

# Airport recognizes community support

*Recognition received for those who helped restore  
a lake shore shelter and help with maintenance*

**BY JOSH JONES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recognized two people for their volunteer work on Tuesday at Outland Airport.

Chris Collins, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport director, started off by mentioning that he would like

to honor some people during the meeting.

"I would like to honor some people... I have behind us Jason Barciszewski and his father Brian. You guys probably know both of them," Collins said. "Jason has worked at the airport before helping us clean up and do various projects. And Jason came

to me a couple years ago with an Eagle Scout proposal."

Collins discussed the project that Jason Barciszewski proposed.

"We just so happened to have a lake shore shelter that needed an over-haul. And your timing was perfect because I think if we went another season we would not have a shelter to rebuild," Collins said. "But these guys have managed a project of completely redoing our shelter."

Collins mentioned that thanks to the work done they have a lake

shore shelter is something to be proud of.

"And we now have a lake shore shelter that we can be proud of and lot of community people can use for many years to come," Collins said. "So I am not sure what the time frame is for you getting your Eagle Scout award but we have something for you."

At that time Board Chairman Mike Ancona presented a card from the Airport to Jason Barciszewski for his work.

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"Not only is there a nice card in there, there is also a little start of a scholarship fund in there for your hard work," Collins said.

After the card was presented, Brian Barciszewski thanked the airport for their support during the project.

"I want to thank everybody including the employees here for being generous and giving us the equipment needed and help with the roof," Barciszewski said. "It was a big job but we are very proud of it and hope it provides some added stuff for the community here in the future."

Next Collins recognized Steve Watts for his help with preparing for the Midwest Mt. Vernon LSA Expo, which was held this past weekend.

"Steve Watts has spent since March grooming the grass runways here at the airport in preparation of the light sport expo that we just went through," Collins said. "And had he not done all this there were at least three exhibitors that would not come to this expo, and it would not be as exciting."

Helping in a stressful time

really made Watts stand out as Collins mentioned his appreciation.

"Not only did he take care of the grass runways and this is probably what he does not want you guys to know," Collins said. "But we were really stressed trying to get everything done before this show and on Thursday morning we did not have ... what we called the trimming done on the sides of the runways and around the lights and everything."

He continued, "And I am like there is absolutely ... nobody left we were too busy and here I go running and what is he doing he is out there mowing what needed to be mowed. He was out there all day."

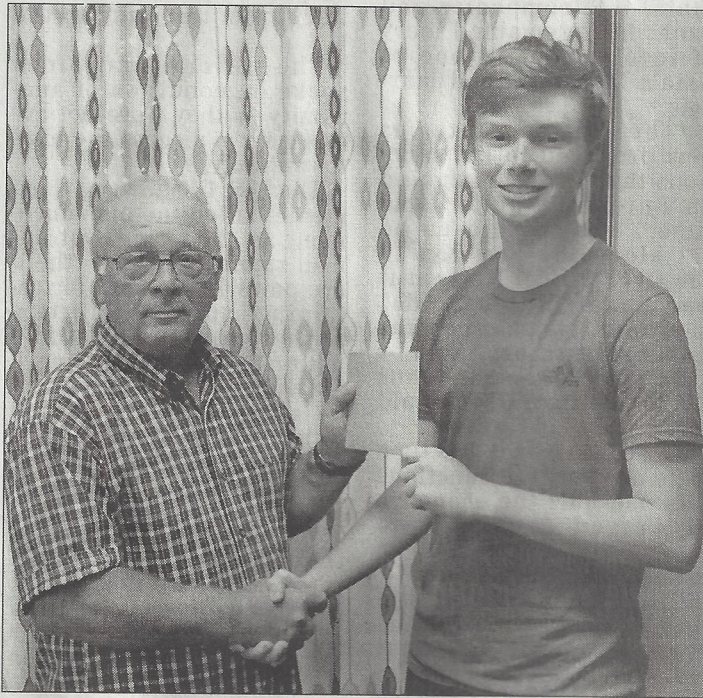
Watts mentioned his enjoyment with helping out through mowing as he was presented with a card thanking him for his work.

Looking back Collins mentioned the importance of having volunteers.

"I have said it many times in the past this facility is so large that there are a lot of things we just can't do with only four employees," Collins said. "And it means the world to me that we have people the community that want to help us."

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Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

**RECOGNITION** — Board Chairman Mike Ancona presents a card of appreciation to Jason Barciszewski for his help in restoring a lake shore shelter on the Outland Airport grounds.



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

**APPRECIATION** — Board Chairman Mike Ancona presents a card showing Mt. Vernon Outland Airport's appreciation for helping with the mowing and preparations for the Midwest Mt. Vernon LSA Expo.