

Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Some last minute info for you this week --tonight an interesting talk about endangered wildlife at the Library. Don't forget to cast your vote on the override today - how is up to you! Consider carefully - it affects the kind of city we have. For tree lovers, consider attending an interesting program in Watertown on Thursday. Our spring series has been successful so far - vernal pool exploration, lots of birders (and birds) on Mother's Day and lots of bikers for the Bike Newton rally this past Sunday. Lots more coming up!

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 pm

Golden Wings & Hairy Toes

Encounters with New England's Most Imperiled Wildlife

A Lecture by Todd McLeish, Author

Newton Free Library
330 Homer Street, Newton Centre, MA
617-796-1360 www.newtonfreelibrary.net
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium
Free to the public

Rhode Island based writer Todd McLeish has trapped bats in Vermont, been attacked by marauding birds in Massachusetts and has been writing about his experiences for 20 years. In *Golden Wings & Hairy Toes* he traces the life history and environmental challenges facing New England's most endangered wildlife, the obstacles facing the many species in rebuilding a sustainable population, and the people who go to extraordinary lengths to give them a chance to thrive. Hear the man who has been following the biologists who are researching, monitoring, and protecting these rare and endangered flora and fauna at an author talk on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30 pm, followed by a book signing.

Todd McLeish is a skilled observer who is frequently called on by various organizations to lead nature walks for the public. He also works as a science writer and publicist for the University of Rhode Island.

Thursday, May 22, 7 pm

Keeping It Cool and Green -

How urban trees help reduce local effect of global warming and how we can help them do their job!

A public presentation by Eric Seaborn, Program Coordinator, Mass. DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program. This event is sponsored by Trees for Watertown. Thursday, May 22, 7 PM. at the Watertown Free Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown.

Light refreshments will be provided. For further info call Ruth Thomasian, 617-923-4542.

Newton Conservators Spring 2008 Walk Series

Each Spring and Fall, the Newton Conservators organize a series of walks to local open space areas. These walks are led by knowledgeable leaders and are free and 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 for Spring 2008. The current walk schedule can be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

Sunday, May 25, 2008 , 2 pm Riverside Park

Visit the little used Riverside Park that holds wonderful views and access to the Charles River as well as hidden wooded areas. Even few Auburndale residents know this area and this walk is a rare opportunity to learn about this development-ringed open space. The Riverside Park area was the home of Norumbega Park and the north-south rail loop. Due to its proximity to mass transit this area has been threatened by development. Trip leader, Bob Persons (rbpersons@rcn.com), has had a long-term interest in making this open space area more accessible to the public. We will meet at the parking lot of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's building at 107 Charles Street, Auburndale.

Sunday, June 1, 2008, 2 PM Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueduct Hike

Henry Finch will be leading a hike of between 4 and 6 miles through parts of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts that go through Newton. This is a steady (not fast) hike which has grown in popularity over time, and serves as a way to introduce new and old residents of Newton to this wonderful resource. As with the Aqueduct biking tour, you will pass by paths, pinewoods, meadows and hills. Parts of the paths traverse close to backyards and hikers need be respectful of homeowner privacy. Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA Station. See the loop map: <http://www.usatf.org/routes/view.asp?rID=26084> (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). For more info call Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 2 PM Cutler Park/ Millennium Park Hike

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park, Millennium Park and complete the tour by way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved over the past several years and now provide a wide variety of trails, river landings and playing fields. This is a long walk (5.5 miles, 2.5 hours) and the leader has advised that the pace will be steady (not fast) and participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. Hiking boots or heavy all-weather shoes are recommended. Meet at the Cutler Park entrance a quarter mile south of the Charles River Bridge, on Kendrick Street in Needham. Henry Finch (617-964-4488), Newton Conservators board member, will lead the hike.

Sunday, June 22, 2008, 2 PM Charles River Lakes District

Come on a walking tour of the Charles River Lakes District where we will visit Ware's Cove, the Waltham Watch Factory Building, Mount Feake Cemetery, Brandeis University, the Duck Feeding Area, the Charles River Canoe Service, Norumbega Park, and Lyons Field. Meet at the parking lot for Auburndale Park ("The Cove") off of West Pine Street. The walk will last about 2 ½-3 hours. Wear comfortable walking shoes. This is a long loop so call ahead in case of poor weather. The leader is Peter Kastner, (617-244-6094).

Sunday, June 29, 2008, 2PM Lakes District Canoe Trip on the Charles

This trip is a leisurely paddle that explores the Charles River Lakes District. Starting at Charles River Canoe & Kayak Service, off Commonwealth Avenue, you will pass along the MDC duck feeding area and park land and go through the narrow channel at Norumbega Park. The trip continues to the Lakes district, including Fox Island, the views of the Islington Peninsula and Mount Feake Cemetery and views of the Waltham Watch Factory. This lake is well populated with ducks, geese, great blue herons and the occasional hawk. You will also look at the small creatures that inhabit the waters, using portable field microscopes. Bring binoculars and a lunch or snack for a stop along the river. If you would like to join the trip, need a canoe or could loan a canoe, call the trip leader William Hagar (617-964-2644). Canoes and kayaks are available to rent at the Charles River Canoe & Kayak (2401 Commonwealth Ave). Park across the river at the Duck Feeding Area.

Wednesday, May 28 Newton Conservators 47th Annual Meeting and Dinner

Join us for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Newton Conservators on Wednesday, May 28. This year it will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church, 76 Eldredge Street, Newton

Corner MA 02458. Directions to the location can be found at <http://www.gracenewton.org/directions.html>. If you did not get an invite in the mail see details for the event on <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2008invite.htm>. There will be a social gathering at 6:15 pm, dinner at 7 pm and the program at 8 pm. During the social gathering, you can peruse various exhibits on Conservator grant and related projects. The formal part of the evening consists of a short business meeting, election of officers and directors. There will be awards for Environmentalist of the Year (76 Webster Park Team), Charles Johnson Maynard Award (Eddy Street/Cheesecake Brook CDBG Citizen Group) , and Directors Awards (Marc Welch and Anne Pearson).

Our guest speaker this year is **Professor Jeffrey Dukes** of the University of Massachusetts, Boston with a talk entitled “**Global Warming: Future New England Flora?**”. Jeffrey Dukes and his research team have built experimental greenhouses in Waltham that will be used to predict vegetation growth in an unsettled warming future. The facilities are built on an old farm at 240 Beaver Street. The Boston Area Climate Experiment (BACE) features different temperatures and different rainfalls regimes that will affect plant growth and survival in the possible warming conditions of the future. If global warming continues as predicted, these facilities will help scientist predict the future flora of the area. BACE is supported by several grants including one from the National Science Foundation. More information can be found at [the BACE website](#).

Tickets are \$25 each and reservations before May 23 are requested (checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc). Please reply by May 23, 2008 to: Dorothy Hagar, 248 Winchester Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461, Telephone (617) 964-2644. Please specify if you prefer a vegetarian entrée.

Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8

Take a Hike for Humanity – Habitat for Humanity Hike-a-thon

If you'd like to help the 76 Webster Park project being honored at the annual dinner consider the following event whose proceeds go to the completion of the Habitat project in West Newton:

Mark your calendars for the 13th Annual “Take a Hike for Humanity” hike-a-thon, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston to benefit the Habitat Newton Build at 76 Webster Park next to the Dolan Pond Conservation Area. This year’s hike takes place on Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, at the Blue Hill Reservation in Milton , MA . Register as an individual or as part of a team (\$25 per hiker) for either day, then set a goal and start collecting pledges from friends, family members, neighbors, etc. Walkers of all ages and ability levels – and their dogs – are welcome! Registration forms are available on-line at www.habitatboston.org/events.html, or call 617-423-2223 to request one. All proceeds benefit the Newton Habitat project (www.habitatboston.org). This event is a great way for youth to participate in Habitat for Humanity. When you register, make sure to specify that you are raising money for Habitat Greater Boston, as there are many other Habitat affiliates participating. There is also another Hike-a-thon location at Mt.

Monadnock in New Hampshire but Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston's hike is at the nearby Blue Hills Reservation.

Newton's First Annual Invasive Species Clean-Up – Join Us!

Newton North senior Leah Wang is working with Green Decade member and ecology professor Eric Olson to carry out a Senior Year Project on invasive plants. This May, she will be leading plant pull days at both Dolan Pond in West Newton and at Hammond Pond Reservation in Chestnut Hill. The focus is on noxious garlic mustard and Japanese Knotweed. It has been quite an effort to get permission to work in these conservation areas, but Leah is now working closely with the City Planning department to ensure proper methods are used. Now that she has some big sites to tackle, she needs your help! Several weekends in May starting May 10th are possible, and you don't have to devote the entire day. Contact Leah Wang at leah924wang@gmail.com if you are interested, with your availability and group size. Leah will reply with details of times, dates, and locations with directions.

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The e-Bulletin is published on occasion by the Newton Conservators, Newton's Open Space organization for over 45 years! Check out our website at www.newtonconservators.org. Contact us at dolanpond@aol.com.

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? [Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.](#)