

President's Message

We hope you had a fun and relaxing summer with lots of time to explore the wilds of Newton and afar as well as on vacation. Fall is in the air, and as usual we have a pretty full schedule of upcoming walks, invasive pulls, and other events such as the Harvest Fair in the queue. Along with many of our usual outings, we will be coordinating with Historic Newton on exploration of the forthcoming Riverside Greenway. Check out the enclosed schedules, and always check our website or e-Bulletin for the latest event schedule.

Mayor Fuller has been in discussions with Boston College over the summer on the possible acquisition of sensitive portions of Webster Woods, especially the area surrounding Bare Pond, a vernal pool that has provided habitat for spotted salamanders. The CPC, City Council Committees, and the Council itself will likely be considering the acquisition in the next several months. The Friends of Webster Woods is accepting tax-deductible donations through the Conservators' Fiscal Sponsorship and they will be advocating and raising awareness — newly designed "Save Webster Woods" signs are in the offing! The Conservators have expressed support for acquiring as much of the rear property as feasible including the Bare Pond area, the "Knoll," and the former rear parking lot — now a salt storage area.

Newton has been planning for a new senior oriented facility, dubbed NewCAL. The committee planning this facility was evaluating possible locations for this and had narrowed the choices from 145 to 24 to six sites. The Conservators had expressed to city officials dismay at siting such a facility on existing green space (see our position on our website). In addition, there had arisen great public support for not using parkland — an online petition had garnered thousands of supporters in a few days. More recently the city seems to have settled on a joint senior and pool facility on the site of the existing Gath Pool and nearby courts, but left open the possibility of a non-park site. A public meeting is scheduled for September 19 at 7 pm. Check our website for the final details.

A recent Walden Bioblitz, organized by last year's annual dinner speaker, Peter Alden, turned me on to the power of the iNaturalist application, and it has been great fun taking pictures of great variety of insect and plant life in our garden. It's like having a pile of field guides in your phone backed up by actual expert validation. See Ken Mallory's article and give it a try — you will be amazed!

Hope to see you out and about this fall in Newton!

Ted Kuklinski

Ted Kuklinski
President, Newton Conservators

Plant Milkweed!



Asclepias syriaca
Common Milkweed



Asclepias incarnata
Swamp Milkweed



Asclepias tuberosa
Butterfly Weed