

May 2 Annual Dinner Meeting — Changes in New England Wildlife Over Time Featuring Peter Alden, Naturalist and Author

By Ted Kuklinski



Peter Alden

The Newton Conservators Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at the American Legion Post 440 at 295 California Street in Nonantum. A social hour will begin at 6 pm with dinner being served at 7 pm, followed by a brief official meeting and awards ceremony. The highlight of the evening will be a wonderful presentation by author and naturalist, Peter Alden, on “Changes in New England Wildlife over Time.”

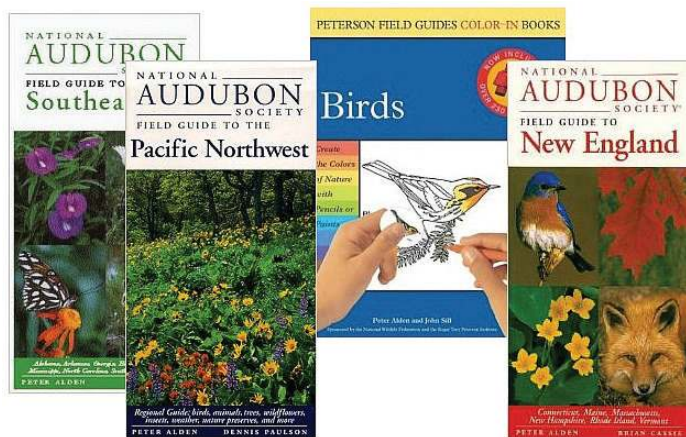
Since the annual meeting venue is so nicely situated next to the Charles River Pathway at the beginning of peak bird migration, Peter Alden will also be leading a one-hour nature walk along the Charles River Pathway from the Post 440 parking lot beginning at 5 pm and returning there at 6. You are likely to see warblers, vireos, and other interesting nesting and migrating species with a true birding expert. This free walk is open to the public.

The awards ceremony will recognize efforts to protect, preserve, and reclaim Newton’s natural areas and to educate and disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. The awards include: the Environmentalist of the Year Award – presented to a local citizen or group who has contributed to improvements in the city’s environment; the Charles Johnson Maynard Award – to recognize efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation, and natural resource protection; and Director’s Awards for other notable achievements.

Alden will describe how our habitats have morphed from glacial ice cover, to tundra, to boreal forest, to transition forest, to grasslands/farms, and to today’s rewilding forests. He will also discuss how bird and mammal life has changed. Recently we’ve added new elements such as invasive alien plants, pesticides, bird feeders, introduced-species, and widespread bans on trapping and hunting. Learn about

those critters that have vanished and those that have made remarkable comebacks and why.

Peter is a past president of both the Brookline Bird Club and the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He served in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for four years and spent 12 years on the Harvard Museum of Natural History board focusing on the Roger Tory Peterson Memorial Lecture series. In 1998 he organized the world’s first Biodiversity Days with Harvard’s Dr. Edward O. Wilson. Biodiversity Days were subsequently held in many Massachusetts communities (including Newton) to catalog our natural environment. Check out his website at peteraldenwildlife.com.



Peter has been scouting out, leading, and lecturing on 300 bird and wildlife tours, safaris, cruises and excursions to 100 countries and the seven seas for diverse organizations such as Mass Audubon, the Harvard Museums, Thomson Safaris, National Geographic and Road Scholar. He has authored 15 books, including the popular, easy to use *National Audubon Field Guide to New England*.

He is currently working on a “travel misadventures” autobiography and new regional Audubon field guides to Texas, the Midwest, Great Plains, and Alaska. Signed copies of a number of his books will be available at a special discount before and after the dinner.

Always a bit irreverent, he is sure to be both informative and entertaining!

You can register for the Annual Dinner by going online at <http://newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2018invite.htm> or by returning the response form in the official invitation that will be sent to all members in early April. Tickets will remain at \$35/person this year. Hope to see you at this exciting annual event with other like-minded individuals interested in preserving our open space and environment. ■