

THE WALDEN WOODS NEWS

May 2010 Issue # 47

WALDEN POND AN AMENITY?

In case you're wondering what happened to the NO FISHING, SWIMMING, SKATING OR BOATING signs in front of both of our ponds, the Conservancy Board of Directors voted to remove the signs to avoid being in conflict with our very own rules. Huh? Yep, Rule 10.4.2 states that "Permitted activities (on the ponds) are limited to fishing, ice skating, and boating propelled by paddles or oars. Prohibited activities include, swimming, wading and boating propelled by engines or motors of any kind."

The rule has been there forever -in compliance with the plans of the original developer of Walden Woods, Culbro Enterprises. More about that and the possibility of a deck being built to make the pond a true amenity is explained by Warren Johnson.

CONCRETE OR DECKING?

by Warren Johnson

At a 2002 Inland Wetlands Commission hearing of CWD's plans to construct homes around Walden Pond, Culbro Enterprises, the original Walden Woods developer, testified that the pond was supposed to be an amenity and the outfall structure of the pond's dam was specifically constructed with walls much larger than the orifice with the intention that the concrete walls would be capped with decking and the structure used by homeowners to fish, skate, boat and enjoy the view.

The decking was never built by Culbro, and CWD had no interest in doing anything with the foundation or the landscaping around it. With the understanding that another amenity could benefit their marketing efforts, however, CWD has agreed to reimburse the Conservancy up to \$30,000 for expenses we incur if we proceed with the construction.

Currently, the Board is considering expending sufficient funds to secure a design and bid package for the completion of a structure on the foundation at the dam. With prompt action (before February 2011 when CWD's development rights expire), Walden Woods could have a valuable amenity at no or little initial cost.

To be sure, all improvements involve maintenance and repairs that are

likely to add a dollar or two to our monthly association fees, but there is also little doubt that the dam area improvements would increase the quality of life and property values in Walden Woods. For me, Big Walden Pond is a beautiful amenity that will be enhanced by a well designed deck from which all of us can enjoy all the benefits the pond offers.



E-MAIL ADVICE

from snopes.com

Any time you see an email that says "forward this to 10 of your friends or you'll get bad luck (or good luck)" or "you'll see something funny on your screen after you send it", or whatever --- it almost always has an unseen email tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and email addresses of those folks you forward it to. The host sender is getting a copy each time the message gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' email addresses to use in SPAM emails or to sell to other "spammers".

Even when you get emails that demand you send the email on "if you're not ashamed of God/Jesus" --- it's email tracking, and they are just playing on your conscience. These people don't care how they get your email addresses just as long as they get them. Also, emails that talk about a missing child or a child with an incurable disease "how would you feel if that was your child" --- that's email tracking. Ignore them and don't participate!

LONGEST PASSWORD EVER

During a recent company audit of computer usage, it was found that one employee was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDewey DonaldGoofyHartford"

When asked why she had such a long password, the employee (could be a brunette or redhead, but more than likely not) said she was told that it had to be at least eight characters long and include at least one capital.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

In a good imitation of musical chairs, we replaced two more members of the Conservancy Board of Directors last month. Bob Ellis resigned from his position as a Village Council Director and Barry Towers, who



Characteristics of a good Board of Directors: caution, and wisdom

previously held the position of Woodmoor Council Director, assumed Bob's position after a very close election held at a special Village homeowners meeting April 19th. To qualify for the Village Council position, Barry had to sell his Woodmoor home on Hawthorne Lane and purchase the Village on the Green home previously owned by Tom Couvares. Barry was also selected by the other board members to resume his position as President of the Board and Brian Onessimo of the Ridge Council was selected to assume Bob's position as Vice-President. Woodmoor homeowner John Webber was elected to replace Barry as a Woodmoor Director at a special Woodmoor homeowner meeting held in March.

Confused? It doesn't matter. All you really have to know is that the government of our community will continue to be in good hands – thanks to capable, conscientious homeowners like Barry and John who are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to help keep Walden Woods a nice place to live.

TO MOMS (and Dads)

As a belated tribute to Moms and a warning to Dads, we offer the following insights provided by their seven year old kids:

Why did God make mothers?

- She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
- Mostly to clean the house.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
- They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

"People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But, people will NEVER forget how you made them feel." - Anon

PSEUDO TEST for PSEUDO MENSAS

(answers on page 4)

- 1. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but 9 die. How many are left?
- 2. How many animals of each sex did Moses take aboard the ark?
- 3. How many two cent stamps are there in a dozen?
- 4a. How many birthdays does the average man have?
- 4b. How about the average woman?
- 5. Do they have a 4th of July in England?
- 6. Some months have 31 days. How many have 28?
- 7. How many outs are there in an inning of baseball?
- 8. Is it legal for a man in California to marry his widow's sister?

MAINTENANCE BUILDING UPDATE

On April 7th, our Conservancy Board of Directors conducted a special homeowners meeting to discuss the plans for having the declaration-mandated maintenance building constructed by CWD. Homeowners in attendance were almost unanimous in expressing concern about whether the potential benefits of the building were worth the maintenance expense and security/liability issues that such a building would bring to the community. CWD is obligated to construct the building unless the Declaration is changed.. And the Declaration can't be changed unless 67% of the entire community agrees with the change.

As a result of the meeting, the Board has asked our Property Manger to have the Conservancy's attorney draw up a petition that could be used by volunteers in their solicitation of the homeowner signatures needed to change the Declaration. Each Council will have their own team of volunteers and the Board is awaiting the names of homeowners willing to assume the responsibility for coordinating the effort within their Council. Homeowners interested in participating should notify their Council Director(s).

THE BATTLE FOR PLANET EARTH

by Io Mura

The "Ramble Through the Brambles", otherwise known as the Earth Day Cleanup, took place on Saturday, April 24th. It was a beautiful morning. The weather was perfect. Impelled by a healthy pride in our community, an intrepid group of residents gathered at the Meeting House at 10:00AM. Armed with needle sharp pointed picks and voluminous black plastic bags provided by their fearless leader, Warren Johnson, they went forth to do battle against the enemy horde of Trash.



From the far reaches of the baseball field to the tranquil island midst Thoreau Circle to the wild flower meadow next to the stone wall on

Marshall Phelps Road, they marched. Picks in hand, they stabbed every winter, wind-blown piece of paper with a vengeance. They bled when snatching dented soda cans from beneath the protesting canes of the vicious multiflora roses, but tirelessly they marched on, hauling away to imprisonment large numbers of fallen tree limbs, a useless tire, empty plastic containers and a stray wooden pallet..

For several days, the evidence of victory reposed in an ignominious row of bursting refuse containers lined up on curbside before the Meeting House awaiting their final disbursement by the Windsor DPW. To say it was fun would be to strain the prerogatives of poetic license but in terms of the coin of self-satisfaction, all were well rewarded.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER "ARMY" Slava Naoumov, Irina Naoumova, Ira Kronick, Mark Furnans, Tom and Margy Schuck, Ed Raymond, Warren and Ruth Johnson, Bob Ellis, Mike Drew, Barry Towers, Glenn Brand, Kim and Nancy Reed, Kevin Wilder and grandson Courtney, Io Mura, Dick and Joyce Armstrong, and, last but not least, Diane Drew who did a great job as the army's canteen hostess.

Next year, please come join us. We're planning a contest!!! At the post-cleanup "victory banquet" of coffee, doughnuts and fruit, we'll award a rousing round of applause to those members of our army who have "captured" (1) the largest, (2) the strangest and (3) the most battered, disreputable piece of junk. All this in addition to having the joy of experiencing two hours of the warm fellowship of our uniquely wonderful community, Walden Woods.

RECYCLING NEWS

Just in case you've lost track of what items are now acceptable as recyclables, here's a list from the Willimantic Waste Paper Company that handles the pickups in Windsor. There have been some recent changes – notice especially that plastics numbered 1-7 are now accepted.

PAPER & CARDBOARD

- CARDBOARD
- NEWSPAPERS/INSERTS
- MAGAZINES/BROCHURES
- WHITE & COLOR PAPER
- COPY/COMPUTER PAPER
- JUNK MAIL
- PHONE BOOKS/CATALOGS
- HARD AND SOFT COVER BOOKS

- PAPERBOARD BOXES (CEREAL)
- ENVELOPES (WINDOW OK)
- FILE FOLDERS
- SCHOOL PAPERS
- SHREDDED PAPER
- MULTI 3-PLY PAPER

BOTTLES & CANS

- WHITE, GREEN AND BROWN GLASS
- TIN CANS

- ALUMINUM CANS
- ALUMINUM FOIL
- ALUMINUM POTS AND PANS
- JUICE AND MILK CARTONS
- PLASTIC MILK JUGS
- PLASTIC SODA BOTTLES
- DETERGENT BOTTLES
- ALL PLASTICS 1-7
- SMALL METALS
- AEROSOL CANS

PLEASE NO PLASTIC BAGS, GIFT WRAP, CONTAMINATED FOOD CONTAINERS, UNCLEAN CONTAINERS, FLOWER POTS, COAT HANGERS, MIRRORS, BROKEN GLASS, WET LATEX PAINT CANS, AUTOMOTIVE OIL CONTAINERS, UNCLEAN CARDBOARD OR WAX COVERED CARDBOARD. ALL CARDBOARD MUST BE FLATTENED AND NO BIGGER THAN 3'X3'. Anyone needing additional (free) recyclable crates should contact Windsor Sanitation, 688-3955.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Left: Warren & Sasa Blidgen,

128 Pierce Blvd.

Arrived: Rev.David & Jesselyn Fothergill

Left: Tom & Justine Couvares

5 On the Green

Moved: Barry & Marlene Towers

from 526 Hawthorne

Arrived: Howard & Jill Levine

WELCOME DAVID, JESSELYN, HOWARD AND JILL

HELP WANTED

To help us recover from the damage done by the beavers down on Walden Pond, our Environmental Committee will be transplanting some pine tree saplings this spring Help is needed. Contact John Foley, 688-8700.

PSEUDO TEST ANSWERS

- 1. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left? Nine. If you got this one wrong, there's not much hope for you scoring more than zero on this test.
- 2. How many animals of each sex did Moses take aboard the ark? Zero. Noah took two of each but Moses was busy in the desert.
- 3. How many two cent stamps are there in a dozen? If you said anything other than 12, you should get a government job.
- 4a. How many birthdays does the average man have? *Just* one *dummy, just one.*
- 4b. How about the average woman? One before age 30, none after.
- 5. Do they have a 4^{th} of July in England? Yes, right between the 3^{rd} and the 5^{th} .
- 6. Some months have 31 days. How many have 28? All 12. *I just knew you'd say one.*
- 7. How many outs are there in an inning of baseball? Six If you said three, you're probably spending too much time in the beer line.
- 8. Is it legal for a man in California to marry his widow's sister? NO, NO, NO! California may have a law that says you can be brain-dead and re-marry (many are) but I think your heart has to be beating.

DATES TO REMEMBER

All events/meetings are held at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted

Wed, May 26 Conservancy Board Meeting @ 6:30PM

Sun, May 30 Memorial Day Pool Party, 11AM-4PM

(at the pool, of course)

Wed, June 9 Duplex/Townhome Council Mtg @ 7PM

Mon, June 21 Village Council Meeting @ 7PM

Wed, June 30 Conservancy Board Meeting @ 6:30PM

CUCUMBER MAGIC

Fatigued? Try a cucumber – it has all those good Vitamin B's that can provide a quick and long-lasting pick-me-up.

Squeeky Hinge? Take a cucumber slice and rub it along the problematic hinge, and voila, the squeak is gone!

Bad Breath? Take a slice of cucumber and press it to the roof of your mouth with your tongue for 30 seconds.

BOB'S JOKE CORNER

Fred staggered home very late after another evening of drinking. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary.

He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Fred sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Fred woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Mary staring at him from across the room.

She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?"

Fred said, "What??? Why do you say such a mean thing?"

"Well," Mary said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.