

# Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

## Winter/Spring 2019

### People Making a Difference®

By Lori Tsuruda



Volunteers meticulously pruned with loppers, hand pruners, and long and telescoping pruners so there was a clear view for upcoming colorful foliage

People Making a Difference® (PMD) volunteers assisted the Friends of Spy Pond Park last October improving the pond shore by pruning back willows and removing invasive false indigo and multiflora rose to reveal boulders, pond views, and fencing. Special thanks to Northeastern University's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), Northeastern University's Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. and Boston University's Alpha Phi Omega - Zeta Upsilon Chapter.

### Friends of Spy Pond Park: Volunteer Opportunities We Need Some Help!

By Karen L. Grossman, President

Want to assist the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP) in a meaningful way? Below I have listed ways you can contribute, fulfilling various support tasks. We need to have public visibility via our website, maintain our database to keep track of our member involvement, and communicate with the public and our members about our events and activities. Please contact me via [fspp@friendsofspypond-park.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypond-park.org) at your earliest convenience or 781-646-5990 for more information if you are the least bit interested in any of the positions described. It would prevent burnout, spending our funds and would strengthen our organization. Please contact [fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org) a.s.a.p.

#### FSPP Vice-President

Stand-in for the FSPP President, as requested, at FSPP bimonthly meetings or with Town Committees and volunteer groups.

#### Publicity Committee Co-Chair

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

#### Outreach and Communications Committee

Send out President's mailings using Mailchimp.

#### Writer for Newsletter

Write an article for our tri-annual newsletter that you feel would be of some interest to our members. Your thoughts about the park, pond, or our activities, and comments/poetry on an aspect of nature would be desirable content.

#### Webmaster

(each task could be done by a different person)

**SITE PAGES** - Most of the site's pages are relatively straightforward HTML. To maintain them, the webmaster needs to have a working knowledge of the following technologies:

- HTML 5
- CSS
- JavaScript, JQuery

**DATABASE** - The member database is a SQL Server database hosted with the site. A C# application is the primary interface to the database and is used for updating its contents, retrieving member data, and generating reports. The webmaster needs to have a working knowledge of the following technologies to maintain the database and the database application:

- Microsoft SQL Server database administration (to administer the database itself and update the schema)
- Transact SQL (to maintain and update the body of database queries)
- C#, .NET, WPF (to maintain and update the database application)
- Gallery
- jAlbum

There is some learning curve, but this is fairly simple to maintain – I have some understanding of it.

# Arlington-Watertown Girls Swim Team's Community Service

By Eleanor Eagan

The Arlington-Watertown Girls Swim Team volunteered on the last 2018 Friends of Spy Pond Park Work Day, digging the beautiful cobblestones out from the dirt, weeds, and grit of the park's path. Their weapons of choice were forks to dig and some brooms to smooth out the path, playing and singing along to music while they worked. Motivated by the snacks provided, they completed the whole trail in the time allotted, and had fun on the pondside along the way.

Thanks again for such a fun Work Day!



PHOTO BY VALENTINA RAZIMOVA

Look for the little village by Christopher Frost in a tree next to the Minuteman Trail at the Linwood Street entrance to Spy Pond Park



PHOTO BY ELEANOR EAGAN

The Arlington-Watertown Girls Swim Team sang while they dug out dirt, weeds, and grit between the cobblestones lining the path through Spy Pond Park

## Bird Walk in Spy Pond Park

**Saturday May 18 (Rain Date May 25)  
8-10 a.m.**

Join birder John Sharp once again as we check out arriving Spring bird migrants. Spy Pond Park attracts both perching birds and waterfowl so there will be some variety. Beginners and accomplished enthusiasts all welcome. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you can. Meet at the Spy Pond Park playground off Pond Lane. Postponed a week if it is actually raining.

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

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730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
TELEPHONE  
781-316-3020  
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The Town of Arlington appropriated \$646,900 as part of the Spy Pond Park Project fund shoreline stabilization and ADA-compliance elements; and

WHEREAS: The Friends of Spy Pond Park is a nonprofit organization which supports the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond as natural and community resources; and

WHEREAS: The Friends of Spy Pond Park support the ongoing protection and beautification of the park, preservation of open green space and wild life, prevention and reduction of pond pollution, and use of the park as a community and cultural resource; and

WHEREAS: The Friends of Spy Pond Park granted \$5,000 toward the Spy Pond Park Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the Select Board of the Town of Arlington wish to thank the Friends of Spy Pond Park for their generous donation toward the Spy Pond Park Project.

SELECT BOARD  
OF THE  
TOWN  
OF  
ARLINGTON

A true record.  
ATTEST:  
By: *Marie A. Kipelka*  
Board Administrator



# FSPP ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION 12/2/2018

By Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner &  
Conservation Agent

## Spy Pond Park Shoreline & Path Construction

(From notes taken by Marshall McCloskey, FSPP Recording Secretary)

Emily works closely with Jon Marshall, the Arlington Director of Parks and Recreation. Emily and John have asked for some minor revisions of the current edge protection and erosion control plan as of 12/22/18 that they expect to be negotiated successfully. Subsequently, the plan will be submitted to contractors for bids. Funding is being supplied by Arlington Community Preservation Act (CPA) participation and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The portion of the plan at Spring Valley St. for storm water mitigation is being put off to a later time to reduce the total budget at this time. Emily noted that the funding needs to be spent by June 30, 2019 and she expects work to start in March or early April. Porous pavement to replace the present surface on the path through the park from Linwood St to Pond Ln is part of the current plan, along with some additional access points from the path to the water.

Attendees raised some questions during the Q & A that followed. It is almost certain that it will be necessary to close portions of the park while the work is being done. People thought that every effort should be made to inform the community of this, including articles in the Arlington Advocate, Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on ACMI TV and perhaps signage throughout the Town.

Someone noted that removing so called "invasive" plants from the shoreline could have deleterious effects on controlling soil erosion if their roots are removed. The same holds for any plants that might be removed in the course of construction. Emily agreed that consideration must be given on how and what to replant in any affected areas.

*Editor's Note: As Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent, Emily will assist with coordination of a range of sustainability and environmental efforts in Town and assist the Conservation Commission in its administration and enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Arlington Bylaw for Wetlands Protection, and management of property under Conservation Commission management or control. Outside of special projects or tasks, duties of the position will be evenly split between Conservation Commission-related tasks and environmental planning activities.*

*Emily comes to the Town of Arlington following the completion of a Master's in Urban Planning, concentrating in Environmental Hazard Management from Texas A&M University in College Station,*

*Texas. While at Texas A&M University, Ms. Sullivan gained experience working on a diverse range of projects related to comprehensive planning including hazard mitigation, urban resiliency, and public health. Emily received her Bachelor's in Environmental Science from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Emily is an Arlington native and is excited to work with the community where she grew up.*

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter to you, Spy Pond is frozen and there have been ice fishermen braving the cold for hours, people pulling children on sleds, others playing ice hockey and families enjoying the thrill of skating on clean ice. No one has sent photos of this activity for publication in this issue of the FSPP Newsletter, but the memories are clear in my mind. I hope you've been down there to visit. Soon snow will cover the ice and individuals will have to clear it away to enjoy the ice until rain melts it and freezing temperatures bring back fresh ice, if even for a short time. Also, as always, please check the location of storm drains on your street, especially on Linwood Street and Pond Lane; make sure they're clear after snowstorm plowing and at other times. Rainwater and melting ice flows should have access to them. We can enjoy the park and pond and be environmental stewards, too!

Visitors to the park are few and far between now, although some still walk their dogs or gather off Pond Lane and Linwood Circle to witness the beauty of the sunsets. A contractor will be selected soon for the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project, in March construction may begin at the water's edge and in April we'll start our efforts to clean up and beautify the park after the winter weather. Watch for updates via Mailchimp and please consider joining us to help in the park as the weather warms and more people flock to enjoy the park and the pond. Thanks for your support and to those who contributed financially in 2018.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Grossman  
President

Friends of Spy Pond Park

# 2019 FSPP Work & Fun Days

By Lally Stowell

The FSPP monthly Saturday Work Days begin on April 27th 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.

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 2019. They will be held on the Saturday mornings listed below from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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 having many eager volunteers work with us this year. For more information, contact Lally Stowell at [lallystowell@icloud.com](mailto:lallystowell@icloud.com).

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

May 25, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date May 26, 1-4 p.m.)

June 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date June 23, 1-4 p.m.)

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

Aug. 24, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Aug. 25, 1-4 p.m.)

Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Sept. 29, 1-4 p.m.)

Oct. 19, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Oct. 20, 1-4 p.m.)

Sept. 21 Fun Day, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (rain date Sept. 22, 1-4 p.m.)  
**Fun Day** involves children's activities in Spy Pond Park, 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 beforehand and bring it*

*with you. Children below 18 years of age must have parental signature to participate in Spy Pond Park activities.*

## 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2019 GOALS

### 2018 FSPP Goals Accomplished

We accomplished most standing goals and the following:

1. We supported Laura Kiesel in her efforts to increase awareness of the negative effects of the use of rat poison on the environment and her efforts promoting other methods of controlling rodents that would be effective and would not be harmful to other wildlife.
2. We helped coordinate and participated in a successful Field Day for 60 Hardy School fourth graders in Spy Pond Park early in June.
3. We gave two Good Citizen Awards to Jamie Ciocco & Beverly and Wallace Williams for outstanding, dedicated service to FSPP.
4. However, we were unable to recruit a General Vice President & Park Activities Co-chair; anyone interested should contact [fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org).

### 2019 FSPP Goals

(Roughly in prioritized order)

1. Monitor and influence as much as we can the Conservation Commission efforts re: shoreline rehabilitation and path improvement in the best interests of FSPP and park visitors.
2. Coordinate with Hardy School re: a unit for study of the Spy Pond Park environment involving parents, the DPW, and Charlotte Milan from Arlington Recycle and others who participated successfully in 2018.
3. Look into alternatives for handling litter/trash, investigate how other Towns do it, if needed.
4. Support efforts to provide environmentally sound rat control measures in Spy Pond Park and Arlington, in general.
5. Explore additional art for the park, and investigate what is being done in other parks.
6. Recruit a Park Activities Co-chair to work with Betsy Leondar-Wright.
7. Recruit a General Vice-President.
8. Identify and award 1-2 worthy citizens for outstanding service to the FSPP.

PHOTO BY FRED MOSES



Wallace and Beverly Williams received a Citizens Award at the FSPP Annual Meeting in December from Karen L. Grossman, President

## Citation

*For your many years of dedication to  
Spy Pond Park in your roles as:*

*taker of meticulous minutes for 6 years as Recording  
Secretary for the Friends of Spy Pond Park,*

*writer of poems and articles for the FSPP Newsletter*

*faithful Beautification Committee team member,*

*tireless weeders, pruners, planters and haulers on  
Work Days, and*

*since you moved to Arlington, contributors to many  
improvement projects that have made Spy Pond Park  
the beautiful and welcoming place it has become for  
families and visitors who come from all over,*

*the Friends of Spy Pond Park*

*is proud to present this*

*Good Citizen Award*

*to*

*Beverly and Wallace Williams  
December 2, 2018*

## Citation

*For 10 dedicated years as  
VP for Communication and Outreach:  
selecting photographs, beautifully laying  
them out with articles and  
making modifications for final publication  
for three to four newsletters annually,  
the Friends of Spy Pond Park  
Is proud to present this*

*Good Citizen Award*

*to*

*Jamie Ciocco*

*December 2, 2018*



PHOTO BY FRED MOSES

Jamie Ciocco received a Citizens Award at the FSPP 2018 Annual Meeting in December from Karen L. Grossman, President



# Friends of Spy Pond Park next meeting

at

**Karen Grossman's  
Sunday, April 7, 2019  
at 7:00 p.m.  
32 Hamilton Road #402**

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990  
email [fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto: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: Joanie Walls (703) 881-1109  
Recording Secretary: Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Membership Secretary: Daniel Jalkut (617) 276-6672  
VPs for Communication & Outreach:  
Sally Hempstead (860) 944-1370  
Jamie Ciocco [jamcio@gmail.com](mailto:jamcio@gmail.com)  
Outreach Committee:  
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Anne Ellinger (781) 646-1705  
Chair for Publicity: Elaine Crowder (781) 648-1927  
Beautification Committee:  
Sharon Green (781) 316-1756  
Marshall McCloskey (617) 548-9877  
Gail McCormick (781) 646-0614  
Richard Norcross (781) 641-2404  
Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759  
Beverly Williams (781) 316-1536  
Web Committee:  
Fred Moses [fred@fmoses.com](mailto:fred@fmoses.com)  
Chair for Outreach/Park Events:  
Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630  
Fundraising Chair: Open  
Photographers and Videographers:  
Fred Moses [fred@fmoses.com](mailto:fred@fmoses.com)  
Ram Subramanian [ramkumar@gmail.com](mailto:ramkumar@gmail.com)

Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to  
[fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org)

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

We recognize those who have made contributions to the FSPP in 2018. This money enables us to pursue our mission of supporting the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond as natural and community resources. We extend sincere thanks for the generosity and commitment of the 133 individuals and households involved in this effort.

## 2018 Donations

### \$200-\$498

Brad Barber  
Katherine Shields  
Mark & Joanie Walls

Jenny Babon  
Marianne Balazs  
Mimi & Kevin Barbera  
Sue & Henry Bass  
Robert & Elaine Bowes  
Andrew Brody  
Lionel Fergus & Gerda Brown  
Kate Thompson & Daniel Calano  
Gwen Chasan  
Dan & Margaret Cianfarini  
Armen Dedekian  
Adria Arch & Elliott Eichen  
Mary Lee & Dan Goguen  
Julie Nardone & Brian Hare  
Peter & Jane Howard  
Adrienne A. Landry & Robert Jolkovski  
Ben Clark & Erica Klein  
Elizabeth Karpati c/o Sniscak  
Dave & Lauren Kopans  
Johnny Lapham  
Thomas E. Lisco  
Margaret Marks  
Toshia McCabe  
Ann LeRoyer & Richard McElroy  
Paula Minihan  
Kathy and Glenn Murphy  
Richard & Ruth Norcross

Wendy Seltzer  
Scott & Heather Smith  
Erin Taylor  
Taylor & Jen Toole  
Donald & Barbara Vitters  
Kate Webster  
Ted and Margaret Wilde  
Amy Wyllie

### \$25-\$49

Ann Abbott  
Eric Baatz  
Mark Zahniser & Connie Bauer  
Evelyn & Xavier Benveniste  
Colin & Susanne Schuster Blair  
Dave Boettcher  
Carolyn Boettner  
Eliza & Doug Burden  
Doris Birmingham  
Paulina Calderon  
Jamie Ciocco  
Janice Clark  
Mac Craven  
Sarah Dadusc  
John M DeLeo  
Bill & Myriel Eykamp  
Elsie & Peter Fiore  
Hank Fliggburger  
Charles & Maryanna Foscett  
Richard Dorman & Vanessa Fox  
Elizabeth Fraser  
Muriel Fudala

Sarah & Clarke Glover  
Kym & Dan Goldsmith  
Dan Chadwick & Robin Goldstein  
Sharon Green  
Andrew Hall & Jill Greenlee  
Fred Moses & Karen Grossman  
Amy & Jim Hampe  
Cecily R & Roger Hancock  
Judy & Patrick Hanlon  
Karsten & JoAnne Hartel  
Brian Gillespie & Amy Hedler  
Cynthia Starks & Albert Hopeman  
Daniel C Jalkut  
Sam Kesner  
Joanne Klys  
Meryl Levin  
Kate Lydecker and Will MacPherson  
Carmen P. Medeiros  
Mary & John Morris  
Elizabeth Orth  
Anne & Fred Paulsen  
S. Georgine Pennington  
Diana Potter  
William F Reardon, Jr.  
Megan & Casey Recupero  
Lisa M. & Stephen Reynolds  
Karen Edwards & Tom Roby  
Karen Rothman  
Richard Rubinstein  
Doris Rucinski  
Dolores & Robert Schueler

Sophia Sayigh & J. Richard Sladkey  
Ann Strand  
William & Lynn Taber  
Dick & Patience Terry  
Downing Cless & Alice Trexler  
Karen Walrath

### \$5-\$24

Jim Beauchesne  
Marlene H Alderman & Eugene Benson  
Penny Blevins  
Liz Blumenthal  
Yvonne Chase  
Diana Coleman  
Kurt & Lisa Fischer  
Paula Herman  
Jacki Katzman  
Zareh Y & Hasmic Maserejian  
Julie McBride  
Gail T McCormick  
Patrick McGrath  
Susan Mortimer  
Geraldine Navratil  
Gail Neff  
Cecille Platek  
Lawrence "Stroker" Rogovin  
Wendy C Rudner  
Emily Snyder  
Susan D Stamps  
Nathaniel Stevens  
Janice Undem

### \$100-\$199

Lt Eric Hall Anderson  
Judi Bohn  
Marge Coffin & Chris Brown  
Roger Dempsey & Linda Chase  
Lisa Fredman  
Dr. Norman Garber  
Betsy & Gail Leondar-Wright  
Anne Randolph  
Nigel Kraus & Kay Seligson

### \$50-\$99

Abode Energy Management  
Maura Albert  
Anonymous  
Betty Athanasoulas