by Caroline McKinney

As I end my first year in office, my thoughts have naturally turned toward our accomplishments in Brookline. Quite frankly, I find them to be impressive and a simple tribute to the accomplishments of our organization with little or no direction from me. Thanks to our talent and to the growing number of members willing to share their thoughts and expertise, our membership continues to be one of the best organizations in the nation. Our officers and board members continue to address the needs of our library as well as our small town mindset. Our voter photo verification program, after four years, is off to an outstanding start thanks to the efforts of Ron Ivey as well as the many members who have participated. Our field trips continue to draw large numbers of interested participants. The Wildflower Weekend and our annual Spring Meeting at Tyngsborough Bridge from Ryan Park were, in my opinion, a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of William Francis, his staff, and all the many people who helped with registration, set-ups, and so forth, and all of the other chores associated with the event. We are continually trying to think of ways to improve our organization and to make it more attractive to our new members.

We need to be thinking seriously about developing regional chapters to broaden our level of participation. I envision regional chapters to area such as the Indian Pudding, Rocking Horse, Covington, and comparable to the seventeen towns portion of the town. Please keep in mind that we are talking about general locations, and that a regional chapter could be established just about anywhere. Anyone willing to help organize such an effort is more than welcome to do so.

I would like to thank Chris Wayland for organizing an effort to help the city of Lowell's Lowell Day weekend celebration plans. I would also like to thank Andrew Carnegie for embracing and managing another successful celebration. [illegible] on the other side of page 11 in this newsletter).

As we move approaches, take time to get out and enjoy our native plants and the habitat in which they live. We have a number of interesting hikes planned and we are also providing information on "Discover Brookline" sponsored by Kennedy, Dunn Kelly, Kennedy Department of Fish and Wildlife Brookline, and the Kennedy Road Nature Preserve.