

President's Message

Dear Conservators,

It's been a busy and good summer for the Conservators!

We had two terrific summer interns: Iris Liao, who started at Columbia University this fall, and Bennett Walkes, who is a senior at Newton South this year. They pulled more bags of invasive plants than we could count and talked with people at our new display tables at both the Cold Spring Park and Elm Street farmers' markets. They did research on invasive plants, tick diseases, and the tree canopy. They also planted and tended a beautiful pollinator garden at the edge of Woodcock Meadow in Nahanton Park. You'll read more about their work in a later issue of the newsletter.



Summer interns Iris Liao and Bennett Walkes viewing the eclipse at Woodcock Meadow, Nahanton Park.

Thanks to the *pro bono* work of longtime member Bill Shaevel, we filed the legal work to relocate the path at the Wilsons' property at 15 Bracebridge Road. Thanks to the hard work of path-builder John Menard and the gardening crew of Barbara Trainer, the new path was stabilized and flattened. Richard and Andrée's son André, who lives in Michigan, has spent many, many hours removing invasive plants in the woods around the path. Please check it out and enjoy a stroll along the path from Bracebridge Road to the Wilson Conservation Area and the aqueducts, and then on to Greenlawn Avenue.

Members of the board continued to work for the future of Webster Woods. At our July board meeting, we had a long discussion of how to continue our efforts to preserve the former Temple Mishkan Tefila property. Our first step was to formally endorse the pledge that the Friends of Webster Woods sent to mayoral candidates, a pledge that members of the executive board already had signed.

We then voted to send a letter to all mayoral candidates explaining our strong beliefs that not only must the currently wooded area be preserved but also that the rear parking lot should be returned to open space (because of its proximity to the vernal pool, Bare Pond) and that the woods between that lot and the temple building should be conserved. We also asked them to consider removing the small front parking lot and relocating the entrance to the property to the road into the Shops at Chestnut Hill and the Chestnut Hill Towers.

You can see the responses from the candidates, our letter, a PowerPoint presentation by Dan Brody on "The Future of Webster Woods" (also sent to the candidates), and more background information on our website: <http://www.newtonconservators.org>

Don't miss our great line-up of fall walks at the end of this issue. We hope to see you at one of them!

Beth Wilkinson