



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Saturday, June 20, 2009
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

Upcoming Events

The Newton Conservators have one final walk for their spring season this Sunday at Cutler Millennium Park and the Newton Habitat Project is finally completed with a dedication next Saturday at 10 am. Newton History Museum continues some interesting neighborhood walks through the summer and Newton Community Farm has a series of interesting courses. You might even be interested in pulling invasives from the Charles River. Find these and more in our upcoming events calendar!

Sunday, June 21, 2 pm **Cutler/Millennium Park Hike**

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). This is the last walk in our extensive Newton Conservators Walks/Activities Series. Watch for our Fall series!

Monday, June 22, 7 pm **Green Decade Coalition Presentation of 2009 Environmental Leadership Awards** **Program on Socially Responsible Investing** **Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium**

Celebrating 19 years of impressive accomplishments, the evening promises to be an exciting opportunity to hear about Green Decade's projects and meet the folks who are so enthusiastic about helping to make Newton as environmentally friendly a city as possible. The Green Decade/Newton will present its leadership awards to Mayor David Cohen, Unidine, and the

Silent Spring Institute. The awards will be followed by a presentation on Socially Responsible Investing, given by three well-known panelists with years of experience in this field. For more info visit www.greendecade.org.

June 25, July 7, July 11, July 19

CRWA Invasive Water Chestnut Removal Volunteer Project

Charles River Watershed Association and Charles River Canoe and Kayak, in collaboration with MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, are partnering to remove the invasive aquatic plant, water chestnut, from the Newton and Waltham area of the Charles River. The program is entering its 3rd summer in 2009. Join in this effort yourself, or with friends and family. There will be four public events during the chestnut pulling season, which everyone is welcome to attend (RSVP required):

Thursday, June 25th – 5:30 to 8 PM

Tuesday, July 7th – 5:30 to 8 PM

Saturday July 11th – 10 AM to 2 PM

Sunday, July 19th – 10 AM to 2 PM

CRWA also welcomes corporate, neighborhood, scout troops and other groups of 15-60 volunteers at any time during the month of July; contact us to find a time for your group to help out. There will be a short training session before volunteers are sent out onto the river to pull the chestnuts. Any volunteer who completes the training session can come back to Charles River Canoe & Kayak to pull chestnuts again at any time through August 9, free of charge.

Water chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, grows very densely, and can choke the water in shallow sections of the river and along the shoreline, severely limiting light (a critical element of aquatic ecosystems), decreasing oxygen in the water, and preventing boat passage. In order to prevent water chestnut from spreading, the plants need to be removed before they drop their spiky seeds into the river, which happens in early August. Visit

<http://www.crwa.org/events/waterchestnut.html> for more information. To sign up, contact Brendan at Charles River Watershed Association, 781-788-0007 x243 or email waterchestnut@crwa.org.

Saturday, June 27, 10 am

Habitat for Humanity Newton Homes Dedication

76 Webster Park, West Newton



The Newton Habitat for Humanity Project at 76 Webster Park is just about completed and a house dedication ceremony will take on June 27 at 10 am. Everyone is invited! The groundbreaking took place in September of 2007 and since then over 150 volunteer groups and 2000 volunteers have helped complete the duplex home in West Newton. The Newton community is invited to celebrate the completion the project, Newton's first Habitat for Humanity homes. The

dedication ceremony of the two-family townhouses will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 27. The brief program will include a blessing of the homes, the presentation of the keys, and an opportunity to meet the LaRossee and Jackson homeowner families and tour the completed homes. Children are welcome, and light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit www.habitatboston.org or call Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston at 617-423-2223. Hope you can join the celebration and take a tour.

The Newton Conservators initiated the acquisition of the property back in 2003 with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds in cooperation with the Newton Housing Authority (NHA) from the estate of Irene Forte', beloved Newton violin teacher who was interested in open space preservation. Two thirds of the property was designated open space and added to the adjacent Dolan Pond Conservation Area. The original Forte' 1925 homestead was renovated and is administered by the Newton Housing Authority. The project was notable for its combination of opens space, community housing, and historic preservation goals.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 76 Webster Park in West Newton (02465). There is parking on the Webster Park loop (which is off Webster Street - several blocks west of Cherry St). Alternate parking might be found on some of the other streets nearby such as Cumberland Road or Stratford Road, where one could walk through Dolan Pond Conservation area to the Webster Park entrance (and be sure to note the largely Garlic Mustard free environs due to the hard work of Katherine Howard, Eric Olson, and many other Conservator voluteers). Please come and celebrate the culmination of this model project.

Sunday, June 28, 2 pm
Historic Newton Walks: Oak Hill Park - A "Local Utopia"

In 1995, architecture critic Robert Campbell wrote, "The greenbelt system is what's unique about Oak Hill Park. There's nothing else like it in Massachusetts. And it's still intact. Even in today's privatized world, nobody has chopped the Oak Hill Park greenways into private, fenced barbecue patios." Join a walking tour of this little-known corner of Newton, a community built to house veterans after WWII. Discover what Campbell found so appealing about this close-knit neighborhood, and observe what's changed in the 14 years since Campbell wrote so compellingly of its charms. The tour will start and end at the Shuman Center, 675 Sawmill Brook Parkway. Free. For info contact the Newton History Museum (<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson>, 617-796-1450)

June Environmental Show on NewTV - 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 Marc 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.html>Decade . 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.

Saturday, July 4

Walden Woods Biodiversity Event

Calling all experienced specialized field naturalists!

Are you an experienced field naturalist with specialized knowledge at identifying spiders, beetles, shrubs, flowers, trees, mushrooms, ferns, lichens, or other paritclar species categories? Noted naturalist and lecturer, Peter Alden, recently invited the Newton Conservators to recommend field naturalists to participate in an exciting "bioblitz" type event on July 4 in Concord and nearby environs in celebration of Thoreau's work. The event will bring together expert field naturalists together for a day to try to see how many species of all types can be found - the goal for 2009 is 2009 species!. Its also a chance to celebrate E.O. Wilson's birthday. He and Peter Alden have been instrumental in pushing for organized biodiversity cataloging in recent years (such as Massachusetts Biodiversity Days) and spawned some of the work of the Newton Conservators Land Management team who have inventoried Newton's open spaces. The species findings will be photographed and published online as well (there is also a need for experienced digital nature photographers to help document the findings - particularly very small

ones). If you are potentially interested please contact Newton Conservators liaison, Ted Kuklinski (dolanpond@aol.com, 617-969-6222) for more information.

Tuesday July 7, Friday July 10, 1:30 - 6 pm

Newton Community Farm at Newton Farmers Market - Cold Spring Park /Post 440 (Nonantum)

Starting the week following July 4, Newton Community Farm will have a stand at both of Newton's Farmers' Markets. On Tuesdays they will be at Cold Spring 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 pm and close at 6 pm. Come by to check out the farm's "low mileage" vegetables as well as the great offerings from other vendors. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org.

Saturday, July 11, 10 to 11:30 am

**Weeds on the Menu! (Edible Weeds)
Newton Community Farm**

Weeds are an unrelenting problem, to be relegated to the compost bin... or are they?? Karen Kieffer will lead you on a foraging tour of the Farm. Together, you will identify common 'weeds' and discover another dimension of their existence.....as food! Many weeds are delicious and also nutritious. Eat them as vegetables, snacks, in soups, salads and much more. Learn which weeds to harvest and how to enjoy them. Take home samples to share with your family. Instructor: Karen Kieffer. See <http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/NCFSummerCourses09.pdf> for registration details.

Sunday, July 12, 2 pm

Historic Newton Walks: Newton Corner and the Jackson Legacy

Beginning with Edward Jackson's purchase of 500 acres of land in 1646, the Jackson family played a leading role in the development of Newton Corner. His descendants lived at several locations in the village as farmers and active community residents. William Jackson in particular changed the face of Newton Corner in the 1840s when he successfully brought the passenger rail line through Newton, creating a new market for suburban land development. Come learn about one family's role in shaping Newton's oldest neighborhood. Meet at the Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington Street. Free. For info contact the Newton History Museum (<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson>, 617-796-1450)

Saturday, July 18, 2 to 4 pm

Build a Bluebird House

Newton Community Farm Educational Series

Help bring back bluebirds to the farm! The bluebird is very beneficial to us, eating large quantities of insects, such as cutworms and grasshoppers, considered damaging to our crops and gardens. These beautiful birds were once very common in the United States. However, over the last century their numbers have diminished due to loss of natural habitat, overuse of pesticides and predators. Tom Libby, Newton Community Farm's assistant farmer, will lead adult-child pairs to constructing birdhouses. The bluebirds will nest and raise their families in the houses returning to the farm for years to come. Your first creation will be installed at the Farm. You will go home with directions and all the materials needed to make a second bluebird house for your own yard! Instructor: Tom Libby. See <http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/NCFSummerCourses09.pdf> for registration and fee details.

Saturday, July 25, 10 am and 2 pm

Historic Newton Walks: Historic Angino Farm

Come explore old Angino Farm, an historic landscape and working farm now called Newton Community Farm. Learn about its 300-year history as a small working farm and the Angino family, Italian immigrants who lived there for over 80 years. See how they used Old World building styles, farming methods, and ingenuity to become self-sufficient. Visit the experimental orchard, beehives, restored barn, farmstand, and teaching garden full of summer vegetables. This tour is offered by the Newton Angino Community Farm and the Newton History Museum. Free. ****NOTE**** please note that this tour is on a Saturday and is registration only due to a 20 person limit per tour. There will be two tours given during the day. Please email historicnewtonrsvp@gmail.com or call 617.796.1450 to register, and learn where to meet. Registration is taken on a first come, first served basis!

Sunday, August 9, 2 pm

Historic Newton Walks: East Parish Burying Ground – Art, History, and the Environment

Come stroll through the oldest of Newton's three historic burying grounds and discover the beauty of what is arguably the Puritans' only art form – gravestone carvings – as well as the natural beauty of the place. Learn what the burial ground can tell us about shifting attitudes toward death and advances in technology. Observe the effects of changing environmental factors at the burying ground, and see what is being done to preserve and restore it. Meet at the corner of Cotton and Centre Streets. Free. For info contact the Newton History Museum (<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson>, 617-796-1450)

Sunday, August 23, 2 pm

Historic Newton Walks: Norumbega Park – Romance and Recreation on the River

Norumbega Park on the Charles River was the destination for summer fun from the 1890s until the 1960s. A sliver of the park still survives as conservation land, and some remnants of the rides are visible. Using historic photographs, drawings, and memories, this tour will allow you to re-live the excitement of a day at Norumbega Park. Great for those who want to learn about this historic park and those who loved it, too. Meet at the entrance to the dog park on Woodbine Street. Free. For info contact the Newton History Museum (<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson>, 617-796-1450)

Helen Heyn - Conservator Extraordinaire In Memoriam

If you have ever taken a walk at Baldpate Meadow, Frank Barney Pond, Dolan Pond, Flowed Meadow, Goddard-Christina, Kennard, Martin, Charles River Pathway at William Street, Charles Cohen, Oakdale Woods, Saw Mill Brook, Varick Hill, Hunnewell Woods, Norumbega Park or the Wilson Conservation Areas, you owe a debt of gratitude to Helen Heyn. Over the years you may even have run into her out on the trails as she surveyed Newton's open spaces. She passed away recently and was really the queen of open space preservation in Newton as one of the founding members of the Newton Conservators and later as the official overseer of open space with the Newton Conservation Commission. Here is a link to her memorial notice in the Newton Tab:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/obituaries/x1176008138/Obituary-Helen-Heyn> along with selected excerpts which will give you an idea of what an extraordinary contribution she made to Newton's open space:



Helen Alvina (Pielemeier) Heyn of Newton Highlands died Friday, June 5, 2009, at her home. She was 89.

Mrs. Heyn had been a member of the League of Women Voters of Newton since 1961. She was a tireless advocate of environmental preservation and a determined conservationist. She volunteered as secretary of the Oak Hill District Improvement Association and served as secretary and founding member of the Newton Conservators Board of Directors in June 1961. She served as vice president of the board from 1971 to 1973, and was elected honorary life member of the Newton Conservators in 1973.

