

June 2010

FEPG FRIENDS OF EASTON PUBLIC GARDENS



To preserve and enhance the Town of Easton's public gardens, historical landmarks, memorials, public buildings and lands, private trust areas, parks and conservation areas and to promote education and public awareness, town beautification and roadside improvements

In this issue...

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Useful Resources & Links](#)
- [Gardening Quotes of the Day](#)
- [Past Events](#)
- [A Message From Our President](#)
- [Join FEPC](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save these dates!

June 15, 7:30 pm - Board meeting at Jeanne Ebert's home, 95 Sheridan Street, North Easton, MA. All members are welcome.

June 22, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Easton Landscapes: Natural & Manmade at

INVITATION - PLANTING & WEEDING AT THE QUESET GARDENS on SUNDAY, JUNE 13th, 9-11AM

Please forward this invitation to friends and family and spread the word!

Friends of Easton Public Gardens extends an invitation to join us at Queset Gardens behind the Ames Free Library in North Easton Village Sunday morning, June 13th from 9-11 am. Everyone is welcome to commune with nature, meet new friends and have the opportunity to give back to the community. *Bring gloves, garden tools, kneeling pad, picnic lunch and a blanket.*



Main Library, 53 Main Street. Walk with Ed Hands through Queset Garden and the Rockery. Sponsored by the library.

June 24, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Easton Landscapes: Natural & Manmade at Sheep Pasture, 307 Main Street. Walk with Ed Hands from the Sheep Pasture to the Langwater Conservation area. Bring a picnic lunch! Sponsored by the library.

July 6, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Easton Landscapes: Natural & Manmade at Wheaton Farm. Walk with Ed Hands through Wheaton Farm. Sponsored by the library.

July 6, 7:30 pm - Board meeting at Jeanne Ebert's home, 95 Sheridan Street, North Easton, MA. All members are welcome.

July 20, 7:30 pm - Board meeting at Queset House. All members are welcome.

Meet Our Board of Directors

Do you recognize some of us? We're your fellow Easton citizens who are interested in taking a "hands-on" role to help beautify our beloved town! We encourage you to join us, ask questions about FEPG or simply send us an email to say "Hi."

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video about Queset Gardens renovation (by Burt Lewis, www.eastonmass.com).

The Italian garden at Queset was designed by Winthrop Ames and located behind or just west of Ames Free Library, the Rockery Memorial Cairn and adjacent to the notable Queset House where he was living at the time. Broadway producer and playwright, Ames designed the garden in 1911 as a venue for impromptu performances by acclaimed house guests as well as receptions and graduations. The garden is planned in the Italianate style with formal, symmetrical layouts and more greens than flowers. Other features include a reflecting pool, garden statuary and, of course, elaborate masonry, carved pergola and stage. Since the passing of Winthrop Ames after the late 1930's, the garden fell into serious disrepair. As with any untended garden, overgrowth of existing plantings and invasion of foreign specimens completely overtook the garden, pool and stage obscuring it from public view. In 2009, the Ames Free Library reclaimed "ownership" of the garden with a 99 year lease. Local resident and naturalist Katherine Holland discovered this hidden treasure and painstakingly researched and prepared a restorative replica of the original plans. A small handful of residents, most notably Jim Carlino and Gloria Freitas, among others, took on the massive reclaiming effort and together with local CPA funding have begun the transformation. Ongoing care and attention have resulted in the uncovering of the reflecting pool, the stage and stone walls.

How exciting that finally, the garden is prepared to be planted! Generous donations of time and materials will recapture yet another local gift and landmark. In addition to overseeing the garden's restoration, the library will be working with local organizations such as the Friends of Easton Public Gardens to ensure the enjoyment of this treasure for residents and patrons for generations to come.

Please join us for some instant gratification as we plant some new memories to remember forever....

For more information contact Nancy Cohenno at 508-238-0004 or nancyc314@aol.com. Please also visit our website at www.friendsofeastonpublicgardens.org for upcoming events!

Did you notice? Rockery weeds are history...for now anyway!

On Sunday, May 23rd, FEPG met at the Rockery to pull weeds, trim branches and generally beautify the area. As with many of our most significant local landmarks the Rockery, also known as the Memorial Cairn, was commissioned by the philanthropy of an Ames family industrialist, Oakes Angier Ames. In April, 1882, landscape architect

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Useful Resources & Links

[Friends of Easton Public
Gardens](http://www.friendsofeastonpublicgardens.org)

www.friendsofeastonpublicgardens.org

[Town of Easton
Website www.easton.ma.us](http://www.easton.ma.us)
/

[Easton Lion's](#)

Frederic Law Olmsted (most recognized for his design of New York's Central Park, Boston Public Garden and the rest of Boston's Emerald Necklace) created this war memorial for North Easton's citizens who sacrificed their lives in the Civil War. As the focal point for two adjacent H.H. Richardson buildings, the memorial also features a public area and carriage promenade. Olmsted described the monumental boulder construction as the most enduring in the world. With the beautiful plants rooted and embracing the structure, the Rockery is far more interesting and pleasing to the eye than those constructed of massive masonry and elaborate carving. Further explanation exposes his symbolism of plant and stone to peace taming war. The Easton Historical Commission has been working tirelessly to rescue, preserve and restore this beautiful monument. Ongoing research and grant requests continue to be dovetailed with citizen interest and enthusiasm.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to those who volunteered their time and effort at our first successful weeding event held at the Rockery. And **THANK YOU**, too, to our very young volunteers who willingly performed the "who likes butter" test with the Buttercup weeds!



[Club www.eastonlions.com](http://www.eastonlions.com)

[Ames Free Library www.amesfreelibrary.org](http://www.amesfreelibrary.org)

[Watch a YouTube video about Queset Gardens renovations](#) (Thank you to Burt Lewis of www.eastonmass.com)

Learn more about Queset Gardens at [The Italian Garden at Queset, The Cultural Landscape Foundation](#) (www.tclf.org)

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign yourself and friends up to receive the FEPG newsletter (*Please note: recipients may unsubscribe at any time*)

Gardening Quotes of The Day



"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."--Claude Monet

"There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at



A Message From Our President

I would like to start off by saying "thanks" to all the helping hands at the weeding event at the Rockery. In short time we had the Rockery back in fine shape! In total we pulled out 3 cubic yards of weeds and waste off the site which was hauled away by McGuire Landscape Co., Mansfield, MA to a compost pile. The Turf Medic, Inc., Sharon, MA, donated an application of Shrub Bed Weed Control to help keep the Rockery weed free until we are able to mulch the beds. "Thanks" to both companies for their generous assistance.

While FEPG activities may be physically limited to the landscape, civic pride and awareness are nurtured by these friendly get-togethers with fellow citizens, neighbors and friends. During the weeding at the Rockery, topics of conversation among our weeders and rakers ranged from local town politics to the Daisy Sock Hop. It was a fun day for everyone involved. We also had time to talk with members about areas of need where FEPG may be able to help. Moving forward we will tackle many tasks, meet many new faces, and learn and grow as well.

Our next stop is Queset Gardens. I hope to see many of you there! The opportunities that this historical restoration project offers are so amazing: from a place to read a book, sit and look at the landscape to an evening night away with music and friends. Please stop by, bring a rake and a bucket to help pull weeds, meet new friends and connect with old ones.

Easton's trails are also a hot topic for me. We have a great maze out there in need of management. In the upcoming weeks I hope to see many of you at a similar 2-hour weeding event combined with a group social afterwards (date to be announced). The larger the group, the more miles we'll be able to cover. If you like the outdoors, we need you! You can help clearing the trails by pulling back dead limbs and picking up trash. Please contact a FEPG's board member for more details.

With dirty hands and a green thumb,

their work, you would find them smiling." --Mirabel Osler

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

--Greek proverb

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."-- Aristotle

"Kiss of the sun for pardon. Song of the birds for mirth. You're closer to God's heart in a garden than any place else on earth." -- Dorothy Frances Gurney

Todd Sandstrum

Join FEPG

If you like to get down and dirty with activities like planting, weeding, raking and pruning - and have fun doing it, we encourage you to join our group!

Membership information:*

- **Individual/Family membership** - \$25 per year*
- **Contributor** - \$100 per year*
- **Patron** - \$500 per year*
- **Benefactor** - \$1,000 per year*

Please mail checks to FEPG, 32 Columbus Ave., N. Easton, MA 02356

*Membership fees are necessary to offset administration, insurance and fees. Additional donations provide the means for landscaping materials, education and program facilitation. **All paying and donating members (donation values of \$25 or more) will receive a discount pass to participating Easton businesses.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to join FEPG.

Friends of Easton Public Gardens (FEPG) is a not-for-profit corporation established to preserve and enhance the Town of Easton's public gardens, parks, historical landmarks and conservation areas and to promote education and public awareness, town beautification and roadside improvements. For more information related to MA not-for-profit organizations, please visit: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cor/corweb/corpn/npfrm.htm>

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