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# emerald necklace news

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newsletter of the emerald necklace conservancy winter 2016



ERIK GEHRING

*Dear Friends,*

I am excited to let you know about all that is happening at the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and what it means for you and the parks—more opportunities than ever before to learn, connect and steward. Next month we'll launch our first-ever series of public lectures featuring noted authors, nature

writers and others who'll speak on environmental topics and issues.

"Emerald Necklace Speak Out: Inspire, Connect, Engage" kicks off on January 27, with Derrick Z. Jackson, the award-winning *Boston Globe* columnist and author of the 2015 book, *Project Puffin*.



Recognizing the valuable part the Emerald Necklace can play as a hands-

on outdoor classroom, we're embarking on a partnership with the public schools to connect elementary school children to the parks. Leading this initiative is Kent Jackson in the newly-created position of director of education at the Conservancy. Kent leads our youth programs and we're delighted to have him step into this expanded role.

Our capacity to manage volunteers increased when we added the position of volunteer coordinator to the Conservancy team. Ellen Arnstein has been bringing record numbers of volunteers into the parks to clear debris, prune roses and remove invasive plants that threaten the health of the woodlands.

Did you attend our first-ever *Emerald Necklace YogaFest* fundraiser in October? The feedback was so positive that we're already planning for another, even bigger event for 2016. Or perhaps you explored the pathways of the Emerald Necklace on our first docent-led bike tour of the parks this past fall. Look for more of these free bike tours starting in the spring. And our Summer on the Emerald Necklace program will expand to include six concerts, family movie nights and a fitness series. Working together, we'll continue to connect people and parks and conserve the Emerald Necklace.

And on a final note, both exciting and bittersweet, I will be leaving the Emerald Necklace Conservancy at the end of this year to take on a new challenge. It has been an honor and privilege to lead the Conservancy over the past 8½ years. Thanks to you and the Conservancy team, we've accomplished much on behalf of the parks: the Shattuck Emerald Necklace Visitor Center; restoration of the Kelleher Rose Garden and Fountain; the comprehensive tree inventory and management plan; expanded youth, volunteer and educational programs; access improvements; and, of course, supporting the groundbreaking of the Muddy River restoration project.

I've come to understand that great parks require public and private investment, so please join me and continue to give as generously as you can in support of our parks. Thank you.

*My very best,*

Julie Crockford, *President*

*P.S. I'll (still) see you in the parks!*





## Party in the Park

Hats and trees were front and center at the annual spring luncheon in support of the Justine Mee Liff Fund for the Emerald Necklace. Guests raised over \$965,000 for the care and maintenance of trees in the

Emerald Necklace through the work of the Olmsted Tree Society. To the delight of all, an announcement was made that Ropes & Gray will donate 150 trees to the Emerald Necklace in honor of their firm's 150th anniversary. Mark Volpe, managing director of the BSO, received the Liff Spirit Award for his commitment to bringing music to the city's public parks.

Join us May 11, 2016 for the 13th annual Party in the Park.

Purchase tickets at [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org)

PHOTO TOP LEFT: Committee Chairs (L-R) Holly Safford, Kim Furnald, Camille Valentine, Lynn Dale and Cackie Austin. TOP RIGHT: Mayor Martin J. Walsh with Diane Patrick and Newk Stillwell. ABOVE LEFT: Mark Volpe and Ursula Liff.

## Emerald Necklace YogaFest

It was "Namaste for the Necklace" on October 4 as yoga and park enthusiasts alike came together in support of the parks. Although rain moved the event indoors to the Wentworth Institute of Technology's Tansey Gym, it didn't dampen the spirit of the day. Proceeds from the event support free programming in the parks. Emerald Necklace YogaFest will return in 2016. Details coming soon!



## Summer on the Emerald Necklace

More than 2,500 people came out to Jamaica Pond and Allerton Overlook to enjoy music, food trucks and Knucklebones family fun at Summer on the Emerald Necklace. Join us next summer for even more fun with an expanded series featuring six concerts, family movie nights and fitness classes!



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Ellen Arnstein | Julie Crockford | Mary Hickie  
 Kent Jackson | Emma Rose Kiefer | Susan Knight  
 Jeanine Knox | Ray Oladapo-Johnson  
 Tessa Rose | John Smith | Jessica Welch

### INTERNS

Viviana Aluia | Paige Dolci | Jessica Nahigian



## Caring for Emerald Necklace Trees

The Emerald Necklace Tree Management Plan, the result of our comprehensive tree inventory and conditions assessment conducted in 2013 and shared with the public partners, has proven an invaluable tool for the restoration and maintenance of the Emerald Necklace. It informs the work we do in the parks with the help of volunteers and in collaboration with Boston Parks and Recreation, Brookline Parks and Open Space and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Recent projects completed include the pruning of 214 trees above the path by Jamaica Pond that runs through the woodlands, and soil remediation and tree and shrub planting along the Fenway. Also, in accordance to the recommendations of

the management plan, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) was removed from Daisy Field Meadow in Olmsted Park and the area was sown with native wildflower seeds.



**OLMSTED TREE SOCIETY**

The Olmsted Tree Society (OTS), which funded the tree inventory, was established in 2013 to make the preservation of the trees in the Emerald Necklace parks one of the Conservancy's highest priorities.

In addition to heritage trees, some of which are more than 100 years old, OTS assures the health of park trees with selective pruning and soil enhancement and planting of new trees where needed. To become a member of OTS or to learn more, contact Susan Knight at [sknight@emeraldnecklace.org](mailto:sknight@emeraldnecklace.org).

## Emerald Necklace Maintenance Collaborative Turns 10

A partnership with the MA Department of Correction, the Maintenance Collaborative was initiated by the Conservancy in collaboration with Boston Parks and Recreation and Brookline Parks and Open Space to provide essential maintenance work in the parks through pre-release vocational training. The program recently marked its ten-year milestone. Ray Oladapo-Johnson, the Conservancy's director of park operations, who oversees the program, says, "Participants have often expressed that the program has made a significant difference in their lives. They enjoy the compliments they receive from the public when they are out working in the parks, and feel more inspired to do the

work." In addition to receiving on-the-job-training, the men also attend classes in horticulture. Ferriss Donham has been the program's horticulture instructor since 2007. "The curriculum I use is based on the Master Gardener program. We start with soil and continue with the life cycle of seeds and plants." Classes are held once a week and, to date, 146 men have attended a minimum of six classes, earning program certificates. Ray adds, "Some of the men who completed the program have come back to visit. Almost all of them are [now] gainfully employed and attribute this to the training they received through the program. Many aspire to utilize their intuitive entrepreneurial abilities by opening their own landscape maintenance companies."



PHOTO: Ferriss Donham at the Pre-Release Center garden

## Youth Learn and Lead



Youth programs at the Conservancy provide opportunities for environmental stewardship, experiential learning, teamwork, and fun. Participants in the six-week summer Green Team come from neighborhoods throughout Boston and Brookline and, working together, make a measurable impact in the parks. The 2,089 hours that the Green Team spent on woodlands restoration and shrub bed maintenance during the summer translate to an approximate value of \$56,400 worth of work done in the parks.

But it wasn't *all* work. Green Teamers enjoyed an overnight camping trip, rock climbing and a visit to Peddocks Island as well. These new experiences help build trust according to Kent Jackson, director of education. "The youth are pushing their comfort zones and gaining confidence in the process," he states.



In a complementary after-school program that runs from October to May, the Youth Leadership Program (YLP) offers youth, ages 16-18 years old, opportunity to develop leadership skills while being exposed to park design, restoration and maintenance, landscaping, horticulture and environmental advocacy. "We prepare these students to take on a leadership role in the Green Team or similar summer employment," explains Kent.

## Volunteers Make A Difference!



Volunteers bring Conservancy programs and projects to life and are integral to the work we do to restore, maintain and enliven the parks. In the past calendar year alone, more than 1,000 volunteers participated in park clean-ups, woodlands restoration, Kelleher Rose Garden maintenance, educational programs, and event planning. Whether you prefer to wield pruners and weed wrenches, sell raffle tickets at fundraising events, welcome visitors to the Shattuck Visitor Center, lead interpretive walks, or dive into research projects at the office, we offer many ways to connect. *Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers. You inspire us every day.*

## A Day in the Dirt with Ropes & Gray

On July 16, 2015 the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Franklin Park Coalition welcomed four busloads of enthusiastic volunteers from Ropes & Gray to Franklin Park. The eager crew mulched trails, weeded drainage channels and removed 300 bags of invasive plants in the park. In May, the Boston office of Ropes & Gray made a donation to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy of 150 red oak trees in honor of the firm's 150th anniversary.



## BEFORE & AFTER



What's missing? "Before" photo shows an area in Franklin Park covered with invasive glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). "After" photo shows same area cleared by volunteers.

Donate online at [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org) or send your contribution to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy in the remittance envelope.

**THANK YOU!**



## Emerald Necklace Conservancy

# SPEAK OUT: Inspire, Connect, Engage

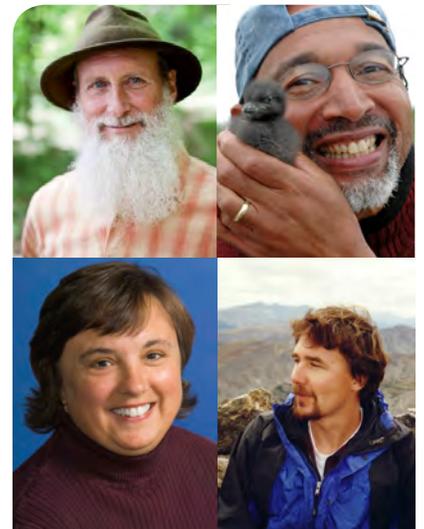
The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is pleased to announce the first annual Emerald Necklace “Speak Out” series of public lectures and presentations designed to inspire, connect and engage audiences in the protection and preservation of the environment.

The series kicks off January 27, 2016 with Derrick Z. Jackson, the award-winning *Boston Globe* columnist and co-author of *Project Puffin*. On February 24, Tom Wessels, ecologist and founding director of the master’s degree program in conservation biology at Antioch University New England, will talk about his book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*.

The Conservancy’s Annual Meeting on March 8, 2016 will feature David Gessner, award-winning nature essayist and author of several books, including the recently published *All the Wild that Remains*. The series concludes with Lauren G. Meier on April 27. Meier, a historic preservationist specializing in research, planning and treatment of cultural landscapes, is the co-editor of the recently published Supplemental Series Vol 2 of the Olmsted Papers, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Plans and Views of Public Parks*.

These events are free to the public but pre-registration is required. Register at [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org).

The *Speak Out* series is made possible through generous seed funding from the Caroline Loughlin Fund.



CLOCKWISE: Tom Wessels, Derrick Z. Jackson, Lauren Meier and David Gessner

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**300** 

the number of bags of invasive plants removed in **one day** from Franklin Park by volunteers from Ropes & Gray.

 **32 to 3,037**

the increase of Conservancy Instagram followers in the last seven months.

**716** 

the number of people who took a docent-led guided tour of the Emerald Necklace.



# Emerald Necklace CONSERVANCY

125 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115

## Connecting People and Parks and Conserving the Emerald Necklace

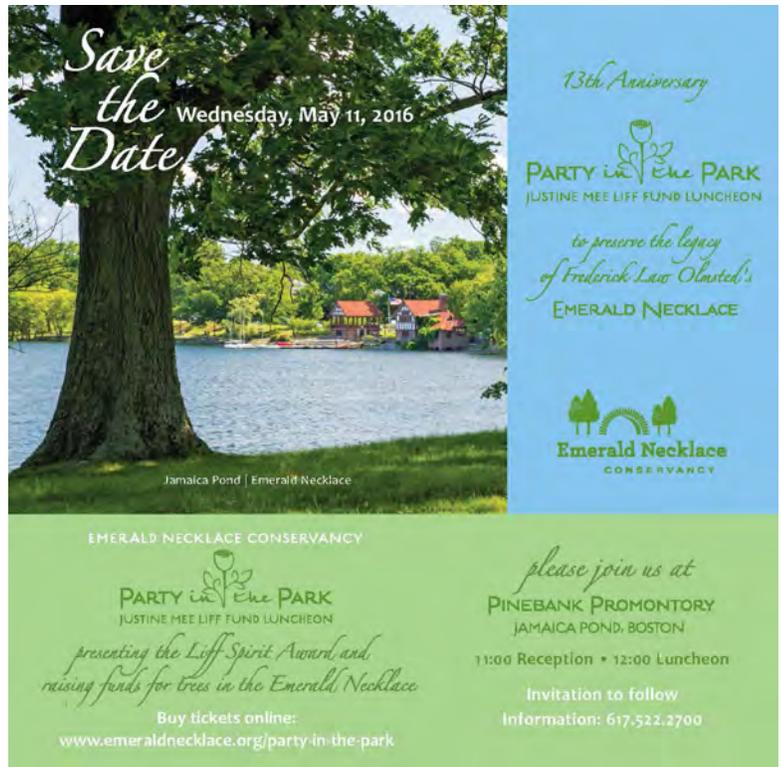
### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JAN 27** Speak Out: *Inspire, Connect, Engage* with Derrick Z. Jackson  
6pm, Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse
- FEB 24** Speak Out: *Inspire, Connect, Engage* with Tom Wessels  
6pm, Cathedral Church of St. Paul
- MAR 8** Annual Meeting & Speak Out with David Gessner  
6pm, Northeastern University
- APR 27** Speak Out: *Inspire, Connect, Engage* with Lauren Meier  
6pm, Boston Athenaeum
- APR 30** Muddy River Cleanup  
Our big volunteer event!
- MAY 11** Party in the Park 2016  
11am, Pinebank Promontory at Jamaica Pond

For complete listings and event details, visit [emeraldnecklace.org/calendar](http://emeraldnecklace.org/calendar)

### WE'RE SOCIAL...find us on social media!

-  @EmNecklaceBos
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*Save the Date!*  
Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Jamaica Pond | Emerald Necklace

13th Anniversary

**PARTY in the PARK**  
JUSTINE MEE LIFF FUND LUNCHEON

*to preserve the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's*  
**EMERALD NECKLACE**

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**PARTY in the PARK**  
JUSTINE MEE LIFF FUND LUNCHEON

*presenting the Liff Spirit Award, and raising funds for trees in the Emerald Necklace*

Buy tickets online:  
[www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park)

*please join us at*  
**PINEBANK PROMONTORY**  
JAMAICA POND, BOSTON

11:00 Reception • 12:00 Luncheon

Invitation to follow  
Information: 617.522.2700