

Friends of Adams Farm Newsletter

Spring 2026

Number 79



Upcoming Events at Adams Farm

Warmer weather has returned and melted the massive amount of snow that fell at Adams Farm this winter. Although spring rains have created some wet spots in low-lying areas, most trails are in great shape and ready for hiking and biking. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open, as you may hear frogs croaking in the vernal pools in the field behind the barn and birds calling to their prospective mates in the woods.

April

25 Nature Walk-n-Talk Guided Hike

May

2 Community Garden Opening Day

23 Nature Walk-n-Talk Guided Hike

June

20 Nature Walk-n-Talk Guided Hike

20 Open Mic Event

July

11 Music at the Barn Concert

18 Open Mic Event

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.



FREE Guided Nature Walk on April 25th

Join us for the second of four FREE guided Walk-n-Talk nature hikes this spring at the Farm! Local naturalist Brian Cassie timed this year's walks to begin on the first full day of spring (March 21) and end on the last full day of spring (June 20). The next hike will take place on Saturday, April 25, and will focus on looking at and listening for wildlife and plant life.

The 2-hour guided walk will begin at 9 a.m. in the pavilion. Rain date, if needed, will be on Sunday, the day after the scheduled walk. The walk will be on level ground and move at a leisurely pace. Please do not expect long and/or quick exercise walks as part of this program. Instead, look forward to discovering birds, trees, wildflowers, insects, and a few mammals and amphibians. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle and binoculars if you have them.

The remaining two Walk-n-Talk guided hikes will take place on May 23 and June 20. Look for reminders in your email inbox when we're closer to those dates.

Pollinator Project Progress Report

The pollinator test area behind the barn was covered in black plastic from May through November 15 of last year to smother plants underneath it, especially the invasive swallowwort and Allegheny blackberries. A seed mix of sixteen pollinator-friendly plants and

grasses was then sown and put to bed under a layer of salt marsh hay for the winter.

In addition, 300 plugs of pollinator-friendly plants were planted in the Monarch Field. The mountain mint and hyssop were covered in native bees and migrating monarchs late in the season when there was little else available for nectar. Additional plants are planned for this year including Virginia Mountain Mint, White Turtlehead for the Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies, and Downy Goldenrod.



Community Garden Update

from Kathleen Marcin, Community Garden Manager

All plots have been filled in the Community Garden for the 2026 gardening season. If you'd like to be on the waiting list for a plot, you can fill out a registration form, available on the Friends of Adams Farm website (www.adams-farm.com) by clicking on the Community Garden tab under the Visitor Information heading.

The rental fee for a 20' x 20' plot in the Community Garden is \$30.00 for the season/year. Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address listed on the form and we'll add your name to the waiting list.

Music at the Barn 2026

Music at the Barn returns this year with more events and exciting new acts, all FREE! FOAF is hosting three Open Mic events and three concerts this season. All the music events will take place on Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

The expanded Open Mic series, scheduled for June 20, July 18 and August 22, is sponsored by Positive Grid, a guitar technology company whose product line includes the immensely popular Spark family of smart guitar amps/Bluetooth® speakers and wireless guitar systems. As a bonus, performers will have a shot at appearing on Positive Grid's social media pages across multiple platforms.

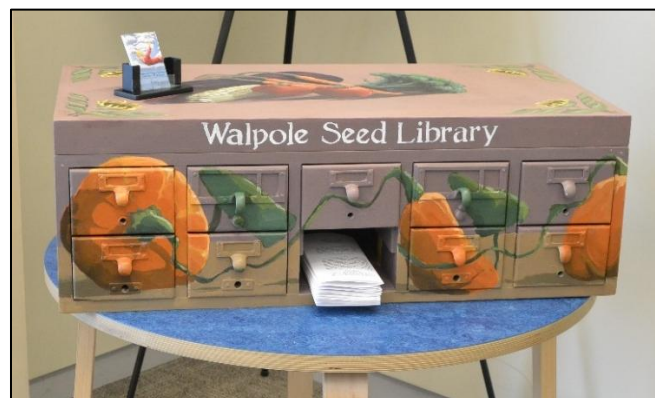
If you or someone you know is interested in performing at one of the Open Mic events, please contact Event Organizer Rudy Barajas directly

at rudybmusic@comast.net to be added to the email list for all future Open Mic announcements.

The Music at the Barn concert series, sponsored by Walpole Co-operative Bank and Dagher Wealth Management, has a great line-up of new performers this year. First up on July 11 are the Ukuladies, a zany and wildly entertaining female duo wielding multiple "ukes" backed by a full band.

On August 15 Louie Lou Louis a.k.a. Louis Apollon, a now Brooklyn-based Berklee College of Music grad, returns to thrill his local fanbase with his unique blend of folk, jazz, and global music.

The final concert of the Music at the Barn series will be the main event of this year's Fall Day 2026 on October 3. It features independent country music recording artist Houston Bernard who boasts a larger-than-life presence on stage combined with a down-to-earth persona. His energetic performances have captivated audiences nationwide. The three concerts will also include opening acts that will be announced soon.



Seed Library Opens for the Season

by Susan Packenham, Walpole Seed Library Manager

The Walpole Seed Library, sponsored by FOAF, is located near the circulation desk at the Walpole Public Library. It is now filled with herb, flower and vegetable seeds. There are many different varieties of tomatoes and peppers. They are best started indoors at least 6 weeks prior to planting them in the ground.

Those who take seeds out in the spring should let one of the plants grown from the seeds go to seed. The seeds from that plant should then be collected and returned to the Seed Library in the late summer or fall to restock the library for the next season's gardeners.

The Seed Library will be refilled as needed until all the seeds are gone. The Seed Library has been in existence for 15 years and seeds are getting picked up faster than other years. So, stop by soon if you'd like to get some.

Open Board Seat Filled

We welcome a new face on the FOAF Board! At the FOAF meeting in March, the Board voted to appoint Manny Sargent, a FOAF member and Walpole

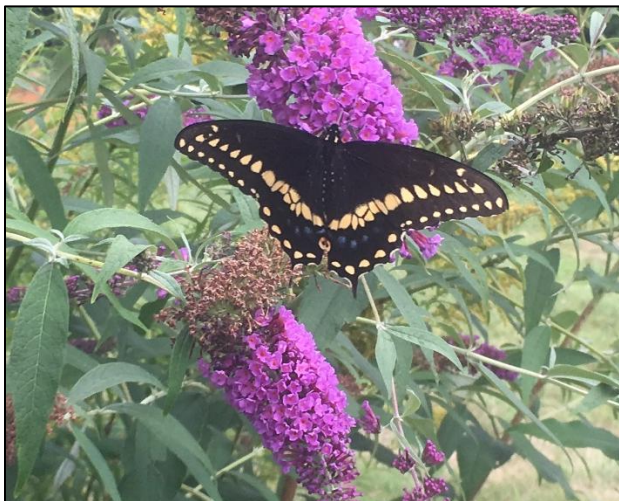
resident, to fill the open board seat previously held by Roy Noepel, outgoing President of Friends of Adams Farm. Previously residents of Westwood and members and supporters of Hale Reservation, Manny and his wife moved to Walpole a decade ago and were immediately drawn to Adams Farm and its beautiful surroundings. Manny is a retired carpenter, builder and contractor and looks forward to lending a hand with improvement projects at the Farm.

Attention Photographers!

Now that spring is on its way, you will want to use Adams Farm as a background for your photos. Remember there is a fee for paid photographers using 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.



Butterflies at Adams Farm: April and May *by Liz McAfee, Butterfly Garden Planning Group*

Spring is an exciting season at Adams Farm for all you butterfly watchers and admirers. More than 100 species of butterflies have been sighted in Norfolk County, and many of them can be seen at the Farm starting in April and moving into June as larva hatch and begin their transformation into adults. Here are some that begin to appear in these spring months. Look for them at the edges of the woods, in the fields, and around the Butterfly Garden as you are out walking and enjoying the warmer weather:

April

Dreamy Duskywing, Juvenal's Duskywing, Hobomok Skipper

May

Least Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Peck's Skipper, Zabulon Skipper, Canadian Tiger Swallowtail, Clouded Sulphur, Red-spotted Purple Admiral, Viceroy

June

Tawny-edged Skipper, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail

You can find pictures of these butterflies and information about them at the Butterflies and Moths of North America website (Norfolk County listing) [here](#). And don't forget to keep an eye on the Monarch Field for the arrival of the Monarch butterflies as they make their way north from Mexico, laying eggs on the milkweed plants spread throughout the field. From these eggs, Monarch caterpillars will hatch and feed on the milkweed plants, eventually forming chrysalises to transform into Monarch butterflies.

Please be careful to stay on the Monarch Field trail to avoid disturbing the milkweed plants and the ground around them where Monarch caterpillars are likely to be crawling. Enjoy!

PayPal Donations Welcomed

Friends of Adams Farm now accepts PayPal donations. To donate, simply click on the QR code below 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.



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.

Spadefoot Toads

excerpted from the Spring 2022 edition of explore, the Mass Audubon members' magazine

The Eastern Spadefoot Toad, named for a small, shovel-shaped projection on the inside of each of its rear feet, was once widespread in the coastal parts of Massachusetts. But its population has declined and the spadefoot is now listed as a threatened species under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

Spadefoot toads are just 3 inches long. Their tiny size and the fact that they spend most of their time underground make them hard to spot. The toads burrow an average of 20 inches into the ground, but they've been known to dig as deep as 8 feet in winter!

A female spadefoot can release 1,000-2,500 eggs at one time. Since 2011, Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable has been working with partners to establish a viable population of spadefoots at Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary in East Falmouth through a headstarting and relocation process. Twenty-six Massachusetts schools participated in raising spadefoot eggs and tadpoles for release as young toadlets. Forty thousand toadlets were translocated from a large population at Long Pasture to Ashumet Holly over 11 years.

Seven vernal pools in Ashumet Holly were restored to support spadefoot toad breeding. In 2021, 126 spadefoot toads were observed during 177 nighttime surveys at the wildlife sanctuary. In May of that same year, for the first time in the project's history, the team finally observed male toads calling for mates, several active mating pairs, and tadpoles! These findings were truly milestones for the project. Learn more about

spadefoots and the reintroduction project at www.massaudubon.org/spadefoots.

Time to Renew Your Membership

A reminder that it's 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 344 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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