



# TOHKOMEUPOG

summer camp for boys

ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
WINTER '19/'20  
EST. 1932

## .....2019 CAMP TOHKOMEUPOG RECAP.....

The 88th summer of outdoor adventure, friendship, and opportunity in East Madison was quite successful.

We had another excellent group of veteran staff, with everyone having been here for multiple summers. We were thankful to have Don Barton return as Assistant Camp Director, and John Sexton, once again, was at the Waterfront. Encampment directors included Matt Finn in the Bear Clan, Stevo Harding in the Deer Clan, Jon Quade in the Panther Clan, and Will Darling, after several years away, returning to the Wolf Clan. Tim Folsom was back overseeing Tennis, Sean Petersen ran Archery, and John Petersen rounded out the team at the Riflery Center. John also carved out another amazing totem pole to complete the totem pole set.

In the infirmary - Helen Crowell and Bob Burton returned as RNs, helping to keep everyone healthy. Dawn Petersen was back in the office and store, but she's best known for her photo taking. She posts thousands of them for families to see... sharing all the exciting action at Tohko. Last, but certainly not least, Lisa Bowers returned to help out in the kitchen and store.

There were many highlights in the 2019 camp season including various mountain, river, mountain biking, and climbing trips. These outings provided amazing experiences for campers and staff alike. A return to Whales' Tale Waterpark, Beach day at Jenness State Beach in Rye, NH, and another trip to Portland, Maine to take in a Sea Dogs game were popular outings, as well.

Countless hours were put in by campers and staff working on replacing the Senior Log Cabin. The new Wolf Lodge was dedicated to Don Barton during Alumni Weekend 2019 and will be an amazing outpost for day and overnight trips moving forward.

Summer 2019 was another incredible season, and we're busy preparing for 2020! As I write this, the country and the world is "hunkering down" to fight COVID-19. Our hopes are that, after a very long spring, our Tohko campers and staff will be able to return as planned. In the meantime, please know that we are all in this together, and nothing would make me happier than seeing you all at camp and at Alumni Weekend in August. On that note - please mark it on your calendars for August 28-30.

Kestay,

Andrew Mahoney  
Tohkomeupog Director



Above: Panther Clan Trip in Tuckerman's Ravine  
Below: Rock Climbing at the Tohko Dome



### WOOLEGAN!

*Congratulations to the C.I.T. Class of 2020:*

MAX VAN DORN, JASON CHIN, TEDDY RICHARDS, MICHAEL WIESEN  
LIAM CAPOZZA, DYLAN MCCONNELL



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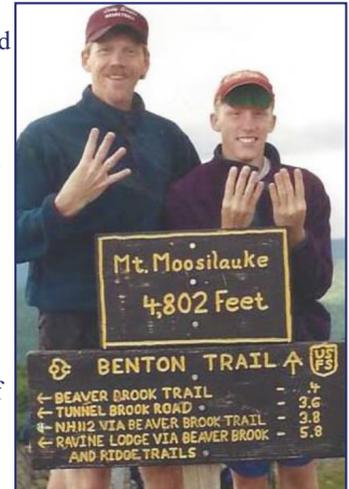
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## WOLF LODGE DEDICATED TO DON BARTON

By Stevo Harding

The idea to rebuild Senior Log Cabin was inspired by the desire to recognize and appreciate a remarkable member of the Tohkomeupog Tribe, Don Barton. Don has now dedicated 40 consecutive seasons to camp and continues to enrich all of our lives at Tohkomeupog. Don was Director of the Mighty Wolf Clan for 17 years, (1982 to 1988; 1991 to 2000) – tying him for the camp record. Don shares this record with another legendary Tohkomeupog figure, Jim G. James, (1947 to 1963), for whom the original Senior Log Cabin was dedicated. The Wolf Lodge, as it has now been dubbed, was a labor of love that brought many alumni back to the valley throughout spring and summer months. During the camp season, alumni were able to work with current Tohko staff and Wolf Clan campers. Don Barton was also an enthusiastic participant, not knowing that his efforts would culminate in a grand celebration at which he would be the guest of honor. Somehow we made it through the entire camp summer keeping these plans a secret from Don. I'm so happy we pulled it off. The dedication ceremony of the new Wolf Lodge was very successful. We had almost 200 people in attendance. Don was certainly surprised by the attention... and touched by the love and appreciation expressed at the ceremony. Construction of the Wolf Lodge has been funded largely through alumni support. If you are interested in contributing money toward completion of the project, we welcome your help. Details of how to donate for the Wolf Lodge project can be found at the bottom of this page. The names of people who choose to contribute will be engraved on wood salvaged from the original cabin and placed on display inside the new Wolf Lodge. It is just small way to recognize all those who have helped make this happen. If you have already donated, my sincerest thanks.



Don Barton, with his son, Mike Barton, at the summit of Mt. Moosilauke

Below you will find a message of gratitude from Don Barton:

To You All Who Mean So Much To Me, As I sit here on another Thanksgiving morning, I'm struck by many random thoughts. First and foremost is the WARP SPEED in which this past year has gone by. I hope it's because of my advanced age that the hours and days drag, but the months and years fly by. I also hope that time moves a little more slowly for those of you in the generations before me (especially my children & grandchildren). I'm sure for us all there has been some heartache, some tears (both happy and sad), some joy, and hopefully much laughter this past year. Some of you are just beginning your life as a married couple, a parent, or a grandparent. Others are "cagey veterans" in this regard. All I can say (from my experience) is each phase of life is special, unique, and amazing! I hope you all appreciate what you have, where you come from, those folks important to you, and the "little things" in life that we experience daily. I know I'm much more aware of my surroundings today than I was as a young man. Some of my more memorable experiences as I reflect on this year are as follows: Sunrises over Casco Bay, seeing the snow capped Mt. Washington from the Eastern Prom in Portland (most recently, just last Saturday), the early morning mirror like view of a calm Back Cove, beautiful sunsets from (wait for it...) Sunset Beach with camp friends, the early morning fog over Purity Lake with the loons as background noise, the view from the top of King Pine toward Foss Mountain, sitting on both Milt's bench at Sunset and Bill's bench on Tohko, the sound of campers "Living Loudly", and the view from the front porch of the newly built Wolf Lodge (this fall and especially on Alumni weekend with a sea of people in front of me). Even more important to me are the hugs, kisses, & laughter from my children, their spouses, and my grandchildren (as well as their unbridled joy over their accomplishments no matter how small) and the nightly hugs and kisses and "I love you" that Bif and I exchange. My wish to you all is that you take the time each and every day to enjoy some of the simple things in life and share them with those important to you. Also know that even if we don't see each other often you all are very important to me, you have had (and still do) a positive influence on my life, and I think of you often (usually in a good way) Life truly is short which leads me to my quote for you all this year.

"Don't let yesterday use up too much of today" - Will Rogers

I think that brief statement says a great deal about how we should live our lives.

Your husband, your Dad, your Father-in-Law, your Grandpa, and Your Friend, Don

### KINKEEGWAN!

*Donate to the construction/completion of the Wolf Lodge*

MAIL A CHECK (MADE OUT TO "TOHKOMEUPOG," WITH MEMO LINE STATING "WOLF LODGE") TO:  
STEVO HARDING | 1251 EATON ROAD | EAST MADISON, NH 03849

See WWW.TOHKO.COM for information about Camp and the Alumni Association.



## .....NO MATTER WHAT, KIDS COME FIRST.....

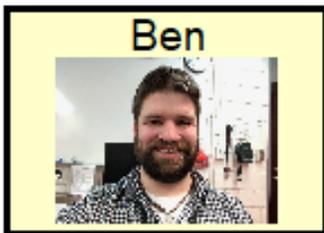
By Benjamin Rich

So picture this. You are somewhere on Franconia Ridge. It is cold. There is some rain, 2 miles left to the camp site, and everyone is tired. Next thing you here is the question “How much further?!”. You turn around and with a smile on your face say “We will get there when we get there and you should enjoy the hike!” A phrase that always popped into my mind at this time was “Kids come first no matter what.” Little did I know how much this phrase would follow me into my adult life and career.

I consider myself lucky to have gone to Tohkomeupog as a camper, CIT, and counselor. My time there also inspired me to hike the Appalachian Trail. Following the trail, I went to work at a residential school for individuals with cognitive disabilities and behavioral issues. I would spend the next 6 years at the school as a severe special needs teacher while I earned my degree in the same field. What I did not expect was how much camp would prepare me to work in this position. I was faced with daily challenges that included dealing with behavioral issues, encouraging independence, and attempting to find creative teaching methods for my students. When faced with a difficult challenge I would regularly think the phrase “kids come first no matter what”. I may have taken the phrase a bit too literally at times, but some of my proudest moments as a special education teacher would not have happened if not for my experience at Tohkomeupog.

One of those specific experiences had to do with an individual who required numerous individuals to work with him at all times and whose aggressive episodes were triggered by coughing and sneezing. Not many people were willing to work with this individual, and less were willing to work individually with him. We were tasked with bringing this individual staffing down from a 3:1 ratio to a 1:1 ratio. It was a challenge, but in the end he was walking around the school with me running errands and dropping off documents. This would not have happened if not for my time at Tohko.

“Kids come first no matter what.” This is a phrase that I find myself living every day. Because of it, I now find myself working for Cambridge Rindge and Latin in Cambridge Massachusetts helping to develop a transition program for individuals between the ages of 18-22. I intend to expand my knowledge in the field by getting another Masters degree in Applied Behavioral Analysis and getting my Board Certified Behavior Analyst Certificate. All of this is thanks to Tohkomeupog. Again... “Kids come first no matter what.”



Above: A Sentence Strip created by Ben, an example of an exercise he utilized with his non-verbal students.

**KINKEEGWAN!**  
*Donate to the Alumni Association*  
PAYPAL: [HTTP://BIT.LY/TOHKOALUMNIDONATION](http://bit.ly/tohkoalumnidonation) OR  
MAIL A CHECK (MADE OUT TO “CAMP TOHKOMEUPOG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION”) TO:  
ROSS FALDETTA | 635 WRIGHTWOOD AVENUE | CHICAGO, IL 60614

# CAMP NEWS & NOTES

## NUPTIALS!

- TOM LATRONICO MARRIED AMY SCUPIN ON SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2019!

## BIRTHS!

- BRADY PATRICK MAHONEY WAS BORN TO BRENDAN AND CHRISTIAN MAHONEY ON NOVEMBER 24TH, 2019!

- ROSIE RICH WAS BORN TO BENJAMIN AND STEPHANIE RICH ON JANUARY 2ND, 2020!



*Alumni Gather at Tom Latronico's Wedding. From Left to Right: John Quade, Tom Latronico, Stevo Harding, Mark Latronico, and Ross Faldetta.*

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## REMEMBERING BOB HOYT



As many of you might have already heard, Robert Eaton Hoyt passed away at the age of 71 on February 26th, 2020. A ceremony in his memory was originally slated for May 16th, 2020, however given current events, the family has decided to postpone it for everyone's health and safety. They will announce a new ceremony date for the summer or fall in the near future. To stay informed of the new date for the ceremony, and to share your pictures, memories or condolences with the family, please visit the following website:

[CELEBRATEBOBHoyt.com](http://CELEBRATEBOBHoyt.com)

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## REMEMBERING SPENCER FROCK

Spencer Marshall Frock became a Keeper of Eternal Light for the Great Spirit on October 2, 2019. He arrived in the Tohkomeupog Valley at the age of 9 in the Bear Clan, returning to the Valley later in life to bring cheer to Camp Cody and Purity Spring Resort. His enthusiasm for activities included hiking, canoeing, camp crafts, hockey and all things fast. Spencer carried fortitude while he blessed all with his cheer. This cheer we offer, for safe passing into Eternal Light. Keste



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



The Alumni Board would like to thank all the alumni and their families that returned to the valley last summer for an amazing Alumni Weekend! The turn out was amazing, and the dedication of Wolf Cabin to Don Barton was a Tohko gathering for the ages! Once again, thank you to the wonderful group of people who returned the Valley and made for such an unforgettable weekend. Join us for Alumni Weekend 2020 from August 28th to August 30th! We look forward to seeing you in the Valley!

See [WWW.TOJKO.COM](http://WWW.TOJKO.COM) for information about Camp and the Alumni Association.