

Supporting Cocasset River Recreation Area

FOCSA Friends of Camp St. Augustine

PO Box 536, Foxborough, MA 02035

www.focsafoxboro.org

May 14, 2010

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope that you have been enjoying all the beauty of Spring in Foxboro! We are so fortunate for all the natural areas in our town that we can connect with and that make our community special. As one of the best inland south towns to live in, our conservation lands are a key attraction for home buyers, per Boston Magazine's "2010 Best Towns to Live In".

In March, FOCSA launched our first e-newsletter. If you are receiving this letter, it is because we do not have your email address and we would encourage you to join our list to receive this new format as well as special event alerts. This will allow you to receive all of our program and activity information on a timely basis, as well as keep up with how we are doing on special projects and initiatives. You will be able to connect via the e-newsletter for chapel rentals and there will be useful links and information from other land and wildlife preservation and advocacy groups. In addition to connecting with you more frequently, the digital newsletter allows us to re-purpose the funds that had been used for our printed newsletter in the past, while conserving on ink and paper use.

To sign up for the FOCSA Footprints E-Newsletter go to www.focsafoxboro.org. Simply insert your email address into the "Join our email list and receive our e-newsletter" button on the lower left of the FOCSA homepage. Or you can email: info@focsafoxboro.org and you will be added to the list. We look forward to hearing from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Celebrate "National Trails Day" with a "Preview Hike of the CRRA Hiking and Nature Trail"
Sunday, June 6th, 2-4 pm**

Have you had the opportunity to hike the CRRA trails that also cross over 100+ acres of conservation, water and DCR lands? This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about all they have to offer and about this new enhanced and marked trail system, scheduled to be completed by the end of next year. We will also be celebrating American Hiking Society's National Trails Day[®], which is in its 17th year and honors all the volunteers and supporters of our nation wide trail system. Join us with Bill Hocking, former Conservation Chair and Ron Clough, Supervisor of the F. Gilbert Hills State Forest as we take a "Walk Through Time". We will learn about glacial and bedrock geology, wildlife and plant habitats and their diversity as changes occur—right on our own town and state lands. For more info go to www.focsafoxboro.org and click on "Events". To register for this hike, email: info@focsafoxboro.org.

**Dragon and Damselflies with Audubon Naturalist, Christopher Leahy
Saturday, June 26th, 10am-2pm**

This is one of Mass Audubon's most popular programs and we are very fortunate to have Christopher Leahy as our presenter and guide. You will have the opportunity to observe these ordinals close up and to learn techniques and markers for identifying some of the more common species. Their unique characteristics and size make them one of the most intriguing groups of insects for scientists and the public. This Chapel Meeting House event will include a lecture and slide presentation as well as a hike in the State Forest nearby. To learn more, go to www.focsafoxboro.org and click on "Events". Or contact Mary MacDonald: 508 698 9320.

How Are We Doing?

We are very fortunate, again, to have great sponsors supporting our Event Series this year as well as other projects. Gold Sponsors, Invensys and the Helen Ray Biggane Trust, not only have contributed to our events but also to the Hiking and Nature Trail project and the new Chapel Walkway each donating \$2,500. Generous Silver Sponsors once again include: ProMedDx, Foxboro Rotary, Sharon Credit Union, and Barrows Insurance Agency. We are also very grateful for our new Silver Sponsor, Rockland Trust. Rodman Ford, once again, has given their wonderful support as a Bronze Sponsor along with Randolph Insurance and also, a new sponsor (but long time friend!), Tree Tech. We are proud to share that we have received a grant for our Japanese Drumming Event in September from the Foxboro Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

This past winter a new and improved ADA ramp and deck was installed on the side of the Chapel. We now have all of the funding needed for the new Chapel walkway and we look forward to its installation this summer. This will be an exposed aggregate walk. This will allow for easier access and less wear and tear on the Chapel as well as on patrons shoes!!

Aluminum, vinyl clad trail markers are being ordered for the New Trail System. This will be the first step in enhancing the trails and making them more user friendly. A professional trail map handout is also well underway. We hope to hear on two grants that we have applied for by mid summer. Receipt of these awards will determine what other actions we can undertake this year toward completion of this new proposed system. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Chapel Meeting House Rentals

We are pleased to report that it has been a busy spring thus far for Chapel. The Chapel has been hosting baby and wedding showers, birthdays and even its first wedding of the season, since it opened in April. Graduation parties are coming up in June and Yoga Classes and Children's Movement and Music Classes continue. Please keep this charming, very affordable facility in mind for your next special event or club meeting. For rental information and to book go to www.chapelmeetinghouse.org. You can also call FOCSA President, Chuck Drayton at 508 543 7295 should you have any questions.



Our recent April wedding at the Chapel

As always, we welcome your comments, ideas and questions. We are grateful for your volunteer, financial and general support. We feel truly blessed for all the generosity from the many organizations that we collaborate with and depend on. We are equally grateful that many of them also make creative use of Cocasset River Recreation Area.

We hope that you have a terrific summer and we look forward to seeing you at CRRRA at an event or on the trails, enjoying this unique Foxboro asset.

Sincerely,

Maria Kent
Community Relations
info@focsafoxboro.org

