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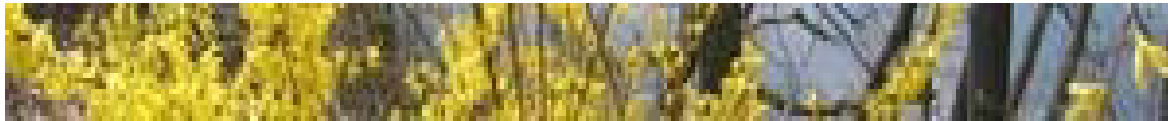
FW: E-Bulletin - Mar 4, 2012 - Water Lecture!



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

*Sunday, March 4, 2012*

*... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961*



### **President's Message!**

Truly mixed feelings come as the winter of 2011-12 draws to a close. It is late February, and we have had stunningly mild weather for months, with little snow. For those of us who would rather be outdoors than anywhere else, this has been almost pure joy. Unfortunately it's hard to deny the sinking feeling that a bad hangover likely follows the short term guilty pleasure of this New England winter that never came. Record storms, more winters like 2010-11 and global disturbances as a result of the climate change are the possible flip side of this great weather. So what do we do?

Our work as Newton Conservators to preserve our open space is one important thing, allowing us to play a role in mitigating climate change by protecting trees and plants and by flood control, among other strategies. Please join us in our efforts this spring. On Newton Serves Day, April 29, we will be leading a number of groups at various sites to remove invasive plants to improve the habitat in our parks. Also, as a member of Newton's Open Space Advisory Committee, we need your help in updating the Open Space Plan, which is essential to acquiring more open space in years to come. Please respond to the City of Newton Recreation and Open Space Survey, and come to the public meeting March 21st. Details can be found on our website, [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org). Happy spring to all, and I hope to see you in April.



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

*Jane Sender, President*

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## Newton Conservators Walks/ Activities Calendar – Spring 2012

The Newton Conservators is Newton's own land trust and open space organization and sponsors walks in the spring and fall. Please note that the walks/ activities meet at different times. Some are weather dependent; please call trip leader if in doubt. There is no charge for attending our trips and activities. Check out our website at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org) for updates to this schedule.

**Monday, March 5, 7 pm**

**Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for America  
with Cynthia Barnett, journalist and author**

**Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium**

**Newton Conservators Lecture Series**

**Co-sponsored by Green Decade and the Newton Free Library**



Join award-winning journalist Cynthia Barnett as she describes an illusion of water abundance that has encouraged everyone, from homeowners to farmers to utilities, to tap more and more. She proposes the most important part of the solution is also the simplest and least expensive: a shared water ethic among citizens, government and major water users. Blue Revolution was recently named by the Boston Globe one of the best science books of 2011; her previous book, Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S., won the gold medal for best nonfiction in the Florida Book Awards.

**Wednesday, March 21, 7-10 pm**

**Newton Open Space Plan Public Workshop**

**Newtonville Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newton**

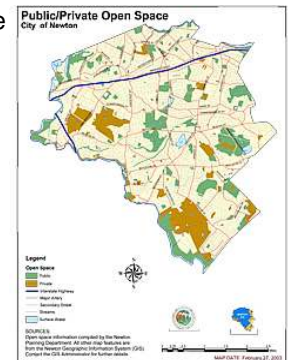
The City of Newton is in the process of updating its Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Plan expresses our collective vision for the City's open space and sets out priorities to enhance and protect our natural and recreational resources. An updated plan is also necessary to make the City eligible to apply for certain State funding programs. Come to this workshop to learn about it and to give some input on open space priorities for Newton's recreation, passive recreation, and conservation oriented open spaces going into the future. More info on the process can be found at

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/os/default.asp> or contact Juris Alksnitis at (617) 796-1122 or [jalksnitis@newtonma.gov](mailto:jalksnitis@newtonma.gov). The city is

circulating a survey to try to get a sense of the citizens' personal priorities when it comes to parks and recreation in Newton. The results of this survey will help guide the administration and its spending in the coming years. We urge you to take the time

to fill out the online survey so that your voice will be heard. when it comes to decisions about park land, open space and recreation in Newton. Find the Recreation and Open Space Survey at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TH3M3BB>.



**Saturday, March 24, 1 pm to 3 pm**

**The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools - Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods**

Join us in Webster Woods, Newton's largest conservation area, as we walk the woods and explore the large vernal pool found there. Vernal pools, because of periods of drying, do not support breeding populations of fish. Many organisms have evolved to use a temporary wetland which will dry but where they are not



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

eaten by fish. These organisms are the "obligate" vernal pool species, so called because they must use a vernal pool for various parts of their life cycle. Join us as we investigate the obligate vernal pool species, including fairy shrimp, mole salamanders and the wood frog. "Herps" (reptiles and amphibians) are the stars of the show but we will also botanize. Sampling equipment will be provided; bring hand lenses if you have them. We will walk even in the rain so dress accordingly. Meet at the end of Warren Street on the western edge of Webster Conservation Area or (for those not up to a 1 mile hike round-trip) meet up with the group at 2 pm in the back parking lot (far back) of Congregation Mishkan Tefila, the vernal pool is right here. Trip Leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).

**Monday, March 26, 7 pm**

**Growing Green: Ask the Experts About Organic Gardening and Landscaping with Panelists Risa Edelstein, Jessica Banhazi and Sarah Little (Green Decade/Newton and the Newton Free Library) Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium**

Panelists Risa Edelstein, Jessica Banhazi and Sarah Little will share secrets for creating ecological, edible and extraordinarily beautiful yards and gardens. Attendees will learn how to: promote soil fertility, conserve water and energy, prevent and correct pest problems, deal with invasive plants, and avoid the use of poisons and synthetic chemicals. The program will be moderated by Ellie Goldberg, Green Decade/Newton advisory board member and former co-chair of GreenCAP, the Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides.

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7-9 pm**

**HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY, NEWTON CPA! for Waban, Newton Highlands & Newton Upper Falls (Ward 5 & Beyond) Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street**

How would you allocate nearly \$20 million for affordable housing, historic resources, open space & recreation land in Newton over the next 5 years? Come learn about the CPA, enjoy historic photos & maps of your neighborhood, & share your priorities for future funding. Refreshments provided! You can also take our 8-question survey from: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYFZCDH](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYFZCDH) on the CPA. Contact Alice E. Ingerson, 617.796.1144, [aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov). for more info.



**Sunday, April 22, 2 pm**

**Finding Newton's Old Waterworks at Cutler Pond**



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

Few people walking through the woods in Cutler Pond realize that the park is the site of a waterworks constructed by Newton in the 1870s to supply the City with clean water. Guided by old diagrams and photos, we will locate the old pumps and wells along the 1-mile trail and visualize how this elaborate engineering system worked. Extra option: a 1/2-mile walk along the site of the old filter basins and the pumping station at Needham Street. Meet at the Cutler Pond DCR parking lot on Kendrick Street just across the Charles River in Needham. Walk Leader: Lucy Caldwell Stair



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

**Saturday, April 28, 10 am**

**Spring Migrants Bird Walk along the Charles River in Waltham and Newton**

Join expert birders from the Newton Conservators and the Waltham Land Trust as we identify early spring migrants along the Charles River between the Waltham Watch Factory and Auburndale Park. Bring your binoculars to see red winged blackbirds, tree swallows, eastern phoebes, yellow rumped, palm and yellow warblers. We will

also observe many of our resident species of cardinals, downy woodpeckers, blue jays, chickadees and tufted titmice in full breeding mode. If we're lucky, we may also spy carolina wrens, red bellied woodpeckers and some raptors including red tailed and coopers hawks. Remember your bird lists! This walk is cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the Waltham Land Trust. Meet at back parking lot of the Waltham Watch Factory, 183 Crescent St, Waltham. Walk Leaders are Sonja Wadman (857-231-1558), Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753), and Alison Leary (617-821-5619).



**Sunday, April 29, 10 am**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Saw Mill Brook Park (NewtonSERVES Project)**

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 April/ May. 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. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet at the parking lot on Vine Street. Trip Leader: Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 H, 617-721-2571 C).



**Sunday, April 29, 10 am**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project)**

This is the fourth year working along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest. We will again mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Pleasant Street Super Stop and Shop parking lot in Watertown at the corner furthest 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 Blue Heron Bridge. Trip leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).



**Sunday, April 29, 10 am**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project)**



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

Meet at Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. Street parking is available near the four entrances at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street), Stratford Road and Cumberland Road. Recent (February 2012) surveys found a new garlic mustard stand in an off-trail corner of the property, and a few patches of rosettes in previously worked areas. Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. Crews also removed nearly every knotweed stem from one area but knotweed removal takes years to complete, and each time it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. Trip Leader is Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753).

**Sunday, April 29, 10 am**  
**Invasive Pull at Nahanton Park (NewtonSERVES Project)**

Many native habitats, including grassland, and open woodland habitats are all threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and may negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park is one of many of our open spaces suffering from infestations of non-native, invasive plant species, including black swallowwort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, and black locust seedlings. Join us in preserving the beauty and diversity of this special park by spending a few hours cutting back/ removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot off Winchester Street. Trip Leader is Jane Sender (617-462-8425).



**Wednesday, May 2, 6 pm**  
**Newton Conservators Annual Meeting – Post 440**

This year, the Newton Conservators' annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 2, at 6 pm at Nonantum Post 440. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, and author of the wonderful book *Bringing Nature Home*. In his book, Professor Tallamy reviews how the plant world is the crucial base that converts the sun's energy into food energy and how plant diversity supports insect diversity, which in turn supports the diversity of bird and other animal species. Register at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org). Location: American Legion Post 440, 225 California Street, Newton 02460.



**Sunday, May 6, 10 am**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Cold Spring Park**

Cold Spring Park is one area becoming infested with the highly invasive garlic mustard plant (see above description for April 29 pulls). We will spend a few 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. 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 h, 617-721-2571 c).



**Saturday, May 6, 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 coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488).



**Saturday, May 12, 2 pm –4 pm**  
**Follow up Garlic Mustard Pulls (locations TBD)**

See above description of garlic mustard. Check with website ([www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)) or call leaders. Locations will be chosen depending on where the need is greatest. Trip leaders are Eric Olson (617-872-9928) and Katherine Howard (617-527-1796).

**Sunday, May 13, 8 am**  
**Annual Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk**

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 both migratory and resident songbirds. Likely finds include; brightly colored warblers, vireos, and orioles with bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, and swallows also expected. 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 experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Cosponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park. Trip Leaders are Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and Haynes Miller.



**Saturday, May 19, 8 am (Rain Date, Sunday, May 20, 8 am)**  
**Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park**

This 67 acre parcel has ample wooded areas, open fields, a brook and wetlands. It is one of the places in Newton where you may hear the call of the great-horned owl, and observe spectacular songbirds like the rose breasted grosbeak and the indigo bunting. Also frequently found at the park are many favorite migrants like the red eyed vireo, wood thrush, and a variety of wood warblers. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot to meet group. Trip leader is Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513).



**Sunday, May 20, 2 pm**  
**Canoe/Kayak Trip at Nahanton Park**

Join us for a canoe trip from Charles River Canoe & Kayak's newest location in Nahanton Park on a 1 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. 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 to bring along. Thunderstorms will cancel the trip. Newton Conservator members get a 10% discount on canoe & kayak rentals. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Co-sponsored with the Friends of Nahanton Park. Trip leader is Bill Hagar (617-964-2644).



**Saturday, June 3, 12 Noon (Rain Date, Sunday, June 4)**  
**Fern Walk in West Webster Woods**

It will not yet be summer, but the ferns will be up. Join fern expert Don Lubin on the hunt for a dozen or more common fern species and a club-moss if we're lucky. Wear long pants for off-trail excursions, but the bugs should not be bad yet, the poison ivy avoidable, and the hike itself fairly level for the most part. Meet at the rear parking lot of Congregation Mishkan Tefila on the west side of Hammond Pond Parkway just north of the Chestnut Hill Mall (north side of Rt 9). Do not park anywhere near their buildings, but continue beyond to the isolated lot in the woods in the back. We expect the event to take about two hours. Bring fern questions from the woods or from your garden, and any fern fronds you would like to have identified. Walk Leader is Don Lubin (617-254-8464). See <http://nefern.info>.



**Date TBA, 10 am –12 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 small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway adjacent to pond and within view of Macy's. Trip leader: is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).



**Thursday, June 21, 7 pm**

**Birds, Trees and their Ecological Interdependence**

**Lecture by Brooks Mathewson, Ecologist and Photographer**

**Newton Conservators Lecture Series (Copsponsored by the Newton Free Library)**

**Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library**



Ecologist and fine art photographer Brooks Mathewson has been observing and photographing the forests, beaver ponds, salt marshes, and barrier beaches of New England for more than a decade. In his work Brooks seeks to capture the emotions these places evoke while conveying statements about their ecology and in the process create an inspirational artistic image. In this presentation, he will illustrate the connections between avian and plant life, particularly the way birds depend on trees. Brooks holds a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Biology and a Master's Degree in Forest Science from Harvard University. Brooks' research has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and he has lectured on songbird migration, breeding bird biology, warbler ecology, and forest ecology at Harvard Forest, the Arnold Arboretum, Holy Cross, the Boston Nature Center, the Newton Free Library, and Ninigret and Sachuest National Wildlife Refuges. His photography has been published in magazines, scientific journals, textbooks, and field guides, and exhibited and sold at galleries, museums, Audubon Sanctuaries, and National Wildlife Refuges throughout New England. His work is a part of the "Aviflora" photography exhibit on display at the Hunnewell Building (Arnold Arboretum through March 11, 2012. Visit <http://avianartimages.com/> to see examples of Brooks' avian photographic work, particularly the new Birdwatcher's Calendar which we hope to make available soon on our website.

Valerie's  
**Birdwatcher's Calendar**  
The Best Days and Times to See Birds During 2012



Photographs by Brooks Mathewson  
Concept and layout by Janice F. Hickey  
Layout and design by Patricia Blawie

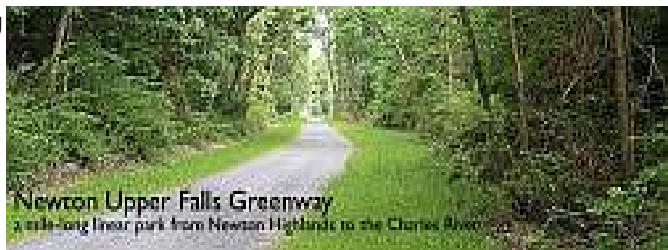
## Upper Falls Greenway Group Formed

A group has formed around the idea of creating an Upper Falls Greenway and they have a website at

[www.UpperFallsGreenway.org](http://www.UpperFallsGreenway.org).

The Upper Falls Greenway is a project that was first envisioned by the Newton Bicycle/ Pedestrian Task Force, an all volunteer group that advocates and advises the city of Newton on a

wide variety of bicycle and pedestrian related topics. An inactive old rail corridor extends south from the MBTA Green Line D branch through Newton Upper Falls, overgrown and collecting debris. We now have the opportunity to convert it into a Greenway Trail for safe and car-free pedestrian and bicycle recreation, with easy access to the commercial areas on adjacent Needham Street for shopping and commuting. The really nice touch – we have a method to convert it for free. Once the plan began to



**Newton Upper Falls Greenway**

a mile-long linear park from Newton Highlands to the Charles River

take shape they enlisted the help of Newton Upper Falls residents to begin spreading the word in the neighborhood, listen to the neighbors concerns and to gauge how much community support there was for the plan. UpperFallsGreenway.org – is a loose confederation of the NBPTF and Upper Falls residents and other interested Newton citizens who are volunteering their time, in a variety of ways, to help get the Greenway built. You can contact them at [info@UpperFallsGreenway.org](mailto:info@UpperFallsGreenway.org). If you are interested in supporting this project, they have an online petition at <http://www.upperfallsgreenway.org/get-involved/petition>.

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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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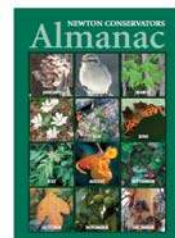
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## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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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?

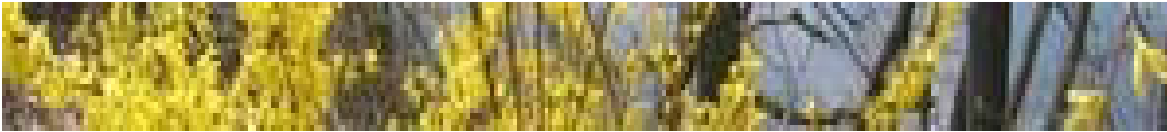




**Mission:** *The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about 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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