

Barry Camp Will Open! Donations Still Needed

N.H. Sportsmen Bring Back a Treasured Conservation Camp

A statewide effort to renovate and bring back Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, N.H., has reached a successful midpoint milestone and needs your help to reach its endowment goal to finish the job. The good news is that, thanks to the efforts of New Hampshire's outdoorsmen and women, the project is halfway to its goal of raising \$50,000 – enough to support a decision by N.H. Fish and Game to officially reopen the camp for the summer of 2011. Plans are well underway for campers to arrive in late June and sessions are scheduled through the first week in August, 2011.

The biggest need remains funding. “None of this happens without money,” explains Mike Normandin of the Belknap County Sportsmen’s Association a volunteer who is coordinating the renovation effort. “We hope you, or a club you belong to, will consider giving to this worthwhile project.”

A growing list of supporters across the state shows the project’s broad range of support: Belknap County Sportsmen; N.H. Trappers Association; Pointer Fish and Game Club; N.H. Chapter of Safari Club International; N.H. Council of Trout Unlimited; the Basil Woods, Ammonoosuc and Great Bay chapters of TU; Pemigewasset Valley Fish and Game; Goffstown Fish and Game; Sullivan County Sportsmen; Mt. Cardigan Fish and Game; Cheshire County Fish and Game; the Enfield Outing Club; the N.H. Locked Moose Antler Project; the Coos County Fire Wardens and



GARY SLEEPER PHOTOS

N.H. Trappers Association volunteers work on their adopted Barry Camp cabin, the “Beaver Lodge” in 2010. Inset: Mike Normandin of the Belknap County Sportsmen oversees the project.

Conservation Commissions from the towns of Bethlehem, Littleton and Walpole.

Over the past 25 years, thousands of New Hampshire youth have learned how to shoot, hunt, fish and enjoy the great outdoors at Barry Camp. The camp closed in 2009. It needed big repairs, and N.H. Fish and Game had no means to fix it. The state’s last dedicated facility for introducing youngsters to the outdoor life was fast becoming no more than a memory.

Enter N.H. sportsmen. In 2010, Mike Normandin and the Belknap County Sportsmen led the charge to get Barry Camp up and running again. “This camp is too important to the future of hunting and fishing in N.H. to let it close forever,” says Normandin.

This was no easy task. Roofs needed replacing; windows, doors and walls on the six cabins were out of kilter; the creaky recreation hall was barely habitable; a new water system was needed. Toughest of all – raising \$50,000 to cover repairs and create an endowment for future maintenance.

Outdoorsmen and women stepped up to the plate. “We’ve been at the heart of this push, but it’s been gratifying to see the response from other fish and game clubs and outdoor organizations,” says Normandin. “This is a true statewide effort – a chance for us to work together on a project that will affect the future of something we all care about.”

Throughout the fall of 2010, volunteer work crews hustled to repair many of the buildings. N.H. Fish and Game installed a new water line with assistance from R&L Amey, Inc. Clubs and businesses donated money, materials and services. Enthusiastic volunteers renovated and put new metal roofs on the cabins.

“We’re off to a great start, but there’s plenty more to do,” says Normandin. “Next spring, we plan to finish the renovating and re-stain all the cabins. Also, we hope to revamp the shooting ranges, build roofed structures at the firing lines and install new shooting benches being built by Boy Scouts this winter.”

Thanks to these ongoing efforts and generous donations, a new generation will have the chance to slow down their lives and sample and savor the outdoor life at Barry Camp.

To learn more about the Barry Conservation Camp restoration project and how you can help, visit www.wildnh.com/barrycamp.



Barry Camp’s recreation building, adopted by the Belknap County Sportsmen’s Association, was renovated by volunteers. Above, the building before; below, the restored rec hall.



How You Can Help

The greatest need is for cash donations. Send tax-deductible contributions to the **Wildlife Heritage Foundation of N.H., PO Box 3993, Concord, NH 03301** (specify Barry Camp Fund). The Foundation is Fish and Game’s nonprofit partner and fiscal agent for the project.