

**Subject:**

E-Bulletin - September 17, 2011



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

*Saturday, September 17, 2011*

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



## **It's time for some Fall Walks . . .**

We take in these last days of summer and listen night for the migrating blers heading south during the cooler nights. The crickets and tree frogs make a pleasant evening din at this time of year. It's time for our Fall Walk Series to help you get out and about in Newton's open spaces. The Fall Newsletter is going to press shortly but one of the events (a canoe event) is taking place tomorrow - Sunday, September 17 at Nahanton Park. Enjoy the fine fall weather coming up! We hope to have another e-Bulletin out in the near future with more details and events

## **Events Calendar**

**Sunday , September 18, 1 pm**  
**The Canoe Trip at Nahanton Park**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

This canoe/kayak trip will start at the Nahanton Park area. This is a beautiful section of the Charles River from which you can go upstream to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham and Wellesley. Interested nature lovers can bring their own canoe or kayak to use, or rent one of them at the new canoe/kayak/water stand rental that is now located at Nahanton Park. The area upstream is a region of significant beauty with almost pristine conditions of local marshes and tree lines. Cutler Marsh is particularly impressive in depth with different patterns of wildlife overlapping the background tree line and marsh views. The fall is a good time to follow the massive numbers of turtles and other wildlife that have successfully been born to this unique stretch of water. We also will be observing the numerous birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this appealing habitat. We will pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch and then stop for lunch on Cow Island. The trip back will be similar except we will have the current helping to carry canoeists and kayakers back. Bring lunch/snacks, drinks, sunscreen, and a hat. Bring binoculars if you have them. Thunderstorms will cancel the trip. Trip Leader: Bill Hagar (617-964-2644)

**Saturday, October 1, 8 am**  
**Fall Bird Walk at Nahanton Park with Haynes Miller**  
**Nahanton Street Entrance**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

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 off of Nahanton St. between the JCC and the Charles. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and Newton Conservators. Rain Date: in case of steady rain. If in doubt call Haynes Miller. Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419) Rain Date: Sunday, October 2.

**Sunday, October 9, 2 pm**  
**Webster Woods Walk**  
**Warren Street, Newton Centre**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

Webster Conservation Area is a jewel of open space in Newton. There are over five miles of well worn paths through 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 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 H.D. Thoreau. The first sentences of this essay could be used as an introduction to 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 Ave. is off Beacon St.) Trip Leader: Octo Barnett (617-969-6988)

**Sunday, October 16, 2 pm**  
**Aqueducts Bike Ride**  
**Waban T Station**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

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](#). Trip leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

**Sunday, October 16, 11 am - 5 pm**  
**Green Solutions Expo / Harvest Fair**  
**Newton Centre**

A Green Decade and Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce Expo with solutions you need to reduce your carbon footprint. There will be over 60 exhibitors under a big tent next to Newton's Harvest Fair in Newton Centre. Get tips on how to live a more environmentally friendly and see

exhibitors with green services, products and ideas.

**Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm**  
**Newton Community Farm Benefit Dinner**  
**Lumiere's Restaurant, West Newton**

Join supporters of the Newton Community Farm at Lumiere in West Newton, for an evening of fine dining, with a four-course dinner, wine pairings, and vegetarian options. Chef Mike Leviton uses local food sources and has been a generous supporter of the farm. Part of the cost (\$150 per person) is tax-deductible. Proceeds will support the farm. Visit [www.newtoncommunityfarm.org](http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org).

**Saturday, October 22, 8 am**  
**Fall Birdwalk at Nahanton Park with Pete Gilmore**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Nahanton Park in search of resident and migrating birds. 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. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and Newton Conservators. In case of steady rain, rain date is Oct 23. If in doubt call Trip Leader, Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477). (Rain Date: Sunday, October 23)

**Monday, October 24, 7 pm**  
**Crystal Lake Conservancy Annual Meeting**  
**Newton Public Library**

Larry Beals, limnologist, will be one of two guest speakers at the Crystal Lake Conservancy's annual meeting at the Newton Public Library. Mr. Beals has conducted water quality tests at the lake for two years. Laboratory results will be discussed, as will steps the community could take to address issues. The entire watershed was surveyed on foot over the course of the summer by a large group of volunteers. Understanding contaminants and possible solutions will be discussed. The second speaker will be Maria Rose, Newton's Environmental Engineer, who will present on City projects at Crystal Lake.

**Sunday, November 6 at 2 pm**  
**Newton Aqueducts Hike**  
**Waban T Station**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

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. See the loop map. (There are cutoff for those who wish to shorten the hike.) Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station at 2:00 pm. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

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**Newton Conservators Sponsors**

The Newton Conservators appreciate the generous contributions of "Gold" and "Silver" Sponsors on the occasion of our Annual Dinner. We are indebted for their contributions, which will help to defray land acquisition and other costs.



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## 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, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online?

**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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