

Inside:

Building Community  
Beyond Our Camps

Campership Transforms Lives



# THRIVE

Empowering campers for the next 75 years

SPRING 2017





## Once We Just Sought Sustainability. Now We Seek to Thrive.



This year, Farm & Wilderness is setting out on an ambitious journey that requires the participation of every member of our community. As with any trek, we've mapped out our route, and now we are inviting you to join the adventure.

Along this path, we are rebuilding key structures at Indian Brook, Timberlake, Flying Cloud and the Barn Day Camp. We are deepening our commitment to equity by increasing our endowment for campership. We are planning for our future by investing in Friends Lodge, the first new all-community structure in our history.

We call it Thrive for 75. As we honor our first 75 years, we are now looking forward so that we can offer life-changing experiences to the next generations of campers.

If we are successful, the rewards for the Farm & Wilderness community will be profound and enduring. The new structures will provide space in which to strengthen and inspire our community, and live our values. Youth and staff will continue to find the support they need to participate in the F&W experience.

Your gift today to Thrive for 75 will make a lasting difference for our campers! Join me and the many staff, alumni and camper families who have committed to helping F&W campers thrive for the next 75.

Read on to learn about what your gift will support and the impact so many community members have made to get us where we are today.

In peace,

Rebecca Geary  
Executive Director





Janet Green, *Clerk of the Board*      Rebecca Geary, *Executive Director*

Thrive for 75 Campaign Committee: Kristi Webb, *Campaign Clerk*  
Steve Burwell | Adam Keller | Tonya Orme | Becca Steinitz

## About this publication

Farm & Wilderness is a diverse community of four generations of campers, staff, families, and friends. This one-time publication celebrates who we are as a community and the investments we are making together to ensure the magic of F&W endures for the next generations of campers.

We are grateful to the more than 400 community members who have participated in the Thrive for 75 Campaign. If you have made a gift already, thank you! If you haven't yet made a gift, what are you waiting for? Read the stories and prepare to be inspired by the people and the vision that continues to make F&W a special experience and a home to so many.

## I want to help F&W thrive for the next 75. What can I do?

### ► Make a gift today!

Online at [www.farmandwilderness.org/give](http://www.farmandwilderness.org/give) or in the enclosed envelope.

### ► Give in tribute of someone special

Remember a loved one, honor someone in your F&W experience, or mark a special occasion.

### ► Make a multi-year pledge

Pledges can be paid over a 5-year period. Download the form at [www.farmandwilderness.org/thrive](http://www.farmandwilderness.org/thrive).

### ► More ways to give

- Stocks and mutual funds
- Donor advised funds
- Employer matching gifts

Contact Thomas Henning, Campaign Director, at [thomas@farmandwilderness.org](mailto:thomas@farmandwilderness.org) for more information.

*Front cover: Campers, families and alumni shingled the new Indian Brook Cozy Lodge at Fall Harvest in 2016.*



90% pledged!

### CAMPAIGN GOALS

Campership Endowment **\$1.25 million**

Building Projects **\$2 million**

Annual Fund **\$1.5 million**

Unrestricted Gifts **\$750,000**

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**Total Campaign Goal \$5.5 million**

*Farm & Wilderness is a 501(c)3 charitable organization (EIN: 03-0228965). Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*





# Building Community Beyond Our Camps

## FRIENDS LODGE

- ▶ Friends Lodge will be the new home and a year-round hub for F&W's staff, camper families, alumni and guests, replacing the two-bedroom farmhouse that currently serves this purpose.
- ▶ It will serve as a gathering space for year-round and summer staff, campers, camper families, alumni and Plymouth area community members.
- ▶ A simple, practical structure, the Friends Lodge will house offices and F&W's extensive paper and photo archives. The building will be ADA compliant so all community members will have access.
- ▶ Plans include using timber from F&W's lands and seeking net zero energy efficiency.
- ▶ Friends Lodge will be sited near the entrance to F&W, along the newly extended Farm & Wilderness Road. The road extension was completed in Spring 2016, and leads traffic away from the Barn Day Camp. This change will allow F&W to connect the open grassy areas of the soccer field and the Fairgrounds.
- ▶ Once Friends Lodge is complete, mail deliveries and visitors will not have to drive past the Barn Day Camp to reach the main office.



Friends Lodge Goal  
**\$1 million**



## A Hub For Year Round Activity

Community is a big part of Farm & Wilderness. As one of our core Quaker values, we hold to it in the camps and by engaging with our many friends and family members at events in Plymouth and at potlucks and informal reunions across the country. Who could have imagined how large our community would grow in our first 75 years? Surely Ken and Susan Webb, our founders, dreamed it.

There were 28 boys at Timberlake's predecessor, Camp Mehrlicht, in 1939, our first year. Two years later 12 girls attended the first summer at Indian Brook. Senior Work Camp, the precursor to Tamarack Farm, extended the farming program to older campers in 1953. Nearly ten years later, in 1962, Saltash Mountain Camp brought the sounds of campers to Lake Ninevah and two years after that, Flying Cloud opened.

“At Friends Lodge campers may sing songs and perform skits, staff will work to ensure campers have a wonderful summer, alumni will browse the archives, and visitors will make their first connection with F&W.”

—Janet Green

Today nearly 900 campers and more than 250 staff arrive each summer to fill the valley with song and laughter. About 25 staff work behind the scenes all year, making the magic happen, from marketing and recruiting campers and staff, to planning camp programs, to ensuring our grounds, water and structures sustain our community for years to come.

“What was once the farmer's home, now houses our staff, and quite frankly, we've outgrown the space. We believe a more functional office will help us better serve our families and alumni by sustaining our high retention level for year-round staff—on average more than 5 years,” explains Rebecca Geary, Executive Director.



Welcome receptions are an important point of connection for new and returning families.

“Our need to extend our ‘home’ for the greater F&W community has also increased,” she continued. After Barn Day Camp families and friends drop off their children at the red barn, some folks find a quiet porch outside of our cramped office space to read, check their email using our Wi-Fi, or make plans with new friends for tubing or post-camp cookouts. More than 10,000 alumni and camper families stay connected to F&W through reunions and potlucks, work weekends, Fair and the Interim.

The simple, practical Friends Lodge will be built with local timber and seek to meet our net zero energy efficiency goal. Inside it will provide alumni and visitors the opportunity to browse the Farm & Wilderness archives. A multi-purpose group gathering space will provide room for camper, family and alumni programs, including a welcoming porch for Barn Day Camp families and others to gather and connect on summer days.

“At Friends Lodge, campers may sing songs and perform skits, staff will work to ensure campers have a wonderful summer, alumni will browse the archives, and visitors will make their first connection with F&W,” said Janet Green, clerk of the Farm & Wilderness board of trustees, which first saw the need for this lodge ten years ago.

Friends Lodge will become the hub for our year-round and seasonal staff, for alumni, and for camper parents, and will extend our connection to our local Plymouth community. “It is so important to create a space that meets the evolving needs of both our staff and our larger community,” said Rebecca. “Friends Lodge is where we will have the inspiring conversations and make the personal connections that will strengthen our community within and beyond the camps for the long term.” ■





Cozy Lodge Goal  
\$500,000

## Building Opportunities | INDIAN BROOK COZY LODGE

- The former “Cozy Lodge” was a remnant of the original Indian Brook Lodge, which was built in the late 1940s. It could no longer hold the entire camp community, and was compromised by mold.
- The new Cozy Lodge is designed to fit nearly all Indian Brook campers and staff at once, for singing on a rainy night, for appreciation ceremonies, and for skits and staff training. It also serves as an important activity and community space for Family Camp attendees.
- Inaugurated by campers in 2016, but not yet completed, the lodge has a homesteading kitchen, a crafts room, a costume area, a library and reading nook, and summer staff offices. It has a large porch where performances can be staged, and enormous barn doors that can be opened to connect the interior with outdoor activities.
- In 2016 campers built the barn doors and cut and installed interior siding. Indian Brook alumni attending their 75th Anniversary reunion and families attending Fall Harvest completed most of the exterior cedar shingling.
- In 2017 campers will continue to be involved in finishing the building. They will gather stones for the fireplace facing and install bookshelves for the library, among other projects.



# Winnie Feise: Inspiring Leadership

Just shy of 60 years ago, Winnie Feise attended a Farm & Wilderness Fair. “It was pure magic,” she recalled. “Then and there it was determined that someday I would work at the camps.” Two years later, she returned to head up the Flying Squirrels (1960), which began a pivotal, decades-long connection with F&W. Winnie became a mentor and role model for generations at Indian Brook. Her ability to lead and inspire others to find the gifts within themselves was remarkable.

“She helped me realize that my life’s path was my own to decide, and that I didn’t have to live by what others expected of me,” Jeffery Anne Tatum says. Jeffery Anne was a new IB staffer in 1972 and recalls, “Winnie welcomed me with open arms and guided me gently, but firmly, in what felt to me like a whole new world.”

““ Spending just one summer under Winnie’s leadership was life-changing.””

-Jeffery Ann Tatum

Winnie quickly became an integral member of the Indian Brook staff; in 1964, she served as Senior Lodge Head. She worked closely with Susan Webb, and became her associate director, and eventually Susan’s first successor as IB Director (1969-72). She also served on the Board of Trustees (1980-86), including as Clerk (1984-86).

A former “Cricket,” Joan “Cindy” Amatniek remembers gaining comfort while weeding a strawberry bed alongside Winnie. “Winnie listened mostly, maybe said a few things, and life just wasn’t so scary anymore,” Joan remembers.

Winnie was born Winifred Leeds in 1918 in Manhattan, and she became a champion of civil rights in the segregated South. Her early focus on politics changed to child advocacy and she became a child development specialist. Winnie took an



From left to right: Glenda Phillips, Winnie Feise, and Renelda Meeks.

intense interest in the personal and professional development of her campers and the women on her staff at a time when the influences of the Women’s Movement were prevalent.

Inspired by Winnie’s model of excellent leadership, Indian Brook campers and staff felt challenged and supported to develop their own leadership qualities. “It was Winnie who helped me create a brand new position as a trip counselor. And it was Winnie who thought that, at the age of 23, I would be a good addition to the new Board of Trustees,” says Caroline Cope, who was on staff at IB between 1969 and 1973. “Her faith in me has buoyed me for the 50+ years that have followed and given me courage to reach beyond.”

In 2012 an idea was hatched to honor Winnie by creating The Winnie Feise Leadership Endowment Fund. Established with her full cooperation, the fund promotes and supports the development of leadership qualities in girls and young women at Indian Brook.

Winnie died in 2014 at the age of 95 after a full career and an ongoing legacy at Farm & Wilderness. “Spending just one summer under Winnie’s leadership was life-changing,” Jeffery Anne says. “Knowing her was one of the greatest gifts of my life.” ■





## Nourishing Young Lives

### TIMBERLAKE KITCHEN

- ▶ No major improvements have been made to the Timberlake Kitchen in over twenty years. The cramped space no longer meets the demands of preparing, serving, and cleaning up after three meals a day for close to 200 campers and staff.
- ▶ This project will fully replace the building envelope including footers, floor, walls and roof. When complete it will serve the Timberlake community better with:
  - Energy efficient refrigeration and freezer spaces, an additional oven and more efficient gas stoves.
  - A better-organized pantry and dish receiving and storage area.
  - A separate area for allergen-free cooking to accommodate campers and staff with food allergies and dietary restrictions.
  - A separate baking area in the kitchen allowing for more food preparation activities with campers.
  - Energy efficient electric lighting, skylights, and improved ventilation.
- ▶ Construction of the new Timberlake Kitchen will begin in Fall 2017.



TL Kitchen Goal  
**\$375,000**



# “We want Al! We want Al!”

There was something special about Al Hicks—and it wasn’t just the legendary sticky buns or Sunday dinners served at noon. Campers would chant, “We want Al, we want Al,” and he would eventually appear, wave and return to his kitchen. Al didn’t care for attention, but “when you met Al, you wanted to know him and you really wanted him to like you,” recalls Sam Arfer, a longtime cook and staffer at F&W. He was kind and beloved and he had that effect on everyone. For thirty years at F&W, Al was a cook, a mentor, a trustee, a donor, and a friend to all. Al was the one person every returning camper would ask about. In short, Al Hicks was an institution here until his death in 1984.

When Al came to camp, he’d never traveled to New England before. He was an undergrad at Fisk University in Nashville, when a friend recommended him for a summer job. As a black man, Al had some trepidation about how he’d be welcomed. When F&W staff were on

“Not only did he lead and help our team, he really cared that we succeeded personally. I will never forget Al!”

—Kris Kretsch

hand to greet him at the Rutland train station, it went a long way. An invitation to join a basketball team of camp counselors clinched it.

Kristi Webb recollects her first summer at camp, when she was 5 years old and her mother, Charme—the Counselor Apprentice Director at Indian Brook—was pregnant. Kristi’s sister Meg was born on August 18th, 1961. Al made Kristi a “birthday” cake. “I hope I never



F&W Kitchens Manager and Cook Al Hicks (at right) was a mentor who inspired campers and staff at F&W for 30 years.

forget Al’s kindness,” says Kristi, “in presenting me with a very small birthday cake that day, to help me feel more welcoming of my new little sister!”

A war and cancer couldn’t keep Al away from F&W. Al was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War. After the war, he graduated from college with a teaching degree, taught in New York City—and returned to cook at F&W. About 15 years later, his mother, Mabel, joined him as a cook. His sisters worked at F&W too.

Decades later, Al Hicks developed cancer but insisted on working that summer. “He couldn’t absorb food so I would make him blender meals,” recalls Judie Muggia, who spent many summers at F&W, as a camper and, later, as camp nurse and parent. Although everyone remembers Al’s cooking, that’s not what earned him his reputation. “Every year he funded inner city kids to come to F&W,” Judie says, and he became advisor to many of them. “He was an icon.”

Kris Kretsch recalls shadowing Al as a “chore.” “During that time, I learned much about the care he put in his menus and preparation. Eventually, I was fortunate to get a job as an IB cook, and Al was our director. What I remember most about that is not only did he lead and help our team, he really cared that we succeeded personally. I will never forget Al!” ■



# Living Proof: Campership Transforms Lives

“Where’s the toilet? What time do the lights come on? What’s the crime rate in Vermont?” These were 9-year-old Alisha Carberry’s first questions getting off the NYC bus at F&W in 1989. “I was a Latina who had never ventured outside of Staten Island, who never ate anything other than Puerto Rican food or knew much beyond the sights and sounds of my own people.”

But with a single, working mother, “my only option would be to stay home inside all day by myself...” Thankfully there was another opportunity.

Alisha’s mom was a member of the 1199 Health Care Workers Union, which has a long-standing partnership with F&W. 1199’s Anne Shore benefit program is matched with funds through F&W’s campership program, enabling 30 to 40 kids to come to Farm & Wilderness each summer from the New York area.

Kate Klein and Ash Turnbull first heard of F&W through friends in the Boston area where they live. Then an Interim article about boys having skirts in a costume closet sealed their decision to send their three kids. Next they had to figure out, “how can we make this work? We could not do it without campership.” Now going on 7 summers as camper parents, Kate and Ash feel that “as parents this is the best choice that we’ve made for them.”

Alisha returned to F&W for four summers to hike, rock climb, do community service, canoe, swim long distances, even help deliver a calf. To Alisha, this was “a world I’d never seen. It allowed me to be more open-minded about things... because I was exposed to different kinds of people I never would have been exposed to.”

Sam Arfer explains, “One of the big values campership supports is empathy. You are forced to grow a little, to understand people not exactly like you.” Kate and Ash feel that because of their F&W experiences, their kids, “are prepared for a more diverse world.”

“It was the best possible experience... It definitely shaped who I’ve become.”

—Alisha Carberry

Every winter, the campership committee meets to review applications and decide on financial awards. They spend a great deal of time pouring over the applications and advocating for campers. There is always more demand that the committee can meet. Funding for campership awards comes from the F&W community. About half is generated from F&W’s campership endowment, now valued at nearly \$6 million, and half is raised through annual giving each year.

For Kate and Ash, they feel that “as much as we have gotten from F&W, our kids are giving that back by making that community. If we didn’t have campership it would be a loss for both.”

Today, Alisha is a mother and an 1199 member herself. She can’t wait for her kids to be old enough to attend F&W. Alisha hopes that the partnership with 1199 and the campership F&W provides can continue to help young people. “It was the best possible experience... It definitely shaped who I’ve become.” ■



9 Sam Arfer and Alisha Carberry working in the SAM kitchen.







so I really want to come back to camp  
financial and you are thank you for the  
return to camp you are giving my family so I can

## Campership Endowment

- Since our founding by Ken & Susan Webb in 1939, campership has been a core part of F&W’s commitment to sustaining a community that is inclusive of all, regardless of socio-economic status.
- Since becoming a nonprofit in 1973, we’ve awarded more than \$8 million in campership to more than 4,500 kids.
- The Campership Endowment was established by the Board of Trustees in 1980. Since then it has provided a vital, reliable source of campership funding that is available in perpetuity.
- Awards range from \$500 to full summer tuition for overnight camps, with an average award of \$2,500. Approximately 25% of F&W campers receive some financial aid.
- The F&W endowment is nearing \$6 million. Building our endowment assures F&W of a steady base of funding to complement gifts to campership through our annual fund, which can vary from year to year.



**Campership Endowment**  
Goal: \$1.25 million

### NAMED ENDOWMENTS

Many of F&W’s campership endowment funds honor community members, and gifts to those endowment funds support the Thrive for 75 Campaign.  
*(Find additional information and a complete list of funds on our website.)*

Jack and Cappy Bailey Campership Endowment Fund  
 Nash Basom Memorial Endowment Fund  
 Michael Browner Campership Endowment Fund  
 Edward “Teddy” Bright Ebersol Campership Endowment Fund  
 Winnie Feise Leadership Endowment Fund

Howard & Marie Hausman Campership Endowment Fund  
 David Sanjek Campership Endowment Fund  
 Sam Warren Campership Endowment Fund  
 Kenneth B. Webb Campership Endowment Fund  
 Susan H. Webb Outdoor Education Endowment Fund





## Sparking Creativity

### BARN DAY CAMP ARTS BARN & FAIR STAGE

- The Arts Barn and Fair Stage was raised by F&W community members and staff at Harvest Weekend in 2012 to replace a storage shed that had outlived its purpose.
- The structure is built from large white pines felled just a few yards behind where it now stands. The cabinets and flooring are made from ash, and the siding is spruce, all harvested from F&W lands.
- Features include windows and sliding barn doors providing much natural light, a covered and uncovered deck for camper activities, and ample space for arts activities, storage, and displays.
- The building also serves the larger F&W community with its permanent, covered stage for Fair that replaced an unstable, temporary "stage" made of plywood.



Arts Barn & Fair  
Stage Goal: \$60,000



# Two Generations of Campers Return to BDC

“I’m so happy to be able to be back and give back,” Beth Bird, a former IB camper, filmmaker, and college teacher shares. “I feel like F&W is in my blood. It’s fundamental to who I am.”

When Beth was pregnant with her son, Mateus Hertz-Bird, along with picking out names and preparing a room for the baby she went online to see when Mateus could start at the Barn Day Camp. “F&W for me is about learning self-reliance with interdependence, lessons I want to pass on to my son.” She was living in California, but Beth was determined to give Mateus the F&W experience—and she has. For the past four years, Mateus has been attending the Barn Day Camp (BDC); for the past three, Beth has worked in Wilderness Programming at Indian Brook, and is returning this summer for a second year as Indian Brook’s Wilderness Trip Coordinator. “IB was completely formative for me, challenging me and giving me a sense that I could accomplish anything. There’s no question that I am who I am because of Indian Brook.” Beth wants Mateus to have that kind of experience.

“Our kids are quirky. We wanted them to be at a place where that would be not just tolerated but celebrated.”

—Becca Balint

BDC parents Becca Balint and her wife Elizabeth Wohl were asked why they send their kids to BDC. With both having long-time connections at SAM and IB, Becca says, “We knew that it would be a loving and creative place for our kids. Like their moms, our kids are quirky. We wanted them to be at a place where that would be not just tolerated but celebrated.”

Polly Williams BDC director describes “at the BDC we allow children to discover their strength. They learn the important life skills of fun, resiliency, independence, self-reliance, and safety. But most of all, they discover their strength.”

Joy is present in every aspect of BDC daily life while young children explore the many facets of the farm and the natural world. Art is one activity where campers can try out new ways of expressing themselves. “My cupboards in the Art Barn are a treasure cove of felt, paint, dye, beeswax, origami paper, embroidery floss, beads, markers, crayons, and more” says Maria French BDC art activity leader.

Becca says F&W has influenced her life in so many ways. “I believe I became the person I wanted to be after attending F&W. I thought about bringing my heart into my work in a new way.” Today, Becca Balint is a Vermont state senator and was elected Vermont Democratic majority leader in 2017. In a recent talk, Becca named F&W among the top three experiences “that I felt I needed to be a public figure who is willing to bring heart and authenticity into my work every day. I owe F&W a great debt for that.” ■



Top: Live music animates dancers on Topsy Turvy Day at the BDC. The permanent stage also serves the entire camp community at Fair. Bottom: Campers and families raised the Arts Barn at Fall Harvest 2012.



# Sheltering Community | FLYING CLOUD ROUNDHOUSE

- A hand-built, community pavilion, the Roundhouse was raised in Spring 2014 by Flying Cloud Staff and F&W alum David Hook's timber framing team.
- The Roundhouse provides the only shelter for all-camp gatherings in any weather. It replaced the canvas structure called "Two Kettles."
- The unique round structure draws on the natural strength of timbers harvested from F&W forests, each beam supporting the next in a circular design, just as the members of the Flying Cloud community support each other in a seamless circle.



Roundhouse Goal  
\$65,000



# One Light Becomes Many

“One night it was pretty dark and all we saw was one candle coming down from the food shelter. And then one candle, became two, became three, and four. And slowly all the lodges lit up,” Matthew Mueller recalls from the past two summers he spent at Flying Cloud.

“It’s really more than just a summer camp,” says Noah Anninger, who has been a Flying Cloud camper for the past four years. “I wish people knew that you can actually learn how to be yourself, because it’s hard to really be yourself. FC provides a safe place for self-exploration.”

The elements that are not present at FC make it unique and, to many, special. No electricity. No fire or water other than what you work for or create. No instruments of time other than those that nature provides. But the list of what is present, when amenities are lacking, is sometimes overlooked. Zach Podhorzer, Flying Cloud co-director, describes, “there’s really nothing like waking up to the glow of sunrise, with the dappled patterns of shady leaves painted across the canvas of your lodge.”

Campers at Flying Cloud sleep in a variety of simple canvas lodges. The only thing that separates campers from the Earth is a thin sleeping pad. Zach explains that each day is shaped by the “wonder of what the day might hold.” At Flying Cloud simplicity stretches comfort zones while the community nurtures and supports that growth.

“It’s part of who I am. It’s that basic. It’s helped me ground myself when I feel like everything is going wrong. It’s nice to know you always will belong somewhere. No matter what I’ll always be welcome at FC,” says Matthew.

Very few structures at Flying Cloud separate campers from the natural world. When the weather is fair, campers spread into the fields, stream and pond. When it’s not, they gather in the Roundhouse, the



Staff and crew carry a rafter to create the spiraling roof frame of the round house at Flying Cloud in winter 2014.

only covered space that fits the entire camp. But it’s more than that.

In 2015, when the old pole and canvas structure called “Two Kettles” had reached the end of its lifespan, a one-of-a-kind, open-air, pavilion replaced it. Matthew Mueller describes the Roundhouse as “a place of shelter. If someone walks in, it’s guaranteed that someone will join them within five minutes. It’s kind of the heart of the community.”

“Having a community that saw me for who I was and accepted me was very beneficial to who I am today. It made me see the good parts of myself.”

—Noah Anninger

And the shared experiences and friendships within this tight-knit community are why Flying Cloud has changed so many lives. “Flying Cloud is a place where it’s hard to find someone who doesn’t accept people,” says Noah. He adds that “having a community that saw me for who I was and accepted me was very beneficial to who I am today. It made me see the good parts of myself.” ■



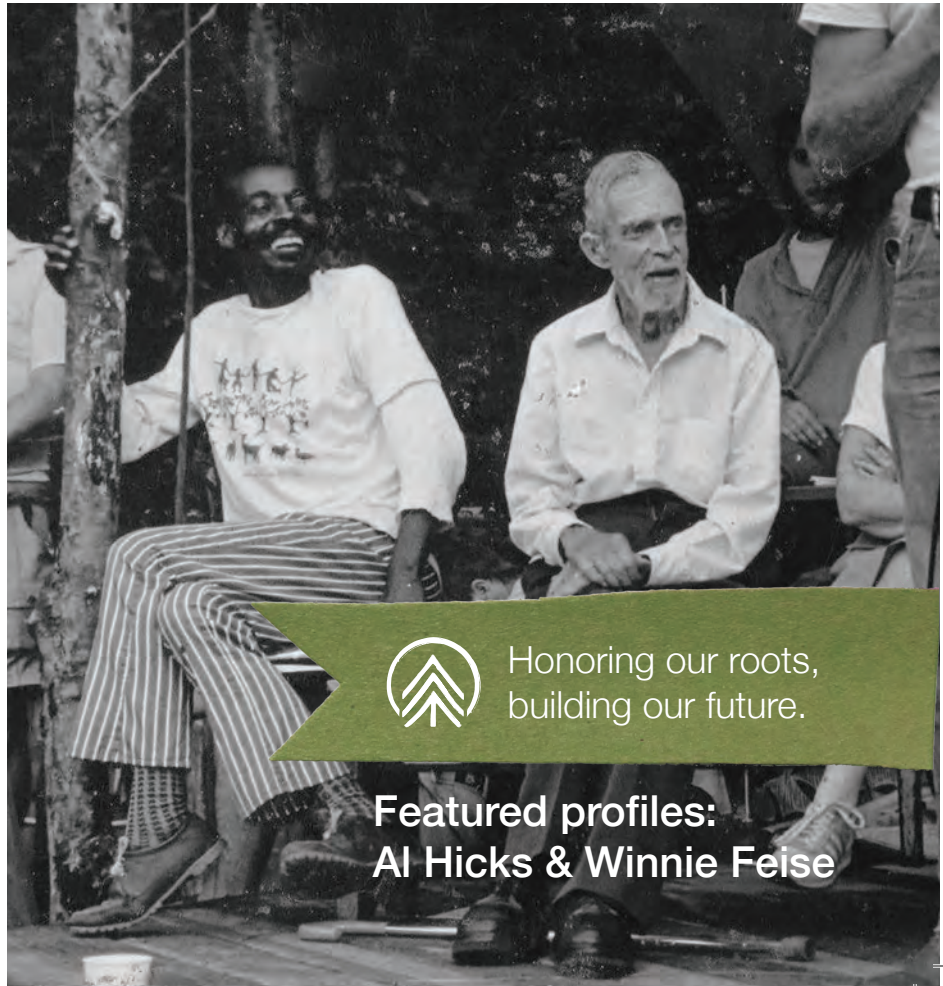
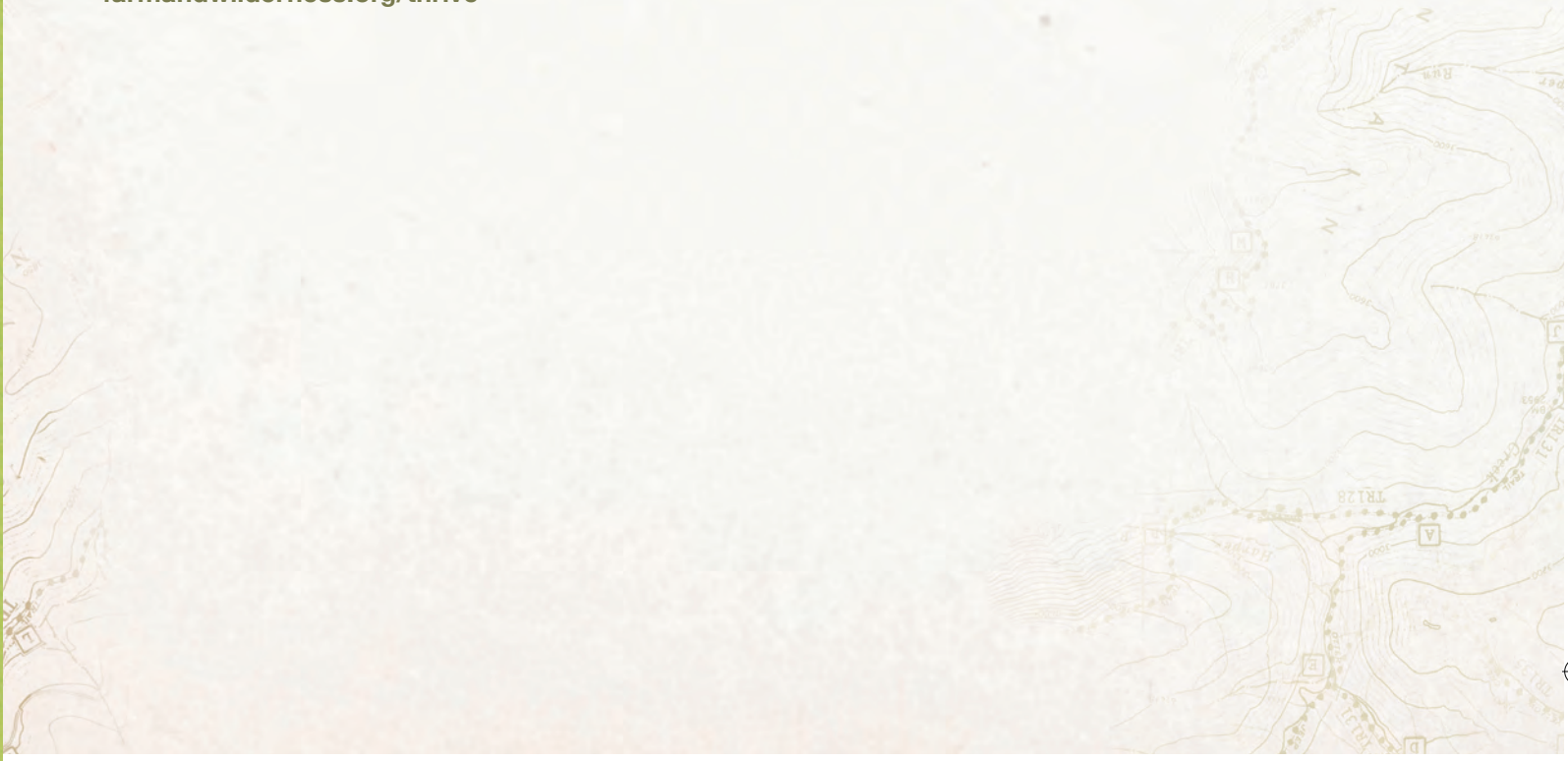


# FARM & WILDERNESS

401 Farm & Wilderness Road | Plymouth, VT 05056 USA

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