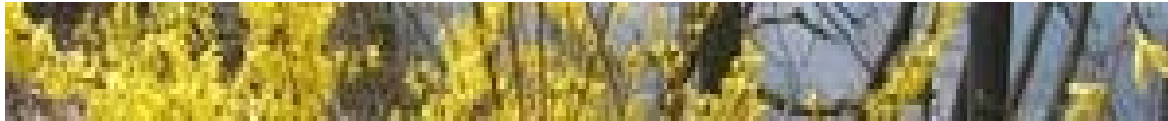




Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, May 11, 2012

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



Garlic Mustard Pull at Cold Spring / Mother's Day Birding at Nahanton

Join the Newton Conservators this weekend. On Saturday, there will be some more Garlic Mustard (GM) pulling at Cold Spring Park (it's fun, easy, and rewarding!) from 2 - 4 pm on Saturday. This invasive is all over Newton and now is the ideal time to remove it before it goes to seed since its small white flowers are easy to recognize. See article below on GM. And of course, this is peak birding migration season. Join us on the annual Mother's Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park this Sunday,

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.

Saturday, May 12, 2 pm - 4 pm
Follow up Garlic Mustard Pull
Cold Spring Park- Meet at the end of parking lot off Beacon Street (circle)



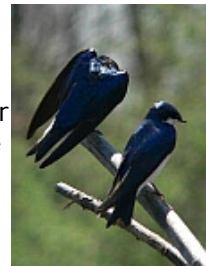
Garlic Mustard, a native of Europe that probably came here as a garden herb,

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. Cold Spring Park deserves serious attention. The weather is supposed to be sunny and pleasant temps, and the rains this week will have softened the soil making GM even easier than usual to pull. Green seed pods are only now starting to appear on the mustard, so there is still time.

Meet/park at the Beacon St side, at the circular end of the parking lot. We'll be working there, in the meadow, and hopefully at the end of the aqueduct closest to Whole Foods. People can call 617-721-2571 if they are lost. Trip Leader: Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 H, 617-721-2571 C).

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.

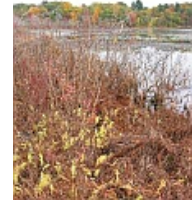


The tour, which is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Newton Conservators, and the Green Decade Newton, will be approximately one hour long and include 14 unique stops. The tour will begin with a brief outline of the history of the reservation. 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 (Copponsored 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.

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



Photographs by Brooks Mathewson
Concept and research by James Z. Vlietinck
Layout and editing by Patricia Wiley

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

Time to Get Your Garlic Mustard Out by Katherine Howard

Here, there, and everywhere - garlic mustard is blooming now - early with the mild winter - get it out NOW, before it goes to seed. Start in your yard, and move outward from there!

Garlic mustard is an edible plant from Europe - but in this country, it is an invader with no natural controls. It rapidly covers vast areas, shades out native plants, alters soil chemistry to inhibit growth of competitor plants, and destroys habitat of native insects/butterflies. It is a huge problem in other parts of the country. Fortunately, in areas where it is just starting, it is easy to get rid of it. It is a biennial, easily identified and pulled in April/May when the second year plants are flowering. If not removed, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds. See



<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/garlicmustard.shtml>

Pull the plants NOW by their roots, insert into plastic trash bag and dispose in your TRASH (NOT with yard waste or compost - the seeds are still viable and can spread). Keep checking - plants can spring up later and produce seeds. These efforts are very effective - there is little regrowth. We can all help to keep Newton's natural areas beautiful and places where native plants, insects and wildlife can survive and thrive.

Check out the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/garlic.htm> for a nice flyer on Garlic Mustard which includes a PDF that could even be handed out to your neighbors who have it in their yard to alert them to the danger.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD, LEAVE YOUNG WILDLIFE ALONE
(Courtesy of Mass Wildlife)

The arrival of spring means the arrival of newborn and just-hatched wildlife. These youngsters soon

venture into the world on shaky legs or fragile wings and are discovered by people living, playing or working nearby. Every year, the lives of many young wild creatures are disturbed by people who take young wildlife from the wild in a well-intentioned attempt to "save" them.

These well-meant acts of kindness tend to have the opposite result. Instead of being left to learn their place in the world, young wildlife removed from the wild are denied important natural learning experiences which help them survive on their own.

Most people quickly find that they can't really care for young wildlife, and many of the animals soon die in the hands of well-meaning people. Young wildlife that does survive human "assistance" miss experiences that teach them to fend for themselves. If these animals are released back into the wild, their chances of survival are reduced. Often, the care given to young wildlife results in some attachment to humans and the animals may return to places where people live, only to be attacked by domestic animals or hit by cars. Some animals become nuisances and people have even been injured by once-tamed wildlife.

Avoid these problems by following one simple rule when coming upon young wildlife: If You Care, Leave Them There! It may be difficult to do, but this is a real act of compassion. Generally young mammals are visited only a few times a day to avoid leaving traces that attract predators. For instance, a nest of bunnies will only be visited by the adult female twice per day. The young wildlife are quite safe when left alone because their color patterns and lack of scent help them remain undetected. Avoid nest and den areas of young wildlife and restrain all pets. What if you find a young bird that has fallen from a nest? Adult wildlife are not disturbed by human scent. Baby birds found on the ground may be safely picked up and placed in a nearby bush or tree.

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The Newton Conservators appreciate the generous contributions of our sponsors and friends 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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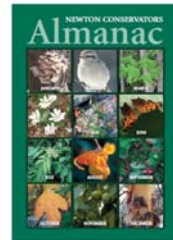
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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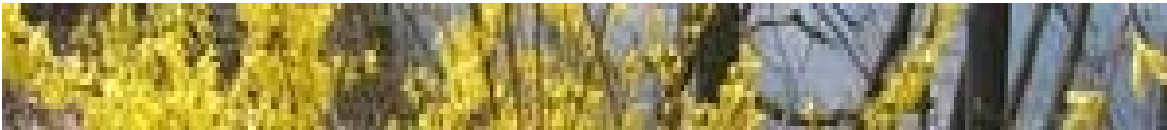
Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay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