

Friends of Greenwich Point



P.O. BOX 711 • OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870 • Fall 2022

Our 2022 Holiday Ornament has Arrived!



The winner of our fifth FoGP holiday ornament photo contest is Paige Barbour! This year's ornament was inspired by her photo of the two Adirondack chairs on the bluff, in the southeast corner of the Park near the large rock. Paige lived in Old Greenwich for more than 30 years, where she raised her three daughters. She still loves to walk at the Point in any kind of weather.

The 2022 ornament, the tenth in our annual Greenwich Point Ornament series, features a hand painted summer scene of the Adirondack chairs with sail boats and the NYC skyline in the background. The ornaments are a limited edition for \$25 each and come in a festive silk box. Perfect for holiday gifts!

This year, in celebration of 10 years, we are also bringing back limited amounts of ornaments from 2013-2021.

You may purchase them online at www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or at the Old Greenwich Farmers Market from 2:30 - 6:00 on Wednesdays, starting October 12th. Orders made online can be picked up at the Farmers Market. Other pick up options will be organized.



Comedy Night 2022 Another Great Evening

Our third Comedy Night at Greenwich Point was a great success! Five comedians from New York City entertained our 360 supporters of the Friends of Greenwich Point for over two hours. The night was perfect: a full harvest moon and warm, breezy weather. A huge thank you to co-chairs Stephanie Norton and Kerri Kinsella for once again putting together a unique evening in support of the FoGP. Thanks, too, to the Town of Greenwich for permission to use this perfect setting. All proceeds of the Comedy Night support our mission of conservation, education, and recreation at Greenwich Point.

Fall 2022

Photos from Paige Davis, Old Greenwich Photographer

First Sunday Bird Walks

Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, March 5
9 - 11:30 am

Join knowledgeable guides for fun, family-friendly and informative bird watching at the Point. Bring binoculars and meet at the main concession stand at the south end of the beach. All ages welcome.



Coopers Hawk



Great Blue Heron

Cynthia Ehlinger

Safe Roads Sundays Return in November

9:00 am - 12:30 pm



Our Safe Roads traffic restricted Sundays will be back again. Starting on Sunday, November 20th and continuing to include Sunday, April 9th from 9:00 - 12:30, the entrance to the main road around the Point is monitored to restrict non-essential vehicles. This year the Sunday - only schedule will include both Christmas Day and New Year's Day! Note that sanctioned cars will be allowed, including emergency vehicles, Park employees, boat owners, and handi-capped drivers, so please be alert and let them by.



FoGP Art Show Recap

Friends of Greenwich Point sponsored an art show on Sunday, June 26th. We invited five artists from Fairfield County to exhibit views of the Point. The artists used a range of mediums, from photography to oil painting. Visitors were able to stroll through Innis Arden Cottage, see the artwork, and meet the artists.

The art show was held in connection with 'Experience the Sound', an event geared toward introducing Greenwich residents and others to outdoor Greenwich marine sporting activities, as well as the conservation and environmentally focused organizations in the area.

Thank you to the FoGP volunteers and the artists, Xio Mai Kong, David Kaplan, Chet Saur, Sarah Schneider, and Keith Magner.

Bird Feeding Starts in November

Stop by and visit the feeders in the Holly Grove.



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Working Together



The Conservation Committee members of FoGP meet seasonally with Dr. Gregory Kramer, Superintendent of Parks & Trees/Tree Warden, and Darrin Wigglesworth of the Parks & Trees Division in addition to other members of the community and the Town to talk about the habitat health of the park. We discuss areas of concern, such as the south beach dune erosion and invasive plant challenges. We review our progress on FoGP's projects, including planting additional trees, native plants, and dune grass, and eliminating invasive plants near the Big Rock, Clambake area, and the mansion. Through these constructive conversations and ongoing cooperative planning, FoGP continues to support both a healthy habitat for wildlife and an excellent recreational park for the public.

FoGP is grateful for the many school groups and community volunteers that aid us throughout the year. These helping hands, doing vine cutting, weeding, and planting, perform meaningful conservation work at the Point. Thank you! It's been a wonderful team effort!

Dune Updates



The first dune has been fortified with new fencing, and two adjacent dunes south of the Main Concession stand were connected with new dune grass and fencing in order to increase their total effectiveness.

School groups helped plant dune grass on the path between two of the bridges. The Park staff cordoned off the new grass.

Friends of Greenwich Point 2022 Mary Raymond Scholarship



The Friends of Greenwich Point is happy to announce that this year's scholarship award goes to 2022 Greenwich High School graduate, Daniela Enriquez. The award is given annually to a graduating Greenwich senior by FoGP in honor of Mary Raymond, who generously bequeathed the annual scholarship.

Daniela has a strong interest in chemistry and hopes to apply this fascination to a chemistry major at SUNY Oswego, where she will be matriculating this fall semester. Ultimately, she intends to pursue a career in environmental science. Daniela stated: "I simply wish to find a way to help our earth and try to understand what I can do to revitalize it or develop new methods to see future natural disasters and find ways to handle them."

Daniela also has an academic interest in graphic design and is an avid fan of K-pop music.

The Friends of Greenwich Point wishes Daniela good fortune as she sets out to make a positive impact on the environment.



Fall 2022

A Closer Look at Sparrows



Song Sparrow



Swamp Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Tree Sparrow

Cynthia Ehlinger

The grassy, weedy fields around Greenwich Point in the fall are great places to look at sparrows. Nearly 20 different species of sparrows have been found in the Park. Some people may think all sparrows look alike. It's the reason birders sometimes call them LBJs, Little Brown Jobs. But when one begins to understand the nuances of the small songbirds in the family Emberizidae – with brown streaks, conical bills and a penchant for grass and shrubs – distinguishing the different species becomes a welcome challenge.

The most common year round resident is the Song Sparrow. Becoming familiar with the shape, behavior, and variable melodious songs of this bird provide a reference point for comparison. Medium-sized, stocky, with bold streaks and longish tail, the Song Sparrow is in the same genus as the Swamp Sparrow, which shares a similar shape and sometimes the same habitat, but the Swamp Sparrow is smaller with an unstreaked gray breast with buffy-rufous flanks, rufous wings and prefers hiding in dense marsh.

The Savannah Sparrow can easily be confused with the Song, since both frequent open grass and are well streaked, but the Savannah's short, notched (not round) tail, finer bill, and yellow wash at the lores (between the eye and beak) help identify this species.

If you would like to learn more, join one of the First Sunday Bird Walks that start near the main concession at 9 am on the first Sunday of each month. Bring your binoculars or ask for a loaner pair.

Purple Martin and Horseshoe Crabs at the Point



This spring, Friends of Greenwich Point hosted two events with Sarah Cocco of the Greenwich Conservation Commission. On June 4th, participants joined Sarah to explore the colony of purple martins, a native songbird in the swallow family. Sarah explained that each bird lays between 2-7 eggs and shared tools to calculate when they hatch and how to determine their age.

On June 18th, we celebrated International Horseshoe Crab Day with an informal discussion with Sarah by the beach near the Old Greenwich Yacht Club. Participants helped spot mating pairs and individuals along the shoreline and learned about the diet, lifecycle, and conservation challenges of this ancient species.

Check out some of Sarah's fun facts about horseshoe crabs:

- *This species is known as a "living fossil" as they have existed for over 300 million years, surviving several mass extinctions.*
- *Once plentiful along our shores, their population is dwindling in Connecticut, but legislation has been proposed to protect them.*
- *Horseshoe crabs breed in sandy inlets for just a few days during the full and new moons in May and June.*



Fall 2022



Changing of the Guard

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Greenwich Point is an all volunteer board made up of multi-talented individuals that share a love of Greenwich Point.

We would like to thank our departing board members for all of their hard work and countless hours supporting the Friends of Greenwich Point. A big thank you to our outgoing President, Wendy Enelow, and Board Members Julie DesChamps, Cynthia DeRiemer, and Matt Popp.

At the same time we would like to welcome our newest board members: Jim Muchmore and Betsy Falkoff.

2022-2023 Friends of Greenwich Point Board of Directors

Officers

President	Jane Kuesel
Treasurer	Marc Seiler
Secretary	Courtney Buchanon

Directors

Concerts	Gena Prastos Linhart
Conservation	Mark DeRiemer
	Bill Harnett
	Diana Klingner
	Jim Muchmore
	Patty Nizlek
	Marc Seiler

Education

Scholarship	Patty Nizlek
Thank You Luncheon	Betsy Falkoff
Membership	Jane Kuesel
Newsletter/Website	Lori Klein
Ornament/Art Show	Margaret Morrison
Publicity	Courtney Buchanon
	Jessica Reid

So Many Wonderful Accomplishments

Friends of Greenwich Point's annual accomplishments included:

Community and Recreational Projects

Organized, hosted and funded:

- Three Summer Concerts
- The 10th Annual Employee Luncheon
- Our 2nd Comedy Night at the Point
- The 24th year of Safe Roads Sundays
- Winter Bird Feeding
- The 9th Annual Holiday ornament (and the 5th photo contest to choose the annual image)
- A scholarship to a Greenwich High School senior
- Art Show during Experience the Sound
- Children's educational programs on Purple Martins and Horseshoe Crabs

Conservation

- Planted 36,000 plugs of new dune grass in the front dunes and on the south beach
- Organized 16 volunteer days for removing non-native invasive plants throughout the park
- Constructed a new osprey platform next to the eagle statue on Eagle Pond
- Planted 360 Virginia rosebushes in the dunes and 50 ferns in the woods by the Big Rock
- Installed two new tree swallow nest boxes in the marshes
- Started a birch grove with 12 new trees
- Had another successful Holly Grove clean up with over 40 volunteers and planted 1,000 daffodil bulbs
- Established a new wildflower meadow near the Cow Barn
- Sponsored monthly First Sunday Bird Walks



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P.O. Box 711
Old Greenwich, CT 06870



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www.FriendsofGreenwichPoint.org

**Join the Friends of
Greenwich Point!
This year your membership
will support:**

- Habitat Restoration
- Dune Planting
- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Safe Roads Sundays
- Nature Education
- Summer Concert Series
- Winter Bird Feeding
- Newsletter
- Holly Grove Improvement
- Osprey Platforms

**Please help preserve and
enhance the beauty and
enjoyment of
Greenwich Point!**

You can also join on our website,
www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org



@ friendsofgreenwichpoint

Membership Form



Become a member of The Friends of Greenwich Point and join us in preserving and protecting Greenwich Point and promoting safe recreation. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: Friends of Greenwich Point and mail to P.O. Box 711, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. Or you can use PayPal – www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org - membership section.

Annual Family Memberships

\$25.....	EGRET
\$50.....	HOODED MERGANSER
\$100.....	OSPREY
\$250.....	EAGLE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____