

This E-Bulletin was sent on May 29, 2009



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Monday, May 18, 2009
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

Upcoming Events

This weekend is a busy one for the Newton Conservators with some invasives removal efforts as well as a tour of the Webster Conservation Area. Our Newton Conservators Spring Walks/Activities Series is now online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

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 pm**

Meet at the 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 Conservation Area (NC-SWAS)
Come early from 1-2 pm for some Garlic Mustard Pulling as well!**

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. Trip Leader is Octo Barnett (617-969-6988). 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. Please only 2 cars parking at the entrance to the Webster playground, and do not park on the grass there - park on the side of the road at the end of Warren. There is also room on the paved part of Warren Street as well (if 2 cars are

already there). Entrance is also possible from Elgin Street.

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)."

Sunday, May 31
227th Annual Newton House Tour

The 27th Annual Newton House Tour, benefiting the Newton History Museum, will be held on Sunday, May 31 from noon to 5 pm. Eight wonderful Newton homes will showcase the latest in interior design, architecture, environmental sustainability, and much more. Purchase your tickets by 5 pm on Friday, May 29 and receive discounted pricing: \$25 (\$20 for members); tickets purchased on May 30 or 31 cost \$30 (\$25 for members). To buy tickets call the Museum at 617-796-1450; online purchases may be made by Friday at www.newtonhistorymuseum.org. In addition, this year's Preview Party will be held on Saturday, May 30 at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$100 per person and include wonderful hors d' oeuvres and a sneak peek of this year's homes! Preview Party tickets may also be ordered online or by telephone at 617.796.1450.

Brookline Bikes Beacon Street
Sunday, May 31, 12:30 pm - 3 pm
Amory Park - Brookline, 45 Amory St.

In case you missed the terrific Bike Newton (www.bikenewton.org) event recently, join Brookline Bikes Beacon and REI for a Bicycle Parade down Beacon Street like you've never done before —with no cars to get in your way!—Ride the entire, Brookline length of this historic boulevard car-free. You'll do a five-mile loop with Brookline Police leading the way, riding with you, and covering your back. Like a parade! This is a free, family-friendly, community way to celebrate bicycling. Ice cream party to follow as we celebrate the reopening of Amory Park. For further information contact John Dempsey by phone (617-731-1977) or email BikeBeacon@BrooklineBikes.org. Register in advance online, www.BrooklineBikes.org or the day of the event at Amory Park.

Tuesday, June 2
Newton SERVES suggestions due

Bev Droz, Newton's volunteer Coordinator, sends sincere thank yous for helping to make

NewtonSERVES 2009 such a success. There were 1,500 volunteers this year between sunny April 26 and 7 school follow-up projects on May 3. Their Planning/Logistics Committee is having an evaluation meeting this Tuesday, June 2, so if you have any suggestion please email them to Bev at bdroz@newtonma.gov by Tuesday afternoon.

Friday, June 5, 7 pm

HOME - Boston Premiere of new film by Yann Arthus-Bertrand

ICA - 100 Northern Ave, Boston

See our world in a whole new light—captured from above. Presented as part of World Environmental Day, *HOME* will premiere simultaneously throughout the world on June 5. Be a part of this global event. Yann Arthus-Bertrand, an internationally recognized photographer and writer, takes us on a fascinating and original journey all around the planet. Narrated by Glenn Close, the film is a travel notebook, comprised of mesmerizing shots of landscapes, water currents, and roads, bringing to light its magnificent beauty. *HOME* invites us to stop for a moment in order to look at our planet and realize how we treat its treasures and beauty. The film will be screened at the ICA-Boston on Friday, June 5, 7 pm. Tickets are \$9 general admission; \$7 members, students, and seniors. Visit http://www.icaboston.org/programs/film/home/?event_id=8997059 for more info (and to see a trailer for this spectacular film) or call (617) 478-3103. The creed of *Home* is “it’s too late to be pessimistic.” <http://www.home-2009.com/us/index.html>. See our world in a whole new light—captured from above!

Saturday, June 6, 10 am - Noon

Garlic Mustard Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NC-SWAS)

See above description of Garlic Mustard. Eric Olson, Brandeis Ecologist, reports: “This is the second year working along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest. The focus will be on garlic mustard, and as mentioned above, at least two years of work are needed to eradicate this soil-damaging invasive. We will again mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them”. Park at the Pleasant Street Super Stop N Shop parking lot in Watertown at the corner furthest from the store. This spot is directly in front of you as you enter the parking lot from Pleasant Street. There is a path entrance there. Turn left and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Trip leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928)

Saturday, June 6, Registration 9:30 am, Ride 10 am- 12:30 pm, rain date, June 13

Bike to Newton Community Farm

Commonwealth Avenue Carriage Road at Beaumont Ave (across from City Hall)

As part of its mission to promote sustainability, Newton Community Farm is sponsoring a group ride from Newton City Hall to Newton Community Farm. Learn how easy and fun it is to get to the farm, and to the Farmers’ Market, by bicycle. Small groups led by experienced cyclists will leave Newton City Hall beginning at 10 a.m. for a 9-mile loop that includes a stop at Cold Spring Park (site of the summer farmers’ market) and a stop at Newton Community Farm. This is an urban route that includes some busy streets and a couple of not-too-steep hills as well as quiet residential areas wherever possible. Children, accompanied by an adult, and cyclists of varying levels are welcome. Everyone must wear a helmet, have a bike in good working order, and be able to bike at least 9 miles. So leave the car at home and discover the farm as a destination you can reach under your own power! More information: AFTER MAY 31, questions

may be directed to Cynthia Snow, csnow2@verizon.net or 617-731-8725

Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, noon-5 pm
Newton Community Weekend Newton History Museum

Newton residents are invited to enjoy free admission to the Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead at 527 Washington Street. Telephone: 617-796-1450 or visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/about/index.asp>

Saturday, June 6
June's Environmental Show on NewTV Premiere
Trees on Your Berm

June's Environmental Show features a new program sponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy on putting trees in your berm. It features Mark Welch, Newton's tree warden, and Katherine Howard of the Tree Conservancy and shows the process of planting street trees. The episode was shot and produced by Frank Howard. The Environmental Show is broadcast on the NewTV Blue channel (Comcast Chan. 10, RCN Chan. 15, Verizon Chan. 34): Mondays at 3 pm, Tuesdays at 1:30 am and 11:30 pm, Wednesdays at 11:30 am, Thursdays at Noon, 4 pm, and 7:30 pm, and Saturdays at 10 am. Videos of previous Environmental Show programs are available for viewing online at <http://greendecade.org/environmentTV.htmlDecade>. This episode will be online at the Newton Conservators video website at <http://newtonconservators.blip.tv> in the near future. This monthly show is produced alternatively by the Green Decade Coalition and the Newton Conservators.

Sunday June 7, 2 pm
Charles River Canoe Trip (NC-SWAS)

Join us for an afternoon paddling along the Charles River, leisurely enjoying the wildlife and river views. Meet at the Charles River Canoe & Kayak (www.paddleboston/newton.com) rental dock at 2401 Commonwealth Avenue (Rt. 30) near the Newton Marriott Hotel at 2:00pm. There is a parking lot (off Norumbega Road) across the river from the rental dock where you can park your car, and then walk back across the bridge. If you have your own canoe or kayak you can put it in the water from this parking lot. Dress appropriately. A hat, sunscreen, drinks and snacks are recommended to bring along. Thunderstorms will cancel the trip. Trip leader is Bill Hagar (617-964-2644).

Sunday, June 7
World Ocean Day Celebration
New England Aquarium

World Ocean Day is being celebrated at the New England Aquarium plaza on Sunday, June 7 from 11am to 4pm. The Celebration will include a magician, Aquarium mascots, games and activities for children, and the opportunity to speak with local organizations their important environmental work. The Charles River Watershed Association will host a booth featuring our model watershed, which shows children of all ages how pollution can get into our waterways, along with a poster display, coloring books, and other handouts.

Wednesday, June 10, 7 pm

Map Night at the Newton History Museum

Join curator Susan Abele to examine maps of Newton from the 19th century to today. Find out the answers to questions such as: Whose farm was subdivided to make your house lot? When was your street first laid out? All ages welcome. Free. Jackson Homestead at 527 Washington Street. Telephone: 617-796-1450 or visit

<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/about/index.asp>

Friday & Saturday, June 12-13 Waltham River Festival

Check out all the events at the Waltham River Festival at <http://www.walthamriverfest.org/> Including a moonlight, canoe and kayak tour, open air music on the river, artist events, a guided walk, boating and a lot more.

Saturday, June 13, 2009 10 am Walk for Open Space in Waltham Gazebo in the Waltham Common

Walk 10,000 steps to celebrate Waltham Land Trust Tenth Anniversary! Come out and show your support for all the work that the Waltham Land Trust has done in the last 10 years! We are celebrating by offering a Saturday morning walk along the Charles River. You will have an option of a two or three mile route guided by a Waltham Land Trust Board member. Our goal will be to inform you of at least 10 new facts about Waltham and its open space! We will meet at the Gazebo on the Waltham Common at 10 a.m. With a large turn-out of walkers, you will show how important open space is to a community! The event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, June 14, 1pm - 3 pm Fern Walk at Blue Heron Trail South of Nahanton (NC-SWAS)

There is a lush conservation area south of Nahanton Park. We will follow a loop trail, and you can learn to identify about a dozen ferns. We will see a large patch of wild Ostrich Fern and a horsetail. The Conservators' Land Management Committee has been systematically surveying the city's open spaces to document the existing biodiversity. In terms of ferns and related plants (pteridophytes), they have found 28 species and hybrids. Some occur infrequently and are difficult to get to and some are very subtle to distinguish. We will provide an introduction to some that are quite common and easy to recognize with a little practice. Wear long pants and sensible shoes. Meet at the parking lot right off Nahanton Road at 1:00pm, just before (east of) the bridge over the Charles River. Trip Leader is Don Lubin (617-254-8464)

Sunday, June 14, 2 pm Historic Newton Walks - African-American History in West Newton

This walk around West Newton will branch away from the village center to include important sites from the area's African-American community. Dating back to the 1600s, this vibrant population carved out a space from which they asserted their civil and religious rights. The tour will meet at Captain John Ryan Park, on the corner of Washington and Cherry Streets. Free. Sponsored by Newton History Museum

<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/about/index.asp>

Thursday, June 18, 7 pm

Annual Meeting of the Newton Historical Society

Members and friends of the Historical Society are invited to attend this year's annual meeting. Our speaker will be Anita Walker, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the state's cultural agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents. RSVP 617-796-1450.

Sunday, June 21, 2 pm Cutler/Millennium Park Hike (NC-SWAS)

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park and Millennium Park and will complete the tour by the way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved for recreation over the last several years and now provide a wide variety of trails, river landings and playing fields. This approximately 5.5 mile hike will be steady but 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, at 2:00pm. Trip Leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

June 22 - August 9 Volunteering to Remove Invasive Plants from the Charles River

From June 22 through August 9, CRWA will be organizing volunteers to go out in canoes and pull invasive water chestnuts from the river in Newton. Dates will be set soon for individuals to come and help; let me know if you want to be added to our email list. If you would like to organize a group (of 15 - 60 people) from your workplace, neighborhood, club, or place of worship, we can schedule a personalized time for your group to volunteer. Click here for more information about this project. Call CRWA at 781-788-0007

June - July Newton Community Farm Stand & Farmers Market Opening

By the first or second week in June our Winchester Street farm stand will be open and selling seasonal produce Tuesdays through Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 to 2. The farm stand operates on a self-serve honor system. Select your produce, weighing items on the scale if appropriate, and put your payment in the slot in the counter. It's that easy. As the summer progresses there will be more produce and greater selection, so be sure to visit us often. Starting the week following July 4 Newton Community Farm will also have a stand at both of Newton's Farmers' Markets. On Tuesdays we are at Cold Springs Park, and on Fridays we are at the American Legion Post 440 on California Street. Both markets run from the week following the 4th of July through Halloween. The markets open at 1:30 and close at 6.

E-Bulletin Notes

We are utilizing Vertical Response (www.verticalresponse.com) which generously is providing us with free emailing service as a non-profit. You can more easily remove yourself quite easily. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com. The current edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>. 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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