

The STAR

SEPTEMBER 2013

THE NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

Our Mission...

To rehabilitate the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House and its immediate grounds, reconnecting it to the greater Grass Valley area and to restoring its place as an active hub of the community.

NSHC Board Members

John Taylor - President
Ron Mathis - Treasurer
Joe Heckel - Vice President
Peggy Levine - Executive Director
Cheryl Belcher
James Ketchum
Carole Miller
David Wright

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...

Things are getting busy at the North Star House. We are about ready to start on a number of projects. The most important is changing the zoning. The current zoning requires that the uses for the entire property owned by the developer who donated the property be determined before anything can be done. This has necessitated changing the zoning so we can fully use the property as a center for community activities. To do this we will need to do noise, traffic, biological and other studies.

The other projects are replacing the kitchen floor and caulking the rock walls. The costs of these two projects will be for the materials used as volunteers will do the work.

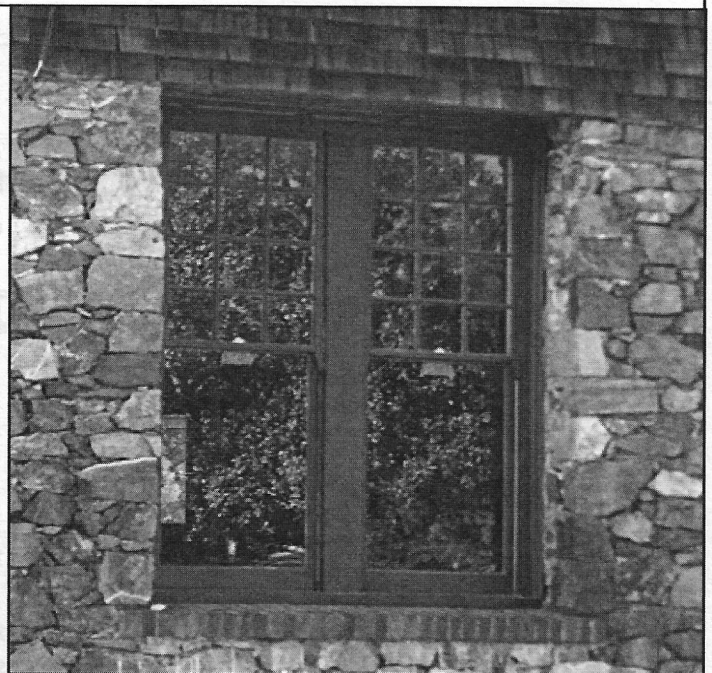
Volunteers! Without them we would not have accomplished the great things that have happened at the house. I want to take this opportunity to give our thanks to all the people who have helped us save this wonderful house.

John Taylor

NEW WINDOWS FOR NORTH STAR

Most of the windows and doors at the North Star House were damaged or broken when the property was first acquired. Bo Kleger, the caretaker of the North Star property, is painstakingly re-creating the windows for the house, back to original condition, using old photos of the house as a guide, to ensure authenticity.

Newly installed ground floor windows.



HELP THE STAR TO SHINE!

We need your support.

The Board of Directors of the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) is proud to announce readiness to tackle the next construction project at the North Star House—rebuilding the ground floor kitchen, office and handicap accessible bathroom. Please read David Wright's article below, and then look at the floor plan. All this work can be completed for \$150,000. You can help us by renewing your membership, or if you are not already a member, becoming a member, or donating what you can to help us make this possible. See the donation/membership form in this edition.

THE NORTH STAR HOUSE NEEDS A KITCHEN AND RESTROOM

By David Wright, AIA

Two of the many improvement projects being planned for The North Star House are renovating the Kitchen and adding a new Restroom. The Kitchen, which will include a small office, will accommodate food service and caterers for our many events. The handicap accessible Restroom will allow year around use of the HOUSE.

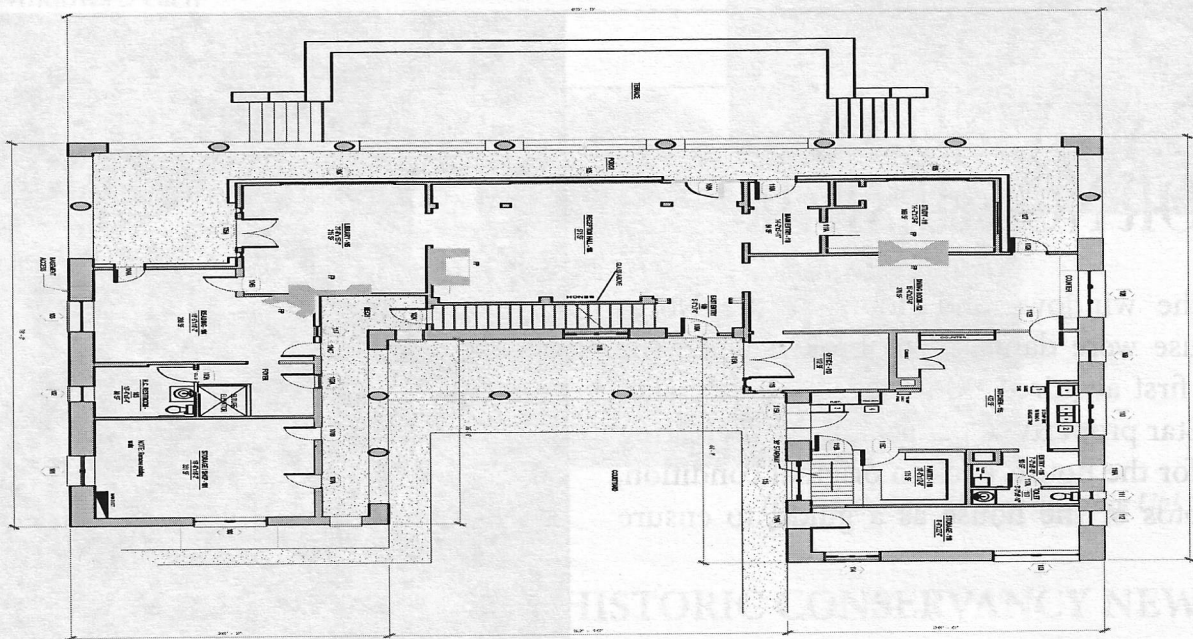
Undertaking complex projects like these takes more than a bit of planning and effort, every action seems to involve 10 more actions. These projects require revamping of the old electrical, mechanical and plumbing; including the installation of a new septic system.

Improvements like this are expensive and we will need the help of our community to donate volunteer labor,

materials and money to make these wintertime projects possible.

We hope to have these facilities completed and functioning in the spring of next year, but it will require lots of work from our volunteers and many tax deductible contributions from our great friends.

These improvements are important steps in the long-term rehabilitation of the North Star house into a community cultural and education event center. To help us with these important projects please contact Cheryl Belcher at cherylbelcher@gmail.com or Larry Dulmage to find out how you can get involved.



NSH Ground Floor layout with proposed kitchen, office and bathroom restorations.

BE A RISING STAR DONATE TODAY!

It has been a long journey from the time we assumed management and operations of the Historic North Star House and Grounds to where we are today. Many of you have committed volunteer hours and have worked on the grounds and have seen the potential of the varied and beautiful flora that abounds here. You have contributed to and worked on the North Star House to make it possible to hold community sponsored events here. We are very grateful for your support.

We are now embarking on a new phase of rehabilitation work that will make it possible to expand the use of the North Star House and grounds. Our plans for this phase include the following:

- Install new shingles on the North Star House.
- Build a restroom on the first floor, handicapped accessible, to eliminate the long trip to the outside restrooms.
- Rehabilitate the kitchen to provide a convenient and modern food preparation center for caterers serving food at special events.
- Secure the Hague house to prevent further

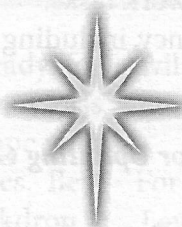
deterioration and continue seeking an appropriate use for this structure.

- Add paving where needed to provide additional handicapped parking and improve traffic circulation.

Unfortunately, all of these items require funding. Your contributions and support have brought us to this phase of rehabilitation on the property. Please help us move forward to achieve these goals and expand the public use of this valuable property.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go. We do not have paid staff. All donations are directed toward a project that will make the North Star House and grounds a valuable community asset.

Please renew your annual membership if you have not already done so. If you have not been a member, please join now. If you would like to designate your tax deductible donation for a specific project or use, please let us know. Check out our website at www.northstarconservancy.org for additional ways to support our project.



Detach this form and Mail with your Tax-deductible donation to:
North Star Historic Conservancy
12075 S Auburn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Star | \$35-\$99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$100-\$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist | \$500-\$999 |

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 and above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member | \$2,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |

Name _____ Phone(____) _____
Street/PO _____ City, State, zip _____
email _____

My Tax-deductible Check is enclosed, payable to North Star Historic Conservancy

NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

The NSHC Board of Directors recently completed a review and update of our Mission, Vision and Goals to help guide our project and program work for the coming years. Key elements are below.

Mission Statement

The Conservancy is dedicated to the rehabilitation, preservation and sustainability of the North Star House and restoring its prominence as a cultural hub of the community through the presentation of arts, history, education and performing arts.

Vision

The North Star House is a historic building worthy of protection and restoration, but more than that, it is a rising star in the community! We, as a Conservancy, wish to embrace and celebrate its historical past and legacy within Nevada County.

While we seek to restore the architectural elegance of this Julia Morgan designed, California Craftsman style building and heritage landscaping of the property, our vision is to re-establish the North Star House as a cultural venue for western Nevada County. We are committed to opening the use of the property to the public by offering and promoting tours, events, educational activities and performing arts. Through partnerships with local and regional organizations and interested stakeholders, the Conservancy can continue to fund improvements to restore and preserve this rare historic feature.

Goals/Objectives

Continue Preservation / Rehabilitation Efforts to Restore North Star House and Property.

- Update Annual Work Plan (for Board approval) prioritizing improvements and maintenance tasks to both house and grounds.
- Secure funding and implement improvements / work tasks.
- Review / update governance system of Conservancy, including Committee structure, bylaws, staffing, facility use and agreements.

Submit and Gain Approval of County Applications for Updating General Plan / Zoning Designations and Adopting Master Plan (Two Phases)

- Complete final revisions to Master Plan / Project Description, conduct all pertinent studies and prepare County applications.
- Conduct neighborhood meeting prior to filing application. Maintain data base of all interested parties and agency contacts.

Undertake Marketing Plan to Engage Local Community

- Complete marketing plan to improve communication, update printed materials, recruit members and identify funding sources. Ensure plan targets future income streams at a level to sustain and advance needed improvements, maintenance and administration.
- Prepare and distribute newsletter to updated membership list.
- Plan / conduct receptions for major donors / prospective members.

****Learn more about The North Star House at our website at www.northstarconservancy.org, and follow us on our Facebook page: Facebook/TheNorthStarHouse****

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

With limited financial resources, the work of the North Star Historic Conservancy has steadily moved ahead with the help of hard working board members and volunteers. They keep the NSHC projects moving forward. Each Issue of "The Star" will introduce some of these amazing volunteers. This issue will focus on two board members, Carole Miller and Joe Heckel. We are lucky to have their considerable talents on the Board.

Carole Miller was born and raised in Manhattan, NY. She graduated from Adelphi University with a degree in Chemistry and worked at Charles Pfizer before leaving for the west coast. Carole was a Research Associate at the University of California at Berkeley for 25 years ending her career as Laboratory Manager for a Physiology professor.

Carole became involved with the Nevada County Land Trust in 1996 and served on its board for 3 years. She then became involved with the North Star property in 2004. Carole has been a tireless volunteer, always willing to help

and keep our projects moving ahead. Her focus has been on the heritage roses and plants that are still growing on the property.

Joe C. Heckel was born and raised in Long Beach, California and holds a BS in Resource Planning and Interpretation from Humboldt State University. He worked in the land use planning profession holding positions in both the private and public sectors for over 30 years. Most recently, Joe served as the Community Development Director for the City of Grass Valley overseeing their planning, building, code enforcement and redevelopment divisions.

He has a keen interest in the preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns, particularly for communities lying within the Sierra Nevada Foothills. Joe is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, (AICP), California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and American Planning Association. Joe lives in Grass Valley with his wife Melanie.

EVENTS AT THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

Plan your next meeting or event at the North Star House.

The grounds of the North Star House are ready for events! One mile from historic downtown Grass Valley, this site boasts a classic California landscape with established trees, an orchard and wide open spaces. Best of all, it features a Julia Morgan architectural backdrop – truly a community gem. Concerts, meetings or weddings

will all shine at the Star. The North Star House is a great community amenity.

For more information about venue details, contact Peggy Levine (530) 272-1873, peggy@northstarconservancy.org



*The Growers' Market
Saturday's 8 am-1 pm May through November*



"Recent SYRCL Event Shines at the North Star House!"

WE NEED YOU TO HELP US RESTORE THE NORTH STAR HOUSE!

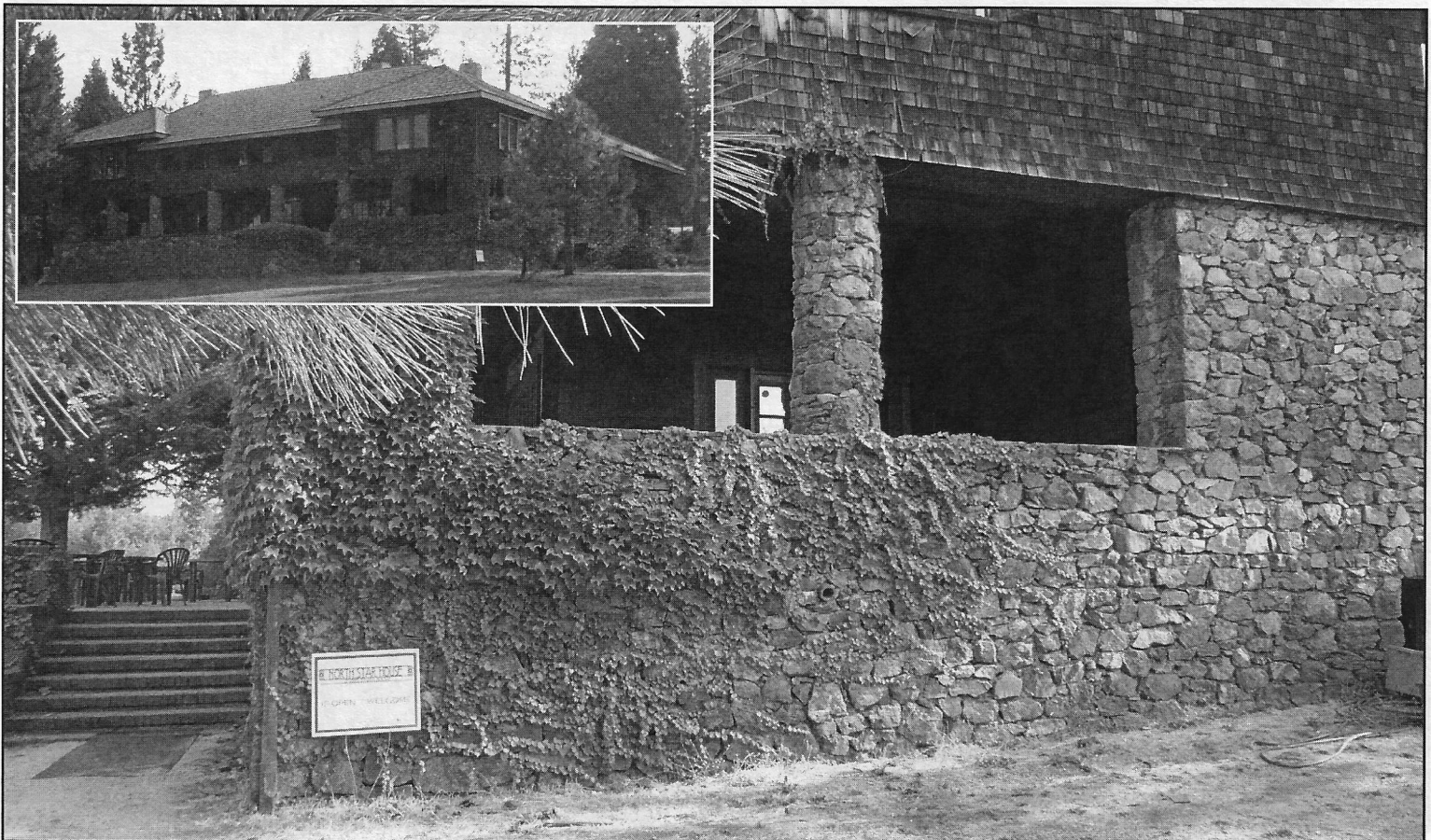
The North Star historic conservancy has been making steady improvements in rehabilitating the North Star House. Last year we shingled the courtyard, refinished the wood floors and repaired the brick fireplaces. This year we have constructed a storage work shop and removed the deteriorated kitchen floor in preparation for rebuilding the floor and remodeling the kitchen. Now we are undertaking an important step to restore the structural integrity of the rock work.

We are starting to remove and repoint the mortar between the rocks on the outside of the North Star House. The house is 108 years old, and over the years earthquakes, snow, wind and freezing have degraded the original rock.

Master Stone mason- John Van Leifde will be leading a team of volunteer helpers to do this important job. He needs 6 volunteers to form two teams who will assist him in removing, power washing, re-grouting, pointing and cleaning most of the lower rock walls and columns on the house. The training sessions and work will begin on August 28th and continue on subsequent Wednesdays and Saturdays until the project is completed.

Learn the skills of old masonry and be a valuable volunteer in restoring the North Star House! And oh yes, there is gold in the rock work of the North Star House; the original Italian Masons had their pick of the tailings pile from the North Star Mine when the House was built in 1905.

Please call Peggy Levine at: 530-272-1873 or email her at swlevine@nccn.net if you can help with this important project.



Rock walls at the North Star House that will be cleaned and re-grouted

11TH ANNUAL BEAR YUBA LAND TRUST CONCERT & GALA DINNER

The festive grounds of North Star House will host the 11th Annual Bear Yuba Land Trust (formerly the Nevada County Land Trust) Benefit Concert - "Stars at the North Star House" on Sunday, September 22nd. The event is a co-production of The Center for the Arts and the BYLT.

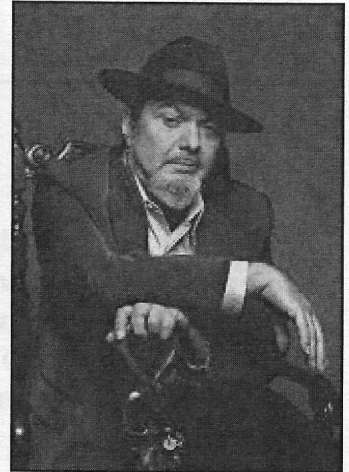
The Concert will be preceded by the BYLT Annual Gala Dinner, the theme this year is "BACK TO THE LAND" and will feature locally grown and made food prepared by Gourmet Chef Antonio Ayestaran. Tickets for the 4-6:30 PM Gala which include: reserved parking, dinner, pre-show beverages & premium seating are \$135.00. Seated dinner begins at 5 o'clock sharp! This popular event sells-out early so get your tickets in advance.

This year's Concert features Grammy Award winning DR. JOHN and The Nite Trippers. This New Orleans soul musical group is returning for the Land Trust because of popular demand. Gates open at 4:00 PM, local live music will be on stage from 5-7:00, Special guest artist Allen Toussaint will open at 7:00, followed from 8-8:30

by a live auction benefiting the Land Trust, DR. JOHN will take the stage at 8:30, rain or shine.

Lawn seating will be in the meadow below the historic North Star House, bring a blanket or folding chairs. On-site parking is available for \$5 or \$3 if 4 or more in car (Carpooling is encouraged). Tickets cost \$55 for BYLT or TCFTA members, \$65 non-members for General Admission. Roped off premium seating nearest to the stage tickets are \$75. There will be full-bar and food vendors on-site.

Tickets for the Gala Dinner and the Concert may be purchased at The Center Box Office-530.274.8384 ext.14, or on line at www.thecenterforthearts.org. Don't miss the biggest event of the year!



HISTORIC NOTES...

By Carole Miller

When North Star Mine owner, James D. Hague, died in August of 1908, his son, Billy Hague became the managing director. In 1910, the new president of North Star, George Agnew or perhaps Billy Hague himself hired a New York City architect, Mr. Julian Peabody, to build a home for him, his wife Elizabeth and son, James. We do not know why Peabody was chosen. However, both James, his son and Mr. Agnew lived on the east coast. As manager, Billy Hague set up a new accounting system, conducted air drilling experiments and time studies of various mine operations. It was under his direction that mining operations were moved to the Central Shaft on Allison Road. The Assay house became a rental house and is still occupied. When A. D. Foote retired as mine superintendent in 1913, his son, A. B. Foote became superintendent under Billy Hague. A.D. Foote remained as Consulting Engineer.

When World War I started, Billy Hague joined the Army and died in France of influenza. A. B. Foote was then appointed manager of the mine. After Billy Hague's death, Elizabeth and James continued to live in the Hague House. In 1945,

HAGUE HOUSE HISTORY

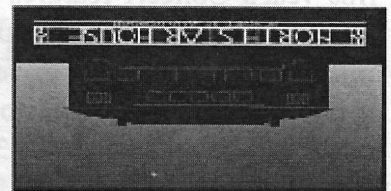
a Foote grand daughter returned to Grass Valley with two children after the death of her husband. She moved into the Hague House with Elizabeth.

In 1929, when North Star mine was sold, A. B. Foote and his wife Jeanette were deeded the Julia Morgan house, several other houses and many acres. It is unclear who owned the Hague house at this point but it has been recorded that it was a rental.

In 1957, the Hague house changed ownership when Boyce Thompson, founder of Newmont Mining Corporation, purchased 700 acres of North Star property. The deal included the Central Mine buildings on Allison Ranch Road and the Hague House.

Thompson created Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. Conifer physiology research was conducted in the Central Mine buildings. Director Mr. Vite and his family lived in the Hague House. The main goal of the research was to understand and control bark beetle infestations.

North Star Historic Conservancy
12075 S. Auburn Road
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949

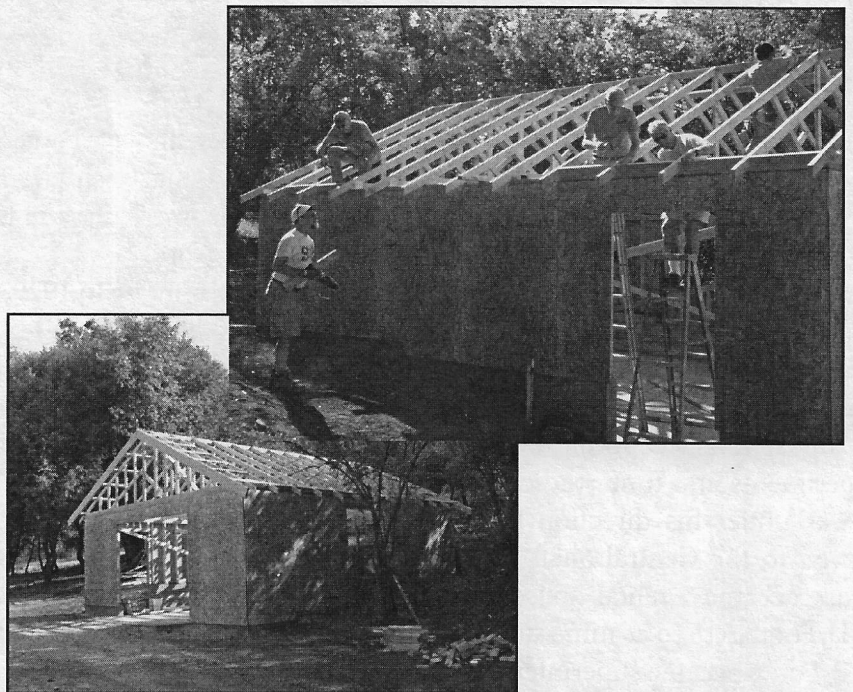


North Star Wish List

Please donate or volunteer if you can!

We need:

- Corrugated metal siding/roofing
- 3/8 or 1/2 inch plywood or OSB 25 sheets
- 4-0 X 3-0 windows 3 each
- 3-0 exterior grade door and frame
- 2X4 DF a lot
- 4X10X10' DF
- 2X10X12' DF floor joist 25 each
- 2X12X12' DF 6 each
- 4X8X3/4T&G plywood flooring 10 sheets
- Type S mortars lot
- Manual Grout pump
- Carpenters
- Helpers
- Tools
- Window makers



The North Star Shed is Shaping Up!



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