



Beebe Hill Chapter
of the
Forest Fire Lookout Association
www.beebehill.info



Workday with the Ironworkers of Local 12
Saturday, April 5, 2008

Austerlitz, NY- The fire tower on Beebe Hill is getting a long awaited facelift. On Saturday members of the Ironworkers Local Union #12 of Albany, NY had volunteered their skills to fulfill the structural and safety issues raised by the state's engineer.



Ironworkers preparing to start work.

After overcoming the difficulties of a soupy dirt road to the fire tower work began on the fire tower by 8:30 AM. First item of business was replacing the bolts and nuts connecting the tower "X" braces to each of the tower legs. As the fire tower gains strength from a flexible frame welding is not an option with these connections.

Work quickly moved to address the public safety issues concerning the handrails that surround the nine flights of stairs and eight landings on the tower. Several of the railings on the upper landings are not high enough to provide adequate safety at these elevations. It had been decided to raise each railing to a height of 42 inches from the ground to the tower cab.



Replacing "X" brace bolts and nuts



Raising the hand rail elevation to 42"

In attendances on Saturday was Local Union President Ron Clapper, NYS-DEC Forestry Technician Scott Moxhan, Forest Ranger Lt. Darryl Kittle, Forest Ranger Chris Di Cintio, FFLA State Director Bill Starr, Beebe Hill Chapter members Eric Hepperle and Randy Kneer and nine Journeyman and Apprentice Ironworkers from Local Union #12.



*Local President Ron Clapper
Forest Ranger Lt. Darryl Kittle*

After a late start the Ironworkers quickly found a rhythm and the professionalism of their skill was soon realized.



On site part fabrication

Raising the handrail elevation proved to be a challenge at each meeting of stairs and landing which required a custom cut of angle iron at each junction.

On each stair riser a mid rail is being installed to provide a more secure railing system. A mid rail will also be installed around each landing to better support the wire meshing safety feature.



Ranger Chris DiCintio and chapter member Eric Hepperle bring in new wire meshing.

A tentative date of May 10, 2008 has been scheduled to complete this portion of the Beebe Hill fire tower face-lift.

Once this phase is complete installing lightning grounding and painting of the fire tower will be performed. New windows are made for the tower cab and will be installed after painting. A reproduced fire tower circular map and support table will then be installed in the tower. Plans for the interior restoration of the cabin will be implemented as well.

Please visit our web site for more details or to become involved with the restoration:

www.beebehill.info



Saturday's crew of Ironworkers, NYS-DEC personnel & FFLA members