

Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

Summer 2024

Friends of Spy Pond Park

By Adrienne Landry, Stewardship Team



PHOTO BY JENNY BABON

(l-r) Agathe and Antoine Schaeffer and Brian Hare dug up Mulberry roots for EcoFest in Spy Pond Park

On April 27, there was a Work Day organized by Arlington's EcoFest through Charlotte Milan. We accomplished a lot, dug holes, planted eight shrubs and cleared out 10 bags of yard waste.

May 18 was the first official Work Day for Friends of Spy Pond Park. There were five volunteers, four FSPP members, and Agathe, a girl-scout working towards her Silver Medal, and her father. That day was quite successful. The main task was to pull up small mulberry saplings, a fast-growing invasive tree. There were 10 in one bed. Mulberry roots grow downward vertically as well as horizontally making them very hard to pull out.

On May 17, the day before the Work Day, a volunteer took the new Root Slayer shovel and dug a circle around each of the saplings. The jagged edge of the shovel cut through roots. They then poured water into the circles to further loosen the roots. By Work Day morning, with the help of the weed wrench, the saplings came out rather easily. After that, the volunteers were able to have a go at some of the larger mulberry plants that had extensive root systems (see image). No easy job!

The other major task was to remove some of the Quaking Aspen saplings from the bed opposite the playground. They are taking over the bed and soon, the pond would not be visible from the path. Since they are a native to "cooler areas of North America," we transplanted them to an open area on the slope leading up to the Bike Path.



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE LANDRY

A mulberry root system

We collected six bags of invasive weeds and "0" yard waste bags. Hope you can help out on our next Work Day, June 22, you'll have a great sense of satisfaction.

Working to Earn My Silver Award

By Agathe Schaeffer



PHOTO BY ANTOINE SCHAEFFER

Agathe Schaeffer, working towards earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, held an orientation meeting in SPP on June 8 with volunteers of her watering team: (l-r) Meghan, Haley, Agathe, Natalia and Lisa

I partnered up with Friends of Spy Pond Park to do my Girl Scouts Silver Award Project. The Silver Award Project is a project where a girl scout takes leadership and chooses a problem in their community that they want to improve or fix. For me, I wanted to take the problem of water pollution and plant life dying in my local pond called Spy Pond. I contacted the leader of Friends of Spy Pond Park, Karen Grossman, and together we came up with several ideas of ways I could help assist Friends of Spy Pond Park. The main project I took charge of was planting and watering 8 shrubs to curb erosion. I helped plant the shrubs and then I had to coordinate and organize a rotation of volunteers to water the shrubs. Another way I assisted the Friends of Spy Pond Park is I also came to the workdays and helped work the outreach table. During these workdays I helped receive volunteers, educate people about the work the Friends of Spy Pond Park was doing, and participate in gardening. I also contributed to Friends of Spy Pond Park by putting posters up around Arlington to spread the word about Friends of Spy Pond Park to attract more volunteers. All in all, I've enjoyed working on my projects for Friends of Spy Pond Park and look forward to working on them until September.

FSPP Saturday Work Days

By Lally Stowell

The FSPP monthly Saturday Work Days began on May 18 and will continue through October 19. 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, assisting with new plantings, clearing the beaches and playground, and picking up trash. Our Work Days are scheduled for two 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 Stewardship Team will be available to assign tasks, work together with volunteers, answer questions and welcome suggestions. All workers must let us know of their interest and bring a signed liability form (parents must sign for under-18s). We have a limited supply of tools so if you have gloves and/or clippers, they would be greatly appreciated. Please bring water, too.

Below is a list of remaining Work and Fun Days for 2024. They will be held on the Saturday mornings listed below. The hours in May, June, Sept. and Oct. are 9-11 A.M.; in July and August, 8-10 A.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; lallystowell@icloud.com.

FSPP 2024 Remaining Work Day Schedule

June 22, 9-11 am (rain date June 23, 1-3 pm)

July 27, 8-10 am (rain date July 28, 1-3 pm)

Aug. 17, 8-10 am (rain date Aug. 18, 1-3 pm)

Sept. 7, 9-11 am (rain date Sept. 8, 1-3 pm)

Oct. 19, 9-11 am (rain date Oct. 20, 1-3 pm)

Sept. 14 Fun Day 10 am-1pm (rain date Sept. 15, 1-4pm)

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 these Work and Fun Day activities. If you are working, please download the form <https://friendsofspypondpark.org/pdf/liability-waiver.pdf> 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 Work & Fun Days.



PHOTO BY JENNY BABON

Lauren Bonilla, FSPP VP for Communication & Outreach, spent many hours in Spy Pond Park cheerfully checking in volunteers, giving out information, greeting visitors and selling t-shirts since 2021. She's moving to Michigan the end of June and we'll miss her and her family, especially Hugo, 4 years old. He was a great helper and admirer of all the tools in the shed! Thanks, Lauren, Thomas and Hugo for your service to FSPP.

Great Fun Day Volunteer Opportunity

By Betsy Leondar-Wright

We've put on fabulous volunteer-run Fun Day festivals in 21 of the last 23 years—and now we're organizing the 22nd!

Together we brought so much happiness to so many hundreds of people each year. Would you like to be part of making it happen on **September 7 10am-1pm (rain date Sunday 1-4pm)?**

We need every role that makes the event so great: bark boat helpers, musicians, staffers for the craft tables, puzzle table, info table and toddler table, scavenger hunt creators, faery costumed dancers and fairy house makers, face painters, boat ride guides, animal displays and bug-catching guides, publicists, photographers, bubble-blowers, and set-up and clean-up volunteers.

We also need donations of prizes (nature-observational tools like binoculars, and nature-themed toys and books, and sheets of birch bark. And we need at least one canopy.

If you'd like to participate, contact me at Betsy@classmaters.org or 781-648-0630.

Looking forward to cooking up some fun with you!

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Summer is here and I hope you're enjoying the nice weather we've been having. FSPP's endeavors are rolling along.

- We're full speed ahead with our Revegetation Project in the Spy Pond Park planting beds!
- Thanks to the Stewardship Team who is guiding volunteers doing some hard work digging holes, planting shrubs, watering them, and removing invasives.
- We also are pleased to partner with Agathe Schaeffer on her Girl Scout Silver Award Project with FSPP.

We're very sad to announce that FSPP VP for Communications and Outreach, Lauren Bonilla, has resigned her position. She and her family are moving near Ann Arbor Michigan the end of this month. We are grateful to Lauren for her leadership since Fall of 2021. She communicated with volunteers and FSPP members before, during and after Work Days and sent documentation from the days to the Membership Secretary. With her husband Thomas and son Hugo's assistance, Lauren organized necessary materials and equipment from our shed, loaded her vehicle, and set up and staffed the FSPP booth at Town and Fun Days. She also solicited articles and photos for our newsletter 3x/year. Thanks so much. We'll miss Lauren, Thomas, and Hugo, but wish them the best in their life and adventures in their new Michigan home. Surely, they can find some environmental volunteer opportunities there, too!

Happily, we are welcoming some new faces among our active volunteers.

- Diana Maggini, a new Arlington resident, has joined Jenny Babon (new Chair) on the Communication and Outreach Committee.
- Georgia Hoffmann, Winchester graphic designer, serving now as Publicity Chair, is giving a new look to our colorful Fun Day poster.
- An Arlington neighbor wants to assist with the Treasurer's responsibilities.

All but the last person discovered us via our posting on [Volunteermatch.com](https://www.volunteermatch.com), a great resource! Our present Recording Secretary and Treasurer found us that way, too. I'm very gratified we have so many people eager to support the mission of FSPP.

Thanks to those who have sent in contributions, responding to our May/June annual solicitation efforts via snail mail and online. If you haven't sent us your dues/donations to date, I hope this serves as a reminder for you to do so to support what we do. We appreciate however you can help enhance the beauty and contribute to other benefits of Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond in Arlington. And, of course, we appreciate all those who responded to our request for items to include in this newsletter. If you'd like to write something or send photo(s), please let us know.

Thanks again with warm regards,



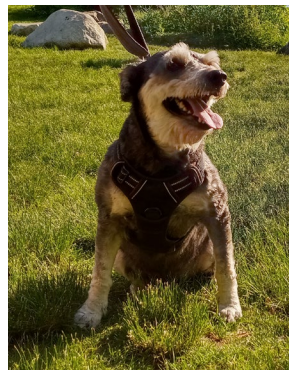
Karen L. Grossman
President
Friends of Spy Pond Park

Dogs Welcome

by Sharon Green

Well-behaved dogs on leash are always welcome at Spy Pond Park. Dogs, please remind your walkers to come with bags for poop disposal.

Trash bins are located at each end of the park. On June 1st there was a wide assortment of breeds and mixtures enjoying the sun, fresh air and pond view. Gruffy, Luigi, Nuqui and Oliver looked like they were having a fine time.



Gruffy and Oliver enjoy Spy Pond Park on-leash

Friends of Spy Pond Park next meetings:

**Sunday, July 14, 2024
7:00 p.m., Zoom link TBA,
&
Sunday, October 6, 2024
7:00 p.m., Zoom link TBA**

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990
email fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

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: Susan Saw (781) 439-1490
 - Recording Secretary: Megan Chrisman (760) 604-8384
 - Membership Secretary: Daniel Jalkut (617) 276-6672
 - VPs for Communication, Outreach, & Publicity:
 - Jenny Babon (774)-253-6325
 - Jamie Ciocco jamcio@gmail.com
 - Georgia Hoffmann (781)-879-3841
 - Communication, Outreach and Publicity Committee:
 - Anne Ellinger (781) 646-1705
 - Diana Maggini (337)-704-1873
 - Bulk Mailing Coordinator: Anna Doctor (615)-686-0328
 - Stewardship Team:
 - Adrienne Landry
 - Lally Stowell (781) 777-2759
 - Web Developer: Julie McBride
 - Chair for Outreach/Park Events:
 - Betsy Leondar-Wright (781) 648-0630
 - Photographers and Videographers:
 - Jenny Babon (774)-253-6325
 - Fred Moses fred@fmoses.com
 - Mithilesh Sharma (617) 233-9218
 - Photographer's Assistant: Open
 - Post-processing: Mark Sandman
- Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org

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

Town-Sponsored
Sidewalk Murals
Champion Clean Streets,
Clean Waters and
Arlington's Adopt-a-
Drain Project



PHOTO BY LAURIE BOGDAN



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE LANDRY

This iris cristata, planted in 2022, bloomed this year in SPP



This one, designed and painted by Jill Strait, is at Brooks Ave. and Lake St., near the Hardy School (drains to Spy Pond)
<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/14249/16>

PHOTO BY ADRIENNE LANDRY



PHOTO BY JENNY BABON

Lally Stowell taught Olivia, a 6 year old FSPP member, how to remove grass growing between cobblestones