

President's Note

This is a first: a combination of the usual Editor's Note and, because I was elected president of the Conservators on May 7, also a President's Message.

I strongly feel the responsibility of helping to lead this historic organization and am honored to follow in the footsteps of so many capable and dedicated people who held the position before me.

In thinking about the year ahead, these issues come to mind:

- How to emphasize our role as land trust and to make sure that we are providing the best care for our properties,
- How to continue to wage effective war against invasive plants in Newton and to help to assure the future of the creatures that depend upon our native plants,
- How to assure the health of the bodies of water in Newton,
- How to continue to be an active participant in discussions about open space in Newton and to make sure that we speak and act in time to make a difference.

Those are four of my major concerns as I look ahead to the coming months and years. What are your top concerns? Let's begin a conversation . . .



Ordway Park after clean-up in May

planner, Jennifer has accomplished an amazing amount of work: learn more about her in the brief profile that follows her article.

Wishing you a great summer,

☘ Beth Wilkinson



Groundnut, "apios americana" from Crystal Lake (Cronin's Cove)

A member mentioned that she would like to see more coverage of the land-use decisions that are made by the Aldermen. For years, AnnaMaria Abernathy attended all land-use committee meetings and reported on their proceedings. Starting in our next issue, there will be a regular column on land-use; we are looking for volunteers to help us to gather the necessary information. If you attend a committee meeting or learn about new developments or if you want to tell us your opinion, please write to us at newsletter@newtonconservators.org.

In this issue, don't miss Jennifer Steel's detailed and insightful cover story of the state of Hammond Pond and the work that's been done and will be done to improve it. In her first nine months as the city's environmental