

Friends of Timbercrest Work Report

September 29 - October 1, 2023

Participants

We had the 2nd highest attendance for a work weekend yet. (The highest was the weekend when we celebrated the 5-55: our fifth anniversary and the 55th anniversary of residence camp at Timbercrest.)



Not all are pictured. Can you figure out who is missing from the photo?

1. EvaDawn Bashaw - Fredonia, NY
2. Kathy Brown - Lakewood, NY
3. Karen Carney - Tonawanda, NY
4. Jennifer Cassidy - Kenmore, NY
5. Dawn Cicchini - Pittsburgh, PA
6. Barb Conklin - Falconer, NY
7. Kristen Cook - Cassadaga, NY
8. Barb Cybart - Mayville, NY
9. Donna Dolce - Millsboro, DE
10. Amy Jo Dorler - Lake Placid, FL
11. Judi Edgerton - Bemus Point, NY
12. Alyssa Farruggia - Rochester, NY
13. Deb Fasciana - Dunkirk, NY
14. Emily Garrick - Lakewood, NY
15. Anita Gaston - Bluff Point, NY
16. Rosie Gatto - Sidney, NY
17. Matt Johnson - Clymer, NY (Thursday)
18. Peg Jungquist - Lakewood, NY
19. Mary MastroSimone-Gese - East Aurora, NY
20. Mary Beth Mazzone - Ashville, NY
21. Bill McIntyre - Fredonia, NY
22. Kim Meabon - Jamestown, NY

23. Kathy Moller - Russell, PA
24. Paulette Morein - Dunkirk, NY
25. Jo Nelson - Jamestown, NY
26. Natasha Patchen - Knoxville, TN
27. Allan Patchen - Knoxville, TN
28. Sally Patchen - Jamestown, NY
29. Gary Pfahl - N. Greece, NY
30. Diane Powell - Rochester, NY
31. Jennifer Schlick - Lakewood, NY
32. Annie Schroen - Brocton, NY
33. Elliot Smith - Novelty, OH
34. Rebecca Spinler - Randolph, NY
35. Tim Sullivan - Fredonia, NY

36. Erica Tener - Woodstock, NY
37. Rob Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
38. Craig Thompson - Falconer, NY
39. Sara Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
40. Reece Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
41. Betsy Vinton - Rochester, NY
42. Angela Voorhis - Novelty, OH
43. Andrew Welton - Mars, PA
44. Rachel Welton - Mars, PA
45. Ro Woodard - Falconer, NY
46. Holly Zendarski - Franklinville, NY
47. Lois Zendarski - Franklinville, NY

Projects

Bellinger

Staining: Council staff had stained the outside walls of Bellinger Lodge. A second coat of stain was requested of us for the upper part of the lake side of Bellinger that gets all the weather. Mission accomplished!



Library: Games were tidied, pieces inventoried and placed in ziplocks for each box. Extra pieces are in a separate ziplock.



Bird Spikes: We know we will never completely discourage the barn swallows from nesting on the buildings, but we are trying to discourage them from nesting where people enter and exit the building. Over the summer FOT and Council staff placed bird spikes on lighting and other fixtures. This weekend, we placed some more on portions of the ledge under the deck over the doors to the Program Center.

Handwashing Sink: Frustrated by being squirted with water everytime we wash our hands, we removed the aerator and gave it a soak in some descaling product we found on the shelves. To be honest - all the faucets in the kitchen need this!

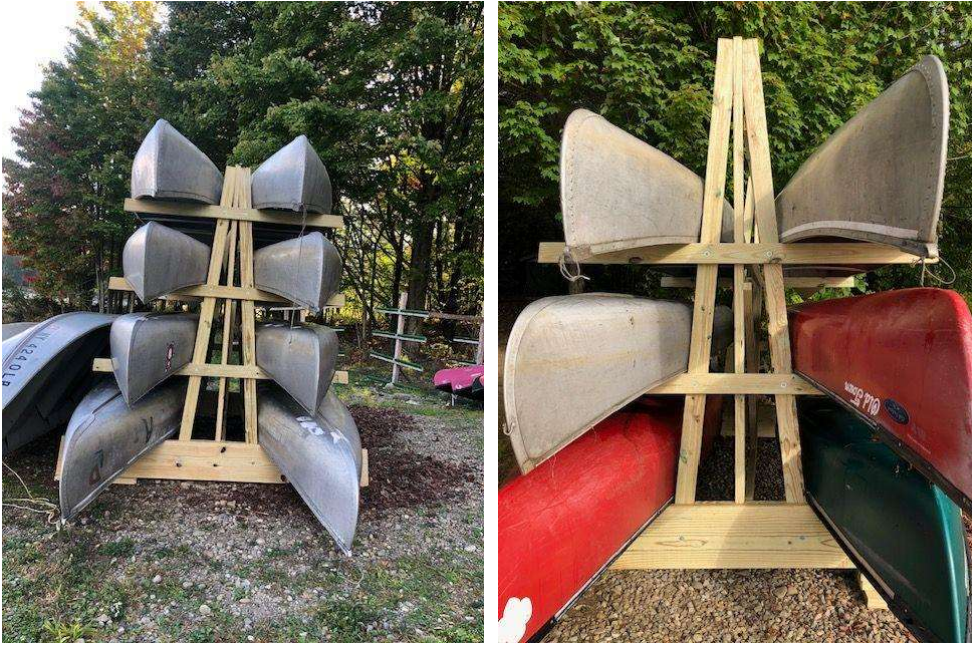
Boat House



Paddle Storage: Canoe paddles got a fancy storage rack at the Spring work weekend. Kayak paddles got their turn this weekend.

SUP paddles are still bungee-corded to the wall. That might be good enough. Or maybe we'll think of something for them, too, one of these days.

Canoe Racks: Two canoe racks were built.



Canoe Sorting: Canoes that should probably be retired were set aside. More sorting needs to be done.

Trails

General Maintenance: Council staff had some time for a couple of weeks after summer camp closed and they did quite a bit of trimming, weed whacking, etc. We did a bit more, but not much was needed on established trails.

Strawberry Shortcut: This is a new trail laid out at the Spring work weekend to connect Strawberry Hill to the Timber Trail. Quite a bit of work was done to this trail. It was walked with the GPS so we can add it to the map.

The map will be updated over the winter with post numbers and the new Strawberry Shortcut trail.

Signage: A new Friend of Timbercrest, Matt Johnson, owner of Bison Trace Luxury Camping (bisontraceglamping.com), came out on the Thursday before our weekend with a gas-powered auger to dig the last of the post holes for our trail signage. That allowed us to quickly finish off the signs.



Blazing: Blazing is done-ish. Blazes were added up to High Point, on the first part of the Lake Trail, to Banana Boat, along the Shortcut of the Timber Trail, and along the Strawberry Shortcut. We got kind of fancy with the Strawberry Shortcut blazes, so those aren't quite finished.



Tack Shed

We saw a neat idea online to use horseshoes for organizing tools. Nailed it! Actually, screwed it - so they can easily be moved or changed if this arrangement doesn't work out.



Tidbits

Friends of Timbercrest offered two tidbits (programs for girls) during the weekend. Daisies and Brownies could learn to use slingshots, then make a craft. The older girls got an introduction to archery using the new bows you all helped us purchase.





Nest Box Trail

The nest boxes were all cleaned out. We noticed some nestboxes are missing from the locations where we installed them, as well as the nesting platforms for barn swallows intended to lure them away from entrances. We learned they are stashed in 3-bay for now until a plan is conceived..



Food, Glorious Food!

We were once again fed well this weekend. Bill brought his buddy Tim to help with cooking. They were joined by Alyssa "Eagle" Farruggia who took care of Saturday Lunch, giving the guys a break. Many thanks to all who pitched in for kitchen cleanup!

Miscellaneous

Dead and dangerous trees: Many of us remember planting red pines in the "dry island" back in the 1960s. These trees are reaching the end of their life span. One was "retired" this weekend. We burned the branches.



Furniture Refinishing: Another wooden camp chair that was hiding over in the Cook's Cabin was refinished. Broken pieces from the two chairs in Bellinger were removed. We will make new pieces to replace them.



Cattails: We learned from the PRISM folks over the summer that the species of cattail in Keyser Lake is non-native, meaning we do not need any special permitting to eradicate it. A return to camp on Tuesday to cut off all the “flowers” before they could go to seed resulted in several bags for the dumpster. More research on eradication methods is needed.



Group Discussion

Work Projects: At the Saturday after-dinner discussion we reviewed the work we had accomplished and noted what needed to be finished up on Sunday.

Needs to be Done: We made a list of things we noticed that will need attention. FOT and GSWNY will sort out whether any can wait till April and be FOT projects, or if they are things that need attention right away.

- Tan Yurt - a light is out
- Single Stall bathroom in the Program center needs lights
- Jackman porch needs to be stained/sealed
- Bellinger railing still seems wobbly
- Bell doesn't ring
- Gutters on Jackman Lodge have plants growing out of them
- Jackman also needs a downspout extension
- Floor outside of handicap shower in Jackman caved in! Yikes!!!
- Could the extra picnic tables that are across from the yurts be moved under the tree by the lake? This was a popular gathering spot during Summer Camp.

Capital Campaign Update / New Projects for FOT: Council is in the "silent phase" of the capital campaign. Council has identified the following priorities from the [comprehensive master plan](#).

- Branding and Wayfinding - \$50,000
- Hawthorn Grove - unique cabins, latrines, shelter - \$147,000
- New Event Shelter - \$95,000
- Jackman Updates - \$189,000
- Bellinger Updates - \$100,000
- Seasonal Aquatic Nature Center - \$176,000
- Swimming Area Upgrades - dock, zipline - \$40,000
- Unit Upgrades - \$60,000

It sounded from the conversation like FOT is most interested in helping with Unit Upgrades.

Projects for Girls: Troop leaders often ask us what their girls might be able to do, either as a service project, or for one of the Bronze/Silver/Gold awards. We discussed the fact that award projects are intended to solve problems identified by the girls. We reminisced about the old Do-Dad Weekends that brought families out to do work projects on camp and wondered if FOT could run such an event. It was also noted that getting girls and families out to camp builds a sense of ownership about camp that might create a long and deep connection to the camp over time. No projects specific to Timbercrest rose to the surface. (Although as I write this, I remember my Brownies and Juniors slapping paint on the Sunset shelter WAY a long time ago!)

Future and Sustainability of FOT: Jennifer and Emily will be out of town for the Fall 2024 Work Weekend. Jennifer asked if there are others willing to take on some of the organization of the work weekends with the opportunity to shadow in April 2024 before the torch is passed.

Folks asked if the job could be split up and Jennifer agreed to write up some logical categories for the work she currently does. Be watching your email for those "Job Descriptions."

UPDATE: Shortly after the Work Weekend, we were asked by Council to move our Fall 2024 Work Weekend to October to accommodate girls camping in September. The new dates are Friday-Sunday, October 11-13, 2024. Jennifer and Emily WILL be able to attend. Jennifer still wishes to pass the torch.

Shenanigans

We pulled it off. We managed to communicate to everyone about our secret plan to induct Pickles onto our Wall of Fame without having her find out ahead of time. Lunch included a pickle tasting, with participants bringing homemade pickles, or their favorite store-bought variety. A bunch of Pickles' long time friends bought pickle shirts to show their love.



You can read Pickles' tribute at friendsoftimbercrest.org/pickles. (In case you don't already know, of all the humans on the planet, Pickles has spent more summers at Timbercrest than any... first as a camper, then as staff, and now as a volunteer. We love you, Pickles!)

Donations and Fundraising

Many thanks to these folks who donated money toward our projects:

Kathy Brown
Karen Carney
Katy Carrier
Donna Dolce
Amy Jo Dorler
Judi Edgerton

Deb Fasciana
Karen Logan
Bill McIntyre
Kim Meabon
Jo Nelson
Gary Pfahl

Diane Powell
Erica Tener
Angela Voorhis
Rachel and Andrew Welton
Ro Woodard

Under "fundraising," we sold \$85 in FOT merchandise, Natasha's Upscale Store raised \$20, and Anita's Mitten Store raised \$10. As of this writing (Oct 9) we had not received our profits from the sale of this

season's FOT shirts, designed by our newest Friend, Rosie Gatto.



By the way, Rosie has a website where she plans to put more Red Eft-themed merchandise. Check it out: <https://www.lingeringembers.com/>



Thank you again to everyone who helped make this weekend a success!

Mark Your Calendars

- **Friday-Tuesday, April 5-9, 2024.** (We are in the path of a full solar eclipse which will happen in the afternoon on Monday!)
- **Friday-Sunday, October 11-13, 2024.** (This is Columbus / Indigenous People's Day Weekend. I know some of you prefer not to have it this weekend, but it was the only October weekend available.)