

# Friends of Adams Farm

## Newsletter

Spring 2022

Number 63

### **Upcoming Events at Adams Farm**

Spring has returned to Adams Farm, and with it warmer weather perfect for a hike or a trail ride. Slip on your hiking shoes or hop on your bike and head to the Farm for an outdoor adventure! Please keep bikes off trails that are muddy and pick up after your dogs.

#### **May**

1 Community Garden Opening Day

#### **June**

25 Music in the Barn Concert (tentative)

#### **July**

17 Community Garden Potluck Dinner

24, 31 Little Bellas Trail Riding and Bike Skills

30 Music in the Barn Concert (tentative)

### **New Women's Walking Group**

A new Women's Walking Group is starting up at Adams Farm on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. Walks will be about an hour long and mainly on level paths. If you're interested in joining the group, please contact Barbara Araujo at [bmc.araujo@gmail.com](mailto:bmc.araujo@gmail.com).

### **Seed Library Stocked for 2022 Season**

The Walpole Seed Library, located near the copy machine in the Walpole Public Library, is now fully loaded with free seeds, including organic herbs, flowers and vegetables. The seeds are available to local gardeners on a first come, first served basis.

Just as a normal library is based on people taking out books and later returning them for others to read, the premise of a Seed Library is that people who take seeds out in the spring will plant them and let one of the plants grown from the seeds go to seed. The seeds from that plant are then collected and returned to the Seed Library in the late summer or fall to restock the library for the next season's gardeners.

So, if you take seeds from the Seed Library this spring, please return some seeds to the Seed Library next fall so they can be given out to next year's gardeners. Please put the seeds in an envelope, label it to identify the seeds, and place it in the back of one of the Seed Library drawers. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Packenham at [packy5@comcast.net](mailto:packy5@comcast.net).

### **Thoughts on the Environment**

by Hans-J. Luwald, FOAF member

Albert Einstein predicted:

"The day the last bee disappears from this planet Earth, humanity can only survive four more years."

We all know about the alarming rate of the worldwide disappearance of bees. Due to the lack of bees, for years residents of Asian countries have been pollinating their fruit trees manually with Q-tips.

Also, worldwide the Insect population has been decreasing by an average of 1.5% per year over the last 20 years. That is a loss of 30% so far. In the U.S. and other developed countries, we have lost close to 90% of our insects. Have we all realized that there are no more insects stuck to our car windshields and headlights?

Scientists agree that the survival of humanity without insects is not possible. There is only one answer: Protect Nature, Protect the Environment.



### **Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Farm**

A chilly, breezy day in March greeted the Cub Scouts from Pack 44 as they assembled in the pavilion at Adams Farm for their annual Pinewood Derby. Scouts raced their homemade wooden race cars by rank, beginning with the youngest – the Lions (kindergartners) - and ending with the oldest – the Arrow of Light Scouts (fifth-graders). In addition to awards for the fastest cars, prizes were also given to the scouts by rank for creativity, design and paint job.

The Friends of Adams Farm is the Charter Organization that sponsors Pack 44, a Scouts BSA Cub Scout Pack for boys and girls ages 5 to 11. The Cub Scout program runs year-round and offers fun and challenging activities that promote character development and physical fitness. If you or someone you know with elementary school-aged children would like to find out how to get involved in Pack 44, please contact Cubmaster Kevin Keaney at [kevinrkeaney@gmail.com](mailto:kevinrkeaney@gmail.com).



Photo by FOAF member Jim Meaney

### ***Butterfly Garden Looks for Volunteers***

*by Megan Konikowski, Butterfly Garden Manager*

We're putting together a volunteer crew to help keep the Butterfly Garden looking its best throughout the spring, summer and fall. Tasks include weeding, watering, cutting back perennials after flowering, and pruning bushes and trees. If you're interested in volunteering in the Butterfly Garden, please contact Megan at [mdkonikowski@gmail.com](mailto:mdkonikowski@gmail.com).

Planning continues for a new path in the Garden that will connect with a new trail linking the Monarch Trail to the Butterfly Garden. The new path will bisect the largest bed in the Garden, allowing visitors to get a closer look at the plants growing in the center of that bed.

### ***Nature Websites and Apps for Your Phone***

Here are a few handy nature websites and apps for your smart phone.

For birders, **eBird**, offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, allows you to plan trips, find birds, track your sightings, and explore range maps and bird migration. Visit the eBird website (<https://eBird.org>) or load the eBird app onto your phone. Once you've navigated to Massachusetts, click on Hot Spot Map

under the Explore heading. Type in "Adams Farm, Walpole, Norfolk County", click on "View Details", and you'll be taken to a list of birds spotted recently at Adams Farm. Click on "Submit Data" to create an account and add the names of birds you spot at the Farm.

**iNaturalist** is a social network for naturalists where you can record your observations of plants and animals, share them with friends and researchers, and learn about the natural world. Visit the iNaturalist website (<https://inaturalist.org>) or load the app onto your phone, then click on Explore to go to the Observation page. In the Location box, type in Adams Farm, Walpole, MA for a listing of plants and animals spotted at the Farm. Use iNaturalist on your phone to identify plants and animals by signing up on the app, then entering a photo and your location.

For more fun identifying plants and wildlife, try out the **Seek** app by iNaturalist. Using the Seek app you can earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges. For an introduction, visit [https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app).

### ***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](http://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](mailto: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.



### ***Community Garden Opens May 1<sup>st</sup>***

*from the Community Garden Management Committee*

All 64 plots in the Community Garden have been assigned for the 2022 gardening season. The 53 returning gardeners will be joined by 11 new gardeners this year.

Two new tasks – Mentoring and Vegetation Management – have been added to the Task Groups

that gardeners are required to participate in. The Weed Whacking group has been disbanded. Their work will be handled by the Pathway Mowing group on the main pathway in the Garden and by individual gardeners around their own plots.

Opening Day for the Community Garden is Sunday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a seed swap that day and an information table about pollinators and the plants that support them.

Three Community Garden potluck dinners have been scheduled during the summer, one each in July, August, and September.



### ***Salamanders***

*excerpted from the Spring 2021 issue of Explore, the Mass Audubon members' magazine*

One early harbinger of springtime in New England is the annual salamander migration, during which thousands of individuals cross forest floors – and occasionally highways – to return to their breeding grounds. But these amazing amphibians can be so secretive that most people never encounter them without knowing where to look.

Even so, the presence or absence of certain salamanders in an area can tell us a lot about the health of the ecosystem. Most species have moist, sensitive skin (some even use theirs to breathe) and highly specific habitat requirements. So if something is impairing the quality of their habitat, population numbers will reflect that. In particular, salamander species that rely on temporary vernal pools to breed are especially vulnerable to human development.

The salamanders in Massachusetts belong to four scientific families: lungless salamanders, mole salamanders, newts, and mudpuppies. The Mudpuppy, which can grow up to 15 inches long, is the largest of these. It's an aquatic, mud-colored creature with feathered gills that can only be found in the Connecticut River watershed.

Eleven species of salamanders are found in Massachusetts, from the ubiquitous Eastern Red-backed Salamander to the rare, beautiful Marbled Salamander. Four of these rely on vernal pools to

breed. Endangered species in Massachusetts include Jefferson Salamanders, Marbled Salamanders, and Blue-spotted Salamanders.

The oldest known salamander species, *Triassurus sixtelae*, is 230 million years old. Fossils of this salamander, discovered in Kyrgyzstan and announced in 2020, make salamanders, as a group, potentially older than the dinosaurs.

Learn more and find out how you can protect salamanders at [www.massaudubon.org/salamanders](http://www.massaudubon.org/salamanders).

### ***Fees for Photographer's Permits***

A reminder that permits are now required for professional photographers who want to use Adams Farm for their 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).

To obtain an application for a permit, go to <https://www.walpole-ma.gov/adams-farm-committee> on the Walpole Town website and click "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.

### ***Lady Slipper***

*A note from Emma Cosgro, a hiker at Adams Farm*



I was enjoying a run at Adams Farm this morning and came across this lovely Lady Slipper! I looked on the website to see if you had any pictures of it and wanted to share this one. I also want to let people know that it's a protected plant, so please leave any others you spot at the Farm for all to enjoy. They're quite beautiful.

Thank you for your work to provide a wonderful place for our community!

### ***Time to Renew Your Membership***

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your membership for 2022! 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 340 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:

<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](http://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](mailto: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*

## **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](http://www.adams-farm.com)

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