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## Duke Energy returns to Timber Hill to make additional repairs

Contributed By Sue Kiesewetter | Enquirer contributor

Most work days Duke Energy's Diana Fox spends much of her days talking on the phone.

As manager of the information technology's voice team she has little reason to leave her Plainfield, Indiana office.

But on May 19 she left her comfortable surroundings for the great outdoors. She spent several hours with co-workers from Cincinnati and Indiana at Fairfield Township's Timber Hill Camp.

"This was a good way to hang out with people from the Cincinnati office," said Fox, who was part of a painting crew. "It was fun."

For the second time in eight months the IT workers donned T-shirts and work boots to make improvements at the former Girl Scout camp in the Rentschler Forest Preserve.

This time the 20-member team painted, raised and fixed the foundation of a chalet; installed gutter guards on gutters they installed on the Wagon Wheel Lodge last year; extended downspouts, adding draining tiles to take water away from the buildings. Other member mounted six outdoor grills Duke purchased for the camp.

Traci Clark said she was glad to see the gutters the group installed last September were up and functioning.

"I'm a glutton for punishment, aren't I?" the Newport resident kidded. "I'm back to help out the kids. We did a decent job before."

In the first six months of operation, more than 2,000 children and teenagers used the camp – the only one in Butler County MetroParks reserved exclusively for use by youth groups, said John Lawson, a member of the Timber Hill Restoration Coalition.

Fairfield resident Steve Welte, Duke Energy's Midwest Data Center Manager, coordinated the effort again this year and has since joined the coalition's board of directors.

"It's something I believe in," said Welte, who spent much of his time raising the chalet and repairing its foundation.



Duke Energy's Steve Welte of Fairfield raised the foundation of a chalet at Timber Hill camp in Fairfield Township. About 20 members of Duke's information technology department in downtown and Plainfield, Indiana worked at the camp May 19. Sue Kiesewetter/for the Enquirer

First timer Shirley Brown said she was glad she came. Besides the team building aspect she enjoyed herself.

"It's not as bad as I thought it would be and the weather is wonderful," Brown said. "It's going faster than I thought it would.

Now that the coalition received its non-profit status, coalition chairwoman Kris Roselle said the group would pursue grants to repair the water system. The group also wants to expand parking.

"If we can get more parking and not have to shut off the water every winter we can use this a lot more," Lawson said. "We've got plumbing dating back from 1940 to the present with some of the lines above ground."

The goal, Lawson said, would be to replace at least one third of the lines each of the next three years with freeze proof piping that would be placed in the ground.

The second 'wish list' project is constructing a modern bathhouse for the camp, perhaps using student labor and the assistance of a homebuilders association.

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