

## WARREN'S APPEAL: HELP GOVERNMENT WORK

Mayor Setti Warren gave the keynote address at the Newton Conservators' Annual Dinner Meeting on May 26. He stressed the importance of conservation and of citizen involvement in local organizations like the Conservators, as part of the active engagement that characterizes healthy communities.

Mayor Warren described his own efforts at openness and transparency in government. He meets regularly with reporters from local media and has set up office hours to make himself accessible to citizens at City Hall. Not only in Newton but at the state and national level, the mayor stressed how important it is that citizens be able to believe in their government. Quoting Congressman Barney Frank, he said that "government is what we decide to do together." Without trust in our government, collectively, we can accomplish little. If citizens are to have confidence in government, "we {in government} must bring our A game every day."

Americans, he said, honor personal liberty, but "liberty without accountability is a path to destruction." The financial crisis of 2008 and the ecological disaster from the blown out oil well in the Gulf are both examples of "a callous pursuit of profits" and of what happens when government fails to protect Americans' basic interests. He said, "We must reverse course."

The mayor reminded the Conservators that "people get the government they deserve." He chided those who sit on the sidelines in the belief that "someone else will do everything."

He praised the Conservators for their part in the preservation of over 350 acres of open space since 1961. Newton, he said, has been a leader in the effort to reduce waste through its single stream recycling program and as one of only 35 Green Communities in the commonwealth

eligible for state grants. He cited the Conservators for their recent work organizing invasives removal projects in parks. That work is vital, he said. He challenged the Conservators and the community to "do more."

- *Eric Reenstierna*



- *Mayor Setti Warren*  
(photo by Henry Finch)



## ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Newton Almanac Committee – (in the photograph, left to right) Pat Robinson, Laura Eisener, Don Lubin, Sue Avery, and Beth Schroeder and (not shown) Cris Criscitiello - received the Conservators' 2010 Environmentalist of the Year Award. The Committee wrote, photographed, and published the Newton Conservator's Almanac. The Almanac is a full-color, month-by-month guide to the awesome natural world right out our front doors, cataloguing the species that live here and where to find them. The Almanac Committee grew out of the Land Management Committee's work of inventorying all of Newton's open spaces and what lives there. The Conservators are especially proud to be able to honor this group for its important work.

## DIRECTORS' AWARDS

The Conservators made two Directors' Awards, to volunteers Pat Rand and Penny Caponigro, for their exemplary work maintaining numerous gardens: the garden at Newton Center, the traffic island on Lake Avenue, the Arthur English garden in Newton Highlands, the planters along Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands, the gardens in front of City Hall and the Newton Library, and the young trees along Webster and Cherry Streets in West Newton. Pat and Penny's work has done much to beautify Newton.



# CHARLES JOHNSON MAYNARD AWARD

The Conservators' 2010 Charles Johnson Maynard Award was given to Elaine Gentile, the city's Director of Environmental Affairs, in recognition of the hard work it took to change Newton over to "single stream" recycling. Single stream allows collection of each household's recyclables in a single container. Single stream increases the rate of recycling and, thus, reduces trash. Elaine's work was crucial to the successful implementation of single-stream recycling.



*Willis Wang, Jane Sender, and Larry Smith at the  
Conservators' Annual Dinner Meeting  
(dinner meeting photographs by Henry Finch)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

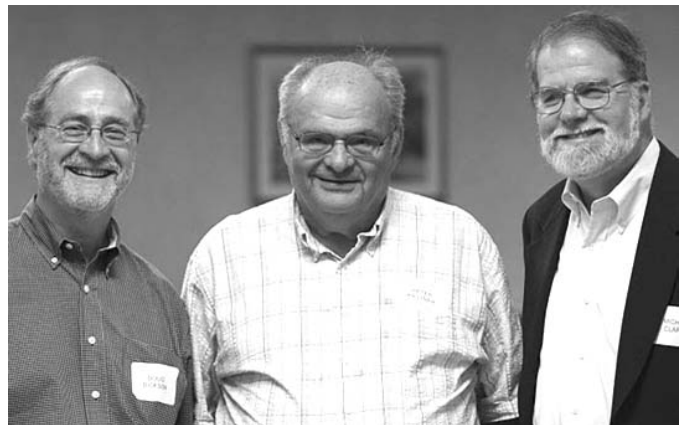
*At the Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators, President Jane Sender delivered her "State of the Conservators" address. She thanked Mayor Warren for joining us to deliver a "rousing" keynote speech. She shared her vision for the Conservators and reviewed accomplishments of the past year. An excerpt from her speech follows.*

"Three areas of focus {for the Conservators in recent years} have been stewardship of our open spaces, looking to add to our open spaces, and promoting the enjoyment of our open spaces.

"One very current issue is our close friend Angino Farm's desire to expand the area it can grow crops and continue its education programs into Nahanton Park. The Parks & Recreation Commission has wisely set up a working group to take a look at what impact the Farm would have on current park conditions and activities. The group decided on an expanded scope. I am presenting a proposal to the Commission at its June 21 meeting that we enter into an agreement with Massachusetts Audubon Extension Service to (1) do a complete natural resource inventory of the park; and (2) take a look at existing users - the Department of Public Works, Park & Recreation, soccer players, community gardeners, birders and walkers - and potential future users such as the Farm - and develop a management plan for the park.

"We need to have a real plan for the park - with input from all concerned - and not simply to react to proposals as they come up without knowing the full impact of those proposals on other uses. We see this as a public/private partnership and expect to raise funds for the study from all the interested groups. If this is successful, it could be a working model for other heavily used parks.

"The parks need and get our attention in other ways, too. Our ongoing invasives removal efforts are another way we keep our eyes on the parks and work toward maintaining a healthy biodiverse environment. This spring we've been removing garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed from Cold Spring Park, Saw Mill Brook, Flowed Meadow, and Dolan Pond. We hope to expand this effort next year by involving more of the volunteers who do wonderful community service days through Newton schools. This is a vital effort to protect the health of the parks.



*Doug Dickson, Peter Kastner, and Mike Clarke*

"This year we also finalized the Conservation Restriction for Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, and we looked into a number of projects. We investigated the possibility of cleaning up the Pine Street landfill site near the Burr

School for a park. This is a 17-acre site which needs attention. It was used as a hazardous waste dumping area until the early 1970's and was never cleaned up. It could be a nice park for passive recreation in a congested area. We also met with State Representative Ruth Balser, City officials, and DCR regarding the desire of a Newton family to make a large gift for a walkway around Hammond Pond as a memorial to their son. Our position on this is that the pond still needs more work to restore it to health and to manage the runoff from the mall parking lot. Other issues contribute to the pond's ill health. We hope as this project moves forward to be able to secure restoration as part of the memorial.

"This year Octo Barnett and Lisle Baker successfully preserved public access and parking from Warren Street to the Webster Conservation area. Thanks to Ted Kuklinski we celebrated moving day for the first Habitat for Humanity Newton families. Thanks to Larry Smith and State Representative Kay Kahn and others, the DCR Lower Falls bridge project restoring the old railroad bridge over the Charles, which will allow people to walk from Lower Falls to Wellesley, got underway.

"We've also continued to promote open space education and enjoyment. We continue our fall and spring walks, hikes, canoe trips and bike trips in Newton to enhance people's appreciation of our beautiful open spaces. Many board members and advisors devote time, effort and expertise to this – Octo Barnett, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Alison Leary, Bill Hagar, Jon Regosin, and Don Lubin, to name a few.

"Lastly, we've done three important things this year which I think will leave a lasting mark on the organization. First we hired Massachusetts Audubon extension service to monitor our conservation restrictions. The reports are now in draft form and we have quite a bit of follow up to do to ensure compliance with our "CR"s. This has brought a level of professionalism to this aspect of our work which is gratifying to see.

"Second, we had a group of six very talented marketing interns from Boston University do a study of us under the guidance of Professor Roberta Clarke. The report was well done and advised us to make some significant changes in the way we operate. We are moving full steam ahead to meet these challenges.

"Having been founded in 1961, we are now entering our 50<sup>th</sup> year and hope to have a special celebration of that in 2011. We began at a time of intense development for Newton, and our focus has been on preserving open space. While there is still plenty to do on that score as

opportunities arise, it is vitally important for us to embrace the stewardship role – protecting and promoting the appreciation of what we have. We hope you share that value and will join us in our efforts."

*- Jane Sender, President*



*Deborah Crossley, Jane Sender, and Eric Olson*

## **JUNE BIRDS IN CUTLER PARK**

An hour and a half ramble in nearby Cutler Park in Needham is a pleasant experience. The entrance is on the left as you drive west out of Newton on Nahanton Street. At the Charles River boundary, Nahanton Street in Newton morphs into Kendrick Street in Needham. The parking lot with a sign indicating Cutler Park is on the left, about two blocks past the River.

I started at 9:30 on a recent morning and walked to the left, to the east of Cutler Lake. In addition to the usual robins, common grackles and red-winged blackbirds, there was a warbling vireo over the path here. His song is a melodic, lilting warble that goes up the scale at the end of each song. He is a small, greenish bird who is often found by tracking his song down. After I turned the corner to go past the lake there were common yellowthroats singing in the marsh between the path and the river. Their song is often described as "witcheree, witcheree, witcheree" in human phrases. The common yellowthroat is a beautiful yellow-breasted bird with a black "Lone Ranger" mask over his eyes, and a nice gray color above the mask. His back is olive colored. Out there with the yellowthroat were yellow warblers who sing "sweet, sweet, sweet, so-so-so-sweet." These folks are all brilliant yellow, both male and female. The males have red streaks on their breast.

Up to this point in my walking, the mosquitoes were few enough that I was able to keep my feet on the ground. In the more marshy sections they can carry humans away to their teeny, tiny butcher shops.

Moving bravely onwards into the woods, I began to hear the eerie flutelike calls of wood thrushes. There are at least three territories, each with a nest, presumably, in these woods. Downy and hairy woodpeckers and northern flickers were calling and coming into view on the trees. Goldfinches were around overhead, and lower in the trees. So were black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and white-breasted nuthatches.

I took the short path to the left, a ways into the woods, which goes out onto the river. Here there were both tree and barn swallows snacking on insects over the water and a family of Canada geese on the water. A willow flycatcher was across the river, perched up in the top of a shrub singing "FITZbew." He is another small "greeny."

I kept going until I could execute a right turn and head back north in the woods, closer to Route 128. There had been a rose-breasted grosbeak singing to my right in the woods, and I hoped to see him on this last part of the walk. I not only saw one but saw a pair, feeding young. Baltimore orioles were in the same vicinity, also feeding young, as were red-winged blackbirds. The noise pollution from Route 128 became a background hum, through which one could listen for birds, and then look for them. The grosbeaks sound like robins that have had serious voice training for the opera.

As I got back to the lake, a scarlet tanager was singing in the big trees to my left, toward Route 128. He sounds like a robin with a very sore throat. He is vivid red with black wings, a very cool bird.

Along the lakeshore here I came upon a tree swallow feeding its young in a downy woodpecker hole in a birch stump. A downy woodpecker came by, looked at the hole, and was chased away by the tree swallow. As I got back to the office buildings along Kendrick Street, there were cedar waxwings in the trees, with tails seemingly having their tips dipped into yellow wax and the ends of their wings dipped in red wax. More smooth beauty that added internal peace to the walk: a large painted turtle was enjoying some sunny peace of his own, out on a snag in the middle of the lake.

Get out and absorb the peace that is waiting for you in the natural open spaces of Newton. Even if some of them are in Needham.

- Maurice "Pete" Gilmore

## MIDSUMMER GARDEN TUNE-UP

By the end of June your garden may have lost some of its beauty and cohesiveness. It may be time to pull your garden together. Below is a list of ideas and suggestions to freshen up the garden for summer.

**Containers:** If you planted jardinières in the spring, they may need fresh plants by now. The soil in your jardinières may also need to be refreshed. Select three or more new plants that look good combined together: one taller plant for a focal point; one draping plant to hang over the edge; and one or more filler plants with various leaf shapes. If you go to a garden center to buy new plants, place the ones you've chosen together to see what kind of composition they make.

**Trees:** Have a tree service come and remove dead branches from your high-canopy trees. Remove Norway maples and other invasive plants from your garden while the tree service is there. Most stumps can be ground up, after which the areas can be replanted. If your garden has space, consider planting a new high-canopy tree for future generations to enjoy.

**Shrubs:** Survey what's there. Some shrubs may need to be removed. Old fashioned flowering shrubs often need to spread 20' wide to look their best. Rather than pruning them into tight little balls, it may be best to remove them and purchase new dwarf variety shrubs that will not outgrow your space. If you love your old shrubs, give them the space they need to spread out, perhaps in a new location. Invasive shrubs such as burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) should be removed. Remember, shrubs are not window treatments. If your foundation plantings are covering your first floor windows, it is time to replace them.

**Hedges:** I'm not a fan of privet (*Ligustrum*) hedges, but if you have one, trim the top narrower than the bottom. That way, the bottom branches will get sun and not become bare and leggy. My favorite thing to do with a privet hedge is to rip it out. You will gain a lot of real estate in your garden and you will keep the conservation areas from having privet spring up and push out our native woodland plants. Privet is listed in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) as an invasive for a reason.

**Lawns and Flowerbed Edges:** Make it neat. Mow your lawn, trim the lawn edges and recut flower bed edges if

they are indistinguishable from the lawn. I use a sharp pointed shovel to cut the edge around the beds. I separate and remove about a three-inch border between the plants and the grass in the cutting zone. Remember, your lawn should have a clearly defined shape. An oval, circle or rectangle with softened corners works well. You can use your garden hose or a rope as a tool to lay out an attractive design before you cut your borders.

**Mulch:** Your garden may have empty spots where spring-blooming flowers used to be. One solution is to add mulch to cover the bare spots. The best-looking mulch is the color of damp soil, a medium brown; it shouldn't be dyed bright orange or red. If it's a small area you can use buckwheat hulls, which are lightweight and easy to spread. Mulches keep down weeds and hold moisture in the soil. Keep mulch a few inches away from your tree trunks to avoid "mulch volcanoes."

**Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** Brighten empty spots in the garden with new plantings. Go to the garden center to see what's blooming now. This is a good time to add American bugbane (*Actaea americana*) to your shady garden bed or thread-leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* "Moonbeam"), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* "Magnus") and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* "Goldsturm") to your sunny garden bed just in time to enjoy their summer blooms. Buy one plant if it is large and groups of three or more plants if they are smaller. If you don't have any ornamental grasses, this would be a good time to add them. Fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*) and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) are two of my favorites. Fountain grass and switch grass are clumping grasses that won't get out of control in your garden.

- Beth Schroeder  
bsw1@comcast.net

## LAND PRESERVATION IS SELF PRESERVATION

Environmentalists – or, as I prefer to call them, "people who like to breathe clean air and drink clean water" - have to look at the glass as both half full and half empty to gain some perspective on how far we've come and how far we have yet to go in our battle to preserve our environment. It is easy to get discouraged as humanity's assaults continue. Human impacts are now creating climate changes that once happened over the millennium in a matter of decades. We are facing an alarming decline in the earth's biodiversity. And most recently, a catastrophic oil spill in

the Gulf of Mexico is wreaking havoc on both ecosystems and livelihoods, which will likely take decades to recover from.

But it is still possible to dig up some good news about the environment. Our state is a real leader in environmental protection programs. We have more land trusts than any other state except California (a vastly larger state). During the last three years we have preserved over 60 acres per day, or three times the amount of land developed over the same time period. Nearly one million acres of land, or about 20% of the state, is protected from development.

Here in Newton, the Conservators have been instrumental in preserving over 350 acres of open space. Ten years ago Board Member Jean Husher wrote about the critical role the Conservators played in preserving open space during a period of rampant development pressures:

*"Recognizing the importance of being a proactive organization rather than a reactive one dashing in on last-minute rescue missions, the Newton Conservators established a committee in the early 1970s to undertake a massive study of all undeveloped parcels of land five acres or larger remaining in the city. In 1974, as a result of the study, the Conservators published "Recommendations for Open Space in Newton" in which each parcel, large or small, was studied and rated according for its potential value as park or conservation land as well as its danger for being lost to development. The Conservation Commission made a similar study. A priority for land acquisition was then set up for a long-range campaign. The two organizations, working together and with other associations such as the Newton League of Women Voters, village improvement societies and neighborhood groups, set out to persuade the city to purchase the most desirable open lands still available as well as to encourage private owners to donate some of their choice acres".*

Between 1968 and 1985, nine parcels were protected, including Nahanton Park, Flowed Meadow, Saw Mill Brook, and Cold Spring Park. What would "the Garden City" have looked like without these forward thinking activists? Go take a walk around the Chestnut Hill Mall and Wells Avenue and you will get an idea.

But despite significant progress both locally and statewide in protecting the environment, there is still much to do. Threats to critical habitats from fragmentation, sprawl, and habitat degradation remain strong. And the window of opportunity is closing for us. In 1971 about 15% of the land was developed. In 2000 26% of the land was developed. When the numbers come in for this year, it is

projected that this state will be 34% developed. (To put this in perspective, Newton is 69% developed, with one acre of remaining agricultural land at Angino Farm.) Twice as much land has been developed in Massachusetts from 1950 to the present than in all the previous 300 years! About 90% of development is for residential homes, often larger homes on larger lots, away from town centers, requiring cars for transportation for most activities.

Our history has shown how important it is to work together when it comes to protecting land from development. But now we have to get creative too, as the price of land is too high for communities to purchase outright. The state is able to protect three times more land per dollar spent via conservation restrictions rather than by purchasing the parcels outright. Restrictions also allow parcels to remain in private ownership, on the tax levy, and in active agricultural or forestry use. Focusing our land protection efforts on this front both stretches our tax dollars and fosters relationships with collaborative partnerships. And there are good, cost effective programs in place. A critical part of the success in preserving land has been the public/private collaboration between the state, land trusts, conservation organizations, cities and towns, and private landowners. The 217 projects completed by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and its agencies were matched by more than \$21 million in funding by myriad local, grassroots organizations, all committed to the preservation of our natural resources.

In fact, a commitment of resources to coordinate land protection and permitting regulation strategies around the state is highly cost effective. It helps community leaders put into perspective the true impacts of zoning and development decisions and what they really mean for their town. And this model of coordinated strategies is finally moving us ahead of the rampant development that is gobbling up our land at the current rate (reduced at least in part due to the economic slowdown) of 22 acres per day. But between 1985 and 1999, 40 acres a day was lost to development, and if you consider road building, other infrastructure, and fragmentation of forests, the true impact of development was closer to 78 acres per day lost (See Mass Audubon's "Losing Ground," May, 2009). As our economy recovers, you can be sure that development pressures will be back at full throttle.

- Alison Leary

## SPRING WALK

On May 23, the Newton Conservators sponsored a walk in the Webster Conservation area which was enjoyed by about 20 individuals from several different areas in Newton. The walk could have been dedicated to the spirit of Thoreau, who in *Walden* wrote: "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." Our response to Thoreau's challenge was walking through a wonderful wooded area which is the largest conservation area in Newton, providing miles of beautiful paths, striking rock formations (one with a cave), an old stone wall {reminding us of years ago when this area was farmed}, Castle Rock (a steep rock occasionally used for practicing rock climbing), a small stream (Webster Brook, which is one of the headwaters of the Charles River), birds, ducks, lady slippers and marsh marigolds, and a vernal pond (known as "Bare Pond" - where in the spring, one can hear spring peepers, and now, with effort, one can sometime see tadpoles and small salamanders).

Webster Conservation area is readily accessible with ample parking and handicap access at the entrance at the end of Warren Street. Join Thoreau in going to the woods.

- Octo Barnett

## OFF-LEASH UPDATE

If Newton is like most of the rest of the country, one in three households has a dog as a pet. Dog owners are one of the largest user groups of Newton's green spaces. But with only one off leash site (Cold Spring Park) officially approved, some felt that this brought the lone site too much usage. There really needed to be more sites throughout the city if "off leash" was to be successful.

The Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) was formed in 2009 under the Newton Parks and Recreation Department to develop an alternate way of dealing with off-leash. In April, OLAWG chair Robert DeRubeis presented the group's findings to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The 24 potential areas, representing locations in every ward were these: Forte Park, Hunnewell Playground, Walnut Park, Halloran Sports Complex, Claflin Playground, Cabot Park, Edmands Park, McGrath Park, West Newton Common, Auburndale Cove, Flowed Meadow, Hamilton Playground, Norumbega, Old Cold



Spring Park, Braceland Playground, Richardson Playground, Newton Centre, Newton Highlands Playground, Thompsonville Playground, Weeks Park, Burr Park, Brown/Oak Hill Middle School Playground, Newton South HS (near tennis courts only), and Nahanton Park.

This may be the watershed year for off-leash with enactment of a new ordinance and bringing many new sites online. Dog owners may finally have places to legally exercise their canine charges, and Fido may finally have a place to jump and catch a Frisbee in locations throughout the city.

- Ted Kuklinski

## THE MUSTARD WARS

The Conservators fought invasive plants this spring on several fronts: Cold Spring Park, Dolan Pond, Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area, and Blue Heron Bridge. These are all sites we had worked on in prior years. This year, we expanded to a new area, Flowed Meadow. Japanese knotweed was the focus of one Flowed Meadow session. (See before and after photos.) For the others we concentrated on garlic mustard, because it will soon go to seed.



*knotweed field, before removal*

*Our efforts are making a huge difference!* We have been encouraged that in the areas we worked on in the past, there were few flowering garlic mustard plants. (The wet weather may have also helped.) A problem, however, is the many areas we have not yet addressed: those areas have become worse. The next month is a critical time to get garlic mustard out before it goes to seed. We will have

repeat visits to the parks and conservation areas; please contact me if you would like to join the group. Remember to monitor your yard and your neighborhood, and get the garlic mustard out before it takes hold. Bag and dispose in trash – *not* yard waste. Re-visit areas for stragglers and plants that have bolted.



*knotweed field, after removal*

Here are some interesting facts I have learned about garlic mustard:

- This diabolical plant even has aliases: hedge garlic, sauce-alone, jack-by-the-hedge, poor man's mustard, jack-in-the-bush, garlic root, garlicwort, mustard root.
  - In Europe, where it originated, 69 insect herbivores and seven fungi help keep it in check. These are being evaluated for whether they are host-specific to warrant introducing as biological control to the US.
- garlic mustard is a huge problem in Midwest states such as Michigan and Wisconsin (Wisconsin has a well-done video at <http://www.in-sitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html>; Michigan does its garlic mustard removal via a web-based competition at [http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/site/c.hrLOKWPILuF/b.5075593/k.1063/The\\_Garlic\\_Mustard\\_Challenge\\_2010.htm](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/site/c.hrLOKWPILuF/b.5075593/k.1063/The_Garlic_Mustard_Challenge_2010.htm) )

One thing we have learned is that we need to get more young people aware and involved. Invasives awareness needs to be part of the science curriculum. School groups can work and have fun on invasives pulls. A group of third grade girl scouts worked on such an outing at Albemarle Field this spring under the direction of a



Conservator. Schools are starting to express interest. This is our next frontier!

Your participation on the invasives effort would be welcome. Feel free to contact me at [howard\\_katherine@hotmail.com](mailto:howard_katherine@hotmail.com).

- Katherine Howard

## URBAN FOREST NEWS

In the past few months the Conservators and the Newton Tree Conservancy sponsored two tree-related programs at the Newton Library.

Marc Welch, Newton's Director of Urban Forestry, spoke on June 7. He gave us a historical perspective on Newton's trees, showing the relatively vast resources that went into trees decades ago and that trees were highly valued. The knowledge and methods of tree care in those days were reviewed in photos, showing that while we know better methods nowadays, we certainly are not beating our forefathers in tree stewardship for the next generation! Newton loses 400-500 trees per year, and the city's budget does not allow for any new planting. Marc also covered updates on winter moth and the watch on Asian longhorned beetle, as well as how to take care of our own trees.

On March 15, Professor Joe Elkinton, Entomology Professor at UMass Amherst, spoke about winter moth in a program co-sponsored with Green Decade and others. Professor Elkinton explained the life cycle of winter moth, a non-native invader with no local predators. It defoliates trees and has taken hold in Newton and the entire East Coast. His talk gave us a fascinating glimpse into the world of entomology, how an invasion is studied and the patterns we can expect, and his work on introducing a biological control of winter moth. Previous invasions took place in Nova Scotia in the 1950s and in the Pacific Northwest more recently. In both those invasions introducing one predator, a parasitoid fly, successfully controlled the moth. This fly was found to feed only on winter moth, so it was safe to introduce. Once sufficient fly population had built up, the winter moth became controlled, and populations of both became lower and in balance. The method was extremely successful in those areas, and Prof. Elkinton is working to repeat the same process here. The work is laborious, as fly populations must be built up carefully so that when they are released they do not immediately "disperse to extinction." The flies have been released in several test sites in the area,

including one in Wellesley, and populations are being monitored. Prof. Elkinton's lab is the only one working to control this outbreak, but it has suffered funding cutbacks from the state. One thing we can do is to try to lobby for more support.

In other news from the Newton Tree Conservancy, this spring, 50 trees were planted in six neighborhoods across Newton for NTC's second annual Community Tree Planting. Webster, Cherry, Parmenter/Elsworth, Chestnut, Madison, and Lincoln Streets are all looking infinitely better with their new trees. A generous grant from the Leo Levi Tree Endowment Fund of Newton Civic Pride paid the cost of the trees. Neighbors and homeowners did the planting and agreed to water. The community spirit was outstanding, and the event was a great success.

- Katherine Howard

### **The Newton Conservators Officers and Directors 2010-2011**

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

Margaret Albright  
Octo Barnett  
Dan Brody  
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Maurice (Pete) Gilmore  
Dan Green  
William Hagar  
Frank Howard  
Peter Kastner  
Ted Kuklinski  
George Mansfield  
Eric Reenstierna  
Patricia Robinson  
Larry Smith  
Willis Wang

## 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](mailto:ericgreen@tiac.net). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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

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



*Celebrating 49 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 |

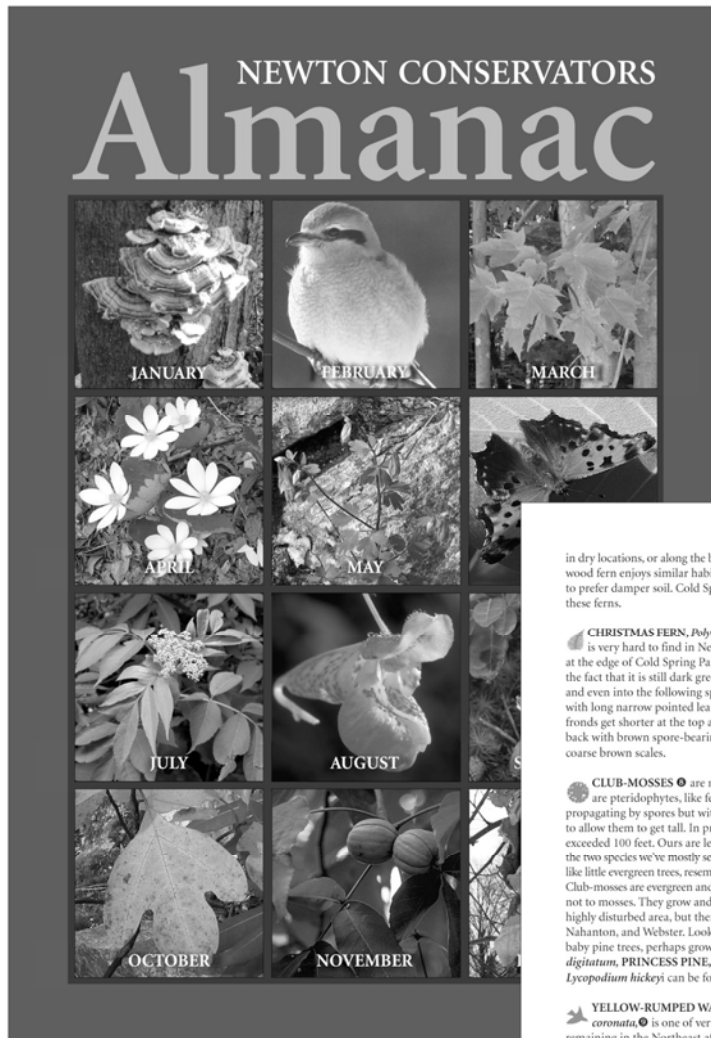
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# What are you doing next year?



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, *Diphasiastrum 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!



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# NEWSLETTER

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

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