

Working to preserve open space in Newton for 47 years!

The Newton Conservators

e-Bulletin

June 6, 2008

www.newtonconservators.org

Hope you have had a chance to attend some of the walks in our Spring Series this year. There is no official Newton Conservators walk this weekend but there are lots of other great events to take in. How about the Farm Festival this weekend at Newton Angino Community Farm, or pulling some invasives with our task force, participating in a Hike-a-thon for Habitat, visit the Newton History Museum for free, or perhaps attending the Newton Highlands Village Day? There's lots of other events coming up so check out this Newton Conservators Bulletin!

Saturday, June 7, 2 to 4pm Newton Community Farm Spring Festival

Celebrate spring at the Newton Community Farm's annual Spring Festival! This year's event includes: Tours of the Farm, Activities for Kids, Seedlings for Sale, Farm Stand Opening, Snacks & Drinks, and Live Music! The Newton Community Farm is located at the corner of Nahanton & Winchester Streets in Newton. For more information, visit newtoncommunityfarm.org or call 617-916-9655. Starting June 7, the farm stand on Winchester Street will be open for its regular season hours, Wednesday through Friday 3-7 and Saturday 10-2. See other farm news later in this email.

Saturday, June 7, 9-11 pm Invasive Species Clean-Up at Dolan Pond Sunday, June 8, 9-11 am Invasive Species Clean-Up on the Charles River (Blue Heron Bridge)

The Invasive Plant Task Force is active this spring! Newton North senior Leah Wang is working with ecology professor Eric Olson to carry out a Senior Year Project on invasive plants in a project. This weekend, they will be leading plant pull days at both Dolan Pond in West Newton and at the Charles River Pathway near the Blue Heron Bridge. The focus is on removing pervasive garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. A lot of effort has been expended so far in getting permission to work in these areas, working closely with the City Planning department (Conservation Commission) and the DCR to ensure proper methods are used.

The numbers signed up for our the Invasive Species Task Force hasnow reached 53! The turnout of 10 volunteers last Sunday at Dolan Pond, in just the three hours about 9 to noon, took care of a large stand of Japanese Knotweed and significant areas of garlic mustard as well. Thank you to all who participated. Thereis at least one more full morning of work to do at Dolan, the weather is expected to clear exactly in

time to get back to work outdoors on Saturday. Even lending a hand for an hour is enormously helpful and can be very educational for children so please bring them along.

On Saturday at Dolan Pond, the task force will start again at 9 am and there will be coffee and donuts. Parents might want to bring juice for the kids. Please let us know if you need directions, but the basics are meet at the Webster Park entrance, off of Webster Street. The task force cell phone for Saturday only is 617 872 9928.

The basic recommendations for preparing for this still hold: long pants and long sleeved shirt for mosquitoes and some thorny brambles, and bring a water bottle and work gloves. Expected temps will be in the 80's, cotton is best for such hot weather. Work boots or other sturdy shoes are recommended. Also, you must ask us to teach you to identify poison ivy if you do not already know it well. It is up to you to learn this plant and we can help....but its still up to you. Fortunately poison ivy is not too common at Dolan. We can provide contractor bags and a few other tools, courtesy of a recent grant provided by the Newton Conservators. Mostly this work involves hand pulling.

This Sunday (June 8) the focus is on an invasion of garlic mustard into a wildflower stand (mayapple, cinammon fern, among others) near the lovely Blue Heron Bridge, West Newton, a pedestrian bridge along the pathway crossing the Charles River near Cheesecake Brook (which runs along Albemarle Road). This required DCR approval, which was granted. Work will begin in this new area along the Charles River, scheduled from 9-11 am.

The best parking is in the Super Stop and Shop lot on the non-Newton side of the river. Follow North Street from Newton, make a right on Pleasant Street, and enter the Super Stop and Shop lot. Park in the easternmost corner which has entry to the Charles River Path. Walk a short distance along the path to the Blue Heron Bridge.

The weather is looking good for Sunday - in fact it should get very hot, which is why work probably won't go much past 11 am. Please prepare for bugs and sun exposure; wear shoes that you don't mind getting dirty, because to get to the patch of garlic mustard to be pulled may require stepping through some softer soil areas. Make sure to bring water as well.

At this site, the team will be pulling up second year garlic mustard plants - these are effortless to pull up, roots and all. Garbage bags will be provided to dispose of them. As a prize, you will get to take one home! (And treat it as normal, household trash.) It is not put in yard waste to avoid further dispersal.

There are also plans to attack an area of knotweed on the other side of the Blue Heron Bridge, close to the river. The roots are covered by rocks and cannot be pulled up; we will clip the shoots at the base (please bring some type of clippers or small handsaw to help you do this!) and place them under the deck of the bridge as instructed by authorities. The shoots will not produce more plants, so in this way we are just composting them. The roots WILL make more shoots, but in our experience they will not grow as tall or dense, and we will more easily clip them again until they do not grow. This is "root fatigue" method where the roots get depleted with persistent cutting.

We are not alone in our efforts: a Newton resident on a walk in Lincoln this past weekend reported seeing bulging plastic trash bags clearly marked "MUSTARD" piled up near the entrance to one of the Lincoln conservation areas. It appears that invasive plant task forces are springing

up with no central organizing authority --- grassroots efforts at their best, no pun intended.

Some of you have written recently with questions about invasive plant policies in Newton, and the good news is this is evolving well. We now have a better understanding with members of the Conservation Commission about how to remove invasives with finesse. The goal is to work with care so as not to damage what we have, but also to recognize that benign neglect really is neglectful. The data are in on the effects of these plants, and the news is, "let nature run its course" is really not a viable option. In those areas that the City, DCR, Newton Conservators, and others have deliberately set aside to conserve some semblance of wild biodiversity, at significant expense, it makes sense to do what we can to turn back the tide of invaders. The technology to eradicate certain invaders everywhere may someday be invented; for now though we can target our pocket parks and whack away with clippers and hand pulling.

Hope to see you this weekend, and thank you again all those who helped this past Sunday. If you are interested in joining the Invasives Group, please contact Eric Olson (eolson@brandeis.edu).

Hope to see you one or both days this weekend,

- Leah Wang, NNHS
- Eric Olson, Brandeis ecologist

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 which was recently highlighted at the annual Newton Conservators dinner, consider the following event whose proceeds go to the completion of the Habitat project in West Newton:

This weekend, come on down to the 13th Annual "Take a Hike for Humanity" hike-a-thon, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston. 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. You can also collect pledges from friends, family members, neighbors, etc. if you like. Walkers of all ages and ability levels – and their dogs – are welcome!

Registrations forms will be available on site at the Blue Hills - make sure you use one stamped with Habitat for Humanity - Greater Boston. Registration forms are also available on-line at www.habitatboston.org/events.html, or call 617-423-2223 to request one. All proceeds from those registered from Habitat Greater Boston 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. Registration is from 9-2 PM on both days. Look for the Habitat Greater Boston volunteers onsite at the registration tables. There is also a terrific silent auction on both days at the registration site from 9 am to 3 pm. So put in your bids and take home some terrific items (tickets, etc).

There will be maps available and suggested routes. All hikers are advised to wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the event. Hiking boots or appropriate walking shoes are recommended. Hiking sticks may be helpful. Hikers should bring water and snacks appropriate to their needs and you should carry out what you carry in. You may wish to bring a first aid kit and insect repellent. There are rest rooms at the registration site. The event will occur rain or shine (it is expected to be nice but could be warm - bring water!). In the Blue Hills, dogs can hike with you (on leash). Maybe you have seen the great posters and signboards around town. This event has the potential to give a tremendous boost to the Habitat Newton project so come on down!

Directions to the Habitat Hike-s-thon: From Boston: Take Exit 3 off Interstate 93 (which is also Route 128 at this point). If you are headed south on Route 128 (which is really north on I-93 - go figure), take a left at the end of the Exit 3 ramp (you can't really go right). If you are headed north on Route 128 (which is south on I-93- go figure), get off at Exit 3 and turn right. Go about one mile (on Blue Hill River Road) until a T intersection at Hillside Street. Turn right onto Hillside Street and go about .25 mile and turn into the Houghton Pond Parking lot. You have arrived!

If you can't make it to the Blue Hills, stop by the Habitat project's table at the Newton Highlands Village Day 12-5pm (information table and raffle located in front of Indulge! at 16 Lincoln Street) To learn more about the Newton Highlands Village Day see <http://www.hydecenter.org/index.html>. Green Decade also has a table at this event!

Saturday & Sunday, June 7 & 8 Community Weekend at the Newton History Museum

Free admission to the Museum at the Jackson Homestead for all Newton residents. The museum is located at 527 Washington Street. Find out hours and information at <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/about/index.asp>

Sunday, June 8, 2 pm 2nd Sunday Walking Tour: Saint Mary's Burial Ground

Take a stroll through St. Mary's Burial Ground. We'll discuss the history of this

graveyard and learn the stories of some of the families buried there. Meet at St. Mary's Church, 258 Concord Street, Newton Lower Falls. Free. Sponsored by the Newton History Museum.

Monday, June 9, 2008, 7-9 pm, New Art Center Green Decade Coalition 2008 Annual Celebration

Plan on attending the GDC ANNUAL CELEBRATION AT NEW ART CENTER on Monday, June 9, 7:00-9:00 pm at the New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville. This annual event is open to all -- bring your friends -- and enjoy an evening with the Green Decade Coalition/Newton. Desserts and refreshments will be served at no charge and the festivities will include a multi-media celebration of the Green Decade, its activities and members, new and old and the 2008 Annual Environmental Leadership Awards presented to a Newton individual, a business and an organization who actively promote environmental improvement through their commitment or work for the environment. Winners this year are: INDIVIDUAL -- Dirk Detlefsen, Countryside Elementary School fifth grade teacher, GROUP -- Newton/San Juan del Sur Sister City Project -- Margaret and David Gulette, coordinators (www.newtonsanjuan.org), BUSINESS: Chapman Construction & Design, John C. Hall, President / Principal / LEED® AP (www.chap-con.com). Art from the 2008 Newton Student Energy Conservation Contest, recently exhibited at Newton City Hall may also be shown. RSVP: contact Marcia Cooper at marciac@aol.com or 617-964-8567. More information: contact@greendecade.org or [Annual Awards & Celebration](http://www.greendecade.org) on the Green Decade website (www.greendecade.org).

Tuesday, June 10, 4 pm to 8 pm NewTV Open House

You are invited to an Open House at NewTV to introduce their new executive director, Robert Kelly. Join them for some lite fare and refreshments as they welcome Bob Kelly to the Newton Community. RSVP to Bonnie Carter, 617-795-7200 x114. Visit www.newtv.org which is on Easy Street next (next to National Lumber). The Conservators appreciate the support of NewTV for airing our Environmental Show over the last several years.

Saturday, June 14, 2008, 1-3 pm How to Reinvent Your Lawn and Have a Non-toxic Yard

A free talk on how to reinvent your lawn and have a non-toxic yard, followed by a tour of the green spaces at the UMass. Field Station is sponsored by the Waltham Land Trust. Professional fine gardener Dee Kricker will cover organic methods and low-maintenance lawn alternatives, including native grasses, wildflowers, ground covers, perennials, herbs, and shrubs. The free talk will be followed by a tour of the UMass. Field Station grounds, which include GROW Community Garden and Waltham Fields Community Farm.

Waltham Land Trust board member Dee Kricker is employed by FoxGloves Gardens and Landscape Design. She is a NOFA-accredited Land Care Professional (Northeast Organic Farmers Association), certified in Landscape Management from the UMass Green School and an Advisory Board member of Waltham Fields Community Farm. This event is part of an ongoing series sponsored by Waltham Land Trust to highlight Waltham's many open and green spaces. Info - contact Jennifer Rose, jrose@walthamlandtrust.org, 781-893-3355. Visit <http://walthamlandtrust.org/calendar-events/sustainable-lawn-care-managing-your-personal-green-space>

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 2 PM
Cutler Park/ Millennium Park Hike
Newton Conservators Spring 2008 Walk Series

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. This walk is part of the Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series. The current walk schedule can be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

Sunday, June 22, 2008, 2 PM
Charles River Lakes District
Newton Conservators Spring 2008 Walk Series

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). This walk is part of the Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series. The current walk schedule can be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

Saturday, June 28, 10 am
Yard Waste Composting

Ever wanted to compost your yard, fruit and vegetable waste but didn't know how to begin? Join us for this fun and informative workshop to learn the basics of composting in your own backyard. Learn techniques for successfully building you compost bin and starting and maintaining your compost pile. Included in this class are what you can and cannot compost, pitfalls to avoid, and using the finished compost.

There is a \$10 fee for Newton Community Farm members, and \$8 fee for non-members. Fee includes a how-to booklet, plans for a 3-bin compost structure, and useful tips. Experienced "composters" will be on hand to share their seasoned wisdom. The course is limited to 10 participants. The instructor will be Tom Libby. Impact Protection Eyewear required. For more

information about the Farm, check out our web page at <http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/>.

Sunday, June 29, 2008, 2PM
Lakes District Canoe Trip on the Charles
Newton Conservators Spring 2008 Walk Series

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. This walk is part of the Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series. The current walk schedule can be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

Saturday, July 19, 2008, 5-9 pm
Hardy Pond Picnic and Boating Event for the Whole Family

Join the Waltham Land Trust and the Hardy Pond Association for a picnic and boating event on Hardy Pond. Bring a boat if you have one, though there will be others available to share. Bring food to share as well. At 8:30 p.m., the drawing for the Ride, Row, Ramble raffle will take place. More info is at <http://walthamlandtrust.org/calendar-events/on-hardy-pond>, contact Jennifer Rose, jrose@walthamlandtrust.org, 781-893-3355.

Environmental Show on NewTV in June
" North of Quabbin - Lessons in Land Protection "

Newton's pure water originates in the Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts, yet the area around Quabbin is unfamiliar to most residents except for perhaps birding and fishing enthusiasts. Allen Young, land protection advocate and author of *North of Quabbin Revisited: A Guide to Nine Towns North of the Quabbin Reservoir*, was the featured speaker for the Newton Conservators Spring Lecture. In Part 1 (shown in June), he talks and presents a slide show about land protection and recreational opportunities there, which has relevance for the people of Newton who may appreciate the concept of saving the rural parts of the Commonwealth that are under so much development pressure. This show will begin airing on June 14. (Part 2 to be shown in August.)

The Environment Show is broadcast on the NewTV Blue channel (Comcast Chan. 10, RCN

Chan. 15, Verizon Chan. 34): Mondays 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays 1:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.,
Thursdays: 12:00, 4:00 and 7:30 p.m., Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.

Videos of previous [Environment Show](#) programs are now available for viewing online at the GDC website. This monthly show is produced alternatively by the Green Decade and the [Newton Conservators](#).

BikeNewton Event a Huge Success (by Lois Levin)

The May 18th kickoff event exceeded our expectations!

250 participants in Friends & Family Ride
350 attendees at Rally

-Bike tune-ups; thank you EMS/Newton, Farina's
-Thank you [Dr. Anne Lusk](#), for a glimpse of your considerable expertise
-Healthy snacks; thank you Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Cabot's, Clif Bar, Shaws, Green Decade Coalition, Newton Conservators
-San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua (Newton's Sister City) delegation rode European transportation bikes in the Ride, and everyone got a chance to ride the Conference Bike; thank you Dutch Bicycle Company

18 Raffle Winners

-Chris Kuklinski won the Trek bike from International Bicycle Center
-Kevin Zhu won the free Teen Membership to the W Suburban YMCA
-Kate Fitzgibbons Julia Peller, Rosa Elena Bello, Caitlin Fahey, Jennie Craddock, Andrea Zhu, Andy Gelbert, Nameeter Bookeran, Ramon Bonegio, Susan Stanley, David Grosser, Chris Randles, Cathy Goode, Jon Kantar, Maria Greenberg & Paul McNulty won prizes donated by: Harris Cyclery, Ski Market St Moritz, Centre Ski & Bike

MAYOR COHEN accepted and rode off on a Giant bike donated and presented by Paula Farina of Farina's Bicycle Center---this is to be a shared bike for city workers, and Molly Schaeffer presented the Mayor with a new helmet she donated to go with the bike.

NEWTON POLICE officers Rosenbaum & Torres rode police mountain bikes, and they & other officers guided us safely through the Ride

DONORS who helped make this possible: Hammond Residential Real Estate, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Village Bank, and Allegra Print & Imaging [ENDORSEERS](#) too numerous to list here, mainly city and state officials

Our volunteers and sponsoring organizations, GREEN DECADE COALITION and NEWTON CONSERVATORS ensured that everything went smoothly, and even scooped ice cream for all the folks who were able to stay until the end---of a beautiful afternoon.

We are ready to discuss our GOALS with the city. STAY TUNED!

Check out photos from the day at <http://www.bikenewton.org/Bikenewton.org/Photos.html>

Visit www.bikenewton.org!

Legislative Alert (from Mass Audubon)

Two of Mass Audubon's legislative priorities, [The Public Lands Preservation Act](#) (S. 2388) and [Land Conservation Tax Incentives](#) (H. 799), are in the House Committee on Ways and Means and the July 31st end of the legislative session is fast approaching! Consider contacting your state representative and asking them to show their support for S. 2388 and H. 799 by urging House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop) to bring these two important bills to the House floor for a vote!

The **Public Lands Preservation Act** (PLPA) (S. 2388) is priority legislation for Mass Audubon and is supported by over [100 environmental organizations](#) and conservation commissions. It has passed the Senate and is now in the House Committee on Ways and Means. Massachusetts suffers a continual loss of open space, including public open space. Article 97 of the state constitution protects public land acquired for "natural resource purposes" (e.g., parks, conservation land, watershed). The reality is that the legislature routinely authorizes the transfer of city, town, or state lands "protected" by Article 97 into other uses, such as building sites. S. 2388 would strengthen Article 97 by requiring analysis of Article 97 land transfers before they happen, including alternatives analysis and replacement with comparable land.

Land Conservation Tax Incentives

An **Act Relative to Tax Credits for Conservation** (H. 799) would give new financial incentives for property owners to conserve their land, enabling private and public conservation partners to make financially attractive offers on top priority preservation sites. It has cleared the Revenue Committee and is now in the House Committee on Ways and Means. Nearly 60% of undeveloped land is privately owned and unprotected. Many acres are lost daily to poorly planned development. To ensure the preservation of our most critical natural resources, the state must employ a variety of tools, from improved local zoning and increased capital investments in land protection, to enhanced tax incentives for voluntary land donations by private land owners.

Take Action Now! Ask your state representative to contact Chairman Robert A. DeLeo of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and urge he and his committee to report H. 799 and S. 2388 out favorably now.

Prevent the Spread of Non-Native Aquatic Hitch Hikers (Mass Wildlife)

Boaters launching their craft into Massachusetts waterways should check to be sure they aren't giving a free ride to non-native aquatic plants or animals. Aquatic exotic invasives can easily be transported between water bodies by boats, motors, trailers, fishing equipment, anchors, bait buckets, live wells, diving gear, and other aquatic equipment. These hitchhikers can wreak havoc in lakes and ponds by choking waterways through explosive growth, fouling intake and discharge structures, lowering lakefront property values, impeding boating, swimming and fishing, and reducing biodiversity by crowding out native fish, insects, other animals and plants. Once established in a water body, it is nearly impossible to eradicate these non-native invasive organisms.

This summer, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Lakes and Ponds Program is launching its new Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program. Initially, the program will be focused on water bodies in western Massachusetts, which are at the greatest risk. Currently there are no known infestations of Zebra Mussels in the Commonwealth; however, they are found in Twin Lakes (CT), Lake Champlain (VT) and Lake George (NY). Zebra Mussels are small 1-2" D-

shaped mussels with alternating light and dark bands. They are very prolific and can spread at an alarming rate, clogging boat motors, shutting down power plants, and out competing native freshwater mussels. Zebra Mussels have a microscopic larval stage and can travel undetected in bait buckets, live wells and cooling water. There are no known methods of control for Zebra mussels once they have invaded a water body. To prevent an introduction of Zebra Mussels, it is imperative that boaters empty all bait buckets, live wells and cooling water on dry land away from the shore. Report any sightings to Michelle Robinson at 508/792-7423 x304 or visit the Lakes and Ponds website www.mass.gov/lakesandponds for fact sheets. For information on the pilot Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program contact Tom Flannery at 617/626-4975.

Boaters and other water users can help prevent the spread of invasive non-native plants and other organisms by: 1) hand-removing all materials (plant or animal) from equipment and disposing of it far away from the water. Special attention should be paid to the bunks or rollers where the boat is seated on the trailer as well as the trailer hitch. 2) Wash and dry all equipment before reuse. Hose off the boat, diving gear and trailer. 3) Drain and flush the engine cooling system and live wells, bait buckets and the buoyancy control device from diving equipment that has been in contact with a water body. 4) Join the Weed Watchers! The DCR Lakes and Ponds program is looking for anglers, boaters, lake and pond association members and other water users to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasives. Receive hands-on-training in plant identification, a Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species and other helpful publications. Information about the Weed Watchers program can be found at the Lakes and Ponds website at www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/lakepond.htm.

Help MassWildlife Count Turkey Families

Sportsmen and -women, birders, landowners and other wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to assist MassWildlife to count turkey families this summer. MassWildlife conducts an annual wild turkey brood survey from June through August. "The brood survey serves as a long term index on reproduction," explains Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife's Turkey Project Leader. "It helps us determine overall productivity and allows us to compare rates of reproduction over a long period of time." Cardoza also points out that citizen involvement in this survey is a cost-effective means of gathering useful data, and he encourages all interested people to participate. A [turkey brood survey form](#) has been posted on the front page of MassWildlife's website. Information needed includes date, town, number of hens seen, and number of poults (young turkeys) and their relative size compared to the hens. Multiple sightings of the same brood should also be noted. The survey period runs from June 1 - August 31. The last two years of survey data is posted in the Wild turkey area of the website. Completed forms should be mailed to the MassWildlife Westborough Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westboro, MA 01581. Check out http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_turkey.htm

News from the Newton Angino Community Farm (excerpted from the Newton Farmer Newsletter)

This year the Farm will be selling seedlings from a table next to the greenhouse (in front of the red chicken coop). We'll have early tomato varieties, as well as cucumbers, watermelons, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, and raspberries. In the weeks following we'll add eggplants, peppers, a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes, zucchini, cantaloupe, and others. Plants sell for \$1 a piece.

In addition to our recently installed apple mini-orchard, this spring we planted 50 blueberry bushes and 20 blackberry bushes. Both are long-term investments in the farm that will provide berries for many years to happy kids (and adults!). This year we'll again

be having pick-your-own raspberries, though not for a few more months.

While there are no turkeys nesting on the farm this year (last year we got Casey the farm dog during nesting season and she scared away our resident hen), the barn swallows have returned. They're still not actively nesting in our barn, but if you come in the afternoon you might be able to see these beautiful and acrobatic flyers doing their part to control the insect population. On a sad note, we did find a dead bat on the farm over the winter. At the time I hadn't heard of white nose syndrome, but given that bats aren't often out in January it's likely this bat was another victim of this disease that is decimating bats throughout the northeast.

Volunteering on the Farm

Anyone who would like to volunteer in the field is welcome to join the farm staff for regularly scheduled work sessions. Our goal is to make your time at the farm meaningful and educational for you, and at the same time beneficial for the farm. Volunteer sessions will take place each week on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30, and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. Each session will begin with an orientation to the day's work—what needs to be done, how to do it, and how it relates to the overall farm operation. We'll then proceed to the work. At the end of the session, we'll gather again to assess what we've done. In order to make this work, we need volunteers to come at the start of the sessions and stay for the full time. There will also be opportunities on Saturday afternoons for less formal activities. Please check our website in the coming weeks for more information on our volunteer programs, including what types of work you can expect on different days.

For more information about volunteering, please contact Tom Libby at 781-235-8019 or tomlibb@gmail.com.

Placemaking (Eco-Alert from American P.I.E.) June 4, 2008

The living arrangements we now think of as normal - strip malls, clogged highways, tract houses, chain restaurants, junked neighborhoods, ravaged countryside - remind us that we should be careful what we wish for. Ecological and social disturbances are challenging communities across the country. We should thoughtfully consider the places where we live.

Americans are shaped by the buildings that we have constructed or, more accurately, by the places that we have created. Buildings are places, and architecture, we can say, is the art of placemaking. Architects, however, are often excluded from shaping the places we live in. New housing is typically driven by investors and developers. Decisions for public places often fall to highway engineers and superstore developers.

The results are predictable: destruction of significant community structures that once gave downtowns their identity, abandonment of traditional neighborhoods, construction of high-rise apartments which become isolated fortifications, creation of overstuffed houses on large lots far removed from schools, stores and other community centers, and the sprawling of development which reaches out into lands that were formerly farms, prairies and forests. Sprawlscaping consumes 400,000 acres a year in the U.S.

Many of our existing built structures - our community centers, our neighborhoods, our homes, our accumulated architecture - represent opportunities for reuse. As we recycle everything from

newspapers to glass bottles, for the same reasons we should recycle - and sustain - our older communities and its buildings. We should rehabilitate what we already have. For example, we can restore homes in an existing neighborhood rather than tearing down housing for a convention center, shopping mall or parking lot.

Human communities have much to learn from the natural world about living in some degree of harmony, about creating places which inspire and provide comfort to its resident members. Because humans, plants, wildlife and microorganisms live together in complex, interlocking ways, the fate of one species is closely tied to that of others. Our future depends on building communities that provide for a sustainable way of life, encouraging buildings and living arrangements that meet human needs without diminishing the ability of other life forms to thrive. Future generations will rely on our thoughtful approach to placemaking.

Act today on this EcoAlert, and thank you for your environmental responsibility.

Source: American P.I.E., Public Information on the Environment, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, P.O. Box 676, Northfield, MN 55057-0676, Telephone: 1-800-320-APIE(2743); fax 507-645-5724, E-mail: Info@AmericanPIE.org

Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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. The printed edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter (published about 4 times a year) is sent by mail/email to the membership of the Newton Conservators. PDF copies are available: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. If you no longer wish to receive our email newsletter or bulletins, please let us know by replying to this email. We welcome articles and news notes that might be of interest to our readers. If you have any suggestions, email Ted Kuklinski (e-Newsletter editor) at dolanpond@aol.com or calling 617-969-6222.

The Newton Conservators organization 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.

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