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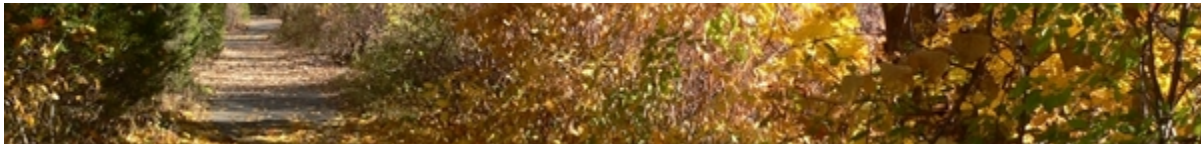
FW: E-Bulletin - October 16, 2015 - Weekend Walks!



## Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, October 16, 2015

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



### Upcoming Events

Each spring and fall, the Newton Conservators sponsor a series of guided walks or outings in Newton parks and conservation areas. Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt. Here is a link to the current walk series: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/walksfall15.pdf>. Here are a few walks to keep you busy this weekend and next. Also check out the Newton Conservators at the annual Newton Harvest Fair on Sunday at the Newton Center Green (Langley Rd and Centre St) from 10 am to 4 pm.

**Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am**  
**Webster Woods Walk**  
**Sponsored by Friends of Webster Woods**



Join the Friends of Webster Woods this Saturday at 10 am to explore this special area. As you may know, in August 2015, [local news media reported](#) that the congregation is close to reaching an agreement to sell its property to Boston College. The college's plans for the land are unknown, but a sale would increase the likelihood of development of some or all of the land. The Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators has written [a letter to Mayor Setti Warren and the Newton Board of Alderman](#) urging them to

take action to protect this land. Meet outside the Elgin Street entrance of the park (outside

180 Elgin Street) at 10

am. See <http://www.newtonconservators.org/miscbackupfiles/VisitWebsterWoods.pdf> for more details on the area.

**Saturday, October 17 at 1:00 pm**  
**A Walk Along the Charles: Riverside to Lower Falls**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**

In the last few years, an old railroad bridge over the Charles has been converted into a footbridge, and an old pedestrian bridge has been restored. This four-mile out-and-back walk takes about two hours. It crosses both of these bridges and follows the proposed route of a trail that might someday connect them. The walk follows the riverbank in two areas that are not widely used. The trail is rough in spots, so hiking shoes are recommended. A detour is possible around the roughest stretch. Due to rough terrain, the walk is not recommended for children under 10. Each participant (or parent/guardian) must sign a waiver. Waivers will be available at the walk, or can be downloaded



at: <http://newtonconservators.org/waiver.pdf>. Meet at the parking lot on the Recreation Road exit (Exit 23 Northbound only) off Route I-95/128: <http://goo.gl/maps/Npzy3>. Trip Leaders: State Rep. Kay Khan and Conservators Website Manager Dan Brody ([websitemgr@newtonconservators.org](mailto:websitemgr@newtonconservators.org))

**Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 am**  
**Bedrock Geology of Newton and Adjacent Areas**  
**Newton Conservators Walk Series**



The bedrock geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the South Pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story. This trip will not be one of the usual “walks” since we will need to carpool to travel to 4 different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation area - east, at the west end of Hammond Pond off of Hammond Pond Parkway near Rt. 9, behind “The Street”

complex near the movie theatre (see Newton Conservators Walking Trail Guide p.35). We will first visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will last 2-3 hours. Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)

**Sunday, October 25 at 11:30 am**  
**Climate Reality Talk**  
**Cathy Buckley - Env. Defense Fund & Mass Sierra Club**  
**Second Church in Newton, 60 Highland St, West Newton**

On Sunday, October 25, 11:30am, Cathy Buckley, Ambassador of the Environmental Defense Fund and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts' Sierra Club, will speak on "Climate Reality." This is the last in a 3-part Environmental Speakers' Series. Second Church in Newton, UCC 60 Highland St., WestNewton [www.2ndchurch.org](http://www.2ndchurch.org); 617-244-2690.



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## Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our most recent Fall 2015 newsletter has been published and sent out and is available online as well at [http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/15\\_09.pdf](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/15_09.pdf)

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## Conservation Begins at Home

*By Jon Regasin, Chief of Conservation Science for the  
National Heritage & Endangered Species Program of Massachusetts*



*American Toad*



*Red-backed Salamander*

Once in a while, I find a toad in my garden. Throughout much of the state, this observation wouldn't be noteworthy as American Toads are nearly ubiquitous. In Newton and other densely developed urban/suburban areas, however, toads are uncommon due to limited availability of wetland breeding habitat. In most Massachusetts landscapes, toads and many other common wildlife species are widespread "matrix" species, occupying both open space and private lands. In Newton, many of our native plants and animals, from birds to trees to frogs, are highly dependent on parks and conservation lands for their continued survival. My toad, by the way, apparently braved Walnut Street and traveled at least 800 feet from the nearest breeding pool to make it to my humble abode.

For wildlife enthusiasts, understanding the distribution of otherwise common species such as Red-backed Salamanders, Red-eyed Vireos, Red Squirrels and Yellow Birch here in Newton becomes an interesting exercise. How about slightly less common, more cryptic, or more disturbance-sensitive species? Flying squirrels, Eastern Newts, Spotted Turtles? How many bird species breed in Newton? Snakes? Turtles? While a glass half empty approach would emphasize how little natural habitat remains, during my wanderings in Newton open spaces, I am always struck by the incredible diversity and resilience of the native plants, animals, and natural communities that occupy our open spaces.

So why should we care about remnant natural areas and habitat patches that persist in densely developed communities such as Newton? While it's easy to dismiss the conservation value of urban oak forests, red maple swamps, and vernal pools, some would argue that these urban wilds are uniquely important, worthy of our respect, enjoyment, stewardship, and study. First, Newton's parks and conservation lands provide genuinely important oases of habitat for migratory and resident species alike. Without these habitat patches, many species such as Wood Thrush and Spotted Salamander would disappear from our urban/suburban landscape. With sound stewardship, we can ensure that these lands continue to support a diversity of plants and animals well into the future.

*Continued on page 2*



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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.

## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

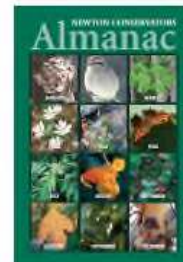
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## Publications!



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 in June 1961.*

▪ *E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators ([dolanpond@aol.com](mailto:dolanpond@aol.com))*



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