



## Fall & Winter 2017-18 Newsletter

Punxsatawney Phil, the infamous weather predicting groundhog, saw his shadow at the beginning of this month. So alas, it appears that we are in for another 6 weeks of winter. But while we look forward to spring, we should enjoy our memories of a busy and productive fall and winter.



Our October 28<sup>th</sup> Fall Celebration at Godena Farm was a spectacular success, with special thanks to the Jamestown school children for their contribution of scarecrows, to the Girl Scouts for their bake sale goodies, to Louis Godena for cutting a maze through the switch grasses - a huge hit for kids and adults alike, and to the Jamestown Police for providing flood lights for our parking lots. Over 400 enjoyed the celebration that featured everything from hot dogs, smores, hot chocolate to wagon rides through the maze and pirate ships.

The celebration followed a very productive fall on the farm. Over 60 trees, including 7 apple trees in the orchard by the bee hives, were planted with the help of Bill Botelho. The second phase of the pollinator gardens, designed and planted by Pamela Rodgers, was completed, and another half acre was plowed, harrowed, and composted through the efforts of Louis Godena and Archie Clarke, and are now ready for planting a new wildflower garden.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Phil Capaldi's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders visited Godena Farm to expand their understanding of plant life cycles. After examining sample seeds, they set off through the



fields and gardens to find examples of seeds on their own, and to consider how and where they might eventually germinate. Their interest, energy and enthusiasm was boundless, and they will likely return in the spring to see just what all the seed types they observed have become after sprouting.

The bee hives at Godena Farm have been put to bed for the winter following a summer of abundant honey production, thanks in large measure to bee-keepers Jim Turenne and Dennis Breneiser. The last jar of honey was donated to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C., fundraiser. Four of the six hives have survived this winter's unusual cold spell.



While the cold weather is occasionally daunting, walking some of the conservation lands on the island is a treat. The Parker Property provides a peaceful walk with frequent sightings of wildlife. A walk around Godena Farm may be highlighted by sightings of numerous Eastern Bluebirds. A Kestrel was spotted recently. Driving past Great Creek, you will likely enjoy watching a Kingfisher waiting for dinner on the tide.

While wildlife has hunkered down for the winter, CILT remains active. Two owl boxes were erected, and we will soon begin digging a grant funded well on Godena Farm. The west field at Parker was recently mowed, and storm-downed trees have been removed.



Despite Punxsatawney Phil's predictions, spring will soon be here. Look for the 800 daffodils at the entrance to the main trail at Godena, and listen for the spring peepers in mid-March – a sure sign that spring and summer are on their way. Think about volunteering some time – weeding pollinator gardens on Thursday afternoons; serving as land trust stewards; participating in educational programs.

**For more CILT photos & updates:**

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