President's Message

We wish you a Happy New Year and invite you to bring friends and family to enjoy Adams Farm this year. Walpole certainly is going through changes with large apartment buildings, increased traffic, and even a commercial building on our very own North Street. Despite all these developments, area residents can enjoy Adams Farm as it was founded over 20 years ago, knowing that the trails, fields, and forests will always welcome visitors.

The Friends of Adams Farm is tasked with fundraising and sponsoring events that bring friends, families, and groups to enjoy the Farm. Our Facebook page shows the success of events hosted in 2019. We are planning new events for 2020, including more Music in the Barn summer concerts, a fall hayride, and more. There's still time for you to recommend events for this year to the FOAF Board of Directors. If you have ideas for events, please send them to me at rnoepel@gmail.com.

And don’t forget to consider the Farm as the location for your next family reunion, party, or even wedding. The barn and pavilion provide a great space for these gatherings, and tents can be added if you need to accommodate a larger group.

Your donations to FOAF are appreciated and are used to help preserve and enhance the property. Current improvements include rebuilding the scenic stone wall at the North Street entrance to the Farm and adding new plants and mulch to the Butterfly Garden. We’re also planning repairs to the fence around the Community Garden. Rest assured your donations to Adams Farm are wisely used to maintain this special place for us all to enjoy.

We wish you continued enjoyment of our scenic Adams Farm in the New Year.

Roy Noepel
President, Friends of Adams Farm

Seed Swap Scheduled for March 17th

The 7th Annual Seed Swap will take place on Tuesday, March 17th, at the Walpole Public Library from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Walpole Seed Library will be available for those wanting to take seeds for the upcoming gardening season. All area gardeners are invited to attend and bring seeds and gardening tips to share. Feel free to bring a friend! The mix of experienced gardeners and first-timers is what makes this event so much fun!

For more information or if you’d like to volunteer to help package seeds for the event, contact Susan Packenham at Packy5@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

Don’t let the winter weather keep you indoors as the new year begins. A dusting of snow on the ground can make the Farm a magical place. And if enough of the white stuff arrives, join the many visitors who take to the trails with their snow shoes and cross country skis.

January
1 Community Garden Registration Opens

March
17 Seed Swap at the Walpole Library

April
26 Cub Scout Pack 44 Rocket Launch

May
3 Community Garden Opening Day

October
4 Sun Multisport 2nd Annual Trail Race and Canicross
31 Golden Opportunities Dog Dash

Stone Wall Repaired

Driving by the Farm you may have noticed that the stone wall along North Street has gradually taken
Thanks to the skillful work of Bill Dougherty, the old stones that were part of a wall flanking North Street many years ago were put to use once again in the new wall set just in front of the white rail fence that borders the road.

Eagle Scout candidate Connor Hope walks the cleared fence line behind the barn.

**Eagle Project Installs Weed Block**

The fence line behind the barn was cleared of weeds, thanks to an Eagle Scout project by Connor Hope of Boy Scout Troop 44. His hard-working crew of scouts used a tiller to dig up the soil, then added a layer of cardboard and covered it with mulch to discourage the spread of weeds from the field behind the barn.

Troop 44 Boy Scouts prepare to spread mulch along the cleared fence line behind the barn.

**PLEASE Pick Up After Your Dog!**

When taking your dog for a walk at Adams Farm, we can’t emphasize enough the importance of picking up after it and depositing the bags of poop in the trash when you return to the parking lot. From September through December, FOAF board member Alan Marshall picked up 30 bags of poop that were left along the trails at the Farm. During the same timeframe, he bagged 68 dog droppings that had been ignored by dog walkers.

Did you know that every dog produces over ¾ pound of solid waste and over 7 billion bacteria daily?
Besides being a nuisance, dog waste can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing.

When dog waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, uses up oxygen in the water, and sometimes releases ammonia. This can kill the fish! Dog waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth, turning water cloudy and green.

You CAN make a difference! When walking your dog at Adams Farm, remember to BRING IT (always bring a plastic bag), BAG IT (use the bag as a glove to scoop up the dog waste, turning the bag inside out around the waste and knotting the top to close it), and DISPOSE IT (properly dispose of the bag in a trash can). Waste disposal bags can be found in dispensers located at the kiosk in the parking lot and on the fence where the Monarch Trail meets the Blue Trail before it enters the woods.

**Community Garden Plots Available**

Registration is now open for plots in next summer’s Community Garden. If you’d like to have a garden plot at the Farm next summer, registration forms are available online by clicking the link on the Community Garden page of the Adams Farm website (http://adams-farm.com/community-garden/). The cost of a 20x20-foot plot is $30.

Plots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Names will be put on a waiting list if there are more applicants than plots available. Just fill out the form, make your check out to “Town of Walpole – AFC Fee Account”, and send them both to the Friends of Adams Farm, P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081. Checks will not be cashed until plots are assigned. For questions about the Community Garden, please contact Barbara Johnson at magwanda52@msn.com.

**FOAF Annual Meeting Wrap-up**

At the Friends of Adams Farm Annual Meeting held on October 21, 2019, Craig Boulais was voted in as a new director to replace Ed Jastrem who recently stepped down from the FOAF board. Virginia Ryan also joined the board as a non-voting director. A new five-person Community Garden Management Committee has been formed to manage the Community Garden since former Community Garden Coordinator Peggy Burns has moved out of the area. The five members of the Committee are Nancy Borg, Barbara Johnson, Liz McAfee, Eileen McCarthy, and Mary O’Toole. All have plots in the Community Garden and have already begun planning improvements for the 2020 gardening season.

**Under the Snow**

*excerpted from the January-March 2017 issue of Explore, the Mass Audubon members’ newsletter*

There is an amazing secret world underneath the snow! When snow falls, it creates a blanket on the ground that traps the little bit of heat that rises out of the earth. The heat melts just the bottom layer of snow, and this creates a pocket of air that is exactly the right size for tiny creatures to burrow and build tunnels underneath it. Scientists call this the *subnivean zone*.

Just like the blankets on your bed, layers of snow keep the subnivean zone warm. Well, warm for a mouse, anyway! Even when the air outside drops below 0°F, the layer beneath the snow stays right around 32°F. Many animals – like red squirrels, mice, moles, voles, and shrews – depend on this special habitat to survive the cold, harsh winter.

Sometimes you’ll see little “mouse holes” in the surface of the snow. These are actually air vents that provide fresh air to the animals living below in their tunnels.

Foxes and owls have excellent hearing, and can sometimes hear the little animals moving around under the snow. You may even see a fox dive face-first into the snow, trying to catch a mouse or shrew by surprise!

**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, over 300 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 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:

- **Individual** $10.00
- **Family** $15.00
- **Sponsor** $25.00
- **Patron** $50.00
- **Other** $100.00

* 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.

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