

The Emerald Necklace Visitor and Volunteer Center *Opening this fall!*



Artist rendering of Emerald Necklace Visitor and Volunteer Center.



Photo top: Stony Brook Gatehouse circa 1887. Above: Artist rendering of inside the new Emerald Necklace Visitor and Volunteer Center.

Conservancy to Offer First Emerald Necklace Docent Training Program at New Center

By Danielle Girard and David Hugh Smith

A once-forgotten architectural gem will sparkle again in Boston's Emerald Necklace. The Stony Brook Gatehouse in the Back Bay Fens, designed by renowned architect H. H. Richardson, will open its doors as the Emerald Necklace Visitor and Volunteer Center and new home of the Conservancy later this fall.

"With a clear vision of the possibilities," said Julie Crockford, Conservancy President, "Ann Beha Architects met the challenge of adapting a 19th century pump station to create a 21st century center that will serve as both destination and jumping-off point for people to learn about and explore the parks. We had strong support for the vision from the Board of Directors, led by a challenge from an anonymous Director to match a \$200,000 Justine Mee Liff Fund challenge grant, and new foundation support from the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, the Edwin S. Webster Foundation and an anonymous donor."

Additional kudos go to GLC Development Resources, Goulston & Storrs, Halvorson Design Partnership, Krokidas & Bluestein, and Shawmut Design and Construction." (See page seven for a complete list of donors)

In November, the Conservancy will offer its first-ever educational program for volunteers interested in becoming Emerald Necklace docents and interpretive guides. "Docents will interact with the public to enrich the visitor's experience," explained Jeanine Knox, Director of External Relations. "Our first session will train volunteers to manage the Center's welcome desk, greeting visitors and interpreting the park environment. Early next spring, we'll begin training volunteers to lead walks through the Emerald Necklace."

To learn more about the docent program call Jeanine Knox at 617-522-2700.

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Dear Friends,

As I write this letter to you – it's early September – the magical moments of summer in the parks are still fresh in my mind: watching young children sway, unabashedly, limbs akimbo, to the music of the Boston Pops Brass Ensemble in concert at Jamaica Pond; the smell of popcorn and the glint of glow sticks at twilight on movie night at the Sugar Bowl; and spying, not once, but three times, a magnificent Great Blue Heron in as many days and as many parks – the Back Bay Fens, Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum.

The parks are particularly welcoming in the summer, cooling a hot city with a bounty of green space, an abundance of trees and the tempering effects of ponds. And yet, as much as my summer memories linger strong, I look forward to the brilliant colors of fall along the Riverway and the quiet beauty of winter deep in the woodlands of Olmsted Park.

The parks of the Emerald Necklace sustain us all year long, giving us room to breathe, to play, to connect, to explore. They coax us gently to be more active with their scenic bike paths, ball fields and meandering walkways. They make our city greener, friendlier, more livable. They are invaluable and irreplaceable jewels.

With these thoughts in mind, I ask you to please meet the challenge of caring for these special places by giving generously when you receive our annual appeal within the next few weeks. Help us steward these parks for the generations to come. Thank you.

With gratitude for your support,

Julie Crockford, President

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FALL CALENDAR

October

Saturday, Oct. 9

10:00 am—1:00 pm

Woodlands Volunteer Event

Help remove invasives and plant native species in the woodlands of Olmsted Park.

Meet at Daisy Field parking lot.

Monday, Oct. 11

10:30 am—11:30 am

Guided Walk through Back Bay Fens

Conservancy staff will lead a one-hour walking tour of the Fens as part of Fenway Alliance's annual "Opening Our Doors" celebration.

Starts and ends at Evans Way Park.

November

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Annual Meeting (see column right)

Saturday, Nov. 13

10:00 am—1:00 pm

Woodlands Volunteer Event

Meet at Daisy Field parking lot.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Emerald Necklace Conservancy Annual Meeting

November 3, 2010

5:30 - 6:30 pm | Reception

6:30 - 8:00 pm | Program

Featuring

"Stories from the Emerald Necklace"
and recognition of the
2010 Volunteers of the Year

Watson Auditorium at
Wentworth Hall
Wentworth Institute of Technology
550 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

*Light fare
Free and open to the public
Limited seating—reserve early*

RSVP

annualmeeting@emeraldnecklace.org
or call 617-522-2700

Project Updates

Mother's Rest, Back Bay Fens

In our model slope management project, the first phase of planting began this year. Volunteers from Berklee College of Music and Maimonides High School, along with our youth leadership crew, put in over 650 trees, shrubs and perennials. With the prolonged hot and dry weather threatening the plantings, we initiated a contract for regular watering. Jute netting and a low fence were installed to prevent erosion and further protect the plantings. *Photo: top right: Preparing the slope.*

Special thanks to:

Carroll Williamson and Sally Muspratt for their help and expertise in the design and permitting of this project; and to the Beacon Hill Garden Club, Berklee College of Music, Boston Parks Department, and the Wellesley Garden Study Group for their generous donations.

James P. Kelleher Rose Garden, Back Bay Fens

In April, volunteers removed mulch, pruned winter-kill and planted 36 rose bushes, including the 2009 AARS winners *Carefree Spirit* and *Cinco de Mayo*. A steady stream of "Tuesdays with Roses" volunteers worked 336 hours weeding, deadheading and planting additional roses and our Green Team installed 27 new rose identification signs. *Photo right: Deadheading roses.*

Special thanks to:

Kit Ganshaw (Arnold Arboretum), Sally Muspratt (Sally Muspratt Landscape Design, Inc.); Tony Hennessey and Winfield Clarke (Boston Parks Department); Boston Cares for providing volunteers; Shaw's Supermarkets, Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Boloco for supplying refreshments; and to all of our Valentine's Day Rose Sponsors.



The Wildflower Meadow, Olmsted Park

This unique environment in the Emerald Necklace provides habitat for the all-important pollinators. Six invasive black locust trees were removed and the New England Wildflower Society was commissioned to conduct a botanical inventory of the meadow. The results of this inventory will allow us to determine how best to manage the meadow in the future.

Special thanks to: The Garden Club of the Back Bay for funding the botanical study and to the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard and volunteers for helping to maintain the meadow by removing woody plants.

Photo left: removing woody plant material to maintain the meadow.



Olmsted Park Woodlands

The ongoing campaign to minimize the population of invasive and exotic plant species that threaten to overrun the woodlands is making progress. Planting continued this past season on Hawthorn Hill, the 3-acre demonstration project to the west of Daisy Field, with plans to gradually expand outward, covering more territory, while applying the same woodland management practices— removing invasive species and planting diverse indigenous plants such as American hornbeam, sassafras, redbud, pagoda dogwood and ferns. This project is funded in part by a DCR Urban Forestry Challenge Grant.

Special thanks to: The Second Saturday woodlands volunteers.

Photo lower left: Volunteers learn about the woodlands from Don Eunson.



Jamaica Pond Access Improvements

The design study to improve park visitor access at three points around Jamaica Pond continues, with construction slated to be completed next spring on a pedestrian-activated signal at Eliot Street and the Jamaica way. This collaborative project with DCR is funded with generous support from the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund.

Paths and Crosswalks Treatment Guidelines

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) approved the Conservancy's partnership proposal for a study of paths and crosswalks throughout the Emerald Necklace to develop a set of treatment guidelines that can be applied to the entire park system, as well as a conceptual design for some specific areas. The study will focus on improving both the safety of all park users and way-finding between and within the parks.

The 7th Annual Party in the Park

With pink and green umbrellas bearing the Conservancy logo held high against spring showers, nearly 700 guests gathered on May 12, in the Back Bay Fens for the 7th Annual Party in the Park.

"This party radiates [so much] warmth and sparkle that a little rain doesn't stand a chance of getting in the way," quipped a party-goer as she stepped into a tent festooned with towering spring blossoms and clusters of peonies.

The luncheon is held to benefit the Liff Fund, established in honor of Boston's beloved former Parks Commissioner, Justine Mee Liff. The Fund supports special projects in the Emerald Necklace and this year made grants to support (1) the restoration of the Brewer Fountain and Plaza on the Boston Common, (2) the restoration of the Fountain and Statue in the Kelleher Rose Garden, and (3) establishment of a Tree Fund for ongoing maintenance of park trees.

We are grateful to the **Party in the Park** Co-chairs and Committee members for creating, again, one of Boston's premier spring fundraising events; to our featured partner, the Boston Symphony Orchestra; lead corporate sponsor, JP Morgan; Dorfman Jewelers for donating the raffle prize; and to the many corporations, organizations and individuals who support our work for the Emerald Necklace parks.



Photos clockwise from top right: Party in the Park Founder Wendy Shattuck (center) with the 2010 Co-chairs (from left) Janet Atkins, Jane Roy, Lynn A. Dale and Holly Safford; Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians Lucia Lin, violin and Owen Young, cello perform; Ursula Liff presents the 2010 Justine Mee Liff Spirit Award to the late Charles Ansbacher, Conductor Laureate and Founder of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, who sadly died September 12. Photos courtesy of Roger Farrington.

Save the Date!

May 18, 2011

The 8th Annual Party in the Park

Katie Schuller Bleakie, Jane Roy and Holly Safford, 2011 Committee Chairs

Alert!

Learn to identify the Asian Longhorned Beetle!

Clip this handy ALB identification card to carry in your wallet.



Advocacy and the Friends of the Park Rangers

The preliminary City of Boston 2011 budget proposal eliminated all seasonal maintenance staff and the Park Ranger Mounted Unit from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The Conservancy and other parks advocates responded with strong support for the importance of both. The final budget restored several seasonal maintenance positions and provided for continuation of the mounted program pending private fund-raising.

Last year, the Conservancy helped raise funds to maintain the mounted unit for the season that ends this fall. To continue fund-raising, a group of supporters, led by Julia Donahue and Cokie Perry, has formed the Friends of the Park Rangers. At press-time, they are applying for non-profit status. To ensure the continuation of the mounted program through 2011, the group plans to raise a total of \$155,000.

The Mounted Unit provides important security in the parks and needs your support. As the fiduciary agent for the Friends, the Conservancy welcomes donations designated for the program. Please make checks to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy with *Friends of Park Rangers* in the memo line.

And thank you!

In Appreciation *We are deeply grateful for the generosity of all of our friends and donors. Thank you.*

\$250,000+

Anonymous **

\$100,000+

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This list includes donations of \$500+ to the Annual Fund, The Gatehouse Project, Liff Fund and the Park Rangers Fund from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. For a complete list of donors, please contact the office.

* Denotes In-kind donation

** Includes gifts to the Gatehouse Fund

We have done our best to ensure the accuracy of this list. We sincerely apologize for any errors.

Volunteers

Q. What do Berklee College of Music, Gay for Good, Merck, and the U.S. Marines and have in common?

A. They all volunteered for the Emerald Necklace this year!



Volunteers are ready to clear out woody plants at the Wildflower Meadow.

Along with volunteers from Boston Cares, Hartney Greymont, Maimonides High School, Millennium, Novartis, Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, Temple Sinai and Yale Alumni, these groups join a growing list of dedicated individuals and area residents, "Tuesdays with Roses" gardeners and woodlands volunteers who regularly roll up their sleeves and wield the pruners, rakes, weed wrenches and rubbish bags necessary to help restore and maintain the parks.

Combined with the volunteer efforts of our hard-working Justine Mee Liff committee members, interns, special event and office volunteers, the total number of hours donated exceeds 3,820!

"Friendly people...beautiful scenery."

- as written by a 2010 volunteer on a volunteer survey.



Novartis volunteers remove invasive garlic mustard in Olmsted Park.

The 2010 Volunteers of the Year

The Conservancy is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Awards. This year's winners will be honored at our Annual Meeting on November 3.

Congratulations to:

Mary Hickie

Gloria Villegas-Cardoza

Ann and Jim Stillman

Carroll Williamson

and

Hartney Greymont, 2010 Community Partner

Maintenance Collaborative

The Emerald Necklace Maintenance Collaborative, a partnership with Boston, Brookline and the Department of Correction (DOC), continues to provide supplementary maintenance crews to augment the work of parks' staff. In addition to leaf raking, mulching, weeding, and removing invasive species, the crew maintained a vegetable garden and shared the bounty with their families, Conservancy staffers and others.



Enjoying a performance by the Boston Pops Brass Ensemble at Pinebank. Our Summer Sundays in the Park events drew more than 2,800 people!

Alert!

Learn to identify the Asian Longhorned Beetle!

Clip this handy ALB identification card to carry in your wallet.

Reprinted with permission from the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources.





Emerald Necklace

CONSERVANCY

891 CENTRE ST. JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130

We're moving this fall!

Our new home:
Emerald Necklace Visitor and Volunteer Center
125 The Fenway | Boston, MA 02115
See www.emeraldnecklace.org for move date.

TO PROTECT, RESTORE, MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE THE LANDSCAPE, WATERWAYS AND PARKWAYS OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE PARK SYSTEM AS SPECIAL PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT AND ENJOY.

The Stories Project Premiere!
November 3, at the Annual Meeting

*"I've been coming here [Jamaica Pond] for 36 years and haven't gotten bored yet."
-Roger Gottlieb, in an interview for the Stories Project.*

The Stories Project



Documenting Your Special Memories...
Filming the Parks...
Promoting the Emerald Necklace for All...
Tell us your story.



www.emeraldnecklace.org | ikharito@emeraldnecklace.org

BeFriend Our Parks!

Help us reach our goal of 1,000 Facebook friends!

With the click of a "friend" button you will be eligible to win a free Conservancy-logo tote bag and T-shirt and a \$100 gift certificate to a restaurant of your choice!

When we reach 1,000 fans, one fan will be chosen at random to win!



Join us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/emerald.necklace.conservancy



Green Team 2010



Franklin Foster joined the 2009 Green Team last summer and returned this summer – but with one major difference. “This time I was a crew leader and responsible for my own crew,” he explained. Franklin participated in the Conservancy’s first after-school leadership program and was one of five students selected for a leadership role this summer.

“I never had that much responsibility before. It was a lot of work but the training helped me see the different leadership styles and how I could use them. We worked as a team and got the job done together.”

Franklin and his crew, along with a second and third crew, worked throughout the Emerald Necklace and neighboring parks, removing Japanese knotweed, planting and watering, clearing debris and tending a vegetable garden in the Back Bay Fens.

“It feels good,” said Toni, a member of Franklin’s crew, “to end a day knowing you accomplished something.”

Thanks to generous support from an anonymous foundation, the Brookline Community Foundation, Inner Spark Foundation, Waste Management and the Red Sox Foundation, ABCD and the Boston Youth Fund, the 2010 Green Team program employed 36 young people this summer. In addition to their work in the parks, the youth participated in environmental education classes, life-skills workshops and challenged themselves at rock climbing, kayaking, sailing and tent camping.



Above: The Green Team made friends with Wally while being honored at Fenway Park. Below: Franklin (far left) with some of his crew.



*“While we were in our garden, Lindsey discovered that our grape tomato plant had some tomatoes that were ready to eat. We picked out a few and ate them. They were pretty sweet, and tasted great – **for tomatoes.**” -Karen. (From the Green Team Blog)*

Read more blog at <http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/green-team-blog/>

See what a difference your donation can make!

The steps at Jamaica Park



**Please support
our
Annual Fund.**

Online at:
www.emeraldnecklace.org

Or send a check to:
Emerald Necklace Conservancy
in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!