

Friends of Adams Farm

Newsletter

Winter 2025

Number 74

President's Message

Happy New Year! In 2024, events at the Farm and attendance at them both increased. Walpole Cooperative Bank again helped fund care for Adams Farm, along with Castle Island Brewery, CarMax, and others. While funds are welcome, we've also been fortunate to have volunteers from these businesses help out at events as well. A special thanks to the Walpole Conservation Commission and the Adams Farm Committee for their continued teamwork with our Board.

Two FOAF board members have decided to move on, so I truly thank Alan Marshall and Phil Dunkelbarger for their years of contributing to Adams Farm.

I'm expecting 2025 to be a banner year for the Farm. Our Farm is expanding; expect news on that early in 2025. (Hint: it includes access to Willett Pond!) And just wait until you hear our plans for Summer 2025. A tractor-pulled hayride in the fall is also being discussed.

Please continue to walk your dogs and pick up after them. I do not own a dog, so be aware of Farm visitors like me who need a peaceful time on their walk.

If you have some free time, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with tasks like keeping the trails clear and caring for the Butterfly Garden.

My hope for 2025 is that visitors to the Farm will try a new trail. Even try a new entrance, such as Donna Drive or Frontier Drive. Come on out – we have 400 acres to discover.

Roy Noepel
President, Friends of Adams Farm

Book Your Event at the Farm Now

More people are discovering that Adams Farm is a great place to hold an event, whether it's a family celebration or a fundraiser. To make sure you get the date you want, be sure to send in your application a minimum of several months in advance.

To reserve the barn and pavilion for an event, [click here](#) for the Application for Use form or look for the link on the Home page of the Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com). The Application for Use includes a fee schedule and an application for a 1-day liquor permit if you'd like to serve alcohol at your

event. If the event is a fundraiser, the usage fee will likely be waived.

Since applications require the approval of both the Adams Farm Committee and the Walpole Select Board, please allow at least 8 weeks for applications to be approved.



Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

Don't let the winter chill discourage you from exploring the trails at Adams Farm. Dress in layers for comfort and warmth, throw some handwarmers in your daypack just in case, and get ready to discover a whole new side of the Farm. You'll be surprised at how a fresh snowfall or a glittering coating of frost can transform your hike.

May 3

3 Community Garden Opening Day

November 1

1 Community Garden Closing Day

Winter Walk-and-Talk

Local naturalist Brian Cassie returned to the Farm in early January to lead another Nature Walk-and-Talk hike, this time focusing on animal and plant survival strategies for winter. About 15 intrepid hikers ranging in age from 5 to 70+ headed out on the cold, snowy day, looking for vole tunnels in the fresh snow and learning how to identify everything from praying mantis egg cases to green shield lichen. A few ravens and juncos made cameo appearances along the way. A

highlight of the event was cutting open a hornets' nest that Brian brought to inspect the intricate hexagonal design of its interior chambers made from saliva and wood pulp chewed by the hornets.



Castle Island Brewery Fundraiser

Castle Island Brewery chose Adams Farm for their first-ever 6K Hoppy Trails Run, a running and walking event held on December 14 that also served as a fundraiser for the Farm. The sunny and cold day brought out 50 participants.

The event included vendors inside the barn as well as a pop-up beer garden. The brewery's CEO Adam (very fitting name) Romanov helped cheer on everyone who crossed the finish line. Even Santa paid a visit to Adams Farm for this event. All in all, the event went very smoothly.

In addition to Castle Island Brewery, six other corporate sponsors invited to the event also contributed to the Farm. Cheers to Castle Island Brewery for their contribution to Adams Farm!

Annual Meeting Notes

On Monday, October 14, 2024, the Friends of Adams Farm Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting. Officers for 2025 will be Roy Noepel, President; Craig Boulais, Vice President; Yvette Morrill, Secretary; and Dave Hoag, Treasurer. Other board members include Rob Belcher, Chris Gibson, Fern Miller, Sharon Spence, and Jack Wiley, Chairman of the Adams Farm Committee.

Major projects completed at the Farm this year were:

- Planted a Redbud tree in the Butterfly Garden to replace the invasive Bradford pear tree that was removed last winter
- Removed and replaced the dead maple tree and a dead dogwood tree adjacent to the Community Garden
- Protected these two new trees with a layer of mulch to keep mowers and string trimmers from damaging their trunks

- Sponsored four guided nature walks in May, June, August and September
- Sponsored a Music at the Barn concert in July
- Hired a new manager for the Butterfly Garden
- Elected two new Board members, Rob Belcher and Sharon Spence, to replace outgoing Board members Phil Dunkelbarger and Alan Marshall

Community Garden Plots Available

from the Community Garden Management Committee

Currently 46 gardeners have registered for one of the 64 plots in the Community Garden. A few plots are still available. Anyone who's interested in having a plot this summer should apply soon.

The rental fee for a 20' x 20' plot in the Community Garden is \$30.00 for the season/year. The Garden welcome/rules and regulations packet and the Garden registration form are available on the Friends of Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com) by clicking on the Community Garden tab under the Visitor Information heading.



Troop 44 Repairs Blue Trail

In November Boy Scouts from Troop 44 and their leaders took part in the latest trail maintenance project at Adams Farm. They helped spread gravel to renovate a portion of the Blue Trail where it enters the woods. This was done in conjunction with placing new water diverters in the trail to reduce erosion by channeling rainwater off the trail.

Pruning Preps Butterfly Garden

by Butterfly Garden Manager Bailey Woods

Right now, the garden is doing its own version of hibernation, called dormancy. In the fall, the garden was prepped for the winter by pruning a lot of the old and dead growth to prevent any disease or snow/ice build-up on the plants. Pruning can encourage more vigorous growth for the following season, so hopefully we will see more flowers in the spring! Leaf litter was

left in the garden as well, to provide shelter for hibernating beneficial insects (like bees!). I hope to add more native plants to the Butterfly Garden this spring as well!



Spring is on the Way

Photographer and FOAF member Jim Meaney usually takes his camera when he visits the Farm. Last September he spent some time browsing in the Community Garden as the gardeners were winding down their season. He was kind enough to share with us these great shots he captured of a Downy Woodpecker on a sunflower seed head and a bee visiting flowers in bloom.

New Fee for Paid Dog Walkers

The Adams Farm Committee would like to remind paid dog walkers that an annual fee is now required for you to walk dogs at Adams Farm. An Application for Use can be obtained from the Select Board office in Town Hall or online on the FOAF website or the Walpole Town Hall website under Adams Farm Committee. The annual fee for paid dog walkers that use Adams Farm is \$100 for Walpole residents and \$200 for non-residents. The Adams Farm Committee would also remind all dog walkers that dogs must be on leash at all times. Please remember to pick up after your dog. Violators are subject to fines. We appreciate your cooperation.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!

As the new year begins, it's time for professional photographers to renew their permits to take photos at Adams Farm. You may have already gotten a reminder from Town Hall, so thank you if you have responded. The fees collected will be used for the care and maintenance of the Farm.

Prices are \$60 for a 6-month permit (July 1 to Dec. 31) or \$100 for an annual permit (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31). To obtain an application for a permit, go to the Walpole Town website <https://www.walpole-ma.gov/adams-farm-committee> and click on "Application for Use of Adams Farm".

The Adams Farm Committee suggests that photographers keep a photo of the permit on their cell phones to show if anyone asks for proof of their permit.

PayPal Donations Welcomed

The Friends of Adams Farm now accepts PayPal donations. To donate, simply click on the QR code below this article or visit the Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com) and click on the Donate with PayPal button at the bottom of the Home page to make your donation.

To help us track your donation, please fill out an electronic form (located under the Donations and Membership tabs on the website) to identify your payment as a donation, a memorial donation, a new membership, or a membership renewal and email it to yvette@adams-farm.com. You can also print out the completed form and return it via regular mail, sending it to FOAF, P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081.



Two Ways to Donate

Did you know that Massachusetts has a charitable contributions deduction? And it's universal – available to every Massachusetts taxpayer. Every charitable donation you make can be deducted from your state income tax return.

Many people don't realize how important individual donations are to nonprofits. Nearly all nonprofits rely on individual donations. These donations pay for services for people in need and also help build a nonprofit's base of support. So please keep the Friends of Adams Farm in mind as you make your charitable donations this year.

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.



By the Numbers: Black Bears

excerpted from the Winter 2023 issue of explore, Mass Audubon's members' magazine

During hibernation in the winter, black bears lose 15 to 30 percent of their weight. Their heart rate slows from 40-50 beats per minute to 8-19 beats per minute during this time.

Seven months after breeding, female black bears are officially pregnant. Cubs are born 1-2 months after this delayed implantation, in January and February. Every black bear litter consists of 1-5 cubs. At birth, cubs weigh about 450 grams – that's less than a pound!

Seventeen months after birth, cubs are independent and leave their mother's territory. The average range for a male black bear is 122 square miles. A female

with cubs has a much smaller range – about 12 square miles.

The typical weight range for a male black bear is 150-600 pounds. Females weigh between 100 and 400 pounds. To learn more about black bears, go to www.massaudubon.org/bears.

Time to Renew Your Membership

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your membership for 2025! 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 350 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:

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

**Larger contributions gratefully accepted!*

Membership forms are available on the Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com). If you choose to make a donation via PayPal on the website, you can fill out the membership form electronically and email it to yvette@adams-farm.com after making your donation. You can also print out the completed form and return it via regular mail to FOAF, P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081.

If you prefer to pay by check, you can send your completed membership form, along with a check made out to The Friends of Adams Farm, to P.O. 725, Walpole, MA 02081. Membership forms are also available in the map box at the Farm and in the Select Board's office at Town Hall.

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

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