Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

As Massachusetts continues to reopen this summer, the FOAF board has organized two Music in the Barn concerts that will take place outdoors around the pavilion. We invite you to bring lawn chairs or a blanket and join us for an afternoon of great music. More details can be found in the Music in the Barn article below.

July
25  FREE Music in the Barn concert

August
22  FREE Music in the Barn concert

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

November
1   Community Garden Closing Day

FREE Music in the Barn Concerts

Bring a blanket and a picnic lunch and join us on the green surrounding the pavilion at the Farm for FREE Music in the Barn Concerts on Saturday, July 25, and Saturday, August 22. The concerts will take place from noon to 3 p.m.

The concert on Saturday, July 25, will feature three local musicians. The music of singer-songwriter Fiona Campbell (pictured at left) runs the gamut from jazz to rock to her own original compositions.

Also performing will be Wayne Dunnebart from Franklin, MA, who plays all your favorite tunes spanning back to the ’60s.

Rounding out the bill will be Dave Penza from Wrentham, MA, who’ll play his own renditions of music by your favorite singer-songwriters.

Due to the pandemic, groups attending the concert will be limited to a maximum of 10 people and social distancing must be practiced. The maximum attendance allowed at the concert is 100.

Iconic Evergreen Downed

In April a severe wind storm blew down half of the huge evergreen tree that’s a landmark on the Monarch Trail. The iconic tree, so tall it is easily visible from the barn, is a favorite of many visitors to the Farm who pause on the bench beneath its branches to enjoy the view of the rolling fields and the barn in the distance. Miraculously, the bench was spared and was soon back in use again after the fallen portion of the tree was cleared away.

New Bog Bridges

FOAF recently funded several new bog bridges, the wooden platforms that span wet and mucky areas on two trails at the Farm.

Walpole Trails Committee Chairman Gary Riggott and his son Steve transported lumber to the barn where they measured and cut it to size for the bridges.

Some of the cut lumber was then moved with a trailer to the Monarch Trail where a team comprised of Gary, his wife, and several FOAF volunteers
assembled and installed the bog bridges over muddy areas near the bridge on the trail.

To install the bog bridge on the Blue Trail, all the materials had to be transported by hand to the installation site. Volunteers carried the heavy planks a quarter of a mile into the woods and assembled and installed the bog bridges near the two bridges on the trail.

The finished wooden platforms look great and help hikers avoid muddy sections on the trails caused by the spring rains.

**Butterfly Garden Paths Get a Facelift**

You may have noticed rolls of landscape cloth and mounds of gravel on the paths of the Butterfly Garden this spring. With the new layer of landscape cloth as a base to help block weeds, the seven yards of gravel improved pathways throughout the Garden.

Thanks to Butterfly Garden Manager Roy Noepel who coordinated the sprucing up of the garden paths, FOAF member Lisa Lewis who brought her tractor to help move the gravel, and FOAF board members and friends who helped secure the landscape cloth and spread the gravel.

**New Gates for Community Garden**

FOAF funds were used to replace all four gates in the Community Garden which had fallen into disrepair. The new gates, built by Distinctive Fences of Sharon, were put in place just prior to the start of this year’s gardening season. Granite slabs donated by FOAF Vice President Susan Packenham were installed later to serve as thresholds for the new gates by FOAF board member Jack Wiley. Stop by and check them out next time you visit the Farm.

**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, visit https://www.massaudubon.org/)

Community Garden Sharing Plot
by Alicia LeClaire and Liz McAfee, gardeners in the Community Garden

Late last fall, we began talking about a way to turn our long-term enthusiasm for the Adams Farm Community Garden into something tangible, so we decided to reclaim an abandoned plot in the Community Garden and create a space where the whole gardening community could come together to share information, learn from each other, and simply enjoy viewing the fruits of their labors. So far, this “sharing” plot has evolved into a work in progress where everyone is welcome and contributions have already been made by several gardeners.

We have started an herb garden where gardeners can take a snip of an herb they might not be familiar with to give it a try. Some of the herbs we have planted are sage, rosemary, thyme, Italian leaf parsley, chervil, hyssop, and borage.

We have also made use of companion plantings such as tomatoes with marigolds as a way to control pests, and pollinator plants such as sunflowers, zinnias, coreopsis, cosmos, and squash, to attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

And we have included edible flowers (such as nasturtiums) to support pollinators, create visual appeal, and provide additional sources of food. We kept volunteer strawberries that came with the plot and added beans at the base of a bean pole made from trimming a viburnum bush.

At the center of the plot is a replica of the Adams Farm barn made by Bill Kiggen, another longtime gardener at Adams Farm. We are calling it an information barn and, at some point, when it is safe to do so, we hope to fill it with information sheets, recipes, and gardening books to share. For now, there are packets of marigold seeds available for anyone who wants to do a little companion planting.

Bill also made a bench that sits next to the fence just for resting – a place to sit and reflect and enjoy a view of the whole garden.

We hope the “sharing” plot can become a source of new and creative ideas for our Community Garden. The plots in the Community Garden at Adams Farm this year have all been filled and are flourishing. Registration for plots in next summer’s Community Garden will open on January 1, 2021.

Trail Clearing

Winter storms brought down a number of trees on the trails at the Farm. When spring arrived, FOAF board members Jack Wiley and Alan Marshall used their chainsaws to clear some of the larger downed trees and reopen the trails for hikers.

Native Gardening
excerpted from the summer 2020 issue of World Wildlife magazine

Most lawns and gardens tend to need regular upkeep: if we’re not watering, we’re weeding. Or seeding. Or spraying. Or mowing. But there’s an easier way that’s also far better for the environment: Gardening with native plants.

Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, bees, and other wildlife that desperately need more habitat. And unlike ornamental species from distant
places, plants that occur naturally in a region are uniquely adapted to the local climate. After a little initial help, they mostly take care of themselves, without pesticides, fertilizers or irrigation. And less mowing means fewer carbon emissions.

To start your own native garden, visit a native garden center or an agricultural or university extension office for help finding local varieties. Plant a mix of species, ideally with different bloom periods. Mow less, avoid pesticides, and let a spot or two stay ungroomed (for example, rake a pile of leaves into a corner – some bees love them). Then sit back and enjoy the fact that your yard is supporting countless local critters.

**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, almost 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 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](http://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.