

Wellesley  
Natural  
Resources  
Commission

## May 2018 Insights from Outside



## Wellesley Honors Environmentalist Rachel Carson

At the request of the NRC, the Wellesley Board of Selectmen proclaimed May 27, 2018, as **Rachel Carson Day** to commemorate the famed ecologist who launched the modern environmental movement in 1962 with the publication of her book *Silent Spring*.

On May 16th, the NRC honored Carson with a showing of the film, **"A Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution."** The film tells the story of a Canadian doctor who inspired her community to ban lawn chemicals, ultimately leading to national restrictions. After the movie, **Dr. Brita Lundberg** of the Occupational and Environmental Health Committee of the Mass Medical Society joined us for a discussion of the health risks associated with lawn chemicals. [This week, in a message to Wellesley residents](#), the NRC is urging homeowners to consider switching to organic lawn care due to the dangers to humans



Dr. Brita Lundberg discussed health effects of pesticides at movie night on May 16.

-- particularly children -- and to the environment.

[Watch a 16-minute excerpt of "A Chemical Reaction"](#)

[Watch remarks by Dr. Brita Lundberg on health effects of pesticides on May 16](#)

[Click here for a message on lawn chemicals from the NRC](#)



**Celebrate Rachel Carson at the Wellesley Veterans' Parade **RESCHEDULED** for Sunday, June 3, 1 pm**

The NRC, Sustainable Wellesley, and other environmental groups will march together, celebrating Rachel Carson with the theme "Your Lawn, Your Health."

[Sign up to march with us](#)

## Pollinator Garden Workshop and Lecture on June 26

Wellesley is one of three communities in Massachusetts chosen to host a pollinator garden installed by the New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS). NEWFS will also host a free workshop and public lecture to train gardeners and homeowners. These events help raise awareness about the importance of planting native plants to support local populations of insects, birds, and animals that pollinate our crops and flowers. The pollinator garden will be installed at the Police Department.

### Events on Tuesday, June 26:

- **Garden Installation Workshop** for experienced gardeners, 1 to 4 pm, at the Wellesley Police Department. **Advance registration required**; space is limited.
- **Pollinator Gardening Lecture**, 6 to 8:30 pm, at the Wellesley Police Department. The evening lecture is free and open to all. **Register here**; all are welcome.

[Click here for information on Pollinate New England](#)

## Gas Leak Updates

### Action Requested on Gas Leaks Near Schools

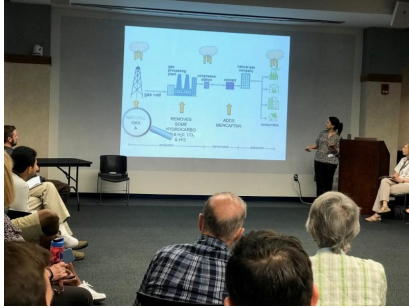
The Wellesley School Committee recently sent a [letter to National Grid](#) at the request of the NRC and [Wellesley Green Schools](#), asking that the utility company take action on gas leaks near Wellesley schools and preschools.

An independent survey by the NRC last year revealed extensive leaks throughout town, including a number of leaks in or near school zones.

[Click here for a map showing Town-wide gas leak data](#)

[Click here to see the School Committee letter to National Grid](#)





Zeyneb Magavi of HEET presented to the Wellesley Green Collaborative.

## Gas Leaks Expert Visits Wellesley's Green Collaborative

This month, the NRC invited **Zeyneb Magavi**, Research Director for HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team) to speak to Wellesley's Green Collaborative about the state-wide efforts to address gas leaks. Ms. Magavi spoke about the partnership HEET has formed with gas companies National Grid, Eversource, and Columbia Gas to devise a reliable method to identify the largest volume gas leaks for urgent repair. She also explained HEET's efforts to help homeowners and builders transition from fracked gas to electricity for heating and

cooling, and appliances.

She also addressed the serious issue of fracking - the process of injecting toxic chemicals and high-pressure water into fissures in underground rocks to extract gas. The gas we use in New England is fracked in Pennsylvania. With HEET, Magavi is working to build relationships with families in Pennsylvania who have been devastated by the health impacts fracking.

[Click here for more on gas leaks in Wellesley](#)

---

## Speaking for Our Trees: Harvard's David Foster Says Urban Forests Essential to Our Future

In April, **Dr. David Foster**, Director of the Harvard Forest, spoke at the Wellesley Free Library on the future of urban forests at "Speaking for Our Trees," an event co-sponsored by the NRC and the League of Women Voters Wellesley.

Drawing from his extensive research, Dr. Foster shared his views on how communities can improve the health of New England forests through thoughtful conservation management plans. He underlined the incalculable benefits of forests for mitigating the effects of climate change and preserving habitat and biodiversity. Dr. Foster's vision of "Woodlands and Wildlands" includes actively managing 90 percent of urban forest as woodlands managed for cutting, hiking, recreation, etc., and keeping 10 percent as "wildlands," which are not managed at all.

Prior to Dr. Foster's speech, NRC Vice Chair **Dr. Regina LaRocque** spoke about physical, emotional, and financial benefits of trees.

[Click here to watch the video of "Speaking for the Trees"](#)



Dr. David Foster spoke at April forum.

## NRC Project Updates & Announcements

### Memorial Grove Dedicated on May 19

A memorial honoring Wellesley citizens who served in World War I was dedicated on May 19 in a ceremony at Wellesley High School. Memorial Grove was originally created in 1919



and is now under NRC supervision. Located near State Street pond adjacent to Fuller Brook Park, the area includes six trees planted for the six citizens who died in the war and a granite bench honoring the 326 residents who served. An informative plaque on the path through the Grove tells the story. The NRC board is grateful to all those who worked tirelessly to make this project happen.

[Learn more about Memorial Grove](#)

## Town Trees Available for Planting

The NRC is accepting requests from homeowners who would like to have a town tree planted on their property. Many types of trees are still available; they're planted by the Department of Public Works and cared for by homeowners. The NRC and DPW plant roughly 300 trees and shrubs in town each year. [Email](#) the NRC to be considered for this program.



## Fourth Grade Classes Win Environmental Education Award



Congratulations to fourth grade teachers **Irene Gruenfeld** (Bates Elementary) and **Anne Gayner** (Fiske Elementary) and their students who were honored at the 24th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education at the State House for their efforts to find real-world solutions to erosion problems at Wellesley's Morses Pond.

With guidance from the NRC, both classes did field work at the pond, recommended solutions for erosion problems at specific sites around the pond banks, designed scale models to illustrate those solutions, and presented their results to town officials. The teachers and schools also received a \$200 environmental education grant.

## Upcoming Events

NRC events and those of NRC committees appear in **bold green**.

- **June 3: Wellesley Veterans Parade**, 1 pm. [Click here to let us know you can march with us!](#)
- **June 7: Wellesley Green Schools End of Year Celebration**, 7:30 to 9 pm. [Click here to RSVP and receive details.](#)
- **June 7: Wetlands Protection Committee meeting**, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **June 11: NRC meeting**, 7PM, location TBD.
- **June 26: NEWFS Pollinator Garden Workshop, 1 to 4 pm, and Lecture, 6 to 8:30 pm**, Wellesley Police Department. [Click here to register for workshop.](#) [Click here for lecture.](#)
- **June 11: NRC meeting**, 7PM, location TBD.
- **June 28: NRC meeting**, 7PM, location TBD.

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS  
SHARE THIS EMAIL

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

[Permit Applications](#)

[Community Gardens](#)

