



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

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

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



## **Spring . . .**

Spring is finally here much more in earnest! After you finish your taxes, what better way to unwind than by getting out and about in Newton's green spaces. Our Spring Walk Series begins this Saturday in a joint venture with our neighboring outdoor enthusiasts from the Waltham Land Trust. Check out the full schedule in this bulletin. In addition to walks, we continue our critical invasives removal activities at a number of key locations. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Newton Conservators and we have a wonder party planned in May to celebrate. Upcoming lectures in June and July will keep you entertained and informed through the summer months. Our Spring Newsletter is hot off the press and on the web! Watch for another e-Bulletin in the near future with more updates and events.

## **Newton Conservators Spring Walks, Activities, and Events**

Each Spring and Fall, the Newton Conservators organizes a series of walks to local open space areas. These walks are led by knowledgeable leaders and are open to the public. They normally last for an hour or two. Some events are for bicycle or canoe. These walks are a great way to get to know open space areas in Newton. Below is the current walk schedule. Please note that walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather-dependent. Contact the trip leader if in doubt. A downloadable walk schedule is available at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>. Find details here also on our 50th Anniversary celebration (May 25) and upcoming lectures.



### **Sunday, April 16, 2011, 9 am - 11 am**

#### **WALTHAM Bird Walk along Charles River with Waltham Land Trust**



Greet the day with the sounds of birds long awake on this pre-Earth Day walk. Join us for a spring bird walk on the upriver trails of the Charles between Waltham and Auburndale. Our tour may also take us across the wildlife rich "Flowed



Meadow". We'll be looking for early spring migrants such as red winged blackbirds, tree swallows, eastern phoebes, yellow rumped, palm and yellow warblers, lingering winter ducks, and our resident species. Bring binoculars if you have them but we will also do a lot of "birding by ear." Meet at the Waltham Watch Factory rear parking lot on Crescent Street, Waltham. Trip leaders are Alison Leary Mooradian and Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753). This walk is a cosponsored event with the Waltham Land Trust ([www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)). Thanks to Sonja Wadman, their new coordinator, for bringing our two great organizations together.

This is also the day of the annual Charles River Cleanup so bring an extra bag for any trash we may find along the way. Further info on the Charles River Cleanup can be found at <http://www.crwa.org/cleanup.html>. There is a cleanup at Hemlock Gorge as well as part of this: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/miscbackupfiles/hemlockcleanup11.pdf>

**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 8 am**  
**Tour Newton's "Little Bit of Wilderness: Nahanton Park"**

Join the Friends of Nahanton Park ([www.nahantonpark.org](http://www.nahantonpark.org)) and tour Newton's little bit of wilderness, observing and learning about early spring migrant birds and signs of other wildlife (deer, fox, and river otter have been observed there recently) with long-time Newton resident and bird watcher Haynes Miller. Easy walking, some narrow trails, walking shoes recommended especially after rain. Meet at lot on entrance road from Winchester St. Cancelled if there is steady rain. If in doubt call Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419).



**Saturday, May 7, 2011, 10 am to noon**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Cold Spring Park**

Garlic Mustard, a non-native species high on federal and state plant invaders lists, is taking hold in our backyards, parks, forests and conservation areas. It quickly covers low-light forested areas, shading out other plants, chemically altering the soil to inhibit growth of competitor plants, and altering the habitat for native insects such as butterflies. But where it is just starting to invade, it is easy to be rid of it. It is a biennial 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! We will pull along the Cochituate Aqueduct in Cold Spring Park. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Duncklee Street entrance, at the Newton Highlands side of the park. Trip leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796).



**am**  
**Day Bird Walk**

Nahanton Park offers a mix of habitat and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for both migratory and resident songbirds. Likely finds include brightly colored warblers, vireos, and orioles. Also expect bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, swallows, and brown thrashers. Enter the park 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



**Sunday, May 8, 2011, 8**  
**Nahanton Park Mother's**

woodlands, wetlands, edge

experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Co-sponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park. Trip leader is Alison Leary (617-821-5619).

**Sunday, May 15, 2011, 10 am to Noon**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonServes Project)**

This is an exciting year for garlic mustard pulling at Dolan Pond because plant pull crews have been very active in the last three years eradicating nearly every flowering stem before they had a chance to set seed. We are close to eradicating this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. Crews also removed many knotweed stems, and although knotweed removal takes years to complete, each time it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars and hand lenses for observing birds, bugs, flowers, and a good variety of pond life. Meet at Dolan Pond conservation area in W. Newton. Street parking is available near the four entrances at Auburndale Avenue, Webster Park, Stratford and Cumberland. Trip leader is Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753). There will be preregistration available at the Newton Serves site:

<http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



**Sunday, May 15, 2011, 10 am to Noon**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area (NewtonServes Project)**

See description of garlic mustard. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Meet at the parking lot on Vine Street. Trip leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796). There will be preregistration available at the Newton Serves site:

<http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



**Sunday, May 15, 2011, 10 am to Noon**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonServes Project)**

This is the fourth year working along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge on the Charles River Path, helping The Trustees of Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest. We will again mix in some general nature study, so bring binoculars, an insect net, and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Pleasant Street Super Stop N Shop parking lot in Watertown (near Russo's) at the corner farthest from the store. This spot is directly in front of you as you enter the parking lot from Pleasant Street. There is a path entrance there. Turn left and follow path to the bridge. Trip leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928). There will be preregistration available at the Newton Serves site:

<http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



**Saturday, May 21, 2011, 8am**  
**Birding and Boating Trip at Nahanton Park**

Join us for a leisurely canoe/kayak trip investigating bird life along the banks of the Charles River from Charles River Canoe & Kayak's newest location in Nahanton Park. This is a lovely 15-mile stretch of the Charles, where paddlers can enjoy 13 miles of calm water from upstream of Dedham Ave. in Needham to Silk Mill Dam at Newton



Upper Falls. Almost all the shoreline is forest or marsh, and much of it is protected parkland. We can expect to see shorebirds like spotted sandpipers, great blue herons, common egrets, and several species of warblers, as well as raptors like red tailed and red shouldered hawks. Co-Sponsored with Friends of Nahant on Park. If you have your own canoe or kayak you can put it in the water from this parking lot. Dress appropriately. A hat, sunscreen, snacks, and drinks are recommended. Newton Conservators members get a 10% discount on canoe and kayak rentals. Meet at the Nahant on Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Trip leader is Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513). Note: rain date is Sunday, May 22.

**Saturday, May 21, 2011, 10am to noon**  
**Follow-up Garlic Mustard Pulls (Blue Heron Bridge and/or other locations TBD)**

See description of Blue Heron Bridge and parking instructions. Check with leaders; locations near the Bridge will be chosen depending on where the need is greatest. We may be several hundred yards away from the Bridge so do not hesitate to call the phone numbers provided, if you arrive a bit late. Trip leaders are Eric Olson (617-872-9928) and Katherine Howard (617-527-1796).



**Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 6 pm**  
**Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration**  
**American Legion Post 440 - 295 California Street**

The Newton Conservators cordially invite you to its 50th Anniversary Celebration. At 6 pm will be a social gathering, silent auction and hors d'oeuvres. Come and bid on wonderful items from our donors. At 7 pm, dinner will be served in conjunction with our annual business meeting, award ceremony and general program. Our keynote speaker will be Bob Wilber, Director of Land Protection for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. You may reserve online at [ww.newtonconservators.org](http://ww.newtonconservators.org). Tickets are \$35. Newton Conservators will receive a mailed invitation. RSVP is requested by May 16. This year we will be on the main level in a larger space! Tell your friends and invite them too.



**Sunday, June 5, 2011, 10 am to Noon**  
**Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond**

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. 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. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at the small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway adjacent to pond and within view of the former Macy's store. Trip leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928). (photo by Steven Sulewski)



**Sunday, June 5, 2011, 2 pm**

## Canoe/Kayak Trip at Nahanton Park

Join us for an afternoon canoe trip from Nahanton Park. (See description of a morning birding trip in May. Co-Sponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park. If you have your own canoe or kayak you can put it in the water from this parking lot. Dress appropriately. A hat, sunscreen, snacks, and drinks are recommended. Newton Conservators members get a 10% discount on canoe and kayak rentals.

Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Trip leader is Bill Hagar (617-964-2644)



## Sunday, June 12, 2011, 2 pm Newton Aqueducts Hike

This is a very popular 4-6 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 near the Waban MBTA Station. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488)



## Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 pm Photo Lecture on Birds by Brooks Mathewson Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

Brooks Mathewson is an outstanding bird educator and photographer. His lecture last spring at the library was amazing. Don't miss! The program is co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library. Brooks has been teaching bird courses for Newton Community Education (<https://newtoncommunityed.org/>) and is teaching the course "A Birding Year", starting May 10, (<https://newtoncommunityed.org/viewDesc.php?CourseNumber=Z2004> starting .) startig May 10)



## Monday June 27, 7 pm Darwin Lecture - Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

Professor Friedman will speak on Darwin and the origin of flowering plants. As he noted on the Arnold Arboretum's Web site: "Charles Darwin spent a lifetime studying the big questions of evolutionary biology, and he was baffled by the origin of flowering plants. Recent advances in the fossil record offer clues to understanding what these plants looked like, where they lived, and how they reproduced. We will explore what Darwin termed 'the abominable mystery.'" Ned Friedman is Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University. The program is co-sponsored by Newton Tree Conservancy and Newton Conservators.



## Thursday July 14th 7:30 pm My Green Manifesto by David Gessner Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

David Gessner will discuss his "call for a new environmentalism, inspired by a canoe trip down the Charles River with Dan Driscoll." His new book suggests that rather than bemoan the fact that the world is doomed, we would do better to fight like hell for our neighborhoods. My Green Manifesto is a celebration of the raw pleasure that people can take from wildness, even from a limited wild like the once famously-dirty Charles. It is both a cry for renewed contact and a love song to what is left. And, finally, the book is an attempt to break nature writing out of its eco-ghetto, and into the larger world. David Gessner is a noted nature writer and associate professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he founded the award-winning literary journal, Ecotone. . This program is co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library and there will also be a book signing.



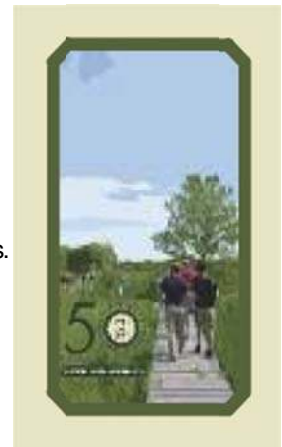
## President's Message: Come Join our 50th Anniversary Celebration Next Month!

I hope you will join us as we celebrate fifty years of protecting and preserving land in Newton at our annual dinner and silent auction **Wednesday May 25**. Our strong voices are needed as much today as they were in 1961-and here's one story which tells the reasons why.



Over the past few weeks, many of us watched conditions at areas of Nahanton Park, one of our real Newton treasures, go from bad to worse. (See Duane Hillis' newsletter article for more in detail.) Snow had been trucked in and stored in huge mounds for months, leaving the meadow, often the site of nesting bluebirds and swallows, deeply rutted and torn up. Piles of tree limbs and Christmas trees were making things worse. After working with the Friends of Nahanton Park and the Conservators, the City no longer stores tree limbs, is reconsidering next year's snow storage policy, and will restore the meadow as soon as possible-we hope, in time for the birds to decide it's safe to nest again this year. Together we worked hard and succeeded this time in protecting this beautiful sanctuary.

The Conservators have dozens of stories like this to tell from the last fifty years. Many of the parks and conservation areas we enjoy today were saved from development or encroachment because of our work. We have also preserved numerous other Newton parcels-now totaling approximately 100 acres-through conservation restrictions. Right now, we are working on three of those projects and have more in the pipeline. I look forward to telling you the stories of these parcels in the months to come.



The speaker at our May 25 celebration is **Bob Wilber, Land Protection Director for the Massachusetts Audubon Society**. MassAudubon now holds conservation restrictions on more than 5,000 acres throughout the state. Bob is an inspiring speaker who will share with us thoughts about the importance of this work in a suburban environment.

Please help us with our work to preserve special places in Newton by supporting our first ever silent auction, which brings together the local business community with lovers of open space. Here is a small sampling of what you can bid on:

- stunning Nancy Schön tortoise and hare jewelry for you or to give as gifts
- gorgeous Brooks Mathewson and Bill Cullina nature photographs to brighten your walls
- tickets to Huntington Theatre Company, Turtle Lane, New Repertory Theatre, and Handel and Hayden Society performances for special occasions
- foursome rounds of golf from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course

- memberships from Massachusetts Audubon, the Isabella Stewart Gardner and Newton History Museums to use or give as gifts
- hotel stays from the Newton Marriott, the Sheraton Needham, and Hotel Indigo for out of state friends and relatives
- a colorful bird house from Just Next Door to attract those nesting wrens
- a kayak from Charles River Canoe and Kayak to enjoy our river
- guided bird walks to hone your birding skill

Please come and enjoy the fun. Invitations will be arriving in your mailbox soon. If you let us know by May 1, you can still be a sponsor or gift donor. Please log on to our website at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org) to sponsor, donate an item for the auction, or buy tickets to the celebration.

- Jane Sender, President

## Newton Conservators Newsletter - April-May 2011

The latest issue of the Newton Conservators Newsletter (in color!) is now online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr11.pdf>. Here is the Table of Contents from the issue (which will be in the mail shortly). Links to some of the individual articles are provided.

- [Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration](#)
- [Nahanton Park: Green Meadows or Dump](#)
- [Open Space Protection Under Article 97](#)
- [Cedar Waxwings](#)
- [Perennials for Sun and Shade](#)
- [Keep Dog Waste Out of Waterways](#)
- [Newton Lower Falls Rail-to-Trail Update](#)
- [Recycle Styrofoam/Donate at Rumford Ave](#)
- [Invasives Removal-Spring 2011 Update](#)
- [Newton Tree Conservancy Update](#)
- [NC Spring/Summer Lectures](#)
- [Crystal Lake Study](#)
- [Spring Walks Schedule](#)

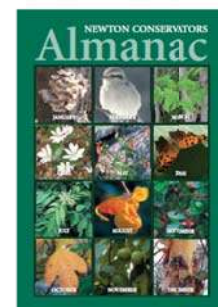


## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events (like the annual Dinner Meeting), buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, 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=>

**Mission:** *The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.*

The Newton Conservators organization was formed as a not-for-profit 50 years ago in June 1961.

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



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