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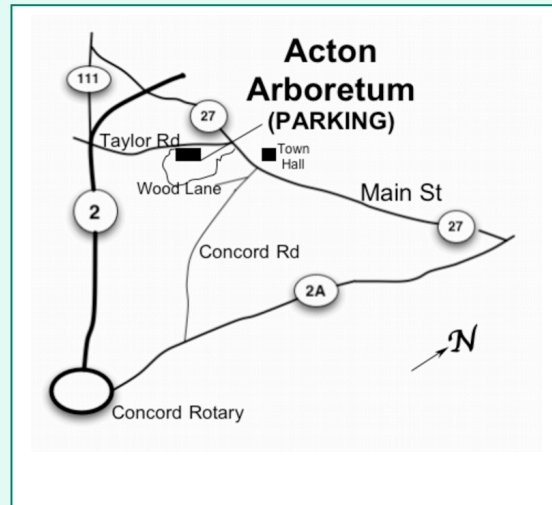
*P.O. Box 2607
Acton, MA 01720*

Who are the Friends?

We are a group of citizens who care about the natural world and share a vision of preserving and enhancing our natural resources for educational purposes. Friends contribute time, money, plants, and other gifts and talents in support of the Acton Arboretum in order to achieve these goals.

Our Mission

To raise and donate funds, materials, and services to the Town of Acton for the development and maintenance of the Acton Arboretum; to educate the community about the unique environmental, horticultural, geological, and historical qualities of the Arboretum property, about the process of wetland and field succession, and, in an era of decreasing public funds and natural resources, about conservation, effective horticultural practice; and generally to do all things permitted to non-profit organizations under the provisions of Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1984, as from time to time they are amended.



Membership Application



*P.O. Box 2607
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01720*

History of the Site

The Acton Arboretum is situated on 64 acres of orchards, meadows, and woods in the heart of Acton Center. Its earliest European settler was John Cragin, who built a house on the property some years before Acton was incorporated as a town in 1735. The Cragin home was purchased by Francis Faulkner in 1745 and moved to South Acton where it was incorporated into Faulkner's 1709 house. The stone foundation of the Cragin house at the Arboretum is today the site of our herb garden.

At the time of the American Revolution, the property was owned and farmed by the Reed family. Joseph Reed was a member of Captain Isaac Davis's company at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775. Unlike Davis, Joseph Reed survived that battle and went on to fight at Bunker Hill. He served through the greater part of the war and returned to find that most of his land had been sold for unpaid taxes.

Reed's grandson, Theodore, farmed the remnant of the family property before selling it to the Tuttle family. The Tuttle, who were to serve the Town of Acton as Town Clerks for over a century, planted apple orchards and harvested cranberries from the bog throughout the 19th and into the early 20th century. Apples and cranberries were the most important cash crops for Acton at the time.

Evidence of the Cragins, Reeds, and Tuttle may be seen today in the Arboretum's stone walls, the cranberry bog, and the grid of old apple trees.

Walk the trails & visit history.

Arboretum Established

In 1976 and 1977 the Town of Acton, on the advice of their Conservation Commission and with the aid of Commonwealth funds, was able to purchase this property. In 1986 Mr. John Whittier proposed to the Town Meeting that the land be designated as an arboretum and "dedicated to the observance of Acton's 250th anniversary, and further that it be developed as an arboretum for the growth and preservation of trees, shrubs, and plants consistent with the local ecology." To the benefit of current and future nature lovers, his proposal was voted unanimously.

The Friends

The Friends of the Acton Arboretum was incorporated in 1991 "to raise and donate funds, materials, and services to the Town of Acton for the development and maintenance of the Acton Arboretum; to educate the community about the unique environmental, horticultural, geological, and historical qualities of the Arboretum property, [and] about the process of wetland and field succession..."

The Arboretum Today

The Arboretum boasts a trail system through open meadows, beside woodland ponds, along a glacial esker, and through a bog. A handicapped accessible trail provides access to the herb garden, butterfly garden, hosta garden, daylily garden, rhododendron garden, and a pond planting. The Wildflower Trail provides access to a wide range of woodland habitats.

Join us!

We hope that you will join us in preserving this small but vibrant corner of the natural landscape for the enjoyment and education of all.

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Type of Membership
(check one)

\$15 Individual Contact me about
 \$25 Family opportunities to volunteer
 \$40 Supporting New Member
 \$100 Corporate Renewal

Please mail to:

**Friends of the Acton Arboretum, Inc.
P.O. Box 2607
Acton, Massachusetts 01720**

All contributions are tax deductible.

Commemorative gifts honoring marriages, births, deaths, or other special dates are gratefully accepted and recorded in a commemorative listing.

Membership Benefits for Friends

Fall and Spring newsletters
Seasonal walks, talks, and workshops
Self-guided tour
Educational materials about unique aspects of the Arboretum (in development)
Civic pride in a special gift of land used for enjoyment and education

Thank you for your support!