March Work Project
March 19-23, 2018
For more information email the office of Alumni Relations at alumni@antiochcollege.edu

Join Us!
Reunion 2018, July 12-15
VWP July 9-12

Campus Picnic Tables Rejuvenated

Ever consider the plight of the picnic tables scattered about the campus exposed to the changes of weather? To the rescue, the Volunteers! During October 2017 Volunteer Work Project, 20 tables were fork lifted to the Geo-Thermal Plant for thorough cleaning by the pressurized force of water. Power washers: Loretta Franklin ’65, David Franklin, Roger Huff ’69, Tod Tyslan ’96, Fork Lift: Marcel Beffort ’17

For the next 3 months the tables dried in the Geo-Thermal building, ready for resurfacing during January workweek. (Some had to be returned to duty on campus right after cleaning, not a surprise, as picnic tables are popular gathering spots.)

Marine Varnish, for the Ash tables, and Brick Red Pigment Stain for the others was the plan. The tables were sanded. Some needed additional carriage bolts for stability as well as screws on supports, with some minor dry-rot repair. The iconic Antioch “A” was then wood burned into the tables. The refinished tables look great and will add a dash of color and shine to campus. Table crew: David Vincent ’65, Evelyn LaMers ’69, Jim Hunter ’82, Marc Snyder ’92, Tod Tyslan ’96, Beth Richards, ’02

Four of the tables were built in 2013 (Gary Houseknechts ’66, lead) from the milled Ash trees removed on campus due to the “Emerald Ash Borer an ash tree-killing insect from Asia, first identified in Ohio in 2003”. Two of the newly varnished Ash tables will be placed on the patio of the Coretta Scott King Center.

Four very large 16 person tables were built in 2010 (Micah Canal ’08, lead), for Founder’s Day. And, many tables are from the 1990’s reunion work projects (David Erskine ’58, lead), where yearly, a few more were added to inventory. All will be stained in forthcoming work projects.

David Vincent ’65
October 2017 Volunteer Workweek Report

Once again we were more than adequately fueled by our kitchen staff, Peggy Erskine ’60, Charlotte Hallam ’60, and Louise Miller ’67, who planned, purchased and presented all we could eat. I think I saw Roger Huff ’69 washing some dishes; I know I saw Richard Zopf ’73 emptying some compost. Jim Spangler’s ’74 recipe for pork sandwiches was a new treat.

Our first challenge was a new activity: transplanting all campus plants that are not Ohio winter hardy to the greenhouse. Usually Kyle Lewis from maintenance does this, but a back injury stood in his way. It took Joan Stockton ’65 and helping most of Monday to figure out how to do the job. With many people pitching in on Tuesday, Joan estimates 150 plants were moved!

Tod Tyslan ’96 headed up the crew including David and Loretta Franklin ’65 to refinish picnic tables. They moved tables to Central Plant (the old engineering building) and began preparing them. However, the super deluxe finish that had been provided was super toxic, so plans changed. Tod became the power washer supreme and applied his talents all over campus.

Tuesday was Founder’s Day and our team made an impressive showing at the event. Many people enjoyed a pot luck dinner, but it was mostly the volunteers who endured occasional light rain to hear all the speakers!

I suggested to Joe that the basement windows of Weston could use some improvements. ”Tom Sawyer” Foley soon had Megan and Gary reglazing, Megan and Sylvia Newman 16 painting, and finally, Richard painting some more and some more and some more. The sashes removed were back in place on Sunday.

Marc was beginning to feel restless without a life under his feet, so Jim and he moved to the theater workshop where they figured out how to use the indoor lift, gather drywall and repair the somewhat porous ceiling. Then this duo did finally get the real lift and used it, among other things, to unclog a downspout on Main Building, clean the gutters at Rockford Chapel, and evaluate the deteriorating portico on the south side of South. This structure bears a resemblance to the front porch of Weston but is far younger and in far poorer shape than Weston’s was. Rebuilding all the components may be a good January VWP.

Meanwhile David Newman ’71 was putting his all (or at least all of his weed whacker) into destroying the remnants of the vegetation he had helped remove for the Fine Arts Building. As a final gesture, after flagellating the poor plants, he threw salt into their wounds and suggested they might not want to grow again.

Did I say I saw Roger Huff ’68 in the kitchen? I also saw him helping David, helping Jim, and just helping where he saw the need. In a similar vein, William Tolle helped on several projects from time to time. I think Kathy Huff ’67 worked in Admissions all week and Jim Hobart ’58 made efforts to contact alums in fire struck California.

I don’t want to leave out our lunch time speakers. On Monday we heard a student perspective from the chair of Comcil B, the clone of Comcil looking at enhancing college governance. I missed Tuesday, but later admissions and the library were represented. Tom Manley also stopped by; I don’t remember whether he was early or late, but he did talk to us at breakfast.

I want, or at least know what exists. This is an on going project.

Our New VWP Manager

What an incredible first VWP experience! A wonderful honor to finally meet alumni volunteers who have put an unbelievable amount of time, effort, and heart into repairing, organizing and beautifying our campus. Thank you!! I’m excited to meet and work with more of you at March and Reunion VWP’s!

Tracie Ugamoto