



Forestry/Machine Shop by the Group

This quarter our group has been logging with Carl Davis at the Three Rivers Land Trust, Hobbs Farm. We have gotten a lot of pulp and saw logs. It's getting muddy so we have to make a bridge so we can continue logging because we have to have it done by the end of the school year. Next year we are planning on helping at another woodlot.

We have just about rebuilt the farmi-winch. We had broken it a few times so we took the time to take it all apart to fix it properly. We went out and got all new nuts and bolts; greased everything and made sure we had it all together and back to new. We bought a new swedge cable that can hold up 20,000 pounds and the farmi wench can hold up to 6,600 pounds. We also bent a drive shaft a little while back. We went and bought a new one and shortened it an inch. It's back to new and works perfectly fine.

We have been helping out Carl by collecting 300 pails of sap. We help him pretty much every day. What we get done in an hour and a half would take Carl over 4 hours. He has sap buckets set up on different properties around Acton. After collecting all this sap, it is boiled down to maple syrup. The whole school will go to Carl's and we have a pancake day with all the fresh syrup we helped collect. It's cool to do work then see positive results.



Carpentry by the Group

At the start of the quarter it was still winter so we were still working in the shop. Everybody got to build a personal project while we had our time in the shop. From Hobbs Farm we got three trailer loads of white pine logs. We will be sawing the logs on our sawmill this spring for them to dry over the summer. We also built a table and chair for the Grahamtastic Connections program for silent auction fundraiser. These two items raised \$250.00 at the event. We also built a solid red oak bench for Rosa's Deli. Our friend, Rosa has been a great supporter of our school so we felt good that we were able to build this for her.

Over the past few weeks we've working on an estimate for a 10x12 shed for the Acton/Shapleigh Historical Society. We just got the OK for the project and this will be our main focus for the rest of the year. As part of this project we will be tearing down the old shed. We hope to have the job done by the end of the quarter. Check our upcoming new website for pictures of this project. Hopefully when the weather gets warmer we hope to go fishing.



Veterinary Assistance Program by the Group

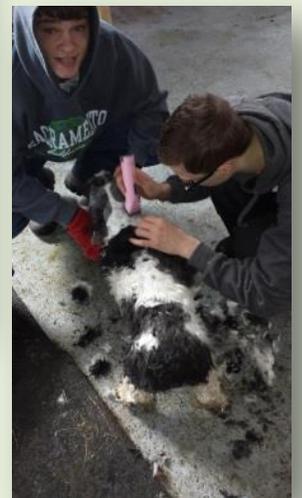
This quarter has been full of change and activity at MapleStone. We have had 7 baby lambs born in February. After they were born we put their permanent identification tattoos in their ears and gave them their first vaccinations. All the lambs are really cute!

March 18th was the start of kidding season with the birth of little Chromeo. We learned how to prepare the mother goats for a safe and healthy birth. First we made sure all the mother goats maintain correct body weights by weighing them weekly and supplementing them with special food with needed energy, vitamins and minerals. We have also been practicing our injection technique with giving vitamin shots called BoSe to help the mother and baby goats have healthy bones and muscles. We learned to clip the hair on the goat's udders and tails so they can keep extra clean during birthing time. The goats did not like getting haircuts and were tricky to hold on to which really tested our animal handling skills. Baby goats are called kids, and we have learned a lot about how to feed them warm milk out of a bottle to keep them from getting sick by over eating cold milk that could contain bacteria.

We conducted an autopsy on a young goat kid that did not survive the birthing process on another farm to help the farmer figure out why the baby was not born living. It was a little scary and sad at first but we got to see all the organs up close and how they stick together to make a functional body and we were able to help the farmer solve the mystery which will save future animals.

Recently we tested the cows and goats for Brucellosis and TB. The Brucellosis tests require us to draw blood from the jugular vein in the goats and Caudal Tail vein of the cows. It was very challenging for us to find the veins and draw the blood but we got a lot of practice in. We have also gotten better at reading fecal tests under the microscope as spring brings us lots of samples from the surrounding area as other animal care takers submit samples for testing.

Our words of the week quizzes have gotten trickier and we have learned over 100 new words! We also did projects about metabolic diseases commonly found in domestic animals. Our second project was about pet foods. This was really interesting because we learned about labeling requirements and varieties of ingredients as well as how to determine which pet food is best for which pet. These skills could be helpful if we got jobs working at places that sell pet food or if a client asked us to help them pick out a new food for their pet.



Mechanics by the Group

This semester our group worked on many individual and group projects. One student fabricated a stool to be used in the shop. Another repaired the snow plow. The entire group worked on designing and fabricating a forge used to make aluminum parts. Some of our newer members learned to weld.

Fabricating a stool might seem simple but because I'm new to the group I have a lot more to learn about craftsmanship's I chose different pieces of metal and ground and cut them how I wanted. Then I welded the pieces together and I also primed and painted them once I finished it. ~ Shane

While plowing we realized the plow's trip edge was dragging the entire time and broke. We brought it in the shop and noticed the bottom off the trip edge was worn way down till the bolts fell out so we took the bolts and the springs out and welded new pieces on the bottom to hold up the bolts. We had to make a tool to get the springs off because there was a lot of tension built up so we needed a little leverage to push down on them. Then we put the bolts back in and kept plowing. ~ Seth

We made a forge to make ingots with aluminum from recycled cans. We used play sand and plaster of Paris to make our forge.

Animal Science by the Group

Another busy quarter we had! We got the gator from the shop; we moved a half ton of grain into the barn; we filled the hay loft full of hay. I got to dive the gator for the first time. We cleaned off the arena this winter because there was three feet of snow on the arena. We moved the goats outside. We have DBT every Wednesday with Donna. ~ Justin

This quarter we went to look at a new mower for the tractor – already thinking about getting ready to hay this spring. We went up Delorme Maps in Yarmouth for some maps. There was a 50 foot tall globe that we studied for about 20 minutes. ~ Sean
I have had a great experience here at MapleStone. I was in the carpentry group but I switched to the barn group and I like it. In the barn group we take care of the animals - the horses, the sheep, the goats, and the cows. We clean the horse stalls every day. We also learn how to do the grain and how much hay to give the horses. We have some ducks and geese that we take care of and I enjoy the experience. ~ Mackenzie

Then we welded a metal crucible to put in the base to hold the melted aluminum inside the base. We also used charcoal to melt the aluminum down. We plan on using the melted aluminum to make parts. ~ Alex

I learned how to weld in a gap/fill. As a new member to the group I have also learned a lot about Mig welding. And I don't think I am a bad beginner welder. I was taught how to Mig weld from Jeff /Keaton and Seth. I also learned some welding skill from Keaton that helped me. Seth also taught me something's about welding that helped me. ~ Scott



Environmental Science/Carpentry by the Group

As a group for this quarter, we finished insulating the green house and started working on the air flow to move the heat around to the places that needs it the most. We have worked on a quite a few other projects in class such as a cabinet for the classroom as well some bird and bat houses for Hobbs farm. The newer people in the group this quarter accomplished their first project which was a mitered box. And we are currently working on an interior door for Mike that is just about finished. We also did a lot of community service like shoveling and sanding Virginia's and Gillis' driveways so they can get around safely. We also helped Virginia replenish her firewood pile with the help of two other groups. We cut up kindling and stacked it and the firewood in her woodshed. We try to visit them at least once a week just to see how they are doing and sometimes learn cool stuff like how to graft a tree. ~Dan

I came up with an idea to build a cabinet for our Carpentry & Environmental Science Group. There are many steps to make a cabinet. First is the design; then comes the cut list. We glued up narrow boards to make wider ones so that they are stable then set up the router to cut dados and rabbets for the shelves and bottom. Next we will make the face frame and doors. I have been working on the cabinet for three or four weeks. When it is all completed it will be a nice finished piece. ~ Kelsey

I have made a blue bird house and I also have helped make parts for other bird houses. The bird and bat houses are going to Hobbs farm. I have learned how to use the chop saw, drill, and how to use a hammer properly, I even learned how to use the saw mill. ~ Dakota

We are building blue bird houses so that we can attract them into the community. We want them because they eat bugs and they are losing habitat to residential and commercial construction. I also learned how to build a bat house so we can attract the bats in to the ecosystem. They eat their weight in mosquitoes every night. ~ Zach

It has been an interesting quarter! Some of our upcoming projects for the 4th quarter are building a new classroom table out of maple and a chair made out of birch twigs. We are not finished with the greenhouse yet so we are going to do the air handling next. We will be running ductwork and wiring thermostats and fans. The air handler will send warm air to the building or the rock storage in the winter and outside to the open air in the summer.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ April Vacation: April 21-24
- ◆ Graduation: June 5 (Early Release)
- ◆ Last Day of School: June 12 (Early Release)