

Subject:

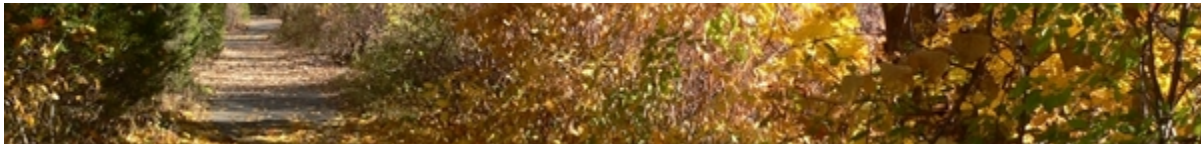
FW: E-Bulletin - October 16, 2015 - Weekend Walks!



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)

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; 617-244-2690.



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

.



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2015

2015 Officers and Directors

Beth Wilkinsan, *President*
George Mansfield,
Vice President
AnnaMaria Abernathy,
Secretary
Katherine Howard,
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Margaret Albright
David Blacker
Dan Brody
Lalor Burdick
Mat Calabro
Bonnie Carter
Michael Clarke
Ann Dorfman
Margaret Doris
Henry Finch
Robert Fizek
Maurice Gilmore
Daniel Green
William Hagar
Chris Hepburn
Ted Kulkinski
Larry Smith
Willis Wang

Advisors

Lisle Baker
Rodney Barker
John Bliss
Octo Barnett
Lee Breckenridge
Lucy Caldwell-Stair
Michael Collora
Madesina Criscitiello
Douglas Dickson
Bart Hague
Judith Hepburn
Duane Hillis
Peter Kashner
Alison Leary
William Leitch
Dan Lubin
Eric Olson
Anne Pearson
Richard Primack
Eric Reensterna
Jon Regasin
Patricia Robinson
Jane Sender
William Shoewel
Verne Vance
Brian Yates

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



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

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 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 emailist@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 in June 1961.

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



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link:
[Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Newton Conservators
PO Box 590011
Newton, Massachusetts 02459
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

