



# *Newton Conservators* **E-Bulletin**

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

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

## **Happy Earth Day!**

**Happy Earth Day!** This is an abbreviated schedule with a few events for Earth Day. Please expect a fuller listing in the very near future. The latest edition of the Newton Conservators printed newsletter can now be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr10.pdf>. The Newton Conservators Spring Walks/Activities Series for 2010 is now available online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm> and a copy can be downloaded at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/walkspring10.pdf>.

**Thursday, April 22, 3 pm**

**Earth Day Tree Planting in Cabot Park.**

**Cabot Park in Newtonville (between Newtonville Ave and Cabot Street)**

You are invited to a ceremony to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in Newton. The ceremony will take place at 3pm on this Thursday, in Cabot Park Newtonville (between Newtonville Ave and Cabot Street). Mayor Setti Warren will welcome everyone and participate in planting a tree Symbolic of Newton's commitment to the environment. We will also hear the latest news on our progress toward becoming one of the few Green Communities in Massachusetts making us eligible for some of \$7 million in state grants. Please come for this important event on Earth Day. For info contact Peter Smith, Green Decade Coalition/Newton, 617-233-6071. The NTC's Community Tree Planting is this Saturday and the following Sat - 50 trees in 6 neighborhoods planted by volunteers and neighbors. More tree planters are needed. These will be bare root trees – NO HEAVY ROOT BALLS, and wide not deep holes!

Saturday April 24: Parmenter Road (at Elsworth) at 8 am, followed by Madison Avenue and Lincoln Street. (Should finish by 1pm; earlier if we have more people). Saturday May 1: Webster Street (near Waltham Street) at 8 am, followed by Cherry Street and Chestnut Street. (Should finish by 11:30 or 12n; earlier if we have more people). If you want to help, email Julia Malakie at [malakiephoto@aol.com](mailto:malakiephoto@aol.com) (or call Julia at 617-610-2509 cell), about your availability on the mornings of April 24 and/or May 1.

**Thursday, April 22, 6 pm (rain date, April 23)**

**Kennedy Tree Planting in celebration of Earth Day + 40 Years**

The NDCC will commemorate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, 2010 by formally dedicating the Kennedy Tree on City Hall grounds. Join them there at 6 pm for the Linden tree and plaque dedication ceremony. Free and open to the public. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the original Earth Day in 1970. The weather forecast for Thursday afternoon indicates thunderstorms. In the interests of the safety and well-being of attendees, the dedication ceremony will be postponed to Friday, April 23rd,

same time, same place if the weather conditions are adverse. Check the following website for updates ([www.NewtonDems.org](http://www.NewtonDems.org)).

**Thursday, April 22, 5-8 p.m.**

**Newton Community Farm Fundraiser at Chipotle Mexican Grill  
300 Needham St., Newton (at Christina St., next to Eastern Mountain Sports)**

On Thursday evening, April 22, Chipotle Mexican Grill will host a fundraiser to celebrate the grand opening of their new restaurant in Newton. Five dollars will get you a burrito, a drink, and chips and salsa (a \$10 value), and 100% of the evening's proceeds will go to Newton Community Farm. Help us spread the word and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come out to enjoy good food, have some fun, and support the farm. For more on Chipotle's philosophy on sustainable, local farming, healthful fresh food, and animals raised humanely, go to their Web site: [www.chipotle.com](http://www.chipotle.com).

**Saturday, April 24, 9 am - Noon**

**11th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup**

9 am to Noon at sites all along the Charles River. More than 3,000 volunteers will pick up litter along the banks of the Charles River and other streams and ponds in the watershed, at one of the country's largest one-day cleanups. Volunteers are still needed in Newton, Needham and areas around Milford and Franklin. Find details at <http://www.crwa.org/cleanup.html>.

**Sunday, April 25**

**NewtonServes**

NewtonSERVES 2010 will take place on Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> as planned. This exciting day of community service will be supported by the staff members of the Newton Park and Recreation Department and the Newton Health and Human Services Department. We have a new email address for any inquiries before the BIG EVENT - [newtonserves@newtonma.gov](mailto:newtonserves@newtonma.gov) Please visit our website at [www.newtonma.gov/newtonserves](http://www.newtonma.gov/newtonserves) or call 617-796-1290 for any questions. There are over 50 projects taking place on Sunday, April 25 (Note: - this is the last Sunday of the April School Vacation Week). Officially ages 8 and up are welcome to participate and preregistration is encouraged. There should be official NewtonServes T shirts for participants and there is an ice cream party at City Hall after the event to celebrate Newton's volunteer spirit. A complete list of all the NewtonServes projects with registration links can be found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/newtonserves/index.asp>. A NewtonSERVES Day typically involves close to 1,500 volunteers at project sites around the City. For morning & all day projects, show up by 9:30 am. For afternoon ones, show up at 12:30pm. There is a Newton City Hall Opening Ceremony at 9 am with free coffee & munchies & T-shirt (8:45-9:15). A Closing Ceremony at City Hall War Memorial will take place from 3:30 – 4 pm with free ice cream. Hope to see you there!

**Sunday April 25 at 10:00 am**

**"Newton Serves" Garlic mustard pull at Cold Spring Park  
(Part of Newton Conservators Walk Series)**

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, April 25 at 10:00am**  
**"Newton Serves" Japanese Knotweed pull at Flowed Meadow.**  
**(Part of Newton Conservators Walk Series)**

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. This stand, located just behind the ball field at the Auburndale Playground, is spreading into the understory of the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area. Knotweed is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull. But like the magic brooms in Disney's "Fantasia" Sorcerer's Apprentice, any small root fragments we leave behind will spring back to life the following year. Government scientists are seeking biological control agents for this species in Asia but until and unless they find some, we are stuck controlling the plant by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Here is a chance to get in on the first year of work at a new Knotweed location. WHAT TO BRING: Pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at Auburndale Playground ("The Cove") parking lot on West Pine Street. Trip Leader Jane Sender (617-462-8425)

**Look for another update very soon!**

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Newton Conservators  
PO Box 590011  
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

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