

# WALDEN WOODS NEWS

May 2011

Vol. 1 Issue 2



Barry Towers removes trash at the Earth Day Clean-up Event

## Meeting House Update

The Meeting House Committee is in need of volunteers to help out during July and August. Currently, there is no coverage for these months. Unless new volunteers come forward, we cannot accommodate any Summer events. The time commitment and effort is very minimal. Please contact the Meeting House Committee Chair, Juliana Gingerich, for details. She can be reached at [jules@gingerichs.com](mailto:jules@gingerichs.com) or 860-394-9774.

**Homeowners meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month at the Meeting House. Please keep in mind that the "Homeowner Forum" will be moving to the start of the meeting, so it will be very important for you to pay attention to the issues being discussed and make it to the meeting on time for the 6:30 start.**

## Community Gardening at Walden Woods

The new Co-Chairs of the Environmental Committee, Glenn Brand and Dale Herrick, sent out an e-mail recently to determine interest in a Community Garden here at Walden Woods. Twenty-Seven interested individuals responded positively and a motion was brought to the Conservancy Board at its April 27 meeting to install a Community Garden in the open area near the ball field and tennis courts. This motion was held to be discussed further at the May 25 meeting.

In the meantime, the Environmental Committee will be soliciting bids on the cost of fencing, irrigation systems and quality topsoil to be put in the garden area. At the May 25 meeting of the Conservancy Board, the group will discuss the annual cost to homeowners who are interested in having a plot in the garden.

Anyone interested in a garden plot in a Community Garden or just looking for more information can contact Dale at [drhjih01@gmail.com](mailto:drhjih01@gmail.com). (If you have already expressed interest in a garden plot there is no need to do so again.)

## Memorial Day Pool Opening

The Social Committee is pleased to sponsor their most well-attended event of the year on Sunday, May 29...the annual pool party! Join Walden Woods neighbors from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the pool for a cookout lunch catered by Barts, as well as games and activities.

As you can imagine, an event of this magnitude requires the assistance of many volunteers. Please contact Barb at [bdjf@comcast.net](mailto:bdjf@comcast.net) or 860-688-8700 if you are willing to lend a hand. A flyer was distributed recently via e-mail with more details about the event and R.S.V.P. information.

[www.waldenwoodsct.com](http://www.waldenwoodsct.com)

To submit information, photographs or articles for inclusion in our newsletter please contact Communications Committee member, Genevieve Lattimer...

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## Pool Repairs

At the May 25 meeting, the Board will request three contractor quotes to repair the pool cabannas. Once Elite Property Management provides these quotes, the Board will make a decision and issue a contract. Because the repair work cannot be performed while the pool is in use, the work will be scheduled for completion in the Fall.

## Mailbox Issues

Elaborate planting around your mailbox is not required; however, all Walden Woods residents or Council Boards should be responsible for keeping their mailboxes and surrounding landscaping in good order. There are currently a number of mailboxes in our community that are held together by bungee cords and duct tape. If this is the case for your mailbox, please make arrangements to make the necessary repairs.

## Community Bench

The first "Community Bench" was built by the co-chairs of the Environmental Committee, Glenn Brand and Dale Herrick. It is located on the yellow nature trail by Big Walden Pond.

The Committee is looking to build more benches in the near future and will be looking for approval and financial backing by the Conservancy Board. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Glenn or Dale.



Kids search for hidden eggs at the Meeting House on April 16, 2011.

## Spring Fling and Egg Hunt

Undeterred by the threat of rain and a cool, gusty wind, 30 children and their parents attended the Social Committee-sponsored Spring Fling and Egg Hunt on April 16. This was the largest crowd ever to participate. All the children enjoyed hunting around the Meeting House and Green for hidden eggs stuffed with goodies.

Children also had the opportunity to warm up inside the Meeting House to work on a variety of crafts. The Social Committee wishes to thank all the parents and volunteers who helped make this event such a huge success.

## Spring Cleaning?

Now that spring has finally arrived, many residents are cleaning out and reorganizing their homes. If you are in that situation and find yourself with a pile of useful items that you no longer want or need, you may want to join the fun on Saturday, June 18 at the Annual Neighborhood Tag Sale.

Residents are invited to participate for a \$10 cash fee. The monies collected will be used for advertising online and in several local publications and signs, which will be posted around town and throughout the neighborhood. Last year, we had more than 30 families participate and hundreds of shoppers attend. Any funds that remain once expenses are paid are donated directly to the Windsor Food Bank.

If you are interested in participating, willing to help the Tag Sale Committee, or would like more information, please contact Genevieve Lattimer at [genevieve.lattimer@comcast.net](mailto:genevieve.lattimer@comcast.net) or Janine Malave at [malavejan@hotmail.com](mailto:malavejan@hotmail.com).



above...Savannah enjoys cookies and crafts at the Egg Hunt.

below...Sophie carries her eggs in a pink basket.



**“SUN IS SHINING. WEATHER IS SWEET. MAKE YOU WANNA MOVE YOUR DANCING FEET.”**

Bob Marley

## Environmental Committee Update

by Glenn Brand

The woods in our neighborhood are full of many interesting tree species, wildlife, aquatic life and ecosystem-related features. One of the Environmental Committee Co-Chairs is retired State of Connecticut Park Ranger and Walden Woods resident Glenn Brand. Glenn and the Environmental Committee are planning an interpretive nature walk on our trails so that residents can come and learn about the interesting aspects of nature and creatures that inhabit Walden Woods. During the walk, you will learn some interesting facts about our own little ecosystem here at Walden Woods, which are full of typical North American mammals, amphibians, insects, wildflowers, deciduous trees and evergreens. The date will be determined very soon.

Always keep in mind that many wild animals also call Walden Woods their home. With respect to all wildlife, please be careful when walking through the woods and trails system; especially this time of year when birds and mammals are rearing their young. Never approach a bird nest that may be inhabited by chicks or eggs. The mother may abandon the nest if she feels that the nest has been discovered. It's best to try to observe from a distance with binoculars.

We are also aware of a red fox den on the Walden Woods property and the kits should be emerging soon. Their den is a very private and sensitive area that should not be disturbed. The kits may be harmed if dogs are not leashed while on the property or on the trails, so please take this into consideration while walking with your dog and always observe the local leash laws. The red fox can also transmit rabies and therefore caution is advised if you should encounter a fox, especially during the day. Any odd behavior displayed by foxes should be reported immediately to the Windsor Police Department's K-9 Division (860-688-5273), who is best suited to handle these types of issues.

The Environmental Committee also is pleased to announce that they have an all-time high number of volunteers. Several interesting topics are on their agenda:

- Cleaning of the amphibian tunnel on Haskins Road.
- Pruning of overhanging branches on the trails.
- Inspection of the vernal ponds for possible trail loops.
- Cleaning of the spillway dam in Big Walden Pond, which is adjacent to Walden Meadow Road.

Please consider volunteering on this worthwhile committee. Check the website calendar page for the upcoming meeting dates and times or contact co-chairs Glenn Brand ([forestrangerct@gmail.com](mailto:forestrangerct@gmail.com)) or Dale Herrick ([drhajh01@gmail.com](mailto:drhajh01@gmail.com)) for more information.

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## Thank you...

The Environmental Committee would like to thank all the residents and friends of Walden Woods who came out on Saturday, April 30 and donated their time for the 2011 Earth Day Clean-Up, which was also sponsored by the Social Committee.

It was a beautiful day, and volunteers made significant progress eliminating trash from our Walden Woods neighborhood. We owe special thanks to Alanna Herrick, who managed the Meeting House, kept the volunteers hydrated, and served a delicious fruit salad, too.

These two Committees hope that next year we can draw an even bigger crowd to help keep our community looking great.

“A PERFECT SUMMER DAY  
IS WHEN THE SUN  
IS SHINING, THE  
BREEZE IS BLOWING,  
THE BIRDS ARE SINGING,  
AND THE LAWN  
MOWER IS BROKEN.”

Author Unknown



**Earth Day Clean-Up Volunteers on the Meeting House Steps**

Front row: Warren Johnson, Glenn Brand, Kathy Larkin, Alanna Herrick, Margaret McCormack, Audrey and Svetlana Yamshchikov.

Second row: Ed Raymond, Paul and Kathy Cheng, Peter Debisschop, Marlene and Barry Towers, Margy and Tom Shuck, Bruce McCormack.

## Joke Corner

Q: What did Cinderella say when her photos weren't ready?

A: Someday my prints will come.

Q: Why did the gardener plant his money?

A: He wanted the soil to be rich.

Q: What has lots of teeth but cannot chew?

A: A comb.

Q: What does a cat like to eat on a hot summer day?

A: A mice cream cone.

Q: What did one eye say to the other?

A: Between me and you, something smells.

Q: Why did the alien want to leave the party?

A: Because the atmosphere wasn't right.