



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

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



Fall Season . . .

Hope you are enjoying the last rays of summer heading into the Fall. What a delightful time to get out and enjoy Newton's open spaces. Check out our fall event series starting September 23, listed below for walking, bridging, biking, and canoe/kayak activities. In addition, we list a number of other activities that may be of interest. Please note that this coming Wednesday there is a public hearing for comments on the new draft of funding guidelines for the CPA in Newton. The CPA underwent some revisions this past summer and the new guidelines may reflect some of the changes in the law particularly as to the recreation category. One of the premier success stories for the CPA was the acquisition of what is now the Newton Community Farm spearheaded by the Newton Conservators. Check out their upcoming Farm Festival and dinner. Bike Newton has been active at getting people out on the road and Historic Newton has a few walk events as well. Don't miss the Newton Tree Conservancy's Tree Planting exhibit at the library and maybe you'd be interested in planting some street trees in your neighborhood. Get out and take advantage of the fine autumnal days!

Newton Conservator Events – Fall 2012

Sunday, September 23, 1 pm The Canoe Trip at Nahanton Park

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 can 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, the large Dedham Ditch and then will stop for lunch on Cow Island. The trip back will be similar except that we will have the current helping to carry canoeist 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)

Sunday, September 30, 8 am
Fall Birdwalk at Nahanton Park

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 for 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 the Newton Conservators. Trip cancelled in steady rain but okay if light rain or drizzle. If in doubt, call Trip Leader Haynes Miller (617-413-2419). Trip Leaders: Haynes Miller and Alison Leary.



Sunday, October 14, 8 am
Fall Birdwalk at Nahanton Park

Follow up to earlier bird walk (see above walk description). 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. Cosponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and Newton Conservators. Trip cancelled in steady rain. If in doubt, call Alison Leary (617-821-5619). Trip Leaders: Alison Leary and Haynes Miller.



Saturday, October 20, 8 am (Rain Date: Sunday, October 21)
Fall Birdwalk at Cold Spring Park

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Cold Spring Park in search of resident and migrating birds. Turn left inside the Beacon Street entrance. Meet at the end of the parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. In case of steady rain, rain date is Sunday October 21. If in doubt, call Trip Leader Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477).



Sunday, October 21, 2 pm
Aqueducts Bike Ride

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, November 11 at 2:00pm
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. See the loop map. (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike.) Meet in front of the Starbucks near the Waban MBTA Station. Trip leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488).



Other Events of Interest

Wednesday, September 19, 7 pm
Public Hearing on Draft of New CPA Funding Guidelines
Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville).



The Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides state and local funds for affordable housing, historic

resources, open space and recreation. You can learn more about how Newton's CPA program works and the projects it has funded from: <http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa>. Under the CPA, a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) of appointed volunteers must recommend projects for funding to the local legislature, which has the sole authority to appropriate funds.

Newton's local legislature is its Board of Aldermen. The attached draft new funding guidelines for Newton's CPC are a work in progress. The Committee expects to make further changes in these guidelines before adopting a final version in mid-November 2012, which will guide its funding recommendations to the Board of Aldermen for fy14 and later years. It is hoped that as many Newton residents, elected officials, and City staff as possible will comment on these draft guidelines. The CPA process has been the engine for open space acquisition in Newton. Please take a look at the draft guidelines at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=46117>.

Some of the topics in the draft are 1) Use existing City-wide plans to guide funding decisions; 2) Balance the allocation of funds across all eligible resources and allowable uses; 3) Support proposals with a high benefit/cost ratio and probability of success, based on their sponsors' demonstrated capacity for project management and long-term maintenance. 4) Evaluate Projects to Ensure Accountability & Improve Future Projects. Comments may be made at the public hearing or by sending email to aingerson@newtonma.gov or mail to Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, Planning & Development Dept., Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton Centre, MA 02459. The CPC also has a quick online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/NYFZCDH> which will be available until October 9.

Sunday, September 23, 11 am - 3 pm Newton Community Farm Fall Festival

Mark your calendars! Just because summer is drawing to a close does not mean that the fun stops! Join the Newton Community Farm for their annual Fall Festival on Sunday, September 23, 11 to 3 p.m., and celebrate their seventh successful growing season. Food, fun, pumpkins, and more - a great day is planned for the entire family. Parking and admission are FREE, and this year the festival is adding several new activities, including professional cooking demonstrations (Noon) and apple relays (12:45, 1:45 pm), to the list of long-time favorites. There will be lively music, farm tours (12, 1, 2 pm), children's activities, farm produce, baked goods, and delicious food. For further info please visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org or email admin@newtoncommunityfarm.org.



The Newton Community Farm made national news recently when it was featured by CNN Money Magazine as part of its segment "100 Best Places to Live." The camera crew spent the better part of a gorgeous summer day capturing Alison Wilson and the Farm Sprouts in action as well as interviewing Megan about the farm's history and importance to the community. View the segment at <http://money.cnn.com/video/pf/2012/08/20/pf-best-places-to-live-newton-ma-2.moneymag/>. The farm has come a long way since the efforts to acquire it with the help of CPA funds by the Newton Conservators. Back then, most people had no idea what CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) meant!

Sunday, September 23, 2 pm Building the "Pike" in Newton Corner Historic Newton Walks

Driving around the rotary, have you wondered what Newton Corner was like extension came through? Join local resident Bob Carleo, who worked as a private consultant on the project, for a tour complete with then-and-now comparisons about constructing the road. You'll never see the area in the same way again! the corner of Centre and Vernon Streets. Free. Sponsored by Historic Newton. Visit www.historicnewton.org.



before the turnpike engineering and inside stories Meet in the park at

Friday, September 28, 6:45 am Bike Friday

The Newton Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force, for their part in Walk-Bike week, will sponsor Bike Friday, for commuters traveling into Boston. They will begin at Newton City Hall, meet additional riders in Newtonville and Watertown Square and end at the Sports Club near Boston Common. Meet at 6:45 AM, leave at 7 AM, arrive Boston 8:15 AM. Learn a safe route for your commute to Boston. Info at <https://sites.google.com/site/newtonbptf/>.



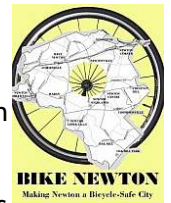
Saturday, September 29, 2:00-3:30 pm
Workers' Housing and Mill Buildings: Redevelopment in Upper Falls
Historic Newton Walks

Architect Jane Galli will lead a tour looking at worker housing in Newton Upper Falls in the context of Newton Lower Falls' extensive redevelopment and of New England mill buildings' redevelopment and adaptive reuse. Co-sponsored by Historic Newton and the Newton Upper Falls Area Council. Meet at the northwest corner of Chestnut St. and Elliot St. Free. Visit <http://www.historicnewton.org/>



Saturday, September 29, 12-1 pm
Wednesday, October 2, 8-9 am and 4-5 pm
Newton Bike Census

For Bike Newton's part in Walk/Bike week, they will be doing a bike census and need 25 volunteers, so if you can help, please sign up and provide your contact information. At www.bikenevton.org click on 'Do something' and 'Volunteer'. Choose an intersection. The census will be done on Saturday, Sept 29 12-1 PM and on Wed. Oct 3 8-9 AM and 4-5 PM. . if you aren't able to commit to all three times listed for observing an intersection, please choose times and locations that will work for you. The bike census is a valuable planning tool to help determine future bike lanes and other bicycle accommodations.



Wednesday, October 3, 7 pm
Happy 10th Birthday, Newton CPA!
Cafeteria, Newton South High School, Brandeis Road

This 5th and final neighborhood meeting in a year?long series will focus on the needs of the South Side (Ward 8 & beyond), but as always, residents of all neighborhoods are welcome. Comments will be solicited on the draft guidelines (see CPA Public Hearing on September 19). For further info visit: <http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa>



Sunday, October 14, 11 am - 5 pm
Green Solutions Expo
Newton Centre parking lot adjoining Newton's Harvest Fair

Over 60 exhibitors will provide tips on how to live an environmentally friendly lifestyle, while showcasing their green products, services and ideas. This is a Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce event. For more info contact info@greendecade.org or visit <http://greendecade.org/green-solutions-expo.html>



Tuesday, October 16, 7 pm
Lumière Dinner to Benefit Newton Community Farm
Lumière Restaurant, Washington and Waltham Streets, West Newton

There will be a dinner to benefit educational programs and site improvements at Newton Community



Farm, including donations to the Newton Food Pantry. This special event will be held at Lumière Restaurant in West Newton on Tuesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. Chef Michael Leviton, owner of Lumière and director of the Board of Overseers of the Chefs Collaborative, will prepare a four-course dinner with wine pairings that features Newton Community Farm vegetables. Tickets are \$150 per person. Sponsor tickets are also available. For more information and to R.S.V.P., contact Rochelle Rosen, 617-694-5682 or admin@NewtonCommunityFarm.org or visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org.

Tuesday, November 27, 6:30-8:30 pm
5th Annual Newton Preservation Awards
Boston College Alumni House
Sponsored by Historic Newton

Historic Newton (www.historicnewton.org), in collaboration with the Newton Historical Commission, presents the Newton Preservation Awards, which recognize projects that feature the preservation of Newton's historic buildings and landscapes and promote awareness of Newton's historic fabric. Eligible projects may include: the rehabilitation of a historic house or building; a sensitively designed addition to a historic building; the restoration of a historic landscape; education programs which make students aware of Newton's architectural treasures; and individuals or organizations which have done out-standing jobs of stewarding historic properties and materials. In addition, the Thelma Fleishman Personal Achievement Award celebrates individuals with a strong dedication to preserving Newton's irreplaceable history. The award ceremony will be held on November 27, 2012 at the Boston College Alumni House, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nominate a project for the 2012 Newton Preservation Awards at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hnpanom2012>.

News

Tree Displays at Newton Free Library Through End of September

Check out the superb display cases at the Newton Library this month, running to the end of September! They contain wonderful tree displays done by Newton Tree Conservancy directors. One display showcases some of Newton's most "notable trees," both historical and present day specimens. The other display promotes the Citizen Pruner program, including fascinating visuals of what to do - and what not to do - when pruning trees. These are in the "Atrium displays," next to the main circulation desk going towards the reference room. The Newton Tree Conservancy would love to get your feedback, your submissions of more notable trees, and your involvement in their programs. For more information please visit <http://newtontreeconservancy.org/programs/index.html>.



Newton Tree Conservancy's Tree Planting Program Applications Due by Friday, October 8

Does your street need trees? Are you interested in joining with your neighbors and the Newton Tree Conservancy (NTC) to plant trees on your street? The NTC is now accepting applications for the spring and fall Community Tree Plantings for 2013. With the assistance of generous grants from Newton Community Pride's Stella and Leo Levi Tree Endowment Fund and members of the community, the NTC has planted more than 150 street trees over the past three years. In November, they will meet the new goal of planting 100 trees in just this year alone.



You are eligible to apply for the planting program if you can assemble a group of at least five properties (preferably within a one- or two-block area) with space on the city-owned berm for a total of eight or more trees. (Individual homeowners may not apply.) Groups chosen to receive trees must agree to water and weed the trees weekly for the first two years, to select three members to take a free three-hour class on how to plant trees (taught by Marc Welch, Newton's Director of Urban Forestry) and to provide volunteers to assist on planting day. In return, NTC will provide carefully chosen trees appropriate for the site as well as the volunteer labor and expertise to plant the

trees.

The city is losing more than 500 street trees each year and has no regular budget for planting replacement trees. The NTC, a membership-supported non-profit, works to address this problem and to maintain Newton's tree-filled beauty. The application deadline is Friday, October 8. Program details and application forms (as well as information about making contributions to support this work) are at <http://www.newtontreeconservancy.org/>

Bobby Braceland Park Improvements

Park renovations have recently been completed at Bobby Braceland Park on Chestnut Street. The parking lot has been revamped and a crosswalk with signage has been installed to enable easier pedestrian access across Chestnut Street. A new double tennis court is already getting steady use. And there is a new official off-leash area at the very back of the park, down the hill. There is no fence separating it from the rest of the park, but there is a significant natural boundary (the hill). Users should not let your dog off leash anywhere else at Braceland Park! In particular, please remember to keep you dog on leash when you leave your car, until you are in the legal off leash area. There are signs, barrels, and a mutt mitt station. To use the off-leash area, your dog must have a Newton off-leash medallion (over 1000 have been issued so far this year!). For information on Newton's off leash program please visit <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/city/offleash/default.asp>.



In Memory of Rita Barron, Charles River Advocate source: Charles River Watershed Association

Rita Barron, former CRWA Executive Director and iconic leader and advocate for the Charles River, passed away on August 30th after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. Dubbed the "Goddess of the Charles", Rita came on board to lead CRWA in 1973 and had one goal; to convince everyone the much polluted Charles was worth saving. Rita changed attitudes by persistently communicating why the river was so important. Her input was key in drafting and passing legislation that protected and greatly improved the Charles River and its watershed. She was instrumental in preserving 13 square miles of wetlands under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Charles River Natural Valley Storage project. These wetlands prevent downstream flooding, provide extensive natural habitat, replenish water supplies, and filter out many pollutants. Rita also showed the community the benefit of a clean Charles by organizing the first Run of the Charles in 1983, now the largest flat-bottomed boat race in New England. A beautiful tribute to Rita Barron (written by Lois Levin) can be found at <http://www.crwa.org/documents/ritabrochure.pdf>. One person's simple actions CAN make a huge difference!



In Memory of Irene Howard

Irene Howard of Newton Highlands, mother of Newton Conservators treasurer and Newton Tree Conservancy president, passed away very unexpectedly last month. She was a beautiful, gracious woman, a lover of the natural world, a great supporter of the Conservators and an inspiration to us all. How many of us would be pulling garlic mustard in our eighties? Irene did, helping her daughter who she loved dearly and making her contribution to our efforts. She will be missed!



Charles River Shad Restoration

This past summer, 500,000 American shad larvae, were released into the Charles River at the boat access ramp on Woerd Avenue in Waltham. This was the first of many stockings along the Charles - officials plan to release 3 million larvae into the river as part of the American Shad Propagation Project. Read more on this effort in a report by Mark Albano, at http://environment.blog.state.ma.us/blog/2012/08/field-report-charles-river-shad-restoration.html?utm_campaign=great-outdoors-newsletter&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_source=mass.gov/eea

Riverside Project Update Courtesy of Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition (RSNC)

Exactly 1000 days after their first presentation to the community, developer BH Normandy submitted an application to the City for a Special Permit to develop a mixed-use project at the Riverside MBTA Station. The application was assigned docket numbers 258-12 and 258-12(2).

The "Station at Riverside" Special Permit application materials can be found on the City's website at: http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/current/devrev/hip/riverside/board_of_aldermen_supporting_documents.asp. Key numbers from the Special Permit application:

- Office: 225,000 sq.ft., 10 stories, 571 garaged parking spaces.
- Residential: 331,000 sq.ft., 5 stories, 429 garaged parking spaces, 290 rental units
(18 studio, 157-1 bedroom, 103-2 br, 12-3 br).
- Retail: 20,000 sq.ft., parking in MBTA garage.
- Community: 8,000 sq.ft., parking in MBTA garage.
- Total: 584,000 sq.ft., 1000 garaged parking spaces, 12 surface parking spaces.

According to the Special Permit narrative, the MBTA Intermodal Commuter Facility (ICF) will be 5 levels, with 1005 parking spaces. The next step in the process will be for the Land Use committee to assign a Public Hearing Date for the Special Permit. For further info please visit the RSNC website at <http://www.riversidestation.info/riverside/tiki-index.php>

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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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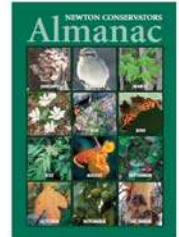
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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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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