



*Working to preserve open space in Newton for 45 years!*

## *the Newton Conservators*

# NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue

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

April / May 2006

## EXPLORING NEWTON'S HISTORIC AQUEDUCTS

They have been with us for well over a century, but the Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueducts remain a curiosity to most of us. Where do they come from and where do they go? What are they used for? Why are they important to us now? In this issue, we will try to fill in some of the blanks regarding these fascinating structures threading their way through our city, sometimes in clear view and then disappearing into hillsides and under homes.

To answer the first question, we trace the two aqueducts from their entry across the Charles River from Wellesley in the west to their terminus in the east near the Chestnut Hill Reservoir (see article on page 3). Along the way these linear strands of open space connect a series of parks and playgrounds.

The aqueducts were constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to carry water from reservoirs in the Framingham area to the growing city of Boston. They continued in use for this purpose for 100 years, when times and their uses changed. The remarkable history of the water system in Eastern Massachusetts is highlighted on page 6.

We care about the aqueducts because they, like other open spaces, offer a break from the noise and bustle of our lives. Their paths carry walkers and bicyclists away from traffic and into nature. On this page (see President's Message) and on pages 5 and 7, we outline the Conservators rationale for protecting these greenways for community use.

If you are new to the aqueducts and would like to experience them firsthand, plan to join us on May 28 (see enclosed Spring Walks flyer).

*Doug Dickson*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## *Preserving Echo Bridge*

As part of our planning for the aqueducts in Newton, we cannot omit Echo Bridge. This distinctive viaduct carried water for decades across the Charles River in Newton Upper Falls from the Sudbury River to Boston. It is important to keep this granite and brick structure intact and accessible for the visual beauty it provides. From a distance, the graceful arches cross the river framed by hemlocks and other trees. From the walkway at the top of the bridge, you scan the beauty of Hemlock Gorge from the old mill buildings and falls upriver to the meandering water and the Route 9 overpass downstream. The Newton Conservators are strongly in agreement with the many other groups and individuals who want to preserve this historic structure now and far into the future.

*(Continued on page 2)*

***Save the date!***

**Newton Conservators  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 31, 2006**

**Post 440, Nonantum**

See article on page 9

*Echo Bridge, continued from page 1*

After a brief closure by the MWRA, the bridge is open again for pedestrian traffic with the addition of snow fencing to shore up the deteriorating cast iron railings. The picture below shows the snow fence—fortunately, in place in time for the recent April snowstorm!



*Temporary snow fence installed along the deteriorating iron railing atop Echo Bridge. (photo by Bill Hagar)*

We hope that, with strong community support, there will be complete repairs to keep this important landmark walkway and observation platform open to the public in its historic state.

Echo Bridge has been a landmark for over a century. It was originally designed and built to support the Sudbury Aqueduct in 1877. The aqueduct is no longer in active use, but is being held in reserve as a backup for possible future needs. When the Metropolitan Parks Commission was formed in 1896, Echo Bridge and the surrounding Hemlock Gorge was one of the first parcels of land acquired by the board of the new Commission. In fact, a photograph of the bridge appears on the cover of the Commission's first report in 1895. On page 72, the report states:

“As the Hemlock Gorge reservation was not acquired by the commission until September, its use by the public under the direction of the Board has been for so limited a period that little can be said as to the demands of the future, judging by experience. This, however, we know to have been a favorite picnic ground for large numbers of people in Newton, Wellesley and Needham. In fact, regular picnic grounds have been maintained

within its limits, containing the beautiful bridge of the Boston water works, widely known as “Echo Bridge,” an illustration of which appears as the frontispiece of this volume.

“That so charming a spot should have drawn to it large numbers of people is not be wondered at, and when we consider that the electric cars of Newton have their terminus within three minutes’ walk of the reservation, it will readily be seen that its use in the future must steadily increase. There are, however, no difficulties at present to be seen which cannot be easily surmounted. It is not of sufficient size to render necessary or desirable the construction of carriage roads. All that seems to be required is a general cleaning of the grounds of dead wood and debris, and suitable and efficient police surveillance.”

Much of the area has been modified over the intervening 100 years, but the essence of Hemlock Gorge Reservation remains the quiet flow of the Charles River between the hemlock trees that stand astride the bridge. The footpath on top of the bridge forms a gateway to the walking trails on either side of the river. It connects Newton with its neighbors to the west, many of whom have improved and marked trails that follow or intersect with the Sudbury Aqueduct. It is possible to walk or bike the aqueduct through Needham, Wellesley and Natick with very few detours or interruptions.

Echo Bridge received its name because of the striking echoes one hears when shouting under the main arch of the bridge. When completed in 1877, this arch was the second largest masonry span in the world. Its acoustical properties are so perfect that a mere whisper is answered several times over. This was never more apparent to me than when I took my son's dog, a German Short Hair Pointer, to the newly built deck that is under the main span of the bridge. With a little prodding, Chloe let out a bark, which was repeatedly answered by the reflected sounds of her voice. I guess the echo was effective enough to convince Chloe that another dog on the other side of the river was not respecting her. For the next ten minutes, all of us had a wonderful time listening to the cacophony of angry barks and echoes that reverberated under Echo Bridge.

Like Chloe, we must make our voices heard to ensure the preservation of this inspirational site.

*Bill Hagar*

# TRACING THE AQUEDUCTS THROUGH NEWTON

The **Cochituate Aqueduct**, the older of the two tunnels, was built to carry water from Lake Cochituate in Framingham into the City of Boston in 1848. It runs through the Towns of Natick and Wellesley before entering Newton via a stone bridge across the Charles River near the intersection of Quinobequin and Varick Roads in Waban. Access to the walking path atop this aqueduct is from behind a brick building at the corner of Quinobequin and East Quinobequin Roads. The path follows Waban Avenue to its end at Nehoiden Road.

At this point, a detour is necessary to cross the Green Line near Waban station. From Waban Avenue, take Collins Road to Beacon Street, cross the bridge over the MBTA tracks, descend the stairs near Starbucks and walk down Wyman Street, where access to the aqueduct is along a stand of arborvitae.

From here, the aqueduct crosses, in turn, Chestnut Street, Upland Road, Allen and Beethoven Avenues, where it passes close to Richardson Field. It then crosses Winslow Road and Plymouth Road in an area where the right of way is quite wide, offering a feeling of distance from the surrounding neighborhood not typical in many sections.



*Trail through woodsy area west of Plymouth Road.  
(Photo courtesy of Newton Conservators Website)*

Just beyond Plymouth Road, the aqueduct enters and follows the perimeter of Cold Spring Park in Newton Highlands.



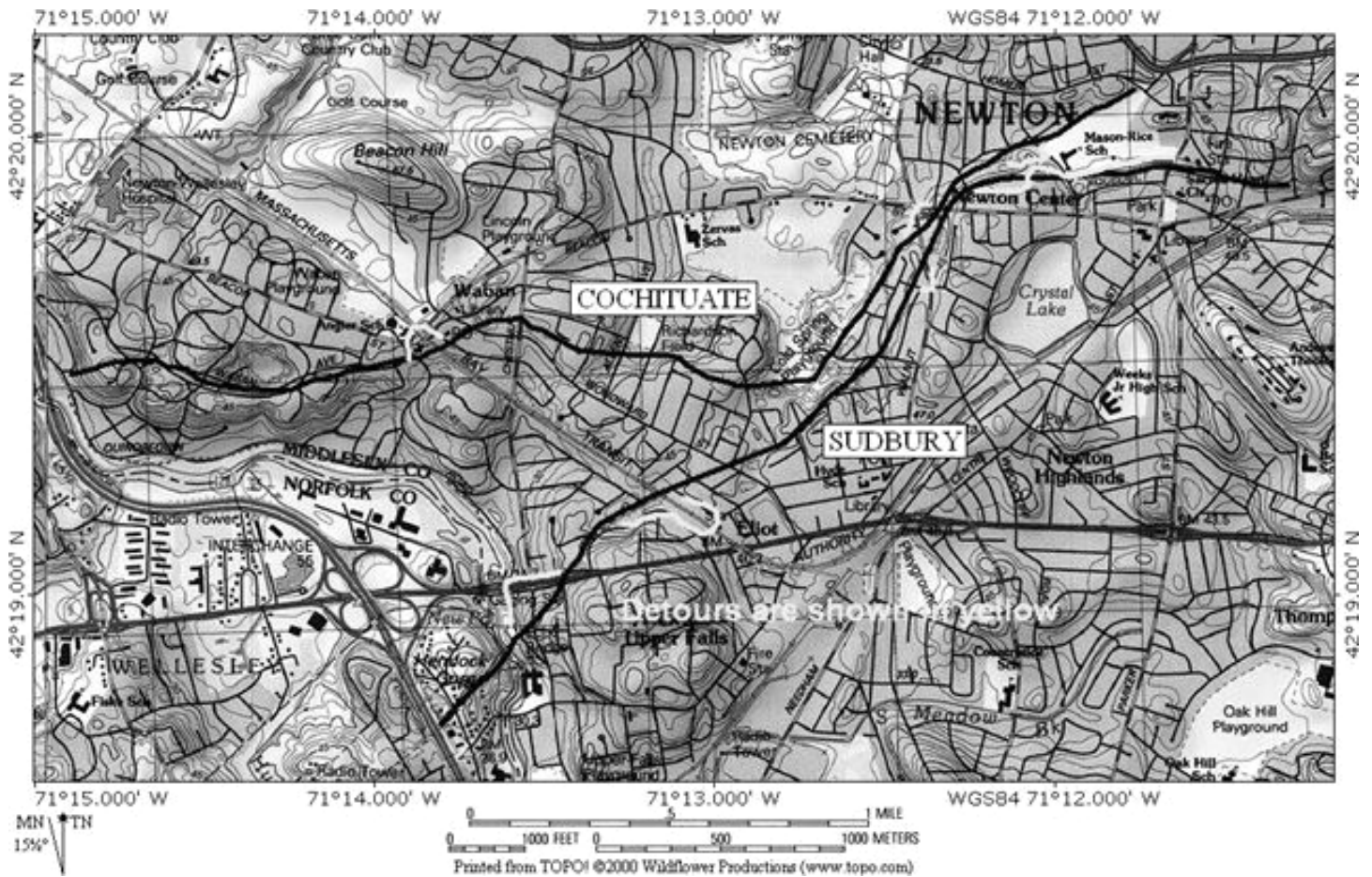
*Cochituate Aqueduct as it enters Cold Spring Park  
(Photo courtesy of Newton Conservators Website)*

As the path emerges from Cold Spring, it enters Beaconwood Road in a residential area at Four Corners. The trail is blocked at this point and it is necessary to exit onto Beacon Street, cross Walnut Street and pick up the path again across Beacon Street from Whole Foods Market. In this section, the Cochituate Aqueduct comes very close to the Sudbury Aqueduct, with the two running parallel and almost meeting between Beacon Street and Greenlawn Avenue.

After crossing Greenlawn Avenue, the trail is again interrupted and a short detour is necessary. Take either Park Lane to Pleasant Street or Hancock Avenue and Bracebridge Road to Pleasant Street. There the aqueduct enters and traverses the north side of Newton Centre Playground. Beyond this point, the Cochituate Aqueduct is, with few exceptions, not visible. It runs along Commonwealth Avenue, where it turns at Grant Avenue (a long, green triangular park at this intersection is the only evidence of the aqueduct). From there, it runs under Fellsmere Road, through the Commonwealth Golf Course and to a point near the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, into which it once emptied.

The **Sudbury Aqueduct** was completed in 1878, bringing water from new reservoirs created by diverting the main branch of the Sudbury River. The new tunnel ran through parts of Sherborn, Natick, Wellesley and Needham before entering Newton over Echo Bridge in Hemlock Gorge. Coming out of the park, take a left onto Ellis Street, pass under the

*(Continued on page 4)*



Map showing Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueducts from their entry into Newton across the Charles River (on the left side of the map) to the point in Four Corners (Newton Centre), where they come together and then proceed to the Newton Centre Playground (upper right corner). From here, they disappear underground on their way to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. The dark lines are the aqueducts where they are exposed at the surface. The light lines mark detours, which are described in the accompanying article. For a higher resolution, color version of this map, as well as numerous photos and links to more information about the aqueducts, visit the Newton Conservators Website at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org). (Map courtesy of Newton Conservators Website)

**Tracing the Aqueducts, continued from page 3**

Route 9 overpass and take a right, following the off-ramp along Route 9 from Quinobequin Road past Chestnut Street and Richardson Road. On the left is access to the Sudbury Aqueduct. Another detour is necessary as the trail approaches the Green Line near Eliot Station. Take a left onto Cragmore Road, a right onto Canterbury Road, cross through the T station to Lincoln Street and take a left onto Harrison Street, which dead-ends at the aqueduct.

From there, the trail crosses Dickerman Road and Woodward Street, then Mountfort Road, Bowdoin Street and Hillside Road. After crossing Dunklee Road, the aqueduct continues for two more blocks to Kingman Road, where another detour is required out to Walnut Street. Pick up the trail on the other side of

Walnut Street and follow it to Four Corners, past Whole Foods Market to Beacon Street.

At this point, the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts nearly join and since the Sudbury is blocked in several sections between here and Newton Centre Playground, it is best to take the Cochituate from this juncture. Though it is blocked by private ownership in this area, the Sudbury Aqueduct continues across Hancock Avenue and Bracebridge Road to Tyler Terrace, which it follows into Newton Centre. It crosses Centre Street behind the fire station at Lyman Street and then follows Beacon Street to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. From Newton Centre to the reservoir, the Sudbury Aqueduct tunnels below the surface and is not visible above ground.

Doug Dickson



*Sudbury Aqueduct near Woodward Street in Newton Highlands.  
(Photo courtesy of Newton Conservators Website)*

## ***Why We Care About Newton's Aqueducts***

Newton's two aqueducts form the sides of a triangle, entering the city across the Charles River in Waban and Upper Falls about a mile apart, and continuing to Four Corners, where they come together and run in close proximity to Newton Centre Playground. With few exceptions (see article on page 3), the paths atop the aqueducts in these sections of the city are accessible by foot. Because they cross intersections at grade, they function as shortcuts for walkers and bicyclists. Countless school children and adults over the years have discovered not only more direct routes to their destinations over these paths, but safer and more intriguing ones as well.

For passive recreation, the trails along the aqueducts are rich with ever-changing views, the tranquility of nature and mostly level trails. Birds and other wildlife, shade trees, wildflowers, vines and other plant-life abound along the paths. The hustle and bustle of life quickly fades as the warmth of the spring sun or the cool of dappled shade or the rustle of drying leaves washes over the senses. The power of quiet, green surroundings to calm agitation, restore perspective and rebuild reserves are well established.

The proximity of these linear parks to so many residents make them uniquely valuable. Access from nearly every intersection with streets they cross at

grade opens the opportunity for short walks and longer hikes. Cyclists, joggers and intrepid walkers can venture beyond our borders onto trails in adjacent towns—both Needham and Wellesley have connecting trails that offer added miles of exercise and enjoyment.

Along Quinobequin Road, which follows the Charles River from Route 16 to Route 9, a path runs adjacent to the river. It's overgrown in some places but could be cleared for pedestrian use. This idea has been floating for many years and regularly promoted by the Conservators. Clearing and/or improving this pathway would create a base for the two sides of the triangle formed by the aqueducts. This would yield a continuous loop of about five miles from Waban, through Newton Highlands to Newton Centre, back through Newton Highlands to Upper Falls and then along the river on the return to Waban.

From the air, the aqueducts appear as ribbons of green from the Charles River to Newton Centre, cutting across streets and villages and connecting parks and playgrounds. They are corridors along which wildlife can travel, increasing the value of our parks and open spaces as habitat for many species. They represent appendages to large open spaces such as Cold Spring Park and the Newton Cemetery, Newton Centre Playground, Hemlock Gorge and the Charles River corridor.

These uses, while important to all of us who care about open space preservation, are incidental to the purposes for which the aqueducts were originally constructed and are currently used. But they have come to serve essential ancillary services by their presence in our community. Back in the 1950s and 1960s, several parcels of the Cochituate Aqueduct were sold to private homeowners, blocking public access to several sections. While it is not clear at this point that acquiring any or all of those parcels makes sense, given the probable cost, we must certainly be vigilant in preventing future loss of this amenity, either by sale or lack of use. Understandably, adjacent homeowners see the value of this green space and many use the aqueducts as extensions of their own backyards. We see this as part of the full range of appropriate uses for these urban greenways as long as they do not conflict or interfere with public access and public use of the pathways.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Why We Care, continued from page 5)*

The Cochituate Aqueduct is owned by the City of Newton and the Sudbury is owned by the MWRA. This ownership structure has been in place for many years. But the MWRA has talked at points in the past about the need to sell off the Sudbury Aqueduct (it is being held currently only for its value as a backup water main, should another part of the system fail). As work to upgrade the metropolitan water system continues, there may be an opportunity to acquire the Sudbury as open space. If the MWRA decides it no longer needs this aqueduct, we should be prepared to make our case as strongly as possible and to prevent its loss to private homeowners or other purposes incompatible with public use and passive recreation.

The best way to preserve the aqueducts for the future is to use them now. If community use is well-established over an extended period, it will be difficult to impose other, inappropriate uses.

*Doug Dickson*

## ***A Brief History of the Aqueducts***

Early inhabitants of Boston and surrounding communities got their water from springs, cisterns and wells. As the Boston grew, it became increasingly clear that other sources of water were needed. In 1795, in one of the first efforts to transport water from one town to another, a private company was formed to build and operate a pipeline from Jamaica Pond to Boston. This supported Boston's water needs for the next 50 years.

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, however, the city's growth again outstripped its water supply. This time, a public water project was launched (after much debate) and the Cochituate Aqueduct project was commissioned in 1846. This gravity-fed tunnel carried water from Lake Cochituate, situated in Wayland, Framingham and Natick, to the Brookline Reservoir, which was constructed for this purpose. From the reservoir, water was piped into Boston. Work on the aqueduct in Newton was completed in 1848.

Again, in the 1870s, the need for more water was identified and a second gravity-fed aqueduct was built. This one carried water from the Sudbury River, which was diverted to create seven reservoirs in Framingham and Marlborough. The Chestnut



*Bridge carrying Cochituate Aqueduct from Wellesley to Newton across the Charles River near Routes 16 and 128.  
(Photo courtesy of Middlesex Canal Association Website)*

Hill Reservoir was also built during this period to provide storage closer to Boston. In 1877, the Sudbury Aqueduct was completed in Newton.

At the turn of the century, two pioneering movements came together. There was recognition that water was a regional resource and that plans for the future required a regional approach. In 1895, a Metropolitan Water District was formed to provide sources of water for nine municipalities in eastern Massachusetts, including Boston and Newton. Plans for the Wachusett Reservoir in the Worcester area were developed and water from that project came on line in 1908.

At the same time, formation of the Metropolitan Park System was advocated by Charles Eliot and Frederick Law Olmsted. The purpose of this agency was to acquire and preserve natural resources for public use in Boston as well as the outlying metropolitan region. In 1919, the Metropolitan District Commission was formed to bring together the functions of both the Water District and the Park System. This arrangement continued until 1984, when the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority was formed to focus exclusively on the water supply and sewage treatment needs of 61 communities the agency now serves.

In 1940, the Quabbin Reservoir came on line, by far the most ambitious of the water development projects undertaken by the state. It continues to be the primary source of water supply to the

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Brief History, continued from page 6*

metropolitan Boston area, including Newton.

With the development of more modern pressurized aqueducts associated with construction of the Quabbin Reservoir, the Cochituate Aqueduct became obsolete. In 1952, it was abandoned by the MDC and sold to the cities and towns through which it snaked. Newton converted the aqueduct for use as a sanitary sewer, carrying effluent to the MWRA treatment facilities.

The Sudbury Aqueduct is still owned by the MWRA, but it has been inactive for many years. It is being held as a backup main, in case of problems with one of the other aqueducts. In 1990, the length of the Sudbury Aqueduct was landmarked by the National Registry of Historic Places as a linear historic district. While there has been some discussion in recent years that the MWRA would eventually abandon the Sudbury as it did the Cochituate Aqueduct in 1952, its plans are not at all clear. The historic district provides a measure of protection, but there is no substitute for planning ahead to ensure the preservation of this resource as a public greenway through our community, whatever the ownership structure over time.

*Doug Dickson*

For more information on the history of Boston's water system and its aqueducts, see:

“A History of the Development of the Metropolitan Commission Water Supply System,” Wallace, Floyd Associates, 1984

[www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/pdf/ws1984book.pdf](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/pdf/ws1984book.pdf)

“MWRA Water System History”

[www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/html/hist1.htm](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/04water/html/hist1.htm)

“The Sudbury Aqueduct,” Scott Johnson, 2004

Google “Sudbury Aqueduct”

“Water for Greater Boston,” Bill Marchione, 1998

[www.bahistory.org/historyWaterforBoston.html](http://www.bahistory.org/historyWaterforBoston.html)



*View of aqueduct trail through a residential area of Newton. (Photo courtesy of Newton Conservators Website)*

## 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 45 years ago in June 1961.*

## LAND ACQUISITION REPORT

The Conservators' Land Acquisition Committee has targeted several projects for the coming years. Some of these are prospective acquisitions of properties on the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Conservators work to arrange purchases of land of this kind as open space, using Community Preservation Act funds. Angino Farm was one of these. Others are projects that are not on the Plan but that we believe could make a major impact on the livability of the city.

The project with the biggest scope is a walking and bicycle trail on the city's aqueducts. The aqueducts are corridors that run east to west through the heart of the city, largely adjacent to rear yards in residential neighborhoods. Aqueduct pipes are buried deep in the ground. Informal trails already exist on top of the aqueducts but are interrupted at some locations, requiring walkers and riders to move off onto city streets.

The Conservators' Henry Finch has led outings along the trails and has been working to collect the information necessary for easier use of the paths. Though this project is big in scope (allowing for a loop trail several miles long, with a stretch along the Charles River in Waban), it is likely to be relatively low in cost. Part of the aqueduct land is owned by

*(Continued on page 8)*

*Land Acquisition, continued from page 7*

the MWRA and the rest by the City of Newton, both of which for decades have allowed its use for trails. The largest part of the Conservators' effort would be to install signs so that more of Newton's residents could know that the trails exist. Signs also help to keep people on the trails and out of neighbors' yards. The Conservators may seek CPA funds for legal work, to determine the current rights of various parties along the trail. It may be possible to seek acquisitions where the trails are interrupted. But the single most important upgrade is signage.

Various other projects are on the table. We have found that a project usually requires a single member to take leadership and see it through. We could use help. Anyone with an interest in helping the open space effort in Newton is encouraged to join us and to help bring one of these projects along.

Among the projects we are looking at are:

- Signs and informational kiosks at the entrances to all of the city's open spaces.
- Acquisition of a 2.1-acre parcel on the Charles River at Farwell Street in Nonantum; this is a significant parcel with long river frontage near Cheesecake Brook.
- Acquisition of 11 acres of rear land at Temple Mishkan Tefilah off Hammond Pond Parkway; the land contains vernal pools and a pond, and is surrounded on three sides by open space in the Webster Conservation Area.
- Acquisition of land off Pine Street in West Newton, to expand and, potentially, upgrade a city-owned holding as a 13-acre usable open space.
- Acquisition of a conservation easement to protect a parcel with a small pond at Islington Road in Auburndale.

Of course, the Conservators welcome gifts. In recent years, parcels have been brought to us by conservation-minded residents who want to see their land protected for the long term. Some of the major projects that have come our way have been at the initiative of land owners who choose the moment to bring their properties to the market. The Conservators have been fortunate that these have come to us before they have reached the development community.

The Conservators have advised the city's Community Preservation Committee of the dollar amounts that are likely to be associated with the projects in the list above to help the Committee plan for future expenditures.

*Eric Reenstierna  
Land Acquisition Committee Chair*

**The Newton Conservators Newsletter**© is published five times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc. Issues usually appear in mid-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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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Doug Dickson, Bill Hagar, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Eric Reenstierna and Peter Smith. Thanks also to Douglas Leith for his excellent proofreading.

## *Meeting Calendar*

**Newton Conservators Board** meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm, usually in a City Hall meeting room or the City Hall cafeteria.

**Angino Farm Commission** meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Community Preservation Committee** meets the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Conservation Commission** meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Parks and Recreation Commission** meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Urban Tree Commission** meets the third Friday of every month at 7:45 am in City Hall Room 202.

**Aldermanic Committee on Community Preservation** meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7:45 pm in City Hall Room 222.



# **ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 31 AT POST 440**

**<< Hold the Date! >>**

The Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at Post 440 on Watertown Street in Nonantum. A social hour will begin at 6:15 PM and will include a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM and a business meeting will begin during dinner. In addition to reports from the president and treasurer, members



present will elect a new slate of officers and a board of directors for the coming year. Four awards—the Environmentalist of the Year, the Charles Johnson Maynard award and two Directors

Awards will be presented (see articles below).

At about 8:30 PM, our keynote speaker will discuss the Rose Fitzgerald Greenway. This highly visible project on the site of the former Central Artery elevated roadway is the last element of the Big Dig. Our speaker will discuss the history of the project, current activity and plans for realization of the ambitious goals set for the creation of this widely anticipated stretch of public buildings and parks. Details about the keynote speaker will be included with formal invitations to be sent out in early May.

Including a question-and-answer period, the meeting is anticipated to end at around 9:30 PM, allowing all to get home at a reasonable hour.

## ***Environmentalists of the Year: Regosin, Hillis and Reenstierna***

The Environmentalist of the Year Award this year goes to three individuals who played key roles in the acquisition of Angino Farm. Jon Regosin, Duane Hillis and Eric Reenstierna will share the award this year as each contributed in a particular way to this important milestone. Jon conceived and drove the community farm concept as the foundation for the use of the land and buildings. Duane negotiated the transaction with the broker and Angino family. And Eric handled the legal and other issues related to the

acquisition. Of course, real life doesn't break down quite this evenly and there was plenty of joint effort. Many others also played key roles, but without the hard work and experience that Eric, Duane and Jon brought to this project, it would not have come to a successful conclusion.

All three are members of the Conservators board of directors. Jon is a wildlife biologist working for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He is president of the newly incorporated Newton Community Farm, Inc., the organization selected by the city to operate Angino Farm. Duane runs a commercial real estate business and is a past president of Friends of Nahanton Park. He sits on the board of NewTV and has served as videographer for the Environmental Show on this local cable television station. Eric operates a real estate appraisal and consulting firm. He is past president of the Newton Conservators and previously served on the city's Conservation Commission.

This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Environmentalist of the Year Award presented by the Newton Conservators to an individual or group who has made a distinguished environmental contribution to our community.

## ***Maynard Award to Frank Howard***

For the past five years, the Conservators have presented an award invoking the memory and contribution of Newton native Charles Johnson Maynard, a preeminent naturalist of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The award recognizes efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation and natural resource protection. This year, the recipient will be Dr. Frank Howard, who has worked tirelessly to help develop a disease-resistant strain of the American Chestnut. He is an active member of the American Chestnut Foundation and has brought together specialists in an attempt to pollinate an old chestnut tree in Newton that has so far survived the blight that has killed so many of these stately and once plentiful trees.

Frank is a member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. He is also on the board of the Newton Conservators and is actively involved in NewTV, where he was for many years the medical commentator for Newton News. He is a retired physician.

## ***Directors Award to Awtreys***

The board of the Newton Conservators voted unanimously to recognize the generous gift of property in a dell through which Hyde Brook flows in Newton Corner. The owners of the property, Tony and Pam Awtrey, approached the Conservators about the gift two years ago and completed the transaction this past December. The gift of land came with a fund for maintenance of the property into the future. Their hope is that other neighbors will make similar donations, piecing back together the area along the brook for the enjoyment of the community. We congratulate the Awtreys for their leadership in making this gift and setting an important example for others to follow.

## ***Directors Award to Broderick***

A Directors Award will also go this year to Jim Broderick, who was instrumental in the success of the Ordway Park Endowment Fund. Created with a generous contribution from the Rosenbergs, neighbors of Ordway Park, the Fund has grown from contributions across the city. Like the Eveready bunny, Jim has tirelessly guided this campaign to a successful conclusion. For many years, he has led the Ordway Park Committee for the Conservators, developing designs for the restoration of the property, overseeing annual maintenance and keeping the stewardship of this property front and center for the organization. Recent improvements at Ordway include the installation of granite curbs and planting of shrubs donated by the Newton Centre Garden Club. Jim is a retired English professor, a landscape designer and a member of the board of the Newton Conservators.



## **Green Decade Throws a Party!**

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a gala party—“Greening the Garden City”—at the New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville, on Saturday, April 29 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. As part of the festivities, there will be a silent auction, food, beverages and live music by Juliet Lloyd.

They will honor Beverly Droz for her outstanding work as President of the Green Decade Coalition from 2000-2005.

The auction will include great items and services to bid for. Some examples:

- Weekend at a Martha’s Vineyard house
- Artwork from local and international artists
- Newton Symphony Orchestra tickets
- Red Sox tickets
- Cooking class and resulting gourmet Indian meal for four
- Many ecologically related items and more!

Donation is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Go to the Green Decade Website to make an advance reservation and to bid in advance on any auction item: [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org). Call 617-965-1995 for more information. This event is sponsored by UNICCO, Skipjacks, Furniture, Sam Adams, Trader Joe's and Highland Wine & Spirits Co., Inc.

*Peter Smith*

### **Spring 2006**

#### **Newton Conservators Lecture**

Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library

#### ***The Community Preservation Act in Newton - Has It Been Worth It?***

*A Panel Discussion and Pictorial Review of  
CPA Progress and Projects with Project  
Leaders, Planners, Committee Members and  
Aldermanic Representatives*

Details next page...

# SPRING LECTURE ON CPA

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was adopted by the City of Newton in 2001. Since then, over 40 projects involving open space, community housing, historic preservation, and recreation have been approved. In Newton, the CPA Fund comes from a 1% surcharge on the property tax, which, to date, has received a 100% match from the state. CPA projects have also leveraged a variety of other funding sources. As we near the fifth year since its passage in Newton, there has been increasing debate on the value of the program.

The Newton Conservators Spring Lecture this year will be devoted to a review of the projects that have been implemented with the aid of the CPA Fund. This presentation will provide a review of the history of the CPA in Newton, the process by which projects go from proposal to implementation, and the distribution of projects by type, area of the city and funds allocated. Members of the CPA Committee, the Planning Department, Aldermanic Committees with CPA oversight and project planners themselves will be on hand to provide their perspectives on the

program. There will be opportunities for questions on the CPA process and its future.

The bulk of the program will be devoted to a pictorial overview of CPA projects that have been funded in the years since inception in Newton. In its first four years, over 30 acres of open space have been preserved, including the last remaining farm in the city and a large tract that connects existing conservation areas. Over 80 units of community housing have been funded, including a Newton Housing Authority apartment building in Waban and the land for the first Habitat for Humanity project in the western suburbs. Our city's three historic burying grounds are receiving badly needed restoration work and recreational improvements for many of our parks and facilities, such as Gath Pool, are underway.

The free Newton Conservators Lecture Series, now in its fifth year, is cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the Newton Free Library. For further information, please contact Ted Kuklinski, 617-969-6222, [lectures@newtonconservators.org](mailto:lectures@newtonconservators.org), or visit the Newton Conservators Website at [www.newtonconservators.org/lectures.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/lectures.htm).

*Ted Kuklinski*

**If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2006, now is the time. Please renew today!  
And consider a tax-deductible gift to support our work!**



*Celebrating 45 years  
of open space advocacy  
in Newton*

## Newton Conservators Membership Form

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • [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: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Please do not share my name and address with other groups.

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Individual member \$25
- Family member \$35
- Sustaining member \$50
- Donor \$75
- Patron \$100

*All amounts are tax deductible*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to **Newton Conservators, Inc.**

April/May 2006 Newsletter



# *the Newton Conservators* **NEWSLETTER**

## **IN THE SPRING ISSUE:**

- Exploring Newton's Historic Aqueducts page 1
- Preserving Echo Bridge page 1
- Tracing the Aqueducts through Newton page 3
- A Brief History of the Aqueducts page 6
- Land Acquisition Update page 7
- Environmental Awards page 9

***SPRING LECTURE: Review of CPA—April 20, 7:00 PM, Druker Auditorium***

***SPRING WALKS: Explore Newton's Open Spaces—See Enclosed Flyer***

***ANNUAL MEETING: Rose Kennedy Greenway—May 31, 6:15 PM, Post 440***



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