



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Saturday, October 9, 2010

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



Autumn Activities . . .

This e-Bulletin brings you up to date with a calendar of upcoming events for October and November. This is a great time to get out into our green (and red and yellow) spaces with the help of the Newton Conservators. Our website, www.newtonconservators.org, is a great resource for selecting some new destinations. We still have more events in our Fall Walk Series including a bird walk at Nahanton Park Sunday at 8 am. Check out lots of other events of interest in the calendar below. The new edition of our newsletter is out and you can check it out online (see below). Enjoy the long Columbus Day weekend!

President's Message: The Next Fifty Years

by Jane Sender

The Newton Conservators turn fifty in 2011. Like all baby boomers, we seek at midlife a reinvigorated, practical and realistic sense of how we can best use the years of accumulated wisdom, experience, and accomplishments to do even better, furthering our mission of preserving and protecting Newton's open spaces.



My view is that Newton's parks and conservation areas need our stewardship. Paying close attention to what is happening in our open spaces, educating people about them, and working with partners to solve problems is vitally important. My view also is that we need a renewed focus on protecting some of the land listed on the City's open space plan and on shaping current development projects.

We are active in stewardship and in education and awareness efforts. Among our recent efforts are these:

- *working with Marc Welch, the City's Tree Warden, we succeeded in temporarily halting NStar's tree pruning so that a more thoughtful approach could be adopted;*
- *we spearheaded the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Commission Working Group to carefully study current uses and proposed changes at Nahanton Park;*
- *we are revising our very popular trail guide, providing up to date maps and information;*
- *we are implementing the recommendations contained in the monitoring reports done by the Massachusetts Audubon Extension Service to keep our properties well managed;*
- *we are producing a Public Service announcement with NewTV;*
- *we printed a Second Edition of our highly acclaimed Newton Conservators' Almanac;*
- *we are updating and creating other communications, including a new promotional card, an updated look for our newsletters, and a new brochure;*
- *we continue our popular fall and spring walks and events;*
- *we continue our invasives removal efforts.*

These are really solid efforts, and we can build on them in years to come. There is, however, more to be done to focus our efforts on protecting land and on monitoring development projects. We are already planning a new and different Annual Meeting for next year, focusing on our leadership role in preserving additional open space, celebrating the accomplishments of the last fifty years, and fundraising to support our activities.

We are the only group in Newton dedicated to these efforts. The next fifty years are sure to bring huge and different challenges. We are very proud of what the Conservators have done in the last fifty years, and we hope we can do it again. We also hope you will see that our efforts are important, support us with donations, and join us, often, in our work as well as on our walks and activities. (online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/nextfifty.htm>)

Calendar of Events

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

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 Oct 10, 1:30-1:45 pm
Tree Planting and Bike Ride - 350.org
Sponsors: Bike Newton, Green Decade, Newton Tree Conservancy
Commonwealth Ave and Prince St (near City Hall)

This tree planting is part of the international Global Work Party called for by 350.org and climate activist Bill McKibben, and is co-sponsored by Bike Newton, Green Decade, and NTC. After a 1 pm rally at City Hall, the bikers and tree planters will gather at Commonwealth Ave and Prince Street starting about 1:30, and at approximately 1:45 we will plant two trees (red oak and pin oak planned). Experienced tree planters and others to help with digging planting and mulching will be very welcome. Bikers then continue with their bike route to Rumford Ave.



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 Ferrarresso

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 16, 11 am to 1 pm
Millennium Milestone 2000-2010
Millennium Park, West Roxbury

Please join Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, CRWA, and others in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Millenium Park. Enjoy kite flying, family activities, meet/greet and adopt a pet, and a watershed demonstration by CRWA. Activities will take place from 11am - 1pm. Millenium Park is a 100 acre park, located in West Roxbury, which was transformed from a landfill to a valuable Boston area community amenity in 2000.



Sunday, October 17, 11 am to 5 pm
Harvest Fair at Newton Center Green



Come visit this annual Newton event which features 100 craft booths, live entertainment, and 60 exhibitors and displays as part of the Green Solutions Expo (with tips on how to be environmentally friendly and live a green life style. A flyer with details can be found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/Parks/ArtsParks/pdfs/2010-fall-HarvestFair.pdf>. See Newton Tree Conservancy, Green Decade and others at the Harvest Fair.

Tuesday, October 19 , 7:00 pm
Archaeological Sites in Newton
Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street

Come hear a presentation on archaeology in Newton. Archaeologists hired by the City have preliminary results of an archaeological survey of Newton including information gathered from a ground-penetrating radar survey of the East Parish Burying Ground. Information about the archaeological sites found in the City will be presented. The archaeologists will discuss the archaeological heritage of Newton including Native American occupation, European American settlement, and the City's historic industrial sites. You will have the opportunity to learn about Newton's past from the material people left behind. Free.



Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm
Evening at Lumiere: Benefit Dinner for Newton Community Farm
Lumiere Restaurant, 1293 Washington Street, West Newton

Sign up for an elegant benefit dinner at Lumiere Restaurant. Celebrated chef



Michael Leviton will design a four-course menu highlighting fresh ingredients from Newton Community Farm and other local farms, along with wine pairings for each course. For info on Lumiere visit www.lumiererestaurant.com and on Newton Community Farm Price*: \$150 per person (patron and sponsor tickets also available). Note that a significant portion of the price is tax deductible. To reserve your seat, send in the reply card on website (<http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/events/>) along with payment to Lucy Stair, 46 Woodcliff Rd., Newton, MA 02461. For questions, contact Lucy at 617-928-3375 or stair@comcast.net.



Wednesday, October 20, 7:00 pm
Community Preservation Committee Public Meeting
City Hall Cafeteria (Basement)

Agenda items include a working session for Charles River Lower Falls Bridge proposal (details online at www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/projects/lower-falls/lower-falls.htm), discussion of CPA funding and accessibility needs in Newton, planning for program 10th anniversary, and new fiscal 2011 proposals. Contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, 617.796.1144 or alingerson@newtonma.gov or visit the Newton Community Preservation Program online at www.newtonma.gov/cpa. Important Note: The deadline for new proposals this year is October 15. For info on guidelines and submission process visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/program.htm>.



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>."



Saturday, October 23, 2:00 pm
Digging for Evidence: An Archaeology Family Program
Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street

Learn the basic methods of archaeology by taking part in a mock dig in the backyard of the Jackson Homestead. Bring the whole family to see what archaeology can teach us about the Native American people who flourished in this area before European settlement. This program is appropriate for families with children ages 8 and up. Cost: \$15 per family (\$10 for members) includes museum admission and materials. Prepaid registration is required, limit 25; call 617-796-1450 to register.



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.



Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 7:00 pm
Storm Water Management: Part Two -- Do We Need An Ark?
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton Centre



As climate change increases the likelihood of extreme weather, what can Newton do to prevent loss of property? Can future floods be mitigated? Learn about Newton's past decisions about wetlands, flooding, and water management and how they have influenced the situation today and in the future. A panel of specialists will answer questions about new EPA regulations, the need for regional cooperation, and low-impact development practices. Co-sponsored by the Newton Conservators, League of Women Voters of Newton, Newton Free Library, Green Decade/Newton, and Historic Newton. Free.



Friday, October 29, 3:00 to 5:30 pm
Halloween on the Farm
Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahantton Street

Don't miss this year's Halloween event! From spooky stories on our haunted farm and trick-or-treat bag decorating to cider pressing and apple bobbing, there will be a family-friendly afternoon of fun and fright in store. Decorate your own trick or treat bag for collecting candy! This event is intended for families with children in preschool-3rd grade. \$5/family. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org, 617-916-9655, info@newtoncommunityfarm.org.

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 pm
Exhibition Opening - Mapping a newTOWN, 1688-1874
Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street

Visit the Newton History Museum for some food and drink in celebration of their newest exhibit! Newton takes shape on rare maps and is seen in prints, photographs, and a fine landscape painting, The Great Curve on the Boston and Worcester Railroad at Newton Lower Falls, on loan from a private collection. Explore the new exhibit and find out what surrounded your house in the past! Free. <http://www.historicnewton.org/>, 617-796-1450.



Wednesday, November 10, 5:30 to 7:00 pm
Newton Community Farm - Past Present and Future
Newton Salutes! Exhibit Opening
Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington Street

The 2.25-acre plot that is now known as Newton Community Farm has been farmed using traditional organic methods for 300 years. Join us for a celebration of the exhibit, Newton Community Farm - Past Present and Future. This exhibit explores the plot's history as a New England family farm in the 18th and 19th centuries and then under the ownership of the Angino Family in the 20th, and describes its current use as a community resource, modeling sustainable agricultural and environmental practices and serving as an educational center. Free and open to the public. Visit www.historicnewton.org or call 617-796-1450.

Saturday, November 13, 9 am-noon
East Parish Burying Grounds Clean-Up
Corner of Centre and Cotton Streets



Meet at the East Parish Burying Ground for a late fall clean-up and see the results of the completed headstone restoration. Bring gloves and rakes if you have them! This is the largest of Newton's three historic burying grounds. Visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/research/history/burial-treasure.asp to learn more about the East Parish Burying Ground.

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.



Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Third Annual Newton Preservation Awards
Sponsor: Historic Newton
Boston College Alumni House, 825 Centre Street, Newton



You are invited to attend the Third 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 who 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. Free.

Notes of Interest

Nahanton Park News

Newton Parks and Recreation will be proceeding with repair of the boat launch area and restoration of the river bank at the beginning of Florrie's Path, following the Conservation Commission issuing the two Order of Conditions recently. They will rebuild the Charles River embankment that has been washing away over many decades and restore natural vegetation to hold the embankment in place. This was recommended as the most appropriate by Anne Phelps, Senior Environmental Planner for Newton. This project is critical for continued access to the Charles River from Nahanton Park and will allow Florrie's Pathway to be reopened. This project will be a showcase of the correct way to restore the natural riparian environment and implement measures to minimize future damage.



The Friends of Nahanton Park, a volunteer group of public-spirited citizens, works with the City of Newton, area residents and businesses, and all users of the park to protect and preserve this unique natural resource. They have a great new website at www.nahantonpark.org and a mailing address of PO Box 610057, Newton Highlands, MA 02461-0001. You can email them at friends@nahantonpark.org or call 617-964-2123 for more info. Check out the bird walks scheduled this coming week at Nahanton Park in the schedule above.

Bike Newton

Get a finger-snapping, foot-tapping earful of the mellow sounds of the Nate Aronow Nextet with their brand new number, "Bikin' the Bike"! This new music video was filmed partially right here in Newton. It's on You Tube with a link to be found at <http://bikenewton.blogspot.com/2010/09/get-your-groove-on.html>.



Newton Conservators Grants Program

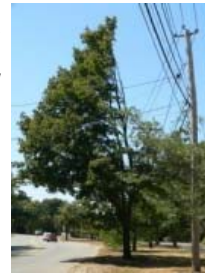
The Newton Conservators, Inc. provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering its mission. The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$750 may receive priority, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a longer-term project, or for multiple year funding. Semi-annual deadlines for proposals are on October 31 and February 28 of each year. Proposals postmarked by those dates will be considered with that current group. Proposals also may be submitted at other times and they will be evaluated. Find detailed info at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/grants.htm>.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Below are some of the great articles in the latest issue of the Newton Conservators Newsletter which is now online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep10.pdf>.

Trees and Wires: Bad Mix
by Eric Reenstierna

A tree pruning crew from Nstar, one of the utilities that own the telephone and electric wires in our streets, came to Auburndale in early August 2010 to clear branches. Neighbors protested the extent of the tree cutting. Newton Conservators' Board Member AnnaMaria Abernathy produced a document from City officials that stopped the work. "Nowhere has there been anything like this before," said Abernathy. "It's fast and cheap, and it does a job on the trees." In some cases, tree canopies were reduced by half. Neighbors' protests were successful in bringing a temporary halt to the pruning. Newton's local newspaper covered the skirmish. Newton Conservators President Jane Sender sent an open letter to the Newton Tab calling for more minimal pruning. Katherine Howard of the Conservators' Board and Chair of the Newton Urban Tree Commission sent a second open letter.



.... To read more visit: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/treesandwires.htm>

Wild Turkeys - Return of the Native
by Cris Criscitiello

During a walk along the Sudbury Aqueduct at this time of the year, you may encounter a group of wild turkeys. It will most likely consist of a hen with her half-dozen offspring, hatched earlier in the spring. They will be feeding on open ground, searching under trees and shrubs for acorns and seeds. Insects are included in their diet, and they may actually seem to be working cooperatively in the capture of grasshoppers. They will wander considerable distances in the open in search of food, but at any moment, in the face of danger, they can fly quickly to the security of branches high in nearby trees.



..... To read more: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/turkeys.htm>

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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=>

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



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