



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Monday, March 8, 2010

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

Almost Spring Greetings from the Newton Conservators

With today's "almost Spring" weather, there seems hope that soon the crocuses will be upon us. Before you know it, leaves will be appearing on our trees and unfortunately, many of those leaves will be decimated by tiny caterpillars, which resulted from eggs laid last November by hordes of the dreaded winter moths. Learn all about these pesky creatures at the Spring Lecture cosponsored by the Newton Conservators, Green Decade, Newton Tree Conservancy, and the Newton Free Library.

Newton Conservators Spring Lecture

Winter Moth: A New Invasion of New England

Professor Joe Elkinton
UMASS Amherst Entomology Department

Monday, March 15, 7 pm

Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library

With the winter moth now invading New England's trees, attention is being given to long-term monitoring of its life stages and how to control the spread of this leaf-feeding pest. The December 2009 counts suggest that this spring the larvae will be at the highest population on record. Now more than ever we need to focus on ways to eliminate this new pest that is invading New England's trees.

Join Dr. Joe Elkinton of the UMASS Amherst Entomology Department on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 pm when he will give a program called Winter Moth: A New Invasion of New England. Dr Elkinton, who has recruited Mother Nature in building a "dream team" to fight the winter moth, has been working on non-toxic control measures of this forest pest since 2005 and will describe efforts underway to establish a highly specialized natural enemy that attacks only winter moth caterpillars. Dr. Elkinton will also describe ways to protect other ornamental trees. Dr. Elkinton's research focuses on the population dynamics of forest insects and using natural predators to manage pests. Much of his work has focused on the study of enemies of the gypsy moth. More recently Dr. Elkinton's research has focused on enemies of the woolly adelgid which destroys hemlocks. Dr. Elkinton is the author of numerous articles and books on entomology and forest ecology.



The program is co-sponsored by the Newton Conservators, Green Decade/Newton (as part of its Environmental Speaker Series), the Newton Tree Conservancy, Newton Community Farm, the Friends of Hemlock Gorge, and the Newton Free Library. We look forward to seeing you there!

Events

Sunday, March 14, 10 am
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance Environmental Learning Project Walk:
Brookline Birds and the Plants They Depend On
Lost Pond Nature Sanctuary

Join Brookline GreenSpace Alliance for a free guided walk for people who would like to learn about the everyday birds at Lost Pond and about the trees and other flowering plants that these birds use for food and shelter. Participants should bring patience and curiosity; and binoculars would help but are not necessary. Lost Pond Nature Sanctuary, meet in the Skyline Park parking lot at the top of the hill (entrance off Newton Street). Please RSVP by contacting info@brooklinegreenspace.org or 617-277-4777.

Monday, March 15
Newton Serves Project Application Deadline (to be included in Project listing)

The first NewtonSERVES Day of Community Service was part of the Newton Millennium Celebration in 2000. From that fundraising and community building effort, the Office for Volunteer Services was established in 2001 and has coordinated NewtonSERVES 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and now the 10th ANNIVERSARY. These servathons have provided much needed support to agencies and the City for projects that dwindling budgets do not cover. They also provide volunteers with a positive sense of giving back to the community. To view past photo albums and get current info, visit: www.newtonma.gov/newtonserves. To effectively utilize the 1,400 volunteers who participate in NewtonSERVES, we need many Projects that demonstrate a need for 20 to 50 volunteers. Smaller and larger projects are certainly welcomed as well. The minimum size we accept is 6 volunteers needed for a half day project.

Saturday, March 20, 10 am
Waltham Land Trust's 1st Day of Spring Walk
Falzone Field, 901 Trapelo Road, Waltham

David Kehs, a member of the Waltham Land Trust's Board of Directors and its Land Committee, will lead this walk. The group will explore Lot 1 which is one of Waltham's newly acquired open spaces. The walk will last about 2 hours. Be sure to dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes! If the weather has been rainy, boots may be more appropriate. Don't forget your water bottle. Watch www.walthamlandtrust.org for an update on the trail conditions and more details on the walk.

Sunday, March 21, 2-5 pm

BIKE NEWTON General Meeting
Newton Cultural Center - 225 Nevada Street

Come to BIKE NEWTON's General Meeting at the Newton Cultural Center. Learn about the BFC application process, share your ideas, and get involved. Talk to members of BIKE NEWTON's Steering Committee, city officials, and the Mayor. There will be posters, videos, discussion groups, info about our projects, refreshments. And a free SmartCycling Clinic for Youth (elementary through high school), covering cycling equipment, riding skills, and spatial awareness. (BYO bike and helmet.) Please RSVP, if possible: bikenewton@gmail.com. To enroll in the SmartCycling Clinic: sheintr4143@aol.com. Visit BIKE NEWTON at www.bikenewton.org.

Thursday, March 25, 7 - 8:30 pm
Historic Angino Farm Lecture
Newton Free Library - 330 Homer Street

Newton Community Farm board member Ted Chapman will present a free lecture entitled "Newton's Only Working Farm: The Historic Newton Angino Community Farm and Sustainable Local Food" as part of the ROOTS IN OUR HISTORY- THE 2010 HISTORIC NEWTON SERIES. Ted's talk will cover what this special piece of land can tell us about the history of Newton and the vital role of farming in our lives.

Saturday, March 27
Massachusetts Land Trust Conference, Worcester

Interested in land conservation? Attend the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference at the Worcester Technical High School which will feature over 30 workshops on topics ranging from community farming to fundraising. Among the speakers will be Landowner Incentive staffer Marianne Piche who will be co-presenting a session on "Managing Early Successional Habitat for Wildlife". A complete list of workshops and registration information is available at www.MassConservation.org.

Sunday, March 28, 11 am - 12:30 pm
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance Environmental Learning Project Walk:
Tree Identification

Join BGSA and Tom Brady, Town of Brookline Tree Warden and Conservation Administrator, for a tree identification walk along the Muddy River. Tom will teach participants how to identify tree species when we cannot rely entirely on foliage. Meet at the Longwood T-Stop (street side) - Chapel Street. There will be lots of interesting information on Brookline trees and open spaces. For more information and to RSVP for this free walk, please contact info@brooklinegreenspace.org or 617-277-4777.

Wednesday, March 31, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Charles River Watershed Association - 44th Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner
Newton Marriott Hotel

Join CRWA to learn more about the state of the environment in Massachusetts, celebrate the

river, learn about current CRWA projects, and honor their awardees who have demonstrated exceptional effort in helping to protect and preserve the Charles River. The guest speaker will be Curt Spalding, the New England Regional Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency. Advance registration is required. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Leigh at lheffernan@crwa.org or 781-788-0007 x231, or visit their website at <http://www.crwa.org/annmeeting.html>

Monday, April 5, 7:30 pm
Brookline GreenSpace Annual Meeting Presentation:
How zoning tools can protect open space
Wheelock College, Brookline Campus (subject to change)

Join BGSA for its Annual Meeting. The featured guest speaker will be Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Director of Concord, MA, who will speak about how Concord has used zoning as a tool to protect open space. There will be a brief business meeting, environmental awards and refreshments to follow. For more information and to RSVP, please contact info@brooklinegreenspace.org or 617-277-4777.

Later Upcoming Events

Here's a quick partial preview of some upcoming events including a lot of our invasive removal spring activities. Mark your calendar for these now with (more details to follow as we get closer).

Saturday, April 24 - Charles River Cleanup
Sunday, April 25 - Newton SERVES, annual Newton service day
Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day Bird walk at Nahanton Park
Sunday, May 9 - Cold Spring Park garlic mustard pull (10 am)
Sunday, May 16 - Saw Mill garlic mustard pull
Sunday, May 23 - Dolan Pond garlic mustard pull 10 am
Sunday, May 23 - Webster Woods Walk with Octo Barnett (2 pm)
Wednesday, May 26 - Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting at Post 440 (6 pm)
Sunday, May 30 - Flowed Meadow garlic mustard pull.
Saturday, June 5 - Fern Walk with Don Lubin
Sunday, June 6 - Blue Heron Bridge garlic mustard pull (10 am)
Sunday, June 6 - Charles River Canoe Trip with Bill Hagar (2 pm)

Other News

Dog Licenses - All dogs that have attained the age of six months or older must be licensed annually prior to and effective on April 1st. It is estimated that perhaps only a third of dogs in Newton are licensed. An application can be found online at <http://www.newtonma.gov/City%20Clerk/dog%20license%20application.pdf> or call the CLerks office at 617-796-1200. Newton dog related ordinances are found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/Legal/Ordinance/chapter-3.pdf>.

Rabies Clinics hosted by the Newton Health Department - Local pet owners are urged to vaccinate pets and all are urged to use common sense around stray and wild animals. Rabid raccoons has been a problem in Massachusetts since 1992, when the raccoon strain epidemic began. Raccoons with rabies have now infected other animals, including skunks, woodchucks, foxes, coyotes, and other wild animals. Unvaccinated household pets that come into contact with wildlife may pose the greatest risk to people.

Off-Leash - The City of Newton is exploring ways to create places where Newton residents can take their dogs off-leash. To help develop off-leash areas that best meet the needs of Newton's residents, if you own a dog, please take a short online survey which will help better assess the needs in Newton. The online survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLZN2KE>. Parks and Recreation has formed an Off Leash Area Working Group that has been meeting regularly to assess the possibility for additional off leash areas in Newton. Information on the group and its work can be found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm>. Current regulations for use of the Cold Spring Park off-leash area can be found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/Parks/DogInformation/OffLeashParks.htm>.

BIKE NEWTON has submitted an application to the League of American Bicyclists for Newton to become a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). This will facilitate the creation of well-engineered bicycle facilities, improvements in bicyclist and motorist education, and opportunities for bicycling for transportation. We will be partnering with city officials to provide what the majority of Newton's citizens have been asking for - safe streets for bicyclists, walkable vibrant village centers and transit-oriented development. Info on BFC can be found at <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica> and Bike Newton at www.bikenewton.org.

Farmer-In-Training: A Newton Community Farm summer program for Middle School Students (Going into grades 6 through 9) - Spend a week outdoors with your peers and the 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. 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 (what it takes to be a farmer), community lunches (bring your own, and share a dish made from fresh farm produce), and a different discussion theme related to social justice and/or sustainable agriculture. Learn a lot, work hard and have fun! Visit <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/education/farmer-in-training/> for more details. Application are being accepted now.

1,000 Greatest Places in Massachusetts - The Special Commission Relative to Designating 1000 Great Places in Massachusetts was created by an Act of the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick on January 15, 2009. Its mission is to identify and recognize the 1000 most truly special places in the Commonwealth, in order to celebrate pride in our history and culture, increase knowledge of our natural surroundings, and encourage regional and international tourism. Maybe some of those great places are right here in Newton! You can nominate your favorite places at <http://www.massvacation.com/1000/>.

Roberto Mighty is a Filmmaker/New Media Artist who lives in West Newton. He is developing a multimedia/installation project on local trees, "Trees of My City." The project involves

high-definition videofilm, digital surround sound audio, high-resolution photographs, narration and text. Check it out at <http://robertomightyart.blogspot.com/p/trees.html>. He is also interested in recommendations for someone who is both academically qualified and might be interested in advising on the natural sciences aspects of the program. Contact the artist at 617-244-7483.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund - Join the thousands of "in-the-know" people who use their state tax form to make a big difference for rare species in Massachusetts! Since 1983, Massachusetts tax filers of Form 1 have had the option of donating to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund when filing their state income tax (Line 32a: "Endangered Wildlife Conservation"), and tens of thousands of people have done so over the years. All contributions go directly into the Fund, currently the source of a significant portion of the annual operating budget of MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), which conserves and protects endangered species and their habitats in Massachusetts. Over 20,000 tax filers support the program with over \$200,000 in critically-important donations each year. With your contributions to the Fund, you directly help to study, protect, and restore rare and endangered animals and plants and their habitats. Past donations have helped restore populations and conserve and maintain habitat for Northern harriers in grassland habitats and Northern Red-bellied Cooters. You can also make contributions directly to the Fund by sending a check payable to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund to: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA 01581. Visit www.mass.gov/masswildlife or visit the Great Outdoors Blog at <http://environment.blog.state.ma.us/>. (source: Mass Wildlife)

CPA News - An important piece of legislation - An Act to Sustain Community Preservation (S.90) - is before the House Committee on Ways and Means. This Mass Audubon legislative priority stabilizes matching funds for the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which to date has protected over 11,300 acres of open space and agricultural land, created hundreds of jobs, and rehabilitated over 1,600 historic sites and resources, among other benefits. CPA has so far been adopted by 142 communities. If the House Committee on Ways and Means reports on S.90 favorably, it has a very good chance of passing in the House before moving onto the Senate for consideration. For more information contact the Community Preservation Coalition at 617-367-8998, or visit the Coalition's Pending CPA Legislation <http://www.communitypreservation.org/CPALegislation.cfm>. (source: Mass Audubon)

Newton Conservators Notes

The last edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter is available free as a PDF on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/dec09.pdf>. The last issue was focused on invasives. A new issue with complete listings of our Spring Walk Series will come out in April.

As our annual meeting approaches, we are looking to nominate two new board members. One of the openings is for a new member who would head up our membership effort. Training is available for our on line membership database. This is a great opportunity to get to know the organization and its members, and make a significant contribution to our continued growth. We also would welcome volunteers who are interested in membership but who might not want to join the Board at this time. Please contact Michael Clarke at clarke@bc.edu if you are

interested in being considered for our Board or helping with membership.

The new Newton Conservators Almanac is perfect for Newton nature lovers. Spend 12 months getting to know Newton's parks with the Newton Conservators Almanac. 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. 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. Check <http://www.newtonconservators.org/almanac.htm> for more info.

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!

- *E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)*