

Subject:

FW: E-Bulletin - February 24, 2016 - Lecture / Walk!



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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



Spring is Coming!

Check out all the great nature and open space related events happening soon - including Thursday evening (lecture at the library) and on Sunday (our first walk of the season!). Spring is on its way!

Most people know that Newton Conservators works to preserve and to protect natural areas in Newton. Our organization always focuses on its core mission: advocating for the preservation of open space and the environment throughout the city. We work to maintain existing areas, and we watch for new land to become available and then work with the city and other organizations to find ways to protect that land. As a member, you can help to make all of that happen—and you learn about what's going on through our newsletters, which contain updates on city projects affecting conservation land, articles about work accomplished by members, birding notes, lists of walks, and much more. The Conservators is an independent nonprofit organization that receives no money from the city or the state. Please renew your membership to help us continue this important work! Current members should have received a renewal letter recently. Otherwise you can join or renew at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm>.

Thursday, February 25, 7 pm
Shaping Chestnut Hill: How Water Supply Systems Fashioned the Future
Historic Newton Lectures cosponsored by the Newton Free Library
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton, MA, 02459

In 1870 Boston finished the construction of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and the Reservoir Driveway. In 1876, the newly incorporated City of Newton completed construction on its own system and began pumping water from the Charles River to Waban Hill Reservoir in Chestnut Hill. The creation of the grand Reservoir Driveway surrounding the Chestnut Hill Reservoir cemented Chestnut Hill's position as the center of activity in the area. Metropolitan Waterworks Museum historian Jean Innamorati will discuss the construction of these two systems and the impact that they had on the surrounding area that is today known as Chestnut Hill. Part of the Newton History Series. Free. 617-796-136, See



*The Chestnut Hill Pumping Station circa 1868
Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Waterworks Museum*

<http://www.historicnewton.org/> for more info or http://posters.newtonfreelibrary.net/160225_Program_History_Series2_EK.jpg for the official flyer

Saturday, February 27, 11 am - Noon
Mass Central Rail Trail Walk
Waltham Land Trust

Park/meet along MCRT (north side) at 140 Lexington St. lot (AutoZone)

If you'd like to see the Mass Central Rail Trail happen in Waltham, this is the event you should attend. The walk will traverse the abandoned railway for about 1.2 miles, covering a handful of centrally-located blocks where the trail is already well used. On the trek and afterwards at a no-host lunch at Demo's, will be a discussion about sections of the MCRT that need stewards to help maintain a clear pathway free of litter and vegetation, and also identify folks interested advancing the MCRT in Waltham. It may be cold. Please dress for the weather.



Sunday, February 28, 1 pm
Helen Heyn Riverway Walk
Co-sponsored by the Friends of Nahanton Park
and the and the Newton Conservators
Nahanton Street entrance to Nahanton Park



Photo by Dan Brody

This walk will cover a one-mile section of the Charles River Footpath that runs along a border of wetland vegetation and through a wooded floodplain. By visiting while the ground is still frozen, we'll avoid wet feet as much as possible, but do wear wet-weather footwear. We'll observe birds and the other creatures in this beautiful conservation area. Bring binoculars for birding and nippers to help clear small branches along the way. Energetic hikers can continue along the Charles River Pathway. Meet on the Nahanton Street entrance to Nahanton Park. Parking is available there and in the adjacent lot. We will gather at 12:45 and start the walk at 1:00 pm. In case of

cancellation because of bad weather, a notice will be posted on NahantonPark.org. Leaders: Duane Hillis, Suzette Barbier, and Eric Olson. Use 617-964-2123 as a contact number. A downloadable flyer about the walk is at http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/heyn_walk_2016.pdf



**Sunday, February 28
Newton Conservators Grants Winter Deadline**



The Newton Conservators, Inc. provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering [its mission](#). The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$750 may receive priority, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a longer-term project, or for multiple year funding. Projects for multiple year funding must be reported upon and resubmitted annually. Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded twice a year, with application deadlines of October 31 and February 28. However, proposals may be submitted at any time, and grants are sometimes awarded before the next regular review cycle begins. See full details at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/grants.htm>.

**Sunday, February 28
Newton Community Farm
CSA Enrollment for Newton Residents Deadline**

If you enjoy eating delicious fresh produce, then consider signing up for 2016 summer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at Newton Community Farm. They have the equivalent of 80 weekly shares available for the period from June through October. Some of our participants enroll for alternate week shares, which means they pick up produce every other week. Other participants enroll for a weekly share for their family or else they split the full share with another friend or family (or two!). See more information at: <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/#sthash.7TWksM16.dpuf>.



**Wednesday, March 2, 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
Restoring Nature's Relationships
Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home"
Grow Native Massachusetts Lecture Series
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138**



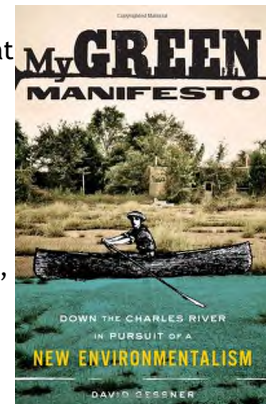
If we are to make our residential landscapes truly living ecosystems once again, we need to understand the specialized relationships that make plants and animals interdependent. Who better to take us on an in-depth journey into this fascinating and complex world than Doug Tallamy? He will give us detailed examples of these co-evolutionary relationships, showing us how they determine the stability and complexity of local food webs— providing birds with insects and berries, dispersing bloodroot seeds, pollinating goldenrod, and much more.

This knowledge equips us to knowingly select plants and to construct landscapes that restore nature’s relationships at home. Doug Tallamy is a Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Biology at the University of Delaware. His groundbreaking book, *Bringing Nature Home*, was published in 2007 and continues to have national impact; it was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers’ Association. In 2014, he co-authored *The Living Landscape* with Rick Darke. Doug’s conservation work and science-based advocacy for native plants has earned him numerous awards. **Free and open to the public.** Call 781-790-8921

Thursday, March 10, 7 - 8 pm

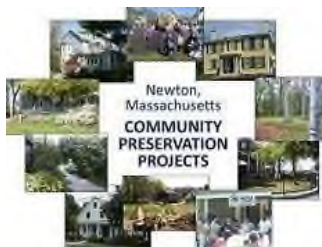
**David Gessner, author of “My Green Manifesto” and Dan Driscoll, DCR
Sponsored by Waltham Land Trust Presentation
Wilder Pavilion, Adamian Building (park in Lot 9),
Bentley University, 175 Forest St.**

The Waltham Land Trust welcomes to Waltham, [David Gessner](#), author of [My Green Manifesto](#), and Dan Driscoll, who in the 1990s was the "new kid" at what is now the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and was offered at that time to "take a look at the Charles" as a distraction. Dan absolutely took a look at the Charles, and worked through several challenges to make the river the gem that it is today. In *My Green Manifesto* (available for sale at the event), Dan explains to David the ups and downs of the battle as the two journey down the mighty river from source to mouth in leaky canoes and kayaks. They also discuss what it means to be an environmentalist these days, and they'll share their thoughts with WLT at this special event that they've been trying to organize since the book was published in 2011! Get yourself a copy and read this funny, insightful, and inspiring masterpiece.



Thursday, March 10

**Newton Community Preservation Committee Public Hearings
Newton City Hall**



Two new off-cycle proposals are scheduled for public hearings and possible funding recommendation votes at the CPC meeting on Thursday, March 10th: [Allen House - Additional Rehabilitation](#) (West Newton, historic resources) \$2 million request from Newton Cultural Alliance and [Crescent Street Site Assessment](#) (Auburndale, housing & recreation) \$100,000 request from City of Newton. For more info go to www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/cpa/default.asp, then click on [Proposals & Projects](#) link. For assistance, please contact Alice Ingerson, Program Manager, at aingerson@newtonma.gov or

617.796.1144.

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 8:30am - 1:00pm

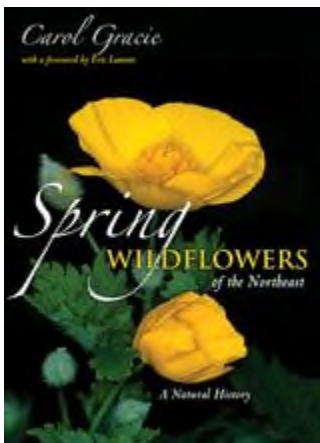
Municipal Stormwater Permits, Green Infrastructure and You!
Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, 280 Eliot St, Natick, MA 01760



In this workshop participants will learn about the new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits as well as effective and innovative strategies for reducing stormwater runoff pollution to rivers. The training is targeted at municipal staff and volunteer board

or commission members but is open to all interested parties. Diverse and experienced speakers will address many relevant topics including strategies for implementing green infrastructure to reduce phosphorus pollution while adding beauty to your community, developing phosphorus control plans under the new MS4 permit, stormwater coalitions, and much more. This event is free and lunch will be provided. Space is limited so please RSVP promptly and inform us if you are no longer able to attend. If the event fills to capacity we will prioritize space for municipal staff and volunteers.

Wednesday, April 6, 7 pm
Spring Wildflowers: Ephemeral Beauty with a Purpose
Carol Gracie, author of "Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast"
Grow Native Massachusetts Lecture Series
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138



Our native spring wildflowers evolved in the once contiguous forests that stretched the length of the East Coast and west to the prairies. Their flowering coincides with increased sunlight and warmth before the forest canopy leafs out, and their associations with the early-flying insects of spring are remarkable. Come learn about the life cycles of selected species in detail— and why many populations are in a marked decline due to human activity. By understanding their evolutionary relationships to forest habitat, we can better protect these ephemeral beauties on all lands, and integrate them into our woodland gardens. Carol Gracie is a botanist and highly-skilled photographer. She has authored *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History*, and several field guides. Her botanizing in South and Central America has led to seven tropical plant species and one genus being named for her. **Free and open to the public.**

Saturday, April 30, 9 am to Noon
Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup

The Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup brings together over 3,000 volunteers each year to pick up litter, remove invasive species and assist with park maintenance. Residents are drawn to the popular Charles River Cleanup from a desire to give back to their community while enjoying the beauty and wildlife along the Charles River. Volunteers build on the connections they establish during this day of stewardship by returning to the Charles to exercise, play and enjoy nature throughout the year. The Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup builds on a national effort as part of American Rivers' National River Cleanup®, which to date, has removed over 20.7 million pounds of trash from America's waterways. <http://www.crwa.org/charles-river-cleanup>



Sunday, May 1
Newton SERVES



Newton SERVES day is later than it has been in the past to get more school participation. Projects are being organized now. Watch for further details. The Newton Conservators have a number of invasives sessions as part of Newton SERVES (see listing below).

Sunday, April 4 through Saturday, June 18 Newton Conservators Spring Invasives Sessions

Here are the tentative dates for the Newton Conservators spring invasive removal efforts. These are in addition to our usual Spring Walk Series and other events such as our June Doin and annual Dinner Meeting. Watch for details on all upcoming Newton Conservators events in future e-Bulletins.



- Sunday, April 24, 9:30 am to Noon, Saw Mill Brook
- Saturday, April 30, 9:30 am to Noon, Dolan Pond (Newton SERVES)
- Sunday, May 1, 9:30 m to Noon, Blue Heron Bridge (Newton SERVES)
- Sunday, May 1, Noon to 2 pm, Cold Spring Park (Newton SERVES)
- Sunday, May 1, 1 to 3 pm, Cold Spring Park pool cleanup (Newton SERVES)
- Sunday, May 15 9:30 pm to Noon, Blue Heron Bridge follow-up
- Saturday, May 21, Noon to 2 pm, Cold Spring Park follow-up
- Sunday, May 22, 2 to 4 pm, Nahanton (prep before June Doin on June 11)
- Sunday, May 29 9:30 am to Noon, Hammond Pond
- Sunday, June 5, 9:30 am to Noon, Cold Spring Park follow-up
- Sunday, June 12 9:30 am to Noon, Houghton Garden
- Saturday, June 18 9:30 am to Noon, Hemlock Gorge and Quinobequin

July 5th, 2016 to August 4th, 2016 (REGISTER NOW) Newton Environmental Science Program



The Envi Sci program combines fun outdoor activities with learning about the environment. Each year it builds on the "peer education" principle by having the student leaders design, develop, and deliver the materials that the students use. New students are encouraged to return and become leaders in subsequent years, continuing the thread of responsibility for care and teaching about the environment. A typical activity would be a hike to an area of interest, often in Newton but sometimes elsewhere, such as the Arnold Arboretum. Other activities range from bicycle trips to night walks for learning about nocturnal wildlife. Participants go on a

12-mile canoe trip on the Charles River, and take water samples to report on the water quality. The learning materials for each day may cover ecology, geology, botany, pollution issues, or other areas that the student leaders select. Each year there is an environmental cleanup project in which participants get hands-on involvement with improving an environmental site. The Environmental Science Program is open to students who will be entering grades 7, 8, 9, or 10 by September 2016. This year, the program will operate from July 5th, 2016 to August 4th, 2016*. If you have any questions about the Program or the plans for Summer of 2016, please contact us at contact@newtonenvisci.org or visit <http://www.newtonenvisci.org> or call 617-447-9317 between 9:00am and 5:00 pm.

Bay Colony Rail Trail News

Two big segments of the Bay Colony Rail Trail are now open! After an extraordinary effort and broad public support, the portions of the Bay Colony Rail Trail in both Newton and Needham are now nearly complete. In Newton, the stone dust surface is in place along most of the trail and the ties have been removed. Trail signage, benches, plantings, and other amenities - funded by Upper Falls Greenway supporters, Newton Park & Rec, and local businesses - are to be installed in warmer weather. In Needham, the stone dust surface and most safety fencing has been installed, and signs at the road crossings at Fisher St and Charles River St. are in place. Opening event: Events will be planned to celebrate the formal opening of the Needham and Newton portions of the trail sometime in the Spring.



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Jan Regasin

Patricia Robinson

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An Adventurous Walk Along the Charles: Auburndale to Lower Falls

By Representative Kay Khan

On Saturday, October 17th, Dan Brody from the Newton Conservators and I met at the parking lot on Recreation Road (Exit 23 Northbound only off Route I-95/128) to lead a walk along the Charles River from the backside of Riverside to Lower Falls. We hoped our walk would spark interest in the condition of existing trails in this area of Newton.

One couple in our group was from Singapore. While visiting family in Newton, they found the announcement of the walk in a copy of the Conservators' Newsletter in the library and decided to join Dan, Jerry Reilly, Chris Steele, me, and several others interested in exploring the area on this picture-perfect fall afternoon.

Our walk included two Newton bridges that were beautifully restored a few years ago—thanks to former Governor Deval Patrick's Accelerated Bridge program and my work with DCR, DOT and many advocates. The first was the old railroad bridge over the Charles in Lower Falls, officially opened in 2012, which connects Newton to Wellesley and its walking trails, and the second was an old pedestrian footbridge behind Riverside,

easily accessible from Recreation Road. (A third bridge close to the Lasell College Boat House on Charles Street in Auburndale will hopefully be done soon, which will be a welcome addition for bikers.)

During the walk, we got a close-up look at both of these restored bridges and followed a proposed route of a walking trail (possibly also a bike trail) that might be completed some day in the future. The walk followed the riverbank into two areas that are not yet widely used and are very rough in spots, so hiking shoes are recommended if you decide to give it a try. Thanks to DCR, young people from Americorps helped with some of the cleanup in the area behind Riverside two summers ago including the painting of the tunnel under the commuter rail connecting to Charles Street. Soon thereafter, the graffiti artists returned it to its previous state.

Now, a little history...

In 1970, when my husband and I bought our house on St. Mary's Street in Newton Lower Falls, we discovered a train track running close to our back yard. One day shortly after moving in with two very young children,



Newton Conservators Charles River Walk

Continued on page 2

Check out the latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter online at http://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/16_01.pdf.



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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 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

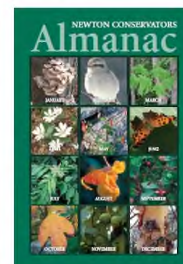
This e-Bulletin is a free service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com or emaillist@newtonconservators.org. The current edition of our 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 in June 1961.

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



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