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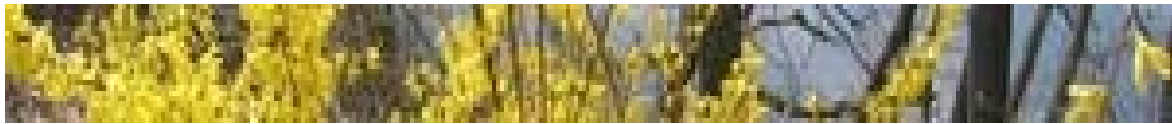
E-Bulletin - June 8, 2012 - GM Pulls this weekend!



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, June 8, 2012

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



Summertime . . .

Join the Newton Conservators this weekend for some more Garlic Mustard (GM) pulling on Quinebequin Road and at Cold Spring Park (it's fun, easy, and rewarding!) It will be going to seed very soon and now is the time to pull it to save a lot of work later. Don't miss our Spring lecture on June 21 with Brooks Matthewson on the interdependence between trees and birds. Find a whole host of fun events around the Newton area this month below. The latest Newton Conservators newsletter is available in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr12.pdf>

Events - June 2012

Saturday, June 9, 10 am- Noon
Pulling Them Nasty Weeds
Quinobequin and Hemlock Gorge Invasives Removal

A dedicated group of Newton citizens have been waging war against a nefarious invader - Garlic Mustard, an invasive species that spreads quickly and changes the soil chemistry to kill off the native plants. Volunteers have been working throughout the city trying to keep ahead of the nasty weed. They need help for a one day "garlic mustard pull". Volunteers will meet at the small parking lot at the bottom of Ellis St beside Route 9. No previous experience necessary. You will be easily trained for the search-and-destroy mission against this unwelcome invader. Wear long pants and closed shoes, garden gloves. Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).



To learn a little more about identifying and the hazards of garlic mustard, see the great article by Julie Malakie online at <http://village14.com/newton-ma/2012/05/pull-garlic-mustard-before-it-goes-to-seed-and-save-a-lot-more-work-later/#axzz1w31uvXM5> and later in this bulletin.

Saturday, June 9, 9am
Citizen Pruners
West Newton Playground (Webster and Oak Streets, West Newton)

See the Citizen Pruners in action at West Newton Playground located at Webster St. and Oak St. (one block west of Cherry St). The Newton Tree Conservancy will be working on the trees (mostly linden). They are in desperate need for some lower branch removal. See www.newtontreeconservancy.org for more info.

Sunday, June 10 10 am - Noon
Pull Them Nasty Weeds - Garlic Mustard Removal
Cold Spring Park

Cold Spring Park Invasives, one more time!!! Meet at Beacon St entrance, left to circular end of lot. Wear long pants and closed shoes, garden gloves. See garlic mustard info above. For further info contact Katherine Howard 617-527-1796 (h), 617-721-2571 (c).

Sunday, June 10, 2 pm
Hidden Nonantum: Silver Lake to the Adams Street Synagogue
Historic Newton Walk Series
Coletti-Magni Park, on the corner of Watertown and Bridge streets

So where is (or was) Silver Lake anyway? Stop and see what's left of the all-but-disappeared Silver Lake, then continue on to learn about the businesses and immigrant groups that made up Newton's most diverse community in the early twentieth century. The walk will continue with a tour of the Adams Street Synagogue and a discussion of its history, as the synagogue celebrates its one hundredth year. This tour will be led by Synagogue member Beri Gilfix, assisted by Lucy Caldwell Stair. Meet in Coletti-Magni Park, on the corner of Watertown and Bridge streets. This is a free walk sponsored by Historic Newton (www.historicnewton.org).

Friday, June 15 through Sunday, June 17
Waltham Riverfest
Activities start at 4 pm Fri, 9:30 am Sat, & 10 am Sun.
Landry Park, Cronin's Landing, Farmer's Market, Charles Riverwalk, Moody St. Bridge

This Friday-Sunday festival in our next door city of Waltham celebrates the amazing Charles River, plus local artists, culture, music, and food! Activities begin Friday afternoon with canoe/kayak rentals courtesy of Charles River Canoe and Kayak (CRCK). At 7 pm, for only \$39, CRCK will lead a 3-hour guided history and nature paddle upstream to the flatwater Lakes District, where participants will anchor and dine on a boxed dinner under a star-lit sky, returning by 10 pm. Registration required (paddleboston.com/riverfest/riverfest.php)! Bluegrass bands play at the Cronin's Landing stage next to Margarita's, while rock bands like the Brooks Young Band and Liz Borden play on the Main Stage in Landry Park. On Saturday, music starts early at the first Farmer's Market of the season, and paddle rentals begin at 10. Vendors sell their wares on a closed Moody Street Bridge and community groups like the Waltham Land Trust have tables at Landry Park, where music including the bluesy Peter Parcek, rocks the Main Stage. More bands, like local hero Mike Williams, jam at Cronin's Landing, while artists "paint the River" for a Silent Auction later that evening. An aerial artist, yoyo protege, and silly puppet show entertain families throughout the day. Activities wind down around 5 so everyone can review and bid on the river artwork, before partying-down to the head-lining musical acts on the Main Stage. Sunday, there is focus on the family with more paddle rentals and a pet parade at 11 am in Landry Park. Bring your pooch to win prizes! At noon, the Land Trust leads a nature walk along the river, returning by 2 pm for the River Ceremony. Spoken word, a cappella groups, and world beat sounds

fill Landry Park. All weekend long, restaurants and businesses offer "wristcounts" to those wearing wristbands (\$5). Stay tuned to the Riverfest website (walthamriverfest.org) for wristcount listings and performance schedules.

Saturday, June 16, 10 am - Noon
Pull Them Nasty Weeds - Japanese Knotweed Removal
Hammond Pond Parkway

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that creates 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 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 finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at the parking lot along the southwest edge of Hammond Pond and specifically near the kiosk at the start of the park trail. The trip leader is Brandeis naturalist Eric Olson (617-872-9928).

Monday, June 18, 7 pm
Newton Tree Conservancy Annual Meeting
Parks and Recreation Office, Vernon St, Newton Corner

The Newton Tree Conservancy is a non-profit formed for the purpose of the preservation and planting of trees in Newton. It was born out of the recognition that the city is not in a position to cover all the costs necessary to maintain our urban forest - the trees along our streets and in our parks and other public areas, and that in order to continue to enjoy the economic and environmental benefits of these trees, action must be taken to develop initiatives that will supplement what can be supported through the city's budget. Attend their annual meeting if you would like to learn more or become involved. Visit their website at www.newtontreeconservancy.org.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recently presented 2011 Tree City USA Awards to 84 Massachusetts communities including Newton. "DCR is proud of the cities and towns across the Commonwealth that have devoted so many resources to planting and caring for their trees," said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, who presented the awards. "It is a special year to honor arborists statewide following the damage done to trees during the unusual weather events in 2011."

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



Birds and trees depend on each other in a number of ways sharing a close-knot ecological link. Trees provide roosting and nesting habitat as well as direct and indirect sources of food for birds. At the same time, birds help trees by foraging on leaf-eating insects, dispersing seeds and even pollinating flowers. Please house nature photographer and ecologist Brooks Mathewson for a lecture on the ecological interdependencies between birds and trees. The talk will be illustrated with some Brooks' stunning photographs depicting these interactions. The program is cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the 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. 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. 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.



Saturday, June 23, 10 am
The Theory and Practice of Controlling Invasive Plants
Weston Nurseries, 93 East Main Street (Rte. 135), Hopkinton, MA 01748

What is an invasive plant? Why should we be concerned? How do you control them? The Massachusetts Invasive Plant List is a great start, but where do we go from there? Join Weston Nurseries Horticulturists Lee Thomas and Dirk Coburn in this free presentation on Invasive plants. See the following link for further details:
<http://www.westonnurseries.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&eventID=191>

Sunday, June 24, 2 pm
Civil War Soldiers at St. Mary's Cemetery
Historic Newton Walk Series
St. Mary's Church, 258 Concord Street, Newton Lower Falls

Commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by learning the stories of the many Civil War veterans buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery. Led by church historian Beverly Hurney, this tour will reveal the adventures and sacrifices of Lower Falls soldiers and families. Meet at St. Mary's Church, 258 Concord Street, Newton Lower Falls. Free. Sponsored by Historic Newton (www.historicnewton.org).

Tuesday, June 26, 7 pm
Riverside Station Public Meeting
Aldermanic Chamber, City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre

On April 17th, the Board of Aldermen approved the establishment of a Mixed-Use 3 / Transit Oriented District. This district describes the maximum development build-out at the Riverside MBTA Station. BH Normandy is prepared to present their new development proposal to the public. In accordance with the new zoning amendment, "Prior to submittal of an application for a special permit in the MU3/TOD, ...petitioners shall present conceptual plans for review by the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen at a public meeting. The Committee shall provide a forum for a public presentation whereby the Committee and public may ask questions, gain an understanding of the project proposal, and provide feedback that can inform further development of the project." This is the next opportunity for public input to help shape this project. Please mark this important meeting date on your calendar. More information will be

forthcoming. For more information visit the website of the Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition at www.riversidestation.info or contact Lynne Sweet, lsweet@riversidestation.info or Bill Renke, brenke@riversidestation.info

Tuesday, June 26, 7 pm
Community Preservation Committee Meeting
Newton City Hall, Room 202

The next scheduled CPC meeting is June 26. Tentative agenda includes overview and pre-proposals for CPA-eligible projects in the City's Capital Improvements Plan, pre-proposal for the Walker Center (Auburndale), and planning for revision of CPC Funding Guidelines & Priorities. The last of the CPC's 5 neighborhood birthday parties, for Newton's South Side - Ward 8 & beyond - is set for Wednesday, October 3, at Newton South High School. The Community Preservation Act provides state and local funds for affordable housing, historic resources, open space and recreation land. Find out how people have ranked these resources so far from new links in the "Happy 10th" section of the CPC's home page at www.newtonma.gov/cpa

The Mass. Senate joined the House in passing full amendment language to the [Community Preservation Act](#) (CPA), including an increase in funding for the CPA Trust Fund. The CPA Coalition (www.communitypreservation.org) responded: "There are often differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget, and this year is no exception. The Senate's CPA budget amendment provides a one-time appropriation of \$5 million in funding for the statewide CPA Trust Fund in July 2012, while the House version grants a \$25 million recurring sum from the annual state budget surplus beginning in the fall of 2013. All the other provisions of the CPA legislation are the same in both the Senate and House versions, including the changes to the recreation rules for CPA projects." Next month, a joint conference committee will work to resolve differences in CPA funding between the Senate and House budgets. The lead Senator sponsor is Newton's own Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton).

Tuesday, July 17
Evening on the Farm
Newton Community Farm

Save the date for the annual Evening on the Farm, the evening of Tuesday, July 17. It will be a beautifully prepared dinner with wine and music, with the barn and field as background, and the setting sun in the west. See www.newtoncommunityfarm.org for further details.

Buy delicious, fresh, locally grown produce at the temporary farm stand on Winchester Street (at the farm). Hours: Tues.-Fri., 2-7 p.m.; Sat., 10-2 p.m. Or visit our produce stand at Newton's Farmers' Market, American Legion Post 440, 295 California St., on Fridays from July 6 to October 5. Hours: noon-5 p.m. The farm has a new blog at <http://handpickednation.com/read/farming-101-chop-wood-carry-water/>

The Newton Farm Commission, which oversees our activities at the Angino Farm on behalf of the City of Newton, is seeking a new member. If you are passionate about locally grown produce, preserving the last remaining farm in Newton, and educating the public on issues such as sound agricultural practices, consider applying. The commission meets once a month at City Hall on a Thursday evening, usually from 7 to 8:30 p.m. If you are interested, send a letter of interest and a résumé to Alexandra Ananth, aananth@newtonma.gov, staff for the Farm Commission. For more information, call her at 617-796-1121.

News

MWRA Trails Opening to the Public!

Great news: more than 40 miles of trails along beautiful, historic unused aqueducts throughout Massachusetts will now be open to the public. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs have announced a new policy to make trails more accessible along several MWRA aqueducts that are no longer in active service. Visit MWRA's [website](#) for more information, and check out the related [Boston Globe article](#).

Bicycle News

The Bicycle Advisory Committee presented "The New Bicycle Network Plan for Newton at the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall on June 4 to a packed house. This Plan is posted on the City website, under Planning, Boards & Commissions, "Transportation Advisory Group" <http://newton.ma.gov/gov/planning/bc/tag.asp>. See June 4, 2012: <http://newtonma.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=44231>.

Bike Newton is sponsoring Monday evening rides this summer. Meet at the Newton FreeLibrary at 5:45 and bike from 6-7:15 pm. Helmet required. See Details at www.bikenewton.org. June 11 Destination: Echo Bridge, June 18 Destination: Cordingly Dam, June 25 Destination: Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

Crystal Lake News

The Crystal Lake Conservancy is a 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to the preservation and protection of Crystal Lake for the benefit of the public. To learn more about their efforts, please go to www.crystallakeconservancy.org. Please take a look at the [Spring 2012 Newsletter](#) on their website to learn about happenings at Crystal Lake this spring and two projects that the City of Newton has undertaken to improve the water quality at Crystal Lake. You can also learn what you can do at home to help protect Crystal Lake and other water bodies. You can learn about wildlife sightings, water sampling, fish stocking and much more!



Charles River News

The Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) needs your help to stop the spread of invasive weeds in the Lakes District of the Charles River. Water chestnuts are choking out native plants and animals, degrading water quality, and impairing recreation. Sign up to volunteer and enjoy a fun afternoon on the river: <http://www.crwa.org/events/waterchestnut.html> This July, they offer an exciting volunteer opportunity helping to stop the spread of invasive water chestnuts in the Lakes District of the Charles River.

The water chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, grows very densely and can choke the water in shallow sections of the river and along the shoreline, severely limiting light (a critical element of aquatic ecosystems), decreasing oxygen in the water, and preventing boat passage. In order to prevent water chestnuts from spreading, the plants need to be removed before they drop their spiky seeds into the river, which occurs in early August. To control water chestnut populations, your help is needed to hand pull the plants from the river. By volunteering your time, you can make a difference and have a positive impact on the river, as well as enjoy a fun-filled day out on the water! All are encouraged to participate, and no experience is necessary.

Please email waterchestnut@crwa.org or call 781-788-0007 x235 to sign up for a date. If you would like to schedule a corporate group or private event, weekday morning and afternoon time

slots are available from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm. Here are the Summer 2012 Public Volunteer Dates: Sunday, July 1st from 12pm - 4pm, Saturday, July 14th from 12pm - 4pm, Thursday, July 19th from 5pm - 7:30pm, Saturday, July 28th from 10am - 1pm.

The Charles River Cleanup Boat is back on the water for another season. Join our friends in the cleanup crew for a day on the river as they motor down the river and pick up trash with nets. To see calendar and to sign up, please visit www.cleanupboat.org

Pull garlic mustard before it goes to seed, and save a lot more work later

by Julia Malakie

This is garlic mustard, an invasive species that's not just in Newton but in much of the Northeast and Midwest. The Newton Conservators and the Invasive Plant Task Force have been doing weed pulls in areas like Cold Spring Park, Dolan Pond Conservation Area, and the Charles River Greenway for a few years now with some success, but it's a constant battle to keep it from taking over and crowding out native species. Each plant can produce hundreds, or even a thousand seeds, depending on how big it's gotten, and produces a chemical in the soil that inhibits native plants. It's a biennial, meaning it doesn't produce seeds until the second year, so weed pulls concentrate on getting the second year plants.



It's not just in wooded areas in Newton. It's in yards, on berms, along fences and parking lots. You don't have to look very hard to find it. I was on my way to Cold Spring Park to get some pictures of it, when I saw a bit on a berm from Centre Street (above left). Then I was driving down Cabot and saw a large patch behind the chain link fence across from Claremont St., in the woody area north of the soccer field (right, this is only part of it).

Right now the second year plants have lost their little white flowers, and the seed pods have formed. If you see even a single plant, or small patch, pull it out by the roots, put it in a plastic bag (not shaking out the soil from the roots because it likely contains seeds which can germinate for up to several years) and dispose of it in the trash, not compost. This is an example of 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure' because it will keep small infestations from becoming big ones. These spiky things are the pods; they're like peapods, in that each little bump is a seed inside.



If you'd like to get Invasive Plant Task Force emails about weed pulls and progress, contact Eric Olson at eolson@brandeis.edu. You can read more about garlic mustard online; here's a good FAQ: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/garlicFAQ.htm>

And although I've never tried it, the leaves are supposed to be good salad greens, which is probably why it was brought over from Europe in the 1800s in the first place. You can Google 'garlic mustard recipes' but please don't grow it on purpose, there's way too much out there already!

<http://village14.com/netwon-ma/2012/05/pull-garlic-mustard-before-it-goes-to-seed-and-save-a-lot-more-work-later/#ixzz1xAPXshYv>

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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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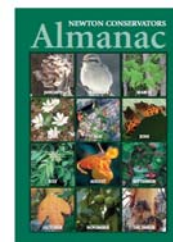
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com or emallist@newtonconservators.org. The current edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to dolanpond@aol.com.

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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