

Greenwich Point News

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

SUMMER 2011



Summer Concerts in the Seaside Garden Sunday Evenings, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

The Friends of Greenwich Point are proud to sponsor another concert season with a fabulous array of music genres. The whole family will enjoy listening to the sounds of big band, country swing, bluegrass and classic rock in the idyllic setting of the Seaside Garden near the OG Yacht Club. Be sure to bring your own chairs or blanket and refreshments.

This year the show will go on rain or shine because, in the event of rain, the concerts will be held inside at the Old Greenwich- Riverside Civic Center on Harding Road in Old Greenwich. Watch our website or be sure to sign up for the FoGP e-news to keep informed on the latest news.

The season kicks off **Sunday, June 26**, with the ever popular **Fairfield Counts**. Enjoy one of the East Coast's premier big bands playing hits from the '20s to today. The "Counts" will delight the audience with their 17-piece, Big Band sound featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Harry James and the great Count Basie.

On **July 24**, **The Swingaholics** bring their special brand of country swing, honky tonk, and twang to the Seaside Garden stage. This Connecticut-based, six-piece dance band came together in 2010, but has its roots in various parking lot jams, monthly picking parties and impromptu square dance sessions. Grab your partner and go hog wild as they sing and play rhythm guitar, electric guitar, electric mandolin, fiddle, steel guitar, upright bass, and drums.

An exciting brand of bluegrass that swings and entertains is the order of the evening on **August 14**, when **Too Blue** performs. This bluegrass and swing quartet from New York and Connecticut is a dynamic acoustic ensemble performing sizzling instrumentals, tight vocal harmonies and original songs. Their independent CD "A Little On the Blue Side" got top marks from the music press. "Up tempo, bouncy bluegrass...clever songs, good singing, strong instrumentals and great flatpicking" quotes Flatpicking Guitar magazine.

The concert season continues **September 18**, when **Willfull Misconduct**, a classic rock band based in Stamford, brings the music of The Allman Brothers, Rolling Stones, ZZ Top, Van Morrison, Elvis Costello, and many others to the Point. The group has been performing the favorites in vintage "rock 'n roll" in Fairfield County for the past ten years.

GRAND OPENING!
Wednesday, June 29
12 - 6 p.m.

Floren Family
Environmental Center
with the Bruce Museum's
Seaside Center
Innis Arden Cottage

Opening Ceremony 12 p.m.
Free tours and activities
throughout the day

4:30- 5:30 p.m.
"Oceans Are Talking,"
a musical performance by Sam Lardner and company about the most critical issues facing the world's oceans for all ages.

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.



Friends of Greenwich Point donated new benches near the first concession stand and other areas around the Point.

Letter from the President “WHAT DO YOU DO?”

By Amy Burke

At some point, the question is asked of every stay-at-home parent . . . “Mom [or Dad as the case may be], what do you do all day?” The inquiry came to me innocently from my oldest daughter several years ago. She was about seven at the time and instead of giving her the laundry list (pun intended) of my daily chores, I decided to answer back in simple terms that she would best understand. My answer was short and sweet, and while it may sound a bit callous, she understood me completely. My answer was “When I stop doing it, you will know.”

I mention this exchange because I often feel like answering the same way when people mention FoGP and ask, “What do you do?”

Think about it. If we were to stop doing all that we do, concerts would not take place in the summer, birds at the Point would go hungry in the winter and countless unnecessary signs would still be cluttering our views. If FoGP stopped doing what we do, educational programs would

stop too, as well as the replacement of deteriorating benches, the identification and removal of invasive plants, and traffic restricted Sunday mornings would become a thing of the past. If FoGP were to disappear, so would the scholarship program, newsletter and an important tradition of residents and users of Greenwich Point acting as advocates for the protection and appropriate use of this truly remarkable place.

So, the next time you come to Greenwich Point and enjoy a walk or a run or maybe just a quiet moment on one of the benches, I ask you to think about all of the important things that are done by the FoGP and how you would feel if we stopped doing them. And with this in mind, I hope that you will be inspired to continue to support your Friends of Greenwich Point if you are already a member, and if you are not a member, perhaps you will consider becoming a Friend.

See the back page for membership
information or visit
www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org

Attack on the Invaders

By Lynda Elliott and Cynthia Lupo

On Saturday, May 21, the Friends of Greenwich Point kicked off its program to tackle some of the invasive plants at Greenwich Point. Thanks to the hard work of the Junior Girl Scouts from Troops 50104 and 50454 and Cadet Scouts from Troop 50637 and other members of the community, a good start was made in the effort to control the garlic mustard that has been taking over large areas of woodland.

After a short talk by Master Gardeners Ros Brady and Cynthia Lupo on biodiversity and the identification and impact of invasives on the ecosystem, the scouts spent over two hours pulling garlic mustard in one area, while another group of volunteers cut the plants in a different area. (Both pulling and cutting methods were used in an effort to determine which proves more effective.) As a result of their participation, the girl scouts all received the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Invasive Plant patch.



Garlic mustard is one of several non-native invasive plants that are causing great problems in the area by crowding out native species, thus adversely impacting wildlife habitats. Other invasives at Greenwich Point include knotweed, porcelainberry, Japanese wisteria, Oriental bittersweet, mile-a-minute vine and Japanese honeysuckle. The Friends of Greenwich Point plans to have invasive removal days throughout the summer, and we hope members of the community will join us. Dates will be announced on our website.

First Sunday Bird Walks

July 3, August 7, Sept. 4, 9 -11 a.m.

Co-sponsored by Wild Wings, Bruce Museum and Audubon Greenwich. Free. Meet by the second (southern) concession stand. Bring binoculars. Beginners to experts- all levels of expertise welcome.

Annual Meeting Friends of Greenwich Point

Wed., Sept. 7, 6-7 p.m.

Held at the Seaside Garden. Bring your own chair. Members welcome.

Educational Happenings Sponsored by FoGP

A Walk through Greenwich Point Sunday, October 16 from 2- 4 p.m.

Friends of Greenwich Point is joining with the Greenwich Tree Conservancy to co-sponsor a walk through Greenwich Point led by Bruce Spaman, Superintendent of Parks and Trees and Town Tree Warden, who will identify significant trees and discuss the importance of habitat preservation. Group size is limited. Easy to moderate walking. Proper footwear is required. Rain or shine. Please meet at the second concession stand. No charge but reservations are required at: treeconserv@optonline.net.

Geology Walk

Sunday, October 23 at 2 p.m.

(Note: This date is revised from Spring 2011 newsletter.)

Mike Aurelia, board member of the Friends of Greenwich Point and Town of Greenwich shellfish warden, will lead a casual low-tide walk around the Point to show interesting aspects of the geological history of the Point. Join us for a 90-minute, 1.5-mile walk starting at the Innis Arden Cottage.



NEW Membership Incentives

Annual FoGP memberships at the \$50 and \$100 levels now offer a choice in the type of premium gift available for your contribution.

Individuals who join at the annual \$50 level or higher may now choose from a T-shirt with the FoGP logo *OR* a pack of eight note cards with stunning color images of Greenwich Point.

Individuals who join at the annual \$100 level or higher may now choose from a baseball cap embroidered with the FoGP logo

OR an insulated cooler bag with the logo.

Individuals who join at the annual \$250 level or higher are eligible to receive a large canvas tote bag with the FoGP logo.

We regret that these items may not be sold individually.

As always, we greatly appreciate your membership donations, which allow us to fund programs and improvements at Greenwich Point.

Horseshoe Crab Project: Please Report Tag Numbers

Rosemary Loudon, horseshoe crab expert, presented programs on May 22 and June 4. During those sessions Rosemary explained the life cycle of the horseshoe crab, its structure and interaction with other species. She encouraged participants to look for a round tag on the crab's helmet when they encounter horseshoe crabs, dead or alive.

The tags help scientists monitor the movements of the animals after they are released. The beach-going public are asked to report any tagged animals found, including tag number, location and whether alive or dead, by calling 1-888-546-8587.

Rosemary is part of a larger research effort called *Project Limulus*, which is working to make the public aware of the significance of the horseshoe crab and helping to increase the knowledge base by recording data such as size, sex, mating habits and location. The project is headed by researchers at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut.

The ultimate goal of the project is to answer the question: Can we continue to both harvest and conserve these unique creatures? For more information, visit www.projectlimulus.org.



Have a suggestion for a new program or want to volunteer?

Contact FoGP by email at info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or call us at 203-987-6712 and leave a message.

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

Circle your choice.

* Available for a contribution of

\$50: FoGP T-shirts
Youth 2-4 6-8 10-12
Adult M L XL
OR 8 Note Cards

** **\$100 or more:**

FoGP baseball cap (khaki) OR
Insulated cooler bag (blue)

*** **\$250 and up**

FoGP canvas tote bag

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