

Benton Beach Beacon

May 2010



BBC Spring Beach Workday

Date: Saturday, May 15th

Time: 8:30 am ...

Downpour Date: Sunday, May 16th

This day will focus on cleaning out the beach house, putting the canopy up, raking the beach and general tidying. We will be painting at least one picnic table. David and the boy scouts may be putting the dock down prior to this day. We may also be having some stone delivered to spread in the lowest areas of the beach road.

Since Saturday is usually when more people can make it, we will be providing coffee and breakfast treats first thing in the morning that day. If Sunday is a better day for you, come and check the poster in the beach house to see what chores still need to be done.

So come whatever day is best for you. All cleaning supplies, paints will be provided. If you have a metal rake, gloves, or a wheelbarrow bring them along!

Benton Family Picnic

The annual Benton Family Picnic will be:

Saturday, July 31st, at the beach. Mark your calendars!!

More information to come!!

Composting Outhouse Information

This will be our third full summer of use for the outhouse. We are still learning as we go along. While it has been a wonderful boon to have this year round, and has, for the most part been free of problems, there are still some simple rules for use and chores that must be performed. The outhouse has actually had much more usage than I think we originally envisioned, due to the frequency of events with many more people than in the past. Solar outhouses are in use all over New England, from Chatfield Hollow State Park to Misquamicut State Beach in RI. Ours is more basic than these others (and a LOT less expensive to build) but the concept is the same. The composting takes place because the back portion of the "bin" is covered by solar roof panels, allowing the bin to heat up and speed the composting process. However, often the "hill" of sawdust accumulates just under the toilet seat. When this happens, the "hill" must be raked back to the back of the bin to take advantage of the sun's full composting ability. We are installing a second drain in the bottom of the bin this spring, and this should help keep the bin contents drier.

The host of EVERY event scheduled at the beach is responsible for the following maintenance of the outhouse both **before and after the event**:

1. Outhouse should be inspected for cleanliness of stall, toilet seat and floor. The toilet seat and surrounding area should be wiped down and the floor swept. There are cleaning supplies located on the shelf above the toilet seat.

2. The white bin in the outhouse containing sawdust should be completely filled before and after each event. The large black trashcan behind the beach house contains the sawdust.
3. The “hill” under the toilet seat must be raked to the back of the bin. To do this, go around to the back of the outside of the outhouse and unlatch the hooks on either side of the bin roof. There is a long green pole lying on the ground right up next to the outhouse, on the right (pampas grass side). Use this pole to prop the roof open. Next, look inside this enclosure and see a yellow rake just to the left of the bin, on the floor. Use this rake to pull the contents of the bin, i.e., the “hill” under the seat, to the back of the bin. Put the rake back on the floor when you are done and lower the roof, making sure to re-latch the hooks on either side of the roof panel.
4. Lastly, make sure that your guests know to please latch the hook on the outside of the outhouse door after each use, to prevent the door from blowing open and so insects and animals cannot get in.

There will be a new laminated sign in the outhouse with instructions for everyday use.

Kaplan Dock Update

The State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection gave final approval on December 23, 2009 to our new neighbors at 101 West Lane, Barry and Rikki Kaplan, to build a fixed pier, ramp and float on their property, extending out into the Sound. The application process began nearly three years ago and originally involved 4 possible sites, one of which was directly into our bay. Ultimately, DEP determined that the site FARTHEST from our beach was the most suitable. The site is just north of their house, right next to their guest/boat house. The approval is for a pier that is 4 feet wide X 85 feet long, followed by a ramp that is 3 feet wide X 28 feet long and ending in a 8 foot X 20 foot float, all supported by concrete pier supports and pilings. DEP sent a copy of the plan to the CT Army Corps of

Engineers, who may or may not make recommendations to the plan, but will not change the location. Joel has kept in touch with the Kaplan’s from time to time throughout the application process and will continue to do so, to keep the lines of communication open.

Notes

Calendar of Events:

Please call or email Kate Fales, Benton Beach Corp Secretary, for scheduling a special beach event: **phone:** (401) 932-5894, **email:** kate.fales@gmail.com. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings. Please also note that scheduling **does not** grant exclusive use of the beach during the event.

Apr 24 (Sat) - Fence/Long Lot Work Day
Start @8:30 am

May 15 (Sat) - Beach Work Day Start @8:30 am (Rain Date: Sun, May 16)

Jun 15 (Tue) - Alpha Club Picnic hosted by Lynne Ott Start @4:00 pm

Jul 4 (Sun) - Church Picnic hosted by Edwin Benton Start @12:00 pm

Jul 11 (Sun) - Fales Picnic hosted by Ellen Benton Fales Start @12:00 pm

Jul 17 (Sat) - Clapboard Hill Reunion Picnic hosted by Joel Helander and Carolyn Helander Start @2:00 pm (Rain Date: Sun, Jul 18)

Jul 31 (Sat) - Annual Benton Family Picnic Start @1:00 pm

Aug 6-8 (Fri - Sun) - Tim & Sharon Chemacki & friends campout

Aug 13-20 (Fri - Fri) - Fales/Schaefer Campout hosted by Ellen Benton Fales and Sandy Benton Schaefer

Electronic Version of the Newsletter

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter in addition to or instead of the paper copy, please email Tim Chemacki at spaceexplorer@gmail.com.

Mailing Addresses

If you have recently moved, please make sure the Benton Beach Corporation secretary has your current mailing address.

Content Submission

Please submit any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue (*preferably by email*).

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