

# The Wilmot Weekly

August 1, 2003

Advanced Adventure Camp

**“He has shown you,  
O man, What is good  
and what the Lord  
requires of you? But  
to act justly, and to  
love mercy and to  
walk humbly with  
your God.”  
- Micah 6:8**

## Campers Worship at North Wilmot Church

By Devin Berry, Evelyn French, Elisabeth and Rebecca Jeyaraj and Rhiannon Jones

July 27 – About 25 excited campers hiked 0.8 miles to North Wilmot Church for an evening candlelit service that kicked off Camp Wilmot’s Adventure Week.

North Wilmot Church has a very interesting background. It was constructed in the year 1829, but due to its inaccessibility on top of a hill, the people of Wilmot rolled the church on logs to its current location about a hundred years ago. Up to this day, the church still does not have electricity, so it is only open for services during the summer.

Rob Mark, the Camp Director, opened the service with the song “Seek Ye First,” played on an acoustic guitar. This song was only the first in a lineup of many different praise songs sung by the group. The counselors and staff performed a mini-skit about the parable of

the Wise Builder, including audience participation. “Hooray for Jesus!” was shouted by all, as well as other cues provided by Co-Program Director Michelle Fawcett. Campers also created storm sound effects by



enthusiastically snapping their fingers and stomping their feet.

After several songs, Co-Program Director Rodney Peterson began a sermon about unilateral and bilateral covenants created between people and God. Each cabin brainstormed ideas for a covenant, or agreement, between everyone in the camp.

At the end of the service, the campers walked under starlight back to the camp. Campers Rebecca Jeyaraj age 15 from Newton, MA and Evelyn French age 11 from Amherst, NH agreed that the walk back seemed shorter than the walk there because it was downhill all the way.

## Built with Your Hands

By Evelyn French

When we walked out past the archery field, all we saw were 2x4s, plywood, duct tape and rope. We all looked at Jacques Boudreau, the main director of the raft project, like he had five heads. Boudreau, 33, Needham, MA, told us that we would have to build a raft with only those four materials.

Then Jacques took out a box and some pieces of paper, and we each took one. Each piece of paper had either a number 1 or a number 2 written on it.

When everyone got their number, we split up into two groups. Everyone sat down with a pen and piece of paper, and we started to draw out our ideas and discuss them. This process took the whole morning.

After lunch, we went outside to share their ideas with the other group, because sharing is caring. Then we got down to work. We sawed the 2x4s until they reached the right length. Everyone chose a job to do that they were

good and fast at. Some sawed, some chiseled and some traced.

When all the cutting and chiseling was done, we lifted the frame up and tied it with rope. Then we attached the frame to the plywood. The next day, we would place the barrels beneath the platform and float our raft down the Merrimack River.



# Campers Explore Wilmot in Scavenger Hunt

By Rebecca Jeyaraj

July 28—"We will start exactly at 7:05," boomed co-program director Michelle Fawcett, 25, Brighton MA, just after dinner. A scavenger hunt was to take place at Camp Wilmot.

At 7:05 p.m., the four cabins raced to the barn to get their instructions, and were given a big paper bag and a list of hints and clues. They were then, together with their counselors, asked to figure out their destinations and gather evidence to prove that they had done the challenges.

"We [the staff] tried to create different obstacles or goals for you [the campers] to complete before you got proof that you've been there before you can move on to the next station. We tried to have as much fun as possible!" continued Michelle Fawcett.

One other goal for the scavenger hunt was to explore the different areas of the camp. All together there were seven different stations. The campers had to do energizers in front of the barn; blow bubbles and catch them on top of Vesper Hill; prove that they were sick in front of the infirmary; throw four Frisbees at the flagpole; sing the song 'Rubber Ducky' and quack like a duck at the waterfront; create a creative cross at Arts and Crafts; and act out a password by the archery stand. At every station they were then given things like sunglasses, a piece of clay, or a cone as evidence of having done the challenge. Everyone had their share of the fun, including the judges.

"I had a great time playing nurse during the scavenger hunt because it was great to watch the campers be sick on demand; also I want to be a nurse when I grow up," stated lifeguard and counselor Justine Tennant, 21, Newton, MA. The goal of the scavenger Hunt was certainly met.

## Lyrical Workshops from a Master

By Devin Berry

This morning a mandatory hike up Bog Mountain was scheduled. But it started to rain during breakfast and getting steadily harder and faster into the day. During Devotions, it was decided that the hike would be canceled. Instead, Dan Olsen, a former program director who returned to Wilmot this week, would lead us in a song writing and lyrical understanding workshop.

All the campers came into the dining hall and sat in a circle on the couches. We started the class off by listening to songs and analyzing the lyrics. We listened to 'Hanging by a Moment,' 'Sk8r Boi,' and 'The Middle.' Many people had different interpretations of each song. After analyzing these three songs, we listed ways to express ourselves.

Dan Olsen is a singer/song-writer. He has already recorded two cd's. Dan did showed us his music video. He has a song titled *Christopher* about a boy he met with cancer and how he touched Dan's life. This was the music video to that song. It was the saddest video and the saddest song that most had heard or seen. Many people were crying during this.

The counselors separated the campers into three groups. The groups then preceded to brainstorm topics for the songs that they were going to write. The groups came up with songs and tunes. The songs would be preformed later in the night at the talent show.

Dan Olsen is a self-proclaimed Renaissance Man. He is a singer, songwriter, actor, jingle-writer, founder of the Christopher house, a cancer survivor and a lot of other things. Dan also says he's a "professional annoyance. I annoy every one I meet." Both of Dan's cd's are available at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com). The first is self-titled and the second is Racer X.



"We have had the best overall counselors and camp staff I've known in six years, with significant personal talents, deep commitment to Christ and interest in growth and maturation of our campers."

-Rodney Petersen

### *Christopher*

Later in the day

a quiet boy took my hand

He said "Your name is Daniel

But everyone calls you Dan"

I guess it just got shortened

Somewhere along the way

He said, "I'm calling you Daniel"

And then was on his way

But he turned around and said,

"My name is Christopher people around here just call me Chris

But I'd appreciate it if you'd use my full name

Cause life is short enough the way it is."

-Written by singer/song-writer Daniel Olsen

# Discovering the Secrets of Teepee-Building

By Rebecca Jeyaraj

July 28- "The teepee reminds us of how important it is to build good foundations to welcome one another, whether friends or strangers, and to love God throughout our lives," said program director Rodney Petersen, 54, Newton, MA .

He challenged Wilmot campers to build their own Native American teepees at the beginning of Adventure Week. Construction of the teepees was started as a mere whim, but was moved into full swing by the campers who didn't go on the rafting trip.

The group of 15 campers was divided into two teams which were each assigned to build a teepee . Out of these two teams about six campers climbed Vesper hill to clear an area for the campout on Wednesday. First, they cleared the area fallen logs, and then, they went around and cut twigs and leaves from the surrounding trees to make it safer for the other campers to walk around. To do these things, they used a few saws, including a chain saw. They used these "weapons" to cut down 24 lodge polls that would then hold the teepees

up.

Matthew Cronk, 16, Danville, NH, who was one of the crew up on the hill said, " It was creative, and helped show perspective as how it used to be." While these campers toiled up on the hill, the remaining crew members created the canvas for the teepees. They measured, cut and painted heavenly bodies, flowers and water on the canvas, making it look very beautiful. Elise Glidden, 13, Narragansett, RI, admits that "it took a lot of patience to measure and sew the teepees," but she agrees that she had a lot of fun.

Petersen said that the idea to build the teepees came to mind because of the week's theme, 'Under God's Roof.' "The teepees illustrate how all of life is lived between God , heaven and earth," he said. "They are often painted with symbols that illustrate Human Action."

Petersen explained that the circular-shape of the teepees is a symbol of the interconnectivity of human action. He said circles are important for dealing with human conflict and disagreement. "When we sit in a circle and listen to one another, and speak in turn, we find ways to solve our social problems," he concluded.

## Adventure Archery Tournament

By Don Soulé

The archery tournament for Adventure Camp week got off to a quick start on Wednesday but was cut short from three to two days because of an all-day rain on Friday.

Sixteen archers competed for individual and cabin prizes. The archers from Cabin 6 won a close contest against our camp guests representing Asper Inn. The archers for Cabin 6 were Jamie, Leah, Rebecca, Elisabeth and Elise. The team for Asper Inn included Peter, Caleb, Jeff and Max.

The top archers for the week were:

### Individual Girls:

- 1.) Leah
- 2.) Rebecca
- 3) Elise

### Individual Boys:

- 1.) Patrick
- 2.) Chris
- 3.) Lucas



## Cabins Compete in Clean-Up

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Cabin 1</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Cabin 7</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Cabin 4</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Cabin 6</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Cabin 4</b>

Cabin Clean-up judge Anne Jenkins from Madison V.A. commented on the week: " It was fun, I liked getting bribes. It was entertaining and amusing. I like seeing all the bribes."



## SOCCER SCORES

July 31, 2003

Boys: 2

Girls: 1

August 1, 2003

Boys: 1

Girls: 1

# “Tizzle” Down the River

By Devin Berry

A long reddish braid swings from his mohawk as “Topper” floats down the Merrimack River on a raft built with his own hands. Alongside his comrades, the twenty- seven-year-old Christian rows the eleven some odd miles of our trip. He and the five other counselors lead the campers from Camp Wilmot.

“I like being a counselor because I like having a part in the lives of people.” says “Topper,” whose real name is Matthew Winfield Topper. But this isn’t his first time being a counselor, in the past he has been a counselor at Camp Treetops in New York. His campers love him. According to Lex Lambert, 14, Henniker, N.H., Topper is “always willing to share, to give you the shirt off his back.” His fellow counselors feel the same way. Dave Miller, also a boys’ counselor, says Topper’s “dedication for the Lord and his love for his friends” are his best qualities.

Topper comes all the way from Metuchen, N.J., but now lives in Sudbury, M.A., working as what camp director Rob Mark calls an “International Disaster Response Industrial Designer.”

While on the river, we sing many songs. One of which happens to be Topper’s favorite: “Shout to the Lord”. Our trek is split up into two days. We raft, swim, walk, talk and occasionally play ultimate Frisbee (which is Topper’s favorite sport).

On the second leg of our adventure, Topper makes breakfast, his favorite meal of the day. We have oatmeal. All he has to do is add hot water. Next, he leads us in morning devotions. Here he reads from his favorite book, the Bible. This is his first time at Wilmot and he says he came because “he loves Rob (Mark) and Jesus Christ loves him.” So he chose to spend time at Wilmot with the only free time he has this summer. Unfortunately, our river is nothing like his favorite place- the Painted Desert in New Mexico.

During this trip and especially this week the thing he finds hardest is having fun and keeping people in line at the same time. Topper is a very dedicated Christian as Dave Miller has testified. He knows passages by heart, and his heart is fully turned toward God. Before he came a Christian, Topper says, he fought God and did sinful things. However, he was doing poorly and felt that some one higher, some one other than him, was controlling the things that were going on. But he still tried to battle God, but this time he lost. Since that day, he has been a dedicated Christian, and God has led him to us.

We have all had fun with Topper this week. We have played Frisbee, built rafts, gone rafting, swam, nick-named him Tizzle and done lots of other thing. All in all, every moment this week with Tizzle has been a blast. We all hope he comes back next year.



**“I like being a counselor because I like having a part in the lives of people.”  
-Topper**

## Polar Bears Sing Wake-Up Call

By Evelyn French

“Polar Bears!” shouts Estella Ayuk, 15, Malden, M.A., and Amanda Paulger, 15, East Montpelier, V.T., with their own personal wake up bell. If you are one of the few that like to get up early and go for a swim then polar bears is the thing for you!

Here’s how it works: as soon as the ringing in your ears goes away, get on your bathing suit, grab your towel and go down to the waterfront. But, be sure to wait for the lifeguard before you enter the water front. Next, you sing the most popular polar bear song and finally, get on all fours and jump into the water.

The Polar Bear Song:

*Good morning! Good morning! A very cold good morning! A p-o-l-a-r b-e-a-r good morning!*

*Good morning! ROAR!*



# Huck Finn Meets the Mighty Merrimack

By Rhiannon Jones

On July 30, 2003, 10 campers and 6 counselors set off on an overnight river trip down the Merrimack. We began by building our rafts from plywood, two-by-fours, and rope. When Jacques Boudreau presented us with this idea, we were overwhelmed– it seemed impossible. But in the end, the two groups of rafters successfully built two seaworthy rafts.

We set off with two rafts for the campers, one for the counselors, and a canoe to hold some of our miscellaneous objects. Jenn Bradley and Sarah Siciliano were in the canoe, and they would paddle in between the three rafts to relay silly messages.

As we sailed down the river, the heat beat down on our shoulders. If we got too hot, we would take turns jumping into the water and hitching a ride by holding onto the back of the raft.

Near the end of the seemingly endless journey to the campsite, our spirits were low and our energy and strength were dwindling. Heather Lukacs, while paddling by the raft I was on, asked me to bust out a show tune to encourage the weary rafters. I broke in to my own rendition of “Summer Nights,” from Grease. Everyone joined in and in no time we were at the beach and we had our tents set up and dinner cooking.



After a semi-good night’s sleep, we were rudely woken up by our leaders yelling, “polar bears!” while shaking our tents. Some of us got up and immediately dove into the water. Next, we ate breakfast, packed up and cleaned the beach. Before leaving, we had a small worship service by the river. Matt Topper, or “Tizzle,” engaged the group in a conversation about Jonah and the whale. The discussion included the words “mercy” and “forgiveness.”

Down the river we went once again. Most of the trip was low key due to exhaustion on our part. When we arrived at the beach right before the place we were being picked up, we emptied all the stuff off of one raft. We then proceeded to fit all 15 of us (minus Sarah, our lifeguard) onto the raft before it was fully submerged.

This concludes our amazing journey down the mighty Merrimack. When we finally got going with the rafts loaded on a truck, we had a minor issue trying to drive the rafts through some trees. We stopped only once on the way home to grab some ice cream. When finally back at the camp, we were welcomed by a Tiki cookout. I, myself, immediately laid down and kissed the solid ground. We’re home again!

## Cabin 6 Discovers Natural Dye

By Elisabeth Jeyaraj

August 1- “It was lots of fun,” quoted Leah Nystedt, 12, Cabin 6. She was referring to the different kinds of dyes we learned about during our Nature lessons. It was true, we did have fun, especially with Anna Ichikawa and the other excited campers. The program was held in the nature hut near the arts and crafts cabin.

The first day, Rodney Peterson and Anna Ichikawa taught us how to use a compass. My sister, Rebecca Jeyaraj, 15, Cabin 6, and I were the only people there, but we did a fun activity using a compass.

After we came back to the hut from our game, Anna asked us how the compass and God were related. We had a really nice and enjoyable afternoon in the nature hut that day.

Later in the week, we made a natural red dye from cranberries. Anna decided that we had to do everything by ourselves so we’d know how to follow directions. We had red hands after we finished smashing the cranberries so the juice would come out. Luckily, the dye came off our hands, and we did not have to worry about that. We boiled water and dropped the cranberries in it. It had to cool down before we could dye with it.

Thursday, Leah and I made a blue dye out of red cabbage. We had tons of fun just making the dye and using them on shirts.

Thanks to Anna Ishikawa, counselor of Cabin 6, for making the week fun with nature.

# Trust Walkers Climb Vesper Hill

By Elisabeth Jeyaraj

*"It was my first time sleeping in the Great Outdoors. I will not soon forget the experience. As my teepee buddies and I tried to catch some sleep, we gazed up at the gorgeous stars and thanked God for providing this unique opportunity." - Michelle Fawcett, Brighton, MA.*

*"Once again sleeping in the tents it was better than sleeping in teepees. I got bug bites but I'm ok now! POLAR BEARS!!!" - Estella Ayuk, 15, Malden, MA*



After Vespers evening worship, 15 excited campers and a few counselors walked up Vesper Hill to the campsite. On the way, we played a game called, trust walk. This walk was about trusting other people. We had to pair-up with a partner.

The person with the first letter of their name closest to the beginning of the alphabet closed their eyes and trusted the other person to lead them safely up the hill. About a halfway up, we alternated turns. When we reached the campsite, Rob talked a little about the trust walk and finally after tiring walks, we went to sleep in tents and our newly-constructed teepees.



## Stepping Into a New Era at Camp Wilmot

Camp Wilmot is moving into a new era! Enthusiastic campers and supportive churches have helped to move the camp through an era of vision and duct tape into one of increased usefulness.

Camp Wilmot is a tool in the toolbox of individual and church renewal. Thanks goes to the perseverance of the Camp Wilmot Camping Committee, a task force of Northern New England Presbyter, and supporting churches throughout New England.

Thanks also goes to the loyal maintenance team of Jack Lichty, Bill Burris and Cyndee Locke. Cooks Denise Schuster and husband Jeff have served up healthy and inviting meals. Staff has continued to improve.



Capital investment includes a new 4-season building, re-located store and soon-to-be completed shelter for mountain bicycles. Additional projects are in the works toward the development of a truly 4-seasons conference and retreat center with a focus on youth and young adults. The Camping Committee is currently working on further organization and By-Laws under the trusteeship of the Presbyteries and is seeking to promote a stronger network of youth ministry throughout New England.

Diehl Ott (Bedford, NH), Treasurer; Don Soulé (Sudbury, MA), Promotion; Cindy Faulkner (Lincoln, MA), Secretary; Sue Gleason (Worcester, MA), Vice-Chair; Rodney Petersen, Chair; Vince Golonka (Lowell, MA), Challengers; and Rob Mark (Brighton, MA), Camp Director; and Michelle Fawcett (Newton, MA), Committee Member and Program Director.



## Camp Director Rob Mark Leads Successful Summer at Wilmot

By Rebecca Jeyaraj

Robert Mark, 29, Brighton, MA, is Wilmot's awesome Camp Director. We all deeply appreciate his leadership and guidance around the camp and love for the great outdoors. Even though he is busy, he spent his time being the Camp Photo Journalist and taking part in the activities. He enjoys playing soccer, ultimate Frisbee, hiking and kayaking. He also sings, plays the drums and the guitar. A sad-glad note said, "I am glad that Rob Mark is the best Camp Director ever." Even though this is his first year being director, Rob admits that he enjoys it very much. I am happy about the wonderful opportunity of getting to interview Rob.

*How do you like being Camp Director?*

I really enjoy it. It's a great challenge. There are always very many things to do, every day is completely different. But I really enjoy the variety.

*What would you say about the Staff?*

The Staff are incredibly superb. They are all far more experienced than I am. I learned a great deal about camp work and worship with youth from this incredible staff. But most importantly they are committed and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

*What is your Christian Background?*

I grew up in a Presbyterian Church. And was baptized at the age of 14, but really began to see Christianity as a relationship in my early 20's. It's the most important thing in my life and its something I always rely on as it gives me deep hope about this world, others and myself. Its all about grace.

*Do you see Jesus as your friend or father?*

I see Jesus as many things, first and foremost as a friend who challenges me. A friend who is living in me and knows me fully, better than any other person. Jesus is also a divine and holy God to me.

*What is your best experience with youth in general?*

I really enjoy listening to kids. I learn a lot from kids' perspectives of life and the extremes of their joys and sorrows, their challenges and successes, and sense of idealism about the future. Specifically, I've really enjoyed taking kids on cross-cultural experiences.

*What do you think of this week's campers?*

The campers this week are totally impressive. Their willingness to try new things, their courage and energy and honesty are inspiring to me, and I particularly enjoy seeing them grow in faith.

*What is your advice to the campers?*

I would encourage all Wilmot campers to remember what they've learned here at camp, especially that we as Christians are always under God's roof and under that roof we are deeply beloved. And that's the most important thing.



## Ella J. Baker House Visits Camp Wilmot

By Becky Evans

July 29- Camp Wilmot welcomed 25 teenagers from the Ella J. Baker House youth services program on Tuesday. The 13-18 year-olds were part of a leadership program run by Reverend Matthew Gibson of the Azusa Christian Church.

The visitors, many of whom had never been to camp before, enjoyed a full day of outdoor activities, including swimming, canoeing, archery and the ropes course.

"The kids were very open to trying new things on the water," said counselor and lifeguard Sarah Siciliano. "Since it was an unfamiliar place, they really respected and paid attention to the instructors." She said that one of the boaters fell into the water and remarked that it was the most exciting thing he had done all summer.

After some afternoon hoops and dinner with the other campers, the group returned to Boston.

"They were really friendly," said Elise Glidden, 13, Narragansett, RI.



  


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## Wilmot Reporters Publish Second Edition

By Becky Evans

The Wilmot Reporters pounded their keyboards and worked late into Friday night to publish the second edition of the Wilmot Weekly.

Throughout the week, the five reporters toted their notebooks down rivers and up mountain paths to cover the many activities of Adventure Week.

Devin Berry, 14, Dorchester, MA, enjoyed writing a profile on counselor Matthew Topper.

"Interviewing Topper was the best part because he's interesting and I got to find out a lot of stuff," said Berry, who attends Fourth Presbyterian Church in South Boston and hopes to write for her high school newspaper and study journalism in college.

Evelyn French, 11, Amherst, NH, put aside her hammer to take notes on the progress of the raft-building project. She

joined the group for its exciting 10-mile river adventure.

French said she enjoyed getting to know the other reporters and found it challenging to meet deadlines.

"I joined the Wilmot Weekly because one of my friends wrote for the paper last week and thought it was really fun," said French.

Sisters Rebecca, 15, and Elisabeth, 12, Jeyaraj recently moved from Princeton, NJ, to Newton, MA. Both girls enjoyed their first week at Camp Wilmot.



"I enjoyed being a reporter because I got to know more people and learn about their opinions. I enjoyed that," said Rebecca, who plays violin and recorder and speaks four languages, including English, German, Tamil and French.

"The best thing about working on the Wilmot Weekly is that you get to use your brain," said Elisabeth, who plays the clarinet and recorder and woke up early each day for the polar bear swim.

Rhiannon "Rizzy" Jones, 16, Lowell, MA, also reported on the Merrimack rafting trip. She related her relaxing float down the river to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. When not writing letters to her friends and family, Rizzy belted out Broadway tunes to entertain her fellow campers.

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Wilmot Reporters, the second edition of the Weekly showcases a variety of well-written pieces that cover the many sides of Camp Wilmot.