

# Friends of Greenwich Point



P.O. BOX 711 • OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870 • Fall 2020

## Osprey Babies

We are happy to announce that Tod and Holly successfully fledge these two babies. We hope to see the parents next year!



## Holiday Ornament Photo Contest Winner



The winner of our third FoGP holiday ornament photo contest, which inspired this year's ornament, is Graham Ornstein! Graham is a senior at Greenwich High School and is passionate about photography and electrical engineering. He has loved taking pictures since he was 10 years old and loves sharing his images with others.

The 2020 ornament, the eighth in our annual Greenwich Point Ornament Series, features one of the path bridges with egrets during the summer. The ornaments are a limited edition for \$20 each and come in a festive silk box, perfect for holiday gifts!

This year we are also bringing back a limited number of our 2019 ornaments (Innis Arden Cottage in the spring) and 2017 ornaments (lifeguard chair on the beach in the summer).

You may purchase them at the Old Greenwich Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 2:30 -6:00pm or on-line at <http://www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org> Orders made on-line can be picked up at the Farmers Market. Other pick up options will be organized.

## Holly Grove Clean-up



The annual Friends of Greenwich Point Holly Grove Clean-up, held Saturday, October 3, resulted in a record haul of four dumpsters full of weeds, vine cuttings, tree parts, and debris.

The event also registered an unofficial record number of volunteers, at approximately 50. The effort coordinated with the Parks Department was focused on the eastern edge of the Holly Grove, with the goal of clearing out invasive weeds and vines so that our 8 new holly trees can be planted. FoGP will be hosting more cleanup events this year. Working with the Greenwich Parks Department, FoGP hopes to fund the acquisition of native trees and shrubs to be planted where the weeds and vines have been cleared out. If you are interested in supporting this project, either by donating for new plantings or volunteering, contact us at [www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org](http://www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org). The next vine cutting workday is December 5.

# Fall 2020

Photos from Paige Davis, Old Greenwich Photographer

## 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. Thanks to: Kim Caravella, Brad Freeman, Aria Hattiangadi, Karla Kirtland, and Missy Stein.

At the same time we would like to welcome our newest board members: Jane Kuesel and Dana Yeminy-Soto

## 2020-2021 Friends of Greenwich Point Board of Directors

### Officers

**President:** Wendy Enelow  
**Treasurer:** Bill Harnett  
**Secretary:** Jane Kuesel

### Directors

**Concerts:** Gena Prastos Linhart  
**Education:** Lauren Burke  
Julie DesChamps

### **Employee**

**Luncheon:** Cynthia De Riemer  
**Conservation:** Diana Klingner,  
Matt Popp,  
Dana Yeminy-Soto

**Membership:** Leah Schmeidel

**Newsletter &**

**Website:** Margaret Morrison

**Ornaments:** Wendy Enelow

**Publicity:** Jessica Reid

**Scholarship:** Amy Healy

## Walk with First Selectman

On a weekend in September our committee took a walk with first selectman Fred Camillo to explain our projects past and present at the Point. We discussed dune restoration, habitat enhancement and our struggle to control the invasive nonnative vines and weeds.



These nonnative vine species have grown all over our native forest plants choking out the light and killing them. If you see what looks like recently cleared areas, we are using machines to clear these invasive plants that can no longer be managed by hand. These disturbed areas will be replanted with native trees and shrubs that will better support our wildlife. These areas will have to be heavily mowed for a few years to keep the weeds and vines in check but afterwards we hope for a much healthier forest.

## 2020 Scholarship Awarded to Grace Rau



FoGP is thrilled to announce that this year's scholarship award, given in honor of Mary Raymond, goes to 2020 Greenwich High School graduate Katherine (Grace) Rau. Grace plans to study Environmental Science at Eckerd College.

Grace developed a keen appreciation for nature early on through surfing and camping, but after seeing the documentary *Chasing Coral*, she says her "beautiful picture of the world" was shattered by the reality of climate change. She subsequently decided to transform her despair into a mission. "The film sparked my determination to find a solution and promote awareness," she recalls. "Suddenly, I had found my purpose."

Grace's Environmental Science and Marine Biology courses at GHS further inspired her to create the GHS Natural Beauty Club, which promoted and developed sustainable products; volunteer as an educator on the Hudson River Sloop (founded by Pete Seeger); and work as an assistant educator at SoundWaters. Grace believes that education is key; without it, she would not have been where she is today. We are so proud of Grace's impressive accomplishments and aspirations, and we wish her all the best as she continues her journey in Florida!

# Fall 2020

## More Hackberry Trees Planted

In honor of Berneice Fritz, who loved walking and sitting along the water at the Point, her family and friends have donated funds for more Hackberry trees to be planted by the 3 memorial benches on the South side of the park along the water. Hackberry Trees are known for their salt tolerance and provide berries for many creatures. This will be a wonderful addition to that area of the Point.

## Purple Martins



The return of the Purple Martins this spring to Greenwich Point was a welcome sight. This year 36 gourds were installed. By the end of May multiple gourds had the classic straw-lined nest with green leaves, and a few nests even had an egg laid. By early June, we counted over 100 eggs across 22 active gourds. A week later, 23 chicks were born, and 86 eggs remained.

Midway through June, a pair of Great Horned Owls preyed upon the colony and we lost nearly half of the juveniles. We installed 'owl guards', metal prongs that hang in front of the opening to the gourd to prevent owls from being able to reach and grab inside, on the gourds that still had nests. Fortunately, the guards worked, and we were able to save the remaining juveniles.

A serendipitous meeting with a local photographer while monitoring the colony helped identify three banded Purple Martins. CT DEEP bands Purple Martins with two ankle bands: a colored band and a metal U.S. Geological Survey band. The colored band signifies the natal location where the bird was banded. Greenwich's colors are yellow and blue. The metal band has a nine-digit code engraved on it to identify the individual. When juveniles are banded, they are weighed and aged.

## First Sunday Bird Walks at Greenwich Point Park

**Sundays 9:00 - 11:30 am**  
**November 1, December 6, January 3,**  
**February 7, March 7**

Just bring binoculars and meet near the main concession stand at the south end of the beach. First Sunday Bird Walks at Greenwich Point Park are a series of free, monthly bird walks providing friendly and informative birding. Guides are knowledgeable local naturalists and birders. Everyone - from beginner to expert, of all ages - is welcome. No fees or registration required for the walks. Masks and social distancing required. Group size limited, up to first 15 participants. For more information, visit the First Sunday Birds Walks at Greenwich Point website:

<https://birdwalk.home.blog/>

Sponsored by Friends of Greenwich Point.



## Safe Roads Sundays are Back

FoGP is sponsoring Safe Roads Sundays from November 22 through April 11.

Traffic is curtailed between the hours of 9:00 am and 12:30 pm to allow you to enjoy a safe and picturesque route to walk and ride your bikes or take your baby for a stroll.



# Friends of Greenwich Point

P.O. Box 711  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870



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[www.FriendsofGreenwichPoint.org](http://www.FriendsofGreenwichPoint.org)

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

- Habitat Restoration
- Dune Planting
- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Traffic Free Sundays
- Nature Education
- Summer Concert Series
- Winter Bird Feeding
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Holly Grove Improvement
- Osprey Platform

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

You can also join on our website,  
[www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org](http://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](http://www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org) - membership section.

### Annual Family Memberships

\$25.....	TERN
\$50.....	GOLDENEYE
\$100.....	OSPREY
\$250.....	EAGLE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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