



The Boyden Bulletin

June 2025

Vol. 13 No. 2



Recent Happenings

Eagle Scout Project

Last fall, Eagle Scout Eric Rego decided to complete his Eagle Scout project at the Boyden Refuge. After attending the MassTrails Conference in November, he worked on his proposal. Eric plans to improve the single-track trails with some pruning and to use paint blazes on the trees to mark all of the trails. In April, the Taunton Conservation Commission members listened to Eric present his project and gave their approval. Eric and a group of helpers have recently started to work on this project.

Nature Education Center

The Friends of Boyden Refuge Board has been discussing ways to create a Nature Education Center in the Refuge building. The first step is to create a display of specimens from nature. We first received permission from city officials. Chris Carmichael of the Building Department found a suitable cabinet at the former Coyle-Cassidy High School and he had workers install it at the Boyden Refuge. For now, we will borrow items from Bridgewater State University's collection. Maria Armour, one of the curators of the collection, suggested that we have a rotating exhibit schedule changing out items every three months or so. Meanwhile, the FOBR will make a list of items to be purchased in the future. This will be an ongoing project.

Greening the Gateway Cities Program

The Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation manages a program called Greening the Gateway Cities. It is designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential areas. Crews, which are hired within local communities, plant trees in target neighborhoods to increase tree canopy cover for environmental and energy efficiency benefits. The program is currently active in 23 communities, including Taunton, cities that have a lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population.

A crew came to the Boyden Wildlife Refuge in late April and spent the morning planting native trees along Cohannet Street and replacing a few along the driveway. A representative from Wildlands Trust staffed a table where interested residents could discover more about the program. Wildlands Trust is a nonprofit organization that works throughout Southeastern Massachusetts to conserve and permanently protect native habitats, farmland, and lands of high ecological and scenic value.



Our Friend, Conservation Agent Michele Restino Retires

The Friends of Boyden Refuge Board wishes to recognize and honor a great friend of the Boyden Refuge, Conservation Agent Michele Restino. After a twenty-year career in Taunton, Michele is retiring at the end of June.



Michele has always had a love of the natural environment from childhood growing up in upper New York State. She received a teaching degree during her college years and taught physical education upon graduation. She later earned her Master's degree in Water Resources Management in December 2004. Michele wanted to be closer to family, so she took the job as Conservation Agent in Taunton in 2005.

After a fire at City Hall in 2010, Michele's department was moved to the building at the Boyden Refuge for about six years. She enjoyed the quiet and calm at the refuge and being able to watch some wildlife.

In Taunton, Michele felt that her mission was to protect the city's natural resources because they are finite. Michele listed some of the many regulations that builders, contractors, and homeowners need to abide by. To protect the environment, Michele said that the two sides must meet - builders/homeowners and the city representative to find a way to make projects work while following environmental regulations. She found that violations of rules she dealt with often were the result of ignorance of regulations.

Michele said that there was not one thing that was the hardest about her job, but she took on every task with an enormous amount of skill and experience. Kevin Scanlon, the Director of the Planning and Conservation Department, said that Michele has been a valuable asset to Taunton for 20 years. She is very knowledgeable about the requirements of her job and has a lot of experience. He said that she is leaving "big shoes to fill"!

Like many as they retire, Michele will miss the people with whom she worked; however, she definitely will not miss the 1 1/2 hour drive each way to and from Taunton. She plans to do some traveling. There will be a family outing to Italy to explore a town from which her family came, along with a trip to the National Parks out west. We will miss our friend and wish her the best!

Upcoming Events

The Wonderful World of Bats with Maria Armour July 19, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Discover and track our fabulous local flying mammals using bioacoustic recorders. Discover the facts and debunk the myths surrounding this remarkable animal.

Monarchs and Milkweed with Sally Spooner August 16, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This fascinating Monarch Butterfly experience is suited for all ages. Learn its lifecycle, migration, and milkweed dependency. Materials will be provided. Come search for monarch eggs and raise your butterfly. Last year, an attendee brought home an egg she found on the milkweed, tended to it, and it hatched into a monarch butterfly!

Board of Directors

Margaret Travis, President; Dan Rezendes, Vice President/Program Co-Chair; Barbara Hathaway, Corresponding Secretary; Carol Traverse, Treasurer; Betty Gregg, Clerk; Joan McKenna, Newsletter Editor; Richard Easterbrooks, Web Master; Dick Paulson; Chris Rezendes; Greg DeMelo; Michele Handley; Caitlin Fisher-Reid; and Robert Carroll.