

► Black Swallow-wort Alert ◀



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Black Swallow-wort pods in summer and fall



Carolyn van der Laan

Black Swallow-wort flowers

Please be on the lookout for the black swallow-wort (BSW) vine, which is now everywhere. It's a non-native invader infesting Newton. It's in many of our yards and hides in hedges and shrubs. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies. Right now, it is in bloom with small purple flowers. Soon we will see the large seed pods forming. Starting in late summer the pods will dry and open, and the wind will disperse the seeds on white fluffy fibers to make the infestation even worse.

The BSW vine has blue-green glossy, opposite leaves, small purple flowers, and large seed pods that hang down like pea pods. (See our website for many other photos.) You can dig it up, cut it down, or just pull off the seed pods to prevent further spread. Put everything into a bag and into your trash, not into yard waste, to avoid further spread.

For more photos and information about this and other common invasive species in Newton, see the invasive plant information on our website (listed under Resources), such as this link for BSW: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

Newton Conservators conducts many work sessions in spring and fall to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species. We have sessions scheduled into July 2023 (listed as Events on the website) and will add more sessions for the summer and fall. If you would like to be on the email list for notices of our group activities, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org. Thank you! ♦

✿ Katherine Howard

Get Involved with the Conservators - Volunteers Needed

The Newton Conservators needs member volunteers to help with various events such as staffing tables at Newton's Village Days, the Harvest Fest, and others. These are fun events that give participants an opportunity to work with board members to learn more about Conservators' activities and to meet and distribute information about them to your neighbors. If you are willing to volunteer for a couple of hours at such events, it would be most appreciated. Please send an email to: president@newtonconservators.org and someone will contact you. Additional volunteer opportunities are listed on our website.

Thank you.

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests, and streams which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.

A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary, and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 62 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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