



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, September 20, 2010

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



Fall is upon us . . .

This e-Bulletin brings you up to date with a calendar of upcoming events in September and October. This is a great time to get out into the open spaces of Newton with the help of the Newton Conservators. Our website, www.newtonconservators.org is a great resource for selecting some new destinations right here in Newton to explore. Check out our schedule of Fall Walks which includes bikes and birding as well. Did those spring floods catch you by surprise? The Newton Conservators are cosponsoring a series of lectures (including one Tuesday evening) that may be of interest in this area. Our Fall newsletter is now online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep10.pdf> with lots of great articles.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 21, 2010 - 7:00 pm

Storm Water Management: Part One -- The Floods Last Time - In Over Our Heads?

Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton Centre

Panelists: Bob Zimmerman (CRWA), Tom Daley (Newton DPW), Fred Abernathy (Harvard)

Sponsors: League of Women Voters, the Newton Conservators, Historic Newton, and Green Decade

Sewer-filled basements, ducks swimming through back yards, water rushing up from storm drains and sewers... Was the situation in Newton following the heavy rains of March accidental? Why were so many newly affected? Will such floods return? Parts of Newton are built on wetlands; streams that used to flow freely are now piped underground or contained in concrete ditches; open areas that used to absorb water are now built or paved over...



What else lies underground? What does it cost us to leave hundred-year-old brick sewers to crumble? What happens if we repair the pipes, so water stops flowing into our sewer

lines? How have these issues, and others, created the conditions for the floods of March? According to records in the Newton History Museum archives, the city saw high water in 1918, 1938, 1955, and, with increased development, in the 1960's. By then, it was a little late for wetland protection laws, however stringently enforced; flood control projects (Parker Street, Homer Street, Waban) were only partially successful. The condition of our infrastructure is critical to mitigating property damage and pollution.

A panel of experts will explain why Newton flooded in March and how the river system, the drains and sewers work. Bob Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association, Tom Daley, Newton's Commissioner of Public Works, and Fred Abernathy Gordon McKay Professor of Engineering at Harvard who has studied Newton's wastewater collection system, will address the issue of storm water management in our city. The forum will explore some of the reasons for the March 2010 floods, discuss the impacts of wetlands and floodplains, and why they are beneficial, and explain why some homeowners had sewage mixed into the water flowing into their basements. The program will be led by moderator Priscilla Leith, who chairs Newton League of Women Voters group on water quality.



Storm Water Management - Part 2 entitled "Do We Need an Ark?" will be held on Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 pm and will address the questions of whether more frequent and severe storms will bring even more flooding, and what can be done to mitigate the situation. For more information visit www.lvwnewton.org.

Tuesday, September 21 -- 6:30-8:30pm (Part 1) - classroom, Albemarle Field House
Thursday, September 23 - 6:30-8:30 pm (Part 2) - classroom, Albemarle Field House
Saturday, September 25 - 9:00-11:00 am (Part 3) - hands on training, Webster and Oak Sts.)
Tree Pruning Training
Sponsor: Newton Tree Conservancy

Come learn the techniques of successful tree pruning. Advance registration required. Each unit is limited to 20 participants. All three classes need to be taken. The first two parts are classroom sessions held at the Albemarle Field House (next to Gath Pool on Albemarle Road). The hands-on training takes place at West Newton Common (Webster and Oak Streets). For more information or to sign up, email: bethwilkinson@mac.com or call Marc Welch at (617) 796-1500 or visit www.newtontreeconservancy.com.

Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 pm
Newton Archaeology Roadshow
Newton History Museum - Jackson Homestead

Interested in archaeology? The City of Newton has hired archaeologists to help locate areas in the City where archaeological sites may be present. They will discuss this archaeological survey and its goals, and request your help! Perhaps you found an artifact (pottery, stone tools, or other items) in your backyard while digging or know of a possible Native American or historic archaeological site. Come to this archaeological roadshow: see artifacts already found, share your information, and bring items for archaeologists to identify. They would love to hear from you and have the public's help in this project. Free. Visit <http://www.historicnewton.org/> for more info.



Sunday, September 26- 10:30 am
The Natural Communities of Nahanton Park
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - cosponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park
Co-sponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park
Trip leader: Jon Regosin (617-244-0736)

From open fields and brushlands to floodplain forest and vernal pools, Nahanton Park provides a diversity of habitats for plants and animals. During this walk, we will explore the plant communities of Nahanton Park and discuss the habitat values of each plant community. We will meet at the lower end of the parking lot off Winchester Street. We may go off trail and run at least some risk of getting our feet wet, so please dress appropriately. Heavy rain will cancel the walk. To check on status, call trip leader. Also check out the great website for the Friends of Nahanton Park at <http://www.nahantonpark.org>.



Sunday, September 26 - 1:00-4:00 pm
Newton Community Farm's Fifth Annual Harvest Festival
Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street

Join the Newton Angino Community Farm in celebration of their fifth growing season on the farm. There will be live music, children's activities, cooking demonstrations, farm tours, food, gardening demonstrations...and more! Everyone is welcome! The event is free to attend and there will be food and refreshments for sale. See details at www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/events.

Monday, September 27 -- 6:30-8:30 pm (Part 1) - Classroom, Albemarle Field House
Saturday, October 2 - 9:00-11:00 am (Part 2) -- Field Work, Newton City Hall Grounds
Tree Identification
Newton Tree Stewards Program - Fall 2010

Learn how to identify trees! Advance registration required. Each unit is limited to 20 participants. Both sessions need to be taken. The first is classroom oriented held at the Albemarle Field House (next to Gath Pool on Albemarle Road). The hands-on training takes place at Newton City Hall Grounds. For more information or to sign up, email: bethwilkinson@mac.com or call Marc Welch at (617) 796-1500 or visit www.newtontreeconservancy.com.



Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 pm
Canning and Preserving Garden Fresh Vegetables
(or How A City Mouse Learned to Be A Country Mouse)
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton Centre
Sponsor: Newton Community Farm

What's a New Englander with a local food habit to do in the bleak months between the final fall harvest and the return of spring? Preserving seasonal bounty is the answer. Using a combination of canning, freezing, dehydrating and pickling, even New Englanders can enjoy seasonal food all year round. Lisa Janice Cohen will discuss the practice of preserving; provide resources for further learning; and tell the story of how one self-described "city mouse," who could barely boil water, has become committed to preserving. Free. More info: <http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/>

Sunday, October 3- 8:00 am
Bird Walk at Nahanton Park
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - cosponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park
Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513)

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for fall migrants as well as resident species. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain.

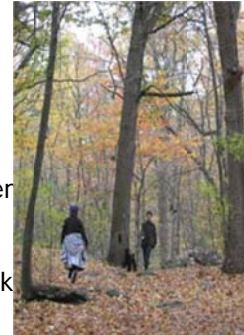


Sunday, October 3 - 3:00 pm
Webster Woods Walk
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series
Trip Leader: Octo Barnett (617-969-6988)

Webster Conservation Area is a jewel of open space in Newton. There are over five miles of well worn paths throughout this urban forest. This area was once an open field used for raising sheep and farming. (You can still find the remnants of stone walls.) You and your children can enjoy both the acres of woodland and rock formations of many types - including caves and Cake Rock, a formation of rock of over 15 feet high used for practicing rock climbing. You can also visit Bare Pond - a vernal pond which in the spring has tadpoles and salamanders but is now dry.

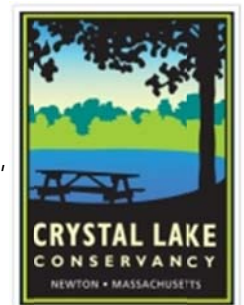


In 1862, the Atlantic Monthly published an essay entitled "Walking," written by Henry David Thoreau. The first few sentences of this essay could be used as an introduction to join this walk. "I wish to speak a word for Nature, for absolute freedom and wildness, as contrasted with a freedom and culture merely civil - to regard man as an inhabitant, or a part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of society.... I have met with but one or two persons in the course of my life who understood the art of walking, that is, of taking walks - who had a genius, so to speak, for sauntering". Join us in practicing Thoreau's art of such sauntering. Park and meet at the end of Warren Street. (Warren Street is off Glen Ave. in Newton Centre. Glen Avenue is off Beacon Street.)



Wednesday, October 6 - 7:00 -9:00 pm
Crystal Lake Open Annual Forum
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library
Sponsor: Crystal Lake Conservancy - cosponsored by Newton Conservators

The Crystal Lake Conservancy is engaged in a yearlong environmental study of Crystal Lake. The public is invited to learn more about the health of Crystal Lake, the impact of activities within its watershed and the key issue of storm-water management. The speakers will be Larry Beals (Beals Associates) and Frederick Civan (Stormwater Coordinator, Mass DEP). Larry Beals will speak on "The Principles of Limnology and the Practice of Watershed Management and its Application to Crystal Lake" and Frederick Civan will discuss "The Fuss About Storm Water: What Is The Problem With Storm Water and What Can Be Done About It?."



Mr. Beals is the key consultant on the Crystal Lake Conservancy's Environmental Study. Crystal Lake in Newton, MA is a relatively small pond with a discrete watershed that gradually has been experiencing declining water quality for many years. For the first time, a program was set up with the Crystal Lake Conservancy to systematically monitor the water quality throughout the spring, summer, and fall in an effort to gather empirical data and to define and document the existing water quality. The monitoring program began last fall and will continue into 2011. To understand the data in context, Mr. Beals will provide an overview of the Crystal Lake limnology and how the lake functions between "ice out" in the spring and when it freezes over again. With that understanding of the lake's dynamic system, he will examine the data that was collected and draw conclusions regarding the current water quality of the lake. He also will discuss the watershed surrounding the Lake and its impact on water quality. This initial lake study and watershed evaluation is the first step in a long-term effort to protect and improve the water quality. He will conclude with a look at what can be done in the future to achieve this goal. Mr. Civan will describe how storm water has become a polluting problem and what current and future actions federal, state and local agencies are taking and considering. Topics will include "point sources" and "nonpoint sources" of pollution; the role of impervious surfaces; total maximum daily loads; as well as practical regional, local and household solutions. The presentation will provide the environmental and policy contexts in which

improvements to Crystal Lake may be considered.

Sunday, October 10 - 8:00 am

Bird Walk at Nahanton Park

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - cosponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park

Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and Haynes Miller



See above description of Nahanton Park bird walk. This is a follow-up to the previous week's walk. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain.

Monday, Oct 11 (Columbus Day) - 8:30 am

Bird walk at Nahanton Park (Winchester St. Entrance)

Sponsor: Brookline Bird Club

Leader: Jane Zanichkowski

The Brookline Bird Club, commonly known as the BBC, is the largest and one of the oldest of the many bird clubs in Massachusetts. The BBC sponsors an active program of year-round field trips, covering the entire state of Massachusetts from the Berkshires to Stellwagen Bank. Guests are always welcome on BBC walks. See <http://www.brooklinebirdclub.org> for more information. At Nahanton Park event, they will search for sparrows and other fall migrants. Meeting Place: Nahanton Park parking area off Winchester St., Newton, 1/4 mile north of the junction with Nahanton St.

Saturday, Oct 16 - 8:00 am

Bird Walk at Nahanton Park and Other Nearby Locations (Winchester St. Entrance)

Sponsor: Brookline Bird Club

Leader: Linda Ferraresso

At this Nahanton Park event, will search for sparrows and other fall migrants at Nahanton Park and another location to be determined nearer the date of the trip. Meeting Place: Nahanton Park parking area off Winchester St., Newton, 1/4 mile north of the junction with Nahanton St. Guests are always welcome on BBC walks. See <http://www.brooklinebirdclub.org> for more information.

Saturday, October 23 - 9:30 am

Hemlock Gorge Fall Cleanup

Sponsor: Friends of Hemlock Gorge

Hemlock Gorge - meet near Bulletin Board near Meadow off Central Ave.

The Hemlock Gorge Fall Cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 23. Volunteers should meet at Hamilton Place between 9:30 and 10 a.m. For a MAP showing the location visit <http://www.hemlockgorge.org/FHGMeetingPlaceDirections.htm>. Parking is available at Hamilton Place, the Mills Falls parking lot, and at the Hemlock Gorge parking lot at the intersection of Ellis St. and Rte. 9. Spruce-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 Brian Yates at 617-244-2601 or visit the Friends Web site www.hemlockgorge.org.

Saturday / Sunday, October 23-24 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

First Annual Scarecrow Walk

Nahanton Park - Nature Center

Sponsor: Newton Parks and Recreation Department

Get into the spirit of the season with a hike along the scarecrow trail at Nahanton Park. This event

takes place from the Nahanton Park Nature Center. There will be face painting, nature, inspired crafts, pumpkin decorating, scavenger hunt, and hourly bird walks. Volunteers are needed! Email Holly Peterson at jdore@newtonma.gov with subject: Attn: Scarecrow Walk or call 617-332-2686 for more info. Newton Parks and Recreation's new online activity schedule/reservation service for all Parks, Fields and Activities including Nahanton Park can be found at <http://www.activityreg.com/clientpage.wcs?clientid=NPARKS&siteid=1>:

Sunday, October 24- 2:00 pm
Aqueducts Bike Ride
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series
Trip leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

This very popular bike tour follows the Aqueduct Trail through Newton, Needham and Wellesley. While mostly leisurely, it is sometimes strenuous. The tour is for ages 12 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and all riders must wear helmets and use bikes that are able to travel off-road. The tour runs through established paths, pinewoods, meadows, and hills. You will travel near backyards, and riders should be respectful of the privacy of homeowners. Meet in front of the Starbucks near the Waban MBTA Station.



"Bikin the Bike" - Check out this new music video about biking filmed partially right here in Newton at <http://bikenewton.blogspot.com/2010/09/get-your-groove-on.html> sponsored by Bike Newton.

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Sunday, November 14- 2:00 pm
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series
Aqueducts Hike
Trip leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

This is a very popular four-to-six-mile hike through woods, meadows and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts. Parts of the paths traverse close to backyards, so hikers do need to be respectful of private property. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike.) Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station.



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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! Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events (like the annual Dinner Meeting), buy a copy of our Almanac, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online? Just visit the following link to get to our registration page: <https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info=>

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