



Friends of Hall's Pond

Spring/Summer 2012

A Letter from the Co-Presidents:

Betsy Shure Gross and Ellen Forrester, Co-Presidents

ENTERING our 37th year as the volunteer stewards of Hall's Pond Nature Sanctuary, we dedicate this issue of the Newsletter to the very special people who preserved and protected this unique urban resource. From Minna Hall and Harriet Hemenway who gathered together the advocates who fought to protect birds which led to the founding of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896, to the Town of Brookline Town Meeting Members Ferris Hall and Jackie Fried who led the initiative to acquire Hall's Pond as a nature sanctuary when the site was threatened with development in 1975, to Josephine Albrecht who in 1976 founded *The Friends of Hall's Pond* as the first Friends group to support open space in Brookline and served as its President until her death in 1994, to all the members of the Brookline Conservation Commission and staff who have made the Sanctuary



Save the Date!

**An Autumn Fundraiser for
The Friends of Hall's Pond**

Sunday, October 14, 2012

3:00–4:00 p.m.

Guided Tours of
Hall's Pond Nature Sanctuary

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Reception and Presentation

Please join us for

The Friends of Hall's Pond ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Wheelock College Brookline Campus,
36 Hawes Street, Brookline, Mass

5:30–6:30 p.m. Guided Tours of Hall's
Pond Nature Sanctuary

6:30–7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
Reception

7:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Shawn P. Carey,
Migration Productions
"Birds and Other Wildlife
of Massachusetts"



a priority for capital investment and sustainable maintenance, to those who worked with Barbara Mackey on "A Plan for Hall's Pond Sanctuary" and with Gail Fenton, Randolph Meiklejohn and Tom Brady on the most recent Management Plan, and to all the members past and present of *The Friends of Hall's Pond*, we offer our thanks and appreciation for their gift of time, their shared expertise and their continuing commitment to preserve and protect Hall's Pond for the benefit of wildlife and the education of the public. We honor the legacy, we pledge to work vigorously to support the mission and we invite all of you to join us now and in the future.

SANCTUARY NEWS



“The Richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration”

Claude Monet

Spring/Summer 2012

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Ten Reasons to Watch Birds

By Fred Bouchard

Photos by Shawn Carey, keynote speaker this coming June 20th for the *Friends of Hall's Pond* Annual Meeting,

*I've wandered the world in search of life:
bird by bird I've come to know the earth.*

-- Pablo Neruda

“WHY WATCH BIRDS?” ask skeptical, even dismissive, acquaintances.

“I’ll tell you why,” say I, reciting my list of “ten good things birding does for you.”

Gets you outdoors. Stretch your legs hiking pondside paths and boardwalks (or even backroads, woods, mountains, beaches!) seeking elusive winged critters.

Brings you close to nature. Birds have inspired and awed mankind in song and saga since dawn-age. Birds not only fly, but hover, wheel, soar, dive, and migrate astonishing distances. Renew your instinctual confidence and shed your fears.



Cedar Waxwing

Sharpens your eyes.

Learning the fine details of bird observation (field marks, habits, movements, plumages that change seasonally and/or with maturity) necessary for accurate identification also hones your visual discrimination and general awareness.

Retunes your ears.

Many birds have beautiful songs and complex calls. Learn the

communicative noises made by the 300+ species found in the Bay State each year. (Make that 900 nationally, and 9,500 worldwide. Gasp!)

Piques interest in sciences. You’ll soon learn little facts about botany, geology, zoology, geography, natural history. Which berries do **Cedar Waxwings**



Red-tailed Hawk

prefer? Why don’t **Wood Ducks** nest in oak holes? How is it that some **Canada Geese** migrate and others don’t? How long has it been since **Cardinals** were ‘rare birds’ in Massachusetts? It won’t be long before you’re finding out, looking up, or hearing about these curiosities.

Affords social outlets, as needed. Be a joiner and find kindred souls in Massachusetts Audubon Society or Brookline Bird Club, actually a statewide group. Be a loner for quiet time with Mother Nature. Best of all might be birding with a family member or friend or two.

Improves map-reading, sense of direction. Finding a house on a signed street is one thing, but finding a 5” **Nashville Warbler** in a 10-acre park takes fine-tuning of your orienting skills. MapQuest and GPS will take you just so far, then rely on learned homing skills and sharpened instincts.

Teaches ecology and habitat preservation. Everyone talks the ‘green revolution’ talk: hybrid cars, wind farms, mini-fluorescents, canvas grocery bags, lights out, composting. But who walks the walk? Birders have been doing it long before it was hot; and the birds themselves, with their resilient adaptive powers of survival, much longer.



Northern Cardinal

“Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets.
To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel”

Aldo Leopold



Blue Jay

Provides amusement for five minutes or five hours.

You can bird actively during a ten-minute stroll or an all-day hike. All you need to get going is a good field-guide (Sibley’s or Peterson’s, \$25), sturdy shoes, brimmed cap, field-card and notebook, and decent binoculars. I’d advise making inquiries regarding size and style, but expect to spend from \$3–500 for bird-serviceable starter ‘bins’.

Travels easily with you world-wide. Pop your bins in your carry-on, read up on *The Birds of Thailand* or *Costa Rica*, get you a ticket, and you can go forth and bird our shrinking globe.

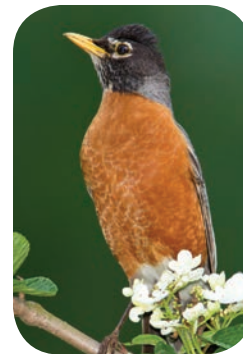
Finally, two vitally important items to factor in: incomparable aesthetic beauty and the gambler’s surprise element. Any birder can vamp on these for hours! Don’t get me started.

Birds year-round at Hall’s Pond include many regulars. **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** overhead. Flocks of **Starlings**, **Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** on the ball-field. Bright-red **Cardinals** wheet-wheet!-ing in the trees, **House Sparrows** chirping in the bushes. The local **Red-tailed Hawk**



Black-capped Chickadee

being pestered by **crows** and **jays**. **Chickadees**, **nuthatches**, and **titmice** on the paths. And the now ubiquitous **Robins** just about anywhere!



American Robin

Birds in May double with arriving nesters and northward migrants. **Chimney Swifts**, **Swallows** (**Rough-winged** and **Tree**) skim the pond; **Grackles** and **Redwinged Blackbirds** clack-clack in the phragmites reeds; a **Great Blue Heron**

Contribution Form

The Friends of Hall’s Pond was founded in 1976 by Josephine Albrecht and others who established a public private partnership: making a commitment to partner with the Brookline Conservation Commission as stewards of the newly acquired Hall’s Pond Nature Sanctuary. The *Friends* are committed to the maintenance, preservation and protection of this unique urban resource. Our initiatives include Community Work Days, tending the Formal Garden and raising funds for the Horticulture Fund.

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$25 INDIVIDUAL \$35 FAMILY
Additional Donation \$_____ Amount enclosed \$_____

I am interested in:

- Investing in the Horticulture Fund
- Community Work Days
- Working in the Formal Garden
- Maintenance Team

Please make checks payable to
The Friends of Hall’s Pond, Inc.

Send to: The Friends of Hall’s Pond
c/o Betsy Shure Gross
25 Edgehill Road, Brookline MA 02445-7702

Renewing Members — to save trees and funds, *The Friends of Hall’s Pond* will not send separate renewal forms by mail as in the past. Please use this form and the enclosed envelope to make your generous donations.

We are most grateful for your continued support.

For further information about membership, volunteering, or to contact the *Friends*, please call 617-731-1448 or write: betsyshuregross@gmail.com. Our organization is interested in your communication and encourages your involvement.

The Friends of Hall’s Pond is a 501(c)3 organization.

Let us know if you'd prefer to receive your Friends newsletter by e-mail

“Birth, life, and death—each took place on the hidden side of a leaf”

Toni Morrison

Board Profile

JOE COLLINS

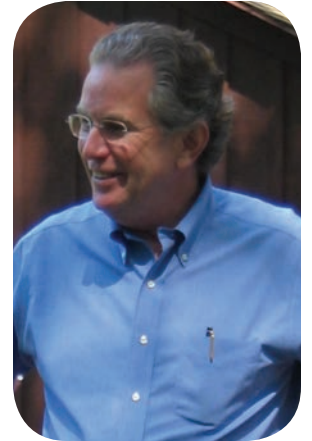
In this issue the board dedicates our Board Profile to our Treasurer, Joe Collins, in appreciation of his long and careful service to *The Friends of Hall’s Pond*. Every



Joe welcomes Stevie Wonder to the Massachusetts Association for the Blind.

year, Joe keeps our financial house in order! From paying our bills on time to filing our required documents as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Joe takes seriously our corporate responsibilities.

His involvement in the sanctuary dates back to his former role as Chief Executive of the *Massachusetts Association for the Blind* (MAB) which he served for fourteen years before retiring in 2007. There is now a Joseph M. Collins Human Service Award at MAB, named in his honor. While at MAB, Joe worked with the *Friends of Amory Woods* which abuts the MAB property on Ivy Street and is now incorporated into the Hall’s Pond Sanctuary.



We acknowledge Joe’s work as our Treasurer with gratitude and want our members to know he is ever vigilant on behalf of our resources.

Thank You, Joe.

or **Black-crowned Night Heron** stalks and fishes. Less obvious are singing warblers pond-side (**Common Yellowthroat**, **Northern Waterthrush**) and upland thrushes (**Hermit**, **Swainson’s**, **Wood**). Perched on any overhanging branch may



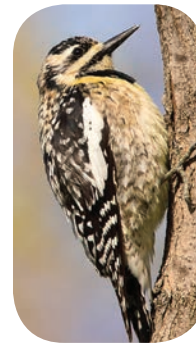
Redwinged Blackbird



Black-crowned Night Heron

be flamboyant **Eastern Kingbird**, modest **Eastern Phoebe**, bull-headed, quick-cackling **Belted Kingfisher**, or garish, day-glo **Baltimore Oriole**. Transients include **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (formerly nesting

at far corner of Amory Woods by Amory Street) and apple-blossom loving warblers like **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Wilson’s**.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

as the young beg and forage, and migrants join the summer residents in gearing up for the often long southward trek.

Good birdin’, Brookliners!



Common Yellowthroat

In June and July, matters quiet down as breeding birds transfer their energies from territorial displays and mating games to raising their nestlings, but pick up again in August and September,



Belted Kingfisher

“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

In and Around the Garden

Is it or was it REALLY Spring? Did we have a winter? What do we have to look forward to during the remainder of 2012? Nature always provides us with surprises but the Volunteer Crews from the *Friends of Hall's Pond* can handle just about anything!

We would like to acknowledge all of the hard working volunteers who have made a significant difference with their work in the Sanctuary and in the Formal Garden. This work has not gone unappreciated by the Town of Brookline, our partners in the maintenance at Hall's Pond. Our storm-ravaged sanctuary has really come back to life and it is safe, accessible and well maintained. It takes a lot of work to create and sustain our true urban gem. The continuing efforts in stewardship in the sanctuary are led by our board member, Frank Caro, and involve many hands for many reasons.

With the help of the *Friends*, the Town has begun to replace trees lost in the storms of 2010. A number of large trees were added including *Carya glabra* (Pignut hickory), *Nyssa sylvatica* (Tupelo), *Abies fraseri* (fraser fir), and a number of *Aesculus* (horsechestnut). A *Crataegus viridis* (Winter King Hawthorne) was donated and put in the formal garden as a memorial to Joanne Bowman. This compliments the previously donated *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) memorial tree for Marc Fried and the *Ulmus Americana* (Elm) honoring Nancy and Ferris Hall. This year we have plans for *Sassafras*, *Cercis Canadensis* (Eastern redbud), *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood), and *Salix nigra* (black wil-



During one of our frequent Maintenance Team volunteer sessions, herbalists Katja Swift and her student inform Frank Caro and Devora Jonas of the many uses of plants.

low), and these are just some of the trees we are looking for to enhance the existing plant community. All of the plant material being used in the Sanctuary is native, has some floral or fauna intrigue not only to provide education to human visitors to the sanctuary but also to provide food or shelter to our wildlife residents and visitors as well.

We are all enthralled with the splendor of trees—but those entrusted with the restoration and preservation of the sanctuary always remember and respond to the needs of what is in the under story as well. Numerous shrubs, perennials and bulbs were planted in the sanctuary last year. *Rhus aromatica* (aromatic sumac), *Vaccinium corymbosm* (lowbush blueberry), *Osmunda cinnamonea* (cinnamon fern), *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern), *Smilacina racemosa* (false Solomon seal), just to name a few. During the Fall Community Day, a diversity of bulbs were added to the Formal Garden area including crocus, tulip, and daffodils for early Spring color. Many of the bulbs were carefully planted by a local Cub Scout Troop and have provided pleasure to the many spring visitors to the garden and Sanctuary.

To all of you who continue to provide support, both financial and volunteer labor, to the stewardship of the sanctuary, abundant thanks. Your gift of time and funding enables us to continue our partnership with the Town of Brookline to replace trees and enhance plant materials for birds and wildlife.

We welcome you to the Sanctuary to see what is being accomplished, and to enjoy this spectacular urban resource. *We hope to see you soon.*

The Friends of Hall's Pond BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founder: Jo Albrecht	Co-Presidents: Ellen Forrester Betsy Shure Gross	Treasurer: Joseph Collins
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Board Members:

Fred Bouchard	Matt Garvey	Michael Sandman
Harry Breger	Ferris Hall	Nan St. Goar
Dana Brigham	Chobee Hoy	Tommy Vitolo
Frank Caro	Deanne Morse	Bruce Wolff
Gail Fenton	Renee Portanova	Janet Wynn
	Deborah Raptopoulos	

Mission Statement

The Friends of Hall's Pond is dedicated to the preservation and protection of Hall's Pond Sanctuary in Brookline, Massachusetts. Through the encouragement and coordination of volunteers in education, conservation and maintenance, the Friends seek to ensure a healthy future for this valuable urban resource.

Please join us for

The Friends of Hall's Pond ANNUAL MEETING

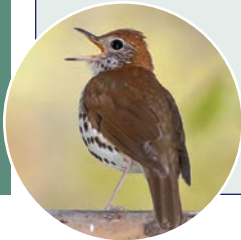
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Community Day 2012

What a great day we had. Early May, the sun came out, the wind was calm and many, many folks young and old came out to enjoy the day! A number of people from BU and a local boy scout troop came to help the regular group of volunteers help to replant an area. The area near the shed and tennis courts was once a mown lawn. Over a year ago, through collaboration between the Town of Brookline and *The Friends of Hall's Pond*, it was decided to do less mowing in our sanctuary. To aid in the progression from mown lawn to woodland edge, nearly 170 plants were installed. These plants ranged from grasses to shrubs and trees. There is more to be done so keep your eyes open and watch the changes.



Gavin Brady, a young steward of the Sanctuary, seen working alongside Dan Doherty. Dan is a former owner of Minna Hall's home and former Friends of Hall's Pond Leadership Team who continues his commitment to the Sanctuary.



Priscilla Smith

Maintenance Team Seeks Volunteers

We welcome any additional volunteers to help in a range of chores in the formal garden, and in removing invasive species in the Sanctuary. We plan to be active every week or two for two-hour work sessions on weekdays and/or weekends. No experience is necessary, and we will provide training and equipment. For more information, please contact Frank Caro at frank.g.caro@gmail.com or 617-739-9228.

Friends of Hall's Pond
c/o Betsy Shure Gross
25 Edgehill Road
Brookline MA 02445-7702

