



Trail of the Bagamore

News from the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.



Windham –Tolland 4-H Camp

www.4hcampct.org

Ragged Hill Woods Educational Programs

860-974-3379/1122

Spring 2020



Notes from the office,

Well, it's Spring. The daffodil bulbs in my yard started appearing in February with little nubs of green popping through the leaves. The minis popped open for some St. Patrick's Day cheer with the rest soon to follow and for once, I am home to appreciate every single one of them.

In these gloomy times, a pop of color by the stone wall, and the front steps go a long way to help us see beyond the immediate. Many of the daffodils bulbs on my property and those of my neighboring sisters were planted years ago by our mother and have been blooming here ever since. The daffodils my mother planted have optimistically bloomed after record breaking snow storms, droughts, two brothers serving in Vietnam, my own family living in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, market crashes, family losses, even my mother's passing. They still bloom.

There is a pandemic of flu this year. The daffies will go on and hopefully most of us will too. It does not stop us from living our lives, but maybe gave us the gift of time to appreciate what we have a bit more.

We at camp are being cautiously optimistic. *Camp will be open this year. The Auction and Tag sale will be this year, and yes, it will be one of the most sanitized places on the planet, but we are determined to get ourselves and the kids outside and in bloom again this summer.*

See you around the lodge, maybe at one of the new handwashing stations!



Jane Rider,
Foundation President

Summer Camp is Coming !

Planning for each year's summer camp begins long before registration begins in January, even before week 7 the summer before! We are scheduling camp with great hope that the health crisis will have passed and campers will be more than ready to get outside and run, swim, ride, canoe, and kayak, shoot arrows, nature hike, frog catch and all the other wonderful things that can be positive experiences.

As current camper families have already been informed, we are doing everything possible to incorporate precautions into our program. Some changes include taking temperatures at check-in, increased number of handwashing stations, additional cleaning staff and procedures, additional safety training and protocols for staff, just to name a few.

For additional information on policies for this summer's registration, please check out our website at www.4hcampct.org.



66th Annual Windham County 4-H Auction & Tag Sale

Re-scheduled to: **September 11 & 12**

We have many wonderful donations already from businesses and individuals and look forward to a spectacular sale in September!!

Be on the lookout for information about our on-line mini-auction of seasonal items this spring and pop up tent sale of some tag sale items this summer!

wc4hfounders@gmail.com



AS THE SONG SAYS, "WE'LL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER, WHEN THE SUMMER'S THROUGH!"

Hopefully we will no longer be staying at home by then and what better place to go than the **66TH ANNUAL WINDHAM COUNTY 4-H AUCTION & TAG SALE**. Come celebrate with us on **September 11 and 12, 2020**. Please mark these dates on your calendars. Auction on Friday – 5 PM preview and 6 PM start. On Saturday 5 PM preview and 5:30 PM start outside. On Saturday, we will have a new auctioneer on board due to John McDonald's retirement. Our tag sale runs from 12 to 5 on Friday and 9 to 5 on Saturday. There will be an Early Bird Buy in on Friday from 10:30 – 12:00 for \$5/person charge. Mary's Kitchen will be in full swing during both tag sale and auction hours. Start dreaming about those home made pies now!

We are also planning **on-line specials of a few items and gift certificates that are seasonal and they will up for bid electronically this May/June**. We may also have a **one day tent sale**. Who knows what we will come up with? So stay tuned. Know that we will keep everyone's health and safety in mind as we make these decisions. **In the meantime, please remember all the local small businesses that contribute to our auction every year. We sent out our request letters before the stay home protocols were ordered and we receive donations every day from these generous folks.** It would be great if you can support these places by purchasing gift certificates or placing take out orders with them during this tough time. When you do so, tell them you appreciate their past support for our auction. The local nurseries that are so generous to us are opening up. This is a great time to get some gardening done while you have extra time at home and a perfect excuse to be outside in the fresh air. It would be a big boost to them to get those pansies out of the greenhouse and onto your front porch to cheer you up!

John Dinsdale and Sue Shanahan have busily been collecting treasures for you over the fall and winter months. Whenever the auction is held, you can look forward to bidding on a beautiful 4 piece wicker bedroom set, a large Goodyear advertising sign, two lovely mahogany drop leaf tables and 6 ribbon back chairs, a Mexican birthing chair, Peruvian textiles, a collection of beautiful frames, lots of artwork, a gorgeous old Mission style bench and an interesting assortment of small collectibles to mention just a few things to whet your appetite. The tag sale will be crammed to the gills once again, we will have lots of gift certificates on offer and Mary's Kitchen will be in full swing. Life will return to normal, hopefully soon. In the meantime, stay home and stay well.

Look for some other possible innovations due to our rescheduling of the 66th Annual Windham County 4-H Auction and Tag Sale We will keep you up-to-date through newspaper and radio ads as well as emails. Once again our bidder's letter will be sent by email. If you would like to be added to that list, please send us a request with your e-mail address to wc4hfounders@gmail.com

Cabin Project Going Strong!

This Spring three more cabins are being re-sided to be as good as new this summer. The first cabin getting a new look is **White Pine**, (Sponsored by SPIROL) which some of you may recall from our last issue was the recipient of some unwanted attention of trees falling in a storm. Roof and other repairs are being made and White Pine will be as good as new in a couple of weeks. In the same area, **Red Cedar** (sponsored by local banks and several individuals) will have new siding and across the pond **Shagbark Hickory** (In memory of Joe Pempek) will be looking sharp by the opening of camp. We are hoping that 2 more cabins will be re-sided in the fall.

Hopefully this summer our campers can help us rededicate these refurbished cabins along with the sponsors!



Dates to Pencil In!

May 30th: 5K Camper Scamper

June 21 : Camp opens
Week 1

September 11 & 12
66th annual 4-H Auction and Tag Sale

December 1st: Dam Fun Time Benefit



Dear Readers, It is with great sadness we announce the passing of the Foundation's Chair of Board Development and volunteer coordinator (and oh, so much more) Louise Cutler Pempek. The following is portions of a letter we composed 18 months ago to support her nomination of Northeast Chamber of Commerce Civic Achievement Award which she was awarded in 2019. Our deepest sympathies go to her family and friends. We will miss her dearly.

To Award Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Windham County 4-H Foundation, to submit Dr. Louise Cutler Pempek's name for consideration for the 2019 Civic Achievement Award. With over 40 years of experience teaching high school math and physics in Plainfield, Woodstock, Putnam and Killingly, Louise has touched the lives of hundreds of local students, and is remembered fondly years after they have moved on to careers of their own. In mid-career she went back to school and holds a doctorate in education. Her teaching competence was recognized in 1988 when she was one of two teachers in the state of Connecticut to receive the Milken Award for excellence in teaching. Louise chose to deposit the \$25,000 award into a special account which she has used over the ensuing years to provide scholarships to local students from Ellis Tech, in honor of her father who taught electrical engineering there. This generosity is typical of Louise's approach to life and has been an additional way that she has made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals.

In the mid 1970's, Louise created the Aspinock Historical Society and became its first President. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors and is the society's representative to the Putnam Business Association. She is a member of the grant writing committee and has been a tireless promoter in generating public interest in the Boxcar Museum, Cady Copp Cottage and Putnam's rich history. She is currently involved in a research project about one of her own relatives, Manasseh Cutler, who was instrumental in drafting and ensuring passage of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which opened lands in western states to settlement.

In 2018, Louise was recognized as an outstanding alumnus of Putnam High School. A plaque honoring her lifelong career in education as a teacher, administrator and mentor was installed in the Hall of Fame in the rotunda at the school. Louise's father, Loid Cutler, was one of the founders of the Windham County 4-H Foundation. Louise was an active participant in 4-H growing up and when she retired from teaching, she hoped to give back to the camp by volunteering. She immediately became a fixture at the annual auction, coming in to help set up the tag sale weeks ahead of time, working in the kitchen and at night recording bids at the secretaries table. Louise has been a member of the 4-H Foundation for 15 years. She has served on a variety of committees, was Vice-President for a year, and for the past several years has served as Chair of Board Development and took on an ad-hoc chair as Volunteer Coordinator. She also chaired the Ragged Hill Woods education committee for several years, recruiting experts in the field of environmental education as advisors. Louise can run a meeting with the skill of a surgeon, agenda in hand, goals delineated, and tasks to be completed are assigned. A reminder will appear in your email that evening in case you forgot what you need to do.

When our environmental education program lost its business partner, Louise reinvented the business model of the program in collaboration with local environmental educators. She helped to write a grant from the Beagary Trust to furnish the new classroom, pay for program supplies and curriculum development to move the program forward in its new configuration.


When the Foundation decided to do a major renovation of our lodge to bring it up to current codes and provide additional teaching, kitchen and administrative spaces, Louise joined the Capital Campaign Committee. She coaxed professional fundraisers into meeting with us "for lunch" so we could learn what we needed to do to start raising 1.2 million dollars to pay for the renovation (and not pay a fundraiser). She worked with a print shop to develop a brochure for the project and compiled contact lists larger than the populations of some of the local small towns! She made many personal visits, assisted with mail campaigns, and various fundraisers to help us reach our goal. She has personally been a leadership circle supporter of the project and the new environmental science classroom has been named in memory of her father. She was recognized for her efforts by being one of two board members to be the inaugural recipients of the Founders Spirit Award in 2014. This award was created to honor the work of board members whose commitment to the organization exemplifies the spirit of the Board's founders. Louise continues to wield a paintbrush, a rake, a broom, a dish cloth, or join the kitchen crew to put out lunch for volunteers at our work days at camp. She has long been retired, but tired she is not!

The 4-H motto is "to make the best better". Through her dedication and example, she has made our Foundation so much better for having her with us. Her commitment to community service to our organization and the others mentioned above is exemplary. We respectfully submit her nomination for consideration to be recognized by the civic achievement award for her lifetime of making a difference in Northeastern Connecticut in so many ways.

Submitted by Elaine Nelson



Louise Cutler Pempek (center) with her sisters Carol Cutler and Sandra Ames at the 4-H tag sale in 2019.

 Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc

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Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 3

Putnam, CT 06260



**Windham- Tolland 4-H
Camp Camper Scamper
5K Race/Walk
and 1 Mile
Kid Run**

*Register Online
www.4hcampct.org*

Saturday, May 30, 2020
 Registration Begins 8:00am
 Kids Race Begins 9:30
 Race Begins 10:00am Walkers Will
 Begin Immediately After Runners
 4-H Camp Lodge- 326 Taft Pond Rd, Pom-
 fret, CT

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE WINDHAM-
 TOLLAND 4-H CAMP JIM LOGEE CAMPSHIP FUND
www.4hcampct.org for more details

Re-Scheduled! Some tickets still available!

**A "Dam"
Fun Time!
Benefit
Concert**



December 1 - 7pm-11pm

**@Stonehurst at Hampton Valley
Hampton, CT**

Silent auctions - 50/50 raffle
Hors d'oeuvres - Cash bar

**Dancing with music provided by
The Great Garage Band Reunion**

TICKETS \$40
MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE
FOR YOURS
Call 860-974-1122

BE A SPONSOR
DAM BUILDER = \$250
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*All Proceeds Benefit the
Windham- Tolland 4-H Camp*