Friends of Adams Farm
Newsletter

Fall 2020

Number 57

FOAF Annual Meeting on October 20
FOAF members are invited to the FOAF Annual Meeting which will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, in the pavilion at Adams Farm. There are currently two open positions on the Board of Directors that need to be filled. We encourage members, particularly those interested in filling the open positions, to attend and vote on the Directors and Officers for next year. Open discussion will follow to answer questions, suggest activities and discuss any other business the membership would like to bring up.

Upcoming Events at Adams Farm
Cooler weather heralds the coming of fall and with it, gorgeous fall colors to enjoy on your next hike at the Farm. Grab your family or some friends and take some time to unwind on the trails during these particularly stressful times.

October
25 Young Life Walk-a-thon
31 Golden Opportunities Dog Dash

November
1 Community Garden Closing Day

Seed Library Needs New Manager
The Seed Library is in need of a new manager. Susan Packenham, who started the Seed Library a few years ago, recently stepped down from the FOAF Board of Directors and is ready to pass on the reins of the Seed Library as well. If you’re interested in helping maintain this wonderful source of non-GMO seeds for local gardeners, please contact yvette@adams-farm.com.

Music in the Barn Concerts
Music lovers were treated to two wonderful outdoor concerts in the pavilion this summer sponsored by the Friends of Adams Farm, one in July and one in August. Holding the concerts outdoors made it easier to comply with Covid restrictions, since those attending could get a great seat while practicing social distancing.

Fiona Campbell performs at the July concert.

The crowd enjoys the music at the August concert.

The concerts featured local performers Fiona Campbell, Wayne Dunnebart, Dave Penza, Dave Perry, and Matt Tremble who played familiar tunes and some of their own compositions as well. While sunny weather graced the July concert, clouds appeared quickly at the start of the August concert. Undeterred, the intrepid audience stuck it out through not one but two thunderstorms that rolled through the area as the musicians played on.

The FOAF Board of Directors hopes to continue the Music in the Barn outdoor concert series next summer. If you or someone you know would be interested in performing at the concerts, please contact yvette@adams-farm.com.
**Community Garden Update**

All in all, the 2020 gardening season at the Community Garden was a happy success. There were extended periods of rain at the beginning and weeks of intense heat later on. Some gardeners had more success with tomatoes than zucchinis while others had the opposite experience, but everyone’s hard work paid off in one way or another. Many pounds of produce generated by the Norwood Evening Garden Club plot were donated to needy organizations. The lovely new Sharing Garden created its own place of serenity.

As the gardening season comes to an end, the Garden is full of gorgeous marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, and other flowers coming into their own among the last of the vegetables. The Community Garden will close for the season on Sunday, November 1.

Registration forms for plots in next year’s Community Garden will be available on the Adams Farm website soon. New gardeners may apply for a plot on January 1, 2021, by sending in their completed registration form to the Friends of Adams Farm, P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081, along with a check for the $30 rental fee. Please note that checks should be made out to Town of Walpole – AFC Fee Account. If you have any questions about the Community Garden or renting a plot, please contact Barbara Johnson at magwanda52@msn.com.

**Changes to Charitable Giving for 2020**

*with excerpts from the Spring 2020 edition of Leading the Way, a Mass Audubon publication*

The recently enacted CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) provides unique opportunities to make or increase your gifts to charitable organizations like FOAF this year. Check with your attorney or tax preparer to see how these opportunities can benefit you.

- For 2020 only, donors who itemize may elect to apply a new 100% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit to cash gifts to public charities. The limit is reduced dollar for dollar by other itemized charitable deductions. This means a donor who deducts 30% of their AGI in long term appreciated security or property gifts and elects the 100% of AGI for qualified cash contributions will be able to also deduct up to 70% of their AGI for qualified cash gifts, a total deduction of up to 100% of AGI.
- For 2020 only, donors who do not itemize are eligible for a $300 ($600 for married couples) charitable deduction. It is an above-the-line adjustment to income that will reduce the donor’s AGI and thereby reduce taxable income. The deduction is not available for Donor Advised Funds or for cash deductions carried forward from a previous year.
- For 2020, most donors will not have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, and most other defined contribution plans. Donors can still make Qualified Charitable Distributions from RMD accounts beginning in the year they’re 70½ even though RMD ages changed for most to age 72.

To learn more about Mass Audubon and its wildlife sanctuaries, visit [https://www.massaudubon.org/](https://www.massaudubon.org/).

**Butterfly Garden News**

*by Roy Noepel, FOAF President and Butterfly Garden Manager*

The Butterfly Garden has been open this entire year, welcoming first-time and frequent visitors alike. The Friends of Adams Farm funded a major pathway renovation project which included 9 yards of gravel and weed prevention fabric. Our goal of keeping the pesky weeds away succeeded, as well as enhancing the walking experience in the Garden.

Volunteer Axel Ekberg watered and weeded the garden over a dozen times this summer. The time spent towards his school service hours, so it was a super win-win situation. Volunteers have stepped up from the Community Garden to help weed as well. The new plants purchased in 2018 and 2019 are thriving despite the dry weather.

This year marks the passing of Dorothy O'Shaughnessy, who created the Butterfly Garden back in 2009 with the help of a local landscaper. It’s thanks to her vision and determination that we have the beautiful Butterfly Garden to enjoy today. One of my favorite memories of this summer was seeing a family set up chairs in the center of the Butterfly Garden to enjoy the free music during one of the Music in the Barn concerts.

Fall marks a time of trimming back areas of the Garden to ensure that sunshine reaches the lower plants and flowers. Watch for this work to begin soon.

**Falling Leaves and Climate Change**

*excerpted from an article in the Fall 2019 issue of the Mass Audubon newsletter Leading the Way by Lucy Gertz, Statewide Education Programs Manager at Mass Audubon*

Deciduous trees drop their leaves and are dormant through winter. If the weather conditions are right – bright and sunny days followed by cold but not freezing nights – the trees present a brilliant display of color as they surrender their leaves.

As the days shorten and temperatures cool, a narrow ring of tissue forms at the base of every leaf, corking the flow of liquid nutrients both ways. As each leaf dries out, its supply of chlorophyll disappears and any leftover glucose is trapped inside. As the remaining chlorophyll breaks down, the green fades and the leaf’s other pigments, xanthophyll and carotene, are unmasked, finally getting a chance to show their colors – yellow and orange-red. In
trees that produce high amounts of glucose, vivid reds appear. Chemical changes in drying leaves can also produce another dark red pigment, anthocyanin, which creates truly rich fall color.

Massachusetts loses 13 acres of open space to development every day, including many acres of forest. The red maple swamps and mature northern deciduous forests that produce the most brilliant fall displays are also at risk from climate change. Warmer temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are driving forests northward, to higher latitudes, and areas more suitable for success. The ways to preserve these important habitats and our fall splendor is to protect woodlands of maple, oak, birch, beech, and sassafras from development and to minimize climate impacts.

Keep an Eye Out for Mushrooms!

When out hiking at the Farm, particularly in the woods, your eyes may be drawn to the beautiful leafy canopy overhead. But if you take the time to look closely along the sides of the path you’re following, you may catch sight of some hidden gems – stunningly colorful mushrooms, frilly fungus, and luscious moss decorating the edges of the trail. Here are photos of just a few of these spotted on a recent hike on the Orange Trail.

**Hiking the Orange Trail**

For a great one-hour hilly hike at the Farm, try the Orange Trail. Follow the main Blue Trail from the parking lot and look for #103 on the left soon after you enter the woods. This marks the beginning of the Orange Trail.

At first the trail runs parallel to the field behind the volleyball courts, then winds through the woods, heading downhill and then uphill again, crossing the remains of an old stone wall.

![The Orange Trail passes through a break in an old stone wall.](image)

Pines, maples and oaks line the trail which soon heads down a short, steep and rocky slope, followed by a root-strewn uphill clamber and then a sweeping downhill curve. The winding, rocky path gradually climbs, only to head downhill again into a grove of pine trees.

![A rocky section of the Orange Trail](image)

The trail skirts the backyards of several houses on the left and eventually turns right to reenter the woods. About 10 minutes later the trail forks at #121. Turn left to stay on the Orange Trail and after passing a few more houses, turn right at #122, the next fork in the trail.

![Bear to the right at the fork to stay on the Orange Trail.](image)
Shortly after that the Orange Trail crosses another trail marked in red dots on the trail map. Take a sharp right, going behind the tree with the #142 on it to stay on the Orange Trail. A fallen tree suspended horizontally soon appears on the right and the trail levels out with low bushes on either side.

A fallen tree makes a horizontal line on the Orange Trail.

At #132 turn right to stay on the Orange Trail. You’ll pass a boulder on the left and a tree with a large growth on its trunk on the right.

A large growth on a tree flanking the Orange Trail.

A few minutes later you’ll enter a small glade ringed by pine trees and you’re just steps away from the final downhill stretch of the trail leading back to the Blue Trail at #104. Turn right onto the Blue Trail and follow it back to the parking lot.

Total hiking time: 1 hour
Distance: 2.25 miles
Difficulty: moderate

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**Donating Appreciated Investments: A Win-Win for Donors and Charities Alike**

If you’re looking for a way to make your charitable dollars go farther and make more of a difference to a cause you care about, consider donating appreciated investments directly to the Friends of Adams Farm portfolio. A charitable contribution of long-term appreciated securities – i.e., stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time – is one of the most tax-efficient of all ways to give.

By taking advantage of the applicable tax incentives, donors can significantly increase the amount of funds available to them for charitable giving. Your tax-deductible gift is an important resource to FOAF for major projects and improvements to the Farm. For more information on donating securities to FOAF, contact Yvette at yvette@adams-farm.com.

**Time to Renew Your Membership**

If you haven’t already done so, now is the time to renew your membership for 2020! Your membership fee goes toward maintenance costs such as sanitary facilities, electricity, and haying the fields. It also allows you to receive our quarterly newsletters and other email updates about happenings at Adams Farm.

Currently, 300 individuals and families are members of the Friends of Adams Farm. Please take the time to talk to others about Adams Farm and the benefits of open space, as well as the many activities that take place at the Farm. Encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to join the ranks of our members!

FOAF membership dues are as follows:

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*Larger contributions gratefully accepted!

Membership forms are available in the map box at the Farm, in the Selectmen’s office at Town Hall, and on the Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com), and should be sent, along with a check made out to The Friends of Adams Farm, to P.O. 725, Walpole, MA 02081.

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**Dedicated to the Preservation of Adams Farm**

Located at 999 North Street, North Walpole, MA
Friends of Adams Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081
www.adams-farm.com