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# THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

[www.gccoc.org](http://www.gccoc.org)

Grace Watson

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## **Hello Outing Club friends!**

We're coming to the close of another good semester. I'm thankful for the many opportunities the club has had to enjoy getting away from the demands of school together. The cabin has always been both a quiet haven for students and a place for hearty fun.

May these stories bring back your own fond memories of your days in the Grove City Outing Club. Feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions. May God bless your Christmas season!

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## **Letter From the President**

Dear Everyone,

It is a bittersweet feeling addressing everyone in this my last semester as president. It has truly been a

privilege serving the student club and I very much look forward to joining the ranks as a (hopefully) active alumna. This semester has been full of wonderful events and new faces! We've added a few new active members to the ranks and my hope is that next semester as more freshman get acclimated to college life we'll have a few more decide to become actively involved with the club.

Planning the Pig Roast this year was an experience I'll never forget, mostly due to the copious amounts of rain Saturday night into Sunday afternoon. Miserable weather makes for terrific club bonding, though! The rain had a noticeable effect on the turnout; we only had about 100 people come out. A number of people went home with a good amount of leftovers, that's for sure! I have a whole new appreciation for the work that goes into this event, especially the week beforehand! As always, I enjoyed getting to spend time with the alumni who were able to make it this year.

The rest of the semester has seemed a great deal quieter after all the hustle and bustle of the Pig Roast. There have been a number of smaller events including biweekly trips to Climb North and a Fall Party that happened a week

before Thanksgiving Break. There's a Christmas Party in the works as I write, and there will be a game night on study day.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the active club, and I thank all those who went before me for providing this opportunity. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and I wish you the happiest of holidays!

Sincerely,

Jamie Schiappa '11

President '10

### **Colorado Trip Summer 2010**

Keeping with tradition, the Grove City College Outing Club plans at least one trip every summer that gives members a chance to get together with alumni and enjoy the great outdoors. This year, alumni Cory Gibson organized a trip to the great state of Colorado. Only four people, three alumni (Tom Morris '77, Cory Gibson '99, and Sarah Lake '09) and one student, myself, were able to arrange their schedules to make the trip.



(Laura Geschwindt '12 and Sarah Lake '09)

On the morning of August 14<sup>th</sup> the four brave souls loaded up a week's worth of gear in Tom's Ford Expedition

and began the twenty-four hour drive to Colorado. After being in the car for so long, it was a great relief to finally reach our first stop in Colorado Springs.

Upon arriving, we walked around the beautiful Garden of the Gods which contains huge, red, rock formations that club members have climbed on previous trips. We then took a scenic ride on the cog railroad up to the top of Pikes Peak where the view above the clouds was absolutely breathtaking.

After returning to the station, it was back in the car for a short ride down to Pueblo to spend the night with some more of the club's alumni, Ron and Sarah Lang '96.

After a wonderful night's sleep and a great breakfast at the Lang's, we piled back in the overloaded Expedition and headed for Great Sand Dunes National Park. The sand dunes stretch for about 15 miles but we only hiked to the top of the first ridge before turning back when we were blasted by wind and whipped by sand. The next morning we were all anxious to finally get to do some backpacking and we headed to the town of Gothic where the copper lake trailhead is located. We reached the trailhead and threw on our packs and began the five-mile hike to Copper Lake. Five miles might not seem like much, but at 11,000 feet, a five-mile hike with a 2,000 foot elevation gain can be a rigorous hike. All of the energy and sore muscles were worth it to see a crystal clear horseshoe shaped lake surrounded by rugged mountain

peaks and fields of wildflowers. After taking countless pictures we set up camp and crashed for a much-needed night's sleep. In the morning we hiked to the top of the Maroon Bells Pass to get a clear view of both valleys that stretch from Crested Butte to Aspen.

The next day we hiked back to the car and reluctantly began our journey back to Pennsylvania. The trip was a great adventure that showcased some of the most beautiful scenery and trails in the United States. It was also a great way for four people spanning different generations to come together and share adventures in the outdoors, but then I guess that's what the club is really about.

Laura Geschwindt '12

## **A Hog Wild Weekend**

For most people, the morning of October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a normal, unpredictable, Western Pennsylvanian day, but to a few enlightened souls the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marked the start of a hog wild weekend. A handful of faithful members and alumni of the Grove City College Outing Club met at the cabin to make a pig roast happen. Early in the morning three brave souls broke from the main group, venturing into the forest to harvest a spit.

I had the privilege to be one of those souls and witnessed the struggle that Laura Jo Geschwindt '12 and Andrew Baur '13 went through in the search for the perfect spit. We finally chose a majestic maple sapling and Baur brought the tree down. It was no small task to carry the giant tree the thirty yards back to camp and an even greater task came next. The bark had to be

shaved off the sapling and it was quite a comical process to watch as GCC students armed with hatchets and knives went to work.

After the sapling was shaved bare of bark, our fearless leader, Jamie Schiappa '11, oiled the spit in preparation to insert it into the pig. The alumni engineer present, Cory Gibson '99, fitted the pig out with a few ropes and I loosened the mandible with a crow bar to make the pig ready to be spitted. The spit was placed on the rear of the pig and then with the power of twelve arms the pig was pulled onto the spit. As a precaution to prevent the pig from escaping, Cory nailed the forelimbs of the hog to the spit. It wasn't a bad job if you didn't mind the squealing.

After being wrapped in chicken wire and having an apple secured in its mouth, the pig was placed with great pomp and ceremony on the fire and so the roast had begun. The time of the turning was upon us. The trials of morning, figuring out the best way to keep coals under the pig, gave way to the excellence of afternoon as Baur and I had aced the coal problem by using three fire pits. The pig continued to cook throughout the day. Though we lacked members, those present managed to keep the pig from being incinerated.

As the afternoon wore on, it was found that a second spit for a few fowl would be needed. Jamie and I trekked back into the great unknown and found a young birch tree and let it taste our steel. After Jamie successfully felled the tree we carried it back to camp and shaved the bark off in a jiff. This done, we were ready for the chickens but it was not yet their time to be cooked. Indeed the chickens would not be

called to justice till around midnight, or so I was told.

I must interrupt my narrative about the pig and briefly discuss the most educational aspect of the weekend. Tom gave those eager to use a submachine gun a crash course on gun safety and turned them loose on the bowling pins located in the gun range. The bowling pins never stood a chance and were utterly defeated.

As the evening wore on more members and alumni arrived. We had supper and then continued to turn the pig. The evening turned into night and the clear skies was overtaken with cloud cover. Around 8 p.m. a cold rain shower descended upon the cabin and did not cease till the following night. Mike McElhaney '01 rigged up a cover for the pig and, after it burst into flames, redesigned the cover.



(Jamie Schiappa '11 and Laura Geschwindt '12 lower the pig with Jed '14 supervising)

Upon seeing that there were enough members to man the graveyard shifts of the night and getting the president's approval I made the hard choice to pull out my sleeping bag, throw it on a bunk and sleep the night away.

In the morning, I was thrilled to see the pig still on the spit and 9 chickens cooking alongside it. We harvested the chickens off the spit with minimal losses (I managed to

knock off one chicken but Laura Jo saved it). With fresh chickens on the spit and people waking up in the cabin, a flurry of activity started. Potatoes were mashed, tables and chairs set up, and of course, meat harvested. We had a brief respite from the hectic preparation when we all sat down and listened to a short Sunday service Dr. Gordon provided and sang a hymn.

The best part of the whole weekend was harvesting the meat off the pig. It was quite a sight; a large group of students gathered around a table under a tent, tearing the meat off the pig. It was quite entertaining and the pig was the tastiest pig I have ever tried, with one exception. We had fewer guests than we were hoping for because of the rain. But we still had an enjoyable time of fun, food, and fellowship. The day wore on; people left and the cleanup began. Tables were wiped, chairs folded, dishes cleaned and so ended an action packed, hog wild weekend at the cabin.

Jedediah Seltzer '14



Students remove meat from pig

## **October Work Outing and Corn Maze**

After a long 3 hours of physically demanding activities, including raking leaves, sweeping the roof, and cleaning out gutters, a few members retired to a

more relaxing event: getting lost in a corn maze. Jedediah Seltzer '14 organized the trip to the Coolspring Corn Maze on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The amble through the maze was enjoyable in the cool weather under the clear, dark sky. Being members of the Outing Club, we were confident in our orienteering skills and had absolutely no problems maneuvering our way through the course. The maze was followed by a trip down a large slide, a hayride, and extremely competitive pedal tractor races between Jed and Doug Wallace '14. Thank you to all of the members who came out for the event and to Jed for planning it.

Casey Trexler '14



Casey Trexler '14 raking during a work outing

## **A Night by the Fire**

It was the end of the week and I had no plans for Friday night. I saw an opportunity to spend the night out at the cabin. Grabbing my friend, Anna, we caught a ride out with Cory '99 and Laura '12. We had planned on having s'mores so Anna and I went out to cut some kindling. We weren't good at it at all but we did enjoy being out in the stillness and silence that a cold, fall evening brings. After s'mores and a game, Cory and Laura turned in for the night. Anna and I drew the Adirondack chairs closer to the warm glow of the fire. Anna, the English major she is, had her literature book with her and we chose a story to read.

When it was my turn, I brought my face close to the page, making out the words in the flickering firelight. There were no other sounds than the quiet tone of the storyteller and the low, comforting noises of the dimming fire. The conversation after the thought provoking story was reflective and encouraging, turning to the more familiar Book. It was a lovely night of conversation and rest.

Grace Watson '13

# Grove City College Outing Club Electronic Lock

## Purpose:

During the annual meeting at the 2010 Homecoming, a motion to add an electronic lock to the cabin was passed. This addition was donated at no cost to the club. There a number of reasons for the Grove City College Outing Club Cabin to go to an electronic lock. These reasons include but are not limited to:

1. Easier access for all members of the club, without the need for a physical key. (All alumni members will have the option to receive a unique access code for the lock)
2. Easier management of access codes. There will be no need to meet with Lee or Cory, and no need to return keys. Access codes can be given over the phone.
3. One time use keys can be issued for contractors, suppliers, college maintenance team, or organizations wanting to rent the cabin, if we decide to rent again. These keys can be valid for only the rental period.
4. Better record keeping of cabin use.

## Timeframe:

November 2010 - January 2011 - Member awareness and initial issue of access codes.

January 2011 - Install of lock and new procedures take effect.

## Procedures:

### Obtaining an access code

A unique access code will be given to all alumni members who request one.

Request for access codes before January 1, 2011 can be via email or phone to:

Cory Gibson

724-931-0458

cgibson@gccoc.org

After January 1, access codes can be obtained by emailing or calling Cory, or by calling Mark Place or Lee McCoy.

Per standard operating procedures, a key FOB will be given to each student officer. These FOB's are to be handed down and the former officers will receive their key code. Key FOBs cannot be copied and can be disabled if lost or misused.

College Security and Maintenance will receive key FOBs.

### Usage of the lock

#### **Opening the cabin**

Enter your code, followed by the # sign. Cabin door will unlock and remain unlocked until the user locks the door following the Locking Cabin procedure, or the Auto Lock time.

#### **Locking cabin**

Press the Lock button on the back of the door, or enter you code followed by the # sign on the keypad of unlocked door.

#### **Auto Lock of front door**

Door will automatically lock every night at 10:00pm. Lock will remain locked until 7:00am and any entry to the cabin between those hours will require the user to enter their code + #. (Note door can be opened from the inside while locked without the use of a code)

#### **Low battery indicator**

The lock is run of 4 AA batteries. When the power gets low, a low battery indicator will light. Please let a member of the Cabin Team or an officer of the club know immediately. Batteries will be regularly monitored and changed at least every 3 months to help insure that the lock will not fail due to low batteries

#### **Key FOB Option**

A Key FOB can be issued in place of an access code if so desired. Key fobs are available for a fee of \$10 Key FOBs are not warranted in any way and new fobs will incur an additional fee. (An access code can be issued for free instead of FOB replacement)

Please do not disassemble or remove lock, if you have problems with the lock, contact a member of the Cabin Team

### Lost, Stolen, or Forgotten Keys

You are responsible for the security of your key or access code. Keys and access codes should not be given to other members. Your key or access code is your unique identifier. You are responsible for any use of the cabin under your key or access code. Please report key losses immediately, so you previous key can be inactivated and a new key or access code issued.

## **A time to act! The cabin needs you.** Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

The Cabin Team has made a concerted effort to keep all alumni informed regarding the increasingly precarious state of the cabin. In 2008 at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary we reported that it was time to focus on a long term solution to the state of the cabin and suggested that we had to do something in the next 5 years or risk more and more restrictions on the use of the cabin.

As reported previously we finally have found an architect that was interested in working with us, Dan Franus AIA of Franus Architectural Associates, Inc. in Ellwood City. [www.franusarchitects.com](http://www.franusarchitects.com). Dan is the father of a Grove City grad and genuinely interested in the Outing Club and what it brings to the College. Interestingly he started his professional career with the architect in New Castle PA that did the original design of the cabin for the Trustees.

Dan has visited the cabin and the Cabin Team has provided him with drawings, pictures, and various investigative reports that he suggested such as when we removed a good deal of the siding in 2009 to determine how the walls were built and how much damage there was. Dan has also been doing preliminary research pro-bono on what regulations that we are going to have to deal with. In addition to the deed restrictions, the cabin is located in a building permit township and is considered commercial by the State. Based on Dan's research and the accelerating structural problems it is clear to the Cabin Team that we must move forward immediately with the design work required to present very clear options to the alumni for a roll call vote. We know every option discussed so far is going to be expensive and have far ranging effects on the organization for decades to come. We believe that any of the options discussed are going to run in excess of \$250,000.

Based on the discussion at the annual meeting at Homecoming 2010 we asked Dan Franus to put together a proposal to get the options on the table from a professional and scientific standpoint while taking into account the various ordinances and regulations that apply. He will look carefully at restoration, renovation, reconstruction, replacement while addressing all the variables and provide some focused options. This effort will take several months and involve many additional professionals. Dan cannot be expected to do this work pro bono. Highlights of his proposal are on page 2 of this report.

We need \$40,000 to get to this next step and we need it fast. After we decide which direction to go, we will still have maybe 30 months of design work, permitting, fund raising and construction before the cabin is ready for the next 70+ years.

Here is the proposition put forth at the October 2010 meeting Chaired by Alumni President Lee McCoy and passed by those present.

1. We only have two sources of immediate, initial, funding; Outing Club alumni and the College.
2. **IF** the alumni can come up with the \$40,000 needed to get to the decision stage by February 1 2011 we sign a contract with Franus Architects and things move forward with the goal of having a report completed in roughly 6 months.
3. However, if the Outing Club Alumni do not step up to the plate, and we do not raise enough money by February 1, the alumni by direct communication, or a lack of action, authorize the leadership to explore a grant from the College to fund the design report. Dr. Jewell has made it very clear that support is available. While there are obvious concerns about accepting direct College financial support, we simply cannot overlook this possible source of preliminary funding.

**It is time to act.** Stroke a check, vote to meet with the college, vote not to meet with the College. **Just do something!** We are mailing to over 600 alumni and we need to hear from everyone not just those with instant email access. We need actions not words. Please send tax deductible checks to Alumni Treasurer Tom Ronksley and your thoughts to Alumni Secretary Keegan Hange by email or snail mail at the addresses below. We will provide a summary update every few weeks by way of the "announce" email option or by phone if asked. Anyone with technical questions can feel free to call, write or email me.

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644 Flower Avenue  
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Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager  
134 East Bruceton Rd  
Pittsburgh PA 15236  
[mplace@johnplaceinc.com](mailto:mplace@johnplaceinc.com) 412-877-0050

Franus Architectural Associates has proposed a focused 10 step preliminary investigation and preliminary design process for a total of \$40,000 with a small contingency amount added by the Cabin Team. The report team also includes two respected civil and geotechnical engineering firms.

**Task 1:** Clearly confirm and mark what we own

- Updated survey for permits and design
- Topographic survey for drainage and building layout near the cabin proper
- Double check deeds and restrictions back to day 1
- Install durable survey markers

**Task 2:** Prepare required Pennsylvania and federal wetlands reports.

- We know the ground is wet
- We know the spring starts on our property
- We know below us is a “swamp”

**Task 3:** Site assessment

- Local and state ordinance requirements for non-residential property
- Local, state, and federal permits required
- Utility availability to meet ordinances
- Deed restriction negotiation issues

**Task 4:** Document the building as it sits today

- Electronic drawings to work from

**Task 5:** Detailed code review that will determine many of our options

- What applies
- What we can try to get exemptions from

**Task 6:** Soil investigation borings

- How to stop/prevent foundation, chimney and roof damage
- How to stop moisture problems in the basement and cabin in general

**Task 7:** Investigate options

- Restore, recreate, replace and everything in between
- Low maintenance construction methods
- Critter resistant methods
- Passive ventilation and other “Green” options
- Drainage and storm water management

**Task 8:** A report outlining two major project options

- 1. Hard to tell the changes required to meet codes and provide required drainage
- 2. Enhanced design options to preserve the past and improve the future
- Renderings of each approach to illustrate the options

**Task 9:** Actual report bringing everything together along with budgets for each option

**Task 10:** Deliverables

- Property survey with permanent markers
- Topographic survey of the +/- acre around the cabin
- Conceptual site plans
- Site assessment report
- Core boring report
- General overall report

I believe that this is an excellent proposal that will give us the tools to make a thoughtful, collective decision on how to proceed with a detailed plan that will serve the Club for the next 75 years. This may seem overly complicated but this is the proper and normal approach to a project of this magnitude.

If you have any questions on any particular task point, please contact me and I will do my best to get an answer to your question.