

**Dan Brody**

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**From:** websitemgr@newtonconservators.org  
**Subject:** E-Bulletin - January 14, 2015 - Lecture on Thursday



## Newton Conservators *E-Bulletin*

January 14, 2015

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



### Jumping January - It's a New Year!

Welcome to 2015! This year, the Newton Conservators are getting a head start on planning for our spring events. Our calendar below already includes a few spring bird walks as well as other nature and environmental events in Newton and surrounding environs. We wanted to alert you to an interesting talk on Thursday evening (1/15) at the Durant-Kendrick house by our board member Michael Clarke on Newton's almshouses (the remains of one can be found in Nahanton Park!). Our Winter newsletter is in the mail and is chock full of interesting articles including a fabulous cover story on global warming by Newton resident and BU professor Richard Primack (find links below). Thanks to all those who have renewed their memberships in the Newton Conservators. For those who are not yet members, consider joining us formally this year and help preserve open space in Newton. You can even 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](http://www.newtonconservators.org).

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### Events



**Thursday, January 15, 7 pm**  
**Newton's Almshouses 1731-1964**  
**Lecture: Michael Clarke**  
**Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue,**  
**Newton 02458**

What happened to Newton's poor, disabled, elderly, infirm or homeless before Social Security? Join Michael J. Clarke, Newton Conservators Board Member and Newton Highlands resident, for a fascinating look at how Newton and

other New England towns cared (or didn't care) for their less fortunate citizens, from Colonial times until recently. Discover what artifacts yet remain of the rich history and evolution of Newton's Workhouse, Poorhouse, Almshouse, Poor Farm, City Home and Infirmary. One of the surviving almshouse structures is in Nahant Park. This talk will be at the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue, Newton 02458. Free. Contact: 617.796.1450 or visit <http://www.historicnewton.org/>

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

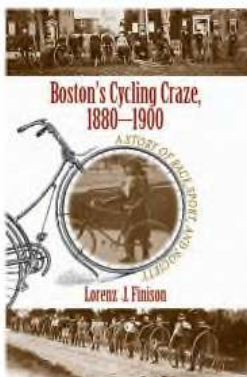


Learn what waterfowl we might see on the Jan 24 Duck Walk by attending this preview slideshow. This is the slideshow to see before attending the very popular, annual Duck Walk along the Charles River. Attend this presentation to learn how to identify hooded mergansers, wood ducks, ring necks, and other 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**



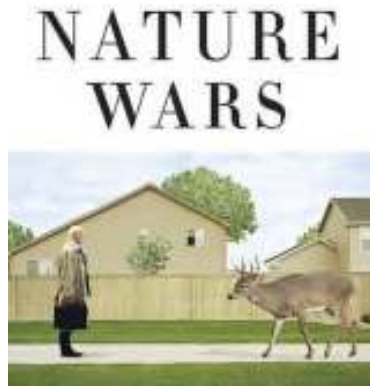
Come to the popular Duck Walk and see beautiful waterfowl along the Charles River. Tag along on this very popular walk along the Charles River to see dabbling and diving birds, visiting from Canada. In the past there have been seen mergansers (hooded and common), ring necks, golden eyes, grebes, and 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](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) or visit [www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org).



**Tuesday, February 3, 7-9 pm**  
**Race, Sport, and Society: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Cycling Craze**  
**Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue, Newton 02458**

From 1877 to 1896, the popularity of bicycles increased exponentially, and Newton was in on it from the start with popular destinations such as Norumbega, Chestnut Hill, Echo Bridge, and the Woodland Park Hotel. Join Lorenz J. Finison in exploring the rise of Boston-area cycling through the lives of several participants, including Kittie Knox, a biracial twenty-year-old seamstress; Joseph Gardner Holmes, a Nonantum resident and a member of the all-black Bicycle Corps of the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Militia; and Abbot Bassett, a Newtonville resident and vocal cycling advocate for forty years. In this lecture, Finison will discuss the challenges facing these riders in a time of segregation, increased immigration, and debates about the rights of women. At the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue, Newton 02458. Free. Contact: 617.796.1450 or visit <http://www.historicnewton.org/>

**Wednesday, February 4, 7 pm**  
**Humans and Wildlife: The New Imbalance**  
**Jim Sterba - Author of "Nature Wars"**  
**Cambridge Public Library - 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138**



By the late 19th century, North American forests and wildlife were in dire straits. For nearly 400 years, arriving Europeans had removed trees and killed off wild birds and animals to the point that a few enlightened leaders sounded the alarm, and the conservation movement was born. Three slow but remarkable transformations followed. Forests reclaimed huge swaths of abandoned cropland. Many threatened wildlife populations, restocked in refuges and protected, slowly grew back to health. Then, people moved out of cities after World War II, creating a mosaic of suburban, exurban and rural sprawl where family farms once thrived. Now, this new habitat is filled with people who want to "leave nature alone," and many wildlife populations are proliferating out of balance. We have mounting community conflicts over what to do, or not to do, about deer, beavers, Canada Geese, and other species. As the dominant player in our ecosystems, it is time for us to overcome our reluctance and embrace our stewardship role. Jim Sterba is an internationally recognized author and correspondent who has reported for The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal for more than four decades. His book, Nature Wars, published in 2012, has earned critical acclaim and catalyzed an important national conversation about wildlife management. <http://grownativemass.org/programs/eveningswithexperts>

**February 13-16**  
**The Great Backyard Bird Count**



Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Since then, more than 100,000 people of all ages and walks of life have joined the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You are invited to participate! Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 13-16, 2015**. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world! Find detailed info at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/about/>



**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](mailto: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>.

**Wednesday, March 4, 7 pm**  
**Wild Orchids of New England**

**Bill Brumback, Director of Conservation, New England Wild Flower Society  
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Sponsored by Grow Native Massachusetts - Free**

Did you know that New England is home to more than 50 species of native terrestrial orchids? Although not as showy as the tropical orchids of the florist trade, our hardy species have fascinated botanists for centuries. Adapted to specific habitats from Maine's northern woodlands to the sands of Nantucket, these orchids are remarkable in their diversity and their adaptations. Discover more about our New England orchids, their haunts, their peculiar lifestyles, their rarity, and their pollination systems. Learn which ones are cultivated in the nursery trade and adapted to gardens, and how we can conserve all of these species. Bill Brumback has worked for the New England Wild Flower Society for several decades. His contributions to the conservation of our region's flora are extensive, and his work to propagate and protect Robbin's cinquefoil in New Hampshire's White Mountain led to its recovery and subsequent removal from the U.S. Endangered Species list. He has been studying the rare native orchid, small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), for thirty years and claims that he still doesn't understand it. <http://gownativemass.org/programs/eveningswithexperts>. Free.



**Wednesday, May 6  
Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting  
Featured Speaker: Robert Warren - Trustees of Reservations  
American Legion, Post 440, California St, Newton**

Mark your calendars for this spring where Robert Warren, the Managing Director for Conservation for the Trustees of Reservations, will be the speaker at the annual meeting and dinner on Wednesday, May 6. There will be more information in the spring issue of the newsletter.



**Sunday, May 10, 8:00 am  
Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk  
Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series**

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 both migratory and resident songbirds. Likely finds include brightly colored warblers, vireos, and orioles. Also expect bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, swallows and brown thrashers. Enter the park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Co-sponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619), Haynes Miller (617-413-2419), <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/walkspring15a.pdf>

**Saturday, May 16, 8:00 am (Rain Date: Sunday  
May 17)  
Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park  
Newton Conservators Spring 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 such as 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 group. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513)



**Saturday, June 20, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date, Sunday June 21)**  
**Fern Walk at Webster Woods**  
**Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series**

The Webster and Cohen Conservation areas and the DCR Reservation form a large wooded expanse that stretches from the shopping malls of Route 9 almost to Newton Centre. The woods extend on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway and both sides of the MBTA Riverside tracks and are home to 20 species of ferns and related plants. We will visit the southeast corner near Hammond Pond and see about a dozen kinds of ferns. Wear long pants to protect



against poison ivy and bugs. If you have a hand lens, bring it. Bring any native fern you would like to identify. Park and meet near the woods behind the shopping center, between the pond and Hammond Pond Parkway. Trip Leader: Don Lubin, (617-254-8464), <http://nefern.info>



**Saturday, June 6**  
**Comprehensive Conservators Event at Nahanton Park**

Everyone is Welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors, too! Come to enjoy this park, which includes riverfront, community garden plots, meadows, wooded hillsides, wild blackberry bushes, wetlands, a pond, and a plateau overlooking the river valley. Enjoy talking with other Conservators and learning from our board members and advisors. Bird Walks starting early in the morning. See the Spring Newsletter for more information! Mark Your Calendar!

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**CSA Shares at Newton Community Farm**

If you enjoy eating locally-grown delicious fresh produce, then consider signing up for our 2015 summer CSA program. At the beginning of each growing season, CSA participants purchase a 'share' of the upcoming produce, which helps the farm cover a substantial portion of the costs of our agricultural operations. In return, NCF provides participants with a supply of sustainably grown, fresh vegetables and herbs each week throughout the farm season. We have the equivalent of 80 weekly shares available. Some of our participants enroll for alternate week shares, which means they pick up produce every other week. Other participants enroll for a weekly share for their family or else they split the full share with another friend or family (or two!). See <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/produce/csa/>



for more information about the application process, program structure, work commitment, and produce. Also check out the education programs at the farm at <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/education/>

## Play It Safe on the Ice (from Mass Wildlife)



Attention ice anglers, skaters, and other winter adventurers: check ice carefully before venturing out on ice-covered waters. In general, a clear layer of ice 4 inches thick is safe for foot traffic, but there are no guarantees. The following tips and resources will help you stay safe and enjoy the coming winter months.

Always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Continue to test the ice as you go further out onto the pond or lake, since ice thickness is seldom uniform. The thickness of ice on ponds and lakes depends on water currents and/or springs, depth, and the presence of natural objects like tree stumps or rocks. Daily changes in temperature cause the ice to expand and contract, which affects its strength. Don't venture on to ice-bound rivers or streams because the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

What if you fall through the ice? As with any emergency, don't panic! Briefly call for help. It doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, so you must act quickly. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time, aiding in buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up using ice pins or picks that should be hanging around your neck. Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice - the direction from which you previously walked. Rolling will distribute your weight better than walking. After you reach safe ice, you need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia. Go to the nearest fishing shanty, warm car, or house. Don't drive home in wet clothes.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "Reach-Throw-Go." If you are unable to reach your friend, throw a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, go for help; do not risk becoming a victim yourself. Pet owners should keep pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt to rescue the pet; go for help. Well-meaning pet owners can easily fall through the ice when trying to save their pets. Additional ice safety information is available on the MassWildlife Website and from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

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## 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](http://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.

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## Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our most recent newsletter has just been sent out and is available online as well

at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/jan15.pdf>.



## Contents of Winter 2015 Issue

- [Climate Change: What it Means for Newton and How We Can Help](#)
- President's Message (see below)
- [Caching, Bird Memory and Us](#)
- Invasive Plant Removal
- [A New Year's Resolution to Compost](#)
- Book Corner
- What's On Our Website
- Spring Walks

## President's Message

As the new year begins, the Conservators board has great plans and projects for the next twelve months, and we hope that you'll join in on some of the activities listed below.

It's time for our popular Trail Guide to be updated. We've been walking the trails and making notes about things that should be added or changed. If you noticed any errors or think that something new should be added to a map, please let us know.

Robert Warren, the Managing Director for Conservation for the Trustees of Reservations, will be the speaker at the annual meeting and dinner on Wednesday, May 6. Please mark the date on your calendars now, and there will more information in the spring issue of the newsletter.

We're also planning a new half-day event at Nahanton Park on Saturday, June 6! It will include a

variety of walks and activities. It will be a terrific day for conservation-minded folks of all ages to join together to enjoy nature and one of Newton's under-utilized parks. See the notice for more details!

In the past, our popular walks have been listed in only the Spring and Fall issues of the newsletter. We've found, however, that sometimes there wasn't enough advanced warning of the events; therefore, we will list the walks for the upcoming season in every issue. There will be more added in the next edition.

A new section of our paper newsletter - What's on Our Website? - provides information on one of the many features that Webmaster Dan Brody keeps up to date on our website. Each newsletter will spotlight a different section of the site with which you might not be familiar. Look, also, for our new Book Corner, in which readers can let the rest of us know about nature/conservation books that they recommend. We'd love to know what you've been reading.

Finally, we're delighted that biologist and climate-change expert Dr. Richard Primack took time from his research to write our cover story on climate change in Newton and what you can do to help to ameliorate it.

Happy 2015!

*Beth Wilkinson*

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## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

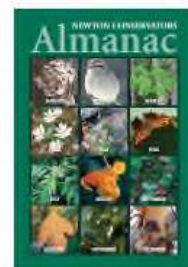
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## Publications!



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](mailto:dolanpond@aol.com))



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