

The Village Log

Volume 42, Issue 2

March 2018

2018 First Quarter



2018 has started off on a strong point for us so far. We have new people on the Board this year, new officers were elected in February and our Maple Season started off strong for us. In years past the first quarter of a year is usually a slow one for the Village but this year we hit the ground running. We added a Paranormal event in January to start bringing in money to help with the bills and we are going to keep going strong with the rest of our events in the 2nd Quarter along with scheduling two new paranormal events in an already busy month of April.

With the weather constantly keeping us guessing as to what it was going to do, we have been kept on our toes with what we can get done at the Village. As it has been in the years past, this year was no exception with us keeping the tradition of working at the Village year round. This is a work ethic which we hope to keep thriving throughout the year and to bring the Village to even higher levels of participation and growth than we have ever seen.

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Board of Trustees 2018

The Election for the Board of Trustees was held at the February 2018 membership meeting. After this meeting, the Board met to elect their officers and to get the Board of Trustees for 2018 set and ready to tackle the year. The elections had a bunch of newcomers to the Board throw their hats into the ring and they hope to bring a new spirit to the Board.

The 2018 Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village Board of Trustees Members:

- Drew Browne
- Jeff McIntire
- Robert "Brownie" Browne
- Emily McIntosh
- Randy Conover
- Allie Jarvis
- Scott Bidwell
- Dave Rissel

The officers for 2018:

President – Allie Jarvis

Vice President – Emily McIntosh

Secretary – Scott Bidwell

Treasurer – Drew Browne

The new Board is planning on hitting the ground running and making sure that we keep the Village moving forward and improving on the very good 2017 which we had. We want to make 2018 a year to remember for the Village and all its visitors. We are also very pleased to notify everyone that Linda Lee has chosen to remain as the Village Historian. As one of our oldest active members, she brings a great connection with our past which can only help us greatly succeed in our future.

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Upcoming Events:

March 10th – Membership Meeting (11 am)

March 10th – House Parent Meeting (1 pm)

March 17th & 18th – Maple Syrup and Pancake Brunch (9 am – 2 pm)

April 7th – Membership Meeting (4:30 pm)

April 7th & 8th – Civil War Union Training Camp (10 am – 4 pm)

April 13th & 14th – Public Paranormal Event (7 pm to 2 am)

April 21st – Habitat for History (8 am – 5 pm)

May 5th & May 6th – Vintage Base Ball (9 am – 7 pm)

May 26th – Membership Meeting (4:30 pm)

May 26th & 27th – Spring Gathering (10 am – 4 pm)

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Maple Syrup - Update

The Maple Season this year was a bit of a rough season with some very interesting weather. We all learned how much fun it can be to be trudging around the Village in mud that is threatening to pull your shoes off and just how fun walking through the woods with really poor flashlights (a candle would have been better than a few of those flashlights) at night can be while playing a really challenging game of hide and seek with Sap buckets on trees. There were plenty of moments where we got very muddy and wet, but everyone survived and came out on the other side stronger. We boiled the sap this year instead of the previous methods and we learned different ways of manipulating our cooking system to be the most efficient. There were also some tough decisions made regarding the Sugar Shack and it will be going through a few renovations this year to be more efficient next year.

The numbers for those who are curious:

Gallons of Sap Collected: ~1000

Number of Gallons of Sap Made: 16

Number of taps: 127 at the Village, 50 at Brownie's House, 9 at Drew's House

The trees throughout the state were putting out less sugar this year including some as low as 1/2% sugar (a typical tree on a regular year will put out between 1-3% to give a comparison). For the trees giving out so little sugar, we had a pretty good year and I think everyone will be very pleased with the results when they get to taste it at the Pancake Brunch.

We do want to give a big thank you to everyone who came out and helped by collecting sap and gathering firewood and doing some wood splitting for us. We would also like to thank those who put in endless hours cooking the sap including some very late nights (and one overnight) to guarantee we have a high-quality product that we can all be very proud to call our own.

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April Events:

Civil War Training Camp: Training Camp is going to occur on April 7th and April 8th. Currently there are a considerable number of soldiers ready to make the Pioneer Village their home for the weekend and put on a great display of what a Training Camp would have been like. There will also be some of the re-enactors who will be speaking and educating the public on what life was like for soldiers and their families during the Civil War. This promises to be a very educational experience for both young and old and will give everyone a true feeling of life during the war.

We would like everyone to have their Cabins open for this event and to be on hand to interact with the public as they spend the day at the Village. For members who are not House Parents, we have plenty of need for help in the kitchen and at the gate so please come to the Village and help where ever you can during the event. If you are working the gate or the kitchen there is no requirement to be in period dress.

Friday the 13th Public Paranormal: Our Paranormal Events return once again. This time we will be doing an investigation on Friday the 13th along with one on Saturday the 14th but who can pass up the opportunity to talk with the spirits on Friday the 13th. So far, the Friday event is filling up quickly but there are still spots available and plenty on the 14th also. If you know someone who is interested, the details can be found on Facebook or the Website and if they have any questions they can call or email the Pioneer Village. These events in the past have given us some interesting results and everyone who has attended has had a great time and they prove to be great money makers for the Village.

Habitat for History: Our Annual Earth Day event is coming up on April 21st. This gives the Village members a day to encourage the community to come out to the Village and help with some of the tasks around the Village. Currently we are compiling our list of tasks which the public can help us with. If you know of any groups looking to do any community service, this is a great opportunity for them to give back to the community and a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Village. If you have friends or acquaintances who have thought about becoming members of the Pioneer Village, this is a great chance for them to come to the Village and get to see what we are all about while talking and working hand in hand with some of our current members.

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May Events:

Vintage Base Ball Festival: This event will be May 5th and May 6th. There are going to be 9 teams (and possibly 2 women's teams) from the Vintage Base Ball Association playing 13 games over 2 days at the Village. This is a great period event with the players dressed in 1860's uniforms and playing Base Ball by the 1860's rules. It is a great way to see how the sport would have been played in the late 1800's and the players always put on a great game.

Everything involving the game is going to be handled by them although we will need volunteers from the Village to run the Score Board (still to be built but would be a great job for some of the kids possibly to run it). This event proved to be a great time for all last year and it ends up being a fun time for all the players who come for the games along with all the fans and a chance for the Village members to also relax and have some fun while the games are being played. All the teams are verified as coming and we just have to be sure we have plenty of people around to help with the Village. We will need plenty of help in the Kitchen along with a few people walking through the crowd selling food and drinks.

This is also an event where we need as many of the cabins open as possible since people are coming to watch the ball games, but they are also wanting to check out the Village and our cabins and it gives them something to do between games and many of the players are also very interested in enjoying the cabins and the Village.

Spring Gathering: The Spring Gathering (May 26th and 27th) is in the early stages of planning and we are still looking for someone who would want to come on board as the Chairperson for the event. We do not foresee doing any live shooting on the shooting range as we do not have the resources to run the range according to the rules set forth by the state.

We do need everyone at the Village with their cabins open and if they know any vendors who would like to be a part of the Spring Gathering, this would be a great opportunity for them to sell their wares at the Village. In the past this was an event where vendors lined the Village and they all did well, and it would be amazing to see it return to that same level. If you know anyone who would like to be a vendor for the event, have them send an email to the admin email for the village and we can get them all the details.

General Notes in regard to Events: We are always in need of people to help with the events. The kitchen can always use a hand or two to help with the cooking and serving all our visitors and we can always use help at the Gate. You don't have to help at either one of these for too long of a period of time. Gate shifts are typically an hour long unless you want to do more and helping in the kitchen can be anywhere from an hour during the event to working the whole event in the kitchen, it is totally up to you and we appreciate your help in these areas greatly. These end up being great positions for people who would like to help at the Village but don't want to be in period dress or want to slowly warm up to the idea of helping. We do ask though that anyone working the gate must be a member in good standing (membership dues are up to date) and over the age of 16.

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Infrastructure Updating

Kitchen: Many of the improvements to the kitchen are discussed in the following pages. To give a summary though, the inside is going through some improvements to increase the safety and look and feel of the kitchen. The outside will also be getting upgrades to improve the look and appeal of the Kitchen.

Rest Rooms: The restrooms have been ignored over the years and this year they are going to be getting some improvements. These would include making sure that all the showers and toilets work in both the Men's and Women's restroom and looking at the internal plumbing to see what changes need to be made to ensure we keep giving our guests a very good first and last impression since in some cases the rest rooms are the first thing and last thing they see. Along with this we will also be working on getting the water fountain installed once again on the side of the building and checking the light at the end of the building that has a mind of its own when it wants to come on and when it doesn't.

Gravel Driveway: If anyone has driven the Gravel driveway this winter they will notice that many of the "speed bumps" have returned. This was due to them not being properly compacted last year. This year we will be fixing those bumps properly to ensure that this is not an ongoing problem. We will also be looking to see if we have enough money in the general fund to be able to purchase additional gravel to finish off the job which was started last year since new gravel was not added in front of some of the buildings and the road going behind the Lukens Barn is in desperate need of gravel.

Gravel Paths: It has been a while since the paths were originally covered in gravel and a few of them are needing to get new gravel put down. This is in the plans but first we need to be sure we have the funds available for such a project. The original donation of the gravel was from a member of the Village, but we cannot continue to rely on individuals to make major donations such as that. There are also plans for one or two additional gravel paths to key locations around the Village.

Water Pit: During the annual turning off the water to winterize the Village we found that a few valves that were scheduled to be replaced last year had not been replaced and the valves that are already in the water pit are not the type they should be. Due to this, we will be replacing the valves in the pit with ones that can handle the rigors of being underwater all the time and adding new valves, so we will be able to better control the water in the Village when repairs need to be handled.

Water Lines: It was reported last year that the water line between the Water Pit and the Harkrader Barn had sprung a leak after a leak had been repaired. This spring we will be digging up the water line to evaluate the damage and to see if we can just replace the damaged line or if we will need to put in all new lines for the water.

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Caretaker Cabin: On New Year's Day, the Caretaker cabin had a few issues and the furnace went out which also meant that there was no heat in the cabin and the water lines froze due to the extreme cold spell we were going through at that time. Due to this, we are needing to have the furnace checked and will have to see if that needs to be replaced or just repaired. Also, the water lines under the cabin are going to need to be replaced as they have suffered damage to them and possibly some of the water lines within the cabin itself, but we will not know this until we turn the water back on for the Caretaker Cabin. At the current time he has been without water as the weather has not cooperated for the damage to be assessed.

Stage: Electricity will be re-established to the Stage once again. This is part of the agreement to have the Village Unplugged festival in June is that power will need to be supplied to the Stage. First step will be figuring out why the power is no longer going to the stage and then we will work on re-establishing it. If anyone is an electrician or knows one willing to donate some time to the Village, please contact the Grounds Committee or have them contact the Village.

Sugar Shack: The Sugar Shack will be going through some changes this year to be more efficient during Maple Season next year. The furnace will be redone and redesigned, the roof will be fixed, and a cupola added to allow the smoke and steam to escape the building more efficiently than the current system.

Additional Notes in regard to the grounds: Currently all the area not on the gravel roads is rather soft due to all the rain. Until the ground starts to harden up and become more solid, we are requesting everyone park on the gravel road. This applies even more to those who do not have 4-wheel drive as we have had some situations where people have gotten stuck because they do not have 4-wheel drive. The grounds have been torn up so far this year and is going to take some extensive repair, so we are trying to cut down on how much more repair is needed. Each rut that is created is more work for the grounds crew to make sure it is taken care of so no one gets injured later in the year. This also includes parking right next to the gravel road as that is also very soft and causes many issues. If you are unable to park on the gravel/know the solid places to park not on the gravel, please park in the small parking lot and walk to where you need to in the Village. The road back to the Sugar Shack is also off limits for anyone who does not have a 4-wheel drive vehicle as that area is very soft and even those of us with 4-wheel drive are only going back when it is direly needed.

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The Kitchen

Many people won't know it unless they have been out there this winter, but the Kitchen is going through a bit of a facelift. It has been years since the Kitchen has gotten any serious attention and as we keep doing more and more business through the kitchen, we decided it was time to give it a bit of a facelift and to start to do an upgrade. It had a few changes last year but this year it is going through more extensive changes.

So far this year, the back wall (closest to the head shed) has received insulation in the wall and been finished off with plywood and some edging to improve the look and to provide a bit of protection for everyone working in the kitchen during the cold weather months.



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(Kitchen cont'd)

The floor has also received a coat of new paint and to add a bit of safety to the Village we have used a non-skid paint to prevent any slipping on the floor.



Regarding smaller but still very important changes, we added a floor mat just inside the floor to the Kitchen for everyone to wipe their feet on when they enter the kitchen and a new fatigue mat has been added in front of the Flat Top Grill.

There are other changes still coming to the kitchen including some which are still in the planning phases. There will be a new top added to the counter near the French Fry cutter to fix the holes that currently exist, and the Kitchen will be getting a fresh coat of paint on the outside of the building this Spring once the weather gets warmer.

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Eagle Scout Projects

The Kiln: We communicated with a scout last year who expressed interest in rebuilding the Kiln for us. As of December, he was still planning on doing it although we have not heard from him since. His plan was the rebuild the outdoor kiln for the Village along with doing some maintenance work around the area of the kiln.

Meeting House Cemetery: Starting in late March/Early April, a scout will be working on the Meeting House Cemetery. The scouts will be rebuilding the walls and clearing out and leveling the ground inside of the cemetery. They will also be clearing some of the brush behind the building and possibly some other ground work around the Cemetery.

Kiosk for Caesar Creek: A scout has agreed to build the hiking Kiosk for Caesar Creek outside of the gate by the small parking lot. This will be a very important addition to the trails for Caesar Creek State Park as many people use our parking lot to begin their hike and during the warm months we have many hikers who hike through. This will provide trail information for them along with emergency contact information and other information about the area.

Lukens Barn Floor: Before our membership meeting in February, we talked with a scout who wants to install a new floor into the Lukens Barn. This is still in the preliminary stages, but the plan is to create a floating floor much like a deck on a house which will not be attached to the barn itself. This allows the structure to be completely independent from the barn and not rely on it for any sort of structural support. We were very excited to hear a scout willing to take this project on as the barn having a stable floor in it will allow us to open the barn up and to allow people to rent it and to give us an indoor space in case of inclement weather.

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2018 Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 7 th	Membership Meeting - Bullskin Inn	4:30 pm
May 26 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	4:30 pm
June 16 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
July 14 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
August 11 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
August 25 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
October 13 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
November 10 th	Annual Meeting	TBD

2018 Work Weekend Schedule

<u>Date</u>
May 19 th
June 6 th
July 14 th
August 11 th
October 13 th

These are the Planned Dates and they coincide with the Membership Meetings. There will be other days added during the year, but this are definite. Everyone needs to keep an eye on Facebook for other dates.

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2018 Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Date	Event
01/26	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	07/16 – 07/20	Pioneer Day Camp 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Daily
01/27	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	08/18 & 08/19	Marching Through Time 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
03/17 & 03/18	Maple Syrup & Pancake Brunch 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	08/25	Cabins & Chrome Car Show 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM
04/07 & 04/08	Civil War Union Training Camp 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	09/08 & 09/09	Civil War at the Village 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/13 & 04/14	Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	10/20 & 10/21	Harvest Festival & Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/21	Habitat for History 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm	10/27	Village Trick or Treat 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
05/05 & 05/06	Vintage Base Ball Festival 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM	11/17	Fireside Chat 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
05/26 & 05/27	Spring Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	12/01	Candlelight Walk 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
06/09	Village Unplugged Music Festival Noon to 6:00 PM		

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Contact Information

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