

"TREAT THE EARTH WELL: IT WAS NOT GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS, IT WAS LOANED TO YOU BY YOUR CHILDREN. WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN." Ancient Indian Proverb

***Butterfly Garden Still in Bloom***

As the fall weather provides us with sunshine, rain, and light winds, the Butterfly Garden continues to flourish and show off its many bright colors. The chrysanthemums, salvias, asters, roses, lavenders, straw flowers, and of course the bright yellow children's garden flowers continue to attract butterflies; e.g., Monarchs & Gray Hairstreaks (who love sedum), Black Swallowtails, and an occasional Tiger Swallowtail. At 4:35 pm a few weeks ago, I counted 5 different butterflies within 4 minutes. The birds are enjoying the many berries available. Humming birds, however, are not as frequently seen right now.



*There is still plenty to see!*

Thank you all for the many responses we received to identify the "Mystery Plant". The final decision, submitted by several members, is that it is a "GREATER MEADOW RUE", sometimes known as a "COLUMBINE MEADOW RUE" (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*). We hope you all enjoyed the search; I certainly did!

*Dorothy O'Shaughnessy, Coordinator, Walpole Woman's Club Butterfly Garden*

***Community Garden Update***

The tomatoes are starting to wither on browning vines now as the Community Garden wraps up its third successful growing season. All 64 plots were planted and cared for throughout the summer. The gardeners held two well-attended potluck dinners at the bam and once again participated in donating extra vegetables to Plant a Row for the Hungry. This year all gardeners were required to sign up for volunteer chores around the garden that had specific time lines and that spread the work around more evenly than past summers. Cheryl Stone painted lovely green and yellow plot markers for any gardener who re-

quested one. They really helped to showcase the various personalities in the garden and created another opportunity for gardeners to learn a little more about their garden neighbors.



*Coming to an end!*

With the return of so many gardeners for the third year in a row, the garden community is beginning to thrive. We all love to hear about the blossoming friendships that are forming. It's wonderful to see people befriending neighbors who they might never have encountered if not for our fabulous garden. We'll be closing the season on November 1st this year and looking forward to next Spring.

*Susan Shocket, Community Garden Coordinator*

***Plant A Row Program***

For a third season, Adams Farm provided the local chapter of Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) with an opportunity to grow and gather fresh vegetables for the benefit of neighbors in need of help with their groceries. The Community Garden welcomed back the Norwood Evening Garden Club with a plot for the benefit of PAR at no charge, and a donation box was available three times each week at the pavilion, allowing other members of the garden to contribute as well. The collective effort resulted in several hundred pounds of organically grown cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and green beans which were donated to the food pantries in Walpole, Norwood and Rosie's Place in Boston. This nutritious produce greatly improved the quality of many meals, and the generosity of those who donated to the program is so very much appreciated.

*Tracy Firth, PAR Area Coordinator*

## ***Gardeners' Potluck***



Gardeners at the Community Garden at Adams Farm shared a potluck dinner in the pavilion on Sunday, August 14. This was the second potluck gathering of the gardeners, who got a chance to share the produce from their gardens, and their favorite recipes as well, with fellow gardeners and their families. The Friends of Adams Farm expanded the Community Garden to 64 plots this year, offering twice as many plots to local gardeners as there were when the Garden opened just two years ago.

## ***Come Fly With Me – Let's Fly, Let's Fly Away***

On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, over 20 local families took part in a Kite Festival at Adams Farm sponsored by the Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Friends of Adams Farm. The fields had just been mowed for Adams Farm Day, and Mother Nature provided a sunny day with plenty of wind, making for near perfect kite-flying conditions. Participants could bring their own kites, or purchase make-your-own white or colored kites from the Rec. Dept. Decorating the white kites was also part of the fun. A great time was had by all. Don't wait for the next kite festival – kite flying is always welcome at Adams Farm!



*Kite flyers fill the front field at Adams Farm.*



*Coloring make-your-own kites in the barn at Adams Farm.*

## ***Our Best-Kept Secret!***

If you'd like to escape to a quiet spot with a great view, we've got just the place. There are two strategically-placed benches at Adams Farm, donated by Dr. Gordon Goodband in memory of his wife Margaret, that offer an escape from life's everyday hustle and bustle.

Many of you have probably already noticed one of the benches, which is located under a large pine tree at the back of the field behind the barn. To get to this bench, follow the cart path until you reach the woods, turn right through the fence at the Dogipot dispenser, and head for the large pine tree. If you enjoy water features, take a quick detour by turning right as you enter the field, and follow the trail down to the vernal pool. During the warmer months, the pool is teeming with iridescent dragonflies and elusive little green frogs.



*The left-hand bench offers of a view rolling fields.*

If shorter hikes are more your speed, the other bench is located just off the other side of the cart path. Turn left before entering the woods, and the bench will be just a few steps in front of you, hidden behind some tall plants. Take a short (or long!) break here and you'll be rewarded with a view of rolling fields stretching all the way back to North Street. The remains of a stone wall and wooden fence border the far edge of the fields and tall trees almost completely block the cart path, providing a wonderful feeling of solitude.

For a special treat, come in the early morning when the mist is rising off the fields and just maybe see a deer!

## ***Volleyball Courts Installed at the Farm***



Volleyball courts were installed opposite the barn in early September and are up and running at this time. The courts are administered by the Walpole Recreation Department and are available for use from dawn to dusk. (Bring your own ball!) The prime movers in getting the courts installed were a dedicated group of volleyball lovers who play three days a week through a program sponsored by the Rec. Dept.

### ***Summer Open Houses***

The July Open House was a very successful affair. Held on a perfect summer's day, it drew the largest attendance of any of our prior events. At one point, there were over 30 cars in the lot. Open Houses in August (rainy) and September were not as well attended, but even so, we got a chance to "sell" the virtues of the Farm to several new families and show our menagerie of stuffed animals to them, which is great fun for the kids. For the first time ever, at our September Open House we offered car rides out to the back meadow. We plan to make this a regular feature of future Open Houses, as it gives visitors who cannot hike on their own a chance to see "their" Farm. Our last Open House for 2011 will feature a photo shoot by local photographer Heather Crofts on October 9<sup>th</sup> (see below for details).

### ***Got Half an Hour? Take a Hike!***

Looking for a shorter hike than the hour-long Blue Loop Trail featured in an earlier issue of this newsletter? Try combining the Yellow/White and Blue/White Trails, which make a smaller loop inside the Blue Loop Trail. This shorter circuit takes only 30 to 40 minutes, starting and ending at the kiosk next to the barn.

To begin, go through the gate and follow the cart path into the woods past the wooden bench that marks the entrance to the Blue Loop Trail. A few minutes later, a small semicircular trail will appear on your left, and on one of the trees to your right you'll see the trailhead markers of the Yellow/White Trail. The path heads downhill, leading to a rocky area reminiscent of a dry streambed, the roughest spot on the trail.



*A stony section at the start of the Yellow/White Trail.*

The trail then winds uphill, bordered by blueberry bushes. Soon you'll see two more yellow and white trail markers, this time bent at an angle to indicate a turn in the trail.



*Two bent trail markers denote a turn in the trail.*

Take a left between two tall trees and follow the trail uphill once again as it twists and turns through a mixture of blueberry bushes and white pines. The Yellow/White Trail then comes to an end, and another left turn will put you on the mossy path of the Blue/White Trail. This soon opens into a small clearing of ferns and milkweed.



*A small clearing of ferns and milkweed signals the end of the Blue/White Trail.*

A side trail goes off to the right here, so stay to the left to remain on the Blue/White Trail. Soon you'll reach the cart path, where another left turn will take you back to the barn. Distance: 1 mile. Time: 30-40 minutes.

### ***Give the Gift of Membership***

Having trouble coming up with just the right gift for someone this holiday season? Why not give them a membership in the Friends of Adams Farm? Membership will put them on the mailing list for our quarterly newsletter, as well as providing them with regular email updates about happenings at the Farm. It's easy! All you have to do is download the membership form from the Adams Farm website ([www.adams-farm.com](http://www.adams-farm.com)) or pick up a copy in the Selectmen's office at Town Hall, fill it out with the recipient's information, and send it to the Friends of Adams Farm, P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081, along with a check for the membership level of your choice. Please include your name at the bottom of the form, so we can inform the recipient of your gift. Your donation will be used to maintain and enhance the Farm property.

### **October Open House Features Photo Shoot**

With the beautiful fall foliage coming soon, the Friends of Adams Farm will offer visitors to the October Open House the opportunity to have family portraits taken by Walpole Lifestyle Photographer Heather Crofts, perfect for Christmas cards and holiday prints. The Open House will take place on Sunday, October 9, from 10 am to 1 pm. Visitors interested in having their portraits taken may sign up upon arrival for a 15-minute session with Heather. No sitting fee will be charged; photos may be ordered directly from Heather. For more information on Heather Crofts Photography, visit her website at [www.heathercrofts.com](http://www.heathercrofts.com) or give her a call at 508-333-0166.

### **America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative**

*(excerpted from the summer issue of Connections, the Mass Audubon member newsletter)*

In February, the Obama administration released *America's Great Outdoors Initiative*. Subtitled "A Promise to Future Americans", the AGO report is the culmination of nearly a year of collecting opinions from over 10,000 participants representing a broad spectrum of constituencies throughout the U.S. The consensus reached by the report is that the protection of our natural resources is urgent and important. While there are those who argue that we can't afford clean air and water and protection of ecosystems and endangered species, the AGO report provides some direction and encouragement for doing just that.

Here are the statistics: (1) about one-third of the open space developed during our country's entire history has been lost in the last three decades; (2) despite the slow economy, we continue to lose about 1.6 million acres of farms, forests, and other open lands each year; and (3) the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that by the end of the century the population will have grown more than 30 percent, from the present 309 million to about 400 million.

To fund land protection initiatives, the AGO report recommends full funding of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, to be paid for by existing oil and gas revenues. The full report can be found at [www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov](http://www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov).

### **New England Forests Exhibit at Harvard**

*(courtesy of Ed Sugrue)*

There's a new exhibit at the Harvard Museum of Natural History focusing on the ecology of local New England forests. This permanent exhibit which opened in May explores the natural history and ecology of our regional forests. To learn more about it, visit <http://www.hmn.harvard.edu/press-room/new-england-forests.html>.

### **Facebook**

Recently, Jessica Lastarza, our new Director, has set up The Friends of Adams Farm, Inc. with a Facebook Page. Anyone can view it after signing in. Joining Facebook is free and can be accomplished by going to Facebook.com and following the sign-up procedure.

### **Membership**

Currently, we have 366 families on our roster. We hope that this is an indication of the expanding interest in and enjoyment of the Farm by the greater Walpole Community, as well as a sign that our "message" is being heard, reminding the public of the importance of maintaining the green spaces in Walpole.

Please take time to talk to your *friends, neighbors and relatives* about Adams Farm and the many activities that take place there, and encourage them to join the ranks of our members. The more members we have, the more help we will have toward our objective of preserving and enhancing Adams Farm. Our membership dues schedule is as follows:

<b>Individual</b>	\$10.00
<b>Family</b>	\$15.00
<b>Sponsor</b>	\$25.00
<b>Patron</b>	\$50.00

Membership forms are available in the map box at the Farm and on the Adams Farm website ([www.adams-farm.com](http://www.adams-farm.com)), and should be sent, along with your check made out to The Friends of Adams Farm, Inc., to P.O. 725, Walpole, MA 02081.

*Dedicated to the Preservation of Adams Farm*

**Adams Farm**

**Located at 999 North Street, North Walpole, Mass.**

**Friends of Adams Farm, Inc.**

Mail Address: P.O. Box 725, Walpole, MA 02081

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