



Citizens of Shawtown Camp Workcoeman Spring 2021 Newsletter



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A few words from our Fearless Leader...

Hello to all! Winter is almost over, at least according to the calendar.

I am writing this a week after our Annual Shawtown Luncheon and Annual Meeting, attended by many Citizens in-person and another 8 or so via Zoom... a technology I don't fully understand but I'm told I should just get with it. Thank you for re-electing me for another year to lead us in our quest to keep moving forward.

Anyway, as a group, we accomplished so much at Camp Workcoeman in 2020, assisting Ranger Frank with rehabilitation of buildings, yet more work on the Pole Barn and starting to prep projects for 2021 so we can launch into an exciting year. I can assure you that 2021 is going to be so jam-packed with work, fellowship and exciting times for all of us who call ourselves the Citizens of Shawtown!

Please continue to join us on the 4th Saturday of every month for a Shawtown workday and bring a friend or two each time as we work to grow our active membership roles. I know Keith Zwart, our Membership Chair, will speak to that later in this Newsletter. I personally appreciate everything all of you do toward our efforts to keep WORKCOEMAN the best camp in Connecticut!

Brian Cornell, Chairman, Citizens of Shawtown

Rantings from our Ranger...

C'mon Spring!!

Would like to thank all of you that attended our annual Shawtown meeting either in person or virtually. Lots of great information and energy came through and it's truly appreciated.

Please plan on attending any of our upcoming workdays on the 4th Saturday of the month. Lots of projects requiring multiple hands to keep our camp progressing and improving.

Hope to see you at the next one and remember to think Spring!!!

Ranger Frank Galliher, Camp Workcoeman

NEWS FLASH!! Beaver Day June 5th....

I am currently assessing the potential to once again hold a large fundraiser for Shawtown at camp in conjunction with the BEAVER DAY on Saturday June 5 as we have in the past!

With the encouragement of Lou Seiser and in consultation with senior members of the camp staff, I will consider our options and will report to you soon about this venture. Covid, CDC and State guidelines all will play a large part in my decision-making.

STAY TUNED. Brian Cornell

LET'S EAT!

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!

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. Shawtown gray masks are also now available for \$7.50 each.



Membership minute...

Hoping the spring newsletter finds you full of hope. The sense that as the state and council relax restrictions and vaccinations become more available, this might finally be relenting. Camp is waiting, Scouts are waiting, it's time to get out safely and make things better. Doing nothing, and hiding in our homes for the last year has taught us many things, how much interaction, and getting out means. How many places we make a mark and just how many of those relationships make up the web of friendship that holds us up.

Camp Workcoeman is one of those places, and groups of people that we need to reconnect with - bring a Scouter friend, and spend part of a Saturday, or a Tuesday with the Senior Contingent. Work it together, make a difference for another generation of Scouts - and know we make a difference.

There's no membership fee - but there is a place to make a difference, and Scouters to share a purpose, and stories with. Let Ranger Frank know you're coming, and get to work - there's plenty to do, and we should be doing it together. Bring a friend, and make Camp Workcoeman even better! Yours in Scouting - Keith Zwart, Membership

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**Camp Needs...**

We have a need at Camp for 4 more cases of copier paper to carry us thru the Summer. Several have been recd. already but we need more, please. If you bring them to camp you can drop them off at or ship them to either the Ranger's office or the Camp Office. Just let us know your donation is on the way or is there.

Our group has raised many funds over the years in order to pay for materials, etc. for projects at camp. In order to continue our work, we do need to obtain additional funds from outside sources. If you know that your employer will match any gift that you make toward the Citizens of Shawtown or know of anyone who would be kind enough to make any size donation to us, please be sure that checks are made payable to CRC, BSA with a memo on the check that it is to be deposited to Shawtown acct.# 400.

In order for any donations to be accurately tracked, they should be sent to: Brian Cornell 220 Cider Mill Crossing Torrington, CT. 06790 I will be sure they are recorded on our Shawtown ledger here and then sent ASAP to the Council office in East Hartford.

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Camp Director's message...

Greetings! Spring is finally here which is the time to begin the process of getting camp ready for the summer. In these times of change we still must get Workcoeman spruced up and prepared for the summer season. The Covid-19 nightmare has had a profound effect on the health of Scouting, too.

Traditionally we would plan work days in April, May and June to get camp ready. In our schedule was an OA ordeal weekend. The pandemic has had an effect on the OA as well. The OA membership has shrunk and the lodge is not able to organize the various ordeal weekends in all of the camps in the spring and fall. Hence the lodge has scheduled only one ordeal weekend at each camp. Workcoeman's ordeal weekend will be in the fall which will be the only fall ordeal. Obviously this puts a large hole in our set-up schedule.

Each work day that we schedule this spring will be extremely important. Each work day will contain critical steps needed to get camp prepared.

My sincere thanks goes to all those loyal members of the Citizens of Shawtown. Your dedication and support is what makes Workcoeman a great place. I hope to see you at the work days and at the steak/chicken dinner!

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

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**The Shawtown Citizens**

In looking into the origins of Shawtown, I find that I have mistakenly focused solely, narrowly, on the captured soldiers of General Burgoyne's army. There were quite a few of them to say the least. Records indicate that Burgoyne's forces were composed of 3,379 British and 2,492 German troops. They were marched through New England in groups to be sent back to Europe from Boston. It must have been quite the parade! But they were far from alone.

In my last installment for this newsletter I asked questions such as "Did John Shaw ever marry? Did he have children?. Just how did an entire community arise?" It seemed that my focus was too narrow. How could a few escapees establish a thriving community? Once again, turning to historical records helped shed some light on a possibility. Along with the almost 6000 troops, there were an additional 1000 (roughly) women and children. These would have been known as camp followers and would have been the wives and families of the troops. They would have provided support in the form of cooking, cleaning and repair of uniforms and some equipment, and a host of other activities needed to enable a colonial era military to function. It would not be a stretch to say that if a number of the convention troops escaped to live in the area, a number of the wives and children would have gone with them. The establishment of Shawtown would have then been possible only with the help of a support group of camp followers. The very first Citizens of Shawtown! **The Sage**



At last! Siding going up on the Pole Barn  
Chris Johnson, Mark O'Connor, Brian Goodrich  
and Ranger Frank