



# Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, May 6, 2009  
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

## May Event Calendar!

May is now upon us with a mix of rain and sun. Massachusetts DCR is having a community meeting on the Lower Falls rail bridge restoration this Thursday evening at Newton Wellesley Hospital. Of course it's the most exciting time of year for nature lovers as a time for observing the great transformation to green - but some of those green plants are invasive - join our first invasive removal event this Saturday at Hammond Pond. For birders every day brings new migrant visitors - take in the annual Mother's Day Bird Walk this Sunday morning at Nahanton Park. Our Newton Conservators Spring Walks/Activities Series is now online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>. Plan on attending our annual Spring Lecture on Monday, May 18 about tree pests and our annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 23 at Post 440. The Spring Issue of the Newton Conservators newsletter is available online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr09.pdf>. Newton Conservators Walk/Activity Series events are designated NC-SWAS in the listings. Check out the plethora of activities still to be had this month:

**Thursday, May 7, 6:30-8:00 pm**  
**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)**  
**Public Meeting on Charles River Footbridges Project**  
**Newton-Wellesley Hospital Auditorium (2014 Washington St, Newton)**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will discuss plans to restore the Recreation Road Footbridge ("Stringer" bridge) and the Riverside Park Footbridge ("Pony Truss" bridge), and to create a footbridge from the former railroad bridge at Lower Falls ("Trestle" bridge). DCR will also discuss preliminary plans for trail connections in the area. For more information please contact 617-626-4974 or visit [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us). Check out the article about this project in today's Newton Tab at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x342381868/Repairing-Newton-Lower-Falls-bridges-and-a-possible-rail-trail?popular=true>. The Newton Conservators have cosponsored a CPA proposal in conjunction with the restoration of a rail bridge in Newton Lower Falls. Check out the <http://www.newtonconservators.org/railroadbridge.htm> for details on this project.

**Thursday, May 7, 7pm**  
**Frederick Law Olmsted and the Massachusetts Legacy**  
**Newton History Museum**

Frederick Law Olmsted's firm was involved in more than 1,200 landscape architecture projects throughout Massachusetts. One of its greatest achievements is the six-mile "emerald necklace" of parks, ponds, and parkways that wind their way through Boston. Alan Banks, Supervisory Park Ranger at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline,

will discuss the landscape's rich history. Free The Newton History Museum is at the Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458, Telephone: 617-796-1450, [www.newtonhistorymuseum.org](http://www.newtonhistorymuseum.org).

**Saturday May 9, 10 am-Noon**  
**Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond (NC-SWAS)**

Knotweed pull with Brandeis ecologist Eric Olson. Eric reports: "The kids in Newton's Environmental Science Program did a fantastic job helping me take on this new site last summer, pulling up 8' tall stems and their root masses. This year we will deal with the scores of small shoots that will be sprouting from the root pieces left in the soil last year. I also need help planting in shade-tolerant native plants to hold the soil. This is a well-drained shady site, so we'll try the common wood aster, *Aster divaricatus* and blue-stemmed goldenrod, *Solidago caesia*, that I have raised from seed obtained on the Brandeis campus. We will also find time for some general botanizing and shoreline exploring along the Pond." Meet at the small parking lot at the southwest corner of Hammond Pond between General Cinemas and the Hammond Pond Parkway. Leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).

**Sunday, May 10, 7:30 am**  
**Mother's Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park (NC-SWAS)**

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands and meadows along the Charles River, making it a good place to observe a variety of migratory songbirds, as well as resident species. Last year's highlights included a flock of bobolinks, a pair of eastern bluebirds, an orchard oriole, rose-breasted grosbeaks, vireos, warblers and brown thrashers. Enter the park at the Nahanton street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. The walk is weather dependent. Trip leaders are experienced birders Molly Edmonds and Haynes Miller (617-599-4541).

**May 11-17**  
**National Bike Week**

May is National Bike Month and here in Massachusetts we're doing our part to celebrate with Bay State Bike Week, May 11-17. It's your chance to join thousands of other bikers across the country by doing something for the environment and having a great time while you're at it. It's a win/win proposition. Bay State Bike Week is free, so sign up today. The first 200 registrants get a \$5 gift certificate to either International Bicycle Centers, Ski Market, Landry's Bicycles or Wheelworks. Register now at [www.BayStateBikeWeek.org](http://www.BayStateBikeWeek.org).

**Thursday, May 14, 10 am**  
**Land Conservation State House Briefing**

The Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters and the Environmental League of Massachusetts will host a series of environmental and legislative briefings over the next few months. Massachusetts loses 40 acres of open space a day to development. Ironically, some of it is disposed of by municipal and state government. How do we respect municipal needs while preserving open space? Come learn about the Public Lands Preservation Act ("PLPA") ([SB396](#); Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Ruth Balsler). Other bills may be discussed and updates to the schedule will be posted in the Roundup. All hearings will be in room 348 in the State House. Briefing presenters: Presenters: Mass Audubon and the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Thursday, May 14, 7 pm  
H2OTown: A River Path Runs Through It  
A multimedia show with colorful images and music  
by Watertown photographer and naturalist Carole Smith Berney  
Watertown Free Public Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown

Watertown has many hidden treasures along the Charles River east of the Galen Street Bridge. In colorful images and music, Carole Smith Berney will lead us along the path by Charles River Road, where the recently restored Founders Monument looks out to the place on the river banks where English colonists first landed as immigrants in 1630. Carole will share seasonal images of the river and humorous and entertaining stories in photographs about the creatures along the Charles. —snapping turtles laying their eggs on the river banks, mallards mating in the river, a mother goose turning her eggs over with her bill. She'll also show how the river path from Watertown Square to the Watertown Yacht Club is in a sorry state of disrepair in need of stewardship and some of the significant volunteer restoration work that is underway and planned for by the Friends of the Watertown Riverfront in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the city of Watertown, the Charles River Conservancy, the Historical Society of Watertown, and the Trustees of Reservations. A public/private partnership between the DCR and the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund with guidance from local leaders hired Sasaki Associates to produce a wonderful design for upgrading this stretch of riverfront. When built, it will be similar in many ways to the paths along the upper Charles above Galen Street, only it will include a Charles River Braille trail and a sensory playground among other innovative things to serve park visitors. This design project, which will be completed by summer, needs your support and advocacy to get built. Free.

Saturday, May 16, 9 am - 4 pm  
Newton Garden Market on the Lawn at Newton City Hall

Experience the joy of gardening. Shop thousands of plants. Enjoy talks by local experts - ask a master gardener. Buy fun garden gear. How does your garden grow? Woodland, wetland, formal or cottage; Sunny, shady, in a pot or basket; established or still just an idea? The Newton Garden market has plants for every garden and gardener. Rain or shine. Visit <http://www.newtonpride.org/plantsalemarket.html> for more information on this annual event. While you are there, check out the Newton Tree Conservancy table at the market - The Newton Tree Conservancy is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of raising money for the preservation and planting of trees in Newton.

Sunday, May 17, 8 am  
Spring Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park (NC-SWAS)

This 67 acre parcel has ample wooded areas, open fields, a brook and wetlands. It is one of the places in Newton where you may hear the Great Horned Owl calling to its mate. The park is a good spot to observe red tailed, coopers and sharp shinned hawks, as well as a variety of migratory songbirds. Wood ducks nest in the wooded ponds, and recently a Eurasian Teal has been spotted feeding with a group of Mallards. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot to meet group. Heavy rain will cancel the walk. Trip leader is experience birder Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513).

Sunday, May 17, 12:30 pm - 3 pm  
Bike Newton's 2009 Rally and Ride

### City Hall War Memorial Circle

Come to Bike Newton's 2nd annual RALLY and Friends and Family RIDE (also cosponsored by Newton Conservators). See [www.bikenevton.org](http://www.bikenevton.org) for details and to pre-register for the 3.5-mile ride. The speaker this year is Nicole Freedman, City of Boston Bike Czarina. Free raffles (including a bike, a Teen membership to the W Suburban YMCA), bicycle services, healthy snacks, and the Conference Bike will be back. 3.5 mile Friends & Family Ride through a beautiful part of West Newton; see map at [www.bikenevton.org](http://www.bikenevton.org). Last year there were 350 attendees; this year perhaps 500 people! Newton could be a Bicycle-safe City, where bicycling is convenient for all. Bicycling for transportation should be encouraged, especially to get to school, and for short trips, as part of our city-wide effort to reduce energy consumption in the transportation sector.

### Sunday, May 17, Noon - 4 pm Angino Farm Seedling Sale

Jump-Start Your Garden at Newton Community Farm's Edible Seedling Sale on Sunday, May 17, noon to 4 p.m., at the farm. Come and select from among our varieties of heirloom tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil, and many more vegetables and herbs. We are sprouting the seeds on the farm now, and in a few weeks they'll have grown into seedlings ready for transplant to your home garden. Bring questions for our gardening experts, watch a gardening demonstration, or just come enjoy the farm and the food we'll have for sale. For more details and a full list of available seedlings, go to the farm website at:

<http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/calendar.htm>.

### Sunday, May 17, 1 - 3 pm Wild Flower Walk with Cornelia Warren Cedar Hill, 265 Beaver Street

Join Cornelia Warren for a wild flower walk at Cedar Hill in Waltham! The walk, led by "Cornelia Warren" (also known as Waltham Land Trust board member Lesya Struz), will take place at the height of the spring wildflower season, when the woods and fields of Cedar Hill will be ablaze with trillium and other wildflowers. Free and open to the public. Reservations requested so that there will be sufficient food for all attendees. Please email [chutchinson@walthamlasdttrust.org](mailto:chutchinson@walthamlasdttrust.org) or call (781) 893-3355 by May 14. For full details on this event, [www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org).

### Monday, May 18, 7-9 pm (rescheduled from March 2) Newton Conservators Spring Lecture - "Woody Plant Pests and Diseases" Speaker: Julie Coop, Manager of Plant Health, The Arnold Arboretum Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

The trees of the Garden City of Newton have been under attack! Perhaps you remember the invasion of the Winter Moths and the defoliation they have caused in the past few years, or perhaps you have been dismayed by the cottony evidence of the Woolly Adelgid on your hemlocks. Maybe you were wondering if the dreaded Asian Long Horned Beetle wreaking such havoc in Worcester could show up in Newton. Get answers to these concerns on Monday, May 18, at a lecture by an expert on the subject, Julie Coop, the Manager of Plant Health at Boston's tree treasure trove, the world famous Arnold Arboretum. She will discuss tree health issues, including winter moth and the new threat of the Asian Long Horned Beetle in Massachusetts, and what we should be doing about them. This event is cosponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy, a new non-profit working to raise public awareness of the importance of Newton's urban forest and promoting the health of Newton's street trees and

park trees, the Arnold Arboretum, Friends of Hemlock Gorge and the Newton Free Library. Information can be found on our websites [www.newtontreeconservancy.org](http://www.newtontreeconservancy.org) and [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org) or by calling 617-527-1796.

**Wednesday, May 20, 7 pm**

**Community Preservation Committee Meeting Newton City Hall, Room 209**

The agenda for this meeting is to be determined.

**Saturday May 23, 10 am - Noon**

**Saw Mill Park Garlic Mustard Pull (NC-SWAS)**

Garlic Mustard, a native of Europe that probably came here as a garden herb, has now invaded our backyards, parks, forests and conservation areas. It is high up on the federal/state official list of Plant Invaders threatening our environment. It will quickly cover vast areas, and low light forested areas, shading out other plants, chemically altering the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and altering the habitat for native insects such as butterflies. But in areas where it is just starting to invade, it only takes a small amount of effort to be rid of it. It is a biennial very easily identified and pulled when the second year plants are flowering in May/June. If not pulled, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds later in the season that will become first year plants the next year and also remain as viable seeds for several more years. It is easy and fun to get it out! In case of poison ivy wear long pants and garden gloves. Biodegradable trash bags will be provided, as the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at Parking lot on Vine Street. Trip Leader Katherine Howard (617-527-1796)

**Sunday May 24, 2 pm**

**Newton Aqueducts Hike (NC-SWAS)**

This is a very popular 4-6 mile hike through woods, meadows and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. Parts of the paths traverse close to backyards, so hikers do need to be respectful of private property. This is a steady, but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. See the loop map. There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike. Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station at 2:00pm. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

**Wednesday, May 27, 6:15 pm**

**Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting  
Post 440 - 295 California Street, Nonantum**

Join the Newton Conservators for their annual dinner meeting. The main speaker is BU Professor Richard Primack whose talk will be centered on a comparison of plant life in the Walden Pond area during Henry David Thoreau's time period and now. He will present material showing differences in flowering times between then and now, and also what changes in plants have occurred. He is also looking into the changing flora of Concord's botanical record to identify species that have become rare or locally extinct and those that have become common over the past 150 years. Awards for Environmentalist of the Year and others will also be presented. This year, the Crystal Lake Conservancy is being honored for their advocacy of a continuous lakefront park at Crystal Lake. For the first time you will even be able to buy your tickets online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2009invite.htm>. 6:15 pm will be a time

for social gathering, 7 pm dinner and awards and 8 pm the program.

**Saturday May 30, 10 am - Noon**

**Garlic Mustard and Knotweed Pull at Dolan Pond (NC-SWAS)  
followed by optional general exploring with Eric Olson until 1:00pm.**

Meet at Dolan Pond conservation area in W. Newton. Street Parking is available near the four entrances at Auburndale Avenue, Webster Park, Stratford and Cumberland. This is an exciting year for garlic mustard pulling at Dolan because plant pull crews pulled every flowering stem last year before these had a chance to set seed. Crews also removed nearly every knotweed stem. Since garlic mustard is a biennial we will get all the second year plants this year and that might do it - we will have nearly eradicated this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket conservation area. In contrast the knotweed takes years to suppress, but each year it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars and hand lenses for observing birds, bugs, flowers, and a good variety of pond life. Trip Leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928)

**Saturday, May 30, 2 pm**

**Webster Woods Conservation Area (NC-SWAS)**

Join us for a leisurely walk through the largest conservation area in Newton. Explore miles of trails through second growth woods with noted rock outcroppings of Roxbury Puddingstone, brooks, ponds, wetlands, overgrown farmland, and an historic woodland garden. Trip highlights include Webster Brook and Webster Vale - one of the few brooks that go to the Charles where the headwaters can be seen; a great area for marsh marigolds and salamanders. Gooch's Caves - a large rock formation with numerous small caves. (Climbing in and through the caves is optional.) Bare Pond - one of the few remaining vernal pools in Newton. Meet at the end of Warren Street (parking in a parks and Recreation open field at the end of Warren Street). Warren Street intersects with Langley Road near Newton Centre. Trip Leader is Octo Barnett (617-969-6988).

**Sunday, May 31, 2 pm - 4 pm**

**Garlic Mustard Pull at Cold Spring Park (NC-SWAS)**

Garlic Mustard, a native of Europe that probably came here as a garden herb, has now invaded our backyards, parks, forests and conservation areas. It is high up on the federal/state official list of Plant Invaders threatening our environment. It will quickly cover vast areas, and low light forested areas, shading out other plants, chemically altering the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and altering the habitat for native insects such as butterflies. But in areas where it is just starting to invade, it only takes a small amount of effort to be rid of it. It is a biennial very easily identified and pulled when the second year plants are flowering in May/June. If not pulled, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds later in the season that will become first year plants the next year and also remain as viable seeds for several more years. It is easy and fun to get it out! Cold Spring Park is one area becoming infested. We will spend a couple hours pulling along the Cochituate aqueduct walk, staying in upland areas away from wetlands. In case of poison ivy wear long pants and garden gloves. Biodegradable trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Duncklee Rd. entrance, at the Newton Highlands side of the park. Trip leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796)."

## E-Bulletin Notes

Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to [dolanpond@aol.com](mailto:dolanpond@aol.com). This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. Membership information can be found online at our website -

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm>. You can join the organization or even renew your membership online now!