

The Leaflet

Fall 2018

Protect the past, Improve the present, Plan for the future

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E.T. in the Park

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‘Seven-Son’ Tree is a Late Bloomer

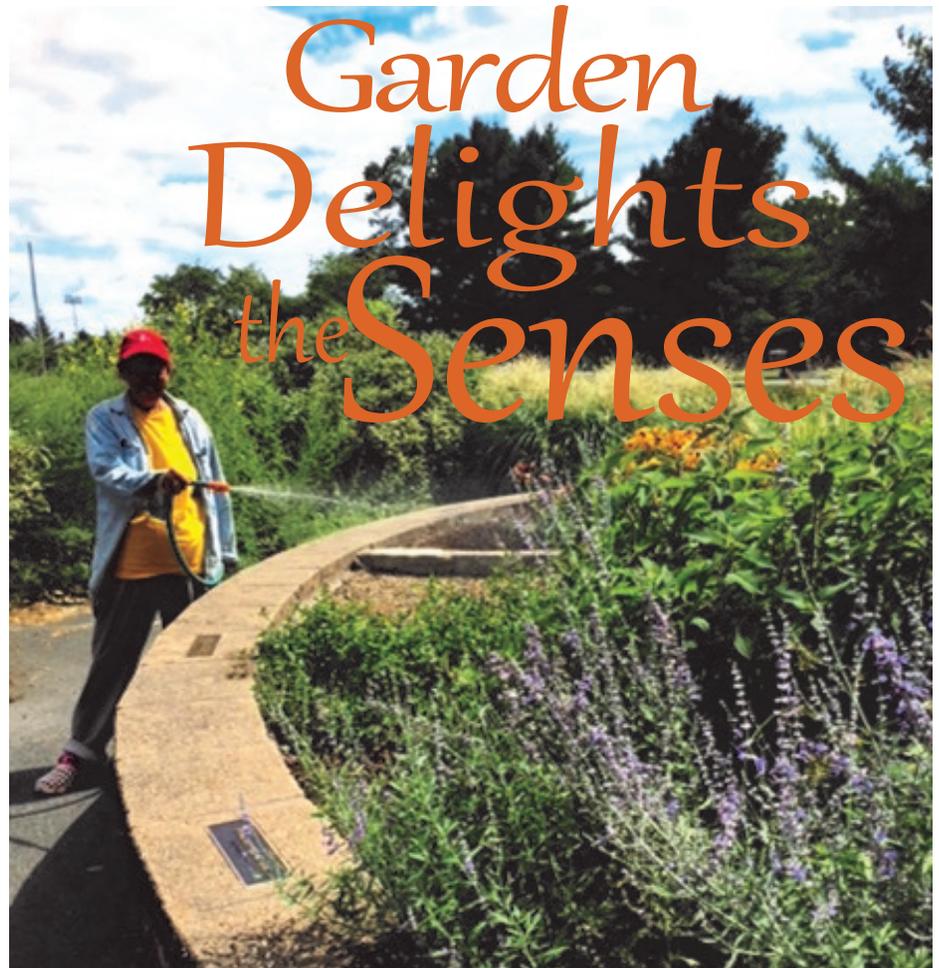
Is Lichen Harmful?

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Connie Mayer, our newest board member, waters the Sensory Garden — made easier using one of the hoses purchased with your gifts. *Thank you for your caring and generous support.*

The Sensory Garden — adjacent to the playground — with its accessible display of colorful flowers, shrubs, ornamental grasses, and fragrant herbs, **creates a “multi-sensory experience”** for all. As with any garden, keeping up with the weeding, watering, and pruning is a challenge, especially during periods of extreme heat and drought conditions such as those experienced this summer. Multiple watering during the week has recently been made easier with the purchase of hoses which are easily stored.

Board members are working to restore this beautiful space by adding additional plantings that, once again, correspond to the Braille plaques. If you would like to join them, or know someone who can help with the maintenance of this and other gardens in the park, please email friends@buttonwoodpark.org

“Coffee in the Dell” — A Special Gathering in an Ideal Setting Because of Donors Like You



Volunteers set up refreshments near the Monarch Butterfly Garden you helped create

Against a backdrop of lovely gardens, a working fountain, and stately trees, new friendships were made and old friends reacquainted during the 2nd “Coffee in the Dell” event this past June.

Along with coffee, cider, bottled water, and a delicious assortment of donuts, attendees were treated to a variety of newspapers.

Board member Frank Farrell led tours in the Arboretum joined by Professor emeritus Jim Sears who was instrumental in creating the Buttonwood Brook Wetlands Buffer Garden.

Our thanks to Dunkin’ Donuts for the generous donations and to all the participants who made this Sunday morning in Buttonwood Park so very special.

We are especially grateful for your loyal support of the Friends’ mission.



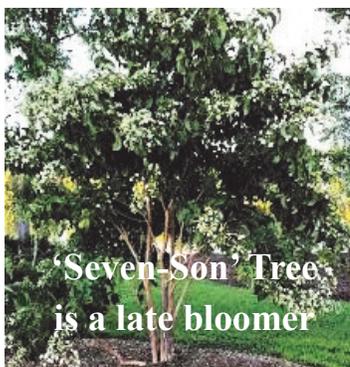
Library Landscape Welcomes Patrons and Passersby

The Friends, with your generous support, continue to maintain the grounds surrounding the Lawler Library — including the Reading Area in back — by weeding, mulching, and pruning the gardens throughout the seasons. Two concrete planters at the entrance are filled each spring, and new plantings are added periodically.

Among the various plantings are a Japanese maple, several azaleas and rhododendrons, a weeping cherry, and a butterfly bush. The Kousa dogwood, with its red berries, is hard to miss at this time of year. If you haven’t stopped by lately, the grounds are worth a closer look!



Your support helps maintain the gardens at the Lawler Library



‘Seven-Son’ Tree is a late bloomer

Tree Honoring Youth Group is Not To Be Overlooked

The ‘Seven-Son’ tree, or shrub, (*Heptacodium miconioides*) displays fragrant, white flowers starting in late summer, but retains year-round interest.

In 2010 the small tree — which only grows to about 20 feet — was planted on Lake Street behind the Lawler Library to honor the young men and women of *PACE-YouthBuild* who helped create the Wetlands Buffer Garden in collaboration with the Friends and worked to clear overgrown brush in the North Woods.

Summer Event More Than Just Watching a Movie

The Friends regret what went wrong at this summer's movie event...but there was also a lot that went right

For many who came out to see the movie *E.T.*, the problems with the sound system and the movie starting too early was a big disappointment. But for others, time spent with friends and family — enjoying a gorgeous evening outdoors, breathing the fresh night air, and just relaxing in a lawn chair or on a blanket spread over cool grass — made the outing worthwhile.

Several young children — proudly stepping up with money in hand to buy snacks — were surprised and happy to hear that the bottled water, popcorn, and candy bars were free.

Despite the problems of timing and poor sound quality, the event managed to provide a respite for many in the city, thanks to your commitment to the Friends and love of the park. Still...we promise to do better next time.



Because of your support, families enjoy a lovely summer evening

Thanks to You, the Friends are Ever Vigilant in the Park



When lichen was recently spotted covering the trunk and branches of the Katsura Tree in the Arboretum — loved for its distinctive heart-shaped leaves — it prompted the question: **Is lichen dangerous to the health of a tree?**

Lichen, which is not a moss, is composed of two or more organisms. It is not harmful and can be found on most surfaces, including rocks, soil, and most slow-growing trees which do not frequently shed their bark.

The organisms provide mutual sustenance, allowing the lichen to exist. Any changes — such as dead branches or leaves falling prematurely — allow more sunlight which increases the lichen, signaling potential problems.

Lichen may be a sign of potential problems

With your support, the Friends will continue keeping a watchful eye on areas that need attention.

New Butterfly Garden Successfully Hosts Caterpillars Before Next Cycle



Friends of Buttonwood Park is an all-volunteer (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1986

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Please visit us at
buttonwoodpark.org

Mission Statement

*'Stewardship, Protection,
Renewal'*

Our mission is the maintenance and improvement of the park with a focus on supporting and executing projects and activities that contribute to the physical and mental well-being of our urban population — while protecting and preserving the park as a historic landscape.

Can Buttonwood Park Survive Without the Friends?

The simple answer, of course, is YES. But the park — lacking your support — won't look anything like it does today...nor will several, exciting future projects be realized.

We need your help now! The Friends is urgently looking to add new members to its Board of Directors and fill numerous committees.

If you have been thinking of joining the board, or volunteering in any capacity — or know someone who has — now is the time to act. Buttonwood Park needs you!

Do you have the time, talent, experience, and commitment to serve? The latter is the most important qualification. Everything else we can figure out together! (*You don't even have to join the board to be on a committee.*)

Please contact the Friends for additional information, or to set up a time for a meeting. And if you would like to sit in on one of our monthly board meetings, you are always welcome.

email friends@buttonwoodpark.org

Friends Discuss Organic Solution to Pond's Algae Problem

Friends President, Richard Leary, discussed the important issue of algae control at a recent meeting with Mary Raposa, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches, and City Councilor, Scott Lima.

Advanced Marine Technologies — which has had success in dealing with algae problems in the south — would now like to see if their system of **"biological control"** can work in the northern parts of the country as well. Working in conjunction with UMass Dartmouth and the city, the local company would use its product, **Organic Gem** — a plant fertilizer that includes organisms — to eliminate the algae. If successful, this would be a wonderful way to rid Buttonwood Pond of excess algae without the addition of chemicals.

The historic Warming House (the Senior Center) — one of several projects in the park built by the WPA in the 1930s — has been closed for several months while undergoing extensive renovations. The estimated date for reopening the building is mid-November.



Professor emeritus Jim Sears lectures on the history of the park's Yoshino cherry trees

