



# Nor'wester

A Newsletter from and for the Camp Nor'wester Community

Spring 2023

## Announcing: Argyle House

The Camp Nor'wester staff experience has officially changed forever! We are excited to announce that this winter, Camp Nor'wester made the significant move to purchase a property on San Juan Island to accommodate staff on their time off. Recent staff members will know that this is a momentous occasion!

It has been a long process with a dedicated Task Force of Board members to reach this point. In 2019, the San Juan Property Task Force was charged with defining the needs for Camp to acquire a property for staff to use on their Time Off days. After exploring a wide range of options, Task Force members came across Argyle House in the fall. What then followed was a diligent vetting process, which included conversations with the town of Friday Harbor and realtors, a feasibility study on the potential investment, and many discussions with the Nor'wester Board of Directors and Year-Round Team.

Affectionately referred to as "Argyle House," this new property is ideally located in Friday Harbor. The house has five bedrooms, five bathrooms, two accessory dwelling units, and a beautiful yard. The Year-Round Team, contractors, and Board members have been working hard to get the space ready for Summer 2023.



We are THRILLED that Nor'wester now has a safe and comfortable space where staff can choose to stay overnight on their Time Off days during the summer and are grateful for everyone who helped make this happen! Stay tuned as the Task Force continues to look at year-round use possibilities for this incredible investment.

## House Manager Volunteer Opportunities!

Are YOU interested in being on San Juan Island this summer for a week or more?

In order to support staff use of Argyle House this summer, we are looking to arrange for "House Managers" to be on-site for at least a week at a time across the summer season. The vision is similar to a "campground host" concept – we're looking for reliable alumni or friends of Camp to sign-on to ensure staff lodging goes smoothly, and to maintain house standards and expectations, in exchange for a free place to stay (one bedroom, private bathroom) in Friday Harbor.

**Calling all you work-from-homers; the house has great wifi!!!**

Specific dates we're looking to cover are: June 27-July 20 & July 28-Aug 20. Camp Leadership will provide an orientation to the job and specific information and resources to ensure you are prepared for everything. Please contact Operations Director Jill Steigerwald at [jill@norwester.org](mailto:jill@norwester.org) if you are interested in learning more!

# Program Corner

“San Juan Spirit means Service to Others” or SJS means STO - This motto has been shared amongst campers and staff for generations of Nor’wester history. Circulated first at the Henderson Camps in the 30s and 40s, it’s been carried on by many eras of Nor’wester folks, including one of the greatest Camp fans, Donn Charnley (please see Page 5).

In our program, we continue to provide opportunities for campers to practice stewardship and learn about the Camp’s environmental impact on our main property on Johns Island. Units are expected to contribute to at least one camp improvement project each week of their session, and many grounds and facilities improvements over the years have been successful because of the contributions of campers.

Additionally, over the decades, campers have participated in various service projects throughout the San Juan islands. In the 2000s, Paul & Christa started an organized relationship between Camp and Lopez Community Land Trust, sending campers on overnight trips to participate in various projects to support affordable housing development on Lopez. That tradition has blossomed into a strong partnership with LCLT, and we continue to arrange overnight trips to work on service projects there.



2022 First Session Wayfarers at Lopez Community Land Trust

In 2019, we ran our first “Service Trip” as part of our Big Trip out-camp program. Campers helped with a day of projects with San Juan Preservation Trust on Shaw Island, and another day of projects at Stonecrest Farm on Lopez. In 2022, a Big Trip (five days in length) headed to Waldron, where campers helped SJPT with trail and conservation projects and gained environmental education specific to the SJI region from SJPT staff.



## 2022 First Session Service Trip on Waldron

While these trips help us expand our trip choices for campers, a key goal in planning for 2019 was to include additional trip options where the itinerary wasn’t as reliant on the physical ability of participants to be carried out. Additionally, we’re finding that many campers are glad to have service opportunities during the summer as we are able to work with school programs to confirm volunteer hours, which for some is required for graduation.

We are excited to continue Service Trips again this summer. We have a Little Big Trip (four days in length) planned First Session at Turtlehead Preserve on Orcas island with SJPT, and are finalizing plans for a Second Session opportunity with a new partner organization. And we will continue our overnight trips to Lopez to work with LCLT for sure. Helping campers learn principles of stewardship is a named goal of Nor’wester, and is tied to our mission statement (“... to learn about themselves, their community, and their environment.”), so we are proud to include these opportunities in our program every summer.

Great things are ahead for Nor’wester, and I’m feeling lucky to be a part of it!

Jill Steigerwald, Operations Director

## Enrollment Opportunities

While we are still accepting applications, both First and Second Sessions are nearly full.

**There are a handful of spots left for in the summer for campers in the following age-groups:**

- 16 year-olds
- 15 year-olds
- 12 years-old and under

Please help us spread the word and share the opportunity for a Nor’wester experience with prospective campers in these age-groups!

Contact Kathleen at [kathleen@norwester.org](mailto:kathleen@norwester.org) or (425) 670-1935 to learn more about these open spots or waitlist options for other units.

## Visitors' Days

We are excited to host two visitors' days this summer! We will have chartered transportation to Camp from Anacortes and from Roche Harbor (on San Juan Island). More information will be emailed to all families in May and will be available on our website.

First Session - Saturday, July 15th  
Second Session - Saturday, August 12th

## 2023 Camp Dates

### 1st Session

June 25 - July 22

### 2nd Session

July 26 - August 22

### Family Camp

August 26 - 29

## Wish List

For those alumni and friends who want to contribute to our on-going program needs, this list is for you! Below are items—*not necessarily in order of priority*—which we would like to add to the program as soon as we can.

To support these needs, please donate to our Nor'wester Fund and contact [info@norwester.org](mailto:info@norwester.org) to share your request for which item(s) you'd like to cover with your donation. Thank you for your support!

*Small electric power washer - \$200*

*Hose reel for steam cleaner - \$350*

*Hardware storage trays (6) - \$30 each*

*Firefighting tools - \$500*

*Laundry facilities upgrades - up to \$5,000*

*Putt-Putt Whaler overhaul (engine, etc.) - \$6,000*

*TreeMaster rigging ropes(2) - \$170 each*

*Battery-powered grounds maintenance equipment (trimmer, leafblower, chainsaw, etc. & batteries) - \$3,000*

*New mountaineering boots - \$150+ each*

*New climbing harnesses & shoes for trips - \$1000+*

### Other Priority Initiatives:

*Plaque installations to share contextual & historical information for all of the art, carvings, and totems, around Camp and at the Bighouse.*

*Staff Experience/Time Off Amenities*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
OF OUR PROGRAM!**



## Outdoor Gear

Our mission is to make it easier for all families to participate in a summer at Nor'wester, without the required gear list making it financially stressful.

### We are currently looking for:

- Synthetic tops and shorts
- 50-70L hiking backpacks with internal frames (not too big)
- Water-suitable shoes (like Crocs, Keen sandals, etc.)
- Compressible mummy sleeping bags
- Sunglasses (polarized preferred)
- Socks for hiking/backpacking (wool, ALL SIZES!)

### Additionally, we will accept:

- light hiking boot (ankle height or higher)
- long underwear (tops & bottoms)
- sleeping pads (foam or inflatable)
- overnight/day backpacks (preferably not school-type)
- headlamps

If you have new or gently-used child/young adult-sized gear (ages 9-16) that you'd like to see go to good use at Camp, please contact Program Director, Harper McFadden at [harper@norwester.org](mailto:harper@norwester.org).

## 2023 NOR'WESTER CALENDAR

Didn't receive a 2023 calendar? We do have extras! If you would like one, please email us or give us a call at the Camp office and we'll be happy to put one in the mail to you (as our supply lasts).

[info@norwester.org](mailto:info@norwester.org) ♦ (425) 670-1935

# Where Hast Thou Been...?

*News, updates, and contributions from members of the Nor'wester community*

From **Sam Lockwood (Camper 1952-56, Staff 1957-60, '62- '63, '65- '66)**: Jan 29, 2023 - Yesterday, for "Lyle's Lunch", a group of 10 found Tutta Bella as a substitute our annual pizza feed at the Northlake. Marty and her caregiver, Ruthann and I, John Dickson, Carl and Dallas Presley, John Summers, Tex [Holstrom], and Dave Barnes had a boisterous time. This tradition has been happening for decades. Rabbit, Lyle, Ruthann and I met at the lvars on the ship canal, shifted to a south lake union spot, and later began a long tenure at the Northlake (closing this month). We sorely miss Bill [Holm] and Lyle [Summers]. Marty's twinkling eyes will suffice.

From **Muireann "Mo" Ni Sheoighe Eachthighearn (Staff 2015-17)**: Where I am in my path today, I can trace directly back to working in the woodshop at camp. From my time there, a deep interest in woodcraft was ignited and several years later I am now studying and working as a luthier, mainly making violins violas and cellos! I have been living in England for the past few years but am moving back to Ireland in the summer to work with a violin maker in Cork city. I hold the friendships and memories of my time at Camp Nor'wester present and near to my heart always.



Mo with a viola she is making.

From **Scott Minard (Camper 2009-11, Staff 2015-18)**: Having done the Baker trip as a camper, and then as a leader on staff, I have always loved exciting adventures. Since my last summer working at Nor'wester, I have become a Divemaster and worked on boats guiding and sharing the outdoors with kids and adults alike! I am now an official deckhand and dive guide who also does underwater photo/video for clients with an emphasis on conservation and creating wonder in regards to our oceans!

From **Brian O'Farrell (Staff 2014-16, '22)**: I've been living in Canada since October 2020 in and around Vancouver, BC. After volunteering at camp through first session in Summer 2022 I've been living in North Vancouver focusing on my accounting career and helping raise two adorable pups with my girlfriend, Kirsten. I have applied for permanent residency in Canada and until my paperwork is processed I can't leave the country without losing my eligibility to continue working here.



Brian spent time a Camp in 2022 leading trips and volunteering (left). On the right are his "two adorable pups."

Recently, I moved to Bowen Island, BC, where my partner got hired in an assistant manager job at Bowen Island Dog Ranch where dogs from Greater Vancouver Area come to stay and board and train while their owners go out of town. I'm still working as financial controller for a Burnaby-based biotech company but they're going out of business and I will be changing job in the coming months, especially as the ferry journey has added significantly to my current office commute.

I hope to make a visit to camp in some capacity this summer once my Canadian residency paperwork has been finalized.

From **Lydia Keener Scott (Staff 2014-15, Family Camp Staff 2017)**: Since working at CNW in 2014 and 2015, I've changed careers and cities twice. I currently live in Lancaster, PA (about 90 min west of Philly) with my husband (married January 2023) and our very cute and very naughty pitbull, Chia. I work from home as a User Experience Designer and in my free time, I love working in my garden and fixing up our house, which belonged to my husband's grandfather. I'm so excited to be coming back to Nor'wester for family camp this summer!



Lydia and her husband (right) and Chia, their puppy (left).

*Have an update to share with the Camp community?*

*We'd love to hear from you.*

*Please email [kelsey@norwester.org](mailto:kelsey@norwester.org) to let us know what you've been up to. Be sure to tell us which years you were a camper or staff member!*

# Honoring Donn Charnley

Donn Charnley often exuded a distinct joie de vivre, an exultation of spirit, while at his beloved Camp Nor'wester. His involvement in and contributions to camp, including many years on its board, spanned 86 years, until his death in Seattle at 94 on Feb. 5, 2023. Plans for a memorial gathering are pending.

He delighted in many things: singing with a guitar looped over his shoulder; tromping in the field with a group of geology students or campers; leading the stroke with a canoe paddle in hand; building and sitting around a communal fire; sleeping in a tipi; backpacking; skiing; swinging a hammer and wielding an ever-present geologist's magnifying loupe.



Worried about a polio outbreak, his mother sent him to Henderson International Camps for Boys in 1937 when he was 9. He fell in love with it and returned annually as a camper, then started working there. Through the decades, he was a counselor, led Big Trip trail hikes and bike outings, taught canoeing and worked on special projects.

This relationship gave him lifelong direction, purpose and friends among the campers and staff and honed his zeal for the outdoors.

He enjoyed inspiring young people to develop a love for community and the outdoors and embrace the motto San Juan Spirit means Service To Others (SJS means STO), which was posted in a common area at Henderson's.



Until struck by fragile, old age and the COVID quarantine in 2020, he often devoted weeks every summer to doing projects at Camp Nor'wester.

As a teacher, he took summers off to travel and camp with family, including children Scott, Annie, Brent, Janet, Craig and Alan.

The joy he gained from exploring the world, sharing his geological knowledge and all things outdoors thoroughly rubbed off on his kids, who embrace those pursuits, a concern for the environment and singing many of his favorite folk songs.

He found great joy in geology, a science that combined many of his interests in the natural world. He excelled as a geology professor who

taught thousands of students over 58 years, 32 years at Shoreline Community College and the remainder in extension courses to retirees until fall 2022.



He also served fellow citizens while on many boards and as a representative and senator in the Washington State Legislature.

He was born April 3, 1928, in Detroit, grew up in Tacoma and Seattle and earned degrees from the universities of Washington and Minnesota.

Survivors include his children, companion Corinne Waters, eight grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and a legion of friends and colleagues. He was preceded in death by wife Melinda Denton and lifelong best friend Bill Holm.

Service to others describes his life's work and mission, which would be perfect for a headstone. His family will mingle his ashes with those of Melinda's at the family's Otter Cove property on Lopez Island.



Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Nor'wester, PO Box 1055, Edmonds, WA 98020, or online at [norwester.org/support](https://norwester.org/support); the University of Washington Melinda Denton Memorial Endowment Fund; San Juan Preservation Trust, [septa.org/visit-our-preserves/](https://septa.org/visit-our-preserves/); Northwest Geological Society, [nags.org/payments/](https://nags.org/payments/); or the Nature Conservancy of Washington, Donation.

*Written by Annie Charnley Eveland*

# Henderson Commons

## Our Camp Store, Museum, and Community space: Embracing Our Future and Honoring Our Past



Construction has started on the Henderson Commons, and we have kicked off our public campaign with a Town Hall Event discussing the project and fundraising efforts on March 21st.

Fundraising began in Spring of 2022, and we have raised 65% of the funds needed. We hope to complete fundraising by December 31, 2023!

To Bring Henderson Commons to life, Nor'wester will rely on philanthropic support from our camp community. As seen in the gift pyramid, donations of all sizes make a difference; every family in our camp community can help!

### To make a donation to Henderson Commons:

Visit: <https://norwester.org/support-norwester/donate-to-camp/> or scan the QR code with your phone

Send checks to: Camp Nor'wester, PO Box 1055, Edmonds, WA 98020

If you would like to make a gift of securities, a multi-year pledge, or have any questions, please contact Executive Director Sheila Tallmon at (425) 670-1935 or [sheila@norwester.org](mailto:sheila@norwester.org)



## Help Support Another Successful Summer!



This year's annual fundraiser helps to invest funds into the campers and staff at Nor'wester through increased salaries (compensation) and increased access to Nor'wester through financial aid. The fund also helps to cover new program supplies and facility updates.

Our goal is to raise \$200,000, and we currently have raised just over \$132,000, 66% towards our \$200,000 goal!

We greatly appreciate those who have already given to Nor'wester's annual fund this year.

**Help us reach our goal by donating to the Nor'wester Fund!**

<https://norwester.org/support-norwester/donate-to-camp/>

Or send a check to:

Camp Nor'wester, PO Box 1055, Edmonds, WA 98020

## The 2023 Online Auction was a smashing success!

Thank you to everyone who participated by donating or bidding. We had 207 items in the auction this year, valued from \$8 to priceless. We grossed a record amount: **over \$30,600!** There were 81 different donors, and 144 bidders. 100 bidders were successful in winning or purchasing something during the auction.

Mark your calendars now for February 23-March 3, 2024 so you're ready to donate and bid again in our 24th online auction!

Dearest Nor'wester Community,

**With a full and grateful heart, I'm reaching out to you to let you know that I have made the difficult decision to transition out of my role as Executive Director at Nor'wester, effective in the fall of 2023.** I am elated to have one more summer on Johns Island as the Director, and have made this decision now, out of full respect for the time and process it takes to find a new Executive Director.

It has been my true honor to lead and guide Nor'wester over the last eleven years, and as I set my compass toward my twelfth and final summer, **I am overwhelmed with both gratitude and pride in what we've all been able to create together** for so many young people. To watch campers and staff grow up over the years and witness the beautiful people they become – that has been one of my favorite parts of the job. And the generosity of volunteerism, time, and support from all of you, the extended community of alumni and families, continues to inspire me in so many ways.

**There is a reason that we say working at Camp is the hardest job you'll ever love.** To be part of a community that rolls up its sleeves – literally and metaphorically – and dares to stand on the precipice of welcoming change while valuing tradition – that is what Nor'wester is at heart. I want you to know that the organization is in the gifted and capable hands of a strong, committed year-round team and a dedicated Board of Directors. I will forever appreciate the incredible people I've been blessed to work with and know that I could not have done this job without them.

**As for next steps for me after Nor'wester?** I will be spending some time after this summer to look at options and opportunities and take time to reflect on my next career move. I'm grateful to the board for their support of my decision, and for the abundant timeline to allow for closure and helping set up the organization for success. While it's bittersweet to leave Camp, which will always be a cherished part of my life, I trust that the universe has big plans for my next endeavor, much like when I was led to Nor'wester years ago.

We have many months ahead to be able to work and create and laugh together, so thank you ahead of time for being part of this great adventure with me as we boldly go into another summer. **I look forward to rolling up my sleeves with all of you and celebrating along the way!**

With love and appreciation,



Sheila Tallmon, Executive Director



**Camp Nor'wester  
Board of Directors**

- Mollie Montgomery (President)
- Pete Flynn (Vice President)
- John D. Bunzel (Treasurer)
- Elizabeth Bayley
- Kim Berhow
- Janet Charnley
- Megan Coughlin
- Jaina Bee Davis
- Hillary Day
- Peter Green
- Libby Hulsey
- Jonathan Lee
- Carter Maser
- Mike Poutiatine
- Cygnia Rapp
- James Reinhardt
- Paul Henriksen (Emeritus)
- Marty Holm (Emeritus)
- Bill Horder (Emeritus)
- Read Langenbach (Emeritus)

*A Message from Board President, Mollie Montgomery:*

Celebrating Sheila! We have been so fortunate to have Sheila as our Executive Director, fearless leader, and dear friend for the past 12 years. We are grateful for her steadfast, creative, and dynamic leadership, including a steady hand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under Sheila's thoughtful and caring direction, Camp has continued to grow and evolve in important ways. Sheila always has an open ear and heart to listen and engage with our Camp community. She has made a huge impact on our campers and staff, and has brought many successes to Nor'wester with her positive attitude, forward thinking, and growth mindset.

Her list of accomplishments through her leadership are endless, including the addition of several new buildings, expanding support systems for campers and staff, and adding mental health professionals to our staffing structure to address the growing needs of young people. Her impact on our Board and committees has been so important. She is also a Board Member of WAIC (Western Association of Independent Camps), and was part of the Washington State Camp Coalition during the pandemic, working on COVID guidelines with state legislators specific to camp program operation. All of this along with the many programming, policy, and procedural changes she oversaw for Nor'wester.

Most of all, Sheila will be missed as voice of reason, vision, and wonderment - her influence has made Nor'wester what it is today. We know she will always be a big part of Nor'wester, always ready to lend her voice in song and community. We look forward to continuing to celebrate Sheila and all her accomplishments! Cheers my friend!

In the spirit of Camp,  
Mollie Montgomery, Board President



# Camp Nor'wester Summer 2023

We have an incredible group of staff hired for this summer! We are pleased to announce the following staff members have been hired and will be part of this summer's experience:

**First Year Staff:**

- |                   |                  |                                |                      |                             |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adam Clary        | Ella Sakakeeny   | Julian Mechels                 | Phoebe Florence      | Vivien Sepulveda Montecinos |
| Adam Shope        | Eloise Crittnden | Kamra Greenwall-Cox            | Rachel Kellaghan     | WD Williams-Derry           |
| Alex Ball         | Elsa Wetten      | Logan Smoot                    | Rosina Beeman-Fortna | Will Emch                   |
| Anna Crosssett    | Ethan Nalewabau  | Lorena Bermejo Jiminez         | Ruby Clemons         | Xenia Ellis                 |
| Anna Shaff        | Everett Hunsaker | Mae Britton                    | Sam Duncan-Doroff    | Yesica Ortega Anacona       |
| Annett Makhubedu  | Fanni Tota       | Marta Navarro Genis            | Sam McKee            |                             |
| Anya Maynard      | Fin Finlay       | Mary Gorsek                    | Sanjana Natesan      |                             |
| Beatice Farb      | Grace LaCrone    | Matt Stevenson                 | Skylar Peak          |                             |
| Brooke Challender | Henry Wheeler    | Meg Borree                     | Sophie Blanchard     |                             |
| Brant Perry       | Isha Sawaneh     | Melody Martinez                | Sydney Dedrick       |                             |
| Carolyn O'Donnell | Jack Quinlan     | Merari Arlette Rosales Sanchez | Thomas Grindle       |                             |
| Danielle Dooley   | James Barber     | Nina Erving                    | Thomas Penny         |                             |
| Deston Dupuis     | Jas Tokeshi      | Noah Cunningham                | Tilly Shayler        |                             |
|                   | Juan Serna Ortiz | Petra Gombos                   | Tyler Stanton        |                             |



- 2  
Abby O'Donnell  
Annie Frost  
Ava Rosenberg  
Colm O Connor  
Eva de Castro  
Graham Capron

- Jake Wasserman  
Joel Kelly  
Justine Poor  
Kat Ventosa  
Lilah Horowitz  
Liv Fialkow

- Lucy Schembre  
Molly Dever  
Morgan Martin  
Natalia Polania Rayo  
Olivia Camili  
Teddy Lutch

- Theo George  
Theo Lawson  
Zach Greenberg  
Zoe Dewitt

- 3  
Ali Baccus  
Anna Lapin  
Charlie Lewis  
Cody Trinkaus

- Elias Bell  
Emma Bauer  
Ethan Revis  
Harper Hale

- Mars Belisle  
Max Carlin  
Mira Springer  
Sally Huston

- Sam McKaige  
Shea Delphinidae  
Spencer Blanchard  
Teddy Carlin

- 4  
Josie Ballew



- 5  
Claire Rosenberg

- 6  
Harper McFadden  
Noah Gwerder

- 7  
Japera Burres

- 9  
Cole Curtright  
Kathleen Perry  
Mark Ruddock

- 10  
Kelsey McFadden

- 12  
Sheila Tallmon

- 15  
Jill Steigerwald

- 21  
Rick Winings

As of late April, we have a few spots left for potential staff that would like to join this team; help spread the word!



# Game Page

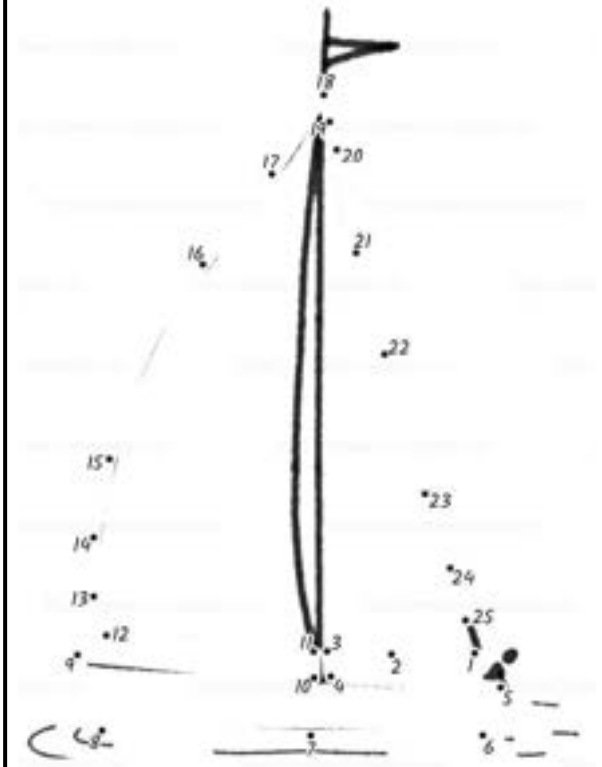
Email a photo of your completed game page to [kelsey@norwester.org](mailto:kelsey@norwester.org) to be entered to win a Camp Nor'wester sticker pack!

## Camp Nor'wester Word Search

APNCEDOSJISGNELLDAYM  
 DAKNARTBOHHWKYDAAGKH  
 DWCKQMECHAGJEPEOYIWI  
 SCWIHTPJDOAQHXIHQKCF  
 KHOLZAAFARCHERYGXRWU  
 ITULIBIRIWULIYHGSIPN  
 TBLETCHQPRRLTMCEJLSII  
 KKORGDDDEASEWQUFRSZCT  
 IPUMISSCNYHNORTHSTAR  
 QRTACHNJOMWETHVQWTMC  
 TEHCWVNOUVAULIYCOJBZ  
 IMOPHFWDSMEGOTHDFGZY  
 WKUAAIDCJEPRIMESTUTK  
 WOSCLGUQMGBENCVRUIRM  
 XFELEVFVWVDARIAQCRUU  
 UTYVRLTITLVOGOGTQBNP  
 KPOPGJKFOKXYTOAHIOKJ  
 LVSLMIGNZVOJOHNSTTYA  
 QVRTWGWVTNEQDJHJHQQR  
 DZVFJJJHGYSANJUANKQN

- |              |           |            |      |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------|
| tarp shelter | overnight | North Star | unit |
| killer mac   | campfire  | outhouse   | pigs |
| nosebag      | archery   | Nell Day   | skit |
| whaler       | bletch    | jumper     |      |
| San Juan     | trunk     | magic      |      |
| Johns        |           |            |      |

Connect the dots to reveal a Camp-themed image.



## Song Scramble

Unscramble the song titles from the Camp Nor'wester Songbook.

YGDERVSAOH (2 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

LBEEAIN (1 word)

\_\_\_\_\_

ESFCLRCSSAOM (3 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

RLAGIECMCE (2 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

ARIEEYTINJWSKHH (4 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

ASNONUHAS (2 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

OWAIARY (2 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

# Note from the Director: Spring (board) into a Life-Shaping

I have always believed that spring is my favorite time of year, casually saying that it's because of the promise of summer and new life budding all around. But I want to dive a little deeper to understand why I love it and how relevant it is to what we do at Camp.

Maybe it's because the season of spring instills such hope, giving me exciting internal prompts that I can still find ways to be in wonder...and ways to realize that there are plenty of opportunities for growth. And maybe it's because nature's beauty can emerge in the most surprising, yet somehow predictable ways. On a walk yesterday, I literally stopped in my tracks, caught off guard by the vividness and outpouring charisma of some tulips, lined up and just doing their thing, growing, and opening up to the sky (and the world...and possibility...). What a gift to have such purpose, simply existing to help us all find balance with their presence.

So, in thinking about spring and Camp, it's important to realize that what we do in the spring to literally "spring" into preparing ourselves and our community lays the groundwork for the summer ahead. We do our very best to build and provide a platform of safety, adventure, and connection. But even more than that, we begin the process of tilling the soil of discovery, wonder, and possibility. Each of us has a life experience throughout the year that brings a myriad of feelings, including difficult challenges, so having a chance to reinvent and nurture new parts of ourselves is exciting. Spring instills new hope.

Every time my partner and I have a good idea about an invention that would be helpful in the world, we say that we wish there was a company that we could go to so that these ideas could become a reality (we would call that company Springboard). A business that would be a coach, per se, to guide us through all the steps and help the idea come to life.

Well, Camp is that "Springboard" for campers and staff to bring their lives and personalities and vision into an intentional community that will help them create who they want to become! A "community lifecoach" experience, all wrapped up into a 4-week adventure, shepherded by caring and nurturing staff.

So, how can we help the young people in our lives to manifest the most compelling and life-shaping experience this summer? We can help them:

- Envision the very best scenarios and outcomes, personalized to their hopes and dreams
- Prepare them for the social awkwardness and excitement of making new friends

- Be OK with being uncomfortable
- Talk about what it means to self-advocate and have a voice
- Learn how to acknowledge when they are wrong or make a mistake

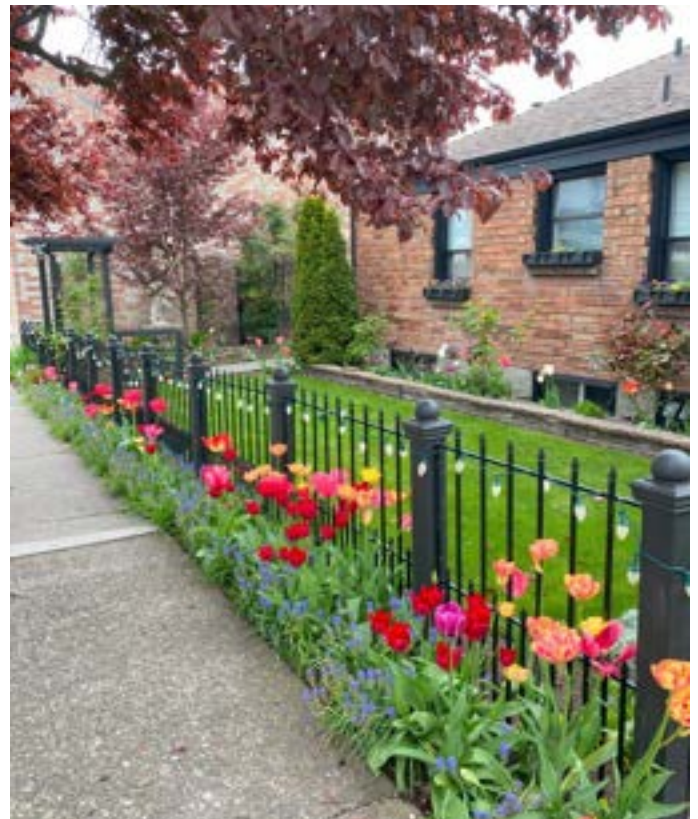
We want to design a world where it's easy to do what's right, but also ok to not be perfect. The skills learned this summer will last a lifetime, and we all are eager to help this community rise up to its very highest aspirations. And that work starts with all of our mindsets, right now, in spring.

Like the beauty of the tulips, I know there are many things that will surprise me and stop me in my tracks this summer. I look forward to the unknown and the collective wonder that we all will be experiencing together, helping each other to savor and treasure every moment.

Yours, in the bounty of spring,



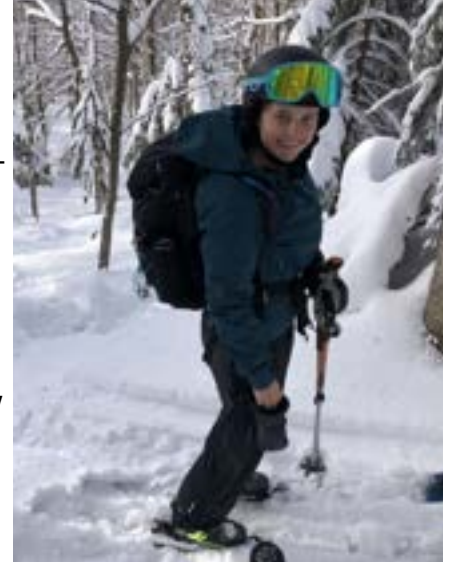
Sheila Tallmon, Executive Director



# Welcome Harper & Kelsey!

We are excited to announce out two new Year-Round Team members!

**Harper McFadden** started as our **Program Director** this spring. She was a camper and worked as a staff for five summers. It was after her first season working on the waterfront and leading trips that she realized how much she loved working at Camp and providing experiential education for kids. She has worked with various outdoor education programs, including schools, mental health centers, outdoor adventure sports programs, nonprofits, and more. In her role as Program Director, Harper will work to ensure that all staff members are supported and set up to provide the best possible experience for campers through programming, trips, and Family Camp.



**Kelsey McFadden** recently started as the **Community Engagement Director**. She was a camper for several summers and 2023 will be her tenth summer working at Nor'wester. Outside of Camp, her experience includes work in the international nonprofit sector in DC, teaching in a variety of settings both abroad and across the US, and working with Nor'wester's Board of Directors. She is also at the end of a Masters degree in Outdoor Education Leadership with a focus on Social Justice from Prescott College. Kelsey is excited to connect with individuals from all levels of Nor'wester's community, from campers to staff, to families, to alums, and beyond, and help individuals at all levels and from all backgrounds stay connected and feel at home with Camp Nor'wester.

To learn more about Harper and Kelsey, visit the Leadership page of Camp Nor'wester's Website ([norwester.org/about/leadership](http://norwester.org/about/leadership)).

## History Corner: Camp Directors

*Research and photos contributed by Bill Horder*

Now that Sheila Tallmon has announced her decision transition out of the Executive Director position, and the Board of Directors has begun the process of searching for a new Executive Director, it seems appropriate to take a look back at Camp's previous Directors.

Nor'wester has been very lucky to have had excellent directors throughout its history. Each brought their own skills and outlook to the job, and each left their imprint on the camp. As the camping industry has matured, and as societal needs and expectations have changed, it seems that the camp has always had the right Directors at the right time.



Low turnover among the Directors has also benefited the camp. Since it was founded in 1935, there have been just five leadership teams, with an average tenure of more than 17 years. This has provided stability and continuity to the camp, and is one of the reasons that Nor'wester is



ranked among the top camps in the country.

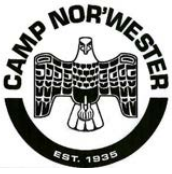
When Frank Henderson founded the camp in 1935, he drew on his years of work with the Boy Scouts to create a summer camp based on the same principals

of fellowship and camaraderie that he had observed at International Scout Jamborees. Frank married Lucile Townsend in 1938, and her long experience with the Girl Scouts, on both the local and national level, provided the impetus to open the camp to girls in 1942. Lucile also brought a hard-nosed business sense to compliment Frank's vision for the camp.

The Hendersons retired in 1966 after 32 successful seasons. They sold the land to a group of investors who then hired Jack and Jan Hellsell to reopen and



**Continued on Back Cover.**



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## Life-Shaping Experiences for a Lifetime of Growth...



### *"History Corner" continued from Page 11.*

run the camp. Jack had spent his summers as a child at Four Winds, and he and Jan had briefly directed that camp. The Helsells brought a new sense of adventure and freedom to Nor'wester to fit the times. They instituted the Mt. Baker Big Trip and added their beautiful 48-foot sloop, Courageous, to the program. They have also very generously allowed Nor'wester to camp on their property on Orcas Island for more than fifty years.

The camp was sold again in 1980, and the new owner hired David and Susan Formo as directors. As a child, Susan had been a camper at east coast camps, but David had no prior experience with summer camps. Despite this, they jumped right in and added their own touches to the camp. Their tenure brought a renewed focus on safety, and they worked to create a more equitable division of responsibilities among the staff. They also introduced the ever-popular staff jackets.



Paul Henriksen and Christa Campbell took over the reins in 1990. Paul had been caretaker at the camp for many years, and Christa had worked as the camp's dietitian. Early on, they were successful in increasing Camp's enrollment, which had been flagging. Their biggest challenge, however, came in 1996, when the

camp and property were sold. Suddenly Nor'wester was without a home and without any assets. Rather than give up, they dug in their heels and helped the camp reform itself into a non-profit organization, and then began searching for a new home and raising money to pay for it. After a three year search, the camp settled on its current location on Johns Island. Paul's ability to manage the challenging task of building out the new camp site made him the ideal person for the job. Paul and Christa directed the camp for 22 summers.

Sheila Tallmon was hired as Executive Director in 2012, worked at many camps prior to this in Nebraska and Colorado, including Cheley Colorado Camps for 13 years. Sheila has made the well-being of both campers and staff a top priority, and has worked hard to create a welcoming environment for everyone. Her long experience in the camping world has helped Nor'wester forge new ties with organizations seeking to improve the camping industry. Sheila was the first Nor'wester director to not co-direct with a spouse, but she hired Jill Steigerwald as Assistant Director and that pairing has been very successful.



Despite all of the changes to camp over the years, Frank Henderson's vision of creating an outdoor living experience where campers can learn and grow has remained constant. His original motto for the camp still rings true: "In quest of things worthwhile for youth."