

# ARBORETUM PARK CONSERVANCY

*a non-profit corporation to benefit the Arnold Arboretum as a public park*

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November 2010

Dear Friend,

Many of you have heard that we lost our guiding light, John Blackwell, who died in September at the age of 97. We miss his wonderful spirit and energy. He was a man who truly made the world better than it was when he found it. We enclose a tribute to John that was printed in the program for his memorial service.

We are proud of this year's accomplishments. In addition to leading several volunteer attacks on invasive vines, we collaborated on two bird walks with Arboretum docent, Bob Mayer. We received grants from the Browne Fund, Boston Parks Access Fund and Boston's Grow Boston Greener Fund that enabled us to do an ambitious project that now gives our visitors both new views and new understanding of our wetland.

First, the Browne Fund grant enabled us to install five new signs along the path. The signs hold board member Anne Schmalz's interpretive signs that change from season to season.

The Boston Parks Access Fund, a fund initiated by John Blackwell, combined with Boston's Grow Boston Greener Fund furnished the money necessary to remove invasive species, improve wildlife habitat and create open views into the wetland. We removed over 50 Tree of Heaven, planted ten Red Maples, seven Arrowwood Viburnum, seven Summersweet and nine Winterberry. Bob Mayer wrote us and said, "I just noticed that someone, probably a Robin from nest size and location, nested in one of the Red Maples APC planted this year. Nice to see your efforts have been recognized already by the avian world."

As you walk along the Blackwell Footpath from Washington Street to South Street, we hope you enjoy these improvements. With your support, we will continue enhancing the natural character of the Bussey Brook Meadow. Our future plans include creating a conversation circle with large stones to create a place for student groups to learn about the importance of wetlands and urban wilds.

Can we count on your support?

Best,



Nina Brown

President



MIT Students enjoy lunch after removing invasives at the edge of wetland.



Visitors can now view the sign and learn about the wetland in the distance.