

Subject:

FW: E-Bulletin - June 18, 2015 - Conservation Area Lecture Tonight!



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin

Thursday, June 18, 2015

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



**Newton's Conservation Land:
A 10 Year Vision**

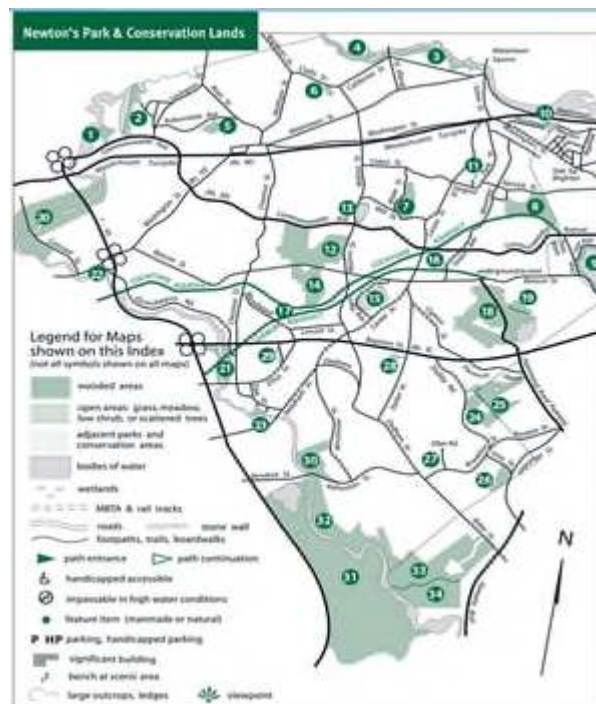
**Thursday, June 18, 2015
7-9 pm**

**Slide Show and Panel Discussion with
Jennifer Steel - Newton Environmental Planner**

Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library



The [Newton Conservation Commission](#) manages 20 conservation areas, totaling over 280 acres of woods, fields, wetlands, and hills in the city. Many of the parcels have well established trails. Jennifer Steel, Senior Environmental Planner for the City of Newton, will take you on a photographic tour of these areas. Learn about the history and current status of each parcel and the opportunities for citizen involvement. Maps of all the parcels will be on display. The program is cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the Newton Free Library. If you want to explore the open space of Newton on your own, the Newton Conservators' book, "Walking Trails in Newton's Park and Conservation Lands" will be available for sale.



Other Events

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.

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>. Also check out the cool fern exhibit in the lobby of the Newton Free Library!



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>.

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Dinner on the Farm
Newton Community Farm

Spend a delightful evening at the Newton Community Farm enjoying a wonderful dinner featuring farm-grown veggies prepared by Jon Orren, former professional chef and current teacher at the Newton South culinary arts program. Jon will be supported by a team of students from the culinary arts programs and the Sustainable Agriculture Project. Enjoy the food, wine and beer, lively conversation, and relaxing music by the Dixie Butterhounds string band, all while watching the sun set over the farm's beautiful landscape. The Dinner on the Farm promotes discussion of urban agriculture and brings together people who love local produce and a great time.



Dinner on the Farm has traditionally been an opportunity to laud individuals who've given their time, energy, money, and ideas to further the mission of the farm.. Come enjoy local produce and help us celebrate our farm's future. Price per ticket for the general public is \$65; Friends of the Farm receive a special price of \$55. The ticket price covers the cost of food and provides a contribution to the NCF education program. Registration closes on July 8. Further info at <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/news-events/>.

Sunday, July 26, 2 pm
Newton's Historic East Parish Burying Ground: A Living History Tour
Cotton and Centre Streets, Newton Centre
Historic Newton Walk Series



Garbed in 18th-century attire and speaking the King's English as well as she may, Mistress Elizabeth de la Rue (portrayed by independent scholar and author Donna La Rue) will lead a walking tour of Newton's East Parish Burying Ground. Mistress de la Rue, the widow of sea captain Elias de la Rue, abides in the year 1773 and has a gravestone in Granary Burying Grounds, Boston. She will recall some colonial Newton inhabitants who participated in important historical events in Old and New England, some of whom lent their names to local streets or are represented in portraits now in collections in the greater Boston area. Her tour will also discuss stones and stone-carvers represented in the grounds; the history of gravestone carving; questions of attribution and stone sources; and the related history of faith communities' belief systems as reflected in gravestone design. Meet at the East Parish Burying Ground entrance at the corner of Centre and Cotton Streets. Free; \$10 donation suggested.

Other News

Farmers Markets Opening!

The Farmers Markets are opening! The Farmers Markets are opening! The bell ringing at the markets will begin soon.



Elm Street - West Newton Square

Saturday, June 20

Open 10am to 2pm



Cold Spring Park-1200 Beacon St.

1/4 mile from Newton City Hall

Tuesday, June 30

Open 1:30pm to 6:00pm

The Environmental Science Program

"Envi Sci" is a unique month-long outdoor program for teenagers that lets students enjoy the wilderness and learn about the science of the environment. Highlights include hikes to Blue Hills and Mount Monadnock, bicycle trips, a 12-mile canoe trip on the Charles River, studying Massachusetts North shore salt marshes, and an exciting three-day backpacking trip up Mount Washington. Students learn through science workshops such as geology, botany, ecology, water cycle, pollution issues, and conservation. The Program also conducts an environmental cleanup service project each year.



The program began as a Ford Foundation Project in 1967 headed by a Newton science teacher, and has continued for many years as part of the Newton Conservation Commission. We take about 35 students who will be going into grades 7 through 10. New students are encouraged to return and become leaders in subsequent years, continuing the thread of responsibility for care and teaching about the environment. Get more information at <http://www.newtonenvisci.org> or contact David

S. Backer, Executive Director, contact@newtonenvisci.org, 617-447-9317, P.O. Box 600292 Newton, MA 02460.

Charles River Lakes District Invasive Plant Removal Project

The Charles River Lakes District, located in Newton and Waltham, is under threat from a non-native plant: the water chestnut. In response, the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) works with community members and volunteers to eradicate the plant and help restore the ecosystems disrupted by water chestnut growth. Since 2008, CRWA has tackled the issue by partnering with Charles River Canoe and Kayak, Boating in Boston (Newton), The Department of Conservation and Recreation, as well as Citizens for Noxious weed Eradication (CANOE); a community group dedicated to removing the invasive weeds.



Water Chestnuts are invasive weeds growing prolifically throughout the Lakes District. It is an aquatic plant, with small green leaves growing in rosettes that float on the surface of the water. Each rosette can produce up to 20 large, spiked seeds that can survive up to 12 years. The seeds can then grow up to 20 new rosettes each. As they reproduce, water chestnuts cause a myriad of issues for the ecosystems and waterways they inhabit. Water chestnuts grow in abundance, partly because of excess levels of phosphorus, which is present in the water mainly as a result of storm water runoff, bank erosion, and wastewater discharges. This nutrient acts as a fertilizer for water chestnut growth. When the weeds die, they can further increase the levels of nutrients present in the water, and they also hinder the photosynthesis process and lead to an explosion of bacteria. Bacteria use oxygen to decompose dead water chestnut plants, leading to hypoxia and anoxia, killing off fish, mollusks, and other species existing in the ecosystem. In addition, water chestnut growth disrupts natural current flow, which hinders downstream sediment deposition and nutrient transport. Water chestnut growth is also a nuisance to those who enjoy the river for recreational purposes, as it makes activities such as boating, fishing and paddling virtually inaccessible.

The 2015 Canoeing for Clean Water season is officially open! Individuals and families can sign up for one of our public events. Corporate, school or other groups of 10-30 people can schedule a private event. There are volunteering opportunities to assist in removing water chestnuts in the Lakes district. See information on volunteering at <http://www.crwa.org/canoeing-for-clean-water>. Upcoming Volunteer Events are being held on the following dates and require preregistration:

Saturday, June 20 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday, June 27 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Wednesday, July 8 5:30 PM - 8:00PM
Saturday, July 18 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday, Aug 1 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Unless otherwise noted all events will be taking place at Boating in Boston at Newton Historic Boathouse, located at 2401 Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30) in Newton (Auburndale) MA. Volunteers go out on the river in canoes and pull the invasive water chestnut by hand for an extremely rewarding experience. You will have a great time exploring the Charles all while helping the river's natural ecosystem. For Questions Regarding CRWA's Canoeing for Clean Water Program, please contact David Lipinski, Volunteer Coordinator, waterchestnut@crwa.org | 781-788-0007 x 235.

Help MassWildlife Count Turkeys

Sportsmen and women, birders, landowners, and other wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to assist with the annual Wild Turkey Brood Survey. MassWildlife conducts a survey from June through August each year to evaluate turkey brood numbers. "The brood survey serves as a long-term index of reproduction," explains Dave Scarpitti, Turkey Project Leader. "It helps us determine productivity and allows us to compare long-term reproductive success, while providing some estimation of fall harvest potential." Turkey nesting success can vary annually in response to weather conditions, predator populations, and habitat characteristics. Scarpitti also points out that citizen involvement in this survey is a cost-effective means of gathering useful data, and he encourages all interested people to participate. A turkey brood survey form is posted on the agency website. Be sure to look carefully when counting turkey broods, the very small poults may be difficult to see in tall grass or brush. Multiple sightings of the same brood can also be noted. MassWildlife is interested in turkey brood observations from all regions of the state, from rural and/or developed areas. The survey period runs from June 1 - August 31. Completed forms should be mailed to: Brood Survey, DFW Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.



Newton North Wins 2015 Massachusetts Envirothon!

A school year of preparation paid off for local teenagers who were rewarded for their knowledge of the environment at the 28th Annual Massachusetts Envirothon. Top honors went to a team of students from Newton North High School. They were among more than 250 high school students from 30 Massachusetts communities from Boston to the Berkshires who gathered at the Quabbin Reservoir in May for the outdoor competition. At the event, teams rotated through "ecostations" where they answered written questions and engaged in hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife habitat assessment, tree identification, and water quality measurement. MassWildlife biologists and education staff administered wildlife and habitat-related portions of the Envirothon competition.



At the "Current Issue" station, each team gave a 15 minute presentation on "Climate Crisis: Taking Action in Massachusetts Communities" to a panel of judges. Teams researched the issue in their own community in preparation for their presentation. Teams were asked to assess the effects of climate change in their community and recommend steps that could be taken by towns and individuals, including young people, to address the issue. Judges included environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia, and private industry.


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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.



NEWSLETTER


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

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Conservation in Newton: The Conservation Commission

By Jennifer Steel



Newton Conservation Areas from left to right: Flood Meadow, Helen Hayes Reservoir, 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. Commissions 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. 40B8C), 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.

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- [Shade Loving Perennials](#)
- [Spring Walks and Invasive Pulls](#)



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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

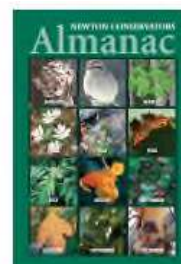
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Publications!



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)



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