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Dear Friends,



Spring is an exciting time of year at Farm & Wilderness as we prepare for the hustle and bustle of summer. It's hard to believe how close we are to the yearly rituals of setting up our sites and welcoming staff and campers! So much has changed in the past year, both at Farm & Wilderness and in our wider

world, and yet, the most important things remain constant—the power of our community, the intrinsic value of our connection to the natural world, and the way our values ground us and hold us through challenging times. We are honored to be part of your circle, and to share the work we're doing this year that's bringing us joy and hope.

We are so thrilled to be working with John Kalapos as the new director at Timberlake. John first found F&W in 2009 as a camper by way of Journey's End, a Quaker farm in Pennsylvania. Since then, he has spent many summers circling up in the FC clearing, swimming at the TL waterfront, and reflecting in the TF meeting circle as a camper, counselor, and cook. Between working at F&W during the summers, John got his BA from Pitzer College in Environmental Analysis and Political Studies, and more recently spent several years working at a small boarding school in Western MA in various teaching and leadership roles. John brings a deep passion for the power of experiential education and the magic of camp, and we are so excited for him to lead the next chapter at Timberlake.

All our directors are busy hiring exceptional seasonal staff and fine-tuning their camp programs. We're particularly excited about the new trips building in the works at Firefly Song, which will be constructed by campers and allow the trips program there to reach its next level of





Summer 2025 Dates and Rates

Overnight Camps:

Session 1: June 25 - July 17

Session 2: July 20 - August 10

Barn Day Camp:

Session 1: June 23 - June 27

Session 2: June 30 - July 11

Session 3: July 14 - July 25

Session 4: July 28 - August 8

Fair:

August 9



excellence. If that sounds inspiring to you, please read on to see how you can support us in making it happen!

We invite you to stay connected with us by joining in on GOAT hikes across America on May 10, and, if you are an alumnus of Timberlake or Firefly Song/IB, to please register to join us for your reunion weekend, September 19-21! We can't wait to make new memories with old friends.

The traditions of community-making and skill sharing that began here in 1939 are still here today. After 85 years, we surely know that our strength lies in our connection to each other, to nature, and to the spirit within. We are here with you in pursuit of a more just, more green, more equitable world. We believe in the magic of camp, not just as a momentary respite from the chaos of the "real" world, but as a space to imagine what a better world might look like, and to practice building it together. Thanks for being on this journey with us. We can't wait to see you at camp!

In peace,

Jay Kullman, Interim Executive Director



► 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 us at: interim@farmandwilderness.org, OR via postal mail to: Interim/Farm & Wilderness, 401 Farm & Wilderness Road, Plymouth, VT 05056.

► Share your news or story with us at:
farmandwilderness.org/stay-connected

Welcoming New TL Director, John Kalapos!

By Adair Arbor



We are thrilled to announce that John Kalapos will be joining Farm & Wilderness as Timberlake's new director! John first found F&W in 2009 as a camper by way of Journey's End, a Quaker farm in Pennsylvania. Since then, he has spent many summers circling up in the FC clearing, swimming at the TL waterfront, and reflecting in the TF meeting circle as a camper, counselor, and cook.

Between working at F&W during the summers, John got his BA from Pitzer College in Environmental Analysis and Political Studies. After several years working at a small boarding school in Western MA in various teaching and leadership roles, he is thrilled to return to F&W as the Timberlake Director.

John's deep commitment to experiential education and understanding of F&W's values shone through during the interview process, where he thoughtfully addressed everything from risk management to restorative justice practices. A deep believer in the power of experiential education and the magic of camp, John looks forward to summer days filled with community building, boisterous singing, and perfecting his rock-in-the-can technique. His experience in outdoor education combined with his leadership role at Buxton School makes him ideally suited to guide Timberlake into its next chapter.

When not working, you might find John volunteering as a firefighter, exploring trails with his dog, Luna, or teaching English.

We invite you to reach out and welcome John at john@farmandwilderness.org. Stay tuned to our social media channels and website for more updates about this exciting new addition to our director team!



In John's own words:

"I am so excited to be in the role of Timberlake Director.

2025 marks my tenth summer at Farm and Wilderness, and I am thrilled to share another summer with the incredible campers and staff of Timberlake. I love the simple, wonderful moments that happen so often at F&W:

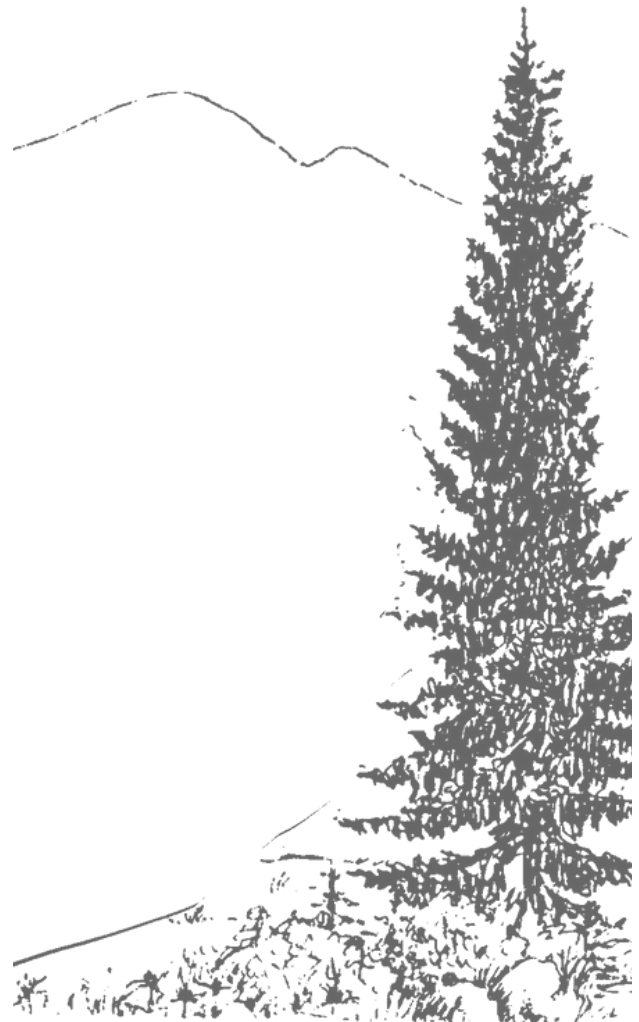
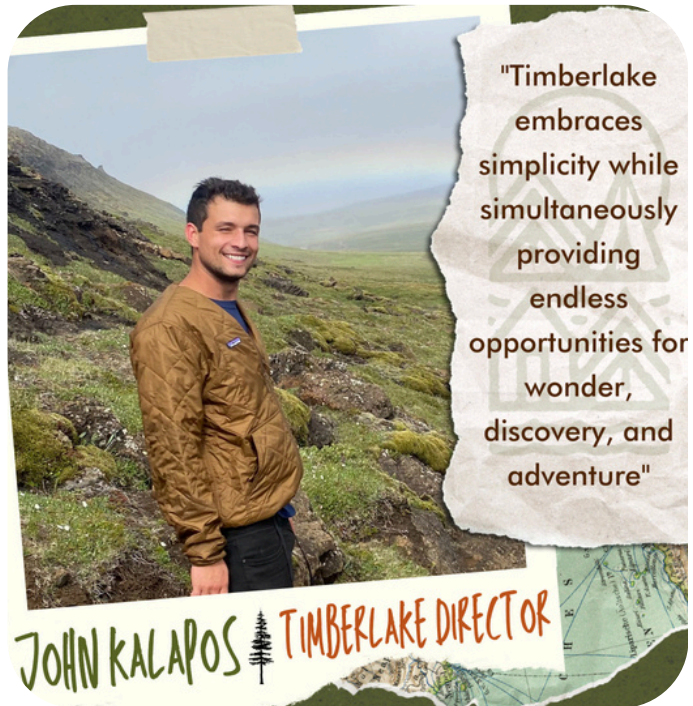
- When a camper achieves their first rating; seeing that initial sense of curiosity morphing into determination and becoming pride in accomplishment.
- The serene, quiet shuffle of a cabin heading to morning barn chores.
- The hum of excitement pulses from the upper lodge three times a day at mealtime.
- The undeniable magic of a Council Fire.



We get to experience these moments together because Timberlake is a place that embraces simplicity while simultaneously providing endless opportunities for wonder, discovery, and adventure—a paradox that can only be explained by one thing: Camp Magic.

We reflect on these moments long after heading home for the summer. Getting to play a part in making Camp Magic happen is a humbling and awesome responsibility that I share with all our campers and staff.

F&W sparked my love for experiential education, and I spent the six years prior to becoming TL Director teaching at Buxton, a progressive boarding school. For the last three of those years, I have been the Associate Head of the School, where I am responsible for making sure our program aligns with the same progressive values that make F&W special. Every summer what I most look forward to is getting to know your camper so they can share in the magic!”



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: NEW FS TRIPS BUILDING CAMPAIGN

By Clarissa Thompson and Adair Arbor



For decades, the "Cracker Barrel" has served as the heart of Firefly Song's trips program, sending generations of campers on transformative outdoor adventures. Now, as Farm & Wilderness looks to the next 50 years of wilderness exploration, it's time for this humble structure to evolve into something that better serves today's campers and programming needs.

A Space That Matches Our Mission

Nestled in the foothills of the Green Mountains, Firefly Song provides 9-14 year old girls and non-binary youth with experiences that build confidence, foster community, and deepen their connection with nature. The trips program stands at the center of this mission, offering experiences that campers consistently cite as sources of profound pride and accomplishment.

"This is SO FUN!" exclaimed one camper after a challenging adventure. "We paddled 14 miles in all, 6 miles in the rain, and 5 of them being up against the wind." Another proudly recalled, "One moment I am proud of is when I led everybody on my hiking trip through the rain."

These transformative experiences deserve a home base that matches their importance—a larger, more functional space that will truly level up the trips program at Firefly Song.

The Vision: More Than Just a Building

The new 600-square-foot trips building will dramatically improve the program's capabilities with:

- Expanded facilities supporting core outcomes of interdependence, agency, and identity
- Dedicated space for gear organization, trip preparation, and programming
- Improved van parking and turnaround space
- Water and electricity for proper equipment care and hygiene



In true Farm & Wilderness style, the campers themselves will play a significant role in bringing this building to life by taking it on as a summer work project.

Campers Building Their Legacy

As part of the construction process, seasonal Work Projects staff will work alongside year-round facilities personnel to erect the base frame in early summer. Then, during the camp season, Firefly Song campers will join in to complete the project!





This high-visibility project connects two core activity areas—Work Projects and Trips—allowing campers to develop practical skills while building a structure that will serve generations to come. The hands-on involvement supports campers' sense of agency and identity development, as they literally construct part of their camp's future.

Environmental Stewardship in Action

The project also includes necessary tree removal, primarily targeting ash trees threatened by the invasive emerald ash borer beetle. This unfortunate but necessary step demonstrates environmental stewardship in action, as managing infected trees helps control the spread of this destructive pest while creating a safe and level site for the new building.

Community Support Needed Now

To make this vision a reality, Farm & Wilderness must raise approximately \$87,500, with \$67,000 already secured at the time of publication. The remaining \$20,500 must be raised to fully fund this project.



The Timeline

It's ambitious, but we are determined!

- February and March 2025: Complete fundraising, site clearing, and timber frame cutting
- -April: Foundation work begins
- May–Early Summer: Erect the base and frame
- During camp season: Campers and staff complete the project

Be Part of the Next 50 Years

For alumni who remember their own transformative trips experiences, for parents who've witnessed their children return from camp more confident and capable, and for everyone who believes in the power of outdoor experiences for young people—this is your opportunity to ensure these experiences continue for the next generation.



With community support, the new Firefly Song trips building will stand as a testament to what we can accomplish together, just as our campers discover on every wilderness trip they undertake.

The trails are calling, the paddles are ready, and the next 50 years of exploration await. Will you help build the foundation for these journeys?

CONNECT WITH NATURE AND COMMUNITY AT FARM & WILDERNESS' NEXT GOAT HIKE!

By Elisabeth Rondinone and Adair Arbor

Spring has sprung – it's time for us once again to Get Outside All Together! Our next GOAT Hike will happen on Saturday, May 10. This nationwide event brings the F&W community together for a day of exploration, connection, and celebration of the natural world that is so central to the F&W experience.

We gather for GOAT hikes twice a year, in spring and fall, to enjoy nature together between summers! Stay tuned for fall dates as well, because we are planning to make GOAT hikes a regular staple event for the F&W communities across the country.



Let's G.O.A.T!



What are G.O.A.T Hikes?

G.O.A.T Hikes are a way for the F&W community to come together locally, wherever they may be. These events embody the spirit of F&W's commitment to joyful play, purposeful work, and rugged outdoor living. They offer a chance to unplug, explore nature, and forge meaningful connections with others who share the F&W values.

Each hike is led by a volunteer host and typically lasts about an hour, often followed by a bring-your-own picnic lunch. The hikes are designed to be accessible for various ages and abilities, making them perfect for families, alumni, and friends of F&W.

How Can You Get Involved?

Participate in a Hike:

We have hikes planned in multiple locations across the country. From the trails of Prospect Park in Brooklyn to the scenic paths of Mt. Tabor in Portland, Oregon, there's likely a hike happening near you. Visit our website to find the location closest to you and RSVP.

Host a Hike:

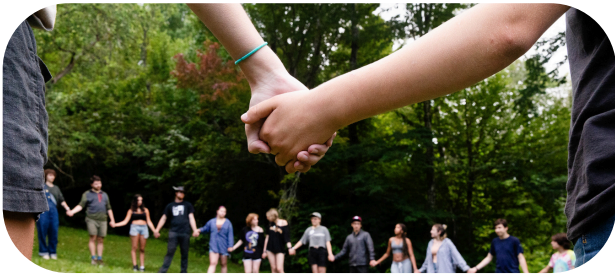
If there isn't a hike planned in your area, consider hosting one! It's a great way to bring a bit of F&W magic to your local community. We provide hosts with guidelines and safety information. Sign up on our website to become a host!

Scan the QR code to go to the GOAT Hikes landing page, where you can register, volunteer to host, and ask questions!



THE JOY PLAN: CULTIVATING INTENTIONAL JOY IN CHALLENGING TIMES, THE FARM & WILDERNESS WAY

By Adair Arbor and Tulio Browning



It's a strange time to be alive if your worldview is centered in Quaker values. We are hearing from our community the worry for the wellbeing of their friends and neighbors, and for the changes the future may bring.

In challenging times, we need strategies that keep us grounded, connected, and purposeful. At Farm & Wilderness (F&W), we recommend crafting a Joy Plan—an intentional approach to finding moments of meaning and connection even during difficult circumstances. We share this framework as a resource for you and your family to think strategically about how to keep yourselves well and kindle the spirit within, so that you can continue to show up to fight for justice, no matter what the headlines may bring.

What is a Joy Plan?

As Professor Desmond Patton of the University of Pennsylvania reminds us, "Joy is one of the few things you do have control over. It's yours to shape, to nurture, to call on when you need it." A Joy Plan is a deliberate strategy for cultivating moments that nourish our spirits and connect us to what matters most.



This concept resonates deeply with the Farm & Wilderness approach. Our recently published Impact Report, "Decoding the Magic of Camp," revealed three key areas where F&W campers experience transformative growth: self-efficacy, community mindedness, and authentic identity development—all foundational elements for a life where joy can flourish even in challenging circumstances.



Creating Your F&W-Inspired Joy Plan

Drawing from our Quaker-inspired values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equity, and Sustainability, here's how you might craft your own joy plan:

1. Embrace Simplicity in the Mundane

Professor Patton notes that "Joy is in the mundane and everything. It doesn't have to be Instagram-worthy—though it can be. It's in the small moments, the unnoticed details, and the everyday that often go unappreciated."

At F&W, campers discover that profound joy often comes from simple experiences—a silent meeting in the woods, a shared song around a campfire, or the satisfaction of a meal prepared together. One camper noted: "I think it's really meaningful when campers accomplish things using a hammer at age 4, milking a goat at age 6, passing a knife test at age 8."



Joy Plan Action: Identify everyday activities that bring you genuine pleasure without requiring screens, spending, or complex logistics. As one parent who adopted a Joy Plan noted, try "More lunch in the yard (without the phone). Less phone generally."



2. Nurture Joy in Community

"Joy is communal, individual, familial, and everything in between," Professor Patton writes. This aligns perfectly with the F&W value of Community, where we "gather in joyous service to each other and the land."

Our camps emphasize that joy multiplies when shared. As one TF camper shared: "When I am at F&W, I feel compelled to help my community members more than any other space. I've stepped up and embodied 'work is love made visible' on chores, construction, and almost all facets of life at TF."

Joy Plan Action: Create regular opportunities for meaningful connection with others. Remember that, as Patton notes, "Joy can be both public and private"—find your balance of communal celebration and personal reflection.



3. Cultivate Unplugged Presence

The device-free environment at F&W creates space for deeper connections and self-discovery. As one parent observed: "Making space for real life interactions and a love for nature and the outdoors. Opens minds to focus on people and relationships in a way that is so much more human than our tech enabled day to day."

Joy Plan Action: Designate regular tech-free times in your schedule. As another joy-seeker shared in their personal Joy Plan: "More time in nature... More time without the phone."

4. Find Joy That Grows From Challenge

Professor Patton reminds us that "Joy grows from pain, trauma, and grief. It isn't always separate from hardship. In fact, joy often shifts, morphs, and strengthens as it grows from those deeper, harder places."

At F&W, campers discover that overcoming challenges brings profound satisfaction. Whether completing a difficult hike, building a structure, or navigating social dynamics, these experiences build self-efficacy—a critical component of lasting joy.

One parent noted: "An experience like this sticks, he cannot wait to go backpacking again. Camp serves as a moment for him to be lightened from the load of parent/school/life structure and he has shown he has the tools to function outside of this construct."

Joy Plan Action: Regularly pursue activities that stretch your comfort zone but are achievable with effort. Document your growth and celebrate your accomplishments.



5. Connect Joy to Justice and Values

"Joy can—and should—be a vehicle for transformational justice," writes Professor Patton. "It's not just about feeling good; it's about creating a world where justice and healing are at the core of joy."

This echoes F&W's value of Equity, where we "take our place alongside others working towards a more just world" and "confront societal forces that divide, degrade, and dehumanize."

Joy Plan Action: Incorporate activities into your Joy Plan that align with your deepest values. Whether volunteering, advocating, or simply practicing kindness, find ways to connect your joy to creating a better world.



Joy as a Form of Resilience

In challenging times, a Joy Plan becomes a form of resilience—a way to maintain connection to what matters most while navigating difficulties. As one F&W camp alum reflected: "I always missed camp when re-entering the real world. Unplugged, outdoors, close relationships, made camp community feel like the 'right way to live'."

Professor Patton notes that a Joy Plan "helps you know when you're ready for action and advocacy—and when you need to step back for some rest. It's knowing when to show up for the fight, and when to sip your tea, belly-laugh, or indulge in that luxurious bath."



By creating a deliberate Joy Plan inspired by F&W values, you're not merely pursuing personal happiness—you're participating in a broader vision of a more connected, sustainable, and equitable way of being in the world.

Starting Your Own Joy Practice

Begin by identifying one simple joy activity, one community connection, and one tech-free period to incorporate into your week. Notice how these small changes affect your sense of well-being and belonging. Over time, expand your Joy Plan to include more challenging growth experiences and activities aligned with your deepest values.

As Professor Patton reminds us, "Joy isn't just an end goal—it's a practice, and it's something we can all choose, cultivate, and carry with us."

In this way, the magic of Farm & Wilderness—that special blend of community, nature connection, and personal growth—can extend beyond our Vermont forests and into your everyday life, helping you find moments of joy and meaning, whatever challenges you may face.



CAMPER CORNER: ACTIVITIES FOR CAMPERS!



Bring a little taste of camp home with some Farm & Wilderness fun!

F&W Word Search!

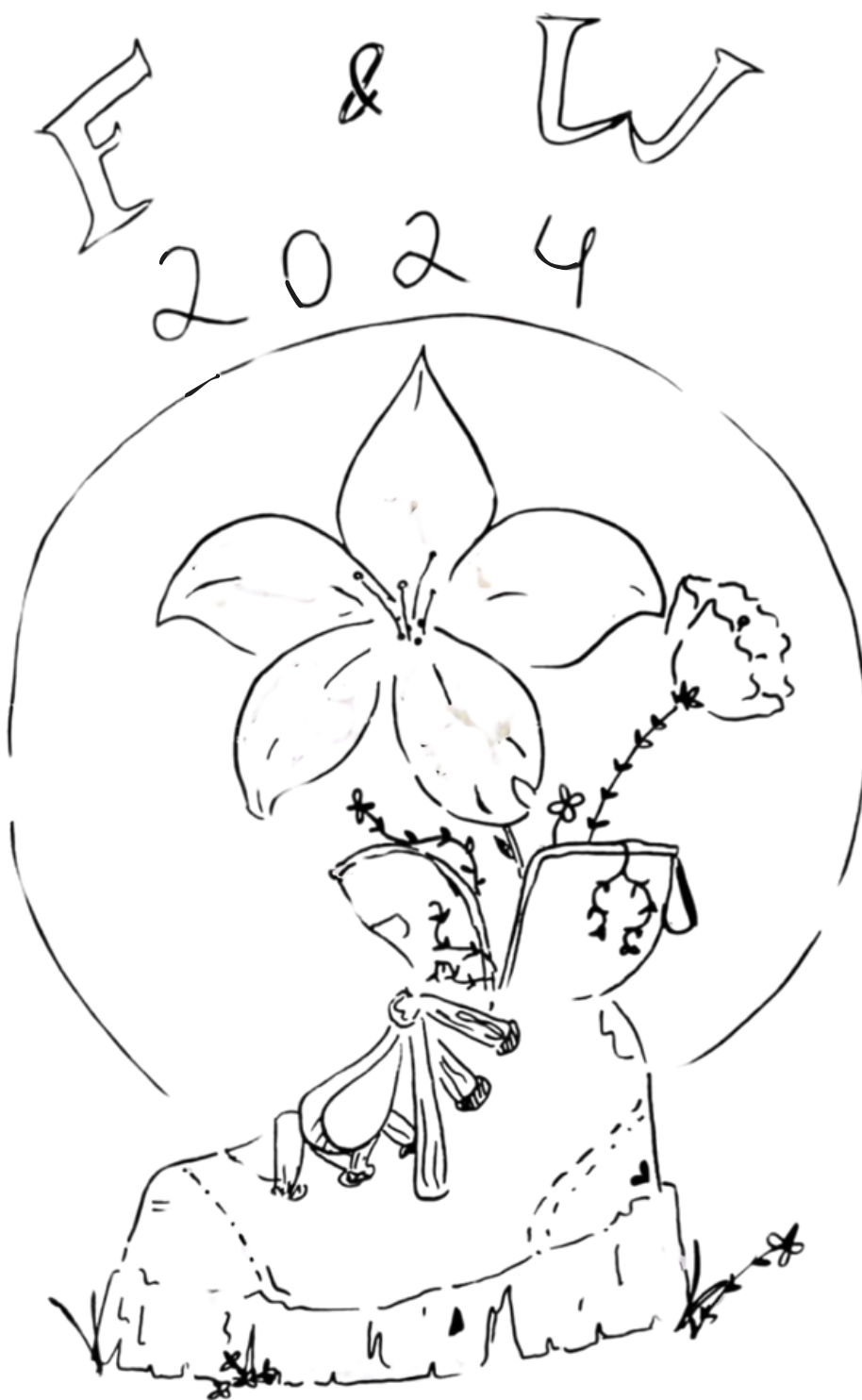
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I	M	D	E	G	G	U	L	P	N	U	S	I	C
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Word Bank:

Firefly Song
Saltash Mountain
Tamarack Farm
Timberlake
Ninevah
Barn Day Camp
Interdependence
Unplugged
SPICES
Contradance
Woodward
Kybo
Fair
Trips
Goats
Big Fire
Vermont

Coloring Page: 2024 Fair Shirt Design!

Color last year's Fair shirt art, designed and submitted by Firefly Song camper Lucia Brauer!



FARM & WILDERNESS CONSERVATION KEEPS FOREST BLOCK INTACT WITH 99 ACRE PARKER PARCEL

By Elisabeth Rondinone and Adair Arbor

Farm & Wilderness Conservation (FWC) has reached a significant milestone with the successful acquisition of the Parker Parcel, a strategic addition to the organization's existing land holdings in central Vermont.

A Conservation Victory

The Parker Parcel represents more than just additional acreage—it's a crucial piece in FWC's ongoing commitment to ecological resilience and land stewardship.

Situated within FWC's existing landholdings, this acquisition strengthens the organization's ability to maintain vital wildlife corridors and preserve intact forest blocks in Plymouth and Mount Holly, Vermont.

"This acquisition aligns perfectly with our mission of ecological sustainability and resilience," explains Jay Kullman, who has been instrumental in conservation efforts at Farm & Wilderness. "The Parker Parcel helps us connect important wildlife habitats and preserve the wilderness character that makes this region so special."

Building on a Conservation Legacy

Farm & Wilderness Conservation, formerly known as the Ninevah Foundation, has been dedicated to protecting and promoting wilderness conservation in this corner of Vermont for decades. The organization currently stewards nearly 5,000 acres of wild and working land, including forests, lakes, and waterways.

The Parker Parcel acquisition builds on FWC's impressive conservation track record, which includes sustainability of an environmentally-critical wildlife corridor known as the "bear corridor" that links the northern and southern sections of the Green Mountain National Forest.



Future Conservation Plans

While the Parker Parcel is now under FWC's stewardship, the work isn't finished. The organization plans to permanently conserve the land in the future, ensuring long-term protection of this ecologically valuable area.

This approach reflects FWC's three primary initiatives:

1. Land & Water Protection: Preserving and promoting the wilderness character of the landholdings, including Woodward Reservoir and Lake Ninevah.
2. Education & Recreation: Offering accessible opportunities for community engagement and learning throughout the year.
3. Sustainable Land Use: Supporting conservation through practices like replicating natural disturbances to strengthen forest resilience and ongoing restoration of old-growth forest areas.

Community Support Makes Conservation Possible

The Parker Parcel acquisition was made possible through the generous support of the Farm & Wilderness community, including donors, volunteers,





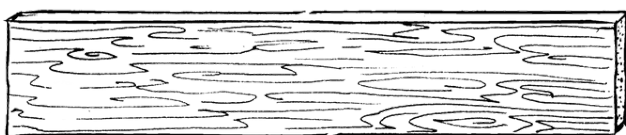
and conservation partners who recognize the importance of protecting Vermont's natural heritage.

"We're incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to making this acquisition a reality," said Alisha Carberry, chair of the board and head of the Conservation Committee.[JA1] "Every donation, large and small, helps us fulfill our mission of preserving this special corner of Vermont for future generations."

A Win for Wildlife and People

The Parker Parcel acquisition benefits not only local wildlife but also the thousands of campers who visit Farm & Wilderness each year. These protected lands provide opportunities for outdoor education, wilderness skills development, and fostering a deeper connection with nature.

For the many campers who develop their environmental ethics at Farm & Wilderness, the conservation of lands like the Parker Parcel demonstrates how communities can work together to protect the natural world.

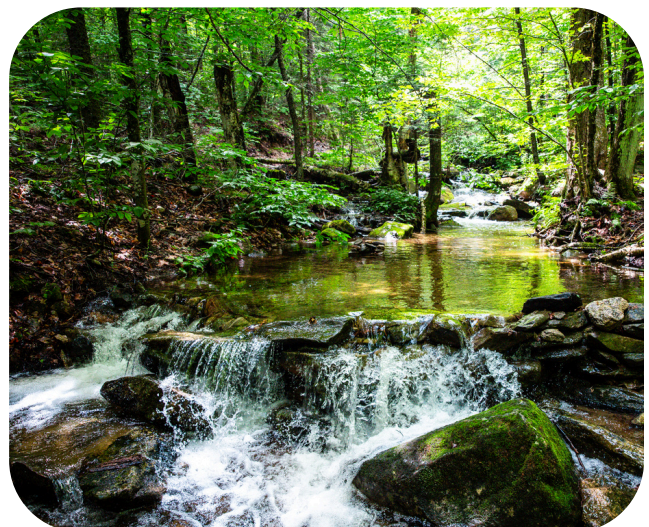


Looking Ahead

As Farm & Wilderness celebrates this conservation success, the organization looks forward to expanding protected land for habitat conservation.

With each acquisition and conservation project, Farm & Wilderness Conservation strengthens its commitment to preserving Vermont's natural beauty and biodiversity, ensuring that future generations will continue to experience the joy of connecting with wild places.

Through strategic land acquisition, thoughtful stewardship, and community engagement, the Parker Parcel project exemplifies what's possible when conservation values are put into action.



CALLING ALL TIMBERLAKE AND FIREFLY SONG/IB ALUMS!

By Clarissa Thompson and Tulio Browning

If you have ever spent your summer at Timberlake or Firefly Song as a camper or staff member, please mark your calendars and join us for Reunion Weekend! We will gather at Farm & Wilderness on September 19-21 to reconnect, share stories, and make new memories together.



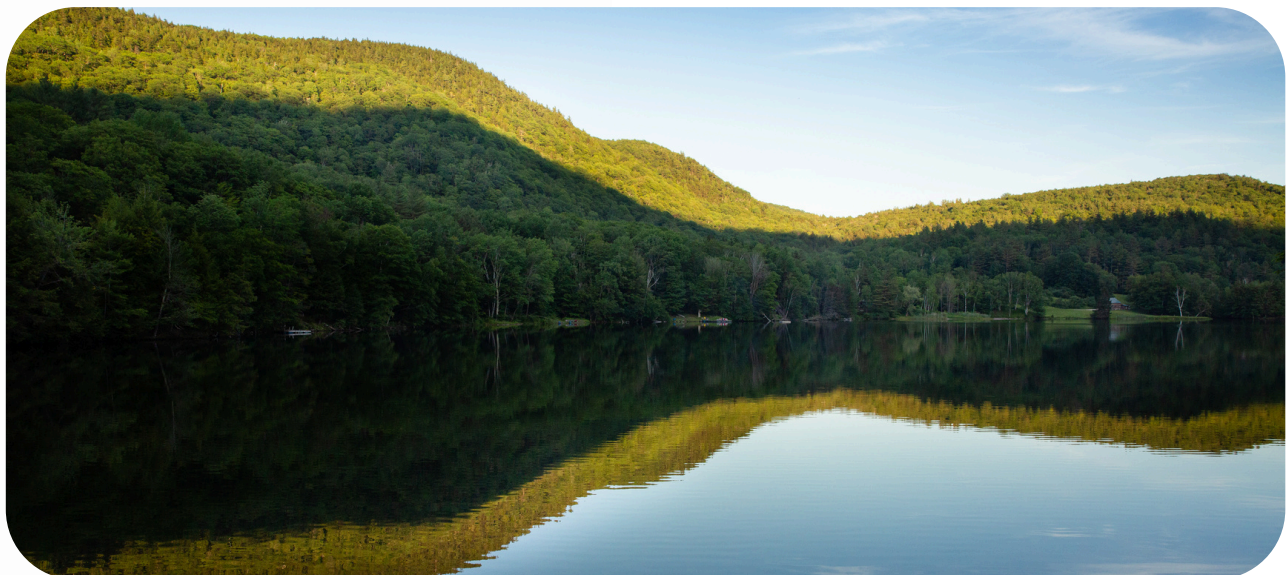
Spend the weekend at your home camp with your adventure-mates from decades past! We'll have many opportunities throughout the weekend for our brother-sister camps to connect, including a classic Farm & Wilderness contra dance. We will sing, swim, break bread together, and enjoy this land that has given us so much.



As you might imagine, interest in this event is high! To ensure your spot, get your friends from yesteryear together and pre-register as soon as you can. Follow the QR code below to sign up, or get in touch with Tulio at tulio@farmandwilderness.org.



JOIN US!





FARM & WILDERNESS

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WITH MONTHLY
RECURRING GIFTS



JOIN OUR CIRCLE

\$10/month 🔥 \$25/month 🔥 \$50/month 🔥 \$100/month

MAKE F&W
AFFORDABLE FOR ALL
WITH A MAJOR GIFT!



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

\$1,000 🌿 \$2,500 🌿 \$5,000 🌿 \$10,000

DONATIONS THIS SPRING MATCHED UP TO \$25,000!