



Newsletter, May, 2018

## Beta Group selected to design linear park around the lakes

FoCF has selected the Beta Group, a large landscape architecture, engineering, planning and construction services firm, to design a linear park along the shores of Lake Canonchet and Little Neck Pond.

The company, which has offices in Lincoln, R.I., and in three other New England states, will prepare an initial design in time for the May 20 annual meeting. The Beta Group was chosen from five applicants.

➤ Walking the site, from left, are Don Leighton, Beta Group senior vice president; Kathie Kelleher, president of FoCF; Randy Collins, senior associate with the Beta Group, and FoCF board member Alan Woodmansee. Leighton said, following the tour, that the firm is excited about the possibilities the site offers.



## Annual Meeting Set for May 20

The annual meeting of the Friends of Canonchet Farm is scheduled for May 20 at 1 p.m. at South County Museum. The guest speaker will be Randy Collins of the Beta Group (see story above).

New members to be elected to the Board are: Beth Laliberte, a URI professor who had her class research and prepare a guide and educational material for the geology trail; Bob Stepanian, a volunteer who for five years has been helping to restore habitat along the two ponds and on the trail, and Dennis Webster, a founding member of Taylor Point Restoration Association.

## Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Luke Abbenante of Troop 44, Matunick, is building and installing three new benches along the trail of Canonchet Farm as his Eagle Scout Project.

The benches will be installed near the entrance to the Ann Hoxsie Lane parking lot. They will be put in place at 1 p.m. on May 12.

At the same time, volunteers will be working to remove invasive plants in the area.

## For the first of three Farm walks, a rare beautiful day

Sunday, March 22, was one of the rare beautiful days earlier this year and South County historian Tim Cranston, along with 60 fellow hikers, made the most of it. Cranston led a walk at Canonchet Farm, exploring and explaining the changes that have occurred from the era of Native American habitation through the time of the Sprague family.

This was the first of three walks planned for Canonchet Farm this year. The next will be on Saturday, May 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. Scott Turner, nature writer for the Providence Journal, will lead a walk along the path that volunteers, throughout the fall, winter and early spring, have been working to improve.

The walk will begin in the Ann Hoxsie Lane parking area across from the Narragansett Town Beach South Pavilion on Boston Neck Road (Route 1A).

The last of the walks will be on Sunday, June 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. Beth Laliberte, a member of the Geosciences faculty at URI and a popular presenter, will lead this walk, pointing out the effects the glaciers that plowed through this region thousands of years ago have had on the landscape.

The event will begin in the South County Museum parking lot at the end of Strathmore Street off Kingstown Road.



*Participants in the March 22 walk gather around Tim Cranston, at right in light shirt and long pony tail, who led the walk. Two more such walks are scheduled for this spring.*



*Above, board member Tom Hoagland, president Kathie Kelleher and former president Tom Fortier (relaxing in a wheelbarrow) at the installation of a sign designed by noted artist Frances Topping of Charlestown. The sign includes information about the Canonchet Farm trail and describes some of the wildlife found there.*

## Friends finds a new partner

Friends of Canonchet Farm has embarked on a new collaborative effort to go along with previous collaborations with the Narragansett Historical Society, South County Museum, URI professors and students, Master Gardeners and Boy Scouts, all to further their mutual goals.

This latest collaboration is with Jamestown's Taylor Point Restoration Association. The TPRA studied the Friends organization and asked for advice.

"It was an enormous help in getting our fledgling organization moving in the right direction," said Dennis Webster, a TPRA vice president. Dennis joined FoCF volunteers at the lake shores and on the trail.

Both groups have the same goal, eliminating nonnative plant species, and are sharing their expertise by exchanging Board members.

### **Friends of Canonchet Farm**

**PO Box 418, Narragansett, RI  
02882**

**[www.canonchet.org](http://www.canonchet.org)**

**[events@canonchet.org](mailto:events@canonchet.org)**