

# WOODLAND HARVEST FARM FINAL NEWSLETTER

Wooh, it's been a crazy four months!

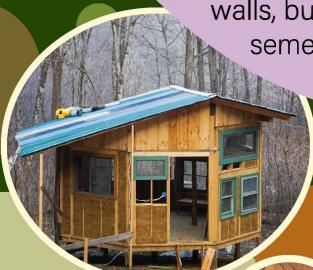
Since our arrival in August we have grown as a community and as individuals so much. We learned how to be more adaptable to the unpredictable lifestyle. We became more mindful of our resources, including power, wifi, food, water, waste and money. Living in community presented a lot of difficulties along with many learning opportunities. People took on responsibilities and roles they have never taken on before. We learned how to effectively address tensions with people in the group. Because we all lived in a shared space, it was crucial to be willing to care for more than just yourself and pick up after others. The work environment was very self initiated which meant we had to organize ourselves to get work done, which was refreshing but took some adjustment.

There were lots of firsts for everyone here. Here are just some of the firsts people had here:

- showering in a creek
- splitting firewood
- chopping down trees
- living in tents/ hammocks
- backpacking
- living off the grid
- eating meat that was self harvested
- collecting our own duck and chicken eggs
- hunting
- sunrise hiking
- cooking for 20 people (or cooking in general)
- building a house
- making a fire to heat a house
- making a salve
- foraging and eating wild mushrooms
- using an outhouse
- caring for farm animals
- heating and bathing in an outdoor bathtub
- wiring a house from scratch
- camping in the snow
- bouldering
- participating in & leading grounding exercises
- doing laundry by hand
- sledding down a mountain
- making and building with cob
- insulating a house with light straw clay
- baking in a cob oven
- sleeping under the stars
- horseback riding
- managing solar and turbine systems
- wood burning

## OCTAGON

The Octagon was the biggest and most time consuming project of them all. It was our first structure, so we took a lot of time to learn as we were building. We also were designing the structure as we were going using CAD software and pen and paper. The Octagon was by far the most complex structure because of the odd shape and funky angles. We needed to design 8 walls and 8 sub-floor structures. The octagon shape also added challenges when designing a roof line. The structure is livable with a roof and insulated walls, but will need some work next semester.



## CRONE'S CABIN

The Crone's cabin is our second largest project. It was designed by two students who worked with an Olin professor to make an independent study out of the design and construction of the cabin. The independent study focused on designing a home that would be wheelchair accessible with elderly folk in mind. One of the students will be returning next semester to finish the roofing and installation of windows and then live in the cabin.

This cabin also gave the rest of the group a chance to apply what we had learned from the octagon and become more independent in the construction process.

## TINY HOUSE

A couple in the group designed and led the construction of this 10x12 cabin, and they will be moving into the mostly-complete cabin next semester. They intend it to be a shared musical space where people can play and record music. There will also be a DJ station and yoga/ meditation corner. A fun addition is a playground bump out for the couple's pet rats.

Donate at [olinatwoodlandharvest.com](http://olinatwoodlandharvest.com) for some fun rewards!

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# TREE HOUSE

When we arrived at the farm, the tree house was not safe to stand on. The floor was breaking under our feet and the walls were ready to fall off. We tore off the flooring and walls and added new floor boards and more structurally sound walls. We also added a roof and made a ladder out of a locust tree. We envision this to be an awesome hangout spot!



## POWER SYSTEM

Living off-grid means creating your own power from the resources around us. The electricity system consists of a set of four deep cycle batteries, an inverter, the Main 1000 W Solar System, one 250 W solar panel, an MPPT charge controller for the five solar panels, a 70 W Micro Hydro Turbine, and a diversion controller.



# SCHOOL BUS

The school bus has been a home for several people this semester. It started off being totally unlivable. We deconstructed and cleaned it out. We also made some couches and beds to make the space livable.

## WIND TURBINE

We turned an unused shed in the horse field into an energy shed. We are building a wind turbine on the roof of the shed. The wind turbine is made with stainless steel shafts and LPDE sheets. We are using a generator that was donated to us to receive the power the turbine makes. We are also planning on adding solar panels to the shed for more reliable energy.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Five students will be returning next semester. Three of the students will be busy taking classes, but will continue working on projects. We have the cabins to add finishing touches to. Additionally, the art studio space is designed and is ready for bumpout construction. The power system will always have work to be done on it. The energy shed will need some fabrication of the wind turbine blades and installation of solar panels.

In the future, we hope Woodland Harvest Mountain Farm can become a 16-credit immersive structure for Olin students. We want to embrace active learning, contributing to a greater purpose than ourselves, and ethical-sustainable engineering.



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