

# Arboretum Notes



## FRIENDS of the ACTON ARBORETUM

June 2006 | Volume 10 | Issue 2

### Our Mission

To raise and donate funds, materials and services to the Town of Acton for the development and maintenance of the Acton Arboretum; to educate the community about the unique environmental, horticultural, geological and historical qualities of the Arboretum property, about the process of wetland and field succession, and, in an era of decreasing public funds and natural resources, about conservation, effective horticultural practice; and generally to do all the things permitted to non profit organizations under the provisions of Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts and Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1984, as from time to time they are amended.

#### BECOME A MEMBER

FRIENDS of the ACTON  
ARBORETUM, INC.

P.O. Box 2607  
Acton, MA 01720



### The Friends Celebrate 20th Anniversary of the Acton Arboretum

*Tours, Demonstrations and Exhibits acquainted visitors with what the Arboretum has to offer*

The Friends of the Acton Arboretum sponsored *Discover the Acton Arboretum Day* on Sunday, May 21 from 10–4 pm. Under a festive tent, exhibits abounded: Invasive Plants by member and Land Steward Committee Chairman Jim Snyder-Grant with materials supplied by the New England Wildflower Society, Acton Bluebird Recovery by member Nan Towle Millet, Bird Workshop by Girl Scout Sarah Minkoff to earn her Silver Award, and the Friends of the Acton Arboretum Information table with photos and tour guides of Arboretum points of interest. Visitors enjoyed tours of the Arboretum: Acton Historical Society member and Friends Board member Belle Choate explored clues of the property's past on a tour that examined trees, paths, rocks, and water features; Jim Snyder-Grant led a tour to point out examples of invasive plants; Tom Tidman and Boot Boutwell each discussed wildlife and shrub identification on their tour. Cathy Hatfield introduced plans for the CPA project recently approved to construct handicapped accessible trail to the new lilac collection and fragrance garden. Judy Dembsey, Sue Whitcomb, Joan Yatteau and Bruce Carley were on hand to share their knowledge of the Hosta Garden, Herb Garden, Butterfly Garden and Wildflower Gardens, as caretakers of these Arboretum features. Ken Mayer, Commercial Sales Manager for Weston Nurseries and Friends Board member, demonstrated planting and pruning shrubs, including a Harry Lauder's Walking Stick and a lilac. A cake ceremony was a highlight at midday, when we showed our appreciation of Tom Tidman, Town of Acton Natural Resources Director, who has been an instrumental force in the evolution of the Acton Arboretum since 1987.



**PHOTOS:** Top, left to right: Exhibit tent with Friends Information table in front; Tom Tidman receives gifts, a Friends of the Acton Arboretum sweatshirt and Tom Wessels's book, *The Granite Landscape*, from President Cathy Fochtman; the Anniversary Cake. Bottom: H.S. Seniors mulch rhododendrons on their Community Service Day, April 28, 2006.

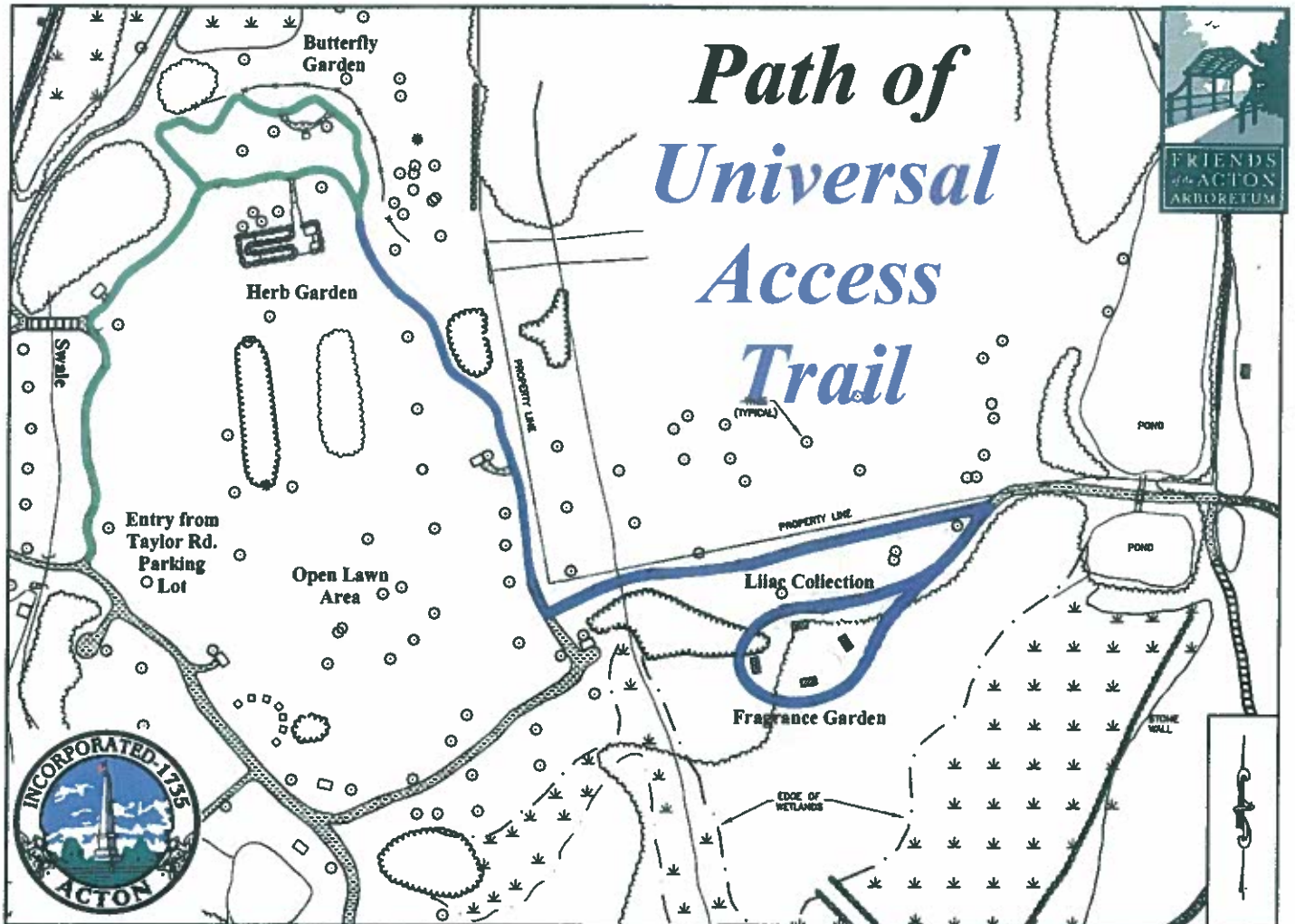
# Town Receives CPA Grant for Universal Trail

*It opens a large part of the Arboretum to an underserved population: visitors with wheelchairs, canes and walkers and the legally blind.*

A \$24,000 proposal by the Town of Acton to build a Universal Access trail to the Lilac and Fragrance collection was approved by the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting this spring. This proposal was supported by the Friends of the Acton Arboretum, and Cathy Hatfield is to be commended for her many hours of project leadership. This out-and-back trail passes the existing Swale, Butterfly and Herb Gardens. As pictured below, the blue line repre-

sents 850 feet of new handicapped accessible trail that will begin where the green trails from the Herb Garden and Butterfly Garden merge. It continues along the Orchard Loop and makes a left onto the Wildflower Loop, toward the Farm Pond. It turns back toward a clearing that has been made to accommodate the Lilac Collection and future Fragrance Garden. A black walnut tree is centered where the trail loops back to return to the Wildflower Loop. The features of the handicapped accessi-

ble trail will include: a 5' width; the surface will be smooth, firm and compacted with no protrusions and with color and texture change between the trail and trail edge; the side-to-side and running slope is within guidelines of 2% and 5%, respectively; any running slope greater than 5% will be stabilized; resting areas will be spaced about every 200 feet; resting benches with backs and arms to be donated by the Friends will have a 3' x 5' stable surface next to the bench.



*The charm of a woodland road lies not only in its beauty but in anticipation.*

*Around each bend may be a discovery, an adventure.*

EDDIE REX COMAN

## WHO ARE THE FRIENDS?

We are a group of citizens who care about the natural world and share a vision of preserving and enhancing our natural resources for educational purposes. Friends contribute time, money, plants and other gifts and talents in support of the Acton Arboretum in order to achieve these goals.

Membership benefits for Friends include: a biannual newsletter, seasonal walks, talks and workshops, and civic pride in a special gift of land used for enjoyment and education.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a  NEW MEMBER  RETURNING MEMBER

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

INDIVIDUAL | \$15     FAMILY | \$25     SUPPORTING | \$40     CORPORATE | \$100

CONTACT ME FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Commemorative gifts, honoring marriages, births, deaths or other special dates, are gratefully accepted and recorded in a commemorative listing.

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL TO: FRIENDS OF THE ACTON ARBORETUM, INC. | P.O. BOX 2607 | ACTON, MA 01720

## President's Message

Join us on Thursday, June 22nd for the Friends Annual Meeting

Dear Friends,

It has been an eventful spring at the Arboretum. This year marks the 20th anniversary year of its inception, and the Friends extended an invitation to the public to come and experience *Discover the Acton Arboretum Day* on May 21, 2006. It was well attended. To help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Acton Arboretum, please share your thoughts about the Arboretum in a letter, handwritten or typed, and send it to the Friends, Post Office Box 2607, Acton, MA 01720. It needn't be long, merely heartfelt. Letters will be collected in a notebook and added to the arboretum's historical files for future events and anniversaries. Expressions of your enjoyment of this marvelous place, reflections on the value of the arboretum to this community, and recollections of people who have been involved in its growth and of activities that have helped shape the Arboretum over 20 years are welcome.

The Universal trail project was approved by the Community Preservation Committee and by Town Meeting. Construction will begin this summer. Three pine trees in declining health were removed this winter from the Hosta Garden. Replacement trees have been selected and will be planted, with generous funding from Cyndy Guy, in memory of her brother Jim, an Acton Arboretum fan and Concord resident. The trees include a *Sophora japonica* 'Regent' (Japanese Scholar tree), a *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold' (Ginkgo), and a *Syringa*



PHOTO: A catbird discovered at rest during the Anniversary Day.

*reticulata* 'Ivory Silk' (Japanese tree lilac). Thirty members of the ABRHS graduating class of 2006 joined our volunteers in mulching the Hosta, Butterfly, Nursery, Lilac and Rhododendron collections, and raking paths on Friday, April 28th.

Since it is dues renewal time, please check your mailing label for the last date you renewed. We appreciate your continued support. The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Acton Arboretum, Inc. takes place on Thursday, June 22, 2006, at the Reading Circle in the Arboretum at 6:30 P.M. (We meet at Town Hall in case of rain). A two-part business meeting will follow a short social. After the meeting, as daylight allows, we will take a walk through the Arboretum to discuss upcoming projects. Please join us.

Cathy Fochtman, President

# Arboretum Notes



## What's Happening



*The Friends Celebrate Discover  
the Acton Arboretum Day*

*The Universal Trail Project*

*Membership Application and  
President's Message*

*PHOTO: Five varieties of fragrant Daffodils  
planted in the Daylily Collection last fall by  
the Acton Garden Club Junior Gardeners  
bloomed this spring.*

## Inside this Issue:

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Acton Arboretum is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2006. It will begin at 6:30 pm at the Acton Arboretum Reading Circle. An informal walk will follow the business meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will

be moved to Acton Town Hall, and the meeting room will be posted in the lobby. All members of the Friends of the Acton Arboretum are invited to attend.

*Arboretum Notes was produced by  
Cathy Fochtman. Photos by Jack  
Yatteau and Cathy Fochtman.*