

GCPS Progress Report

May, 2020

By Diane Sterne

- Special thanks to Bill Day for your very generous donation to the GCPS! We greatly appreciate your support, Bill! Thank you so very much!!!!
- Thank you again to Howard Peet for your generous donation to the GCPS! Your continuous support is truly awesome and amazing! Thank you so very much!!!!
- A huge thank you to Roy Roberts for his donations of two old traps (that we have mounted on the outside of the cabin), gloves, and N95 masks to protect us while we work to remove rodent nests and droppings. Visitors will really enjoy seeing the traps. The protective equipment is greatly welcomed as we were running extremely low on masks and they are almost impossible to find (and REALLY expensive when you do find them). Rat droppings can be extremely toxic (especially in the enclosed cellar), so this equipment will keep us safe. Thank you again, Roy. We really appreciate your thoughtful donations!!!!
- On May 4 Bob Sterne and I went up to the Delprato Cabin to see what the clean-up would look like. Thank you to Debbie Hong for calling and letting us know we had critters in the cabin. We did a quick tidy but a thorough clean with soap, water and Lysol will be needed. Damage was minimal and I think this will be something we will need to expect every spring.
- Chair, Dawn Gardner and Rod Fletcher went to the Cabin on May 13. This is her Report:
*Road was clear, some wet spots. Stopped every so often to push rocks out of the way.
Rod Fletcher and I mostly checked everything out to see how things had weathered over the winter. Batteries were put in the "motion detectors" and in the solar light outside the door although that one didn't look like it went on. We left it in in case it had to charge. The wood stove worked well although on checking the chimney from outside it has a bit of a list and will have to be checked. I didn't have a long enough ladder to look into it.
There was no evidence of pack rats in the main living area although mice were still getting in as there were five mice drowned in the bucket. Rod poked his head upstairs but didn't do a thorough investigation. He didn't really know what to look for.
He also went downstairs but once again didn't know what it looked "like before". I took Rod to the different dump sites and was all for doing dump runs to clean up the messes with his truck. We're going back on Wed, May 20 to start. Anyone that wants to help, by all means. We'll be there hopefully around 10:30. Social distancing respected of course.
We had a picnic lunch and Rod went down the hill to see what he could see while I cleaned up the soap mess.
Rod took the water system Map up the hill to look for pipes but didn't go far enough.
I showed him the old upper dump site but it's hard to describe what it looked like. There's a lot of water coming down the hill. Maybe somehow we can make a trench or culvert to aim the water streams toward the pond for next year.
Rhubarb is ready for crisp or jams. I'll pull some next week. I'd like to plant some carrots or beets. The garden soil is wonderfully rich and seems like a waste to have*

it sit. There's enough screen or fencing wire to surround it. Keep out rodents maybe.

No animal except a gopher. No birds sighted.

Weather...overcast, temp +14.

Thank you, Dawn for your Report and thank you Dawn and Rod for your work at the Cabin!

- Dawn and Rod took garbage from the second dump site at the Cabin to the Landfill. RDOS gave them a Landfill Tipping Fee Waiver and on May 20 they removed two truck loads of garbage. Thank you so much Dawn and Rod for doing this heavy, messy job!! They plan on returning on Tuesday, May 26 if anyone is interested in assisting them.
- On May 24 (today) Bob and I went to the Cabin to do many odd jobs that needed completing. The mouse bucket trap had two more mice (Ten is our total for the year to date).

We put up the Welcome ladder, cleaned the fridge and stocked it with bottled water, mounted one smoke alarm (put the second one aside in case it is needed in the future), hung Bert Rice's photo with those of the other prospectors, mounted the traps donated by Roy Roberts, put batteries in all the devices that required them, checked the solar meat grinder light (it works), cleaned the desk and counter above the fridge, Bob mounted the Delprato "bear bells" that we made to look like the ones Joe used back in the day, and we filled a hole outside and a big tunnel hole in the cellar.

Last year I blocked off the big tunnel hole in the cellar and today I discovered it had been reopened. This time I put some metal wire in it and blocked it off better. I took a good look around the cellar and did not see any signs of new activity. There were no new nests, no green leaves used for nests and food, the smell was minimal and, best of all, I didn't see any rats. I think we are winning this battle and wonder if possibly the chlorine gas I made up a few weeks ago did the trick. The nest in the loft did not look as if it had been disturbed since the last time we were there. Both Bob and I did detect the odour of pack rats outside the cabin near the porch steps that lead to the door.

Bob did a GREAT job fixing the chimney on the Cabin. Dawn had noted it was askew. After some work, Bob managed to straighten it up and reattach the wires holding it. He plans on doing a more permanent job the next time we are there with proper materials he has here at home.

- For anyone planning on visiting the Cabin, please be aware that the ground is extremely muddy right now. Unless you have 4WD I would not recommend going in as you will likely get stuck. As Dawn suggested in her Report, it would be nice if we could figure out a way to somehow divert the water away from the Cabin so that it doesn't get so soggy in the spring. If anyone thinks that is something they could do, or has suggestions, please let us know.
- Financial Report from Bob Sterne:
Bank Balance as of April 30 - \$1,527.99
Current Balance is \$1,143.71 (this reflects the insurance was paid)
Members - 20 paid, 4 in arrears
Total Volunteer Hours this year - 65 ½ hours which represents \$1,310.00