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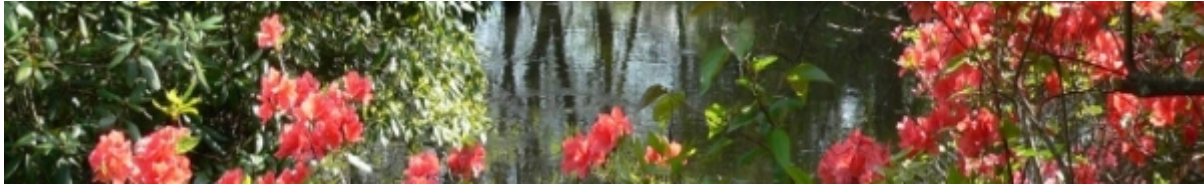
E-Bulletin -May 16, 2014 - Spring Events!



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Friday, May 16, 2014

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



May Days

Its truly amazing how our fair city goes from brown to green in such a few short weeks. Hope that you have been able to get out and enjoy it. Thanks to those who participated in our invasive pulls so far this season - we have more to go - garlic mustard beware!! If you have it in your garden or yard, now is the time to pull it before it goes to seed. Come out on one of our mustard pulls to learn about this and other invasives. Last weekend's Mother's Day Bird Walk was terrific with nice sunny weather and a plethora of interesting birds. Pete Gilmore leads one this weekend as well. In fact, this weekend is packed with loads of great outdoor activities - check out the event schedule below!

Events: May-June 2014

The Newton Conservators is Newton's land trust and open space organization and sponsors walks and activities in the spring and fall. Please note that the activities meet at different times. Some are weather dependent; please call leader if in doubt. There is no charge for attending our trips and activities. Included here are both walks and invasive removal events. Check out our website at www.newtonconservators.org for updates to this schedule. We have also included some additional events from other organizations which might be of interest to our readers.

Saturday, May 17, 8 am (Rain date: Sunday, May 18)
Cold Spring Park Bird Walk
Newton Conservators Walk Series



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, the 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 the group. Trip leader is Pete Gilmore,

617-969-1513.

Saturday, May 17, 8 am
Boston Greenbelt Walk - a One Day Walk Along the Greater Boston Trails
Waltham / Newton Section, 4 pm starting from 920 Trapelo Rd, Waltham



The Boston Greenbelt Walk is a one-day, 30-mile walk from Oak Grove Station in Malden to Riverside Station, Newton, scheduled for May 17, 2014. The walk begins and ends at T station terminal points for convenient access from Boston. This is a coordinated effort organized by, many local and regional trail organizations. For those attempting the entire walk, the start will be Oak Grove T station in Malden, MA and the end point will be the Riverside T station.

The Boston Greenbelt Trail is an MAPC proposed approximately 90 mi walking trail circling Boston. The trail would connect between Salem and Quincy inside Rt 128, connecting numerous large and small parks and open spaces including Lynn Woods, Breakheart Reservation, Middlesex Fells, Horn Pond, Cummings Park, Across Lexington, the Western

Greenway, and Aqueduct trails. The Greenbelt would also serve as catalyst to preserve some of the remaining undeveloped lands in urbanized Boston as well as to improve conditions for pedestrians along and across busy roadways. The Greenbelt Walk will focus on a 30 mile segment of this corridor. The walk is planned to maximize the use of public transportation from the beginning to the end - and in between. There are options to walk a shorter section of the route, plus limited support along the way. The walk is free in celebration of connecting all the great trails around the Greater Boston area.

A detailed walk schedule can be found at <http://www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org/content/walk-schedule>. A detailed map of the Waltham/Newton section of the walk is

at http://www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org/sites/g/files/g1493551/f/201405/Boston_Greenbelt5c.pdf.

Folks interested in just the Waltham / Newton section (about 6.5 miles) of the walk should park at Our Lady's Church parking lot (920 Trapelo Road, Waltham) and plan to leave with the group at 4 pm, following the Western Greenway Trail to sidewalks to the Waltham Common, to the Charles River, and in to Auburndale (Newton). There will be no shuttles, so you'll have to get back to your car

either by walking or taking the bus. The walkers are expected to arrive in the Newton portion of the walk around 5 pm and folks are welcome to join the walk in Newton, Waltham, or even Lexington for a shorter walk. Find more detailed info at www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org or contact bostongreenbeltwalk@gmail.com.

A FREE personalized dog tag will be sent to everyone who walks the "Boston Greenbelt Walk" on May 17, 2014. (Must complete at least 1 mile and respond to a brief online survey after the event.) Dog tag compliments of [FreeWalkers](#) & [East Coast Greenway Alliance](#).

Saturday, May 17, 11 am to 3 pm
Bugs and Birds Festival
Nahanton Park Nature Center - up the hill from the Canoe/Kayak rental

It's time once again to celebrate our beloved birds and bugs at this family-friendly festival. New and experienced birders and entomologists alike are encouraged to come out and enjoy a day devoted to wild birds and fascinating insects. Arts and Crafts, Exhibits, Charles River Self-Guided Bird Tours (\$), Drawing Tables, Bird Walks, Bug Hunt, and Learning Trail Hikes. Sponsored by Newton Parks and Recreation.



Saturday, Sunday, May 17-18
Seedling Sale
Newton Community Farm

The annual seedling sale is a great opportunity for you to purchase vegetables, herbs, and flowers for your home garden. Information can be found at www.newtoncommunityfarm.org. Please direct questions to Mara at admin@newtoncommunityfarm.org. The farm stand at Newton Community Farm will also be open so you can get both seedlings and veggies!



Sunday, May 18, 9 am - Noon
Houghton Garden / Webster Garlic Mustard Pull
Opposite 210 Suffolk Rd, Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm
Newton Conservators Invasive Plant Pulls



Last year, we began to tackle a new infestation near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the MBTA D Line Track crossing to Webster Woods and near the deer park. Help us keep garlic mustard out of Houghton Garden! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Saturday, May 24, 10 am
Upper Falls Greenway: Tour Newton's Newest Park Land
Newton Conservators Walk Series

The 3-mile walk will include the Upper Falls Greenway trail itself, as well as some possible future extensions and connections to existing parklands, including the spur line to Christina Street and the Charles River Pathway. More info at [http:// UpperFallsGreenway.org](http://UpperFallsGreenway.org). Trip leader is Jerry Reilly, 617-999-5300.

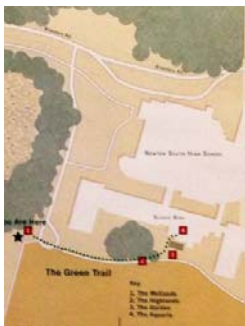


Sunday, May 25, 1 pm Riverside Pathway Tour



Newton Conservators Walk Series

Tour this proposed walking trail that could link Lower Falls to the Lasell Boat House in Auburndale. This mile and a half walk is mostly along the banks of the Charles River and will include crossing an unused railroad bridge that spans Route 129 into Lower Falls. The existing trail is a bit rough in places so wear suitable footwear. More info at <http://village14.com/newton-ma/2014/01/riverside-path-open-up-34-mile-of-newton-waterfront>. Trip leader is Jerry Reilly, 617-999-5300.



Wednesday, May 28, 3 pm (Rain Date, Thursday, May 29, 2 pm)

Newton South's Green Trail - Opening Ceremony NSHS - behind Wheeler House Science Wing

Students and faculty from several departments have been working on developing this project with the focus on environmental sustainability. Through the support of the Newton Schools Foundation, Newton South's wetlands, sustainable garden and indoor aquaria have become a valuable learning tool for real. Celebrate the beginning of the creation of this outdoor

classroom for Newton South and the greater Newton community. Please RSVP to Sarina Weiss: Newtonglobalprograms@gmail.com.

The Landscape Newton

Boston's water supply, public park since its grassed banks, woodlands attracted city dwellers for

leisurely walks and carriage rides. Discover the fascinating design history of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, constructed at the height of Boston's "Golden Age." In celebration of Massachusetts Preservation Month, join the Waterworks Museum and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for a one-hour lecture in the museum's Overlook Gallery, followed by a leisurely stroll along the banks of the reservoir. For info call 617-277-0065 or email info@waterworksmuseum.org or visit <http://www.waterworksmuseum.org/calendar/view/25>



Wednesday, May 28, 6 pm - 8 pm Legacy of Chestnut Hill Reservoir Conservators Walk Series

In addition to its significant role in early the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was a popular inception. Designed landscapes of formal picturesque rock outcroppings, and

[8/date/2014-05-28.](#)

Saturday, June 7, 9 am - Noon
Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond
Near 309 Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm
Newton Conservators Invasive Plant Pulls

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull, but any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, 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 truly finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners if you have them. Meet at small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway at Route 9 adjacent to pond at "the Street" mall. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.



Saturday, June 7, Noon - 2 pm (Rain Date: Sunday, June 8)
Fern Walk at Cold Spring Park
Newton Conservators Walk Series

This large green space south of Beacon St. is a good compromise between an accessible park with developed trails and a wild conservation area with interesting native plants. We will see nearly a dozen different ferns and one horsetail and discuss how to identify each one. Wear long pants, and bring a hand lens if you have one. And bring a frond of any fern you would like to have identified. The walk will be led by Don Lubin, who leads field trips for the New England Wild Flower Society. Visit his website at <http://nefern.info>. Meet at Plymouth Rd. near the aqueduct, between Kingston Rd. and Endicott St., at the south end of the park. Trip leader is Don Lubin, 617-254-8464.



Sunday, June 8, 9 am - Noon
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (repeat visit)
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm
Newton Conservators Invasive Plant Pulls

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by Garlic Mustard. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk to keep it under control after previous years' pulls and working on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left, and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



Sunday, June 15, 9 am - Noon
Charles River Quinobequin / Hemlock Gorge Garlic Mustard Pull
Near 2 Ellis Street, Newton, MA 02464
www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm
Newton Conservators Invasive Plant Pulls



We have expanded our efforts to control beginnings of infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park and also in the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the Garlic Mustard out of these beautiful parks! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the parking lot at corner of Quinobequin Rd and Ellis St at the Route 9 intersection. Leaders are Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day)
Thirteen Villages, One Community - Second Annual Tour de Newton
A 20 mile bicycling tour of all 13 of Newton's villages

In spite of the fun a number of hardy folks had biking on a cold, rainy day last October, it was decided to move the Tour de Newton to a warmer month. The route and idea are the same: bike as much or as little of a 20 mile route through all 13 of Newton's villages as you like, stopping at each to experience a little of each village's hospitality. Get a free, unique pin at each village! Get a free brightly colored Tour de Newton t-shirt! Meet other Newtonites! Celebrate Father's Day this year on wheels! Registration is now open at: <http://bikenewton.org/services/tour-de-newton-registration/>.



Tour de Newton has a modest fee this year to cover expenses (but the t-shirts and buttons are free for participants!) Adults can register for \$10, children for \$5, or families (up to 7 people) for \$25. Every participant-even infants in carriers-must be registered in order to participate. Some ride leaders are needed; if you are an experienced ride leader, please contact Lois Levin, Newton's Bicycle Coordinator, via email at: llevin@newtonma.gov or cell: [617.283.5077](tel:617.283.5077).

Spring Avian Sights and Sounds

by Ted Kuklinski (Unabirder)

We have been truly blessed with some beautiful days this past week! After a rainy April and somewhat late Spring, we have now reached the peak of bird migration when lots of unusual birds are passing through the Garden City. Most land birds fly at night, especially when there is a southwest wind to help them along, and then look for a nice rest stop that might have food, water, and shelter - our open spaces can be very appealing to a tired avian traveler.



Warblers are the true gems of migration and they can often be seen in oak trees among the little flowers hanging down. The maples are already out but the later leafing oaks make it easier to see the birds. Over twenty varieties of warblers are passing through on their way north and a few will actually stay and nest locally.

The cacophony of songs heard this past week was one of the best in years - many other Mays have been rainy during peak migration. Just go out in your yard or to a park and listen for some of the varieties of song. Listen for some repeated usually high pitched melodic songs (but some warblers songs are more like insect buzz). Grab an old bird guide (or these days download an app) and some binoculars and see if you can spot some of these smaller than sparrow sized beauties often with striking yellow or orange and black markings.

The names of some of the birds seen or heard the last few days in our backyard tell the story: Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Redstart, and Northern Parula (whose rising buzz followed by a high chip note has been heard all over more than ever this season). And they were joined by lots of interesting non warblers Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, House Wren, White-throated Sparrow and even a Ruby-throated Hummingbird! For this short stretch of time, the Cardinals, Robins, Blue Jays, Grackles and Goldfinches have some competition in the beauty and singing talent categories.

If you have a hummingbird feeder on a shelf - you still might be able to put it out to assist those making their way up the coast or to entice them to stay over and nest right here in Newton. If you have several, put them up around the yard in different locations perhaps near some other flowers to attract them - hummers seem to like to move around and visit a trail of feeding locations. Get your neighbors to join in - the more the merrier. This spring is the first time we have had a regular visitor to our yard feeders - and we hope he finds a mate and sticks around for the summer. Make sure to change the solution after a few days (1/4 cup sugar to 1 cup water - boil the water first, mix in the sugar, let it cool, and serve!). Take it down after the fall migration season so as not to entice the hummers to stay beyond when it would get too cold for them.

It's been said that kids today can name lots of dinosaurs but could barely identify their modern bird cousins that they see and hear every day. Take them out on a bird walk. Challenge them to see how many different kinds of birds they can find and identify on your block - you might be surprised! Birding is a lot like a challenging video game - only in the real outdoor natural world!

Don't miss this grand annual migration show - get outside and enjoy the sights and sounds of Spring!

Making the Proper Investment in our Fields and Open Spaces

Excerpt from recent letter from Mayor Setti Warren

"We know that here in Newton, open space and fields are an extremely important component to that quality of life that our residents enjoy. Our parks provide terrific opportunities for both active and passive recreation, and are one of the key components that draw people to our city. They are also one of the main reasons that we are proudly known as The Garden City.

However, for too long, the city was not making the proper investment in these cherished resources. It is essential that we maintain these very important assets, and ensure they are in appropriate condition for generations to come. That is why I am pleased to announce that our Parks and Recreation Department has begun a comprehensive plan to make critical repairs to 19 of our most heavily used fields over the course of the next three years. Once complete, the cycle of maintenance and repair will begin again, ensuring that the fields are properly maintained on a long term basis.



Among the work being done will be an aeration process, raking through the grass and soil, followed by an application of sand and loam, seeding with a mix of perennial rye grass and Kentucky

bluegrass, and fertilization.

In order to ensure that we are providing the best possible recreation spaces for our residents, we want to hear from you. I hope you will take a moment to fill out this [brief survey](#) on our parks and recreational spaces."

Note: The short survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PQK2GMD> and includes such questions as "How important are Newton's parks and fields to you?", "How often do you use one of the city's parks or recreational outdoor spaces?", and "What improvements would you like to see made to our parks?"

New Farmers Market on Saturdays in West Newton (July)

The California Street Farmers' Market on Fridays will not be happening this year. The market has been struggling for years, and the City has decided to make a number of changes. There will be a new market on Saturdays from 10:00 to 2:00 on Elm Street (which will be closed off between Washington St and Border St) in West Newton where the farm will sell its produce. Hopefully the new day, time, and location will all combine to make this a much more vibrant market. As with the Cold Spring market, the new Elm Street market will run from the beginning of July through the end of October. Please come out and support this new market!



Newton Conservators Spring 2014 Newsletter

Our spring newsletter was sent out recently and is available online as well at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr14.pdf>.

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ILLUSTRATION BY BERT FINK

US Agriculture and the Coming Water Crisis

by Greg Madore, Farm Manager, Newton Community Farm



Peak Irrigation



Lack of water can affect the taste of vegetables

I recently heard a term used that grew the predicament of agriculture, and indeed our entire civilization, into a much higher peak water. First, much everyone has heard of peak oil, but peak water? What's that? The book in which I read it used it as something of a throw away phrase, but as I reflected on it, the appropriateness of the term grew.

The arid and semi-arid western United States has already I would argue, hit peak water. Farmers and municipalities are in bidding wars over limited water supplies: one to provide water to homes; one to provide food to those same homes. There are battles between up-stream and down-stream communities over access to water and international disputes occur because rivers like the Colorado no longer reach their historic outflows in the Gulf of Mexico. Living in New England, we can feel the sting from the water woes of the west, but it takes only a bit of label checking—when did that fill in your fruit or vegetable bins) come from?—to realize how much everyone in the

United States can or will be affected by peak water in the west.



Farmers and municipalities are in bidding wars over limited water supplies

When it comes to agriculture as a "limiting" factor, it's not just that without enough water a plant dies; that's true, but an extreme. Without enough water (but just enough to live), a plant will grow more slowly, may not grow to full size/weight, or might shift out of its vegetative stage (during which it is actively growing) into its reproductive stage (when it tries to reproduce) prematurely. The latter is a common response to all kinds of environmental stresses—organisms put all their energy into reproducing when they sense that they might not survive. For farmers, none of these outcomes are good.

Some farms don't really have a choice. They don't have water to irrigate, so they don't irrigate. These are the dry-lad farms. Their fields get watered when it rains (or melts), but otherwise the crops are left to glean what moisture they can from the soil. There are dry-lad farms in the east, west as well as

Continued to page 2

2014 Newton Conservator Awards

Environmentalist of the Year Award

Peter Kastner

Wally Bernheimer

Charles Johnson Maynard Award

Pete Gilmore

Directors' Awards

Andree and Richard Wilson

Bud Elliot

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

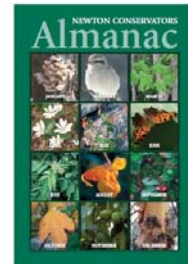
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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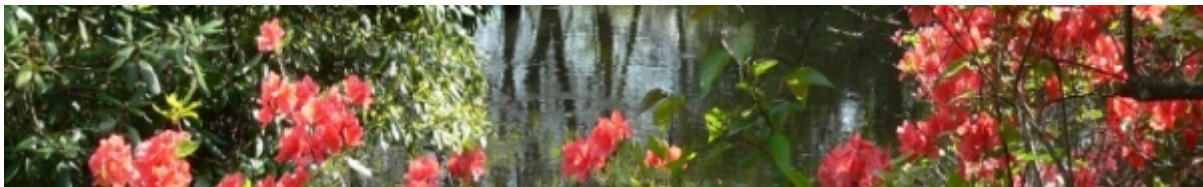
Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay 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 over 50 years ago (June 1961).

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)



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