



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

THE ANNUAL AUCTION IS APPROACHING RAPIDLY!

Mark Saturday, March 6th, on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 49th annual auction is just around the corner. This is Copper Cannon's largest fundraiser and we have changed the format as we deal with the COVID 19 pandemic. This year our goal is to raise funds through an on line and virtual live event, allowing Copper Cannon to maintain its mission of providing a free summer camp for low income youth.

Similar to auctions in the past, there will be something for everybody. Three different auctions will be taking place simultaneously: a live auction, a silent auction, and a penny auction. These events promise to maintain some of that camp magic even though it will be virtual. Auctioneers Chip Stowell and Bill Mellekas are on board and working out the details of their virtual roles. Volunteers are putting together "auction in a box" that can be purchased allowing you and your cohorts to celebrate in true Copper Cannon fashion with raffle tickets, beads, etc.

A dedicated group of volunteers has been busily collecting wonderful items for the auction including ski passes, gift certificates for lodging and dining, recreational opportunities throughout the region, collectables and more. The list of auction items is available for preview on Copper Cannon's website at www.coppercannon.org and will be updated throughout the month.

Bring your wallet, credit cards and your smile for a wonderful evening of virtual fun and help continue Ham Ford's vision of providing under-served youth with a quality, tuition-free camp experience. The best part about the virtual live auction is you can participate no matter where you live!

If you would like to volunteer for the event, have an item you would like to donate, or need additional information, contact Copper Cannon at 603-823-8107.



It's never too early to start thinking about summer camp!

Even though there is snow on the ground with more on its way, Copper Cannon Camp is gearing up for what is sure to be the best summer of camp yet. We have been talking with a number of summer camps who operated safely through

the pandemic in 2020, learning and sharing protocol. The summer may look different from previous years as we strive to keep everybody safe, but the camp magic will still be there.

(continued on page 3)



COPPER CANNON CAMP
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WELCOME GALE RIVER COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL

Gale River Cooperative Preschool (GRCP), founded in 2005, is a non-profit, non-sectarian, cooperative preschool for children aged three to five. GRCP values free play in nature and meeting children where they are. For the past 15 years, the preschool was located at Ski Hearth Farm. New ownership of the farm in the spring of 2020 lead GRCP to begin the search for a new place to continue the nature-based and play-centered program they had created. Beginning the fall of 2020, GRCP found a new home base at Copper Cannon Camp.

The basement of the dining hall was transformed into the indoor learning space, including sectioned off sections for napping, art, reading and more! Just out their entrance, up a hill and into the woods you will find an outdoor learning space by our campfire circle. When the weather is nice, the students will take down-time in Copper Cannon hammocks at their outdoor learning space!

Lessons take advantage of Copper Cannon's resources. Before the snow, teachers and students explored seed dispersal. Everyone ran around in big fluffy socks they were given. The result was different seeds being collected during the short time period of running. The snow will bring lessons in fire building, animal tracking, snowshoeing the trails and more

hands-on activities. Come spring, lessons in the Growing Space garden will continue from the fall.

Each student takes responsibility for their own cubby, which includes extra gloves, hats, and clothes to exchange for ones when the snow has made the child cold and wet. This enables the focus to be on learning and fun rather than the discomfort.

The Tom Ford Science Pavilion, the central outdoor base for the preschool, has gone through a winter makeover. Temporary clear plastic has gone up on the walls, and propane heaters may be used to keep the area warm. "The pavilion has enabled us to operate outside longer, and we have been able to explore our natural surroundings," stated Nicole, the director and lead teacher at GRCP. The teachers and students spend the majority of their time outside. The lessons are nature and place based; meeting the needs of each individual student at the level they are at. Similar to Copper Cannon's philosophy, spending time in nature boosts happiness, improves creativity and so much more.

To learn more about the Gale River Cooperative Preschool, visit their website at www.galerivercoop.org or contact them at 603-823-9995.



GRANDPARENTS CAMP

Copper Cannon plans to return to its roots again this summer. When he was a child, Ham Ford had a chance to attend a family camp as a ten year old. This experience was the reason he wanted to give other children that same escape. At the camp, Ham had a chance to see his mother relax and not have to worry. Labor Day weekend will provide the backdrop for grandparents raising their grandchildren being able to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Grandparents Camp is a wonderful four day, three night program for families. Each family has their own cabin limiting numbers. The families have a chance to laugh and play together. With many grandparents two generations removed from their grandchildren, this experience is a wonderful bridge for the families. The camp experience is designed to improve family interactions, help nurture relationships and allow for the creation of shared positive memories. It is that and much more for these families.

The flow of the camp allows time for families to play together and have age appropriate activities. They have time to do arts and crafts with other grandparents, share coffee and brownies overlooking the meadow, and connect with an impromptu support group who understands what they are going through. Meals are eaten family style with Copper Cannon's "Topics of Conversation" shared before everyone starts eating. It gives families a chance to learn about each other, laugh and share in a safe and relaxing environment.

**IT IS NOT WHAT A CAMPER LEARNS AT COPPER CANNON,
BUT WHAT THEY DO WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE!**

PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

The Copper Cannon family has lost another great one. Ben Moyer passed away in December. His involvement with Copper Cannon Camp began due to his father's connection with Ham Ford in the beginning of Copper Cannon Camp. Ben followed his mother's tenure on the board of Copper Cannon when she stepped down spending almost 30 years on the board.

Ben's dedication and vision carried Copper Cannon through many stages of its development. This included not only sharing our mission with friends and family, but in the growth of the facility and program. Ben was instrumental in purchasing the 120 acres of land we had been renting from the town of Franconia, spearheading the building of a new state of the art, dining hall in celebration of our 50th anniversary and most recently, the construction of a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre pond for fire safety and recreational opportunities.

But more importantly, Ben was a mentor to the directors of Copper Cannon Camp. Stepping in to the role of Executive Director, I was new to New Hampshire and the unique mission of Copper Cannon Camp. A free summer camp for low income children was a business mod-

el that did not make sense. Why give away a quality product at no charge?

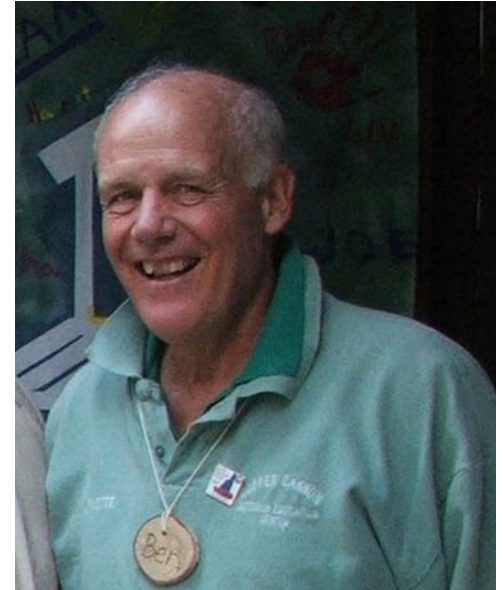
And then there was Ben...

- When interviewing for the position, Ben called me in Oklahoma, introduced himself, his role as a board member and then said "I have no idea why I am supposed to call you."
- After the second board meeting, Ben called all giddy to let me know he had made it back to his home in Brookline, MA from camp in just over 2 hours. I had no idea what an accomplishment that was until I drove south a few weeks later. I still wonder if he ever told Frannie (or maybe it was Frannie driving?).
- Later Ben informed me he would be leaving to run a railroad in South America. Next it was New York to run Pro Mujer, a nonprofit providing micro loans to Central and South American women as their interim Executive Director.

It was definitely a fascinating first year for me getting to know Ben. The one constant through the years was his caring for me and the program. I never felt I was a burden when asking questions, having discussions or sharing ideas. It did not matter, Ben made time for people.

Ben and Frannie opened their home and their hearts to me and my family. He included not only my immediate family, but the summer staff as well. The Moyer family would host staff both before and after camp. They had a chance for home cooked meals, explore Boston and have a chance to decompress after summer camp.

We need more Ben Moyers in the world.



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

(continued from Page 1)

Because we couldn't wait any longer, we've made the 2021 applications available online for campers and staff. And we already have camper and staff applications coming in, so the time is now if you know a child who needs camp!

Applications are available online at www.coppercannon.org. For camper applications, simply scroll down on the home page to the giant box that says "Forms and Apps."

Those looking to apply as a full-time summer staff member should go to the "Staff" section on the main menu, then click on the "How to Apply" drop-down menu item. It is the hardest, but most rewarding job you will ever have.

OUR NEW VISTA MEMBER

Hello! My name is Jake Acito and I am the new Development VISTA member at Copper Cannon Camp. I am excited for the opportunity to be doing such important work in the Granite State. I am originally from nearby New York, but took a pretty indirect route to get here.

I attended Stony Brook University for two years before deciding to head West for a change of scene. I completed exchanges to the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada and the University of Utah in Salt Lake City before coming back to finish my degree in Environmental Studies. My academic interests and the beautiful landscapes instilled a deep passion for our natural world and sharing it with others.

Upon graduating I began working in environmental education in Massachusetts, Vermont, and across New York City. I headed West again landing in Montana, where I coordinated youth programs for Montana Conservation Corps out of the Greater Yellowstone region. It wasn't long though before I missed the deeply rooted traditions and forests of New England and I made my way back East.

I am drawn to the strong sense of place in New Hampshire and want nothing more than to be a part of building the communities that make it special. This position with Copper Cannon allows me to help provide new experiences and opportunities to the most important part of the community; the kids.

I am looking to help Copper Cannon through developing effective fundraising efforts, growing the alumni and volunteer programs, and building on the environmental education curriculum. Outside of camp, I spend most of my free time skiing and running in the White Mountain back-country or paddling on New Hampshire's many lakes and rivers.



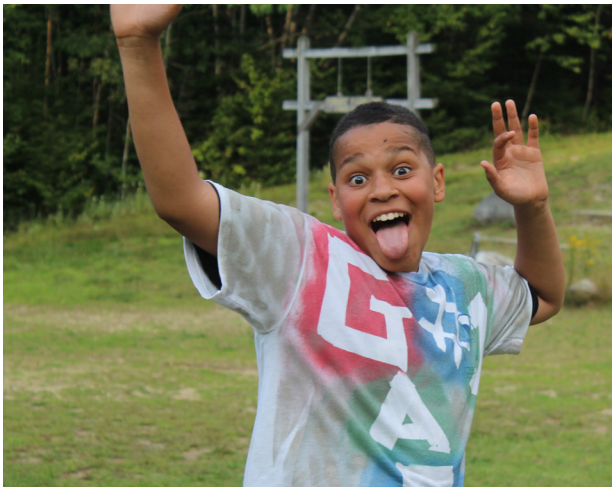
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COPPER CANNON WISH LIST

In every issue of the Powder Keg, we include a “wish list” of items (new or used) that would be welcome donations. As our needs continue to grow, we have included an updated list. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

- **Arts and crafts supplies**
- **Books** (Harry Potter, Hardy Boys, etc.)
- **Kayaks**
- **Building materials**
- **Donating Printing Services**
- **Grass Seed & Fertilizer**
- **Shovels, Rakes & Hand Tools**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

SPONSOR-A-KID APPEAL

What would a newsletter from a small non-profit be without a shameless plug for money? This is ours. Copper Cannon Camp has three fund-raising events (Auction, Sponsor-a-Kid and Membership). Each helps us transition from one season to the next. The summer of 2021 is fast approaching (it will be here before we know it!) so now is the time for our Sponsor-a-Kid (SAK) appeal. Campers arrive on a Sunday and by the following Saturday, they will have memories for a lifetime. Your SAK donation is an important part in making that kind of difference in the lives of our campers. Thank you!

