

Friends of Greenwich Point



P.O BOX 711 • OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870 • WINTER 2014

Winter Events at the Point (January – April 2014)

First Sunday Bird Walks

Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1
9:00 - 11:15 am

On the first Sunday of each month, meet on the beach near the main concession stand at Greenwich Point. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. This is a leisurely walk of about 2 miles to view birds in their habitats with local naturalists. Held in collaboration with Bruce Museum, Wild Wings and Audubon Greenwich. Free. For information, call weekdays 203-413-6756.

Science at the Seaside Center: Oyster Fishing Family Day

Sunday, Feb 2, 2014, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Also on the first Sunday of each month, join us at the Innis Arden Cottage for free, family-friendly events (Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6 and May 4). Programs in the series focus on an array of topics including the animals and plants observed in Long Island Sound, current environmental concerns and issues facing our local estuary, and much more! On Feb 2, experience hands-on oyster fishing with members of the Shellfish Commission and learn about the habitat and natural history of the oyster. Come take a close up look at this amazing bivalve! All activities are free and suitable for people of all ages and abilities. For information call 203-413-6740.

Winter Tracks & Traces at Greenwich Point

Sunday, February 16, 2-3:30.

Learn to read the stories of animal activity by recognizing footprints, chew marks, scat and other telltale signs of the animals all around us. We'll start inside the Innis Arden Cottage and brush up on identification skills before heading outdoors. For more info, contact Peter Linderoth at the FoGP email to the right.

Letter from the President

By Nancy Caplan, FoGP President

Dear fellow members of the Friends of Greenwich Point,

As we look back on 2013, it is amazing to see how much we have accomplished as an organization since Hurricane Sandy. In fact, during the past year, the Friends of Greenwich Point (FoGP) has worked with the town to take a more active role in the design, repair and restoration of the Point, and it appears to have made a difference.

During 2013, there have been a number of significant improvements made at Greenwich Point, including new fencing, an artificial dune, the restoration of the Seaside Garden, and extensive dune grass planting at the entrance of the Point. In fact, to celebrate the success of our coordinated efforts with the town, the FoGP Board hosted a holiday luncheon in early December to thank the Greenwich Point employees associated with these improvements.

Also this fall, the FoGP introduced a holiday ornament fundraiser. Our 2013 inaugural ornament, depicting a winter stroll around Greenwich Point, was a huge success, selling out in weeks. As a result, we plan to continue the fundraiser in 2014, with the introduction of a new ornament each year.

Looking forward to 2014, we will continue restoring vegetation, hope to assist with the installation of additional artificial dunes to prevent beach erosion and will collaborate with the Bruce Museum on an external educational classroom and a purple martin cam, both at Innis Arden Cottage.

Lastly, we invite you to visit Greenwich Point this winter, which not only offers a break from our long winter days at home but it also provides the opportunity for uniquely local activities. In fact, our winter newsletter has been devoted to winter activities at Greenwich Point. We hope you enjoy it!

- Nancy Caplan

P.S. - Please follow us on the FoGP website at friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or join our constant contact list by sending a message to FoGP at info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org

Membership Update We are starting the process of updating our database and are looking to you to notify us of errors on your mailing label, if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter or if you would prefer to receive the it via email rather than through the mail. If you have already done this we apologize; but, we need you to notify us again. Please contact Geri Smeriglio – Membership Chair info@friendsofgreenwichpoint.org or 203-987-6712



Paige Barbour Davis, Old Greenwich photographer

How to Use the Point

Inspiration provided by Greenwich residents and Members of FoGP

With the cold upon us, the activities at the Point are no less enticing for those seeking exercise, wildlife, artistry and outdoor inspiration!

Dogs at the Beach

Dogs have been permitted on Greenwich Point since December 1st. Please remember to keep your dog leashed – only exception: on the beach below the tide line and under control at all times. 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.

Shell Fishing & Ice Fishing

By Sue Baker, Greenwich Shellfish Commissioner

Anybody is allowed to use Greenwich Point throughout the winter months, but to shellfish, a Town permit is required at \$15 for adults for the year. Young children are free. Ice fishing is not regulated by a shell fishing permit, rather by the thickness of the ice!! In the spring the Shellfish Commission will sponsor a saltwater fly fishing demonstration at Greenwich Point for a Bruce Museum First Sunday Science program. All of our demonstrations include opportunities to participate.

Hot Drinks by the Fireplace at the Yacht Club on Sundays

By John Colbert, Old Greenwich Yacht Club

While the Old Greenwich Yacht Club is a private members club, there are some great winter activities that the general public can participate in including the Sunday open house events that start later this month. See the link below ... a great chance to take a walk in the park on a winter day and stop in for a hot drink and warm up by the fireplace. <http://www.ogyc.com>

Organized Runs & Walks

By Mike Yardis, Threads & Treads

The 2014 Greenwich Cup ½ Marathon will be at 7:30am on April 6th; it runs through scenic Old Greenwich, CT. The course will have four water stops and three on-course bathrooms. To register or get more information, visit www.threadsandtreads.com

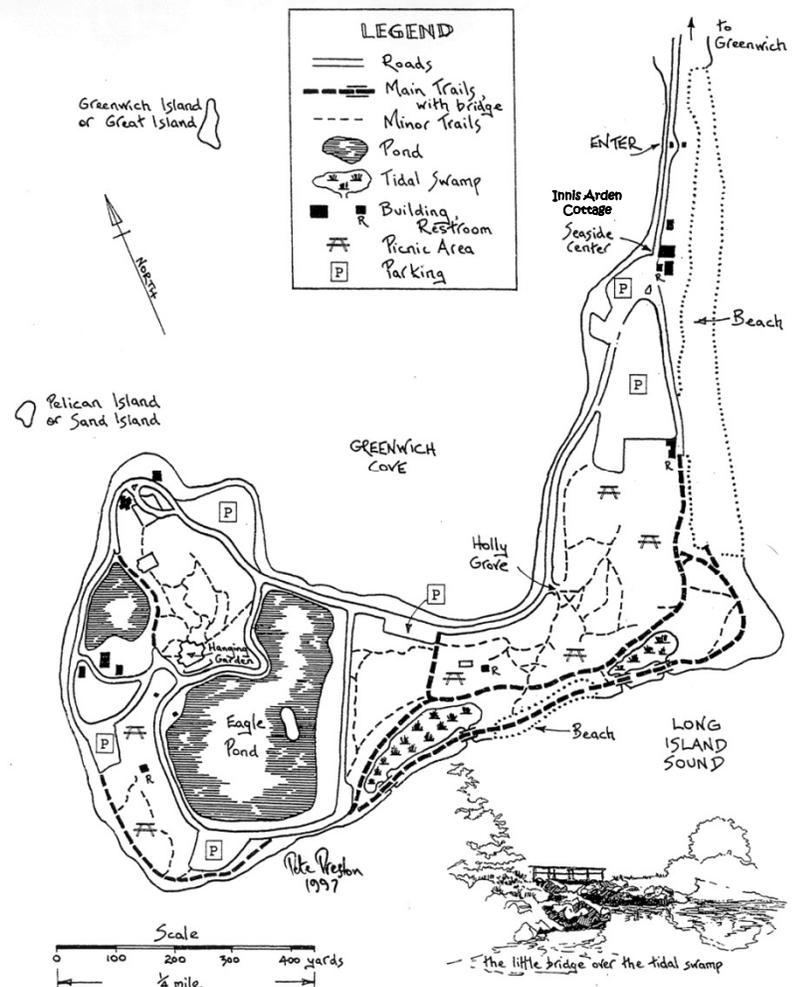


Photography

By Paige Barbour Davis, Old Greenwich Photographer

Winter is a great time to visit Greenwich Point! So many people put away their walking shoes and head inside but along with the lost opportunity for walking through beautiful scenery, is the lost opportunity to take some great pictures. You don't need to bring along any special equipment. I've taken some of my favorite pictures with my phone. I tend to stay along the coast, but there are also walking trails if you prefer the woods. If you don't want to go "off road", then, by all means, stay on the road that loops around the Point and you'll still get the full spectrum of scenes to photograph. Try to go early or late in the day when the light is softer and warmer and the shadows add dimension to your photos. Also, head to Greenwich Point in any weather! Foggy days. Cloudy days. Snowy days...all good! And don't forget to look up; trees have beautiful silhouettes in the winter, the sky offers an endless palette of colors, and clouds can add some drama to your shots. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or brand new to picture-taking, winter at Greenwich Point offers some really great photo opportunities.

Walking Trails at Greenwich Point



Map by Peter Preston is from *Walking Trails in Greenwich and Surrounding Areas*, published by the Greenwich Audubon Society in 1997. Copies available from Audubon Greenwich's Nature Store.

In the Winter Months

In the Snow

If the snow and cold keeps up, grab your cross country skis, your snow shoes or your best snow angel making snow suit with your kids!

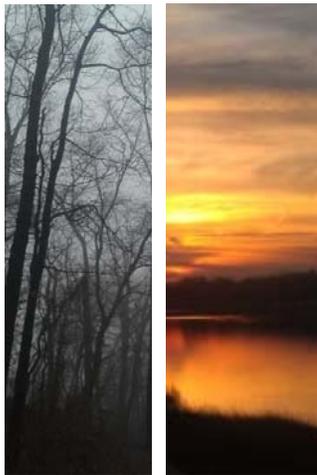


Source: Greenwich Time



And on the Beach

Although just past, the New Years Day Polar Bear swim is a group of local runners and triathletes who take a dip at the beach on New Years Day!



Paige Barbour Davis, Old Greenwich photographer



Calling all Bird Watchers!

By Phil Brous & Mike Aurelia
FoGP Board Members

Located just inside the Anniversary Holly Grove at Greenwich Point you'll find a special place that some call magical and mystical. Robbins, Kingfisher, Sparrows, and Cardinals are just some of the birds you'll be able to see at the Anniversary Holly Grove located on the main road just past the 2nd concession. I have spotted up to 15 different species at one time visiting the Holly Grove.

Seven days a week we stop by to fill the feeders so our feathered friends have an easy place to feed and stay. This also provides us the chance to view them up close in a most relaxing setting.

Please bring your binoculars even though the colorful birds are so close you might not need them.

If one is interested in discovering which birds have recently been seen at the Point we would also recommend visiting the Cornell Ornithology Lab's e-bird site at <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>. Once at the site "Explore Data" and then "Hotspot Explorer". Once at Hotspot Explorer - type and select: Greenwich Point Park to see the most recent bird observations at the Point. 216 different species have been recorded through e-bird at the Point and 530 checklist submitted. Other e-bird GP hotspots include: The Holly Grove; Eagle Pond; Innis Arden Cottage; Pelican Island & tidal flats; and LIS south shore.

Bird Feeding

"Make Your Own Bird Feeder" By Cathy Weisenburger, FoGP Board Member

Supplies: Pinecone, peanut butter or sesame butter, bird seed, twine, paper plate and plastic knife

Directions: Tie a knot around the top of the pinecone. Leave plenty of twine for hanging. Place pinecone on paper plate and spread the peanut or sesame butter. Make sure to spread it fairly thick. Place birdseed on a paper plate and roll your pinecone over the seed until it is well covered. Refrigerate for one hour, then hang from a tree branch.

Tracking Wildlife

By Peter Linderth
FoGP Board Member

Have you ever wandered out on the Point and noticed a fresh set of animal tracks leading off in a given direction? Maybe you had the inclination to follow the tracks and discover the owner? Animal tracking on Greenwich Point is a great way to get outside and have some fun during the winter months. Greenwich Point is teeming with life in the winter even though it may seem all is still while we're sitting around a warm fire looking out over the wintery conditions. Animal tracking doesn't require an abundance of materials: warm clothing, a field guide, and keen eyes are all an aspiring tracker will require. Tracking can be done any time of the year; although, one of the best times to go is after a light covering of snow. The snow creates a mosaic of tracks which are easier to follow than tracks in the mud. So, bundle up and explore, especially for the Feb 16th animal tracking event highlighted on page one!

An Inspiration for Artists

By Barbara Stretton, President,
Art Society of Old Greenwich

Greenwich Point with its stunning vistas of beaches, woods, rock walls, and trails has long been an inspiration to artists and photographers. This is no less true of members of the Art Society of Old Greenwich who can often be found with their easels set up on the beach, in the holly grove, or the secret garden, capturing in paint the beauty of the Point.

But even in winter, or especially in winter, the stunning vistas open up to artists. They may not be with their easel without layers of clothing, but they bring their sketchbooks and cameras to capture the scenes, then return to their studios to paint. In winter at the Point, artists can show the leafless trees covered with snow, the shadows of the bare branches etched on the snow, the benches covered with ice, fog enveloping the two pillars that mark the entrance to the Point, the sun setting over the cold waters of the Sound, a deserted beach blanketed with snow and a lone seagull surveying the scene. In the winter, artists see the Point in a different light than during the hustle and bustle of the summer. It's a precious time to find images that later art lovers can enjoy while sitting by warm fires on cold winter nights.

Join the Friends of Greenwich Point

Your contributions support:

Habitat Restoration
Invasive Plant Removal
Traffic-free Sundays
Nature Education
Summer Concert Series
Winter Bird Feeding
Quarterly Newsletter
Signage Enhancement
Bench Replacement
Umbrella Replacement
Message Board Installation

*The preservation
of this truly special place*

Check here if you prefer to receive
your newsletter by email _____

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

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

Circle your choice

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

- * FoGP T-Shirt
Youth 2-4 6-8 10-12
Adult M L XL
- 8 Note Cards—photos of the Point

- ** FoGP baseball cap (khaki) or
Insulated cooler bag (blue)

- *** FoGP canvas tote bag

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Friends of Greenwich Point

PO Box 711
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