



# Citizens of Shawtown Camp Workcoeman Winter 2020 Newsletter

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## *A few words from our Fearless Leader...*

Thoughts from our Shawtown Chairman..... What a year! 2020 cannot end soon enough for my family both at home and at Camp Workcoeman. Together, all of you, the Citizens of Shawtown, extended your efforts tirelessly to help maintain our camp. We painted, cut weeds and grass, built several Pavilions, worked even more on the Pole Barn, put new roofs on the Griffin Lodge, started an extensive rehabilitation to the Calder Building with both specially donated and purchased materials, prepared the TeePee campsite for Family camping and so much more!

I was tempted to list special thanks to all of you by name, troop and the OA but the list is so long that it would fill several pages. So instead, just this heartfelt THANK YOU TO ALL!

I truly look forward to 2021 with great anticipation and the hope Camp Workcoeman can re-open fully with new plans, programs and more under the leadership of the camp's senior staff.

Here's to 2021 and all the good things that lay ahead for us! Stay safe and healthy.

Brian Cornell, Chairman, Citizens of Shawtown

## *Rantings from our Ranger...*

Seasons Greetings from Camp Workcoeman

2020 has been a crazy year with shut downs and cancellations of summer programs and limiting of off season camping. However many great things were accomplished at Camp Workcoeman.

I want to thank all the members of Citizens of Shawtown, our Retiree Corps, and alumni staff members who came to camp and helped achieve so much. New roofs and windows on Griffin and Calder Lodges, new pavilion at the shotgun range. A huge shout out to our fearless leader, Lou for all the doors and windows given new life with fresh paint. Also our chairman Brian Cornell for his coordination and dedication to the Citizens of Shawtown. I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

Ranger Frank Galliher, Camp Workcoeman

## **Upcoming Events and Activities**

### 2021 Work Days

Always the 4th Saturday

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

Annual Meeting

Sunday February 28

When & Where: TBD

### Retiree Workdays

You don't have to be retired to attend

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Contact Ranger Frank if you'd like to be added to his list



## **HELP WANTED**

The Citizens of Shawtown, in addition to helping with maintenance and construction also provides program support to Camp Workcoeman. With CW sponsoring more and more weekend activities, the need to check physicals and COVID-19 forms and the obligation to provide first aid coverage; I am looking for some volunteer EMRs and EMTs (nurses too) to assist. All the equipment is provided, and you can be holed up in the health lodge until needed. If you are interested, please email me at nurse@campworkcoeman.org

Thanks - Jeff Liskin, CW Health Services

## **SHAWTOWN HATS AND PATCHES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!**

Holiday gift-giving idea Shawtown patches are still available for \$5 each and a limited number of Shawtown caps are still in stock for \$12 each. Send an email to Brian at bcornell@campworkcoeman.org with your order and he'll mail the patches and/or caps (no shipping charge) to you ASAP. Payment can be sent to him at 220 Cider Mill Crossing Torrington 06790. Make your checks payable to Brian and he'll be sure they get to the Council office.





Completed pavilion at shooting range

### **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.



New benches on the Parade Ground

### **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)



### **Membership minute...**

As soon as it was pandemically legal, my Troop went up to our campsite (Nathan Hale Campsite) in the fall. We cooked, built camp gadgets, and did some patrol training. We spent hours sitting around a campfire - you know why? Of course you do, if covid has taught us one thing it that we value the time to hang out together, talk, eat, and sit around. Some of us Citizens of Shawtown are still in a place where we build memories and offer growth opportunities to young people, and some of us are in the next phase, where we build and rehab things around our camp for others to walk with young people as they grow. Let's see what we can build, what we can improve, where we can help young men grow.

Yours in Scouting,

Keith Zwart

### **Camp Covid Swag...**

Just in time for the Holidays our Chairman is special-ordering combination Shawtown/Camp Workcoeman face masks for your use at camp, at Council events and at Troop and Pack gatherings. This is not a fundraiser but a positive way to remind others that Camp and the Shawtown group are alive and well.

The initial order will be a few dozen with more to follow if the demand exists! Gray, to match our Shawtown caps with the Shawtown patch likeness on them.

You can pre-order now at \$7.50 each and we'll ship them to you at no additional cost. We'll notify you when they are available, but email [bcornell@campworkcoeman.org](mailto:bcornell@campworkcoeman.org) to reserved yours now.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from us at The Citizens of

### **In Search of Mr. Shaw**

Sometimes it takes a while to settle in on a course. This contribution has touched on a number of aspects of Shawtown in the past, without really knowing who John Shaw was beyond being an escaped Revolutionary War POW. So many questions arise in considering this figure. Did he every marry? What was his trade? Who were his friends? How was he connected to the community? Where is his resting place? This will take some digging (couldn't resist the pun). And it is proving to be fun to see some connections between his story, the stories of those he may have known, and today's Scouts, Scouters and Scout Camps.

In late October of 1777 a group of "Convention Troops" were marched through northwestern CT on their way to Boston, having been captured in the Battle of Saratoga. And John Shaw was among them. Among them too, was a young man, very ill, named Abram Si Hunchupp (pronounced Sunchupp). The Convention Troops were camped on the Norfolk Green for a short time. As there were only 125 Convention Troops there, it is probable that Abram was well known to Shaw. When the march continued, Abram's illness prevented him from travelling further and he was taken into the home of one Mercy Lawrence Mills of Norfolk. She cared for him for a few weeks until his death. Abram was buried in Loon Meadow.

It is interesting to note that Camp Barbour sits on Loon Meadow Drive in Norfolk. Although the location of Abram's grave has long been lost, it is fun to think about its possible proximity to the camp. And the albeit loose connection to Shawtown. **The Sage**



Another shot of the new pavilion



Roof work on Griffin Lodge

***CALDER CHALLENGE FOR 2020 IS ALMOST AT GOAL!***

What a great year for raising funds from all of you who made sure we are able to rehabilitate the Calder Building! Last February I challenged all of us to raise \$8000 in 2020 to start this project. We are only \$1000 from that goal as of November 1st!

Donations have been coming in, both large and small. Every dollar counts. The exterior work is nearly completed so we will be able to begin the interior renovations early in 2021 but do need to continue our efforts to obtain additional monies. YES, I challenge us again in 2021 to raise another \$8000 to be used to complete the project.

If you personally, your employer or others you know can help us reach the final \$1000 needed for the 2020 Challenge, funds should be made payable to CT. Rivers Council, BSA and mailed to 60 Darlin Street East Hartford, CT 06108. PLEASE be sure that the donations are so noted that they are to be credited to Shawtown Acct. 400

Thank you!



Calder rehab underway

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***Camp Director's message...***

Greetings and I wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving and holiday season!

I am grateful to all of the Shawtown, Staff and OA volunteers who have worked tirelessly on the repairs to Calder Lodge and constructing the new pavilion at the shotgun range and so much more. Great people doing great things.

I would like to share another great happening for Camp Workcoeman. During the summer I had a conversation with a West Hill neighbor who expressed her disappointment with not having the sights and sounds of our Scouts at camp. We also discussed the financial impact of not having a summer camp season. The neighbor suggested that I write a letter to the West Hill neighbors explaining our financial situation which I did. The neighbors graciously donated nearly \$7,000 which was used for basic expenses like water tests, the yearly testing of fire extinguishers and other seasonal expenses.



We're going to camp

I'm sure that you recall we are slowly working on a new pavilion at the waterfront. We have not been able to proceed as planned because of limited grant funds that would not cover the total cost of the project. I shared this information with the West Hill neighbors, Michael Adams, Michael Samartino and Diane Libby, who are also the board members of the Robert Rosenheim Foundation. Their board considered our need and I am thrilled to say that the good people of the Robert Rosenheim Foundation graciously presented a gift of \$100,000 to not only cover the cost to complete the project but also to create a restricted account with the balance of the funds to maintain the facility in the future.

This amazing gesture of generosity will make our plan of a learning center on the waterfront to become a reality!

Best wishes and Scout On! - Lou Seiser, Camp Director