that I still speak to every day, even after the summer has ended, feels quite surreal. I guess what made it happen is a unique Huckins atmosphere, where, despite many challenges, everyone could feel they're part of this one big, family-like community. Even when being an 'outsider,' after surprisingly short time it felt like I'm welcomed and accepted there. And these aren't only my words!*

*"It's this spirit and the people at Huckins what's making me wish to get back. I guess Camp Huckins just creates a feeling of belonging, being my truest self without any judgement that is so unique. It's been two months since leaving camp, and I already miss everything about it (seriously, looking back in time even endless sinks of bowls to wash seems so fun!). Can't wait to see my people again!" – Ola, Poland*

I am full of admiration for the bravery and trust of our International Staff. It is no easy task to commit to a summer in a busy kitchen in a foreign country with people you've never met. Kitchen staff of 2022 - you are amazing! Thank you to all our International Staff of 2022 for enriching our Huckins experience in such a distinctive way. The Huckins spirit is alive and strong the world over.



**Ginny and Joel in the kitchen.**



## Chef Joel's Pumpkin Cake with a Maple Cream Cheese Frosting – A Huckins Holiday Dessert

*This recipe is pretty simple as far as cakes go, but it is also seasonal and super delicious. I worked this out in one of my first summers but in recent years it has been only popping up in the post season as the weekends start to get cooler. I'm always surprised at how the pumpkin leads to a perfectly moist cake. Give it a try this holiday season and let us know how you like it.*

### Pumpkin Cake with Maple Cream Cheese Frosting

#### For the cake:

1 cup granulated sugar	2 cups flour
1 cup packed brown sugar	2 ½ teaspoons baking powder
1 ¼ cup vegetable oil	1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)	1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	1 teaspoon salt
4 eggs	

#### For the frosting:

8oz. cream cheese, softened	1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 stick butter, ½ cup, softened	1 tablespoon pure maple syrup
3 cups confectioners' sugar	Pinch of salt

#### To make the cake:

- » Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9X13 baking pan.
- » In a large bowl whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.
- » In a separate bowl, whisk together sugar, brown sugar and vegetable oil. Add the eggs and vanilla and whisk until well combined. Fold in the pumpkin puree.
- » Stir wet ingredients into the bowl of dry ingredients and whisk until completely combined.
- » Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 35–40 minutes. It will be done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
- » Cool completely before frosting.

#### To make the frosting:

- » Using a handheld mixer or stand mixer with a paddle, beat together cream cheese and butter. Add in confectioners sugar, vanilla, maple syrup and salt. Beat on low until sugar is incorporated and then on medium for 2 minutes.
- » Frost cooled cake and enjoy!

# Women's Wellness Returns to Huckins



Women's Wellness Weekend returned in 2022. A small group of women made the most of a beautiful September weekend to connect and play together. One group headed for a goat hike while others kayaked down Black Brook into Danforth Bay. The afternoon was spent swimming and boating to the island. We rounded out the weekend with sunrise yoga, a hike on the mountain bike trails, and the



traditional skillet toss. Chef Joel kept the group fueled with delicious gourmet meals.

Please join us for Women's Wellness 2023, September 15-17.

## The Huckins Fund!

**Why is a gift to the Huckins Fund so important? The Huckins Fund is our annual fund that provides flexible resources for camp to use towards our greatest needs. Gifts to the Huckins Fund help with yearly operating costs, staff training, financial aid for campers, community programs, and facilities upkeep, as well as to chocolate chip pudding, stand-up paddle boards, gimp in the Craft Shop, and candles at Candlelight. Huckins Fund dollars help bridge the gap between camp's tuition and the actual cost of providing a Huckins experience. Please consider supporting the Huckins Fund with your gift this year. All gifts made by December 31 will be recognized in the Annual Report. Thank you for your consideration and ALAMEN to our generous donors.**

# All About the Alumni ...

**Alison (Goslee) Memoli (97)** was named the 2021–2022 New Hampshire School Counselor of the Year. She works as the school counselor for the John Fuller School in North Conway, NH.

**Nancy Feldman (89)** recently retired after 27 seasons as the Head Coach of the Boston University Women's Soccer team as one of the most decorated head coaches in the history of Boston University athletics. Congratulations, Nancy!

**Violet Kelly (19)**, third generation alum and Huckster, will be studying to be a pediatric physical therapist at Florida Gulf Coast University.

**Stephanie Paine (22)** has started Stephanie Paine Consulting, a firm that helps nonprofits with board development, fundraising, and human resources strategies.

**Jackie Bengston (18)**, a recent Rollins College graduate, received a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Nepal and a Critical Languages scholarship to study Urdu in India.



**Michael Skelton (15)** was inducted into the Kennett High School Sports Hall of Fame on September 17, 2022. Mike, shown here with **Maddy Clapp (22)**, **Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton (20)** and **John Skelton (20)**, is currently the assistant women's soccer coach at the University of Vermont.



**Macy Matarazzo (95)** and **Kim (Mavor) Hollowell (83)** met up in Colorado.



**Leslie Guenther (89)** ran into **Mason Guerster (21)** in Mobile, AL at the end of Mason's Winter Ocean Classroom Trip, proving the Nellie girls really are everywhere!



**Jill MacArthur (09)** welcomed **Jane (Siegel) Richards' (09)** new Nellie girl with lots of love! Jill and Jane have been long-time best friends and bunk-mates since cabin S.



**Jody (Litvin) Doyle**, **Eileen (Galvin) Knight**, and **Emily (Thomas) Parker (89)**, cabinmates in Cabin H in 1968, reunited at camp for Jody's Retirement Party.



**Meredith (Haff) Breiland (96)** and two friends recently completed a two-day, 37 mile run from her home in Vermont to the Canadian border!



**Stephanie Sherman**, **Tori Belkin**, **Taylor (Sherman) Quinn (17)**, **Jackie Jepsen (22)**, and **Heather (Sweet) Sherman (81)** celebrated at Taylor's wedding.





Four generations pose for a photo at Janna Dwyer's September 2022 wedding. **Breezy Dwyer (19)**, Jane Atherton Knudsen, **Deb Atwood (53)**, Morgan Snow Dwyer, **Janna Dwyer**, and **Kate (Snow) Dwyer (75)**.



**Mary Ann Hermance (63)**, **Connie (Jones) Griffin (60)**, **Lois Kessin (65)** and **Frannie (Colmes) Davis (66)** gathered for a celebration of life for Rick Shaw in Kittery Point, Maine.



**Christa Schmidt (93)**, **Amanda Hinnant (93)**, **Sabrina Dunlap**, **Sara (Daley) Popescu (95)**, **Stacy (Denham) Willenbacher**, **Kristin (Wenninger) Ekborg (16)**, **Kathy Vittum (95)**, **Amily Dunlap (15)**, and **Margeaux (D'Auteuil) Peabody (95)** gathered for a Huckins reunion in Hopkinton, NH.



This group of Nellie girls relived a classic staff day off by going to a Dispatch/OAR concert before spending a day at the beach! Pictured are **Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth (05)**, **Caitlin Mulligan (04)**, **Emilie Pinkham (04)**, **Lee Winer (05)**, **Kat (Lafferty) Cadamosti (04)**, **Amy Kallmerten (05)**, **Katie Archer (03)** and **Laura Howson (03)**.

## Memorials

**Robert Dunham**, past Huckins Board member and former owner of New England Embroidery Co. in Conway, NH, passed away in April of 2022.

### **Caroline Simmonds**

**Cook** passed away on April 6, 2022, after a brave 18-month battle with a rare type of brain cancer. Caroline formed some of her happiest memories and closest friendships during her summers on the shores of Ossipee from 1987 to 1997. She spent time as a camper, counselor, CIT trainer and twice served as waterfront director. Most recently she returned in 2018 and 2019 for Mother/Son weekend with her son Gabriel. She leaves behind her husband Jonathan, two young sons Gabriel and Oliver, her sister Barbara and niece Wylie. Caroline was a lover of nature who made conservation the passionate focus of her career. She lived in a mud hut in Malawi during her two years in the Peace Corps and traveled the world extensively for both pleasure and work. Inquisitive and engaging, Caroline will be remembered for her radiant smile, quick wit, and effortless ability to bring others together. - *Carol Knerr*



**June Chick Loud** passed away on October 4, 2022, at the age of 102 in Ossipee, NH. June held the title of the oldest surviving Huckins camper and returned to camp to visit and reminisce as often as she could. She was part of the first class of Navy WAVES during World War II and later served as Clerk of the Court and a Justice of the Peace for many decades.



# Welcome to the Huckins family! Weddings and Babies



A multitude of Huckins alums from near and far converged on Portland, ME to celebrate with **Kara Evans (17)** and Casey Cole. Alums included **Maddy Evans, Kat (Lafferty) Cadamosti, Sara Doverspike, Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton, Sarah Dodge, Fiona Bourke, Molly (Mullins) Greenwood, Marybeth Sullivan, Becca Skelton, Kelsey (Haley) Hill, Katherine (Martin) Berry, Kara (Smith) Couture, Jess (Brandt) Eisner, Beth (Coffey) McKay, Morgan (Sherry) Evarts, Alli Brooks, Katie Croyle, Dan McKay, Sarah (Mackie) Weeman, Joel Weeman, and Alisson (Borowski) Kolodner.**



**Hannah Gisness (14)** and **Kristen Ashley** and their partners Jason DeHoff and Drew Erdman attended **Becca Fallon (14)** and Miles Coleman's wedding in Assisi, Italy.



**Caroline (16), Molly and Maddie (21) Johnson, Becca Fallon (14), Jason DeHoff, Hannah (Gisness) DeHoff (14), Stephanie Martinez-Ruckman (02)** and Campbell and Avery Ruckman celebrated Hannah and Jason's wedding in August of 2022.



**Katherine Martin (14)** and Gordon Berry were married on August 27, 2022, in Washington, Vermont.



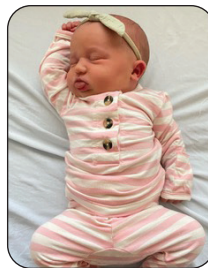
**Jane (Siegel) Richards (09)** welcomed her first child with partner David Richards. Tegan Jane Richards was born on August 31, 2022, weighing 7 pounds 12 ounces in Walnut Creek CA.



**Jeremy Fullerton (22)** and Lauren Hawkins, shown here with daughter Isla, married at Camp on October 1, 2022.



**Taylor Sherman (17)** and Meaghan Quinn married June 5, 2022.



Shea Julie Demers joined big brother Ronan (age 4), mom **Ashlee (Bailey) (09)**, and dad Jonathan on August 28, 2022.



**Lauren Kehoe (18)** wed Kevin Roberts on August 12, 2002, with Huckins alums **Ellie Jones (18), Kara (Smith) Couture (22), Annie (Cowie) Watts (13), Annie Colbert (18), Jenn Dalton (17), and Audrey James (17)** in attendance.



# What ever happened to... Wendy Button

I don't remember how I got to Camp Nellie Huckins. It might have been recommended by someone in the town I grew up in, by a family friend, or seeing a camp t-shirt in the local grocery store. All I know is I'm glad I found my way to the shores of Ossipee. I started in Cabin Q, moved to M, can't recall which letters I hit in the Senior Division, ended up in W, as a C.I.T., a J.C., and then an S.C. in the summer of 1986. For 8 years, I'd pack a trunk, destroy those clothes, "make new friends but keep the old," and find just one day to jump off the tower.

As a working writer, I had no idea how that simple act, leaping from a high ledge into the murky waters of a lake, would come in handy in the work I do each day. I have always written: plays about flying princesses when I was nine, bad poetry in high school (is there any other kind?), short stories in college at St. Lawrence University, and on to graduate school for a Master of Fine Arts in Writing at Bennington College.

As any writer knows, we have to find a job that does two things: allows us to earn a living and helps us do the creative work. So, I found my way into political speechwriting. First with the late-great mayor of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, then to the then senator of New York, Hillary Clinton, then as the first woman in the Democratic Party to be a chief speechwriter on a presidential campaign

for John Edwards, and many others in the U.S. and abroad. I continue to write in politics, but now spend most of my time working on cause-oriented

**Our Spring 2022 Huckonian will focus on this Huckins alum... can you guess who it is?**



**Wendy and Grace**

events like the Emmy winning show CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute, Stand Up To Cancer, telethons like the Hope For Haiti Now event, hurricane relief, COVID fundraisers, March For Our Lives, Care Can't Wait, and many others. I also publish essays and have a number of creative projects in development. But each morning when I wake up, I stare at a blank page and "jump off the tower" to fill it.

It doesn't take much for me to think about Camp Huckins. I'll hear a song we use to play a lot on our "boom boxes," or sing in the dining hall or at vespers. The smell of dried pine needles brings me back to that place. So does the sound of a screen door slamming, the sight of chocolate chip pudding, and a lit candle on a summer night. The true spirit of Huckins never goes out. There are studies that say that people who bond in group experiences and then go for years and years without seeing one another can pick right up with a comfort as if time hadn't passed. That is "constant and true" for Huckins. This is what Huckins does. It connects us in deep ways as we keep taking our own leaps of faith, muddle through losses and failures, celebrate joys and triumphs, knowing that there's a great community out there, giving us loud and loving Alamens.



**Lauren Kehoe (18)** and Kevin Roberts.



**Kara Evans (17)** and Casey Cole (pictured with Barley, Hershey and Guinness) married in Portland, ME on August 13, 2022.



# Alumni Volunteer Weekend

Alamen to the nearly 50 volunteers that helped to open camp during our Alumni Volunteer Weekend in June. The mighty group of volunteers helped with many projects including: installing screen doors in the renovated bungalows; moving docks and boats to set up the waterfront and small crafts beach, rigging sailboats

and cleaning the boathouse. Teams of volunteers cleaned and set up the craft shop, expanded the vegetable gardens at the nature hut, set up international staff rooms, prepped the barn for the return of horses, and stacked firewood!

We are excited to announce that in 2023 there will be two opportunities

to participate in alumni volunteer work weekend. Alumni are invited to join us on June 2-4 to help open the facility and we are adding a second alumni volunteer weekend September 29-October 1 to help put camp to bed.

Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing our alumni and volunteers on both occasions!



# Mother/Son Weekend

Mother/Son weekend was the perfect way to kick off the 2022 Camp Season. Join us June 9-11 for Mother/Son 2023!



**Mother-Son Hucksters**





# Family Camp Week

It was a joy to welcome generations of Family Campers in August. Mark your calendar for Family Camp 2023, August 21-25 and we look forward to seeing you then!



**Junior Division**



**Middler Division**



**Senior Division**



**Leadership Division**



**Clockwise from left:  
 Double Hucksters  
 20 Year Hucksters  
 Triple Hucksters  
 Hucksters**





# Labor Day Family Camp

Labor Day Family Campers made the most of every minute, whether it be spending the day on a sunfish or visiting all the activity areas! We can't wait to see you all September 1-4, 2023!



**Hucksters**



**Junior Division**



**Middler Division**



**Senior Division**



**Leadership Division**

## 2023 Camps at a Glance

**Alumni Volunteer Weekend June 2–4**

**Mother/Son Weekend June 9–11**

**Family Camp August 21–25**

**Labor Day Family Camp September 1–4**

**Mother/Daughter Weekend  
September 8–10**

**Alumni Volunteer Weekend  
September 29–October 1**



# Mother/Daughter Weekend

Being a part of this weekend as mothers and daughters made special memories at Huckins was heartwarming. Nearly 250 mom's and daughters filled camp in September and **we look forward to seeing you all in 2023 for our new (hopefully warmer) weekend on September 8-10.**



**Double Hucksters**



**Junior Division**



**Hucksters**



**Middler Division**



**Senior Division**



**Leadership Division**



YMCA Camp Huckins  
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## YMCA Camp Huckins

### IMPORTANT DATES 2023 SEASON

- June 2–4** Alumni Weekend
- June 9–11** Mother/Son Weekend
- June 13–16** Early Bird Week
- June 18–24** Staff Week
- June 25–July 8** 1ST Session
- July 9–July 22** 2ND Session
- July 23–August 5** 3RD Session
- August 6–August 19** 4TH Session
- August 21–25** Family Camp Week
- September 1–4** Labor Day Family Camp
- September 8–10** Mother/Daughter Weekend.  
*Please note change of weekend from 2022*
- September 15–17** Womens Wellness
- September 29–October 1** Fall Alumni Work Weekend

## Get your Nellie Gear!

The online camp store will be open from 10:00 am Eastern time on November 14, 2022, to 10:00 am Eastern time on November 28.



Check out the camp classics as well as some new items, including the 2022 holiday ornament, Croc charms and cabin stickers! Orders will be shipped to arrive for the holidays.

[www.camphuckinsshop.com](http://www.camphuckinsshop.com)

Questions? [store@camphuckins.org](mailto:store@camphuckins.org)