

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Fall 2009

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I've watched with pride the wonderfully productive work that volunteers have done in Spy Pond Park to spruce up the planting beds. Thanks to Eric Baatz, Jan Jee Bean, Eric Berger, Doris Birmingham, Liz Blumenthal, Gerda Brown, Jane Conlon, Bill Eykamp, Bill Fletcher, Elizabeth Karpati, Jacki Katzman, Dave Kurtz, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Jane Lee, Agnes O'Donnell, Ilse Oliveira, Doris Powell, Dick Rubinstein, Lally Stowell, Cynthia Thompson for their dedication in helping out this summer. I apologize if I have omitted from this list anyone who participated. Please let me know and I'll acknowledge you in the winter newsletter. The students serve as a model for other teenagers who can receive community service credits for working in Spy Pond Park.

We also appreciate those people who worked on their own, weeding or picking up trash as they walked through the Park. Since we faced the daunting task of weeding and pruning with only a few volunteers some months, we decided to employ a couple of teenagers, Mikko and Jussi Silliman, who did a marvelous job accomplishing so much in July and August. Thanks to the girls from the Germaine Lawrence School who came to the Park to weed with their teachers Allison Butland, Katherine Friel, and Colleen Kelly.

There are other maintenance needs in the Park. The DPW has repaired some damage to the black fences near the planting beds and we've put in a request to get the water bubblers functioning better. Yes, soon the playground will finally be resurfaced. As you may have noticed, the erosion of the path and the handicapped ramp continues to be a problem. Grass is invading the path since it hasn't been maintained adequately. I've met with a couple of landscapers in an attempt to determine a more long-term solution. They did offer to help; but, we don't have sufficient money to completely remedy the situation, and the Town doesn't either. One idea was to install



PHOTO BY SARAH CONN

eco stones, but enough to cover the complete path was estimated to cost \$50,000. Another was to create a grassy berm on each of the five short paths that lead to the rocky steps at the water's edge; that might curb erosion there. We will continue to contemplate all feasible possibilities and share our ideas with Joe Connelly, the Park Commissioners, and the Conservation Commission regarding these issues. In the meantime, the DPW has said they could patch spots on the path in the fall. However, areas will rapidly erode once again from heavy rains. We are constantly trying to preserve the beautiful Park renovations, but maintenance certainly isn't easy.

Please come to our next FSPP meeting to add your thoughts. If you have a penchant for organizing or doing significant fund raising, we could use your expertise. Finally, since our dues solicitation in May, we have recorded almost 100 households that have paid dues thanks to Cynthia Thompson who has updated our database and performed the duties of Corresponding Secretary on an ad hoc basis. To those who have made contributions to the FSPP, she has sent out acknowledgment letters to you for your tax records. We have had more dues paying members in past years and would like to increase our numbers. So, if you have not sent in your dues for 2009, please mail them to our P.O. box at your earliest convenience.

Look for our booth at Arlington's Town Day festivities on September 26th and consider volunteering to put in some time there to spread the word about how important our organization is to Spy Pond Park. Remember, there are Work Days in September and October; thanks, also, to Betsy-Leondar-Wright for organizing another Fantastic Fun Day in September. Please mark your calendar now and come join us. As always, I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
Karen L. Grossman
President
Friends of Spy Pond Park



PHOTO BY JAMIE CIOCCO

The United Nations of Spy Pond Park Playground

by Doris Birmingham

“When we come to Spy Pond Park playground,” commented Myriam as she and her husband Dale watched their daughters soar high on the swings, “we are always amazed at how many languages we hear spoken!” Myriam herself is a native French speaker who grew up in Quebec; she and Dale speak French at home, and the girls are bilingual except, as Myriam laughs, “Their French sometimes lapses into “Franglais.” It is not unusual to encounter bi-lingual children at the playground, but Aurelia, whose mother is Chinese and whose father is German, is actually tri-lingual switching easily among Chinese, German and English! During three separate visits to the playground, I encountered children whose heritage was Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Sri-Lankan, Indian, and, of course, American. I also learned that it is both the diversity of the population and the special qualities of Spy Pond itself that make this one of most popular playgrounds in Arlington.



PHOTO BY DORIS BIRMINGHAM

Because of its central location, unusual demographic, and natural attractions, the playground is a tremendously popular meeting place for the kids and their parents. After work, Aurelia's dad commutes by bike from Alewife Station to meet Aurelia and her mom, who bicycle from the other side of town, for fun on the playground and a picnic. Sahoko comes with her children to play and to meet other Japanese children and their moms who live in the nearby Legacy apartments. Myriam and Dale's family loves to walk around the Park to admire its natural beauty and to watch the boats and canoes. Carolyn, a former Arlington resident who now lives on Long Island, always comes to the Park on return visits to town. She and her girlfriends especially love the swings and the ice cream truck.

The parents with whom I spoke expressed only two concerns about the Park: its lack of shade and its unpredictable closures during sand wasp infestations in late summer. The first, some suggested, could be addressed with the addition of some fast-growing trees or perhaps a gazebo. As for the second, the only answer is the removal of the sand and its replacement with another type of material. Alas, before I could finish researching this article, the playground was again closed due to wasps. A



PHOTO BY DORIS BIRMINGHAM

Jill, who is the Center Liaison at Arlington Creative Start, a neighborhood pre-school that frequently brings its little ones to the playground, reports that nearly 30% of the school's pupils are not of U.S. origin. Tibet, Russia, Iceland, and Uganda were among the nearly dozen countries that she quickly reeled off the top of her head when I asked her to elaborate. Many of these children come to school with little or no English, she noted, and among the first words they learn (after “Dunkin’ Donuts”) are “Spy Pond Park!” Although the school has its own playground, the children beg all year long to be taken to Spy Pond Park for outdoor playtime. One of the big attractions is the swans, whose disappearance in the winter is much lamented, and whose return in the spring, eagerly anticipated. At the playground and in the Park, says Jill, the children learn not only to play together and to understand the unfamiliar cultures of their classmates, they also learn to appreciate nature.



PHOTO BY DORIS BIRMINGHAM

week or two earlier, Tren, one of the fathers with whom I chatted, suggested that resurfacing the playground would be a great use of federal stimulus money. I'm sure that Akari, Zack, and Antonio, who like me, were very sad to find a deserted and barricaded playground one fine summer morning in late July, would all vote for that! This is one of the best places where they can come in Arlington to meet and have fun with little friends from many nations.

***Editor's note:** Last October, the Friends of Spy Pond Park talked with Joe Connelly, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, and advocated for him to put sufficient money in his 2009 - 2010 budget proposal for resurfacing the Spy Pond Park playground. Since this was an important issue related to safety, Joe requested \$25,000 to add to \$30,000 from CDBG money that would cover the cost of replacing the playground sand with pine bark mulch. Subsequent to Town Meeting's approval, sufficient money became available July 1, 2009 to fulfill our dream! Andrew Leonard Design, an Arlington landscape architecture company, drew up bid documents and the process of determining a contractor continues at press time. The work in the playground will, most likely, be done this October. Although we were not able to avoid the wasp infestation this year and the playground had to be closed, we hope the little members of the United Nations will be able to enjoy playing there once again before 2009 ends.*

The Big One That DIDN'T Get Away: Fun Day in Spy Pond Park, September 12, 2009

Come hear Garry Carlson, a native of Arlington and Friend of Spy Pond Park, who will be our featured storyteller at the upcoming Friends of Spy Pond Park Day, on September 12th (rain date 9/13) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Garry will be telling about some of his childhood memories of the Park and the influence it has had on his life. Garry will also be delivering his award winning talk entitled, "The Big One That DIDN'T Get Away".

This fish story is most memorable for those who hear it, and is like none other you may hear. "It is indeed a true fish story of mammoth proportions", says Garry, and is based on his childhood memories at, in and near Spy Pond in the late 50's. Adults and children will enjoy this presentation.

There will also be lots of other fun activities just like those we had in June!

We could use more volunteers to lead crafts, paint faces, or help kids learn in other ways about the wonderful natural world of the Park. If you'd like to help, email betsy@classmatters.org.

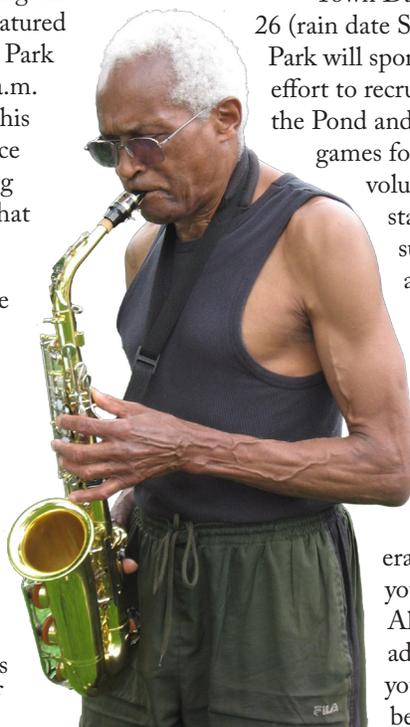


PHOTO BY KAREN GROSSMAN

Work Day in Spy Pond Park September 12, 2009

We desperately need more people to show up for Work Day, Saturday, September 12 (rain date 9/13) 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

We even need someone to help at the outreach table. Although a hardy core group has shown up each Work Day thus far this year, we have not had enough of a turn out to get the job done adequately most times. There is much more to do to keep up with what needs to be done in the planting beds. We will meet at the playground end of the Park off Pond Lane.

Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes, pruning tools and other gardening equipment, if you have any; we can provide some, too. We hope you will come to make Spy Pond Park beautiful and you'll know with pride, "I participated in a community effort to make this Park stay in great shape!" Let us know you're coming by contacting Karen Grossman at 781-646-5990 or at fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org. You may decide to just show up, but we prefer to have an idea how many are coming. Also contact Karen if you are able to work on your own schedule or on any other weekends; she will meet with you to point out what needs to be done. Our next Work Day we will be doing a cleanup and bulb transfer on October 17th from 1–4 p.m.

FSPP Town Day Booth

by Doris Birmingham

Town Day will be held this year on Saturday, September 26 (rain date Saturday, October 3). The Friends of Spy Pond Park will sponsor a booth which will support our outreach effort to recruit new members, educate the community about the Pond and the Park, sell FSPP T-shirts, and provide small games for children. We will need a total of at least 20 volunteers to help with set up, break down, and staffing the booth. This is your opportunity to support the Park and to participate in an enjoyable community event. To volunteer, please call or write Ilse Oliveira 781-646-9332 (leave a message), or oliveira.ilse079@gmail.com.

Set up on September 26 begins at 8:15 a.m.; booths open at 10:00; break down starts at 3:00 p.m. Please sign up with Ilse by Monday, September 21, for a period of one or two hours and indicate if possible, the general time frames during which you could work and your availability should the rain date be necessary. Also, please give us your phone number and email address. A member of our committee will contact you with a specific assignment two or three days before Town Day.

BOATING BLISS COMPARED

by Betsy Leondar-Wright

This summer I broke my personal record for number of different types of boats on Spy Pond.

In a typical summer I go out on Spy Pond on three kinds of boats. Kayaking is an every-summer, all-summer thing for me, so that was no surprise. Canoeing is good for taking out kids and guests, which I usually do every month or so. My Belmarlin neighborhood shares a 2-person plastic kayak and a big canoe, so it's easy for me to use those in Spy Pond. And on very hot days, nothing beats lying on a "floaty thing," as we call it in my family, a cheap blow-up raft, the favorite of my 7-year-old nieces Alaya and Sadia.

But two special things happened this summer. First, local boat-repair geniuses, Yuri Ivanov and his resourceful son Sasha, fixed my 14-foot Butterfly sailboat and its trailer, so I got to go sailing again after six years. Second, I took a rowing class sponsored by the Arlington Recreation Department. In six sessions five others and I learned to row those lovely, long boats that crew teams use, taught by Ted Jenkins and the others who coach the Belmont/Arlington high school team.

So it was a five-boat summer—in fact, a five-boat July!

From this vantage point of having done them all in a single month, I can compare, contrast, and recommend the pros and cons of each. Here are my impressions of how each kind of boat is different:

Canoe

+ You're so high up, it's easy to look down at the lovely pebbles on the bottom and at the fish. And the boat is so stable you can gaze around at the sky, the trees and the birds.

+ You can pile a bunch of little kids, some mini-paddles and a picnic basket into one canoe—instant party on the water.

+ Once you regain the body-memory of that J-stroke you may have learned when you were ten, steering is so easy that it's almost like you think of a location and the canoe reads your thoughts and takes you there.

- However, it's a lot of arm-effort for the amount of motion. Canoeing is like riding an elephant in a horse-race. A big, heavy canoe would lose a race to every other boat—even a floaty raft sometimes!

- And a canoe doesn't work very well with just one person paddling—you might go in circles unless the person in back is very skilled. Most people with bad backs can't canoe, as twist-then-push is exactly what chiropractors tell you not to do. And most small children's paddling is purely decorative. So a canoe is a good choice only when you've got two strong-back people to paddle.

Floaty raft

+ You can't go anywhere*, but that's the point – it's summer, you're lazy, the water picks you up and puts you down, picks you up and puts you down. You can drift under the willows and discover where the ducks hang out. You fall off when you're hot, climb on when you're chilly.

(* actually, once I paddled a floaty to Elizabeth Island and back using nothing but my hands, but it took me most of the afternoon)

- However, floaties pop – sometimes in the Pond, but more often mysteriously in their storage place, and you don't discover the hole until you've been foot-pumping for half an hour and are really hot and ready to float.

Sailboat

+ The wind does the work; you just relax and soar across the water, with the smoothest motion you'll ever feel.

+ It's a metaphor for life, sailing: Rarely does the wind blow exactly the direction you want to go, so you have to pay attention to the motion of the wind and the water, making constant adjustments with the sail, the rudder and your body to get the boat where you want it to be. When it works, it seems enchanted.

- However, sailing takes a lot of learning, and until you know the ropes; the possible outcomes include the boat capsizing, the sail flapping around uselessly, the boom bashing your head, and crashing the boat into docks or rocks. Once I missed a meal with an out-of-town relative because my sailboat's centerboard was stuck in the weeds over by Route 2.

- And small ponds surrounded by big trees, houses and hills don't tend to have steady wind. Even on a nice breezy day, the boat usually drifts to a halt every time it gets near the island or the shore. If you really love to sail, you won't choose Spy Pond for your main location.

4-person crew rowing boat

+ The most satisfying motion of all, an addictive smooth push-off with your feet, slide back, pull with your arms, flip your wrists and push, round and round, round and round, hypnotically.

+ Huge amounts of power and speed are generated by four rowers rowing that skinny, sleek boat in unison. Our class rowed from the Rt. 2 / Pleasant Street corner to the boat ramp in Spy Pond Park in what felt like about 3 minutes.

- There are a LOT of things you can do wrong, and every one of them tilts the boat. Not a good choice for the easily seasick! The coaches corrected us on what we were doing with our toes, our wrists, our ribs, our knees, our pinky fingers, our chins, our hips, and even (I'm not kidding) our eyeballs. There's a reason you don't see a lot of freshmen rowing in the Head of the Charles. For the first couple years of practice, this is a sport for those with confident egos not easily crushed by being bad at something.

- And these are not sight-seeing boats. You need every bit of concentration to row. If there's a lovely sunset, you're not going to notice it.

Kayak

+ So low and quiet, you can sneak up on turtles and herons.

+ Such an easy motion to learn and to do, you can teach beginners, they have fun right away, and you can do it when you're already tired.

+ The motion is so smooth, and the boat is so stable, you can get your arms into a rhythm, then let your eyes wander off in search of great blue herons and cormorants.

+ The motion is like punching, good for getting your anger out – punch! punch! punch!

- However... with a sea kayak there are problems for untrained amateurs: those long thin boats are impossible to steer, and easy to tip over—and you can get stuck upside-down in the water, tangled in the skirt, if you haven't been trained in something called an "Eskimo roll." My failed Eskimo roll lesson involved the longest time I've ever been stuck underwater; despite the kind instructor there to eventually haul me up, my life did flash before my eyes.

+ But the open-top, wider kayaks with plastic seats are virtually untipplable. I've seen 5-year-olds become competent paddlers in 10 minutes—instant fun.

Smooth, easy, low to the water: Kayaking is the winner when it comes to blissful Spy Pond boating with no downside.

If this all sounds good but you don't have access to any boats, there are several things you can do. First, all along the Charles River there are rental places (eg Charles River Canoe and Kayak) and places that give lessons (eg Community Boating or). Second, the Town of Arlington will no doubt arrange for rowing classes and kayak rentals again next summer. Third, boating people are really friendly, and if you see a boat in a neighbor's driveway or notice someone boating in Spy Pond, and you ask for advice on how you too could go out in a boat, it's quite possible you'll end up with an invitation or some easy advice.

As the Rat says in the children's book *The Wind in the Willows*, "There is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Good News on Gas Motors

By Betsy Leondar-Wright

In response to concerns raised by the Friends of Spy Pond Park about the gas motors on the coaching boats, the Belmont/Arlington Rowing Team has decided to buy an electric motor for one of its two launches this fall.

In the future they plan to buy a second electric motor and phase out gas-powered motors entirely, said a parent of one of the high school team members, because they share our concerns about pollution risks and noise.

This summer there have been several sightings of fast, loud motorboats on the Pond, probably in violation of the 10-horsepower limit. A person whose home abuts the Pond reports that his neighbor said of the rowing team, "If they can do it, I can do it," took out his gas-powered motorboat and gunned it around the Pond. While the rowing team coaches are careful drivers unlikely to endanger kayakers and people in canoes, the same can't be said for some other motor boaters observed recently. Spy Pond is a great place for human-powered and wind-powered boats and for slow, electric-powered fishing boats, but a terrible place for gas-powered motorboats.

Volunteer for SPP Publicity

We need a volunteer to write press releases and announcements for the local media. If you know how to use PowerPoint to create publicity notices for community access television, it would be a plus, but it isn't necessary. If you are interested in supporting our outreach efforts to the community in this way, please contact Karen Grossman via e-mail or telephone (781-646-5990; fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org).

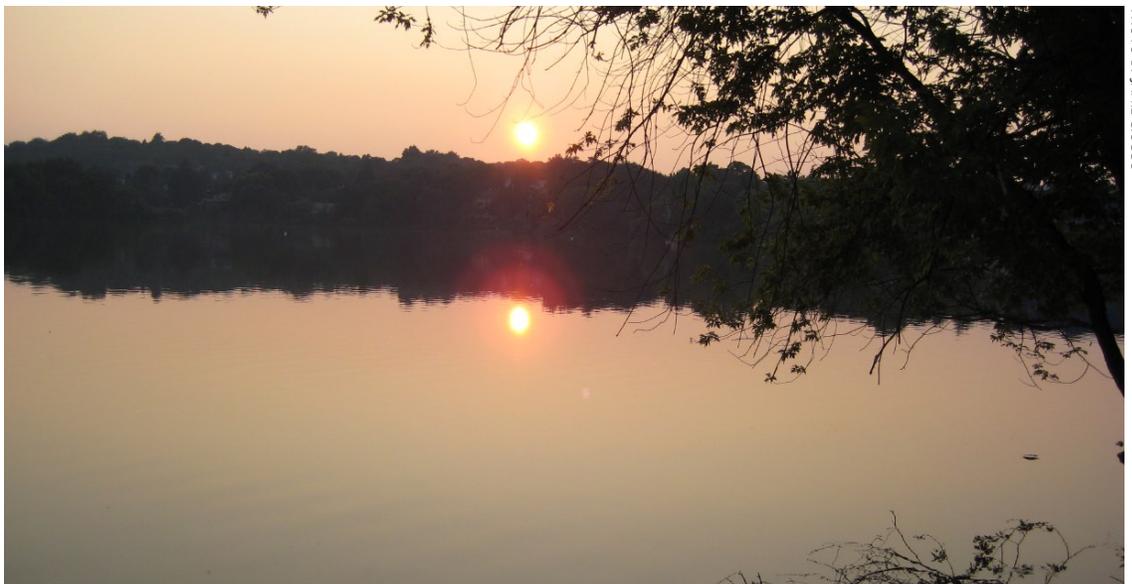


PHOTO BY JAMIE COCCO

Fun Day wasn't just fun and games

by Betsy Leondar-Wright

As always at FSPP mini-festivals, dozens of kids enjoyed puzzles, won prizes, learned about trees and learned why it's bad to feed the geese.

But at the June 20 Fun Day, children also made a real difference to Spy Pond Park. The scavenger hunt for big kids, teens and adults involved identifying invasive species and ripping them out.

Invasive species are plants that originate in another ecosystem, so nothing here eats them or keeps their reproduction in check. Some of them multiply until local plants are crowded out; others strangle trees or poison butterflies. The only solution is to uproot them and throw them in the trash -- and that's what adults did at the Clean-up Day and what kids did as part of Fun Day.

Kids tore out so much garlic mustard, ailanthus, bittersweet, and purple loosestrife that we filled two of those big paper yard-waste bags. To win a prize, they had to rip up one plant from four species—but some kids went back and back, finding less-common

invasive species and uprooting bigger and bigger ailanthus saplings.

The prizes this year far outshone past years. The Book Rack on Medford Street not only donated used nature books as they always do, but special-ordered three Pond Life guidebooks and three Pond Life activity workbooks for FSPP to give away. Four of these were snapped up by serious nature-loving girls between ages 8 and 12 who said things like "Oh, I love origami" and "I can carry this and when I'm looking at bugs, I can look them up!" Numerous bright toys were donated by Doris Birmingham and Eric Berger, and a bag of books appeared on my porch, donated by someone whose name I've unfortunately forgotten, but who deserves our thanks nonetheless.

Many thanks to Kwame Somburu for entertaining us on his saxophone. And thanks to Ellen Robertson and Sarah Conn for showing kids such a good time at the puzzle tables.

Spy Pond History: Mother Batherick

by Eric Berger

Times were tense, so on the morning of April 19, 1775, Mother Batherick, no spring chicken, grabbed her musket when she went to work in the field of her farm on the edge of Spy Pond. About the same time, a British supply train was arriving in Menotomy. As related in "More Spy Pond Stories" by Eva Balazs, when the supply train arrived, twelve men, hiding behind a stone wall across from the church (now the Unitarian Church) at the corner of Mass. Avenue and Pleasant Street, began a ferocious gun battle with the British soldiers guarding that train.

Mother Batherick heard the guns. She paused and the battle sounds came nearer. She saw the blazing village and the billowing black smoke. She heard soldiers shouting and grabbed her musket. Suddenly six fleeing British soldiers tore out of the bushes by Spy Pond, having flung their weapons into the Pond and lighting out around its shore. Mother Batherick stopped them in their tracks, singlehandedly took them prisoner and marched them back towards the burning village.

According to historical sources, when Mother Batherick turned the British over to Captain Frost, she said to her prisoners, "If you ever get back, you tell King George that an old woman took six of his grenadiers prisoner."

Mother Batherick's story did get back to England, and one English paper printed this question: "If one old Yankee woman can take six grenadiers, how many soldiers will be required to conquer America?" The incredible bravery of Americans fighting for their freedom against the British and the greatest of odds answered that question: "NOT ENOUGH!"



PHOTO BY KAREN CROSSMAN

The Silliman Brothers: Diligent Workers for FSPP

by Karen L. Grossman

A friend of mine, an avid gardener, listened patiently as I discussed the ongoing problems the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP) was having. “We have been trying to eliminate and minimize the impact of the vast amount of invasive plants in the Park,” I told her. “But,” I lamented, “it has been difficult recruiting enough volunteers or finding reliable workers to employ, and the weeds are rapidly encroaching on the beautiful plants we want to flourish at the edge of Spy Pond.” I hoped my friend could help me find a solution. Suddenly, an idea occurred to her. She told me about a woman who has a gardening business in Lexington. “Her two sons who often work for her may be interested in earning some money and helping you.”

After talking with Seija Hälvä, owner of the Garden Coach Services SM, and arranging for Mikko and Jussi to participate with volunteers on the FSPP June Work Day, things were definitely looking up! Indeed, the Silliman brothers were just what the FSPP needed in our seemingly never-ending fight against the proliferation of invasive species. They received guidance as they worked under the watchful eye of Ilse Oliveira and Doris Birmingham, FSPP Beautification Co-chairs. Thereafter, Mikko and Jussi called me the night before they intended to work to arrange to meet me.

Tall, lean and muscular, the two athletic young men were dedicated to their job, bicycling down the Minuteman Trail to perform their duties once a week in Spy Pond Park. Mikko seemed to have been inspired by the FSPP volunteers whom he described as enthusiastic. He said, “You could see they were making a difference. They gave us a clear plan to follow so we could work on our own.” Each time they worked, I reviewed what the brothers had accomplished and was always pleased to see the improvement in the appearance of the planting beds. It was amazing how much greenery they had stuffed into the 8 to 15 brown refuse bags they left for the DPW to remove.

Mikko, the almost 18 years old redhead, related his thoughts about working in Spy Pond Park. “It is a nice location by the water and friendly people stopped to thank us. Getting rid of the weeds was rewarding, and now I think it looks good.” He found this job different from others they’ve had. “My brother and I get along well together, but we’re usually doing our own thing and don’t have time to talk when we work for our mother. (On this job) we talked with each other while we worked in the same area.” Mikko agreed that it seemed like it had been a bonding experience for them. “Yes,” he replied, “I guess it was!”

Jussi, 15 ½ years old and two inches shorter than his older brother, found the 10 to 20 minute ride from Lexington easy because they’re “adequate bikers.” He, too, liked the handsome Friends of Spy Pond Park tee shirts I had given them to wear while they worked. Jussi found this job interesting and commented that some people they met were unusual. “One man even tried to get us to do gymnastics with him! The work wasn’t too hard, but it was tedious at times.” However,” he concluded, “It’s been one of the better jobs I’ve had. We’d both be available to do it again next year.” He asked me to tell the Friends of Spy Pond Park, “Thanks for the opportunity.”

This September Jussi will continue his studies at Lexington High School where he also plays on the soccer team. Mikko, on the other hand, will be taking a year off to travel in Europe with friends and visit family in Finland before enrolling at Tufts University next fall to study economics and philosophy. Employing these enterprising young men has been a great investment for the FSPP. Spy Pond Park has grown increasingly more beautiful this summer. Yes, now when you go there and walk along the path, you can view the wonderful results of the diligent Silliman brothers’ work all along the planting beds at the Pond’s edge!



PHOTO BY FRED MOSSES

**Friends of Spy Pond Park
next meetings
at
Karen Grossman's
Sunday, Sept 13, 2009 &
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009
both at 7:00 p.m.
32 Hamilton Road #402**

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990
email 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:
FSP, 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: Eric Baatz | (781) 641-7479 |
| Recording Secretary: | |
| Elizabeth Karpati | (781) 643-4172 |
| Corresponding Secretary: Open | |
| VPs for Communications (Newsletter): | |
| Eric Berger | (781) 859-5096 |
| Jamie Ciocco | (781) 316-1662 |
| Co-Chairs for Beautification: | |
| Ilse Oliveira | (781) 646-9332 |
| Doris Birmingham | (781) 641-2392 |
| Website Chair: Fred Moses | fred@fmoses.com |
| Co-chairs for Outreach/Park Events: | |
| Anne Ellinger | (781) 646-1705 |
| Betsy Leondar-Wright | (781) 648-0630 |
| Town Day Coordinators: | |
| Doris Birmingham | (781) 641-2392 |
| Ilse Oliveira | (781) 646-9332 |
| Grant Writer: Gail McCormick | |

For newsletter contributions, contact berkshire2@juno.com
General comments can be sent to fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

Fall 2009 Work Schedule*

Saturday, September 12, 10 am-1 pm**
Weeding and cleanup

Saturday, October 17, 1-4 pm
Fall Cleanup

*Please mark your calendars now. Contact Doris Birmingham at 781-641-2392 to volunteer. Bring gloves and gardening tools, if you have them. Meet at the playground at the Pond Lane end of the Park. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet on the next day, Sunday. Check our website, friendsofspypondpark.org for notices in regard to this.

**There will also be children's activities on this date. Suggestions for fun activities in the Park for children and adults are welcome; please contact Betsy Leondar-Wright at betsy@classmatters.org or call 781-648-0630.

**Fun Day at Spy Pond Park
Saturday Sept. 12
10 am to 1 pm
(Rain date Sunday Sept. 13)**

Near the playground & boat ramp by Pond Lane

- Crafts
- Music
- Stories
- Puzzles
- Activities
- Prizes



PHOTO BY KAREN GROSSMAN

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