

# Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

## Winter/Spring 2020

### “Art in Parks”

Presentation by Adria Arch, FSPP Annual Meeting  
1/12/2020; recorded by Marshall McCloskey

PHOTO BY FRED MOSES



Adria Arch presented “Art for Parks” at the FSPP Annual Meeting January 12, 2020

Adria’s very informative talk addressed what’s possible with regard to public art, what it can do, e.g. create a sense of community, and questions to be considered in implementing it:

- Why do you want public art? (not to be taken aback, but some people do object on the grounds it detracts e.g. from the pure nature experience.)
- Temporary or permanent? (definitely affects the cost)
- Utilitarian (i.e. in the design of benches, etc.)?
- Where should public art be situated?
- What’s our budget?
- Are there grants or other ways to supplement funds?
- What kind of permissions do we need?
- How do we find an artist?
- Who maintains the piece, how often, and who pays for maintenance?

Adria noted that the first public art project she helped implement in Arlington was the mural on the Arlington Boys

and Girls Club in 2012, which, in fact, cost \$8000. (It’s no longer there, as it was expected to be temporary.) Since then, there have been a number of other projects, among them: the “Penny the Swan” sculpture by Kevin Duffy in the park near Linwood St., “Art Rocks Menotomy 2014” and “Art Rocks Spy Pond 2015”, the tree sculpture in Waldo Park 2013, and “Colony”, the miniature village in the tree along the Minuteman Trail, also near Linwood St. One might remember the large murals on buildings in East Arlington, and “Ripple” where some trees along the Minuteman bike path between Lake St and Mass Ave were clothed with knitted coverings, a collaborative work with 57 contributing knitters. Adria showed examples of public art in other parks, for example, benches, seating facilities, and bike racks.

She closed with information re: the public art process. To begin, permission from the Parks and Recreation Commission is necessary. Cecily Miller, public art curator, can help with this, from figuring out what the group wants, to creating a call for proposals and overseeing. She is available to discuss her fees. Community open forums to hear feedback on thoughts and designs are necessary and helpful.

*Editor’s Note: Adria Arch has an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, a MA from the University of Arizona, and a BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University. Adria has been involved with public art since 2010, past Co-Chair of the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture, former Education Director of the Arlington Center for the Arts and is an art instructor at local art colleges and universities. Adria is a mixed media artist whose work features strong graphic elements and vivid color. She combines an abiding interest in shape with a fascination in the unpredictable or unexpected sources. She is affiliated with the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, in Lincoln MA, and has collections at the Boston Public Library, the Library of Congress Collection of Prints, Washington, D.C. and several corporations in the Boston area, with private collections in the US, Germany, and Australia, and has upcoming exhibitions at the Brattleboro Art Museum and Danforth Art Museum in Framingham.*



PHOTO BY MITHILESH SHARMA

“Penny” at Linwood Circle surrounded by light snow



# 2020 FSPP Work & Fun Days

By Lally Stowell

The FSPP monthly Saturday Work Days begin on April 18th and will continue through October. We encourage all who enjoy Spy Pond Park to come and join our efforts to maintain and preserve this unique spot for the many families and visitors who come from all over throughout the year. We need your help pulling weeds and invasive plants, removing fallen branches, clearing the beaches and playground, and picking up trash. Our Work Days are scheduled for three hours, but any amount of time is greatly appreciated. A lot can be accomplished, even in a short amount of time. This is an opportunity to meet and work side by side with others who love the park and enjoy helping to keep it looking beautiful. It is also an opportunity to learn more about native and invasive plants.

For each monthly Work Day, members of the Beautification Committee will be available to assign tasks, work together with volunteers, answer questions and welcome suggestions. All workers must sign a waiver form (parents must sign for under-18s).

We have a limited supply of tools so If you have rakes, gloves and/or clippers, they would be greatly appreciated. Please bring water, too.

Below is a list of Work Days for 2020. They will be held on the Saturday mornings listed below from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. We encourage you to come as often as possible for whatever length of time you can give. We also hope you will encourage your friends, family, members of your community groups and colleagues at work to participate. High school students can earn community service credits. We look forward to having many eager volunteers work with us this year. For more information, contact Lally Stowell at [lallystowell@icloud.com](mailto:lallystowell@icloud.com).

April 18, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date April 19, 1-4 p.m.)

May 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date May 10, 1-4 p.m.)

June 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date June 7, 1-4 p.m.)

July 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date July 12 1-4 p.m.)

Aug. 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Aug. 23 1-4 p.m.)

September - no Work Day

Oct. 17, 10 a.m. - 1p.m. (rain date Oct. 18 1-4 p.m.)

Sept. 12 Fun Day, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Sept. 13, 1-4 p.m.)

**Fun Day** involves children's activities in Spy Pond Park.

*Liability waivers are required for all participants in the above Work and Fun Day activities. If you are working, please download the form from the FSPP website, fill it out and bring it with you. Children below 18 years of age must have parental signature to participate in Spy Pond Park activities.*



PHOTO BY MITHILSH SHARMA

Workers spent time in cold, winter weather to frame the overlook near Linwood Circle



PHOTO BY JENNY BARON



PHOTO BY JENNY BARON

# 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2020 GOALS

## Accomplishments in 2019

1. Monitor and influence as much as we can the Conservation Commission efforts re: shoreline rehab, and path improvement in our best interests
2. Coordinate with Hardy School re: a unit for study of the Spy Pond Park environment involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle
3. Look into alternatives for handling litter/trash, investigate how other towns do it
4. Support efforts to provide environmentally sound rat control measures in Spy Pond Park and Arlington, in general
5. Explore additional art for the park and investigate what is being done in other parks
6. Recruit a Park Activities Co-chair to work with Betsy Leondar-Wright
7. Recruit a General Vice-President
8. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP

Above goals accomplished: 1, 5, 8. It was decided to support others' efforts to effect 3 & 4 since there was no evidence of a rat problem in 2019, perhaps due to construction along the pond's shoreline. Goals 2 and 5 were tabled until the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project is completed. Attainment of Goal 7 has been unsuccessful, once again.

## Goals for 2020

1. Monitor and influence as much as we can the Conservation Commission efforts re: shoreline rehab, and path improvement in our best interests
2. Coordinate with Hardy School re: a unit for study of the Spy Pond Park environment and filed day in SPP involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle – this was done in 2018 and will be investigated for 2020.
3. Determine the need for alternatives for handling litter/trash and investigating how other towns do it.
4. Recruit a General Vice-President.
5. Recruit people for a FSPP Public Art Committee – Mithilesh Sharma has volunteered to be on it and Betsy has some ideas for others.

6. Explore additional art for the park and investigate what is being done in other parks – look into themes with connections to Arlington history and indigenous peoples.
7. Monitor the town's pursuing finances for establishing signage about the soil erosion project and care of the planting beds.
8. Put a sign up in the rain garden explaining its environmental purpose.
9. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP.

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

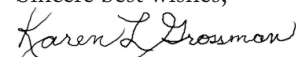
Welcome to our new slate of officers, chairs, and committees. You can see everyone's short bio on our website: <http://www.friendsofspypondpark.org/officers.html>.

Thanks to Sally Hempstead's assistance with the best photo selection and Julie McBride's work posting the photos and captions, you can find the 2019 gallery there, too.: <http://www.friendsofspypondpark.org/album/2019%20Park%20Photos/index.html>.

So far, it hasn't been much of a winter, not much snow and higher than normal temperatures. However, there has been some activity in Spy Pond Park! The overlook in the park has been framed in preparation for later in spring completion a short distance to the right of Linwood Circle. Please take a look in person, if you're interested. We've settled the Work Days for 2020 that are listed in this newsletter and we'll be meeting with Emily Sullivan, Conservation Agent and others involved in the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project to determine parameters for this year's work in the park.

We hope to see you or keep up with you as our annual solicitation will be sent out in May. We will be searching for other funding sources to enable necessary reconstruction at North Beach, formerly the wheelchair access to Spy Pond. Thank you so much for supporting the Friends of Spy Pond Park. Please take advantage of the other events listed in this newsletter occurring in the area, also.

Sincere best wishes,



Karen L. Grossman  
President

Friends of Spy Pond Park



## Area Events

Patagonia Cambridge is screening an environmental film on February 25th and MyRWA will be there to answer all your local environment questions. More info: <https://mysticriver.org/calendar?view=calendar&month=02-2020>

February 27 | The Feminist Bird Club hosts Beers and Birds trivia | Details: <https://mysticriver.org/calendar?view=calendar&month=02-2020>

March 14 | Mystic Lakes herring monitoring training | Details: [https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2019/3/2/herring-monitoring-training-7zwb2?blm\\_aid=23956](https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2019/3/2/herring-monitoring-training-7zwb2?blm_aid=23956)

April 4 | Horn Pond herring monitoring training | Details: [https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2019/3/2/herring-monitoring-training-horn-pond-z5hjt?blm\\_aid=23956](https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2019/3/2/herring-monitoring-training-horn-pond-z5hjt?blm_aid=23956)

April 25 | Earth Day EcoFest | Details: [https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2020/4/25/earth-day-park-serve-day-celebration?blm\\_aid=23956](https://mysticriver.org/calendar/2020/4/25/earth-day-park-serve-day-celebration?blm_aid=23956)

May 16 | 24th Annual Herring Run and Paddle | Details: [https://mysticriver.org/herring-run-paddle?blm\\_aid=23956](https://mysticriver.org/herring-run-paddle?blm_aid=23956)



PHOTO BY MITHILESH SHARMA

Children enjoy Spy Pond Park's Playground all year 'round

## Up From the Grassroots! Decentralized Weeding

By Betsy Leondar-Wright

Early in 2019, Anne Ellinger learned how harmful garlic mustard is, how it poisons local plants and so turns diverse ecosystems into barren monoculture. In May, she resolved to eliminate the pesky invasive species from the bike path between Linwood St and Swan Place.

There was way too much garlic mustard for her alone to weed out, especially since it has to be pulled up by the roots and then disposed of so it doesn't spread. So she issued an innovative Garlic Mustard Challenge.

She made posters with a photo of the plant and a request to uproot it into trash bags. On the evening of May 15 she and I walked up and down the bike path tying white trash bags to fences and poles and taping up the posters on every vertical surface. We wondered whether anyone at all would stop biking or jogging long enough to read the posters, much less spend time weeding.

Well, we were pleasantly surprised. By the next morning at 7:45, more than a dozen bags were full of uprooted garlic mustard! For the rest of the month full bags showed up on her porch at 21 Linwood St and on the side of the bike path, totaling more than 50.

We heard that the Arlington / Belmont Crew Team did some group weeding on the slope near their boat storage. But otherwise it was just unorganized individuals who took her challenge and pulled up garlic mustard on their own.

FSPP Workdays and Weed Out Wednesdays are very effective at organizing people to pull up invasive species together. But in addition, we can replicate this decentralized model and encourage lone individuals to weed on their own timeline.

To learn more about garlic mustard: [https://naturegroupie.org/sites/default/files/documents/StewTrainingGuide\\_InvasivePlants\\_GarlicMustardFactSheet\\_2018.pdf](https://naturegroupie.org/sites/default/files/documents/StewTrainingGuide_InvasivePlants_GarlicMustardFactSheet_2018.pdf)

PHOTO BY MITHILESH SHARMA



Sunset over Spy Pond January, 2020

## Citation

*For 17 dedicated years as Chair of Friends of  
Spy Pond Park Activities:*

*Collaborating with the Arlington Land Trust  
for tours of Elizabeth Island,  
the Spy Pond Committee for expanded Fun Days,  
and the Town of Arlington to register the events,*

*Collecting fabulous prizes for the wonderful games, puzzles and  
park scavenger hunts you created,*

*Arranging for publicity poster design, printing, and dissemination,*

*Communicating with previously involved and new organizations to  
provide varied, nature-related activities to delight so many children  
and adults,*

*Soliciting volunteers to lead and guide the engaging activities at  
Fun Day for so many years,*

*Providing excellent organization and planning for the location of  
activities, set-up and signage prior to and on the day of the events,  
and*

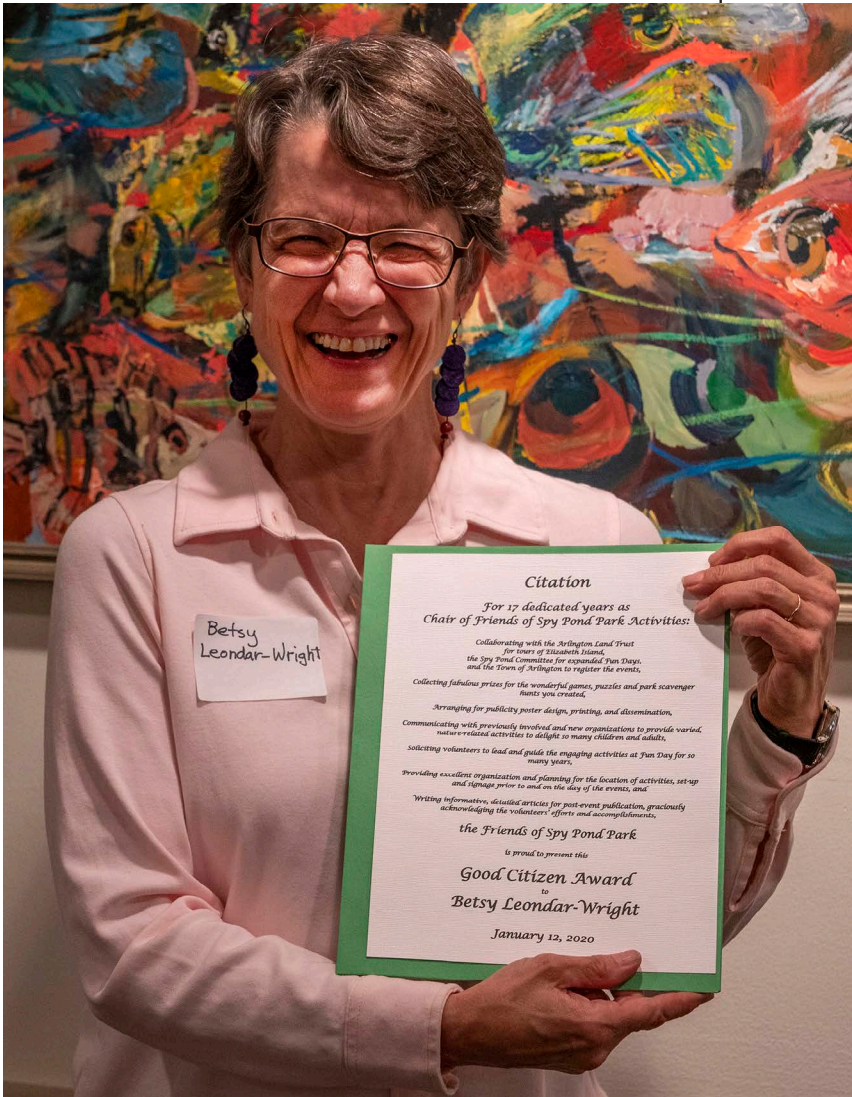
*Writing informative, detailed articles for post-event publication,  
graciously acknowledging the volunteers' efforts and accomplish-  
ments,*

*the Friends of Spy Pond Park  
is proud to present this  
Good Citizen Award*

*to*

*Betsy Leondar-Wright  
January 12, 2020*

PHOTO BY FRED MOSES





# Friends of Spy Pond Park next meetings

at

**Karen Grossman's  
Sunday, Mar. 29, 2020 &  
May/June (TBA)  
both at 7:00 p.m.  
32 Hamilton Road #402**

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990  
email [fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org)

Park on Linwood Street off Mass. Ave. or on Lakehill off  
Lake St. at the far end of the complex.

## To join Friends of Spy Pond Park...

Send your annual dues (\$15 individual, \$25 household, \$5 low-income) to:

FSPP, P.O. Box 1051, Arlington, MA 02474-0021

For more information, call a Friends officer.

President: Karen L. Grossman (781) 646-5990  
General Vice-President: Open  
Treasurer: Joanie Walls (703) 881-1109  
Recording Secretary: Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Membership Secretary: Daniel Jalkut (617) 276-6672  
VPs for Communication & Outreach:  
Sally Hempstead (860) 944-1370  
Jamie Ciocco [jamcio@gmail.com](mailto:jamcio@gmail.com)  
Outreach Committee: Anne Ellinger (781) 646-1705  
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Chair for Publicity: Jenny Babon (774) 253-6325  
Publicity Committee: Pinal Maniar  
Beautification Committee:  
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Richard Norcross (781) 641-2404  
Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759  
Beverly Williams (781) 316-1536  
Web Developer: Julie McBride (617) 823-8084  
Chair for Outreach/Park Events:  
Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630  
Fundraising Chair: Open  
Photographers and Videographers:  
Laura Homer (617) 953-0743  
Milthilsh Sharma (617) 233-9218  
Ram Subramanian [ramkumar@gmail.com](mailto:ramkumar@gmail.com)  
Photographer's Assistant: Puneet Syal  
Post-processing: Mark Sandman

Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to  
[fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org)

Friends of Spy Pond Park • <http://www.friendsofspypondpark.org> • P.O. Box 1051 • Arlington, MA 02474-0021

We recognize those who have made contributions to the FSPP in 2019. This money enables us to pursue our mission of supporting the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond as natural and community resources. We extend sincere thanks for the generosity and commitment of the 139 individuals and households involved in this effort.

## 2019 Donations

### \$300

Brad Barber

### \$200-\$299

Anonymous  
Mark & Joanie Walls

### \$100-\$199

Lt Eric Hall Anderson  
Penny Blevins  
Lionel Fergus & Gerda Brown  
Margie Coffin & Chris Brown  
Louise Strayhorn & Andrew  
Fischer  
Lisa Fredman  
Nathan Fuller  
Dr. Norman Garber  
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Hopeman

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Sara McCabe  
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Stipp  
Hal Tepfer  
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### \$50-\$99

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Sue & Henry Bass  
Jennifer & Adam Burke  
Roger Dempsey & Linda  
Chase  
Janice Clark  
Adria Arch & Elliott Eichen  
Ben Clark & Erica Klein  
Pat Flinn  
Peter & Jane Howard  
Betsy & Gail Leondar-Wright  
Thomas E. Lisco  
Margaret Marks  
Toshia McCabe  
Ann LeRoyer & Richard  
McElroy  
Robert & Harriet Tuttle  
Noyes  
Martha & Dick Pereli  
Ann Strand

### \$26-\$49

Seth T Anderson  
Christopher Bailey  
Doris Birmingham  
Susanne Schuster &  
Colin Blair  
Liz Blumenthal  
Sarah Dadusc  
Charles De Virgilio  
Elsie & Peter Fiore  
Elizabeth Fraser  
Karsten & JoAnne Hartel  
Frances Knott  
Julie McBride  
Carmen P. Medeiros  
Kathy Modigliani  
S. Georgine Pennington  
William F. Reardon, Jr.  
Lisa M. & Stephen Reynolds  
Richard Rubinstein  
Dick & Patience Terry  
Downing Cless & Alice Trexler

### \$25

Maura Albert  
Betty Athanasoulas  
Kristen Atwood  
Eric Baatz  
Arita Basso  
Evelyn & Xavier Benveniste  
Sylvie Bokshorn and Lawrence  
Berger  
Carolyn Boettner  
Robert & Elaine Bowes  
Eliza & Doug Burden

Beverly & Ralph Cadorette  
Yvonne Chase  
Dan & Margaret Cianfarini  
Kathryn, Rob, and Jacinta Davey  
Armen Dedekian  
Joe Doaks  
Bill & Myriel Eykamp  
Charles & Maryanna Foskett  
Sarah & Clarke Glover  
Kym & Dan Goldsmith  
Dan Chadwick & Robin  
Goldstein  
Dorothy Duffy Gosline  
Fred Moses & Karen Grossman  
Amy & Jim Hampe  
Cecily R & Roger Hancock  
Judy & Patrick Hanlon  
Sally Hempstead  
Daniel C Jalkut  
Elizabeth Karpati c/o Sniscak  
Christa Kelleher  
Daniel Klebanov  
Kate Lydecker and Will  
MacPherson  
John & Mary McCann  
Joyce McKenzie  
Stephan Miller  
Patty Palanza-Paynter  
Riva Poor  
Susan & Howard Rashba  
Karen Edwards & Tom Roby  
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Rosenbaum  
Doris Rucinski  
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Phillip A. & Donna Sharff  
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Sophia Sayigh & J. Richard  
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Elizabeth Rocco & Laurence  
Slotnick  
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Susan D Stamps  
William & Lynn Taber  
Amy & Jimmy Torres  
Karen Walrath

### \$15-\$24

Ann Abbott  
Marianne Balazs  
Jim Beauchesne  
Marlene H Alderman & Eugene  
Benson  
Joelita Cleveland  
Diana Coleman  
Diane K. Connor  
Samantha Dutra  
Susan Dworkin  
Peggy Fenner  
Kurt & Lisa Fischer  
Muriel Fudala  
Laura Harding  
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Mark S Hruby  
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Meryl Levin  
Gail T McCormick  
Howard Muise  
Geraldine Navratil  
Ellen V. Robertson  
Lawrence "Stroker" Rogovin  
Karen Rothman  
Wendy C Rudner  
Dana Shkolny  
Nathaniel Stevens  
Jane A. Weingarten  
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