

Forrest E. Orr Conservation Center Update

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By David Brynn, Director, Green Forestry Education Initiative

The Forest E. Orr Conservation Center Project has been launched. The project will have five distinct phases: 1. Pole barn clean out; 2. On-site logging, milling, and drying; 3. Roof restoration; 4. Radiant-heat floating slab installation; and 5. Wall construction and window and door installation.

We are currently in Phase 1. This includes building a wood storage shed off the west side of the tool shed. This shed replaces one that was pulled down a while back and will provide much-needed storage for dry lumber and miscellaneous tools and supplies. (All of the material used on this project will be Jericho-grown and processed unless otherwise noted. Students are involved to the maximum extent possible.) The black locust posts and frame have been installed and the northern segment is ready for roofing. We are also sorting and cleaning out years of accumulated stuff.

Phase 2. will involve logging in Compartments 3 and 6 to procure white pine and Japanese larch logs. This material will be sawn and dried on-site and then used for interior framing, sheathing, and trim.

Phase 3. will involve removal of the existing asphalt roof, repair and upgrade of trusses, and installation of a new metal roof. This will happen once the warm spring weather arrives.

Phase 4. will involve the installation of a floating slab that will eventually provide wood-fired radiant heat for the building.

Phase 5. will include the framing of 2 inch by 8 inch walls, installation of large windows on the southern sections of the building, installation of three doors with universal access features, and careful insulation. Walls will be finished with a combination of white pine and Japanese larch lumber.

Students currently involved include: Kelly Hamshaw, Assistant Director of the Green Forestry Education Initiative; Brendan Weiner recent UVM graduate and forester with Vermont Family Forests; Emily Schadler, Master Degree Candidate; and E. Callie Brynn, UVM third-year student. Kelly is keeping the www.greenforestry.org website up-to-date. Brendan and Emily are assisting in all phases of construction. Callie is providing expertise in CAD designs and assisting in some of the construction as a work study student.