

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows  
Steering Committee Meeting  
April 20, 2004  
Approved**

Present: David White, Mike Tabaczynski, John Bartenstein, Sandra Ruggiero, Laurel Carpenter, Don Miller

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one technical correction.
2. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 7:30pm at the Waldorf High School.
3. Finance report: Mike said no changes since the last meeting.
4. Laurel Carpenter was invited to be a member of the FoAGM Steering Committee, with her term beginning officially on June 1, 2004 and going through May 31, 2007. The vote by the members of the Steering Committee had been taken by email prior to the meeting.

RESOURCE MATTERS

5. Sign Project: Mike gave Alex, the Eagle Scout candidate with whom he has been discussing the project, a deadline of May 31 of this year to make significant progress on the project. Alex said the project has not yet been approved by those within scouting who must approve it and that he will get back to Mike. If this does not work out, Mike has another Eagle Scout candidate in mind and there appear to be others interested in such a project, also.
6. Kiosk and Materials: **Laurel** will ask Greg Mulkern if any of his Arlington High School students would like to maintain the kiosk with materials such as bird lists or information on invasive plants, vernal pools and similar topics. There might be some items which would be there regularly and others which would change from time to time.
7. Bird Boxes: No progress yet on fixing the bottom trap-door on one and securing the other to the tree in a better fashion. **David** will draft a letter of appreciation to the Waldorf School shop class which made the two boxes.
8. Dumping at Sickle Brook: There is much dumping just around the corner from where the bike bath crosses Sickle Brook, mostly lawn

and garden waste, probably done by people of the neighborhood. A sign with reasons for not dumping there was thought to be a good idea. **John** will obtain the regulations on dumping from the towns of Lexington and Arlington. Mike will get the letter which the Town of Lexington [**? please confirm**] distributed with regard to dumping for possible use as a model for us to leave at the home of each neighbor. With regard to dumping near Emerson Gardens, **Sandra** will ask a resident of the complex whom she knows about who best to contact within the management of Emerson Gardens. The Sheila Road entrance has dumping, probably by neighbors, also.

9. Clean-up on Saturday, April 24, 9:00am to noon, starting at the nursing home parking lot. Mike and Betty and probably also Laurel and John will attend.

#### INVASIVES

10. Garlic Mustard: Laurel reported on the garlic mustard pull of April 10th. There is much garlic mustard still along the bike path, probably too much to pull. Laurel suggested using a weed whacker. Additional invasives pulling days will address garlic mustard in other areas, also.
11. Japanese Knotweed: Mike will lead a group on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Prior to that, the areas which will be used for the two different methods (“cut, cut, cut” and “cut, clear, and cover”) need to be determined and staked out. It was agreed that we need a site visit before May 22<sup>nd</sup> to make these decisions. The plastic which Mike obtained for the “cut, clear, and cover” method is 50’ by 10’. It was determined that the old stalks and the cuttings of new shoots do not need to be taken away and incinerated, but any rhizomes which are pulled up do require incineration. Everyone should bring gloves on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mike will bring loppers; we’ll need some small tools [**?can we be more specific?**], which participants are encouraged to bring.

For “cut, cut, cut”, we will need lots of volunteers for the first day of cutting, then get them to sign up to take specific days thereafter. Mike will make a schedule for every two weeks, and hopefully volunteers will sign up for them. The size of the “cut, cut, cut” plot should be of the size that a bi-weekly cutting of the plot can be done in two person hours.

12. Weed Wrenches: It was agreed to borrow them from Habitat. Sandra is willing to call Habitat when we eventually need them.
13. Black Swallowwort: At the next meeting, **Andrea** will report on the black swallowwort situation.
14. A revised version of the invasives events and clean-up events appears as the final page of these minutes.
15. Handouts: **David** will update the handout. **Don** will check the mission statement to be sure it includes most recent revisions we agreed to some months ago. **Don** agreed to mock up a business-card-sized handout which FoAGM members can carry with them to give to people who show interest, to include the logo, web address, how to sign up for the email list, etc.. Mike has started a pocket-sized map of AGM.
16. Fires: A number of small fires have been lit in AGM. One near the bike path burned an area of Japanese knotweed stalks.
17. New Trees: **Mike** will explore obtaining free trees to plant in AGM, particularly for areas where we hope to close existing trails.
18. School Trips: Sandra said school trips scheduled for April 29 and May 27 [**Sandra, is this correct?**] will need to be re-scheduled due to the school not being able to obtain busses. She will take care of it.
19. Oriole Nest Count: **David** will ask Andrea for an update.
20. Program Ideas: **David** will look into a bird walk. A pond-dipping excursion was also suggested.
21. Vernal Pools: David said there are one or more potential vernal pools near the \_\_\_\_\_ Road entrance. **[Please correct this as necessary.]**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller

Attachment: Work Days in 2004

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows  
Work Days in 2004 – Invasives and Clean-up  
As Updated April 20, 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, Andrea, Mike	????
May 15	Invasives: Garlic mustard and black swallowwort.	Andrea	???
May 22	Begin on J, Knotweed, using two test plots. One will be "cut, clear, and cover" (CCC) with black plastic. The other will be "cut, cut, cut" (CCC!) – cutting the new shoots every two weeks, thus depleting energy in the rhizomes. Test plots need to be selected and staked out ahead of time – date of that activity to be determined.	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.

**For Japanese Knotweed:** Gloves, small tools to cut such as hand pruners. Mike can bring loppers.