



Friends of Alewife Reservation

Protecting Boston's last wilderness

www.friendsofalewifereservation.org

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Online donations now possible!

Visit Wainwright Bank's [Community Room](#) to make a secure donation to Friends of Alewife. Thank you for supporting our work!

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<http://twitter.com/#!/AlewifeFriends>

Friends of Alewife Reservation is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

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Park Serve Day Success

April 16th was Park Serve Day, an annual state-wide day of volunteer service dedicated to cleaning up parks and trails across Massachusetts. This year, FAR hosted a successful cleanup of the Alewife Brook Reservation. The event drew about 60 volunteers from places as varied as Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville, Jamaica Plain, BU, BC, the Department of Transportation, and the Harvard Wyss Institute.

Over the course of the day, the cleanup effort recovered roughly 20 cubic yards of refuse. The Department of Conservation and Recreation had to call in several trucks to haul the trash away. The Reservation looks noticeably cleaner throughout, especially at Yates Pond where more trash was bagged than in the rest of the reservation combined.

After the clean up, those who chose to stay were treated to a nature walk guided by Steve Gillies. The walk was very enjoyable and very informative. Along the way, walkers were able to view and identify a variety of signs left by the numerous animals that inhabit the park. The scat of deer and rabbits was plentiful in the meadow. There was a rabbit carcass that had apparently been killed by a hawk (perhaps Buzz or Ruby). The gnawing of voles, meadow mice, and deer was observed on many tree trunks and bushes. Deer footprints were visible throughout the meadow. Along the trail by the brook, patches of mud preserved coyote tracks. Several species of birds were spotted, including robins, but geese, now in their mating season, were easily the most visible.

In all, Park Serve Day was a resounding success. The cleanup/wildlife walk model proved an excellent way to allow volunteers to get as much out of the park as they put into it through their efforts.



Students of Boston College's Carroll School of Management help clean the Alewife Brook Reservation on Park Serve Day

President's Message

How could the city and towns have allowed Alewife developers so many continuing building permits on the floodplain? What is the science behind the silver maple forest preservation case, and the FEMA floodplain hazard maps for Alewife? What impact will the forest displacement have on the prolific wildlife? How did the state neglect to render these scientists' reports in the DEP Hearings in 2009? Where to go after Middlesex Superior Court in March? These questions and more will be answered April 28 at the Beth El Temple in Belmont by a panel of Scientists and attorneys and moderated with a New England environmental leader from Trust for Public Land. What will the appraisal from the Legislative bill bring? FAR and its sponsors encourage you to attend the 2 hour event, take in the information, and learn how it affects your community and your world, and may set a terrible environmental and climate precedent for decades to come if we lose these regional resources. Please continue to support our organization and bring the information to yours.



Jenny Lee, BU Alumni Association Site Coordinator, Steve Gillies, Naturalist, and Ellen Mass, FAR President, posing before the wildlife walk on Park Serve Day



EVENTS:

16th Annual Mystic River Spring Cleanup

For the beauty and health of our river!

When: Saturday, April 30, 2011

Time: 9:30 am to 2 pm
Supplies and refreshments provided.
Call 781-391-2604 with questions. (Rain date: saturday, May 1, 2011.)

Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle

Run, Walk or Paddle for the fish!

When: Sunday, May 15, 2011:

<http://mysticriver.org/herring-run/> for details, to register and for volunteer opportunities.

Wildlife Walk Series

Next: Sundays, May 8th and 15th.

10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Led by local naturalist Dave Brown as part of the Cambridge Science Festival. Signs of Alewife Reservation flora and fauna will be found and studied.

Cambridge Climate Change Week 2011, May 13-21

Cambridge citizens and groups are working together to prevent global climate change. They are demonstrating commitment locally by organizing one week of activities beginning with a kick off event key note speaker and closing with a Climate Action Festival initiated by Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group (CCEAG). They welcome people from the Boston area to attend. "The week is geared to inspire many more people to take action," says Bio-Tech entrepreneur, Quinton Zondervan. We'll be working with individuals to make a difference in their daily actions. "I am trying to make a three family home more efficient, and heat with renewable energy," says climate advocate, Joanna Herlihy.

Sam Berk is a resident of Cambridge and an attorney and thinks that it is important to work on projects, such as Cambridge Climate Change Week, that will encourage constructive action with regard to climate change.

Dale Kline explains, "I am a resident and accountant in Cambridge since 1987 and believe climate change is truly an emergency and big changes are needed. I've felt helpless and know we should work together to help the government mandate larger changes."

Architect Erik Thorkildsen says, "I am deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change on human lives and on the planet's ecosystems. Our generation must ensure a sustainable future by moving towards a new reality-based political, economic and technological system." John Pitkin explains, "I am a parent and grandparent, who believes we need climate security just as we need economic security or homeland security, and our leaders are not doing what is necessary to ensure it."

May 13-May 21st, witnesses of severe weather patterns will dramatize the impacts that climate changes are already having on people around the world. An Action-Fest on Tuesday the 21st includes environmental organizations in Cambridge that will promote many aspects of energy efficiency and conservation work. Useful climate guidance and information will be shared, and city officials will attend to speak and encourage visitors during the climate emergency Action-Fest.

For more information: cccweek2011@gmail.com.

Summer Ecology Camp 2011

My name is Rob Tainsh and I am very excited to be the Supervisor of this year's Summer Ecology Camp. I have been working with youth for some time now, most notably as a proctor for the Harvard Summer School and Director of Security for the Harvard Model United Nations conference. I expect this coming summer to see the best FAR Ecology Camp to date. Our Assistant Supervisor, Mary Ripple, and I will draw on the successes of last year's program while implementing our own improvements to make sure that we provide an outstanding experience, both fun and educational, for our campers.

Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands

The Coalition to Preserve the Belmont Uplands has joined in the effort to save the Silver Maple Forest. The Coalition recognizes the Uplands, which include the Silver Maple Forest, as an essential area for both its wildlife habitat and its ability to absorb floodwater. To join or support their cause, you can visit their website at <http://www.belmontcoalition.org/index.html>. You can also "[like](#)" them on Facebook and share the link with Friends.

Action Alert

We need your help to support wetlands protection, hazardous waste site clean up, water quality monitoring or enforcement of our environmental laws, safe, clean parks and stewardship of our invaluable state park system. Please take a moment to contact your state representative today and ask him/her to support (or oppose as noted below) amendments to the budget. The house debates the budget this coming week, starting April 25. Your calls will make a difference! Your representative's contact information can be found by [clicking here](#). If you're not sure who your representative is, [this site will tell you](#).

Floodplain Forest and Floodway Development:

Implications for Nearby Residents, Communities and Wildlife



April 28
Temple Beth El
Belmont
Concord Ave. Blanchard Rd.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Parking on site
617 415-1884 for more information

Alewife's Natural Resources are threatened with development. Belmont Conservation Commission, Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands, and Friends of Alewife Reservation have appealed the DEP decision to displace a rare silver maple forest for housing. Experts feel the forest and surrounding open space are essential for protection of the 500 acre floodplain covering
Arlington, Cambridge and Belmont.

Scientists and Attorneys Speak Out

Kathy Abbot - Moderator: Executive Vice President of the Trustees of Reservations, former Commissioner of Department of Conservation and Recreation, former Asst. Secretary for Land Policy at EOEEA

Charles Katuska: Forty years of state and corporate experience in wetlands and forestry. Former Conservation Commissioner of Carver and Southborough. Board of Directors of Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions; wetlands and wildlife scientist witness for Plaintiffs at DEP Hearings on the silver maple forest.

Scott Horsley: Hydrologist - President and CEO of Horsley and Witten, Inc., Professor Environmental Engineering, Principle Instructor- U.S. EPA workshops on watershed management. US-EPA He received the Environmental Innovator Award from EPA for his work in constructed wetlands and storm water treatment; Hydrology specialist for DEP Hearings-Town of Belmont.

Thomas Bracken: Founding partner of first dedicated environmental law firm in Boston; formerly Regional General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (New England Region), Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Agency for International Development and Chairman of Cambridge Conservation Commission. Represents Plaintiffs in Hearings and court proceedings for preservation of the silver maple forest.

EkOngKar Singh Khalsa: Executive Director Mystic River Watershed Association. 25 years experience in environmental design, planning, engineering and environmental restoration, hazardous waste investigation. Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Northeastern University, Boston University and the University of Alaska. Former Executive Director for Hallmark Companies. Broad understanding of public land use policy.

Tino Lichauco: Attorney in intellectual property law for fifteen years. Research Engineer at MIT and Livermore National Laboratory. Member of the Belmont Conservation Commission for four years. Represents the Commission in appealing the DEP order in Adjudicatory Hearings and in Woburn Superior Court in behalf of the silver maple forest.

Annie Thompson: A concerned East Arlington resident and MIT trained urban planner and regional economist will present the 2010 FEMA maps, discuss changes from the 1982 maps and describe the potential implications of additional planned development in the area.

Sponsors: Friends of Alewife Reservation, Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands, Cambridge Tree Stewards, Sustainable Arlington, Mystic River Watershed Association, Sustainable Belmont, Cambridge Climate Emergency Group, Arlington Land Trust, Belmont Land Trust, Groundwork Somerville, Belmont Citizen Forum, Greater Boston Group of Sierra Club, Arlington Vision 20/20