

..... Invasives Team Update



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD
Porcelain Berry Closeup



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD
Porcelain Berry Infestation



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD
Black Swallow-wort Seed Pod



PHOTO: CAROLIN VAN DER LAAN
Black Swallow-wort Flower

Be on the lookout for porcelain berry, which exploded around here last year, enveloping trees, signposts and anything in between. We will work on it around Crystal Lake, Webster Woods, and Quinobequin Road. It has frilly/lacy leaves, a white pith, and later blue/pink/white berries. You can help by removing it in your neighborhoods (dig the roots or cut it, especially before it fruits), and by letting us know where you see large infestations.

Black swallow-wort (BSW) vines emerged in early May in our yards and parks. Look for it climbing up hedges, shrubs and fences, or just wallowing over itself on the ground. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies. It will soon be in bloom with small purple flowers, followed by large seed pods that are often hidden under the plant. When the pods dry and open, the wind will disperse the seeds on white 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. 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 (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



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

Count me in! I want to help Newton Conservators preserve open spaces and connect people to nature in Newton. Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted Additional Contribution \$ _____ |

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STATE _____ ZIP _____

Memberships run for the calendar year. All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

Please send checks made payable to Newton Conservators to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, OR renew or join online at newtonconservators.org/membership/.

Special Contributions:

- ☐ Trails Revolving Fund \$ _____
- ☐ Land Stewardship Fund \$ _____

To support other special purposes, please email us at membership@newtonconservators.org

By joining or renewing, you agree to receive our informational **emails**, which always include the option to unsubscribe.

Our **quarterly newsletter** will be sent by email only unless you check here:

- ☐ US mail only ☐ US mail and email

- ☐ **I would like to learn more about volunteering with Newton Conservators.**

