

Subject:

E-Bulletin - January 19, 2013



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Saturday, January 19, 2013

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



January Greetings from the Newton Conservators!

It finally feels like winter around here after some very mild January weather. Don't miss the annual Duck Walk on Sunday sponsored by our neighbors across the Charles in Waltham and an interesting program at the library on Frederick Law Olmsted on Tuesday. The annual Focus on Feeder bird count is coming up next weekend and if you are interested in participating in the CSA at Newton Community Farm, now is the time to put in your application! Find some other calendar items of interest and some excerpts from our latest Newton Conservators Newsletter. Spring is coming!

Sunday, January 27, 10 am

Waltham Land Trust's 8th Annual Duck Walk

Shaw's Market, 130 River Street, Waltham

Frigid temperatures may be uncomfortable for us, but it pretty much ensures tons of birds at the Charles River as ponds and brooks freeze up. Check out these [Pictures](#) from last year's event to see what might be possible.

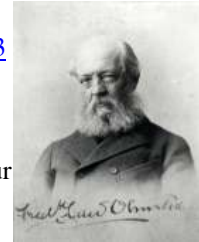


Bring this sheet of common waterfowl and your binoculars, and dress warmly with boots. The paths along the River may not be plowed, and you don't want to miss this! Waltham Land Trust has kindly put together a handy PDF guide to the water birds you might see along the Charles which can be found at the following

link: <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101836806621-109/Birds+of+Charles+River.pdf> .



Bring your binoculars, and dress warmly with boots since the paths along the river may not be plowed. You don't want to miss this great event put on by our Waltham counterparts!



Tuesday, January 29, 7 pm

Frederick Law Olmsted's Massachusetts Landscape Legacy

Newton Free Library

Join Alan Banks for an illustrated lecture at the Newton Free Library that will sample Fredrick Law Olmsted's rich landscape legacy and explore the ideas that shaped some of the most treasured lands in Massachusetts and Newton. Mr. Banks is the Supervisory Park Ranger who oversees the historical interpretation of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA.

Saturday, Sunday, February 2,3

Focus on Feeders – Winter Bird Count



You Can Be Part of Mass Audubon's Winter Bird Count! On the weekend of February 2 and 3, keep a list of all the different species you see at your bird feeder and in your yard, and the greatest number of each species you see at one time. There are two ways to give us your bird counts: 1) Enter them into our online form or 2) Download and print the Focus on Feeders [report form](#) and mail it to the address on the form. Observations from the bird watching public contribute to a growing body of information that can help provide early warning signs of changes in the abundance of bird species that visit feeders. For example, feeder watching in Massachusetts since the 1960s has helped document the northward expansion of the tufted titmouse,

Carolina wren and Northern cardinal at least partly in response to increasingly warmer winters. And, it's fun! We especially appreciate reading the many comments submitted by Focus on Feeder participants since they often help us interpret results (e.g., "Feeder birds down this year" or "Where are all my redpolls?"). Visit http://www.massaudubon.org/Birds_and_Birding/FoF/participate.php for full details.

Wednesday, Thursday, February 27, 28th

Ecological Landscaping Association's 19th Annual Conference

Build your ecological connections at the [ELA'S 19th annual Conference](#), Sustainable Habitats: Building Ecological Connections, on February 27th and 28th in Springfield, MA. Admission includes educational sessions and workshops, Continental breakfast and lunch, Jazz Social Hour, and networking opportunities throughout the day. Wednesday offers two intensive workshops. [Ecological Systems + Design = Living Spaces](#) explores the interplay of soil, water, soil, and habitat in creating landscapes. [Local Food, Local Landscapes](#) looks at integrating and sustaining edibles in the landscape. Optional Keynote Dinner features Jeff Lowenfels, author of *Teaming with Microbes*, *A Gardener's Guide to the Soils Food Web*. [Thursday's educational lineup](#) includes three concurrent education tracks - two tracks with classroom-style sessions and one track of panel discussions - covering a wide range of topics relevant to ecological landscape design and maintenance. Optional Keynote Dinner features Rebecca McMackin, Brooklyn Bridge Park Horticulturist. For additional information and registration, visit www.ecolandscaping.org/conference.

Saturday, April 20, 9 am – 12 pm

14th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup

Join thousands of volunteers on April 20, 2013 for the 14th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup. While Spring may seem far off **it's not too early to register** for this exciting annual event- sites fill up fast! Register to help by going to: http://www.crrwa.org/crcleanup/cleanup_volunteer_form.html . Each year the Cleanup engages over 3,000 volunteers to beautify the Charles River and its tributaries by picking up trash and cleaning the riverbanks at over 100 sites from Milford to Boston. We will provide you with all of the supplies and instructions that you will need to make the cleanup a success - trash bags, gloves, and a t-shirt for each participant in your group. Visit <http://www.crrwa.org/> for more info. FYI, the 31st Annual Run of the Charles canoe / kayak event is the following weekend on Sunday 4/28/2013.



Sunday, April 28

NewtonSERVES – Building Community Through Service

NewtonSERVES is a day of community service bringing together volunteers of all ages to complete over 60 projects for non-profit organizations and City of Newton departments. The next Day of Service will take place on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Volunteers work in teams on projects throughout the city, such as cleaning up parks, planting gardens, building and painting school bookshelves, spring cleaning at non-profit organizations and helping our senior citizens. Mayor Setti Warren has announced that NewtonSERVES is expanding into a year-long, village based project. If you are interested in initiating a project for your village, email NewtonSERVES@newtoncommunitypride.org. For more information, please visit www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html.

Save the Date: Wednesday May 1

Newton Conservators Annual Meeting

Post 440, Newton

As the snow flies this winter, keep yourself warm with thoughts of flowering plants (and their evolution). Then, as spring is settling in, come to hear about them at the Conservators Annual Meeting—on May 1. Our Guest Speaker will be Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum. In January 2011, Dr. William (Ned) Friedman became the director of the Arnold Arboretum, the oldest public arboretum in North America. He also is the Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. He conducted his doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley, where he did research on the reproductive structures of plants and on the rise of flowering plants. He and his research associates recently discovered a reproductive structure in an ancient flowering plant that may represent a critical link between flowering plants and their ancestors. Dr. Friedman also has long been interested in the history of biology, particularly the history of evolutionism.



Thursday, May 9, 7-9 pm

Environmental Lawn Management

Mary C. Owen, Extension Specialist in Turf at UMass Amherst
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library

Join Mary C. Owen, Extension Specialist in Turf at UMass Amherst, for a program on best lawn management practices for protecting the environment. The program is cosponsored by the Crystal Lake Conservancy and Green Decade/Newton.

CSA Shares from Newton Community Farm (NCF)

by *Greg Maslowe, Newton Community Farm Manager*

There is nothing like cold winter days to make one think of fresh produce, a bountiful field, and time spent on the farm! The CSA enrollment process for the coming season is now underway. This year the CSA will reflect NCF's successful efforts with season extension. The 2013 CSA will run for 24 weeks from June through mid-November, which gives sharers two more weeks to enjoy fresh, locally-grown produce! The \$600 per season price for a full weekly share reflects a modest increase of \$30 to correspond with the increased number of weeks for the CSA. The price for an alternate week share is \$325. The work commitment remains at 12 hours per share (6 hours for alternate



week share) with an option of paying \$10/hour if you want to buy out your obligation. Click [here](#) for more information about the CSA program and policy. As in the past, all applicants must be Friends of the Farm for 2013 (\$35 for the individual level and \$60 for the family level). For a description of the benefits and the enrollment form, please go to the following link on our website: [Friend of the Farm information](#). Those who are not already Friends must submit an enrollment form along with non-refundable payment (please send separate check). Please note you have automatically been enrolled as a FOF if you donated in the above amounts or more since the Fall Appeal letter went out in December 2012. Also, all forms and checks must be received at NCF (mail or drop off) by the due dates (see below) for consideration in each phase. The form will be available on the website by 1/20/13. Mail or drop-off completed applications to Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA 02459. As always, thank you for your interest and support of Newton Community Farm!

Phase I: January 21 - Feb 3 (due date) for 2012 CSA Sharers: Re-enrollment for 2012 CSA participants who wish to return. 2012 sharers who do not re-enroll during this period can still enroll by participating in the general enrollment period.

Phase II: Feb 4 - February 24 (due date) for Newton Residents: General enrollment for Newton residents. Applications will be accepted from Newton residents only. At the end of this period, NCF will hold a lottery to select as many new participants as we have shares available. The lottery will be random, with no preference given for when the application was received before the due date. To participate in the lottery, we must receive your CSA enrollment application along with payment (checks will be returned to those who we cannot accommodate) and a Friend of the Farm form for 2013 for those who are not already friends (payment is non-refundable; please send separate check). NCF will notify applicants by February 26th as to whether or not they were selected in the lottery for a 2013 CSA share.

Phase III: February 26 until CSA is full, for Newton Residents and General Public: In the event that there are remaining shares available after the enrollment period for Newton residents, we will begin accepting applications from Newton residents and non-Newton residents on a first come, first served basis until we are full. We will announce this phase on our website by February 26th if there are shares available.

Waban Hill Reservoir

The Waban Hill Reservoir was built by the City of Newton in 1877 with an 1100 foot long earthen dam at 22 feet in height. The reservoir, which comprised about 5 acres was sold to the Metropolitan Water Board in 1900 and is currently owned by MWRA. Currently it is filled only with surface runoff and was used as a backup water supply. It is no longer needed by the MWRA and they have indicated to Newton that they want to surplus the property. Newton is currently exploring possible uses for the reservoir, and the costs and funding to acquire it. A committee has been formed to explore possible uses and make recommendations. The planning documents for the city on this property (which is closer to Boston College than Waban!) can be found at:

http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/current/devrev/hip/manet_road.asp.

Lou Taverna, from the city's engineering department, at a recent committee meeting, indicated that the higher dam edges of the site could be leveled and used to fill the interior. The committee is soliciting ideas for what might be done at the site – park, play areas, sports fields, open space, off-leash, etc. If you have any thoughts on what to do with a rare 5 acre blank open space in Newton, please pass them on to committee member Ted Kuklinski (dolanpond@aol.com) who will summarize and forward your suggestions to the committee for discussion at their future meetings in February and March.



Newton Conservators Winter 2013 Newsletter

Our winter newsletter was sent out last month and is available online as well at

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/dec12.pdf>. This

edition marked a new milestone of printing in full color. Previously just the online version was in color. Editor Beth Wilkinson and Design/Layout Director Pat Robinson and the cadre of skilled contributors did an outstanding job in this issue. Articles this issue included:

Results of CLC 2012 Water Analysis, City Storm Water Management, President's Message, The Wilson Conservation Restriction, Rare Northern Visitors & Old Friends, Too, Help for Woodcocks at Nahanton Park, Single Stream Recycling Update, and New In-House Tree Crew. Below are excerpts to some of the article included:

Crystal Lake Conservancy's 2012 Water Analysis *by Janice Bourque, Co-President, Crystal Lake Conservancy*

The Crystal Lake Conservancy's continuing activities, carried out by our many dedicated volunteers, include two major efforts: 1) Monitoring water visibility and temperature and 2) Water sampling and laboratory analysis.

The Conservancy held its third Annual Forum in October and presented the results of the water analysis it conducted from May 2012 to October 2012. Those results indicated that the health of [Crystal Lake](#) deteriorated over the past year. This article will summarize those results and present some solutions to the problems.

In full contrast to the situation in the summer of 2011, Crystal Lake was under a great deal of stress in 2012 and has entered a eutrophic phase, as indicated by higher-than-average water temperatures, increasingly low visibility, low dissolved oxygen, increased presence of nuisance aquatic plants (coontail appearing abundantly in Cronin's Cove) with higher bacteria, phosphorus and algae levels. Normal lake aging and eutrophication occurs over centuries and results from natural sources of nutrients and sediments. Crystal Lake, however, is undergoing a "cultural eutrophication," whereby this natural process is accelerated by the increased levels of bacteria and nutrients that flow off a more densely developed watershed area.

For the third year, volunteers recorded weekly temperature and visibility readings at three different depths (1 foot, 10 feet and 20-30 feet, which is the bottom of the lake) at six specific sites around Crystal Lake between May 2012 and October 2012. Water temperatures rose rapidly from 40-50 degrees in the spring to 70-80 degrees in the summer and remained fairly



high and constant at all depths due to unusually high ambient temperatures during the summer. Water visibility was at 10 feet in late May but rapidly declined to 0-2 feet by the end of July; it then improved to 10 feet at the end of August but had another rapid decline to 0-2 feet visibility during the first week in September due to two large algae blooms. The State Department of Public Health closed the lake to public swimming when water visibility was less than 4 feet: lifeguards could not easily see swimmers in the water, and algae counts were high, which could expose residents to potential toxins.

Read the rest at . . . http://www.newtonconservators.org/crystal_water_analysis_2012.htm

Newton Storm Water Management

by Alderman Deb Crossley with Alderman Ruthanne Fuller

What's in a storm drain? Which by any other name ("catch basin") should smell as sweet—as clean rain water. Ideally, it should contain nothing more.

The storm drains in our roads, however, also collect whatever the rains wash off the roads: dirt, leaves, trash, chemicals from car exhaust, pet waste, fertilizers and other garden chemicals. In places where there still are old connections to the sewer system and/or if the pipes are damaged and leaking, the storm drains also may be picking up sewage.



[The article by Janice Bourque](#) contains suggestions about what you as property owners can do to keep contaminants out of the city storm system. The city's responsibility is to provide and to maintain the public infrastructure in good working order, well functioning and reliable.

It is important to consider the city's stormwater system within the context of the vast underground plumbing system that Newton maintains to serve its citizens. We must provide residents with clean water, remove waste water (sewage), and drain rain water from properties and streets. These systems are the extensions of the plumbing systems that our homes and businesses require to sustain our lives and work. Beneath Newton's approximately 300 miles of streets, we have an almost equal length each of water, sewer and storm water pipes, as well as associated pump stations, manholes, catch basins, culverts, outflows, etc., that complete the public infrastructure that the city must steward. Much of these systems are now very old, leaking and in need of repair, which usually means cleaning and relining but in some cases requires replacement.

Read the rest at . . .
. http://www.newtonconservators.org/storm_water.htm

Wilson Conservation Restriction

by Jane Sender

Longtime Newton Conservators Richard and Andrée Wilson own a beautiful two-acre parcel of property in Newton Centre. Together with a smaller parcel donated to the City years ago, the area has both beautiful gardens and woodlands and provides wonderful habitat to a wide diversity of wildlife.



A very long and winding road led to the recording of a conservation restriction on this property at the end of September. Richard and Andrée worked extremely hard for nearly two years, in spite of significant personal health issues, to see this through. Why, you ask? Andrée's extensive garden and surrounding area, especially in the spring, simply takes your breath away. And then there were those nesting Merlins—where would they go if another house or two were built on the property? It is easy to understand their wish to leave behind, somewhat intact, a lifetime of work and pleasure in their natural environment.

Under the terms of the agreement, except for the approximately .4 acres on which the current house sits, the property is protected from any future development. Further, a permanent public right of access is established through the property along its southeastern boundary. The public has walked through the property for years, but now an official path has been established. The property remains in private hands, subject to the restriction. It can be sold, but the Conservators, as grantee, must make sure, in perpetuity, that anyone who buys the property adheres to the terms of the restriction: no building outside of the footprint of the house, preservation of the conserved area to maintain conservation values, and preserved public access along the path.

Read the rest at . . . http://www.newtonconservators.org/wilson_restriction.htm

Newton Conservators Sponsors

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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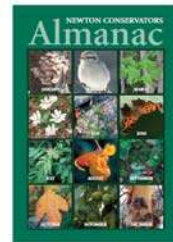
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Lucy and Tom Stair
Alderman Ruthanne Fuller

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 emaillist@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)

