

## Newton Conservators Nature Notes

*Friday, September 23, 2005*

This email newsletter provides information on upcoming nature and environmental related events, exhibits, and information in and around the Newton, Massachusetts area. The newsletter is sponsored by the Newton Conservators, the local open space organization in Newton and it also serves as the organization's means of sending out time sensitive information. Please visit our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org>. Welcome to the many new readers of this free email newsletter. If you wish to be removed from this email list, simply reply with "remove" in the message or subject. (Note: email addresses mentioned in this newsletter substitute (AT) for @ to foil spammers).

### **ALERT FOR TODAY!!**

**Charles River Greenway and Blue Heron Bridge Official Opening - Friday, September 23, 11:30 am**

Our readers might want to note this event which occurs this morning at 11:30 am. Our apologies for the late notice. The DCR will have its official opening of the new Charles River Greenway and Blue Heron Bridge on Sept. 23rd at 11:30 am. This will be the formal opening of the DCR's new one mile greenway corridor that travels from Bridge Street in Newton to Farwell Street in Waltham (traveling through Watertown). This segment of the Upper Charles River Reservation was the critical missing link needed to provide the desired continuous linear connections between Boston and Waltham. Just prior to Cheesecake Brook in Newton, the new greenway features a distinguished footbridge (10 feet wide, and approximately 140 feet long) over the Charles River, connecting to woodland on the opposite bank in Watertown. The greenway continues west out to Farwell Street in Waltham. The event takes place on Friday, September 23, 2005, 11:30 a.m., at the Blue Heron Bridge Landing, Watertown, MA. Dan Driscoll, DCR planner, thanks folks for all the interest and support over the years.

Directions: From Watertown Square, head west on Route 20 (i.e., Main Street). In about a quarter mile, at the flashing yellow light, turn left onto Cross Street. At the end of Cross Street turn right onto Pleasant Street. Follow Pleasant Street for about 1.5 miles, to the Super Stop & Shop entrance on left. Turn left into Stop & Shop Parking lot, off Pleasant Street. Park and enter greenway in back left corner of lot. Turn left on main path and walk to Blue Heron Bridge landing.

Please do NOT park at the end of Albemarle Road at the end of Cheesecake Brook. This is a dead end and makes it very inconvenient for the residents. The Stop and Shop lot across the river provides lots of parking and a convenient path to the greenway corridor. This is indeed the long awaited missing link in the wonderful Charles River Pathway! Come on out if you get this message in time.

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    - \* Sunday, October 2, 2005, 7:30 - 9:00 AM - Early Morning Bird Walk at Nahanton Park
    - \* Sunday, October 9, 2005, 2-4 PM - Biking Tour of the Aqueduct Trail
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    - \* Sunday, October 30, 2005, 2:00 - 3:30 PM - A Walk Through Kennard Park
  - \* Tuesday, November 16, 2005, 7pm, Fall Lecture at Newton Library, Speaker - Marion Larson
  - \* The October Environmental Show on NewTV Features Kessler Woods
  - \* Thursday, September 27 - Charles River Night at the Muddy River Environmental Film Festival
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## **Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series**

Each Spring and Fall, the Newton Conservators organizes a series of walks to local open space areas. These walks are led by knowledgeable leaders and are open to the public. They normally last for an hour or two. Some events are for bicycle or canoe. These walks are a great way to get to know open space areas in Newton. Below is the current walk schedule. As to weather, when in doubt, check with the group leader. For more information on the Conservators and schedules of events, please visit our website at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org). Please note the terrific Canoe trip this coming Sunday at 2 pm.

For those of you who receive the Conservators newsletter by mail, there is an error in the walk schedule there. The Newton Harvest Festival was listed as being on Sunday, October 23. It is actually on Sunday, October 16.

### **Sunday, September 25, 2005, 2-4 PM Canoe Trip in the Charles River Lake District**

This trip is a leisurely paddle that explores the Lake District from the DCR boat house to the Waltham Watch Factory. Bring a lunch for a stop and binoculars if you'd like. We leave from the

canoe landing at the [Charles River Canoe Service](#) on Commonwealth Avenue (follow the signs to [park across the river](#) at the duck feeding area). If you would like to join the trip call trip leaders Bill and Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644). This outing includes the water areas of [Walk 1](#) and [Walk 2](#) in the [Conservators "Walking Trails" guide](#).

**Sunday, October 2, 2005, 7:30 - 9:00 AM**  
**Early Morning Bird Walk at Nahanton Park**

The mix of woodlands, wetlands and meadows along the Charles River make [Nahanton Park](#) a wonderful place for watching the fall bird migration. While most birds will have gone south the area is still rich in ducks and late migrating birds. Enter the park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river and meet at the Nature Center. Parking available inside the park. Trip leader is Modestino Criscitiello (617-244-6397), an experienced birder from Friends of Nahanton Park .

**Sunday, October 9, 2005, 2-4 PM**  
**Biking Tour of the Aqueduct Trail**

For the past several years, we have conducted a very popular bike tour along the Aqueduct Trail through Newton , Needham and Wellesley . The trip is a 1½ to 2 hour tour and, while mostly leisurely, it is sometimes strenuous. The tour is for ages 12 and up. Children must have an adult and all riders must wear helmets and use bikes that are able to travel off road. The tour runs through established paths, pinewoods, meadows and hills. You will travel behind backyards and riders should be respectful of the privacy of homeowners. Meet in front of the Starbucks near the Waban MBTA Station. Call Henry Finch (617-964-4488). Riders may be limited depending upon response and interest. This outing includes part of [Walk 27](#) in the [Conservators "Walking Trails" guide](#). See also our page, [A Loop Along the Aqueducts](#).

**Sunday, October 16, 2005, 2-4 PM**  
**Walking Tour of the Aqueduct Trail**

If hiking is more your speed, Henry Finch will lead a walking tour of parts of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts that go through Newton . This walk introduces residents to this wonderful resource. As with the biking tour, you will travel near backyards and we ask that you respect the privacy of homeowners. Meet in front of the Starbucks near the Waban MBTA Station. Call Henry Finch (617-964-4488). This outing includes part of [Walk 27](#) in the [Conservators "Walking Trails" guide](#). See also our page, [A Loop Along the Aqueducts](#).

**Sunday, October 30, 2005, 2:00 - 3:30 PM**  
**A Walk Through Kennard Park**

The [Kennard Park](#) is a 32-acre park and post-agricultural forest. This property was a farm until the 19th century, after which it became a gentleman's estate. It is now part of Newton's park and conservations lands. The area offers the walker a rich variety of forest, gardens, lawn and wetlands. The South Meadow Brook has mixed and conifer woodlands, colonial stonewalls, a red maple swamp with century-old trees and a sensitive fern marsh. Trip leader is Larry Burdick (617-584-4633).

**Tuesday, November 16, 2005, 7pm**

**Newton Conservators Fall Lecture at Newton Library**

**Speaker - Marion Larson, Mass Wildlife Educator**

Don't miss our fall lecture in cooperation with the Newton Free Library. Marion Larson, with the state's Mass Wildlife division, will be speaking on "Living with Wildlife". This slide program will discuss many of the surprising creatures to be found even in our backyards. Is there room in Newton for us AND the coyotes, turkeys, foxes, and other fauna? Come find out! Contact lecture coordinator, Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222).

## **The October Environmental Show on NewTV Features Kessler Woods**

In October, the Newton Conservators Environmental Show on NewTV will focus on the acquisition of Kessler Woods. The Conservators played an important role in identifying the value of this open space, which runs between Brookline Street and Lagrange Street. It connects the existing Saw Mill Brook and Bald Pate Meadow Conservation Areas. The Conservators advocated for the purchase of Kessler Woods, using Community Preservation funds to leverage a unique public-private partnership with Cornerstone Corporation developers. Under the plan, about half of the land will be developed for homes and condominiums, while the remaining 28 acres will remain protected open space and wetlands. Without this partnership, a developer could have built on most of the property except for the wetland. Current and past presidents of the Conservators— Bill Hagar, Eric Reenstierna and Doug Dickson—tell the story of this unique partnership, along with Mayor David Cohen, Alderman Rick Lipof and developer Tom Southworth.

The Conservators will be watching this property in the years ahead to make sure that all goes according to plan, including the developer's promise to build walking trails through the property. The Conservators will also hold a conservation restriction on the preserved area. Be sure to catch this episode of the Environmental Show starting at the beginning of October and running frequently through the month on Saturdays (10:00 AM), Mondays (3:00 PM), Tuesdays (1:30 PM and 11:30 PM), Wednesdays (11:30 AM) and Thursdays 12:00 noon, (4:00 PM and 7:30 PM). The program will be shown on NewTV's Blue Channel, which is Channel 10 for Comcast subscribers and Channel 15 for RCN subscribers.

- Patty Goldman (Conservators NewTV team)

## **Thursday, September 27 - Charles River Night at the Muddy River Environmental Film Festival**

On Thursday, September 22nd, the Muddy River Environmental Film Series will kick off eight straight days of environmental filmmaking. This series is the first environmental film festival in the Boston-area, and Charles River Watershed Association is excited to be a part of the festivities!

Tuesday, September 27th is Charles River Night at the Coolidge Corner Theater, featuring a film, a speaker, refreshments and a free raffle drawing. The film is *After the Storm*, an engaging look at the connections between water, economics and quality of life. The film will be followed by a lively discussion about the Charles River and how we must proceed to truly achieve a swimmable, fishable Charles.

The program is free for Charles River Watershed Association and Coolidge Corner Theater members and \$5 for the general public. The festivities begin at 7 PM at the Coolidge Corner Theatre (CCT) at 290 Harvard Street in Brookline, MA.

The Muddy River Environmental Film Series (MREFS) runs from September 22-29. Topics vary each night of the festival, and include climate change, food and agriculture, sustainability, open

space and the urban environment. For more information, visit the MREFS website at [http://www.coolidge.org/s\\_ser\\_muddy.html](http://www.coolidge.org/s_ser_muddy.html).

## **Farmer's Market**

The ever popular Newton Farmer's Market continues Tuesday' at Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon Street until October 25 from 1:30 pm til 6 pm. Were you aware of the additional day on Friday's at the American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, until October 28 from 10am to 2pm.

**Thursday, September 29, 2005, 7:30 pm**

### **Newton's Comprehensive Plan - Discussion of Drafts, Ward 3 at Newton Community Service Center, Waltham Street, West Newton**

A Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee ("CPAC") was appointed by Mayor David Cohen in the spring of 2002, and charged with helping the City to prepare a Comprehensive Plan. More than two dozen active members, including four Aldermen, have been working together with the City's Planning and Development Department to identify specific strategies to guide Newton into the future, intending to build on, protect, and enhance the wonderful places and qualities that make Newton unique, including the community diversity that we cherish.

Come to a special presentation on the comprehensive plan on Thursday, September 29 at NCSC in West Newton. Learn what the Plan suggests about the future for the City, for West Newton, and for Ward 3. Offer YOUR suggestions about what the Plan should say.

The topics being covered include land use, transportation, housing, open space, and historic preservation. The resulting Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Mayor this fall, after which it will go to the Planning & Development Board and to the Board of Aldermen for adoption. The draft chapters of the Plan are available on the Newton Web site under this location:

<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Planning/CPAC/com%20plan%202005/commplan.asp>

The Open Space portion of the plan may be found at

<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Planning/CPAC/com%20plan%202005/Open%20Space%20and%20Recreation.pdf>

## **Newton Conservators Newsletter September Issue is Out!**

For Conservator members, the latest Newton Conservators newsletter is in the mail and has also been posted online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep05.pdf>. There is a lot of information in the current issue on the Angino Farm project. You will be pleased to know that the city's farm commission has been formed. Last Sunday was a very well attended historical presentation on Angino Farm at the farm. This past week, the field at Angino was plowed for the first time in a long time looking forward to next spring when we hope the farm will be operating.

Doug Dickson has been editing this publication for quite a few years. Volunteers are sought for assistance in writing and production of the newsletter.

## About the Newton Conservators

This email newsletter is sponsored by the Newton Conservators, a local organization The Newton Conservators, a nonprofit citizen advocacy organization which actively promotes the acquisition, creation, and preservation of natural open spaces for the people of Newton. Since its formation in the late 1950's, The Newton Conservators has been instrumental in safeguarding more than 200 acres of open space in Newton, creating several major public parks, and enacting ground-breaking environmental ordinances with respect to the protection and preservation of trees, wetlands and clean air, and the conservation of energy. that promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, park lands, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of the City of Newton, Massachusetts for scientific study, education, and recreation. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, recreational, educational, literary, and the other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare in the City of Newton. Please visit our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org> or contact us at 617-969-6222 or the address below.

If you would like to join the Newton Conservators, please send your name, address, phone and email address (if you wish email alerts) to The Newton Conservators, Inc., P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Membership Options are the following: Individual \$25, Family Member \$35, Sustaining Member \$50, Donor \$75, Patron \$100. Membership is tax deductible. Your membership includes the Newton Conservators Newsletter and emails and invitations to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities. You will also receive by mail a copy of the new Newton Conservators open space map book, "Walking Trails in Newton's Park and Conservation Lands".

The Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators meets monthly usually on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm (usually at City Hall). Members are welcome to attend. If you wish to attend you can contact us to confirm the date, time, location, and agenda.

## Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Recreation Lands

The map guide put out by the Newton Conservators is a great resource for those who would like to explore Newton's open space. Many more folks have been observed out in our conservation areas with their trail guide in hand;. It is available by web, mail and also at Newtonville Books and New England Mobile Book Fair. Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands may be purchased for \$7.95 online at [www.NewtonConservators.org](http://www.NewtonConservators.org) or by mailing a check payable to The Newton Conservators, Inc. to The Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton Center, MA 02459.

## About Newton Conservators Nature Notes

If you would like to be more directly kept apprised of future nature related events, walks, lectures, and exhibits, you are invited to join the Newton Conservators sponsored "Newton Conservators Nature Notes" email list by sending an email request to [dolanpond\(AT\)aol.com](mailto:dolanpond(AT)aol.com) or contacting Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222). Newton Conservators Nature Notes is automatically sent to members of the Newton Conservators who provide their email addresses as one of their membership benefits. Newton Conservators Nature Notes may be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/naturenotes.htm>. You are welcome to submit any items for

this sporadical newsletter via email to the same address. Please feel free to forward our newsletter to others you feel might be interested in the information contained herein.