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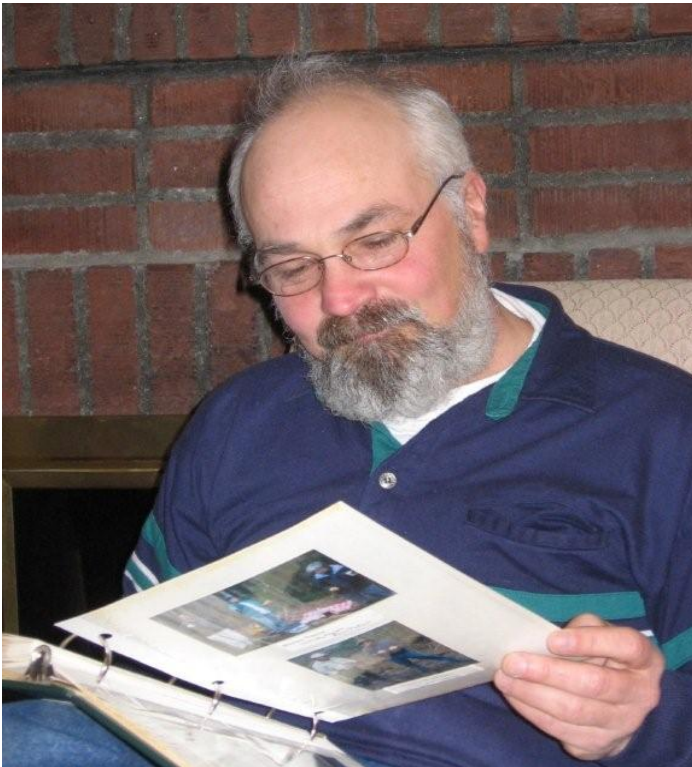
*Dedicated to the preservation of open space **and** the promotion of affordable housing*

Volume 19, No. 1

Spring 2007

From the President's Desk

Many of you have heard that Bob Packard is moving to California. He has accepted a job with an environmental group doing wildlife surveys in the area east of Los Angeles. We wish Bob all the best but of course we will miss him. Bob is a past President of Broad Brook Coalition. He has been active in nearly every aspect of our organization.



Bob Packard, BBC's 2006 Volunteer of the Year, looks back on happy hours spent battling invasive plants at FLCA. Photo by Ed Olmstead.

Sometimes the environmental world can be depressing. Take global warming, waste management, and pollution of air, land, and water. Consider planet over-population, energy needs, and food and water requirements. Worry about invasive species, wildlife corridors and land protection. It can all be quite depressing if one dwells too long on these world-wide problems.

On the other hand most of these problems are solvable on a local level. And that's where people like Bob Packard come in. The problem of invasive species can seem overwhelming if considered on a national or state level. Even within the 628 acres of Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, the idea of eradicating all invasives can be daunting. But we can make progress. Brian Adams and Bob Packard have organized numerous Invasive work days. Bob has proudly pointed out that the walk from the North Farms Road entrance to the lake has been largely cleared of multiflora rose and garlic mustard; consequently many native species are now re-established in these areas.

We can protect wildlife by preserving additional lands at FLCA. But we also support the larger goal of establishing a wildlife corridor extending from Mt. Tom through the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, through the western part of the city including Mineral Hills and Robert's Hill, finally hooking up with FLCA and then going further north through Hatfield, Williamsburg, Whately, and Conway. The protection of Turkey Hill is an important addition to this plan, an addition that BBC supported.

We can tackle other environmental problems with local action, things as simple as picking up trash in the FLCA parking lot and on the trails. Anyone can do this; just carry a small trash bag with you when you hike or canoe. Or join us for a trails work day. We also monitor water quality in Fitzgerald Lake and Broad Brook, and installed a parking lot curb and catch basin to minimize road runoff into the lake.

Perhaps I should not single out Bob because so many other BBC volunteers share his brand of energy and enthusiasm. Together we can make great progress against most of our local environmental problems. And if everyone in every community acted the same way...well, we can only imagine those benefits world-wide.

Sometimes it is necessary to pause and celebrate our achievements. In 2005, Bill Schaffer generously left BBC \$10,000 in his estate on the condition that we raise an additional \$10,000 for land preservation. Led by Bob Packard, we eagerly met that goal, receiving donations from many BBC members. And then we celebrated – for Bill and for FLCA. Now it is time to celebrate again. The autumn of 2007 will mark the beginning of our 20th Anniversary Year celebration. Stay tuned for details. Maybe we can get Bob Packard back from California for this one!

Bob Bissell

THANK YOU! Thank you, Stan-the-Fixit-Man Pollack, for repairing the kiosk at North Farms Road and building a sign board! We appreciate it!
BBC Board of Directors

Four New Parcels Added to FLCA

With your help, the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area has grown by 37.5 acres over the last year.

FLCA’s newest acquisition is the Dryzgula/Jablonski parcel (3.6 acres). Broad Brook Coalition did not contribute funds toward this purchase, but we did contribute some hard work. Rachel Smith, a student in Brian Adams’s class at Greenfield Community College, took on the title research on this and several other parcels with uncertain ownership and conservation potential as her class internship project. She identified the heirs of its late owners and made it possible to go ahead with the deal. Once the Northampton Office of Planning and Development was finished with the Turkey Hill purchase, it moved ahead with a friendly taking. The heirs that could be found gave up their shares in the property in return for the City’s forgiveness of unpaid taxes, and the expenses of the transfer were covered by a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Small Grants Program, which supports the preservation of bird habitat.

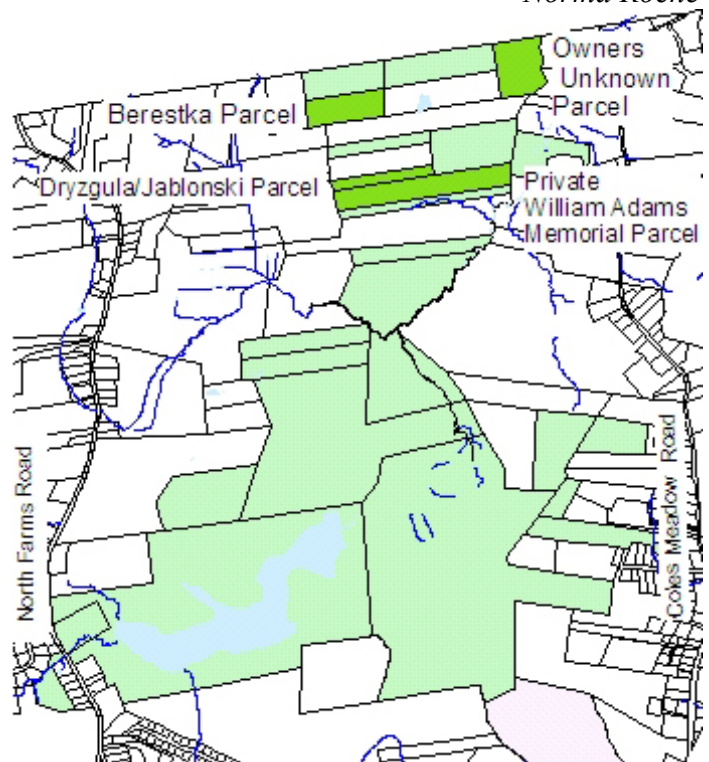
On August 28, the City acquired the 8.8-acre “Owners Unknown” parcel by the same process as the Dryzgula/Jablonski parcel, except that Rachel found no living heirs. The purchase of the 8.1-acre Berestka parcel was finalized on November 21. BBC contributed the full purchase price of \$6,600. On March 16, 2006, the city purchased the 17-acre Private William Adams Memorial Parcel from the Florence VFW. BBC contributed \$8,500 to fund the purchase.

These four acquisitions brought the conservation area to a total of 628.62 acres, with the help of \$15,100 in contributions from BBC.

As always, we’re grateful to everyone involved: to Rachel, for getting to know the Northampton Assessors’ Office and the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds better than she ever expected; to Wayne Feiden, Bruce Young, and their colleagues at the City’s Office of Planning and Development for making all the arrangements; to our willing sellers for their patience and their support for making their land part of the conservation area; to Ward 1 City Councilor Maureen Carney, who sponsored the orders of purchase before the City Council; and to the Council and the Conservation Commission for approving the purchases.

Last but most certainly not least, we’re grateful to all of you, who made all of these purchases possible with your contributions. Despite these expenditures, BBC’s land acquisitions fund has a healthy balance of about \$15,000.00. But we can’t rest there. BBC’s Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee (Mitch Hartley, Downey Meyer, Frank Olbris, and Norma Roche) continues to keep in touch with the owners of land near the conservation area, and we can never be sure when an opportunity will appear. If you’d like to help us be ready for anything, please use the form in the back of this newsletter to make your contribution.

Norma Roche



The Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area is lightly shaded; the new parcels are indicated by slightly darker shading.



Mary S. Beitzel
(1920-2006)

Mary Beitzel was a retired schoolteacher who loved to come to Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. She was often a participant in BBC's Walk & Talks and she knew a great deal about FLCA's flora and fauna. Many members may remember Mary—she always wore the same floppy, narrow-brimmed hat with the front folded up above her eyes for better viewing.

The last time I saw Mary, in the fall of 2004, she was living at Lathrop Home on South Street in Northampton. We went to Fitzgerald Lake that day, and as we sat at the canoe launch, she found a folded poem that she had brought along to read to me. It was a poem about seeing God in nature and hearing God in the peacefulness of the outdoors. Mary loved to be out and about, and it was hard for her not to be living on her own.

In remembrance of Mary, I've made a donation to BBC for use in helping refurbish the Nature Trail – because FLCA was one of Mary's favorite places.

Jody Larson, Past BBC President

Photo by Jan Ragusa

Walks and Talks – Spring and Summer 2007



Bob Leverett leads a discussion in November on the past, present, and future of the forests around Fitzgerald Lake. Photo by Juliana Vanderweilen.

Vernal Pools

Heather Ruel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Saturday, April 21

Forbes Library (10 am)

North Farms Road Entrance (Approx. 10:45 am)

Note the two locations. Northampton Wildlife Committee is co-sponsoring this program. Heather will start the presentation at Forbes Library with a short film on vernal pools and the certification program in Massachusetts and then we'll proceed to the entrance to FLCA and head out to the vernal pools. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands that provide critical habitat for animals such as spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and spring peepers who are probably best known for their sharp peeping calls heard in chorus from wetlands in early

spring. Other invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles may be found there as well. These habitats are essential for the survival of many of these species; destroying the pools or blocking access to them can condemn future generations to extinction.

The Northampton Conservation Commission has drafted a new ordinance that will provide increased protection for vernal pools and the creatures that depend on them for life. But it will need your support to become law!

All ages welcome. Great family event. Rain or shine. Bring rain gear. For more information, you can visit these two websites: <http://www.vernalpool.org/> or <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhvernal.htm>

Birding

Andrew McGee

Saturday, May 12, 7 am – 9:30 am

Moose Lodge Entrance

Andrew is a long time birder and the illustrator of *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*. This will be a beginner bird walk to introduce people to the wonders of birding but will also be of interest to intermediate birders. Andrew will lead folks down the dirt path/road called Boggy Meadow Road and on to the wildlife blind overlooking the wetland surrounding the Broad Brook. This is during spring migration so it is a great time for numerous sightings. If time allows we'll also try to make it out to the dam that impounds Fitzgerald Lake. All ages are welcome. Bring binoculars.

Mother's Day Wildflowers

Janet Bissell

Sunday, May 13, 1 pm – 3 pm

North Farms Road Entrance

Here's a special gift for Mom on Mother's Day. Janet will lead a walk to look for late spring ephemeral wildflowers and other flora. The natural history, folk lore and identification of these wonderful forest plants will be discussed. Identification of invasive species will also be discussed as well as the impact they have on biodiversity. Some of the native plants we can use in our gardens in place of invasives will also be mentioned.

Janet is an avid amateur botanist and is a Plant Conservation Volunteer with the New England Wildflower Society. She also leads plant walks for Mass Audubon and is a docent to Smith College Botanic Garden. Bring a field guide and hand lens if you have them.

Accessible Birding

Anne Lombard and Shirley Hammersmith

Friday, May 18, 8:30 am – 10 am

North Farms Road Entrance

Hampshire Bird Club is co-sponsoring this program. Beyond the focus on accessibility, the walk is appropriate for beginner birdwatchers seeking a more leisurely approach to understanding and appreciating this path into the outdoors. We'll be walking, and/or using wheelchairs, along the accessible asphalt path and then onto the boardwalk and out to the lake. Then, if time and ability allow, we'll delve a little deeper into the forest along the lake front. This will be a slow walk with assistance, if appropriate, into and out of the site. At a past program, we saw an osprey diving for fish and succeeding at finding breakfast. Bring binoculars.



River Otter by Fitzgerald Lake. Photo courtesy of the Northampton Wildlife Committee/John Body.

Tree Physiology and Identification

Jay Girard, Northampton Tree Committee

Sunday, June 17, 1 pm – 3 pm

North Farms Road Entrance

Jay is a certified arborist and member of the Northampton Tree Committee. Identifying trees will be our main focus for the day, but this program will also delve a bit deeper into how a tree works and what we can do to help trees succeed.



Beaver working after dark. Photo courtesy of the Northampton Wildlife Committee/John Body.

Beavers at Nightfall on Fitzgerald Lake

Gini Traub, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Regional Environmental Education Coordinator

July 13, Friday 7 pm - 9 pm

North Farms Road Entrance

Observe the changing sights and sounds that early evening brings as we walk through the forest to beaver habitat and lodges on Fitzgerald Lake. You are likely to see beaver, but bring binoculars.

Gini will demonstrate some of the activities that support the Massachusetts Forest and Parks "Beaver Ecology" student program. Appropriate for children and parents, and all adults. Flashlights and insect repellent will be helpful. For many, this is also an opportunity to be 'out' after dark. If it is clear, we'll have sunset at 8:27 pm and the end of twilight at 9:01 pm. The moon will set at 8:19 pm and will be a waning crescent with one percent of the its visible disk illuminated.

The gray fox is the only member of the dog family, the Canidae, that regularly climbs trees to evade predators and to hunt its own prey. *Jim Reis*

Notes from the Management Committee

The elimination of non-native invasive plants from the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area continues to be one of our major goals. In April 2006, Management Committee members attended two invasives workshops organized by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge at its Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls: one on "Planning Invasive Plant Control on Large Parcels," and the other on "Japanese Knotweed Control." April also saw our first invasives workday of the year, which focused on removing small infestations of black swallowwort, garlic mustard and lesser celandine along the path from North Farms Road to the canoe launch. During the summer, the main invasives target was water chestnut, which has become established at the eastern end of Fitzgerald Lake. The expenditure of many man, woman and canoe hours led to significant progress in the elimination of this unpleasant visitor, but a follow-up effort will be necessary this coming summer. If you would like to help in this effort, please join us on Fitzgerald Lake on July 14 and August 4.

To better understand the type and distribution of invasive plant species that we must deal with, several BBC members compiled an "invasives map" of the FLCA last summer. Based on GIS maps kindly provided by cartographer James Thompson of the City's Office of Planning and Development, the locations of major stands of multiflora rose, phragmites, Asiatic bittersweet, spotted knapweed and Japanese knotweed were plotted, as were isolated occurrences of black locust, exotic honeysuckles, common and glossy buckthorn, Japanese barberry, Norway maple, autumn olive and numerous other non-native plant species. Especially troubling are several large and expanding infestations of phragmites in the marsh and spotted knapweed in Cooke's Pasture. In response, we have sought the advice of Chris Polatin of Polatin Ecological Services, who has drawn up proposals for the control of both of these highly invasive plants that are presently under consideration by the Management Committee.

Throughout the year we have continued our efforts to restore and maintain Cooke's Pasture and South Pasture as shrubland. A second "shrub island" was planted in Cooke's Pasture in early May of last year, featuring such colorful and attractive plants as black chokeberry, American elder, winterberry, bayberry

and different varieties of native dogwoods, all of which provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Most of the new shrubs, as well as those in the first shrub island, planted in 2005, appeared to be doing well and it was particularly gratifying to see both the first-year and second-year winterberry bushes loaded with bright red fruit in the fall. We will plant another shrub island in Cooke's Pasture on Saturday, May 5, and we would be pleased to have you join us. South Pasture, neglected for a number of years, had become overgrown with woody shrubs, multiflora rose and Asiatic bittersweet. To prepare this area for maintenance as shrubland in the future, a crew of volunteers made a substantial dent in the mass of speckled alder and multiflora rose last November. These plants were cut by hand and stacked to permit brush-hogging this spring. Once that has been accomplished, we anticipate establishing two or three shrub islands in South Pasture as well as in Cooke's.

As in previous years, the Management Committee will continue to maintain the bird and bat houses in Cooke's Pasture and to clear debris from the beaver mitigation device at the dam. New this year is a quarterly review of water quality within the FLCA. Dissolved oxygen levels, pH, alkalinity, and nitrate and phosphate concentrations will be monitored near the North Farms Road Entrance, the canoe launch, the dam, and two sites within the marsh in March, June, September, and December.

Bob Zimmermann



Multiflora rose thorns. Photo by Chris Evans, University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org

In just a few summer months, moose antlers grow from tiny knobs to immense racks weighing as much as 50 pounds. One pound of antler can be added to a moose's head in a good day of growth. *Jim Reis*

Shrub Island Planting

Saturday, May 5, 9 am – 12 noon

(Meet at 9 am at the Fitzgerald Lake Dam)

We welcome the help of all those interested in wielding a shovel for a few hours to launch our third cluster of native shrubs in Cooke's Pasture.

While forest habitat has grown significantly in the last century, other habitats, which are absolutely necessary for the survival of many other species, have been in significant decline. Management of FLCA supports a renewal and enhancement of some of these threatened habitats. Wetlands created by beaver, vernal pools, pastures, and shrubland are a few of these habitats that we are funding and working to support.

Cooke's Pasture and South Pasture are two fields restored by BBC members that comprise about 10 acres out of the 628 acres in FLCA. At Cooke's Pasture, we are working to create a viable shrubland, and we are in our third year of creating shrub islands there. Native shrubs are driven to the dam and carried to Cooke's Pasture; holes are prepared; shrubs are planted, and then watered by carrying buckets of water from the wetland. Fifteen to twenty native plants, attractive to wildlife, will be added to approximately three dozen already planted in past years. Bayberry, winterberry, spicebush, viburnum, dogwood, serviceberry, elderberry, and chokeberry are some of the plants that we will consider.

We will also have an educational component to discuss this program, the history of Cooke's Pasture, and its future.

Shovels and picks might be helpful. Please join us for this event. If you can help, please contact Bob Zimmermann (zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu, 585-0405) or Bruce Hart (Bhart2000@aol.com, 584-4176).



Winterberry plant with ripe fruit. Photo by Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database.

Trail Work Day

Saturday, May 19, 9 am – 12 noon

(Meet at North Farms Road entrance)

Everyone is welcome! We'll supply the tools or you can bring your own (shovels, hoes, clippers, rakes, picks, and work gloves). And bring energy and enthusiasm. Our work days are low key, fun, and provide an opportunity to meet others with similar outdoor interests. For more information contact Dave Hershships (dher ships@verizon.net, 584-0180).

The FLCA trails are generally in good shape, and our work will help keep them that way. If you notice anything amiss out on the trails, such as newly fallen trees that need to be dealt with before the work day, please let Dave know.



Water Chestnut. Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, www.forestryimages.org

Invasive Plant (Water Chestnut) Removal Days on Fitzgerald Lake

Saturday, July 14, 9 am – 12 noon

Saturday, August 4, 1pm (call in advance for details)

(Meet at North Farms Road entrance)

Heather Ruel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will lead this program and introduce us to and talk about the problem of invasive species. Bring canoes, kayaks, and rowboats. Plastic baskets and rakes are helpful. Wear gloves, long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring water and sunscreen. PFD's are required. There will be some available space on boats. If you have an extra boat, please let us know.

Believe it or not, this can be a fun activity on the lake for all ages, and it's our only planned activity that is actually on the lake. If we have more people than boats, then terrestrial invasives will lose.

Invasive plants are a major threat to our conservation lands, and water chestnut (*Trapa natans* L.) is one of the worst. Last year, a dozen folks went out for over sixty hours, over many days and many trips, to remove this invasive, which has the capacity to cover the entire lake. If you see water chestnut, please let us know. We'd like to know all its locations. Our Fall 2006 newsletter featured an article on water chestnut, which you can read online at our website, www.broadbrookcoalition.org. For more information contact Bruce Hart (Bhart2000@aol.com, 584-4176).

Meeting to Review BBC's Affordable Housing Goal

Several times in the past year, members have asked that BBC's commitment to affordable housing be clarified. With BBC's limited volunteer and financial resources, questions have been raised about the scope and priority of this goal given the difficulty of completing basic habitat and wildlife management, land acquisition, trail maintenance, and other tasks. On Thursday, May 17th at 6:30 pm a meeting will be held at the Lilly Library in Florence to review BBC's history related to this goal and to solicit the opinions, ideas, and commitment of BBC members. All interested BBC members are encouraged to attend. After this meeting a subcommittee of the BBC Board will prepare a recommendation for the full BBC Board. If you want more information, or cannot attend the meeting but would still like to contribute your thoughts, you can contact Board member Jim Reis (reis13@comcast.net, 586-0567).

Looking for a way to get involved? We have volunteer opportunities!

Entrance Kiosk Designer: We're looking for someone with artistic/layout talent to work with the Board, updating and replacing the information at the kiosk at North Farms Road entrance to Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. If you're interested, please contact Jim Reis (reis13@comcast.net, 586-0567).

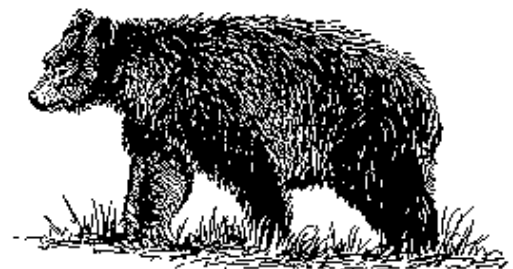
Volunteer Coordinator: This would involve periodically calling members of BBC who have expressed an interest in volunteering for trail days, invasive species removal days or other kinds of work days. If you're interested, please contact Lou Peugh (lpeugh@verizon.net, 584-3122).

Trail Mapper: Volunteers are needed to walk the trails in and around FLCA with a GPS device. The data you collect will help make sure the City's maps are complete and accurate, and will help us make future acquisition decisions. We'll show you how to use the GPS. It would be great to get started on this project before the leaves come out so that we'll get the clearest possible satellite signals. If you're interested, please get in touch with Bruce Young at the City's Office of Planning and Development (byoung@northamptonma.gov, 587-1263).

Land Preservation Volunteers: We need a few dedicated volunteers who would be willing to approach landowners to let them know about the options available for preserving their land. You'll need to have good oral communications skills and be willing to learn the basics of the legal and financial mechanisms in setting land aside. We'll be setting a date for a training session soon. If you're interested, please get in touch with Norma Roche, 586-4364, nroche@crocker.com.

Black bears have evolved a remarkable mechanism called embryonic delay that maximizes the survival of the mother and cubs. After the sow mates in the early summer, the fertilized egg does not implant in the uterine wall immediately and begin to grow as with most mammals. Instead, it undergoes a few rounds of cell division to become a blastocyst and then floats free in the uterus.

If in the late fall the sow is in poor condition and has not gained enough weight to support herself and a new litter of cubs through the winter, her developing blastocyst will not implant. If she is healthy, the blastocyst will implant and develop for about two months. Her cubs, born in January or February, weigh about 8 ounces at birth and grow to approximately 10 to 12 pounds by the time they leave the den three months later.



Black bear. Drawing by Robert Savanah, U.S.F.W.S.

Support the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area by Planned Giving

Preserving and protecting the natural world for future generations is one of the most meaningful actions you can take. Your love of nature and desire to make a difference can be made real by giving to Broad Brook Coalition during your lifetime, or as part of your estate. With some simple strategies put in place prior to your death, you can greatly enlarge the benefits to BBC while still leaving a legacy for your heirs. We have professionals available to guide you through the process at no charge. If you are interested in talking about the strategies and learning more, including tax benefits to you and your estate, please contact Alan Marvelli (amarvell@smith.edu) who will put you in touch with our specialist.

BBC is also honored and grateful to accept gifts in honor of and in memory of friends and family members. Donations help continue the preservation, protection, and wise use of conservation land for wildlife habitat and recreation.

Land Conservation: Options for Landowners Wednesday, April 25, 7 pm, Florence Civic Center

Come hear local attorney Richard Evans and Jocelyn Forbush, CT River Valley Area Manager for the Trustees of Reservations, and learn how you can ensure the land you love stays the way you like it, without giving up the income you need.

The speakers will be available after the workshop for personal consultation. Refreshments will be served.



White-tailed deer and beaver's work. *Photo courtesy Northampton Wildlife Committee/John Body.*

Broad Brook Coalition Events Calendar – Spring and Summer 2007

- April 21, Saturday** **Walk and Talk:** “Vernal Pools” with Heather Ruel
10 am at Forbes Library
10:45 am at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- April 25, Wednesday** **Talk:** “Land Conservation: Options for Landowners” with Richard Evans and Jocelyn Forbush
7 pm at Florence Civic Center
- May 5, Saturday** **Work Day:** Shrub Island Planting
9 am at Fitzgerald Lake Dam
- May 12, Saturday** **Walk and Talk:** “Birding” with Andrew McGee
7:30 am at Moose Lodge Entrance to FLCA
- May 13, Sunday** **Walk and Talk:** “Mother's Day Wildflowers” with Janet Bissell
1 pm at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- May 17, Thursday** **Meeting:** Reviewing BBC's Affordable Housing Goal
6:30 pm at Lilly Library in Florence
- May 18, Friday** **Walk and Talk:** “Accessible Birding” with Anne Lombard and Shirley Hammersmith
8:30 am at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- May 19, Saturday** **Work Day:** Trail Maintenance
9 am at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- June 17, Sunday** **Walk and Talk:** “Tree Physiology and Identification” with Jay Girard
1 pm at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- July 13, Friday** **Walk and Talk:** Beavers at Nightfall on Fitzgerald Lake with Gini Traub
7 pm at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- July 14, Saturday** **Work Day:** Water Chestnut Removal on Fitzgerald Lake with Heather Ruel
9 am at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA
- August 4, Saturday** **Work Day:** Invasive Plant Removal
1pm at North Farms Road Entrance to FLCA

Please Join Us!

If you're not already a member, please complete this form and return it with \$25.00 to
BROAD BROOK COALITION, P.O. Box 60566, Florence, MA 01062
(All contributions to Broad Brook Coalition are **tax deductible.**)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ Please send me BBC's occasional e-mail "Alerts" regarding BBC programs and local conservation issues.

_____ Additional contribution to the Land Acquisition Fund: \$ _____

Broad Brook Coalition Needs Your Help, Too!

We appreciate your membership dues, but we can also use your volunteer time. Members and friends are needed to help carry out our goals. Please consider one (or more) of the following volunteer opportunities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Trail maintenance and repair | _____ Fundraising campaigns |
| _____ Invasive species removal | _____ Management Committee (manages conservation area) |
| _____ Clerical help/Mailings | _____ Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee |
| _____ Computer help | _____ BBC Board of Directors |
| _____ Volunteer at Interfaith Cot Shelter | _____ Educational/recreational program planning or leadership, |
| _____ Writer/reporter for newsletter | _____ Walks and Talks |
| _____ Newsletter editor | _____ Monitor housing issues in the City |

Directions to North Farms Rd. Entrance to FLCA

From the center of Florence (Route 9) traveling west, turn right onto North Maple Street at the traffic light. Proceed north 1.1 miles (North Maple Street will turn into North Farms Rd.). The FLCA parking lot and entrance kiosk will be on your right.

Directions to Moose Lodge Entrance to FLCA 196 Cooke Avenue, Northampton

From Routes 5 and 10 (King Street) traveling north, turn left onto Bridge Road at a set of traffic lights. At the next set of lights, take a right onto Cooke Avenue. Take Cooke Avenue to its end and you will be in the Moose Lodge parking area. Please park on the right as this is actually a private lot generously shared with Northampton citizens by the Moose Lodge.

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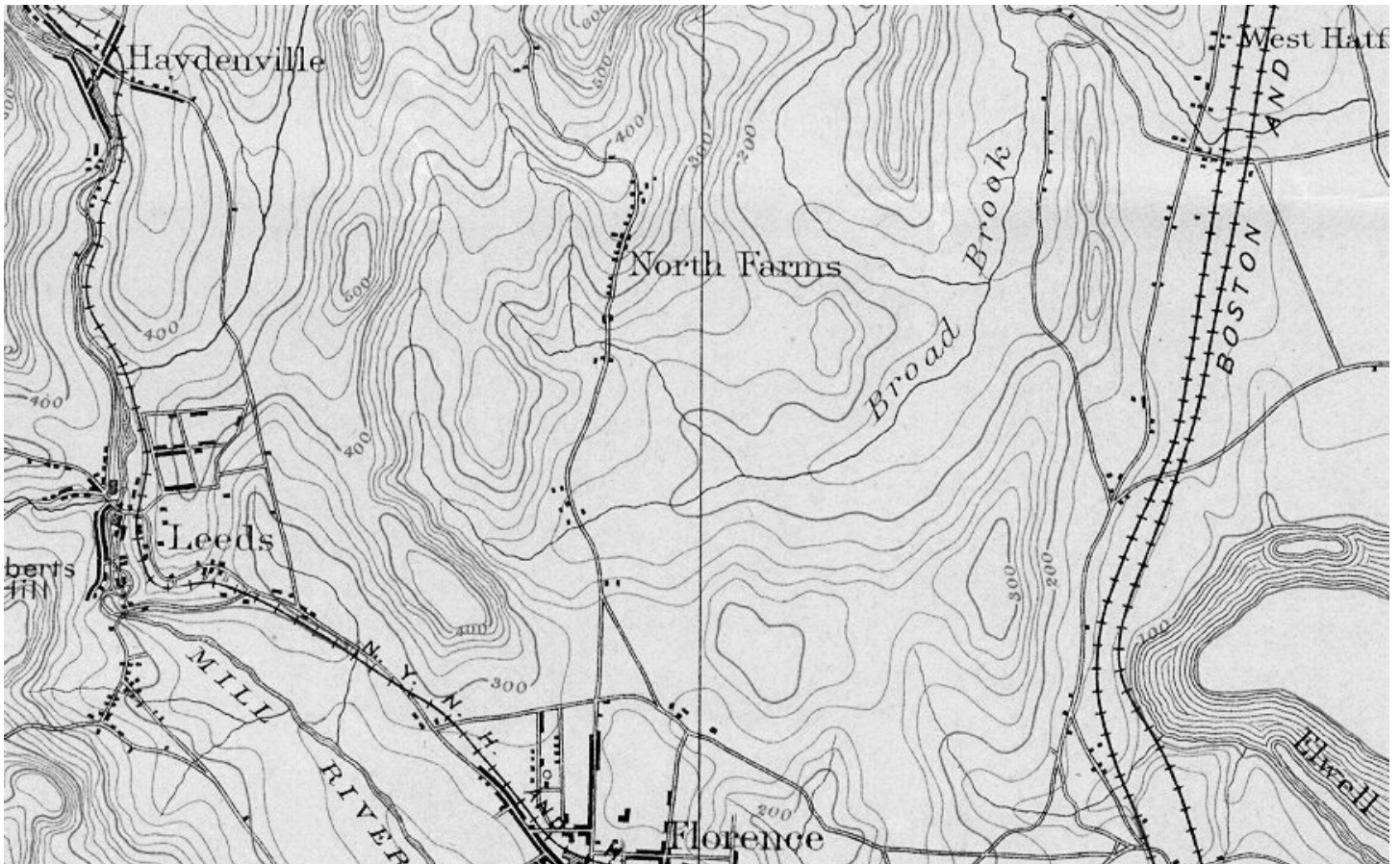
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Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area in 1885

Northampton, Massachusetts USGS 15 Minute Quadrangle