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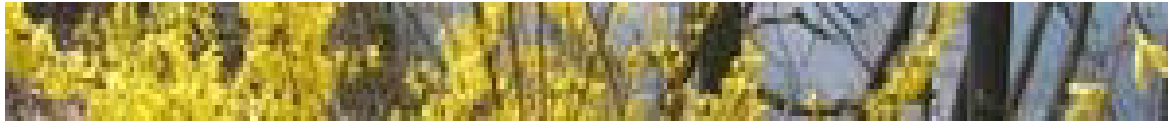
FW: E-Bulletin - May 5, 2012 - Sunday - Cold Spring 10 am - Aqueducts 2 pm



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Saturday, May 5, 2012

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



Sunday in May - Cold Spring Park at 10 am & Aqueducts at 2 pm

Join the Newton Conservators on Sunday (May 6) for two fun activities. First, at 10 am, there will be some more Garlic Mustard pulling at Cold Spring Park (it's fun, easy, and rewarding!). At 2 pm there will be a tour of the Aqueducts - a meandering open space gem in Newton that should be better known. NOTE that in the printed walks schedule, the Aqueducts tour was listed as being at 10 am - the CORRECT time is at 2 pm. Yes you can do both!!!

Thanks to all the volunteers who joined us for the FOUR invasive removal projects last Sunday as part of NewtonSERVES. Pile and piles of Garlic Mustard were pulled along with knotweed which will make Newton's open spaces a lot better for our native plants. At our annual dinner meeting last Wednesday, we honored the Charles River Watershed Association for their tireless work over the last 46 years successfully advocating for Newton's most precious natural asset - the Charles River; State Representative Kay Khan and the Newton Bicycle Task Force for restoring the Newton Lower Falls Bridge (grand opening on Tuesday!), and our own Eric Reenstierna for eleven years More details on these activities will be in an upcoming e-Bulletin and our regular newsletter.

for productive work on our board. Our keynote speaker will be terrific - Professor Douglas Tallamy, a national leader on raising awareness of the importance of native plants in our own gardens to protect native insects and preserve the diversity of our animal communities - an important and interesting message. More details on these activities will be in an upcoming e-Bulletin and our regular newsletter. In case you missed the meeting, a video of the awards and talk will be forthcoming.

Our Spring newsletter is out and members who get it by mail should have received it (including a printed Walks/ Events schedule). Check this link for our current and past newsletters and selected articles: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm> The latest newsletter is available in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr12.pdf>

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 for updates to this schedule.

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). Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>. This location is especially in NEED of volunteers.



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

(NOTE the time is 2 pm and NOT 10 am as shown in printed walk schedule)

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).



Tuesday, May 8, 11:30 am

DCR Lower Falls Bridge Grand Opening

Join the governor, legislators, and state, Newton and Wellesley officials for the grand opening of the new pedestrian/bike bridge over the Charles River. The Newton Bike/ Ped Task Force, the same folks that hatched the new Upper Falls Greenway plan, were instrumental in that project too. Pedal on over there when you get a chance and have a look.

Friday, May 11, 6:15 - 7:30 pm
Wildflower Walk with the Waltham Land Trust
UMass Field Station, front steps, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham

Join with our friends at the Waltham Land Trust on this annual wildflower walk on the trails of Cedar Hill. While we look for lady's slippers, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, and others, we'll learn about the history of this former farm and pasture lands once owned by Waltham philanthropic cattiewoman, Cornelia Warren. www.walthamlandtrust.org

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) 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).



Saturday, May 19, Sunday May 20 - 3 pm General Public
Newton Community Farm's Seedling Sale
303 Nahanton St, Newton

20,000 vegetable and herb seedlings for sale, including a wide variety of each. Come select plants for your backyard and talk to expert gardeners who will be on hand to answer your questions. \$5 for a four or six pack of seedlings - cash or check only. Bring your own boxes for carrying. Invite your

family, friends, and neighbors! For more info, go to Newton Community Farm's website - www.newtoncommunityfarm.org. Cost: \$5 per four or six pack. Cash or checks only.

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).



Tuesday, May 22, 7 pm
Happy 10th Birthday, Newton CPA!
For Newton Centre, Thompsonville, and Chestnut Hill
Bowen Elementary School, 280 Cypress Street

How has Newton used the Community Preservation Act so far? How should we allocate nearly \$20 million over the next 5 years? Come to a neighborhood birthday party. Refreshments provided! Enjoy a presentation about the CPA & Newton's past projects, with historic neighborhood photos & maps. Share your priorities for future funding. Come to this continuing series of parties in Newton's neighborhoods celebrating 10 years of the Community Preservation Act.



It is noteworthy that recently the state House of Representatives approved a significant overhaul of the CPA voting unanimously for an amendment to the state budget that could double the funding available to cities and towns. In addition the proposal would also allow cities and towns to use CPA funding to rehabilitate existing parks, playgrounds and athletic fields, rather than only build new ones and gives communities flexibility to use revenue sources other than property tax surcharge to fund their community preservation accounts. The proposal is given a good chance of reaching the governor's desk - there is a pending bill in the state Senate with 26 cosponsors, enough to assure passage if it reaches the Senate floor. See [Massachusetts House OKs major CPA changes \(Gloucester Times, April 25, 2012\)](#).

Sunday, May 27 - 2 pm
Hammond Pond Guided Nature Walk
Newton's Hammond Pond Reservation

Uncover the scientific breadth behind the "ordinary" parts of nature in our community during a guided tour of Newton's Hammond Pond Reservation Sunday, May 27th. Four Advanced Placement Biology students at Newton North High School, Hilary Brumberg, Malini Gandhi, Yarden Gavish, and Sejal Vallabh, will explain the biological significance of many aspects of New England forests.



The tour, which is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Newton Conservators, and the Green Decade Newton, will be approximately one hour long and include 14 unique stops. The tour will begin with a brief outline of the history of the reservation. Then the tour will stop at a popular rock climbing destination on the reservation, which is comprised of the sedimentary rock Roxbury Conglomerate. The next stops will face Hammond Pond,

where visitors will learn about the threat of run-off on pond ecosystems, seasonal pond turnover, and wetland plants. Visitors will then test their forensics skills by determining if a nurse log was once present and if trees were dead or alive when they snapped. At the final stops, the tour guides will point out and explain the significance of peat bogs, lichens, bracken fungus, and Japanese Knotweed invaders in a coniferous forest ecosystem.

The tour will begin at the small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway adjacent to the pond and within view of the old Macy's. Appropriate ages: Adults and children 12 and older. No preregistration is necessary. Contact the tour guides at HammondPondTour@gmail.com for questions. Sponsored by Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Green Decade Newton

**Saturday, June 2, 12 Noon (Rain Date, Sunday, June 3)
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>.



**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 Anna Z. Uchew
Letters and artwork by Patricia Miller

Massachusetts Endangered Species Act is endangered!

There is currently an effort to gut the effectiveness of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), which protects MA rare and endangered plants and animals. The legislation, An Act Relative to Land Takings (Senate Bill 1854 filed by Senator Candaras, D-Springfield) is before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. Mass Audubon is leading the effort on behalf of environmental groups to stop the bill right now. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee Chairs, Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and Senator Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton), are considering revisions to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. CRWA opposes changes to the act. See the Mass Audubon following link for more info : http://www.massaudubon.org/advocacy/roundup_archive.php?id=295

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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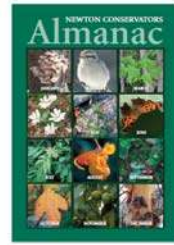
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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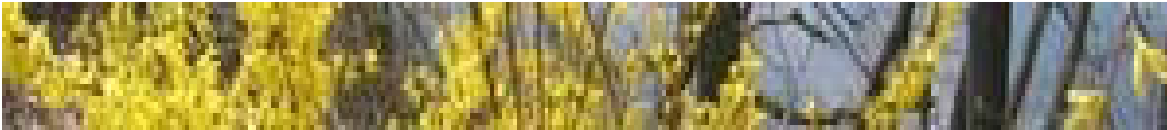
Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay 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)



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