



# The Boyden Bulletin

## Spring 2022

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### HAPPENINGS

In September and October, President Margaret Travis and Elizabeth Sisskind took on the project of repainting the cement animals located near the parking lot. See related article and Photos.

In November, 2021 the Friends of Boyden Refuge, Inc. gained four new members - Elizabeth Sisskind, Dan Rezendes, Richard Easterbrooks and Greg DeMelo. Look for the article that introduces a little about two of the new members.

A student from Bridgewater State University is creating a new, professional map of the trails at the Boyden Refuge. Prep work was done this winter. Next, all the data collected will be entered into a software program. Maps will be printed and made available to the public.

Concerns about the erosion in front of the A.C. Bent cabin are being addressed. Margaret Travis met with Rob Bradbury of Lopes Construction. He assessed the situation and made recommendations. He said a bobcat could get into the site and put down loom, fabric and more loom in front and along the sides to alleviate the problem.

In November, 2021, scouts from Troop 40 cleared trails and cleaned up around the picnic area.

There has been concern about the invasive plants in the meadows at the front of the property. Conservation Commission agent Michele Restino will reach out to Arthur Lopes, the person who used to mow the meadows every other year. Removal of some of the invasive plants may be done by a local Boy Scout Troop.

Dan Rezendes cleared the Pine Tree Trail of several trees which lay across the trail.

In December the FOBR started to discuss the replacement of the post and rail fence at the back of the picnic area. It does not cover the length of the area and is missing rails and some posts. It is located at the edge of a steep slope which leads to the Three Mile River. The Board members feel the fence does not provide adequate protection to prevent accidental falls. A black chain link fence behind a new taller post and rail fence will improve the safety in the area. Discussion and researching a solution is ongoing with the members of Conservation Commission and AJ. Marshall of the Taunton Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds Department.



## FOBR New Board Members

At the November, 2021 FOBR Annual Meeting, four new members were voted onto the Board. Richard Easterbrooks, Dan Rezendes, Elizabeth Sisskind and Greg DeMelo have a wide range of skills and experiences and all bring much enthusiasm to the organization. Their contributions have already been felt and will do much to improve conditions at the Boyden Refuge in the future. What follows is the result of the request to offer a little about themselves, their connection to Boyden and anything they'd like to see happen in the future at the Refuge. In this newsletter we introduce Richard and Dan. In the next newsletter, we will publish information about Liz and Greg.

**Richard Easterbrooks** — My family has lived in Taunton within sight of the Gertrude M. Boyden Wildlife Refuge for generations, As a child I was able to ride my bike to the area and had a lot of fun on the trails, paddled a canoe in the river and enjoyed the solace that only a walk in the woods can bring. Over the years I have experienced the Ebb and Flow of the conditions within the refuge and believe that this hidden gem should be maintained and preserved for our future generations to enjoy. I am honored to be working with the Friends Of Boyden Refuge via the Board of Directors to help guide the stewardship of the "Bird Sanctuary".

**Daniel Rezendes** — I grew up in Raynham and was fortunate to be surrounded by woodlands and open spaces. I am also lucky to have a mother who always encouraged exploring in the great outdoors, even to this day.

I consider myself to be a trails person. Whether building, maintaining, mapping, or simply using them, I totally enjoy the trail experience.

As part of my full-time job at Bridgewater State University, I get to maintain, preserve, and program the Great Hill Trails. It is there that I get to learn and practice trail maintenance. I also participate in the biannual Massachusetts Trails Conference in order to expand my knowledge of trail management as well as network with other trail professionals.

I look forward to helping to protect and maintain the Boyden Wildlife Refuge trails so that many families can connect and appreciate the power of nature.

## Board of Directors

Margaret Travis, President/Program Chair; Barbara Hathaway, Vice President/Corresponding Secretary/Publicity Chair; Carol Traverse, Treasurer; Betty Gregg, Clerk; Joan McKenna, Newsletter Editor; Dick Paulson; Chris Rezendes; Russell Spooner; Richard Easterbrooks; Dan Rezendes; Elizabeth Sisskind; and Greg DeMelo. Check our Facebook page: Friends of Boyden Refuge, Inc. for information, and our website [boydenrefuge.org](http://boydenrefuge.org).

**Friends of Boyden Refuge, Inc. P. O. Box 247, Taunton, MA 02780 ([boydenrefuge@gmail.com](mailto:boydenrefuge@gmail.com)).**

## Snakes Program

**June 18, 2022 11:30 a.m.** - FOBR Board member Chis Rezendes will once again conduct a presentation on Snakes. He will show examples of live snakes found locally. Chris will then lead participants on a search for snakes or signs of snakes along the trails at the Refuge. You never know what interesting things we might find!

## A.C. Bent Awards Ceremony

Recipients of the A.C. Bent Award for 2014 through 2021 will be honored at a ceremony on May 9, 2022, at the Taunton City Hall. It will be at 5:30 p.m. preceding the Taunton Conservation Committee meeting. The award is given yearly to someone who best exemplifies the spirit and dedication of Arthur Bent in advancing our knowledge, appreciation, and protection of wildlife, natural resources, and conservation. Recipients from 2014 through 2020, along with their guests, will be invited to this event.

They are 2014 - Donald Greg; 2015 - Louis Robino; 2016 - Richard Paulson; 2017 - Neil Kelly; 2018 - Cathal O'Brien; 2019 - Marilyn Greene; 2020 - Marla Isaac.

The Friends of Boyden Refuge Board has nominated President Margaret Travis for the 2021 A.C. Bent Award. Margaret has worked tirelessly for many years in several different roles for the betterment of the Boyden Refuge. The Taunton Conservation Commission will choose the 2021 recipient at a later date.

The Friends of Boyden Refuge, Inc. is seeking any relatives of Louis Robino who still might live in the local area. They will be invited to attend the ceremony. If you know of someone, you can send contact info via FOBR's Facebook page or email [boydenrefuge@gmail.com](mailto:boydenrefuge@gmail.com).

We are also looking for information about the man the Boyden Library was named after. He is Charles L. Phillips. Any information you might have can be sent to our email address.

## Painted Animals

Lou Robino was a retired worker for the Taunton Department of Public Works and was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. He spent a great deal of time at the Boyden Refuge beginning in the 1990s. When he wasn't socializing with visitors to the Refuge, he was busy maintaining the trails, often seen walking about with a rake on his shoulder. Lou was the force behind the creation of the Pine Tree trail.

Lou was also responsible for creating the cement "critters" at the beginning of one of the main trails. Over the years, the animals had been painted many times but were in great need of restoration last year. President Margaret Travis coordinated the project in the fall of 2021. Elizabeth Sisskind and Margaret acquired the needed supplies and spent many hours painting in September and October 2021. Bright colors were used, and creative details were added for the enjoyment of children and adults alike. Several Board members helped with the project. The cost of the paint was donated by Mike Kostka of Manny's Hardware. A large rock at the front of the area was painted with the wording "Enchanted Forest" added. A sign - "Lou's Garden" - will honor Lou Robino's efforts and be placed in the area.



## **Gertrude M. Boyden**

The purchase of the Laura Thomas Estate resulted in the creation of the Gertrude Boyden Wildlife Refuge in 1968. The first Executive Director of the Taunton Conservation Commission, Gertrude Boyden, initiated plans to utilize this site along the Three Mile River for public enjoyment.

Gertrude Boyden was born in Sherbrooke Quebec, Canada in 1905. She attended Boston University in an era when not many women went to college. She was married to Howard C. Boyden, founder of Boyden Plastics. The Boydens were a well known, civic minded family in Taunton.

Gertrude Boyden was passionate about her involvement in her many interests which included the Taunton Girls' Club and her church the Memorial Methodist Church. She received the "Women of Valor" award from the Congregation Agudath Achim.

In the 1960's she became very interested in the movement to conserve land. She attended a program at Brown University to earn a certificate which aided her as the leader of the Conservation Commission. With the backing of Mayor Benjamin Friedman, Boyden was instrumental in the city's acquisition of the land that became the Boyden Refuge. She credited Leon Bunk with crucial support also. Although the family moved to Florida in 1970, she kept tabs on the Refuge according to her son, Robert Boyden. He said that she delighted in hearing updates about activities there and tales of its growing popularity. Gertrude Boyden died in Florida in 2002 at the age of 97.

## **Eagle Scout Projects**

Local Eagle Scouts have recently planned and implemented projects which have improved the Boyden Refuge in various ways. Projects proposed by Eagle Scouts John DeLang, Finnian Parsons, and Jared Gouveia were approved by the Taunton Conservation Commission and completed within the past two years. Jacob Brennan's project was approved in November 2021. It will be completed in Spring of 2022.

In June 2019, John DeLang presented his project - refurbishing the Butterfly Garden - to the Conservation Commission. He added new plants such as butterfly bushes and other plants that attract butterflies. He put a lattice fence around the garden, and placed a bench nearby. The project was completed in 2020.

In October 2020, Finnian Parsons presented a proposal to install four bat houses in designated spots at the Refuge. He brought photos to identify the sites. One was to be placed in front of the office building and the other at the back of the meadow on the western side of the Refuge. His project was approved and completed.

In June 2021, Eagle Scout Jared Gouveia appeared before the Conservation Commission to present his proposal. He wanted to work on the Fragrance Gardens that were very overgrown. He planned to remove the weeds, put down a weed barrier, and spread mulch. He would save salvageable flowers, plant new ones, and remove a small tree. His proposal was approved. The project, which was completed in the summer, greatly improved the garden area. Jared returned to the Conservation Commission in September to show the results and note the donors. He received donations from G. Lopes, Lowe's, and Araujo's Farms along with cash donations.

Scout Jacob Brennan appeared before the Taunton Conservation Commission in November 2021. He plans to repair and clean the Arthur Cleveland Bent cabin, which is covered with graffiti and in need of restoration. He will paint over the graffiti and install railings that are missing in the front of the structure. If he raises enough money, he will also repair the roof. The sign above the door will be detached and refurbished by a member of his troop. He will start the project in May 2022 and complete it by July.