

Benton Beach Beacon



June 1995

Double Work Days at Benton Beach --Grand Accomplishments!--

by Joel Helander

The coordinators for this year's work day, Marjorie Spalding and Carolyn Helander, tried something new. When they canvassed family members to match work teams with specific jobs, they scheduled in Saturday for those who couldn't attend Sunday. Double work days with grand accomplishments were the result.

On Saturday, May 20, the Spalding-Chemacki-Falvey contingency sanded and prepped the exterior of the Beach House for painting. It was long and tedious work. They also raked/removed flotsam from the beach and meadow, rebuilt the fireplace, refurbished the parking lot sign, installed new hinges on the outhouse door, and laid the deck tops. Forrest Helander X-braced the dock with furring strips and re-laid the deck stringer timbers.

The next day, Sunday, was another glorious day with sunshine and a ripple of breeze. Troops from the Cabrera-Collinson-Fales-Helander-Ott-Schaefer-Whelan families reported to the beach. Kasha Benton and Roger Benton, Bo

and Suzanne Huhn, and Kim Workinger also joined forces - 30 people in all. Thanks to the accomplishments made by the Saturday work party, there was unusually good spirits.

The sea air and hardy work braced up enormous appetites. A ton of sandwiches (ham n' cheese, PBJ, chicken) and all kinds of beverages and other snacks seemed to appear from nowhere. There was a gala picnic on the old beach.

Towards 5:00 p.m., the checklist of chores had been largely crossed off, including: two new coats of gleaming paint ("Seascape Green") on the Beach House, picnic table repairs, new redwood paint on most of the picnic tables, repair of the eroded lawn at the entrance of the big breakwater, extensive beach raking, replacement of four worm-eaten cedar poles in the "T" of the dock, placement of dock tops, re-stacking firewood, and planting the flower box geraniums.

An important prelude to Benton Beach work days was the grooming of the Beach Road and beach. Falvey Construction Co. submitted an extremely favorable estimate for delivering 1/4-inch processed stone and bulldozing sand. Matt Falvey squeezed this work into his grueling schedule

(granite sea wall in Milford, CT) to accommodate our work day. David Ott coordinated the event, which coincided with the low tide on May 12. Cheryl Falvey wielded shovel and hoe, pitching in to perform critical handwork on the beach where the dozer blade could not reach.

A big thank you to all work day participants, including food contributors! Our beach is in grand shape for the '95 season, which promises to be full.



Lawn Mowing

by Joel Helander

The estate-like appearance of Benton Beach and environs is one we are all proud of - especially when we bring guests. Regular lawn-mowing is an essential ongoing chore that ensures the natural beauty of the beach properties. It has been very successful under Carolyn Helander's coordination. David Ott did the first mowing of the season and Eliot Benton the second.

The schedule of volunteers is as follows:

June 10	Tim Chemacki (203-443-0409)
June 24	Forrest Helander (203-421-5065)
July 8	John Collinson (203-663-3076)
July 22	Jim Whelan (617-837-3150)

August 5	Scott Falvey (203-663-2624)
August 19	Todd Chemacki (203-245-1872)
September 2	Forrest Helander (203-421-5065)
September 16	Matt Falvey (203-663-3495)
September 30	David Ott (203-458-7964)

Mowing can be performed on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of the assigned weekend. Please exchange your date with someone else if you cannot mow on your assigned date.

The old *Caldor* mower has been reconditioned, including a new blade. The mechanic advises that outdoor storage, especially in a salty environment, is extremely harsh on the engine parts. He recommends storage on a wood pallet with a good tarp for cover. This set up has been provided behind the beach house. The gasoline can is under the beach house.

It would be appreciated if the volunteer mowers could mow the grassy entrance to the breakwater, as well as a path to the new "island" annex, when you are doing the parking lot area.

Everybody appreciates the commitment of the lawnmower gang!



“Roger’s Island”

by Joel Helander

Benton Beach now has a new annex, thanks to Roger Benton’s vision and perseverance. He has been the ringleader to improve the “island” of high ground west of the beach. Sumacs, brush, and debris have been cleared - not just on work day - but variously throughout this past winter and spring.

In place of a scrubby thicket is a broad path leading to a lush, green glen with all the privacy in the world and grand views both seaward and into the Vineyard Meadow.

Hooray for Roger’s Island!



Calendar of Events

The clearing house for special events at the beach (e.g., outings and parties) is the BBC Board. As the new BBC secretary, Donna Chemacki is responsible for keeping a master calendar of events so that conflicts do not occur. Please call Donna so that dates can be properly coordinated and posted. Her number is 203-245-2998.

Dates cleared and scheduled so far include:

- Monday, June 5 Country Day School 7th grade camp out, c/o Emily Blanchard
- Wednesday, June 14 First Church Alpha Club, approx. 4:30 p.m., c/o Lynne Ott
- Friday, June 23 GHS 41’ers noon picnic, c/o Carolyn Helander (Rain date is 6/24)
- July 17-26 Whelans’ camp out
- August 9-12 Fales/Schaefer camp out
- Sunday, August 13 Family clambake



Notes

Please submit any articles or family updates to either David and Lisa Ott or Tim Chemacki for incorporation into upcoming issues. Their addresses are as follows:

David and Lisa Ott
197 Village Pond Rd.
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 458-7964

Timothy Chemacki
83 Mansfield Rd., Unit 325
New London, CT 06320
(203) 443-0409