

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows  
Steering Committee Meeting**

March 31, 2004

Approved: 4/20/04

Present:

David White, chair	Laurel Carpenter
Mike Tabaczynski	Roly Chaput
Andrea Golden	Betty Wright
Sandra Ruggiero	Don Miller

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of 2/24/04 were approved.
2. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at the nursing home, with possible alternative location of the Waldorf School.

3. Invasive plants

Garlic mustard is only beginning to emerge, so April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be too soon for the work, but Saturday, April 10 should be good. We will work on both sides of AGM, beginning on the Waldorf School side and moving to the Peat Pond area as time allows. We will begin with the newest "infestations" and then work on the one or more well-established garlic mustard beds, leaving subsequent days to complete the job as necessary. Estimates of when Black swallowwort will be ready for removal varied between mid-May and the end of May.

See the attached grid for planned work days agreed to at this meeting. **Don** will contact Greg Mulkern after David has confirmed the minutes. If the number of volunteers available appears lean, **Don** will let **Mike** know so he can seek additional people.

Weed Wrenches (for pulling out shrubs such as multiflora rose and non-native honeysuckle or small trees such as Norway Maple): Betty said a small one costs \$140, but that we would need a larger one. **Don** will see if it would be possible to borrow one or two from the Friends of Hall's Pond.

What should be planted where invasives have been removed? **Roly** will ask Jim Marzilli what plants he has used in similar situations.

Application of Herbicide: Mike said it will cost \$400 to \$600 for Lexington DPW to spray from backpack sprayers. Our strong preference is to cut the stalk and dab a bit of herbicide on the top of the cut stalk, which would use more person hours and be much more expensive. The consensus was not to proceed with herbicide at this time.

For Japanese Knotweed, we agreed to try test plots of two techniques:

- A. Remove all last year's stalks and cover the area with black plastic, staking down the corners of the plastic so it does not blow away. Roly said he had used this method near Spy Pond.
- B. Cut the new shoots every two or three weeks. Mike reported that the Greenstreets project will be doing this approach and cutting every two weeks. Mike will ask them what they'll do with the cuttings.

The test plots will have signs explaining what we are doing, why it is important, and how the reader can help.

Supplies: **Mike** will get the large plastic bags, black plastic landscape cover – up to \$100 was the amount approved.

For Morrow's Honeysuckle, Betsy said to use weed wrench; the roots do not go deep. Dispose of the honeysuckle appropriately. Timing and approach to be discussed at the April meeting.

4. Plant Dumping

Dumping on path between Emerson Gardens and Peat Pond area: It appears that maintenance staff of Emerson Gardens may be responsible for the dumping of plant material, snow, and other debris, and for the storage of construction materials and equipment in this area. Others may be doing it also. The land does not belong to Emerson Gardens. **Don** will find out whom to contact at E. G., and then we'll discuss how best to approach them.

5. Financial Report: Mike announced the current balance of \$1943.51, and he handed out a report on contributions and expenditures, which are incorporated into these minutes by reference.
6. Trail Grant application: Mike has submitted the grant application. Expect to hear "by summer" according to the granting source, but it could be longer.
7. Eagle Scout Project: Mike said no progress yet. It was agreed that **Mike** should give the Eagle Scout candidate one last chance, complete with milestones and target dates. If the scout does not follow through on it, **Mike** will approach other candidates, of whom there appear to be a number.
8. Bird Boxes: **Don** will show **Roly** where the boxes are located, and they will discuss how to solve the problems with the two boxes -- the dropped trapdoor on the Waldorf side and the insecure attachment to the tree on the nursing home side. They may seek assistance from others in the actual repair of them.
9. Additional Vernal Pool(s): Sandra showed an extremely detailed aerial photograph of the AGM area, with vernal pools indicated. It seems to indicate one or possibly two more vernal pools on AGM property in the area of LCA and Circle Drive. **Sandra** will bring the one near the LCA to the attention of the school.
10. Mystic River Herring Run, May 2: It was decided not to have a presence there, but **David** will ask Janet Kovner to have FoAGM handouts available somewhere there. **Mike** will update the current handouts.
11. Lexington Discovery Day, May 29: Again, FoAGM handouts will be available there, but we won't staff a table.
12. School Programs: Sandra has arranged seven trips on six days for Arlington elementary school classes from April 29 through June 10. In order to not damage Peat Pond, only one of the trips will go there, the rest to Infinity

Pond. **Roly, Betty, and Andrea** agreed to help on May 27, when two classes will go on the same day. **Don** will contact the Clyde Tyler of the nursing home to request permission for one school bus and two cars to use his parking lot.

- 13.** Trash Removal: Clyde Tyler has reported that much trash and debris has been dumped over the embankment of his parking lot, and he requested that that material be removed when the DPW truck comes to pick up FoAGM-collected trash. With the Lexington budget being lean this year, and with the size and amount of trash we expect to pick up this year being much less than last year, our plan is to take the bags of trash to our homes for pick-up by our respective towns. Thus, a DPW pickup is not anticipated for FoAGM activities. **Don** will inform Clyde of this. It appears he will need to hire a hauler to remove the dumped material.
- 14.** Woodcock Walk: Andrea has planned two walks as follows: (1) Saturday, April 3 at 6:15pm and (2) Tuesday, April 27 beginning somewhat later in the evening (approximately 7:30). [Subsequently changed to Wed Apr 28.]
- 15.** Oriole Walk: An oriole walk will be done at AGM in connection with an Audubon-sponsored project to count oriole nests.
- 16.** The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Miller  
With some edits by Mike T. and David W. 4/4/04.

Attachment: Grid of work-day projects.

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows  
Invasive Plant Removal Work Days**  
(More Work Days May Be Added)  
March 31, 2004

**Note: All events below will held on Saturdays, from 9:00am to noon**

<b>Date</b>	<b>What to be Done and Where</b>	<b>FoAGM Leaders</b>	<b>Where to Meet</b>
April 10	Pull and dispose of garlic mustard. Start on the Waldorf side and, if time allows, move to the Peat Pond area. Begin with newer "infestations" and then move to older, more established patches.	Laurel Carpenter, Sandra Ruggiero, Betty Wright	Behind Waldorf School
April 24	Pick up trash on both sides of AGM and pull invasives, mostly garlic mustard	Mike T., Betty W., David W.	Nursing home
May 1	Invasives removal. Task and area depend on conditions and progress to date. Probably multi flora rose and more garlic mustard and perhaps others.	Betty, Mike	????
May 15	Begin on J. Knotweed, using two test plots. One will be "cut, clear, and cover" with black plastic. The other will be "cut, cut, cut" – cutting the new shoots every two weeks, thus depleting energy in the rhizomes. Test plots have yet to be chosen.	Laurel, Andrea, Mike	Waldorf School

**What volunteers should bring:**

**For garlic mustard**, gloves are NOT recommended, for one needs dexterity to grasp the small stems and pull them out carefully with roots attached.

**For trash, debris, and Japanese Knotweed**, work gloves are recommended.