

Dan Brody

From: websitemgr@newtonconservators.org
Subject: E-Bulletin - Aug 22, 2015 - W Newton Tree Walk Sunday!



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin

Saturday, August 22, 2015

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

Great Old Trees of West Newton Hill
Historic Newton Walk Series
Sunday, August 23, 2015, 2pm

Peirce School Playground
(Temple and Berkeley Streets)

Listen to the stories trees tell about Newton's development as you walk through the city, lead by two experts on a Sunday August afternoon.



Newton has many beautiful old trees, and they can tell the story of the city's development just as well as its buildings. Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry for the City of Newton, and Beth Wilkinson, local resident, member of the Newton Tree Conservancy, and President of the Newton Conservators, will lead us through the history of one of Newton's many leafy neighborhoods, drawing out the stories of the place through its historic trees.

Meet at the Peirce School Playground, corner of Temple and Berkeley Streets, Newton 02465. Free; \$10 donation suggested. For questions, please call Historic Newton at 617.796.1450 or 617.641.9142 r, visit <http://www.historicnewton.org>.

Sunday, September 13 (Rain Date: Sunday October 4)
Tour de Newton

Bicycle Tour of 13 Villages of Newton Postponed from June 21



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.

Organizers for Newton's Premiere Bike Party event are looking to get in touch with people who were registered for the June 21, 2015 event. The rescheduled Tour de Newton is on **Sunday September 13th** (Rain date: Sunday, October 4th) 9:30 am start.

Were you registered back in the spring?: You must confirm your registration immediately. You should have received a few emails in the last month. Registration reopens today (8/22/15). Any unconfirmed registrations will be removed to make room for other riders. **Please look for an email from BikeReg/Lois Levin with the necessary link.** Emails were dated 7/17 and 8/2. You must have confirmed registration for you AND OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP who were registered using the same email. Those with different emails should have gotten their own email.

New registrations? Registration will open on Saturday 8/22. There should be about 100 spots and will likely go quickly. Go to www.bikereg.com/tour-de-newton to register. Please email tourdnewtonma@gmail.com with any questions.

Black Swallow-Wort Invades Newton!!

The dangerous Black Swallow-wort vine has invaded Newton - and now its prolific seed pods are starting to burst open to further disperse its wind-born seeds. This non-native invader is fatal to monarch butterflies, and threatens plant species and habitat by completely blanketing and taking over areas. It is now in our yards, parks, and villages centers, climbing up fences but equally prolific sprawling over the ground. **Pull up or cut the plants and get them and the pods into trash bags and dispose as trash - before the pods burst!**



More details can be found in our flyer:

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/miscbackupfiles/swallowwort.pdf>

UNWANTED

Dangerous to birds, butterflies, and native plants

BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

Armed with seed pods that look like chili peppers, shiny green leaves that come in pairs, purple star-shaped flowers, and grapping spaghetti-like roots, this invasive non-native vine threatens monarch butterflies and songbirds and displaces native plant communities vital to insects, birds and other urban wildlife. Known to frequent chain-link fences, it is also found in woodlands and shrubs throughout Newton & surrounding neighborhoods - it has invaded and is spreading fast!

Now that you know about it, you'll probably start to notice it everywhere you go.

If you see it in your own yard:

- **DIG OUT THE ROOTS.** With a trowel or similar tool try to get the entire root system, **put it in a tied plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash. Do not put black swallow-wort into yard waste bags or in your compost!** The roots can re sprout and seeds survive in compost.
- If you can't dig out the roots, you can pull the stems and leaves. It will regrow from the roots but you have weakened it. Return to pull it again. It won't survive if you keep pulling the stems and leaves.
- If you see seeds pods, pull them before they release their seeds. **Dispose of all pods in a tied plastic bag and put the bag in the trash. Do not put pods into yard waste bags or in your compost. THEY CAN GROW IF YOU DON'T DESTROY THEM.**



Contact Newton Conservators if you want to help us eradicate this plant in other places in Newton:
www.newtonconservators.org

More information on other side.

Brandeis biology professor Eric Olson explains why black swallow-wort is bad, at a Newton Conservators invasive weed pull at Hemlock Gorge in Newton Upper Falls in this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/nC4D-dy2PKE>



Black swallow-wort invasive plant pull in Newton, MA.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our most recent Summer 2015 Newton Conservators newsletter has been published and mailed earlier this summer and is available online as well at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/15_06.pdf



NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SUMMER 2015

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Walking Newton's Aqueducts

By Andrea Downs



Sudbury Aqueduct

For several decades, Newton residents have enjoyed an off-road trail system, recently expanded by the extension of the river trails along the Charles. Most of the trails through the center of Newton are along the tops of aqueducts.

As Doug Dickson (former Conservators president) noted in his 2006 commentary about the aqueduct trails in the Newton Conservators April/May newsletter:

"For passive recreation, the trails along the aqueducts are rich with ever-changing views, the tranquility of nature and mostly level trails. Birds and other wildlife, shade trees, wildflowers, vines and other plant-life abound along the paths. The hustle and bustle of life quickly fades as the warmth of the spring sun or the cool of dappled shade or the rustle of drying leaves washes over the senses."

Two aqueducts cross Newton and serve as both foot paths and sheltered wildlife trails — deer, coyote, wild turkeys and other fauna use them to navigate safely from greenspace to greenspace. The oldest, the Cochituate aqueduct, was constructed in 1845 after a growing Boston realized that Jamaica Pond could no longer meet its clean water needs.

The aqueduct brought water from a tributary of the Sudbury River, which was dammed to create Lake Cochituate, through Natick, Wellesley and Newton to the Brookline Reservoir (open for walking just off Route 9).

But, as Boston continued to grow, in part because of the influx of Irish fleeing the potato famine, so did its need for water. By 1870 a new source was necessary, and the Sudbury was dammed and tapped again, and the Sudbury Aqueduct, flowing from Framingham to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, was built between 1875-78.

Continued on page 2

In the Spring 2015 Issue:

- [Walking Newton's Aqueducts](#)
- [What's On Our Website](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Conservators Awards](#)
- [Fern Dimorphism](#)
- [It All Happened at Nahanton Park](#)
- [The Tree Swallows of Nahanton Park](#)
- [Yankee Gardening](#)
- [Top Four Invasives \(see below\)](#)
- [Questionnaire](#)

Please Help Get Rid Of These Invasives That Are Destroying Our Landscape!

Below are our Top Four Invaders. By Agnes Olshansky



1. Garlic Mustard is an aggressive nonnative plant and is difficult to control once established. On average, each plant will produce thousands of seeds, and the seeds remain viable in the ground for five years or more. Known for its characteristic smell of garlic when crushed, the plant emits toxic chemicals, causing native plants near it gradually to die out. People and animals pick up the seeds on their feet and carry them from their yards to other areas, where garlic mustard quickly is established and becomes dominant. Pull and dispose in plastic bags; do not put in yard waste; garlic mustard will survive the composting process!

Read more: www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/garlicmustard.shtml National Invasive Species Information Center
www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/alpe.htm Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas



2. Oriental Bittersweet, originally from Asia, is an invasive vine that can take over natural areas. The vine can smother and break off large tree branches. If you are riding on the D line, you will see many trees that had been destroyed by this vine between Beaconsfield and Brookline Village. The best way to control bittersweet vine is to carefully pull up the entire root system of young vines, and if the vines are difficult to pull, cut established vines, which you might need to do more than once, until the root system is weakened and can be pulled easily.

Read more: www.ecolandscaping.org/02/invasiveplants/asiaticbittersweetvineanexoticinvasiveplantsfactsheet/ www.ecolandscaping.org, by Bruce Wenning. www.ci.burnsville.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=1597. City of Burnsville, Minnesota, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/alpe.htm. Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas



3. Black Swallow-wort is a perennial vine with purple star-shaped flowers and thin pods. It is extremely invasive and has spread throughout Newton's open spaces and gardens. It can spread by wind-dispersed seed or underground rhizomes. Investigations into its effect on the monarch butterfly, which requires milkweed for reproduction, indicate that the butterflies will lay eggs on the swallowwort plants, but the larvae do not survive. Because it is not a good food source for native birds, they, too, decline when black swallow-wort becomes dominant.

Read more: www.cddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/herbs/Cynanchum_louisiae.htm.



4. Japanese knotweed is one of the most invasive nonnative plants and the most difficult to remove. It was introduced to the United States from Japan as an ornamental, and now you can see it everywhere. It spreads by rhizomes and seeds. Japanese knotweed can grow to a height of 13 feet and has stems that resemble bamboo when mature. It spreads like wildfire, forms dense thickets and pushes out native plants very quickly. This plant is flourishing in Newton along Hammond Pond Parkway between Route 9 and the rotary, in some front yards on Winchester Street, and at hundreds of other sites. It causes damage to roads, buildings, concrete, drains, etc., and damages the environment by destroying biodiversity. Cut large stems; pull the roots, and put roots in black trash bag; do not put in yard waste! Watch the video from the BBC to get a sense about the danger of this plant.

Read more: www.bbc.com/news/ukenglandlondon24426190. Two London homeowners were told it would be cheaper to demolish their £300,000 house and rebuild it than try to treat Japanese knotweed.
www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/knotweed.shtml National Invasive Species Information Center
www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/faja.htm Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Areas

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ABOUT

Newton, Massachusetts
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/>

PHOTOS

VISITOR POSTS

David Backer
May 19 at 3:09pm

The Environmental Science Program still has openings for campers th... See More

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Newton Conservators
August 20 at 8:38am

Don't forget to join Conservators President Beth Wilkinson and Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry for the City of Newton, this Sunday!



Historic Newton Walks: Great Old Trees of West Newton Hill

Listen to the stories trees tell about Newton's development as you walk through the city, lead by two experts on a Sunday August afternoon.

PATCH.COM

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Newton Conservators
August 19 at 9:35am

Our great thanks to all those who joined our black swallow-wort pull last weekend! If you have 90 seconds, watch this video of the always wonderful Professor Eric Olson discussing the serious ramifications of this invasive plant. Thanks, as well, the director of the Newton Tree Conservancy, Julia Malakie, for the video.



Black swallow-wort invasive plant pull in Newton, MA

Brandeis biology professor Eric Olson explains why black swallow-wort is bad, at a Newton Conservators invasive weed pull at Hemlock Gorge in Newton Upper Fa...

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Emilv Dahl, Beth Wilkinson and Newton Conservators like this.

Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

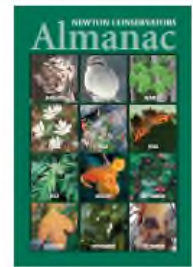
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Publications!



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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