

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Spring 2016

Goodbye Elizabeth, and Godspeed

By Bill Eykamp

PHOTO BY FRED MOSES



Elizabeth Karpati in 2009 pulling invasive plants in a Spy Pond Park planting bed

A happy band of about thirty-five greeted Elizabeth Karpati at the start of her last meeting with Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee. It was a festive goodbye to a stalwart member of that, and many other town volunteer groups.

The “official” program began with a wonderful and moving presentation by Fr. Brian Flatley of St. Agnes Church. He mentioned her attachment to St. Jerome’s, but after it closed she became an active parishioner and a real asset to St. Agnes.

Next up was Selectman Joseph Curro Jr., representing the Town of Arlington’s government. He had a very nice Board of Selectmen Proclamation honoring Elizabeth, and included the audience by having us recite all the numerous “Whereas” headings. Turns out, Elizabeth has done so much that we were kept busy.

Karen Grossman represented the Friends of Spy Pond Park, another group to which Elizabeth gave a lot of time. In this very newsletter she was published 21 times. In addition, we all know her from her horticultural expertise both at the park and along the Route 2 path. Let us say that her enthusiasm for garlic mustard and bittersweet is totally under control.

Ann LeRoy spoke of Elizabeth’s activity on the Open Space Committee. It was yet another area where Elizabeth’s activity has been deeply appreciated.

Finally, to sum it all up, Joey Glushko from the Planning Department told some of the countless activities in which Eliza-

beth contributed, always willingly and usually enthusiastically. Elizabeth was presented with a silver pen and several scrapbooks containing pictures, mementos of some of her activities, and copies of all the articles from the FSPP Newsletter archives that she wrote.

Jane Howard served as MC and curator of the remembrances. If you have something appropriate to add, please contact Jane.

And for me, I’ll never be able to traverse the Route 2 path without remembering the many times I spotted Elizabeth spotting birds. Her enduring monument to geography, the numbers on the fence posts, remains the standard reference for location, even in the age of the smart phone.

She has left for Howard County, Maryland, and the embrace of relatives. Godspeed Elizabeth.

2016 FSPP Work & Fun Days

By Lally Stowell

The FSPP monthly Saturday Work Days begins on April 2nd 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.



PHOTO BY AGNES O'DONNELL

Blast from the past — FSPP volunteers in 2008

2016 FSPP Work & Fun Days

(Continued from page 1)

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 2016. 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 a record number of eager volunteers this year! For more information, contact Lally Stowell; lallystow@yahoo.com.

April 2, 1-4 p.m. (rain date April 3 1-4 p.m.)

May 21, 1-4 p.m. (rain date May 22 1-4 p.m.)

June 25, 1-4 p.m. (rain date June 26 1-4 p.m.)

July 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date July 24 1-4 p.m.)

Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date Aug 28 1-4 p.m.)

Sept 10, Fun Day 1-4 p.m. (rain date Sept 11 1-4 p.m.)
(Fun Day only, no work day scheduled)*

Sept. 24, 1-4 p.m. (rain date September 25 1-4 p.m.)

Oct. 22, 1-4 p.m. (rain date October 23 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 sponsored by the Friends of Spy Pond Park.

20th Annual Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle May 15

The annual Herring Run and Paddle includes a 5K run/walk race, three paddling races (3, 9, and 12 miles), educational booths, children's activities and more. All events are held at the DCR Blessing of the Bay Boathouse in Somerville. The 5K course continues along the Mystic River bike path and through DCR Torbert MacDonald Park. There are no street crossings on this flat course.

For more information see www.mysticriver.org/herring-run-paddle/.



PHOTO BY FRED MOSES

Winter gone by

Mystic Community Earth Day Cleanups April 30

Join together with Mystic River communities in the celebration of Earth Day by cleaning up litter and removing invasive plants in Medford's Torbert MacDonald Park, part of the Mystic River Reservation. This event is also part of DCR Park Serve Day, MassParks' annual statewide day of volunteer service during Earth Week.

For more information see <http://mysticriver.org/watershed-clean-ups/>

Friends of the Mystic River 21st Annual Mystic River Spring Cleanup

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Hormel Stadium parking lot, 90 Locust St., Medford, adjacent to Mystic Riverbend Park, Medford Volunteers are invited to meet at Hormel to sign in and pick up bags, gloves, pokers and instructions. Contact: www.fomr.org, 781-391-2604 or Mystic02155@hotmail.com.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Although I am writing this message to you with 4-6 inches of snow on the ground, it is the first day of spring. New England weather is so unpredictable, but I hope all will be fortuitous for our first Work Day, earlier this year on April 2nd. We'll be looking for many of you to join us to witness the awakening crocuses and daffodils lining Pond Lane on the way to Spy Pond Park, see the budding trees and bushes, and help clean up the winter debris in the park.

The Conservation Commission's designated subcommittee selected a contractor, Chester Engineers, for the Spy Pond Edge Protection & Erosion Control Project and jointly made a presentation to Arlington's Community Preservation Committee on March 16. The Community Preservation Fund allocations for 2016 will be announced at the end of March, after this newsletter has been published. We will know then if the Conservation Commission's request for \$49,760 has been approved and we'll let you know. You can find a list of all the applicants for this year's funds on the Town's website: <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=29000>.

Thanks to all the FSPP members who wrote many of the 15 letters of support for the ConCom application: Colin and Susanne Blair, Anne Ellinger, Bill Eykamp, David and Laura Kopans, Lisa Reynolds, Stroker Rogovin, and Lally Stowell. Additional endorsements came from: Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer, Ann LeRoy, Chair Open Space Committee, Derek Curran, Executive Director Arlington Boys and Girls Club, Ek Ong Kar Singh Khalsa, Executive Director Mystic River Watershed Association, Pam Sass, President Arlington Belmont Crew, and Brad Barber and Steve Riccio, Co-Chairs Spy Pond Committee of Vision 2020. I also sent one on behalf of the Friends of Spy Pond Park. Clarissa Rowe, Community Preservation Committee Chair, mentioned that these were the best support letters and the committee enjoyed reading them very much!

You will be receiving your annual dues solicitation in May. Please give your strongest consideration to making a membership/donation and/or volunteering in some way to support the mission of the Friends of Spy Pond Park. We appreciate and need your commitment to our organization. Also, we still have openings for a Videographer, Fundraiser, and General Vice-President. Please contact me if you are interested in training for any of these important positions.

Finally, I must say, that I am full of gratitude for all Elizabeth Karpati has done for the Town of Arlington's environment and, especially, for Spy Pond Park. I miss her already.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Grossman

President

Friends of Spy Pond Park

Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project

By Catherine Garnett, Landscape Architect

The Conservation Commission is requesting \$49,760 for a feasibility study and detailed survey associated with the preservation of four (4) Town-owned parcels of failed shoreline along Spy Pond. Spy Pond is a 103-acre kettle hole pond located in the Mystic River Watershed. The town-owned parcels that have been identified as needing preservation and long-term protection include:

1. Spy Pond Park Shoreline
2. Scannell Field Shoreline
3. Arlington Boys and Girls Club Shoreline
4. Spring Valley Street Shoreline

Shoreline erosion in these areas has resulted from high recreational pressure, storm water inputs from overland flow, and wave/ice action

GOALS:

The primary goals of this project include preserving the existing riparian shoreline and improving the quality of storm water entering Spy Pond from Town-owned parcels. Additional benefits associated with meeting these goals include:

- Enhanced and diverse habitat
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation
- Controlled and strengthened access
- Stakeholder engagement and public education

COMMUNITY NEED:

In the spring of 2013, members of the Conservation Commission noticed that the shoreline edge along Spy Pond was deteriorating and that there was the potential for long-term failure adjacent to public open space. The Commission invited those who care for and maintain Spy Pond Park, such as the Friends of Spy Pond Park, to discuss ways to enhance, protect and further stabilize the shoreline. Since that time the Commission has also met with the Town of Arlington Director of Public Works, the Town Engineer and a representative from the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) to address the shoreline failure and outline an approach for future preservation.

Furthermore, the Arlington Master Plan, adopted in 2015, identifies the public health and ecologic benefits of open spaces in Arlington, including Spy Pond. In addition, Arlington's Open

Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022), identifies a community need associated with the use and preservation of Spy Pond.

The project is eligible for CPA funding because it:

- Preserves or utilizes currently owned Town Assets
- Demonstrates consistency with other current and widely scrutinized planning documents that have been adopted by the Town of Arlington
- Received endorsement from other municipal boards or departments, and
- Serves more than one CPA purpose.

The project is anticipated to begin in July of 2016 and continue for a five-month period. The final deliverable, a concept plan with associated costs, schedule and maintenance requirements, is scheduled to be completed by December 2016.

Spy Pond Canoe, Kayak & Paddle Board Rentals 2016

The Arlington Recreation Department is The Arlington Recreation Department is once again pleased to announce canoe and kayak rentals at Spy Pond for the spring /summer 2016 season. This year paddle boards will be offered for the first time as well.

Hourly rentals are planned for Saturday and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm at the Spy Pond public boat ramp at Spy Pond Park, Pond Lane. The season will be from mid June to late August. Hourly boat rental rates will be \$10 for a single kayak, \$15 for a tandem double kayak, \$15 for a paddle board and \$20 for a canoe. All participants must wear life jackets.

Ages 18 & Up: Adults ages 18 and up may sign our rental Release From Liability and Indemnity Agreement form and paddle on their own.

Ages 13 to 17: Small groups of up to four (4) children ages 13 and 17 may paddle unaccompanied when each child's parent or guardian signs our Release From Liability and Indemnity Agreement form. The waiver or permission form must be presented in person by a parent or guardian. An adult must accompany groups of more than four (4) children of this age on the water and each adult is responsible for up to six (6) children of this age.

Ages 12 and under: All children ages 12 and under must be accompanied on the water by an adult (age 18 and older) but may paddle their own boat. Each adult can be responsible for up to two (2) children of this age.

For further information please call Arlington Recreation at 781-316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonrec.com

EcoFest 2016

By Marshall McCloskey and Sally Hempstead

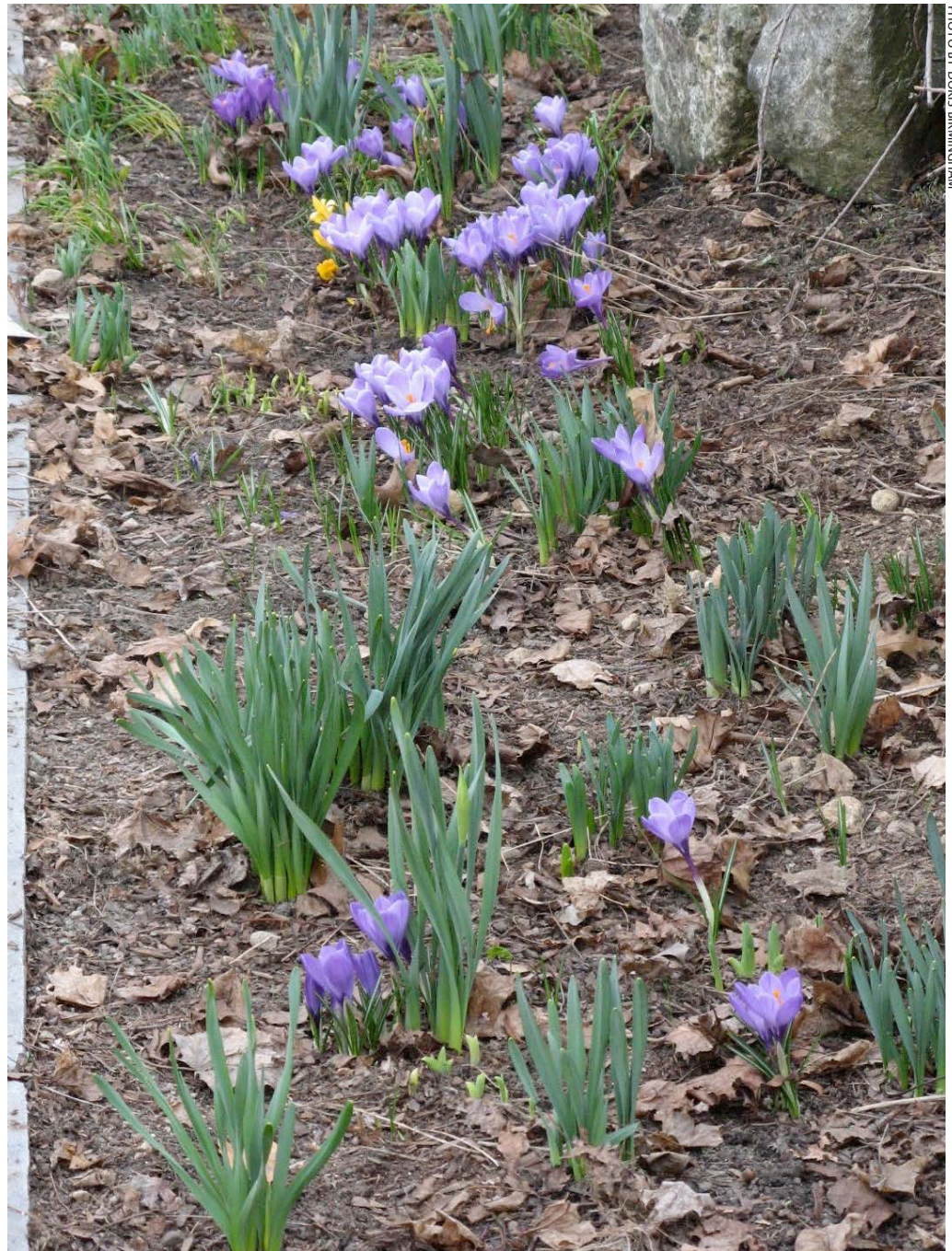
2016 marks the 28th anniversary of **EcoFest**. Launched as an environmental event where people would get information, get involved, find products, learn about services and be entertained by people who care about the environment, EcoFest started as a visionary effort for a better world. Through dynamic exhibits, stimulating entertainment and celebrity performers and speakers, EcoFest fosters public awareness about opportunities for environmental change.

The Friends of Spy Pond Park was invited to participate in this year's EcoFest exhibit on Saturday, March 19th, at Arlington's Town Hall. We were one of approximately 25 organizations who participated this year. Information ranging from beekeeping, composting, climate resistant gardening, to slowing storm water runoff was available. We had a table with our display board, picturing our activities in the park, along with information about our mission to preserve it. We distributed a number of Friends of Spy Pond Park brochures and flyers with our 2016 Work Days listed, from which we hope to get both some volunteer helpers and new members. Our goose attracted much attention from the younger attendees, who, hopefully, took away the message that the geese shouldn't be fed!

This was the seventh time the Town has hosted an EcoFest event. The town theme was "Are you ready for climate change?" There was a raffle, a FoodLink Cafe, student art work using recycled materials, and children's activities. FoodLink distributed complimentary flower bouquets from Trader Joes, and food from several local businesses. Admission was free, along with compost to be taken away in your own container. At 10:30 AM there was a Family Music Concert with Arlington resident Liz Buchanan, at 11:30 AM a talk on Forum Regional Climate Change Preparedness with Cammy Peterson, Clean Energy Manager, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and at 12:30 PM a musical

performance by Leonard Solomon, The Bellowphone Show.

A number of tables had displays where a lot could be learned about local environmental issues and concerns. One table presented information from the Tree Committee, promoting, protecting, planting and caring for Arlington's trees. Another was The Robbins Farm Learning Garden (once upon a time Arlington had sixty farms!). Gail McCormick staffed The Vision 2020 table seeking volunteers for the Environment with the Reservoir Committee, the Spy Pond Committee (a part of Vision 2020) or Sustainable Arlington. Our President, Karen Grossman, disseminated materials at the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) table. All in all, EcoFest was, once again, a worthwhile environmental event.



Ribbon of crocuses

PHOTO BY DORIS BIRMINGHAM

Friends of Spy Pond Park next meetings at

**Karen Grossman's
Sunday, April 3, 2016 &
Sunday, June 5, 2016
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:

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: Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877

Recording Secretary: Beverly Williams (781) 316-1917

VPs for Communication & Outreach:

Sally Hempstead (860) 944-1370

Jamie Ciocco jamcio@gmail.com

Chair for Publicity: Elaine Crowder (781) 648-1927

Videographer: Open

Beautification Committee:

Betty Athanasoulas (781) 646-1343

Gail McCormick (781) 646-0614

Richard Norcross (781) 641-2404

Ruth Slotnick (813) 732-2639

Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759

Beverly Williams (781) 316-1917

Web Committee: Fred Moses

Deepak Bidwai deepbidwai@gmail.com

Chair for Outreach/Park Events:

Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630

Fundraising Chair: Open

Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to
fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

Friends of Spy Pond Park

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<http://www.friendsofspypondpark.org>

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PHOTOS BY LIZ BLUMENTHAL