

# Friends of Spy Pond Park Newsletter

## Summer 2013

## BU's 2013 Global Day of Service in Spy Pond Park

By Holly Masek



PHOTO BY BETTY ATHANASOULAS

In sunglasses and t-shirts supplied by BU, alumni gather by Spy Pond to celebrate the completion of another successful Global Day of Service.

On April 20th, six Boston University alumni joined a few other BU alumni and the Friends of Spy Pond Park in their monthly cleanup as part of BU's 2013 Global Days of Service program.

Four of the alums were long-time friends who have made an annual tradition out of participating in BU's Global Days of Service. They pick a new site each year to see different parts of the city. This year the group chose Spy Pond Park because they often pass it as they bike along the Minuteman Trail. A fifth BU alum, who volunteered solo, offered his height and enthusiasm to the team. The sixth alumna was already an official Friend of Spy Pond Park, and as the team worked they discovered that she and one of the younger alums had lived in the same cooperative dorm at BU—a few decades apart.

The afternoon was spent cutting back overgrown shrubs along the shore. Hopefully, this work will result in unobstructed views for Spy Pond Park visitors all season. As the group chopped, raked, and bagged, a number of passers-by stopped to ask if they could help. It would be fantastic if those flashy red BU t-shirts inspired a new group of volunteers to come and assist the Friends of Spy Pond Park in the future!

## Spy Pond Park Fun Day

The 9th Annual Spy Pond Fun Day will have it all: nature crafts, bug hunting, scavenger hunts with prizes, boat rides to the island, face-painting, and music from at least 3 parts of the world. The big question is: Will it have you?

Volunteers are needed to publicize Fun Day, solicit prizes, lead activities with kids, set up and take down, and play music. If you'd like to be part of the fun, please contact Betsy Leondar-Wright at [betsy@classmatters.org](mailto:betsy@classmatters.org), 781-648-0630.

We'll look forward to seeing you near the playground by Pond Lane from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 7 (rain date Sunday).

## Spy Pond Music Festival 2013



Paul English is organizing a Spy Pond Music Festival on

**Saturday, July 20th**  
**from 12 p.m. until 9 p.m.**

Grab a guitar and a canoe and meet other musicians around the pond.

Folks who live on the pond are encouraged to run a family BBQ and have some of their guests participate as well.

Paul will update [www.spypondparty.com](http://www.spypondparty.com) with more information about this event. Hope to see you making music on and around Spy Pond! He is looking for people to distribute posters for the event. Please contact [paul@spypondparty.com](mailto:paul@spypondparty.com).

## Fourth of July Regatta on Spy Pond?

By Eva Balazs

That's right! In the 1960s and 70s regattas were memorable occasions for sailing, racing, and partying. Fourth of July Regattas on Spy Pond had been great events before then, events that attracted people from far and wide. In 1962 I thought how nice it would be to revive this forgotten custom. Talking it over with friends and neighbors, it seemed that everyone felt the same way. So we decided to have a regatta on the Fourth of July that year.

It started first on a very small scale, and gradually developed into a larger event held annually on Spy Pond. People would gather in our backyard on the Fourth. Some came by boat, others in cars, bringing their own boats, or just walking down the street to join in the fun.

The races started at two o'clock in the afternoon, but preparations would have been going on from early morning. My children and their friends were in charge of the decorations. Trees had to be climbed to place flags at various points. Strings of banners had to be made and hung between branches. Markers had to be set out on the water. Boats had to be towed in from people around Spy Pond who lent their boats for the occasion. The registration table had to be set up, prize ribbons put on display, and the waterfront made ship-shape.

After one o'clock, boats began to appear from all directions. Each one received a great ovation from the welcoming committee of children. Here they were, last year's winners or losers, mischief-makers or mishap-contributors, ready to try again! Expectations mounted! Then, promptly at two o'clock, the Regatta started.

Oh, we ran numerous races, fun races and hard-work races, races for youngsters, for adults, for father-and-son combinations, and for mother-and-daughter teams. There were canoe races, kayak, rowboat, and sailboat races. The "grand finale" was always a sailboat race. The younger generation ran a shorter race around Rock Island, the others around Elizabeth Island.

Some years we had splendid weather on the Fourth, other times it was cool or rainy. But, the annual Regatta was always great fun. It meant friendship, camaraderie, and good sportsmanship for all.

Then, in 1974, my husband went on a sabbatical and we were away for two summers—the regattas were forgotten, again. Anyone interested in reviving them, the New Generation, perhaps?

*Editors note: Thanks to Eva Balazs for her remembrances and her involvement in supporting activities in and around Spy Pond in Arlington. You can read about more of her memories in her book: Spy Pond Stories for sale at our outreach booth in the park for \$25 on our Work Days and available at the Robbins Library.*

## Spy Pond Canoe & Kayak Rentals

**Saturdays and Sundays 10am-6pm,  
Memorial Day to Labor Day**

The Arlington Recreation Department is once again pleased to announce canoe and kayak rentals at Spy Pond for the spring/summer 2013 season.

Hourly rentals are available on weekend days at the Spy Pond public boat ramp at Spy Pond Park, Pond Lane. Hourly boat rental rates will be \$10 for a single kayak, \$15 for a tandem double kayak and \$15 for a canoe. All participants must wear life jackets.

**Ages 18 & Up:** Adults may sign our rental Release From Liability And Indemnity Agreement form and paddle on their own.

**Ages 13 to 17:** Small groups of up to four children ages 13 to 17 may paddle unaccompanied when each child's parent or guardian signs our Release From Liability And Indemnity Agreement form. The waiver or permission form must be presented in person by a parent or guardian. Groups of more than four children of this age must be accompanied by an adult on the water and each adult is responsible for up to six children of this age.

**Ages 12 and under:** All children ages 12 and under must be accompanied on the water by an adult (age 18 and older) but may paddle their own boat. Each adult can be responsible for up to two children of this age.

For further information please call Arlington Recreation at 781.316.3880.

## Feast of the East

By Sally Hempstead

This June beautiful days have been few and far between. However, Saturday June 15 was perfect for The Feast of the East with blue skies and temperatures in the 70's. The Friends of Spy Pond Park set up our tent in front of the Cambridge Savings Bank in East Arlington and spent four delightful hours visiting with the Town's enthusiastic inhabitants as well as many Spy Pond lovers from surrounding areas.

We received kudos for our new display board that includes photos of all the various activities that happen in our park. Children enjoying our September Fun Day are decorated with face paint in many designs and colors. Budding artists are completing a mystical painting and, of course, everyone is playing in the playground. Our volunteers are shown clearing invasive plants from our park and generally cleaning up the area and weeding out

the beautiful planting beds. And yes, we have a rain garden which is exhibited on the board, but which is far lovelier in person. Look carefully and you will see examples of the wildlife that frequent Spy Pond including an owl and an egret. There is a photo of a scene from Macbeth performed by Shakespeare in the Park players from The Arlington Center for the Arts that took place in our large field adjacent to the pond. This July 21st, we will have the privilege of hosting "The Tempest." Please stop by to view this beautiful new board at Spy Pond Field at our booth and to say "hello" at that event.

Where else can you find a more interesting place to visit, explore and enjoy. None of this would have been possible without our loyal "Friends," Jason Fligg, Marshall McCloskey and Karen Grossman who made our presence at The Feast of the East a joy and a success!

## Shakespeare in the Park

Arlington's Favorite Summertime Tradition!

Enjoy the bard in your backyard! Come early; bring chairs or blankets and a picnic. The sponsors will sell desserts and beverages to supplement your picnic baskets.

### The Tempest

Sunday, July 21, 5:00pm

Arlington Children's Theatre

Spy Pond Field (rain location 41 Foster Street – Arlington Center for the Arts)

### Romeo and Juliet

Sunday, August 18, 5:00pm

The Actors Company

Robbins Farm Park (rain location 41 Foster Street, Arlington Center for the Arts)

Sponsored by the Arlington Center for the Arts, Robbins Farm Park, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park, and Friends of Spy Pond Park

<http://www.acarts.org/shakespeare.php>

ACA programs receive generous support from:



Since the Friends of Spy Pond Park will be hosting/sponsoring the Arlington Children's Theater's production of the Tempest at Spy Pond Field, we are looking for several volunteers to bring drinks or "goodies, i.e. cookies, brownies, little bags of nuts, or other snacks that we can sell to people that day to raise money for the event. Contact Betty Athanasoulas, 781-646-1343, [athanasoulasb@gmail.com](mailto:athanasoulasb@gmail.com) to let her know what you'll bring by Friday, July 19.

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Whether walking by yourself or with your dog, riding along the Minuteman Trail, picnicking in the park, taking out a canoe, kayak or paddleboard from the boat ramp, sitting on a bench and reading, fishing from the rocks, pushing a stroller, or enjoying the playground equipment, Spy Pond and Spy Pond Park are truly joyous sights to behold!

To keep the park in tip-top shape as summer rolls in, the Friends of Spy Pond Park continues to join forces against the invasive plants in the planting beds along the shoreline. The Beautification Committee provides guidance and photos to educate new volunteers. I have been pleased at the number of people who have come to help, even those who responded to our temporary signs encouraging people to contribute even 20 minutes of their time. Anybody 8 years or older can offer a hand. It's a great way for you or your family to have the experience of doing community service and a valuable way to demonstrate your appreciation for the environment.

I am eagerly anticipating the recreational activities happening in the vicinity of Spy Pond Park this year: the fishing lessons, the Pond Music Celebration, Shakespeare at Spy Pond Field and our Annual Fun Day in Spy Pond Park. Mark your calendars now so you'll be able to participate in these enjoyable events.

We've been receiving dues and donations since our annual May solicitation. If you haven't sent your contributions to our PO Box yet, please support our efforts by doing so at your earliest convenience. We always appreciate your generosity.

See you in the park!

Sincerely,

Karen L. Grossman

President

Friends of Spy Pond Park

**Friends of Spy Pond Park  
next meeting  
at  
Karen Grossman's  
Sunday, July 14, 2013  
at 7:00 p.m.  
32 Hamilton Road #402**

RSVP (optional) to 781-646-5990  
email [fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org)

Park on Linwood Street off Mass. Ave. or on Lakehill off  
Lake St. at the far end of the complex.

## To join Friends of Spy Pond Park...

Send your annual dues (\$15 individual, \$25 household, \$5 low-income) to:  
FSPP, P.O. Box 1051  
Arlington, MA 02474-0021  
For more information, call a Friends officer.

President: Karen L. Grossman	(781) 646-5990
General Vice-President: open	
Treasurer: Marshall McCloskey	(617) 548-9877
Recording Secretary: Beverly Williams	(781) 316-1917
VPs for Communication & Outreach:	
Sally Hempstead	(860) 944-1370
Jamie Ciocco	<a href="mailto:jamcio@gmail.com">jamcio@gmail.com</a>
Co-Chairs for Publicity:	
Jacki Katzman	(781) 648-9227
Lally Stowell	(781) 777-2759
Beautification Committee:	
Betty Athanasoulas	(781) 646-1343
Gail McCormick	(781) 646-0614
Richard Norcross	(781) 641-2404
Lally Stowell	(781) 777-2759
Beverly Williams	(781) 316-1917
Webmaster: Fred Moses	<a href="mailto:fred@fmoses.com">fred@fmoses.com</a>
Chair for Outreach/Park Events:	
Betsy Leondar-Wright	(781) 648-0630
Fundraising Chair: Jason Fligg	(781) 724-7638

Newsletter contributions and general comments can be sent to  
[fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org](mailto:fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org)

## FSPP 2013 Work Days

We encourage you to come as often as possible and to invite your friends, family, members of your community groups and colleagues at work to participate. High school students can earn community service credits. We look forward to a record number of eager volunteers this year!

July 13 10 a.m.-1 p.m., rain date July 14 1-4 p.m.

August 17 10 a.m.-1 p.m., rain date August 18 1-4 p.m.

September 7 1-4 p.m., rain date September 8 1-4 p.m.  
**Work and Fun Day** (children's activities in the park)

October 5 1-4 p.m., rain date October 6 1-4 p.m.

For questions: Lally Stowell, Beautification Committee  
Member, 781-777-2759

**Baby Hank (Henry David Fligg) was born Monday, April 1st at Mt. Auburn Hospital. The photo is, according to FSPP volunteers Erin and Jason Fligg, proof positive that Hank was on-board with the FSPP from day one!**



## Support the Shakespeare Fund

2013 marks the 13th anniversary of Shakespeare in Parks in Arlington! The Arlington Center for the Arts relies on support and sponsorships to present this beloved summertime tradition. Your support will ensure Shakespeare in the Park will continue as a free community program in the years to come.

To make a donation: donate online fast, easy & secure:  
<https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=04-3034682>

or send a check payable to:

The Arlington Center  
for the Arts  
41 Foster Street  
Arlington, MA 02474

All contributions are tax deductible. With a suggested donation of \$25 the ACA will send you an Evite to a house party fundraiser at a private home in Arlington to be held on July 11. Just indicate you'd like to attend.

The Arlington Center for the Arts invites you to:

### Shakespeare in the Park House Party & Fundraiser

Thurs., July 11, 2013, 7 p.m.  
at Barry and Doug Russell's  
34 Bellevue Road,  
Arlington, MA 02476

R.S.V.P. to [linda@acarts.org](mailto:linda@acarts.org)