



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Saturday, May 6, 2017

... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



May Day

Thank you to everyone who attended our terrific Annual Meeting and Dinner on Wednesday night! Speaker Andy Finton provided us with critical information about increasing the resilience of our open space so that the land will be able to provide for a variety of plants and animals. He showed us a map of the most resilient areas of Newton. In future weeks, we'll work to share the information contained in that map.

In the meantime, we need to continue our work to make our open spaces able to provide for the wildlife that live in them. Part of that work is insuring that invasive plants do not turn the land into monocultures of plants that outcompete the native plants and do not support the animals. Please give an hour or two of your time to help with an invasive plant pull. We will be conducting two pulls over the coming week, starting at the very special Sawmill Brook Conservation Area on Sunday and the Blue Heron Bridge next Saturday. Lots of events coming up including various plant sales (just added to the calendar).

May is an exciting time of year when all turns green. Birders love this time of year when many species of migrating birds pass through Newton on their way north. Watch your neighborhood trees, especially oaks, for colorful warblers picking off the little inchworms before they can't turn into winter moths next November! And don't miss our popular annual Mother's Day Bird Walk next Sunday. Hope you can get out and enjoy our open spaces!

Spring Event Calendar

Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.
Opposite 120 Vine St., Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm

Sawmill Brook Park is a lovely, long, natural trail connecting Newton to West Roxbury. It has garlic mustard and black swallow-wort infestations at its entrances and along Lagrange St. and Wayne Road borders. We will work at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrol previously worked areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City continues to help us dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Frescesco DiTullio.



Thursday, May 11th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday, May 13th, 10 - 11:30 am

Crescent Street Housing and Rev. Ford Playground Update Sessions Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve Street

The former Parks and Recreation site at 70 Crescent Street, just south of the Mass Pike is going to be repurposed into eight units of housing (at least four will be permanently affordable) and an expanded playground and park. An architect and landscape designer have been selected to start the design process for the project, and there are two community forums set up to get input from the neighbors and other stakeholders. On Thursday at Myrtle Baptist Church will be a Pre-Design Project Update and Public Input Meeting with open house at 6:30 p.m., presentation and Q&A at 7:15 p.m. by the Abacus design team and the project manager. On Saturday morning at the Reverend Ford Playground and Green Space, 10 am - 11:30 am will be an outdoor talk and ideas session led by Deneen Crosby, landscape architect. For details, go to: www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/hcd/70_crescent_street.asp



Saturday, May 13, 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge #2 (repeat visit). Near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472 www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study, so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner farthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left, and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St., a block away from the river. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.



Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 1:00pm Spring Tree Tour Newton Cemetery <http://newtonconservators.org/12cemetery.htm>

Enjoy a tour showcasing the trees that enhance the grounds. Cemetery arborist Robert Reardon will highlight some interesting and unique characteristics of the numerous recently planted varieties. The tour will last approximately 90 minutes and take place rain or shine. Comfortable walking shoes, water and plenty of questions are recommended. Meet outside the main office just inside the front gate at 791 Walnut Street, Newton Massachusetts. Parking is available along the cemetery roads or the chapel parking lot. For more information, call 617-332-0047. The tour is free and open to all. Donations to the Friends of Newton Cemetery are welcome and support arboretum education and care.



Saturday May 13, 9 am - 4 pm Grow Native Massachusetts Plant Sale 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452

The third annual Grow Native Plant Sale will be bigger and better than ever. There will be more than 1,500 plants to sell, representing 114 species, including grasses, perennials, ferns, shrubs and trees. Plants are sourced from ten suppliers around New England to put together a great variety of native plants, so you can fill your garden with beautiful native plants for the bees, butterflies, and birds. Cash, check, and credit cards will be accepted. Cash or checks will help to keep the check-out line moving! Proceeds from the sale support Grow Native programs. Are you also looking for vegetable or herb seedlings? Stop by the Waltham Fields Community Farm Seedling Sale, at the same time and place. The sale is on, rain or shine. Info at <http://grownativemass.org/programs/plantsale>.



Saturday, May 13, 1- 2:30 pm
Charles River Walk (part of the Watch City Steampunk Festival)
Meet by Dam in Landry Park, 154 Moody Street

Step away from the Watch City Steampunk Festival for an easy stroll downstream on the new boardwalk and paved pathways of the Charles River. Waltham's pivotal role in the Industrial Revolution will be discussed as we head past the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. We hope to see eagles flying overhead and turtles sunning on rocks when we pause at viewing decks east of Newton Street before heading back. Costumed participants encouraged! See pics from last year's walk and the Festival here. Sponsored by the Waltham Land Trust.



Sunday, May 14 at 8:00 am
Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk
<http://newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm>

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 both migratory and resident songbirds. Mother's Day occurs during the peak of the spring migration, so we will look for a variety of brilliantly colored tropical birds on their way to breeding grounds further north. Also expect newly arrived resident warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, swallows, and wrens. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Waterproof walking shoes are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the Friends of Nahanton Park. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619), Haynes Miller (617-413-2419).



Wednesday, May 17
Newton Cemetery Bird Walk
<http://newtonconservators.org/12cemetery.htm>

Test your skills and pick up some new ones this spring with Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Manomet's Director of Landbird Conservation, as he leads this year's Newton Cemetery Bird Walk. We welcome birders of all experience levels on this two hour walk around the cemetery's arboretum in search of migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more! Scheduled for the peak of spring migration, you're sure to have ample opportunity to brush up on your birding-by-ear techniques, as well as catch a glimpse of breeding males in their most dapper plumage. We'll also discuss changes in climate and how Manomet's long-term research projects bring its effects on migration to light. Be sure to come equipped with comfortable shoes, binoculars (we will provide a few pairs to share), and water. The walk will meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available along the cemetery road or chapel parking lot. Contact/Registration Information: \$15 Non-member, \$10 member (Newton Cemetery). Participation is limited. Visit www.manomet.org to register. Contact Justin Barrett at 508-224-6521 x237 or jbarrett@manomet.org for additional information.



Saturday, May 20, 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #2 (repeat visit).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours keeping the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will



be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Saturday May 20, Noon - 3 pm
Sunday May 21, Noon - 3 pm
Spring Seedling Sale
Newton Community Farm

Visit the Newton Community Farm on Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, to stock up on seedlings for your home garden and help support your local farm. Find your favorite vegetables, herbs and flowers, all specially selected to thrive in New England. These seedlings are grown from the same varieties of seeds that are used to grow the produce sold at the farm. The farm will also be



selling Vermont Compost again this year to help your garden grow its best. If you would like make sure you get your favorite varieties, and have the farm pack up your order, please send in a preorder to be picked up during the Seedling Sale. Click on preorder form. Preorders are due on May 13 and are only available to Friends of the Farm. Interested in becoming a Friend of the Farm? You can sign up here: <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/about/support/join/>.

Sunday, May 21, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Nahanton Park Invasives Pull
Near 507 Winchester Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm

Many native habitats, including the grassland Woodcock Meadow, home to threatened American Woodcock, and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They outcompete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park suffers from infestations of invasive plant species, including black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park (and help the American woodcock) by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot off Winchester Street. Leaders are Suzette Barbier and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Sunday, May 28, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond. Near 309
Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull. But any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until they find some, we are stuck controlling the plant by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway at Route 9 adjacent to pond at "The Street" mall. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.



Saturday, June 3, 10 am - 3 pm
DCR's Universal Access Program's Annual Accessible Recreation Fair
Herter Park/Artesani Playground in Brighton

GPS: 1255 Soldiers Field Rd. Brighton, MA 02135

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Universal Access Program is hosting their annual Accessible Recreation Fair, June 3rd, from 10AM-3PM at Herter Park/Artesani Playground in Brighton. The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Universal Access Program (UAP) is offering a free, fun-filled day celebrating accessible outdoor recreation in Massachusetts State Parks! Family-friendly, accessible, and inclusive activities include: cycling with an assortment of adaptive cycles, hiking and letterboxing with all-terrain wheelchairs and walkers, face painting and kite decorating, golf and other equipment demonstrations, bubble blowing and games, music and dancing, and much more! Light refreshments will be available, generously provided by Legal Seafood's ChowderMobile, Shaw's Supermarkets, Starbucks Coffee, and Whole Foods. With over twenty organizations attending, this is the best place to come find out about accessible, adaptive, and inclusive recreation programs offered in the greater Boston area and beyond. Enjoy socializing on the banks of the Charles River while learning about inclusive, accessible programs and resources available to people of all abilities around the state and the region. Rain or shine (call 413-545-5353 for recorded status in case of severe weather). Pre-registration is highly recommended, especially for use of equipment. To register, call Gigi at 781-254-4720 or email gigi.ranno@state.ma.us. Please RSVP to request an ASL interpreter. Volunteers are also welcome! For volunteer opportunities, contact Rachael at 413-992-8048 or rachael.lee@state.ma.us. For more information on DCR's Universal Access Program and a schedule of activities, call 413-545-5353 or visit www.mass.gov/dcr/universal-access.



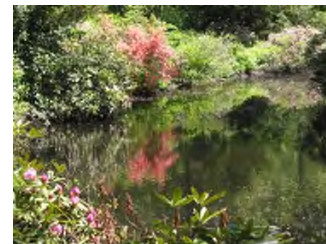
Sunday, June 4, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (repeat visit).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461.
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Saturday, June 10, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Houghton Garden/Webster Invasives Pull
Opposite 210 Suffolk Rd., Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm

We are tackling garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods and near the deer park. Help us keep these invaders out of Houghton Garden! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd. (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Michele Hanss.



Saturday, June 17, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull.
Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464
www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallowwort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the invaders



out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the parking lot at corner of Quinobequin Rd. and Ellis St. at Rt. 9 intersection. Leaders are Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Saturday, June 17 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 18)
Ferns of Kennard Park
<http://newtonconservators.org/24kennard.htm>

Kennard Park is a fairly large conserved area off Dudley Road that lies between Chestnut Hill and Newton South High School. We will see more than a dozen common ferns and one club-moss. There won't be much climbing involved. Wear long pants, and bring a lens if you have one and any ferns you'd like me to identify. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464), <http://nefern.info>, don@nefern.info



Saturday June 17 9:30 am -2 pm
Newton Aqueducts Walk
Appalachian Mt Club Boston Chapter Trip

Eight miles, generally smooth and flat terrain, with one steep section at Hemlock Gorge (individuals can skip this if they want to). Meet in Newton Centre, at the corner of Centre Street and Tyler Terrace. Park on Tyler Terrace or a nearby street or take the T (Green Line D/Riverside) and get off at the Newton Centre stop. Meeting place is about 1/4 mile away. Bring water, lunch, snacks, bug repellent. No children or dogs. Heavy rain cancels. If uncertain, contact leader Lisa Fleischman: 617-244-5747 or lfeisch2@gmail.com. Co-leader is Jim Hammond.



The Urban Tree Commission



The Urban Tree Commission (<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/forestry/commission.asp>) has begun a newsletter and the very first edition can be found at the following link:
<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/82415>.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Newton Conservators publishes its newsletter approximately four times a year. It is distributed by mail to the membership and is available online. Extra copies are also available at the Newton Free Library. Spring is here! Just in time, here is the link to our Spring Newsletter—chock-full of interesting information: http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04.pdf. The cover story is about the 10th anniversary of the Newton Community Farm and their plans for the future. UMass Professor Joe Elkinton presents an explanation of the status of the winter moth in Massachusetts—as well as the predator fly that he's been releasing—and requests that Newton residents not spray their trees for the moths this year. Please don't miss the announcement of Andy Finton of the Nature Conservancy as the speaker at the Annual Meeting/dinner on May 3, a farewell to Jane Sender, and a new "Can You Identify this Place?" contest. And there's so much more . . .

- Newton Community Farm - <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters>

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- Winter Moths - http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_winter_moth.pdf
- Jane Sender - http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_jane_sender.pdf
- Bird Count - http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_bird_count.pdf
- Echo Bridge - http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_echo_bridge.pdf

The next issue will come to you from the newsletter's terrific new editor, Ken Mallory, who was formerly Editor-in-chief of Publishing Programs at the [New England Aquarium](#). Ken Mallory is also an accomplished photographer. Beth Wilkinson has loved editing the newsletter for the past six years and has done an amazing job for which we are all grateful!



NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

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Tenth Anniversary of the Newton Community Farm

By Craig Genier, Member of the Board of Directors of the Newton Community Farm

Since 1679, there has been a farmhouse on the corner of Winchester and Nahanton Streets. The old farmhouse, situated approximately where the current farmhouse stands today, and 120 acres of surrounding land were owned by Samuel Truesdale. At that time, and well into the early 20th century, the southern part of Newton from the Charles River to Route 9 was predominantly farmland, woods, and streams. As Ted Chapman explains in his *Cultural History of the Angino Farm*, "the Charles River in the Oak Hill region was slow, meandering, with extensive wetlands. It was because of the lack of potential waterpower to run mills that the land remained agricultural and pastoral, unlike much of the rest of Newton. Wealthy landowners owned huge estates along the Charles in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the hillier land remained farms."

Crescenzo Angino, a recent immigrant from Italy, purchased the farmhouse and land that is now Newton Community Farm in 1917. He and his family maintained its status as a working farm for 84 years, until his son



PHOTO: VIKINGHILL HALL/PHOTO
Charles Radenovich, Assistant Farmer



Volunteers Jasper and Marissa

Jerry's death in 2001. The Anginos planted five hundred tomato plants every year, some with seeds brought from Italy, yielding fruit coveted by many Newtonites. Jerry especially loved a hybrid red tomato named *Ramapo* (*Lycopersicon lycopersicum*) that was developed at Rutgers University and became the quintessential "Jersey" tomato (<http://njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/RamapoTomato.htm>). The Anginos also grew corn renowned for its sweetness.

In 2004, the Newton Conservators achieved a long-term goal: facilitating the purchase of the farm by the City of Newton. In the period between the Aldermen's vote to approve the purchase and the subsequent release of Community Preservation funds, it was the Newton Conservators who guaranteed the mortgage on the purchase of the farm. They continue to hold the conservation restriction to this day.

Under the auspices of the newly created non-profit, Newton Community Farm, Inc., farming began anew in 2006. Newton

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Membership & Publications!



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Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online? The Trail Guides and Almanac are also available at your local Newton Bookstores. Shop Local!



Mission: *The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.*

The Newton Conservators organization was formed as a not-for-profit in June 1961.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)



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