

THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Julianna Jacobs, Lily Widmyer

A Message from the Secretaries:

Happy summer Grovers past and present! As this semester ends, we want to wish you and your families well, and we hope to share our endeavors this year with you.

Our President Sam Rees led us through this semester, making sure every event ran smoothly, we couldn't have done it without him. Our Vice President Erien Schwab organized the pie sale this year, spending so much time making sure everything went well that I believe she began to dream pie crust recipes.

Outing Club got up to many activities this semester, including hiking trips, snowball fights, and fun filled cabin outings! Beast Feast was a blast, and we cannot wait until next semester. It was an amazing semester, and we hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we enjoyed living it. I could talk about this semester for days, but that's what these articles are for. We hope you enjoy this semester's edition of Axe and Saw!

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Letter From the President:

Sam Rees '26, Entrepreneurship

Ready for summer. It's been a great first semester as president. I'd like to thank all my officer corps for pulling together and making this a fun-filled spring for the Outing Club. Didn't get out to the cabin as much as I would have liked, but that's what life throws at us sometimes. We've got such a fun group of actives, always eager to build up our club community and join in on events. It will be sad to see many of them go.

We've kept up the trend from fall of hosting events Saturdays instead of Fridays. It's definitely helped attendance from non-members, as we've got far more people this year who invite new people to enjoy all that we do. It's good to see so many people involved and getting interested. To help with that, I've been in a bit more communication with the student involvement office (not too much mind you). I was told by the school employees that we have a near mythic mysterious reputation about us. Makes me proud to know we've cultivated such a cryptic aura at this school.

It's going to be quite the experience heading up our events next school year. I pray the Lord keeps me diligent in that regard, but I know I'll have a great team and some wonderfully involved alumni to help me along the way.

Have a wonderful summer everyone, looking forward to seeing you all after the break. Try not to let yourselves get too cooped up in an office or warehouse in the meantime!

Featured News:

Outing Club spouses celebrate milestone 75th wedding anniversary

John, AKA Rollo, and Yvonne McMillen celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary last August. Theirs is an Outing Club love story. Residents of California, they have participated in several reunions over the years and John even flew in for a couple of Summer Outings in recent decades. John regularly corresponds to discuss articles in the *Axe and Saw*. John is 97 and Yvonne is 95. Yvonne reports they are hanging in there and that John is determined to make 100!



John "Rollo" & Yvonne with their anniversary cake!

Cabin News:

Mark Place '77, Alumni Cabin Manager

2025 Summer Outing

The annual alumni, students, families, and friends outing will be **August 7-10**.

As usual, meals will begin with lunch on Thursday and run through lunch on Sunday. Please contact me at

mplace@johnplaceinc.com or by phone at 412-877-0050 by Monday August 4 to assist Sue Knechtel with meal planning. While we would love to see you all 4 days, please feel free to join us for a day or even a meal. Many regular participants from years past have been missed, don't be a stranger! It is high time to introduce your spouse and children or grandchildren to the cabin.

We will be addressing the usual tune-up details like the gutters, spring, mowers, saws, drains etc. Weather permitting there should be plenty of time for a hike or a swim each day.

Summer use of the cabin

Please check with Lee McCoy or me regarding summer use of the cabin to make sure there are no large groups scheduled. If you do enjoy the cabin, please allow a bit of time to help with mowing and wood splitting. The push mower and riding mower are ready to use. Please let me know if the gas for the mowers is running low. Keeping the place mowed and looking like someone could show up at any time is our best and lowest cost possible security system.

If you can help with mowing this summer, please let me know. Thanks to the retired alleged faculty advisor Dr. Dave Gordon for volunteering to continue as our most dependable mower. If we get it cut every 3 weeks or so, it is not an all afternoon project when it is cut. Even if you do part of the yard when out, it is appreciated.

The gas grill works great, please clean it when you are done, and if the propane is low, please consider getting the tank refilled or replaced.

Also please do not leave any food in the fridges after finals. The gas periodically goes off for assorted reasons and finding a fridge full of spoiled stuff is a very unpleasant experience that Lee and I, as well as others have had before.

Use of the range

Please enjoy the range but allow time to clean up old targets to police up the brass before you leave. Brass in the grass is a lethal projection when picked up by a mower.

Fireplace

The inside fireplaces have beautiful new stone hearths. Regardless of how thick the stone is, please do not split wood inside on them. Firewood and kindling should be split outside. Please do not bring in more wood than you will be using as that can introduce harmful insects into the cabin.

Kitchen pump

The kitchen pump has been serviced. It may take more pumps to prime than you expect. Please do not get too forceful while pumping and do not disassemble. Worse case you haul water from the spring box. Please let me know of any pump issues.

February 8th Work Outing

A.K.A. How many wipeouts does it take to refill the woodshed?

Sydney Bredenberg '26

The first wind of trouble we got was the night before the work outing when Cade Voller, our esteemed cabin manager, warned

us that the roads and parking lot to the cabin were a bit icy - accompanied by a video of him ice skating in the parking lot. No, not in shoes. In actual ice skates, to our amusement.

Cade reported that "I made pancakes for the second time in my life and they were ok" that morning with Emmy Eide and Tim Olmstead backseat cooking. He also organized the Cabin Manager's room and some guys including Isaac Eide, Wade Douglas and George Gunn sharpened a number of tools using the grinding stone in there. My group arrived later that morning and had little difficulty getting down to the cabin, where the work was already in full swing from sweeping to "evicting the local tenants" from the shed. Some of us began scrubbing down the stove and others of us were tasked with refilling the woodshed. Quite simple, except that between the woodpiles and the woodshed was the front yard, i.e. a slope frozen slick with ice that dipped and peaked from the terrain underneath and the vehicles who had gone in and out in the cold weather. Combined with wheelbarrows full of wood and all of us wearing shoes that had just enough traction to keep us upright (with a bit of flailing, of course), we started a tally of wipeouts. Eventually the others finished their work and came out to help us. We tried different routes, wheelbarrows, and even the sled. While we found one route that worked for one wheelbarrow, everything else we tried had someone on the ice at one point or another. Cade and Isaac Wick took axes to some of the larger pieces. Safety tip: don't stand near Isaac when he's holding an axe. Especially not when he's playing with it

while standing on ice. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and we filled the woodshed with only 5 wipeouts. Gabe Rodgers took up his duties as one of our historians just in time to catch our illustrious president Sam Rees nearly dump the wheelbarrow in the middle of the yard as he slipped.

Turns out, the best thing we could do was have multiple people guide the wood bearing vehicles across the ice. All in all, it was a productive and fun work outing. And since ice skates were not enough, some people like Cade decided to skate with their cars as they slipped and swung out of the parking lot.

Valentine's Day Party

Emmy Eide '25

The women of GCCOC walked into the cabin February 15th to find that the dining table had disappeared and been replaced with a mountain range of cheese, the men of OC dutifully shredding away with their cheese graters. Under the helm of their fearless leader, Sam Rees, the young chefs fought a roux, ground beef, and asparagus, gaining victory with a pile of cheeseburgers and two enormous roasting pans of mac and cheese. The kitchen carnage was severe, but even the dishwashers agreed that the battle was worth it.

The cheese mountain didn't stop the women from doing their duty, hanging dozens of hearts and spanning the dining room with streamers (much to the delight of the taller in our company). Dinner was a joyful time with the table stuffed to capacity and

laughter ringing loudly. Even double chocolate peppermint bark and homemade marshmallows could not prevent the Christmas tree's fate, however, and soon all were gathered by the fire pit. A few matches and gasoline cans later, we had a roaring blaze to light our peaceful contemplation...that is until the first snowball was fired. The snow packed perfectly, and the free-for-all fight made for an excellent end to the party. The author is delighted to say that she nailed several unsuspecting men before turning back to the dishes.

Homemade fun through working together and enjoying God's creation. What a wonderful contrast to the consumerism that Valentine's Day has become equated with and testimony to the goodness of our Maker. May He grant GCCOC many more blazing Christmas trees and cheese mountains.

Ski Trip of 2025

Erien Schwab '26

A group of Outing Clubbers teamed up with the GCC underground ski club (super-secret) to go on a skiing trip in Holiday Valley, NY. A few people who never skied before got to pick up a new skill and had a good time learning with friends. Our more seasoned skiers tackled the black diamond paths and flew down mountains with ease. Cade Voller, Isaac Wick, and Alex Lane went geocaching all around the park with much success. The few snowboarders of our group had friendly insults thrown their way, but the rivalry between the two groups was put aside and both had good fun together on

the slopes. Hot chocolate and waffles warmed many returning from long slope adventures. The bright and sunny ski day lasted from noon till 6 at night. All returned safely and significantly exhausted from a good day of snow activities.

Spring Break

Anna Dueker '25

Extra! Extra! Read all about it. The Grove City College Outing Club Spring Break Trip to Gorges State Park in North Carolina is here!!

We had a small but mighty crew including myself, Meg, and Cade who made the trek down to the Tar Heel State for spring break. We had a slower pace for this trip since we stayed at a campsite and chose to do various day hikes around the camp. Our first day was a waterfall wonderland where we got a chance to see four waterfalls, one which was almost 40 feet high. We did a long hike and enjoyed the serenity of a calm river the next day, and used the other days to do fun little hikes around the campground enjoying fellowship with each other and spending time in nature.

The nights got very chilly, but they were enjoyed by sitting around the fire cooking delicious food and by hiding from the elements in a tent while playing some golf (card game edition). Many geocaches were found and I got absolutely fried in the southern sun. Let this be your warning, it is officially sunscreen season.

It was a blast to go on one final trip as a student, and as the gang likes to say, a good time was had by all!

Wild Beast Feast

Olivia Falasca '26

The Beast Feast this past March proved to be a plentiful cornucopia of meats and sides that included alligator bites, groundhog, wild boar, pheasant, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pie. Everything was delicious, thanks especially to the Butlers, Gibsons, and Tom for contributing fellowship and food. As for festivities, Josh and Brier showed us the loud and dusty process of portable saw milling, Briar conducted knife throwing lessons, and I was personally educated on the intense process of apprehending an alligator. Knox was his usual black furry self, and despite the attention he received from his many fans, he faithfully stood guard over Tom the whole weekend. Secretly, however, I think he was very happy to receive lots of pets and belly rubs. Additionally, Lizzy Gibson impressed us all with her radio rendezvous skills while she had a ball hiding in the woods from her dad. A good time was had by all.

The Work Outing Where There Was a Big Pile of Sawdust

Gabe Rogers '28

On April 5th, 2025, on a very soggy day, we went down to the cabin and there was a big pile of sawdust. No one knew where it came from, perhaps an army of woodpeckers,

termites, and beavers had a great big feast right in front of the cabin and left all their crumbs there in a pile. Regardless, we needed to decide what to do with it, and after lots of delegation and thoughtful debate, we decided to throw it into random holes all over the yard. However, even after this, there was so much left over. So we decided to pull a prank on the others cleaning inside. We made the sawdust into rice krispie treats, with a ratio of 99% sawdust 1% rice krispies, in fact, each treat probably only had one grain of rice krispie. Unfortunately, this prank failed miserably. When we gave the treats to them, they ate them and thanked us for bringing them rice krispies from Hicks.

Senior Dinner

Sydney Bredenberg '26

"We ready to go?"

"...did we get ice cream?"

"WE FORGOT."

If we had to choose a single event this year to capture the club's tendency to make last minute plans and pull it off despite the surprises along the way, I'd vote for the senior dinner. We had tossed it around earlier in the semester but it wasn't until about a week before that we started discussing it in earnest. Our spirited secretary (Carolyn Krenzel) and treasurer (yours truly) volunteered under the leadership of our valiant vice president (Erien Schwab) to put together the requested chicken enchiladas for the main course and an ice cream bar for dessert. So, the ice

cream was a mildly important item to grab but since we were headed straight out to the cabin, we had figured it would be best to grab the ice cream last so it wouldn't melt as much. Other than us almost forgetting the ice cream, it was a great idea. Especially since we kept going in circles trying to find where Walmart had relocated everything in their latest and greatest organization scheme, which still did not include a produce section.

"That would have been bad if we had forgotten the ice cream."

"Yeah."

"Do we have everything else?"

"THE CHICKEN."

Yeah, we nearly forgot the chicken for the enchiladas too. And none of us had ever used that recipe (if we had made enchiladas at all!) which strangely called for nothing but shredded chicken and enchilada sauce for the filling. But Bobby Hershey grilled some delicious chicken which made up for it in flavor. Despite our uncertainty of how many pounds of frozen chicken breast were needed for each cup of shredded chicken we still had enough to see our capable cabin manager and late arrival (Cade Voller) cut his piece perpendicular to the rolled tortillas. I don't think anyone was more indignant than Olivia Falasca.

In addition to Cade, who's graduating this December, seniors Emmy Eide, Brynn Miller, and Meg Daugherty were able to make it out! (Anna Dueker was unfortunately unable to come but I want to mention her as well). These guys *guy and gals have poured a lot into the club doing

everything from planning trips to holding half of the officer positions and it's been a blast to hang out with them! One of my favorite parts of the club this year has been hearing them telling fun and crazy stories of everything from finding geocaches to traveling abroad. We'll miss them dearly but like all the alumni, we'll look forward to their return to events like Pig Roast and learning about the adventures they have been on.

That's all folks! Thanks for reading this edition of the Axe and Saw, and have an adventurous and wonderful summer!