

events page. The walk will be rescheduled in the event of steady rain.

Trip Leader: Ted Chapman (617-680-5278)

Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 2 pm

THE SECRETS OF BARE POND



Bare Pond in the Webster is a remarkable vernal pond that is home to spotted salamanders and other amphibians. It has many other unusual and surprising features of rocks, hydrology, topography, and trees. In this

walk, Richard Primack will share what he has learned about the pond during an intensive study over the past nine months.

Meet at 1:40 pm at the end of Elgin Street and walk from there. Alternatively, meet at 2 pm at the bench at Bare Pond.

Trip Leader: Richard Primack (857-636-8378), Professor of Plant Ecology at Boston University and lifelong Newton resident, primack@bu.edu. If you plan to attend, please let Richard know beforehand by email. Rain date: November 9.



Graphic courtesy of vecteezy.com

► Invasives Update ◀



Black swallow-wort pods in summer and fall

The work of our invasives team continues. We will meet throughout the fall and also plan winter work. Join us for fun, educational, and much-needed work, giving back to our open spaces!

As the Mayor's newsletter recently highlighted, it is now prime black swallow-wort (BSW) season. Be on the lookout for this vine, a non-native invader infesting Newton, often hiding in hedges and shrubs. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies (it's in the milkweed family, and when monarchs mistakenly lay eggs on it, the larvae die because it is not the right milkweed). Right now, the small purple flowers have turned into large seed pods, which are starting to dry and open. The wind will disperse the seeds on white fibers to make the infestation even worse.



Black swallow-wort flowers

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 pull off the seed pods to prevent further spread. Put everything 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 his link for BSW: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

Newton Conservators conducts many work sessions year-round to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species. 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

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 63 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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