



New Camping Place: Marshall's Landing

By Andy McLain

Marshall's Landing Camp Coordinator



Wonderful news, isn't it? This winter, the Fair acquired the property formerly known as Swanson Superior. The new property consists of two geographically distinct areas. Alongside Chickadee Road, there is a wide graveled lot with three yellow-steel structures. This area is becoming known as "the Hub" since the buildings will be a hub of volunteer activity throughout the year.

Then there is the lowland, a lovely meadow wooded with native ash trees and a few pines. This area, which will be devoted to camping during Fair season, has been named "Marshall's Landing" after the late Marshall Landman, creator of Crew Services, who used to camp nearby.

The addition of this land to our holdings comes at an opportune time. Last year, the Long Tom River took back some land along Strawberry Lane. After much debate and compromise, the booths that used to occupy that space moved into the former Kids' Loop, and the Fair promised that this year, Kids' Loop would be reborn. To do this, the fences that separate Crafts Lot from Kids' Loop will move further into the Crafts Lot this year. This will require some relocations for those in the Crafts Lot. Fortunately, Marshall's Landing gives us new options for considering our event's growth.

So, the new meadow will be a planned campground. This year, Fair staff crews who camp together and other neighborhood camps

will have the option of moving to the new property. Pre-Fair Kitchen, Peach Camp and Deconstruction have already opted to migrate to Marshall's Landing, and other crews are considering it.

Tent tags will be required from the first day that tents are pitched so that I can keep track of population and estimate services for the number of people sleeping in that meadow. I will be on site most weekends, and when I'm gone, there will be a book at Quartermaster for campers to write comments, questions or proposals.

I know that not everyone is going to be happy with the way I make decisions, the decisions I make, or the lot they draw when the new camping is settled for this year. I want everyone to know that I don't consider this year's decisions as cast in stone. For the first couple of years, while we get to know the meadow, we all will have to be patient with each other. No one is "entitled" on this new property this year, nor next year. After that, well, we'll see.

A lot of people are asking me about vehicle camping on the new property. Site Manager Steve Wisnovsky and I agree totally: Vehicles are not eco-friendly to the meadow, so vehicle camping is extremely limited and will be decided on a needs basis.

You can write me at newcamping@comcast.net; I will keep up with that account now that the spring air is on the wind! I am totally excited about introducing this great new property to the Fair Family!