

Friends of Timbercrest Work Report

Work Weekend October 7-10, 2022

The Five-Fifty-Five Celebration

This weekend marked five years of Friends of Timbercrest and fifty-five years of residence camping. We did some work, but we also enjoyed camp and celebrated!



1. **New FOT Shirts and Sweatshirts:** Thank you to Mary Mastrosimone-Gese who created the beautiful design for the back of the shirts and sweatshirts. (And thanks to Ro for organizing the sale!)
2. **Yoga:** Many thanks to Nancy Lombardo for teaching a beginner's yoga class. There were good reports from newbies and seasoned yoga practitioners alike.



3. **Forest Bathing:** Jennifer Fendya, certified Forest bathing instructor, led a session that had everyone relaxed and grateful for a deep sensory experience in the woods.



A tea party to celebrate the gifts of the earth at the end of the Forest Bathing walk.

4. **Archery:** Jen Brooks came out to camp (and together with Ro and Donna) made Archery happen on Sunday. Thanks, Jen!



5. **Boating:** Our favorite lifeguard, Karen Carney (aka Zippy) was on hand so that we could enjoy boating Saturday morning and afternoon. Thank you, Zippy!





Natasha and Allan Patchen on Keyser Lake

6. **Hiking:** Lots of hiking happened, with at least one hike guided by Emily Garrick and her pals. Thank you!
7. **So Much Photography!** Loving the drone shots by April Burke!



8. **Bird Walk:** Craig turned a work project (cleaning out the nest boxes) into a learning opportunity for a small and enthusiastic group. Thank you, Craig!



9. **Crafts:** Dawn Cicchini prepped materials and guided people through making reusable hand warmers, gem-wrapped napkin rings, and tree ornaments. Thank you, Dawn!

10. **Group Photo:** Bob Schlick came to camp and sacrificed being in the picture to be our photographer for the group photo. Thanks, Bob!



11. Special Saturday Lunch Program:

- a. **Mapdannas:** Everyone received a mapdanna featuring the FOT map created by Kim "Croc" Waite Turner, and turned into a useful bandanna. Thank you Carol "Panda" Nichols Barnes for purchasing the bandannas for us!



- b. **Sally Patchen** and her entire family were inducted to our all digital **Wall of Fame** (friendsoftimbercrest.org/fame) in honor of her 90th birthday, celebrated in June. Sally and her two present children were gifted framed photographs - scenes from camp. Allan was awarded the Busy Beaver award - a beaver finger puppet - in recognition of all his chainsaw and trail maintenance work at Timbercrest and at Horton Hill.



- c. **Council staff** (Scott Lux, Site Manager; Jerilyn Hickey, Chief Development Officer; and Karen Lundgard, Chief Outdoor and Property Manager) joined us for lunch. As we nibbled our desserts, Karen and Jerilyn presented some much anticipated details about the **Master Plan** and the **Capital Campaign** that will be needed to fund it. ([Click here to view.](#)) They asked for our feedback on the plan

and what Council's priorities should be to get funded first. Ideally, they are hoping to receive this feedback by the end of October.



12. Special Saturday Dinner Program -

- a. **Turkey Dinner and Celebratory Cake:** We had a full Thanksgiving Dinner - in honor of the gratitude we feel for being a part of Timbercrest. The cake featured a photo of Bellinger Lodge (albeit, before the 2007 renovation).



- b. **Keynote Address:** Tory Irgang, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, shared findings from the American Camp Association's camper impact study as well as demographic data for Chautauqua County to

illustrate the important role Camp Timbercrest plays in the lives of young adults, families, and children. Here are a couple of salient quotes from her remarks:

- i. “So, while the ways you have improved Camp Timbercrest since 2017 are incredible, remember that they have a ripple effect like tossing a rock into your beautiful lake. Without your financial support, volunteer labor, and encouragement to the Council, Camp Timbercrest could be one of the hundreds of camp properties across this country that has been decommissioned or sold in the last five years.”
- ii. “Thank you for having the vision to start your work five years ago. Thank you for examining ways to support this property, the Horton Hill property and the Council. Thank you for what you continue to put back into Girl Scouts.”



13. **Formal Saturday evening Campfire:** Emily Garrick designed and led the Saturday evening campfire. She researched each song to ensure it was either in the public domain or had implied permission for use by Girl Scouts so that the lyrics could be included in the commemorative program. It was a delightful mixture of songs from across the generations, interspersed with poetry, stories about the songs, and action “games.” Several people stayed after the official campfire to sing into the wee hours.



14. **Stuff to Buy:**

- a. **FOT Store:** Mugs, patches, Timbercrest Song, Fidgets
- b. **Anita's Mitten Store:** Upcycled sweaters - including some old Girl Scout Sweaters!
- c. **Natasha's Upcycled Girl Scout Store:** Sewing kits, aprons, place mats, and oh so much more - all repurposed from old GS uniforms and such.
- d. **Patches from the Archives:** Old badges and patches (Some were just for viewing, but some were for sale.)
- e. **Camp Trading Post:** Official Camp Timbercrest/ GSWNY merchandise. Thank you Jina! (Anita looks happy with her purchase!)



15. **New Cooks:** In order to give Bill McIntyre a break from cooking and allow him to enjoy camp and maybe use some of his other skills, we brought on two new cooks, Zoe Ritchie (who camped at Timbercrest as a girl in 1967) and Sherry Oswalt. Thank you to them for feeding us so well!



Work Projects

Some of us just aren't having fun unless we are working.

1. **Prior to the Work Weekend:**

- a. Terry Saye helped **move the leftover lumber** from the lean-to build that we had stored in the Sunset Pavilion to Ro Woodard's house. Could it become future nest boxes? Time will tell.

- b. Re-routed **new signs** for the shelters in Sunset, Strawberry Hill, and Sprucewood.

2. **Trails:**

- a. **General maintenance:** clearing and cutting back brush, especially if it impeded the view of the blazes.
- b. **Blazing:**
 - i. The section of the **Lake Trail** that had to be re-routed due to beaver activity was re-blazed.
 - ii. **Nita's trail** was blazed with pink hearts in both directions. We left the orange flags up for now until the trail is walked enough times that they become unnecessary. Also, there are some sections where there are no big trees to paint, so some pink-topped stakes may need to be placed.



- c. **Posts:** in preparation for wayfinding signs at junctures of the trail system, two post holes were dug and 4x4 posts dropped in. We will see how they do over the winter with freeze and thaw action, and if they do well, we will install signs on them in spring and dig more holes!



3. **Nest Boxes:** As part of the bird walk led by Craig Thompson, the boxes were cleaned out. They will need to be checked again in the spring to see if mice used them over the winter.
4. **Units:**
 - a. **Shelter Signs:** The signs Ro made before the weekend were installed on the shelters in Sunset, Strawberry Hill, and Sprucewood. (These may be replaced

one day when the council rebrands all the signage.)



- b. **Sunset Shelter Cleanup:** All of the short scrap pieces of flooring leftover from the lean-to build was cleared from the Sunset shelter. We still have 2 16-foot 4x4s in there that may be used for future bridges. There are also small pieces of pressure treated that need to go to the dumpster, and small pieces of hemlock that can be burned in campfires. We will sort those out in spring. There is also one long piece of flooring. There are two sets of stairs in there and some other miscellaneous wood that were not from FOT projects. We will need to check with Scott about those.

- c. **Sunset Fire Circle:** Annette German, 2022 Camp Director, had asked that we re-create the Sunset Fire Circle area and we had intended to remove/scatter the rotting firewood, assess the tarp that was covering it for re-use or disposal, and to level and better define the circle, trim saplings, etc to create a better campfire experience for people staying at Sunset. Scott and his crew had already attended to some of the rotting wood and the tarp. We did not have time/energy for the rest, but there is next spring.

- d. **Wood Splitting:** All but the largest logs that were taken from Sunset by the tree company last spring were cut and split.



- e. **Hawthorne Grove:** Scott had asked that someone with a chainsaw cut up felled ash in Hawthorne Grove. A team started this job, but had to quit when the chain broke. They did add a significant amount of firewood to the pile stored under the Hawthorne Grove shelter.

5. **Boathouse:**

- a. **Leaky Boat Patrol:** The row boats were assessed. One had leaks which were patched. The other did not have leaks. They both will need oars. The oar locks are two different sizes.



- b. **Canoe Paddle Door Handles:** The canoe paddle door handles were removed and placed inside to keep them safe through the winter - they are hanging from the lug pole we use for life jackets.



6. **Miscellaneous:**

- a. Low hanging branches around the Director's Cabin and Infirmary were trimmed.

- b. Light switches in Bellinger were labeled.



- c. And of course... **cleaning**. Lots and lots of cleaning! A 55 year tradition of sucking the flies from Bellinger's window sills.



Directory

Here are the people who registered, whether they could attend or not... (The Yes and No indicates whether or not they attended. A few others attended, but did not wish to be listed in the directory.)

Yes	Carol "Panda" Nichols Barnes	Yes	Karen "Sage" Papalia Martin
No	Tracey "Aurora" Nolan Barron	Yes	Mary M&M Mastro Simone-Gese
No	EvaDawn "Finn" Bashaw	Yes	Mary Beth "Nip" Patchen Mazzone
No	Maria "Corky" Bonfiglio	Yes	Bill "Bean Counter" McIntyre
Yes	Kathy Yankee Meier Brown	No	Kim "Binky" Meabon
Yes	Karen "Zippy" Carney	No	Marcy "Dimples" Powers Miller
Yes	Dawn Otter Pfahl Cicchini	No	Eve "Tinkerbelle" & "Gingersnaps" Seiler Moen
No	Michelle "Mush" Langworthy Clark	Yes	Paulette "Goose" Nalepa Morein
No	Jennifer Coe	Yes	Joanne "Jo" Nelson
Yes	Barb Conklin	No	Hilary Newell
Yes	Donna "Donna" Dolce	Yes	Marlene Bucklin Norlander
Yes	Amy Jo AJ Larson Dorler	Yes	Nancy Smith Papalia
Yes	Judi "Jingles" Edgerton	No	Kathy "Piazon" Pascatore-Moller
No	Deb "Jo Buzz" Coniglio Fasciana	Yes	Allan Patchen
No	Cyndie "Aussie" TeWinkle Feemster	Yes	Natasha "Nate" Johnson Patchen
Yes	Jennifer Fendya	Yes	Sally "Patches" Edson Patchen
Yes	Emily "Butterfly" Schlick Garrick	Yes	Diane "Didi" Schultz Powell
Yes	Anita "Finster" Johnson Gaston	Yes	Zoe Hanson Ritchie
No	Annette "Net" German	Yes	Terry Saye
Yes	Ralph Gese	Yes	Jennifer "Nnifer" Scott Schlick
Yes	Barbara "Ranger Barb" Graham	Yes	Elliot Smith
Yes	David "Ranger Dave" Graham	No	Bonnie "Red" Muller Swoger
No	Bert "Granny" Bastian Griffin	No	Erica "Ricki" Tener
No	Merrie "Ducky/Duckie" Hanmann	Yes	Craig Thompson
No	Diane "Cubby Bear" Berger Hennessy	No	Pat Richetti Vick
No	Corrie "Splash" Johnson	No	Betsy "Boat" Boutwell Vinton
No	Megan Joyce	Yes	Necole "Webster" Vitale
Yes	Peg "Pickles" Jungquist	Yes	Angela "Jasmine" Voorhis
No	Karen "Fyfe" Stonefoot Logan	Yes	Rachel "Spoot" Cybart Welton
Yes	Nancy Lombardo	Yes	RubyAnn "Tippy" Bullock White
Yes	Karen "Penguin" Lundgard	No	Jeanne "Beanie" Krause Wilson
No	Sandy "TooT" Mirek Malikowski	Yes	Dee Wilson
No	Amanda "Skittles" Voorhis Marengo	Yes	Ro "Ro" Woodard

Couldn't Attend, but Helped out with a Donation

Thank you!!

- Erica "Ricki" Tener
- Bonnie "Red" Muller Swoger
- Karen "Fyfe" Stonefoot Logan
- Michelle "Mush" Langworthy Clark
- Tina Preston
- Tim Sullivan
- Sandy "TooT" Mirek Malikowski