

Friends of Waterford Park

The Parks Reporter

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Fall 2007

FWP Open House

On September 14 at 4:00 under beautiful blue skies, the Friends of Waterford Park (FWP) hosted an open house in the park. Welcomed by President Ginny Brace, those attending explored the park and enjoyed refreshments.

Among approximately 70 in attendance were current members of FWP, city officials, members of various forestry organizations, tree donors and honorees, and Friends of Baker Park.

Of particular interest to the visitors were nursery-size trees donated to the park “in honor of” or “in memory of.” Each of these trees is marked with a plaque that cites the type of tree, the honoree, and the donor.

General Membership Meeting

October 10, 2007
at 7:00 p.m.
Hall of Fame Room—
Second floor
Talley Rec Center

Enter the building on the west end, lower level. Walk to other end of the building, up one flight of steps to the meeting room.

Plan to attend and get involved!

Donor Trees

- American Beech, in memory of George F. Brown, given by Ginny Brace
- American Hornbeam— Friends of Waterford Park gratefully acknowledges the MD Department of Natural Resources
- Bald Cypress, in memory of Lucille M. Leland Naas, given by Vicki Naas
- Chestnut Oak, in honor of Frederick County volunteers, given by an anonymous donor
- Dogwood, in memory of Mina S. Speck, given by Nancy Speck
- Eastern Hophornbeam, in honor of William B. Thomas, first lifetime member of Friends of Waterford Park
- Fringetree, in memory of Helene Bloom, given by the Moore Family
- Pignut Hickory, in honor of Frederick County veterans, given by an anonymous donor
- Red Maple, in memory of Michael Judd USN/USMC, given by Chris Judd
- Red Nuttail Oak, in honor of Troop 799, Brook Hill United Methodist Church, given by Debra and Wallace Ousse
- Shagbark Hickory, in memory of Darryl McCartney, given by Marilyn Reedy
- Sourwood, in honor of June Ketterman, given by Jerry Kray and Tom Ketterman
- Sugar Maple, in honor of Evelyn Eck, given by Steve and Beverly Williams
- Swamp White Oak, in memory of parents of Deborah Voso, given by Deborah Voso
- Swamp White Oak, given by Phil and Linda Berkheimer
- Tulip Poplar, in honor of Louis and Evelyn Orndorff
- Yellowwood— Friends of Waterford Park gratefully acknowledges Virginia Brace for her tireless dedication and leadership
- White Oak, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Moore, Sr., given by William M. Moore, Jr.
- White Oak, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bartgis Storm, given by William M. Moore, Jr.

Enjoying the Trees

To the Left— Lynne Marquess reads the plaque identifying a white oak located in Rock Creek Park and given to Frederick County by the state and the Frederick County Forest Conservancy District Board to commemorate 100 years of forest and park conservation in Maryland. Lynne is a member of the Conservancy Board.

To the Right— Nancy Speck, tree donor, enjoys the dogwood planted in honor of her mother Mina Speck.



Butterfly Garden Enhances Park

Through a donation by Jean and Paul Friedmann to FWP, a butterfly garden has been planted in Rock Creek Park near the first bridge from Baughman's Lane. Featuring native species, the garden has already been in colorful bloom. Enjoy the spot on the nearby bench, purchased by FWP, and see what butterflies the garden has already attracted.

From the President...

Calling all park stewards!

In just two years, we have accomplished so much. I hear from members, neighbors and park users that our efforts are appreciated. The park does indeed have a new look. That's the good news.

The other news is that a few "gray-hairs," as Carol Gutwalt calls us, are doing most of the work. Without the commitment of Scouts of Troop 799, we would not have even attempted the woods edge planting or butterfly garden, the two big projects of 2007 that involve ongoing maintenance.

All of you support the projects. Many of you cannot do the physical tasks. Busy schedules often

keep others from joining in the work sessions.

Let's try a new approach. Would you like to take responsibility for a small section of the woods edge? Or the butterfly garden? Or the Rock Creek planting? Or a small part of the meadow? You would need to check your "section" every couple of weeks and hoe, clip, or pull weeds. This would probably involve an hour or two a month. You can work when it's convenient for you, and you can choose the spot in the park that you'd like to nurture.

We will "train" you; that is, we can show you the common weeds that invade "your" area if not controlled. Of course, if you had any

problems or questions, we'd be there to help—or we'd call in the pros. If your area needed watering, we'd get it to "your" plants. If you wanted some mulch for your plants, we would join you in a mulching "party." If you need tools, we'd get them from the FWP shed. FWP will try to supply everything but your time and help.

If you are able to work in the park, call me at 301.682.6135 or email me at ginny4ftp@aol.com and tell me you will be a steward for a small section of the park. You can make a big difference and have fun doing it.

Ginny Brace

Eagle Scout Completes Information Kiosk

Jeffrey Crabb, working towards his Eagle Scout award with Troop 799 of the Brook Hill United Methodist Church, recently completed the building of an information kiosk for the park. Jeffrey planned the project, obtained the requisite materials, and completed the project with the help of his troop and parent volunteers.

The kiosk will serve as a convenient way to communicate with

those who enjoy the park and provide useful information about the natural assets of the park.

Unfortunately, shortly after the kiosk was completed, it was subject to vandals who caused extensive damage. FWP appreciates that staff from the city's Department of Parks and Recreation refurbished the kiosk and moved it to a location where it will, hopefully, be less vulnerable. If you're in the park and

notice anyone who isn't respecting the improvements, please be a good park steward and call the police if appropriate.

FWP appreciates the work of Jeffrey and his troop, not only for the kiosk but also for all the hours the troop and their families have volunteered in clearing brush, planting, and other critical tasks.

Creature Comforts

Visitors to the park will notice several additions designed to add to the comfort of both the visitors, as well as the residents of the park.

The birds have several available homes in the park. FWP appreciates the birdhouses constructed by Charles Rickman and scattered around the park. The FWP Board

of Directors also authorized the purchase of a purple martin house near the Rock Creek Drive cul-de-sac. So far the purple martins haven't taken advantage of this brand new home.

Those walking through the park can sit for a spell on one of the two benches that the board purchased for the park. Anyone interested in donating a bench for placement elsewhere in the park should contact President Ginny Brace.



FWP Volunteer Marilyn Reedy tries out one of the new park benches.

Projects Abound in Rock Creek and Waterford Parks

The goal of Friends of Waterford Park, with the approval of Frederick City's Department of Parks and Recreation, is to contain or remove the exotic invasive species that were dominating the wooded areas of the park and to develop a tranquil park setting where people can enjoy animal life and plant species native to MD. Towards that end FWP has undertaken several projects this season.

With a \$1000 grant from the MD Urban and Community Forests Commission and additional money from FWP, wildflowers and shrubs were planted along 600 feet of woods edge along the macadam path, as well as trees and shrubs in the interior of the woods.

After a downed tree blocking the creek was removed, FWP volunteers removed existing invasive plants, primarily bush honeysuckle, and planted small trees, shrubs, and ferns. Elderberry and witch-hazel were planted along the stream to stabilize the stream bank.

The MD Dept. of Natural Resources has administered \$5000 worth of invasive species control that will help contain or remove dozens of ailanthus trees (tree of heaven), multiflora rose, and Japanese bush honeysuckle.

Over 400 trees and shrubs were planted along a 100 feet wide stretch of Carroll Creek in 2005 and 2006 with the main funding coming

from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

If you are interested in helping with any of our future planting projects, please contact FWP president Ginny Brace at ginny4ftp@aol.com or 301.682.6135. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

2007 FWP Officers

President— Ginny Brace
 Vice President— Lynn Leathery
 Secretary— Carol Gutwalt
 Treasurer— Linda Berkheimer
 Administrative Services— Barbara Rickman
 Liaison to Friends of Baker Park— Chris Judd
 Site Planning— Barbara Manaia



Scouts and parent volunteers from Troop 799 break for a picture during kiosk construction.



FWP volunteers pause briefly to lean on their shovels during the planting of the donor trees.

Meadow Experiment

With the approval of Frederick City's Department of Parks and Recreation, FWP, with support from MD's Department of Natural Resources, has planted a one-acre meadow of wildflowers in the park.

Donnie Rohrbach of MD's DNR agreed to kill existing vegetation in

the area and re-seed with native perennials and grasses, purchased by FWP.

The city is particularly interested in the results of this project because grassy areas in other parks could become wildflower meadows and eliminate the need for mowing.

This season's experiment provided a beautiful field of color and with re-seeding next year should be even more spectacular.

We hope those who visit the park will realize that the flowers are there for everyone to enjoy and are not intended to be cut for home bouquets.

Minutes from May 9, 2007 General Membership Meeting

Please Note: Since the minutes of the last general membership meeting, held May 9, 2007, are up for approval at the October 10 meeting, we've included a copy in the newsletter for your review prior to the meeting to dispense with the reading at the upcoming meeting.

Friends of Waterford Park Minutes- May 9, 2007

The spring general membership meeting of the Friends of Waterford Park (FWP) was held May 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Talley Recreation Center. The meeting was held jointly with the Friends of Baker Park, our fiscal agent. In attendance from FWP were Linda Berkheimer, Charles Bishop, Virginia Brace, Carol Gutwalt, Chris Judd, Elliott Lewis, Barbara Manaia, Jana Moberly, Marilyn Reedy, and Barbara Rickman.

Jim Gugel, president of Friends of Baker Park (FOBP), called the meeting to order and introduced Ginny Brace, president of FWP. He then introduced Roelkey Myers from Frederick City's Department of Parks and Recreation, who updated the group on city activities of interest to the groups' respective parks:

--Bike Path- Roelkey reviewed the status of the proposed eight-foot-wide bike path and indicated that it requires a sign-off from the city engineering department and will be ready to go out for bid. Among the top complaints Roelkey hears is the problem of pedestrians and bikers using the same path. The path will move from Baker Park to Fairview Avenue and somehow move to the west side of Route 15 to provide an eight mile loop. There are currently three possibilities for getting from the east to the west side of Route 15: use a channel box for Carroll Creek, bore a tunnel, or somewhere behind Schifferstadt move onto Rosemont and eventually onto the stream bed. With the aldermen supportive of the bike path, Roelkey felt that the project would have fiscal support.

—Gazebo- The city would work with Friends of Baker Park to refurbish the gazebo.

—Swinging bridge- It too is scheduled to be refurbished at an estimated cost of \$75000.

During Roelkey's presentation Dr. George Smith expressed his concern that Rooms 1 and 2 contain a mixed path and reiterated his prior concerns that pedestrians and bikers' sharing a path is an accident waiting to happen. One possible solution Roelkey offered was to line the path with designated sides for those on foot and on wheels. Dr. Smith also questioned the removal of some trash receptacles around the park. Roelkey promised he'd contact the appropriate personnel to return the receptacles.

Jim Gugel questioned whether any official planning had begun for getting the bike path through/ under Route 15. Roelkey indicated the issue was only at the preliminary engineering stage. Using existing channels is probably not an option because the flow of water could potentially flood on the west side of Route 15 and Linda Berkheimer would find herself with a bigger swimming pool than she's enjoyed in the past. Therefore, a route via Schifferstadt is more likely.

After Roelkey's presentation Jim Gugel updated the group on FOBP projects, including goose control for Culler Lake, seeking support from Scout groups for park clean-up, and purchasing trash receptacles and donated park benches.

Ginny Brace then highlighted FWP accomplishments for the group: the \$1000 grant for shrubs, flowers, and trees along the path edge, the planting of 22 donated trees, the Potomac Conservancy plantings, the involvement of Scouts and the Eagle Scout kiosk project, the placement of benches, the planting of a butterfly garden, and the preparation of a meadow.

Bobby Rickman introduced FWP's slate of officers for 2007, who were elected by acclamation: Ginny Brace, president; Lynn Leathery, vice president; Carol Gutwalt, secretary; Linda Berkheimer, treasurer; Chris Judd, liaison to the Friends of Baker Park Board; Barbara Rickman, head of the administrative committee; and Barb Manaia, head of the site plan committee.

FOBP held a drawing for four of their new T-shirts, and the joint meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

FWP then held a brief business meeting. Treasurer Linda Berkheimer reported a balance of \$5337.55 with \$255.21 in petty cash. In reviewing membership records Barbara Rickman reported that thirteen memberships from 2006 had not been renewed for 2007. The group agreed that these people may need reminders. Ginny reported that there was still some money left from funds for donated trees. The group agreed not to purchase any more benches for now and wait to see how the two currently in place survive the season.

The group then reviewed the chart assigning the donor trees and made some adjustments before plaques are prepared.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, at Linda Berkheimer's home.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Gutwalt, Secretary