



NEWTON
CONSERVATORS

SPRING ISSUE

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 Grenier, 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: MARGARET MALLORY

Charlie Radoslovich, Assistant Farmer



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

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

Continued on page 2



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

Spring Seedling Sale

Community Farm now serves a vital community function by providing locally grown produce as well as educational programming and seasonal events. The land and historical buildings preserve a living memory of Newton's agricultural past. Community farms are a visible testament to the local food movement, which is so central to conservation in general and sustainable agriculture in particular.

On November 13, 2016, we celebrated Newton Community Farm's tenth anniversary with *Tenth Harvest*, a gala dinner at Mount Ida College. The event brought together present and past presidents of the Farm along with our farmers, educators, and board members, Historic Newton, members of the Newton Conservators, Edible Boston, local leaders, key volunteers, and farming and conservation enthusiasts. The evening featured presentations on the history of the Farm and farming in Newton, education and conservation, and the local food movement in Boston over the past ten years.

10th Anniversary Milestones:

- **125,000 pounds** of produce sold at the farm stand
- **100,000 seedlings** grown and sold to local gardeners
- **8 years** of summer programming for more than 600 kids
- **25,000 pounds** of produce sold at Newton's farmer's markets
- **Advice, support, and programming** to 10 educational gardens in Newton
- **4 produce-share programs** each year
- **120 high-school-student** volunteers
- **15 farm-to-table** dinners
- **40-week expanded growing season** using the greenhouse and 3 high tunnels
- **7 seedling** sales

- **245 paid educational programs** onsite for over 1,000 participants
- **700 community-supported** agriculture shares
- **Work with 1,000 kids** in local schools
- **Maintenance or renovation** of 3 buildings, 2 farm stands, and 1 tractor shed

As we celebrated our first ten years, we noted that conservation was central to the founding principles of the Farm and is at the core of our mission for the next ten years and further into the future. We seek to model sustainability, not only by growing food from seed to sale, but by undertaking steps to protect the environment both locally and beyond. On a practical level, this means composting, feeding weeds and vegetable scraps to the chickens, and drawing irrigation water from our well. It also includes crop rotation and using soil science to improve soil health and to prevent disease. Further sustainability initiatives include emphasizing recyclable or reusable items at farm events and eliminating bottled water and food waste entirely.



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

Carrots by the Bushel



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

Greg Maslowe, Farm Manager

Over the next ten years, the Farm will prioritize increasing the use of renewable energy sources, including solar, and future renovations of the farmhouse and outbuildings will be planned with energy-saving principles in mind. Where possible, we will seek to transition our small fleet of necessary vehicles to more energy efficient alternatives.

Climate change is a concern for many in our community, and the Farm represents a unique window on the effects of climate and weather in a living environment. We are constantly adjusting the crop mix and planting and harvesting schedules around the realities of temperature and precipitation, and these changes are clearly demonstrated in educational programming and via the Community Supported Agriculture shares. Hoop houses not only mitigate some of the effects of changing weather, they also help control the spread of diseases such as late blight, a growing threat to tomato and potato cultivation in the northeast.



View of the Farm in Summer

Education is at the bedrock of the social mission of the Newton Community Farm, and messages of ecology, sustainability, and interconnectedness are woven throughout the curriculum. Alison Scorer, Education Director of the Newton Community Farm ensures that students notice, interact with, and--most of all--enjoy nature so they will

invest in and care for it in the future. Our programs have a strong focus on multisensory observational skills, starting with the youngest children in the Farm Sprouts program.

An important teaching tool, worms are a complex symbol of interconnected systems on the Farm and beyond. Young students learn how worms break down compost and help recycle nutrients back in soil and feed chickens to create more compost. As kids get older, they learn about more complicated ecosystems and how our desire for non-seasonal or exotic produce impacts our global carbon footprint, climate change and the locations where these fruits are grown.

Farms by their very nature are dynamic. They are living organisms that respond to stimuli from humans and nature alike. Beyond just a visible illustration of open conservation space, Newton Community Farm embodies the ethos of sustainability on a local level. It represents nature that you can touch, smell and taste. ■

President's Message

Congratulations to Greg Maslowe and the Board of the Newton Community Farm on their 10th Anniversary! They've not only preserved the farm and become a role model for sustainable agriculture on a small site but also welcomed the whole community to share the adventure with them.

The Newton Conservators are proud to have worked to save the land back in 2004, and we look forward to partnering with the farm in future years. (For more information about their work, check their website, <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org>.)

Webster Woods

We hope that ten years from now, we'll also be celebrating the preservation of Webster Woods. Please continue to let your city councilors and Mayor Warren know that this project is important to you. We hope there will be more progress soon. (To keep up to date, visit the Facebook page for the Friends of Webster Woods: <https://www.facebook.com/fowwnewton>.)

New Editor

It's with great pleasure that I announce (and welcome) Ken Mallory as the new editor of this newsletter! He has a combination of editing and writing experience, photographic expertise, and knowledge of Newton and its environmental community that makes him the ideal editor for the Conservators' newsletter.

He'll tell you more about himself in the mini bio on the next page.

Ken will start his new job with the summer edition and would love to hear about any topics that you'd like to see in the newsletter. You can reach him at newsletter@newtonconservators.org.

Beth Wilkinson

New Newsletter Editor: Ken Mallory

In his own words . . .



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY
Ken Mallory

I am the former Editor-in-Chief of Publishing Programs at Boston's New England Aquarium, where I wrote books, hired writers, edited their membership magazine, and organized public programs such as Women In Science, an Environmental Writers Festival, the Lowell Lecture series and an Environmental Film Festival.

I am currently a Board Member of Green Newton where I help organize their Greening Our Community series of talks. Besides the work with Green Newton, my wife and I enjoy travel to different countries around the world with Jim Cline Photo, a small-group photo tour agency that has taken us to India, Guatemala, and more recently to Oaxaca, Mexico to document their Day of the Dead festival at the end of October.

I am interested in Newton Conservators because some of my favorite projects through the Aquarium were books I wrote or edited such as *Water Hole: Life in a Rescued Tropical Forest*, *Spring Pool: A Guide to the Ecology of Temporary Ponds*, and a Down East book called *Boston Harbor Islands National Recreational Area*, all focused on habitat preservation and protection. I would also like to help create more linkages between Green Newton and the Newton Conservators.

The books I wrote or edited are now out of print but they are available through Amazon with my author name Kenneth Mallory. For the *Water Hole* book University of Pennsylvania scientist Dan Janzen wrote:

“The Guanacaste Conservation Area is in the process of expropriating 16,000 ha where Ollie North built his airstrip, and the president (of Costa Rica) has had to really go out on a limb in defense of Costa Rica to make this happen. It has also cost the government more than \$2 million to date (the GCA raised another \$1 million). I would like to put a copy (*of WATER HOLE-Life inside a Rescued Tropical Forest*) personally in his hands upon my return to Costa Rica, as part of keeping the momentum moving.

I look forward to our new partnership.

Ken Mallory

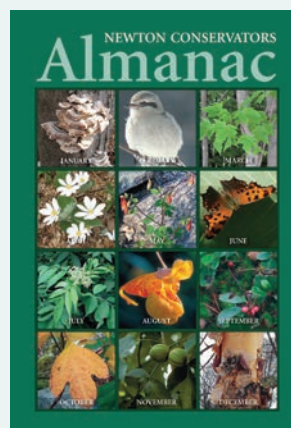
Phone: 617-965-1908 • E-mail: newsletter@newtonconservators.org

Enjoy the Beauty of Spring

Shop online at www.newtonconservators.org/books.htm to purchase Newton Conservators publications.

Almanac is \$19.95 + shipping, and the *Trail Guide* is \$8.95 + shipping.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.



Biological Control of Winter Moth in Massachusetts

By Professor Joe Elkinton, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The winter moth (*Operophtera brumata* L, Geometridae: Lepidoptera), a leaf-feeding inchworm caterpillar native to Europe, invaded eastern Massachusetts a little over a decade ago and has caused widespread defoliation.

Prior to the current invasion by winter moth to Massachusetts, there had been two previous invasions to North America—to Nova Scotia prior to 1950 and to British Columbia in the 1970s. Both prior invasions have been suppressed by the introduction of parasitic insects from Europe, in particular the tachinid fly *Cyzenis albicans*, and low-density populations of winter moth now persist indefinitely in these regions, similar to those that exist in most of Europe.

We have introduced many thousand *C. albicans* distributed across 41 sites in eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maine, and so far have established the fly at 21 of those sites. As occurred in Nova Scotia in the 1950s, it typically takes 3 to 5 years before we recover any *C. albicans* at our release sites. Since there is only one generation per year of both the fly and the winter moth, it takes several years for the 1500–2000 flies we release at a site to catch up with the millions of winter moths that exist at that site.

We have now recovered the fly at all 17 of the sites where we released prior to 2012. At several of those sites, we only documented establishment of *C. albicans* for the first time in 2016. So we expect it will soon be established at all, or most, of the 41 release sites.

Many people wonder if releasing this fly will create problems of its own. Will we be inundated by flies? The answer is no. *Cyzenis albicans* is a specialist on winter moth. It does not attack other species of caterpillars, including other inchworms. So when winter moth densities decline, so will densities of the fly. Even when winter moth densities are still high, the fly will spend its time searching for winter

moth caterpillars in the canopy of trees. It will not come into your house like a housefly. No one will notice its presence.

Prior to 2015, we collected *C. albicans* for release in New England from sites on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, where it had been established in an invasive population

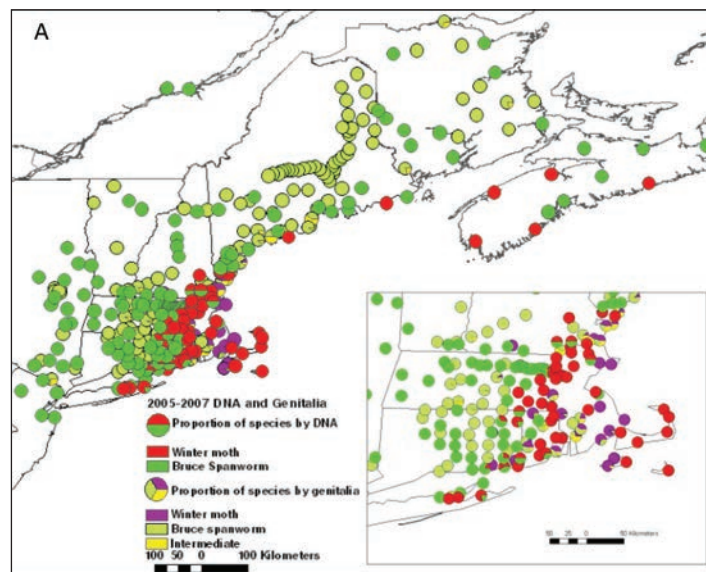
of winter moths in the 1970s. Starting in 2015, however, we switched our collection efforts to Wellesley, Massachusetts, given that we have documented high levels of parasitism all across that town and in surrounding towns. Parasitism there is comparable to what we encountered in British Columbia, and it is considerably simpler and cheaper to collect from Massachusetts than from British Columbia. Furthermore, the flies we collect in Wellesley are presumably better adapted to New England climatic conditions, in contrast to

those from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, where, for example, it rarely freezes in winter.

We collect the fly by collecting late-instar winter moth larvae at sites where parasitism by *C. albicans* is high. We then rear the larvae to the pupal stage. *Cyzenis albicans* pupates inside the winter moth pupae. We rear the fly puparia over the winter and release the adult flies the following spring.

Each year we try to collect 500 late instar winter moth larvae from each of the now 41 previous release sites. These are reared to the pupal stage and dissected in mid-summer in order to document establishment of *C. albicans* and to measure percent parasitism. Collecting samples from each of these sites becomes more and more expensive and challenging with each successive year. Just a few years ago we had six release sites to follow.

With 41 sites spread from southeast Connecticut to mid-coastal Maine, sampling requires a much bigger effort and a much bigger crew. To accomplish this task, we have enlisted



Distribution of winter moth (and Bruce spanworm) in pheromone-baited traps in northeastern North America in 2005-2007

the help of volunteers to help us collect. This year we had a total of 10 crews and 38 people assembled to collect the parasitized winter moth larvae at 115 sites across four states (60 + sites near Wellesley). The collections must be accomplished within a two week period in mid-May; it is a major logistical undertaking.

We have perfected the technique of providing each crew with the rearing materials and instructions for how to collect and rear. This is the only way that we can collect the numbers we need in so short a time. In 2016, we collected more than 76,000 winter moth larvae and reared the vast majority of them to the pupal stage. To document percent parasitism, we dissected all pupae to determine what fraction of them had *C. albicans* inside them.

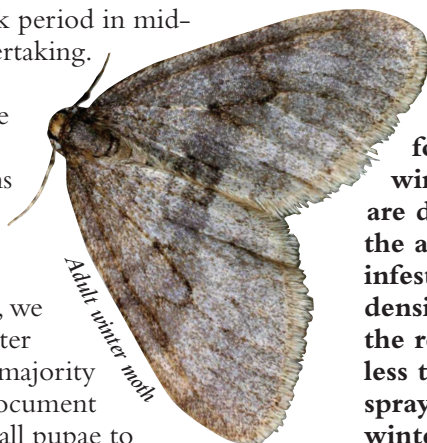
Parasitism at the central release site in Wellesley has fluctuated between 15 and 40% over the past 4 years. In 2016, both defoliation and the densities of winter moth pupae remained low at that site. This suggests we are on the verge of converting winter moth into a non-pest in the areas where *C. albicans* is established.

In 2015 we launched an ambitious effort to document the spread of *C. albicans* along transects extending in six directions over 6 miles from Wellesley, including one that extends into Newton. We collected up to 500 larvae at 60 points along these transects totaling more than 25,000 larvae. In 2015 we found larvae infested with *C. albicans* at various locations up to 5 miles away along these transects. Levels of parasitism fell way off, however, beyond 2 miles.

In 2016, we sampled these transect points again. In one year *C. albicans* had spread noticeably farther than in 2015, extending to the end of five of the six 6-mile transects.

Cyzenis albicans has now spread over much of the western suburbs of Boston, where winter moth densities are at outbreak levels. We are thus confident that *C. albicans* is now well established in Newton.

We would like to appeal to the residents of Newton and surrounding towns and to the tree-care community to hold off on spraying for winter moth this coming spring. Spraying for winter moth will also kill the larval *C. albicans* that are developing inside winter moth caterpillars or else the adult flies that are laying eggs on winter moth infested foliage. Our data suggest that winter moth densities have already declined significantly across the region. So we think that defoliation will be much less than in previous years. Let's take a break from spraying and see if we can let *C. albicans* control winter moth densities this year and into the future.



Larva of winter moth

If you would like to volunteer to help us collect winter moth caterpillars during the third or fourth week of May 2017, we could certainly use your help. For the past two years we have gathered each morning at a meeting site on Wellesley College campus. Crew leaders then travel to various collection sites with several volunteers. We then collect the caterpillars by spreading ground cloths beneath low hanging branches of oaks and maple trees and beating the branches with a pole. The caterpillars come raining down. We gather them into 5-gallon buckets, where we rear them on sprigs of foliage until they pupate about a week later. It is a very simple process. If you would like to join us for one or more days next May, please contact me at elkinton@ent.umass.edu ■

PHOTO ABOVE LEFT: ADULT WINTER MOTH: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS @ENTOMART

3 Views of a recent visitor to a Newton Highlands backyard featured on our website... A Barred Owl!



☞ Can You Identify This Location?

**Win a Free One-Year Membership — For Yourself or
For Anyone of Your Choice**

Where was this photograph taken?

**Send your best guess to
Newsletter@NewtonConservators.org**

The winner will receive a one-year membership.
If we receive more than one correct entry by
April 30, we will draw two names from a hat.



Last Issue's Identify This Park Contest Winners

**Ten readers sent in correct answers to the location of the
"Identify This Park" Contest photo in our Winter newsletter!**

The site of the photo is Laundry Brook below the dam on Bullough's Pond, near Dexter Road.

The photo shown was from a postcard created between 1898 and 1908.

Dan Brody, NC board member and website manager, took the photo of the same spot today.

For more information, check Dan's posting on the NC website:
http://newtonconservators.org/contest_newtonville_waterfall.htm

Because so many people recognized the site,
we drew the names of the two winners
from a hat.

**The winners of a one-year membership are:
Suzette Barbier and David Tobias!**

The other readers who knew the site are:
Emma Applbaum, Ellie Goldberg, Erik Hansen,
Peggy Haywood, Francesca Piper Koss,
Richard Primack, Harry Sanders, and
Carol Stapleton.



► Then



► Now

Adieu to Jane Sender

It is with a mixture of sadness and happiness that we announce that former NC president Jane Sender will move from Newton in March: sadness that she won't remain here to work on new projects with us and happiness for Jane's sake that she's going to Newburyport, a place that she loves and that's a perfect home for her birding. (When I first joined the board, she took me there on a memorable trip to see an irruption of snowy owls at Plum Island.)



PHOTO: JANE SENDER

Snowy Owl

Jane has held leadership positions and led important projects for the Conservators in particular and, in general, for the cause of conservation in Newton.

Jane became a Newton Conservators' director in 2007 and remained on the board until she became an advisor in 2016. She was the Conservators' vice president in 2008 and president from 2009 to 2012.

The Conservators reached the 50th anniversary of its founding under Jane's leadership. As part of the celebration of the event, Jane invited noted wildlife ecologist Douglas Tallamy to come from the University of Delaware to address the annual meeting. His words have inspired much work.

Jane joined the Conservation Commission in 2009 and still holds that position. She became a member of the Community Preservation Committee in 2014. In 2015, she became the vice president of the committee, and she became its president in 2016.

In a parting message to all the members of the Conservators, Jane talks about some of her accomplishments.

As I think about these past ten years, I feel grateful to have gotten to know so many people involved with the Conservators and feel we accomplished a great deal. I am most proud of the conservation restrictions we negotiated – the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, the Wilson property and Nahanton Park (still a work in progress). These are achievements that can't be undone, which seems particularly important given what is going on at the national level. I am encouraged by what can be achieved at the local level, with smarts, patience and perseverance, working together and with our elected officials to achieve environmental goals.

Most recently the victory in the City Council to limit the use of leaf blowers, which are ruining the quality of life in our neighborhoods, was a great example of what can happen when groups come together to protect the environment. To me noise is an issue in Newton that needs far more attention. Noise impacts humans and other species in a dramatic way, and we need to push harder on those who insist that we tolerate the huge increase in the amount of noise we experience.

I will miss everyone and hope that folks will visit me in Newburyport. This June I will be spending three weeks birding in Alaska, fulfilling a lifelong dream. I hope we will all keep in touch.

Jane has agreed to remain on the Conservators advisory board as a force for environmental conservation, and I know that we'll turn to her often for her good advice.

Jane, thank you for all that you have done! Please come to visit us frequently. There always will be a seat for you at Conservators' board meetings.

— Beth Wilkinson
On behalf of the Board of the Newton Conservators

The 2016 Newton Christmas Bird Count

The 2016 Newton Christmas Bird Count got off to its usual start at 5 AM on Saturday, December 17th. This event always begins in the cold and dark, often with mild freezing precipitation. Serious precipitation will stop us.

The Search for Owls

A small group of people interested in owls gathered on Rayburn Terrace and loaded into one car to go prowling for owls. This year yielded the same species and numbers as last year.



Eastern Screech Owl - Gray Morph

Our method of finding owls involves having a boom-box with a CD of owl calls on it. By late December, our owl species are starting to court, and males are beginning to defend territories. Thus, they will come to check out the “intruding” owl on our tape. We have some powerful flashlights along and try to get the defensive owls in view.

We saw five Eastern Screech-owls, which exist in two color morphs, red and gray as shown in the photos above.



Great Horned Owl

However, this was the second year in a row that we missed the also common Great Horned Owl. We often see both species. The Great Horned Owls do nest in Newton but do not cooperate as easily as the Screech-owls. They have been less cooperative in responding to our tapes recently. However, they do roost regularly in white pines in our parks. A photograph of the missing Great Horned Owl is above.

The Rest of the Count

After about an hour and a half, the owlers returned to Rayburn Terrace, where the host family served bagels, hot coffee, tea and doughnuts. Other more relaxed birders arrived at 7 AM, in the daylight, to get organized into teams. The teams fanned out and covered the part of Newton that lies within a 10-mile radius of the Habitat Audubon preserve in Belmont. The Newton count is a part of the Greater Boston Count involving all of the towns within that circle.

In 2016 we recorded 300 fewer birds than last year and 500 fewer than in 2014. We saw four fewer species than last year and three more than in 2014. These numbers don't mean so much, but these counts have gone on for over 100 years. The accumulated data do show trends.



Eastern Screech Owl - Red Morph

Charles River Birds

One of our groups always searches the area near the Charles River. We agree with the Waltham birders where the dividing line is. Since birds fly, this adds some error to the overall counts.

The river gives us swans, geese and ducks, together with an occasional overwintering Great Blue Heron. We logged one Great Blue Heron this year. The number of Canada Geese was way down, but we all know this is a meaningless fluke.

The three common species of gulls were seen along the river: the Herring, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls. The latter is the largest gull in the world and is a serious predator along our coasts.

Among the duck species we encountered was the beautiful Hooded Merganser. The Mallards outnumbered all the rest of the ducks combined, with 205 individuals. There were a couple of Buffleheads and two American Black ducks. A picture of the drake Hooded Merganser, or “hoodie,” is on page 10.

Continued on page 10



PHOTO: GEORGE MCLEAN [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEORGE.MCLEAN.336](https://www.facebook.com/GEORGE.MCLEAN.336)

Hooded Merganser - Male

Woodpeckers

We saw only two of our woodpecker species in 2016, the Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers. We missed the Hairy Woodpecker and the Northern Flicker. The Flicker mostly leaves us for the winter, but the Hairy Woodpecker is in Cold Spring Park all winter. It can be tough to find, though. The Red-bellied Woodpecker stays here throughout the winter now but is a more southern species that has moved north with the advent of our changing landscape and climate. The male digs several holes in dead trees during the winter and roosts in one. In the spring, his mate arrives and inspects his work. She will decide which of his construction projects is the best for her nest.

Hawks

Among the hawk species, we saw only our omnipresent Red-tailed Hawk. These hawks have adapted to human presence and are successful in coexisting with us. They often

perch along our highways. They also make the rounds of feeders in the winter. They usually prey on rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks, but in a tough winter, they like Mourning Doves just fine.

No Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks were seen on the 2016 count. These two species more often will prey on songbirds and, thus, frequent our feeders during the winter.

The Wrap-Up

At around noon, most of the groups had finished their assigned territories and, after turning in their results to the central hostess, they were free to leave nature to return to their usual activities. The Newton organizer then went to the Audubon Center in Belmont for the Greater Boston count summary, where all of the teams in the 10-mile circle gathered to report and to pool their data into one spreadsheet. This was then combined with other spreadsheets across the state of Massachusetts and then the rest of the U.S.

Over the years, trends can be found in this "citizen science" activity. The disparity between Newton's and Waltham's counts along the river blend into the background noise in the huge data set.

We have a lot of fun. All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Remember us next year. You can contact Pete Gilmore at maurice.gilmore@comcast.net to get on an email list to be notified of the date for the 2017 Christmas Bird Count a week or two before it takes place. You can choose to go for owls or for any part of the morning's birding. ■

✍️ Pete Gilmore

Do You Use Amazon for Purchases for your Home or Business?



As explained in past newsletters, Amazon Smile is a program through which Amazon donates 0.5% of most purchases (yes, \$5 of every \$1000) to a nonprofit (501c3) organization of your choice (the Newton Conservators, we hope!).

How does one use Amazon Smile? Instead of going to Amazon.com, you go to Smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will be asked to choose a nonprofit organization to receive the bonus donation. Enter "Newton Conservators," and you are ready to go. The rest of your shopping proceeds exactly the same as if you had logged in to Amazon.com initially.

Even with relatively few members using the program so far, the rewards have grown. For the first quarter we participated in 2014, we received \$22.32. For the most recent quarter in 2016, we received \$38.31.

We do encourage you to support our local bookstores, but as most people know, you can buy almost anything on Amazon, and we hope that you will let your purchases work on behalf of open space in Newton.

If you have any further questions about the program, check the FAQ page: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

➤ 3 Opportunities to help on NewtonSERVES Day ➤

Please join the Conservators on NewtonSERVES Day

Sunday, April 30th

for meaningful work that will help the environment throughout the year!

Our open spaces and the plants, insects, and birds that depend on them need our help — by keeping invasive plant species at bay.

Many hands make light work.



We will sponsor sessions at Cold Spring Park, Dolan Pond, and Blue Heron Bridge.

Work at Cold Spring Park and Dolan Pond will go from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Work at Blue Heron Bridge will start at 12:30 pm.

You can fill out the registration form on the NewtonSERVES website (<http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php>) or just show up at your preferred site.

Check our website for any last-minute changes: www.NewtonConservators.org.

We will also sponsor many other sessions on other days into May and June — please see the list of Invasives and Walks sessions on pages 16 and 18.

We hope to see you!

— Katherine Howard

Don't miss the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 3



PHOTO: STEVE JEWETT

Andy Finton

Our guest speaker at this year's Annual Meeting and Dinner will be Andy Finton of the Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. His topic will be Conserving a Resilient Future.

Andy will describe a vision to conserve a resilient landscape across eastern North America, and closer to home. This resilient landscape will sustain our native plants and animals

in a changing climate, and will support our own wellbeing. Andy will demonstrate the concepts and data supporting this vision, discuss their applications to conservation decisions, and give some examples, including here in Newton.

Andy is Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts, where he defines

conservation goals, assesses threats, and implements conservation strategies. He recently led a partnership project with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage program to develop BioMap2, a conservation blueprint for the state of Massachusetts that identifies resilient habitats in the face of a changing climate.

The Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on May 3 at the American Legion Post 440 at 295 California Street in Nonantum. A social hour will begin at 6:00 pm; dinner will begin at 7:00, to be followed by a brief annual meeting, an awards ceremony, and then Andy Finton's presentation.

You can register for the meeting by going online at www.newtonconservators.org or by returning the response form in the invitation that will be sent to all members at the end of March. ■

New Path at Wilson House at 15 Bracebridge Road

In September of 2012, Andrée and Richard Wilson signed a conservation restriction to protect 1.5 acres of their beautiful, almost-2-acre Newton Centre property for conservation purposes in perpetuity.

The Conservators "hold" that conservation restriction, which means we have the responsibility of ensuring that



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

Wilson Path

the terms of the restriction continue to be upheld by any future owner.

The Wilsons' property contains woods and gardens adjacent to the Cochituate and Sudbury

Aqueducts — as well as a historic stone bridge that hikers can see from the path through the woods.

One provision of the conservation restriction is that the public will continue to have access to a 5-foot wide corridor across the property. That was an important proviso for Andrée, who died this past October. She was not only a

founding member of the Conservators but also an expert gardener who loved seeing neighbors (especially children) enjoying their land and visiting with her while she worked.

This past summer, Conservators' board members conferred with Andrée about where to locate a new path after the old site became eroded. After Andrée's death, her family has worked with the Conservators to make the new path a reality.

On a cold December morning, the Wilsons' son André met with board members and neighbors to remove invasive plants in the area surrounding the relocated path. The team pulled invasive shrubs and used garden saws to remove huge mats of invasive euonymus, which were dragged up the hill on blue mats. Fueled by hot chocolate, the workers, including an industrious fourth-grader and a student from Newton South, cut, pulled, and hauled for over four hours and cleared several areas along the new path. Work will continue on work days throughout the spring. Let us know if you'd like to be part of the work crew.

Come to walk the path and the adjoining Wilson Conservation Area, and enjoy the wooded area in the middle of Newton Centre. ■

Beth Wilkinson

Digital Codes Added to New Signs in Newton Conservation Areas

QR Codes Link to Conservators Website

The Newton Conservators, with the enthusiastic support of the Newton Conservation Commission, have added permanent QR code stickers to new trailhead signs that the Conservation Commission has installed at the entrances to every Newton Conservation area.



A new sign at the Frank Barney Conservation Area in Newton Upper Falls.

Each new sign includes a detailed map of the conservation area. As visitors with smartphones enter the conservation area, they can scan the QR code sticker to see maps and other information from the Newton Conservators' website and from the City of Newton website.

A new sign at the Frank Barney Conservation Area in Newton Upper Falls. Scanning the QR code, visible on the signpost in the photo (above left) and enlarged (above right), takes the walker to a special web page, simplified for viewing on a smartphone, with links to maps and other information about the conservation area.



Sign with added QR Code sticker

During the pilot test of this project, which began in 2013, stickers were added to old signs at entrances to three conservation areas, including Norumbega Park. Now the project has expanded to cover all conservation areas in Newton. For more information, including a link to a map of all Newton conservation areas, please visit http://newtonconservators.org/qr_code_signs.htm.

A "QR Code" can be read by most smartphones using a scanning app that automatically opens a particular web page when the phone is pointed at the code.



Ordway Park sign with permanent QR Code

For some Android phones, the standard camera app automatically scans a QR code and provides a link to its website. In addition, the Google Goggles scanner app is preinstalled on most Android phones. iPhone users can install the Google Mobile app, which includes a QR scanner. Many other scanner apps are available for the iPhone, Windows phones, and other smartphones.

In 2012, prior to the pilot test, we installed permanent QR-enabled signs in Ordway Park (at the corner of Grant Avenue and Everett Street), which is owned by the Conservators. ■

— Dan Brody

MISSION

Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 was formed as a not-for-profit organization 56 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the first Friday 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 or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to bethwilkinson@mac.com. Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor:	Beth Wilkinson	617-969-4443
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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Craig Grenier, Ken Mallory, Joe Elkinton, Dan Brody, Beth Wilkinson, Pete Gilmore, Katherine Howard and Lee Fisher. As always, thanks to Doug Leith for his excellent proofreading.

Call-to-Action: Support Echo Bridge Railing Reconstruction Today

By Lee Fisher, Chairman of the Echo Bridge Railing Committee

Background

Echo Bridge's handsome granite and brick design contributes to the rugged beauty of surrounding Hemlock Gorge, one of the first of five parks acquired by the Metropolitan Park Commission in 1893. The bridge is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and it is the second longest masonry arch on the continent. Once a major tourist destination, it continues to serve as a popular spot for hikers, artists and nature lovers



Echo Bridge

and as a transportation corridor. It received its name because of the striking echoes one hears when shouting under the main arch of the bridge.

The Echo Bridge Promenade is one of the best kept secrets in Metropolitan Boston. This multi-use pathway, linking Newton and Needham since 1876, offers dramatic views of the Charles River as it drops over the nearby falls and winds its way through Hemlock Gorge.

In April 2006, Bill Hagar wrote a great story for the Newton Conservators entitled "Preserving Echo Bridge (<http://newtonconservators.org/preservingechobridge.htm>). He made the case for completion of repairs to the 140-year-old railings on this distinctive granite and brick National Registry landmark nestled in Hemlock Gorge.

In 2007, the bridge owner, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), contracted with the preservation-planning firm McGinley Kalsow & Associates for a comprehensive study of the cast iron railings. Also in 2007,

State Representative Ruth Balser secured \$250,000 in state funds for the project. In 2008, temporary chain link fencing was installed to keep the Echo Bridge Promenade open and safe. But then nothing happened... and the historic cast iron railings have continued to deteriorate.

Today, you can make a difference by registering your support for a new initiative to reconstruct the railings and by helping spread the word in Newton.

Current Situation

Echo Bridge was built to carry water to the growing City of Boston and now serves as a back-up water route, last used in 2010. Both Echo Bridge and the Sudbury Aqueduct, which is housed inside the Bridge, are structurally sound, and the water supply for metropolitan Boston is safe and secure. Therefore, with total cost of replacing the railings estimated



Mills Falls View from the Bridge

at \$1.44 million, MWRA could not justify dedicating ratepayer dollars to fully fund a reconstruction of the historic railings, which are not linked to the safety of the public water supply.

Without MWRA funding, another source of funding is needed for the project. Last fall, Newton and Needham residents formed the *Echo Bridge Railing Committee* to focus public and private resources to work with the MWRA to seek Community Preservation

Act (CPA) funding for an in-kind reconstruction of the 140-year old cast iron railings.

The Committee concluded that there were two ways to generate support for sharing the cost for reconstructing the railings with the MWRA:

1. MWRA would apply to both Needham and Newton for CPA funding, and
2. The Railing Committee would launch a private capital fundraising campaign, to which \$126,700 has already been pledged.



Close up of Railing

Plans to advance the historic railing reconstruction took a big step forward with two approvals—one from the Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission on November 11, 2016, and one by the Needham Historical Commission two weeks later. MWRA and Committee members developed a Railing Reconstruction Plan based on the 2007 study.

On December 8 the Newton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted

to invite a full proposal on the Echo Bridge Historic Railing Reconstruction Project for its consideration. Also in December the Needham CPC voted that the project is eligible for CPA funding, which is the first step in the process of deliberations for Needham's 2017 planning cycle.

Public Reaction

"Echo Bridge is not only beautiful; it's an important pathway for pedestrians and cyclists," said Andreae Downs, chair of Newton's Transportation Advisory Group and a member of the Railing Committee. "Clear February days



Close up of Granite and Brick

are perfect for walking across Echo Bridge to take in the view and also to see how badly the railings need repair," she added.

"As the Echo Bridge Railing Committee

launches our public awareness and pledge drive, we aim to secure hundreds of pledges by the end of February from Newton and Needham residents who are fond of Echo Bridge and value its preservation," said Lee Fisher, chairman of the Committee. "We need pledges both large and small in order to show the two Community Preservation Committees that this project has both widespread support



Echo Bridge Railing

within the City/Town and a significant commitment of private funds to leverage potential CPA funding," he emphasized.

"The need to reconstruct the historic railings has been known for a decade. Now is the time for our municipalities to come together, as they did in reconstructing Cook's Bridge, to commit to a public/private partnership to do the job right for the next 100 years," said Brian

Yates, Newton City Councilor, President of the Friends of Hemlock Gorge, and Railing Committee member.

Call-to-Action

1. Learn more and pledge your support at www.EchoBridgeRailings.com.
2. Take a walk with friends and family across the bridge and through Hemlock Gorge to reacquaint yourselves with this jewel in our midst and to see firsthand the condition of the railings.
3. Visit our Facebook page @EchoBridgeRailings and post or "like" it to share with your contacts.
4. Email our website URL to your friends who may share a fondness for Echo Bridge and encourage their support. ■

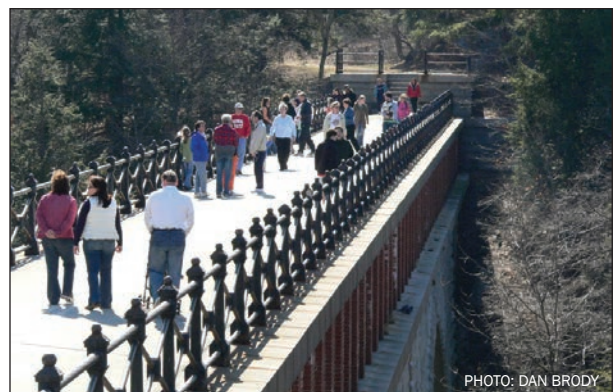


Photo from 2006 Bill Hagar Boston Globe Article

Newton Conservators Invasive-Plant Pulls Spring 2017

Newton Conservators, in addition to sponsoring walks in the spring and fall, also fights invasive plant species to preserve and improve the native habitat at our parks and conservation areas. Sessions may be weather dependent — call the leader if in doubt. Check our website (newtonconservators.org) for the separate Walks calendar and for updates to this schedule.

Sunday, March 19, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Buckthorn demonstration project, Cold Spring Park.

Following up on horticulturalist Bruce Wenning's program and walk at Cold Spring Park, we will start a project to save the red maple swamp, believed to be one of the oldest forested areas in Newton. The maple and oak swamp is in danger of dying out due to its understory being shaded out by invasive nonnative buckthorn. Help us establish a buckthorn-free demonstration area to allow the forest to survive. **Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 noon

Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project). 76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465
www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm

Meet at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Park there or at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands — come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. Wear long pants and garden gloves. **Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.**

Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES Project). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

The park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, buckthorn, and other species. We will keep 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 City is helping to ensure the plants are disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter 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).**

Sunday, April 30, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project) near Super Stop & shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472
www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We will 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 — bring

binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you can. 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.

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.**

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 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).**

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 out-compete 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.**

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 swallow-wort 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).**

About the Plant Invaders



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Garlic Mustard arrived from Europe as a medicinal and garden herb and is now an invader of our backyards, parks, forests, and conservation areas. It quickly covers vast areas, including low-light forested areas, shades out other plants, chemically alters the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and alters habitat for native insects such as butterflies. It is easy to manage by pulling when the second-year plants are flowering in April/May. If not, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds that will become first-year plants the next year, or remain as viable seeds for several more years. The plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Buckthorn is another non-native shrub that is proliferating in forested areas (see Cold Spring Park), covering the understory and preventing native forests from re-seeding.

Our sessions also tackle black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, oriental bittersweet, and black locust.

WALKS SCHEDULE SPRING 2017

www.newtonconservators.org



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

Sunday, April 9 at 1:00 pm **(Rain or Shine)**

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF VERNAL POOLS: FOREST AND VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION AT WEBSTER WOODS

Join us in Webster Woods, Newton's largest conservation area, as we walk the woods and explore the large vernal pool found there. Vernal pools, because of periods of drying, do not support breeding populations of fish. Many organisms have evolved to use these temporary wetlands, where they are not eaten by fish. Join us as we search obligate vernal pool species, including fairy shrimp, spotted salamanders and wood frogs. The amphibians are the stars of the show, but you will also watch for mammal tracks and learn about trees and other forest plants. Sampling equipment will be provided; bring hand lenses if you have them. We will walk even in the rain, so dress accordingly.

Meet at the end of Warren Street on the western edge of Webster Conservation Area. For anyone not up to a 1-mile hike (round-trip), you can meet up with the group at 2 pm in the back parking lot (far back) of Congregation Mishkan Tefila on Hammond Pond Road; the vernal pool is right there.

Trip Leader: Eric Olson (Cell phone on day of outing: 617-872-9928)

Sunday, April 16 at 2:00 pm

TAKE A REAL HIKE IN NEWTON: DISCOVER THE NEWTON AQUEDUCTS

A 5 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, April 22 at 10:30 am **(Cancelled if it is raining at 9:30 am)**

A WALK AROUND HAMMOND POND AND NEARBY PLANT COMMUNITIES

Hammond Pond and the surrounding woods contain a surprising variety of plant communities and a wide diversity of plant species. Their distribution and abundance are affected by both past land use and current environmental conditions. In coming decades, climate change will increasingly affect this area. The walk will emphasize the identification and natural history of common tree, shrub, and wildflower species. Evidence of past land use in the woods and current environmental conditions will also be pointed out.

Meet at the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center parking lot at Hammond Pond, closest to the woods. There is an informational kiosk there. The walk will last approximately 90 minutes.

Trip Leader: Richard Primack, Professor of Plant Ecology, Boston University (Cell phone on day of outing: 857-636-8378, email: primack@bu.edu)

Sunday, April 30 at 10:00 am and again with easier route at 11:30 am

ECHO BRIDGE AND HEMLOCK GORGE WALK

Explore the geology, trees, plants and history of DCR Hemlock Gorge Reservation, with a focus on National Register listed Echo Bridge and plans to restore its historic railings. The 10 am walk will include stairs and an uphill trail segment; it will also provide great views of the Run of the Charles as paddlers go under the bridge. The 11:30 walk will be easier and will cover most of the same points.

Meet at the corner of Elliot and Chestnut Streets near the mill.

Trip Leader: Jim Purdy (617-969-3290)

Sunday, May 14 at 8:00 am

NAHANTON PARK MOTHER'S DAY BIRD WALK

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. Co-sponsored 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)*

Saturday, May 20 at 8:00 am (Rain Date: May 21)

BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

This 67-acre parcel has ample wooded areas, open fields, a brook and wetlands. It is one of the places in Newton where

you may hear the call of the Great Horned Owl and observe spectacular songbirds like the rose breasted grosbeak and the indigo bunting. Also frequently found at the park are many favorite migrants such as the red eyed vireo, the wood thrush, and a variety of wood warblers. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome.

Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left, and go to the far end of the parking lot to meet group.

Trip Leader: *Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513)*

Saturday, June 17 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 18)

FERNS OF KENNARD PARK

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*

PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: LEFT TO RIGHT : ANN KANE, DAN BRODY, HAYNES MILLER, DON LUBIN

**If you haven't renewed your membership already, now is the time.
And consider a gift for a conservation-minded friend.**



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS
PO Box 590011
NEWTON CENTRE
MA 02459

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YES! Please renew my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution_____ |

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Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc.

Visit our website at www.newtonconservators.org if you wish to renew your membership online.



Day Lily

Photo by Suzette Barbier



NEWTON CONSERVATORS, INC.
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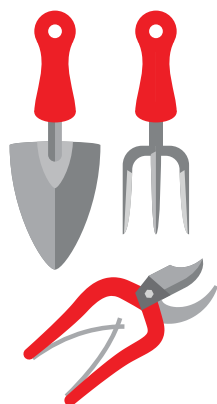
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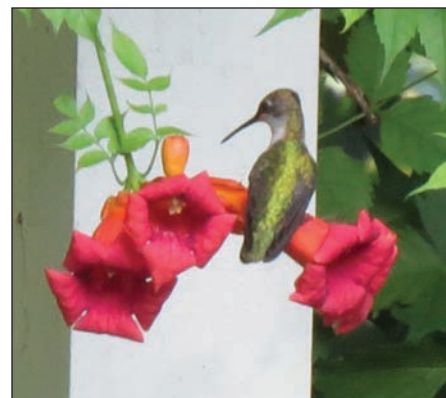
Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird

photo by Jane Sender

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, update your membership profile at www.newtonconservators.org