

The Parks Reporter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2008

FWP Work Schedule

On going, but check your email
or check with Ginny at
301.682.6135

Friday mornings at 9:30
Sunday afternoons at 2:00

Scheduled sessions-

Saturday, March 29, 9:00– noon:
planting seedlings with the Potomac
Conservancy

Sunday, April 6, 2:00-4:00 pm –
planting with the Boy Scouts in the
park

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.-
cleaning up Rock Creek from
Baughman's Lane to Route 15 during
Frederick's Big Sweep



General Member- ship Meeting with Friends of Baker Park

May 21, 2008
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, learn
about the Bike Path,
and get involved!**

FWP Scheduled for MPT Show

As part of Maryland
Public Television's ob-
servance of Chesapeake
Bay Week in April, pub-
lic television will feature
programming that fo-
cuses on the bay.

At the end of the
week on Sunday, April
27, from 6:00-8:00 MPT
will host a Volunteer-
athon. The purpose of
the event is to showcase
those non-profit organi-
zations that are involved
in the health of the
Chesapeake Bay. Be-
cause Rock Creek and
Carroll Creek flow into
the Monocacy, onto the
Potomac River, and ul-
timately into the Bay,
FWP was contacted by
the Monocacy– Catoc-
tin-Watershed-Alliance
about participating in
the event.

MPT will seek
pledges of volunteer
hours, not money, for
participating organiza-
tions, and FWP's board
agreed that this project
would be an excellent
way to showcase our
progress and seek volun-
teers for future projects.

On March 10, Mary-
land Public Television
visited the park to film
segments for the show.
FWP volunteers were
filmed doing typical ac-
tivities, such as planting
native shrubs in the
woods understory and
distributing species
signage.

Tune in April 27 from
6-8:00 p.m., and you just
may see Waterford Park
and some of your
neighbors. Better yet,
pledge some volunteer
hours that night.



*MPT cameraman follows
volunteer Brad Rowland*



*President Ginny Brace
charms the MPT camera*

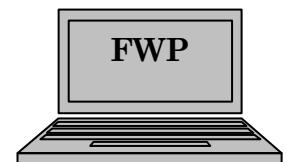
Park Goes Online

Webmaster Kip Jacobs
has volunteered his ser-
vices in the creation of a
website for FWP. The
website will serve as a
resource for information
about the park, provide a
quick place to check for
FWP work schedules, and
share links to other re-

sources of interest to park
visitors.

FWP appreciates Kip's
willingness to help FWP
have a place on the inter-
net. Visit us at
www.friendsofwaterfordp
ark.org and see this work
in progress.

Anyone with a question
or suggestion about the
park can email FWP at
info@friendsofwaterfordp
ark.org, which provides a
link to the board of direc-
tors.



Chief Tree's Musings

The secret is out! Carol Gutwalt has been calling me "Chief Tree" for quite some time, and I respond by calling her "CBB— Chief Bulletin Board." The draft of this newsletter does not mention the mountain of work that Carol undertakes for this group— so I am using my space to thank her for maintaining the kiosk, producing the newsletter, providing the website content; and in her spare time she is a worker bee, watering, planting, and mulching.

As I read the minutes from October 2007, I realize how much has happened this winter. No hibernation for this group! Several of us who look for ways to stay active had a great time this winter clearing out the dead invasives along the paved

path. I never set this as a goal; it just evolved. With Brad Rowland and Chris Judd wielding their chainsaws in safe and expert fashion, we brought down massive grapevines that were strangling many of the decent native trees along the path. They also cut the biggest honeysuckles, while the rest of us worker bees got the rose and smaller honeysuckle. The City is picking up the piles we have made outside the woods. We made several piles in the woods to provide shelter for wildlife. We were constantly amazed at how much we could accomplish in an hour or two. New volunteers Karen Disque and Barb McCartney have become a part of the regular team, so we often had 6 or 8 people out even in

the coldest weather. It was great fun— not everybody's cup of tea, but we loved it!

I am so glad to see puddles in the park. Hopefully the groundwater is being replenished. FWP will be cautious about where we plant new natives this year. If the moisture is good in the fall, we may plant drier areas such as the Meadowdale entrance then.

This year I hope to get to know the park's existing native plants better. There are "good guys" in the woods— we just needed to get the bad guys out so we could see them! Hope to see you out enjoying the parks this spring.

Ginny

Holiday Treats in the Park



In December FWP members gathered at the home of Linda Berkheimer to prepare holiday treats for our feathered friends in the park.

The group made suet cakes, covered pine cones with peanut butter, and tried their hands at garlands of popcorn and cranberries.

The next morning several hearty souls braved numbing fingers to hang the "edible ornaments" on the large donor trees.



FWP Sweeps the Creek

The Friends of Waterford Park will participate in Frederick's Big Sweep on Saturday, April 26, at 10:00 a.m.

The group will focus on Rock Creek between Baughman's Lane and Route 15. Unfortunately debris from upstream moves through our park and often leaves an un-

sightly mess. Volunteers will be donning waders to complete the task.

Since the Big Sweep typically asks participants to secure pledges for the activity, FWP is fortunate that several individuals have come forward to help with the cost of FWP's participation. Additional donors can send checks made out to

Big Sweep to Linda Berkheimer, FWP Treasurer, 1500 Rock Creek Drive, Frederick, MD 21702. In addition to having a creek free of debris, FWP will also benefit financially from its participation.

Not all volunteers will be wading the creek, so if you appreciate a tidy waterway, please join us and work from the creek bank.

Recent Donations Enhance Park

The Friends of Waterford Park gratefully acknowledges recent donations to the park.

A blackgum tree was donated anonymously in memory of Ed Sander, who is fondly remembered by his childhood friends in the Rock Creek neighborhood. Elizabeth Claggett presented a Sweetbay Magnolia in honor of her parents Dr. and Mrs. Charles Conley.

Brad Rowland, a resident of Crystal Apartments and employee of Ruppert Nurseries, has been instrumental in seeking donor trees from the management at

Ruppert Nurseries.. In early January the crew from the nursery planted five trees, including redbud, maple, and hawthorne. We're glad one of our neighbors could serve as a liaison with a local nursery.

The winter work crew spent hours removing invasives such as multi-flora rose and honeysuckle from the woods along the paved path. Lesley Cristol has provided funds to be used for the purchase of native flowers and shrubs for planting in the understory along the paved path in this newly opened area. Similarly, Nancy Speck has made a contribution

that will be used to purchase dogwoods for planting in some of the drier areas.

Contributing to the maintenance of the park, Linda and Phil Berkheimer helped cover the expense of removing brush from the park along Carroll Creek. Betsy and David Gray donated a tarp for protecting the park's utility cart.

If you would like to discuss how you can add something to the park, email the board at info@friendsofwaterfordpark.org or call Ginny at 301.682.6135

FOBP Reviews Upcoming Baker Park Projects

Friends of Baker Park met this spring with Roelkey Myers, Frederick City's Director of Parks and Recreation, to discuss the condition of the park, as well as new and continuing projects in which the city and the Friends are involved.

Bandshell Project – The renovation of the bandshell in the park is being undertaken by The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek under the direction of FWP's own Chris Judd, who is project manager. A unique and much used feature of the park, the bandshell has deteriorated over the years and has been inadequate for many groups performing there. Renovation begins in April but will halt during the summer months so that the facility can continue to be used.

Swinging Bridge – Another unique feature of Baker Park, the bridge which spans the creek in front of Parkway Elementary School is becoming a hazard because of weak and broken supports. The city has budgeted repair funds, and FOBP

hopes to add landscaping improvements around the bridge.

Bike Path – The city expects construction of the path to be completed this summer. FOBP has been in support of the concept of the path but not necessarily in agreement with its route through the park. Nevertheless, Roelkey reports that the contract has been awarded, and construction begins soon.

Graffiti — The problem of graffiti, an increasing issue of concern in the park, was discussed. Roelkey suggested that members contact the mayor and alderman to request that priority be given to this issue. It was once the case that, when graffiti was reported, the police immediately responded, photographed it, and arranged for removal. While this is still the intention, limitations on time and personnel make this difficult. In past years, the quick response worked to decrease the incidence of graffiti since, apparently, there is not much pleasure

gained by the perpetrator if it is removed immediately.

The Board of Directors of FOBP recently dedicated time to deciding what the next large-scale project of the group should be. In the past, FOBP has spearheaded the renovation of the playground near the Recreation Center and the installation of the playground near the pool; the renovation and rededication of the carillon; and the development of the donation program which is responsible for the continuing installation of the new iron benches and trash cans throughout the park. The Board has agreed that their new focus will be the Culler Lake area, which the group feels is overdue for improvements. More to come in future reports.

Editor's Note: Because FOBP serves as the fiscal agent for FWP, we have invited FOBP to share news of its activities. Thanks to Kathy Fay of FOBP for this article.

Friends of Waterford Park Minutes- October 10, 2007

Please Note: Since the minutes of the last general membership meeting, held October 10, 2007, are up for approval at the May 21 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.

The fall membership meeting of the Friends of Waterford Park (FWP) was held October 10, 2007, at 7:04 p.m. in the meeting room in the Talley Recreation Center with President Virginia Brace presiding. In attendance were Linda Berkheimer, Charles Bishop, Virginia Brace, Debbie Crabb, Lesley Cristol, Carol Gutwalt, Chris Judd, Joanne Leathery, Lynn Leathery, and Jana Moberly.

Linda Berkheimer moved, seconded by Lesley Cristol, to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2006 spring membership meeting. Treasurer Berkheimer reported a treasurer's balance of \$4534.82 with 312.99 in petty cash. This balance reflects a \$400 gift from the Fern Brown family, as well as allocating an expenditure of \$450 for the trailer to be purchased from David Gray.

President Brace indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was to look ahead at potential projects for the 2008 season. First, however, she wanted the group to take time to reflect on the September open house held in the park. Feedback from most in attendance that the park's guests agreed it was a beautiful park. Chris Judd concurred that members of Friends of Baker Park were amazed at the setting. Lesley Cristol suggested that a more structured tour may have been useful for guests, as well as current members. Carol Gutwalt acknowledged the work of Barbara Rickman, who coordinated the refreshments and invitations.

The group decided to create holiday treats for birds who visit the park. The blackgum that didn't flourish may make a feasible Charlie Brown Christmas tree. Jana Moberly volunteered to oversee the group that would make the treats at her home on December 12, 2007. This project would be in lieu of a December board meeting.

Ginny Brace reported the completion of the report to the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee for the work done with the \$1000 grant award to the FWP by the Committee. Included in her report were pictures of the park pre- and post- grant which she shared with the members present.

Ginny also reported that FOBP authorized the purchased of the utility trailer, which will be gifted to the city for FWP's use in the park.

Ginny reported that the city has contracted with R&K Tree Service for the removal of the large ailanthus trees that have been sprayed and are now dead near the park's entrance off Meadowdale Drive. She did not know when the work would be completed. She also reported that she had requested a bid from R&K for tree work that the city would not cover. R&K indicated they would complete the following tasks with itemized pricing for each task: \$340 to remove/ cut back 4 mulberries; \$120 to elevate six trees and remove one box elder; \$200 to remove 2 ailanthus near the kiosk; and \$900 to remove 4 foot ailanthus and 11 big trees near the entrance to the park off Baughman's Lane. Because one of the newer members of FWP has a chain saw he's willing to use with park projects, the group trimmed the list of tasks for R&K. After much discussion the group unanimously agreed to authorize the board to contract with R&K for the following work: \$900 to remove the Baughman's entrance ailanthus; \$200 to remove the 2 ailanthus in the woods near the kiosk; and \$85 to remove the mulberry trees near the entrance.

Deb Crabb, representing the Brook Hill United Methodist Church Boy Scout troop, reported that the scouts are prepared to commit to three Saturday work sessions during the next work season. Suggestions for projects included help with replacing dead trees in the buffer and creating a bench for the posts at the original kiosk site with FWP paying the cost of materials for the bench.

The group then brainstormed possible projects for the coming year. Ideas under consideration included the following: fill in the woods edge with more plants, clean up the Meadowdale entrance area, add more benches (perhaps moving the stone bench near the original kiosk to the eastern end of the park if the scouts create a bench at the original kiosk site.) Chris Judd felt that group should focus on maintenance and infilling. While other members agreed that FWP should not tackle new projects, the definition of the word "maintenance" had multiple definitions by members of the group. Following additional discussion Ginny suggested that the site plan committee meet in November in lieu of a board meeting to develop possible projects. She welcomed those who were planning to help with 2008 park activities to attend that meeting to be held at her home on November 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Chris Judd moved, seconded by Lynn Leathery, that the purpose of the November 14 Site Plan Committee meeting be to develop activities for the coming planting season.

Ginny Brace presented the Worker Bee Award to Lesley Cristol and the Versatility Award to Carol Gutwalt

Chris Judd reported on news from FOBP. The group has received a large bequest and is in the process of determining how to best use the funds. They plan to refurbish the park's gazebo. One of the area Rotary Clubs will be refurbishing the band shell.

After a motion by Jana Moberly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol L. Gutwalt