Volume 05, Issue 6 "An Excellent Source of Fiber – Enjoy!" August 11th, 2005

THE GENEVA GEMS

SWEETENED CONDENSED HOOT

God has mercy…

Kudos to Sheldon Soper for running a smooth show and finishing in a near-record two hours flat. (We know his mother would be proud.) Special thanks also to Kevin Weston for managing the numerous audio challenges from MP3s to CDs to all the mikes. Great job, guys!
Chocolate Ice Cream Cone – **Jon Arnold and Ed School** – We should have stopped here because it doesn't get any better than this!
3rd and 4th Graders – Family Tree with Kate Hearne and Chris Peters on guitar. Tom Chapin classic makes genealogy groovy – way to go gang! Sign language made it complete!
3 and 4 year olds: Chrysalis song – The Butterfly Song What an apt metaphor for these budding stars!
Rachel Gundersen's Magic Trick: The box that wouldn't open (we know that from trying to get cereal in the morning!), the disappearing hanky (we know that with socks in our dryer), and the rabbit out of her hat (chipmunks out of our cabin). Great job – she stole our hearts and we didn't even know it.
1st and 2nd grade: Smokey the Bear's tragic demise. Tough crowd.
Tucker Hemphill: Hole in the World Tonight – it's a tough world but Tucker made it alright with an outstanding performance.
Abigail Weeks and Tre Davis: Wisconsin Milk – Nothing like a dairy rap to bring the house down. Special recognition to Carrie Hawthorne for giving 'em L.

(Continued on p. 7)

GPC Signs $5 Million Trust Agreement

Pact Helps Preserve Waterfront and Stabilize GPC Finances-No Kidding!

(See Special Insert to Your GENEVA GEMS)

Your crack Geneva GEMS staff has been able to finally figure out why the big smile has been on GPC Executive Director, Jess Schload's face all week. Besides the obvious delight of having NNESRE here and the commensurate joy of reading the Geneva GEMS, Jess revealed today an agreement made between Geneva Point Center and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) to preserve 25% of GPC property from development for @ 5 million dollars. See details of this important agreement in the attached letter from Jess Schload to all NNESRE campers.

THURSDAY EVENING EVENTS

6:45 -- Vespers -- *Chapel*
7:30 – Science Center presentation – *Barn*
7:30 – Meet the GPC staff – *Meeting House porch*
9:00 – Open mike coffeehouse – *Chapel*
9:00 – Dancing in the Barn

E-Mail Mania

Please check the Inn Porch for the latest copy of the Official Geneva GEMS E-Mail List. This list is cumulative from the past couple of years, so it needs constant updating. Please examine your e-mail address to make sure it is accurate and feel free to edit the list if it is not.

Winni 2006: BYOF

Bring Your Own Friends

Perhaps you have wondered what it would be like to have some of your hometown friends up here at Winni for the week. Some may worry that it will spoil their "this is not home" experience or that they will need to be "caretakers" for their friends for the week. But the bottom line is everybody was brought here by somebody who was willing to share the joy of Winni with people that they love. And if it was ever a good time to bring a friend to Winni, 2006 is the year.

What's in a number?

Plenty, if that number is our annual head count. Our attendance is down this year; whether this is a worrisome long-term trend or an isolated "blip" is difficult to determine. What does seem clear is that if each of us reached out to an individual, a couple, or a family back home and enticed them to come to Geneva Point next August, our community would be all the stronger! The NNESRE Conference depends not only on the dedication and commitment of long-time campers, but also on a revitalizing flow of newcomers. So when you are back home--with friends, at work, or in your faith community--look around and think about whom you might encourage to join us next year. You will be doing the Conference a great service by doing so.

Mo' Is Better

There is just no getting around that having a large, full camp is a good idea and it benefits everyone. Our present camp population is around 260 – at 310, we are relatively full camp but the top capacity is actually somewhere around 400 (if you don't mind bunking with strangers). We know that from year to year, some people come and go but strong camp numbers mean more camp dollars which means more camp scholarship dollars to help folks who are having lean years or couldn't normally afford an experience like this, an opportunity to do so.

What's It All About, Winni?

Winni is different things to different people but it is probably fair to say that we are an intentional community of faith that enjoys having fun together. This creates strong friends, strong families, strong community and strong faith. If you believe these are important values in changing the world, then let your Winni experience be your ministry to the world. Bring people here to help change the world into a better place as your presence here has made Winni a better place. Just imagine what they could do, whoever they are!

Thursday Night Temptations

This evening there is an explosion of activities from which to choose. The Squam Lake Nature Center is coming at 7:30 and bringing some guests. It is a great opportunity to see some of New Hampshire's critters up close and personal. Join us in the barn.

At the same time we will have the pleasure of meeting some of our staff that has served us throughout the week on the meetinghouse porch. Coming from all over the world they will share their thoughts on their home and what they see here.

Our 9:00 slot offers a coffee house in the chapel. As part of the coffee house we present open mike night where you can come and present a joke, poem, story or song. The mike is there for you. Come and share, or just listen for a while.

The barn will be offering dancing especially geared towards families in the beginning. A special thank you to Barb and Dotti for all that they do for us here and especially in leading us in dance.

Our hope is that you will find events this evening to inform and entertain and that most of you will have a dynamite night!

Swimmers Swarm Swimmi

Biggest turnout of century

Spurred on by Lindy & Kate's rousing Hoot closing number *Goin' to Winni Swimmi,* a field of 18 swimmer's crowded the Council Ring beach at dawn this morning. The promise (some would say threat) of Ed Cunningham swimming without his trunks also brought out a record number of new male competitors interested in checking out the competition: Joel Hemphill, Kevin Smith, and Lucas Siftar all came to strut their Swimmi stuff for the first time. Kate Siftar and Jen Hanrahan also succumbed to curiosity, little realizing that Jeanne Mockard would issue them caps and goggles and direct them to the starting line. Ben Hawthorne, who was reported to be "gunning for" the defending champ, failed to appear on the beach. It turned out he had been speaking literally, and was crouched in the bushes getting a bead on Cunningham through the sites of his Holstrom Marshmallow Shooter.

Clouds obscured the sun as the competitors shaved down in the Council ring; a few raindrops fell as the swimmers edged toward the water, hoping in vain for the rumble of thunder that would have cancelled the start. Due to budget limitations, timer Doug Hawthorne started the race by calling out: "On your marks, get set, BANG!!!!" Arms and legs flailed furiously as the crowd pushed off from shore. Liz Peters was viciously karate-chopped twice by ruthless competitors in the opening 20 meters of the race as swimmers jockeyed for position. Within a minute, the field had opened up and swimmers were spread across the lake like trash dumped out the back of a slowly trawling Boston Whaler.

Din Stevens moved out to an early lead, kept more or less on course by a vigilant Chris Peters *en kayak*. Boaters guided swimmers along the route, in particular Kevin Weston, aka "The Yellow Beacon," who, inspired by Andy Schwartz's rendition of *Lighthouse,* abandoned his canoe to stand on a rock in midcourse beckoning "Send me your poor, your gasping, your waterlogged." His canoe, swamped, was towed in by MD-on-call Cathy Smith and head lifeguard Brad, leaving Kevin to swim to shore as the Swimmi's own Rosie Ruiz.

Stevens finished first, followed by Joann Milford and Bobbie Davis in a tie for second and Swami Mockard herself in 3rd. Sue Siftar was noted for finishing all smiles (whereas Stevens finished spitting), Mockard and Leslie Ganley both finished with balletic flourishes. Dennis Courtney could not be accused of being balletic, but did perform his signature feet-first finish. Results were:

Din Stevens -- 38:38
Joann Milford and Bobbie Davis – 40:49
Jeanne Mockard – 43:57
Ed Cunningham – 44:31
Jennifer Hanrahan – 45:16
Leslie Ganley – 47:15
Liz Peters – 50:01
Dennis Courtney – 50:35
Joel Hemphill – 52:12
Kate Siftar – 52:32
Kevin Smith – 53:50
Sue DiTucci – 54:29
Bob Siftar – 1:01:58
Hans Seitz – 1:09:07
Jean Peters – 1:15:51
Lucas Siftar and Jimmy Holcomb – 1:26:01

Thanks to Doug, Susie, and Carrie Hawthorne for officiating, to Brad for getting up early to lifeguard us, and to all the boaters: Gordie Holstrom, Len Raymond, Chris Peters, Bob Ganley, K.C. Hemphill, Kevin Weston, Tucker Hemphill, Ken Cheek, Cathy Smith, Jim Peters, and anyone else whose name we didn't manage to capture.

Nostalgia Videos Available

If you would like a copy of the Nostalgia Night video you can see Sheldon's mom, A.K.A. Diane Soper, Diane Weston, Tom's sister . The cost is $10 with all profit going to the scholarship fund. Sheldon will reproduce them and mail them out early this fall. (Checks should be made out to Sheldon Soper)

Many of the glitches will be worked out and some editing may take place in the completed version. Also plans are underway for Nostalgia II. As you have seen we need your help with photos and video footage. As you return home, dust off those boxes of pictures and VHS tapes and send them to Sheldon.

Attack of the Marshmallow People

5th + 6th Graders Confuse GEMS Office for Parents

The innocent staff of the GEMS office came under attack from marshmallow gun wielding 5th and 6th graders. Using Gordie Holstrom as a decoy to gain access to the office, the kids burst in with the mini-marshmallows popping. Quick thinking staff had graham crackers handy with sticky chocolate pre-melted on it so when the bullets were batted away, they stuck and created instant s'mores. As overwhelmed as the staff was, the GEMS welcomes all attackers as it is at least somebody who is willing to come visit us here in our lonely office.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you've noticed that your address isn't correct (or complete) on the roster you received at registration, please see Jon Rowe or visit the Gems office in the Chapel and fill us in. We greatly appreciate receiving your updates **in writing**.

The Lakeview Lodge tenants begin
Each meal with a glassful of gin
When asked, "Don't you think
That is too much to drink?"
They reply, "But we're too drunk to sin!"
Shocked Winni Camper

Kool-Aid Play-Doh Recipe

From Joann Milford's 3-4 yr-old class

1 cup flour
½ cup salt
1 package unsweetened Kool-Aid
3 Tbs oil
1 cup boiling water

Instructions: Mix together the flour, salt, and Kool-Aid. Add the oil and the boiling water. Stir the mixture until well-blended. Remove the dough from the bowl and knead until it forms a soft dough.

Gate Crashed During Barn Dancing

Last night's Diplomatic Achievement Award goes to barn dance co-leader Barb Siftar, who handled deftly an unexpected influx of rambunctious revelers having a collectively awful hair day. Lesser leaders might have become flustered, but not the consummately professional Siftar, who cleverly invited the rabble to introduce themselves. Other than mostly garbled variations on "The Doctor made me do it," little intelligible dialogue ensued. The mob was last seen ambling southwards out of the barn, driven off by a disgusted porcupine.

A Message from the Dean

At the end of each Winni week, the Dean, the Business Manager and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees meet with the GPC Program Staffer Cindy Petras for an "exit" interview; this time is spent discussing how the week went and ways we can work together in the future. If you have any sort of feedback for us to share with GPC at this meeting, please speak to Jon Rowe, Ginny Houghtaling or Lelly Smith this evening or Friday morning. Thanks!

Meet the Author

Neely Tucker, author of *Love in the Driest Season: A family memoir*, will be visiting the Cheshire (CT) Public Library on Thursday, October 27 at 7:00PM. Questions? Log on to www.cheshirelibrary.org/cheshirererads.htm or speak with Sue Hartley.

Give Us Your Stuff!

Winni Historical Society Wants Archival Memorabilia

The Winni Historical Society is your place for one-stop drop-offs of your precious Winni memorabilia. Documents, crafts, pictures, etc. from this year that you think are good representatives of your experience this week are especially welcome. And also, if you brought materials for the Nostalgia Night that you can part with, we would be happy to keep for eternity for you. The deadline for material submission is lunch time on Friday. Materials can be dropped off at the Dean's table or can be brought directly to the archive office on the 2nd floor of the meeting house. Help us to preserve the memory and spirit of this great camp!
Hesung Chun Koh and Barbara Raymond

Kids' Softball Game:

Though the game was a bit short of a sellout, enthusiasm was high as "Shoeless" Calvin Weeks, "Human Rain Delay" Abigail Weeks, Collin "Bambino" Morrissey, John "I'm good from both sides of the plate" Turgeon, and Stefan "Big Poppi" Livsey starred but fell just short of victory to a bunch of old men. Special thanks to John Dockendorff for being the opposition one-man outfield, thereby preventing the Weeks, Morrissey, and Soper families from sure-fire trips to the hospital.

Movie Minute

by Jimmy "Action!" Holcomb

If watching kids perform is your thing, you should view the documentary "Rock School." Paul Green in Philadelphia has an after-school program teaching kids Rock and Roll--not just light rock but Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd and Frank Zappa. Green's teaching style involves yelling at the kids a lot. Teachers will not like his style, but the kids strive to do better to earn his praise. One of the original members of Zappa's band was invited to hear them play and stood there with his mouth open, they were so good. They were later invited to perform at the Zappa Festival in Germany. Highlights are an Amish keyboard player and the guitar player named C.J.

TOP TEN THINGS THAT MAKE WINNI-ITES NERVOUS

10. .Am I the only parent who hasn't seen his teenager all week?
9. Why are the camp nurse's hours scheduled for "immediately after each meal?"
8. Flushing your toilet and hoping for the best
7. Did that animal noise come from inside or outside of my cabin?
6. Looking "up" inside the barn at just the wrong time
5. Dancing in the barn barefoot with a partner wearing hiking boots
4. Thinking that somebody was taking pictures during your performance at the Hoot
3. Wondering: "Does what happens at Winni *really* stay at Winni?"
2. Wondering if these top ten lists will ever stop.

AND THE NUMBER ONE THING THAT MAKES WINNI-ITES NERVOUS:

1. The fact that the Ed school leadership brought you this list.

Mike Nissen's recipe for success:

1) Take 1 idea ("Let's have the kids' softball game on a different day from the adult game")
2) Add 1 sap to do all of the work ("Hey Joe, why don't you make an announcement and write an article for the Gems?")
3) Heat thoroughly on a hot day and then go golfing at game time when all of the work needs to be done.

Note: Also works by substituting "Susan" for "Joe", and "Evening Coordinators" for "Softball game".

Philosophical Questions while gazing up at the stars:

From an anonymous contributor

1) Can't I just buy JoJo's? It would be cheaper.
2) Am I the only person in this camp that doesn't play guitar?
3) Will my children appreciate this place and continue on here after I'm gone?
4) Is there a toilet in this place that doesn't overflow?
5) Why does Mickey Mouse wear pants but no shirt while Donald Duck wears a shirt but no pants?
6) If there is a God and he does answer prayers, why am I still not staying at Lakeview Lodge?
7) If there are so many jokes about the food here, why do I always gain weight?
8) Does Jon Arnold ever go anywhere without that thermos?
9) Will I ever be as funny as I think I am after a few visits from Doctor McGillicutty?
10) In a free society such as ours, why doesn't everybody come here?

Thoughts: I'll miss Winni. My mind comes back here a lot during the boring corporate meetings that I attend. Although we may meet during the year, it's this place that makes me want to make myself a better person, make the world a better place, lose weight, learn how to play guitar. I came here kicking and screaming my first couple of years, now I can't imagine my life without this place. We don't wave to Georgie from our cubicles in the corporate world. There are no Hoots anywhere else in my life, no barns to dance in, no chapels in which I laugh myself silly.

The other 51 weeks out of the year are something that I appreciate, but it's this one week that I give a special thanks for. And so, it's with this week in mind that I ask that the Lord give me a long life, so that I'll be able to enjoy this place for many times to come.

Giving Thanks for Those Who Have Given Thanks

Grace: A freely given blessing by God

Every day of our week at Winni, at every meal at Winni, we celebrate this blessing and give thanks for our food. We have experienced a rich diversity of graces thanks to our volunteer coordinators:
Sunday- Diane and Kevin Smith
Monday-Beth LeBar
Tuesday-Lilliam Pancorbo
Wednesday-Sue DiTucci
Thursday-Cindy and Bob Campbell
Friday-Chuck Bates
Saturday-The Irish Blessing Team

Special thanks to the standby help of Tom Weston. Thank You All!
-- Ginny Houghtaling

She Does It All

Barb Siftar Crafts Lyrics for Song

After tiring of leaping buildings at a single bound and being a vocal performer *extraordinaire*, Barb Siftar has ventured to the other side of the song sheet and started crafting songs of her own. Present here, one of her first lyrical compositions:

Wouldn't Choose

She was wild, she was free.
She didn't look anything like me,
She had a gleam in her dark eyes.
That could stop you short and by surprise.

She owned the street, she owned the town,
She owned herself, Her hair was brown,
There wasn't a thing she couldn't do.
She did it all in wooden shoes.

Chorus:
Wooden shoes, wooden shoes,
Lighter than air, electric blue,
From a tree, carved by hand,
No one could ever understand,
The power she felt in those wooden shoes.

She'd slip them on in the middle of the night,
She'd dance and stomp, march out of sight,
She'd leap tall buildings, swim the streams,
She'd dress'em up, she'd eat ice cream.

FOOD FORECAST

[GEMS staffers, having failed accurately to determine the menu any day this week, has moved on to the second-most inaccurate portion of our publication—the weather. The result:]

Friday's Weather-Inspired Menu, or Menu-Inspired Weather

Breakfast: 100% chance of eggs, with widely scattered pancakes. Coffee will be partly cloudy with temperatures approaching tepid.
Lunch: Increasing likelihood of recycled dinner products wrapped in a festive tortilla, with a passing salad.
Dinner: Low pressure appears to be building throughout the region. Campers warned of a high probability of turbulence immediately following dinner.

Hoot review continued from p.1

Swedish Cow Horn – **Laine Harris** – *Summertime* – Somewhere out in Moultonboro there is a cow in heat looking for Laine. Needless to say, we were Moooooooved.
Robin Brosious - I Met A Bear - A laugh fest both on and off stage. Thanks for the great song!
Who's On First – **Don and George Dawes** – We timed this timeless classic at 8:50 – and worth every minute. Great job guys, Naturally – (whomever he is).
Julia Ganley – Piano performance – Outstanding performance with a very strong left hand plying the bass. Way to go Julia!
Mariana and Robert Campbell: Soul Sister #9 – Hand jive like we've never seen before – hand slapping good!
Samantha Stauffer with We Three Kings – Clarinet – Dulcet tones from a budding superstar! Way to go!!!! Wish it was Christmas.
Susie and Carrie Hawthorne accompanied by Diane Soper. Little Miss Muffet – Never has a nursery tale had such a proper and harmonic presentation. Turned a tragic tale into a musical triumph! This mother-daughter duet was too hot to Handel!
Laine Harris and Jennifer Brosious – Norwegian dance - So good we pined for the fjords! Brilliant Christmas red costumes kept the stage alive with color.
Parker Davis: Piano – Never has my grandmother's clocked sounded so melodious with the chime song. Yankee Doodle gave Dad a chance to beat it!
Second Chance Disciples – Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown? Bet there will be a ton for these outstanding first timers at Winni.
The Offutts are vying for rookie Winnites of the year. Great job! Might we ask where the Mrs. was? Dare we introspect that little Ms. Offut was home on her toffet?
Car Wash: **Allison Milford, Rose Ganley, Allie DiTucci and Madeline Blackman** – Who are these girls and where are they getting

their hormones? Beautiful young women are all in sync! Great job! And sister acts, we love it! You are talented AND kind! True Winni Women.

Chris Dockendorff: Electric bliss – Satriani – call your mommy, Chris D is in town and making his guitar smoke. Even banging the amp sounded good. You give us feedback, we give you feedback.

Hamish Blackman conducting Beethoveen's 5th. The best movement we've had all week. Aerobics meets classical music meets thank you for getting us off our bottoms before they went numb. Dressed to the 9s while doing the 5th!

Don Dawes: Desert Song - A classic crooner takes this tune to new heights! Great job, Don!

On My Own – **Stacie Finlayson** – Great poise and delivery of this pop classic. A pure and powerful performance – awesome job!

Two Soles and A Heel: **Weston & Soper & Soper;** Step by step and inch by inch – you knocked us out! Makes us want to visit the ol falls. Dare we speak its name?

Chris Peters on guitar: God Bless My SUV - Great comedic timing, awesome guitar playing and singing. Our Winni Idol has been discovered and it is you! Fantastic job!

Emily Seaman, Monica Seaman and Meredith Smith: Caught Up by Usher – That barely describes our enthusiasm for the smooth moves and grace of these young women. Awesome!

Andy Schwartz: Lighthouse – Andy took this James Taylor classic and made it his own and we are glad for it. Superb playing and vocal performance. Thanks, Andy--it is always a pleasure to hear your music.

Chris and Jean Peters: Old Tennessee – New life breathed into this old Dan Fogelberg classic usually only attempted by skilled seasoned guitarists. Chris Peters with less than a year of guitar playing under his belt knocked it like he wrote it. Beautifully sung by Jean – great job. Winni Rocks!

Paul DiTucci & Ivan Rhodes Carija – Brief humor at its best.

Soper and Weston Clan – Hurdy gurdy, guitar and drums- Caldonia – Awesome rendition of a traditional folk tune.

Kate Hearne – Blues in A – She played "blues in a" way that got us rocking and rolling. Way to go, Kate!

Lindy Hearne aka Willie Nelson – Momma don't let your babies grow up to be **Willie Nelson** impersonators. Smooth tones from the Texas King….

Lindy and Kate Hearne- Winni Swimmi – (to the tune of Kansas City) – we can't wait to see how many people who sung along will be at the shore. Thanks for pumping us up to end the show.

Top Ten Signs that Winni is Becoming Commercialized

1. Front row seat at the Hoot is reserved for Simon Cowell.
2. 31 Flavors now available at the Scoop Shop. (Most popular is "Labyrinth Walk Vanilla" described as "satisfying for no discernible reason".)
3. Bats in barn no longer drop bat-poo but leaflets for *Batman Begins.*
4. Gibbes lodge maintained by Hilton, Lakeview by Marriott, Chapel Line by Motel Six, and Dock Road by Budweiser.
5. Bad News: Gift shop taken over by Wal-Mart. Good News: Dick McNeill hired as Greeter!
6. Dotti and Barb hired off to Vegas. Barn dancing now led by Steve and Edie.
7. Bad News: Corporate sponsor for the GEMS: Charmin. Good News: It is finally in a format where people will read it and put it to practical use.
8. McDonald's is now the new corporate sponsor for the food service and people are beating the path to the McNurse for the McPepto, if you know what I mean.
9. Waterfront has been converted to a low budget water park. Campers advised to avoid Pepito's Magic Bubble Pool and Port-O-Potty Spelunking.
10. Good News: Cable channels expanded to 125 in all cabins. Bad News: Mike Nissan is doing an Infomercial on 124 of them.