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Table of Contents

Executive Director Letter.....	1,2
Welcome to The Clearing.....	3,4
Welcome Back: Jared Edward.....	5,6
Purposeful Work in Action.....	7,8
Rebuild the Tamarack Building.....	9,10
Summer Staff Preview.....	11,12
Let's Meet at the Fence.....	13,14
Expanding Our Impact.....	15
The Magic of the FS Trips Building...	16,17
What We Are Doing.....	18
Community News.....	19

Dear Friends,



As I watch the snow melt, I am reminded that it will not be long before our summer staff arrive to prepare to greet our campers and families. This will be my second summer as Executive Director, and although I have been involved with the camps for a long time, I've learned so much about what is important to our families and community.

Strong programs require a commitment across the entire organization, and our very seasoned and capable staff share that commitment. We've spent much of the off-season reviewing what our families had to say and thinking about how we enhance our systems and programs to meet camper outcomes and ensure that our families' experience with us is the best it can be. And for me, being in this new role has also been an opportunity to meet and spend time with more members of the F&W community. I am truly grateful for this.

I am sure by now many of you have seen or at least heard about the documentary, *Boys of Summer*. If you've not seen it, I would encourage you to do so; it embodies the F&W experience in a way that is difficult to put into words. We as staff have also reflected on this as we prepare to open The Clearing this summer (our newest camp program, which you can read more about in this issue) and the experience we will offer to our young people, living in a beautiful setting in community with no distractions.

This is also a time when the work pace picks up on the 5,000+ acres of land that we, in partnership with Farm & Wilderness Conservation (FWC), care for. Our forestry team has been working on forest stand improvements that will not only enhance the ecological resiliency of the forest but also prioritize carbon storage and sequestration, and this is no small responsibility.



Upcoming Community Events



GOAT Hikes: May 9, 2026

Join the F&W community in a location close to you for a hike! The Farm & Wilderness Get Outside All Together (G.O.A.T) Hikes bring together the F&W community for an exploration of nature and time to connect with others in your area from the F&W community.

The Clearing Site Prep Weekend: May 22-24, 2026

An opportunity for alums to gather and honor the camp's enduring history and memories and to join in purposeful work to prepare for The Clearing. Alums from Flying Cloud, Red Spruce Grove and Dark Meadow are all welcome.

BDC Turns 40: July 26, 2026

Can you believe the Barn Day Camp (in all its lovely versions) has been a part of our community for 40 years? More information: emily@farmandwilderness.org

FAIR: August 9, 2026

The F&W team is preparing for another summer of joyful play and outdoor adventure. Save the date to join us at Fair, a decades-long, end of camp tradition. Members from our local community join campers, alumni, and their families to come together for a day (and evening!) of fun. Everyone is welcome!

Fall Work Weekend: October 2-4, 2026

Gather for food, festivities and some Love Made Visible (i.e., "Work") as we put the gardens and camps to bed for the winter. For new families, this is a great opportunity to see how we are in community together at F&W and to see our land and camps.

Scan QR Below for All Event Info!



Or visit: <https://www.farmandwilderness.org/events>

But this work does not stop here; we'll have opportunities this summer for our Tamarack Farmers to continue meaningful work on the land that contributes to healthy ecosystems and the native wild species that depend on them. You can read more about last summer's efforts to engage TF campers in this work and connect them with Farm & Wilderness Conservation.

I truly love the programming we do here at our camps, and it was a particular pleasure, this past summer, to get to spend time on the tree-felling portion of this forestry work, with capable adult guides and enthusiastic campers.

I look forward to seeing many of you this summer.

Jay Kullman, Executive Director

Summer Camps Dates 2026



Overnight Camps: TL, FS, TF, SAM

Session 1: June 24 - July 16

Session 2: July 19 - August 9

Overnight Camp: The Clearing

Session 1: June 24 - July 9

Session 2: July 19 - August 2

Barn Day Camp:

Session 1: June 22 - June 26

Session 2: June 29 - July 10

Session 3: July 13 - July 24

Session 4: July 27 - August 7

Host an F&W Gathering



Camp Directors are hitting the road! If you are interested in hosting a gathering for prospective families in your home or community, please reach out to us at: events@farmandwilderness.org

Welcome to The Clearing: Farm & Wilderness's Newest Wilderness Program

By Sam Green and Adair Arbor



For decades, families have sought out Farm & Wilderness camps for life-changing outdoor experiences that help young people discover who they are and what they're capable of. This summer, F&W welcomes a new chapter in that story with The Clearing—a small-group wilderness program designed for campers ages 11-14 seeking a distinctive kind of adventure.

The program takes its name from the physical landscape itself. Those who've spent time at the old Flying Cloud site near Lake Ninevah know it well: a central clearing that serves as the heart of camp life. But the name carries deeper meaning too—a clearing of time, of mental space, of room to breathe. In a world where young people move from one structured activity to another, The Clearing offers something increasingly rare: the chance to slow down, sink into place, and discover what emerges when you're truly present.

A Space for the Curious

The Clearing serves campers who might prefer smaller group settings, who light up at the mention of friction fires or animal tracking, who want to learn what it means to live close to the land. These are kids who are curious about wilderness skills—whether or not they've ever practiced them before.

"I'm excited for the kiddos who are looking more for that small group experience," reflects Sam Green, F&W's Enrollment Director. "You can see they're ready to help shape what they want to get out of childhood in ways that feel harder to access in more traditional settings."

The program welcomes both newcomers and those with outdoor experience. Staff create careful scaffolding that assumes nothing about prior knowledge while celebrating whatever skills campers bring. It's okay to struggle. The point is the learning itself—and the discovery that you can do hard things.

Structured Learning, Unstructured Wonder

The Clearing balances intentional skill-building with spaciousness for exploration and play. Campers will have opportunities to learn tangible wilderness competencies: fire-building (including friction fire), hide tanning, shelter construction, water procurement, tracking, and more.

Equally important are the slower moments, like pumping water by hand, or sitting still in one spot, noticing how the forest changes over time, or working patiently through frustration when the bow drill doesn't immediately produce an ember.

"Some of the activities are going to be pure fun and high energy," notes Adair Arbor, Director of both SAM Camp and The Clearing. "And some of the beauty of what we'll do is kind of tedious and slow—you have to just sit with yourself and be patient with the process. In the end, you're achieving something really important, not just with the task itself, but with what you're building in your brain and in your heart."





The Deep Breath of Wilderness

The Clearing provides what many young people desperately need: a deep breath. Coming straight from the hectic final weeks of the school year, campers enter a different rhythm—one shaped by daylight and weather, by the pace of natural processes, by the time it actually takes to build a fire or prepare a meal from scratch.

This slower tempo creates space for the kind of childhood play and exploration that's becoming scarce. Kids who might typically move between adult-structured activities find themselves with time and freedom to pursue their own interests, to work on projects that matter to them, to simply exist without constant productivity demands.

Sam Green recalls watching a handful of campers return day after day to spend their free time building their own creations in Work Projects at the Barn Day Camp, building skills incrementally: "I'm excited to see that same energy—that focus on one thing, the supported struggle through frustration and failure, the reminder that everyone has different ups and downs of skill sets and interests."

Building Community Through Shared Challenge

While The Clearing emphasizes individual skill development, it's fundamentally a community experience. Living in a small group means campers must navigate relationships, collaborate on shared tasks, and support each other through challenges. They'll learn to teach skills to peers and even to counselors who may be learning alongside them.

"There's something really special about teaching someone older than you," Green observes. "It grounds everyone—adults don't know every single thing either; they're also learning. Campers can be examples of how to be good helpers."

The program draws on F&W's Quaker foundation and Vermont geography rather than borrowing traditions from other cultures, creating an authentic sense of place. For families who've known and loved previous iterations of F&W's wilderness programming through Flying Cloud and Red Spruce Grove, The Clearing will feel both familiar and fresh—the same values of resiliency, skill-building, friendship, and community, rooted in a landscape that longtime campers and alumni already love.

As the name suggests, The Clearing is a "clearing" in every sense—of physical space, of time, of campers' perceptions of their own limits. And for campers ready to step into that openness, it promises to be exactly the learning environment they've been looking for.



Welcome Back, Again, to Jared Edward, Facilities Manager

By Clarissa Thompson



Jared Edward is back at Farm & Wilderness. Again. This has happened before; in fact, talking with him about his time at F&W, I wonder if anyone can actually top his list of roles and returns (not that it's a competition; remember, it's always a Quaker tie). Jared first arrived as a camper in 1997, as a Lower Big Lodger, in Wolves. He is also not the first person in his family to come to F&W. His father was here in the 1960s, as a camper at both TL and TF. He then returned as staff, running the Trading Post back when we used it for supplying trips/trip food.

Jared's first round spanned five years as a camper, from 1997 to 2001 – four at TL and one at TF. He returned in 2008, as a cabin counselor, and was assigned by TL leadership to teach in the Work Projects activity area. He recalls that Work Projects was actually not where he had originally spent time: as a camper, he was more interested in Outdoor Living Skills and the Pioneer track. After the summer of 2008, he stayed on as part of the Fall Crew – while we can still count this as Round Two, the work he did then would have introduced him to a different landscape than that of a summer cabin counselor. Fast forward a few years for Round Three, when Jared shifted roles again, and spent 2011, 2012, and 2014 summers working in the TL kitchen.

Round Four came after another stretch of time “away” from F&W, while Jared embarked on a career focused on carpentry and construction. He says that while he loves cooking, he wanted a “regular weekday job” rather than one that had him working nights and weekends. His first job during high school was at a pool equipment repair shop, taking things that were broken and trying to figure out how to fix them. He enjoys doing tangible things, working with his hands; the feeling of working physically, being tired at the end of the day, but hopefully with a bit of energy left as well. For this fourth round at F&W, Jared returned as the Work Projects Head at Timberlake for the summers of 2021 and 2022.



Welcome now, to Round Five, certainly Jared's most ambitious role yet, and his first time as a member of the Year Round Staff at F&W. He returned in February of 2025, as our Facilities Manager, and has just finished his first year. He describes his role as “managing all of the maintenance and construction at our six summer camps”. Though he also emphasizes the educational part of it. He gets to work with staff and campers, and support the growth and learning goals that are deeply embedded in all that we do here at F&W. He also supports the Work Projects program at each camp.

Engaging campers in learning how to use tools, how to contribute to larger building projects that will benefit the community as a whole, as well as giving them opportunities to dream up their own more personal projects and see them to completion, is both a unique and a central part of what we do here, in the summer.



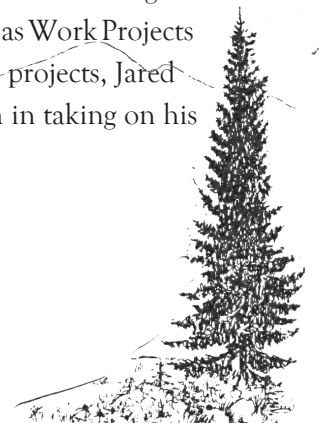
Jared describes the rhythm of the year, the four somewhat distinct seasons of time and work, around Woodward Reservoir and up at Ninevah. In the fall, the focus is on construction projects, finishing things that were started in the summer (e.g., the FS Trips Building) and starting new ones (e.g., the TF Building Building). At that time of year, it's important to get as much outdoor work done as you can. Shutting down all the camps, after our busy summer work, is another focus of fall work for Jared and his crew (he manages a team of about four people). In the winter, they turn to indoor work, specifically preparing as much as possible for spring and summer. Once the snow melts, construction and summer preparation ramp up as the opening days of summer approach. For Jared, the role has a much bigger administrative side than any of his previous roles, with phone calls, paperwork, and so on taking up more time. However, with 250 buildings and 5,000+ acres of Farm & Wilderness Conservation (FWC) lands, there will never be a shortage of physical work to do.



Last summer, in his new role as Facilities Manager, Jared began each day with a plan. However, he quickly learned that, in the midst of the busy summer, each day provided its own ready-made plan with a fresh crop of needs and situations to attend to. At the moment, Jared is particularly excited about the launch of our newest summer camp program: The Clearing. Located at the former Flying Cloud site, creating the infrastructure for this program is a big focus for the Resource team. While The Clearing is intended to provide a true wilderness experience for campers, we are making some enhancements to better support program goals. Previously, the ground was often wet, and things got quite dirty quite quickly. To address this, the Resource team will build new structures, including elevated platforms for the yurts and several new kybos. They're also installing solar water pumps and propane systems for hot water and refrigeration, while leaving the infrastructure for hand pumping and cooking over the fire for programmatic reasons.

Having worked here in so many capacities, and over so many years, it is easy to see how Jared has transitioned so easily and successfully into this new role. Starting as a camper and experiencing the magic of camp firsthand and then turning around to work with children in the role of cabin counselor gives him important insight into the camper experience and what is really at the core of our work. Our kitchens, and those who work in them, are the unsung heroes of the summer. If the community is not well fed, how can we run good programs?

Therefore, Jared's summers in our kitchens, learning about both the physical space and the human processes involved in producing meals for large groups, are key here too. Finally, as Work Projects Head, supervising both staff and projects, Jared developed skills that support him in taking on his biggest role yet.



PURPOSEFUL WORK IN ACTION: THE TAMARACK FARM ECO IMMERSION

By Elisabeth Rondinone



2025 marked the 4th year of the Ecology and Conservation Immersion at Tamarack Farm, fondly referred to as Eco. Each session, campers who participate in Eco have the opportunity to work alongside Farm & Wilderness Conservation (FWC) staff on meaningful projects across the 5,000+ acres of land cared for by FWC. This is one of the many opportunities where our conservation work intersects with our camp programming, bringing the land and people together. TF campers obtain a greater sense of place in the surrounding landscape while beginning to grasp the complexity and nuance of the natural world. Highlights from the summer of 2025 include hiking throughout the property, canoeing on Woodward Reservoir, tree planting at our wetland restoration site, water quality testing, macroinvertebrate sampling in local streams, and Vermont mammal identification.

During the second session, TF campers had an exciting opportunity to work with the FWC Forestry Team to learn about ecological forestry concepts and the responsibility of managing land to create resilient and ecologically diverse forests.



For the first portion of the forestry intensive, Jeff Dacey, one of FWC's foresters, took campers to a variety of sites throughout our landholdings to demonstrate examples of different forest management strategies. These included discussions of carbon storage, biodiversity, adaptations to climate change, habitat management for wildlife, and the ways in which we can prepare for threats such as the Emerald Ash Borer, a forest pest that will have a significant impact on the composition of Vermont forests in the coming years.

Alongside Jeff, Executive Director Jay Kullman introduced techniques for felling trees by hand with axes and saws. Campers learned about the different safety procedures, creating a felling plan, and the different techniques and forces at play when establishing undercuts, back cuts, and hinges. All of these strategies help the tree fall in a safe and controlled way.



Campers then had the chance to practice those skills in one of our Timber Stand Improvement project areas. The goal of the project was to open up the canopy and remove trees that were crowding out species such as Red Spruce and Balsam Fir. With more light and space, spruce and fir are able to flourish. Trees that were cut were left on the ground to provide a layer of coarse woody debris, an essential component to a diverse and resilient forest.

The spruce and fir will in turn provide important habitat and food for animals such as snowshoe hare, a species likely to experience challenges in a warming climate. “Doing this work makes young people feel empowered” says Jay, “they are doing meaningful work in the face of climate change, it can give them hope.”

The next day, after practicing and fine tuning their hand felling skills (and after we sought parent permission), campers had the option to learn from Jay how to safely operate a chain saw. The experience was offered as a challenge by choice opportunity with the ultimate goal of providing campers with a safe and supportive environment to try something new and potentially step out of their comfort zone.



Alongside Jeff and Jay, campers were able to make considerable progress on the Timber Stand Improvement project during their time in the Eco Immersion. “The work we are doing is real” says Jay.

We are proud to provide our campers with hands-on experiences and opportunities to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

Understandably, some campers felt more confident and eager to try it out than others. In addition to running the chain saw, campers learned about the importance of keeping everyone safe in the woods, the necessary personal protective equipment for operating chainsaws, the need for a felling plan, and what First Aid materials to have on hand.

“Running a chainsaw can be a powerful experience for a young person” says Jay. “There’s the noise and the vibration from the saw; it makes them a little nervous. Once they’ve done it, they feel strong, recognize their own power, and it builds confidence and their perceptions of themselves.” In the end, everyone wanted to give it a shot, and those who had initially felt nervous were glad they tried it out, with some even sharing that it was one of the highlights of their time at camp.



REBUILDING THE TAMARACK FARM BUILDING BUILDING

By Clarissa Thompson

Since the re-launch of Tamarack Farm in the summer of 2022, the Carpentry and Construction (C&C) Immersion has seen meteoric success, and an explosion of interest from campers. Farm & Wilderness has long had a commitment to giving campers a chance to build things and use tools, power and hand, and to design their own projects: build a shelf for your bunk in your cabin, why yes, of course. Help build a whole new cabin at camp? Again, yes of course.

At Firefly Song, Timberlake, and the Barn Day Camp, we call these programs Work Projects (remember the iconic Women at Work sign outside the IB/FS Work Projects area?). Starting at age 5 at the BDC, some of our youngest campers are introduced to tools and given a chance to begin practicing skills in this area.



Over the last few years at Tamarack Farm, participants in the C&C Immersion have built a kybo and three entire cabins; two replacing former cabins Shelter (now Phoenix) and Lothlorian (now “new Loth”), and the third an entirely new cabin, named Trillium. They have also done major renovations to Pendragon cabin, built a new Dance Barn porch and stairs, and made renovations to the Rec Lodge to increase airflow in this changing climate.



The success of this program can be attributed to great leadership. Jay Kullman, in his prior role as Sustainable Resource Director, led this immersion in the early days (and continues to talk about how he misses getting to participate in this work with campers!). He does still offer some guidance and this summer enjoyed working with the apprentices during First Session. In the last few years, ably led by long time F&Wer Sam Vail, the immersion has continued to grow in popularity.

But it is not just great leadership. As campers talk about their decision to come to Tamarack Farm, we’re seeing evidence that today’s teens are eager for hands-on work and want to develop carpentry skills. In fact, we have learned that this is something that attracts campers and families who are completely new to us: kids want to learn carpentry and there are not that many ways for them to do so.

One of the side benefits of the success and wild popularity of this immersion (side benefit is maybe just another term for interdependence, a concept we talk about a lot at F&W) has been a stream of counselors, often first campers at TL or FS who then went to TF, furthered the skills they first started learning at camp as 9-14 year olds, and now are returning and want to work in Work Projects. This is the kind of trajectory we love to see at F&W!





This past summer, the Work Projects program at Firefly Song was led by Lizzie Appelbaum and El Alvarez-Rosenbloom, both former FS and TF campers with a strong commitment to the ethos of Work Projects area: empowering campers, teaching skills with tools, creating new structures around camp; helping to maintain our existing structures, and helping kids realize their own goals around building. And, lo and behold, Lizzie was a participant in the Carpentry and Construction immersion when she was at TF, as well as a woodchuck (Work Projects apprentice) when she was a camper at FS. And, as you can read about elsewhere in this issue, El and Lizzie were instrumental in the construction of the new Trips Building at FS in the summer of 2025.



On the heels of the success of this project, Tamarack Farm will follow suit and build a new “Building Building” in the summer of 2026. Kate Kyros, current TF director, notes that the existing building “holds a lot of nostalgia and sense memory when you walk in and smell the space. But the spaces in the Building Building are these really small little rooms and so we actually don’t have the space to do work in that building, so that has to happen outside.” The current space is also inadequate for the type of teaching and learning we aim to do in these program areas as well as for working on projects in the event of inclement weather. The new building will also provide space for woodworking, if desired, in future years.



The new building will be set where the old Art Barn is – across the parking lot from the current Building Building, and will increase the current footprint from 640 sq. feet to 800 sq. feet. Kate describes the new space as “this perfect site because it’s right there by the road and the parking lot. We can back the truck and vehicles right up to it and then we can also expand into that nice flat area for skills demonstration and all that. We can build in wood storage. The plan is to have big barn doors and we’re really thinking about climate change in terms of airflow and heavy rain and flood prevention.”

Will this be their most demanding project yet? Hard to say. Will it create great opportunities for camper growth? Absolutely.

SNEAK PREVIEW OF OUR 2026 SUMMER STAFF

By Clarissa Thompson



A screen-free experience; living simply (which among other things means without technology); off-grid. Words and phrases that get thrown around in our materials, on our website, and in conversations about Farm & Wilderness. These remain core values and practices for us. And yet technology, and the internet specifically, has been a source of good fortune, a way to widen our reach and make us more accessible to a more diverse audience. Families and staff who might never have found us a few decades ago now find us, and we are all better for this. They are searching for a certain type of camp or experience, they input certain terms and, like a form of magic, we appear.



At the same time, word of mouth continues to be our strongest “recruitment approach” in terms of bringing new campers and their families to camp.

(Note: if you know a family who might love our programs, please do connect them with us!)

And, one of the most special parts of Farm & Wilderness is watching our campers grow up and return as staff members, bringing their deep love for camp back to shape the next generation's experience.

Here are some of our 2026 summer staff members, all of whom were campers at one or more of our camps. You will also notice, in some of these profiles, how staff members will sometimes move from one camp to another, as they engage in their own professional growth, seeking out new F&W communities and opportunities over time.

Eva
Barn Day Camp Program Director

“I was a camper for a whopping 12 years at BDC, FS, SAM, and TF, and have spent 6 years as a staff member! I was a staff kid, so I really don't remember a time when I didn't want to be on F&W summer staff. It's in my bones! But I do remember being a camper at FS and thinking my counselors were the coolest people in the world, and knowing I wanted to be like just them. It is so awesome to have the opportunity to be back year after year, seeing F&W grow and making these experiences happen for so many campers.”

Huck
Timberlake Senior Lodge Head

“I was a camper for 6 years at BDC and TL. 2025 was my third year on staff. I really struggled with trips when I was a camper—I loved being at TL, and I didn't want to leave to go sleep in a tent! Now that I've been a trip leader myself, I've found a new love for type 2 fun, the irreplaceable friendships that happen in your trip groups, and the stories that last a lifetime.”

Alec
Timberlake BigLodge Head (and former Waterfront Head)

“I was a TL camper for 5 years, and 2025 was my fourth year as a staff member! Camp helped me to develop skills as a manager of other people, and to be more confident in my leadership abilities.”

Sean

Tamarack Farm Program Director (and former cook)

“ I had a wonderful experience as a TF camper for two summers, and have now been on staff at F&W for three. Tamarack Farm gave me a space to feel truly free, away from the stresses and complexities of the outer world. I was able to run around barefoot, perform the strangest of skits with my friends, and be challenged in thoughtful ways I hadn’t been before. I worked at the Barn Day Camp my first year on staff, and now have been at TF my home-away-from-home, for the past two. I’ve had such a fun time on staff, and feel so lucky that I get to help create new memories and experiences for today’s campers! ”



Cedric

The Clearing Assistant Director

“ I spent 10 years as a camper at the BDC, TL, FC, and TF, and have spent 4 years on staff at FC and TF. As a kid, F&W was a place where I was able to figure out who I was in a safe and caring community; there has been no greater gift in my life than being able to give back to a place that has been so important to me. I love bringing camp magic to life every summer, seeing the community grow and evolve year after year. ”

Willa

The Clearing Program Support (and former Firefly Staff and Outdoor Living Skills Head)

“ On my first night home from my final session as a camper, when I was still all sore and tan with candle wax in my fingernails, I remember gazing up my street at all these glowing windows and sobbing at the thought that camp’s role in my life was over. I know it’s cheesy but I wish I could tell that 14 year old girl that the warmth, strength, whimsy and fulfillment F&W offered her as a kid would be far eclipsed as a young adult; getting a hand in conjuring camp’s magic, guiding new little communities through their camp dreams and ambitions, and learning the nooks and crannies of the land so distinctly. ”



Fia

Firefly Song Trip Staff (and former Waterfront staff)

“ I was a camper at FS for four years before returning to be on staff the past two summers. Camp has held such a special place in my life and I am so grateful I get to come back year after year. I love being able to help create an inclusive, empowering, environment for campers and watch them grow to adore camp as much as I do! ”

LET'S MEET AT THE FENCE

By Emily Mathon and Clarissa Thompson

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up at the Barn Day Camp (BDC) fence is a daily occurrence, all summer long. According to Emily Mathon (current BDC Director and former BDC parent) it is an important part of the BDC experience. It is a time and a place where we are able to engage families, building connections between them and us, and giving them a glimpse into the day camp landscape. Parents get to be a part of camp for this particular moment in time.



What is the Barn Day Camp fence?

The fence is a landmark at the BDC; it is the physical boundary where campers say goodbye to their grown-ups and say hello to camp for the day; the fence is a place where the counselors welcome the campers at the beginning of the day and say goodbye in the afternoon. At the fence, families have the opportunity to both witness and experience a taste of the BDC and Farm & Wilderness, in general. The day starts with the bell signaling everyone to gather in our Rainbow Circle and sit alongside their group mates. We invite families to stay and watch our morning routines, from the fence, once they have said goodbye to their children. After a few announcements, the counselors perform fun, silly, exciting, enticing skits to advertise their afternoon activities. Lastly, we sing our morning song every single day, which sets the tone for a joyful day.

I remember being a parent on the other side of the fence watching the skits and imagining which activity my children were going to choose for the day and what their day might look like. Some families sing the morning song with us, and some just take in the words; families then go about their day as we go about ours.

At the end of the day families start to trickle up to the fence as campers finish up their snacks. They might be enjoying a cold popsicle on a hot day or eating freshly baked bread that they produced earlier in the day. We ring our final bell of the day and families get to watch our closing circle.



We sing raucous, silly, active songs that we invite families to join in. At the end of the day when families are driving home with their campers they can ask questions with a little bit more information and a little bit more insight; they have had the chance to see the amazing creations that campers are going home with, costumes they might be wearing, and hear about friendships that are building.

One of the values at Farm & Wilderness is Community. Barn Day Camp, for many children, is the first opportunity to participate in community at Farm & Wilderness. Families that are joining us for the first time can really see what Farm & Wilderness is about. Families who may have been campers themselves or former staff members can connect with one another and at the same time welcome new families into the community. I love how the fence is a physical boundary that is also porous and welcoming and provides transparency.

In my experience as a parent sending my kids to various day camps over the years, the drop off and pick up time is most often transactional: drop off your child, check them in and pick up your child, check them out with maybe a brief greeting. I believe the opportunity that we offer at the Barn Day Camp is truly special because we invite and welcome families to get a glimpse into the world of camp and share in the joy themselves.



These are our youngest campers, entrusted to us by their parents. The opportunity for families to build confidence in us that the BDC program supports, broadly, and that time at the fence creates, more specifically, is pivotal to the success of all our programs, as well as the success of these young campers, experiencing time away from their parents, time in nature and the wilderness, and all the delightful camp magic that F&W provides.

Barn Day Camp Recipes



Maple Butter -Anna Sullivan, BDC Snack Slinger

Hand churn heavy cream into butter and add a pinch of salt OR just buy some butter. Let it come to room temp, and use a whisk or electric beater to combine equal parts salted butter and Vermont Maple Syrup. Delicious on toast, oatmeal, biscuits, etc.



BDC Hand Salad – Josie Dickson Dulles

- Fresh salad greens, preferably from the garden. Enough to fill your largest bowl.
- Drizzle with olive oil, tossing continually until shiny.
- Sprinkle with flaky sea salt
- Wash your hands
- Grab some tongs in one hand and serve yourself a handful of salad.
- Invite some friends over and serve them salad in their hands too.
- Repeat as needed!!



Birthday Party Announcement



The Barn Day Camp turns 40 years old this summer! What other way to celebrate than a birthday party?! Save the date for the afternoon of Sunday, July 26th. More details to come.

BDC call for stories:

What is your favorite memory of the BDC?

What songs do you remember? What friendships do you still treasure from your early years at Farm & Wilderness? To celebrate our 40 years, we are collecting stories of Barn Day Camp through the years.

Email: emily@farmandwilderness.org. Please include your name, the year/s you attended, and your story!

We accept photos too!

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT: EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By Elisabeth Rondinone

We are pleased to announce that Farm & Wilderness Conservation (FWC) recently launched two new partnerships with local organizations, expanding our reach in the local community. These new opportunities complement our existing partnerships with afterschool programs at eight local elementary schools in the area. The new opportunities include the Plymouth Schoolhouse, a childcare center down the road from F&W and The Community Campus, a non-profit organization based in Woodstock.



During the school year when camp is not in session, our educators from FWC and F&W visit over 100 students each month, providing informative and engaging programs that inspire young people to make a difference. Program topics are centered around agriculture and environmental education. These activities allow students to get outside and connect with one another and the natural world. Previous program themes have included Vernal Pools, Animal Tracks, Animal Sounds, and the crowd favorite, Meet the Goats! We are excited that these new partnerships offer us the opportunity to engage with more members of the surrounding community as well as our neighbors right down the road in Plymouth!



THE MAGIC OF THE NEW FS TRIPS BUILDING

By Clarissa Thompson

After several years of planning, dreaming, and fundraising, in the summer of 2025 the community at FS – and really the wider F&W community - constructed our new Trips Building. If you have read any other updates and news pieces from us, you may well have heard about the efforts that went into this project, and the goals we had. Here’s how it all turned out.



Spring saw the land being cleared and even the land being shaped so that the new building would be better situated, enhancing the accessibility and programmatic flow for trips. We also re-planted the site with maples after the required ash tree removal.

The first significant learning moment was during Skills Week (a part of our Staff Orientation time), when Work Projects staff from the BDC, TL, FS, and TF came together for four days to deck and frame the new building. Initial foundation work was done by our Resource Team in the late spring. We are committed to training our staff in a variety of ways, including helping them learn the technical and teaching skills they will need to work with campers in each activity area.



The Resource Team and Sam Vail (Carpentry and Construction Immersion Lead at TF for Summer 2025) led these days of work, with staff learning how to use a combination of tools and scaffolding and - perhaps most importantly - human power. They built the frame lying flat and then all together lifted it up and put it in place.

Once campers arrived, the Firefly Song Work Projects team, led by El Alvarez-Rosenbloom and Lizzie Appelbaum, took charge and had campers working on all aspects of the construction. The First and Big Lodge campers did all the siding – essentially building the walls that the staff had framed during Skills Week.



Also notable is the work that our Senior Lodgers did. These are the oldest campers at Firefly Song, and rather than rotating through all of our activity areas during morning programming, they each pick one area and dive more deeply into that across the session. The Work Projects Apprenticeship - focusing on the Trips Building – was wildly popular this summer.





The campers began by brainstorming and considering features of similar buildings at F&W. During staff training, a few of us took a trip up to SAM to look at Mac O Bac, their Trips Building, and the First Session Woodchucks (as the Work Projects apprentices are called) took a tour of Ken's Lodge and then came up with the plans for what they wanted to build. They ended up building an interior wall, a planning table (on wheels, so that it is movable!) with storage underneath, and shelves. The Second Session Woodchucks followed with building cubbies, a mouse proof storage cabinet, more shelves, and installing hooks.

The campers learned a lot about how to use tools safely and successfully and manage their time efficiently. At the start, their counselor leaders provided instruction at every step, but by the end of the first week the apprentices had become confident and were dividing up the tasks and knew what tools to use for different situations.



With the new building a construction site during the summer, our Trips Staff had to be flexible with their program. They got creative and decided to turn the Camper Library (upstairs in Cozy Lodge) into a makeshift trip gear storage and management area. One of the things we are all looking forward to is moving the gear into the new building and getting to use that space to support our Trips Program. Of course, so much of camp is really about the process and engaging campers in the doing and learning, so having the new building be such a rich site for camper growth this summer was magical.

Creative Arts ran a Senior Lodge Apprenticeship focused on designing and painting murals to adorn both the Trips Building and our new Cocoa House stage (the Cocoa House stage needed to be relocated due to the changed landscape at the Trips Building site).



For the Trips Building mural, they captured the notion of interdependence that we lean so heavily into here at F&W, painting a scene depicting the Big Fire that we build and burn several times throughout the summer. The mural now lives on the side of the new Trips Building, brightening up the area and symbolizing the collaboration across activity areas - Work Projects, Creative Arts, and Trips, as well as the support many parts of our camp community offered to this project. We love to show off our accomplishments and hope you will have a chance to see what we have done, this coming summer.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

F&W rendezvous in Thailand! This past fall **Hana Roggendorf** (SAM camper 2018, Quester 2021, and FS staff 2024, 2025) studied art and religion in Indonesia, **Rachel Walker** (FS staff 2024, 2025) studied language and culture in Nepal, **Maeve Richards** (SAM staff 2024, 2025) studied gender and development in Nepal, and **Naomi Meyers** (FS staff 2024, 2025) studied rainforest and reef ecology in Australia! After their respective adventures across the globe, Hana, Rachel, Maeve, and Naomi met up in Thailand! They began by exploring the city of Bangkok, attending a Buddhist evening chant and then continued south, getting some Vitamin D and ample swimming in on the beaches of Koh Lanta (just a little bit warmer than the Woodward Reservoir!).

Their trip was filled with so much laughter and many beautiful views that would be perfect places for a silent meeting!

Leo Bruell (TL '12, '13, TL staff '16, '17, '18) married Rachel Kiser Taylor on September 28, 2024 in Tucson, Arizona and welcomed Matthew Noah Bruell on July 18, 2025! The family is happily settled in Tucson. **Harry** (TL '80-83, TL staff '85-90, TL Director '95-97) and Jenny Bruell live in Santa Barbara, CA and are very proud grandparents.

Mat Keel (aka Matt Kuehl, TL 84-88, FC 89) writes:

In 2025, My wife, Liz, and I moved to a homestead in Proctor near Rutland after 5 years running Yes We Cannibal, a gallery and project space for new art and thought in Baton Rouge where I was finishing a mid-life PhD in Cultural Geography. My son Gus is now 12 and excited to be returning to TL for a third summer in 2026.

Jane Wohl (IB 60, 61; TF 62, 63, IB staff 67, Flying Cloud staff 68,69. Flying Cloud co-director 71-73; Camp parent and camp grandparent..) writes that she “graduated from Union Theological Seminary in May 2025. My time at Union was one of the most spiritually rich experiences of my life. I am now living in Brattleboro,VT and welcome visitors.

After 33 years in education, **Jay Silvio** (TL camper and staff 82-95, 06-07) retired and moved from Frederick, Maryland to Hartland, Vermont with his wife, **Laurel Manthey-Silvio** (Staff 06-07). After spending many summers at Farm & Wilderness, Vermont called to him. Jay is hiking and snowshoeing through his first winter as well as volunteering in the community.

Also making the move north to Vermont is their son, **Haven** (BDC 06-07 and staff 17-19) and his family as well as his in-laws. Days are filled exploring the local trails, splitting and stacking wood, caring for grandsons Finley and Sage, and enjoying a slower and at times wilder pace of life. If you come to the area, find Jay working at the Skunk Hollow Tavern where he has already met up with others from the Farm & Wilderness community.

Phil Lidov (TL Camper 1979-82; TL CA 1985; TL Staff 1986-87, 89-90; Fall Crew – 1990) writes:

“If you told me at the start of 2025 that we would end the year living in Woolwich, Maine and not Denver, it would have come as a complete surprise. But kids grow up, and circumstances change. My wife Linda was offered a wonderful job here with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and I retired due to Parkinson's Disease in the summer of 2024. I'm now five years into my PD journey. It's not particularly fun and requires a lot of my time, focus and energy to stay on top of it. However, I feel thankful for its slow progression and for the opportunities that I still have to enjoy my new life here.

Since coming to Maine I have had the chance to catch up with **Dan and Ann Beatty Rose, Lois Myers and Scott Morrow**, who also just retired here just a couple of miles away!”

PASSINGS

✿ Wendy, Roger, and Andy Satterthwaite share the news that their mother, **Ellen Satterthwaite**, died on August 12, 2024. Ellen was the Waterfront Director at Indian Brook (Firefly Song) in 1960, teaching countless nervous young swimmers how to swim. She returned to F&W with her family in 1977, spending seven more years at camp. She started out working with the Flying Squirrels and then was on the Waterfront staff. Everywhere Ellen lived she found a way to bring music to the world. She was a facilitator; she directed, accompanied, and planned to help others shine. Her love affair with the keyboard lasted until just before she died, still playing proficiently to entertain others.

✿ We mourn the loss of **Barry Stout**, who passed away peacefully on June 30, 2025. Barry was a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother, and a true friend to many. He touched the lives of thousands of people, as a gifted teacher and mentor, a coach, a camp counselor, and a tennis and ski instructor. Barry spent several summers as the Waterfront Director at Timberlake. For a number of years, Barry and his wife Martyne Stout (long time IB camper and staff, and current FS staff) lived in a tent at the top of Pooh Hill at Firefly Song (then Indian Brook) when their children, Dan and Ali (both campers and staff over the years), were Flying Squirrels.

✿ **Joe, Nina, Bob and Dano Weisbord** (many camps, many years) shared the news of the passing of their father, Marvin Weisbord, who died on March 19, 2025, at the age of 93. Marvin's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have attended or worked at Farm & Wilderness over the last 60 years. Marvin was a longtime supporter of FWC and before that the Ninevah Foundation's work to protect Lake Ninevah and the land around it, which he loved dearly. Marvin and his surviving spouse Dorothy first arrived at Lake Ninevah in 1966, having seen an ad for land in Vermont. A cabin overlooking the lake called "Blueberry Patch" captured his imagination and became the heart of family life. Three generations of children grew up exploring the trails, sailing on the lake, and eating Marv's special pancakes filled with freshly picked blueberries.

Birth Announcements



Adair Arbor (Ninevah Camps Director) and her husband, Arris, welcomed their daughter, Cleome Maple Arbor, to the world on January 31. She was born at 9 lb 5 oz and is healthy and well. Her big brother, Salix, will be a first time BDC camper this summer, and little Cleo will be part of the community around SAM and The Clearing!



Welcome to the World!



ABOUT THE INTERIM

- ▶ The Interim is the newsletter of the Farm & Wilderness summer camps. We welcome submissions of news, writing, drawings, cartoons, photographs, or other work. To submit your work to the Interim, email: interim@farmandwilderness.org OR via postal mail to: Interim/Farm & Wilderness, 401 Farm and Wilderness Road, Plymouth, VT 05056.
- ▶ Share your news or story with us at: farmandwilderness.org/stay-connected



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