

THE INTERIM

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Meaningful Work, Community Building, & Apprenticeships

By Amy Bowen, Tamarack Farm Director

At lunch one day, one teen excitedly explained how they worked with F&W resource staff to fix the exhaust on one of our camp vans. Another teen recounted lessons, on mood versus tone, from the creative writing apprenticeship. Other teens described the physical health of a baby calf and her mom. The expanded apprenticeship program at Tamarack Farm added a depth of competency to our youth development work. This experience for teens gives them the connection and confidence so needed for this important time in life.

For each of the apprenticeships (referred to as *prácticas* this summer), staff created a 6-week curriculum on topics including: Organic Farm Animals, Nature Guides, Youth Movements, Auto Mechanics, Music, Leadership & Facilitation, Mindfulness and Activism, Creative Writing, and Gender Comics.

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Teens participating in the carpentry apprenticeship. Staff Photo/Rebecca Grossman



A Mountain Meadow

Sarah Maney, Red Spruce Grove Associate Director



Red Spruce Grove campers working on the A-frame. Staff Photo/Rebecca Grossman

Red Spruce Grove is the newest member of the Farm & Wilderness family. We are a small wilderness community for girls 11-14. This summer was full of productive projects, learning new skills and friendship building! Our big projects this summer included two new physical landmarks in our meadow: an A-frame structure and a firewood shed.

Campers built both structures almost completely independently. Using a basic A-frame design, the campers started by conceptualizing the project using twigs and sticks, creating a miniature model. From there, they measured the depth of the holes and crunched some numbers to figure out the length required of each beam. Finally, campers created a plan, cut posts from pine beams felled last summer, lashed it all together and fixed a tarp over the frame. The A-frame structure was placed over the hearth fire, providing a dry eating, cooking, meeting and programming space. The campers assembled this structure on their own, and finished the project early enough in the first session for us to enjoy it for much of the summer.

August session campers continued our site improvement by building a firewood shed. Just like with the A-frame, campers built the firewood shed almost completely themselves using lashing and bowsaw skills to cut and assemble the pine beams.

In addition to this large group project, campers worked on personal skills and craft projects, like carving their own spoons and sewing wool vests. Each session concluded with a solo. Everyone was able to get some impressive tarps up and many started fires for cooking macaroni or even blueberry crumbles!

I am personally honored to have had the opportunity to get to know these young people this summer. I am so excited and grateful to be a part of the growth of this community and of these campers!

From the Director



How many staff members does it take to wrangle a rutting ram and a billy goat? Baltic, our ram was an easy capture, since his penchant for running amok isn't what it used to be. But, Andy, our visiting billy, had other ideas. Nine people and 1.5 hours later, the excited animals were returned to their grazing land.

The "goatcapade" accentuates the labor-intensive work it takes to manage an organic farm—mucking, milking, grazing, pasteurizing, haying, and more—all while caring for crops in the Vermont climate. The effort we put in this past winter and spring to improve upon the farm program, shed light on the work ahead of us. How do we better instill ownership and pride in the many chores that sustain our farms? How do we balance the relationship between production (food for camps) and program (camper experience)? This conversation continues through this fall, as we evaluate results from the summer.

Through our Inclusivity and Equity visioning discussion, we've identified a need to focus on Race and Class topics for the next 5 years.

This fall, camp directors and I will evaluate our social justice and Inclusivity & Equity program to assess what areas need improvement and resources. We are setting a 5-year plan with goals and metrics for accountability.



The Indian Brook name change conversation continued this summer, with time for IB campers and staff to share their perspectives, and space at Fair for community members to speak and listen. This winter, Farm & Wilderness Management Team and Megan Chamberlain, Indian Brook Camp Director, will make a recommendation to the board, and the board will share their decision.

At our fall board meeting we will do long-range visioning on topics such as Teen Programming, conservation of our land and water, and increasing the numbers of our staff and campers of color. We will continue to address institutional racism and cultural appropriation at F&W. We will continue to seek better ways to engage more people in difficult, meaningful conversations before they reach a critical point.

While a quiet breeze rustles through the leaves now turning yellow and orange, I miss the laughter, chatter and merriment of the summer. I look forward to conversations with many of you, at Cider in the Park, Harvest Weekend, Ice-Cutting, a potluck or one of our many other events. Have a wonderful fall and winter!

In peace,

P.S. I'm excited to share that we are at 99% of our goal for the Thrive for 75 campaign. Of course, the last few miles of any journey are often the hardest. Please help us reach 100%!

► ABOUT THE INTERIM

The Interim is the newsletter of the Farm & Wilderness summer camps. We welcome submissions of writing, drawings, cartoons, photographs, or other work. To submit your work to the Interim, email us at:

interim@farmandwilderness.org, OR via postal mail to: Interim/Farm & Wilderness, 401 Farm & Wilderness Road Plymouth, VT 05056

HELP US BE GREEN: You can receive the Interim electronically instead if you wish; just let us know: interim@farmandwilderness.org.

► OVERNIGHT CAMPS 2018

Full Summer Session: June 27-Aug. 12

July Session: June 27-July 20

J1 Session: June 27-July 8

Visiting Day for all camps except TF: July 20

Tamarack Farm Visiting Day: July 21

August Session: July 22-Aug. 12

A1 Session: July 22-Aug. 3

Early Bird Registration Ends: Dec. 1, 2017

Overnight Campership Application Due: Jan. 15

► BARN DAY CAMP 2018

Session 1: June 25 – June 29*

Session 2: July 2 – July 13

Session 3: July 16 – July 27

Session 4: July 30 – Aug. 10

*BDC session 1 is a one-week session.

► ANNUAL EVENTS 2017

Ice Cutting Weekend: Feb. 16-19

Nationwide Potlucks: March/April

Syrup in the Park: April 28 (Brooklyn) & 29 (Cambridge)

Spring Planting: May 25-28

Fair Weekend: Aug. 10-12

Family Camp: Aug. 19-25

Tamarack Farm Alumni Reunion: Sept. 14-16, 2018



SAM campers perform a song written for for Jeff Bounds. Staff Photo/Thea Dodds

20 Sessions of SAM

By Thea Dodds

On a rainy, August afternoon on the SAM lodge porch, Jeff Bounds sips a cup of coffee, answers calls, juggles logistics, and recounts the last ten summers as the SAM director. “We have a new Mac-O-Back. The lodge has been brightened up,” says Jeff. “That’s really all that has changed.”

In 2008, Jeff made the long trip from Bend, Oregon to Lake Ninevah to direct a camp he now describes as “Outward Bound meets Glee.” Now, many campers can’t imagine SAM without Jeff. “When I think of coming to Farm and Wilderness,” says Rebecca Grossman (IB ’09-’10, SAM ’11-’12, Questers ’13, Office staff ’17), “the first thing that comes to mind is that I will always be welcomed back with a big warm hug from Jeff.”

Jeff had a turning point in his own life when he “established trust in nature.” At SAM, he enjoys watching campers find that same trust. “SAM gives campers an opportunity to be seen and loved for who they are which gives them a strong sense of self going into their adolescence.”

Olivia Ramirez (IB ’07-’08, SAM ’09-’10, BDC staff ’17) recounts, “Jeff has this ability to fill all campers, past and present, with such warmth and love. SAM would not be the place it is without Jeff.”

Ten summers have offered numerous highlights: In 2016, watching Ben Finley (SAM ’03-’06, staff SAM ’14-’16) and Adrian Singleton (SAM ’06-’08, Questers ’09-’11, BDC staff ’12, SAM staff ’16 & Questers ’17) find the time capsule. And this year, welcoming back 22 SAM alumni as F&W staff.

“Every time I’ve come to Jeff with an idea his answer is, ‘Yes! How can I support you?’” says Murphy Robinson (SAM staff ’05, Questers staff ’06-’11, ’17, RSG staff ’16). “Jeff has so much wisdom about the way that people grow through challenging themselves.”

For Jeff, directing SAM Camp feels like he is “care-taking something really beautiful that was passed on.” What keeps him coming back? “Knowing that I’ll never have to hire a cook, thanks to longtime SAM cook, Sam Arfer. And knowing I’m going to be creating so many wonderful connections. Opening day feels like having family over.”

The Quest for “The Quest for Spinach” Origin

By Juno Orion
(TL ’90-’95, TF ’96, ’97, TL staff ’98, ’00-’03)

If you’ve spent any time at Farm & Wilderness you’ve likely heard this song:

“I need my greens. Quest for spinach”
“SPINACH!!”

“I need my greens. Quest for spinach”

But do you know the history of this song? The story goes that the song was written by two Tamarack Farm staff in 1990 to get their campers to eat more spinach. The song was so fun to sing that it became a staple of the F&W song box.

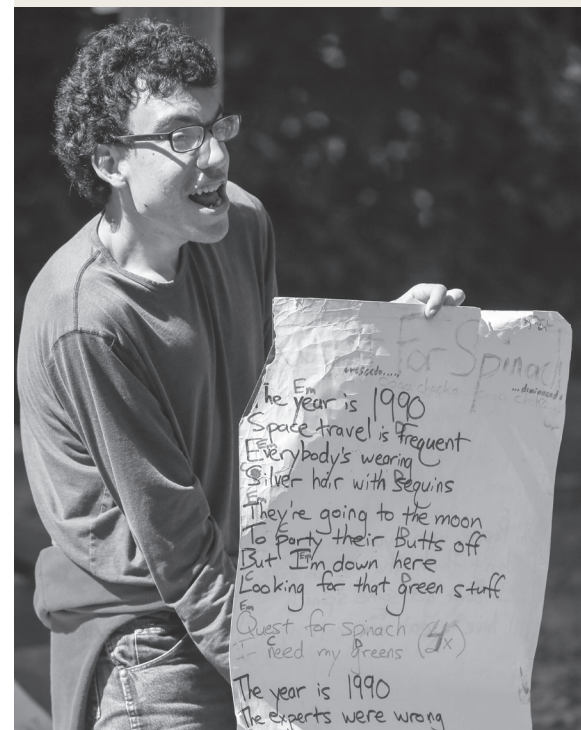
In Western Massachusetts, where I live, there is a small private school that also sings the song. I am told the song was brought to them by Annie Winkler (IB staff ’00-’02, ’04, ’06). Are they the only non-F&W organization that sings it? Is this origin story accurate? Was there a lot of spinach and/or manicotti to eat in 1990? I don’t remember. But the song remains fun to sing.

► Do you know something about the Quest for Spinach origins? Or any other F&W stories? We’d love to hear them!!

Please write us:

interim@farmandwilderness.org

Alumni sing Quest for Spinach at the SAM/Questers reunion. Staff Photo/Thea Dodds





Flying Cloud: A Tradition of Change

By Zach Podhorzer & Zac Heyman, Flying Cloud Co-directors

For over 50 years, Flying Cloud has been an incredible and unique experience founded on: the honoring and practicing of native traditions; the Flying Cloud Core Values of Respect and Community, Honoring the Land, Honoring the Spirit, Simplicity and Isolation, and Common Gender (a male-specific community that recognizes gender as a continuum); and our commitment to social justice, which is central to the Farm & Wilderness mission. As an expression of these values, this summer's Flying Cloud community came to the difficult but important decision to no longer give or use Flying Cloud Names at Flying Cloud (people who want to use Flying Cloud names elsewhere in the F&W community may do so, keeping in mind that it is not the choice of a person who has a Name to tell people what to call them; rather, using a Name is the choice of the person who is speaking).

The intent and impact of our Flying Cloud Names has been a central topic of discussion for many of us who have called Flying Cloud home over the last two decades, a natural extension of our core values and continuous efforts to improve ourselves. In the 1990's, Flying Cloud began shifting its traditions, influences, and living structures from Plains Indian cultures to those of our own Eastern woodlands. More recently, we have carefully examined our camp to eliminate practices that perpetuate marginalizing images of native cultures and people, such as wearing loincloths and living in teepees.

Changing our naming traditions is a tremendous step toward fully recognizing, honoring, and respecting native traditions. Alongside this change we are also reestablishing relationships with local native communities to continue the work of educating ourselves and others about the harsh, painful truths of the relationship between the United States and the people indigenous to this land. This has always been and will continue to be a core facet of our community. We will also continue to offer a powerful rite of passage for young people, including honoring and challenging our community members through poems we are calling Flying Cloud Words.

We recognize that this change may come as a surprise to those who have not spent recent summers at Flying Cloud, and we invite you to join us on this journey of social justice and learning. We, Zach and Zac, are excited to hear your perspective on these changes and to discuss Flying Cloud as it is today, persisting as a meaningful, magical community experience in the woods of Saltash Mountain.



Greetings Farm & Wilderness,

With a great deal of pride, and of course a twinge of sadness, we want to let you know that our time as directors is coming to a close. Through a handful of summers as campers together, we found our way to Flying Cloud in 2006. Even then, we dreamed about someday filling the role of director. I doubt we took ourselves very seriously at the time, but today we could not be more grateful for everything we have been a part of. After all our summers, our brightest memories will always be the people with whom we called the clearing home.

You can expect to see us both at the occasional work weekend and visits in summers-to-come. Although we are moving on from our post, we do so with the belief that every role in our community can be a stepping stone of mentorship and learning. In leaving, we hold ourselves accountable to the same task we have always asked of our campers and staff: to recognize our privilege to be here by sharing with the rest of the world the light of respect, community, and social justice that Flying Cloud has inspired within us.

Thank you for all the magical years and please stay in touch!

Be well & much love,
The Zac(h)s

THE SEARCH IS ON!

Would you, or someone you know, make a great Flying Cloud director? Learn more at www.farmandwilderness.org/employment/



Indian Brook and Red Spruce Grove campers at Interdependence Day 2017.
Staff Photo/Thea Dodds

I Can't Keep Quiet

by Megan Chamberlain, Indian Brook Director

Three Indian Brook campers stood before a supportive crowd of hundreds of fellow campers, staff and community members and said:

I can't keep quiet about the frequent prejudice thoughts that are expressed about all different kinds of races. I can't keep quiet about the police brutality that happens right in our faces and we choose to ignore it. I can't keep quiet about black lives being treated as inferior. I can't keep quiet about changing myself so that you are pleased. So that you don't label me a certain way, so that those stereotypes don't apply to me. I'm tired of not staying true to myself, so for now expect me not to be quiet. We sing this song to show people that it's ok to not be ok. And it's great to express your feelings! Even if you're uncomfortable, even if you're telling yourself no, you can do it. We are stronger than we think we are. You shouldn't follow rules that don't make sense. As a girl, I feel forced to look pretty or dress up nice, but I should feel free to look any way I want to! I can't keep quiet about my feelings anymore. Thank you, and enjoy the song! Your rights end where my rights begin.

And then a powerful chorus of 200 voices rang through the fair grounds at Interdependence Day as Indian Brook sang, "I can't keep quiet... For anyone... Anymore..."

IB was particularly excited to share the song "Quiet" by MILCK, because it's about standing up for ourselves and many other marginalized communities. In learning the song, campers asked questions echoing the lyrics. What are things that we can't keep quiet about anymore? Campers were free to write a message that they wanted to share at the conclusion of the song. Campers brought up issues of police brutality and bias. Xenophobia and judgement. Campers shared personal experiences with racism.

Any moment at Indian Brook can be a teachable one; we have conversations about gender and how we understand our identities at camp and in the larger world. We are challenging ourselves to ask big questions about ourselves and our world, and notice the ways that systems of oppression work both at camp and outside of our community here. We are proud to know that Indian Brook campers won't keep quiet.

Giving Back to Campership

Abraham Adams
(FC '98-'99, FC staff '06,
TF staff '10, SAM staff '15)

My father passed away when I was three. My mother, a journalist, was left without much money. We were middle class but often worried about where money was coming from.

When I was ten, an older friend told me about a camp called Flying Cloud that he attended every summer, that he described as something like a utopia, where kids like us could be themselves without social competition, and could spend a huge amount of time outdoors.

Under normal circumstances, such a camp never would have been financially possible for my single mother. But I had the incredible good fortune of receiving a campership that allowed me to spend two summers at Flying Cloud that have never left my mind, and have influenced everything that I do professionally.

I contribute \$8.33 each month to F&W, which amounts to \$100 a year. I do not have a lot of money, and this is what I can afford. I do this because, no matter how much I love the camps and know that spreading their good word is important, the bottom line of the campership fund is what allowed me, as a kid without substantial financial means, to experience something that has deeply helped me and improved my life to this day. So I am writing here to suggest that all of us think about what is possible to contribute—whatever monthly contribution could amount to a gift each year that makes sense for our means.

Join the **Campfire Circle** with a monthly gift to make warm memories possible for F&W campers.

www.farmandwilderness.org/give

Farm Crew at F&W

By Heather Surprenant, Farm Apprentice '16-'17

In farming, there are little-to-no certainties. The weather doesn't go as planned, animals escape, and campers are just learning the difference between a weed and week-old corn. You can have a whole crop wiped out by sheep because they decided to move themselves to the next pasture that was your garden. These are the real-world lessons that happen every day on the farm.

Farm crew is a big part of the whole farming operation at F&W. We don't just watch as our managers give vaccines, or deliver calves, we're right beside them. Interns are not just weeding and mucking out the dairy barn, we are also mixing up batches of compost tea to boost plant health and natural garlic concoctions to ward off common pests. I started in April of 2016 and knew the traditional 7-month internship wasn't going to be enough for me. As a second-year intern, I was given the chance to learn how to use the tractor, design two garden plots, further my knowledge of natural herd care, and experience propagation from the very beginning.

What I appreciate most about this internship is being given the responsibility to think for myself. I'm able to question a practice, learn why we do it, and know that some day when I am farming on my own that I will have that tool, and I can choose to implement it or not. There isn't just one way to farm, and at Farm & Wilderness, we are encouraged to explore what that means. More so, interns act as teachers and mentors to campers. As the great Alice Waters once said, "teaching kids to feed themselves and how to live in a community responsibly is the center of an education." How lucky are we to be part of an organization that is doing just that!

Farm Manager Chantal Deojay delivers a calf while Timberlake campers watch. Staff Photo/Thea Dodds



Timberlake campers and staff at Clarendon Gorge bridge on their 34-mile day hike. Staff Photo/Thea Dodds

Our 34-Mile Day Hike

By Jonathan Schoder

(BDC '93-'98, TL '99-'04, SAM '05, TL Staff '07-'11, '14, '17)

There are three things that stick out to me when I think of Timberlake. The first is self-confidence, the second is community, and the third is hard work.

These three pillars to the Timberlake experience were exemplified this summer. Three campers and three staff members set out to do a 34-mile day hike, starting at 6:45am at Little Rock Pond and finishing at camp around 10pm.

The 34 miles weren't easy. At different points of the trip, everyone (campers and staff) struggled to keep pushing up and down the mountains. I don't think any one of us could have done the hike alone. It was only because we had a close-knit community and we supported each other when we stumbled. We shared the weight in our packs, we shared the role of setting the pace, and we continued to keep a positive mentality even as muscles ached.

Part of what makes Timberlake special is that campers are doing, they aren't just watching. Campers helped plan the hike, they decided when to take breaks and which views were worth stopping for. The hike wasn't about just signing up and being told what to do. Instead, the campers made decisions in all aspects of the hike from planning through completion.

We set out to do a 34-mile day hike, but it's what happened in between point "A" and point "B" that ultimately matters. The lighthearted conversations we had walking down the trail, the community that was formed to push each other when we were struggling, the self-confidence gained through realizing our own resiliency. These are the things that ultimately matter and will always make Timberlake the special place that it is.



A Tamarack Farm teen working on the blanket they made for Fair.
Staff Photo/Amy Bowen

Commit to K-nit!

By Tara Edelschick (TF staff '14-'17)

I've been knitting on this porch for the past three summers, making lots of great connections and a few misshapen socks, but this summer something different happened. Two campers asked me to help them make a blanket for Fair. I wasn't sure we'd be able to pull it off since neither of them knew how to knit. But a few days later, we sat down on the porch to cast on our first squares.

More than five hundred work hours later, we made a great blanket. A really great blanket! But better than the blanket is what happened while we made it. Lots of laughing, a few mishaps, and comments like these:

"Isn't knitting women's work?" Asked one young man who later learned to knit and made three beautiful squares.

"Why is knitting so relaxing?"

"My mom is not going to believe me when I tell her I learned how to knit!"

The two young men who spearheaded the project were jumping up and down as we finished. "We made a blanket! Can you believe we did this?" But that excitement is not what will stick with me long after the summer is over. It's the comment made as we crocheted the border.

"You know what I learned doing this? If you want to do something that you don't know how to do, and you aren't sure it can be done, you just need to start. And you invite people to help you. And you stay open to whoever shows up, and open to learning new stuff, even if it's hard at first. You keep going, and keep going. And then something amazing might happen"

SAM/Questers Reunion

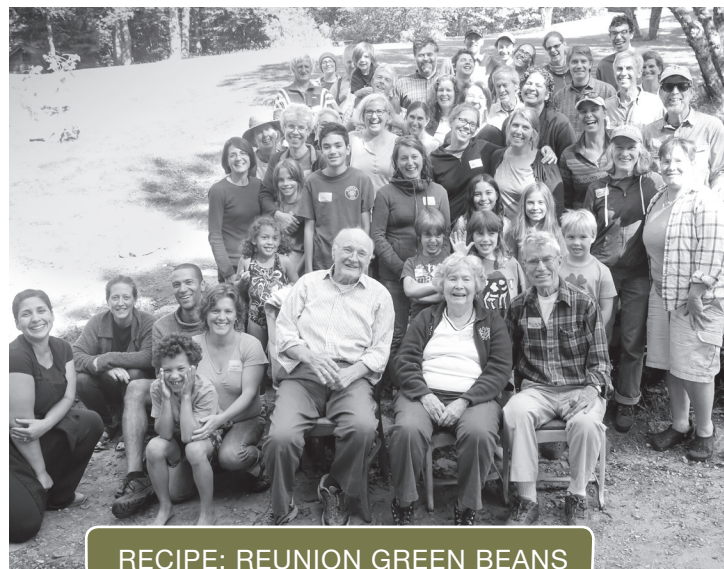
By Sam Arfer

The Saltash Mountain/Questers reunion was a whole summer packed into one beautiful September weekend! We hiked, cleared trails, completed a work project (check out the beautiful new porch on Glastenbury Cabin), sang songs on the hill, attended meeting, harvested out of the garden, cooked good food, washed many dishes, ate s'mores around the fire, and generally had a great time.

Old friendships were renewed and new ones were formed as we shared our stories; recalling happy memories and updating each other on our current lives. We were especially lucky to have upwards of 10 past SAM directors in attendance.

Participants ranging in age from less than 5 to more than 85 all contributed to making this a fantastic reunion. We're looking forward to our next SAM/Questers reunion in 2022!

SAM/Questers alumni gathered during the reunion this Labor Day Weekend. Staff Photo/Thea Dodds



RECIPE: REUNION GREEN BEANS

1. Wash, trim, and cut beans into bite sized pieces.
2. Steam, covered in large covered frying pan for several minutes.
3. When water has evaporated, add sesame oil and chopped ginger and garlic.
4. Sautee a few minutes and finally toss in salt, pepper, and sesame seeds.



Long Trail Questers locating their route at Clarendon Gorge.
Staff Photo/Thea Dodds

Meaningful Work *(continued from page 1)*

As the summer progressed, several of the *prácticas* started meeting more than once a week. The music collective prepared a special performance for our banquet. Counselor apprentices expanded their time together as they went to the Barn Day Camp to shadow counselors and prepared to help at a social justice night at Timberlake. These teens learned about facilitation, planning, and presenting.

Fifteen to seventeen-year-olds are at a unique point in their lives, developing abstract thought and solidifying the foundational views that shape their future. Which is why we take our work as a teen development program as seriously as we take the zany fun we create at Tamarack Farm. Our teens are active participants in experiential education that happens through meaningful work, community building, and apprenticeships.

A teen recently recounted in their end of the summer survey, "This was the best experience of my life."

HELP US REACH 100%!

farmandwilderness.org/thrive

Can you put in the thrive tree/thermometer you made for the Thrive magazine and update it to almost full 99%?

5 Reasons We Love Questing

By the 2017 Long Trail Questers

This year two groups of Long Trail Questers hiked 272 miles northbound from Massachusetts to Canada. During our 36 days on the trail we focused on becoming better leaders and learning about ourselves. Here are five things we love about the Questers program.

Lifelong Friendships: Hiking the Long Trail brought us closer as a group and community. Eva Clews (IB '11-'13, SAM '15-'16, Questers '17) recounts, "we were all friends by the end, we supported each other in hard times and celebrated in the awesome moments, making lifelong bonds."

Confidence in our Outdoor Skills: The majority of the Long Trail Questers trip is camper-led. Campers rotate between chores such as collecting water, hanging food in bear bags, setting up tents, and cooking with a backpacking stove or a real fire. By the end of the trip, each camper had mastered the skills needed for each chore, as well as additional skills such as basic first aid and Leave No Trace practices. "The skills I gained on my Long Trail Quest gave me the confidence to survive in the wilderness, made me feel more self-sufficient, and I've gained the desire to take on future outdoor adventures." Says Jessie Cali (IB '11-'13, SAM '14-'15, Questers '17)

Unplugged & Remote: Hiking the Long Trail surrounded by nature is an amazing experience. "As I was hiking down the trail through trees, rocks, and bushes I became one with the wilderness around me. Being isolated deep in the forest of Vermont is a wonderful place to discover yourself." Says Zev Breen (BDC '10-'12, SAM '13-'16, Questers '17).

Overcoming Adversity: On this long journey we faced biting insects, blisters, rain, hot and humid days, and the interpersonal dynamics that come with sharing close quarters, finite quantities of food, and long hiking days. We each learned a lot about compassion and equity, helping each other and working in community to achieve our goals as a united group. We learned to ask for help, listen to each other, and solve challenges using consensus.

In many ways this journey was a rite of passage into adulthood. For Emmett Miller (TL '13-'14, FC '15-'16, SAM '16, Questers '17), "it was a chance to prove that we were ready for the rights and responsibilities of adulthood."

If you are going to be 15-17 next summer and you're looking for an adventure, we'd all encourage you to come join the Quest!

Powered by the Sun

By Jay Kullman, Director of Sustainable Resources

Have you seen the new solar array behind the resource building at Farm & Wilderness? Have you wondered why hasn't this been done sooner?

Environmental sustainability is baked in the DNA of Farm & Wilderness. We compost, conserve land, farm organically, all while instilling an appreciation for the natural world with our campers and visitors.

With an ever-increasing awareness of the environmental challenges ahead associated with climate change, the Staff and Board of Trustees embarked upon the Strategic Plan for Sustainability in 2009 with the goal of turning Farm & Wilderness into a "carbon neutral" organization over time. The largest component of emissions at that time was our buildings, and this seemed like a logical starting point.

Solar seemed like an obvious choice at first, however after working with experts at Efficiency Vermont and private consultants, it was determined that our priority should be to reduce our energy consumption. At that time, solar was also much more expensive, panels required a lot more space, and as a non-profit, we could not take advantage of the significant tax credits that make solar more affordable.

We spent the last eight years upgrading appliances and lighting, conducting blower door tests, and retrofitting buildings to achieve lower energy loads. In 2012, we achieved one of our sustainability goals of reducing our total electricity consumption by over 20%, from 121,000 kilowatt hours (kW-hrs) to 98,000 kW-hrs. In 2014, we installed the wood gasification plant at Tamarack Farm, eliminating the need for several thousands of gallons of oil annually. In 2016, the Tamarack Farm roof-top solar array was completed with a grant from Green Mountain Power covering half the cost. This system provides 18,000 kW-hrs annually, and with the wood boilers, Tamarack Farm uses very little off-site energy.

In 2015, we began discussing options with a couple of local providers and found one who was willing to provide a solar array with a Power Purchase Agreement. The provider would be able to take advantage of the tax credits, allowing Farm & Wilderness to host an array while purchasing locally produced solar energy at a discounted price. The new array would produce approximately 90,000 KW-hrs annually and combined with the Tamarack Farm System of 18,000 kW-hrs we would now generate 108,000kW-hrs! We realized that this would be about 10,000 kW-hrs more than we presently consume and allow us to replace the propane heating and hot water systems at our staff duplex with electric air source heat pumps, eliminating the use of over 2000 gallons of propane annually.

After seven years, things are coming together as we continue to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We look forward to the new array going online in early September 2017!



Barn Day Campers running the BDC farm stand.
Staff Photo/Thea Dodds

Resilience

By Polly Williams, Barn Day Camp Director

Campers gather, watching an egg slowly crack open from the inside-out. Most of the eggs shake and wiggle, but there are always a few that lay still, quiet.

"Why isn't that one working?" asks a camper.

A counselor responds. "Some chicks make it while others may not. We are lucky that we get to watch the ones that live and say good-bye to the ones that don't."

At the Barn Day Camp, we are just as serious about having fun as we are about teaching life skills and building resilience. In Adventure, we play cooperative games; In Barns and Gardens, we learn about life-cycles and loss; in Youth environmental Sustainability (YeS), we learn about being responsible citizens; At the waterfront, we learn to accept our swimming level and set goals. In Work Projects, we complete projects some never thought were possible for their age; in Arts and Crafts, we learn that we can create beauty; in Outdoor Living Skills, we balance the disappointment of not being able to take a knife test until you are 8-years-old, with the excitement of achieving this goal in the future.

In all of these activity areas, campers are learning to accept not always getting what they want and enjoying the things they have. They are learning perfection is a myth and mistakes mean growth. At the Barn Day Camp and across Farm & Wilderness, campers are learning resilience.

Amos Glick (TL '78-'80, '82, TF '83-'84, TL Staff '85, FC Staff '89-'90) I am writing from Bucharest, Romania where I am working as an acting coach and comic act creator for the State Circus's new (and first contemporary) circus show. In coming up with exercises for large groups I ended up using Buffalo Robe! Best wishes to all my F&W friends, hope to see you soon!

Darlene Jenson (BDC Assistant Director '86-'92), now lives in Brattleboro, VT and is Director of the Theatre Adventure Program of New England Youth Theatre. Sandy Klein (TF staff '91-'94) also works at NEYT! Lessons learned at F&W have been the guiding force in my personal and professional life.

Gilbert DeBenedetti (TF '66-'67, TL staff '70-'72, TF staff '74-'76) and Ellen DeBenedetti (IB '61-'66, TF '67-'68, IB staff '70-'76) would like to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Claire Sarah Hansen, born to Eric Hansen and Jenya DeBenedetti (IB '94-'97, TF '98) on April 10, 2017. All are doing well.

Esmé Summer Jones was born on May 11, 2017 at 12:00am to Morgan Jones (Camper TL '94-'96, TF '97-'98; Staff TL '99 & '01, Trustee '14-'15) and wife Yan Shan.

We're sad to hear that **John Stevens** (TL staff '49-'50; SEWOCA/TF Director & staff, '51-'59, IB staff '65-'70) passed away September 3, 2017. If you have memories to share, send them for a longer remembrance to be published in the spring.

London Mini-Reunion

From left: Robin Saphra, Jacqueline Saphra, Lydia Fargo Pearce, Lola (dog), Joan Cindy Amatniek, and Ethan Saphra got together in London, England.



John Turitzin and Brian Glassman reading their 1967 cabin plaque during their Catamount Cabin reunion at Fair.

Returned. 50 Years Later. Wow.

By members of Catamount Cabin 1967

Although we were just 12 years old in the summer of 1967, our memories of that time remain vivid. Rich Balaban, Brian Glassman, and John Turitzin, along with our senior counselor, Jan Klotz, celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Catamount cabin with a reunion at Timberlake this Fair weekend. Timberlake, and in particular Jan, who also led work projects, taught us how to do many things, such as constructing buildings and how to survive in the wilderness. Timberlake also taught us about taking responsibility, whether it was for clearing trails or looking out for the safety of fellow campers with whom we were hiking/canoeing.

Catamount 1967 was special in part because the previous summer, with Jan's instruction, we had helped build the cabin we lived in. It was special also because of the campers and counselors who came together to comprise Catamount cabin in 1967: some old friends, and some new ones. Although we hadn't stayed in touch over the years, each of us continued to think about or be a part of TL. And as the 50-year mark approached, we made the spontaneous decision to return and reunite.

What did we find when we visited Timberlake on August 12th? A camp that looked great—and also very much like the one we attended 50 years earlier. Some buildings had been replaced, but others remained intact and in use—including, to our surprise and delight, our cabin (renamed Tupelo), with the cabin plaque we made that summer still mounted in the center.

Throughout Fair, the three of us found ourselves talking with current campers and staff, and saying pretty much the same thing to them: "I was a camper here 50 years ago, and it was the best summer of my childhood." Our experience left us feeling confident that F&W would indeed thrive for another 75 years.

Why does our camp experience still matter to us today? We had to look no further than the F&W materials displayed at the Fair with photos of campers and the words integrity, service, community, equity, peacemaking ~ values instilled in us 50 years ago; values that endure as goals today.

► Thanks to the Catamount '67 Reunion participants for their gift towards the new TL Kitchen in honor of Al Hicks! Interested in reuniting with cabinmates or celebrating a camp anniversary at F&W? Contact Jen Flaster, jen@farmandwilderness.org.



Farm Memories

We called ourselves the SeWoCa

It was 1951 and we were the first Senior Work Campers. Most of us had been to Indian Brook or Timberlake so we knew we would work hard and have fun, but other than that we had little idea what to expect.

We learned about cow-milking, vegetable growing, and this radical new idea called composting from the farmer, Dudley Laufman. We sang a good deal of the time, learning a lot from Ellie Stokes, who seemed to have an endless supply of rounds and part-songs.

My main indoor memories are having discussions; and the night we stayed up very late composing an epic poem. Or of Dave Kuhn, thumping around the room and calling for his elephant gun.

I don't know what the Farm is like now but I hope it's as much fun 66 years later as it was for us who were fortunate to be there in its early days.

Joanna (Jan, Little Medomus) Lehmann (nee Larson) (IB '45-'49, SeWoCa '50)

Tip-Top Bread

I'm an old-timer and I have many wonderful memories of my summers at the camps. In the spring issue of The Interim, I saw your call for farm stories to share and it brought to mind a humorous incident at the Farm.

We used to receive food deliveries from outside vendors who would park on the main road, alongside the camp's large garden, and lug their supplies to the kitchen of the main building. This afforded the delivery person a fine view of the garden and anyone working in it. One day a driver for Tip-Top Bread spied a young woman working topless in the garden and, not for the first time nor I imagine the last, the camps came under fire for being "a nudist colony."

A meeting was called and various courses of action were considered. Ultimately it was resolved that we could still do as we pleased among ourselves, but when we were exposed to public view we should respect the public's dependence on clothing. With that settled, we set about cultivating tan lines while working in the garden. But the young woman whose "indecent exposure" had generated the controversy came up with her own response.

I don't know if that delivery driver took a long look at us working in the garden the next time he parked on the main road, or if he averted his gaze out of prudery. But if he did look he would have seen a young female camper defiantly wearing a halter top she had fashioned from the transparent bags of several loaves of Tip-Top Bread.

In peace and friendship,

Charles Harrington Elster (TL '67-'71, TF '72-'73)

Tamarack Farm 65th &
SEWOCA Alumni Reunion

September 14-16, 2018

www.farmandwilderness.org/reunion



YOUR COMMENTS

 Shared on Facebook

Patty Slote (IB '61-'64, TF '65)

I was an F&W camper for 5 years in the '60s and it made a profound difference in my life in just about every way you can imagine. The core values that drive F&W have always been central to me and have endured through the decades for so many people. What a wonderful place, and what wonderful memories.

Emily Welter (BDC '97-'99, IB '02-'03)


So many of my treasured childhood memories are at F&W. Such a magical community.


Sam Grab (SAM '90-'91)

I attended F&W over 25 years ago and can still say it was a profoundly life changing experience. I can't wait until my children are old enough to attend.

Elizabeth Rondthaler Jolley (IB '80-'82, IB staff '83) I am ever thankful for my years at F&W!

► For us, there is nothing like hearing from you. Please keep in touch!

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THE PUZZLE!

Find the answers to this puzzle in the stories inside! Return your completed puzzle to be entered in to a drawing to win a prize!

► Interim, F&W, 401 Farm & Wilderness Rd., Plymouth, VT 05056
interim@farmandwilderness.org

ACROSS

1. A key ingredient in one of our organic pest management concoctions.
5. What did Tamarack Farmers knit this year?
7. What song did Indian Brook campers sing at Interdependence Day?
9. How long was the longest day-hike that Timberlakers completed this summer?
10. How many summers has Jeff Bounds been the director at SAM camp?
11. How many staff members does it take to wrangle a rutting ram and a billy goat?

Down

2. What is the name of our newest camp?
3. Amos Glick is the creative director at the State _____.
4. What is the name of the song about Spinach written in 1990?
6. A concoction to boost plant health.
8. Our special visitors from 1967 were in what cabin together?

