

# BROAD BROOK COALITION

Volume 23, Issue Number 2, FALL 2011

## ***Broad Brook Coalition Annual Meeting***

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011**

**Florence Civic Center**

**Corner of Meadow and Park Streets**

**(Next to Lilly Library)**

**Florence, MA**

**7:00 PM: Dessert and Conversation**

**7:30 PM: Business Meeting, Elections to Board of Directors**

**8:00 PM: Special Presentation-**

**City Planner WAYNE FEIDEN**

***Conservation Northampton: Preserving  
our Natural Heritage***

Wayne will describe the City's efforts and those of its partners to permanently preserve critical open space and wildlife habitat in Northampton. He will discuss recent land preservation activities, planned future land preservation activities, the goals behind what the City preserves and where it encourages development, and the Community Preservation Act's impacts on these efforts in Northampton.

Wayne is the Director of Planning and Development for Northampton, Massachusetts, with a focus on land use, downtown revitalization, planning, sustainable transportation, and open space, and the environment. Wayne serves as the lead for most city efforts to preserve open space, wildlife habitat, and greenways and blueways. In this capacity, he has tripled the total amount of permanently protected open space in the city. He also serves as an adjunct faculty at the University of Massachusetts and Westfield State University teaching, among other things, open space preservation techniques. Wayne's publications include Assessing Sus-

tainability. He has participated in or led numerous expert panels around the country, most recently leading a panel examining the opportunities for a greenway in Santa Rosa.

Wayne has a BS in Natural Resources from the U. of Michigan and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the U. of North Carolina. His Eisenhower Fellowship to Hungary, Fulbright to South Africa, and Fulbright to New Zealand all focused on sustainability.

## **NEWS FROM THE EDITOR**

### **AND THE BBC BOARD**

#### ***Help BBC to Grow Greener***

In an effort to conserve both natural resources and money, the BBC board is proposing to "go paperless" with the publication of BBC semi-annual newsletters. In 2010 printing and postal expenses related to the newsletter were nearly \$1,100, money that otherwise might have been used, for example, for environmental stewardship. The majority of BBC members already have provided e-mail addresses. [*Rest assured that BBC does not share e-mail addresses with any person or organization.*] Now, as part of our upcoming 2012 membership campaign, we will be seeking your permission to send future newsletters via e-mail. We hope that you will support this effort to "grow greener."

*Alan Marvelli*

*Ilene Goldstein-Editor*

## From the President's Desk:

### *IN PRAISE OF NATIVE PLANTS*

Half a dozen years ago, BBC planted the first "shrub island" in Cooke's Pasture; two more followed in subsequent years. These plantings were part of an experiment to see if we could establish a series of 300-400 square-foot thickets of native shrubs that would benefit birds and other wildlife. Primary among our goals was to provide food, shelter and nesting areas for native birds, many of which are in decline in Massachusetts owing to the loss of appropriate shrubland habitat. The plants we used were all native to New England and known to be used as a food source by a variety of birds. An added bonus was esthetic, as the plants we chose had attractive flowers as well as fruit. On the advice of Richard DeGraaf, University of Massachusetts conservationist and author of the informative guidebook, "Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Attracting Birds" [1], we pretty much left our plantings alone after initial watering as they were all adapted to growth in our region. The results of the experiment have been mixed: arrowwood, winterberry, bayberry and several species of native dogwood grew vigorously while others, such as chokeberry, elder and blueberries were easily outgrown by their indigenous rivals. The big question, however, was whether the new shrubs benefited native birds. We were aware that Cooke's Pasture was consistently used by shrubland species such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, kingbirds, phoebes, bluebirds, catbirds, yellowthroats, song sparrows, willow flycatchers and tree swallows, but it was hard to get conclusive evidence that they were using the new plantings for nesting and food. Confirmation came in an unexpected way when I was startled by a female black duck that flew up out of one of the shrub islands as I walked along the edge in early May. It took less than a minute to find her nest, with nine freshly laid eggs. The shrub islands were clearly serving their purpose! Nonetheless, the duck's choice of a thicket several hundred yards from the neighboring marsh was indeed unforeseen. I marked the site and quickly moved on. Alas, this story does not have a happy ending. When I returned a few days later, I found a mass of feathers scattered around the nest. Oddly, most of the eggs were intact, though a few had been broken. On reflection, I realized that



this was a way that the shrub islands benefited a diversity of wildlife. Although the demise of the black duck was surely sad, the unknown predator--coyote, fisher, fox?--who attacked her also found the shrub thicket useful for its own purposes.

Another benefit of promoting the growth of native plants is to provide sustenance for the indigenous insect populations that play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity by fueling the food chain that supports birds and other wildlife. In his interesting and splendidly illustrated book, "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants" [2], Douglas Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware, makes a strong case for growing native plants rather than those that, despite their decorativeness, are alien to our region. He points out that native insects are poorly adapted to feeding on alien plants and that their populations suffer precipitously as a result. At the same time, harmful infestations of native insects are rare because, as Tallamy points out, they are kept in check by insect predators and parasites as well as by the birds, amphibians and small mammals that dine upon them. A related effect that we have all surely noticed is the decline of the monarch butterfly in New England. In this case, the "aliens" are engineered crop plants that are resistant to herbicides which, when used in abundance on farmland, eliminate the large stands of native milkweed upon which the monarchs depend for food during their migration to and from Mexico. So there are many good reasons to grow native plants--whether in conservation areas or our own backyards--to provide at least some bright spots amidst the widespread habitat destruction that is leading to a perilous contraction of balanced and healthy ecosystems throughout North America.

[1] DeGraaf, Richard M., *Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Attracting Birds*, 2nd edition, 2002, University Press of New England, Lebanon, NH.

[2] Tallamy, Douglas W., *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, updated and expanded, 2009, Timber Press, Portland, OR.

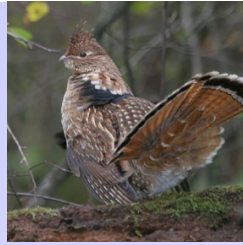
Bob Zimmermann

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### WALKS AND TALKS

#### Note from the Editor:

If you have never participated in a bird walk with an expert, the following report gives you a detailed record of what you might experience. Join us on a Walk and Talk in the spring, and experience the return of migrating songbirds!



#### **DAWN CHORUS, Frank Bowrys, May 15**

4:00 am: The Broad Brook Coalition sponsored Dawn Chorus at the Fitzgerald Lake CA Blind. We slowly gathered our gear and applied bug repellent in the parking lot. The American Robin is usually one of the first songsters to be heard and this morning was no exception as one could be heard singing its dawn song south east of the parking area. The song was free of the usual pauses between phrases, being more like a Red-eyed Vireo's song in pace.

4:35 am: We could not resist stopping where the road crosses a stream with a small wetland area on the right. Here we enjoyed an amphibian serenade of Spring Peepers and Bullfrogs. Despite the complete cloud cover, we had traveled by the ambient light and notice the sky lightening noticeably.

4:45 am: Further down the road, a Veery gave its veer call and an American Goldfinch gave a sudden warble, possibly startled by our passing.

5:00 am: We turned off Boggy Meadow Road to the path that leads toward Marion Street the blind. An Ovenbird gave an energetic eruption of teacher, teacher, teacher and a Wood Thrush sang echoing phrases off to our right. We encountered more Wood Thrushes counter singing with every new song being slightly different from the previous one. Down the trail that led to the blind was another Wood Thrush off to the right and were greeted by the two note call of the Black-capped Chickadee, a more distant witchita, witchita, witchita of a Common Yellowthroat, the closer fee-bee, fee-breet of an Eastern Phoebe, the sweet, sweet, sweet I'm so sweet of a Yellow Warbler and the konk-laree of several Red-winged Blackbirds. We arrived at the blind a little later than we had planned because the chorus seemed to be well established already.

5:10 am: The continuing chorus of the previous six songsters was joined by the fitz-brew of a Willow Flycatcher from across the marsh and a very loud but haunting coo of a Mourning Dove. A duck glided in and we heard the flapping of feathered wings and the quacks of Mallards off to our left.

5:17 am: A Barred Owl punctuated the symphony with a spaced triplet of echoing Who Ooo-Ahh calls from close behind us. This was followed by the rumbling tympani of a Ruffed Grouse the variable staccato percussion of three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from three different directions. Three Mallards then burst from the marsh from the left and flew past our view to the right, the explosive sound settling in to the whistles of a female Wood Duck from the area the Mallards had vacated. A Tufted Titmouse then flew in behind the blind and added its peter, peter, peter call.

5:25 am: We started seeing the blackbirds popping up regularly to the tops of the cattails and making short flights. This was when we started hearing some duets between the males (konk-laree) followed immediately by the sputtering chur, chur, chur, chur, chur of the females. A Cowbird gave a couple of metallic twinkle-eets from a perch above the blind. A Cooper's Hawk glided by, right to left, in silent witness and a lone and silent Tree Swallow flew in to the marsh from the left to the right.

5:40 am: A Common Yellowthroat, the raccoon warbler, darted among the branches of a bush in front of the blind, alternately trilling, chipping and

singing. Across the marsh to the right, a Great-crested Flycatcher occasionally chureeped. A Blue Jay sounded with jay, jay, jay from across the marsh while another tweedled from behind. A Northern Cardinal flew in to the right of the blind and chipped a few times while an Eastern Phoebe took center stage at the top of the bush in front of the blind. Two male Yellow Warblers tussled and perched at length in the bush to the left center of the blind.

6:30 am: We decided to make our way back to Boggy Meadow Road and continue on to the dam at the end of Fitzgerald Lake. We paused on the trail leading away from the blind until we heard the Ruffed Grouse drumming a final time. Rain started to fall lightly on the way back toward Boggy Meadow Road. We heard more Chickadees, Wood Thrush and Blue Jays. A Red-eyed Vireo called incessantly up high while a Gray Catbird gave a cried from the brush down low. Right before the turn to Boggy Meadow Road, we heard a distant Black-throated Green Warbler, see see see Susie, off to our left. We counted our eighth Ovenbird as we approached the dam and heard the weesa weesa weesa of a Black-and-white Warbler in the woods. A couple of Canada Geese were heard honking in flight from the lake toward the marsh from which we had just come. On the center of the dam, looking back toward the marsh, we saw two Northern Rough-winged Swallows weaving between the tree tops while a Song Sparrow called to our left. Turning toward the Song sparrow, we heard a Scarlet Tanager singing in the trees while another flew from trees on the right and along the tree line, disappearing on the other side of the dam. At this point we took a brief break from watching birds when we spotted a River Otter traversing the lake, its back arching gracefully above the surface of the water, followed by its tail, then the head popping up further off to the right. When it reached the other shore a Common Grackle flew from the right hand shore to the left. Then two male Baltimore Orioles flew across the dam to perch low in a nearby tree. After a minute, the aggressor flew back across the dam. A pair of Mallards and a pair of Wood Ducks flew from the direction of the marsh out across the lake, where a Broad-winged Hawk glided across the lake from left to right.

Now we turned and ascended the trail to Cooke's Pasture. Upon entering the main "lobe" of the pasture, we could hear our marsh singer through a narrow stand of trees down to our right. We quickly located a Blue-winged Warbler singing in an apple tree. A ruffed Grouse was drumming toward the entrance to the second lobe. Baltimore Orioles were active in the trees and a prominent nest hung nearby. As we entered the second lobe, we heard the descending spiral of a singing Veery and the distant cawing of American Crows. We headed down toward the marsh and stopped to examine and photograph a large Wood Turtle, a species of Special Concern in Massachusetts. As we looked out at the marsh an American Redstart sang over our heads.

We proceeded to the third lobe of the pasture and on to Gessing Point at the edge of the old pasture. We scanned this part of the marsh. There was a second Blue-winged Warbler singing here as well as the usual marsh suspects. A Downy Woodpecker hopped up in the nearby shrubs, flew across the marsh and gave a descending whinny call. A Pine Warbler trilled up in the trees. Before we left, a Pileated Woodpecker gave an emphatic call from the woods beyond the marsh below the point.

Back at the entrance to Cooke's Pasture, two of us remained and compared the singing of a Red-eyed Vireo on one side of the pasture with the burrier singing of a Yellow-throated Vireo on the entrance side of the pasture.

At the dam, we encountered a pair of Canada Geese with eight chicks and a Barn Swallow flew by. Noticing 10-12 swallows skimming the surface of the

## WALKS AND TALKS CONT.

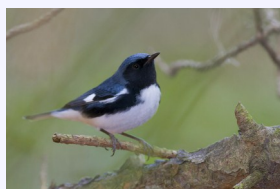
lake, we found two Barn, Three Tree, Three Northern Rough-winged and a Bank Swallow. Now our sprinkle turned in to a full fledged rain shower.

10:00 am: Back at the site of the amphibian serenade, which was still going on in the rain, we repeatedly heard a song that escaped us, which was later identified as that of a Canada Warbler. As we approached the second gate, we encountered a wave of warblers in the tops of the trees. A Black-throated Blue Warbler sang and was seen. We also identified three Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, but we had to let the rest go as unidentified because of the downpour. We arrived back at the parking area at 10:15 am having traveled almost exactly 3 miles out and back.

Number of species: 47

Wood Duck 6	Mallard 6
Ruffed Grouse 2	Cooper's Hawk 1
Broad-winged Hawk 1	Mourning Dove 3
Barred Owl 1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4
Downy Woodpecker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1
Willow Flycatcher 1	Eastern Phoebe 1
Great Crested Flycatcher 1	Yellow-throated Vireo 1
Red-eyed Vireo 4	Blue Jay 4
American Crow 2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3
Tree Swallow 3	Bank Swallow 1
Barn Swallow 2	Black-capped Chickadee 8
Tufted Titmouse 1	Veery 4
Wood Thrush 6	American Robin 4
Gray Catbird 2	Blue-winged Warbler 2
Yellow Warbler 7	Black-throated Blue Warbler 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 3	Black-throated Green Warbler 1
Pine Warbler 1	Black-and-white Warbler 2
American Redstart 1	Ovenbird 9
Common Yellowthroat 7	Canada Warbler 1
Song Sparrow 3	Scarlet Tanager 2
Northern Cardinal 2	Red-winged Blackbird 20
Common Grackle 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Baltimore Oriole 8	Canada Goose 12
American Goldfinch 6	

This report was generated automatically by eBird v2(<http://ebird.org>)



ODONATES-Damselflies and Dragonflies-Josh Rose, June 12

BUTTERFLY WALK-Bill Benner-MA Butterfly Club, July 1

Reported by Josh Rose

It always helps to know where you are going when leading a group. So, when I volunteered to lead an odonate (dragonfly and damselfly) walk at Fitzgerald Lake, I made an advance scouting visit a few days beforehand. We had decided to focus the trip on the vicinity of the Dock. The habitat for odonates is a bit better and more extensive around the dam and Cook's Pasture, but the Dock was almost as good and much easier to reach.

My day of scouting was not particularly good weather for dragonflies, cloudy and breezy and not particularly warm. I did find a nice variety of other distinctive insects though. Perhaps the most eye-catching was a beetle named the Dogwood Calligrapha. A member of the leaf beetle family, its first name comes from its diet of dogwood leaves, the second from its cream-colored shell being covered with graceful black markings reminiscent of calligraphy. A tiny little brown fuzz-covered beetle, which I initially mistook for another type of leaf beetle, was identified by one of my friends as Cyphon, a member of the Marsh Beetle family, whose larvae live in wetlands and eat mostly algae. A bright orange insect that I mistook originally for a wasp turned out, upon closer inspection of my photos, to be a Rust Fly named Loxocera. In the woods, I came across a caterpillar of the Copper Underwing, a relatively large and handsome moth. And, when I hiked along the shoreline past the beaver lodge, a Snapping Turtle was hauled out of the water there, though plunged back in when it saw me coming.

Unfortunately, when the date arrived for my dragonfly walk, the weather was not much better. I sent out cancellation notices that morning by e-mail and Facebook, but cruised by the North Farms trailhead at the appointed time, and half a dozen people were there who had heard about the walk from other sources (e-mail, flyers, etc.) and not heard the cancellation. Everyone wanted to go for a walk, even if we saw no dragonflies, so off we went.

As I expected, we saw no dragonflies, though we did find a couple of dragonfly exuviae. An exuviae is the shed skin left behind when a dragonfly larva crawls out of the water, sheds

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# CANDIDATES RESPOND TO BBC QUESTIONNAIRE

*CPA REPEAL*

*THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE*

AND

*AFFORDABLE HOUSING*

## MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Michael Bardsley

David Narkowicz

## CITY COUNCIL

Jesse Adams

Mari-Jon Adams Pullan

Bill Dwight

Paul Spector

Owen Freeman-Daniels

Pamela Schwatz

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Mari Gottdiener

Marlene Morin

David Rothstein

## CANDIDATES RESPOND TO BBC QUESTIONNAIRE

Since its founding in the late 1980's, Broad Brook Coalition has provided to candidates for elected office in Northampton the opportunity to inform BBC members and friends of their views on issues relevant to BBC's mission--conservation, land preservation and affordable housing.

This year's questions were:

### ***For Mayoral, City Council, and Community Preservation Committee candidates:***

1. CPA Repeal. A proposed initiative slated to appear on the November ballot would mandate repeal of the Community Preservation Act in Northampton. Please give us your reasons for either supporting or opposing this initiative.

### ***For Mayoral and City Council candidates:***

2. Preservation of Open Space. The City has been quite successful in preserving open space and limiting urban sprawl. Do you support the continuing acquisition of undeveloped land for recreation, conservation and community farming?

3. Affordable Housing. One of BBC's missions is to promote the development of affordable housing in Northampton. What have you done personally, professionally or politically, to promote the growth of affordable housing in the City?

## CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

### ***MICHAEL BARDSLEY***

1. CPA Repeal. I was the first member of the Northampton City Council to propose that the City Council put the CPA on the ballot. During the ensuing Council discussion Mayor Higgins made it clear that she was not supportive of my proposed initiative. One of her concerns was that the CPA would be in competition with any future override attempts over taxpayers' dollars. That year there was not enough support on the Council to have the question brought before the voters,

### ***MICHAEL BARDSLEY CONT.***

but it was the beginning of the public dialogue. The next time it was brought forward it garnered enough Council support to move the process forward. As City Council President, I campaigned for the passage of the CPA, though the Council as well as the City was very divided over this issue. I am still supportive of the CPA. The funding it has provided has allowed the City to accomplish some projects that would have otherwise been impossible. The first significant project that comes to my mind is the preservation of the land around the quarry. A more recent example is the purchase of the Bean and Allard Farms. This public farm land will be a huge benefit for future generations of Northampton citizens. The most frequent concern I hear from those who want to put the CPA back on the ballot has to do with paying this additional assessment during increasingly difficult economic circumstances. I know several folks who previously supported the CPA but now feel that they can no longer afford it. I will continue to talk about the benefits the CPA has brought to the City, but many taxpayers will ultimately decide based on their financial situation. The public dialogue we will inevitably have about the CPA has to be sensitive of the fact that some folks living in Northampton have considerably more economic resources than others.

2. Preservation of Open Space. I strongly believe that the City must be the preservation its remaining farmlands as a top priority. I also support that acquisition of more recreation and conservation area in addition to maintaining our farmlands. The Planning Department has developed goals and priorities in each of these areas, and I have always supported these proposed plans.

3. Affordable Housing. I am a supporter of a wide range of affordable housing, and I am using the term in the sense that people of various income levels should feel that they can afford to live here. That not only means that affordable housing options are available, but it also means that there jobs here that pay a living wage. We cannot discuss affordable housing without including the fact that folks need to have jobs with which they can sustain themselves and their families. As a citizen who is involved in our local government, I will continue to propose ideas for diversifying and strengthening our local economy. On a personal level, I have ad-

**MICHAEL BARDSLEY CONT.**

vocated for numerous individuals who struggle to keep living in our community.

**DAVID NARKEWICZ**

1. CPA Repeal. I support the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and oppose its repeal. The CPA has funded important historic preservation, open space, affordable housing, and recreation projects throughout Northampton. Many of these projects could not have happened without CPA funds, which leveraged over \$17.5 million from additional funding sources.

2. Preservation of Open Space. I support the acquisition of undeveloped land for these purposes. Recreation, conservation and community farming contribute strongly to Northampton’s character as a city whose citizens enjoy and use our outdoor spaces every day. I have been a strong supporter of preserving open space during my three terms on the City Council and will continue supporting these preservation efforts as Mayor.

3. Affordable Housing. I have been a strong and consistent supporter of affordable housing development in Northampton during my three terms on the City Council, voting for projects and programs that ensure our city remains a place where people at every rung of the economic ladder can live, work, and raise families. As Ward 4 Councilor and a member of the State Hospital Citizens Advisory Committee, I worked to ensure a strong mix of affordable housing development at Village Hill. As Councilor At-Large and City Council President, I worked with the Northampton Housing Partnership to bring forward and pass a resolution urging city residents to protect our state's affordable housing law by opposing ballot question 2.

**CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCILLOR**

**JESSE ADAMS (AT LARGE, INCUMBENT)**

1. CPA Repeal. I support the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Northampton 100%. If the CPA is in jeopardy of repeal in November I will advocate to keep the CPA. The CPA has done a tremen-

**JESSE ADAMS CONT.**

dous job for the vibrancy and sustainability of Northampton. When I think of all the exciting projects that the CPA has done there is no doubt that it is worth the money. Forbes Library, the Academy of Music, the David Ruggles Center, the First Churches, and the Florence Fields have all benefitted from CPA money. In my first term on the City Council I have cast my vote in favor of all the CPA initiatives that I was presented with. Some very notable CPA projects that I have voted in favor of as an At Large Councilor include the Florence Fields, Lilly Library window renovations, Hampshire County Friends of the Homeless Sober Living Community Housing, Turkey Hill open space acquisition and protection, and Grow Food Northampton community gardens. Without the CPA it is likely that projects like these would not happen. If re-elected I will continue to support valuable projects such as these.

2. Preservation of Open Space. It is critically important that we as a community continue to acquire undeveloped land for recreation, conservation and community farming. I have a proven track record of voting to protect undeveloped land for these purposes. I voted to approve CPA funding to dredge the pond at Child’s Park. I voted for the Agricultural Protection Restrictions to preserve farmland throughout Northampton. I voted for the Florence Fields. I voted for the Turkey Hill open space acquisition and protections. I voted for and donated privately to the Grow Food Northampton community gardens. If re-elected you can count on me based on my proven record continue to vote in favor of acquiring undeveloped land for these purposes.

3. Affordable Housing. Development of affordable housing in Northampton is very important to me and I believe strongly that the development of affordable housing in Northampton should continue to be a priority because part of my vision for the future of Northampton is having people of all different income-levels continue to be able to live here if they choose. This will make Northampton more inclusive, diverse, and beautiful.

As stated earlier, in my professional life as an At-Large Councilor I voted in favor the purchase of property to house chronically homeless people who are committed to sobriety through the Hampshire County Friends of the Homeless. In addition, I voted in favor of the Northampton City Council resolution to defeat the

**JESSE ADAMS CONT.**

attempted repeal of 40B in last year’s state elections. Fortunately the attempted repeal failed because 40B has created a tremendous amount of our state’s affordable housing since it’s inception in 1969.

In my professional life as an attorney representing indigent clients in the District Court, I frequently reach out to housing organizations to help facilitate my homeless clients get housing.

**MARIJON ADAMS-PULLAN (AT LARGE)**

1. CPA Repeal. I do not support the repeal of the CPA and I welcome the community conversation about how we are using these resources to meet community needs.

The City developed and continues to update it's vision of what a livable viable City is for community residents, businesses and visitors. Northampton has been successful in preserving open space in the more rural areas of the City and encouraging development in areas that are already well served by water, sewer, and transportation systems. CPA funding has been an important tool we have been able to use to accomplish those goals.

2. Preservation of Open Space. I particularly appreciate the multifaceted approach Northampton takes when acquiring land for public purpose. The land can sometimes serve several purposes - such as the Bean/Allard acquisition - open space, recreation, and agricultural support. This has also been true with land acquisition for aquifer protection in which a small piece of land was carved off a large parcel to accommodate a building lot for two Habitat homes on Ryan Road.

This integrated approach to planning and land acquisition has preserved the feeling of Northampton as a "city in the country" - which contributes strongly to our vibrancy, that serves us well as we are home to residents and college students, and as we are a destination for visitors and tourist. The City of Northampton continues to re-invent a unique mix that continues to draw interest.

**MARIJON ADAMS-PULLAN CONT.**

3. Affordable Housing. The economic diversity of the people who call Northampton home is a critical aspect of the flavor of Northampton. Affordable housing is an essential aspect of preserving this diversity and I am pleased that my daily work involves engaging the community to develop housing so that families of all income levels can call Northampton home.

As Executive Director of Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, I lead a community effort to build homes in partnership with families and with the community. Habitat is a terrific program in that it engages the community as a whole to help build the homes. A longstanding partnership with the City of Northampton has created 15 Habitat homes. A terrific partnership with Smith Vocational High School Construction Trades Program in 2005 provides a living classroom to the students and a good introduction to "civic engagement" during their high school years as they help build our Habitat homes. And central to Habitat's mission is engaging the broader community in the conversation about the importance of safe, decent affordable housing as an important cornerstone stable family life and all the benefits that accrue to the adults and children from this stability of a place to call home.

**BILL DWIGHT (AT LARGE)**

1. CPA Repeal. I have been, and continue to be, an ardent supporter of the Community Preservation Act. It kept its promise of preserving open space, historical preservation and maintaining affordability here in Northampton, Leeds, Florence and Bay State.

While the Commonwealth’s match of our contribution has diminished as other communities have opted in, we have, to date, leveraged \$17,592,852 of additional monies invested in protecting and enhancing what we value in our community. That, by any measure, is an enormous success.

This tax is rare, in that it clearly exempts our most vulnerable property owners but also because it outlines a clear process of resource distribution and community input through the



**BILL DWIGHT CONT.**

Community Preservation Coalition. We are a richer community for it.

2. Preservation of Open Space. Yes. Because, while Northampton's population has remained roughly the same for over a century, the expansion of building into undeveloped areas has created a number of the associated stressors of increased municipal and social costs... road maintenance, emergency services, pollution, traffic and encroachment on animal habitats and natural recreational areas. We cannot sustain further expansion into our open spaces without jeopardizing our natural virtues and our ability to sustain our viability.

We live in a very desirable place and we should welcome anyone who wants to live here, but future growth should be focused on in-fill within the urban centers where services are concentrated. We must secure and protect our natural assets in order to assure that Northampton will always be a place we cherish.

3. Affordable Housing. Northampton thrives when it is at its most diverse. That goes for its variety of urban and rural spaces and it applies especially to its diversity of cultures and people. It is imperative to maintain and improve affordability in order to benefit from the stimulus and inspiration it provides. It is, also, simply the right thing to do.

I previously served on the City Council for eight years representing Ward One. While in that capacity, I co-sponsored a home-rule petition to preserve affordability at what was once known as Hampton Gardens, a federally subsidized housing development that had been sold to private owners. I served on Mayor Ford's ad-hoc Social Services Committee. I also supported Mayor Higgins' efforts to retain affordability at the Meadowbrook apartments when it, too, changed to private ownership. I was on the Mayor's Community Development Block Grant Funding Recommendation Committee for six years pressing for allocations to preserve Single Room Occupancy inventory and services. And after I left the Council and became a radio host on WHMP and Valley Free Radio, I continued to champion initiatives and projects that advanced housing for all. I currently serve as the community

**BILL DWIGHT CONT.**

representative for the Northampton Housing Authority's Grievance Committee.

**PAUL SPECTOR (WARD 2, INCUMBENT)**

1. CPA Repeal. I strongly support the CPA. I helped organize the first campaign to pass the CPA. I believe the CPA has been a resounding success and has far exceeded expectations. Almost sixty projects have been funded by the CPA, from projects at Lilly and Forbes Library, to the Academy of Music, from saving the Bean-Allard farm to preserving affordable housing.

Many who support repeal argue that the State is only providing about 35% in matching funds, not the 100% allocated when the question was first put on the ballot five years ago. They are correct, the State's investment has been less than anticipated. However, for every one dollar paid in additional property taxes, four additional dollars have been leveraged! Of the 6.3 million in local CPA expenditures almost \$17 million came from sources outside the monies paid by Northampton property owners or State funds. So instead of the one-to-one (town-to-state) ratio that we all anticipated when first campaigning for the CPA, in fact, with the modest amounts raised by the citizens of the city we have reaped huge financial gains which have allowed us to undertake the scores of projects to save open space, maintain affordable housing, preserve historic sites, and provide additional recreational facilities.

2. Preservation of Open Space. In my four terms on the council I have supported every land acquisition that has come before the city council. I also have voted for any/all changes to zoning etc. that help preserve open space. I was an initial supported and contributor to "Grow Food Northampton" and worked to help make the continued farming of the Bean-Allard farm a reality. I also have supported community gardening initiatives which would enhance and expand community gardening.

**PAUL SPECTOR CONT.**

If re-elected I will continue to work diligently to help conserve even more open space in the city and to make sure we continue to have community farming and community gardens.

3. Affordable Housing. Again, I believe my voting record clearly shows my strong support for promoting the growth of affordable housing in the city. I strongly endorsed the Mayor's work with Smith College to get the college to contract to create multiple units of affordable housing within walking distance of town. I support the plans for the Hospital Hill development which create many new units of affordable housing. I have voted to increase the number of SROs in the city and have supported any/all initiatives around this issue.

**OWEN FREEMAN-DANIELS (WARD 3, INCUMBENT)**

1. CPA Repeal. I support the Community Preservation Act in Northampton. I believe in buying on value. If worthy community projects can be bought at a 25% discount, I believe that is a valuable way to finance them. The second part of my support is that I believe the CPA has generally been, and will generally continue to be, used for worthy community projects. It has been used to finance the repair of our libraries, the Academy of Music, the creation of public farmland, the acquisition of new athletic fields, the seed money for the Manhan Rail trail, and multiple social service projects throughout the city.

2. Preservation of Open Space. I would have to see the actual data on how much undeveloped land has been purchased for

**OWEN FREEMAN-DANIELS CONT.**

these purposes to know whether it has been a success. Preserving open space on the outskirts of our city instead of in the urban center is not a top priority for me. It is more important to provide open space, recreation and farmland where the most people live. Also probably as important as owning the land is providing access to it, which can also be costly and something I think the city should focus on.

**OWEN FREEMAN-DANIELS CONT.**

3. Affordable Housing. Neither my professional life nor my personal life has involved promoting affordable housing. I did vote against the defeat of the state's 40B provisions. Politically I'm broadly committed to affordable housing. I want to be careful to distinguish the various kinds of affordable housing in Northampton. There's the technical definition under Massachusetts State law. Then there is Federal Section 8, and also public housing. Finally, there's what people refer to as "market rate affordable", meaning smaller homes that fit with the income levels of the workers in the city. I believe that all these elements must be in a community to create the mosaic of affordable housing.

**PAMELA SCHWARTZ (WARD 4, INCUMBENT)**

1. CPA Repeal. I strongly oppose the repeal of the Community Preservation Act in Northampton. I am a fierce supporter of the CPA and fully appreciate all that it has provided Northampton in the face of ever-dwindling state and federal resources. From preserving farm and recreational land to our historic Forbes Library and Academy of Music, to mention just a sample of the CPA's positive impact, the CPA is an extraordinary resource that vastly enhances our quality of life in Northampton. I will do everything I can to defeat this ballot measure.

2. Preservation of Open Space. I fully support the continued acquisition of undeveloped land for recreation, conservation and community farming. It is one of the best legacies we can leave future generations in this city.

3. Affordable Housing. In addition to serving as a city councilor and supporting funding for affordable housing in that capacity, I am the director of the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness. In that role, I facilitate the efforts of housing and homelessness providers across the four counties of Western Massachusetts, including Hampshire County in general and Northampton in particular. The City of Northampton and the Valley Community Development Corporation are members of the Network's Leadership Council and I work

**PAMELA SCHWARTZ CONT.**

capacity, I am the director of the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness. In that role, I facilitate the efforts of housing and homelessness providers across the four counties of Western Massachusetts, including Hampshire County in general and Northampton in particular. The City of Northampton and the Valley Community Development Corporation are members of the Network's Leadership Council and I work with both in support of their efforts to create affordable housing. Providing permanent, affordable homes for people who experience homelessness is a core mission of my work, both personally and professionally.

**CANDIDATES FOR THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION**

**COMMITTEE (AT LARGE)**

**MARI GOTTDIENER**

1. CPA Repeal. I strongly support the Community Preservation Act and its continuation in Northampton. I am actively involved in a campaign to save the CPA, as I was in the campaign to adopt it five years ago; I also am a candidate for one of the two elected seats on the Community Preservation Committee. The money available from our CPA may be all we have in the next several years for open space, affordable housing, historic preservation and recreation, when state and federal funds for local projects are fast disappearing.

The CPA is a really good deal for Northampton: over the last five years, Northampton taxpayers paid a total of \$3.8 million in toward local CPA projects, with an average FY2011 CPA surcharge assessment of \$80 on Northampton property owners. The CPA awards have leveraged almost \$17 million from other sources, including state, federal and foundation grants. This is a huge return on local dollars. Additionally, the Commonwealth has contributed \$1.9 million in matches over the five-year period, averaging an annual match of approximately 60 cents for every local tax dollar raised. If Northampton did not have a CPA in effect, the money in the state CPA Trust Fund would be distributed among the other communities that do have the CPA.

The work done by BBC to preserve open space and limit urban

**MARI GOTTDIENER CONT.**

sprawl is of course one of the three primary purposes of the CPA; many of the wonderful conservation projects in Northampton in the last 5 years would not have been possible without the CPA's award of funds toward the purchase the land, most notably the Bean Allard Farm, and the Mineral Hills, Sawmill Hills, Turkey Hill and Fitzgerald Lake conservation areas.

As a board member of the Valley Community Development Corporation, I see how the CPA has made it possible for the CDC to continue our mission to provide affordable housing for working people of limited means as well as housing for the homeless. Providing such housing is much cheaper for the taxpayer than the cost of homelessness, and contributes to keeping us a community where people of all income levels can live. The CDC's closed referral process for selecting homeless applicants assures that a service agency is involved in not only screening applicants for CDC housing but also that the referring agency continues to deliver needed services to those individuals.

The CPA also provides funds for historic preservation, which tend to be capital-intensive projects that the city could not afford in the current economic climate. CPA-funded preservation projects over the past 5 years have included Forbes Library, the Academy of Music, and Historic Northampton, as well as the Lilly Library, David Ruggles Center and other projects in the Florence Civic and Business Center. Likewise, much needed additional recreational areas are being funded through CPA dollars, such as Florence Fields.

All of the almost 60 projects made possible by our CPA have acted as an engine for economic development and employment by bringing jobs to the city and supporting local businesses as they work on CPA-funded projects.

Most importantly, Northampton voters adopted the CPA with all of the possible exemptions, so that the tax would not adversely affect people who cannot afford it: the first \$100,000 of everyone's property value is exempt from the surcharge, and exemptions are available for low income households and low and moderate income seniors. Bottom line: with relatively modest contributions of local dollars, the CPA has brought in millions of dollars in support of our community's future.

**MARLENE MORIN**

1. CPA Repeal. I have not made a decision yet with regards to the repeal of the CPA. My decision to be a candidate for the CPA Committee is due to my concerns about the processes and procedures of the committee. For example, I recently attended a CPA committee meeting and signage was discussed. Currently, there are projects that do not have a sign indicating the use of CPA funds. If elected I would advocate for a signage clause in the contract. I would like a more careful review of applications and more questions about the proposed project budget.

Many people tell me they would like to know more about the debts we've incurred. Others would like to see more education about the application process.

I am also concerned about the fact that one of the appointed committee members, Mr. Durfer, a representative of the recreation department, is on the ballot to be elected as a CPA committee member. The statute clearly defines the process for the formation of the committee. It is unfair and distorts the statute when an appointed member also runs to be elected. This conduct creates the impression of "stacking the deck" and giving the recreation department an unfair majority in the committee.

**DAVID ROTHSTEIN**

1. CPA Repeal. Thank your for the opportunity to provide my perspective on the ballot question to revoke Northampton's acceptance of the Community Preservation Act (CPA or Act). In short, I support the CPA.

The CPA provides a needed vehicle for valuable, community projects that might otherwise remain unfunded. To me, the CPA's most important feature is its focus on community-initiated proposals and transparent public participation. This creates high degrees of community involvement, ownership and accountability. Equally important is the CPA's emphasis on partnerships. Leveraged funds and cost-share allow our assessed community preservation monies to be stretched further, and for greater benefit. The proof is in the pudding. Since the first funding cycle in 2008, CPA fund dollars have contributed to over 50 projects throughout Northampton. These include the Fitzgerald Lake open space acquisition, the Beaver Brook/Fitzgerald Lake expan

**DAVID ROTHSTEIN CONT.**

sion, and invasive species control, which the Broad Brook Coalition either supported or proposed. CPA funds were also used to recapitalize Northampton's Conservation Fund, enabling the Conservation Commission to timely respond to high-priority land conservation opportunities. But CPA monies were also channeled into affordable housing, agricultural preservation, recreation, and historic preservation – consistent with the goals of the Act.

I am seeking an elected position on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). I do so for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, I care about our community and want to contribute to it in a meaningful way. Second, because I believe that the CPA serves an important and unique function, I want it to succeed.

The CPC is vested with important duties: studying the community's preservation needs; assessing priorities; developing funding criteria; soliciting and evaluating proposals; and, encouraging participation. My background as both a wildlife biologist and a governmental environmental attorney would benefit the Committee in carrying out these responsibilities. I am intimately familiar with Massachusetts and municipal law, including the CPA. But I also have expertise in:

- Conservation transactions and land conveyances
- Federal and state grant funding processes, as both a reviewer and legal advisor
- State and federal environmental, historic preservation, and administrative law
- Negotiating large, complex projects with multiple parties
- Eliciting the facts necessary to fully evaluate a proposal or position.
- My experience would enable me to assess multifaceted proposals and understand the inter-relationships of the various processes involved. It would also allow me to ask the difficult questions that are necessary to gauge whether a project will be achieve its intended outcome. It would help ensure that the CPC's process is fairly applied. And it would assist the CPC in fully articulating its rationale for approving, denying or conditioning projects – a key element of transparency.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS CONT.

### WALKS AND TALKS CONT.

its skin for the last time, stretches out its wings, and flies away. We also saw two species of damselflies, Eastern Forktail and its smaller cousin the Fragile Forktail. A spider on the side of the dock, which ultimately was identified as a Pirate Wolf Spider, was carrying an egg sac. A couple of very colorful Black Swallowtail caterpillars were feeding, amusingly, on the highly poisonous Water Hemlock. We spied a few more colorful beetle species including *Enoclerus rosmarus*, a member of the Checkered Beetle family, and a Clavate Tortoise Beetle. Another brightly colored critter turned out to be not a beetle but an Anchor Stinkbug. One of our final sightings before we left the area was a group of New York Carpenter Ants that were "herding" a small clump of aphids, guarding them from predators in return for the aphids' secreting sweet drops of "honeydew". A Veery, a Baltimore Oriole, and a couple of Green Herons entertained the birders of our group.

A couple of weeks later, I made a third visit to Fitzgerald Lake, this time in the company of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club. The weather was far nicer this time than on my previous two visits, and the odonates consequently much more cooperative. We noted 10 species of dragonflies and 7 damselflies. The dragonfly tally included several colorful and distinctive species such as the Halloween Pennant, Prince Baskettail, Widow Skimmer, and the tiny Eastern Amberwing. Among the damselflies were the spectacular Ebony Jewelwing, and the Lilypad Forktail, a species I had been seeking for years without any luck until this time. Seven butterfly species were headlined by a Spicebush Swallowtail. The trip also encountered two impressive beetle species, an Elderberry Borer, a striking creature until recently listed as of concern in the state, and Calopteron discrepans, a species of Net-winged Beetle. But perhaps the most memorable sighting of the day was a tiny gray-and-white moth named *Anacamptis agriomonella*, which stood out because several of them were "dancing" on milkweed leaves on the dam, twirling around in circles like figure skaters!

While the New England weather can never be trusted, the diversity found on my third visit definitely proves that Fitzgerald Lake is home to some interesting odonate diversity. I can only guess how many other dragonfly and damselfly species are lurking out there, on top of the 17 we have seen so far. Stay tuned, because I have a feeling that more such trips will be scheduled in the future, hopefully on dates with some sun!



Photos: Bill Williams

### STEWARDSHIP AND TRAILS

During the past spring and summer, the Stewardship Committee has led several crews of hard-working volunteers in a number of tasks that have now become routine: maintenance of the "shrub islands" in Cooke's Pasture in May, a cleanup of invasive plants and debris at the North Farms Road FLCA entrance in June; and, in July and August, Bruce Hart conducted sorties of canoes and kayaks onto Fitzgerald Lake to hand-pull invasive water chestnuts. In addition, water analysis in April again showed pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and phosphate in Fitzgerald Lake and the Broad Brook marsh to be at acceptable levels. In a joint operation with the Trails Committee, the badly sagging Bridge-Over-the-Brook next to the start of the Canoe Launch Boardwalk was repaired in late July by a team of eight volunteers led by our redoubtable consulting engineer, Bob Rundquist.

Other ongoing projects involve the seemingly interminable battle against invasive land plants. Last year's targeted herbicide treatment significantly curtailed the proliferation of buckthorns and knapweeds, as well as a small patch of black swallowwort, in Cooke's Pasture and on the dam. We expect that the past summer's treatment will have brought these invaders under reasonably good control. Nonetheless, we will have to continue to monitor the relevant areas and continue to remove remnant populations of these invasives by hand for years to come. The stands of *Phragmites* in the marsh have been greatly reduced by two cycles of herbicide treatment and we have been pleased to see that several of the treated areas are beginning to fill in with native cattails. A third and final herbicide treatment this fall will bring this program, which we consider a success, to an end, though continued monitoring will be necessary here as well.

Besides the more or less routine activities, new challenges have emerged. This spring, Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions, a firm that specializes in humane beaver control, discovered an intricate network of beaver dams in the wetland west of the Canoe Launch Boardwalk which has raised the water level by one to two feet and diverted a stream so that it now runs under the boardwalk. We are considering the installation of a "Pond Leveler" pipe to lower the water level in the wetland and we intend to shim up the sagging sections of the boardwalk to prevent further damage. We have also consulted with two aquatic technology companies on how best to open up the access channel for small boats at the Canoe Launch by removing some of the encroaching cattails and removing silt from the channel itself. We hope to decide on a plan of action in the coming months.

Bob Zimmermann



## Tree Climbing Fox?

By Jim Reis

Yes, and they are both common and abundant in Western Massachusetts. The gray fox has semi-retractable and hooked nails, and will scramble up trees to escape predators such as a coyote or domestic dog, or to reach food sources. Some say it was this ability to evade capture by hounds that inspired frustrated fox hunters to import the earthbound red fox from England. They prefer deep, wooded areas and thick brush more than the red fox, and therefore are more likely to reside in the Quabbin and Berkshire hills than in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA) where red fox are often seen.

The gray and red fox are about the same size, but the gray is more grizzled with a grayish body and red patches on the back of the head and neck, and doesn't have the black leg-stockings of the red fox. The most obvious difference is the tail which has a black streak down the back ending in a black tip as opposed to the white-tipped tail of the red fox.

They breed in mid-January to late February, and a litter of 4 pups is common. By 3 months of age they are learning to hunt, and by September or October disperse to be on their own although they usually remain in their parents' home range.

Both the gray and red fox are omnivorous, and their primary food includes: small rodents, squirrels, rabbits, birds, eggs, insects, vegetation, fruit and carrion. Foxes cache excess food when the hunting/food is good.

## ***HELP WANTED: Volunteer Opportunities***

BBC can function and accomplish its goals only with the volunteer efforts of its members. There are many different projects you can help with. Time commitments vary from a few hours a year to a few hours every month. Many tasks require no special skills, only a willingness to help.

***Board Members/Board Secretary:*** Elections for Board members will be held at the Annual Meeting in November. Two new members will be needed this year. The Board meets monthly, and members are also involved in subcommittees and many other aspects of running our all-volunteer organization. There are nine Board members to split the work. We're especially in need of members who might be willing to serve as officers eventually. Experience as a BBC volunteer is a plus, but is not required. We're especially in need of candidates who would be willing to serve as Secretary. The BBC Secretary takes, distributes, and keeps minutes of all Board and BBC membership meetings and performs other organizational and record-keeping tasks. If you'd like to run, please get in touch with any member of the Nominating Committee (Alan Marvelli, Bill Williams, and Bob Zimmermann) or with Jim Reis, Volunteer Coordinator. (see below).

***Publicity Coordinator:*** Help us get the word out! Work with Board members, event organizers, the Webmaster, and our local media to let people know about BBC events and issues. You'll need good writing skills and access to the Internet; interest in developing and maintaining connections with our local media would be a plus.

***Fundraisers:*** We hope to be planning a fundraising campaign for a major land acquisition soon—stay tuned! We're likely to need people to work on mailings, call on local businesses, and apply for small grants. If you're interested in helping us find the funds to preserve an important piece of habitat, it's not too soon to let us know.

***Trail Maintenance and Invasive Plant Removal:*** Watch for notices for volunteer days at the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. Get outdoors and enjoy some time with others who love FLCA.

***What are your skills?*** If you'd like to be involved, but you don't see a task that fits your time or talents here, please talk with us!

**If you're interested in helping, please get in touch with BBC's Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Reis, at 586-0567**

## About Us

Broad Brook Coalition (BBC) is a nonprofit, all volunteer community organization dedicated to the preservation of open space and the promotion of affordable housing. BBC co-manages the 646-acre Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA) in cooperation with the Northampton Conservation Commission. It organizes volunteer days for trail improvement and maintenance and invasive species removal, runs educational Walks and Talks at FLCA, raises funds for the expansion of FLCA, and monitors land conservation and affordable housing issues.

## Broad Brook Coalition

### Board of Directors

2010-2011

Robert A. Zimmermann, President

Dave Hershops, Vice President

Alan Marvelli, Treasurer

Bruce Hart

Frank Olbris

Jim Reis

Bill Williams

Dick Wynne

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## 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 BBC are tax deductible.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a **Paperless** Newsletter

I've included an additional **tax deductible** contribution to the Land Acquisition Fund

Please do **not** include my name in any listing of contributors to Broad Brook Coalition

## Broad Brook Coalition needs your help, too!

We appreciate your membership dues, but want you to know that you can contribute in other ways, too.

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  Newsletter editor

Invasive species removal  Stewardship Committee; manages conservation area

Clerical help/mailings  Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee

Computer help  BBC Board of Directors

Writer/reporter for newsletter  Educational/recreational program planning or leadership

Fundraising campaigns  Walks and Talks

**Broad Brook Coalition**

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To receive occasional email alerts regarding BBC Walks and Talks and Volunteer Days, go to the website and look for “join the listserv” under the “events” tab at the top of the page.

**BROAD BROOK COALITION**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

*JOIN US*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2  
7:00PM**

**FLORENCE CIVIC CENTER**

**Florence, MA**

**Special presentation**

*City Planner* **WAYNE FEIDEN**

**NEW NATURE  
TRAIL GUIDE**

After several years out of print, the brochure for the Self-Guided Nature Trail at the FLCA has been extensively revised and will be available later this month in the box at the beginning of the Canoe Launch Boardwalk. We hope it will add to your enjoyment of a leisurely walk along the Boardwalk and around the Fishing Place-Lake Trail loop.