



Friends of Wollaston Beach

Volume 2 – No. 2 – October 2009

Maureen Mazrimas and Bob Verney, Co-Editors

The Friends of Wollaston Beach is an organization promoting public use of Wollaston Beach, preserving and protecting the fragile ecosystems, and addressing the quality of life issues relating to the Beach. The goal of the Association is to promote the wise use and preservation of the Beach, encouraging volunteerism, alerting others to issues affecting the Beach through educational, cultural, social and civic programs, and advocating on behalf of Beach users.

Coming Events

November FWB Meeting – November 5, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Dawes House – Quincy Shore Drive, corner of Channing – near Yacht Clubs

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Neil McCole has been nominated for President

Dick Herbert has been nominated for V.P.

Treasurer, Maureen Mazrimas and Secretary,
Bob Verney were elected for a two-year term in 2008

**AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE RECAP OF 2009; STRATEGIES FOR
NEXT SEASON, FUNDRAISING IDEAS AND PROGRAMS, AND THE ELECTION**

SEE YOU THERE!



Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

As FWB's third season comes to a close, it is a great time to look back. FWB has held over 30 beach related events/activities in the past three seasons. They range from walks, to festivals, to clean ups, and car shows. It has been a fun filled time.

In 2009, FWB implemented a new twist to our beach events. We held a series of events called Tot Lot Tuesdays. With the encouragement and support of DCR and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, FWB initiated family friendly events at the new park on Quincy Shore Drive. These events included; a puppet show, a sing along, and a story night. These were wonderful events with free ice cream provided to all of those in attendance.

In the coming month's FWB will be installing officers for President and Vice President, planning an annual meeting, exploring fundraising and event ideas for the 2010 season, focusing on water quality initiatives, and finalizing the interpretive signage project.

Please be sure to renew your \$10 annual membership for 2010. If you forgot to renew for 2009, it is not too late. You can always send dues for both 2009 and 2010 together. An application is included and membership dues are currently being accepted by our Treasurer.

In closing, I would like to thank our financial supporters, including; Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, New England College of Business, and Tony's Clam Shop. Their generosity has helped make 2009 another memorable year at Wollaston Beach.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event or meeting.

Sincerely,

Neil McCole

Neil McCole



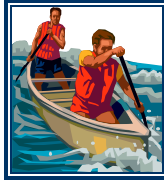


FWB CALENDAR

WATCH THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR
INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS!

CANCELLATIONS

THE WOLLASTON WHEELS CAR SHOW, AND THE CANOE TRIP ON BLACK'S CREEK, BOTH SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND IN OCTOBER, WERE BOTH CANCELLED DUE TO THE THREAT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. NEITHER EVENT WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN 2009.



SEE YOU ON THE BEACH!

From the Treasurer – Maureen Mazrimas

I am happy to report that the Friends of Wollaston Beach remains solvent – we have \$2,146.81 in the bank. Just to remind you that Membership Dues are \$10 a year and can be paid at any meeting or mailed to:

FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH
c/o Maureen Mazrimas, Treasurer
49 Bayberry Road, Quincy, Ma 02171

We are especially indebted to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for their grant of \$3,500 which allowed FWB to provide so many great activities to beach users **AT NO CHARGE**.

And, thanks to the many “Friends” who have made donations, and/or provided in-kind services to FWB. We appreciate your commitment and your generosity.

Water Quality – Kristen Awed-Ladas

In May 2009 the FWB Water Quality Sub-Committee met with representatives from the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the City of Quincy and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. The topic of the meeting was the DCR proposal to update the existing water quality flagging system at Wollaston Beach. Under the current system, a red flag is flown following a rain event of 0.25 inch or greater. FWB has recently learned that based upon several years of test data, this practice has shown to be largely unwarranted. FWB supports the proposed threshold increase from 0.25 inch to 0.5 inch or greater. The goal of FWB is to promote the wise use and preservation of the Beach, encouraging volunteerism, alerting others to issues affecting the Beach through educational, cultural, social and civic programs, and advocating on behalf of Beach users. Unwarranted beach closures hurt our cause and send the residents of

the City of Quincy a negative message. We look forward to our continued relationship with DCR and working toward better solutions for Wollaston Beach.

The Wollaston Beach drainage area consists of approximately 1,000 square acres of land. Over 800 storm drains/catch basins are located within the drainage system. The stormwater runoff subsequently discharges onto Wollaston Beach through eight outfall pipes. We continue to mark the catch basins in the drainage area with “No Dumping” stenciling. FWB would like to take this opportunity to thank its volunteers for participating in the 2009 catch basin stenciling program. In May 2009 volunteers from General Dynamics American Overseas Marine division completed the Wollaston Hill section of the drainage area. In July 2009 North Quincy High School students Daniel Green, John Green and Rahmy Eltoury covered the central portion of the drainage area. Thanks to all that participated!

Remember “No Dogs on Beach” during the summer season!



Planting Committee – Jennie Perito



The DCR has planted 10-12 of the bump outs. The remainder will be completed in spring 2010! The Green Team has done a major weeding project at the “pull off” parking lot with the 3 flag poles. Mulching is planned for the next couple of weeks. The DCR is working to formalize paperwork in connection with the Adopt-A-Lot program. The DCR acknowledged the generosity of Diane Wall who purchased plant material, had two of the bump outs professionally

planted, and donated a tree near the bathhouse in memory of her late husband. She plans to provide a memorial bench as well. Her generous donations have been recognized with a temporary sign, until a more formal acknowledgment can be provided by the DCR. This community has taken an interest in the project, and many of the local businesses have expressed an interest in a lot!



2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

Bob Verney, Secretary

The Friends of Wollaston Beach 2009 had another busy and successful year. It started with the annual meeting which took place on February 26 at Beechwood Knoll School. The Friend of the year was presented to the DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) for its continuing work done on Wollaston Beach to keep it clean and beautiful – and its continuing support of **FWB**. The Friend award was accepted by Sandy Meskimen, a tireless worker for the DCR who keeps the beach clean and is a good Friend of the **FWB**. The Honorary Friend of the year was the Quincy Sun, for its continuing coverage and support of our functions. The member of the year award was presented, deservedly so, to our webmaster Rich Joyce. Rich is tireless in contributing to the efforts and aims of the **FWB**, whether it's our web site or a cleanup at Wollaston Beach. Congratulations Rich

On Saturday April 25, the Friends in coordination with the DCR participated in the annual Park Serve Day. Volunteers helped with clean up efforts along Wollaston Beach, specifically the West Elm Ave area.

FWB also participated in Quincy's annual Cleaner Greener Quincy, on May 2nd from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The Friends concentrated on the Caddy Park and Black's Creek area and managed to pick up quite a bit of debris in a short time.

The annual kite festival took place on Sunday May 31st. The Friends welcomed the Seaside Kites of Hull and Kites over New England for our 3rd annual festival. The two groups helped kids and adults set up their kites. There were many kites of all different sizes and colors. I managed to finally get my little kite in the air only to lose it to the skies. This event has become more popular each year

The Friends partnered with the DCR to hold a canoeing event on Black's Creek on Saturday June 6th. Canoes were provided and were launched from the back of Caddy Park with the help of the DCR personnel. Many adults and children took advantage of the event. I arrived early and took a canoe out by myself and managed to row in perfect circles around Black's Creek. I should just be an observer in these events. A similar canoeing event took place on July 11th. Both events were successful for both children and adults.

On July 28th the **FWB** had a puppet show at the Tot Lot on Quincy Shore Drive. **FWB** invited Roselita's Puppet Show, featuring underwater theme. The event

was the first at the Tot Lot this year and there will be two others. It was well attended by children and adults.

The **FWB** again supported Tony's Clam Shop and Councilor Doug Gutro in their annual Wollaston Beach volleyball tournament. There were 16 teams participating this year. The winner for the second straight year was the Tom Koch team. This tournament was again very well attended by teams and spectators. Thanks again to Jim Rendle for organizing and running the tournament

What has become one of our biggest events of the year, The Arts on the Shore took place on Wollaston Beach on Sunday Aug 16th. Originally scheduled in June, but rained out. The event was again a big success. Sponsored by the **FWB** along with the DCR, Save the Harbors/ Save the Bay, Quincy Art Association, Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission, and Ward 5 Community Association. Included in the festivities were sand sculptures by the kids, sidewalk chalk festival, face painting by Kimberly Rittenhouse, who even painted the face of Bob Noble, who was covering for the Quincy Sun. She was assisted by Friends member, Carla. Also Silly Willie the clown provided a great show for the kids and made many balloon figures. The Too Cool Moon walk was especially enjoyable for the kids, as it kept them out of the very hot sun. The DJ, K-9 from Radio Disney ran all kinds of beach games for the kids, including a Hoola Hoop contest, which was won by 11 yr old Adrian Mancusco, who was able to keep up 8 hoops at once. All and all, it was a great showing despite the heat. There were also tables representing the Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission and the Friends of Wollaston Beach

Another Tot Lot event was held on Tues. Aug 18th. Jeff Jam provided musical entertainment and dancing games for Children and Adults. There was also a sing along. A third Tot Lot event will take place on Sept 1st at 6:00 pm. The **FWB** will host a night of reading children's stories that includes a gently used book swap. All are welcome and bring a book.

Coast Sweep – In September, the Friends of Wollaston Beach joined the DCR and the Office of Coastal Zone Management in a State Wide effort to clean up the Mass. Coast. Debris is collected and the results are documented for a State Wide report.

Our second annual Wollaston Wheels Car Show, and our Canoe Trip on Black's Creed both had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Neither event will be rescheduled in 2009. Check local newspapers and our website for events for the coming year.

YEAR IN REVIEW

CLEANER GREENER



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



Water Quality – Councilor Doug Gutro – Ward 5

Despite historical improvements in water quality at Wollaston Beach, data from this summer have shown record high concentrations of bacteria, particularly along the northern end of the beach.

I'm pleased to report that Mayor Koch convened two meetings this summer with representatives of the MWRA, DCR, and City officials including myself to review this summer's water quality information and map out a strategy for detecting and correcting the sources of pollution that may account for these high bacteria counts.

As a result, sewer force mains have been tested, and water samples are being collected at outfalls, in catch basins, and in storm drains beneath roadways north of the yacht clubs to help detect the source of these high bacteria counts.

Swift action is necessary to find and fix any leaking sewer pipes that may contribute to this problem. I also believe the City of Quincy should be conducting a comprehensive assessment of the

integrity of our entire sewer system on a city-wide basis, set up an annual operation and maintenance program, and put together a 5-year capital plan to restore and replace aging sewer lines. Not only will this reduce the likelihood of raw sewage reaching our beaches and bay through our drainage system, but it will save rate payers the cost of treating millions of gallons of clean groundwater that enters our sewer system on an annual basis through cracked or broken sewer pipes.

In the long run, in order to ensure safe swimming throughout the summer, we still need a rigorous approach to street-sweeping and catch-basin cleaning by the city and state to reduce trash and bacteria from entering our drainage system. We need the cooperation of responsible pet owners to pick up after their pet; and a renewed sense of stewardship from every Quincy resident to keep our streets and beaches clean.





FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - \$10 PER YEAR
SEND TO MAUREEN MAZRIMAS, TREASURER
49 BAYBERRY ROAD, QUINCY, MA 02171

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I LEARNED ABOUT FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH THROUGH _____
(e.g., Friend, Newsletter, Newspaper, Word of Mouth)

I AM INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Advertising

Events

Water Quality

By-Laws

Membership

Other _____

Conservation

Plantings

FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH
C/O 49 BAYBERRY ROAD
QUINCY, MA 02171