

Walden Woods News

August 2007

THE BEAR ESSENTIALS

Have you heard the rumor that we're going to change the name of Walden Woods to Wild Kingdom? It may be justified considering the influx of wild animals from the woods into our "civilized" community. As some of you know, the latest furry four-legger to join us is a black bear. Instead of the monstrous, snarling, flesh-eating image portrayed by Hollywood, however, our bear is apparently more of the small, timid variety with a penchant for birdseed. Some witnesses even say the bear growls with a lisp and has a limp paw.

In any event, we do have a black bear in our midst. He (she or it) joins the previous invasion of fox and coyotes reported in previous years. Before the conversion of the animal's habitat into what is now known as Country Walk, the only "wildlife" seen around here were a few chipmunks and an occasional turtle. Let's hope the remaining trees are enough to keep the tigers in place.

For those of you who may be somewhat concerned about a face to face confrontation with the bear, here are a few things you should know, compliments of the state's Department of Environmental Protection:

If you see a bear while hiking, make your presence known by making noise and waving your arms. And if you happen to surprise a bear nearby, walk away slowly.

There is a misconception that black bears are vicious animals and that they are likely to attack people in defense of cubs. Black bear researchers often capture screaming cubs in the presence of mothers with no attacks.

P.S.

Last month, we asked each of you to contact the editor if you wanted to continue to receive a copy of this newsletter. The intent was to determine if enough homeowners had sufficient interest in the newsletter to warrant the expense of its publication. To allow for response delays due to vacations, the survey will continue through September. If you have not yet responded and **if you wish to receive future newsletters, please contact Bob Ellis, 688-5949, pollyandbob@sbcglobal.net**.

If you do have a dog, however, keep it on a leash and under control.

Bears are attracted to garbage, pet food, compost piles, fruit trees and bird feeders around houses. You can help discourage the bear from visiting your area by temporarily discontinuing the feeding of birds, placing your garbage cans inside a garage or shed, adding ammonia to your trash, cleaning and storing grills after use, not including meat or sweets to your compost pile, and not leaving pet food outside overnight. And, as if you need this advice, DON'T intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near a home may become "problem" bears.

Most black bears become active a half-hour before sunrise, take a nap or two during the day, and bed down for the night an hour or two after sunset. However, some bears are active at night to avoid people or other bears.

In summary, if you see a black bear, don't try to pet him. But don't panic either; he doesn't want any part of you any more than you do him. If you see any sign of aggressiveness, report the incident to the DEP's Animal Control Center.

Inside this Issue

- 2 Editorial on Volunteerism
- 2 Truisms
- 3 Environmental Update

- 3 Amenities Update
- 4 Tag Sale Report
- 4 Gossip Column

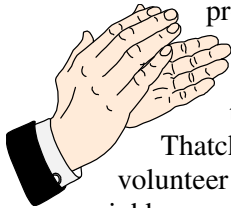
WALDEN WOODS NEWS is a monthly publication produced and distributed by homeowner volunteers for the edification and enjoyment of all Walden Woods homeowners. Questions, ideas and news contributions may be submitted to any member of the Communication Committee: Bob or Polly Ellis (688-5949), or Ruth Johnson (688-5128),

ON VOLUNTEERISM

Editorial by Bob Ellis

"It's our duty to look after ourselves and then, also to look after our neighbor. There's no such thing as entitlement, unless someone has first met an obligation." - Margaret Thatcher

Too often in this newsletter, we use space to plead for volunteers to serve on the boards and committees that



provide the "entitlements" enjoyed by the entire community. Not enough space is given to thank those who understand what Ms. Thatcher was talking about and choose to volunteer their time and effort to serve their neighbors.

We currently have a nucleus of 37 such volunteers in Walden Woods. Some of those are from the same household, some serve in multiple areas of responsibility and some have been volunteering for years. While we can't list all 37 volunteers here, there are a few who deserve special mention. Of the seven members who volunteered (and were elected) for duty on the Conservancy Board of Directors, Anna-Marie Brown, Deb Gaimpolo, Barry Towers and Charles Wimberley do double-duty by serving as board liaisons for the various committees and often taking part in committee activities.

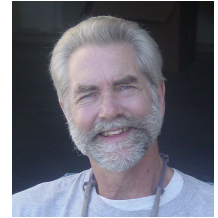
Cori-Lynn Webber, Ruth Johnson, Polly Ellis, Paul Giampolo, Bonnie Farmer and Dianne Timpson all somehow find the time to serve on multiple committees. It's encouraging to know that the latter two are Duplex Council homeowners who just recently moved here. That means that while the number of volunteers per capita may be disappointing, the spirit is alive and will apparently be carried forward as the community grows.



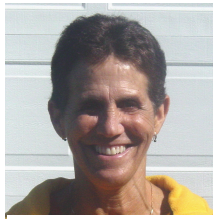
TRUISMS

- Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
 - Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job.
- The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
 - A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
 - If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
 - Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
 - A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel so good.
 - No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
- Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist are reversed..

John Foley, his wife Barbara D'Amaddio, and Edgar Rodriguez are all recent arrivals in Country Walk. John and Edgar have already volunteered for our Environmental Committee while Barbara is on the Recreation & Social Committee and also joined the ad-hoc committee



John Foley



Barbara D'amaddio

that put together the Tag Sale (see page 4). John is a retired state probation officer and social worker. Barbara is a retired school administrator. Edgar is an attorney who deals with patents and trademarks.



EdgarRodriguez

Different people with different interests, but all sharing an understanding of duty typical of all the volunteers. Edgar said *"I volunteered to help maintain the high quality of life in our neighborhood."* John indicated he volunteered to *"become involved and hopefully become a part of positive change."* Barbara wanted to support Walden Woods and felt that *"to be successful, any self-governed community has to have homeowners willing to sacrifice some time."*

Long-time volunteer Polly Ellis admits to less altruistic motives: *"Somebody has to do it and it makes me feel good to be part of a team that's willing to make the effort."*

Whatever your motives, thank you Edgar, John, Barbara and Polly. And thanks to all of you who understand the way to contribute to your community is by getting involved in its management. It means a lot to the rest of us.

WALDEN WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

By Warren Johnson, Environmental Committee

Water quality in our two ponds remains the primary concern of the Environmental Committee. Three Vortech units have been installed to treat storm drainage into Big Walden Pond from Walden Woods. These units are currently treating all the drainage from Walden Meadow Road and will eventually remove pollutants that would otherwise drain into the pond from Country Walk as well. They will not be fully effective, however, until the finish grade of asphalt has been installed on all the roads in Country Walk.



Vortechnic Unit being installed in 2006

There is also untreated drainage coming from the adjacent Unisource property that enters through an intermittent stream. The Committee continues its efforts to get our industrial neighbors and the Town to make improvements to this drainage, but no significant progress has been made to date. Our consulting engineers advise us that no other measures can be considered to improve the water quality in Big Walden Pond until the Vortech units are all functioning and the Unisource drainage improvements are complete.



Little Walden Pond

The Committee is currently considering experimenting with an algae treatment of Little Walden Pond (the pond near the swimming pool). Under consideration are possible chemical or natural treatments to kill and prevent algae growth as well as possible skimming procedures. The Committee has recommended the discouragement of grass around the pool and the planting of more bushes to improve the water quality of surface drainage into the Pond. The fountain, while aesthetically pleasing, is probably having no significant impact on water quality.

Also scheduled for this month is the forestation of the westerly 100 feet of the flower meadow between the existing woods and Marshall Phelps Road. The additional trees will help to protect our environment in general and improve the water quality of one of our vernal pools.

Funding for the Vortech units and the forestation is being provided by the Country Walk developers. Funding for the industrial drainage improvements is expected to be provided by Unisource. If our Conservancy Board approves improvements for Little Walden Pond, funding will be needed from the Walden Woods Conservancy.

UPDATE ON AMENTIES

Meeting House – Ta dah! The vinyl siding project is complete and new outside lights installed. Only some minor trim painting remains to be done.

Tennis Courts – A wind shield has been installed on the lower tennis court. The installation of a backboard to allow individual practice on the court was canceled after the Conservancy Board determined the cost to be prohibitive for the likely limited use.

Overheard at the pool:
"I've reached the age where Happy Hour is a nap."

Swimming Pool – The cigarette receptacle and bike rack have been installed outside the pool area and the squirrel-damaged vents in the cabana cupola have been replaced with vinyl. For the month of July, 437 homeowners and their 253 guests visited the pool. With four bad-weather days, that's an average of 26 visitors per day compared to June's total of 21 per day.

THE POOL WILL REMAIN OPEN THIS YEAR THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16TH.

TAG SALE A GOOD DEAL



Thirty homeowners took advantage of the third annual community-wide tag sale on Saturday, August 11th to unload some more unwanted goods, make a few bucks, and do a lot of socializing with bargain-searching visitors and neighbors. Early estimates are that over 68,000 people (give or take 2 or 3) and at least twice that many cars visited us during the sale.

Hats off once again to Ruth Casagrande and her tireless team of volunteers for putting together a well-planned event.

And thanks to all of the non-participating homeowners for their six-hour tolerance of the inconvenience caused by all the extra traffic.

GOSSIP COLUMN

This anecdote told to me by Joe Palladino's wife Jamie pretty much explains why Joe is an effective member of our Conservancy Board of Directors.



It seems that a few months ago, Joe was out driving in his car when he collided with another car and both cars were demolished. Joe and the other driver crawled out of the wreckage, amazed that neither of them was hurt in the accident.

All of a sudden, Joe said "Look at this miracle! This must surely be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live our lives in peace for the rest of our days."

Convinced that Joe was crazy, the other driver said "Sure, whatever you say."

"And look at this!" Joe said, reaching back into his car. "A miracle! My car is demolished, but this bottle of 12-year-old Scotch didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink and celebrate our good fortune."

Again the other driver agreed, so Joe opened the bottle and passed it to him. The other driver smiled and took several huge swigs, then tried to hand it back to Joe, who, to his surprise, refused. "Aren't you having any?" asked the other driver.

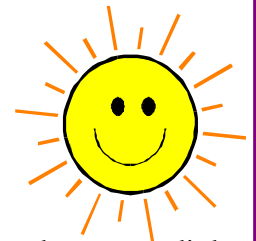
"No, thanks," replied Joe. "I'll wait for the police."

LUCKY US

Somebody up there must like us. How else do you explain the fact that of the **14** outdoor events that have been held in Walden Woods since April 2005, only last year's baseball outing suffered from bad weather?

For the past three years, egg hunts, pool parties, tag sales, earth days, a golf outing and this year's Walk Walden Woods were all scheduled months before they occurred and all were held under sunny skies.

Okay, okay, this year's pool party started off a little shaky, but it still counts since the sun came out before the first hot dog was served. Once in awhile, Mother Nature has to remind us she's in charge just to keep us a little humble. But she sure has been generous.



NEW ARRIVALS

Correction: Newcomers Victor & Susan Kennedy live at 24 Scarlet Lane, not Last Leaf Circle

Welcome to:

Mark and Karen Furnans, 2 Scarlet Lane

Jaydip and Puja Bhalodi, 22 Last Leaf Circle

Jafar Abunasser, 38 Last Leaf Circle

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, Aug 29th @ 7:00PM Conservancy Board Meeting at the Meeting House

Sun, Sept 16th Last day of swimming