



Citizens of Shawtown Camp Workcoeman 2019 Pre-Camp Newsletter



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Camp Ranger	Frank Galliher	860-379-2207	Rangerfrank@campworkcoeman.org
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Camp Director's message...

Camp Workcoeman's 95th anniversary summer camp season is quickly approaching! Many items from the waterfront improvement grant have arrived or will arrive soon. New docks for the swimming and fishing areas are assembled and in the water. The underwater drones have arrived and the log rolling activity as well as aqua catapult and splash mat will be arriving soon. To commemorate the 95th anniversary, a camp reunion will be held on Saturday, July 27. Everyone with a camp memory is invited to attend. It will be a great time to see the old friends and recall the things that make Camp Workcoeman a special place in so many people's lives.

The 2019 summer camp season promises to be an exciting time! Plan to be part of this memorable time. The best to you all! Lou Seiser, Camp Director

Upcoming Events and Activities

June 1 Beaver Day
and Annual Steak Dinner
Fundraiser

September 14
Fall Work Day

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## *Now a few words from our Fearless Leader...*

Greetings!

Spring has flown by and despite the cold, dreary weather summer will be here before you know it! In no time at all our favorite Scout camp will be filled with the sounds of laughter and fun as we kick off yet another year at Camp Workcoeman. This year marks the 95th year of Scouting along the shores of West Hill Pond and we are hoping to make it the best yet! There are lots of special activities and events planned over the coming months, I sure hope that you can participate in at least a few of them.

By the time you receive this newsletter, our Annual Steak and Chicken BBQ will be just a few days away. I am hopeful that you will be able to come up to camp and join in this great event. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we could use everyone's help. The biggest money maker for our organization at this event is the silent auction. If everyone of us donates either an item or a service, the tables would be filled with things for folks to bid on. If you know of someone that might want to give towards this event, please reach out and ask them as well. There is a donation request letter available if you want to bring that into a local business to ask for their support. Just reach out and let us know and we will get you a copy ASAP. Let's kick off this years 95th Anniversary with a bang and make our Steak and Chicken BBQ a huge success.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Annual Steak and Chicken BBQ will mark the end of my time as Chairman of the Citizens of Shawtown. My hope is that someone will step up and take the reigns to move the group forward. We have an outstanding group of volunteers who offer time and talents to continue improving Camp Workcoeman. Hopefully one of you will feel the call to step up and guide this group forward. Please reach out to me or Lou if you have any questions as to what being the chair of this group entails. Either or both of us would be happy to fill you in.

Again, I appreciate everyone's assistance over the past few years as I have served as the chair of the Citizens of Shawtown. It has been an honor to work along side of you and to serve the group, Camp Workcoeman and all of the Scouts who spend time there.

Dan Bielefield, Chairman, Citizens of Shawtown

***ANNOUNCING the arrival of our brand-new 2019 Citizens of Shawtown patch!***

Our new Citizens patch is now available for a donation of \$5. We are using it as a fundraiser for our group. The initial funds for its' creation were donated by Paul Varkal, one of our newer Citizens members so all proceeds are PROFIT for us. See Brian or Lou for yours. These are a limited edition of 200 so jump to your feet and get yours soon..... they will also be sold at the June 1st Dinner and Auction! Paul also donated funds to create a new "Spirit of Workcoeman" patch that will be used this summer during regular weekly camping sessions.



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In the words of..... Range Frank Galliher

Frank Galliher, aka "Ranger Frank", is an integral part of Camp Workcoeman(CW) and a member of the Citizens of Shawtown(Citizens) since he became the ranger at CW in 2003. His daughters were born, raised and brought up on CW dining hall food and over the years he has been out to Shawtown many times.

What makes CW special to you?

CW holds many special memories shared with Scouters from around the world.

What was/is your favorite project completed by the members of the Citizens?

As a Citizens member, my favorite project was the rehabilitation of the Trading Post which is now winterized for year-around use.

How does our volunteer group affect your work as the camp Ranger?

The Citizens provide me with support with the many tasks of keeping CW the great place that it is. Note: When asked about the work the Citizens do, he refers to all the projects that have been completed and all the Scouters that are already involved.

Would you encourage others to join the Citizens?

Everyone is welcome to join; no special skills are required, just a willingness to help with; projects (large & small), fundraising, communications, etc. there's a place for anyone who is willing to give back.

What is the best season for you as the Ranger and a member of the Citizens?

Spring is the busiest season for the Citizens; getting campsites ready, clearing winter debris, making sure camp is ready for a new set of campers.

Interview by Jen Pecora

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***June 1st - JUNE FIRST! Did we mention June 1st?***

HUGE Beaver Day/Work day to get ALL tents distributed and put up in all campsites. MANY hands needed rain or shine for this mammoth undertaking! LUNCH will be provided. So we can plan work for lunch advise Ranger Frank at [rangerfrank@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:rangerfrank@campworkcoeman.org) or Brian Cornell at [bcornell@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:bcornell@campworkcoeman.org) if you are coming!

The second part of this big day is our ANNUAL STEAK OR CHICKEN DINNER AND FUNDRAISER. Tickets can be ordered on the CRC website for \$25 or contact Lou at [lseiser@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:lseiser@campworkcoeman.org) or Brian at [bcornell@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:bcornell@campworkcoeman.org) See Dinner flyer elsewhere in this Newsletter!

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URGENT: Dan Bielefield, our longtime Chairman, is stepping down as of June 1. His service has been along as we certainly appreciate it. We MUST replace him (and his big shoes!) with a new face in this important spot! You don't have to run everything, just be able to direct volunteers to accomplish sub-committee tasks for the next 12 months. PLEASE step-up now and see Dan or contact him at danb63@optonline.net!

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***Hear Ye! Hear Ye!***

We are looking for a new wave of adult and young adult members from Cub Packs, troops and Venture Crews. Come join in the Shawtown adventure at Camp Workcoeman! Please contact Brian Cornell at [bcornell@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:bcornell@campworkcoeman.org)

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Donations to our Citizen's Account...

Remember: Donations in any amount can be made to our Citizen's account at the Council office. Please note Account 400 on your check, make it out to CRC, BSA and mail to CRC, BSA, 60 Darlin St, E. Hartford, CT 06108.

Camp Workcoeman's Annual **Steak or Chicken Barbecue**

Sponsored by the Citizens of Shawtown
Camp Workcoeman's Support Committee

Saturday, June 1, 2019

Hors D'oeuvres 5:30 PM

\$25 - Adults

\$13 - Children 10 & under

Dinner 6:00 PM

in the Dining Hall

Dinner Includes:

Steak or Chicken • Salad • Potatoes
• Veggies • Bread • Dessert



All proceeds will benefit camp improvement projects

• Huge Door Prize Selection •

Reservations and payments can be made online using this link:

ctrivers.org/event/camp-workcoeman-annual-steak-or-chicken-barbecue/8772

Shawtown... Reading the History Part 1

While there is little that I have been able to find (so far) on the early inhabitants of Shawtown in print, it is good to remember that the land itself can often read as well as any history text. Stone walls, foundations, and even mounds of earth can tell a tale of land usage from the Colonial era.

The old Red Trail is what was used as the main pathway from the center of camp to Shawtown in the 70's and 80's. It has since been blocked off and allowed to regrow a bit, as should be done to all trails periodically. However, the entrance into Shawtown along that old route gave a wonderful introduction to the area's agricultural past.

The area sits along the edge of a swampy section of woods and is marked with numerous small piles of rocks. Most of these rocks are of the size category known as cobble (2-10 in dia). Areas used for agriculture would have had rocks of specific sizes removed. Rocks of the size referred to as stone (roughly 10" to 2' in dia) would have been removed and used in the building of walls, foundations, and the like, leaving a field suitable for sheep. These animals are quite adept at making their way around somewhat rocky terrain. For plowing, and for pasturing cattle though, it would have been prudent to remove even the larger pieces of cobble. Cobble would have gotten caught in, and perhaps bent a plow, a costly problem to a Colonial. For pasture, removing cobble would greatly reduce the possibility of animals breaking their hooves on the rocks. Even a small split on a hoof could lead to infection, and a small farmer could ill afford the loss of even one cow. Since the cobble was left in a number of piles, it can be inferred that the area was used as pasture, most likely for cattle as well as sheep. You wouldn't leave piles of rock in a field you were going to plow every year!. *The Sage*