

Schoharie River Center • Environmental Study Team

Our mission is to instill a love for learning and science, encourage community engagement, promote the values of stewardship for the local environment, and encourage the positive and responsible involvement of all members in the communities.

For Immediate Release: Local Scout builds timber-framed Lean-to at Environmental Center to replace one destroyed by Hurricane Irene.

The Schoharie River Center (SRC) announces the opening of its newly constructed Appalachian Trail Lean-To outdoor educational and recreational building at the non-profit organization's Nature Preserve and Environmental Educational Center in Burtonsville NY. The Lean-To was constructed by 16 year old Reyers Brusoe of the Town of Florida, as an Eagle Scout Project. Brusoe, a member of Boy Scout Troop # 105 of Esperance, N.Y. recruited and led a team of 44 youth and adult volunteers from Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie and Albany counties. Brusoe and his volunteers worked under the guidance and mentorship of Timber Framer and craftsman Kim Balfour, of Duaneburg, who taught them the basics of timber frame, mortise and tenon construction utilizing hand tools from the 1800's, local timber from the Center's nature preserve, recycled metal roofing, and wood siding reclaimed from a collapsed barn.

Beginning with the selecting and cutting of black cherry, sugar maple, black locust, black walnut and sycamore trees from the Center's 20 acre nature preserve. Brusoe, Balfour and the volunteers worked from June through October 20 , to complete the project. The lean-to which measures 16 X 12 feet with a split level roof line, was modeled after the trail shelters commonly found along the Appalachian trail stretching from New York to Georgia.

The structure is built entirely of wood and uses hand-turned wooden pegs to hold all joints together. Positioned on a handmade stone foundation the structure is large enough to sleep 10 campers, work as an outdoor classroom or as a stage for acoustic music performances and storytelling. The structure, which took a total of 1215 hours to complete, replaced another Lean-To completed by Eagle Scout Noel Savoy, which was destroyed by the flooding caused by hurricane Irene in 2011.



“This structure provides the Schoharie River Center with a really beautiful and multi-functional space that will be available year-round for a variety of outdoor based environmental education and recreational programming. It was a great learning experience and brought youth from different backgrounds together to complete the structure”, said John McKeeby, Executive Director of the SRC. To celebrate the completion of the structure and thank all the volunteers who worked to make the project a reality, a reception for the volunteers and the public will be held at the SRC Lean-to, in Burtonsville on Sunday, November 3rd from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

For more information or Directions to the Schoharie River Center visit our website www.schoharierivercenter.org, or call John McKeeby at 320-4510.