

# President's Message



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

*Vernal Pool Walk in Webster Woods*

Dear Conservators,

Spring is in full bloom now, and summer is not far behind. As I write, my front yard is littered with red maple flowers, and the buds on my redbud and dogwoods are swelling. The woodcocks have returned to Woodcock Meadow in Nahanton Park; visiting them at dusk is a magical experience. All in all, it's a perfect time to get out in Newton's open spaces!

Many people joined naturalists Eric Olson, Jon Regosin, and Richard Primack for the first walks of the season in Webster and Hammond Woods, and by the time you're reading this, more walks will have taken place.

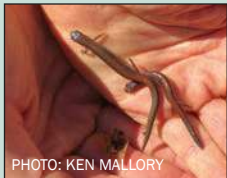


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

*Red-backed Salamander*

Invasive pulls will continue throughout the season. Please check your email, our Facebook page, or the spring issue of this newsletter for information on when you can join the invasives team to help the insects and birds that depend on our native plants for sustenance.

Over one hundred members had a great time at our annual meeting on May 2. You can read more about the meeting in Margaret Doris's article in this issue.

Mayor Fuller announced the membership of the Webster Woods Advisory Panel on March 15, and I'm pleased to chair it. Already, panel members are at work, thinking about the best strategies to preserve the portion of Webster Woods owned by Boston College. Part of the panel's mission is to share their expertise with the community, as you will see from Eric Olson's article on "How Large Is a Vernal Pool?" in this issue.

Panel member and BU biology professor Richard Primack and I appeared on *The League Presents*, the NewTV program produced by the Newton League of Women Voters, and had a great conversation with new host Ellen Grody. You can see the half-hour program here: <https://bit.ly/2FouzZ4>.

Work on the Riverside Trails project continues to progress. Members of the collaborative group are interviewing firms that have applied to design a new trail from Riverside to Lyons Field. That firm will conduct community meetings to discuss the project. More details soon . . .

Thanks to everyone for your help to preserve — and to enjoy — nature in Newton.

*Beth Wilkinson*