

Friends of Timbercrest

Work Weekend October 8-11, 2021

Work Report

The Marys: Lean-to Site

Haul Lumber - Part 1



Lumber for the walls arrived a couple of weeks before the work weekend, thanks to our construction crew David Graper and Giff Lawrence. The road was so wet and slippery, it did not seem wise to drive the pickup close to the lean-to to drop the lumber.

Haul Lumber - Part 2

The road didn't look much better at work weekend, so folks started to manually carry the boards back to The Marys... But then, Giff to the rescue! He arrived with his truck and braved the mud to get it back to the site, so all the Friends had to do was get it from the truck, carry it a short distance, and place it in the lean-to. In the rain. With smiles and laughter.



Cutting Off Screws

The screws used to install the metal roofing were longer than they needed to be. For safety's sake, we cut them flush with the ceiling. (Dawn: has angle grinder; will travel!!)



A New Fire Circle And Bye Bye Dangerous Tree

The area between the two lean-tos was cleared and leveled and a new fire ring was created. During one of the big wind storms, a tree came down over the lean-to site. Allan was able to remove it. Whew.



Install Walls

On the Wednesday and Thursday after the Work Weekend, Dave Graper and Giff Lawrence returned to install the walls. The back wall will eventually have solid windows. We are still researching materials, but we knew we wanted to let in some light.



The Signs

Ro installed the signs!



New Nita's Trail

Background

The original 'Nita's Trail is reported by some to go back up behind Sunset and Strawberry Hill somewhere. No one can recall the exact route and the woods have a tendency to reclaim trails that aren't used and maintained.

FOT decided it would be a more fitting tribute to former awesome leaders to have 'Nita's Trail be an alternative route to The Marys, the lean-tos named for awesome leaders Mary Cooper and Mary Alice Campbell. And so, a "first draft" of the new 'Nita's Trail was laid out by folks who attended Sara Thompson's Trail Design workshop last spring.

The Plan, So Far

The new trail will head off to the right of the original sign (1st and second pictures) and make its way to Green Creek which will be crossed with a 16-foot bridge (3rd picture below shows where the bridge will span). This location is very near to the old stone farm bridge which some staff and camper's know as "Dracula's Tomb" (seen in the background of the 4th picture).

There is a combination of surveyor's tape and orange flags marking this "first draft."

To protect the trail and provide good vibes, Mary created a trail guardian from the clay along the creek. (5th picture).



Firewood

A strong windstorm brought down a tree near the gaga pit. It is now firewood thanks to some chainsaw work and the wood splitting team.



Stump Removal

Did you know you can hire goats to eat non-native invasive plants? Well, we had goats at camp this summer, but they don't like to eat the big thick trunks of trees. So here is Allan picking up where the goats left off:



And in the second picture is the view with the thicket gone. (Under that big tree used to be a mass of shrubbery.)

Trail Maintenance

Whether it was a beaver, storm debris, or a combination, a dam was flooding one of our foot bridges. Allan busted it and the area around the bridge drained pretty quickly. If it was beaver, they did not immediately start re-building. We will need to keep an eye on that!



We also walked all the other trails to remove debris, trim branches, and assess what might need to be done at future work weekends to make them hike-able. Natasha submitted a very detailed report of her findings which I will put in the file for Spring.

Bridge Reinforcement

The 32-foot bridge across one of the creeks that empties into Jackman Bay causes some of our Friends to wake up in the night wondering if it is still solid. It is. And even more so since it got another brace this fall.



Tidbits

One of our strategies for promoting Camp Timbercrest is to offer programming for girls. Each little program (tidbit) introduces the girls to camp, and provides learning, recreation, and fun.

It's a Bluebird Day - Saturday

Craig Thompson made up the kits before the work weekend and then taught the girls a bit about cavity nesting birds and talked teams through the process of building the boxes. Seven adults and fourteen girls attended and built 15 nest boxes. Seven were installed at Timbercrest so far. Some will be installed at Horton Hill.



All About Bugs - Sunday

Six adults and thirteen girls showed up to explore the creepy-crawlies of Camp Timbercrest. They saw caterpillars, moths, butterflies, bees, wasps, ants, centipedes, millipedes, and oh so much more. Then we flew like butterflies back to the Program Center for a craft.





Cabin Tent Improvements

The hooks in Strawberry Hill were well-received, so we added hooks to all the cabin-tents in Sunset and Sprucewood, as well!



Winterize Cabin Tents

In an effort to keep mice from soiling the mattresses, Scott asked us to move the extra cot to the center, stack the mattresses on it, and stuff dryer sheets between the bottom layers. Let's hope the smell keeps them away!

Outside flaps were all tied up: ready for winter.



Swim Shed Improvement

Last Spring, we installed hooks on the outside of the boat shed so the girls could hang their backpacks and towels, rather than throw them on the ground. This fall, Betsy and Audrey did the same to the swim shed.



Wooden Benches and Chairs

You know those wooden chairs and matching wooden bench that are in Bellinger, usually somewhere near the fireplace? They have been sanded and given a couple of fresh coats of sealer. (On another note, Jo, pictured below sanding, also took the paddle handles off the boat shed home to more properly refinish and seal.) Jo got most of the way done, then Natasha and Ro put on the final coat Monday morning. They are all back in the lodge and ready for use.



Child-Sized Brooms

After getting clobbered a couple of times at summer camp by very short people using very long-handled brooms, we decided there ought to be some girl-sized brooms for kapers. This set is in Bellinger Lodge. Another set like this will be in Jackman. (Some of it is already there. More pieces arrived after work weekend and will be brought down "next time.")



The Bell

We have tried repeatedly and to no avail to loosen the clapper so that the bell can ring properly. It may be time to take it all apart and clean it.



Canoe Appraisal

After running a canoeing program as one of our Tidbits, we realized that some of the canoes leak. So, every viable canoe was taken on a short paddle to assess for leaks, which we intend to patch in the spring.



Results

- 4 do not leak: Savannah, Arts Wild, Eastleigh, Bismark
- 7 leak: Monitor (front and middle), Teddy Bear (back to rear of screws), Valencia (front - forward of triangle), Pinta (floor dibs from center to back), Andrea Doria (front and back), Minnie (back for sure, maybe front), Santa Maria (front)
- 4 unusable as they are. Could be fitted with new seats. These 4 appear to be sail canoes.

To protect our assets, FOT recommends the following:

- A landing pad so that launches and returns do not scrap the metal against the gravel and stone bottom at the shore of the lake.
- Better training of staff for putting the canoes in and getting them out of the water to avoid the scraping that has caused the leaks.

General Tidy-up Trimming

Ralph and Mary Gese trimmed up under the spruces at the corner so it is easier to see if someone is coming, and you can see the sign!



Toilet Paper Dispensers

Where is the key? Look up and to the right!

It has long irritated some of us (OK, mostly 'Nnifer) that toilet paper is sitting on the backs of toilets, on the tops of dispensers, or (ew) on the floor! The reason? No one knew where the keys to the dispensers were! So a system has been devised and all fingers are crossed that it will work and that everyone will embrace it.



As of this writing, there are keys hanging from “Command Hooks” in the All Access Restroom off the dining hall, the Program Center Restroom, and the restroom in Jackman Lodge. We are trying to be consistent with placement - always up high and to the right of the mirror (or in some cases on the mirror). Additional copies of the key will be made so we can put them in the staff bathroom off the kitchen, the All Access Bathroom off the Program Center, and anywhere else there is a lockable dispenser.

NOTE: We are missing at least 6 rollers for inside the dispensers.

A Lot of Cleaning

Floors, closets, staff bathroom, Jackman restroom stalls, and who knows what all got a thorough cleaning. Flies were vacuumed out of windows, kitchen grime was cleaned... etc.



Flashlight Hike

A Junior Troop from Falconer wanted a trail they could hike at night. So earlier this summer they added reflective tacks to each of the blue blazes along the Lake Trail. They completed the trail going out from Jackman. We finished the job by adding tacks on the way back. We tested the trail in both directions. A few more tacks might be good, but we didn't get lost!



Planning

Spillway Bridge

Erosion in the creek has resulted in quite a gap between solid ground and the bridge on both ends. Terry measured and will provide a materials list for spring.

Green Creek Bridge

The new Nita's Trail will require a bridge over Green Creek. We still have these parts that can be used for that bridge: five 4x4s around 80 inches long and six 4x4s at 16 feet. We may need longer bolts and will definitely need more mesh.

Latrine Repairs and Spruce-up

Donna assessed the latrines and estimates we will need 2 or 3 sheets of plywood, wood glue, and 8 dozen 2" nails. She recommends painting the interior walls a light blue and the outside camouflage, which could be a fun project for girls.

Brainstorming

We encouraged everyone to look at camp from a camper's and/or a renter's perspective and to list projects that would improve the experience. Those ideas will be compiled separately and discussed with council in preparation for future Work Weekends.



Meals

You cannot believe how we eat at Work Weekends. Bill McIntyre always keeps us well-fueled! The last lunch of the weekend is always leftovers! Many thanks also to Donna and Jennifer for home-baked cookies and muffins, and to Terry for the surprise cherry pies at Saturday lunch.

Friday Supper

- Chili
- Tossed Salad
- Crackers & Cheese
- Cookies/S'mores

Saturday Breakfast

- French Toast
- Sausage
- Home Fries
- Juice

Saturday Lunch

- Sandwiches
- Loaded Potato Soup
- Alternative Soup for Vegans: Roasted Butternut Squash

Saturday Dinner

- Smoked BBQ Baby Back Ribs
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Dessert: Banana Cream Pie

Sunday Breakfast

- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon
- Home Fries
- Juice

Sunday Lunch

- Beef Barley Vegetable Soup
- Grilled 3-cheese Sandwiches
- Pickles

Sunday Dinner

- Bill's Pot Roast
- Potatoes
- Vegetable Medley
- Tossed Salad
- Dessert: Apple Crisp & Ice Cream

Monday Breakfast

- French Toast
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Juice



Composting

Sarah Moller is daughter of former staff Kathy Pascatore Moller. She has a business called Clearwater Creek Composting. We used her services this fall to keep 45 pounds of food scraps out of the dumpster!



Shenanigans

Saturday Night Shenanigans involved decorating a dining table. Folks voted from home by liking or loving photos on Facebook. Here is a sampling:



Participants



Timbercrest has a hold on all of us. Some came from as far away as Tennessee and Delaware to be here!

Rylee Barron, Randolph NY
Tracey Barron, Randolph NY
EvaDawn Bashaw, Fredonia NY
Kathy Brown, Lakewood NY
Dawn Cicchini, Pittsburgh PA
Barb Conklin, Falconer NY
Lillian Crandall , Westfield NY
Marie Crandall, Westfield NY
Donna Dolce, Millsboro DE
Amy Jo Dorler, Stockton NY
Judi Edgerton , Bemus Point NY
Anita Gaston, Bluff Point NY
Mary Gese, East Aurora NY
Ralph Gese, East Aurora NY
David Graper, Painsville OH
Peg Jungquist, Lakewood NY
Giff Lawrence, Bemus Point NY
Nancy Lombardo, Lily Dale NY

Mary Beth Mazzone, Ashville NY
Bill McIntyre, Fredonia NY
Kathy Moller, Russell PA
Joanne Nelson, Jamestown NY
Allan Patchen, Knoxville TN
Natasha Patchen, Knoxville TN
Sally Patchen, Jamestown NY
Mackenzie Say, Mayville NY
Tabitha Say, Mayville NY
Terry Saye, Bemus Point NY
Bob Schlick, Lakewood NY
Jennifer Schlick, Lakewood NY
Annie Schroen, Brocton NY
Craig Thompson, Falconer NY
Audrey Vinton, Ithaca NY
Betsy Vinton, Rochester NY
Dee Wilson , Mount Morris NY
Ro Woodard, Falconer NY

Donors

These folks were very sad not to be able to attend, but they sent donations to feed us and help with the cost of supplies. Thank you!

- Corrie Johnson, Mountain View, CA
- Kennie Campbell, Jamestown, NY
- Diane Powell, Rochester, NY
- Bonnie Swoger, Williamsville, NY
- Marlene Norlander, Falconer, NY
- Erica Tener, Woodstock, NY

These folks came to work AND sent pre-work weekend donations. Thank you!!

- Amy Jo Dorler, Stockton, NY
- Mary Mastrosimone-Gese, East Aurora, NY
- Jennifer Schlick, Lakewood, NY
- Craig Thompson, Falconer, NY
- Ro Woodard, Falconer, NY

And these who donated at the weekend. Thank you!

- Kathy Brown, Lakewood, NY
- Betsy Vinton, Rochester, NY
- Jo Nelson, Jamestown, NY
- Nancy Lombardo, Lily Dale, NY
- Anita Gaston, Bluff Point, NY (from the sale of her mittens)
- There may be others, but if I didn't witness you putting money in the envelope so I could put your name on the list, then sorry! (Let me know if you belong on this list.)

My Thanks and a Request

Timbercrest is my happy place. It is true for me and I hear it from many others. I am incredibly grateful to have so many supportive people in my “tribe” who feel the same way and who step up to help insure Timbercrest’s future and viability.

If you see errors or omissions in this report, please email me at fot.gswny@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Schlick, Volunteer Coordinator

P.S. That’s me with my new FOT mug. (Thanks, Ro!)
Check the [website](#) for how you can order one!

