

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, April 15, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Buckthorn demonstration project, Cold Spring Park.

We will continue the work, started a year ago in collaboration with horticulturalist Bruce Wenning and ecology professor Eric Olson, 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. We will maintain and expand the buckthorn-free demonstration areas to allow the forest to survive. **Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Sunday, April 29, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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.) Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive garlic mustard from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year it gets easier. We will also do some nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. We may also do some general cleanup and path chipping. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and garden gloves. **Leader is Jerry Melnick, 978-423-4311.**

Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.

Sunday, April 29, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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 Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly 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).**

Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.

Sunday, April 29, 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.

Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.

Sunday, May 6, 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. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Saturday, May 12, 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 furthest 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 19, 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'

Continued on next page

pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly 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 20, 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 invasions of 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 Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell) and Suzette Barbier.**

Sunday, May 27, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond. Near 309 Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm

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

Saturday, June 2, 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! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd. (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Sunday, June 3, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Cold Spring Park Invasive Educational Walk. 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Join horticulturist Bruce Wenning for training in identifying the invasive species that are found in this park as well as in everybody's yards! Learn the traits of invasive species, how and why they are so successful and hurt the native ecosystems, and how you can identify and control them in your own yards and neighborhoods. Wear long pants and closed shoes. **Leader is Bruce Wenning, 617-962-0646.**

Sunday, June 3, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

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 City will properly dispose 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, June 10, 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 the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose 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).**

Sunday, June 17, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull (repeat visit). Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464
www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We will continue our control of garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose 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).**

➤ To learn more about Plant Invaders, go to page 15 and view pictures and descriptions of the most common invasives.