

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Summer 2017

Friends of Spy Pond Park: Volunteer Openings

By Marshall McCloskey

If you are currently a member of the Friends of Spy Pond Park (or perhaps you are interested in joining), here are some ways you can *really* help out. Each opportunity listed has a brief description of the duties involved and the commitment required. Contact our President, Karen Grossman, at fsppinfo@gmail.com or (781)-646-5990 for more information if you are the least bit interested in any of the positions described. It would be a great help.

Fun Day Co-Chair

Help coordinate with the Arlington Land Trust for tours of Elizabeth Island, interface with local businesses and volunteers, especially during the month of August when the Chairperson is away.

Fun Day Activities

Help with activities on Fun Day at Spy Pond Park (This year 9/9/17):

- Set up
- Nature art activities
- Scavenger hunt
- Face painting
- Help Habitat with Bug Display

Photo Assistant

Accompany photographer on Fun Day, have people sign release forms to allow us to use their photo in our newsletter, display board, or other publication(s). This is a legal requirement, especially when children are involved.

Database Entry

Enter names, street addresses and email addresses, phone number, interests, and involvements from sign-up sheets at our 7 monthly Work Days (April thru October). Pick up the lists either on the Work Day, or at a coordinated location. Look up name, or address on the Internet (white pages?), hopefully, to resolve if questionable. Look up 10-digit zip code associated with address if not provided. Enter information into FSPP database from your own computer using a FSPP app, 1-2 hours or so each time.



PHOTO BY RAM SUBRAMANIAN

Bulletin Board Update

Put up our quarterly newsletters on three bulletin boards in Spy Pond Park. Remove last issue, and staple the new issue. Remove extraneous staples and outdated information from the bulletin boards periodically.

Rain Garden Assistant

Help with maintenance and upkeep with training provided by the Arlington Garden Club.

Beautification Committee

Assist on our Work Days (monthly April thru October) with park maintenance and upkeep:

- Litter pickup
- Remove invasive plants
- Maintain fern and wildflower beds
- Weed out tree saplings
- Groom the tot lot

Newsletter Articles

Write an article for our quarterly newsletter that you feel would be of some interest to our members.

Publicity Co-Chair

Do social networking: post our Work and Fun Days on Facebook, Instagram, tweets and whatever else is available.

Vice-President

Stand-in as requested by the President at FSPP board meetings (bimonthly) or meetings with Town Committees, Volunteer groups, etc.

APA Sponsors “Pop-up” Art Pieces on the Bikeway

By Adria Arch

APA, under the auspices of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture, will site 4 temporary “pop-up” art pieces on the bikeway in the spring and summer of 2017 and one larger scale-temporary public art commission in the Fall, 2017. The purpose is two-fold: to contribute to the Bikeway’s 25th Anniversary celebration and to enhance the connection between Arlington Center and Capitol Square/East Arlington. These two neighborhoods are included in our pending application to create Arlington’s first Cultural District.

Thanks to a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council, the following are two of the “pop up” temporary projects:

Flutter



We are excited to bring Flutter to Arlington, a work created by Claudia Ravischiere and Michael Moss and originally installed in Fort Point, Boston. Flutter consists of 60+ silhouetted plexi butterflies, in translucent blue color, which would be mounted in a graceful formation on the chain link bordering the bike path above an underpass for car traffic. In this location, Flutter connects with the natural beauty of the site; a view of Spy Pond will be framed by the plexi forms. It alludes to movement, travel, and migration, reflecting the role of the path as a transportation corridor that traverses three towns.

The Rhetoric of Opposites



Arlington resident Nilou Moochhala proposes to create a text-based piece to highlight the divisive language that dominates many current national political debates. Moochhala is inspired by the Bikeway’s location, which spans some of the same terrain traversed by William Dawes on his historic ride during the American War of Independence. The installation will use the Bikeway’s two lanes of traffic – going in opposite directions – to make a point; pairs of words will be juxtaposed by stencilling them onto the surface of each lane using spray chalk. For example: “Us/Them” and “Fear/Free”.

Friends of Spy Pond Park 2017 Work Days

- July 22 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date July 23 1-4 p.m.)
- Aug. 19 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date August 20 1-4 p.m.)
- Sept. 23 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date September 24 1-4 p.m.)
- Oct. 21 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date October 22 1-4 p.m.)

Sept. 9 Fun Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date Sept. 10 1-4 p.m.)

Fun Day involves children's activities in Spy Pond Park; it is not a scheduled work day.

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.



PHOTO BY BETTY ATHANASOULAS

BU alumni volunteers for April 2017's Global Day of Service

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

We've had many people helping out with Spy Pond Park maintenance, removing invasive plants and grooming the park and playground to keep Spy Pond Park looking beautiful! Thanks to everyone. Please join us over the summer, if you are able. Congratulations to artist Anthony Vogel whose design for the tot lot bench was selected and approved by Arlington Public Art, the Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Tony has painted the bench and it looks great! Thanks to Adria Arch, Arlington Public Art, who assisted and oversaw this project to its completion. Come to our September 9 Fun Day to meet the artist and attend the bench dedication. We continue to seek volunteers to help out that day.

Town Meeting approved the Conservation Commission's (Con Comm) request of \$552,900 for Phase II of the *Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project*. In addition, Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, has said that the Commonwealth (EEA) recommended to the National Park Service that Arlington's Con Comm receive a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$40,000 for the *Spy Pond Trails and Access Project*. This particular project is a component of the larger scale Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project to preserve four Town-owned parcels of failed shorelines along Spy Pond. The LWCF grant will offset via reimbursement the CPA appropriation for costs associated with expanding and enhancing the path and access points at the water's edge in Spy Pond Park and Scannell Field. Congratulations and many thanks to the Con Comm for their work obtaining this money that will benefit park and pond visitors and help preserve the shoreline into the future.

The DPW has planted 13 new trees at Scannell Field that will offer shade for the spectators who frequent that area to watch the sports activities in the ball field. Hopefully, they will create a healthier environment for the grass at that end of the park, too. Last year it was woefully brown at the end of the summer since there does not seem to be any irrigation in that area to keep the grass green in a drought.

You may notice some changes in leadership indicated in the box on page 6. Best wishes and our gratitude to Ruth Slotnick who has moved from the area. She served on the Beautification Committee for a few years and provided us with many thoughtful newsletter articles. We welcome Bithika Khargbaria to the Beautification Committee and are very happy to announce that Joanie Walls will assume the position of Recording Secretary.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped send out the FSPP 2017 dues solicitation mailing in May to people on our mailing lists (email and street mail). If you haven't sent in your contributions, yet, I hope this serves as a reminder for you to do so. Thanks to everyone who has responded to our request already. We need financial support to continue reaching our goals for Spy Pond Park. There are many volunteer opportunities to strengthen our organization that Marshall McCloskey has outlined in this newsletter. Please give strong consideration to stepping up to perform one or more of them. We need you! It can be very rewarding to participate in these ways.

Enjoy the summer and I hope to see many of you in Spy Pond Park soon!

Warm regards,

Karen L. Grossman
President
Friends of Spy Pond Park

Want to Get Out on Spy Pond, but Don't Have Your Own Boat?

PHOTO BY KAREN L. GROSSMAN



The Arlington Recreation Department has vehicles available for rental at Spy Pond: kayaks, canoes and paddleboards Saturday, June 17 through August 23.

Hourly prices are: Canoe, \$20; single kayak, \$10; double kayak, \$15; and paddle board, \$15.

Hours are noon to 5 p.m. (last rental) weekends to the third week in August on a first come, first served basis.

Go to the Spy Pond public boat ramp at Spy Pond Park, Pond Lane.

All participants must wear life jackets that are provided.

Payment is by cash or check only; no credit cards will be accepted.

Ages 18 and up: Adults may sign a rental release from liability and indemnity agreement form and paddle on their own. For more details: https://www.arlingtonrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=27952.

Ages 13 to 17: Small groups of as many as four people 13 to 17 years old may paddle unaccompanied when each child's parent or guardian signs a rental release from liability and indemnity agreement form.

The waiver or permission form must be presented in person by a parent or guardian.

Groups of more than four children of this age must be accompanied by an adult on the water and each adult is responsible for up to six 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 children of this age.

For further information, call Arlington Recreation at 781-316-3880.

Fun Day is for Grownups Too!

By Betsy Leondar-Wright, FSPP Park Activities Chair

You've heard of FSPP's annual Fun Day, but if you don't have any little kids in your family, perhaps you assume it's not for you. After all, you really wouldn't want your face painted, would you?

But did you know that many Fun Day activities are interesting and enjoyable for adults too?

Just because you're a grown-up, it doesn't mean you wouldn't want to...

- Take a boat ride to Elizabeth Island to get an Arlington Land Trust tour;
- Catch a bug in a net and look at it under a magnifying glass;
- Do a History Mystery scavenger hunt and learn about what was happening at Spy Pond 10,000 years ago, 200 years ago and 40 years ago;
- Win a nature guidebook as a prize;
- Use ArtBeat materials to make a craft;
- Decorate a bark boat and see if it floats;
- Learn more about the work of the Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Mystic River Watershed Association;
- And of course watch cute kids do all the kid-oriented activities as well.

Come on over to the Park on **Saturday, September 9, 10 am-1 pm (rain date Sunday, September 10 1-4 pm)**. No child escort needed for admission!

P.S. Lots of volunteers are still needed to make the festival happen. If you want to help, please email me a.s.a.p. at betsy@classmatters.org.

The Newly Painted Spy Pond Park Tot Lot Park Bench

By Tony Vogel

I am an architect and designer and for many years when my two children were at Brackett Elementary school I volunteered as a member of the “Art Squad” which held after school “Art Friday” classes and put on an annual Community Art Show.

I also am the President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park and have enjoyed producing publicity posters for our many annual events, fundraisers, mailings, and websites. Locally I have designed the identity for the Arlington Park Alliance and publicity for their annual Moonlight Beach Party. I am a big supporter of our wonderful Arlington public parks and, in addition, am a member of the Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park.

The story of the bench design:

The final design was one of several versions I submitted for the contest sponsored by Arlington Public Art and the Friends of Spy Pond Park.

The first design chosen by APA featured the word “PONDER” on the slats of the bench. The slats were to be painted to evoke the waters of Spy Pond.

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) felt that this design was a bit too sophisticated and subtle for the children who enjoy the park.

While I feel that that this underestimates the kids, I understand that they preferred a more classically kid-friendly and colorful theme.



I probably went through 20 or 30 more designs before settling on the one that I felt would satisfy both the PRC and myself.

I painted the bench slats a background of royal blue and rust red to match the main colors of the playground structures of the playground.

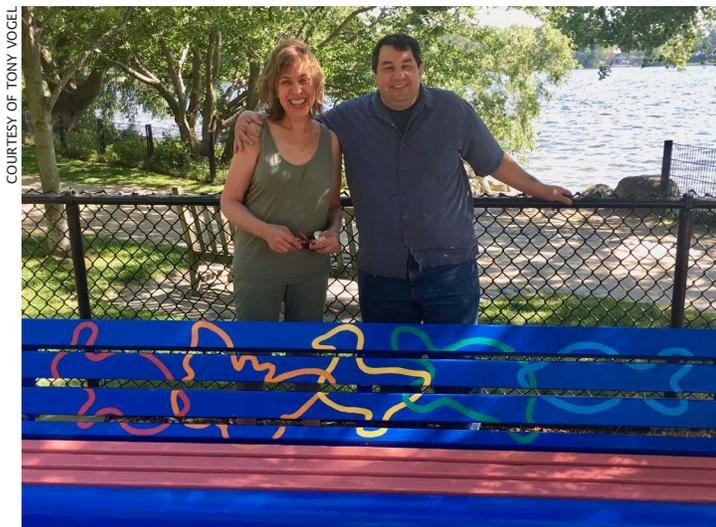
Over that are painted five animal figure outlines, interlocked like in a chain, in a series of bright rainbow colors: a red bunny, an orange butterfly, a yellow duck, a green turtle, and a blue fish. I was inspired to create the interlocked animal figures by the animal rubber band bracelets that years ago were popular with children.

Being more of designer and graphic artist than a painter, I am indebted to Adria Arch’s incredible generosity in helping me with my meager painting skills on his project. If the final product looks good, it is largely due to her help and encouragement. I look forward to the bench dedication on September 9 during Fun Day in Spy Pond Park.

Feast of the East 2017

By Sally Hempstead, Communications & Outreach Co-Chair

It was a perfect day for The Feast of the East. The weather was warm, not hot and overcast, so not a beach day, but definitely a street festival day. The new time, noon to four, suited everyone. To our delight a booth labeled “Guru the Caterer” featuring Indian cuisine was next to us, enticing all passersby who then moved on to our venue attracted by our updated and colorful photo board. Two visitors to our display purchased memberships. Many dropped coins and dollars into our bright red and green buckets, including three young ladies who passed us by and then returned to donate what little they had because they loved playing in the Spy Pond playground. One woman bought a Friends of Spy Pond Park t-shirt after seeing Marshall McCloskey and Sally Hempstead wearing theirs while manning the FSPP booth. Our old friends “Walking in Arlington” were positioned on our right with the food court and a variety of bands to our rear across the avenue. At noon the parade led by a brass band started from the Fox Library and marched the perimeter of the festival sporting a collection of creative handmade costumes reminiscent of Mardi Gras. All ages from one to eighty displaying “Friends of Fox Library” signs took part in the parade. Marshall and Sally welcomed many old and new friends during the afternoon, including Jason, Erin, Hank and Charlie Fliggburger, reminiscing with some and explaining our projects and goals to others. There were forty-two plus vendors lining the avenue and the Friends of Spy Pond Park loved being part of the Arlington scene.



Adria Arch and Tony Vogel stand behind the painted bench in the Spy Pond Park tot lot

**Friends of Spy Pond Park
next meeting
at
Karen Grossman's
Sunday, August 13, 2017
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: Joanie Walls (703) 881-1109
- VPs for Communication & Outreach:
 - Sally Hempstead (860) 944-1370
 - Jamie Ciocco jamcio@gmail.com
- Chair for Publicity: Elaine Crowder (781) 648-1927
- Beautification Committee:
 - Betty Athanasoulas (781) 646-1343
 - Bithika Khargbaria (520) 548-9022
 - Gail McCormick (781) 646-0614
 - Richard Norcross (781) 641-2404
 - Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759
 - Beverly Williams (781) 316-1917
- Web Committee: Fred Moses fred@fmoses.com
Deepak Bidwai deepbidwai@gmail.com
- Chair for Outreach/Park Events: Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630
- Fundraising Chair: Open
- Photographer and Videographer: Ram Subramanian ramkumar@gmail.com

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

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



PHOTO BY RAM SUBRAMANIAN

Fishing at dusk with summer sunset at Spy Pond Park