

UPCOMING EVENTS

Below are listed some terrific upcoming events including the walks in the Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series. Please take note of Saturday's special tree walk at the Newton Cemetery.

Saturday, October 24, 10 am - Noon Fall Tree Walk in Newton Cemetery Newton Tree Conservancy Walk

Join the Newton Tree Conservancy for its fall Tree Walk in the Newton Cemetery on Saturday, October 24th from 10 am to Noon. The leaders are Cris Criscitiello and Newton's own tree expert, Marc Welch, who will help us appreciate the specimen trees and native and non-natives in this beautiful setting. For more information and photos of last year's tree walk, visit <http://www.newtontreeconservancy.org/newsevents/index.html>. Visit www.newtontreeconservancy.org or email info@newtontreeconservancy.org for more info. Leader Cris Criscitiello (617-244-6397).

Saturday, October 24, 10am - 12 Noon Hemlock Gorge Reservation Annual Fall Clean-Up

Join the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Friends of Hemlock Gorge for the annual fall cleanup. Meet 9:30am-10am at the parking lot off Hamilton Place, Needham entrance (off Central Ave, Needham or off Elliot St, Newton). Additional Parking is available at the Mills Falls parking lot.

Clean-up materials will be supplied and refreshments provided for all volunteers! Please dress appropriately for the work and weather (rain or shine). For more information, call 617-698-1802 or go to www.hemlockgorge.org

Sunday, October 25, 2 pm Oakdale Woods NEWTON CONSERVATORS WALK SERIES

The Oakdale Woods are typical of the many small open space parcels in the southern part of the city that were developed after World War Two. This small space has been used by neighborhood children (including the tour guide), for winter sledding, acorn fights and informal camping for many generations and

was left undeveloped due to its geological features, including a substantial deposit of Roxbury Puddingstone and glacial boulders, as well as a steep cliff running the length of the woods. Old maps going back to at least 1917 show a paper street continuing Oakdale Road through the woods, but for a combination of factors, the road was never built, and the land never developed. While walking through the woods, using old maps, Peter Kastner will talk about the development of the surrounding area and the specific geological formations that made the woods hard to develop and now make a wonderful, small conservation area. Meet at Oakdale Woods' entrance (near old bottling shed) at the eastern end of Oakdale Road. Parking is available at the entrance. Trip leader is Peter Kastner (617-244-6094).

Sunday, November 1, 2 pm
Newton-Wellesley-Needham Aqueduct Bike Ride
NEWTON CONSERVATORS WALK SERIES

This walk will cover the Newton-Wellesley-Needham Aqueduct-Long Loop. Meet in front of the Starbucks at Waban Square for a scenic 15 mile bike ride along the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts and connecting roads. The bike route is mostly flat, unpaved path. There are some narrow more challenging trail sections which can be walked. The route is about 75% off-road and 25% connecting roads. This is a very interesting and pretty route. Participants should be in good enough shape to keep up with the group at a reasonable (not fast) pace. Helmets must be worn. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

Saturday, November 7, 9 am
Historic East Parish Burying Ground Clean-Up

Join Historic Newton for a late fall clean-up of the historic East Parish Burying Ground and see the results of the completed headstone restoration. Meet at the Burying Ground at the corner of Cotton and Center Streets. This event is free. See <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/calendar/index.asp> for more info. To learn more about the East Parish Burying Ground you can even check it out on Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Parish_Burying_Ground.

Sunday, November 8, 2 pm
Kennard Park
NEWTON CONSERVATORS WALK SERIES

A walk along the trails of the Kennard properties, where a 32 acre post-agricultural forest has grown up on 19th century farmland that became an early 20th century gentleman's estate, and finally a Newton park, adjacent to

Brookline's 58-acre Lost Pond properties. Explore South Meadow Brook, the mixed conifer woodland with colonial stonewalls, a red maple swamp with century old trees, and throughout, a wide variety of trees, shrubs and ferns. Meet at the main entrance, 244-246 Dudley Road. Trip Leader: Larry Burdick, (617-584 4633)

Sunday, November 15, 2 pm
Cutler/Millennium Park Hike
NEWTON CONSERVATORS WALK SERIES

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park and Millennium Park and complete the tour by way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved 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. Trip Leader Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

Thursday, November 19, 6:30-8:30 pm
Second Annual Newton Preservation Awards
BC Alumni House, 825 Center Street

You are invited to attend the Second Annual Newton Preservation Awards. These awards recognize projects which feature the preservation of Newton's historic buildings and landscapes and promote awareness of Newton's historic fabric. The Newton Preservation Awards are an opportunity to celebrate those individuals that have chosen preservation as a sustainable reinvestment in the Newton community. To attend this event, please RSVP to 617-796-1450 or historicnewtonrsvp@gmail.com by November 1. Light refreshments to be served. Event will be held at Boston College Alumni House, 825 Center Street. Free. <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/calendar/index.asp>.

The Art of Identification: Field Guide Paintings by David Sibley
Exhibit through January 17, 2010
Mass Audubon Visual Arts Center, 963 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021

David Sibley is America's pre-eminent field guide artist/author. His Sibley Guide to Birds, published in 2000, quickly became the new standard of excellence in bird identification guides. In his newest book, the Sibley Guide to Trees, he has applied his formidable skills of observation, identification and illustration to the trees of North America. The exhibition at the Mass Audubon Visual Arts Center showcases nearly four decades of Sibley's sketches and

paintings, beginning with early childhood drawings of birds through his most recent full-color field guide illustrations of trees. Sibley says, "I tried to select work that would show how drawings are a tool that encourages observation and helps me to identify each species. That process of discovery and understanding is the ultimate goal of my field sketching. Individual paintings in the field guide show the details that distinguish one species from another, while the complete field guide is really a picture of the patterns of variation in the natural world." Call 781-821-8853 or visit http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Visual_Arts/exhibits.php for more info.

Street Trees Available

The Newton Tree Conservancy is looking for residents who would like street trees. A grant from Newton Pride will enable the conservancy to plant approximately 40 bare-root trees in spring of 2010. They hope to plant in batches of five to eight trees in several locations around the city. Residents, formal neighborhood organizations and groups of neighbors are invited to apply for a Community Tree Planting. Applications are due Monday, October 26. Homeowners should have suitable empty spots on their berms and be willing to water their tree for the first two years. For more information and an application, call Julia Malakie at 617-332-2940 or e-mail info@newtontreeconservancy.org. If you are curious to see the process of planting street trees on a berm, please check out the Newton Conservators Environmental Show episode, "A Tree for Your Berm", which can be viewed online at <http://environmentalshow.blip.tv/file/2736272/> or borrowed as a DVD from the AV section of the Newton Free Library (DVD 974.44 E61T). You can also check out photos from the pilot tree planting last spring at <http://www.newtontreeconservancy.org/newsevents/communitytreeplanting2009.html>.

Newton Community Farm Notes

The farm stand is still open - Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-dusk; Saturday, 10-2; Sunday & Monday closed. Available in October: apples, cabbage, arugula, spinach, carrots, beets, garlic, broccoli, broccoli rabe, cauliflower, kale. They hope to keep the farm stand operating through Thanksgiving, and get it open again as soon as possible in the spring. Unlike bears, the educational programming at the farm doesn't hibernate. They stay active with interesting class offerings all year around. Check out www.newtoncommunityfarm.org for more details on the farm programs. Here are some of the upcoming courses: Oct. 22, 12-1:30 p.m., Lunch and Learn From the Garden

Oct. 22, 1:30-3 p.m., Seed Search
Oct. 22, 12-3 p.m., Fall Farmer in Training
Oct. 24, 10:30-noon, Backyard Chickens
Oct. 30, 3-5 p.m., Halloween on the Farm
Nov. 4 & 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Beer Making for Everyone
Nov. 7, 3-4:30 p.m., Extending the Growing Season
Nov. 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m., All You Want to Know About Apples

Newton Conservators Almanac

What are you doing next year? Spend 12 months getting to know Newton's parks with the Newton Conservators Almanac NOW available. The Almanac is organized month by month with "quick to locate" seasonal color bands. Native representatives of conifers and deciduous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, butterflies and birds are some of the monthly entries you will find in this book. It contains beautiful color photographs of the flora and fauna you are likely to find in Newton. Each entry displays the common name, scientific name, and a group graphic with description and local field notes. It makes a great companion to our trail guide.

You can order your copies of the Newton Conservators Almanac now (get your order in - only 500 copies of this stunning book will be available in its initial run). It would make a great holiday present. The book is \$21.95 plus \$2.50 for postage per copy. Send a check for \$24.45 per copy along with your name, address, city, state, zip and phone to Newton Conservators Almanac, PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459. You can even order the almanac online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/almanac.htm>.

Of Spiders and Caterpillars

Perhaps you have come across some of the friendly live caterpillars at the Green Decade Coalition stand at the Farmer's Market. Eric Olson, who teaches at Brandeis University and started the Newton Conservators Invasives Task Force, has been providing these fascinating creatures. You might be interested in reading an article about his recent discovery of "vegetarian" spiders published last week in the Boston Globe:

http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2009/10/19/scientists_discover_a_vegetarian_spider_upending_a_longstanding_assumption/.

And while on the subject of caterpillars, Sam Jaffe, another Newton raised naturalist who is well known as a cataloger of the wild things at Cold Spring Park, has just put online a photo gallery of "The Combined Caterpillars of Massachusetts" which can be found at

http://www.pbase.com/spjaffe/massachusetts_caterpillars. He writes in a recent email, *"I have gathered all my photographs from this year and last into one giant gallery. I hope that this gallery will demonstrate how unique our local fauna can be and that biodiversity, extreme morphology, and bizarre adaptation are not solely limited to the far away tropics, but may be found right in our own backyards - if our eyes are open."*

CRWA News

(from the Charles River Watershed Association website)

The MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) delivered two pieces of news late last week that will negatively affect the health of our rivers and streams, and impact the way the state allocates water. On October 8, [EEA announced a new initiative to integrate water management](#) in Massachusetts and to establish streamflow "criteria." At the same time, [DEP announced a new method of determining "safe yield"](#) under the Massachusetts Water Management Act (WMA), which governs large water withdrawals. Its new methodology eviscerates river protection and does not comport with the WMA statutory scheme, its regulations or how DEP has interpreted the term for the past 23 years. With no input from the environmental community or its own WMA Advisory Committee, DEP presented its new approach to determining the safe yields for watersheds at meetings of both the Water Management Act Advisory Committee and Water Resources Commission. On October 14, the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and three other environmental groups resigned their positions on MA DEP's Water Resources Management Advisory Committee, after the Patrick Administration's reversal of a long-standing policy that protection of the environment, and specifically streamflow, was fundamental in determining water withdrawal limits for rivers. Visit <http://www.crwa.org/> to learn more and for how to contact officials.

E-Bulletin Notes

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organization or even renew your membership online now!

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