

SPRINGWATER PARTY LINE

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by Katherine J. T. Humphrey

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Lessons learned this week: 1) Finding that an electric water heater installed in April 2013 was no longer heating the water enough for a prolonged shower; 2) reading the use and care manual, and finding the cause most likely to be a burned out lower element, in part due to not draining the appliance; 3) coming to the realization that a skilled professional would best be called and “the cost should be chalked up to education” according to my brother Reuben. How many times have we put the blame for problems in the wrong place because of ignorance, both our own and/or that of others? By thinking the cost of repair in this case should be blamed on education rather than on the manufacturers of the appliance, its installers, or its owner, the stress in the situation was released. Amazing! 4) Any electric current needs to be turned off and grounded, but the water not turned off. And so how is it possible to change a bottom heating element without draining the tank or turning off the water to the house? The professional, in this case Lewis Caskey, explained the situation by saying “a vacuum is caused similar to how a liquid can be contained in a straw by holding your finger over one of the holes”. 5) In this case, a faucet in a sink was opened, water run until it stopped and the faucet closed. 6) Delay in closing the faucet caused more water than usual to be discharged when changing the old element to the new element. More lessons learned!

The 2020 year for Trees for Troops was a successful one. Rick Dungey, executive director of the Christmas Spirit Foundation which sponsors the Trees for Troops program reported a wonderful, inspiring year. He said, “Thank you to all the farms, retail lots and other supporters that provided all the trees. Final numbers for 2020: 16,073 total trees picked up from 57 locations and delivered to 79 total bases. This makes 262,265 total trees through 16 years! Thanks to all of you, we still managed to bring Christmas Spirit to more than 16,000 families in our military in a very difficult year. One quick anecdote: an officer at one of the bases told me, and I quote: ‘our morale this year hasn’t been this low since 9/11 so the Christmas trees are going to be extra special.’ When I heard that, my commitment to this program became all that much stronger.” Locally, a collection of 19 trees, a local value of at least \$54 each from local donations and growers were taken from the All Western Evergreen Farm collection point to the Stokoe Farms distribution center in Scottsville. In addition between Thanksgiving and Christmas the \$188.00 cash donations at checkout were sent to the Spirit Foundation from All Western Evergreen Nursery & Christmas Tree Farm to help defray other costs of the program. And so, to the Springwater American Legion Post 905 and to all the families, friends, and customers that contributed toward Trees for Troops, I hope you know how much good the Trees for Troops program does. Every little bit counts!



The hike on the Bur Oak Trail, Walnut Trail, and the northwest shore of Hemlock Lake on Sunday, January 10 was enjoyed by 16 people (photo taken by John Larysz if there is room). For all of John Larysz' photos of the highlights from the Springwater Trails' hike visit <http://larysz.com/Images/2021/January%20-%20Hemlock%20Lake%20NW/index.php>. A Springwater Trails hike to this area had not been done for a long time, hence the interest of so many. The group broke up into several groups so as to enjoy the hike using masks and social distancing. The next hike is scheduled to be this Sunday, January 17 from 2 to 4 as part of the Finger Lakes Trail series. Details at the Springwater Trails website or ask a regular hiker for information.

Tawn Feeney sends the upcoming events for the Little Lakes Community Center, 4705 S. Main Street, Hemlock, (585) 367-1046, www.littlelakesny.org, the place to register: The Sixth Annual Ecological Sustainability Series, Session 1 will be a Round-Table Discussion about Regenerative Farming, Thursday, January 21, 6:30 to 8:00 PM in person and via Zoom. There is a cost of \$10 for registration in advance. Participants include: Erin Bullock, Wild Hill Farm CSA, Steve Melcher, Odonata Sanctuary, and Deborah Denome, Shimmering Light Farm and Renewal Center, and Facilitator: Nikolas Varrone, Flying Bucket Farm and SUNY Geneseo Instructor. Several local farmers and gardeners will share their creative insights and current practices using regenerative farming techniques. The benefits and challenges of adopting this approach will be discussed, with ample opportunity for meeting participants to ask questions and share their ideas as well.

Sustainable Sassy's next venture for teaching young people is on Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Little Lakes Community Center in Hemlock. The cost is \$5 per child and registration at www.littlelakesny.org is a must by Thursday, January 21 at 3 PM. Masks are mandatory. To help teach youth the 3R's concepts: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle while encouraging eco-friendly lifestyles, the Little Lakes Community Center is inviting young people to a January poster making project taught by a young person. If you are in third grade through eighth grade, enjoy art projects and want to help save our planet, join "Sustainable Sassy" at the Little Lakes Community Center to make posters for display at the Ecological Sustainability Series mentioned in the above paragraph.

If you are interested in ideas about Climate Change, try Ted Talks at <https://www.ted.com/talks>. Bas Sudmeijer's idea on how he suggests Carbon Capture Networks could help curb climate change was suggested on January 12, 2021.

Happy Birthday to:

January 15 – Rus Healy, John Jordan Sr.

January 16 – Sarah Clayson, Carol Tripp, Branden Vahn, Blake Fallwell

January 17 – Tracy Ingraham, Brian West Sr.

January 18 – Stephanie Whiteman

Anniversaries: Congratulations!

January 15 – Stephen & Jerrienne Scheiderich #27

January 16 – Al & Deborah Henry #10