



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Saturday, July 11, 2009

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

In This Issue

Welcome to our mid-summer edition of the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin. Here you will find a listing of events that may be of interest to open space or nature enthusiasts around Newton and surrounding environs as well as a few nature related notes and items of interest.

Message from the President

On Saturday, June 27 - a sunny and hot day amidst weeks of rain and drizzle - two families moved into their new Habitat for Humanity homes at 76 Webster park, a beautiful spot right on the edge of Dolan Pond. During the dedication ceremony I listened to a beautiful Bach violin prelude, the words of the assembled speakers, and a singing catbird and came to understand not only how much effort it took on the part of literally thousands of volunteers to make the vision real, but the wonderful spirit in which this work was done. Made possible initially by the acquisition of the property through Community Preservation Act funds, the project accomplishes exactly what CPA was intended to do - it protects a beautiful parcel of open space, creates affordable housing and even preserves a historic building.



Once the land was acquired, literally thousands of people gave of themselves to make this vision a reality. The spirit in which this work was done is a great treasure in our City. This spirit reflects our community's desire to be good and thoughtful stewards of some of what is so precious here in Newton - the remaining woods and open spaces, peaceful enough for birds and mammals to nest and for people to refresh themselves with quiet walks, Newton's diversity, and its historic tradition.

Other projects like this are on the horizon. As Conservators we will continue to do all we can to continue to initiate and support these efforts. We also look to you, our members and supporters, for ideas, help and support along the way.

- Jane Sender (President, Newton Conservators)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 12, 10 am - 12 Noon
Another Invasives Pull at Cold Spring Park!

Hello to the wonderful invasives busters - if you are not yet completely exhausted, there is going to be one last effort to take out the Garlic Mustard at Cold Spring park aqueduct walk before the seeds disperse. Join Bill Joplin and Katherine Howard at Cold Spring Park (Duncklee Road entrance) on Sunday July 12 - from 10 am to 1 pm or so or however long people want to work. If you could join the effort, it would be great, and very much appreciated! The cool rainy weather perhaps has extended the time available to get the

garlic mustard - so that is a good thing. Eric Olson has made some fascinating experiments/observations showing the amazing viability of the garlic mustard seeds - and indicating that not composting, but rather incinerating, the waste really is very important. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard at the invasive removal sessions this season. Unfortunately, we'll be doing it again next year!!

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)

Monday, July 13, 6-7 pm

Bike Newton's Ride to Nahanton Park

A family-friendly, no-rider-left-behind ride, paced to accommodate all riders. Start/end at front entrance of Newton Main Library on Homer St. Arrive 15 min. early, as rides leave promptly. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Riders must wear a helmet, have a bike in good working order, and should feel confident that they can complete the ride. Route is posted at www.bikeweston.org/NEWS or check <http://www.gmap-edometer.com/?r=2993069>. Cancellation in the event of bad weather will be posted on same webpage. Leaders will be Nathan Aronow and Gregor Rohda; for more info contact nathan.aronow@verizon.net, or call 617-969-6227.

The first BIKE NEWTON Summer Ride was great fun...26 Bike Newton members of all ages, including 9 children, rode from the Main Library to Auburndale Cove and back through West Newton and Newtonville on July 6, a glorious Monday evening. The group stayed together throughout the 7+ mile trip at a leisurely pace. Many participants had never been to the Cove and were delighted to be introduced to one of Newton's loveliest parks via bike. Ride leaders Nathan Aronow and Greg Rohda monitored our safety very effectively. There were no mishaps, the weather was perfect, and the drivers we met along the way were all courteous, which made crossing at lights and our three left turns easy and safe. Future Mondays may include rides from City Hall to Crystal Lake/Newton Highlands, Watertown Dam, and Hammond Pond Reservation. Check www.bikeweston.org/news.html for the latest updates.

Monday-Friday, July 13-17 (weekly through the summer), 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Farmer in Training

A Farm summer program for Middle School students (going into grades 6 through 9)

At Newton Community Farm and Nahanton Community Gardens Spend a week outdoors with your peers and staff from Newton Community Farm, learning to plant, maintain, and harvest a farm garden. Discover how food is produced, and enjoy camaraderie with your fellow gardeners, farm staff and volunteers. Students will work at the farm, maintain garden plots at Nahanton Park, and grow food for the Newton Food Pantry. Students may sign up for one or

more weekly sessions. Each session will include gardening, community lunches (bring your own, and share a dish made from fresh farm produce), and a different theme related to social justice and/or sustainable agriculture. Work hard, learn a lot, have fun! Weekly Fee: \$125 Members, \$140 Non-members. Maximum number of students per week: 6. Instructor: Yannick Perette, Farm Education Coordinator. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org for more information.

Tuesday, July 14, 10 am
CPA Proposal Workshop for Historic Resources Proposals

For final details and location, please RSVP to Alice Ingerson, CPA Planner, at aingerson@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1144. Additional sessions can be scheduled if there is demand. You can also request updated funding guidelines and forms or find them online at www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/program.htm. The next CPA proposal deadline is Friday, October 16, 2009 at 4 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will be September 16. Visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/ for more information on the CPA program in Newton.

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Scouting for the Asian Longhorned Beetle
Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

The Asian Longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky), "ALB") hitchhiked to the United States in the solid wood packing material of shipping crates and pallets used to import goods from Asia. After a concerned citizen reported seeing this invasive pest in Worcester, MA in August 2008, a large infestation was discovered, resulting in a 64 square mile quarantine zone. The ALB grows and reproduces within healthy and stressed deciduous hardwood tree species, such as maple, birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, and ash, eventually killing the host tree. Adults can be seen on infested trees from summer through frost, but are most visible in the Northeast from late July through August. Learn to scout for this devastating pest with ALB specialists Jennifer Forman-Orth, ALB Outreach Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and Nichole Campbell, Pest Survey Specialist, US Department of Agriculture. The event will take place at the Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. The session is FREE, but advanced registration is appreciated. Call to leave your name at 617-384-5277 or email adulted@arnarb.harvard.edu. Spread the word but not the pest!

Tuesdays, 1:30 pm to 6 pm (through late October)
Newton Farmers Market at Cold Spring Park (Beacon Street entrance)
Fridays, 1:40 pm to 6 pm (through late October)
Newton Farmers Market at Post 440 (California Street)

Eat your vegetables! Visit the Newton Farmers Markets which have now started up for the season Tuesdays at Cold Spring Park and on Fridays at American Legion Post 440 on California Street in Nonantum. Come by to check out the Newton Community Farm's "low mileage" vegetables (www.newtoncommunityfarm.org) as well as the great offerings from other vendors. Support your local farmers in Massachusetts. The Farmers Market is sponsored by the Newton Parks & Recreation Department. And while you are there, be sure to check out the Green Decade Coalition's information and resource table with the "Magic Energy Bike," the giant caterpillars and the Green Caterpillar Club activity for young folks under 10!

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.

Sunday, July 19, 10 am to 2 pm
CRWA Invasive Water Chestnut Removal Volunteer Project

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) 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 now in its 3rd summer. Join in this effort yourself, or with friends and family. Join in the last of four public events during the chestnut pulling season, which everyone is welcome to attend (RSVP required) on Sunday, July 19th - 10 am to 2 pm. 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.

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.

Monday, July 20, 6:30 pm
Public Hearing on Proposed Nonantum Road Reconstruction
in Watertown, Newton, and Boston
Community Rowing Boathouse, 20 Nonantum Rd, Brighton, MA 02135

Mass Highway and Mass DCR will hold a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed reconstruction of Nonantum Road (Project # 605662). The proposed project will reconstruct Nonantum Road to provide one 11 foot

through lane in each direction and other improvements.

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, farm stand, 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!

July through August 2
Photo Exhibition: All Creatures Great and Small
Carole Smith Berney
Habitat Audubon Center - Belmont

Carole Smith Berney, M.A., is a nature photographer and writer who celebrates the visual and spiritual gifts of the natural world, especially the wildlife along the Charles River and in other local urban greenspaces. Her exhibits, publications, grant-funded projects and multimedia shows have won awards for enhancing the community's appreciation of the biodiversity and natural beauty found close to urban settings and educating children about the natural world. Her evocative nature studies of diverse flora and fauna will be featured in her exhibit, All Creatures Great and Small, during the month of July at Habitat. Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am -4 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm (call ahead; gallery may be closed for weekend functions: 617 489 5050). The Gallery is located in the visitor center at Habitat (go to link for Habitat Audubon Center for directions: http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Habitat/exhibits.php).

E-Bulletin Notes

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- *E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators*