

## Friends of Timbercrest

Preserving, enhancing, and promoting Camp Timbercrest in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western New York

### Fall Work Weekend

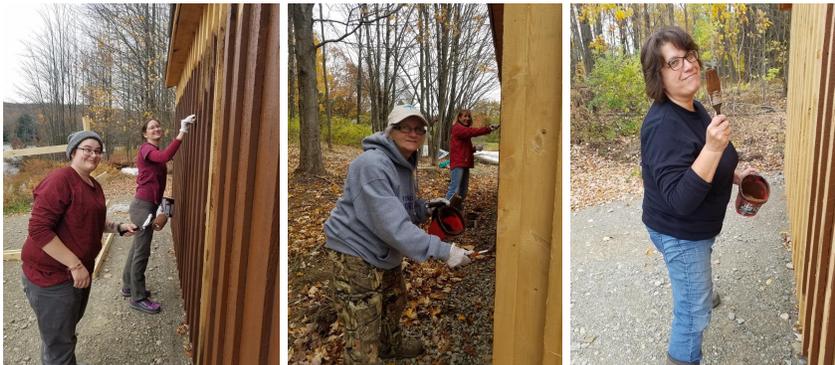
October 25-27, 2019

### Work Report

1. Picnic Tables
  - a. Seven were purchased by private donors in memory or honor of someone.
  - b. The remaining 18 were paid for with a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. We helped write the grant request.
  - c. Sixteen kits arrived, the rest are back-ordered.
  - d. We assembled all 16 that arrived. The rest may not get here until spring.
  - e. It was our intent to seal the tops and seats, but the wood was too wet, so that will either be done by Scott and his crew, or maybe by us next May.



2. Boat Shed Painting
  - a. We got the shed  $\frac{7}{8}$  (?) finished.



- b. Ro, Barb, and Jennifer will try to get out on Oct 30 to finish it off.

3. Lake Trail

- a. General maintenance and clearing of branches and logs.
- b. Another footbridge installed over a wet area near a creek that enters the Lake in Beaver Bay.
- c. The mesh on the Boy Scout Bridge had come up and was causing a tripping hazard. We pulled it up and reinstalled it.



4. Timber Trail

- a. Footbridges installed on diversion ditches near Sprucewood. Jennifer will install mesh October 30.
- b. One more probably needed for Hawthorne Grove diversion ditch.

5. Nita's Trail

- a. This did not happen at work weekend, but I wanted to report it: there is a section of Nita's Trail just above the well that is always wet. Scott and his crew put a load of gravel on either end of it and placed tree cookies down the center between the gravel. Big improvement!

6. Loop-the-lake Nature Hike

- a. Our first foray into programming went off well. The weather could not have been more perfect.
- b. There were 14 girls and 15 adults.
- c. We started in lodge with a little self-guided map activity, then split into two smaller groups. One went clockwise, the other counterclockwise. Each group had 2-3 Friends leading, teaching, and "herding."
- d. We set up two learning stations with artifacts courtesy of Audubon Community Nature Center, one



about deer, the other about beavers.

- e. The council will gather feedback from participants and send it to us. We already got the best feedback we are likely to get: a family of 4 was at Timbercrest for the first time ever and posted to our Facebook group pictures and a promise that they will be back.

## 7. Food

- a. Bill planned and executed another excellent menu for the weekend, bringing back some favorites and introducing a pot roast recipe that was to die for.
- b. Many thanks to all who contributed to the food and supplies fund, including these folks who couldn't be there in person: Kim Meabon, Bonnie Swoger, Kennie Campbell, Carol Barnes, Jerilyn Hickey



## 8. FYI

- a. Sara and Rob Thompson had planned to attend, but their little guy got sick, so they opted to stay home. I had hoped to pick Sara's brains about improvements for Nita's Trail, as well as continued work on the Lake Trail. Guess that will have to wait.
- b. Sara purchased and donated to FOT some trail maintenance tools: 2 McLeods and 2 Grub Hoes. Ro will keep possession of them and bring them to work weekends.
- c. A new group has formed because we inspired them: Friends of Horton Hill! They will have work parties to restore the trail systems and patrol kitchens at the Horton Road facility. Saturday November 9 from 9-3 will be the first work day. If interested, email Ro. [woodard.ro@gmail.com](mailto:woodard.ro@gmail.com)  
Maybe day camp programs could begin again? (See below about money.)
- d. A honey crisp apple tree was planted near the yurts to commemorate the opening of the Lake Trail and recognize Jennifer's efforts in spearheading the project.
- e. There was a lot of singing both Friday and Saturday nights, accompanied by Burnsie on the guitar! Thanks, Burnsie!

## 9. Conversations

- a. Master Plan: GSWNY is embarking on a master planning process for all of its properties, including, of course, Timbercrest. The impending planning process has already back-burnered one of our proposed projects - to create a more formal ceremony space at Lakeview. (We were told council would like to wrap that idea into the master plan, perhaps, in part, because our vision was pretty extensive and pricey.

Prior to the weekend, Jennifer asked Jerilyn Hickey at GSWNY for advice on how to proceed with planning new projects for FOT.

Jerilyn suggested we brainstorm a list of things we are interested in working on and then bring the list to council to discuss whether we could go ahead, or if it should wrap into the master plan.

### b. Possible Friends Projects

- i. Leanto: replace existing one as is? Or rethink the whole site? Build one? Or add a second to facilitate staff sleeping separate from campers?
- ii. Signs: the entire camp needs a uniform signage system. We could tackle it all, or do a hiking trail subset...
  1. Entry sign
  2. Directional signs
  3. Building labels
  4. Trailhead signs
- iii. Hiking Trails
  1. Reroute the Lake Trail to stick close to shore in front of Jackman/Yurts.
  2. Consider how to divert water on Nita's Trail between Sunset and the intersection with Timber Trail. (And or reroute trail with switchbacks so it doesn't go straight up the hill.)
  3. Blaze Nita's and Timber Trails
  4. Blaze spur trail to Gypsy Point
  5. Blaze spur trail to High Point  
(Develop High Point area of interest - make it a worthy destination. Another leanto area? Hammock camp?)
- iv. Map adjustments
  1. Remove the wishing well, as it is a dangerous feature and we should not be encouraging girls to go there.
  2. Add Dracula's tomb
  3. Change name of Archery to Target Sports.
  4. Add mileage of each trail
  5. Once Lake Trail is rerouted, fix map.

c. Suggestions for the Master Plan

(There might be some here that FOT could tackle.)

We decided to make this list, not knowing how, if, when the master planning folks would request our input.

i. The Lake

1. Biological survey
2. Native water weed and invasive species management
3. Dredging

ii. The roads

1. Penn State spec for gravel roads that stay put, don't erode, drain well
2. Deal with water diversion issues everywhere, but especially at bottom of hill to Sprucewood/Hawthorne and Strawberry Hill. This culvert needs cleaning or replacing.

iii. Improvements to existing structures

1. Balcony on Bellinger
2. Ramps and railings to Jackman
3. Window and doors in Jackman
4. Decks all the way around the yurts
5. Better fire circles around Jackman and yurts
6. Electricity and water at the horse barns
7. Evaluate Old Barn for possible rehabint and uses.
8. The units: upgrade the shelters, clear dead and dangerous trees and brush, create viewscapes of the lake, consider repositioning cabin-tents to have better views

iv. Separate hiking and horse trails (could horse trails double as mountain biking trails in Spring and fall?)

v. Solar and wind power

vi. Clean up the Willow Bridge area.

vii. Jennifer to search notes for other lists we have generated.

d. Money Makes the World Go Round

i. Jennifer reported the various ways people can give money toward or efforts, and pointed out that all are listed on the donations page of our website: [friendsoftimbercrest.org](http://friendsoftimbercrest.org).

ii. Contributions to FOT are not tax deductible, because we are not a 501c3. This money helps us buy food and supplies for the work weekend. Think of these contributions as food and lodging.

iii. Donations to GSWNY are tax deductible and can be designated to specific funds including:

1. Timbercrest Capital Reserve Fund - used for council projects at camp.

2. Friends of Timbercrest special projects - bridges, picnic tables, for example. Projects we are doing at camp.
  3. Friends of Timbercrest Award fund - lifetime membership for a senior girl who has been involved with Timbercrest.
  4. It was suggested we may want to designate some funds for troops to use to come troop camping at Timbercrest.
- iv. And a new way to donate has been added, thanks to Joanne Nelson. She has set up a fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Once it gets to \$5,000.00 and has been there for a year, we will be able to draw the interest off annually. It is set up specifically for projects of FOT and FOHH. To help get it to \$5,000 fast, Joanne is matching donations up to \$2,500.00 total dollars!



**Who was There?**

1. Bashaw, EvaDawn	10. Lombardo, Nancy	19. Powell, Dianne
2. Brown, Kathy	11. Mazzone, Mary Beth	20. Saye, Terry
3. Cicchini, Dawn	12. McIntyre, Bill	21. Schlick, Bob
4. Conklin, Barb	13. Moller, Kathy	22. Schlick, Jennifer
5. Cotton, Karen	14. Morein, Paulette	23. Tallmadge, Eileen
6. Garrick, Emily	15. Nelson, Joanne	24. Tener, Erica
7. Gaston, Anita	16. Osborne, Marilyn	25. Woodard, Ro
8. Jungquist, Peggy	17. Patchen, Allan	
9. Klock, Jude	18. Patchen, Natasha	

Can you match the names to the faces and tell who isn't pictured?