



*Working to preserve open space in Newton for 42 years!*

*the Newton Conservators*

# NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue

[www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

April / May 2003

## ***CITY EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE KESSELER WOODS CONTINUE***

*Limited Development Explored to Save Open Space*

To ensure that all options are covered in the effort to save Kessler Woods, the City of Newton contracted the services of a land planner to scope out several scenarios for limited development. The resulting scenarios provide a glimpse into what might be proposed by developers competing with the city for ownership of the property, as well as a starting point for partnering with developers who are willing to work with the city to preserve as much of the land as possible.

While stressing repeatedly the desire of the city to protect all of Kessler Woods if possible, the Mayor and others who are working on this project have cited the need to be pragmatic in our planning. An independent appraisal of the property is currently being prepared that will identify the value of the land as a straight acquisition as well as with limited development. This will provide the city a basis for preparing its bid for the property, due to NStar on June 20, 2003.

To identify potential development partners, if that proves to be necessary, the city has released a Request for Interest (RFI), a six-page document that spells out the parameters of the process and characteristics of the site, including zoning, utility and other constraints. A set of goals is also

*(Continued on page 2)*

### ***41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Dinner to be Held on May 21st***

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Newton Conservators will be held on Wednesday evening, May 21, in Noyes Hall at the Andover Newton Theological School. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM with a social hour. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM and the evening program will start at 8:00 PM.

A short business meeting will be followed by presentation of the annual Environmentalist of the Year Award to Martha Aherin Horn, the city's Environmental Planner. The Charles Johnson Maynard Award will go this year to Ted Kuklinski and Nancy Avery will accept for the Chestnut Hill Garden Club a special Directors Award for the restoration of Houghton Garden. Dan L. Perlman will speak about "Cold Spring Park: Our Small Piece of Wilderness."

All members will receive invitations shortly. Further information about the annual dinner is available by contacting Lucy Caldwell-Stair by email at [longwood@attbi.com](mailto:longwood@attbi.com).

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*Kessler Woods, continued from page 1*

contained in the RFI, which are listed on page 4.

The entire RFI, complete with eight maps showing the site in context with the neighborhood, areas constrained from development and several planning scenarios (called Site Accommodation Studies, which attempt to show the maximum potential development in each of four areas), is displayed on the city’s web site [www.ci.newton.ma.us, Top News Stories for This Week (bottom of home page), Kessler Woods RFI].

Next steps in the process are the completion of appraisal studies and review of responses from the RFI. This work will occur in mid-April. From that point, the city will assemble a proposal, present it to the Community Preservation Committee for a funding recommendation, then on to the Board of Aldermen for their approval prior to submitting a proposal to NStar by the June 20 deadline. A public hearing is expected to be held sometime in early May as the CPC considers its recommendation.

The Newton Conservators have conveyed to the Mayor and others working on this acquisition their strong preference for this land being fully preserved if at all possible. In a letter dated March 1, 2003, President Lucy Caldwell-Stair outlined a series of priorities recommended by the Board of Directors for this property. This letter is reprinted on page x.

*Doug Dickson*

## **DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS FOR KESSELER WOODS**

Sasaki Associates, a nationally known land planning firm, was hired by the city to develop information about what kinds of development options might be considered for Kessler Woods if needed to put together a competitive financial proposal. In addition to studying the site to determine constraints and opportunities, they created scenarios that test the limits of what might be built on various sections of the property, given the limits that exist. This is helpful as the city considers its approach to bidding for the land. It is also helpful as a way to imagine what other bidders might be thinking about how to maximize their use of the space.

As a basis for its auction of the site, NStar filed a subdivision plan with the city that claims the property

will support 68 single-family house lots under the existing zoning ordinance. The work done by Sasaki indicates that closer to 42 units could be built with no zoning changes. These lots would be either 10,000 sq ft or 15,000 sq ft in size—two different zoning categories apply to parts of this site. If constructed, these homes would cover all of the usable land area, leaving only wetlands to be preserved.

Denser development, either in the form of townhouses, condos or apartments, would enable a builder to get more money out a smaller area. The question Sasaki’s work was designed to answer is, How much development will the property support? Here, in table form, is their answer:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Single family</b>	<b>Town-houses</b>	<b>Multi-family</b>
1, off Brookline St (6.8 acres NULA*)	7 lots	18 units	none
2, off LaGrange St (11.3 acres NULA*)	22 lots	34 units	130 units
3, north of Vine St (2.4 acres NULA*)	4 lots	none	none
4, south of Vine St (7 acres NULA*)	9 lots	21 units	50 units

NULA = Net useable land area, free of building constraints  
Area numbers correspond to maps at www.ci.newton.ma.us

Construction of townhouses or multi-family units would, in most cases, require a special permit from the city, granted by the Board of Aldermen through its land use process. This would not be true if the developer proposed a comprehensive permit project under the state’s snob zoning law, Chapter 40B. In this scenario, the developer would designate a required minimum of units as affordable housing, thereby allowing the local zoning ordinance to be circumvented. The city could still exert some control if the developer proposed a grade change of greater than three feet, which seems likely to be required if buildings are proposed for some sections.

For maps that show how townhouse and multi-family units might be situated on the land, go to the city’s web site at www.ci.newton.ma.us, Top News Stories, Kessler Woods RFI.

*Doug Dickson*

## **CONSERVATORS SET PLANNING PRIORITIES FOR KESSELER WOODS**

In a letter to Mayor Cohen dated March 1, 2003, the Newton Conservators stated the Board's firm hope that Kessler Woods can be preserved in its entirety and strongly urged the city to work toward that goal. If that cannot be accomplished, the Conservators identified a list of priorities that should guide the planning effort to save as much of the Woods as possible. Here is the letter signed by Newton Conservators President Lucy-Caldwell-Stair:

Dear Mayor Cohen,

I am writing on behalf of the Newton Conservators to express our strong support for exploring and exhausting every possible step the city can take in its effort to acquire the 42.8 acres of open space known as Kessler Woods. While we recognize the degree of difficulty, we urge that the city set as its first priority the preservation of the entire area, including both the north and south parcels.

We regard this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to set aside a pristine area that contains several valuable ecosystems, adjoins existing conservation areas, and provides environmental benefits to our community as well as a source of food and shelter to wildlife. Kessler Woods has been targeted for acquisition in the city's Open Space Plan since the 1970s, when the Plan was inaugurated.

In the process of exploring options for acquisition, we urge the city to adopt the following priorities in considering potential uses of these parcels, in particular if a determination is reached that preservation of the entire 42.8 acres is not feasible:

- Preserve the south parcel in its entirety because of its connection on two sides with existing conservation land.
- Protect as much open space as possible across the 42.8-acre area.
- Retain the walking trail linking the two sections of Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.
- Create in the north parcel access via walking trails to Bald Pate Meadow and to the rock ridge with a scenic view to the north.
- Preserve all of the wetlands protected by the state Rivers Act and the city wetlands protection ordinance.

- Require that any development on either parcel be engineered to achieve a neutral impact on the water levels and flows in the protected wetlands.
- Preserve a buffer of trees along Brookline, LaGrange and Vine Streets deep enough to preserve the scenic beauty of these roadways.
- Require that any development on either parcel be sited so as to maximize public access to open space, especially the three aforementioned walking trails. Further, we urge that this access, along with views and other appropriate natural features, be protected by a conservation easement.
- Require that any development of these wooded parcels be done in full compliance with the tree preservation ordinance.
- Require that all open space acquired or restricted on either parcel be protected by an independent conservation restriction held by a land trust such as the Newton Conservators in order to preserve this land from further development in perpetuity.
- Require that any developer of a portion of the site set aside a fund to defray the costs of monitoring and enforcing conservation restrictions on this property held by the city and by a land trust such as the Newton Conservators.

The Newton Conservators strongly endorses use of the Community Preservation Fund to acquire full or partial protection of Kessler Woods. It is for opportunities such as this that we as an organization worked so long and hard to achieve passage of the Community Preservation Act in Newton. Even if a multi-year commitment is needed to acquire this space, we believe this will be money well spent.

As the city embarks on a process to determine the basis upon which Kessler Woods might be preserved, the Newton Conservators offers the full extent of our resources and expertise in support of this effort. We respectfully request that Jon Regosin, a biologist and director of the Newton Conservators, represent our interests on the Kessler Woods task force you are forming. His background and familiarity with the area will offer a valuable

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Kessler Woods Priorities, continued from page 3*

perspective, perhaps not otherwise available in this

effort. I will follow up with you in a few days to discuss this request if I don't hear from you immediately.

We greatly appreciate the steps you have taken to date to give the city a chance to acquire Kessler Woods and we pledge to work with you and others to develop options for preserving as much as possible of this last large undeveloped open space in our city.

Sincerely,  
Lucy Caldwell-Stair  
President

## ***CITY SETS PLANNING GOALS FOR KESSELER WOODS***

In its Request for Interest issued to developers in late March, the city articulated the following goals for Kessler Woods:

1. Maximize open space conservation and the protection of wildlife habitat, with special consideration given to proposals that expand and connect existing Newton Conservation Commission lands.
2. Protect environmentally sensitive site features.
3. Preserve open space vistas/view sheds.
4. Enable passive recreation opportunities and connection to existing conservation areas.
5. Respect and enhance quality of life and neighborhood character, including consideration of the relationship of any development to nearby structures in terms of major design elements.
6. Minimize development impacts on existing single-family neighborhoods and provide buffer areas between proposals that include densities higher than the single-family residences that predominately surround the site.
7. Create appropriately scaled, community housing in the context of a site that is predominately left open for conservation and passive recreation purposes.

## ***YES, THE CORRECT SPELLING IS "KESSELER"***

Newton Conservators Newsletter

The undeveloped land at the SE corner of Newton is "Kessler Woods." While it has often appeared as "Kessler", even in this Newsletter, the correct spelling can be found on at least three documents available in Newton City Hall, which this writer saw on 26 Feb 2003. Gayle A. Smalley, Associate City Solicitor, showed me a large engineering drawing dated 31 May 1966 and a copy of a 5 x 8 card which was old and undated, extracting a deed dated 11 May 1964. Ms. Smalley also directed me to the Engineer's Office in City Hall, to see a 1929 book, "Atlas of City of Newton, Mass." (See map on page 5.)

1. The large engineering drawing, which presumably was done with due attention to the facts, and is neat and legible, includes the area south of Vine and west of LaGrange Streets, designating a piece of this ("parcel 1") as "Portion of: Rosa C. Eichorn Kessler Estate, John V. Phelan, Trustee, Old Colony Trust Co., Trustee."
2. The 5 x 8 card, according to Ms. Smalley, was used years ago by city clerks who went to the county courthouses and extracted deeds onto the cards by hand. While a transcription error is possible with handwritten extractions, one would hope that the clerks were careful with the name spellings. The card states that the grantor (seller) was John V. Phelan, trustee for "Rosa Kessler," to grantee (buyer) Boston Edison Company, dated 11 May 1964 and recorded 15 May 1964, shown in Suffolk plan book 10528, page 64 as lots 3 and 2. This card actually refers to a related tiny triangle of land across LaGrange Street, also part of the south parcel.
3. The 1929 "Atlas of Newton, Mass." has the name of "Rosa C. Eichorn Kessler" on the "south parcel" of the property (south of Vine Street and west of LaGrange Street). In addition, parcels north of Vine Street have the names of "John F. Eichorn" and "John F. Eichorn et al."

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*Kessler Spelling, continued from page 4*

As of this writing, we still do not know who John F. Eichorn and Rosa Eichorn Kessler were.

They were not found in a range of Newton City Directories from 1930 to 1975, and were not identified in a search of the US census. The northernmost Eichorn property extends north into Brookline, but it is not yet known if he lived in Brookline. We hope to learn more about these two people in the future.

*J. Douglas Leith*

## Environmentalist of the Year

The Newton Conservators will present this year's Environmentalist of the Year Award to Martha Aherin Horn. Ms Horn's work as Newton's Senior Environmental Planner is essential for the smooth operation of the Conservation Commission, ensuring that regulatory and statutory enforcement aspects of the Commission's charter are maintained. Part of the challenge is to get homeowners and developers to meet the requirements of state and local statutes, complete their projects in accordance with conditions set by the Commission and maintain consistency citywide. She is also the enforcement official when landowners violate wetland regulations or encroach on conservation land.

Another part of her work involves management of the conservation areas owned by the city. In that capacity, she has commissioned plant and wildlife inventories and management plans for our conservation areas. These have served to identify the marvelous natural resources these areas contain and have created a framework for improvements. The Conservation Commission and groups like ours depend on the wealth of knowledge, dedication and passion she brings to her these efforts.

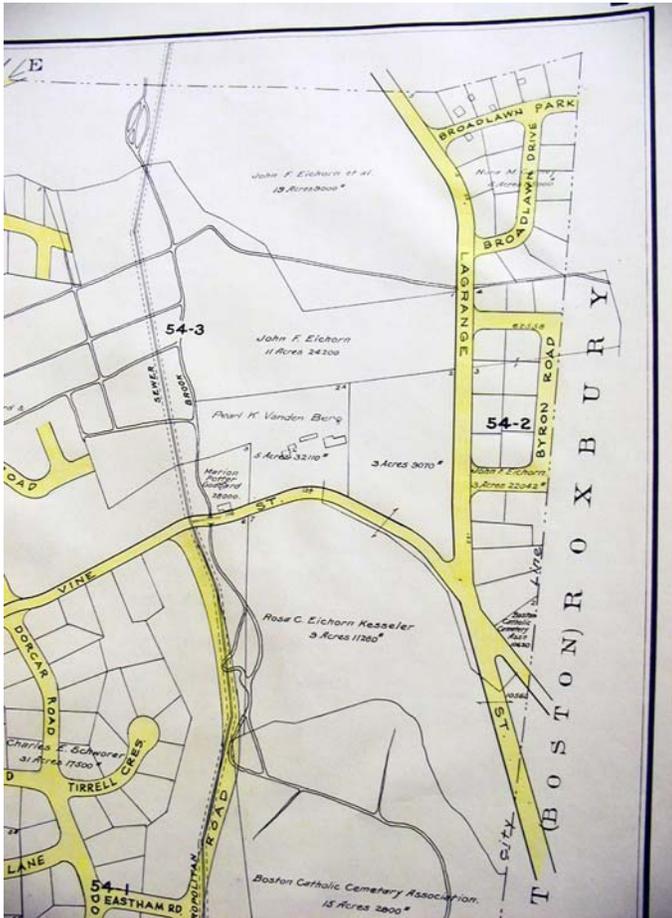
But it is as much for her "volunteer" projects that the Conservators want to recognize Martha this year. She has encouraged various residents, scouts, school groups, and local organizations to step to the line to accomplish improvements to conservation areas that would not otherwise get done. She is always in the thick of it, supplying dirt, compost and chipping services—much of which she wrangles from other city departments. She meets volunteers on site and amazes them with her knowledge of nearby plants. She is the one who provides ice cream bars to the Environmental Science Program (ESP) campers who do volunteer projects at our conservation areas each summer.

Martha is pleased that both Houghton Garden, which has been a long time coming, and Dolan Pond improvements are nearing completion. She credits the work of Nancy Avery (Houghton

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*Annual Meeting, continued from page 5*

Garden) and CDBG planner Dee Spiro and Ted Kuklinski (Dolan Pond) for the success of these two projects. Martha is very modest about her



Map of Kessler Woods from the 1929 Atlas of the City of Newton, located in the City Engineer's Office.

### Do We Have Your Correct Email Address?

If your email address has changed recently or if you would like to be added to our Email Alert list, please send your address to Jason Glasgow, Membership Chair, at [jglasgow@attbi.com](mailto:jglasgow@attbi.com).

*Annual Dinner News, continued from page 1*

## MARTHA AHERIN HORN

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accomplishments and describes her role as a little like Tom Sawyer painting the fence—getting everybody else to do the work. She's a kind of puzzlemaster, putting the pieces together by serving as the connection between all the components for a myriad of different projects. She says her favorite part of the job is stepping back and watching how people go about getting what they want.

In her typical understated way, she indicates that she is not worthy of accepting this award. In an unusual disagreement with her, the Newton Conservators believe that in this case, she is wrong. It is no accident this year that both Ted Kuklinski and the Chestnut Hill Garden Club are receiving awards that were made possible by the critical support and assistance of Martha Aherin Horn.

## **TED KUKLINSKI**

### **Charles Johnson Maynard Award**

Ted Kuklinski is receiving this year's Charles Johnson Maynard Award for his active work as a self-taught naturalist in the City of Newton. Charles Maynard, a Newton resident in the last 19<sup>th</sup> century, was a nationally known naturalist and chronicler of our local wildlife. The award is given each year to recognize efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation and natural resource protection.

Ted Kuklinski has been an active bird counter and watcher, a key player in starting Newton's Biodiversity Days and a tireless supporter of improvements to the Dolan Pond Conservation Area. His work for Dolan Pond, along with support from Martha Aherin Horn, resulted in just-completed improvements under a federally funded Community Development Block Grant with new nature overlooks, steps, information kiosks, handicapped parking, accessible stabilized soil pathways and a boardwalk through this wetland habitat. He inaugurated the highly successful Newton Conservators Lecture Series, focusing primarily on natural resources and biodiversity and created a seasonal email newsletter called Newton Nature Notes.

Ted is founder of Friends of Dolan Pond, a director of the Newton Conservators and the Newton Community Service Center, and serves on the CDBG West Newton Advisory Committee and Citizens for Wellington Park.

## **CHESTNUT HILL GARDEN CLUB**

### **Directors Award for Houghton Garden Restoration**

Residents of Chestnut Hill, with the guidance of the Chestnut Hill Neighborhood Association back in 1968, took an active interest in preserving Martha Houghton's turn-of-the-century naturalistic garden, featuring a tranquil pond, waterfall rock formation, and an alpine rock garden. The Chestnut Hill Garden Club has continued this active stewardship in recent years by helping to maintain and advocate for Houghton Garden.

Now owned by the City of Newton, the garden has recently undergone an extensive restoration with funds provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Department of Environmental Management. The Chestnut Hill Garden Club played a critical role in this achievement and the Newton Conservators are recognizing their continued devotion to the garden with this special award. Nancy Avery, an active member of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club, will accept this special award on their behalf.

## **DAN PERLMAN**

### **Annual Meeting Speaker**

#### ***"Cold Spring Park: Our Small Piece of Wilderness"***

Dan Perlman of Brandeis University believes passionately in the importance of small nature reserves in the cities and towns where most of the world's people live. These are the kinds of reserves that the Newton Conservators have been working to protect for more than forty years. In this lecture, Dan will discuss the complementary roles of large and small reserves, of remote parks and city parks, with a special focus on Cold Spring Park and the people whose lives the park has touched.

The talk will be illustrated with slides he has taken around the world and in Newton, including a series of slides that he has shot at Cold Spring for the last three years. He will explore how Conservation Biology has come into its own as a scientific discipline and as a movement for social change. While many conservation efforts have focused on exotic habitats such as tropical

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*Annual Meeting, continued from page 6*

rainforests and coral reefs or on large landscapes such as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, this talk will focus on the role that local spaces, such as Cold Spring Park, play in conserving nature.

Dan Perlman is a Director of the Newton Conservators and lives near Cold Spring Park. He is an active member of the board and participant in community affairs, including offering science programs at almost all of Newton's Public Schools. He teaches biology and environmental studies at Brandeis University, and has been involved in many aspects of biology education, developing and teaching programs for all ages from kindergarten to university professors.

He recently co-authored an interactive CD-ROM, *Conserving Earth's Biodiversity*, with Dr. E.O. Wilson of Harvard University. Dan has also written a college textbook on conservation biology and co-developed two high school ecology curricula for TERC. He received his PhD from Harvard University's Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, writing his dissertation on the behavioral ecology of Azteca ants. Dan Perlman is an excellent speaker and taught conservation biology at Harvard for nine years, where he won the Phi Beta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award.

*Peter Kastner, with input from Ted Kuklinski*

**The Newton Conservators Newsletter**© is published five times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc. Issues usually appear in February, April, June, September and November. Deadlines for these issues are the fifth of each month in which an issue is scheduled to be published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles by email in MS Word or rich text format to [dgdickson@rcn.com](mailto:dgdickson@rcn.com). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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## MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

The Newton Conservators promote 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 was formed as a not-for-profit organization over 40 years ago in June 1961.*

## *Request for Community Preservation Proposals*

The Community Preservation Act empowers neighborhood groups to bring proposals for funding projects that enhance our city. Newton voters approved the Act in 2001, and by 2003 the Community Preservation Committee had sent along recommendations to fund 11 projects, from open space and recreation to affordable housing and historic preservation.

Open space projects included an upgrade of the trail system at Flowed Meadow with benches, signs, and pathways and an acquisition of land at the Webster Conservation Area. Other projects approved by the committee were a ball field irrigation project brought by a Little League group, an educational garden at the Memorial Spaulding School brought by a parents' group, and restoration of the city's historic graveyards, brought by a historic interest group. One low-cost proposal called for funding for tree planting at a Newton Corner park. What was remarkable about the proposals was the number brought by neighborhood groups and the success of these groups in seeing their projects through.

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To gain approval means taking a few basic steps:

- See that your project meets basic guidelines laid out in the city's Community Preservation Plan ([www.ci.newton.ma.us](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us), click on "City Departments," then "Councils, Boards, and Commissions," then "Community Preservation Committee," then "Community Preservation Plan")
- Include a simple plan and a work list for what you want to do
- Include a cost estimate
- Get the support (in writing if possible) of neighbors and, if the site belongs to the city, of the city agency that controls it
- Be prepared to explain the community benefits

A broad range of projects is suitable for funding:

- Tree planting
- Naturalization of river and stream banks
- Creation of openings in woodlands for wildlife habitat upgrade
- Trail, bench, and sign installation
- Land acquisition

Members of the Conservators serve on the Community Preservation Committee and can advise groups as to how to craft successful proposals. It goes without saying that the only proposals that gain funding are those that are made. If we don't make it happen, most likely, it won't. Think of your project as one that could be done. Members of the Conservators are available to help. Contact a Board member for what you have in mind.

*Eric Reenstierna*

## ***Dan Perlman to Speak at Aquarium***

The New England Aquarium's National Science Foundation-funded special exhibit *Living Links: Choices for Survival* explores links between land, fresh water and the sea, and how humans impact these links daily. In this second of a two-part series of Lowell Lectures on this exhibit, the Aquarium is presenting stories of individuals and groups of individuals who have made a difference. The series is titled "Conservation Actions: The Power of One, The Power of Many."

Our own Dan Perlman will be speaking on May 14.

His lecture will be titled "Cold Spring Park: The Power of Small Decisions, The Power of Multiplication. A Discussion of Conservation Heroes and Their Effects." Every city and town has some small precious parcel of nature remaining, just as each has some deeply dedicated individuals who try to make a difference in the world around them. Set against a background of the history and ecology of Cold Spring Park in Newton, Dan will highlight the actions of individuals in our community and elsewhere who have made a tremendous difference by the decisions they make and the actions they take.

Lectures are held on Wednesdays and begin at 5:30 PM in the New England Aquarium's Immersion Theater, part of the Exploration Center on the ground floor of the Boston Harbor Garage. Presentations will be followed by a coffee and dessert reception. Talks are approximately 45 minutes, after which there is time for questions from the audience.

## **Help Needed for Newton Conservators Website**

Are there any Conservators out there with experience with website design? We have a website address, [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org), but our site content is split between a private server and a server at Boston College. Our hosting to date has been free but we will shortly remove those annoying popup messages by going to a paid hosting service.

We would like to reorganize the content of the website into more logical categories and make it much easier to navigate. In addition we would like to be able to have our newsletters available online.

If you have experience with web development tools or HTML and could volunteer to help keep our content up to date, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ted Kuklinski, 617-969-6222 or [dolanpond@aol.com](mailto:dolanpond@aol.com).

## ***ORDWAY PARK PROJECT***

The Newton Conservators Board approved a plan submitted by Jim Broderick and Corry Berkooz to work with neighbors of Ordway Park to raise funds for maintaining and improving this semi-urban conservation land owned by the Conservators.

The goal for improvement is to make the space more identifiable as a cared-for piece of land, as well as usable by the community. Initial ideas call for making the space more inviting, decreasing the “drive-by” feeling on Grant Avenue. The woody feeling will be retained, but entrance along Grant Avenue will be clarified with stone or other natural material. Bench seating for birdwatchers and others will be provided and signage will be improved. An effort will be made to enhance the pedestrian experience on Grant Avenue and the slope along Everett Street with plantings of native shrubs, ground cover and under-story trees.

The next step is to review these initial ideas with the neighbors of Ordway Park and to move forward with a plan that can be used as the basis for fundraising. Work will follow as funds are committed.

## ***New Maps are Complete!***

The long-awaited revised guide to Newton’s parks and conservation areas is hot off the press! And it is worth the wait. The new guide is called “Walking Trails in Newton’s Parks and Conservation Lands” and is published by the Newton Conservators. All members will receive the guide free of charge as memberships are renewed. For others, it will be sold in bookstores for \$7.95.

This expanded guide contains 56 pages with 27 maps and descriptions identifying location, size, features and history of each park. The booklet is small enough to fit easily into a pocket or backpack and replaces the fold-out map previously published by the Conservators.

The guide is a product of the collaboration of Judy Hepburn, who designed the maps, Pat Robinson, who created the graphics, and Lucy Caldwell-Stair, who researched and wrote the text. Congratulations to all for an outstanding result!

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 PM  
War Memorial Auditorium, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservators Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 24  
Deadline for plant and bulb orders  
**NEWTON PRIDE SPRING FLOWER SALE**  
For catalog, call 617-527-8283  
**Newton Pride Committee**

Monday, April 28, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
**WARREN LEON**  
“MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICES”  
**Green Decade Environmental Lecture Series**

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 AM  
**GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION**  
**Dolan Pond Conservation Area**

Sunday, May 18, 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR**  
Meet at Jackson Homestead  
**Newton Historical Society**

Monday, May 19, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
**TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
**Green Decade Environmental Lecture Series**

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 PM  
Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School  
**DAN PERLMAN**  
“COLD SPRING PARK; OUR SMALL PIECE OF WILDERNESS”  
**Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting**

Saturday, June 7, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**NEWTON GARDEN TOUR**  
Tour begins at Newton City Hall  
**Newton Pride Committee**

Saturday, June 7, 8:00 to 11:30 AM  
**4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEWTON BIODIVERSITY DAY**  
Focus on Edmands Park  
**Sponsored by Newton Conservators**

**ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
Last 10 Years**

- 1993 AnnaMaria Abernathy and Theresa O'Halloran** for work on Washington Street Park and a summer boat ride on the Charles River as a model of transportation without cars
- 1994 Bill Leitch and Betsy Leitch** for leadership in the restoration of Bullough's Pond
- 1995 Senator Lois Pines** for leadership in environmental issues in the legislature
- 1996 Commonwealth Avenue Task Force** (William Gillitt, Chair) for a successful design for the renovation of Commonwealth Avenue as a linear park
- 1997 Dianne Dumanoski** for raising awareness about pesticide risks in her book "Our Stolen Future"
- 1998 Dan Driscoll** for work in making the Charles River Pathway a reality
- 1999 Louise Bruyn** for her vision in founding and leading the Green Decade Coalition, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary
- 2000 Marty Sender** for advocacy and labor in cleaning up Lakes District of the Charles River and for work on open space issues throughout the city
- 2001 Representative Ruth Balsler** for leadership in preserving publicly-owned open space across the state and advancing plans for restoration of Hammond Pond
- 2002 Newton Community Preservation Alliance** for leadership in obtaining passage of the Community Preservation Act
- 2003 Martha Aherin Horn** for her accomplishments as Newton's Environmental Planner



**If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2002, it's not too late. Please renew today!  
And consider an additional tax-deductible gift to support our work!**



*Celebrating 42 years  
of open space advocacy  
in Newton*

***Newton Conservators Membership Form***  
 PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • 617-969-8661 • [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

- YES, I'd like to start/renew my one-year membership with the Newton Conservators to help preserve open space in Newton. I'll receive informative newsletters and emails and be invited to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities.
- I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support the work of the Newton Conservators: \$\_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS</b>	
<input type="radio"/> Individual member	\$25
<input type="radio"/> Family member	\$35
<input type="radio"/> Sustaining member	\$50
<input type="radio"/> Donor	\$75
<input type="radio"/> Patron	\$100

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April/May 2003 Newsletter





# *the Newton Conservators* **NEWSLETTER**

## **IN THE SPRING ISSUE:**

- Kessler Woods Update pages 1-5
- Annual Meeting page 1, 5-7
- Community Preservation Proposals page 7
- Ordway Park page 9
- Event Calendar page 9
- Spring Walk Schedule Enclosed

**Attend the Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting—May 21**  
**Dan Perlman, speaking on “Cold Spring Park: Our Small Piece of Wilderness”**



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