



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

WINTER ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

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Monitoring Open Spaces

by Beth Schroeder, President



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

People often wonder: Just what do Newton Conservators do? Some people have mistaken us for a “conservative” organization. While the Newton Conservators are not a political organization, we are conservative about one thing. We want to protect open space in Newton. There is precious little open space left in our community, and our organization wants to protect as much of it as possible.

Newton Conservators own several parcels of land in Newton. Ordway Park, Awtrey Dell and Prospect Park were donated to our land trust. Newton Conservators also hold conservation restrictions on open spaces they do not own including Angino Farm, Wilmerding, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, Webster Park and the path near Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake. Conservation restrictions make sure land will be protected as open space in the future. Newton Conservators don't just hold conservation restriction paperwork in their files. Members visit these properties regularly to make sure conservation restrictions are being upheld.

In 2013, Newton Conservators also hired Massachusetts Audubon Society to do a field visit of eight properties in Newton.

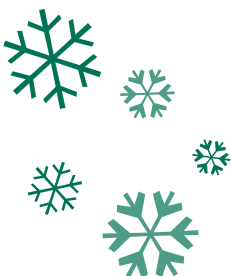
Volunteers from our board of directors went along on these field visits with Liz Newlands from Massachusetts Audubon Society. Next year our land trust will continue with Liz's work, and our volunteers will do site visits on their own. Each month at our board meetings, our volunteers will give brief presentations about their adopted open spaces. Our board of directors wants to be aware how each property is doing.

Some of these open spaces need more regular maintenance than others. Ordway Park is on the corner of Grant and Everett Street. For safety reasons, Ordway Park will be visited by an arborist for trimming dead wood; the paths need to be cleared of fallen limbs; the grass must be mowed and mulched; path surfaces need regular replenishing.

Newton Conservators want to keep these open spaces safe and attractive for the public to enjoy. When you pay annual membership dues or make a contribution to Newton Conservators, your funds help maintain Newton's open spaces.

Invasive plant removal is another task tackled by Newton Conservators' volunteers. Ordway Park used to be filled with *Euonymus alatus*, often called burning bush or winged

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Invasive Euonymus alatus, also known as Burning Bush

euonymus, which is listed on Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE). *Euonymus alatus* has been recognized as a destructive invasive, which is banned in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Euonymus alatus is illegal to sell, propagate or transport in Massachusetts. Ordway Park volunteers spent many hours eradicating *Euonymus alatus* along with other invasive plants. Keeping invasive species from over-running Ordway Park is an ongoing effort. If you still have *Euonymus alatus* growing on your property, please remove it, to help stop these invasive plants from spreading into our open spaces.

I enjoyed going along on the conservation restriction site visits with Liz Newlands and our volunteers. It was a pleasure to be outdoors enjoying these open spaces. Newton Commonwealth Golf Course is a very large open space being preserved for future generations. Its conservation restriction guarantees the land won't be developed and filled with house lots or office buildings. While on our walk, I learned that Newton's residents can cross country ski there in the winter. With its big open stretches and rolling hills, skiing there would be a fun adventure.

On our visit to Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, we found evidence of illegal dumping: a pile of asphalt in a wooded area near a fairway. Dumping is prohibited by the conservation restriction, and the debris must be removed. An attractive new bridge has been added to one of the golf course paths. From this bridge you can look down into a low hollow. It would be a pretty view, but the trees were buried in invasive vines, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, Oriental bittersweet, and *Polygonum perfoliatum*, mile-a-minute weed. Removing these vines and trying to keep them out of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course's property will be difficult and time-consuming.

Most residents in Newton are already familiar with Crystal Lake. Perhaps you didn't know there is now a public path along the waterfront behind the architecturally interesting residence at 230 Lake Avenue. This path connects Levingston Cove with the new lawn and picnic area near the swimming pavilion on Rogers Street. Newton Conservators worked with the City on the conservation restriction that created this public right of way. The Conservators' board is considering whether to add a sign so that visitors to the lake will know where the path is.

During Newton Conservators' site visit at Angino Farm, we saw the new handicap-accessible roadside vegetable stand on Winchester Street. Angino Farm's barn is undergoing extensive renovations. We observed the progress of the fruit trees planted along the boundary fence in memory of Carol Lee Corbett, a past Newton Conservators' board member. The chicken yard was very active.

Webster Park (not to be confused with Webster Conservation Land) is a small woodland area overlooking Dolan Pond Conservation Area. Boy Scout Troop 355 created a woodland path, called Irene's Path, which winds along an edge of Dolan Pond's red maple swamp. There is an inviting bench at the end of the path. The path was named in memory of Irene Forté, the former property owner who arranged with Newton Conservators to allocate parcels including open space and Habitat for Humanity housing.

Wilmerding is contiguous to Webster Conservation Land, adding to the largest conservation area in Newton. You can access Wilmerding and Webster Conservation Land from Elgin Road in Newton Centre.

All of the open spaces in this article are open to the public. They are listed in the latest edition of our Newton Conservators' Walking Trails book and in the Newton Conservators' Almanac, which are available on our website.



Awtrey Dell

Awtrey Dell and Prospect Park are not very inviting for us humans, but they make good animal habitat. With more funds, we could remove invasive plants on these properties and replant them with appropriate native species. Removing invasive plants is allowed under conservation restrictions.

Having the money and time to do the work is the problem. The most worrisome culprits in Awtrey and Prospect Park are Norway maples. Norway maples were originally planted as street trees. The city did not realize how aggressively they would invade our open spaces and our house lots. The dense foliage of Norway maple shades out native plants.

Remember, our open spaces need to be treated with respect. Yard waste and leaves should never be dumped into our open spaces. Dumping is prohibited. It suffocates plants and makes a mess of our open spaces. Please go out there, and enjoy our properties and let us know what you find. And help us keep them attractive. Your participation, and Newton Conservators membership dues and donations, really do make a difference. ■

Ordway Park

Ordway Park is a pocket park, just half a partially wooded acre, in Newton Centre that is owned by the Newton Conservators. The land for the park was bequeathed to the Conservators by Priscilla Ordway, who was born in the house adjacent to the property in 1888 and lived there for her whole life, until her death in 1971. She gave the land to the care of the Conservators so that others could continue to enjoy its features as much as she had.

As was noted in the March 1986 issue of the Conservators' newsletter, the property "at the foot of a steep cliff on Grant Avenue at the corner of Everett Street, contains a surprising variety of trees and shrubs." The most notable tree is a large European beech on the Gibbs Street side of the park. Surrounding the park is a residential area with large Victorian homes.

In 2004 and 2005, landscape designers Beth Schroeder, now president of the Conservators, and Jim Broderick and landscape architect Susan Sangiolo worked with neighbors to develop ideas for new plantings and improvements to the site, then drew up plans for the work to be done. Thanks to robust fundraising efforts by a committee devoted to the park, the Conservators were able to pay the City to install granite curbing and a connection for watering plants and to pave the Grant Avenue sidewalk to make it accessible. A volunteer crew also thinned Norway Maple saplings on the property, removed invasive plants, installed groundcover and native perennials and shrubs. They had a strong interest in adding plants that would encourage birds to use the property because Priscilla Ordway, who used to conduct art classes on her property, was especially fond of them.



Flowering Azaleas

Streets. The terms of the conservation restriction state that the land is to be maintained as a natural woodland garden.

In the intervening eight years, the land has been maintained, but saplings have grown in thickly, and some of the old trees are in poor condition. Once again, it is time for additional work on the property.

Poison ivy had grown over much of the sloping embankment and over toward the Gibbs Street side. To make it possible for people to work on the property safely, the individual plants were treated in the same manner followed by organizations such as the Audubon Society and New England Wild Flower Society.

As described in the previous article by Beth Schroeder, members of the Conservators' board also toured the property with Liz Newlands of the Audubon Society, who was generally pleased by the condition of the property. She did note the need to have some dead limbs removed from older trees and to remove others that have fallen. Arborists will do that over the winter and also will trim the Rhododendrons that block the sidewalk on the Gibbs Street side. Liz Newlands did suggest that, at some point, the land should be surveyed to have the borders of the property clearly marked.

In the spring, we will reassess the poison ivy plants to make sure that volunteers will be able to work in the gardens without being at risk for an annoying rash, and then we will schedule a work day to remove more invasive plants and to consider where we can supplement the native plants installed in 2005. Please watch for the announcement in the Spring!

If you have thoughts to share about future work on Ordway Park, please let us know. ■

Beth Wilkinson



Ordway Park Entrance

In considering further work to be done in the future, the group envisioned maintaining a division of the property into two distinct sections: a dense shade and evergreen area fronting Grant Avenue and a more open area predominated by beech and hickory trees fronting Everett and Gibbs

Snow Removal in Newton

by Kevin Dutt, Management Consultant with expertise in operations and strategy

Last year's winter brought about substantial snow accumulation in Newton on several occasions. The storms caused consternation and anxiety for drivers and pedestrians alike. However, this paled in comparison to the difficulties that the City faced in managing the sheer volumes of snow.

Prior to the winter last season, a City task group was created to develop a plan for major snowfall occurrences. They were charged with addressing the cost and timeliness of removal. Their strategy for snow management focused on hauling snow out of streets and parking areas, and into designated parks (Elmwood Park, Newton Center Playground, etc.), where it eventually would melt.

However, as the City would experience firsthand, this solution turned out to be disastrous on several fronts including cost, environmental, and safety impacts. In the Newton Center Playground, for example, the piles of snow were built up over a 48-hour period with piles almost 30 feet high. This snow was placed in an area with highly sensitive stormwater runoff issues.

Besides the environmental issues, these piles became the new playground of many young children on their way to and from school. Stormwater runoff and plowed snow are some of the dirtiest water with oil, rubber from tires, and other chemicals making up a significant portion of the snow composition. Imagine piles of this toxic mix soaring almost three stories high in Newton Center Playground.

The piles also compressed the ground underneath it; an expanse which already had significant drainage problems. This resulted in an area that would no longer absorb water into the soil. This exacerbated the runoff problems and resulted in a toxic pond in the park. This pond had stagnant, dirty water and attracted a large concentration of mosquitoes to the park once the weather warmed.

Naturally, these problems were extremely expensive to resolve. First there was the cost of hauling snow from around the City into these park areas—\$500 per hour by city employees and \$700 per hour for contracted hauling. Then large earth moving equipment, much of it rented, was used



Newton Centre Playground

to pile the snow. Several weeks later, the snow needed to be spread out by the same equipment, as it was melting far too slowly.

Once spring arrived, these areas had to be re-graded and reseeded. While the overall costs were likely never fully calculated, the initial removal cost estimate was \$1.5 million but did not include the further clean up and other park

fixes that occurred after the snow had melted in the spring. Clean up for the Newton Center Playground area was not completed until the end of summer, for example.

Armed with more information and a few bruises from last winter, the City decided to revisit the snow removal plan for this coming winter. There are several options from which the City could choose. Primarily, they include buying a snowmelter, putting snow in public areas, putting snow on municipal sites, or leaving smaller piles in designated paved areas.

Hauling to public sites caused tremendous problems this past winter. It was far more costly than anticipated, more environmentally damaging, and posed a serious safety risk to the community. Besides the direct impacts, there is also the environmental cost of driving snow in hauling trucks to various sites around the City. These problems really made this option far less appealing than when it had been assessed twelve months earlier.

The option of using municipal sites, such as the Elliot Street Public Works Facility, certainly poses a far more appealing option. There is not a concern of people walking on or near the snow piles, and since the piles would be on pavement, the melting runoff would be directed to the nearest storm drain, where it would have gone if it had been left untouched. The one primary downside is a lack of physical space and the need to again haul large volumes of snow to these locations.

Leaving smaller piles around the City in large parking public lots does not have these cost and environmental implications. Snow basically would be piled in the area where it falls, and it would be on the pavement, so it would drain into the same drainage it would have gone into in the first place.



PHOTO: JULIA MALAKIE

These piles would have less snow in them than the large concentrated piles, so they would be less of a safety risk. They would, however, suffer from a lack of adequate locations and space. More importantly, the City gets pressure from businesses whose customers use these lots to keep them clear. This political pressure surely weighs into the City's decision.

The final option is the snowmelter, which can melt roughly 150 cubic yards an hour but comes with significant costs. The City could rent or buy a system. First, it is an expensive piece of equipment to buy, costing \$250,000 upfront and \$350 per hour to operate. Alternatively, renting a system would cost about \$1500 per hour but alleviates the upkeep costs of a large piece of equipment. The environmental impact also would be substantial with 75 gallons of fuel being burned each hour to run the piece of equipment. This system does direct all water back into the drain where it would have gone if it had been left untouched.

In the end, the City decided to purchase a snowmelter at the upfront cost of \$250,000. It will alleviate many

headaches, although many will argue that the cost and the environmental impact of burning 75 gallons of fuel per hour is not worth it. In conjunction, the City will use some of the municipal sites as dumping locations to reduce some of the snowmelter use and to expedite removal.

Several lessons have been learned from this painful experience. While it is difficult to estimate the amount of snowfall that may occur, the City clearly needs to more accurately assess the removal costs and environmental impacts on an accumulation basis. While this may be chalked up to lack of experience, one would hope that there is now a decent historical cache of data to use in making these decisions.

Secondly, and maybe more importantly, the City struggles with various political constituent forces. Commercial and retail entities want the parking lots clear of all snow. Environmental and financial onlookers want are pushing to minimize environmental and fiscal costs. This naturally will be an ongoing discussion, and it will be important that organizations, including the Newton Conservators, remain diligent in making their position and concerns on this issue known to the administration. ■

Editor's Note

When Professor Douglas Tallamy was in Newton to talk at our annual meeting in May of 2012, I asked him about using feeders for supplemental feeding of wild birds; his reply was that given the scarcity of native plants in our gardens, it is important to provide additional food for birds. Then his face lit up as he talked about the birds that visit his feeders and his neighbor's fountain. On that basis, I've continued to fill my feeders and to enjoy the birds that visit them.

Black oil sunflower seeds are especially good during the winter because they have a high fat content to provide extra energy that the birds need to keep warm. On especially cold days, it's more important to provide a source of melted water. Birds can melt snow to drink but it requires more energy, which would be better used to maintain their body heat. To learn about some of the unusual varieties of birds that have been seen in our area this fall, read Pete Gilmore's article with its beautiful photos.

The Fall edition of this newsletter contained an article about the harmful effects of the invasive black swallow-wort, which is similar enough to milkweed, host plant to

monarch butterflies, that the monarchs lay their eggs on it. Black swallow-wort, however, is not a source of food for the monarch larvae when they hatch. Readers sent requests for a photo to help them identify the plant in



PHOTO: BETH WILKINSON

Invasive Black Swallow-wort

their back yards. Included here is a photo of black swallow-wort plants found growing on a parking lot fence in Newton Centre. The papery pods and dried berries are clues when it is past its summer flowering season. Good photos of the plants' clusters of dark-plum-colored flowers and the fleshy green pods can be found at the Plant Conservation Alliance's web site: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/cylo1.htm.

Our cover story by Beth Schroeder describes the Conservators' monitoring of open space. Your membership fees and contributions are the only source of funding for this and everything that the organization does. All of our members are crucial sources to notify other residents of

the city about what the Conservators accomplish each year. When you have finished this newsletter, please share it with a friend or neighbor—or just share the link where the newsletter can be found: www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm. Thank you! ■

Fall Bird Musings

This past summer I was privileged to have a friend show me the nest of a pair of **Brown Creepers**, stealthy and well-camouflaged little birds. These characters feed by climbing up the trunks of trees, often spiraling around as they ascend. Oddly, one never finds them going down, only up. In this they remind me of hermits in Chinese poetry, always climbing up the mountain. Our White-breasted Nuthatches will travel down the trunk, but not the optimistic Brown Creepers.

In the photo of a parent bringing a moth to the nest as food for its young, you can see how well the plumage of these birds blends in with the bark on the trunk of the tree. It also shows the unusual type of nest that the Creepers construct. The nest is generally behind some loose bark that has peeled back from the trunk of the tree. The birds build a small half cup fashioned from bark, moss, and leaves and lined with softer material in the space behind the bark. The female does the building with the male bringing some materials to help her. Both parents bring food to the young in the nest.

You can find Brown Creepers in any of our larger parks, especially where there are larger trees. It takes a keen ear to hear and recognize their high-pitched calls, which can then clue you in to look at the trunks, not the branches, of the trees. You often spot the Creepers when they fly down from one trunk to begin searching for insects in the bark of the next tree they will ascend. They do show up in our yards occasionally.

Another very interesting bird turned up just north of us this fall, in Manchester, New Hampshire. It was a male



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Brown Creeper

Calliope Hummingbird, the smallest hummingbird to nest in North America. It came to a feeder at a private residence, and the couple who lived there were most gracious to the birding community. These little hummers usually nest above 4,000 feet in the Sierras and the Rockies, right up to the tree line, so they are seasoned experts at surviving cold nights. The problem is that when they finally decide to migrate away from us, there are no food source for thousands of miles.

This little male had a beautiful gorget of purple red streaks on his throat, which can be seen in my photograph. He stayed for about a month. The folks who were feeding him then asked birders to allow

them to close up shop for the winter. Whether they then tried to ship the tiny friend south, I can't tell.



PHOTO: JANE SENDER

American Avocet

A striking western shorebird showed up on Plum Island this fall. It was an **American Avocet**, which usually is found around inland lakes and ponds in the western part of our country. During the winter, they migrate to the valleys in California and to the southern coasts of the eastern United States. Their upward curved beaks and striking plumage are a pretty unique sight. The smaller sandpiper in the photo is a Dunlin, which used to be called the Red-Backed Sandpiper. Dunlin have a distinctive downwards curve to their beaks. Having the two complimentary curves in the same photo is nice. The Avocets have red plumage on their backs in the spring and summer but become all gray in their winter plumage. The American Avocet wanders through Massachusetts perhaps once every one or two years.

The **American Oystercatcher**, a large, colorful shorebird, is returning up the Atlantic coast in greater



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Male Calliope Hummingbird

numbers as the years pass. They actually eat clams and scallops as well as oysters by prying them open with their large, red beaks. The young grow rapidly and retain a browner plumage on their backs.

My photo shows a mother who is dropping a scallop which she wanted to feed to her youngster on the left. You can't see what caused her to drop the scallop in the picture, but I watched a Herring Gull follow her, hoping to get the soft scallop with no work by stealing it after the oystercatcher opened it for her young. She looked up at him from her red-rimmed eye and seemed to say, "Open it yourself, Buster." These large birds are now nesting on Snake Island, near Logan Airport in Boston Harbor. It's sometimes possible to spot them when taking off in a plane. It is also possible to see them from the shoreline in the town of Winthrop, which is on the other side of Snake Island from the airport.

Soon, we will be looking for **Great Horned** and **Screech Owls** on the Newton Christmas Bird Count, which takes place on Sunday, December 15th. A few hardy souls will show up to look for owls at 5:00 a.m. with the rest



American Oystercatcher

of the birders coming at 7:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts or bagels before setting out to count birds. This event is open to the public and is free. We usually split up into four groups, and then each group prowls around its assigned section of Newton. We return to our central location to turn in our counts to be pooled and taken to The Habitat, the Audubon sanctuary in Belmont, where all of the Boston area counts are merged on Sunday night. They are then sent in to the Audubon

Society, and a master list is created for the state and for the country.

Records of Christmas bird counts have now been kept for over 100, and trends are being studied from this citizen science project. Join in if you are interested. We welcome new folks, especially young people. It is a lot of fun, and you can stay for any part of the hunt for birds that suits you. To sign up, please contact Alison Leary at alisonlearymooradian@gmail.com. ■

✿ Pete Gilmore

Update from the Newton Tree Conservancy

Despite the sad news of the threats of pests and storms, and the continuing loss of 650 of Newton's street trees per year, there has been some encouraging tree news on several fronts.

City Update: Under the leadership of Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, the city's new three-person tree crew has been in place since July 2012. In its first year, the crew focused on removing dead/ hazard trees and stump grinding, but it has expanded to some new tree planting as city funding permits (i.e., when funded by ordinance activity--as the budget does not currently include any regular funding of new trees -- see below). The new crew has been highly successful (and has done far more work at the same cost the city used to cost to pay contractors) and contributes to community tree activities. Marc has a longstanding relationship with 3rd grade classes at Williams School, and with the support of the City's new science coordinator, will be expanding his visits to all elementary schools to be part of their 3rd grade science curriculum.

Another encouraging development is that the Mayor has requested Forestry to develop a tree planting plan and has included a line item in his proposed budget to replace



Taking inventory of new trees

approximately 10,000 trees over the next 10 years, though the funding is yet to be determined. The new Director of Sustainability Robert Garrity and Chief Operating Officer

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PHOTO: JULIA MALAKIE

Planting demonstration for new volunteers

Bob Rooney were interviewed recently in the Tab and mentioned this tree planting goal.

Newton's two tree ordinances – the Tree Preservation Ordinance (informally called the Private Tree Ordinance), in place since 1999, and the Public Tree Ordinance, in place since 2011 – are both intended to help protect the tree canopy. While Newton's private tree ordinance was somewhat cutting-edge at the time and has been successful in general at preventing and offsetting tree loss, it also does have loopholes, and there have been increasing instances of enforcement problems. Two main problems are evident: 1) the concept of "exempt lot" has allowed developers to use loopholes to claim their lot is exempt, and 2) we've seen increasing instances of homeowners clear cutting trees just prior to their property sale to a developer, indicating this was a condition of sale. In response to these problems and to aldermanic requests to tighten up the private tree ordinance, Forestry and the Tree Commission have drafted, with help from the Law department, a proposed revision to the ordinance. The revision would remove the concept



PHOTO: JULIA MALAKIE

Community tree planting

of exempt lot and would instead require anyone seeking an exterior construction permit or intending to remove more than 5 large/protected trees (greater than 8") from their lot in a 24-month period, to go through the process of obtaining a tree permit and if removing trees, to either replace them or to pay into a fund. This would allow normal homeowner tree work to proceed without a permit required and would also be simpler to administer and clearer for enforcement. The proposed ordinance revisions will be discussed in aldermanic committee in December and hopefully brought to the full board soon thereafter.

Newton Tree Conservancy Update: This nonprofit started in 2008 with the goal of growing membership and philanthropy to support tree education, advocacy, and community activities such as tree plantings. In NTC's Community Tree Planting program, neighbors join together to apply as a group to green their streets. The program started with 50 trees in 5 neighborhoods every spring and for the past two years has planted an additional 50 trees in the Fall; we have now planted over 300 new trees



PHOTO: JULIA MALAKIE

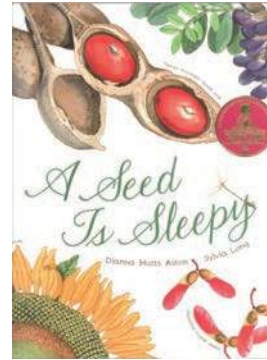
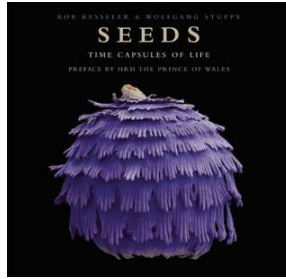
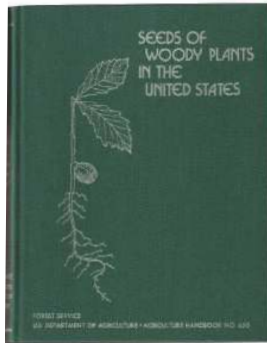
Albermarle group digging holes

throughout the city. This past year, spring neighborhoods included Cloverdale, Erie, and Wyoming, and just last week 50 more trees were planted at Albemarle, Pine Crest and the Lower Falls neighborhood. Forestry's expertise and tree crew help make sure the plantings are successful, and the fact that many homeowners return to help other areas in subsequent years attests to the fun times everyone has and to the power of community building. Other activities have included a tree dedication ceremony honoring Mrs. Susanne Spatz, the late Newton community activist and nature lover who sponsored the April 2011 planting of trees at the Bowen Street side of Newton Centre Playground, and tree educational programs (our next one will be January 30 at the library featuring B.U. Professor Pam Templar, expert on climate change). NTC will be sending membership renewal letters soon, and your continued support will be so much appreciated. NTC would also welcome new directors and volunteers to help with our planning and programs. ■

— Katherine Howard

Winter Reading

At the Conservators' annual meeting on May 7, 2014, our speaker will be Julie McIntosh Shapiro, who is a seed photographer and curatorial assistant at the Harvard University Herbaria and a Group Leader of the Global Plant Initiative—and a captivating speaker. Julie's field seems very esoteric, but it is fascinating, and you will have the opportunity to learn about it—and to see her beautiful photographs. Julie also is a plant researcher and garden designer and has gone on botanizing expeditions throughout North and Central America and Europe.



Do you want to get a head start on the topic, to be prepared to ask Julie knowledgeable questions? We asked her to suggest some good books for our members who are interested in learning more about seeds.

The most striking book on her list is *Seeds: Time Capsules of Life*, by Wolfgang Stuppy (author) and Rob Kessler (photographer). *Choice*, an organization that reviews books for academic libraries, wrote, “Who would have thought that a book about seeds could be a stunning work of art? ... Anyone who believes that life and art are inseparable will want to purchase this book immediately.”

Julie also recommends the photographer's beautiful website: www.robkessler.co.uk.

If you are looking for something more technical, Julie suggests *Seeds of Woody Plants in the United States*, written by C. S. Schopmeyer and published by the Forest Service. It is a weighty tome suitable for botanists.

Are you looking for a book to share with a child? Julie's recommendation is *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long. It's hard to imagine that anyone could see the colorful, detailed illustrations and read the lyrical text without wanting to learn more about seeds and to see them out in nature. Here is one example of the poetry in the book's text:

To find a spot to grow,
A seed might leap from its pod,
or cling to a
child's shoestring,
or tumble through
a bear's belly.

Happy reading!

Also, please remember to mark your calendars for the annual meeting on May 7, 2014.

In Memory of a True Conservator



PHOTO: A. WILLIAM FREDERICK

Coperthwaite's central yurt

Have you considered the most essential geographical factors in your child's life, or in your own? What is most important in your lives: The land? The sea? The sky? The desert? The forest? Or is it the convenience store? The sidewalk? The parking lot? The highway? ... Imagine how fine it would be to choose a special tree or a stream for your "comforting neighbor." Why not resolve to be near a certain hill, a grove of trees, some handsome ledges, or a giant boulder standing up to the sky, and then design and build a home that fits both you and your surroundings?

William S. Coperthwaite, 1930 - 2013
The Yurt Foundation, Dickinson's Reach, Maine

(Author of *A Handmade Life*)

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 52 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 March. 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 bethwilkinson@mac.com. Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Kevin Dutt, Pete Gilmore, Katherine Howard, Beth Schroeder, and Beth Wilkinson. As always, thanks to Doug Leith for his excellent proofreading.



Quinobequin Reflection by David Greenfield

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



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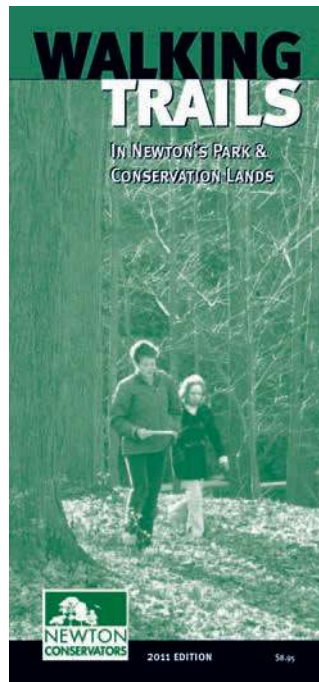
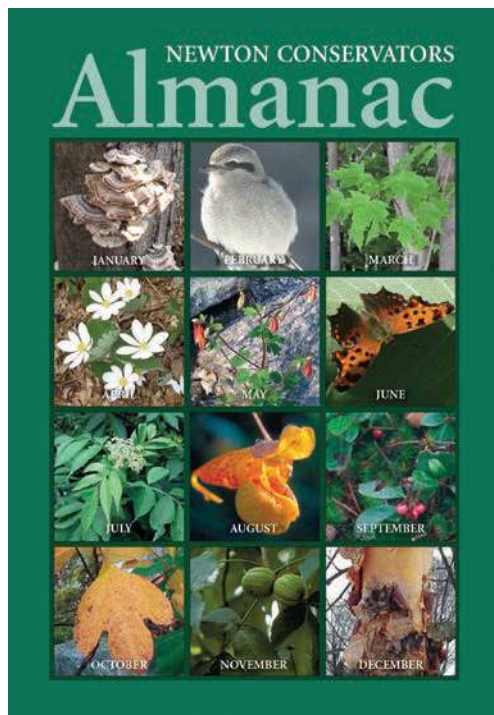
Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc.

Visit our website at www.newtonconservators.org if you wish to renew your membership online.



Season's Greetings!
Photo by Pete Gilmore

Wonderful holiday gift ideas!



Shop online at www.newtonconservators.org/books.htm to purchase Newton Conservators publications.
Discounts for members: Almanac is \$15.95 + shipping, and the Trail Guide is \$6.95 + shipping.
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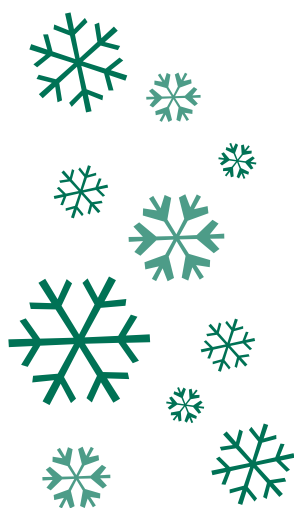
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NEWSLETTER

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

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Enjoy a brisk walk in the woods!

Photo by Octo Barnett

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, update your membership profile at www.newtonconservators.org