

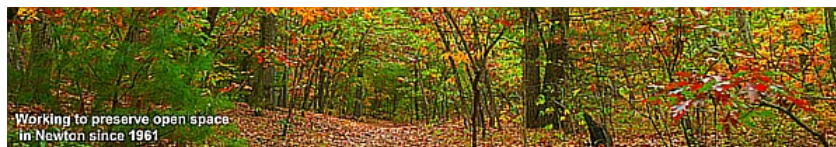


Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Thursday, October 4, 2018

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



October Happenings and E-Mail News

October is upon us and we have a nice compendium of both outdoor and indoor events to take advantage of! This Saturday, we have walks to Dolan Pond from the Elm St Farmers Market. Later in the month, we have great bird walks at Nahanton and Cold Spring Parks, a very special bird photography walk, an Aqueducts hike, and even a geology tour, along with invasives removal efforts at Woodcock Meadow in Nahanton Park and a buckthorn project at Cold Spring Park. We also have an upcoming lecture at the Newton Library on "Trees and People Around the World" and other events around Newton that you may find of interest!

Some of you may be reading this e-Bulletin for the first time - if so, Welcome! Recently we have been reviewing and consolidating our email lists of members of the Newton Conservators and non-member readers as well who have expressed some interest in our work. We know that emails can get out of date as internet providers or jobs change over time. In some cases, we have found multiple email addresses for one person - and likely one of them may no longer be current - or it may be an email address that you no longer wish to use for receiving the e-Bulletin. If you are receiving this email in error, you may unsubscribe from the address where you received it easily at the end of this email by clicking the "unsubscribe" link. Or please send us a note at ebulletin@newtonconservators.org to take your email off the list or to change it to an alternate email. We do hope you find this occasional e-Bulletin useful in keeping you in touch with open space related activities around Newton!

Wishing you a fun fall in Newton's open spaces!

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 6, 10:30 am AND 11:30 am
Dolan Pond Tours from the Elm Street Farmer's Market
Meet at Newton Conservators Table at Elm Street Farmer's Market
Elm Street - between Border and Washington Streets - West Newton

This Saturday is the last day for the season at the Elm Street Farmers Market on Elm Street in West Newton. Fresh vegetables, baked goods, seafood, fresh squeezed lemondade, and even live music await you. In addition, the Newton Conservators have a table where you can get a trail guide or our almanac, learn about invasives, and even pick up fresh milkweed seeds to encourage monarch butterflies. Special this week, we will have two walks to nearby Dolan Pond! There is convenient parking at the adjacent municipal lot with access from Elm or Cherry Street - free during market hours.



The Dolan Pond Conservation Area is a hidden gem of West Newton and is home to a wide diversity of bird, animal and plant life. Only a short walk from downtown West Newton, it has accessible trails and a boardwalk passing by several vernal pools. This free walk starts at the Newton Conservators table at the busy Saturday Elm Street Farmer's Market in West Newton. On the short walk to Dolan Pond, we will view interesting examples of 19th and 20th century architecture in the Webster Park Historic District and then explore the nature trails and ponds in the conservation area. We will be back to the market in under an hour, where you can then pick up fresh produce, bakery items, and many other goodies and learn more about open space and invasive species initiatives from the Newton Conservators booth. A recent article on Dolan Pond can be found at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_dolan.pdf, with a trail map and other info at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm>. Contact trip leader Ted Kuklinski, tkuklinski@aol.com with any questions.



Saturday, Sunday, October 6 & 7, 10 am - 5 pm
Free Admission to Historic Newton's Museums
Jackson Homestead and Durant-Kendrick House



Enjoy free admission to both of Historic Newton's museums, the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street, and the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue on Saturday, October 6 & Sunday, October 7 | 10:00am - 5:00pm. The Jackson Homestead and Museum displays rotating and permanent exhibits about the history of Newton, Massachusetts, and the Underground Railroad. The Durant



Kendrik House is a 1734 farmhouse, restored and renovated in 2013 with the addition of a large, modern educational space. <http://www.historicnewton.org/>

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 am
Nahanton Bird Walk with Haynes Miller
Nahanton Park

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 & Newton Conservators. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance 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).



Sunday, October 14, 8:00 am
Fall Bird Walk with Pete Gilmore
Cold Spring Park - Beacon Street entrance



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 14, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Woodcock Meadow (Nahanton Park) Invasives Pull
Woodcock Meadow upper parking lot off Nahanton Street

We are working to restore Woodcock Meadow to the sandy grassland meadow needed by the threatened American Woodcock. We will pull and cut bittersweet, buckthorn, black locust, black swallow-wort, and other invasive species. Meet at Woodcock Meadow near upper parking lot off Nahanton St. Leaders are Jon Regosin and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Sunday, October 14, 10 am - 5 pm
Newton Harvest Fair - Green Expo
Newton Center Green, Langley Road and Centre Street

Come visit the Newton Conservators table at the Green Expo, at the annual Newton Harvest Fair in Newton Centre sponsored by Green Newton. There will be exhibitors of the latest solutions for reducing your carbon footprint. The Harvest Fair itself will feature live entertainment all day, 100 craft vendors and informational booths, delicious food, amusement rides, and free pumpkin decorating. See <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/harvest-fair.html>.



Saturday, October 20, 9:00 am
Bird Photography Walk - with Brooks Mathewson
Cold Spring Park - Beacon Street entrance



Birds make outstanding photographic subjects. Each species presents both unique challenges as well as enormous opportunities to create inspirational, visually compelling work. In this walk Brooks will discuss the basics of bird photography and the elements involved in creating an exceptional avian image. Topics covered include choosing the right lens, understanding light,



creating sharp, properly exposed images, important compositional techniques, where and when to find different species of birds in Newton and beyond, and creating ecologically meaningful images.

Park at the Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Beginners as well as experienced birders and photographers of all levels are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Brooks Mathewson (617-851-3513).

Sunday, October 21, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Cold Spring Park Buckthorn Demonstration Project
1200 Beacon St. Newton MA 02459



We're collaborating with horticulturalist Bruce Wenning and ecology professor Eric Olson to try to save the red maple forest, believed to be one of the oldest forested areas in Newton. The wetland forest is threatened by the takeover of invasive nonnative buckthorn as its understory. We will maintain the buckthorn-free demonstration areas to allow the forest to survive. Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell). Read more about this project at <http://www.newtonconservators.org>



at <http://www.newtonconservators.org>
[/Cold_Spring_Buckthorn.htm](#)

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:00 pm
Newton Aqueducts Hike
Starbucks near Waban T Station

Join a five-mile hike through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group (there are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488).



Saturday, October 27, 9:00 am
Bedrock Geology of Newton and Environs
Hammond Pond Parkway Entrance to "The Street"



The 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 Conservator "walks" since we will need to carpool to different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. If there is time and interest, we may choose to go a bit beyond Newton to view rocks within a volcanic caldera from that time. 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 Parkway near Rt. 9. This is behind "The Street" complex near the movie theatre (see Newton Conservators' Walking Trail Guide, pg. 35). We will visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will about 3 hours. If there is moderate rain or worse, the trip will be cancelled. You can call the leader the evening before if in doubt. Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137).



Sunday, October 28, 3:30 pm
Historic Newton: Halloween Tour of East Parish Burying Ground
Corner of Cotton and Centre Streets

Who says cemeteries have to be spooky? Newton's oldest cemetery, the East Parish Burying Ground, dates back to 1660 and serves as the resting place of Newton's founding families. Learn about Newton's history and explore this community resource as an educator from Historic Newton guides you in this special tour of the art of remembrance, and life and death in Newton. Hear the stories of those memorialized and consider the lives and deaths of those whose final resting places are unmarked. Meet at the corner of Cotton and Centre Streets; park on Cotton Street. Sponsored by Historic Newton

- <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/walking.asp>



Wednesday, October 24, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Hello Washington Street - Plan Open House

Newton North High School, 457 Walnut Street, Newton

What do we want Washington Street to look like in the coming years? What types and amount of buildings and housing? Heights and styles of buildings? Parks? The street itself? After spending 75 hours listening to more than 400 residents and business owners who stopped into the design studio on Washington Street last spring, draft plans are ready. A first draft of the vision plan and draft zoning recommendations from Principle Group, the consultants hired to work with the City, will be presented at a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Newton North High School. The planning team will bring on October 24th three dimensional images of possible options for sites along Washington Street to clarify the choices. The planning team is also considering how to improve existing public spaces and create new ones, how to repair the street to improve transportation for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, and looking at options to mitigate the Mass Pike. For more info please visit:



http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/washington_street_vision.asp

Tuesday, October 30, 7 pm Trees and People Around the World: An Historic Perspective Lecture by Matthew Foti, Arborist Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, Homer Street

Matthew Foti, President of Matthew R. Foti Landscape Design & Construction, Inc., will explore the relationship of trees and people around the world as well as the historic significance of some of our very own native trees. As the featured arborist for WGBH's This Old House from 1988 to 2015, Matt provided tree care advice to millions of viewers. This program is cosponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy, the Newton Free Library, and the Newton Conservators. http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/2018_10_30_trees.pdf.



Tuesday, November 13, Newton Inspires 7 to 9:30 pm The Effects of Climate Change on the Plants and Animals of Thoreau's Concord An invited talk by Richard Primack, Professor of Biology, Boston University Session 1 of Newton Inspires - An Evening of Ideas and Community Newton South High School

Henry David Thoreau was a climate change scientist! For the past 15 years, Professor Richard Primack (Boston University) and his team have been using Thoreau's records from the 1850s and other Massachusetts data sources to document the earlier flowering and leafing out times of plants and the more variable response of migratory birds. Most noteworthy, plants in Concord are also changing in abundance due to a warming climate. This work has received extensive media coverage and is now being extended to the neglected autumn season. What would Thoreau tell us to do about global warming if he were alive today?

Richard Primack is a professor of biology with a specialization in plant ecology, conservation biology, tropical rain forest ecology, and climate change biology. He is the author of two widely used conservation biology textbooks; local co-authors have helped to produce 36 translations of these books with local examples. For nine years, he was the editor-in-chief of the journal Biological Conservation and served as the president of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Professor Primack is the author and editor of books about tropical rainforests and has written a popular book about his Concord research: Walden Warming: Climate Change Comes to Thoreau's Woods. In addition, Professor Primack is a lifelong resident of Newton, having graduated from Bowen Elementary School, Weeks Junior High School, and Newton South High School. He wrote his undergraduate thesis on flora of Newton's Hammond Woods and Webster Woods. He is also a frequent contributor to the Newton Tab and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Newton Conservators.



Register for this and other informative lectures and presentations by Newton's best at the annual Newton Inspires event - <http://www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org/newton-inspires> - sponsored by the Newton Schools Foundation. Sessions fill up fast so sign up soon!



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. Our Fall 2018 Newsletter has been printed and mailed to members is posted on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. Here are some of the articles to

check out!

- [The Canada Goose in Newton](#)
- [Introduction to the Bedrock Geology of Newton](#)
- [Beyond Boundaries: Public Art in the Upper Falls Greenway](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Peter Kastner](#)
- [Invasive Plant Sessions Fall 2018](#)
- [Fall Walks - 2018](#)



NEWSLETTER

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

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The Canada Goose in Newton



Adult Canada Goose seen on a walk in Hammond Pond Woods

There are geese, and then there are geese. Let me explain.

Back in the late 1970s when I sailed the Chesapeake Bay with friends on fall "Goosing Expeditions," we would see huge flocks of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and even swans migrating down the Eastern flyway in their distinctive V patterns. We would awaken at dawn after mooring in an estuary on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the soft honking of Canada Geese — it almost sounded like dogs barking. I also recall enjoying watching flocks of birds come in for landing in the late evening — those geese would perform like acrobats with barrel rolls and wing waggles. But fall and spring were the *only* time we saw large numbers of these geese back in the 1970s.

Now there are Canada Geese everywhere there are lawns at Crystal Lake and the Newton Cemetery, and at all the Newton playing fields and golf courses. The Canada Geese are making headlines, too. They

downed a plane in New York in 2009. They aggressively defend nests in shopping malls. They are blamed for fouling children's playing fields and swimming holes, as well as public water supplies. *And they don't seem to migrate anymore.*

What happened?

To begin to understand the answer, let's explore some facts about this very large bird.

There are, according to the Cornell Ornithology Lab's website, "At least 11 subspecies of Canada Goose ... although only a couple are distinctive." Here in Newton we see the most common goose, *Bonta canadensis*. This is one of the largest birds you will commonly encounter with a wing span of 4 - 5.5 feet and a length of 2.5 - 3.6 feet, weighing in at 6.6 pounds on the low end to nearly 20 pounds! They compare roughly to a wild turkey but may have a longer wing span. And I'm told they are tasty, too, although I've never tried a wild

Continued on page 2

Membership & Publications!



Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend. New members get a trail guide as well!

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! Our Trail Guide and Almanac make great holiday gifts!



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 (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)



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