

Date: Mon, 18 Aug 2008 14:35:12 -0400  
To: Mass LepS <masslep@googlegroups.com>  
From: Elise Barry <e-b-lists@charter.net>  
Subject: Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival

Dear Mass. Butterfly Club Members,

By all accounts from every direction, the Barbara J. Walker Butterfly Festival was a huge success! Not counting children under 3 and volunteers, the total head count from the front desk was 290 people, including 211 adults and 79 children. Many of them left with an energized, or newly acquired, interest in butterflies. Some had come to Broad Meadow Brook for the first time. The estimate of total attendees, including the volunteers and very young, was over 350. Although the cloud cover made for a slow start in the first hour and a half, the appearance of the sun brought the people in and the butterflies out. All comments were that it was a very festive day for everyone.

In keeping with the main focus of the festival, at mid-day, Mass. Audubon conducted a dedication ceremony in Barbara's honor. It was a very moving event, bringing tears along with happy recollections of Barbara. A few years ago, Barbara drew up the management plan for the power line on Broad Meadow Brook (BMB). The plan works to maintain the area as a rich butterfly attractant. The meadow that is on the power line was a special place for Barbara. Broad Meadow Brook announced that it has named the meadow "Barbara's Meadow". The name is already on the printed trail maps. During the ceremony, Sanctuary Director, Deb Cary, presented the sign that will designate the meadow and evoke the memory of its caretaker. It has an outline of a butterfly near the right top and it reads:

**Barbara's Meadow**

*Barbara Walker, a quiet advocate  
for the land and all its creatures,  
loved and cared for this special place  
which nourishes butterflies.*

Deb also showed the participants a blueberry bush that was to be planted in the meadow in meaningful spot. BMB chose that bush based on the knowledge that Barbara could not pass by a bush full of juicy, ripe berries without partaking of the bounty. A few weeks before the festival, Barbara's husband, Rick, and Rick's father, made a handsome, comfortable, sturdy wooden bench with a back. A plaque on it says:

**In Memory Of  
Barbara Walker  
Who Loved Finding  
Butterflies  
In This Field**

Barbara's daughter, Kerry, painted colorful butterflies on it. Rick and his brother, Steve, installed the bench in a shady spot overlooking the meadow. It is a place where Barbara liked to stop to rest and get out of the sun while still looking over the meadow butterflies. Near the end of the festival, as friends watched, Rick, Kerry, and son Mike with his soon-to-be-wife, Shannon, planted the blueberry bush next to the bench. The new sign was installed in the nearby meadow's edge where the butterflies will dance around it for many

years to come. It was a fitting end to a very touching day.

Barbara's son, Mike, donated his 4 lovely butterfly photographs for a successful raffle, netting over \$200, with half the proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation and the other half to Broad Meadow Brook. His thoughtfulness mirrors his mother's.

Frank Model kindly donated his photos to Broad Meadow Brook.

We would like to again give endless thanks to the volunteers, including the recent additions, and to the folks who contributed to the displays. Each one of you was vital to making it a worthy day:

**Volunteers:**

Don and Cheryl Adams, Bob Bowker and Lesley Stillwell, Brian Cassie, Madeline Champagne, Martha and Margaret Gach, Carl Kamp, Wendy Miller, Steve Moore and Barbara Volkle, Dolores Price, Dave Small, Sharon Stichter, Gail Howe Trenholm, Kerry and Mike and Rick Walker.

**Photographer- Artists:**

Bill Benner, Sue Cloutier, Alyce Mayo, Frank Model, Tom Murray, Dave Small, Mike Walker, and Nan Wilson.

We repeat heartfelt thanks to Mass. Audubon at Broad Meadow Brook for hosting the festival, with particular thanks to Kristin Steinmetz, and Martha Gach for the tremendous amount of effort they put into making it a significant day.

And very special thanks to everyone who came to participate in the festival. We are so lucky to belong to a club that has such friendly and caring people in it. That's why Barbara enjoyed being with you so much. Thank you for being there, some coming from long distances, to make it an extraordinary day.

Photos from the festival appeared in today's Telegram and Gazette:

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20080818/NEWS/808180568/1008/NEWS02>

Thanks to all of you, the day was wonderful tribute to, and a reflection of, Barbara and her warmth, enthusiasm, and very special spirit.

Elise Barry