

ANNUAL DINNER TO FEATURE WARREN, ALMANAC GROUP



for their hard work creating and publishing the beautiful Newton Conservators' Almanac;

- the Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Newton's Director of Environmental Affairs, Elaine Gentile, for her successful implementation of single stream recycling;
- Directors' Awards to Patricia Rand and Penelope Caponigro, for their care of Newton's public spaces.

The annual meeting and dinner will be at American Legion Post 440 on California Street in Nonantum. All members and friends are invited. Look for your invitation in the mail, or go to the Conservators' Web site (www.newtonconservators.org).

- Jane Sender

CRYSTAL LAKE CONSERVANCY'S BOLD PLANS

The Newton Conservators have an exciting annual meeting planned this year for May 26. We are honored that our Keynote speaker is our new Mayor, Setti Warren. This will be a wonderful opportunity for many to meet Mayor Warren and hear his thoughts about open space issues.

We are also looking forward to presenting our annual awards:

- the Environmentalist of the Year Award to the Conservator's Almanac Committee- Sue J. Avery, Dr. Modestino "Cris" Criscitiello, Laura Eisener, Don Lubin, Patricia Robinson, and Beth E. Schroeder –

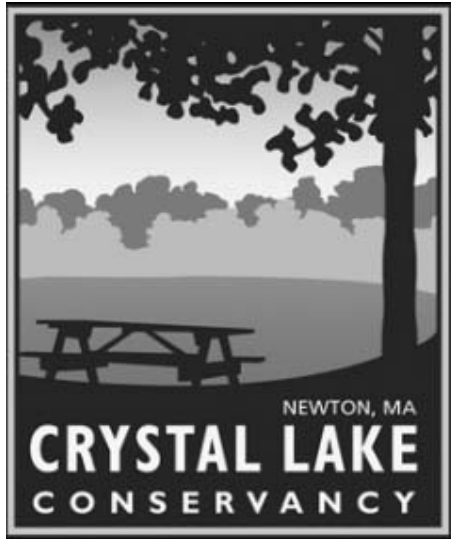
"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

- Henry David Thoreau

The mission of the Crystal Lake Conservancy (CLC) is to preserve and protect Crystal Lake for the benefit of the public by promoting and supporting the unique natural beauty and recreational enjoyment of the lake. The CLC's activities involve five key areas: environmental/scientific,

educational, programs and activities, long range planning, and fundraising.

The CLC has advanced a great deal since its founders (Jean Artin, Janice Bourque, Robert Fizek, Schuyler Larrabee, Srdjan Nedeljkovic and Barbara Wales) received the Newton Conservators' 2009 Environmentalist of the Year Award.



Our first major project is a comprehensive environmental survey of Crystal Lake. No such survey appears to have been previously conducted. The survey is scheduled for 2010 and 2011. Beals Associates Inc., experts in limnology (study of lakes and rivers), is contracted to assist CLC in this study. The initial water testing began on Thursday, March 11, 2010. The Gerzog family, who reside at 160 Lake Avenue, are generously providing launching and docking facilities for the testing boat.

The purpose of the study is to provide a clear understanding of the features and environmental health of Crystal Lake. The study will serve as an analysis baseline as the Crystal Lake Conservancy and the City of Newton seek to improve and maintain the Lake's health over the years to come. It will provide information to guide future improvements in public infrastructure to protect the Lake from further damage caused by street drainage flowing into the Lake. The analysis may also guide the Newton Conservation Commission in crafting Orders of Conditions for projects within the Crystal Lake watershed. Most importantly, the CLC plans to create an educational program for homeowners within the watershed area on the direct impact their lawn and home care can have on the health of Crystal Lake. The educational program could leverage existing information from organizations such as Green Decade and others.

The survey is estimated to cost between \$16,000 and \$30,000, depending on the level of volunteer testing effort, plus additional costs for water quality testing or other unanticipated expenses. The CLC goal is to increase the awareness and excitement of the community for the project and recruit a number of citizen volunteers for ongoing testing in order to broaden the participation and reduce the cost. CLC is fundraising for the survey from watershed homeowners, private foundations, and organizations that support environmental activities.

Another major initiative to be undertaken is fundraising for a new bathhouse and the improvement of the adjoining park based upon the final recommendation from the Crystal Lake Task Force Report.

The CLC welcomes and invites new members who wish to support these efforts. Membership registration, contributions, and contact information can be found on the web at www.Crystallakeconservancy.org. Please contact Co-Presidents Janice Bourque (j_bourque@comcast.net) or Schuyler Larrabee (schuyler.larrabee@verizon.net) with any questions.

- Janice Bourque

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived – to me, as a birder, a time when the natural world so commands my attention I can barely do anything but watch the spectacular changes unfold. For the Conservators, it is time for walks and invasives pulls. A special thanks once again goes to Dr. Eric Olson, a member of our Board of Advisors, for his unflagging commitment to the complicated issue of invasive plants, as well as for bringing us Dr. Joseph Elkinton, who spoke at our Spring lecture in March. Dr. Elkinton, an international expert on winter moths, gave an extremely interesting and useful talk about this serious problem and about his research aimed at stopping this invasive and destructive moth.

I hope many of you will join us on our spring activities.

- Jane Sender, President

SPRING IN THE ESTABLISHED GARDEN

My garden redesign from the year 2000 is now a decade old. Actually, Marjorie C. Brackett started this garden in 1924 and many of her plants are still here. In 1986 Mrs. Brackett's daughter, who grew up in my house, stopped by to introduce herself. While we walked through the garden I heard a happy refrain: "My mother planted that."

It's fun to be part of a continuum of gardeners who have tended this plot for the past 86 years. I honor Mrs. Brackett's choices by keeping her plants and relocating them only if necessary. I would sorely miss her weigela (*Weigela japonica*), bridal wreath (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*), mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*) and of course the wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) that graces our porch. I'm sure she started my hosta collection as well.

Snowdrops and hellebores began blooming in February and spring arrives on March 20th. As a gardener and garden designer, this means clients to help as well as working in my own garden. I will be happy to be "back in business." I long to go out in the garden, to touch the soil and to crawl along the edges of my flowerbeds hunting for weeds.

I will check the dimensions of my beds and borders as measured against my original garden plans. The horseshoe-shaped perennial bed should contain a twenty-foot diameter lawn. To check the dimensions, I walk the circumference of my lawn with a 10-foot string on a centered stick. I pull out invading groundcovers as I cut a trench re-outlining the perennial bed. Next, the path behind the bed needs to be checked. It should be at least three feet wide. This is easy to do with an old-fashioned wooden yard stick. If the grass has grown into the wrong area, I carefully remove it and relocate it, until the garden is back in its original shape.

I may re-cut a few of my garden beds to increase the planting space, aware that it's important not to overdo it. The remaining lawn shouldn't be made from whatever space is left over in a garden, fading off into the distance. Lawns should have the right proportions and a defined shape. You can get away with chaotic perennial beds when sharp lawn edges give the garden a neat, organized appearance.

If you are like me your garden is full. I've been adding plants until my garden is ready to burst. Not to mention the explosive growth from the happy plants. I miss the

early days when I was cutting new beds into the lawn and putting in new shrubs and trees. But those big tasks are finished.



If I want to put in more plants, some must come out. I plan to remove some of my overly enthusiastic plants. I've normally followed the one, three, five rule of one large specimen plant, three medium-sized plants and five smaller plants in irregular drifts. But I've also tucked one plant here and one there for a decade, and there will be no more tucking if I don't get my garden under control. My Johnny Appleseed tendencies led me to sprinkle various seeds in the beds with overwhelming results. Right now my flowerbeds look a bit like a very well-stirred stew.

This year I will collect matching plants that have spread throughout the garden and move them into drifts of seven or more to create a more cohesive look. For example, over the years I dropped little groupings of chives in dry spots where nothing else wanted to grow. Now I'll gather them and create a dramatic drift of chives snaking across the front of a perennial bed.

There are also perennials that need to be divided and shrubs that need a gentle pruning. It may be best to cull a few of the shrubs and trees I planted ten years ago. I'm pleased to have neighbors willing to adopt excess plants. A small blue spruce found a home around the corner. What was I thinking planting a blue spruce in a crowded shady garden? But it was only \$10 and it was adorable. Hopefully it will prosper in my neighbor's yard.

As the perennials begin to peek out, I will pull back the leaf mulch to expose them to the sun, sprinkle each flowerbed with a natural fertilizer, and wait to see the results. I'm looking forward to bulbs blooming, perennials emerging, and leaves sprouting on shrubs and trees.

- Beth Schroeder

THE PLASTIC PLAGUE

I call it the plague of a billion plastics. In particular, the ubiquitous plastic grocery bag gives me a special feeling of frustration, perhaps because these bags are just such a visible eyesore. And they are everywhere! I see them fluttering like kites in the wind and floating like ephemeral ghosts across parking lots and roadways. There are at least two bags hanging from trees in front of my house, too high for me to reach. I can only watch them ever so slowly disintegrate.



But plastics are not just an eyesore; they are also deadly to wildlife. Often, they end up in our waterways, in our oceans, and along our beaches or are ingested by wild life. Many plastics, including the single use plastic grocery bags, are lethal to sea turtles, whales, and other marine life. A whale washed ashore in California in 2007 was discovered to have 400 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Seabirds mistake colorful bits of plastic for food and feed them to their chicks, with disastrous consequences. Researchers studying seabird colonies in the South Pacific have discovered thousands of dead chicks, their downy corpses stuffed with hundreds of plastic bits.

The non-profit Center for Marine Conservation places plastic bags as among the most common debris found in ocean cleanups. Walk along any beach, river, meadow or roadway and you will find plastic bags and a myriad of

other types of plastic trash. Since their introduction in 1977, plastic grocery bags have become a particular nuisance. Literally billions of bags are produced each year, enough to almost rival our nation's national deficit, and very few are recycled. Right now about four out of five grocery bags are plastic. The time is ripe to change some of our daily rituals and move away from our reliance on plastics – especially, plastic supermarket bags.

A few nasty facts about plastics:

- According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. An estimated 12 million barrels of oil are required to make that many plastic bags. According to the EPA, the U.S. consumes over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps each year.
- Plastics are forever! Plastics do NOT biodegrade. Rather, they photodegrade. This is a process whereby sunlight breaks down plastic into smaller and smaller pieces. These can be ingested by wildlife and make their way into the food chain.
- Americans will buy an estimated 25 billion single-serving, plastic water bottles this year. Nine out of 10 (22 billion) will end up in a landfill.
- Bottled water is a ripoff: consumers spend an estimated \$7 billion on bottled water in the US each year, yet many studies have shown that bottled water is usually no better in quality than regular tap water. It is much more expensive. Bottling is a needless use of more plastic. Worldwide, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year.
- 1.5 million barrels of oil are used annually to produce plastic water bottles for America alone - enough to fuel some 100,000 U.S. cars for a year.
- *Earth Policy Institute*
- Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That's about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle.
- *National Geographic*
- A growing problem: "In 1990, Americans bought 1.1 billion pounds of plastic in the form of bottles, according to the Container Recycling Institute. In 2002, they bought more than three times that - 4

billion pounds."

- *Christian Science Monitor*

A December 30, 2009 editorial in *The Washington Post* had praise for a new law set to go into effect this month that aims to reduce the amount of plastic litter that ends up in a local waterway in Washington D.C. The Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act will add a five cent fee to plastic and paper bags in many area stores. Local businesses will retain one or two cents of the fee depending on whether they offer a credit for a reusable bag, and the rest of the money goes to a fund for the cleanup of the Anacostia River. It is hoped that consumers will bring their own re-usable bags. Many other communities, including Seattle, and New York City, are also considering fees or recycling requirements for plastic supermarket bags. Currently there are five bills being considered here in Massachusetts that would either ban or impose a fee for each plastic bag used at grocery stores.

What You Can Do to Help

- Reduce, reuse and recycle!
- Use re-usable shopping bags! This is by far the best solution. Many stores now sell them. Leave them in your car so you will remember to use them. Or keep them near your returnable bottles, to help you to remember to bring them.
- Bring your plastic bags back to the supermarket for recycling. Currently, they are not included in the City of Newton's single stream recycling program. Many stores now have a container at the entrance for the recycling of plastic bags.
- Use re-usable water bottles made from aluminum.
- When you visit the beach, bring along a bag to pick up plastics and other litter. Every little bit helps.
- Participate in the Charles River Cleanup on April 24th.

- *Alison Leary*

WOOLLY BEARS IN MY WOODPILE

While lifting some fireplace logs from my outdoor woodpile during a cold spell in January, I uncovered two Woolly Bear caterpillars curled up in a crevice among the pieces of wood. Although somewhat sluggish in their movements, they were clearly alive and able to crawl about slowly. They are called "Woolly Bears" because of the long, thick hairs (*setae*) which give their coat a fur-like appearance. Chances are you may be familiar with this caterpillar: it has bands of black bristles at both ends, with a reddish-brown band in its middle section. Legend says that one can foretell the length of the coming winter by the relative width of these bands, but studies have failed to confirm this belief.



I have occasionally seen a Woolly Bear crossing open ground during October or November. I had always assumed that it might be searching for shrubbery where it could pupate and pass the winter in the warmth of a cocoon. After my woodpile encounter I read further about this species and learned to my surprise that it normally goes through the entire winter as a caterpillar! It doesn't become a pupa and build a cocoon until March or April, emerging still later as an Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*). Like most moths, it is nocturnal in its habits, and I have never seen one in its adult form.

This past December we once again experienced an outbreak of Winter Moths (*Operophtera brumata*). There were large numbers of male moths gathering near lighted doorways, clinging to walls and windows. They had emerged from the snow-covered ground and were awaiting the females. The latter had also come up out of the ground, but because they are flightless, they were forced to crawl to nearby trees and climb partway up the trunks. By releasing a potent pheromone they attracted male moths to

fertilize their eggs. These were deposited in crevices in the bark of the trees, and thereafter both males and the females died off. With the onset of warm weather, it is likely these eggs will hatch with release of vast numbers of inchworms. They will move up the trees starting in April, devouring the emerging foliage. As they finish off the canopy of one tree, they can release a silk-like cable allowing the wind to carry them to another. Estimates are that we may be in for another large loss of foliage.



In the face of these two moth experiences, I wondered how these creatures can survive frigid winter temperatures, one as a caterpillar, the other as an adult moth. I subsequently have learned that both species produce a substance known as a “cryoprotectant”- in effect, a form of anti-freeze. A compound of this type named “glycerol” has been detected in the Woolly Bear, and laboratory studies show that it renders the water component of the caterpillar’s cell tissue less freezable as temperatures are lowered. This prevents the formation of tissue-damaging ice crystals. Also, under conditions of very low temperatures, a separate group of protein compounds having a similar effect is released

Other insects have different ways of surviving the winter. The Monarch Butterfly migrates on a long journey to the southwest, flying all the way to Mexico. The familiar Ladybug Beetle seeks an indoor shelter away from the cold. It locates tiny cracks and crevices in the walls of houses, under shingles or in window cases. Squeezing its small body through these gaps, it gains entrance to a warm interior. It then enters a state of torpor and can last through months without access to food. Not all these intruders

survive. The dried-out remains of a few may be detected on windowsills come Spring.

As the temperature warms in March and April, I regularly find a few Ladybugs in the window cases of our old house, wandering slowly up and down between the outer and inside windows. It’s not surprising that they are most numerous in windows on the east and south sides of the house where warmth from the sun is greatest. Since they do no damage, they are welcome to spend the winter with us.

If you are interested in more information on the ingenuity of animal and insect survival in winter, see *Winter World* by Bernd Heinrich, published by Ecco Paperbacks of Harper Collins.

- M.G.Criscitiello

TREE CONSERVANCY UPDATE

The Newton Tree Conservancy, which started in the fall of 2008, continues to be busy in 2010.

On March 15th, along with the Conservators, Green Decade, and other organizations, we co-sponsored a visit from UMass Amherst entomology professor Joe Elkinton, who spoke to us about Winter Moth (a non-native invader about to decimate our tree population worse than ever this spring) and his work to introduce the parasitic fly that may be the only hope for controlling our winter moth infestation. (This has succeeded in Nova Scotia and in the Pacific Northwest.) His lecture gave us a fascinating glimpse into the world of entomology and the surprisingly simple but laborious methods needed to introduce the parasitic fly.

Other upcoming activities include the Tree Steward training program at Albemarle Field House. In this fun program run by the City and co-sponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy, we learn from Marc Welch, the City's Forestry Director, to prune, plant, care for, and identify trees. Participants can use the training to care for their own trees and, if they choose, can become part of the growing contingent of trained volunteers who gather once a month for a couple of hours to care for young city trees - to give them a strong healthy structure before they become large. Our monthly Saturday morning pruning sessions are fun and are a great way to directly contribute to our urban forest. To register, please email Marc Welch at newtonforestrymw@gmail.com or you may contact the Newton Tree Conservancy at www.newtontreeconservancy.org.

The remaining classes, at Albemarle Field House, are as follows:

Thurs evening April 15th at 7 pm - Planting instruction
Saturday morning April 17th at 9 am - Planting hands-on session.
Saturday afternoon April 17 1 pm - Pruning hands-on session.

Fall sessions will include tree identification. Make sure you register, in case of any last minute changes.

Also coming up very soon is our 2010 Community Tree Planting. Volunteers will plant 50 trees at six sites across Newton. The neighborhood groups have agreed to water and will also help plant and participate in the Tree Steward training. Additional volunteers will be very much

needed those mornings to assist with planting! Please contact us if you can help out.

Saturday April 24th Parmenter Rd (at Elsworth) 8 am, followed by Madison Ave, Lincoln St.

Saturday May 1st Webster St (near Waltham St) 8 am, followed by Cherry St and Chestnut St.

We are grateful for the support of so many Conservators members. Your help in our activities, which include planning for Tree Plantings, Arbor Day celebrations, our tree nursery, finalizing NTC's "case statement" (to give to potential donors), and preparing for future educational programs, would be very welcome. You may contact us through the website, www.newtontreeconservancy.org. The website also contains reports and photos of our events, materials to do your own tree walk in the beautiful Newton Cemetery, and links to articles such as the Asian Long Horned Beetle infestation in Worcester.

- Katherine Howard



LETTERS

Dear Friends of Nahanton Park,

As a birder, nature enthusiast and frequent visitor to Nahanton Park, I was upset to hear about a proposal to create crop-growing areas in the wildflower meadow to benefit the farm on Winchester Street.

As a Winchester Street resident myself, no one could have been or is happier to have the land on the corner of Nahanton and Winchester Streets remain farmland. In two years Greg Maslowe has done amazing things: growing and selling a wide variety of produce, heirloom vegetable sales, educational programs and holiday festivities. I am aware that they (the Newton Community Farm) are currently renting approximately four plots from the City in the upper gardens and I have heard that they are still short of land. The proposed area, which is being addressed as "next to the meadow," actually is part of the meadow. This area supplies food, seed and possible nesting spots to birds all season, but especially in the fall when our migrants come through. That whole sweep is one of the best assets of the Winchester St. entrance to the park. It is a view belying the fact that this park is in the midst of a city. I feel it would be a crime to chop up and fence in gardening areas at this location.

Understanding that there are no more plots available, it seems there might be some land in the lower gardens in between the existing gardens and the parking lot that might be suitable if it's on a reasonable scale – keeping the trees on the parking lot side and some of the brush surrounding this area. That way, it wouldn't interfere with our beautiful vista when you enter the park. However, I think there is one question we should all ask ourselves – what happens when the new proposed area isn't enough land for the farm? Then what? Do we want to keep carving it into smaller and smaller pieces for the benefit of a single enterprise?

I would also like to respectfully mention that other farms in nearby towns are in the same predicament. For instance, Volante Farms in Needham doesn't have enough land either. They rent land in Dover (I believe) for satellite farming. Maybe it is possible that Newton's farm will have to do something similar.

This park is a real gem. Let's find a way to preserve and protect this very special habitat.

Sincerely,
Suzette Barbier

To the Conservators:

The Nature Center at Nahanton Park needs a use for 9-10 months per year that would be in keeping with the mission of the Park. The alternative may be to close up the building through out most of the year, or worse have it become something not compatible with the many activities that use the Park. Given the current, "pay to play" economic conditions in Newton, we should actively seek out a compatible use for this building so we can keep it open all year. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island has a wonderful nature center (much bigger than this) with year round activities.

Parks and Recreation has summer programs that use the building in July and August. A Senior Citizens group previously used the building, which paid for utilities and upkeep, as well as supervision. A group can lease the conference room and kitchen area and have use of the bathrooms and foyer as common area that are also available to the public. Uses that come to mind would be groups doing environmental work or the Audubon Society, horticultural, landscape design etc.. Any programs that need after school locations for educational purposes would also be great for classes or training.

It sounds like all we need to do is cover utility costs if we do not have to manage the use, which run about \$1,000 per month including base electric costs and upkeep.

Please brainstorm this and throw out any ideas with or without contact information and I will be glad to follow up.

Sincerely,
Duane Hillis

ANITA CAPELESS

We remember Anita Capeless, who died on March 7 at the age of 90. She lived in Newton for over 50 years before moving back to Pittsfield in 2004, where her husband, Bob Capeless, had been mayor before becoming state tax commissioner in 1958. She and Bob were among the founders of the Conservators. An ardent conservationist and social activist, Ms. Capeless was a Trustee of the Newton Free Library and a longtime member and President of the League of Women Voters of Newton and the Charles River Watershed Association. She was also appointed to the Governor's Council on Open Spaces. In 1988 she was the recipient of the Newton Conservators Environmentalist of the Year award for her work over many years to ensure sensible land use in Newton.

- *Bonnie Carter*

The Newton Conservators Officers and Directors 2009

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Alison Leary, *Vice President*
AnnaMaria Abernathy, *Secretary*
Katherine Howard, *Treasurer*
Beth Schroeder, *Past President*

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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 49 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 April. 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 ericgreen@tiac.net. Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor: Eric Reenstierna 617-530-0764
Production: Bonnie Carter 617-969-0686

Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Suzette Barbier, Bonnie Carter, M.G. Criscitiello, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, Beth Schroeder, Jane Sender, and, as always, Douglas Leith for his excellent proofreading.

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



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

*Celebrating 49 years
of open space advocacy
in Newton*

Newton Conservators Membership Form

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • 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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual member | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family member | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member | \$50 |
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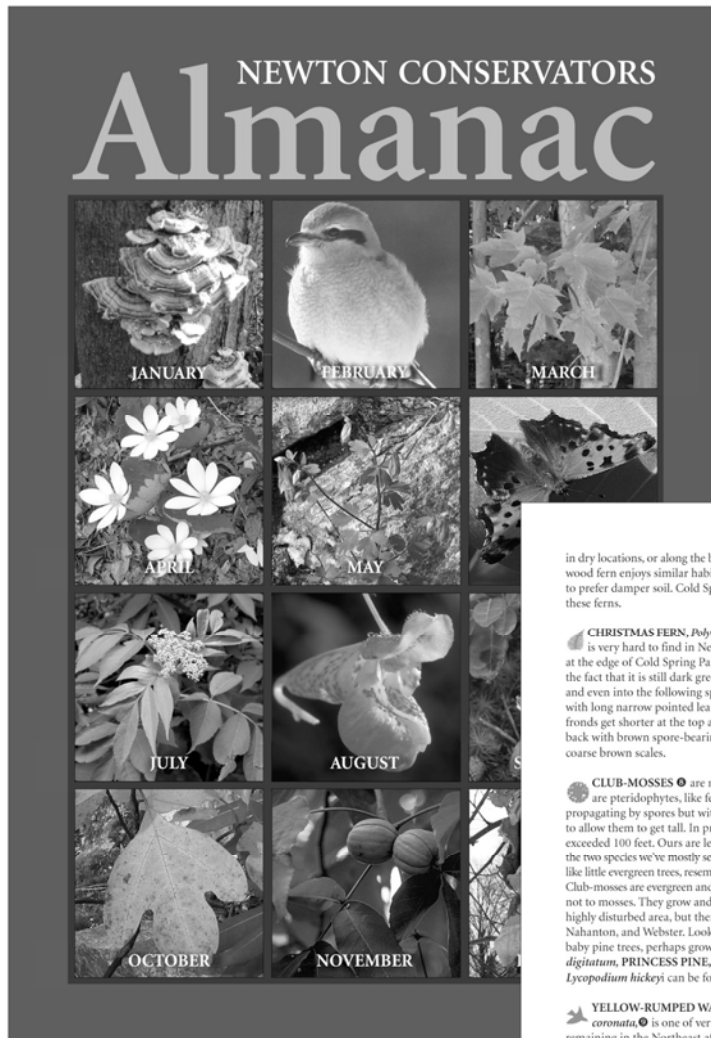
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What are you doing next year?



Spend 12 months getting to know Newton's parks with the Newton Conservators Almanac!

The Almanac is organized by month with "quick-to-locate" seasonal color bands.

Each entry displays the common name, scientific name and a group graphic with description and local field notes.

in dry locations, or along the base of a cliff. Evergreen wood fern enjoys similar habitat, but spinulose tends to prefer damper soil. Cold Spring Park is full of these ferns.

CHRISTMAS FERN, *Polystichum acrostichoides* is very hard to find in Newton, occurring only at the edge of Cold Spring Park. It gets its name from the fact that it is still dark green in late December, and even into the following spring. It is once-cut, with long narrow pointed leaflets, which in fertile fronds get shorter at the top and are covered on the back with brown spore-bearing sori. The stems have coarse brown scales.

CLUB-MOSSES are not true mosses. They are pteridophytes, like ferns and horsetails, propagating by spores but with vascular structure to allow them to get tall. In prehistoric times, some exceeded 100 feet. Ours are less than a foot tall, and the two species we've mostly seen in Newton look a lot like little evergreen trees, resembling a bonsai juniper. Club-mosses are evergreen and are related to ferns, not to mosses. They grow and spread slowly so they are rather uncommon in our highly disturbed area, but there are small patches at Flowed Meadow, Kennard, Nahanton, and Webster. Look for plants four to eight inches tall that look like baby pine trees, perhaps growing in a line. **GROUND CEDAR, *Diphasiastrium digitatum***, **PRINCESS PINE, *Lycopodium obscurum*** and **PRINCE'S PINE, *Lycopodium hickeyi*** can be found in Newton.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dentroica coronata* is one of very few species of warbler remaining in the Northeast after the onset of cold weather. It is quite common during spring migration and may nest in our area, spending the warm months here. Most warblers are entirely insectivorous and migrate south as days grow colder. The yellow-rumped warbler is an exception in that it can live on some types of berries so it may be seen in the winter. Check for it in low areas of our parks, searching for food among berry bushes.

Native representatives of conifers and deciduous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, butterflies and birds are some of the monthly entries you will find in this book.

Beautiful color photographs of some of the flora and fauna you are likely to find in Newton

Order your copy today!



The Newton Conservators
PO Box 590011
Newton Centre, MA 02459

☐ Yes, please reserve _____ copies of the Newton Conservators Almanac. Enclosed is my check for \$21.95 plus \$2.50 for postage for each copy. Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators.

Name _____

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Mail to: Newton Conservators Almanac, PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459



NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

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