

Dan Brody

From: websitemgr@newtonconservators.org
Subject: FW: E-Bulletin - May 20, 2016 - Invasive Sessions, Walks, Lecture



Newton Conservators *E-Bulletin*

Friday, May 20, 2016

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



Working to preserve
open space in Newton
since 1961

Invasive Sessions, Walks, Lectures!

Check out all the great nature and open space related events happening soon! These include our spring walk series, our invasive removal projects, and upcoming lectures. It's a busy spring for the Newton Conservators - Newton's own open space and land trust organization! We have a full calendar below for you to consider!!

Events Calendar

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).



Saturday, May 21, 1-3 pm
Webster Woods Spring Cleanup
Elgin Street entrance to Webster Woods

Please join the Friends of Webster Woods for a spring sprucing-up event. Grab some gloves and help keep Webster Woods clean and beautiful! An informative nature walk will follow the cleanup. All ages are invited! Meet at 1:00 pm at the Elgin Street entrance to Webster Woods. Snacks, gloves, and trash bags will be provided.

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).

Friday, May 27, 10:30 am
Keep Rachel Carson's Legacy Alive
Newton City Hall

Come honor the legacy of Rachel Carson ([May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964](#)) and recognize today's advocates working for public policies to protect the sustainability of our community and the quality of our environment from threats such as climate change, waste, and pollution. In 1962 Rachel Carson's book, [Silent Spring](#), alerted the world to the hazards of pesticides. Carson explained that our health is intimately connected to the quality of our environment. Carson's gift for eloquent advocacy created such a wave of political urgency that it generated the modern environmental movement. Within a few years, in spite of an orchestrated chemical industry campaign to discredit her, Congress created the US EPA, the US ban on DDT, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. "Prevention is the imperative." Carson's message is as relevant today as in 1962. Her legacy has the power to inspire a new wave of public engagement in public policy dedicated to safeguarding the public health and enriching the quality and sustainability of our communities.



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. Information at http://posters.newtonfreelibrary.net/160531_Program_Native_&_%20Invasive_Species_EK.jpg.



Newton Free Library
The door to your imagination

Tuesday, May 31, 2016 7:00 pm
Druker Auditorium

The Ecology and Control of Common Woody Exotic Invasive Plants

Bruce Wenning, Horticulturist

Cosponsored by Newton Conservators and Green Newton

Glossy buckthorn



Horticulturist Bruce Wenning will give a talk on some of the more common exotic invasive woody plants that are found in Newton and the surrounding communities. Learn about the traits of these pest-like plants and why they really are detrimental to our native ecosystems. Control options will also be discussed.

Japanese barberry



Mr. Wenning has over 20 years' experience working with volunteer groups and private clients in the control of exotic invasive plant projects. He is the horticulturist at The Country Club in Brookline.

Asiatic bittersweet



Rosa multiflora



GreenNewton



Newton Free Library

330 Homer Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • 617-796-1360

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Saturday, June 4, 7 pm
Tom Ashbrook - Host of NPR's On Point
Fundraiser to Benefit Newton Community Farm's Educational Programming
Newton Community Farm



Come to the Barn at Newton Community Farm on Saturday, June 4th for an intimate evening of stories and conversation with Tom Ashbrook, Newton resident, farm enthusiast, and award-winning host of National Public Radio's *On Point*. Tom will share stories of growing up on his family's farm in Illinois and discuss how that experience influences him today and informs his perspective on the place of local farms in our current agricultural system. The evening will include a conversation between Tom and Newton Community Farm's own farmer/scholar, Greg Maslowe, a question-and-answer period, and farm-fresh hors d'oeuvres. A tour of the Farm will precede the conversation in the



Barn, at 6:30. Visit <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/news-events/> for ticket information. Proceeds will benefit the Farm's educational program, which provide hands-on experience with farming, gardening and cooking, and teaches sustainable practices for students in pre-school through Grade 12. Please help us educate the next generation of stewards of our land and food!

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, 10 am - 2 pm
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! Detailed information at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/2016JuneDoinNahantonFarmOutlines.pdf>



June Doin'

Celebration for Families at Nahanton Park

Saturday, June 11th

Rain or Shine!

Registration near Nahanton Street entrance to the park.
All events are free — except for the Canoe and Kayak Rentals.

Meet at or near the Nature Center for all events.

- 10:00 am - 11:00 am **Bird Walk** led by Pete Gilmore
- **Identifying Invasive Plants** led by Katherine Howard and Ann Dorfman
- 10:30 am - 11:00 am **Basic Canoeing Demo** led by Larry Smith
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Woodcock Meadow Restoration Project** led by Jon Regosin
- **Hike along Helen Heyn Riverway (2 miles)** led by Henry Finch
- **Fly Tying Demo** led by Rolly Johnson and Bill Hagar
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm **Basic Canoeing Demo** led by Larry Smith
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Fern Walk and ID Session** led by Don Lubin
- **Nature Walk: Bugs to Trees*** led by Eric Olson
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm **Tree Climbing Demonstration*** led by Eric Olson
- All Day Events**..... **Canoe & Kayak Rental available at special rate for registrants** (see www.paddleboston.com for info)



- Cookies and organic juice boxes courtesy of our sponsors.
- Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the Nahanton Park picnic area.

*Events especially suitable for children. For more event details, see 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



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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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

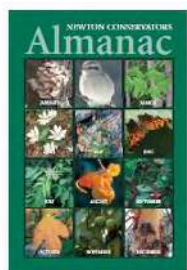
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Membership & Publications!



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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