

# WALKS SCHEDULE FALL 2015

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Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt.

## Sunday, September 27 at 1:00 pm

### CANOE TRIP AT NAHANTON PARK

This canoe/kayak trip will start in Nahanton Park. We'll paddle upstream on the Charles against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham and Wellesley. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one at the canoe/kayak rental stand in Nahanton Park. The area up-stream is a region of significant beauty and almost pristine conditions.

Fall is a good time to view the many turtles and other wildlife along this stretch of water. We should see numerous fish, including pickerel, bass and carp. We also will see many birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this habitat. We will pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch and then stop for lunch on Cow Island. On the trip back, the current will help carry us back. It is an interesting trip for adults and children and usually is completed within three hours.

*Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644)*

## Saturday, October 3 at 8:00 am *(Rain Date October 4)*

### FALL BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Cold Spring that are available inside the park. Park at the Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call.

*Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477)*

## Sunday, October 4 at 8:00 am

### FALL BIRD WALK WITH HAYNES MILLER

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for fall migrants as well as resident species. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and Newton Conservators. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance off of Nahanton St. between the JCC and the Charles. Parking is available inside the park. Cancelled if steady rain. If concerned about the weather, please call.

*Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)*

## Saturday, October 10 at 2:00 pm

### INVASIVE-PLANT WALK: LEARN TO IDENTIFY THEM

What are the invasive plant species found in Newton and what harm do they do to the ecosystem? Newton Native Bruce Wenning is an invasive plant specialist and horticulturist. Join Bruce for a professionally guided walking tour of Cold Spring

Park to learn how to identify several types of invasive plants and to learn what you can do in your own yard to safely remove them. Bruce will explain how different invasive plants spread and what removal methods are effective on each. He also will discuss the important topic of how to properly dispose of the plants once removed.

*Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning (617-962-0646)*

## Saturday, October 17 at 1:00 pm

### A WALK ALONG THE CHARLES: RIVERSIDE TO LOWER FALLS

In the last few years, an old railroad bridge over the Charles has been converted into a footbridge, and an old pedestrian bridge has been restored. This four-mile out-and-back walk takes about two hours. It crosses both of these bridges and follows the proposed route of a trail that might someday connect them. The walk follows the riverbank in two areas that are not widely used. The trail is rough in spots, so hiking shoes are recommended. A detour is possible around the roughest stretch.

Due to rough terrain, the walk is not recommended for children under 10. Each participant (or parent/guardian) must sign a waiver. Waivers will be available at the walk, or can be downloaded at: <http://newtonconservators.org/waiver.pdf>. Meet at the parking lot on the Recreation Road exit (Exit 23 Northbound only) off Route I-95/128: <http://goo.gl/maps/Npzy3>

*Trip Leaders: State Rep. Kay Khan and Conservators Website Manager Dan Brody (websitemgr@newtonconservators.org)*

## Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 am

### BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF NEWTON AND ADJACENT AREAS

The bedrock geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the south pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story.

This trip will not be one of the usual "walks" since we will need to carpool to travel to 4 different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation area-east, at the west end of Hammond Pond off of Hammond Pond Parkway near Rt. 9, behind "The Street" complex near the movie theatre (see *Newton Conservators Walking Trail Guide p.35*). We will first visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will last 2-3 hours.

*Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)*