



Friends of Hall's Pond

Fall/Winter 2011

A Message from the Presidents

by Betsy Shure Gross and Ellen Forrester, Co-Presidents

In "The Nature Principle," Richard Louv writes,

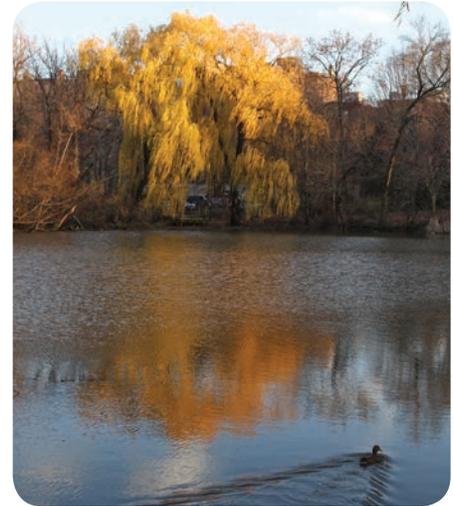
"A meaningful connection to nature is fundamental to our spirit and survival, as individuals and as a species....."

Our Society must do more than talk about the importance of nature; it must ensure that people in every kind of neighborhood have every day access to natural spaces, places and experiences."



Japanese art? No, this is a photo taken last summer by David Lucal, one of the winners of our Photo Contest.

You will note the donor solicitation envelope in this newsletter which now replaces our traditional year end snail-mail request for contributions. We are saving trees and money spent on stamps and are instead, dedicating those monies to new plantings in the sanctuary. We believe that this is a responsible



BRUCE WOLFF

WELL Reader, wouldn't Richard Louv be thrilled to visit our Hall's Pond Nature Sanctuary in densely populated Coolidge Corner, the bustling core of Brookline's main shopping area, adjacent to two stops on the Green Line, next to four-season active recreation at Amory Park. He, and all other visitors will find a sanctuary, a wildlife refuge, a place for quiet contemplation, a place preserved forever by the Town of Brookline Conservation Commission and the members of *The Friends of Hall's Pond*. Our goal remains what it has been since our founding 36 years ago: to use this unique space gently; our mission is preservation, our mandate is protection and enhancement of this urban resource and our task is collaborative education for stewardship of these 3½ acres of pond, wetlands, uplands and formal garden for now and for posterity.

We invite, indeed we encourage and cajole you, to join us in our endeavors. We hope that you are already *Friends of Hall's Pond* members and four-season visitors to Hall's Pond, and if you are, we urge you to join one of our committees and become more deeply involved in the life of the sanctuary. If you are not now a visitor and a member, we hope that you will become one. We seek your involvement and your investment to allow us to serve as effective stewards for the sanctuary as partners to the Town.

decision and we sincerely hope that you will agree and use the enclosed envelope to send funds for which we will be grateful. Come and visit the sanctuary and see how your donations are put to work.



The collaboration between the Town and the Friends keeps the sanctuary in good repair. Ongoing safety problems from fallen trees, clean up, and replacement, is a priority.

SANCTUARY NEWS



“The sun, with all those plants revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.”

— Galileo

Winter Socks In at Halls Pond

by Fred Bouchard

*He walks the shallow with an antic grace.
The great feet break the ridges of the sand,
The long eye notes the minnow's hiding place.
His beak is quicker than a human hand.*

—Theodore Roethke



Tree Sparrow

DUSK, like the sharp breeze, curls through the vista of yellow willows lining the Pond. As the pink-orange glow dims, a thickening hush muffles in, with a Cardinal's *tink!* in a thicket, a dog's bark, the C Line's whine. Pond life as observed a decade ago doesn't change much, winter to winter. Old Great Blue, the heron who's our Pond's herald, immortalized in Roethke's lines above, is probably last summer's bird. He'll last 'til the deep freeze nudges him reluctantly on, perhaps to return with ice melt come March. He may make it to coastal Connecticut, Long Island, or Delmarva, and slouch under wetter snows and less stormy slings through the coldest of it.



White-throated Sparrow

Listen for a mixed flock of Sparrows: Songs *chit!* in the rustling cattails; Tree Sparrows,



Junco

Whitethroats, heard by that hiss, slip through the formal garden's furled rhododendrons; if you're lucky, a few fat, ruddy Fox in the upland behind the stucco garage along Ivy St. (Sometimes a merry troop of Juncos trill and flit their white-edged black tails there.) There's often a herd of 'chirruping' House (not 'real' sparrows, but weaver finches) holding caucus by the tennis court gate.

Clucking indignantly, Robins stake out the last of the winterberry and holly, though near-silent, high-trilling masked marauders – sinuous, sleek Cedar Waxwings – may eventually beat their time. A lone Mockingbird may fend off the jays or a late towhee or catbird from his stash of red holly behind the



Cedar Waxwing



Mockingbird



Tufted Titmouse

formal garden's bench. Squirrels, having cracked and stowed the last of the oak-nuts, forage through the rusty chaff under the Japanese maple and slip through the swooning asters. Curious Chickadees approach close and *zeee*, and Titmice *twitter-twit*, flashing their grey crests and miniature pop-eyes.

In the deepening indigo, crows sail, ominous black stealthy angled shapes, over the pines, towards their evening roost. Polyglot Blue Jays softly *cab cab cab* like titmice, raspily *schkree* like Red-tailed Hawks (like the good mimics they are) or do their alarmed *toot-toot* between friends.

Trod the creaking or crackling (if icy) boardwalk, through leaves of rusty oak, ruddy maple, with the bare apple and black cherry.

You might sudden upon a Merlin bathing in an icy vernal pool, or be surprised by his darting through the trees. He flies up, shakes and composes himself on a branch, leisurely fluffing to dry on one yellow foot.



Red-tailed Hawk

Towards March, the air stays cold, but the sun grows warm; daffodils perk up, raising yellow flowers, poking out green shoots. White snowdrop and bluebell persevere. A crow dines on remnants of squirrel from the podium of a high oak stump near the boardwalk: is that leftovers from a Red-tail's or Merlin's breakfast? He grabs his grisly beakful and moves silently off. Late March reminder: check the gnarly oaks along Amory St. for subtle signs of Sapsuckers.

Other winter denizens include Herring Gulls overhead, flocks of Starlings near Beacon Street, Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves pecking around the ball-field. The local Red-tailed Hawk may sit atop 1100 Beacon's roof garden, or be pestered by crows and jays. Mallards dabble at the edges 'til heavy frost. Even Ol' Great Blue may groan and laboriously lift off, headed for the Fens, Emerald Necklace, or the Charles...

Get out and stretch in the taut gray mornings with the birds and trees, ye Brookliners!



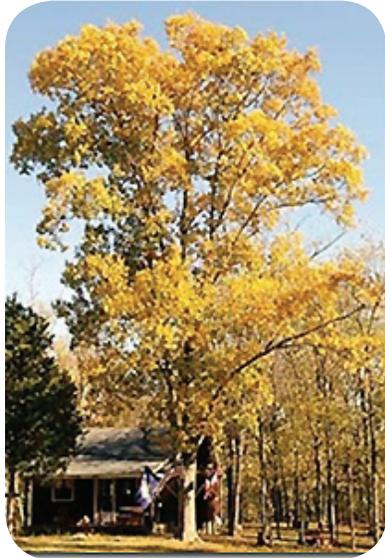
Merlin

“To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.”

— Helen Keller

Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)

With your help and generous contributions, *The Friends of Hall’s Pond* and the Town of Brookline have begun replanting some of the trees lost due to storms in 2010 and 2011. Early this fall, two new large Hickory (*Carya glabra*) were installed in the sanctuary along with a number of Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus*).



While still young, these native hickory trees have a smooth grey bark and tapered trunk. As they

age, they will develop small, astringent nuts, and the bark will begin forming diamond patterned ridges. It can become quite a tall tree (60'), have a somewhat narrow crown, yet still be an important part of the tree canopy. It is well known for its terrific golden yellow fall color. In Donald Wymans’ book “Trees for American Gardens” he says that a well-placed specimen can be just as beautiful as an American Elm. While the nuts have little economic value, the tree itself has some importance. It is an important timber tree known for its hard wood and therefore good for fuel and tool handles and will provide some value to songbirds and small mammals. Another fascinating fact is that along with strong tool handles, hickory was the original type of wood used for baseball bats!

Watch next spring as we continue to replace plants that were lost and damaged in the sanctuary. The Board members of *The Friends of Hall’s Pond* thank you and asks for your continued support of our horticultural fund.

Above: An example of what our new Pignut Hickory may look like when it matures in a few years.

Right: Bruce Wolff and Frank Caro by a mound of invasive vines, mostly Porcelainberries and Asian Bittersweet, pulled from one small section of the Sanctuary.

Hall’s Pond Maintenance Team Seeking New Volunteers

We are seeking additional volunteers for a team that is active from spring through fall in maintaining Hall’s Pond. Working in small groups, we do a wide range of chores in the formal garden. In the Sanctuary we carefully remove selected invasive species. In the 2012 season, we plan to be active every week or two for two hour work sessions. All the work we do is consistent with the overall maintenance plan for the Sanctuary. The timing of the work sessions will depend on the availability of our volunteers. We are particularly eager to attract volunteers who will be part of our team on a regular basis. No experience is necessary. We will provide training and equipment.

The main benefit is an increased appreciation of Hall’s Pond. Volunteers will also learn sound garden maintenance strategies. They will also learn how to identify invasive species and to remove them effectively.

We will build on the success of our efforts in 2011. Thanks to abundant rain, moderate temperatures, and our persistent efforts, the formal garden was attractive throughout the gardening season. We also had some success in keeping the invasive species under control.

For more information, contact Frank Caro at frank.g.caro@gmail.com or 617-739-9228.



“I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.”

— Walt Whitman

Board Profile

FRANCIS G. CARO

Francis (Frank) Caro, PhD is a Professor Emeritus of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is a former director of the University of Massachusetts Gerontology Institute where he remains active as a fellow. He is the editor of *The Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, an academic journal with an international audience. His current research interests include Productive Aging and strategies that older people can use to maximize their independence.

He is a Sociologist by training with a PhD from the University of Minnesota. He has also held academic positions at Marquette University, University of Colorado, and Brandeis University. In addition, he served as the research director at the Community Service Society of New York.



Frank lives in Brookline where he is Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Brookline Community Aging Network (Brookline-CAN). Brookline-CAN calls attention to features that make Brookline attractive for older people. Brookline-CAN supports members in their efforts to live successfully in Brookline and to contribute to civic life.

He has been a Town Meeting Member for 9 years and a member of the Town’s Advisory Committee for 8 years.

Currently, Frank is a board member of *The Friends of Hall’s Pond* where he is a leader of a volunteer group of gardeners. For a few seasons he and his group of volunteers have been taking care of the regular maintenance of the formal garden. He has also been a leader in the implementation of the work plan for the sanctuary. This is a permitted activity within the sanctuary that carefully works within the confines of the work plan approved by the conservation commission on the maintenance, management, and stewardship of areas within the Hall’s Pond Sanctuary.

Thank you Frank!



Above: Tom Brady, Town Conservation Administrator, Tree Warden, and Town Arborist, leads *Friends* members on a tour of the sanctuary before the 2011 Annual Meeting last June. Continued support and ongoing information on progress and management is critical to the continued stewardship and management of the sanctuary.

Right: Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is nice to look at but naughty indeed. Highly invasive, it strangles trees and competes with native fruit-producing plants. Such invasive species, as well as broken and downed trees from storms, require constant attention and regular maintenance in the Sanctuary.



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

— Frank Lloyd Wright

**The Friends of Hall’s Pond
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

*Liaison, Brookline Conservation Commission

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.

Calling all photographers

Last year’s Photo Contest brought us all many new viewpoints of the Sanctuary. *Friends* members are encouraged to continue submitting images relating to Hall’s Pond for inclusion in future newsletters. Please send to FriendsofHallsPond@gmail.com

**The Friends of Hall’s Pond
Community Work Days**

(Spring 2012 date to be announced)

Each spring and fall the Friends organize work parties to remove trash, invasive plants, and restore the sanctuary with new plantings. Gloves, tools, and refreshments are provided. No experience necessary. Meet at the main entrance accessible by Amory Field on Amory Street.

The Community Work Days are co-sponsored by *The Friends of Hall’s Pond* and the Brookline Conservation Commission. For more information, contact Tommy Vitolo at tjvitolo@tommyvitolo.com, or Renee Potanova at canyoudigit.renee@gmail.com, or the Conservation Commission at 617-730-2088.

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: \$15 INDIVIDUAL \$25 FAMILY

Additional Donation \$_____ Amount enclosed \$_____

I am interested in:

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

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

Send to:
The Friends of Hall’s Pond
25 Edgehill Road, Brookline 02445-7702

Renewing Members — to save 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 write or call: betsyshuregross@gmail.com or 617-731-1448. Our organization is interested in your communication and encourages your involvement.

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



Community Day / November 20, 2011



ELLEN FORRESTER



BRUCE WOLFF



ELLEN FORRESTER

Above: At the fall Community Day, Devora Jonas was honored and presented with a plaque, reading: *“With deep appreciation from the Friends of Hall’s Pond for your decades of devoted volunteerism to the Hall’s Pond Nature Sanctuary. It is the caring and commitment of volunteers like you which has preserved and protected this unique urban resource.”*

Above left: Members of Cub Scouts Pack 6 and parents Hayden, Taylor and Charla Whitley, John Finkle, Susan Gilzow, Hall’s Pond volunteer Melinda Leon, and board member Janet Wynn. The *Emerald Necklace Conservancy* provided pocket maps. Other groups involved included *Bountiful Brookline* and the *Fenway Garden Society*. Also attending were Stephanie Springer, the Town of Brookline’s Environmental Educator, and forms were available from the town’s DPW on compost bins available to residents.

Left: Quilt made by Emily Horne of the *American Chestnut Project*, pictured with board member Renee Portanova (green sweater), and town ranger Brandon Schmitt.

Friends of Hall’s Pond
P.O. Box 1844
Brookline MA 02446

