

# Friends of Greenwich Point



P.O. BOX 711 • OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870 • Summer 2019

## First Sunday Bird Walk at Greenwich Point Park

9:00 – 11:30 am

Sunday, July 7

Sunday, August 4

Sunday, September 1

Bring binoculars and meet near the main concession stand at the south end of the beach. Held rain or shine. Join knowledgeable guides to see and learn more about birds in their natural habitats.

Everyone - from beginner to experts of all ages - is welcome. No fees nor registration required. *For information, contact Cynthia Ehlinger at [cynthia.ehlinger@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.ehlinger@gmail.com) or 203-219-1963 or Meredith Sampson at 203-637-9822. Co-sponsored by Wild Wings and Friends of Greenwich Point.*



## Did You Know?

From Mid-November through Mid-April, the Friends of Greenwich Point and 11 volunteers kept the birdfeeders full for hungry birds passing through the area.

Here's how much food they used:

- 5 lbs of mealworms
- 52 suet cakes
- 54 lbs Fruit and nut treats
- 200 lbs of Wild Black Oil Sunflower
- 500 lbs of wild bird seed

This effort is made possible through member dues and contributions. Please consider a donation today.

## A Generous Grant and Volunteer Grit Help Save the Dunes



FoGP was honored last winter with a grant from The Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to replant the dunes with Red Cedar and Pitch Pine saplings to attract wildlife and to protect this area from coastal storms. Fortifying dunes with native species not only provides food for the birds and animals with their berries and seeds from the cones, but also adds valuable shelter and stabilizes the soil with their roots on the upper back portion of the beach. During super storm Sandy all three dunes were greatly eroded. Heavily planting dunes keeps the beach sand on the beach and out of the road.

On a Saturday in May, volunteers planted 100 native Red Cedars and 25 Pitch Pine in dune areas. You may notice the pink tags on these new tree plantings. These evergreen species are known for their drought and salt tolerance so we are hoping many of them will grow to do what we need them to do: protect the area and serve as a wonderful habitat for our creatures at the point.



# Summer 2019

Photos from Paige Davis, Old Greenwich Photographer

## A Labor of Love and Caring



For 4 years, FoGP board member Philip Brous has been working with EMS and the Dept. of Parks and Rec to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) installed in public areas at Greenwich Point. In late May, 4 units were installed. Defibrillation is a treatment for life-threatening cardiac episodes. A defibrillator delivers a dose of electric current to the heart with the aim of returning a normal or near sinus rhythm to stabilize the patient enough for transportation to an emergency care facility. AEDs automate the diagnosis of treatable rhythms, allowing bystanders to use them successfully with little or no training. FoGP funded the initiative. Thanks to Phil, and everyone else involved. Greenwich Point is now safer for everyone.

### **Bruce Museum Seaside Center**

Fred Elser First Sunday  
Science at the Seaside Center  
Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 pm

### **July 7: Sharkwater Extinction**

*Sharkwater Extinction* is an inspiring, action-packed journey that follows filmmaker Rob Stewart as he exposes the illegal shark fin industry and the political corruption behind it.

### **August 4: The Last of the Shark**

#### **Hunters: How Trophy Fishermen Pushed Science into Action**

Keith Cowley, Curator of the Living Sharks Museum and shark conservation advocate, will discuss the legacy of legendary shark sportfisherman Captain Frank Mundus, whose capture of a massive 3,427 pound great white shark is considered one of the inspirations behind the film "Jaws."

## Purple Martin Success!



The Purple Martin nesting area was started by Mike Aurelia in 2011 with 12 gourds. Now there are a total of 30. This has been a wonderfully successful program in cooperation with the CT Audubon, Greenwich Conservation Commission and Parks and Rec Dept.

The Purple Martin is one of North America's most beloved swallows. It is known for its skillful aerial exhibitions, tolerance of humans, and pleasant twittering call. The bird is in the swift family and known for consuming a multitude of insects. Over the years, Purple Martins on the east coast now nest almost only within man-made structures and prefer community living, breeding in colonies near open areas near water.

Last season was our most successful year to date. There were 18 nests in the 30 available gourds, with 84 eggs laid and 70 hatched. We had 62 chicks survive and migrate south. In the eight years the colony has been at the Point, 273 eggs were laid in 66 nests. A total of 220 of those eggs hatched and 186 chicks fledged. These numbers are heartening.

Sarah Cocco, the Town's Conservation Resource Manager, helps in maintaining the colony as well. They are always looking for help. To volunteer e-mail Sarah at [sarah.cocco@greenwichct.org](mailto:sarah.cocco@greenwichct.org). This is a rewarding experience and plays an important role in the Purple Martin breeding colony's success in Greenwich.



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## Holly Grove Update!



Caring for the lovely Holly Grove has been a longstanding labor of love for members of the Friends of Greenwich Point, community groups and friends.

On Saturday, April 27, The Friends of Greenwich Point and the Town of Greenwich held another successful Holly Grove clean-up. Four dumpsters were filled with vines, branches, stumps and logs collected by volunteers and the Greenwich Parks & Rec crew. Since 2012, the beginning of our partnership with the town, we have filled up 28 dumpsters of debris and planted 50 holly trees, restoring the Holly Grove to it's original pristine state.

Thanks to Will Nixon's generous gift in memory of his father, Justin Wroe Nixon, Friends of Greenwich Point was able to purchase 10 new holly trees, which will be planted in the holly grove by the Town of Greenwich.

## Welcome Back!

Please join us in welcoming the Bartik family back as concessionaires at Greenwich Point. The Bartik family began operating the concessions at Greenwich Point in 1959 and have been the main operators, with a few breaks in between, ever since. John Bartik and his wife, Shawn ran the stands for many years until 2017. This year, his brother, William and wife, Christine, will be the friendly faces behind the counter and grill. You may recognize them from Island Beach, which they will still operate. At one time, the Bartik family ran many concessions along the LI Sound from Rye, NY to Madison, CT.



Photo: Leslie Yaeger



## SAND BLAST 2019

**12:00 Noon**  
**Saturday, July 27**

An annual event for families and sand sculptors alike that's, well, a blast! The Sand Blast has no specific theme and participants are encouraged to indulge their imaginations and enjoy the creative experience of making art in the sand. No experience necessary. Participants will receive a gift certificate to Meli-Melo of Greenwich. *Sand Blast is sponsored by the Greenwich Arts Council and the Town of Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation.* For more information go to: [info@greenwicharts.org](mailto:info@greenwicharts.org)

## Town of Greenwich FIREWORKS



**Sat. July 6 at dusk**  
*Raindate: Sun July 7*  
at  
**Greenwich Point**  
and  
**Binney Park**

## Save the Date!

Plans are underway for a mid-September night of comedy at Greenwich Point to raise funds in support of the many programs and initiatives sponsored by Friends of Greenwich Point. Check [friendsofgreenwichpoint.org](http://friendsofgreenwichpoint.org) for upcoming details.

# Friends of Greenwich Point

P.O. Box 711  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Stamford, CT  
Permit No. 7224

[www.FriendsofGreenwichPoint.org](http://www.FriendsofGreenwichPoint.org)

## Join the Friends of Greenwich Point! Your membership supports:

- Habitat Restoration
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Traffic-free Sundays
- Nature Education
- Summer Concert Series
- Winter Bird Feeding
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Signage Enhancement
- Holly Grove Improvement
- Umbrella Replacement
- Defibrillator Installion

**Please help preserve and  
enhance the beauty and  
enjoyment of  
Greenwich Point!**

You can also join on our website,  
[www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org](http://www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org)

### Membership Form



Become a member of The Friends of Greenwich Point and join us in preserving and protecting Greenwich Point and promoting safe recreation. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: Friends of Greenwich Point and mail to P.O. Box 711, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. Or you can use PayPal – [www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org](http://www.friendsofgreenwichpoint.org) - membership section.

### Annual Family Memberships

\$25.....	TERN
\$50.....	GOLDENEYE
\$100.....	OSPREY
\$250.....	EAGLE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Friends of Greenwich Point Summer Concert Series 2019

The Friends of Greenwich Point is pleased to present the 2019 Summer Concert series for family and friends. Bring refreshments and chairs or a blanket. **Beach passes required.** All concerts will be held at the Seaside Garden at Greenwich Point. In case of rain, head to First Congregational Church, 108 Sound Beach Avenue (near Binney Park).

## CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

### The Swingset Mamas

**Sunday, June 23**

**3:00 – 4:00 pm**



An unforgettable energetic family dance party that builds an atmosphere of joy by playfully mixing movement, call and response singing, and American Sign Language. It's an interactive way to reinforce song concepts, create a shared social experience, and add to the family fun! For ages 3-13, the Swingset Mamas playfully explore universal themes ranging from ability awareness, self esteem, water safety, animal science, counting, and more.

### Americana Family Jamboree

**Sunday, July 28**

**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Americana Family Jamboree is an all-acoustic music band that the entire family will enjoy. Led by Demolition String Band members, Elena Skye and Boo Reiners, kids and grown-ups alike will be treated to the traditional Americana songbook with music by Hank Williams, Pete Seeger, Loretta Lynn, Woody Guthrie, Lead Belly and many others. There will be guitars and fiddles, banjos too, so bring your dancing shoes and be ready for lots of singing and clapping!



# Friends of Greenwich Point Summer Concert Series 2019

The Friends of Greenwich Point Annual Summer Concert Series entertains crowds with exciting late afternoon concerts at the Seaside Garden. We sponsor 4-6 concerts each year, from June through September. Whether the music is intended for children or adults, all generations enjoy the experience. The Concert Series is made possible through membership and donations to Friends of Greenwich Point. Visit our table before or after a show and become a Friends member!

## CONCERTS FOR ALL AGES

### Fairfield Counts

**Saturday, June 29**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

One of the premier big bands of the East Coast, the Fairfield Counts perform the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Les Brown and many other big time band leaders. The Fairfield Counts honor the sound of these legendary greats, always staying true to the original recordings.

### Auguste & Alden

**Saturday, Aug. 2**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

This indie-rock power trio is known for lighting up the room with their unique sibling harmonies and electrifying stage presence. The band features Auguste on lead vocal and bass, Alden on lead vocal and guitar, and Tyler Levander on drums. Throughout their musical career, this trio has achieved a number of accomplishments including: First place in the Foxwoods Resort and Casino “Battle of the Bands Competition”.

### Eden Lane

**Saturday, Aug. 24**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

A New York City jazz band with an affinity for film noir and The Great American Songbook, Eden Lane combines rare vintage gems with fresh takes on 1940's classics. Their sound has been compared to that of Julie London, Peggy Lee, and Ella Fitzgerald.



### Pete Francis &

### The Dragon Crest Collective

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

They've been known to deliver juicy rock sets that include poetic lyrics, pure energy, art, and solid musicality. Be prepared for a roots rock journey that will leave you feeling good.