

Greenwich Point News



Friends of Greenwich Point - PO Box 711 - Old Greenwich, CT 06870

AUTUMN 2011

Happenings at the Point

Greenwich Point Walk Sun., Oct 16, 2-4 p.m.

Take a walk through Greenwich Point with Bruce Spaman, Superintendent of Parks and Trees and Town Tree Warden. Learn the importance of habitat preservation and identification of significant trees while visiting such highlights as the Holly Grove, Birch Grove, and Wildlife Habitat Management area.

Group size is limited so reservations are required, RSVP to

treeconserv@optonline.net

Please meet at the second concession. Rain or shine.

Geology of Greenwich Point Sun., Oct. 23, 2 p.m.

Take a casual walk around the Point at low tide to see and hear about interesting aspects of the geological history of Greenwich Point, with Mike Aurelia, Board member of the Friends of Greenwich Point and Warden of the Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission. Meet in the small parking lot near the Innis Arden Cottage.

First Sunday Bird Walks

Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 1 – 11 a.m.

Enjoy the outdoors and learn about the birds of Greenwich Point with birding enthusiasts and naturalists. These walks are open to birders of all ages and levels of experience.

Meet by the second (southern) concession stand. Bring binoculars. Co-sponsored by Wild Wings, Audubon Greenwich, and Bruce Museum.



Lynda Elliott and Cynthia Lupo tackle the removal of invasive - porcelain berry

The Ongoing Battle Against Invasives

By Lynda Elliott and Cynthia Lupo

Following its earlier forays against garlic mustard, the Friends of Greenwich Point took on the porcelain berry in the Holly Grove as a fall project. Donated in 1959 by Allan and Helen Kitchel to commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary, the Holly Grove contains many beautiful varieties of holly. However, porcelain berry has climbed over almost all of the holly trees, and some of the trees have bent or broken limbs due to the weight of this extremely invasive vine. All of the blame cannot be laid at porcelain berry's door, however, as wild grape, Virginia creeper and other vines also grew rapidly during this wet summer and early fall.

Most of the holly trees and bushes in the grove have now been cleared of porcelain berry, but it is still rampant in the surrounding area. Because the roots of this vine are extensive, it is difficult to eliminate it completely, but by cutting it back to the ground and removing it from the tree; we can rid the tree of its weight and expose it to the sun again. Then by bagging and destroying the pulled vines, we can also keep the birds from spreading

the seed, thus preventing the growth of new vines.

Porcelain berry is an attractive vine originally imported from Asia for use as a bedding and landscape plant. It can grow up to fifteen feet in one growing season, climbing over existing plants and weakening and killing them by blocking sunlight. Its berries appear in the fall and are quite lovely, with colors ranging anywhere from aqua and turquoise to pink and purple—and the birds and small animals love them. Hence the problem!

The Friends of Greenwich Point will conduct another porcelain berry pull on Sunday, October 16, 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Holly Grove, and we hope you'll join us. (Bring garden gloves and pruners if possible.) We also plan to schedule other invasives removal sessions throughout the year to control this vine and some of the other non-native invasive plants that are threatening Greenwich Point. (Check our website and the newspapers for future dates.) Come help us maintain and restore this beautiful spot. You can make a difference!!

Check the FoGP website for updates and more at friendsofgreenwichpoint.org AND join our Constant Contact list for up-to-date information on events at Greenwich Point by sending a message to FoGP at info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org.

Happenings at the Point

International Coastal Cleanup Sat., Oct. 22, 9-Noon

Sponsored by
Greenwich Green & Clean.
Meet at Greenwich Point
Gatehouse or Cos Cob Firehouse.
grgreenclean@aol.com

Shellfishing Demonstration Sat., Nov. 5, 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Greenwich Shellfish Commission
Meet at the Chimes bldg. opposite
OG Yacht Club. Participants
should dress warmly, bring boots,
gloves, and a wide tined garden
fork or potato rake.
Bring the family and dig for clams!
www.greenwichct.org/Shellfish/shellfish.asp

Winter Dog Days

Dogs are permitted in Greenwich
Point beginning **December 1**.
Please remember to keep your dog
leashed and under control. Do
clean up after your dog. Mutt mitts
are available at the gatehouse, the
flagpole near the concession stand,
and the check-point on traffic
restricted Sundays

Safe Roads

A highly anticipated winter tradition
sponsored by Friends of Greenwich
Point and the Department of Parks
and Rec begins on Sunday,
November 20, 9:00 a.m. and
continues through April 8. Each
Sunday morning walkers, bikers,
joggers, and skaters can enjoy the
open roads of the Point, as most
vehicular traffic is restricted from
the roads past the main parking lots
until 12:30 p.m. However, vehicular
traffic is permitted to pass under
certain circumstances, so please be
aware of the occasional car.

Floren Family Environmental Center

Innis Arden Cottage
By Denise Savageau

The Innis Arden Cottage at
Greenwich Point (aka Queen Anne
Building) was built by the Tod
Family in 1902-03 for use as a
guest house. The building has
been recently restored by the
Greenwich Point Conservancy as
part of a public/partnership with the
Town of Greenwich. It is now
operating as the Floren Family
Environmental Center and includes
meeting rooms, office space, and
during the summer months is
home to the Bruce Museum
Seaside Center.

The building is owned and
managed by the Town as part of its
Parks and Recreation Department.
The Conservation Commission will
be responsible for all programming
in the building. It will be available
to town agencies and non-
profit/civic groups for education
and outreach during



normal park hours. It will not be
available for private parties. Key
partners that are coordinating
programming with conservation
include the Town of Greenwich,
Greenwich Shellfish Commission,
Greenwich Public Schools, Bruce
Museum, Greenwich Point
Conservancy, Friends of Greenwich
Point, Audubon Greenwich, and
Soundwaters. Programs supporting
the mission of environmental and
cultural literacy will be the primary
focus of the Center. Details for use of
the building, including rental fees, are
in development. For more information
about the use of the building contact:
**Denise Savageau – Conservation
Director – 203-622-6461 or**
denise.savageau@greenwichct.org

Thank-you!!

*To Jay Loudon for coordinating the
2011 Summer Concert Series. From
start to finish, bookings to breaking
down, Jay did it all.*

*To Cynthia Ehlinger, as former editor
of the newsletter, for keeping all of
us so well informed for so many
years.*

Purple Martins

When the Purple Martin bird
house was taken down for the
winter it was happily noted that
four of the gourds had nests – 3
were Purple Martins.

New Members Join Friends Board of Directors

Two new members were elected to
the Friends of Greenwich Point
Board of Directors during the Annual
Meeting held in the Seaside Garden
at Greenwich Point on Wednesday,
September 14th. The new directors
will serve in the Class of 2011-2014.

The new Directors are: David
Phillipps and Cathy Weisenburger.

Board Officers are:

Amy Burke – *President*
Amy Yu – *Vice President*
Nancy Caplan – *Secretary*
David Phillipps – *Treasurer*

Letter from the President “STAYING AHEAD OF THE STORM”

By Amy Burke

It could have been worse – much worse. Forecasts for Hurricane Irene in our area called for devastating winds and epic high tides and storm surges. Thankfully, Irene arrived with less force than predicted and we were all spared some of her fury. And, thankfully, Greenwich Point caretakers led by Ed Fesko and Mike Henry were prepared for the worst. Beginning several days before Irene was predicted to arrive, they and their crew began preparing – relocating and removing trash cans, benches, picnic tables and the solar Big Belly trash receptacles. Both Ed and Mike stayed on site during the storm and watched the storm surge wash over the beaches and roads. When it was all over, the beach and all of its ensuing debris ended up in the parking lot. The walking paths near the bridges were completely washed out and the park lost approximately twelve trees in addition to countless tree limbs. The clean up was an enormous undertaking and we thank Ed and his crew for restoring the Point so quickly so that those of us cleaning up at home could come to the Point and enjoy some late summer days.



Greenwich Yacht Club during Hurricane Irene

Photo by Mike Henry

There is a lesson to be learned here – staying “ahead of the storm”. The Friends of Greenwich Point’s Horticulture Committee, led by Lynda Elliott and Cynthia Lupo have identified particularly vulnerable areas of the Point that are being threatened by invasive plants. During this past spring, summer and fall, they have organized several opportunities for volunteers to learn about the invasives and then make a difference by rolling up their sleeves and working to remove garlic mustard in the clambake area and porcelain berry in the Holly Grove. These are just some of the areas that desperately need our

attention and will continue to require more volunteer hours to preserve and restore. It is the mission of the Friends of Greenwich Point to protect this beautiful park and we invite you to join us in staying “ahead of the storm” of invasives by joining us at future events dedicated to removing invasives. Please visit our website www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org to learn about ways that you can contribute and to see scheduled dates for “invasive removal” at Greenwich Point. I promise, no experience necessary, just a desire to want to make a difference and some of your time and energy.

Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

You are invited to contribute your time and expertise to help the Board of the Friends of Greenwich Point in their continuing effort to fulfill the mission of the Friends. Please join our activities as we support naturally beautiful Greenwich Point.

Please CIRCLE all volunteer opportunities that interest you:

- Environmental Issues
- Educational Programs
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Membership Drive
- Board of Directors
- Concert Series
- Publicity
- Newsletter
- Web Site

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Email to info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or

Mail form to: Volunteer, P.O. Box 711,
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

Join the Friends of Greenwich Point

Your contributions support:

- Habitat restoration
- Traffic-free Sundays
- Nature education
- Summer concert series
- The preservation of this very special place

The Friends of Greenwich Point are continuing our goal to improve communication in a green way.

If you would like to receive notifications of upcoming events and special announcements, please send your email to info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org.
(We promise not to inundate you.)

PayPal - We now accept PayPal for FoGP membership dues and donations. To use the PayPal option, please go to the membership section of our website: www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org.

FoGP telephone: (203) 987-6712

Friends of Greenwich Point Membership Form



The Friends of Greenwich Point work hard to carry out our mission to preserve and protect Greenwich Point and promote safe recreation. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: *Friends of Greenwich Point* and mail to PO Box 711, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

Annual Family memberships

- Egret \$15
- Tern \$25
- Goldeneye \$50*
- Osprey \$100**
- Eagle \$250 and up***

For membership information, please contact Membership Chairman at info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or by mail at PO Box 711, Old Greenwich, CT 06870

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.
You can also join on our website, www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org

Friends of Greenwich Point
PO Box 711
Old Greenwich, CT 06870



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