



SPOHR GARDENS

FALL 2024

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GREETINGS FROM SPOHR GARDENS

This was another year of weather extremes. Here at the gardens we had a hot, dry summer followed by periods of heavy rain and then weeks of no rain. Thankfully, our mature plantings handle these extremes quite well.

It's been a busy year in the gardens. We are monitoring our beech trees to determine the full effects of the Beach Leaf Disease. It's still too early to tell what the long term effect will be. We continue to make progress integrating the Pollinator Pathway and the original Butterfly Gardens that were started by Bill Kerfoot. We expect the Waterside Restoration Project to be completed by spring.

Our main project for 2025 will be intensive rejuvenation work along the main pathway to the pond. We will be limbing up and cutting back the shrubs and trees to further open up the gardens for better views and to allow more sunshine in. Our master plan includes annual tree pruning which will be done in the early spring. With mature trees this is an ongoing project both for public safety and the health of the trees. And, of course, we will plant another 1000 daffodil bulbs in the fall of 2025.

We have now planted over 3500 daffodil bulbs and have decided to celebrate by bringing back Daffodil Days. The exact date is to be determined, but it will probably be in late April. Watch the website for the exact date. While we can never duplicate the main hillside when it was covered in thousands of daffodils, our replanting efforts are beginning to have a real impact. Come celebrate with us!!!

Fund raising Chair, Donna Driscoll and her committee are planning a July event titled Summer Sips at Spohr. Watch the website for more information.

Our new renter moved in in mid-October and will be with us for two years. As a reminder, we have a new mailing address and a new email address. The mailing address is: PO Box 33, Falmouth, MA 02541-0033 (Please note the different zip code). The email address is now: info@spohrgardens.org

We rely on your generous donations to help fund all of our garden projects, and we couldn't do it without you. Our sincere thanks from the entire Board of Trustees.

Hila Lyman
Chairman, Board of Trustees

WAYS TO SUPPORT SPOHR GARDENS

Spohr Gardens relies on donations to financially support the gardens. There are a number of ways you can help.

Mail a donation * Give an outright gift of cash or securities * Donate on the website * Give a donation directly from your IRA * Give a legacy gift through your will or trust * Put a donation in the donation box whenever you visit * Participate in all fundraising activities

We are a 501c3 and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generous support.

VOLUNTEER

Work Day 1st Thursday of the month, May-November, 8am-12noon * Give guided tours-we'll train you *

Help with special Events * Publicity

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Our Mission Statement

The Margaret K. and Charles D. Spohr Charitable Trust is dedicated to preserving the legacy of its founders and to providing public access to our peaceful woodland gardens.

There you have it; that is our job. Preserving the legacy—preserving that which is handed down to us from the past. That is exactly why we are embarking on our three new projects-- The Pollinator Pathway, the waterside restoration and the daffodil bulb planting campaign.

The Pollinator Pathway—the definition of congruous is ‘exhibiting a harmony of parts’ and that is just how Charlie and Margaret Spohr designed their gardens. From the hillsides to waterside, lawns and woods, their gardens blend together creating an undisturbed experience of the great outdoors. The integration of the Bill Kerfoot Butterfly Garden into the new Pollinator Pathway on the northern edge of the property will carry on this tradition. Plantings for butterflies, bees, birds and insects will be established using the Spohr example of continuity, thus preserving their legacy and creating the natural experience exhibited throughout the property. This is a long-term project and returning visitors will see many changes over the coming years. This season alone has seen the addition of new plants, the removal of the small greenhouse and a new graded pathway top-dressed with stone for ease of walking and control of runoff.



The Waterside Restoration—The pathway along Oyster Pond has the greatest concentration of Charlie Spohr’s anchor collection on the property. The anchors, big, bold and beautiful, are almost hidden by weeds, woody perennials and a host of invasive plants growing alongside the path. This growth is concentrated between two rows of cobble stones set about two feet apart. Photos from the past show this space as being clear of vegetation with an unobstructed view of the anchors. Our plan calls for uplifting the cobble-



stones, digging out all of the vegetation, and resetting the cobblestones in a bed of dense grade gravel which will prevent the future growth of any invasives. Our plan has been approved by Falmouth Conservation Committee. This work along the main path will be a bit disruptive, and so it is scheduled for this winter with completion in the very early spring. As an added attraction, we plan on gathering the many feet of anchor chain now hidden from view around the property and displaying them between the cobblestone strips. The combination of anchors, chains and the

informative anchor information board will tell quite a story.

BUILDING & GROUNDS (con't)



The Daffodil Planting Campaign—We all remember them, and for many of us it was the first rite of spring—visiting Spohr Gardens during daffodil season. Nothing stays the same, and slowly but surely, the bulbs faded away. Trees and shrubs grew and matured, robbing the bulbs of food, moisture and sunlight. Over the past five years we have been cutting back the overgrown rhododendrons and have removed dead and dying trees to allow air and light to enter the gardens once again. Over the past three years, each fall we have planted over 1000 daffodil bulbs in these areas. Margaret Spohr had an impressive list of daffodil bulbs that she selected to plant. We also plant a different variety each year for each has its own distinct color, cup and rim.

This fall we planted the strong and dependable Daffodil Carlton. A two-toned yellow flower daffodil with a vanilla fragrance, it is a midseason bloomer growing twenty inches tall and is a mainstay in the spring garden. It is important to remember that while daffodils can only be planted in the fall and viewed in the spring, donations can be accepted any time! With three seasons behind us and almost 3,500 daffodils planted, the Board of Trustees has decided it is time to bring back Daffodil Days at Spohr Gardens. While we do not have tens of thousands of daffodils, we feel our progress and the beauty of the spring gardens are cause for celebration. Watch our website in late March, early April for details.



And now a word of caution—BLD, Beech Leaf Disease, is present in Spohr Gardens. This disease, caused by a foliar nematode, is negatively affecting both our native and European beech trees and their cousin, the Copper Beech, all of which are found in our gardens. The nematode is a type of microscopic worm that feeds inside the buds of the trees. Leaves emerge curled and leathery and drop over the growing season. This loss of leaves reduces the tree's ability to photosynthesize and produce food, causing it to weaken and eventually, die. Large mature trees can die within seven to ten years. The drought of this past summer further stressed the trees, and we are hoping for a more favorable season next year. We continue to monitor our trees and hope for the best. There are no preventative measures presently available. Since increasing the movement of air and sunlight in the landscape around the trees can help reduce the nematode's life cycle, we will increase our tree pruning and maintenance as the budget allows.



George Chapman, Chairman
Building & Grounds

**\$100 + , In Honor Of and In Memory Of
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