

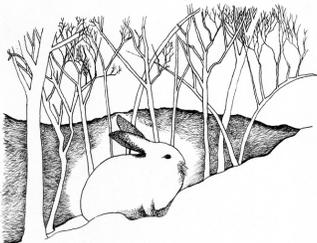


Hawk Circle Progress Report 2022

*"The clearest way into
the Universe is
through a forest
wilderness."
-John Muir*



The Aurora Waldorf School Class Trip Retreat, May, 2022



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Women's Retreat, July, 2022

The Summer Camp Decision

The pandemic shut down our residential summer camps in 2020 and 2021, thanks to Covid and then the Delta variant. We struggled with losing virtually **all** of our program income during that span, and Trista's herbal salve contract with Beekman 1802 came to a close in December of 2021 with that company moving into high end cosmetics.

The hardest decision for us to make concerned our summer camps. Prior to the pandemic, the New York State Department of Health was in the process of requiring the same health & safety infrastructure as camps five times our size, which was economically unfeasible based on our modest camp income. We had difficulty finding the right kinds of summer staff during our short season as well, and these two factors were key to opting to **not** offer camps in 2022.

This may not be a permanent decision but for now, we are taking a short break. We are still offering Class Trip Retreats and private youth group programs throughout our seasons.

Our grant partnership for our Hawk Circle Adventure After School Programs in local schools ended in the middle of 2022, and as each base of our funding sources effectively 'dried up', we knew we needed to adapt our program offerings to continue with the vision and mission of our organization.

Letting go is never easy. Ricardo struggled with the decision since he had dedicated over 30 years to the summer camp. For me, I didn't see this as an ending, but instead, more of an expansion of our work and something that I had been preparing for over the past several years. I saw Hawk Circle reaching its full potential as a place for leaders to find renewal, inspiration and education.

I felt an urgency for both of us to train the leaders as our way of assisting the building of the new earth. I also experienced our land as a powerful site for awakening and activation.

However, in order to run adult retreats & training programs, we knew we needed to upgrade our rustic camp cabins and complete the interior of Eagle House so it would be functionally operational. We wanted to match the Cabins with the beauty and comfort of Eagle House for our participants.

-Trista



Infrastructure Accomplishments

Trista applied for an SBA loan to cover updating our cabins. We hired help for these tasks, and spent most of the winter and early spring in full construction mode. Trista gave our website a complete makeover to reflect the offerings of retreats, trainings and intensives in between coordination of electric and plumbing schedules, while Ricardo worked on the flooring, outdoor showers, timber framing and other projects.

The Hawk Circle Cabins Improvements

- **Insulation** installed in the roof and walls of Rose Cottage, Aspen, Maple, Spruce and Cherry cabins
- **New Doors** installed in each cabin with new hardware
- **New Windows** in Rose Cottage and Cherry Cabin where needed
- **Electrical Service** installed to each cabin
- **Outlets & Exterior Lighting Fixtures**
- **New Flooring** installed in each cabin
- **Shiplap Pine Boards** were installed in each cabin's walls and ceilings to cover the insulation
- **New Door & Window Trim** installed
- **Exterior Landscaping** and **Solar Lights** for Walkways & Trails
- **New Beds Installed & Bedding** as well as mattress pads in Bunks
- **Interior Curtains & Furnishings** purchased/made
- **Efficient Propane Heaters** installed in each cabin to extend our shoulder seasons to year-round use option if needed
- **Cedar Shingle Siding** and **Exterior Trim** installed on Entry Walls of each cabin

Eagle House Retreat Center

- **Pine Ceiling & Interior Trim** for doors & windows completed
- **Exterior Cedar Shingles** installed around the front entryway
- Front Entrance **Exterior Trim** installed around doors/lighting
- **Interior Bathrooms** Finished & Furnished
- **Outdoor Showers** Stone Tile, Stalls, Walls and Doors completed
- **Hot Water** on Demand System installed and operational
- Eagle House **Heat Pumps** installed for both heating and cooling
- **Loft Flooring & Stairs** completed
- Eagle House Great Room **Tamarack Flooring Installed & Finished**
- **Cherry Countertop & New Sink** installed in **Food Service Area**
- All **Interior and Exterior Lighting** installed throughout the building
- **Couches, Tables, Chairs, Rugs & Appliances** purchased and installed
- **Washer/Dryer** units installed for guest bedding laundry



Installing The Spruce Cabin Porch Sills



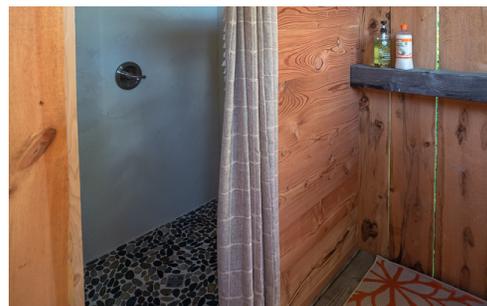
Aspen Cabin ready for guests



The Outdoor Shower Deck Doors



Completed Bathroom in Eagle House



Stone-tiled outdoor shower & changing room

Program Report

2022 was a 'transitional year' for us, with many new programs and retreats and a trial AirBnB offering. All programs below were held at Hawk Circle this year.



The Cherry Cabin Porch Frame



Basket Making Class



Animal Communication with Cindy Brody



The Fire Challenge with Aurora Waldorf



Fermentation with Marguerite

- **Spring Timber Framing Skills Intensive**, taught by Ricardo Sierra & Craig Boynton
- **Basket Making**, taught by Colleen from Weave & Wobble
- **Family Forest Retreat** taught by Ricardo Sierra
- **Aurora Waldorf School Class Trip**, taught by Ricardo Sierra
- **Fermentation** - Miso and Kombucha, Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower
- **Cheese Making**, taught by Rabbit Goody
- **Animal Communication**, taught by Cindy Brody
- **Cognitive Agility & Plant Communication Intensive**, taught by Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower
- **The Pilgrim's Journey Retreat**, facilitated by Trista Haggerty
- **Helios Care Grief & Healing**, facilitated by Trista Haggerty
- **Magdalene Retreat**, facilitated by Trista Haggerty
- **Sacred Soul Retreat**, facilitated by Amanda Hoover
- **The Art of Being Retreat**, facilitated by Ragda Deeb & Suzanne Stauffer
- **Women of the WildWood Retreat**, facilitated by Trista Haggerty
- **Fall Timber Framing Skills Intensive**, taught by Ricardo Sierra & Craig Boynton
- **The Coming of Age Program with the Schenectady Unitarian Universalist community**, facilitated by Ricardo Sierra

The Timber Frame Intensives, taught by Ricardo & Craig Boynton, were beneficial to Hawk Circle. Not only were they well-attended, but the spring class crafted the **porch frame** for **Cherry Cabin**, and the second class completed the **porch frame** for **Spruce Cabin**.



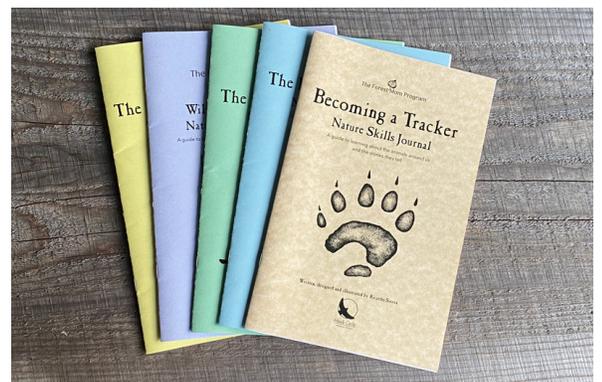
Ricardo's current projects...

Ricardo has been asking the question for a number of years as to how he can impact a much larger population of children beyond our small summer camp. During COVID he spent a year creating nature-based curriculum, crafts and activities packaged in a subscription box for children and families. He launched **The Forest Box for Kids** in the fall of 2021 and has plans to expand in the coming year.



The Forest Box for Kids

His goal of 'teaching the teachers' led to the launch of his own **'Forest Educator Training' program** that has both in person and online trainings to help more youth leaders gain the skills and confidence they need to work effectively with students in nature programs worldwide.



Nature Journals & Forest Curriculum

Ricardo is currently launching **"The Forest Educator" Podcast**, to share interviews with **nature based leaders & teachers** that emphasize best practices and inspiration for listeners. He is including practical, 'deep dive' episodes on issues that can help anyone working with people and make a difference in the results they can achieve.

In addition to leading **Class Trip Retreats** and **Timber Framing Intensives**, he plans to build a **traditional Finnish Sauna** to complement our trainings and retreats in the coming year.





What's Up with Trista...

This summer I was able to actualize a long-held personal vision for Hawk Circle - to be a place of healing and inspiration for women on the path of feminine leadership. All the women who attended retreats, training programs and classes commented on how deeply healing and sacred their experience was on our land.

They re-discovered a deep ecology, within themselves and within nature. Their experiences informed every aspect of their lives -their businesses, their families, and their participation in creating a new earth.

This summer, I'll be adding more retreats and programs to support the growing number of women who are actively creating change from the inside out.

I was also able to fulfill my Sacred Journey to Scotland tour that was originally planned for 2020. It felt great to finally offer this tour to the women who patiently waited two years! I'll also be guiding a group to ancient Egypt this winter and Ireland next fall.

During COVID, I continued running my Sacred Oil Alchemy certification online program. So far, I've trained over 50 women in this ancient tradition who live as far away as Dubai, Ireland and the Yukon.



The Faerie Glen, Skye, Scotland



A women's retreat group



2023 Funding Needs...

This year, 2023, we're focusing on growing our retreat and program offerings, and completing projects.

We are hoping to raise \$18,500 to complete the **exterior siding and window trim** on Eagle House as well as complete the **timber frame deck on the west end of Eagle House, which adds an outside space to our facility for dining or nature exposure.**

We're also needing to raise \$15,000 to close our budget gap. While we did well with our new programs this summer, it was not enough to cover the loss of our after school program contract with CROP. **We are left with a \$30,000 gap.**

To offset this deficit, we're offering an end of year, **early bird special** to encourage people to sign-up for our retreats, as well as encourage other retreat leaders and teachers to book their spots. We anticipate this will bring in about **\$15,000**, shrinking our deficit by half.

But for the remaining **\$15,000, we're counting on donations.**

Can You Help?

Your continued support will help us to complete the construction phase of Eagle House and have our main focus be on our transformative programming. Eagle House with a full deck, finished siding and road will add another beautiful space for program participants to enjoy.

Closing the budget gap. This is not something that we typically have ever needed support for, as our programs have always provided economic stability. However, the ending of the CROP partnership has left a void that we haven't been able to fill with this year's program income.

While we always trust the process of being redirected, it certainly isn't easy.

Eagle House Siding Installation.....	\$13,000
Eagle House Deck.....	\$5,500
Road Work.....	\$5,000
<u>Closing the Budget Gap.....</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total Needed.....	\$38,500



We are so very grateful!!

We are so very grateful for your previous year donations. As you can see from the pictures, we were able to complete the interior of Eagle House, offering guests beautiful accommodations, gorgeous bathrooms (replacing years of using portajohns!), and showers that are still outdoors, but are definitely an upgrade with private changing rooms and views of the valley --a highlight for guests' experience!

With all of these upgrades, we've been able to extend our program season by five months! This is very significant for us, and enables us to serve so many more people during the shoulder seasons.

We are also very grateful to have developed relationships over the years with many solid teachers who are experts in their field. We're quickly creating a community of educators that are committed to offering their work at Hawk Circle because our visions are so aligned. They are well-seasoned instructors who offer classes and trainings on a very professional level, and getting results when it comes to their students.

As a growing community of educators, we are committed to creating a new world, one where nature and all living beings are seen as equals and partners in life.

Thank you for your support!

Trista, Ricardo & Javier

"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."

-William Butler Yeats

