

Friends of Adams Farm

Newsletter

Fall 2026

Number 81



Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

You never know when you'll be treated to a close-up view of wildlife at Adams Farm. Special moments like the one captured in the photo above can happen anytime when you're out on the trail. Be sure to make time for hiking this fall and notice the many changes to the landscape that the cooler weather brings.

October

- 17 GOFI Annual 5K Fundraiser
- 25 Young Life Walk-a-thon

November

- 7 Community Garden Closing Day
- 17 Norfolk Hunt Club Breakfast

January

- 1 Community Garden registration opens

Annual Meeting Notes

On Thursday, September 24, 2026, the Friends of Adams Farm Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting. Officers for 2027 will be Chris Gibson, President; Craig Boulais, Vice President; Yvette Morrill, Secretary; and Dave Hoag, Treasurer. Other board members include Rob Belcher, Fern Miller, Manny Sargent, Sharon Spence, and Jack Wiley.

Major projects completed at the Farm this year were:

- Purchased two new volleyball nets and the cables to support them
- Repaired damaged water diverters on the Blue Trail and added crushed asphalt to fill in erosion
- Repaired a rotted ramp on one of the Blue Trail boardwalks

- Repaired and repainted the white fence along North Street
- Repaired and realigned the stone wall along North Street
- Sponsored 7 Nature Walk-and-Talk guided hikes and 1 Evening Owl Walk
- Hosted 3 Music at the Barn themed concerts and 3 Open Mic events
- Co-sponsored Fall Day 2026 at the Farm with the Neponset River Watershed Association



Fall Day Fun

For the second straight year, gorgeous weather attracted a large crowd to the Farm for Fall Day on October 3rd. With refreshments provided by Castle Island Brewing Co., Debeveno Winery, Pollard's Test Kitchen, and C&C Ice Cream, the crowd was treated to free face painting and hayrides, as well as a country-themed concert featuring local band Charles River Rodeo and award-winning country artist Houston Bernard and his band. The event was co-sponsored by Friends of Adams Farm and the Neponset River Watershed Association which provided information on protecting local water resources and wildlife along with activities for young children.



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.



Haying Time at the Farm

You may have been wondering if these white bundles had somehow magically appeared in the fields at the Farm. There was no magic involved, just a lot of hard work.

In mid-summer and late fall Michael Lobisser and his team arrive with their equipment to harvest the hay in the open fields. Mowing is followed by tedding which lifts, fluffs and spreads the cut grass to speed drying and prevent mold. Once dried, the hay is then baled and neatly wrapped in plastic, creating the large white cylinders lined up in the front fields and the back meadow.

The baled hay will be collected at a later date by Michael and his crew who use more specialized equipment to pick them up one by one and load them onto trucks for transport.

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. Go to <https://walpole-ma.gov/491/Adams-Farm-Committee> on the Walpole Town website and click on "Application for Use of Adams Farm" for more information about using Adams Farm and to apply for

your dog walker's permit. 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.



louie lou lewis performs at a Music at the Barn concert in August.

A Summer of Great Music

This summer's Music at the Barn concerts brought a variety of local musicians to the pavilion. Audience members young and old were treated to wonderful renditions of well-known popular tunes as well as many new pieces of music written by the talented performers themselves. Whether it was the classic tunes performed by The Doppelgangers, the rousing duo Ukuladies strumming their ukuleles, the Latin-flavored tunes of Los Gallos Locos or the smooth, soaring lyrics of Haitian-influenced louie lou louis (a.k.a. Louis Apollon), there was something for everyone.

The final concert of the season, that took place during Fall Day on October 3, featured award-winning country artist Houston Bernard with back-up band Charles River Rodeo. Their great country music charmed those attending who perched on picnic benches in the pavilion or relaxed on the lawn in their own folding chairs.

A special shout-out to Rudy Barajas who organized all three concerts and also managed the sound system at each event so that listeners were treated to a truly first-class musical experience.

New Tax Benefit for FOAF Donors in 2026

Beginning in 2026, there's good news for donors who take the standard deduction on their tax return. Under new federal law, individuals who do not itemize will now be able to deduct up to **\$1,000** in cash gifts to qualified public charities. Married couples filing

jointly can deduct up to **\$2,000**. This is a permanent change starting with the 2026 tax year.

In the past, only taxpayers who itemized their deductions received a tax benefit for charitable giving. Since most households take the standard deduction, many generous donors received no direct tax incentive for their gifts. That changes in 2026.

This new universal charitable deduction means more supporters can lower their taxable income simply by making a cash gift to charities like ours. While tax savings are never the primary reason to give, this new provision makes it even easier to support causes you care about while receiving a financial benefit in return.

As you plan your giving in 2026, we hope you'll consider taking advantage of this opportunity to make a meaningful impact on our mission by donating to Friends of Adams Farm.

If you would like to discuss how your gift can make the greatest difference, please contact us at yvette@adams-farm.com. We're always grateful for the conversation.



Stone Wall Repairs

Bill Doherty, the talented stone wall builder who designed the curving stone wall at the entrance to Adams Farm, returned this summer and early fall to repair winter damage to the stone wall attributed to passing snowplows. Now in his early 90s and working with an assistant who does the heavy lifting, Bill first recreated the lovely swirl of rocks that greets visitors who enter the Farm from North Street. He later returned to realign the remaining stretch of stone wall along North Street. The rebuilt stone wall not only looks sharp, it improves access to the area on either side of the wall, making it easier to keep the area free of tall weeds that can hinder the view of drivers exiting the Farm.

Attention Photographers!

If you're a professional photographer, a reminder that you'll need apply for a permit, or renew your current permit, if you want to use Adams Farm as a backdrop for your photo shoots. 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). Go to <https://walpole-ma.gov/491/Adams-Farm-Committee> on the Walpole Town website and click on “*Online Photographer Permit” to apply for your photographer’s permit.

Fall in the Butterfly Garden

by Liz McAfee, Butterfly Garden Planning Group

The spring and early summer planting of annuals in the Butterfly Garden turned out to be a huge success. Virtually all of the twenty or so species of flowers survived and provided support to bees, butterflies, moths, and dragonflies. Other than watering (especially while the plants were becoming established) and the occasional weeding and deadheading, the plants were self-sustaining and hardy.

Now that fall is here, we have removed fencing around the annual beds and are collecting seeds as they become available. We are leaving the plants to die back naturally and remain in place to provide shelter for those pollinators and other native insects that rely on plant debris over the winter.

In the annual beds, we have also planted a few perennials obtained from the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society fall plant sale held in September. These, we



hope, will survive the winter and grow to maturity next spring and summer. New perennials include spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*), white wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*), and golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*).

We also purchased perennial seed packets of New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) and New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) and plan

to plant them this winter in plastic milk jug “green-houses”. Finally, we received and planted three wavy leaf aster plants, a gift from Dragonfly Natives, a wholesale native plant nursery in Dartmouth, MA. Following a successful and rewarding 2026 season in the Butterfly Garden, planning for the future will continue over the winter.

More Guided Walks Coming Next Year

Local naturalist Brian Cassie’s free guided Nature Walk-and-Talk hikes at the Farm were such a big hit this year that we’ve already gotten a commitment from him to lead more guided of them next year.

From the four early-season walks exploring the month-by-month return of spring to the Farm to later walks focusing on nectaring wildflowers and butterflies in the fall, Brian shared his encyclopedic

knowledge of the outdoors with participants. Some of them were lucky enough to take home Monarch caterpillars that he provided to raise on their own so they could watch the transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly firsthand. An Evening Owl Walk featured in the mix as well.

Sharing the wonders of the natural world with others is one of Brian's favorite things to do. With that in mind, we've invited him back to lead half a dozen more Nature Walk-and-Talk hikes next year which will likely include one or two Evening Owl Walks since we weren't able to accommodate everyone who wanted to participate this year.

Keep an eye out for more information on next year's Nature Walk-and-Talk hikes in future newsletters.



Boardwalk Ramp Repair

When repairs were needed on the ramp at the west end of the long boardwalk on the Blue Trail, Walpole Trails Committee Chair Gary Riggot was quick to respond. He discovered that supports under the ramp had failed, creating a potential hazard for hikers and bikers. With the help of FOAF Board Member Manny Sargent, Gary took the ramp apart, removing the two middle supports that were rotting and adding new boards that were cut at angles to provide structure and support for the ramp. The best news is that no money was spent on the repairs, as all of the materials were

either reused from the original ramp (carriage bolts, Trex decking, etc.) or came from a supply of wood (in this case pressure-treated lumber) we already had on hand upstairs in the barn. A tip of the hat to Gary and Manny for all their hard work!

Time to Renew Your Membership

If you haven't done so already, there's still time to renew your membership for 2026! 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 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:

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

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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