

## President's Message

As spring approaches, the Conservators are beginning several exciting projects to help to stop the steady encroachment of invasive plants and to preserve unique landscapes.

The first project will be at Woodcock Meadow, and the cover story for this issue explains the work to be done there. The woodcocks are expected back by the middle of March; therefore, the heavy work (which will include the removal of some trees encroaching on the meadow) must be done by then or delayed until after breeding season. The City's forestry department will be responsible for most of that phase. Late in the summer, we will recruit volunteers to remove invasive shrubbery and vines.



Secondly, we are in the planning stage for a series of projects in Cold Spring Park, which could be the “poster child” for invasive species in Newton. Items under discussion are a kiosk that contains information about the invasive plants (such as *Japanese Knotweed*) and beneficial native plants in the park, a walk with small signs to indicate the location of both types of plants, a demonstration plot to show how invasive plants can be removed and then replaced with native plants, and a large-scale project to remove the two types of buckthorn that have replaced almost all of the native trees in the understory. If buckthorn is not removed, there will be no more woods in Cold Spring Park when the current mature trees die — just a massive spread of invasive buckthorn.

Throughout the growing season, there will be a variety of “pulls” to remove invasive plants in Nahanton Park, Cold Spring Park, and other conservation areas in Newton. The list at the back of this issue shows the pulls that have been scheduled so far. More will be listed in the next issue. Please share the information with your hearty friends and neighbors.

This year, the citywide Newton Serves will be on May 1. The Conservators will have four projects that day: garlic mustard pulls at Cold Spring Park, at Dolan Pond, and at Blue Heron Bridge and a clean-up of the pond along the trail at Cold Spring Park. Online registration will be available on April 1st: [www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php)



Newton Serves is only the first event in a whole month devoted to sharing information about invasive plants. Starting on May 2, there will be an exhibit at the library to show the invasive plants found in Newton. The two cases near the checkout desk will contain pressed examples of the plants (created by Bruce Wenning, the horticulturist at The Country Club and a board member of the Ecological Landscaping Association) as well as a selection of books you might enjoy.

Next on the schedule is our Annual Meeting and Dinner on May 4. Professor Bryan Connolly, Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Framingham State University, will give a presentation on invasive plants in our region. (*Look for the unusual centerpieces we have planned!*)

At 7 pm on May 31, Bruce Wenning will end our Invasives Month with a presentation at the Newton Free Library on the species of invasives found in Newton and what we must do to fight them.

We hope that you'll be able to join us for some of these events to fight the scourge of invasive plants in the city. We're also going to be starting on an expanded mission to plant stronger native plants in their stead, and it would be great for you to join us in that journey, too.

 Beth Wilkinson