

From: websitemgr@newtonconservators.org



Newton Conservators *E-Bulletin*

Saturday, December 13, 2014

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



Happy Holidays from the Newton Conservators!

We know that Winter is getting close when we see all the winter moths that have emerged in recent weeks. A lot of the birds have gone south to warmer climates but a surprising number remain here in Newton. Tomorrow (Sunday, Dec 14) is the annual Christmas Bird Count and you are welcome to participate (see details below). We had some good news on Thursday night with the approval by the CPA Committee on the acquisition of the Waban Hill Reservoir in Chestnut Hill but it still needs to go before the aldermen. And of course it's also time for renewal of membership in the Newton Conservators (or perhaps joining for the first time). With the holidays upon us, how about a gift membership to the Newton Conservators for your open space minded friends or perhaps one of our trail guides or almanac (online from us or at local bookstores)? Or help out the Conservators with the shopping you happen to do at Amazon by starting at our Amazon Smile link on our home page at www.newtonconservators.org.

Events

Sunday, December 14 Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

This year's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Newton takes place early tomorrow morning. After all, the early birder gets the birds counted! This is the 115th year of the CBC and helps to measure changes in population of our avian species (and perhaps more global trends such as climate change). In Newton, birders will meet at 7 am at the home of Liane Hartnett's house at 1 Raeburn Terrace in Newton Highlands (Raeburn is off Hillside which is off Walnut). Owlers (the real early birds) meet at the same location at 5 am. After 7, groups will be formed to go off to various open spaces throughout the city to count all the birds that they

see. Beginners are welcome to accompany some of the more experienced birders (bring binoculars and dress warmly). Most of the counting is done in the morning. Tallies are made in mid-afternoon and consolidated with tallies from other areas within a 15 mile Greater Boston count circle. Alison Leary (taking a break from her aldermanic duties) is the coordinator for the Newton count as she has done for several years (617-821-5619).

Thursday, January 22, 7:30 pm
Duck Walk Warmup - Waltham Land Trust
Waltham Public Library, 735 Main Street, Waltham

Learn what waterfowl we might see on the Jan 24 Duck Walk by attending this preview slideshow. This is the slideshow to see before attending the very popular, annual Duck Walk along the Charles River. Attend this presentation to learn how to identify hooded mergansers, wood ducks, ring necks, and other visiting waterfowl. Everyone will get a color cheat sheet of what we expect to see. When we're finished, you'll be an expert yourself and can help with the walk, or do one on your own!

Saturday, January 24, 10 am - Noon
Waltham Land Trust Annual Duck Walk
Shaw's Parking Lot - River Street, Waltham

Come to the popular Duck Walk and see beautiful waterfowl along the Charles River. Tag along on this very popular walk along the Charles River to see dabbling and diving birds, visiting from Canada. In the past there have been seen mergansers (hooded and common), ring necks, golden eyes, grebes, and others, even a bald eagle! Bring your binoculars, cameras, bird books and the cheat sheet from the Duck Walk Warm Up (1/22). Dress warmly--cancel if there is very heavy snow falling. This year, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will be joining the walk. Meet in back corner of River Street Shaw's parking lot by footbridge. For info contact swadman@walthamlandtrust.org or visit www.walthamlandtrust.org.

February 28 - 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>.

CPA Committee Passes Waban Hill Reservoir Proposal

The Community Preservation Committee met on the evening of Thursday, December 11 with a public hearing on the full proposal for Waban Hill Reservoir (Chestnut Hill, \$1,073,446 requested for land acquisition and improvements). The Proposals & Projects page of the website,

www.newtonma.gov/cpa, includes a link to the proposal and attachments. There were many voices heard in favor of this acquisition. Basically, the state is offering Newton the opportunity to purchase the 5 acre Reservoir property back for around \$400K, a significant bargain, but with the provision of its use as open space. The Newton Conservators have been asked to hold the conservation restriction (CR) on the property and have agreed (conveyed at the meeting by NC President Beth Wilkinson). It was explained that the acquisition was somewhat time sensitive. The additional funds cover a number of required elements (CR, dam safety, etc.) and other elements to make the property accessible and safe in a basic manner for the public (fencing, etc). The committee had considerable discussion over whether to fund the whole proposal or just the acquisition portion and to separate out the portion that would make it usable for a future proposal. Ultimately they voted to fund the full proposal for a little less than \$1M, with a reduced contingency budget. The proposal will then go to an aldermanic committee and eventually be voted upon by the full board. The direct address of the proposal's webpage is: www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/cpa/projects/waban_hill.asp.

Newton MA 311 App

'Newton MA 311' is an app for mobile phones that allows people to report concerns immediately, pinpoint an exact location, and include a photo. 'Newton MA 311' can be found on the City of Newton's website at: http://mygovhelp.us/newtonma/_cs/supporthome.aspx. You can use this app to report issues such as snow or brush covered sidewalks in addition to sidewalk repairs, sign and traffic signal problems. You can report anonymously or with contact information so you can track what is being done about the issue. You can also report problems by calling [617-796-1000](tel:617-796-1000). Please report all problems even if you know that someone else already has, because the volume of reports draws the city's attention to the problem.

Amazon Customers - Support the Newton Conservators with your purchases!



If you use Amazon to occasionally purchase items, especially during this holiday season, 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 Newsletter

Our most recent newsletter was sent out in September and is available online as well at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep14.pdf>. However, the December issue is coming very soon and has some great articles. Watch for it.



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 emallist@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.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Conservator,

Most people know that Newton Conservators works to preserve and to protect natural areas in Newton. But we do much more!

DO YOU KNOW?

- The Conservators holds the Conservation Restrictions on city properties, does bi-annual monitoring of those properties, and then develops plans to correct any problems that were found.
- The Conservators gives annual grants to Newton teachers and their students for projects such as raised-bed gardens, a bicycle-powered electricity project, and an algae farm.
- Each year, the Conservators supports interns for the city's summer Environmental Science Program and subsidizes student participants.
- Members of the Conservators who are experienced birders and naturalists lead walks that help members of the public to enjoy our conservation land.
- The Conservators joins with other organizations to sponsor lectures at the library on topics

as diverse as edible plants, bird photography, and preserving our native species, in addition to having a noted speaker at our annual meeting in May.

- The Conservators regularly conducts invasive-plant pulls in conservation areas throughout the city.

While accomplishing the tasks listed above, our organization always focuses on its core mission: advocating for the preservation of open space and the environment throughout the city. We work to maintain existing areas, and we watch for new land to become available and then work with the city and other organizations to find ways to protect that land. As a member, you help to make all of that happen—and you learn about what’s going on through our quarterly newsletter, which contains updates on city projects affecting conservation land, articles about work accomplished by members, birding notes, lists of walks, and much more.

The Conservators is an independent nonprofit organization that receives no money from the city or the state.

Please renew your membership to help us continue this important work!

In addition, we ask that you consider an extra donation to help fund expensive tree-work and maintenance on the three Conservators-owned properties: Ordway Park in Newton Centre, Awtrey Dell in Newton Corner, and Dexter Woods in Newtonville.

Sincerely,

Beth Wilkinson, President

Great Holiday Gifts!



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? The Trail Guides and Almanac are also available at your local Newton Bookstores. Shop Local!



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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