

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Winter 2012

Spy Pond Park: Busy & Fun!

PHOTO BY FRED MOSES



Ann Ellinger enthusiastically engaged in face painting.

Music and Nature Awareness

The annual Fun Day festival hosted by the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP) on Saturday September 10 was a rip-roaring success! Crowds of kids, parents and other adults filled the area around the playground and boat ramp.

Besides the information canopy and Work Day efforts hosted monthly by FSPP in the six warm months, there were seven stations that day for fun activities, most of which taught participants about the Spy Pond ecosystem and how to care for the park and the pond:

- Seventy kids made beautiful leaf prints with professional artists Adrienne Landry and Johnny Lapham using rollers lent by the Arlington Center for the Arts;
- Kids made and decorated dozens of bark boats and launched them in the pond with Kathy Modigliani and Rafe Ezekiel;
- Kids caught bugs, put them in clear magnifying boxes and drew them, thanks to Anne Wynne, who has led this activity at Habitat, which graciously lent her the equipment;
- Over 50 kids did Spy-Pond-themed paper puzzles with Eric Berger;
- About 45 family groups searched for clues to Spy Pond History Mysteries and collected leaves of various species with our fabulous festival organizer, Betsy Leondar-Wright;
- Others used pressed flowers and leaves to make cards with Gail McCormick;

(Continued on page 2)

A Rain Garden in Town

Spy Pond Park hosts new Rain Garden

by Joey Glushko, Charlotte Milan, and Sally Naish

On Sunday, October 1, volunteers gathered to plant Arlington's newest public garden, this one located at the edge of Spy Pond Park next to the playground near Pond Lane.

The new Rain Garden serves the purpose of holding rain where it falls while also intercepting rainwater flowing down hill before it reaches the pond. As rainwater from storms flows over roads and manicured lawns, chemicals are picked up along the way and flow into our streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Rain gardens are designed to be hard working, yet beautiful holders of some of that storm water. When polluted water is held by a rain garden, the plants take up some of that water and the soil filters the rest. With pollutants removed, the filtered water naturally recharges back into the groundwater system that feeds streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.

Rain gardens are especially useful in communities like Arlington. According to the [Rachel Carlson National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Wells, Maine, "Impervious surfaces [such as roofs, driveways, and walkways] act as a barrier to groundwater recharge by preventing surface waters from soaking into the ground. As the number of impervious surfaces increases worldwide, the incidence of surface water pollution and flooding events increase as well. Rain gardens, although small, are a great way to combat the problems associated with runoff from impervious surfaces."

This first rain garden is a demonstration project conceived by the Town's EcoFest Committee, members from Public Works, Planning, The Garden Club and Sustainable Arlington. The hope

(Continued on page 2)



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE MILAN

The Rain Garden Committee views the newly planted garden.

Spy Pond: A Busy, Fun Place

(continued from page 1)

- Toddlers searched for leaves and solved a maze with Sally Hempstead; and
- Alice Tracey and Anne Ellinger painted many, many faces.

The Arlington Land Trust, new owner of Elizabeth Island, co-sponsored island tours with FSPP. They used four canoes, a kayak, and a rowboat lent by Bill Eykamp, Johnny Lapham, Karen Grossman, Gail McCormick and Anne Wright, and the Arlington Belmont Crew Team head coach Laura Rothman captained their motorboat to transport the island visitors. Other volunteers, including Pinal and Puneet Maniar, provided expert paddling to help the effort. Ann LeRoy of the Arlington Land Trust and Lally Stowell of FSPP coordinated the boat rides. As a result of this first-time free activity, over 60 families and individuals were able to boat to Elizabeth, including people who had never been out on Spy Pond before. Some were overjoyed to have the chance! You can find another article about our collaboration in the ALT Winter Newsletter at: arlingtonlandtrust.org.

The festival was lively due to: The Lokensgard Blechbläser Ensemble, two of whose members, Brian and Laura Tracey, live near Spy Pond Park; the jazz duo of singer Gail Leondar-Wright and pianist Bill Duffy; and Christopher Ellinger of True Story Theater on the hang drum.



Matt and Andre Kramer after a tube slide ride

Joey Glushko, Town Planner, and Sally Naish, Landscape Designer, along with a team of Sustainable Arlington and Garden Club members, created a colorful mockup of the rain garden that they planted in the park near the playground with help from volunteers on October 1st.

Maintenance and Cleanup

Doris Birmingham, FSPP Beautification Co-Chair, led a group of about 20, including Cub Scout Troup #320 under Eric Goldsein's supervision. Many of these hard workers are responsible for keeping the park looking great despite all the litter and debris from storms the past few months. Every day all park visitors notice the beautiful results of their generous service to the community.

Many people ensured the large turnout by getting involved in outreach efforts, especially FSPP Publicity Co-Chairs Jacki Katzman and Lally Stowell, President Karen Grossman, Activities Co-Chairs Betsy Leondar-Wright and Kathy Modigliani, and Pinal Maniar who designed a beautiful poster with original art.



Arlington/Belmont Crew Team pruning plants at the pond's edge

The Friends of Spy Pond Park would like to thank The Book Rack for donating prizes, Dave Ledwig of ReMax Realty for lending sign-holders, and everyone who supported our work by making donations, buying t-shirts, weeding, and volunteering.

Spy Pond and Spy Pond Park are so well loved that they have attracted a large, vigorous and talented community of volunteers able to pull off such a large-scale and multi-faceted event.

Editor's note: An edited version of this article previously appeared in the September 22, 2011 issue of the Arlington Advocate.

Spy Pond Park Rain Garden

(continued from page 1)

is that more rain gardens will emerge in public and private spaces, all working together as a network of gardens filtering pollutants and protecting our watershed.

The community is invited to walk through the garden and see the kinds of flowers, grasses and shrubs that grow well in wet conditions. These plants also have the benefit of being low-maintenance and drought tolerant, making them good plant choices for gardens with little time or gardening experience. By spring the plants will be labeled so that residents can learn about them and find them for purchase at local plant nurseries for use in their own yards.

This project was made possible by a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, by the generous contribution of design work from Sally Naish of [Light and Shade Garden Design](#), and by the invaluable help of Public Works employees, Friends of Spy Pond Park, and community volunteers who helped plan, dig, prepare and plant the garden. If you are interested in helping with future rain garden projects in Town, or would like to help with maintenance of this garden, please leave your name and contact information with Sustainable Arlington at cmilan@SustainableArlington.org or call Joey Glushko in the Planning Department at 781-315-3093. You can find photos of the process involving the SPP rain garden on the FSPP website.

Rain Gardens

by Sally Naish, FSPP Annual Meeting guest speaker;
summary by Elizabeth Karpati, Secretary pro tem

Sally is a Certified Landscape Designer who designed the rain garden recently installed at Spy Pond Park next to the playground. She described how to and why to plant a rain garden. Its purpose is to keep storm water on site and let it soak into the soil so that the soil filters it as it slowly seeps into the nearest water body, rather than rushing into that water body over the surface carrying pollutants like oil from cars and lawn chemicals, and creating erosion.

A rain garden is a depression located at the low point of an area so that storm water collects there. It needs enough space between the surface and the water table underneath to allow the collected rain to soak in without creating a puddle that lasts long enough to allow mosquitoes to complete their breeding cycle in it.

A rain garden is made by digging out an area, one to two feet deep with a flat bottom and sloping sides, amending the soil as needed, and putting it back while planting suitable plants in it: those that can stand both dry spells and periods of having "wet feet." Sally gave an informative Power Point presentation and mentioned several books that can help with essential details such as the size of a rain garden needed to handle storm water from a given area and lists of suitable plants. She also detailed some caveats for those who want to rush out and put a rain garden in their back yard: keep it at least ten feet away from the foundation and don't put it over buried utility lines or a septic tank.

Editor's note: You can read more about the Spy Pond Park rain garden in the Summer 2011 issue of FSPP's newsletter posted on our website. You can reach Sally Naish at Light and Shade Garden Design, 781-648-2380, if you'd like to plant a rain garden in your yard. You can access her website at www.lightandshadegardens.com. Thanks to Sally for donating her time to make this enjoyable presentation at our Annual Meeting.

The Mystic River Watershed Association and the Town of Arlington are looking for sites to build more rain gardens: <http://mysticriver.org/rain-gardens/>. Contact beth@mysticriver.org to suggest a location or to learn more.

Save the Silver Maple Forest Benefit Concert

February 4, 7:30pm

First Parish UU Church, Arlington
630 Mass Ave.

\$18 on line: belmontcoalition.org

\$10 students; \$2.00 children

With Jim Scott, Stan Strickland, Elke Jahns,
Maya Apfelbaum, and celebrated songwriter Fred Small!

Beautiful...and Bad!

by Doris Birmingham

Why is it that some of the worst invasive species are often the most attractive? Think of the bittersweet that people like to put into their dried flower arrangements, or the broad swaths of purple loosestrife that add a splash of color to the damp ditches along our bland interstates. The yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is another of these deceptively "pretty ones." During late spring at Spy Pond Park we admire its long sword-like leaves and showy flowers silhouetted against the water. And throughout the season, its spikey foliage contrasts nicely with the less defined vegetation in the planting beds behind it.

Sad to say, this plant, which is on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, can have a negative ecological impact. Native to Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa, it came to the U.S. in the 1850s having been first used as an ornamental in water gardens and then as an aid in removing heavy metals in wastewater treatment. It likes wetlands in particular, but due to its varied means of propagation and its tolerance for a vast range of growth conditions, it has migrated to nearly every state except the most arid ones. Once established, the plants continue to increase in size, forming dense clumps that crowd out other wetland species. Since it captures sediment, it can also negatively alter the configuration of shorelines. Spreading by means of rhizomes, seeds, and bee pollination, this flower is very difficult to control by anything other than herbicide (e.g. glyphosates such as Rodeo approved for wetland habitats).

At Spy Pond, we are seeing more and larger masses of yellow iris near the water every year, and this summer we found numerous young ones in the heart of the plant bed nearest the boat ramp. With considerable effort, we dug out as many of these as we could using pick and shovel, but in so doing we may have left behind fragments of rhizome, which will undoubtedly sprout next year. Near the water, it is virtually impossible to excavate the established matted clumps. So what can we do? It seems doubtful that the Town will agree to apply herbicides—or even that the Friends would want this to be done. According to some authorities, repeated deadheading, picking the seed pods, and vigorously cutting back the clusters will discourage growth or even kill the plant over the space of several years. This should probably be our approach. Certainly, we need to do what we can to prevent its spread to other parts of the shore.

Home gardeners should, of course, refrain from planting this "weed," as the USDA calls it, and if at all possible get rid of any specimens on their property. Gardeners should place seedpods and rhizomes into plastic bags, seal tightly, and dispose in the garbage. Also, they should use caution in handling yellow iris because all parts of it are poisonous, even to animals, and the resins may irritate the skin. Yes, the yellow iris is a beauty, but unfortunately it is invasive—and even dangerous!

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The year 2011 has gone by with successful Work Days, a fantastic Fun Day, and fond memories of bonding with friends and neighbors in Spy Pond Park. We are looking forward to acting on our plans in 2012 for Park improvements. Arlington's Park and Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works, and others will continue to augment our efforts, producing positive results.

But, you know, we couldn't do as much without the support and work done by the dedicated FSPP volunteers, the mainstay of our organization. I want to especially offer my sincere gratitude to the FSPP board for all the time and love they put into projects throughout 2011. Their wonderful efforts have maintained Spy Pond Park, created beautiful and informative newsletters, enacted change, and spread the joy of nature on the banks of Spy Pond and beyond. Thanks to the Arlington Land Trust (ALT) for co-sponsoring tours to Elizabeth Island at our Fun Day in September.

At the annual meeting on December 4, we enjoyed a wonderful presentation, "Rain Gardens in Arlington", by Sally Naish, Garden Designer. We thank her for donating her time to talk to us. The room also resounded with applause for the 2011 accomplishments of the FSPP active members and approval for the goals for 2012. Watch for the final meeting minutes on our website and in your email after they are approved in February. Congratulations to the slate of elected officers whose names are listed on the last page of this newsletter! We are still looking for someone to fill the position of Executive Vice-President who would learn more about overseeing and leading the FSPP. Please contact me a.s.a.p. if you're interested.

We've ramped up our fundraising efforts. Our first end of year solicitation was quite successful, thanks to many generous contributors. By the way, it's never too late for you to make an extra donation. You can also earn money for us when you use the Web by designating FSPP as your favorite charity at GoodSearch.com. We'd appreciate it if you would "Like" us on Facebook, too.

Finally, I wish you a Healthy, Happy New Year! I hope to see you at our February meeting so you can hear what we're planning and to add your ideas to the mix.

With warm regards,

Karen L. Grossman

Karen L. Grossman, President
Friends of Spy Pond Park

GOALS FOR 2011 (ACCOMPLISHED)

1. Seek additional funding sources [end of year solicitation]
2. Submit warrant articles to Town Meeting for *no-wake* and boating signage
3. Maintenance details: plantings and soil enrichment in beds 2 and 3; *pursue eradicating poison ivy; have Town plant two trees for playground shade [one planted]* & remove dead tree
4. Encourage Town to install a portable toilet at Spy Pond Field [see below]
5. Add web links to similar organizations and our PSA
6. Involve more school groups in maintenance [see below]
7. Schedule a different group for each Work Day
8. Schedule more nature crafts in the park, where possible
9. Obtain requested MA sales tax exemption
10. Advocate for MyRWA to collect water quality data for Spy Pond
11. Repair bulletin boards [one of two done]

ADDITIONAL GOALS FOR 2012

1. Investigate purchasing, filing a permit for, and placing a tool storage shed
2. Collaborate with Town officials and neighbors to eliminate dumping and partying in the park
3. Encourage people to pick up litter in the park
4. Involve more groups in maintenance while continuing to solicit volunteers whose names are in our database and others from the community
5. Investigate digitizing the memory scrapbook
6. File a Town permit for installing a portable toilet in the gravel parking lot on Pond Lane
7. Ask the Town to plant an additional tree at playground
8. Investigate concrete pavers with holes for a durable, but permeable path surface



William O'Rourke captures the wind in his sails

PHOTO BY KAREN GROSSMAN

Picking Up Garbage at Spy Pond Park, Three Meditations

by Anne Ellinger

1. Forgiveness

I reach for a discarded cigarette butt... candy wrapper... beer bottle...

Judgments arise in my mind: "How could they?" "What slob!" "Don't they care?" "Stupid teenagers..." "Disgusting drunks..."

Then I remember, "I've done that. Not this exactly, but I've been oblivious. I've hurt the earth." I remember the exhaust that leaves my car, the garbage from my house that goes... where?

I whisper, "I forgive you, stranger."
And keep cleaning.

2. Adoration

I reach for a discarded coffee cup... plastic water bottle... diaper...

My heart sings, "I do this for you, God / Great Spirit / Allah / Universe/Pond. I love you and your beauty with all my heart, all my soul. I could do this a thousand hours and not thank you enough. This is the way I celebrate your creation."

And keep cleaning.

3. Community

I reach for a discarded whisky bottle... lollipop stick... bottle cap...

I imagine this park is mine and mine alone. Anything good that happens here happens because I make it happen. I feel pride... ownership... determination.

Now I picture in my mind's eye the hundreds of people and thousands of people-hours that go into caring for this park: those who designed it, planted it, who pick up the trash barrels, saw up fallen trees, administer the decisions, raise money, go to meetings, weed, mulch... and the dozens of unseen ones who, like me, pick up trash every day, just for the love of it.

I keep cleaning.

Ten Impossible Wishes for Spy Pond Park

by Anne Ellinger

1. I wish it were the 1950's again, and (just like in Eva Balazs' book about raising her kids in that era) every winter evening the pond was ringed with bonfires warming crowds of happy skaters drinking hot cocoa.

2. I wish there were no global warming, and every winter there would be weeks of thick, smooth, fabulous ice to play on. (I don't even skate! Poor knees won't allow it. But I love walking carefully on the ice, gazing at the miraculous patterns and into the frozen world below.)

3. I wish that once the snow melted in the spring, no garbage would ever be revealed ...not a single piece of plastic...not one cigarette butt...not even a muddied mitten.

4. I wish the giant willow trees that used to ring the park were still there. I miss their grace and majesty. I miss watching children climb them.

5. I wish the grass would stay inside its boundaries and leave our cobbled walkways clear.

6. I wish on the bulletin boards people would post only poems and love notes and artwork and greetings to neighbors and their visions for the world.

7. I wish swimming were allowed (but no lifeguards and no chlorine) and the water was pristine.

8. I wish that without any organizing work, hundreds of volunteers would magically appear every Spy Pond Park Work Day and gaily tend to the park's every need. (In my imagination they're singing songs like the villagers in a 1930's musical, only in a dozen different languages.)

9. I wish geese never pooped and never ate the grass to the nubbins, so we could just relax and welcome their presence. I wish we could feed them and all the animals to our heart's delight.

10. I wish the wildlife were here: all the birds and butterflies, fish and turtles and mammals who lived around the pond before humans came. And that they would talk to us and tell us stories. And we'd talk back. And we'd make up songs together about our beautiful Spy Pond Park.

**Celebrate Mystic River Watershed
Association's 40th Anniversary**

<http://mysticriver.org/40th-anniversary>

Microcystis Algae and Spy Pond

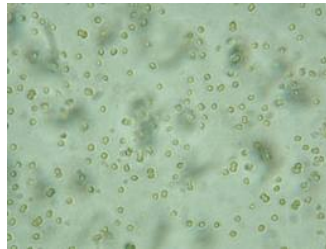
by Bill Eykamp

On 27 June 2011, the Board of Health (BOH) posted a notice under the heading "Health Advisory: No Swimming In Spy Pond." *Microcystis* algae were detected by the Commonwealth at levels above the guideline health standard. The warning stated, "This particular type of algae can be toxic if ingested in high doses and can cause skin irritation and a rash after wading or swimming. The Arlington Board of Health strongly advises residents not to swim or stand in the water and especially urges residents to keep pets away from the water."

PHOTOS BY BILL EYKAMP



A cyanobacteria bloom



Photomicrograph of cyanobacteria

Microcystis is in the family tree of cyanobacteria, the oldest known life form with fossils dated to 3.5 billion years ago. They are bacteria, thus quite small, and are aquatic. Among their contributions to life as we know it are oxygen (photosynthesis), plants (evolution) and some petroleum (fossils). They are always present in Spy Pond.

Some cyanobacteria produce toxins. *Microcystis* algae are particularly problematic, because they are an episodic presence at levels producing enough toxins to cause the symptoms described by the BOH.

Although *microcystis aeruginosa* are extremely small, they form colonies and mats that incorporate a gas bubble that lets them float. You may have seen them as something that looks like green paint floating in the pond. It blows with the wind, so the leeward parts of the pond are most heavily infested. As the wind shifts, the local concentration changes dramatically.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health sampling point is wading depth off Spy Pond Park. This year, on 20 June, the microcystis level exceeded the guideline, 74,000 vs. an action level of 70,000. A test for the toxin, microcystin, was performed, but the result was negative.

During the following weeks, population levels were tested on a number of occasions, and for each of these surveys, microcystis levels were found to be quite low and much less than the 70,000 cells/ml guideline threshold. The June reading was a spike.

In passing, 70,000 bacteria per ml sounds like a huge number, but if you looked at a water sample under a microscope, you would probably not see any. These algae are really small.

No one faults the BOH for issuing an alarm when the microcystis levels reached the action level. Controversy erupted when they failed to lift the warning in accordance with their announcement, "This Public Health Advisory will remain in effect until cell counts drop to safe levels for two consecutive weeks." In fact, the 2011 alarm resulted from a one-off event.

The Vision 2020 Spy Pond Group is engaging the BOH in a conversation about appropriate warnings and inappropriate permanent warnings. We plan to have this discussion before the spring thaw.

Editor's note: FSPP has met with the BOH and the Town Planner's Office to explore means of eliminating the algae blooms in an ecologically safe way.

Town Day, 2011

by Sally Hempstead

It is 7a.m. on a beautiful Saturday in September and a small group of stalwart souls clutching steaming cups of coffee are waiting for the lady who is to hand out booth assignments for Arlington Town Day. I am sixth in line, representing the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP), and am anxious to get started. My back-up team, Jason Fligg and Erin Freeberger, are in their car awaiting my call, prepared to set up the tent and establish residency. By 8:30a.m. we've accomplished our mission and are ready for action. Our booth is just south of Mill Street, sandwiched between The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and Dance Caliente. Much to the delight of the volunteers, especially Lally Stowell, Latin dancing and introducing new townspeople to the FSPP seem to go hand and hand. A big attraction is a series of puzzle games for all ages, designed by Betsy Leondar-Wright, focused on natural phenomena in the park with candy rewards for those who find a solution. T-shirts for children and adults, with our gold and green logo, are for sale, as they always are, at any function where the FSPP has a booth. The volunteers, Bev and Wally Williams, Lally Stowell, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Peggy George, Marshall McCloskey and of course, the Fliggs welcome everyone who passes by, handing out newsletters, explaining our mission, and answering any and all questions about Spy Pond Park. Many people sign up for e-mail notification of park events and information about ongoing programs. In addition, the FSPP is pleased to collect \$136.00 in dues and contributions. Sadly, 3 p.m. comes all too soon and Town Day is drawing to a close with the FSPP having acquired a multitude of new friends as well as re-establishing contact with many old friends. It is time for us to pack up the leaflets, the newsletters, the puzzles, the T-shirts and our mascot (the goose) until next year.

Owl Awe

by Betsy Leondar-Wright

Whenever I think Spy Pond has exhausted its ways to surprise and awe me, something unexpected happens. In October, the surprise was a screech owl.



Screech owl spotted on Halloween near Spy Pond Condominiums

One afternoon my friend Pinal got a call from our friend Lakshmi who lives in Spy Pond Condos: "There's an owl in a tree outside my apartment!" Pinal, along with her 6-year-old daughter Aadya, and I went running down to the shore.

Lakshmi and her daughter Akshara met us on the lawn near the barbecue grills and pointed way up into a huge old willow tree. At first, there just seemed to be an empty hole in the trunk. "Oh, no – it flew away!" But then two little furry tan ears popped up. Pinal (to whom we all defer for her naturalist expertise) said, "Maybe that's a baby fox, not an owl." She used her camera's zoom lens to try to get a better look. I climbed up the lower branches of the tree and leaned over toward the hole.

Then suddenly, up popped the owl's head! Click, click, click – our cameras went into overdrive trying to capture its image, in case it was only making a brief appearance. But the owl caught sight of Aadya doing a lively dance of owl-excitement on the lawn, and stayed up, half out of the hole, swiveling its head to follow her movements. The top half that we could see appeared to be about 5 inches tall and 4 inches wide – a little guy.

None of us knew what kind of owl it was, but when we went home and looked it up in our bird books, it was obvious: only screech owls have pointed furry ears.

My guidebook said screech owls are nocturnal, so the next night my spouse Gail and I went out at sunset with flashlights. We shone our lights on the hole in the willow, which appeared to be empty. We stood quietly and looked around. There it was, upright and motionless on a branch on another tree, closer to Lakehill Ave. We shone our flashlights up from below, illuminating its strong talons gripping the branch and its furry, squat bottom half. It appeared to be about 9 or 10 inches tall.

Then suddenly it was in flight. Its wingspan appeared huge, impossibly huge given its short body; flying, it looked as wide as a

yardstick, or wider. It swooped smooth and low, close to the lawn, barely seeming to need to move its wings at all. Then it disappeared up into the trees at the far end of the condo property. We were awestruck.

One thing I learned from this adventure was the great superiority of a high-quality camera with a zoom lens. In the photos I took with my cheap point-and-click camera, the owl looks flat, like a cardboard cutout, and it's hard to see him against the camouflaging bark. But in Pinal's photos, like the ones shown here, the owl is three-dimensional and full of detail, down to feather texture.

Spy Pond is such an urban pond, so surrounded by human habitation, so impaired by our trash and pollutants, that we can forget how well it serves as a habitat for so many species of wild animals.

Hail to Our Volunteers!

by Doris Birmingham

Thanks to the labor of our many volunteers, the Park looked great when we put it "to bed" in October. I hope everyone has heard some of the words of appreciation that we frequently receive from park users. Keeping the park clean, combatting the invasive species, and nurturing precious native plants requires sustained effort throughout the season, so we should take our hats off to the folks who showed up at nearly every work day: Elizabeth Karpati, Gail McCormick, Lally Stowell, Bev and Wally Williams, Betsy Leondar-Wright, and Bill Stalcup. The Friends also found two Best Friends this summer in the persons of Jason Fligg and his wife Erin Freeburger, who stepped in during the absences of our usual "heavy lifter," Eric Berger, by transporting the canopy, helping with set-up, and doing whatever else needed to be done. Jason and Erin have also volunteered to store our tools and other materials for the winter as we wrestle with the problem of finding a more permanent solution to our storage needs. While on the subject of storage, we should extend special thanks to Ann and Chris Ellinger, who generously have provided our growing collection of tools with a home in their garage for many years.

We also want to express our gratitude to the community groups who came to our aid at various times: Boston University alumni, staff, and students, during the University's Global Day of Service; People Making a Difference; the Arlington/Belmont Crew Team; High Rock Church; Cub Scout Troup #302; and members of Climate Change Summer. The contribution of these folks was invaluable, and we hope that they and perhaps some other groups will join us next season as we all pitch in to preserve our beautiful park. Meanwhile, we hope our hard-working members will enjoy a much needed rest and return full of energy for the 2012 season.

Friends of Spy Pond Park next meeting at Karen Grossman's Sunday, February 5, 2012 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: Jane Whitmore	(781) 648-4330
Recording Secretary: Beverly Williams	(781) 316-1917
Membership Sec'y: Marshall McCloskey	(617) 548-9877
VPs for Communications (Newsletter):	
Eric Berger	(781) 859-5096
Jamie Ciocco	jamcio@gmail.com
Co-Chairs for Publicity:	
Jacki Katzman	(781) 648-9227
Lally Stowell	(781) 777-2759
Beautification Committee:	
Doris Birmingham	(781) 641-2392
Gail McCormick	(781) 646-0614
Lally Stowell	(781) 777-2759
Beverly Williams	(781) 316-1917
Webmaster: Fred Moses	fred@fmoses.com
Chair for Outreach/Park Events:	
Betsy Leondar-Wright	(781) 648-0630
Outreach Coordinator: Sally Hempstead	(860) 944-1370
Fundraising Chair: Jason Fligg	(781) 724-7638

For newsletter contributions, contact berkshire2@juno.com
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

This year we have decided to publicly acknowledge those who have made extra financial contributions to the FSPP. We are publishing an acknowledgement of their aggregate donations beyond basic dues in this newsletter. This money has enabled us to pursue the mission of supporting the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond as natural and community resources. In future FSPP Winter Newsletters we intend to continue recognizing higher levels of giving each year. We extend our sincere thanks for the generosity and commitment of these contributors.

Donations 1997-2011

\$500-\$1000

Eric Hall Anderson
Eric & Barbara Baatz

\$200-\$500

Paul English
Bill & Myriel Eykamp
Dr. Norman Garber
David Young & Michela Larson
Betsy & Gail Leondar-Wright
Richard Rubinstein
Anne Sayigh
Sophia Sayigh & J. Richard Sladkey

\$50-\$200

Cristin & Alex Bagnall
Eva Balazs
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Maura Albert & Linda Blair
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Dave & Lauren Kopans
Johnny Lapham
Abigail Gertner & Christopher Lee

Tom Lisco
Harry P. & Catherine T. McCabe
John & Mary McCann
Ann Leroy & Richard McElroy
Julie & Brian Nardone/Hare
Bob Neal & Judith Neal
Allysen Palmer
Mary Parlee
Andrew G. Kotsatos & Heather A. Parsons
Martha & Dick Pereli
Bill Reardon, Jr.
Lisa Wanamaker Reynolds & Stephen Reynolds
Jerry & Marlene Schultz
Stephen D. and Margaret E. Senturia
Jim Marzilli & Susan Shaer
Phillip A. & Donna Sharff
Scott, Heather, Juliet & Adriana Smith
Lally Stowell
Jeff Thielman & Christine Power Thielman
Kate Thompson
Amy & Jimmy Torres
Marcelo & Ellen Torres
Laurence & Carolyn Tribe
Leslie Bennett, Matthew & Sydney Trunnell
Cecil Dorman & Vanessa Fox
Jane A. Weingarten
Herbert M Yood