



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, October 20, 2014

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



Wild Edibles Lecture on Tuesday!

Halloween is coming soon but there are still some great events to check out including a lecture by wild edibles expert, Russ Cohen on Tuesday at the library and next weeked a walk in Webster Conservation area with Dan Brody. We also list a few other events of interest and some highlights from the current Newton Conservators newsletter. Learn how to support the Newton Conservators if you shop on Amazon at www.newtonconservators.org.

Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms In and Around Newton

Russ Cohen, expert forager



Tuesday, October 21, 7 pm
Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten
Lecture by Russ Cohen, Wild Edibles Expert
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St
Newton Conservators Lecture

The area in and around Newton is home to over 70 species of edible wild plants, some of which are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts, and species of edible mushrooms. Join expert forager Russ Cohen for an illustrated talk that will cover over 40 of the tastiest species the region has to offer—from plants everyone knows like daisies and dandelions, to plants many have never heard of like calamus and carrion flower. Learn about local mushroom species including morels in the spring, black chanterelles in the summer and hen of the woods mushrooms in the fall.

Russ, author of "Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten," will present information on identification tips, edible portions, seasons of availability and preparation methods, along with general guidelines for safe and environmentally-responsible foraging. Russ will also bring foraged goodies for people to taste. Cosponsored by Green Decade/Newton and the Newton Conservators.

Sunday, October 26, Time TBA
Webster Conservation Area: The Other Side of the Tracks
DCR parking lot behind The Street
Trip Leader: Dan Brody
Newton Conservators Walk Series



The MBTA Green Line bisects the large open space made up of the city's Webster Conservation Area and the DCR's Hammond Pond Reservation. Most park



Hammond Pond Reservation. These park visitors stay on the south side of the tracks unless they're visiting Houghton Garden in the northeast corner. This 2.5-mile walk explores the parklands on the north side of the tracks, including the former "deer park" and a rock outcrop offering distant views. The area was described in an 1889 guidebook as including "walls of conglomerate rock, as tall and straight as castle-bastions, crowning the hill-tops, and menaced by storming-parties of trees,

whose green banners have been planted in the crevices far up their mighty steeps." The walk will begin at Hammond Pond, where we'll consider DCR's imminent construction of a floating walkway. Meet at the DCR parking lot behind The Street—Chestnut Hill, off Route 9: <http://goo.gl/maps/ASM35>. Trip Leader: Dan Brody (617-332-5418).

Saturday, October 25

Swap Day - Newton Recycling Committee's Trade & Recycle Day Rumford Ave. Recycling Depot, 145 Rumford Ave. Newton

11th Annual City of Newton Fall Trade & Recycle Day 'get organized' cleanout day - Clear out clutter without adding to the waste stream.. for details see:

<http://ymymusic.com/swapday/swapdayflyer14.pdf>

Swapping and Donating. . .bring along useful but unwanted belongings for swapping or donating. Bring your stuff, or just come along & pick something up - for free!

Appliances - Bicycles - Books, Household items and non-upholstered furniture (No mattresses or couches), REUSABLE building materials (cabinets, doors, plumbing and light fixtures, lumber,

drywall, etc.), NO computer monitors, NO televisions, NO hazardous materials! Pretty much anything, so long as it is usable, non-toxic, non-hazardous - and clean!

Newton Residents Only may dropoff from 8 am - 1 pm. Recycling and Reuse. . .bring along any of the following and the City of Newton will make sure that they are recycled, re-used, given to charity or disposed of safely: Fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing items, Cell phones, all printer cartridges, CDs, DVDs, Clothing, Paper, cardboard, glass, metal, stiff plastic bottles (#1 - 7), dead rechargeable batteries

Everyone may take items 8am - 2pm. Rain or shine - no alternate rain day. Rumford Avenue Recycling Depot (off Lexington Street in Auburndale). Website: <http://newtonrecycles.com>



October 31

Newton Conservators Grants Deadline



The Newton Conservators, Inc. provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering its mission. The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$750 may receive priority, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a longer-term project, or for multiple year funding. Projects for multiple year funding must be reported upon and resubmitted annually.

Send any questions to grantquestions@newtonconservators.org. Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded twice a year, with application deadlines of October 31 and February 28. See full details on our grants program at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/grants.htm>.

Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2

Community Weekend at Durant-Kendrick and Jackson Homestead

Historic Newton

Newton residents are invited to enjoy free admission to both our museums. At the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue 10:00 AM-4:00 PM AND the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street Noon-5:00 PM.



Saturday, November 1, 9 am – Noon Burying Ground Clean-Up Historic Newton



Historic Newton It's time for our late-fall cleanup of one of Newton's most historic spaces-the East Parish Burying Ground. Help tidy up the premises and see the results of our nearly completed tomb restoration. Please bring gloves and rakes if you have them! Meet at the corner of Centre and Cotton Streets.

Amazon Customers – Support the Newton Conservators with your purchases!



If you use Amazon to occasionally purchase items, you could be supporting the Newton Conservators at the same time at no extra cost. Simply go to the Newton Conservators home page, www.newtonconservators.org and click on the Amazon Smile link and then continue shopping as normal. 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to the Newton Conservators to support their open space work.

Newton Conservators Fall 2014 Newsletter

Our most recent newsletter was sent out in September and is available online as well at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep14.pdf>. Below are some brief excerpts with links to the full articles.

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Water Underground

By Alderman Deborah Crosley



Over the past two years, Newton has accomplished a lot of good work that you cannot see.

That is, the city has been steadily and planfully investing in restoring our sewer and water systems. This year we have set our sights on restoring the stormwater system - that vast network of catch basins, main drains, open streams and culverts that are there to keep our neighborhoods and village centers above water.

Many Conservators are aware that Newton's stormwater system is in need of much repair, that heavy rainstorms cause periodic flooding in some areas around the city, and, as well, that new state requirements are forthcoming that will exact more stringent standards of water quality where our storm water discharges into the environment. Many have observed that the level of system maintenance is inadequate to keep the existing vast network of catchbasins and pipes clean and well functioning.

Neither flooding nor pollution are acceptable outcomes; we want a plan that will bring us to an effective and reliable stormwater management system for the city that will have the least impact on the environment.

When I last wrote to the Conservators in late 2012, (www.newtonconservators.org/storm_water.htm), the city had only begun to implement the strategic plan to restore Newton's sewer and water systems, adopted and funded with the July 2012 (FY13) budget. We drew big plans and they are fully underway.

In fact we have accelerated the sewer restoration work to put the city on track to complete that work in ten, rather than eleven, years. This is the work to clean, line and repair - and occasionally replace - the public sewer mains and manholes in ten Project Areas comprising the entire city.

Remember, work to repair our leaky sewer system is essential and important to keeping our groundwater and stormwater outflows clean. In particular, over a century ago about 70 miles of Newton's sewer mains were installed over underdrains designed to remove water from utility trenches and to divert the natural ground water to allow for development. These are being systematically disconnected and sealed off from the sewer mains as we restore each section of the sewer system. In addition to restoring capacity to the system, cleaning and lining of pipes to remove infiltration (ground water seeping

Continued on page 2

Water Underground - Alderman Deborah Crosley

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To read more visit:

http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/14_09_water_underground.pdf



Evergreen Ferns - Don Lubin

Looking for ferns is primarily a summer sport. Most of them emerge



Looking for ferns is primarily a summer sport. Most ferns emerge in April or May and become prominent in May and June. They suffer some damage as the season progresses, from insects or deer or drought or mishaps. Some species continue to add new fronds throughout the growing season, but even if they maintain themselves, they may become lost among the jungly growth of late July and August. Then in the fall they fade, especially after the first hard frost, and turn brown and crumble along with falling leaves and most other plants. But club-mosses and some ferns become

easier to see as Autumn progresses. Like the gymnosperm trees - pines and hemlock and spruce - the following ferns keep their green through the winter.

Christmas fern got its name for being a green collectible at Yule, and if its rootstock is undisturbed in the icy ground, losing its dead fronds does it little harm. Once the vascular channels have frozen they do not function again, and the old fronds benefit the plant only as mulch, keeping weeds at bay.

To read more visit: http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/14_09_evergreen_ferns.pdf

Autumn Migration - Pete Gilmore

As you read this issue of the Newton Conservators' Newsletter, millions of songbirds are in the midst of journeys that would terrify humans. They are navigating thousands of miles, often traveling from North America to South America. They have a particular sort of intelligence that enables this behavior. They use multiple clues to guide them including the stars, the sun, the earth's magnetic field and the local geography they pass over, such as shorelines. They learn the North Star as a point around which other stars rotate and use the field of stars in that area to navigate.

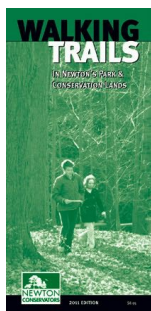


When one system, for example the stars, fails them due to cloudiness, they fall back on another system. Nothing, of course, can save a big flock of migrating birds that's out over the water when a sudden, violent storm arrives.

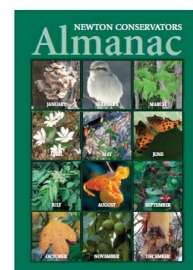
To read more visit: http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/14_09_autumn_migration.pdf

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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