

President's Message

May 2016 may have been our busiest month ever.

Thanks to everyone who made our annual meeting, the four Newton Serves projects, our varied and wonderful walks, the productive invasives pulls throughout the city, the library talk by Bruce Wenning, and the second annual June Doin' so successful!

At the annual meeting, Bryan Connolly gave a great presentation to make sure that all of us are familiar with the most common invasives that are taking over the open space in Newton. See Margaret Doris' article for more details, and check out the Reflections on the State of Our Organization on page 13 for a summary of some of our work this year.

Two land concerns continue to need your support.

1. At our April meeting, the board of the Conservators voted to support the Friends of Herrick Green in their effort to preserve the 2+-acre open space when Andover Newton Theological School sells their property at the end of the summer. For more information, see the informative article by Brian Kinney and Philip Warburg, Co-Chairs, Friends of Herrick Green. The Conservators have agreed to provide fiscal sponsorship for the Friends of Herrick Green, receiving contributions on their behalf and then using those funds to pay their verified expenses. You may make contributions to that cause at NewtonConservators.org. Please specify "Herrick Green" in the on-line comment box or on the memo line on your check.

2. Webster Woods continues to be of great concern to us. Boston College now owns the land. It is time to make sure that they and Mayor Warren know how important it is to preserve that land, which provides a critical connection between the state and city conservation land on either side of it.

This issue of the newsletter contains an update from Jacob Stern, the Community Organizer for the Friends of Webster Woods, for whom the Conservators also provides fiscal sponsorship. Sign up with Jacob for continuing information: jacobstern2@gmail.com.

There is a "Save Webster Woods" sign in my yard, and almost every day someone stops to ask me what it means. If you want to help spread the word with your own sign, Jacob can help you with that, too.

At the June Doin', Newton Conservators advisors Jon Regosin, Chief of Conservation Science for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, and Eric Olson, Senior Lecturer at Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy and Management, discussed the presence of wood frogs at Bare Pond, a vernal pond on the BC property. Because wood frogs need both a wetlands area and a higher forested area, it is rare to find them in urban landscapes. Bare Pond is one of those unusual places.



WOOD FROG PHOTO: JIM HARDING,
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We love to hear from you. Write to President@NewtonConservators.org with your thoughts and suggestions.