

Dan Brody

From: websitemgr@newtonconservators.org
Subject: FW: E-Bulletin - April 28, 2016 - Events Calendar!



Newton Conservators *E-Bulletin*

Thursday, April 28, 2016

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



Spring is Here!

Check out all the great nature and open space related events happening soon! These include our spring walk series, our invasive removal projects for Newton SERVES and beyond (this weekend on Sat/Sun), our annual Dinner meeting next Wednesday (May 4), and upcoming lectures. It's a busy spring for the Newton Conservators - Newton's own open space and land trust organization! We have a VERY full calendar below for you to consider!!

Events Calendar

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 am - Noon
Garlic Mustard Pull and Cleanup at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project).
76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465
www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm

Meet at the Webster Park (a street of Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Street parking is available there and at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands in off-trail corners of the property and a few patches of rosettes in previously worked areas. Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. Crews also removed nearly every knotweed stem from one area, but knotweed removal takes years to complete, and each time it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753. Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 am
Annual Spring Cleanup of Hemlock Gorge
Hamilton Place, Hemlock Gorge
www.hemlockgorge.org

Volunteers should meet at Hamilton Place between 9:30 and 10 a.m. For a MAP showing the location, [click here](#). Parking available at Hamilton Place, the Mills Falls parking lot, and at the Hemlock Gorge parking lot at the intersection of Ellis St. and Rte. 9. Spruce-up materials supplied and Refreshments provided for all volunteers! Please dress appropriately for the work and weather (rain or shine). Sponsored by Friends of Hemlock Gorge.

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, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES Project).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls and will work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell). Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>

Sunday, May 1, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Landfill Cleanup (NewtonSERVES Project).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Decades ago, part of what is now Cold Spring Park was used as a trash dump. For years, large pieces of metal debris littered the edge of a small seasonal wetland area in the park. In 2011, the Conservators sponsored a very successful cleanup project on Newton Serves day, with many volunteers including a Boy Scout troop, taking part. We now want to go back to finish the cleanup effort. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Dan Brody, 617-332-5418. Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>

Sunday, May 1, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project).
Near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472 www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We will continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the foodplain forest, mixing in nature study, so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner furthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn

left, and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St., a block away from the river. Trip leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928. Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>

Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 6 pm

Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting

Keynote Speaker - Prof Bryan Connolly - An Introduction to the Invasive Plant Species of Massachusetts

American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Nonantum 02458

The Newton Conservators cordially invite you to its 55th Annual Meeting and Dinner. Social gathering will take place at 6 pm followed at 7 pm by dinner, a short business meeting, award ceremony and general program with keynote speaker, Bryan Connolly. Visit www.newtonconservators.org to reserve online. Environmentalist of the Year Award will go to Jon Regosin, Bob DeRubeis, Marc Welch, and the Woodcock Meadow Team. The Charles Johnson Maynard Award will be presented to Thomas Gwin (NNHS) and Jon Orren (NSHS) and a Director's Award to Atty. Leigh Gilligan for her work on behalf of the Conservators.

Keynote speaker, Professor Bryan Connolly will focus on the most common invasive plant species in Massachusetts. The topics covered will include ecological impacts, invasive species origin and spread, species identification, and common control methods. A short section on new invaders to the state will be covered as well as a discussion on biocontrol and early detection rapid response. Dr. Bryan Connolly is an [Assistant Professor of Biology at Framingham State University](#); he is also President of the [New England Botanical Club](#). Bryan's previous professional roles have included being Massachusetts State Botanist for Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, as well as being the volunteer coordinator for the [Invasive Plant Atlas of New England](#) through the New England Wild Flower Society. He is a coauthor of "[The Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist, First Revision](#)" and has published sixteen scientific articles.

Sunday, May 8 at 8:00 am

NAHANTON PARK MOTHER'S DAY BIRD WALK

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for both migratory and resident songbirds. Likely finds include brightly colored warblers, vireos, and orioles. Also expect bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, swallows and brown thrashers. Enter the park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Cosponsored with Friends of Nahanton Park. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619), Haynes Miller (617-413-2419).

Wednesday, May 11, 7 am

Newton Cemetery Bird Walk

Sponsored by the Newton Cemetery

Join Newton Cemetery Board member Marygrace Barber, an avid local birder, for an informal bird walk. See and hear the different species of birds on the cemetery grounds in the spring. Birders of all levels are invited to participate. Beginners are welcome and experts encouraged to share their knowledge! The walk will take place rain or shine and last approximately 90 minutes. Comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, water and plenty of questions are recommended. The walk will meet in front of the office just inside the Newton Cemetery main gate at 791 Walnut Street, Newton, MA. Parking is available along the cemetery roads or chapel parking lot. For more information, call 617-332-0047 or see [News & Events](#) on the [Newton Cemetery website](#), www.newcemcorp.org/news-events/bird-walk.

Saturday, May 14 at 8:00 am (Rain Date: May 15)

BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

This 67-acre parcel has ample wooded areas, open fields, a brook and wetlands. It is one of the places in Newton where you may hear the call of the Great Horned Owl and observe spectacular songbirds like the rose breasted grosbeak and the indigo bunting. Also frequently found at the park are many favorite migrants such as the red eyed vireo, the wood thrush, and a variety of wood warblers. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left, and go to the far end of the parking lot to meet group. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513).

Saturday, May 14, 1 pm
Shade Trees of Newton Cemetery
Sponsored by the Newton Cemetery

Enjoy a tour showcasing the largest specimen trees that enhance Newton Cemetery's grounds. Arborist Robert Reardon will highlight some interesting and unique characteristics of the numerous mature varieties. The tour will take place rain or shine and last approximately 90 minutes. Comfortable walking shoes, water and plenty of questions are recommended. Meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available along the cemetery roads or in the chapel parking lot. Free and open to all. For more information, call 617-332-0047 or see [News & Events](#) on the [Newton Cemetery website](#), <https://www.newcemcorp.org/news-events/spring-tree-tour>. [Newton Cemetery is an accredited Arboretum with the Morton Register of Arboreta](#).

Saturday / Sunday, May 14, 15, Noon - 3 pm
Tenth Anniversary Seedling Sale
Newton Community Farm - 303 Nahanton Street, Newton MA 02459

It's almost time to start your home garden! Come get your seedlings for vegetables, herbs, flowers, and that favorite summer crop, tomatoes! Our greenhouse is already busy with hundreds of varieties from the same seeds that we use to grow our own seedlings for the produce we sell. Get seedlings specially selected for local growing conditions and support your local community farm in the process. If you would like to send in a preorder to be picked up during the Seedling Sale, please visit our website. Preorders are due on May 9th and are only available to Friends of the Farm. - See more at: <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/#sthash.AAcEu1p.dpuf>, 617-916-9655.

Sunday, May 15, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge #2 (repeat visit).
Near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472 www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We will continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study, so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner furthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left, and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St., a block away from the river. Trip leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Sunday, May 15 at 2:00 pm
TAKE A REAL HIKE IN NEWTON: DISCOVER THE NEWTON AQUEDUCTS

A 5 mile hike through woods, meadows and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

Saturday, May 21, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #2 (repeat visit).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Nahanton Park Invasives Pull.
Near 507 Winchester Street Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm

Many native habitats, including grassland and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park is one of our open spaces suffering from infestations of invasive plant species, including black swallowwort, multi-fora rose, tree of heaven, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot of Winchester Street. Leaders are Duane Hillis and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Sunday, May 22 at 10:30 am
WEBSTER WOODS WALK
Meet at end of Warren Street

Come and (hopefully) see the beautiful Lady's Slipper orchids. Meet at the end of Warren Street for a 90 minute walk through the Newton Webster Conservation area, including the Vale and Bare Pond. The tour will be led by BU Professor of Plant Ecology and life-long Newton resident Richard Primack, who will point out notable trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and probably salamanders. Trip Leader: Prof. Richard Primack (617 332 1684).

Sunday, May 29, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond.
Near 309 Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull. But any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until they find some, we are stuck controlling the plant by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at small parking lot of Hammond Pond Parkway at Route 9 adjacent to pond at "The Street" mall. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Tuesday, May 31, 7 pm
Newton Conservators Lecture
Bruce Wenning - Invasive Plants in Newton
Newton Free Library

Bruce Wenning is a local expert on invasive plants and will be speaking at the Newton Free Library to teach us how to recognize many types of alien plant invaders. Follow the lecture up with field events on Saturday June 5.

Sunday, June 5, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (repeat visit).
1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

This session will be followed by a 12 Noon - 2 pm Invasive Plant educational walk through Cold Spring Park led by Bruce Wenning, horticulturalist. Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Sunday, June 5 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
INVASIVE-PLANT WALK: LEARN TO IDENTIFY THEM
Cold Spring Park

What are the invasive plant species found in Newton and what harm do they do to the ecosystem? Newton Native Bruce Wenning is an invasive plant specialist and horticulturist. Join Bruce for a professionally guided walking tour of Cold Spring Park to learn how to identify several types of invasive plants and to learn what you can do in your own yard to safely remove them. Bruce will explain how different invasive plants spread and what removal methods are effective on each. He also will discuss the important topic of how to properly dispose of the plants once removed. Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning (617-962-0646)

Saturday, June 11 (morning)
Second Annual June Doin'
Nahanton Park

Come and enjoy this park, which includes riverfront, community garden plots, meadows, wooded hillsides, wild blackberry bushes, wetlands and a pond— all on a plateau overlooking the river valley. We had a great time last year, and it will be even better this year! Look for more information in May in our e-Bulletin, on our Facebook page, and on our website:
www.NewtonConservators.org.

Sunday, June 12, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Houghton Garden/Webster Invasives Pull.
Opposite 210 Suffolk Rd., Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm

We are tackling garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods and near the deer park. Help us keep these invaders out of Houghton Garden! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd. (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Saturday, June 18, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull.
Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464
www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We have expanded our efforts to control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also in the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the parking lot at corner of Quinobequin Rd. and Ellis St. at Rt. 9 intersection. Leaders are Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Saturday, June 25 at 11:00 am (Rain Date: Sunday, June 26)
HOUGHTON GARDEN FERN WALK

This garden remains from the Houghton Estate and is now owned by Newton. It is part of the Webster Conservation Area complex near Hammond Pond that runs from Rt. 9 north beyond the MBTA Riverside line. The garden, only lightly managed now, retains a variety of flowering plants and a surprising diversity of ferns. We will see more than a dozen fern species and one club-moss. Park on Suffolk Road (of Hammond St.) and meet near the gate at Woodman Rd. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464),
<http://nefern.info>, don@nefern.info



There's still time this week (until April 30) to support the Conservators in the Boston Globe's wonderful GRANT program and help us earn ad space to promote our programming. Just go to <http://manage.bostonglobe.com/grant/Default.aspx> and enter your Globe subscriber number and then "Newton Conservators, Inc." into the green box labeled : Name of Certified 501(c)(3) Organization. Thanks!

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Check out the latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter online at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/16_04.pdf.

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Where is Woodcock Meadow? Why Does it Need to be Saved? How Can You Help?

By Jon Regosin, Chief of Conservation Science for the National Heritage & Endangered Species Program of Massachusetts, and Beth Wilkinson



MAP: SUZETTE BARBER

Where is Woodcock Meadow?

Woodcock Meadow is located on a small hilltop in the city-owned Nahantton Park, overlooking the Charles River and near the Newton Community Farm.

Why Does the Meadow Need to be Saved?

The meadow is important in itself because it is the only grassland of its type, a warm-season grassland, left in Newton. It is dominated by Little Bluestem grass interspersed with other native plants such as bush clover, asters, and goldenrods.

Grassland environment, so important to many creatures — especially birds, is increasingly rare throughout the United States. The State of the Birds 2014, co-authored by the nation's top bird science and conservation groups, reports that grasslands have declined by 40% in the United States since 1968 as formerly open space has been developed into residential and commercial properties.

Our little piece of grassland is not under attack by developers. Instead, Woodcock Meadow is being threatened by encroaching trees (the invasive black locust as well as a group of native white pine trees) and invasive shrubs and brambles, such as dewberry. The photos at right illustrate how much of the meadow has been invaded in the past fifteen years.



Aerial photographs showing meadow habitat loss over time. Note woody vegetation intruding into the center of the meadow, as well as encroachment at the edges.

Ideally, the meadow would have only 15 to 20% native shrub and small tree cover, including red cedar, scrub oak, blueberry, gray birch, and sumac. Instead, the larger trees are beginning to fill the meadow, thus reducing its function as a meadow.

Continued on page 2



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There's still time to support the Conservators in the Boston Globe's wonderful GRANT program and help us earn ad space to promote our programming. Just click the link below and enter "Newton Conservators, Inc." Thanks!

<http://manage.bostonglobe.com/grant/Default.aspx>

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.

Membership & 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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