



# Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, September 27, 2013

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



## Fall Event Series ...

We are officially in Autumn now and our Fall Event Series begins this Saturday at 8 am with a bird walk at Cold Spring Park, led by birder extraordinaire and Conservators board member Pete Gilmore, and on Sunday at 8 am at Nahanton Park with the one of the most knowledgeable birders around, Haynes Miller. Then on Sunday, take a short trip to the Newton Community Farm for their annual festival (11-3pm) and grab some lunch! Head back to Nahanton Park at 1 pm for a canoe trip along the Charles led by Bill and Dottie Hagar. Sunday (September 29) is also the day of the first annual Bullough's Pond Fair featuring a birdwalk at 8:30 and lots of other activities. All in all - a fun filled weekend to get out and enjoy what Newton has to offer. It will be sunny all weekend and there is no Patriots game on Sunday afternoon to distract you.

And the following weekend, on Saturday (Oct 5) we have a hiking tour of the Aqueducts from 2-5 pm, one of Newton's hidden gems. On Sunday morning (Oct 6) will be the fabulous Bike Tour de Newton with rides leaving from all Newton villages. For the water minded, in the afternoon, there will be the first Paddles and Pumpkins fest at Crystal Lake (2-5 pm) featuring free canoeing and kayaking and other activities sponsored by the Crystal Lake Conservancy. Find more details on these and other happenings below. Get out and enjoy the fine autumn in Newton!

The jam packed Newton Conservators Fall newsletter will be out soon in mailboxes and will shortly be on our website (along with all past issues) at [www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm).

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## Events

**Saturday, September 28 - 8 am**  
**Fall Birdwalk at Cold Spring Park**  
**Newton Conservators Fall Event Series**  
**Leader: Pete Gilmore**

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. Parking is available



Cold Spring Park in search of residents and migrating birds. Parking is available inside the park. 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 October 23. If in doubt call trip leader Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477).



**Sunday, September 29, 1 pm**  
**Canoe Trip at Nahanton Park**  
**Newton Conservators Fall Event Series**  
**Leaders: Bill and Dottie Hagar**

This canoe/kayak trip will start at the Nahanton Park area at 1 pm. This is a beautiful section of the Charles River from which you can go upstream against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham and Wellesley. Interested nature lovers can bring their own canoe or kayak to use, or rent one of them at the canoe/kayak/water stand rental that is 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 with different patterns of wildlife overlapping the background tree line and marsh views.



The trip from the Nahanton Canoe/Kayak dock towards Millennium Park goes endlessly through several bends in the river where canoes and kayaks glide silently through the isolated wilderness areas of Massachusetts. You will slowly paddle upstream toward the park whilst passing by numerous wonders of nature. The fall is an especially good time to view the massive numbers of turtles along the shore along with other wildlife that have successfully been born to this unique stretch of water. There are numerous fish in this part of the Charles including pickerel, bass and carp. Pickerel and bass when they are larger are piscivores and have other fish in their diet, but carp, even as adults, are primarily bottom feeders. You can see the tails of carp out of the water while their head is poking through the mud looking for food. We also will be observing the numerous birds that make their home in this appealing habitat. We will pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, the large Dedham Ditch and then stop for lunch on Cow Island. The trip back will be similar except we will have the current helping to carry canoeist and kayaker back. It is an interesting trip for adults and children that usually is completed within three hours. Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar 617-964-2644.

**Sunday, September 29, 8 am**  
**Fall Birdwalk at Nahanton Park**  
**Newton Conservators Fall Event Series**  
**Leader: Haynes Miller**

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 resident species. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance off of Nahanton Street between the JCC and the Charles River.

Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. This walk is co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and the Newton Conservators. Trip cancelled in steady rain but will take place if only light rain or drizzle. If in doubt call trip leader Haynes Miller (617-413-2419).



**Sunday, September 29, 8:30-Noon**  
**Bullough's Pond Fair**  
**Bullough's Park and Dexter Road, Newtonville**  
**Sponsored by Bullough's Pond Association**

The Bullough's Pond Association (BPA) is hosting this special fair to celebrate the natural beauty of historic Bullough's Pond, and to kick off a year of events in 2014 in commemoration of the 350th birthday of Bullough's Pond.

- 8:30-9:30 am Free, guided bird watching walk led by expert birder (*Participants should wear appropriate footwear and bring binoculars.*)
- 9:00-10:00 am Free fly-fishing demonstration by fishing expert
- 9:30-10:30 am Free *en plein air* painting lesson with local artist Michael Wilson, an instructor from the New Art Center (*Each participant is asked to bring an easel and supplies, if possible. A limited number of easels and limited supplies will be available.*)
- 10:00-11:00 am Model yacht regatta (*Bring your remote-controlled model boat - all types welcome – and test your navigation skills on our racecourse.*)
- 10:30-11:30 am Teacher-led children's nature-themed arts & crafts activity
- 11:15-11:45 am Sponsored fundraising kayak race and a chance to win the race cup (*Pre-registered, experienced, adult kayakers only. Participants must sign a liability waiver and bring their own kayak. Please phone BPA President Marilyn Campbell at 617-965-7587 to register.*)



In addition, the Bullough's Pond Fair will feature:

- The Bullough's Pond Association tent with information about the Association's environmental work, as well as BPA merchandise, bottled water and yummy snacks for sale.
- Bullough's Pond-themed artwork on display in an open-air art show.
- Miller John Spring will travel in time from the year 1664 to talk to visitors about the pond's history
- Live music from 10:30-11:30

The Bullough's Pond Fair will take place on Bulloughs Park and Dexter Road in Newtonville, and is within walking distance of the Newtonville Village Day & Jazz Festival in the afternoon. Please plan to park that morning on a nearby street, but not on Bulloughs Park or Dexter Road. Info at: [www.bulloughspond.org](http://www.bulloughspond.org).



## **Sunday, September 29, 11 am – 3 pm Newton Community Farm Fall Festival Newton Community Farm - 303 Nahanton Street, Newton**

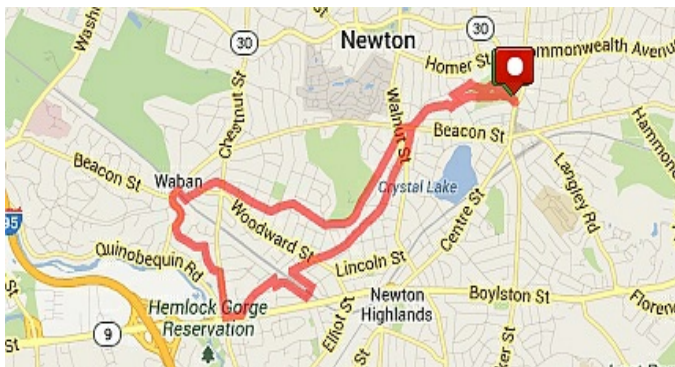
Come celebrate the harvest and enjoy time on the farm! There will be live music, farm tours, childrens activities including pumpkin decorating, hay rides, baked goods, delicious food, and more. There will also be produce for sale at the farmstand. It is a great way to learn about to Newton's last working farm. There is free admission and you can purchase tickets at the entrance for food & activities.



NCF offers programs and classes for adults, youth, and families. Go to their [Education](http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org) page for more information. Their annual farm-to-table dinner will be on Tuesday evening, October 15 at Lumiere, 1293 Washington Street, West Newton. Visit [www.newtoncommunityfarm.org](http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org) for more info on all their events and programs.

**Saturday, October 5, 2-5 pm**  
**Newton Aqueducts Hike**  
**Newton Conservators Fall Event Series**  
**Leader: Henry Finch**

Take a real hike in Newton! Discover the Newton Aqueducts. This popular 5.7 mile hike follows Newton sections of the Cochituate and Sudbury aqueducts. It is a mostly flat route on trails through woods and parks with about a mile of connecting roads. The hike starts at Newton Centre Playground at the intersection of Centre Street and Tyler Terrace. It passes through Waban at about 2.4 miles and through Eliot MBTA at 3.9 miles for those who want to shorten the route with a street car ride back to Newton Centre.



This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. Rain does not cancel but lightning does. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488). You can check out the route at this link:

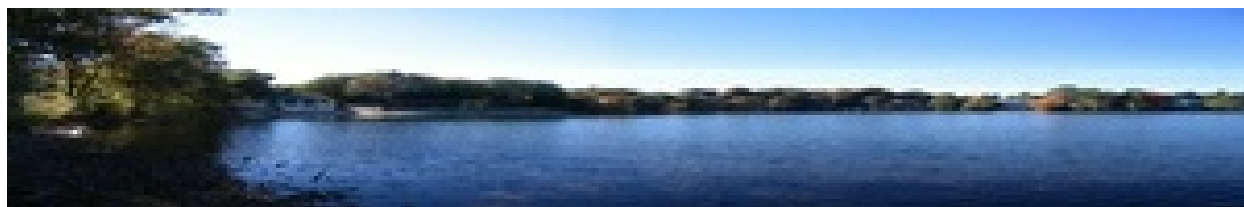
<http://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/287722859>.

**Sunday, October 6, 10 am**  
**Tour de Newton – Bicycle Tour of Newton’s Villages**

A huge event is happening on Sunday, October 6, 2013 during Newton's Walk Bike Week (October 5-12). Called the "Tour de Newton" one will be able to bicycle in a one way guided tour from village to village around the city. Tours will start simultaneously at 10 AM from a central point of each of the 13 villages. The route has been selected using fairly level streets. Participants may ride the whole route (approximately 20 miles) or any number of individual segments they choose. In each village center, greeters from the village will meet the riders and distribute a button bearing the village name. Hopefully, lots of people will collect all 13 buttons! It should be great fun; you and your family and friends will learn your way around the city and visit destinations that are not on your usual routes. Signup will be online soon. Meanwhile, dust off your bike, pump up your tires, get a comfortable helmet and a bottle for water and above all, save the date: October 6 at 10 AM. Sponsored by Bike Newton, [www.bikenewton.org](http://www.bikenewton.org).



**Sunday, October 6, 2-5 pm**  
**Paddles and Pumpkins**  
**Crystal Lake Bathhouse – 20 Rogers Street, Newton Highlands**



Come Join Us for a Day of Fun and Information!! The Board of the Crystal Lake Conservancy and the Newton Parks and Recreation Department invite you to join them for a Sunday afternoon of activities on Crystal Lake. From 2-4 pm, enjoy free canoeing, kayaking, and other activities. From 4-5 pm, learn about ongoing activities to protect Crystal Lake.

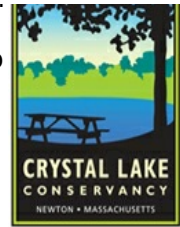
Participants can sign up for a half hour of boating between 2-4 pm to enjoy the pleasures of canoeing/kayaking on our beautiful lake. A lifeguard will be on duty and all participants will be required to wear life jackets and sign a waiver. In addition all can enjoy catching strung up donuts, drinking fresh cider and decorating your own free pumpkin!!

At 4 pm, stay and hear about Crystal Lake Conservancy's water 





...on Friday, stay and hear about Crystal Lake Conservancy's water testing results for 2013 and the City of Newton's installation of storm-drain filters. Learn how decreasing pollutants flowing into the Lake will reduce the possibility of future algae blooms. See the design of the newly-launched watershed signs. Become a more informed watershed resident and a steward of Crystal Lake!! For more information please visit CLC's website at [www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org](http://www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org) or call Janice Bourque at 617-967-0797.



**Saturday, October 27, 1-3 pm**  
**Charles River Cleanup – COASTSWEEP**  
**Charles River Road, Watertown**  
**Charles River Watershed Association**

Join Charles River Watershed Association on Sunday, October 27th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm to clean up the banks of the Charles River along [Charles River Road](#) in Watertown. Enjoy a fall afternoon as you help pick up litter along the bike path and parklands and contribute to a healthier Charles River. The cleanup is part of [COASTSWEEP](#), the Commonwealth's annual coastal cleanup program, organized by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Space is limited. For info and signup visit: <http://www.crga.org/events/fallcleanup>.



**Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm**  
**Organic Gardening and Water Conservation**  
**Lecture by Peter Coppola, Master Gardener**  
**Newton Free Library**

Master gardener Peter Coppola is coming on November 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm for a talk at the Newton Free Library on organic gardening and water conservation. The talk is sponsored by the Newton Free Library, the Newton Conservators, and Green Decade Newton.



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**Newton Conservators Fall 2013 Newsletter**

Our new Fall newsletter will be out shortly. Watch for it in your mail or at [www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm)

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## Are invasive plants worth worrying about?



*Fallopia japonica*     *Alliaria petiolata*     *Lythrum salicaria*     *Phytolacca australis*     *Rhynchospora alata*

## Ask the frogs.

By Eric Olson, Senior Lecturer in Ecology at Brandeis University

For the past eight years, I have been organizing teams of citizens and students to remove invasive plants from conservation areas in Newton and Waltham.

This is true urban ecology, conducted along the well-worn tracks of our city parks, usually on sunny Saturdays in the spring. On a typical weed-pull day, scores of people pass by our work sites, walking their dogs or just out for a stroll. Each time, a few stop to ask what we are up to. I enjoy these opportunities to teach, and I find that most people agree that selectively "erasing out" non-native plants known to exclude natives from natural habitats is a worthwhile thing to do.

Each year, though, a few challenge the logic. "What about survival of the fittest?" they ask, or "Shouldn't we just let nature take its course?" I could reply by noting that, should their bodies be invaded by Lyme or some other pathogen, they would certainly not just let nature take its course! The analogy is imperfect, however, since we are working in areas deliberately set aside to be "natural." Over time, natural communities indeed do change and adapt, and always will.



So why fight invasives? It's not fear of total extinction of native plants that drives me. Even if the lovely streamside plant Cardinal Flower (*Loebelia cardinalis*) is over-run throughout Boston's suburbs, I know of large populations in the Adirondacks that are under no immediate threat. And, yes, probably over geological time some native insects will evolve the ability to eat garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. In the here and now, though, as in over the next several hundred years, I am concerned about a cheapening of our local environment, both at the level of the plant community and higher along the food chain as well.

Recent research highlights the risks certain invasives pose to local food chains, not just to native plants. My favorite example is research done in upstate New York with Green Frogs placed for about a day and a half into laundry baskets. Half of these "frogs in a basket" were set out into knotweed patches, others in nearby wetlands still rich with native plant diversity. In the native plant areas, a variety of bugs found their way through the holes of the baskets, and frogs in those baskets gained weight over the

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## 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

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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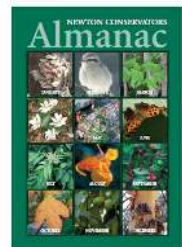
**Alderman Ruthanne Fuller**

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## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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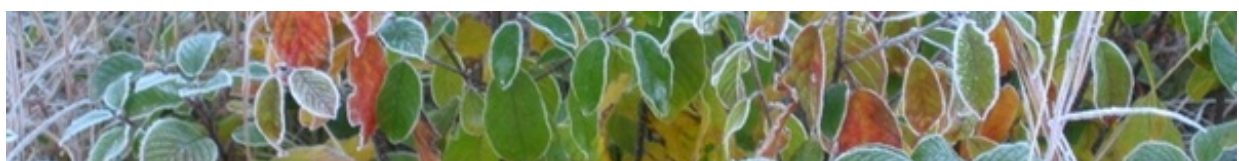
Did you know that you can join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay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



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