

Newton Conservators Walks

Spring 2018

www.newtonconservators.org



Newton Conservators is a nonprofit working to protect and to preserve natural areas, such as parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, that are open or may be converted to open spaces for the benefit of the environment and the enjoyment of the citizens of Newton.

It further aims to share information about these and other environmental matters. Our walks program is part of that effort — and a great way to enjoy nature with the help of knowledgeable guides.

We hope that you will attend one or more of the following walks and consider becoming a member to join us in our work to preserve open space in Newton:
<http://newtonconservators.org/membership.htm>

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

Saturday, March 31 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 for 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 the former 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 1 at 1:00 pm

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

This popular walk/activity is being repeated from March 31 (see description from that date).

Trip Leader: Jon Regosin (774-364-2443).

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Saturday, April 21 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)

Saturday, May 5 at 8:00 am

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)

Sunday, May 6 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)

Sunday, May 13 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)

Sunday, June 3 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

COLD SPRING PARK INVASIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL WALK

Join horticulturalist 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 yards and neighborhoods. Wear long pants and closed shoes.

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

Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning (617-962-0646)

Saturday, June 9 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 10)

FERNS OF COLD SPRING PARK



We will visit the large popular Cold Spring Park that runs south from Beacon Street. We expect to find a dozen different ferns and a horsetail. We will mostly walk on the level paths, but wear long pants and insect repellent. Bring any fern you would like me to identify.

Meet at the Plymouth Road entrance in the southwest corner of the park. You should be able to park on Plymouth Road between Cochituate Road and Kingston Road.

Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464), don@nefern.info, <http://nefern.info>

PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: LEFT TO RIGHT : DAN BRODY, ISAAC BRODY, DON LUBIN, HAYNES MILLER
PHOTO THIS PAGE: DAN BRODY