

Friends of Adams Farm

Newsletter

Spring 2017

Number 45

Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

The warm weather has finally returned and the trails at Adams Farm await! Stop by for a quick stroll around the Butterfly Garden or take a longer hike into the woods to look for signs of spring.

April

- 18 Norfolk Hunt Club Drag Hunt
- 30 Community Garden Opening Day

May

- 7 2.5K Alopecia Run Fundraiser
- 13 Moyamoya Fundraiser
- 21 Cub Scout Pack 44 Rocket Derby

June

- 3 Plant Swap

July

- 29, 30 Barn Burner Bike Race

Spring Parking Guidelines

Spring rains have made the front field on the right side of the entrance road when approaching the barn very wet. Please do not drive or park on this field, as this could cause damage and interfere with haying later in the summer.

Help Needed to Spread Mulch in May

Crocuses are in bloom at the Butterfly Garden, a harbinger of spring! We're looking forward to a delivery



of mulch donated by Southridge Farm at the end of the month. Boy Scouts from Troop 44 have offered to spread the mulch, but we can use all the help we can get.

If you'd like to help spruce up the Butterfly Garden, grab a shovel or a rake and some gardening gloves and head on over to the Farm on Saturday, May 6. We'll be spreading the mulch from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Goals for this year include preventing the grass from invading the garden beds and keeping the garden adequately watered. Keep an eye out for a Sign-up Genius with the watering schedule.

Treasure Hunting at Adams Farm!

by Alan Marshall, FOAF member

If you've always wanted to hunt for hidden treasure, did you know there is a global game that does just that? Geocaching is a global outdoor game where players hide caches throughout the world. Geocaching became popular back in the year 2000 when President Clinton

signed a law allowing GPS units to determine your exact coordinates. Now there are over 3 million geocaches hidden worldwide.

Three of these geocaches are located at Adams Farm. All you need is a GPS unit (your smartphone can act as one) and the coordinates of the treasure (geocache). While it is a free activity for a limited number of the caches, the ones at Adams Farm require you to become a Premium member to access their coordinates. Premium membership costs \$29.99 per year. If you're curious, here are the coordinates for the Adams Farm geocache called Upper Meadow Hide-A-Way: N 42° 11.129' W 071° 15.212'.

To sign up for geocaching, go to www.geocaching.com, create a username and you will be able to see the coordinates (latitude and longitude locations) for geocaches located all over the world. Inside the bigger caches are little keepsakes for you to trade. Be advised it is a take one, leave one activity. Happy hunting!



Come to the Plant Swap on June 3rd!

Join us at the pavilion on Saturday, June 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for the 6th Annual Plant Swap at Adams Farm. Bring a plant, take a plant is the order of the day, with gardeners sharing their extra plants and garden décor items, not to mention gardening tips. Organized by FOAF member Lance Robinson, the swap has proved to be a very popular event to kick off the gardening season.

Doody Calls

by Lori Fopiano, FOAF board member

Dogs bring love, laughter, and companionship into our lives. They also bring poop . . . and lots of it! While many visitors to Adams Farm fastidiously clean up after their canine friends, we can all relate to instances where we've spotted abandoned bags of waste along the trails or, even worse, evidence on the bottom of our children's shoes.

While not the most pleasant topic for a newsletter, the issue of dog waste is an important one. Some owners may think that it's perfectly natural; after all, deer and other wildlife poop in the woods and no one cleans up after them, right? Others may leave the filled bags along the way, mistakenly thinking they are biodegradable. The

truth is, leaving waste on the property is a major nuisance for visitors, a health hazard for humans and other animals alike, and a potential source of pollution to our waterways.



Other than picking up after our own pooches, how can we help? Perhaps by carrying extra bags with us to hand out to dog owners who have “forgotten” to bring one along, accompanied by a non-judgmental smile. Or offering a friendly reminder that there are waste receptacles available on the property. Or maybe we can even occasionally pick up abandoned bags we find

along the way, as an opportunity to do a good deed. Clearly it can be awkward for both negligent dog owners, as well as those drawing attention to their negligence . . . but doggone it, we all appreciate not having to play hopscotch along the trails during our otherwise glorious visits to the Farm!



Photo by Lois Walsh

Wildlife Focus: Owls

by Ed Jastrem, FOAF board member

Owls in the neighborhood of Adams Farm are often heard and occasionally seen. Sightings vary with habitat and time of year. One common local species is the Barred Owl. The Barred Owl does not migrate and may be spotted while hunting or raising young during the day. A few months ago, a Barred Owl stopped in a tree alongside a trail at the Farm and posed for this photograph that we shared on our Facebook page.

Barred Owls are a large species, generally 20-25 inches tall. The chest is barred horizontally with vertical stripes on the belly. The other large owl found throughout most of the state is the Great Horned Owl. Although similar in size, Barred Owls and Great Horned Owls may be distinguished by a few characteristic differences. First, Barred Owls lack the “horns” of the Great Horned Owl, which are actually tufts of feathers. Secondly, the Barred Owl’s eyes are dark, while the Great Horned Owl (and all other eastern owl species) has noticeable bright yellow eyes. Lastly, the two have different calls. The Barred Owl has an eight-part hoot commonly phrased as “who

cooks for you, who cooks for you?” The Great Horned Owl’s tune is “hoo-hoo-hoo-hoooo!”

Forest birds, Barred Owls generally hunt near dawn or dusk. Prey includes small mammals, other birds and insects. Occasionally they may perch over or wade into water for fish, frogs or crayfish. Barred Owls roost on branches and in tree cavities. They need large trees for nest sites, often taking over sites previously occupied by woodpeckers, hawks or squirrels. They may also use man-made nesting boxes. Large, mature forests tend to provide the diversity of prey and suitable nesting sites for Barred Owls. For these reasons, Barred Owls may be an indicator species for managing old-growth woodlands.

Have you spotted a Barred Owl or other owl species at the Farm? Mass Audubon has a website to record your discovery. Look for “Report Owl Sightings – Mass Audubon” online. And share your sighting with us on Facebook – we want to hear about it, too!

Seed Swap Returns

The 4th Annual Seed Swap took place at the Walpole Library on March 23rd. Spearheaded by Susan Pakenham, FOAF vice president and keeper of the Seed Library, the event brought together many avid local gardeners eager to share both seeds and gardening tips with their fellow gardeners. The Seed Library, recently restocked with more than 160 different kinds of seeds,



was the focus of gardeners looking to add more variety to their gardens this year. Gardeners who “borrow” seeds from the Seed Library are asked to replenish the Library with seeds from their gardens in the fall. For more information on seed saving, visit <http://www.seedsavers.org/learn>.



Found a Baby Bird?

adapted from a chart by Rosemary Mosco, Marketing Coordinator, in the May-August 2014 issue of the Mass Audubon Connections newsletter

Well-intentioned attempts to “save” a baby bird found outside of the nest can do more harm than good. When should you take action, and what action should you take? Here are some pointers to help you decide what to do.

- Is the bird visibly injured or has a cat attacked it? If yes, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife care center. For more information, visit www.massaudubon.org/babybirds.

- If the bird isn't injured, are its eyes open? If no, you have a ***hatchling***, a baby that is between zero and 4 days old. Can you see the nest? If yes, return the bird to the nest. Most birds don't have a well-developed sense of smell, so the parents won't know that the baby bird has been touched by a person.
If you can't see the nest, make a replacement nest using a shallow basket (2-5" high). Place dried grass in the bottom of the basket. Cut two 20" lengths of wire and push them through the bottom of the basket so there are four pieces of wire hanging down. Place the basket on the top of a branch in a nearby tree and use the wires to securely attach it. Put the bird inside.
- If the bird's eyes are open, is it well feathered though with a short tail and wings, and can it walk, hop, or flutter? If no, are its feathers few and perhaps in tubelike sheaths? If yes, you have a ***nestling***, usually 3 to 13 days old. If you can see the nest, return the bird to the nest. If you can't see the nest, make a replacement nest as outlined above and put the bird inside.
- If the bird's eyes are open and it can walk, hop, or flutter, you have a ***fledgling***, a baby that is 13-14 days old or older. Fledglings rarely need human intervention. Parent birds will continue to feed their offspring on the ground and teach them to fly. If a bird is in immediate danger (for example, if it's on a sidewalk or road), place it on top of a nearby shrub or bush and leave the area. Don't attempt to feed the baby – its parents can do a much better job!

ATV Alert

Although gates have been installed in the back field to block entrance to large vehicles, we are still concerned about ATV's entering the Farm from the back of the property and driving around the back field which could cause substantial damage. If you're hiking at the Farm and notice ATV's or other motorized vehicles driving on Farm property, please report this to the police.

Time to Renew Your Membership

There are currently over 300 members of the Friends of Adams Farm. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2017, please take a moment to do so now.

FOAF membership dues are as follows:

<i>Individual</i>	\$10.00
<i>Family</i>	\$15.00
<i>Sponsor</i>	\$25.00
<i>Patron</i>	\$50.00

Your membership fee goes toward maintenance costs such as sanitary facilities, electricity, and haying the fields, and also allows you to receive our quarterly newsletters and other email updates about happenings at Adams Farm.

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, Inc., P.O. 725, Walpole, MA 02081.

Dedicated to the Preservation of Adams Farm

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