



Issue 4, June 2016

News of the Fells

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Matthew Reid

The Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation is dedicated to the protection and harmonious use of the Fells; promoting awareness, policies and programs to honor and preserve the ecological, historical and recreational resources of this urban forest reservation.

Cummings Foundation 100K for 100 Grant Awarded

The Friends of the Fells is excited to announce a game changing development. We have been selected to receive a full Cummings Foundation 100K for 100 grant to expand youth programming in the Fells. In particular, the funding will enable us to further expand our Forest Learning initiatives and expand our pilot program, the Mustangs of the Fells, to other area high schools including Stoneham, Malden, Melrose, and

Winchester. More information on this development will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter, but please join us in congratulating the Friends' grant team: Neil O. Anderson, Mike Oliver, Lindsay Beal, Angelika Paul, Charles Saulnier, Sheri Qualters and Diana Lomakin, as well as thanking the Cummings Foundation for this honor.



Whole Foods 5% Days

Great news! The Friends of the Fells will officially be the first non-profit organization to be a part of Whole Foods store wide 5% days. In the months of June and July, the following stores will host a 5% giveback day—Woburn, Medford, Arlington, and Melrose. The great thing is that all you have to do is shop.

Arlington, Tuesday, June 14th
Medford, Tuesday, June 21st
Woburn, Wednesday, June 29th
Melrose, Tuesday, July 19th

See pages 10-11 for detailed locations.

We will also have information tables in each of the stores and are looking for volunteers between 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and then from 4:00 AM – 8:00 PM, with high priority for the hours of 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. For more information about volunteering, please contact Lindsay Beal at 413-237-4747 or at lindsay@yarsley.com

New Youth Program Coordinator Ann Frenning Kossuth

A proud Medford resident, Ann Frenning Kossuth joins the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation with an abiding love for the natural environment. Her B.A. in English from Bates and M.A. in English Language & Literature from Georgetown supplement her early education from her parents. On nature walks her father would imitate the calls of the White-throated Sparrow and Chickadee, and together afterward they would locate together any new birds spotted in Peterson's Field Guide. Her mother knew nearly all the New England wildflowers, and shared with Ann her passion for "experiential nature learning" based on Rachel Carson's 1965 children's book, *The Sense of Wonder*. Its gentle themes dovetail nicely with the Fells' Youth Programs.

Most of Ann's professional career has been spent working in various capacities at Harvard University,

although she also worked at Merriam-Webster as their first Online Sales Manager. One of the most notable roles she played at Harvard was as program coordinator for a start-up Working Group for Sustainable Cities at the University's Center for the Environment.

In 2015 she co-founded the Medford Educational Foundation to support teacher innovation in the classrooms of Medford Public Schools. She co-founded Medford's EPA-award-winning "GreenUp CleanUp" program in 2011 to build community and environmental stewardship while keeping local playgrounds and parks clean. Also, she has co-led a Girl Scout Troop in Medford for five years, which has involved numerous planting, hiking, scavenger hunting, and geocaching activities. She hopes to parlay this experience into support for Fells initiatives.



Two years ago, Friends of the Fells Chairman—then Volunteer Coordinator—Rich Sanford helped lead the charge to revive the Trail Adopter program. The program is a success! So far, we have about thirty miles of trails adopted, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. There is a visible difference, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is thankful for the support, and it has inspired a renewed interest in stewardship.

Rich explains: “Adopters commit to visit their adopted trails at least three times per year, to ensure that the treadway and any drainage structures are clear, that signage and blazes are clearly visible, and to remove trash that may accumulate along the trail. More motivated and experienced Trail Adopters may approach DCR with specific projects to improve their trails, close illegal trails or remove invasive plants.”

As Rich’s leadership role in the organization evolved, he handed off some of his former duties to Lindsay Beal, current Volunteer Coordinator, and Jeff Buxbaum, new Trail Adopter Coordinator.

Jeff was a Trail Adopter before he agreed to lead the program and told us, “I moved to Medford in 2009 and discovered the Fells soon after. I’ve enjoyed hiking with and without our dog several times a week ever since, and skiing and snowshoeing. I finally woke up to the idea that the park didn’t take care of itself so this past spring I volunteered to be a Trail Adopter. Rich and I did some initial reconnaissance and maintenance, and then I’ve been out with shears and a small saw to keep the trail clear in accord with the Trail Adopters manual. Being a Trail Adopter is not a big time commitment, but it does provide a little feeling that the Fells is a resource that belongs to all of us, and if everyone pitched in just a bit, we can keep it in good shape.”

As Rich was training us, he told us he was pleased with how the program



Craig Beal

Trail Adopter Program is a Success by Lindsay Beal

has developed, but said it has also always been a goal to have ‘Trail Adopter Workshops,’ a series of training programs for current and aspiring Trail Adopters, and others who wish to learn more about this type of stewardship.

It is starting to come together! Former chair, current board member, and resident botany expert Bryan Hamlin has offered to take all Trail Adopters on in-depth, one-on-one tours of their adopted routes. He’ll point out concerns, explain best practices, and these tutorials will definitely delve deeper than the original orientation walks all Trail Adopters receive.

Another Friends of the Fells botanist, Walter Kittredge, explains, “The Fells is full of invasive plants due to its urban setting, and past land uses that disturbed the soil and native vegetation. Nowhere is this truer than the site near the maintenance yard that was used for a plant nursery. The entire area is over-run with vines of Oriental bittersweet and porcelain berry, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, glossy buckthorn, barberry, and

garlic mustard, among others. We [should] look at past efforts to remove invasives in this area, talk about removal techniques and strategies at different scales, and do some hands-on removal.”

These two initiatives begin the Trail Adopter Workshop series, and we’re brainstorming more offerings. Some ideas being tossed around include having Trail Adopters team up to produce public service announcement videos, trainings on how to lead trail service field trips, and potential partnerships with local native plant gardening experts. What would you like to see?

Gillian Badwan



Highlights from May

1. Medford Mayor Burke and Malden Mayor Christenson *Mayor Burke's Office*
2. Bob Weggel receives the Elizur Wright Award at the Annual Meeting *Diana Lomakin*

3. Medford Girl Scouts at Of Beavers and Burns hike *Medford Girl Scouts FB page*
4. Theodore P. Wright, Jr, great great grandson of Elizur Wright *Mike Ryan*
5. Hike to Wright's Tower with Theodore P. Wright, Jr. *Gillian Badwan*

6. Outdoor Martial Arts *Lindsay Beal*
7. Barred owl *Dan Antonaccio*
8. Yellow warbler *Gillian Badwan*
9. Mustangs of the Fells trip to Spectacle Island *Neil O. Anderson*





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Theodore P. Wright, Jr.

Theodore P. Wright, Jr, the great great grandson of Elizur Wright, taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Comparative Politics, Political Development, Politics of South Asia and Comparative Ethnicity for 30 years (1965–95). He has published more than 80 journal articles on various aspects of Indian and Pakistani politics.

He is active in the Association for Asian Studies and its regional affiliate, the New York conference on Asia; the annual Wisconsin conference on South Asia; The European conference on Modern South Asia; the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies; the South Asian Muslim studies Association; and the Columbia University Faculty seminar on South Asia.

He is an officer of the Dutch settlers Society of Albany and the New Netherlands Institute in Albany.

Found in the Fells, June

by Bryan Hamlin

This is somewhat of a downtime for wildflowers on the woodland floor where it is now very shaded. But there are some that manage. Look for the attractive false Solomon's seal. I think it's too nice to be anyone's false. It is in the same genus - in other words, closely related - as Canada mayflower (see May page) - but the plant arches over the same way as the earlier blooming Solomon's seal.

In late May and blooming through much of June: yellow star grass (which is a lily). In the second half of June, the pairs of feathery white patridgeberry flowers decorate the already attractive patches of small dark green leaves on banks. And where the sun gets through more - where there are meadows in the Fells and open spaces on hilltops and around the larger bodies of water and along the trails, then there will be blossoms galore; in other words where the plants can get enough sun. Four-leaved milkweed is a more attractive cousin to the common milkweed; and rattlesnake weed is a nondescript yellow hawkweed, save for its striking

rosette of basal leaves with their dark purple veins.

There are other hawkweeds blooming, but these are not native. Another woodland bloomer in June in somewhat damp places is the cute-looking indian cucumber root, a very small-flowered lily, and two laurels bloom—the bushes of white mountain laurel and the smaller sheep laurel with its magenta flowers.

In really wet places, including on the sides of ponds, look for the striking native iris or blue flag. On the north shore of Wright's Pond there are also yellow irises, but these are an introduction, and I have to say I prefer our native iris. Also by the sides of ponds: the sweet scented swamp azalea and swamp sweetbells, the latter looking a bit like a late-blooming high-bush blueberry except that the white bell flowers are hung out in long rows on slender twigs. And on the open water of ponds throughout the Fells are to be seen both white and yellow water-lilies. In short, much to delight the eye and nose in beautiful June.

Blue Iris by Bryan Hamlin
foundinthefells.com



We regularly partner with local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Check out this blog post from the Medford Girl Scouts for more on how you can get your troop or other service organization involved. We've found the Scout volunteers we've worked with to be unfailingly hard-working, polite, enthusiastic, reliable, and willing to take initiative. Lately, we've been working more closely with Gabe and Yianni from Lexington. They decided to send us some thoughts about their experiences. What struck me the most was how sharp and strong their sense of nostalgia for the Fells is. Age-wise, they are younger teenagers, but their memories and connections are already so poignant.

Yianni writes: "Before March 10th, 2016, it had been nine years since I'd visited the Fells. In January of 2008, I moved to Lexington, Massachusetts from Woburn. I hadn't been back until I joined the Boy Scouts and started the Citizenship of the Community Merit Badge. This Merit Badge requires eight hours of community service with a source outside Boy Scouts and with one organization. My friend Gabe and I were both looking for an organization we would enjoy working for. When he first mentioned the Fells, I was eager to go back and visit. Gabe and I started emailing Mrs. Beal and we found a hike we could help out on.

"As the day came I started to feel nostalgic. The memories of weekly walks, the bike rides, and the picnics we had in the Fells were all coming back. I could still remember thinking I was the king of the Fells, and I had to protect it from the "bad guys": pieces of trash, invasive species, and other imaginary and not-so-imaginary attackers. My forest was the cleanest and best forest of all.

"On the day of the hike, I got into my car with a smile on my face knowing that I was revisiting my childhood world, my kingdom. The entire way there, me and my mom were talking



Nostalgia for the Fells

by Gabe Denton & Yianni Zavaliagos with Lindsay Beal

and chattering nonstop. Fells this, Fells that until we arrived. Once we arrived, we saw all the small Scouts waiting for the hike to start. We met Mrs. Beal and the adult leaders. When time came, Mrs. Beal gathered us around, and we introduced ourselves. We took a three-mile hike picking up trash, looking for animals, and clearing invasive species. Exactly what I did as a kid."

Gabe's memories: "Before I moved to Lexington in 2011, I lived in Medford, and attended the Brooks School and St. Joseph's School. My mom, a former Philmont Ranger, loves to go hiking, so we would go for a short hike through the Fells almost every weekend. My sister and I always loved playing in Panther Cave. We always had so much fun climbing in between the rocks and jumping out to surprise my dad. When I got big enough, we would carry big trash bags to fill with litter. When I was in second grade, and switched schools, we took hikes less often but when we did, they were longer ones, and we each had a trash bag. We would pick up as much litter as possible on our way to

Wright's Tower and back. This turned into a monthly activity the whole family enjoyed. Sadly, when we started the move to Lexington this slowly vanished. However, in the last year, my mom has restarted this tradition. We have commonly gone on hikes in the Fells. This inspired me to do service for the "Friends of the Fells" when I needed service hours for Boy Scouts. I am glad to be helping the woods. I remember having so much fun in with my family, and look forward to pursuing more service.

Yianni's accurate conclusion: "Now to talk about the Friends of the Fells: The Friends are an amazing non-profit organization that protects and maintains the Fells. They raise awareness for the forest, promising to keep it as clean as they can with community help. They host programs for young children to learn about the outdoor environment. The Friends are a special tight-knit community who I enjoyed working for, and hope to continue working for in the future."

A Hike for Photo Enthusiasts

by Diana Lomakin





Despite the formidable gusts of wind, it was an excellent day for taking photos. There were perfect cumulus clouds, Redstarts and Catbirds, and calm scenes on Quarter Mile Pond. The wind made for some interesting textures in both a bed of Bloodroot leaves, and waves on Spot Pond. Participants exchanged knowledge of plants, birds, camera equipment, and photography applications for smartphones. Led by Former Executive Director Mike Ryan, who is also a professional photographer. Stay tuned for more photo hikes!

Photo credits:

1. Anne Hamlin
2. Anne Hamlin
3. Diana Lomakin
4. Anne Hamlin
5. Mike Ryan
6. Diana Lomakin
7. Mike Ryan
8. Diana Lomakin
9. Mike Ryan





04 Migrating Birds Hike

7:00 - 8:30 AM

Greenwood parking lot, 176 Pond Street, Stoneham (across from the Stone Zoo)
Join Pete Costello of Zoo New England to look for warblers and other migrating bird species. Binoculars and bug spray are a must. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Rain cancels. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more info.

04 'First Saturday' Fells Running Club Trail Run

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Flynn Rink Parking Lot, 300 Elm Street, Medford, north, near the exercise area
Let's go for an "intermediate" trail run through the Eastern Fells. We'll cover ~5 miles including a substantial portion of the Rock Circuit Trail at a pace of around 11 or 12 minutes per mile (which is faster than it sounds on alternately steep and rocky terrain). We'll start running at exactly 10:10. Call Rich Sanford at 617-335-7310 or email rich@friendsofthefells.org for more information.

08 Fells Members Only After Work Hike

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford
Need a great way to unwind after work, get a little exercise and enjoy the Fells? Please join Pete Costello for an after work hike. Hikes will be easy to moderate, we will choose a different trail each hike. Bring water and bug repellent. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more information.

10 Animal Habitat Hike

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford
Join Pete for a family-friendly walk to explore and discuss animal and bird habitats, nests and animal signs in the Fells. Walking will be easy to moderate. Bring water and binoculars. Rain cancels. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more information.

11 Migrating Birds Hike

7:00 - 8:30 AM

Greenwood parking lot, 176 Pond Street, Stoneham (across from the Stone Zoo)
Join Pete Costello of Zoo New England to look for warblers and other migrating bird species. Binoculars and bug spray are a must. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Rain cancels. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more info.

12 Fells Running Club "Beginners" Trail Run

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford
Join Shane and his son Mats for a 3-4 mile run in the Eastern Fells. We'll go at a manageable pace. Meet right in front of Flynn Rink in Medford. I'll be wearing a white t-shirt. We'll set off at exactly 10:10. Email me with any questions at: Shane.t.mcnally@gmail.com

12 Hike 'n' Carry at Straw Point

2:00 PM

Straw Point at the corner of South Street and Route 28 in Stoneham
Join Linda for an all-ages hike, trail, and park clean-up. Bags, gloves, and verification of two community service hours will be provided. Rain cancels. Call Linda at 617-803-3173

13 Late Spring at Bellevue Pond

9:15 - 11:30 AM

Bellevue Pond parking lot South Border Rd, Medford
The Summer Solstice is almost here. Join Boot Boutwell at Bellevue Pond for a nature walk in search of late spring wildflowers and other cool plants. The walk will focus on plant ID as well as on fun and interesting natural history about the plants we see. We'll also talk about the Summer Solstice. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Boot Boutwell (781-729-4712).

14 Whole Foods 5% Days

Arlington Whole Foods

808 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington
All you have to do is shop and The Friends of the Fells gets 5%! Call 781-777-7200 for more information.

15 Fells Members Only After Work Hike

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford
Need a great way to unwind after work, get a little exercise and enjoy the Fells? Please join Pete Costello for an after work hike. Hikes will be easy to moderate, we will choose a different trail each hike. Bring water and bug repellent. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more information.

18 Migrating Birds Hike

7:00 - 8:30 AM

Greenwood parking lot, 176 Pond Street, Stoneham (across from the Stone Zoo)
Join Pete Costello of Zoo New England to look for warblers and other migrating bird species. Binoculars and bug spray are a must. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Rain cancels. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more info.

18 Top of the Tank

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

15 Woodland Road, Stoneham

Join us and the MWRA for some family fun and the official ribbon-cutting event of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tanks and Pump Station. Food, t-shirts, giveaways, a commemorative hike, kite flying, face painting, children's scavenger hunt and more.

21 Whole Foods 5% Days

Medford Whole Foods

2151 Mystic Valley Pkwy, Medford

All you have to do is shop and The Friends of the Fells gets 5%! Call 781-395-4998 for more information.

22 Street Team Info Session

6:00 PM

Greenwood parking lot, 176 Pond Street, Stoneham (across from the Stone Zoo)

Are you interested in representing us at local festivals? Helping us with events? Learning how to spread our message? Or do you simply want to know more about how you could help out with set-up. Come join Lindsay for a training and brainstorming session! Heavy rain postpones. Email or call Lindsay at lindsay@yarsley.com or 413-237-4747

22 Fells Members Only After Work Hike

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford

Need a great way to unwind after work, get a little exercise and enjoy the Fells? Please join Pete Costello for an after work hike. Hikes will be easy to moderate, we will choose a different trail each hike. Bring water and bug repellent. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more information.

25 Migrating Birds Hike

7:00 - 8:30 AM

Greenwood parking lot, 176 Pond Street, Stoneham (across from the Stone Zoo)

Join Pete Costello of Zoo New England to look for warblers and other migrating bird species. Binoculars and bug spray are a must. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Rain cancels. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more info.

29 Summer Wildflowers at Long Pond

9:15 - 11:30 AM

Long Pond Parking Lot, South Border Road, Winchester

Summer has arrived with some beautiful summer wildflowers. The walk will focus on plant ID as well as fun and interesting natural history about the plants which we see. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Boot Boutwell (781-729-4712).

29 Fells Members Only After Work Hike

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford

Need a great way to unwind after work, get a little exercise and enjoy the Fells? Please join Pete Costello for an after work hike. Hikes will be easy to moderate, we will choose a different trail each hike. Bring water and bug repellent. Email Pete at pbearl@yahoo.com for more information.

29 Whole Foods 5% Days

Woburn Whole Foods

400 Cambridge Rd, Woburn

All you have to do is shop and The Friends of the Fells gets 5%! Call 781-376-9600 for more information.



Dan Antonaccio

Hike 'n' Seek is a nature-themed scavenger hunt for young hikers (toddler through school-aged kids) and their parents. For parents with children young enough to carry on a conventional hike, please join us for *Babes in the Woods* at 11:00am! Location changes weekly.

Babes in the Woods is an adult-paced hike designed for parents who carry their children. These hikes will not be appropriate for young children who walk, and trails will not accommodate strollers.

Please remember to wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the weather, and do not forget to bring water! Check the [Facebook page](#) for the latest updates. Contact Gillian Badwan at gillianbadwan@gmail.com or by phone at 774-722-3838 for more information.

Hike 'n' Seek meets from 10:00 – 10:45am

Babes in the Woods meets from 11:00am – noon



June

07 Spot Pond

Both programs will meet at the Botume House Visitor Center at 4 Woodland Road in Stoneham.

Additional parking is available down the hill at the Spot Pond boating center.

14 Sheepfold

Both programs will meet at the **upper** Sheepfold parking area, 698 Fellsway West (Route 28) Stoneham (“Sheepfold Path” on Google Maps).

21 Bellevue Pond

Both programs will meet at Bellevue Pond. Closest address is 70 South Border Road in Medford.

Additional (on-street) parking is available diagonally southeast across the street on Massachusetts Ave.

28 Medford High School/ Lawrence Woods

Both programs will meet at Medford High School, 489 Winthrop Street in Medford. Please continue to the right along the high school/vocational school so that the buildings are on your left and woods are on your right. We'll meet all the way behind the buildings.

July

05 Long Pond

Both programs will meet at the Long Pond Parking Lot, 532 South Border Rd, Winchester

12 Spot Pond

Both programs will meet at the Botume House Visitor Center at 4 Woodland Road in Stoneham.

Additional parking is available down the hill at the Spot Pond boating center.

19 Flynn Rink

Both programs will meet at Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street, Medford

26 Greenwood Park

Both programs will meet at Greenwood Park, across from the Stone Zoo in Stoneham



Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation 2016 Fells Defense Appeal

Please help protect the Fells!

Dear Friends,

The fifteen year effort to protect the heart of the Middlesex Fells Reservation from overdevelopment is entering an important new phase.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

In the coming months, the Massachusetts Appeals Court will rule on our legal challenge asking that MEPA environmental review of the Langwood Commons project must be completed before any construction begins in order to prevent excessive traffic from causing unacceptable impacts to historic parkways, the Fells Reservation and our communities.

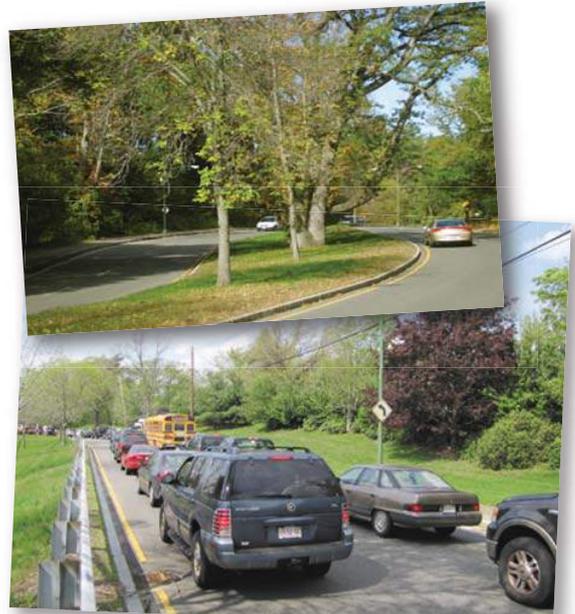
If the developers are allowed to build their project at its current scale, with 4,500 new daily traffic trips, we can expect that the developers and state agencies will justify unacceptable changes to the Reservation's scenic and historic parkways to alleviate worsening traffic congestion and safety problems in the Reservation and neighboring communities.

We are asking the Appeals Court to rule that the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs must require the developers to identify a reduced-scale project that will not harm to Middlesex Fells' historic parkways and surrounding parkland **before** the any part of the project is allowed to be built.

Because of your past generosity, we have been successful in protecting the unique natural and historic asset that is the Middlesex Fells.

We are appealing for your financial assistance, to prevent the Fells from being swamped in traffic that would require conversion of parkways into dense highways. It is crucial that the developers comply with the January 2006 MEPA ruling that called for presentation of a **"reduced-build alternative...able to be accommodated by the parkways with minimum adverse impacts."**

With your help, we will see this campaign through to success! Please contribute to the Fells defense campaign; your response today could help protect the Fells for generations. Join us in our goal to make sure that whatever is built on the former hospital site will be at a scale in harmony with the Fells Spot Pond District, its historic parkways, and our neighborhoods.



Don't let this happen to Fells parkways!



Yes! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Fells Defense Campaign

Note: For the first \$10,000 in donations two generous supporters have offered to match every dollar. Your early donation will have double the impact!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

\$500 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other: _____

Mail to: Friends of the Middlesex Fells, 235 West Foster Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Thank You! Friends of the Fells Board of Directors
781.662.2340 www.fells.org



MWRA Completes Spot Pond Covered Storage Tanks and Pump Station

by Neil O. Anderson

MWRA recently completed its \$51.3 million Spot Pond Covered Storage Tanks and Pump Station project in Stoneham, at the site of the former Boston Regional Medical Center.

The tanks, visible throughout construction, have now been buried beneath tons of earth which have been landscaped with native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs to create a natural meadow.

The top of the tanks now provide additional 2.5 acres of open space and public access adjacent to the Fells Reservation. This is the first addition of acreage to the Fells since its inception. It will also act as a buffer between the Fells Reservation and the

future Langwood Commons development.

The two ten-million gallon tanks provide water storage and stabilize pressures in the Northern Low Service area supplying Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown, Malden, Medford and Somerville. A new pump station provides system redundancy for twenty communities currently served by the Gillis Pump Station, including Stoneham, Reading, Wakefield, Wilmington, Winchester and Woburn.

Covered distribution storage is needed within a water system to balance flows during the daily use cycle and to store a reserve

supply of treated water to handle unusual or emergency situations such as fires, water main breaks, maintenance activities or other system failures.

This is the last of seven covered storage tanks constructed around the MWRA service area.

Join the Friends of the Fells and MWRA at the Top of the Tank for some family fun on June 18th for the official Ribbon cutting event of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tanks and Pump Station, 15 Woodland Road, Stoneham. There will be food, t-shirts, giveaways, a commemorative hike, kite flying, face painting, children’s scavenger hunt and more, 10 AM until 1 PM.



MWRA

Marbled Salamanders Released by Ann Frenning Kossuth



At noon on May 25, a group of thirty to forty curious Medford High School students, faculty, and families gathered at the Medford Vocational and Technical High School side entrance to witness thirty-one marbled salamanders being readied to be released into the Fells Woods. After assembling and examining the salamanders, the group continued into the woods accompanied by Grassroots Wildlife Expert Matt Gage, several lead MHS faculty, including Science Teacher Ivy Carnabucci, MHS Headmaster John Perella, and dozens of curious onlookers of all ages. After a short

discussion and instruction on the amphibians' proper location and habitat (under logs and rocks, surrounded by leaf litter) the salamanders were released by small teams of students who had raised them from hatchlings. One of the most notable moments was when it was explained that if any of these distinctive salamanders is spotted in the Fells in the years to come, it will be as a result of this very release. See <http://www.grassrootswildlife.org/projects.php> for more details on the project.

photos by Ann Frenning Kossuth

