



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Thursday, May 28, 2015

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



Don't miss the June Doin!

June is bustin out all over - even though it's still May. Everything has greened up this May (including invasives like garlic mustard and knotweed) even with the second driest May on record. It's been a good month for birders in Newton - unfortunately partly due to the winter moth inchworms chewing at the leaves and raining us with small pellets (no - those are not poppy seeds!). Luckily they seem to be winding down now. Now is really the time to hit the invasives, especially garlic mustard before it goes to seed. See our new schedule of invasive pulls at a number of locations - a great way to learn how to deal with them in your own gardens and yards!

Some great events coming up including this weekend's invasive pulls, the Greenbelt walk, Paddle and Petals at Crystal Lake, and next weekend our first and fabulous June Doin' featuring fishing for kids, bird walks, kayak and canoe tours, bug and critter safari, tree climbing, invasive plant ID, and refreshments - all at lovely Nahanton Park. Tell your friends! And on Thursday, June 18, we will have another special presentation at the Newton Free Library by Jennifer Steel, Newton's Environmental Planner, on our conservation lands and a vision for the future. On June 20, you can satisfy your curiosity about ferns with our annual Fern Walk with Don Lubin - truly one of the world experts. This is the most active time of year for Mother Nature, so get out and enjoy it!

Newton Conservators Invasives Efforts

Newton Conservators, Newton's land trust and open space organization, fights invasive plant species to preserve and to improve the native habitat at our parks and conservation areas. We had three invasives events for NewtonSERVES. However, due to the late spring, invasives like garlic mustard were still low to the ground. We have a series of upcoming invasives sessions starting this weekend with more details in the event calendar. Sessions may be weather dependent: call the leader if in doubt. Check our website (newtonconservators.org) for updates to this schedule. For questions please call 617-721-2571.

Dolan Pond - Saturday May 30, 8:30am - 11am
Hammond Pond - Sunday May 31, 2pm - 4 pm
Cold Spring Park - Sunday June 7, 9am - noon
Houghton Garden - Wednesday June 10, 9am - noon
Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge - Saturday June 20, 9am - noon

About the Plant Invaders:



Garlic Mustard, native to Europe, was brought here in the 1800s as a medicinal and garden herb and is now an invader of our backyards, parks, forests, and conservation areas. It quickly covers vast areas, including low light forested areas, shades out other plants, chemically alters the soil to inhibit germination



of competitor seeds, and alters habitat for native insects such as butterflies. In areas where it is just starting, it takes only a small effort to eliminate: it is a biennial easily identified and pulled when the second year plants are flowering in April/May. If not, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds that will become first year plants the next year or will remain as viable seeds for several more years. Because the seeds stay so viable, the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Our efforts are effective: Garlic Mustard can be controlled with easy hand pulling, vigilance, and determination. The areas worked are much improved and require only periodic visits to catch stragglers to avoid re-infestation. The areas NOT worked are worse. We need more help to get them under control.

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 because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Our sessions also tackle black swallowwort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, and black locust.



Events

Saturday, May 30 at 6:30 am
Boston Greenbelt Walk
Starting in Waban - Ending in Malden (or sooner)



The second annual Boston Greenbelt Walk is a one-day, 32-mile walk from Newton to Malden through parks and lands designated as "open space" or for conservation.. Participants may choose to walk a lesser distance by leaving the event at points along the way but should be prepared to begin walking at either of two starting locations. The walk is planned to maximize the use of public transportation from the beginning to the end - and in between. There are public transit options back to Newton if you want to turn back sooner. The walk is free in celebration of connecting all the great trails around the Greater Boston area. This walk is a coordinated effort organized

by many local and regional trail coordinators, the transportation planning group of the [Metropolitan](#)

[Area Planning Council \(MAPC\)](#), and the long-distance walking organization, [FreeWalkers](#).

This 32-mile walk will start in Waban, proceed to Riverside, and end in Malden for the hardy. It is sponsored by the Greenbelt Walkers in support of the proposed 90-mile walking trail to circle Boston. Henry Finch, the Newton Conservators' representative on their board, requests that walkers who are interested get additional information from the Greenbelt website: www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488).



The Boston Greenbelt Trail is an MAPC proposed project encompassing approximately 90 mi of 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

Saturday, May 30, 8:30 am - 11 am
Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond
76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465
www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm



Meet at the Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Street parking is available there and at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands in off-trail corners of the property and look for strays in previously worked areas. We worked this area for Newton Serves (5 bags worth) but the delayed spring meant that the plants were low to the ground and hard to pick. Now they are tall and in danger of going to seed and easier to pick! Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. This is a great migrant bird area and a new brood of ducklings has appeared this past week - there are also frequent wood duck sightings. Wear long pants (and long sleeve shirt), bring garden gloves (if you have them). Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.

Sunday, May 31, 2 pm - 4 pm
Invasives Pull at Hammond Pond
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm>

The largest conservation area in Newton is wooded, with noted rock outcroppings of Roxbury Puddingstone, brooks, ponds, wetlands, fields. The trails and cliffs attract hikers and rock climbers. The pond, as a "great pond" (any pond larger than 10 acres) is state-owned, operated by the DCR. Its average depth is just four feet. There is a parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway near the "Street" shopping area. The pond and its adjoining marshes and woodlands provide valuable habitats for a diversity of wildlife, aquatic species, and native plants. For info call 617-721-2571.



Sunday, May 31, 1 pm - 4 pm
Paddles and Petals Event on Crystal Lake
Crystal Lake Bathhouse, 20 Rogers St, Newton Highlands
Sponsored by the Crystal Lake Conservancy



The Crystal Lake Conservancy and the Newton Parks and Recreation Department invite you to join them for a Sunday afternoon on Crystal Lake. Participants can sign up for half hour slots between 1 and 4 pm to enjoy the pleasures of canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding. A lifeguard will be on duty and all participants will be required to wear life jackets and sign a waiver. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a \$10 charge per kayak, canoe or paddleboard. There will be lots of refreshments available too! Support Crystal Lake Conservancy's efforts to keep Crystal Lake healthy and learn about ongoing testing and watershed activities to protect it. Visit www.crystallakeconservancy.org for more info.

Saturday, June 6 (Rain or Shine) 7 am - 2 pm
June Doin'
Celebration for Families at Nahanton Park
Nahanton Park



June Doin'



Celebration for Families at Nahanton Park

Saturday, June 6th

Rain or Shine!

7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

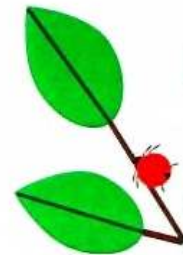
Fishing Event for Kids • Guided Bird Walks • Kayak & Canoe Tours • Fern Walk • Bug & Small Critter Safari • Tree-Climbing Demo • Invasive Plant ID • AND MORE!

NewtonConservators.org for more information



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. Trail Guides and Almanacs will be available for sale. Check out

information on the Environmental Science Summer Program. Cookies from Whole Foods and organic juice boxes from Wegman's will be available throughout the day. Bring a pick lunch to eat in the Nahanton Park picnic area. All events are free except for canoe and kayak rentals (\$15-20 see www.paddleboston.com for rental info). Also cosponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park. For more details visit NewtonConservators.org or email president@newtonconservators.org. Mark Your Calendar and check out the schedule of events below!



7:00 am - 8:30 am	Fishing Competition (for kids up to age 16)
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Bird Walk (led by Pete Gilmore)
9:00 am on	Kayak and Canoe Tours at Charles River Canoe and Kayak (rentals)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Fern Walk (led by Don Lubin)
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Bug / Small Critter Safari (led by Eric Olson)
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Bird Walk (led by Pete Gilmore)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Tree Climbing / Tree-Canopy-Check Demo (led by Eric Olson)
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	3.5 mile hike to Cutler Pond (led by Henry Finch)
12:30 am - 1:30 pm	Plant / Nature Walk (led by Eric Olson)
All Day until 2:00 pm	Invasive Plant Pulling Contest
All Day until 2:00 pm	Craft project making recycled flower pots and planting seeds for mini home garden

Sunday, June 7, 9 am - Noon
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull
1200 Beacon Street Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm



Cold Spring Park is being invaded by alien plants. . 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. For info call 617-721-2571.

Wednesday, June 10, 9 am - Noon
Houghton Garden Invasives Pull
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm>

Here in Newton is a wild garden that's listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#). Its gracious paths, overhung by azalea and rhododendron, wind around a stream and lagoon-like pond. Water features were designed by Warren Manning, who formerly worked for the Olmsted studio. Uncommon migrating birds are seen here. The alpine rock garden on a ledge overlooking Houghton Pond was one of the first of its kind. Help keep invasives out of this Newton treasure!



Saturday, June 20, 9 am-noon
Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull
Ellis Street and Route 9
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm>



The Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge area borders the Charles River and features the famous Echo Bridge. Our lovely river areas are especially susceptible to alien plant invaders. Meet near Ellis Street and Route 9, which allows access to both areas. For info call 617-721-2571.

Thursday, June 18, 2015 7-9 pm (Rain or Shine)
Newton's Conservation Land: A 10-year Vision
Panel discussion with Jennifer Steel, Newton's Environmental Planner
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library

Join Jennifer Steel of the City of Newton Conservation Commission for a panel discussion that will showcase Newton's conservation land and lay out a 10-year visioning plan. A Q and A will follow. The program is cosponsored by The Newton Conservators and the Newton Free Library. Come learn about Newton's Conservation land that makes the city green and worthy of the title "Garden City." If you care about the future of Newton's open space, please attend!



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>

**Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day)
Tour de Newton
Bicycle Tour of 13 Villages of Newton**



Thirteen villages - one community! The annual Tour de Newton is a great event for kids, adults, and casual bicyclists. The ride starts simultaneously in all 13 villages. You'll be riding with your village neighbors and have a trained leader/sweep to guide you. The 20 mile, 13 village fun ride stops at each of Newton's villages, where you'll be welcomed with refreshments, a village badge, and an overview of the village by the locals. Ride the whole 20 mile loop, or just a few villages, whichever you like. It's a great fun way to see and learn about the whole city. Sponsored by Bike Newton. To register

visit <http://bikenewton.org/services/tour-de-newton-registration/>

**Sunday, June 28, 2015. 2 pm
History of Newton Cemetery: 1855-2015
Commemorating 160 years!
791 Walnut Street, Newton Centre**



Ponds, streams, flower gardens, mature trees and planting, green hillsides, groomed lawns and walkways, and the wildlife indigenous to these surroundings characterize Newton Cemetery. The beauty of our properly developed and maintained gardens is enhanced by its design to exude a sense of peace and serenity not found in a typical cemetery setting.

At Newton Cemetery we believe that our garden cemetery is for the living as much as for the deceased (if not more so), surrounding a visitor with natural beauty that soothes the mind, comforts the heart and uplifts the soul. For someone paying respects to a departed loved one, such qualities are invaluable. Visit the Newton Cemetery website at <http://www.newcemcorp.org>. The Newton Conservators have more info on this wonder place at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/cemeterywalk.htm>.

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 Spring 2015 newsletter has been published and sent out and is available online as well at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/15_04.pdf.



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**
SPRING ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2015

2015 Officers and Directors
Beth Wilkinson, *President*
George Mansfield, *Vice President*
AnaMaria Abernathy, *Secretary*
Katherine Howard, *Treasurer*
Beth Schroeder, *Past President*

Board of Directors
Margaret Albright
David Butler
Don Brady
Lalor Berclick
Bonnie Carter
Michael Clarke
Margaret Doris
Heary Fack
Robert Fack
Marianne Gilmore
Douglas Green
William Hogar
Chris Heppam
Ted Kellierski
Jane Kender
Larry Smith
Willis Wang

Advisors
Liz Baker
Rodney Barker
John Bliz
Clab Barnett
Lee Bealebridge
Livy Caldwell-Shair
Michael Collins
Moderica Conzetta
Douglas Dickson
Bart Hoag
Judith Heppam
Diane Hill
Peter Koster
Alex Leary
William Leitch
Doe Lubin
Eric Olson
Anne Peason
Richard Pitroak
Eric Resendiz
Jon Rogala
Patricia Robinson
William Shovel
Verna Vance
Bras Yake

Conservation in Newton: The Conservation Commission

By Jennifer Steel



Newton Conservation Areas from left to right: Floral Meadow, Helen Heyn Runway and Dolan Pond

This story doesn't have a villain bent on destroying a kingdom or a fair maiden in distress, but the story of the evolution of Massachusetts's conservation commissions is an interesting, though an admittedly slow-paced, tale that has unfolded over the past six decades. Commissioners have evolved over the years and are now bodies with broad regulatory powers that are a key element in the Commonwealth's framework of protective laws and programs. Indeed, Massachusetts has been at the cutting edge of environmental protection and has engaged its citizens in a rather unique way.

The Commonwealth invented the municipal conservation commission in 1957 with passage of the Conservation Commission Act (MGL Ch. 40 §8C), which authorized each city and town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency "for the promotion and development of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town." Specifically, conservation commissions are charged with (1) planning for natural resource protection, (2) coordinating with other groups with similar goals, (3) acquiring important land and water areas (in fee or through restrictions), and (4) managing these properties to "maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces in land and water areas within its city or town."

Conservation commissions are made up of volunteer citizens. Some commissions have multiple paid professional staff, some do not have any clerical assistance. Newton has a commission with 7 appointed members, alternate members, and one professional staff member. Newton's Conservation Office is part of the Planning Department located in the basement level of City Hall. Newton's Senior Environmental Planner, Jennifer Steel, serves as staff to the Conservation Commission and can be reached at (617) 796-1134 or at jsteel@newtonma.gov.

The Newton Conservation Commission meets every three weeks on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm, usually in Room 204 of City Hall. Conservation Commission meeting dates, agendas, and materials are all available on the Newton Conservation Commission website. At its meetings, the Commission reviews and votes on wetland permit applications, issues of land management, and administrative issues. The Commission welcomes guests and interested members of the public to its meetings.

Continued on page 2

In the Spring 2015 Issue

- [The Conservation Commission](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Waban Hill Reservoir](#)
- [Food Waste Without Guilt](#)
- [A Walk Around Cold Spring Park in May](#)
- [Annual Meeting](#)
- [Book Corner](#)
- [What's On Our Website](#)
- [Grants Approved for March 2015](#)
- [Shade Loving Perennials](#)

- [Spring Walks and Invasive Pulls](#)



Visit our new Facebook page and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/NewtonConservators>.



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 emaiillist@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.

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)

