

Another Vernonia Lions Club Project at Dewey Pool

By Jerry Keenon

Late last summer a few members of the Vernonia Lions Club were looking over the Dewey Pool swimming hole at Vernonia's Hawkins Park, reviewing the club's previous project from two years ago to re-condition the kid's pool. A couple of us noticed and pointed out that the condition of the supporting log for the dam was looking questionable. Spots of rot were clearly starting to appear on the log surface. We remembered that the log then in use was a donation from the City of St. Helens Tree Farm about 20 years ago.

The conclusion we reached was to begin working to get it replaced before the next summer installation of the pool. I met with Mike Pihl and he was very willing to help with this project. Mike knew of timber logging projects in his upcoming schedule that had this quality and size of timber. Mike met with the landowner, Schmidlin Brothers Tree Farm, and they graciously offered us any log we needed. That's a great donation from Pihl and Schmidlins, to accomplish this project. Mike and I picked an appropriate log from his landing in early February. Knowing Robbie Hahmeyer, formerly of Vernonia, was experienced in the pole industry, I called him to ask about getting the raw log debarked and peeled. It turns out that Robbie is in a management

position at the McFarlane Cascade Pole Yard that inspects and manufactures pole quality logs into untreated poles. Robbie too, was excited to help out with this project for Vernonia, and the Lions.

Pihl's crew logged and delivered a 74 foot log to the pole facility in early February and within a few weeks Hahmeyer had his crew finish and peel the log. Then Jeff Burch arranged with Steve

Weller Trucking to pick up, haul the log, and deliver it to the pool side in his self loader log truck. The City public works and parks crew set up the support hardware and installed the log for the 2019 season, and for years to come.

We all owe a huge "Thank You" to the donated equipment use, products, and labor for this project.

The Vernonia Lions offer our sincere thanks to Mike Pihl and his crew, the owners of Schmidlin Brothers Tree Farm, Robbie Hahmeyer plus his crew and the McFarlane Pole yard, and Steve Weller Trucking.

These past two years, you may have noticed the four green benches at, or near, the pool, along with the new, bright white Life Guard Stand that are all recent Vernonia Lions Projects which are removed during the flooding season and returned in June. Those long term, durable Dedication Benches are available to be placed with your personalized plaque for \$740.

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