

Friends of Timbercrest

Work Report - May 14-16, 2021

1. **Lean-tos:** "We went about as far as we could go..."

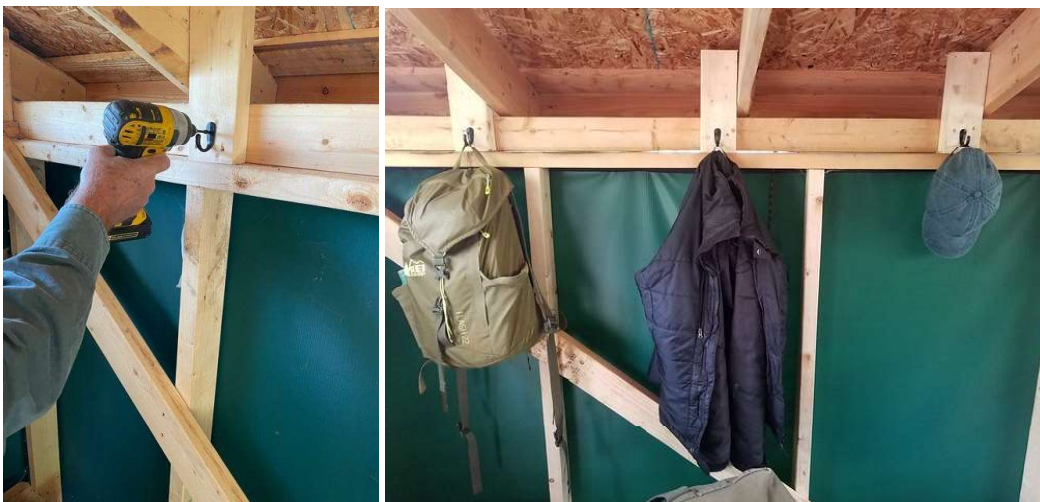
The two new lean-tos are well on their way to being complete and volunteers will continue to pick away at them until they are. We made a couple of errors in ordering materials - wrong size, not enough - and we had COVID-related supply chain problems. We aren't sure the exact dates of completion, but you can be sure we will let you know and there will be much celebration!



We are particularly grateful to a crew of experienced carpenters/contractors who volunteered their expertise and labor: Thank you Dave Graper, Taz Graper, and Giff Lawrence.

2. **Cabin-Tent Improvements:**

One dozen coat hooks were installed in each of the 7 cabin-tents at Strawberry Hill. If we hear from campers this summer that they like them, we could add them to the cabin-tents in Sunset and Sprucewood.



3. **Lake Trail:**

- a. **Trail to Peninsula:** The spur trail from the Lake Trail out to the peninsula and back is now blazed with white diamonds and the flagging tape removed.



- b. **Tidy up:** Folks were encouraged to walk the trail, scuffing their feet and brushing leaves aside in places where blazes alone might be confusing. Fallen branches were removed from the trail, and eye-level branches were cut back from trees.



- c. **Stepping Stone Crossing:** There are a couple of places on the west side of the lake where feeder streams get very wet and water rushes through in spring. We

took care of one with a very substantial bridge at a previous work weekend. This one keeps changing, every time we see it. These stepping stones will help for now. We have our thinking caps on for other solutions.



4. **Timber Trail:** This is the trail that goes down to the Spillway, then up behind Sprucewood, Hawthorne Grove, and then continues on.
 - a. **Foot Bridge:** The water diversion ditch above Hawthorne Grove often diverts water directly onto the trail! In dry weather, this isn't a problem. But when it rains, it can be very muddy. A foot bridge was installed over the ditch.



- b. **Blazing:** The Timber Trail is now blazed with orange circles in both directions.



5. **Boat House:**

- a. **Kayak Racks:** A clear weather seal was applied to the kayak racks.
- b. **Boat Stuff:** All of the boating “stuff” (except the sailboat) that was in the Swim Shed was moved to Boat Shed, some by brute strength, and some with the aide of Jeff’s truck! Thanks, Jeff! This included stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, paddles, and life jackets.



- c. **Organize Boat Shed:** We hung two lug poles and put the life jackets on hangers. (We were short some hangers, but will try to get more before the next time we come out for one of our Tidbits programs.) There are a few life jackets that are damaged. We will separate these out to determine if they can be repaired, or if they should be disposed of and replaced. The paddles were arranged by size. The kayaks and stand-up paddle boards were placed inside for now, per Scott’s instructions..



- d. **Canoes:** Whether someone forgot to tip them upside down, or the wind blew them over, there were two canoes full of water and disgustingly dirty. We emptied them and cleaned them and they are ready for use!



- 6. **Yurts:** Scott and his crew had power-washed the strip at the bottom of the canvas on the yurts. He asked us to apply the same type of weather seal used on the kayak racks to that wood. Mission accomplished! It should be noted that some of the wood on those strips, and some of the wood on the decks is going to need something more than power-washing and sealer in the very near future.

7. **Director's Cabin:** Former Camp Director Donna Dolce paid for the privilege of sleeping in the new(ish - new to her) Director's Cabin by giving it a good, thorough cleaning! She vacuumed, washed the windows, scrubbed the sink, toilet, and shower, wiped down all the mattresses... the works! It is sparkling now.



8. **Doris Easling Benches:** Jo Nelson refinished three of the benches given in memory of Doris Easling and placed them in the library area. Only the tops were refinished. These benches are not for outdoor use, unless more serious finishing and sealing is done.



9. **Food:** Bill McIntyre was joined by his wife, daughter, and granddaughter to feed the hungry masses. No one went away hungry! Saturday night was a special treat: a good old-fashioned BBQ over charcoal. Bill is pictured here using the same grate he used to make similar meals for the board of directors at Camp Wood-e-lo-hi many years ago.



Also, when Terry Saye learned we would not be in Bellinger and would have to heat all our own dishwater and such, he brought us a propane camp stove and 100-pound tank of propane. Overkill? Maybe. But we didn't have to wonder if we would run out!!

10. Trail Design Workshop:

Landscape Architect and Trail Design Specialist Sara Thompson led a trail design workshop. (Somehow, we got no pictures of the workshop in progress. But here, Sara and one of the participants, along with an interested Friend, are looking at maps and considering a new trail to the Lean-to from the Sunset area to the Lean-to site that is more interesting than just going out the old logging road.)



While discussing possible new trails, it was noted that the map Sara has been using is missing a couple of parcels owned by GSWNY, those up near the Oldro Hill Road entrance. Sara will look into making sure she has them included as the master planning process continues.

11. Miscellaneous Tasks:

- a. **Under the Stairs:** There was a rather unsightly mess of wood and other stuff under the stairs on the west side of Bellinger Lodge. We tidied up the wood, moving some

in next to the fireplaces. There are still some items there that should be removed.

- b. **Succession Planning:** One must think about the sustainability of the group. Do you think 2 years old is too young to start training?



12. **Shenanigans:** fun stuff and serious stuff

- a. **Commemorative Lean-to T-shirt Distribution:** We were afraid we might have to tell folks they would have to wait for the t-shirts designed by Mary Mastrasimone commemorating the new lean-tos. (Another COVID-related supply chain issue!) In a miraculous last minute push, Jamestown Cycle Shop delivered!

- b. **Memorial Scouts' Own for Karen Cotten:** We were joined by Karen's daughters Shelley and Amy, and granddaughter Mackenzie for a lakeside Scout's Own ceremony in memory of Karen who lost a long and courageous battle with cancer earlier this year. The ceremony included the Girl Scout prayer, readings, songs, stories about Karen, and a candle pass-the-flame.

- c. **Thanks Badge Presentation:** Saturday lunch was to include an official presentation of the Thanks Badge to Donna Dolce. Sadly, Jerilyn Hickey, the council staff member who was to attend and make the presentation, was under-the-weather and could not make it out to camp. We improvised.



- d. **Anniversaries Party:** Forty years ago this month, Ro Woodard and Craig Thompson were the first couple to be married at camp. Later

that month, Natasha Johnson and Allan Patchen were also married at camp. There were pictures, wedding albums, and cake, of course!



- e. **Mask Contest:** Twelve people made or commissioned special face masks for the contest. Some were funny. Some were sentimental. Some were Girl Scout-themed. Some were nature-themed. All were delightful. Photos were posted to Facebook to allow Friends who couldn't attend to vote for their favorite. And the winner was... Natasha Patchen! (You must see her [acceptance speech on Facebook](#). It's a hoot.)



- f. **Friends of Timbercrest Artisans' Store:** The Program Center was converted into a pop-up store that included t-shirts and hoodies from previous sales, mittens made from old wool sweaters and blankets by Anita Johnson Gaston, Ukranian eggs and other crafts by Natasha Patchen, wooden items made from wood salvaged from the old lean-to by Kathy Pascatore Moller, and journals with eco-dyed covers made with leaves and mordanted with rusty nails from the old lean-to. Approximate revenue including IOUs is \$755. The lean-to items that did not sell will go on an auction site June 1.



- g. **History:** With two former Camp Directors in attendance, we were able to fill in several blanks in our timeline of Camp Directors, Assistant Directors, Nurses, CEOs, and Rangers. Dave Graham helped fill in some blanks, too, when he visited on Saturday afternoon.
- h. **Crafts:** Following Mary Cooper’s advice that every meeting should include a craft, Natasha brought the supplies to learn a method for making Friendship Bracelets. We had no time for this craft, but lots of time for good fellowship.

13. Discussion: the “Wall of Fame”

The crowd had dwindled to a handful when we introduced this topic. The “Wall of Fame” idea came about when we were selling the commemorative t-shirts. Many people asked, who were Mary Cooper and Mary Alice Campbell? To answer that question, Jennifer created a quick wall on the Friends of Timbercrest website with links to individual pages for each of these ladies. That brought up the idea that there are many others who could be honored similarly... but how? When? Why? So we talked about it. Here are some ideas that were discussed; no final decisions have been made.

- a. **Criteria:** We all agreed that it should be someone with a significant connection/contribution to Camp Timbercrest. That seemed like a no-brainer! But then the questions: Pickles and Niffer would like to nominate their Troop Leader who instilled a love of camping and the outdoors. That isn’t a direct connection to Timbercrest, though many of the activities that led to their love happened at Timbercrest. Does that count? Also: Living or passed? (most are leaning toward both). Volunteers only, or staff? (We want to include camp directors, so staff would have to be included... maybe only past staff?)
- b. **Selection Process:** Keep it simple. Nominations should include name, bio, why they should be considered. Consideration should also be given to who makes the selections. A subcommittee? A different group each year?

- c. **Timeline:** Suggestion: Accept nominations on a rolling basis, make decisions starting October 1 and announce on Oct 31, Juliette Gordon Lowe's birthday.
- d. **Name:** "Wall of Fame" doesn't seem like the best name. We are already using "Friends of Timbercrest Award" for the lifetime membership award we give to a graduating senior with a connection to camp. One suggestion was the Esther Keyser Award. Would that be too weird, since she will probably be a recipient of the award? Another suggestion was simply the "Camp Timbercrest Award." No decisions were made.

14. People who attended:

a. Pre-weekend support moving construction material for the lean-to

- i. Craig Thompson - Falconer, NY
- ii. Quentin Johnson - Falconer, NY

b. Friends/Workers: (Several of these also labored pre-weekend!)

- i. Carol Barnes - Tioga Center, NY
- ii. Jeff Barnes - Tioga Center, NY
- iii. Vicki Barr-Zitte - Buffalo , NY
- iv. Rylee Barron - Randolph , NY
- v. Tracey Barron - Randolph, NY
- vi. EvaDawn Bashaw - Fredonia, NY
- vii. Kathy Brown - Lakewood , NY
- viii. Katy Carrier - West Valley, NY
- ix. Dawn Cicchini- Pittsburgh, PA
- x. Donna Dolce - Millsboro, DE
- xi. Ashlyn Galeazzo - Jamestown , NY
- xii. Elizabeth Galeazzo - Jamestown , NY
- xiii. Emily Garrick - Lakewood, NY
- xiv. Anita Gaston - Bluff Point, NY
- xv. David Graper - Painesville, OH
- xvi. Taz Graper - Painesville, OH
- xvii. Peg Jungquist - Lakewood, NY
- xviii. Giff Lawrence - Bemus Point, NY
- xix. Mary Beth Mazzone - Ashville, NY
- xx. Ann McIntyre - Fredonia, NY
- xxi. Bill McIntyre - Fredonia, NY
- xxii. Kathy Moller - Russell, PA
- xxiii. Joanne Nelson - Jamestown, NY
- xxiv. Allan Patchen - Knoxville , TN
- xxv. Natasha Patchen - Knoxville, TN
- xxvi. Diane Powell - Rochester, NY
- xxvii. Terry Saye - Bemus Point, NY
- xxviii. Jennifer Schlick - Lakewood, NY
- xxix. Erica Tener - Woodstock, NY

- xxx. Reece Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
- xxxi. Robert Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
- xxxii. Sara Thompson - Pittsburgh, PA
- xxxiii. Ro Woodard - Falconer, NY

c. Guests:

- i. Amy Cotten, Lakewood, NY
- ii. Shelley Cotten, Lakewood, NY
- iii. MacKenzie Stevenson, Lakewood, NY
- iv. Dave and Barb Graham, Randolph NY
- v. Judi Edgerton, Bemus Point, NY
- vi. Bob Schlick, Jamestown, NY
- vii. Mary Anne Harp, Jamestown, NY
- viii. Kathleen Johnson, Jamestown, NY
- ix. Marlene Norlander, Falconer, NY
- x. Donna Eskeli, Falconer, NY

d. With Assistance from:

- i. Paulette Morein, Dunkirk, NY
- ii. Jerilyn Hickey, Amherst, NY
- iii. Corrie Johnson, Mountain View, CA
- iv. Amy McElhinney, West Charlton, NY
- v. Betsy Vinton, Rochester, NY
- vi. Victoria Barnes, Alexandria VA
- vii. Judi Edgerton, Bemus Point, NY
- viii. Marlene Norlander, Falconer, NY
- ix. Carrie Wolfgang, Jamestown, NY
- x. Diane Evans, Grand Island, NY

15. Way too many Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jenniferschlick/albums/72157719226947410>