

# Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

## Spring 2008

### President's Letter

Hello Friends,

Key members of the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP) have been busy this year already. Agnes O'Donnell, Bill Eykamp, and I met with John Bean, Director, and Jim Dodge, Manager of Operations for the Department of Public Works (DPW) on March 17th. We walked the length of the Park to point out short and long-term maintenance needs. We have devised a plan for how volunteer efforts can augment what the DPW will be able to provide in terms of materials, labor, time, and financial support. I am especially thankful to Agnes and Bill for all their efforts on behalf of the Park. On March 18, Kate Thompson, landscape architect with Carol R. Johnson & Associates, also viewed the Park with us to add her expertise and advice. With all this energy and yours, too, we hope to fulfill our goals for Spy Pond Park.

As the Park begins to change after the cold, winter weather, the trees are sprouting and the leaves are beginning to develop. The DPW has sprung into action, too, playing an important role in maintaining the Park. They removed twigs and leaves from the grass in the Park, cleaned up the shoreline, trimmed bushes near Linwood Beach, groomed and reseeded an area near the playground, brought 3 truckloads of mulch to the Park, and trucked out bags of debris. They also plan to repair erosion on the path and at the wheelchair access ramp and put additional sand in the playground. The DPW has already accomplished much in a short period of time.

FSPP volunteers have been busy. Bill took his pruning team into the Park again on Saturday, April 5th to cut back invasive plants and trim excessive growth. Thanks go out to Boy Scout Troop #302 members Matt Scenna and Michael Desaro and their mothers, Wynelle Scenna and Debbie Silva Desaro. Agnes led a hearty group of FSPP volunteers to spread mulch in the planting beds to stem the growth of weeds. Kudos for a job well done to: Eric Baatz, Anne Ellinger, Bill Fletcher, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Uta Low, Gail McCormick, and Paula Minihan. We have all been working hard.

There are other activities we'll undertake to get the Park ready for visitors to enjoy. We plan to plant some new bushes in sunnier areas under the willows at the end of the Park near Linwood Street to see if we can improve their survival there.



PHOTO BY AGNES O'DONNELL

**FSPP and boy scout troop #302 volunteers pause during work in the Park.**

We are soliciting help for grooming the playground area and cleaning up the rest of the Park on two Saturdays, April 26 and May 3. Finally, there will be boating at Spy Pond Park again this year on five Sunday afternoons! We want to have the Friends of Spy Pond Park there to disseminate information, lead activities, and welcome people to the Park on those special days. There is a lot to do, as you can see!

A few people volunteered to help us when they signed up at our library display in March. Won't you join us, too? You can come to a meeting or send an email to [FSPP@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:FSPP@friendsofspypondpark.org) to let us know your ideas about the Park. We will soon be sending out our annual solicitation for your membership. Your dues and donations help support what we do. We ask that you give serious consideration to being part of our efforts by paying FSPP membership dues next month, giving your time to get involved in one of the many projects that will be happening to keep Spy Pond Park beautiful and by contributing to the Friends of Parks Fund. Thank you, as always, for your interest in our worthy endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Karen L. Grossman,  
FSPP President

## Spy Pond Park Spring Renewal and Cleanup

As the weather warms up and thoughts turn to getting outside, it's time to prepare Spy Pond Park & Playground for another fun-filled season. This year, we invite all to cleanup activities for the whole family on Saturday, April 26 and May 3 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

On Saturday, we hope you'll join us to clean up the playground and surrounding park. After the winter, we may need to rake grass, leaves and twigs, spread mulch, collect litter, wipe swings, dig out the sandbox, and groom the playground sand and the path through the Park. Won't you join us? If you enjoy the Park and the playground, please come to spruce them up for use this year. Cleanups start at 10:30 a.m. and all ages are welcome. Bring your kids along to show them that working together in our community is what makes Arlington special! Volunteers have a lot of upkeep to do in Spy Pond Park, including the playground. We need your help to maintain this community treasure.

Bring gloves, rakes and shovels, if you have them. We will also provide cleanup supplies and treats for the little ones. We need to know that we have sufficient numbers of people to make these undertakings a success. Contact Karen Grossman a.s.a.p: [klgwoman@comcast.net](mailto:klgwoman@comcast.net) for more information or to sign up. Meet you at the playground off Pond Lane!

## Webmaster's Message

by Fred Moses, Webmaster

I have not managed to make it possible for you to directly submit personal information on the database connected to the FSPP website as I recommended in the Fall FSPP newsletter. If you would like to update your information including your street address, email address, or interest in getting involved in activities and projects related to the Park, please send it to [FSPP@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:FSPP@friendsofspypondpark.org). We will enter the information for you. Thanks for your understanding.

## Volunteer Coordinator

Can you send emails and make a few phone calls occasionally? We're looking for people who would contact FSPP members to notify them about upcoming volunteer opportunities such as cleanup days, pruning, weeding, children's activities, outreach, or Town Day. If you would like to help mobilize our members, you'd be perfect for this job! Contact Karen Grossman at [klgwoman@comcast.net](mailto:klgwoman@comcast.net) or call 781-646-5990.

## Beautification Co-Chairs

Sarah Conn and Ellen Robertson have stepped down as Co-Chairs for Beautification. We are grateful for their loving devotion in leading groups of volunteers in Spy Pond Park. They have served the FSPP well during the critical transition period since the Park was renovated. Our thanks go out to them. Now it may be your turn. We have many people ready to follow your lead(s). Please consider undertaking the important role of helping to coordinate maintenance teams for various activities in the Park that we sponsor. You, too, can be vital in our efforts to do what the DPW does not have the manpower or funding to provide. Contact Karen Grossman at [klgwoman@comcast.net](mailto:klgwoman@comcast.net) or call 781-646-5990 to indicate your interest in these positions.



PHOTO BY AGNES O'DONNELL

Members of Friends of Spy Pond Park work to spread mulch in the planting beds.



# Arlington Friends Groups Unite to Support Town Parks

The Town of Arlington has many beautiful parks, playgrounds, and conservation lands, each of which enhances and enlivens the quality of life here. Many of these areas have dedicated "friends" associations, supporting and advocating for those individual properties.

And now, park advocacy has been elevated to the town-wide level by the recently formed Arlington Friends of Parks. This group has been meeting on an ad-hoc level for over a year and is now set to unveil a major publicity and fundraising effort.

The Arlington Friends of Parks is composed of representatives from existing friends groups, land stewards groups, neighborhood groups, the Open Space Committee, V2020, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. They will address ongoing park-related issues such as maintenance, vandalism, and invasive species management. The group will also generate ideas for advocacy and fundraising to supplement Town budgets.

A new initiative of the group is to create a fund whose purpose is to raise money through voluntary, tax-deductible donations. The funds raised through these private donations will be put into a separate account to be used exclusively for our parks, playgrounds, and conservation lands.

The objective is not to reduce the Town's obligation to maintain our public lands but to provide additional funding that can enhance these properties through our collective efforts. Rather than compete for resources, park friends groups have come to the understanding that they can accomplish more by working together.

So please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support all Arlington's wonderful outdoors! Checks should be made out to "Arlington Friends of Parks Fund" and sent to 422 Summer Street Arlington, MA 02474.

For more information about the Arlington Friends of Parks Fund, visit [www.town.arlington.ma.us](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us) and click on the Recreation link. Or send an email to Joe Connelly ([jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us)), Leslie Mayer ([blmayer@msn.com](mailto:blmayer@msn.com)), or Jen Rothenberg ([jen.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:jen.rothenberg@gmail.com)).

## Weeding Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed now to assist in weeding areas of Spy Pond Park to help keep its plantings and grounds looking beautiful and thriving. Anyone interested please contact FSPP's weeding coordinator, Elizabeth Karpati, at 781-643-4172 or at [ekarpati@juno.com](mailto:ekarpati@juno.com).



PHOTO BY AGNES O'DONNELL

**DPW workers provide mulch to combat weeds and invasive species.**

## Spy Pond Kayak and Canoe Rentals

The Town of Arlington Recreation Department is pleased to partner up with Still River Outfitters to offer the community kayak and canoe rentals throughout the year. Still River Outfitters will be at Spy Pond from 3 PM – 5:30 PM on the following Sundays: 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3 and 9/14. At this time individuals will be able to rent kayaks for \$15 per hour and canoes for \$20 per hour. Individuals must register use at the Arlington Recreation Department prior to the rental dates. Individuals will not be able to register on site.

Arlington Recreation and Still River Outfitters also offer a variety of kayaking courses throughout the spring and summer months for youth and adults. For more information or to register please call the Arlington Recreation Department at 781-316-3881 or visit the town webpage at [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov).

## Outreach Liason

**By Eric Berger**

Anne Ellinger plays a vital role for the FSPP, serving as the organization's Outreach/Park Events Coordinator. Anne loves to find people who want to join FSPP and/or help with one or more of the splendid events done in or for the Park. We hope you will volunteer your ideas or your time.

Those interested should contact Anne a.s.a.p. at 781-646-7105, ext. 2. Anne can also be reached at either of the following email addresses:

[anne@boldergiving.org](mailto:anne@boldergiving.org)

[anne@zings.org](mailto:anne@zings.org)

## **Friends of Spy Pond Park next meeting**

**at**

**Karen Grossman's  
Sunday, April 27, 2008  
3:00 p.m.  
32 Hamilton Road #402**

RSVP to 781-646-5990  
email [klgwoman@comcast.net](mailto:klgwoman@comcast.net)

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 of (\$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 Grossman (781) 646-5900

General Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Eric Baatz (781) 641-7479

Recording Secretary:

Elizabeth Karpati (781) 643-4172

Chair for Publicity and Outreach:

Eric Berger (781) 859-5096

Co-Chairs for Beautification: Open

VPs for Communications(Newsletter):

Eric Berger (781) 859-5096

Jamie Ciocco (781) 316-1662

Website Chair: Fred Moses

Outreach/Park Events Coordinator:

Anne Ellinger (781) 646-1705

For newsletter contributions, contact [berkshire2@juno.com](mailto:berkshire2@juno.com)

Friends of Spy Pond Park  
P.O. Box 1051  
Arlington, MA 02474-0021