

Adieu to Jane Sender

It is with a mixture of sadness and happiness that we announce that former NC president Jane Sender will move from Newton in March: sadness that she won't remain here to work on new projects with us and happiness for Jane's sake that she's going to Newburyport, a place that she loves and that's a perfect home for her birding. (When I first joined the board, she took me there on a memorable trip to see an irruption of snowy owls at Plum Island.)



PHOTO: JANE SENDER

Snowy Owl

Jane has held leadership positions and led important projects for the Conservators in particular and, in general, for the cause of conservation in Newton.

Jane became a Newton Conservators' director in 2007 and remained on the board until she became an advisor in 2016. She was the Conservators' vice president in 2008 and president from 2009 to 2012.

The Conservators reached the 50th anniversary of its founding under Jane's leadership. As part of the celebration of the event, Jane invited noted wildlife ecologist Douglas Tallamy to come from the University of Delaware to address the annual meeting. His words have inspired much work.

Jane joined the Conservation Commission in 2009 and still holds that position. She became a member of the Community Preservation Committee in 2014. In 2015, she became the vice president of the committee, and she became its president in 2016.

In a parting message to all the members of the Conservators, Jane talks about some of her accomplishments.

As I think about these past ten years, I feel grateful to have gotten to know so many people involved with the Conservators and feel we accomplished a great deal. I am most proud of the conservation restrictions we negotiated – the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, the Wilson property and Nahanton Park (still a work in progress). These are achievements that can't be undone, which seems particularly important given what is going on at the national level. I am encouraged by what can be achieved at the local level, with smarts, patience and perseverance, working together and with our elected officials to achieve environmental goals.

Most recently the victory in the City Council to limit the use of leaf blowers, which are ruining the quality of life in our neighborhoods, was a great example of what can happen when groups come together to protect the environment. To me noise is an issue in Newton that needs far more attention. Noise impacts humans and other species in a dramatic way, and we need to push harder on those who insist that we tolerate the huge increase in the amount of noise we experience.

I will miss everyone and hope that folks will visit me in Newburyport. This June I will be spending three weeks birding in Alaska, fulfilling a lifelong dream. I hope we will all keep in touch.

Jane has agreed to remain on the Conservators advisory board as a force for environmental conservation, and I know that we'll turn to her often for her good advice.

Jane, thank you for all that you have done! Please come to visit us frequently. There always will be a seat for you at Conservators' board meetings.

— Beth Wilkinson
On behalf of the Board of the Newton Conservators