



Trail of the Bagamore

News from the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.



Windham –Tolland 4-H Camp

www.4hcampct.org

Ragged Hill Woods Educational Programs

860-974-3379/1122

Summer2020



Office Notes...

Let's face it, we miss our campers. All year, volunteers and staff work to be ready for the next season and then...whammo! Now what? Cancelling on site camp was painful. Many children rely on camp as the place to come be as they are after a stressful school year, staff count on working at camp as a part of their resume and to connect with similar minded college students from around the globe. Another form of pain is having to pay vendors and losing thousands of dollars in deposits (such as horse rentals) even though we can't make use of their services.

We are methodically and conscientiously returning registration fees, rolling over fees to next year and gratefully accepting donations.

Volunteers have been cutting and splitting wood to sell, emptying out and renovating the caretakers house for the first time in 30 years, landscaping the camp entrance, running on-line auctions and soon an on site tag sale up in the barns. The staff cabin, Lakeside, has had considerable work done and board member Barry Rider has been seen with a young friend catching bass in the pools of the drained out main pond and relocating them to second pond (when they don't jump right out of the bucket again to freedom).

But the reality is, it is much too quiet this summer. Hopefully we will be back with a bang next summer so our volunteers can take a break !

Stay safe and we will keep camp ready for you.

Hanging around the Lakeside deck, jane r.



Deb Halbach's clever and fun entrance landscaping has people smiling!

NEWS FROM THE 4-H AUCTION COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that our experiment with offering some items online through the Bidding Owl website has been a great success. The May and June auctions brought in over \$3,000 each to add to our depleted operating funds. To mix it up a bit, ***we have scheduled a yard sale at the horse barn area on Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 from 9 AM to 2 PM, rain or shine.*** We will be offering items typically sold in Heather's tent during our normal tag sale including a good selection of children's bikes, tools, gardening and household items.

Look for an e-mail notice for this and also one for our next on-line auction to run from July 23 at 9 AM to July 31 at 3 PM. We still hope to have some kind of live auction on September 11 and 12 if at all possible, but in the meantime, you can get your auction fix from the comfort of home with these little mini on line offerings.

Tag Sale: July 17 & 18, 9-2 at the horse barns
On Line Mini Auction: July 23-July 31

<https://www.biddingowl.com/windhamcounty4hfoundation>.

BUCK'S REACHES OUT TO HELP WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP

Some businesses become iconic over time, others are born that way. One of the latter is Buck's Soft Serve, LLC. Friends Judy Buell and Emilie Hebert and their families opened the serving windows to the public on May 25, 2018 and the rest is history. It is tucked away in a tiny corner of Woodstock Valley, on the farm originally owned by Harvey Buck, grandfather to Judy's husband Ben. In pre-Covid times, visits to the goat pen, bunny cages, and chicken coops, playing corn hole and hula hoops by the tables under the shade tree made it a wonderful family destination. They offer 52 hand mixed individual flavors and their famous Nor'easter's and sundaes, with hard dips, candies and sauces galore, all at reasonable prices. The loyalty of their fans was demonstrated in October of 2019, when a Planning and Zoning meeting in Woodstock to discuss the permit they had been issued had to be held at the Bates Auditorium at Woodstock Academy in order to hold all those who wanted to attend to support them.



Like all businesses, Buck's had to adapt to the constraints necessary to control exposure to the virus for their customers and staff this year. They switched to a curbside service that maximizes every inch of space in the former parking area. As you pull up to the ordering tent, you get a chance to see the goats, you place your order and a car hop brings it to your car window. A quick exit is required to keep the traffic flowing.



Camp Director Heather Logee has been selling water to Buck's customers to help pay the camp bills this summer

Both Judy and Emilie were 4-H club members and attended camp when they were kids. Emilie was born and raised on a dairy farm and went to camp throughout her childhood, "making memories and friends that I cherish to this day". She has been leading cow camp since 2016 and also does Farm Camp. Judy and her children also grew up as 4-Hers and attended camp. Judy became a club leader and also served on the advisory group to the Windham County 4-H Fair Board, working with kids in all aspects of running the fair. Judy said "the friendships I formed and skills I learned from my 4-H experiences are lifelong".

Despite the temporary change to their business model, they were concerned enough about the virus induced problems the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp was experiencing, that they set up a donation bucket at their check out and on their website. Camp Director Heather Logee and some of her administrative staff have also been on site on the weekends to sell water to customers and help with traffic management. Since the beginning of May, over \$4,500 has been raised at Buck's for the 4-H Camp! We cannot thank them enough for reaching out to help us as we struggle with the financial shortfalls caused by this year of no in-person camps.

By Elaine Nelson

Thank You Buck's!

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp is Connected!

www.4hcampct.org

Even without on-site camp, Heather and her administrative staff are working at providing programming and support for our campers.

- ◆ Over 30 teenagers are enrolled in on-line teen leader programs
- ◆ “4-H Camp Connecting...” a virtual program which will run for 6 weeks starting July 6th. Three live sessions will be sent out via Zoom on M/W/F at 9-10-11 and T/Th 1-2-3. T/Th. Weekly fees will be \$100 per camper if they provide their own supplies needed to participate or for \$150 a week, they can pick up “camp in a box” at the camp. It can be shipped for \$10 with advanced sign up. Enrolled campers will get login information the weekend before camp begins. Staff will be offering activities in the following areas: arts and crafts, self-defense, fishing, sports, nature, survival skills, drama, music, dance and many more!!! Registration for 4-H Camp Connecting.... Can be completed online by going to the camp website, www.4hcampct.org
- ◆ **Camper Family Dinners** are available to order picked up at camp and cooked up at home.
- ◆ **The Camp Store** is available online www.4hcampct.org.
- ◆ Online fundraising includes a **Go Fund Me Page** <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/summer-2020>
- ◆ And monthly **online auctions** <https://www.biddingowl.com/windhamcounty4hfoundation>

Many Thanks to The Last Green Valley

for awarding our summer program a matching technology grant to help provide the tools needed for on-line activities!

Dear Readers, We are diligently trying to reduce costs of printing and postage but are well aware that some of us appreciate good old fashioned hard copy. We can print and mail you a copy, however if we have your email you can get it faster, cheaper and in color!
wc4hfounders@gmail.com or if you call 1-860-974-3379.

Cabin Renovations Going Strong!

The pledges made to cabin renovations are reaching the third year since the project was begun. This successful program is yielding spectacular results. This spring three cabins were re-sided and two more are scheduled for later in the summer.

White Pine, (sponsored by SPIROL), was buried in tree limbs from a fall storm and is now sporting a new roof as well as new siding. **Red Cedar** (multiple donors) and **Shagbark Hickory** (In honor of Joe Pempek) are also done and awaiting new screens to be built by our new part time caretaker, Lewis Merchant. The next cabin will be **Sugar Maple**, (sponsor the Archambeaults). Thank you everyone who has helped keep this project going strong! Hopefully by 2021 all the cabins will have been refurbished and ready for a spectacular summer season! wc4hfounders@gmail.com for more information

Meet Lewis Merchant

Our New Part-Time Caretaker

Lewis is excited for the change of pace from other jobs he has held. He has extensive background not only in general maintenance but also working with children. He is a fun loving guy with a sense of humor and positive attitude. He has already been working hard at organizing the garage and workshop.



Lakeside Cabin sunporch is sporting newer windows saved from the lodge renovation and new donated cedar siding. Planning Chair Barry R. has since completed the project and gone fishing.





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Family Dinners From our Kitchen to Yours

**Order by Mondays at 5pm
 Pick up Wednesday between 12pm-5:45pm**

*To Place your order call 860-974-1122 or
 email campdirector@4hcampct.org
 Must Pre-Pay*



July 1 - Lasagna, Salad and Bread (Meat or No Meat)
 Family of (2- \$28) (4-\$45) (6-\$60)



July 8 - Shepherds Pie, Salad and Bread
 Family of (2- \$22) (4-\$35) (6-\$45)



July 15 - Chicken Parm Casserole, salad and Bread
 Family of (2- \$22) (4-\$35) (6-\$45)



July 22 - Chicken Pot Pie, Salad and Bread
 Family of (2- \$20) (4-\$30) (6-\$40)



July 29 - Chili, Salad and Corn Bread
 Family of (2- \$26) (4-\$40) (6-\$55)



August 5 - Taco Bake, Salad and Bread
 Family of (2- \$24) (4-\$36) (6-\$48)

