

# **ED Report for May 27, 2023**

**Eddie DeGraw**

## **ED Onboarding**

- I am still learning Cogniito Forms and have done more trainings with Quickbooks.
- I have learned various farm implements for land management:
  - I have learned how to use the wood chipper with the tractor
  - I have learned how to grade and level a site in preparation for a cabin
  - I have learned more about what tractor implements we have including a trenching tool
  - I have learned how to upgrade and fix a utility trailer
  - I have gotten more confident on the standing mower
  - I have found all weed whackers and have become more comfortable with using them
- I continue to learn about the ins and outs of the kitchen and various needed tasks
- I have learned new seasonal tasks like when to turn on the water and when to put in the screens
- I have continued to meet with all staff and work trade members to expand my understanding of their roles and responsibilities
- I completed an Intermediate Anti-Racism training series with Truth and Titus Collective and OnePlace (<https://www.facebook.com/truthandtitus/>)
- I have continued to attend several committee meetings to assist with the work of the board including the following: Fundraising Committee, 85th Anniversary Committee, Executive Committee, Facilities Committee, Summer Camp (Education Committee)

## **Facilities**

- Juniors roofing project has progressed and Cabins 1-6 have had full or partial metal flooring installed
- Orchards Cabin 2 has been professionally repaired by Van Tienan Painting with drywall mudding and still needs to have the ceiling painted
- 3 cabins have been ordered for the Orchards 3-5 site plan. Delivery is early June. Site has been graded and leveled with gravel and plans for foundation piles has been discussed.
- Trenching has happened for the first new Orchards Cabin. Quote was given for electricity to run to those 3 cabins and is within budget
- Coordination with the new electrician continues. Work is being planned to run electricity to Juniors 9 and 10 and is within budget
- A summer camp counselor volunteered to assist Earl Hall further with the full inventory and facilities spreadsheet. It is still in the works to track repair projects, timelines and supply and labor needs but is making progress
- White house area is starting to be cleaned up with a project proposal being created to potentially turn the foundation into a pavilion with a kitchen and bathrooms and meeting area with small cabins surrounding it. This project would allow rentals during the summer due to being far enough away from summer campers and be a nice addition to the rental program with family reunions and large groups able to rent the whole area for events.
- The strawbale house roof was completed and a damaged wall was assessed and stabilized.
- The log cabin in Orchards is still progressing
- The barn has had barn sales to fundraise and to start clearing it out to potentially fix in the fall. The Timberframers Guild has been contacted to see if we can partner with them.

## **Land Management**

- Red Clover was planted in the new cleared Orchards Cabin 3-5 area and has sprouted. The clover is known to disrupt invasive species roots and is beneficial to pollinators and does not require mowing
- Grass is continuously being mowed. We have a new local volunteer member, Steve Wester to help mow and Aaron Carlson has helped for the month of May
- BMW workbee volunteers have continued to return throughout the month and kept trails cleared and mowed. (We Love them!!!)
- Gary is planning the wildflower field and coordinating all of the work for it. Tillers International was reached out to to potentially partner and try to use their draft horses to till the area as a demonstration during the Buttermilk Jamboree. They are discussing it internally as staff and like the idea of a partnership. Not 100% the timing will work out.
- 2 trained arborists came out at the end of April and took out a few very dangerous trees in the Orchards area as well as the beach road. They did demonstrations on how to do the work so the staff and volunteers could learn.
- Annalisa Bradshaw, our new garden manager, has been experimenting with the garden with permaculture and no-till practices. We received free veggie plants from Common Ground and their free plant giveaway to community gardens. We also purchased bulk seeds to plant secession plantings for the fall. The groundhogs are waging a war and we are using creative problem solving to deal with them and protect the seedlings.

## **Events**

- We had a fun BMW rental at the beginning of May. Their members are incredibly helpful with their work exchange efforts!
- We had a wonderful Spring Mushroom Camp that was fully booked and a success. Danielle, Sasha and I dreamed up a new Festival called the Fungi and Foraging Festival for Labor Day Weeekend. So far we have had tremendous interest with over 200 people interested in the event in less than 2 weeks
- Spanish Language and Culture Camp was amazing! We had a great turn out and a lot of programming. I worked on my Duolingo prior to make sure I was not as rusty for the weekend. Excited for the fall event!
- I have attended and assisted the 85th event committee, worked on the membership weekend with Romy and Chris and Aiden and made sure there is a timeline for future events.
- Member Workbee was April 21-23
- Organizers Conference and Workbee was April 28-May 1
- BMW Rental was May 5-7
- Spring Mushroom Camp was May 12-14
- Spring Spanish Language & Culture was May 19-21

## **Upcoming Events**

Memorial Day Member Weekend – May 26-29

Buttermilk Workbees - June 1-3 and 8-10

Buttermilk Jamboree- June 16-18

### **Summer Camp**

- Caleb and Noah have been working well together with meetings several times a week
- All summer camp registration spots are essentially full
- All summer camp staff have been hired and a few that dropped out have had their spots hired as well
- Chris, Caleb, Danielle, Noah and I have continued reviewing the LARA regulations and ACA regulations to make sure we are compliant with them
- We are making sure inspections are happening
- We are planning the staff orientation and I have been making connections with various local speakers and trainers for the staff

### **Fundraising**

- Kalamazoo Community Foundation grant was rejected but was a great learning experience. They are very focused on metric based examples of dismantling Racism and our program proposal was a little bit of a stretch. We are not discouraged and hope to apply again for Spanish Camp for the fall.
- Chir is in contact with Deb Olsen to work on networking with major donors and funders in the Kalamazoo area.
- I continue to attend the fundraising committee meetings and am working on moving goals forward
- I set the barn up for spring barn sales at our events prior to summer camp. This will enable us to make a profit from unneeded items and simultaneously clean out the barn for repair and future use. The first sale was not hugely financially successful but we did meet 20 neighbors and had a nice opportunity to make connections and promote Buttermilk and the new Fungi and Foraging Festival.
- I have been working on the Michigan Arts and Culture Council Grant due June first for Buttermilk Jamboree with the assistance from the Buttermilk Director and the Director of Operations as well as input from the staff.

### **Staff**

- Restorative Justice conflict mediation has stalled but we are working on getting a new facilitator
- Annalisa and I plan on creating a draft conflict policy for internal conflicts
- I have worked with the Summer Camp co-directors on a conflict training and supplied resources
- I have worked on the orientation programming with the Summer Camp Co-Directors and have made a connection to April Schmidt to present a training on child development and behavior expectations to help the counselors deal with tough situations appropriately.
- Our new Admin Assistant, Deb Rauens is doing an amazing job with returning calls and inquiries for rentals in a timely manner. She is also helping us plan and coordinate event prep as well as have updated registration information ready to inform the staff and be better prepared for meal prep etc.