

Dan Brody

From: Newton Conservators [Newton_Conservators@mail.vresp.com]

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To: dbrody@keefecompany.com

Subject: NC E-Bulletin May 18, 2009 - Tree Lecture Tonight!



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, May 18, 2009

... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

Newton Conservators Lecture Series Tree Pests & Tree Health: Woody Plant Pests and Diseases with Julie Coop

Manager Plant Health - Arnold Arboretum

Monday, May 18, 7 pm

Druker Auditorium - Newton Free Library

330 Homer Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459

The trees of the Garden City of Newton have been under attack! Maybe you remember the onslaught of the Winter Moths the past few Novembers or perhaps you have been dismayed by the cottony evidence of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on your front yard ornamentals. Maybe you were wondering if the dreaded Asian Long Horned Beetle causing such havoc in Worcester could show up in Newton. Get answers to these concerns this coming Monday at a lecture by an real expert on the subject, Julie Coop, the Manager of Plant Health at Boston's tree treasure trove, the world famous Arnold Arboretum.



Ms. Coop will discuss tree health issues, such as those above and what we should be doing about them. Julie Coop began her career at the Arnold Arboretum in 1988 as a grounds crew member at the Case Estates in Weston. She has worked as assistant superintendent and then superintendent of grounds and is currently the Arboretum's manager of plant health. She is a certified arborist with the

International Society of Arboriculture and the Massachusetts Arborist Association and is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist.

This event is part of the Newton Conservators Lecture Series, a cooperative effort with the Newton Free Library. The lecture has been organized by the Newton Tree Conservancy (www.newtontreeconservancy.org), a new non-profit working to raise public awareness of the importance of Newton's urban forest, along with the Arnold Arboretum (www.arboretum.harvard.edu) and the Friends of Hemlock Gorge (www.hemlockgorge.org). Information on the Newton Conservators lecture series can be found at www.newtonconservators.org/lectures.htm. For more information on this lecture please email info@newtontreeconservancy.org or call 617-527-1796.

Invasives!

As you may know, invasive plants are a big problem in Newton. Last week's Newton Tab carried a timely article by Katherine Howard on the extent of the problem and what you can do. Particularly for Garlic Mustard, this is the critical time of year for removal. It is easy to recognize and easy to remove - before it goes to seed and spreads further. Look for the four petals of its white flower on a tall stem. The plants are now in the process of dropping their flowers and the tops of the plants are showing the upward curving spiky candelabra like seedpods. After some moist weather, they are especially easy to pull up by the roots and to dispose of (NOT in yard waste). The Newton Conservators have even added a number of invasive "pulls" to their schedule this spring focusing on garlic mustard and knotweed. Take a look in your own yard and your neighborhood for garlic mustard and pull it now - the time is right! Here is the article (<http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/archive/x529238994/It-s-war-on-plant-invaders>) with more info.

It's war – on plant invaders

by Katherine Howard

Garlic mustard, a leading plant invader, is now in your backyard, along your favorite walks, virtually everywhere in Newton! The problem will get worse and worse if we do not act. It's time for a declaration of war!

Garlic mustard is only one of several plant invaders we need to tackle. The Newton Conservators Spring Walks schedule (below) includes invasives' removal sessions at various Newton parks and conservation areas. We are continuing and expanding the efforts of a group of people working for a decade to control these pests at Dolan Pond and parts of the Charles River walkway. There is also much you can do about this problem in your own backyard and neighborhood.



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) was brought here from Europe, probably as a garden herb. It is high on federal and state lists of invasive plants. It can cover vast areas rapidly, particularly forested areas, shading out other plants, chemically altering the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and destroying the habitat of native insects such as butterflies. Fortunately, in areas where it is just gaining a foothold, getting rid of it does not require much effort. It is a biennial, very easily identified and easy to pull in May and June, when the second-year plants are flowering. If not removed, each plant will scatter hundreds

to thousands of seeds later in the season, many of which will germinate the next year and flower the year after that; the seeds can remain viable for several years. See the University of Michigan garlic mustard Web site: www.ipm.msu.edu/garlicAbout.htm

It is essential to pull these plants before they release their seeds (each plant can have 350-7,900 seeds!), and dispose of them in the trash (not with yard waste or compost). And check the area later in the season, because a plant that did not flower early can “bolt” later and produce seedpods.



Last spring, I roamed my neighborhood and pulled up whatever I could. It was easy and satisfying, and a fun way to interact with neighbors (some of whom may have wondered why I was in their yard removing their flowers)! Now a troop buildup is needed, and I will post signs and gather a group of neighbors for a mid-May “pull.” By taking responsibility to attack this plant in our own neighborhoods we can beat this invader back!

Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*; *Fallopia japonica*) was introduced to the U.S. in late 1800s as an ornamental; it has spread throughout the entire country, altering natural ecosystems and seriously damaging waterways. It spreads rapidly by seed and rhizome, forming dense 10-foot tall thickets that crowd out native vegetation. A member of the buckwheat family, it has smooth, stout stems that are swollen where the leaf meets the stem, and is sometimes mislabeled “bamboo.” Branched sprays of small greenish-white flowers in summer are soon followed by small winged fruits, with small, shiny triangular seeds. Once established, knotweed is very difficult to eradicate. At Dolan Pond and along the banks of the Charles River, pulling individual plants and cutting them back repeatedly to promote root fatigue have proven to be effective, but continued effort is essential.

Eric Olson, a Brandeis University ecologist, and Ted Kuklinski of the Newton Conservators have remained steadily involved in these removal efforts. We are working with the city’s Planning Department and Conservation Commission to ensure that the removal of invasives in parks and conservation areas and near wetlands is done properly, is well-planned and well-documented. We must not harm vulnerable habitat inadvertently.

We want to recruit you for an upcoming “battle!” For the full schedule of Newton Conservators Spring Walks see: www.newtonconservators.com; the invasives sessions are also posted there, or contact Katherine Howard at howard_katherine@hotmail.com

Saturday May 23, 10 a.m.-noon, Saw Mill Brook Park, Garlic Mustard Pull
 Saturday May 30, 10 a.m.-noon, Dolan Pond, Garlic Mustard and Knotweed Pull
 Sunday May 31, 2-4 p.m., Cold Spring Park, Garlic Mustard Pull
 Saturday June 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Charles River Blue Heron Bridge, Garlic Mustard Pull

Katherine Howard is on the Board of Directors of Newton Conservators

May Events

May has certainly been a busy month so far and there are still lots of activities and events taking place. 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>. Please send any event listings

to dolanpond@aol.com.

Monday, May 18, 7 pm
Newton Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Room 209, Newton City Hall

The Detailed agenda information can be found on the City's website at www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/recreation-commission.html. Contact Robin McLaughlin at 617-796-1510 or email: rmclaughlin@newtonma.gov. The agenda items include a review of the off-leash dog park in Cold Spring Park, consideration of a sound barrier and other changes on Warrant Street near Webster Conservation Area, and an update on Crystal Lake. There are expected to be lots of attendees early for the Cold Spring Park discussion (probably more than will fit in the room), Anyone interested in being active with Friends of the Cold Spring Dog Park could contact Lee McIntyre at newtondogowners@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 19, 7 pm
Newton's Heritage Landscapes: A Community Based Reconnaissance Report
Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville

The final draft of the Heritage Landscape Report will be presented to the public for feedback. The CPA-funded report provides a listing of landscapes identified as being important to Newton residents at a series of community meetings last fall. The report will be used as a tool to guide future landscape preservation efforts in the city. The draft report will be available soon at www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/projects/landsc-inventory/09Apr30-draft-heritage-landscape-rpt.pdf. Contact Amy Yuhasz at 617-796-1122 or email: ayuhasz@newtonma.gov.

Wednesday, May 20, 7 pm
Community Preservation Committee Meeting
Newton City Hall Cafeteria (Basement)

The meeting will be devoted to work on the fiscal 2010 Community Preservation Plan, and finalizing the next proposal deadline. On Tuesday, May 26, 7:45 p.m., Newton City Hall, Room 202, the Board of Aldermen Committee on Community Preservation will take up CPC funding recommendations for: Archaeology Survey, Warren House (preservation), and 192 Lexington Street (housing). Contact Alice Ingerson at 617-796-1144 or email: aingerson@newtonma.gov.

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.

Thursday, May 28, 7 pm
Growing Up Green in Newton - Green Decade Environmental Speaker Series
Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

The next generation of Environmental Activists is living right here in Newton! The May program will feature Newton students from elementary, middle and high schools, showcasing their environmental projects which have been school and community focused. Join Green Decade for this delightful look at an outdoor classroom project in the woods at [Countryside Elementary](#) and other ways that our next generation is learning -- and teaching us -- to make a greener Newton and improve the environment for us all. For more information about the series, contact 617-965-1995 or visit <http://www.greendecade.org/environmentalspeaker.html>.

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. 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!

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