



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Saturday, April 8, 2017

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



Happy Spring!

Each spring, the Newton Conservators organize a series of outdoor walks and invasive plant removal sessions. The calendar below includes these two series as well as some other additional open space events that you might enjoy. Please note that walks and invasive pulls meet at different times. Some events are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt. You can download a printed walks schedule at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_walks.pdf and the printed invasives pull schedule at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04_invasives.pdf. Note that there has been a minor change in the original walk schedule - the May 20 bird walk has been moved to May 6. We look forward to seeing you at our spring events including our annual dinner on **Wednesday, May 3** where Andy Finton of the Nature Conservancy will be our speaker! **(Correction: The calendar below incorrectly listed May 6 for the Annual Dinner in mprevious e-Bulletin)**

Spring Event Calendar

Sunday, April 9 at 1:00 pm (Rain or Shine)

The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools:

Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods

<http://newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm>

Join us in Webster Woods, Newton's largest conservation area, as we walk the woods and explore the large vernal pool found there. Vernal pools, because of periods of drying, do not support breeding populations of fish. Many organisms have evolved to use these temporary wetlands, where they are not eaten by fish. Join us as we search obligate vernal pool species, including fairy shrimp, spotted salamanders and wood frogs. The amphibians are the stars of the show, but you will also watch for mammal tracks and learn about trees and other forest plants. Sampling equipment will be provided; bring hand lenses if you have them. We will walk even in the rain, so dress accordingly.



Meet at the end of Warren Street on the western edge of Webster Conservation Area. For anyone not up to a 1-mile hike (round-trip), you can meet up with the group at 2 pm in the back parking lot (far back) of the former Congregation Mishkan Tefila on Hammond Pond Road; the vernal pool is right there. *Trip Leaders: Jon Regosin, Chief of Conservation Science for the Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and Bill Hagar, the Associate Dean in the Biology Department of UMass Boston.*

Sunday, April 9, 7:30 pm
Woodcock Walk
Albemarle Field (meet at Gath Pool)

The springtime mating flight of the American Woodcock is a sight to behold. In Newton, Nahanton Park has been the place to view this phenomenon. Ecologist Brooks Mathewson recently noted some woodcock activity at Albemarle Field on the north side of Newton. Join Brooks for an informal walk in search of Woodcocks on Sunday evening at 7:30 pm and meet near the Gath Pool in Albemarle Field.



American Woodcock

Brooks Mathewson is a very experienced birder and frequent lecturer - visit his website at www.avianartimages.com. For more info on the woodcock mating flight

see <http://www.startribune.com/sky-dancer-it-s-time-for-woodcock-mating/17313399/>.

Sunday, April 16, 2:00 pm
Take a Real Hike in Newton:
Discover the Newton Aqueducts

Come on a five 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, April 22 at 10:30 am (Cancelled if it is raining at 9:30 am)

A Walk Around Hammond Pond and Nearby Plant Communities

<http://newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm>

Hammond Pond and the surrounding woods contain a surprising variety of plant communities and a wide diversity of plant species. Their distribution and abundance are affected by both past land use and current environmental conditions. In coming decades, climate change will increasingly affect this area. The walk will emphasize the identification and natural history of common tree, shrub, and wildflower species. Evidence of past land use in the woods and current environmental conditions will also be pointed out. Meet at the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center parking lot at Hammond Pond, closest to the woods. There is an informational kiosk there. The walk will last approximately 90 minutes. Trip Leader: Richard Primack, Professor of Plant Ecology, Boston University (Cell phone on day of outing: 857-636-8378, email: primack@bu.edu)



Saturday, April 29, 9 am

Friends of Hemlock Gorge's Annual Spring Cleanup Mills Falls Parking Lot (Ellis and Chestnut Streets)

<http://newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm>

The Friends of Hemlock Gorge's Annual Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday April 29, 2017 starting at 9:00 a.m. Due to the ongoing construction in the meadow, the group will meet in the Mills Falls parking lot on the Newton side of the river, at the intersection of Ellis and Chestnut Streets. As usual, spruce-up materials will be supplied by the DCR and refreshments will be provided for all volunteers, courtesy of Seana Gaherin of Dunn-Gaherin's Restaurant! Please dress appropriately for the work and weather (rain or shine; no rain date).



Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 noon

Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project).

76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465

www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm

Meet at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Park there or at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands — come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. We also may continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year 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. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.
<http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



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

The park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, buckthorn, and other species. We will keep the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City is helping to ensure the plants are disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter 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). <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



Sunday, April 30, 12:30 pm – 3:30 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 work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study — bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you can. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner farthest 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. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928. <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



Sunday, April 30, 10:00 am (again with easier route at 11:30 am)
Echo Bridge and Hemlock Gorge Walk
<http://newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm>

Explore the geology, trees, plants and history of DCR Hemlock Gorge Reservation, with a focus on National Register listed Echo Bridge and plans to restore its historic railings. The 10 am walk will include stairs and an uphill trail segment; it will also provide great views of the Run of the Charles as paddlers go under the bridge. The 11:30 walk will be easier and will cover most of the same points. Meet at the corner of Elliot and Chestnut Streets near the mill. Trip Leader: Jim Purdy (617-969-3290)

Wednesday, May 3, 6 pm - Social gathering, 7 pm - Dinner and Program
Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting

American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newtonville

“Conserving a Resilient Future”

Andy Finton, Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy

Mark your calendars for this important annual dinner meeting event with a great speaker and awards! Andy Finton will describe a vision to conserve a resilient landscape across eastern North America, and closer to home. This resilient landscape will sustain our native plants and animals in a changing climate, and will support our own well-being. Andy will demonstrate the concepts and data supporting this vision, discuss their applications to conservation decisions, and give some examples, including here in Newton. Andy is Director of Conservation Programs for [The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts](#), where he defines conservation goals, assesses threats, and implements conservation strategies. He recently led a partnership project with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage program to develop [BioMap2](#), a conservation blueprint for the state of Massachusetts that identifies resilient habitats in the face of a changing climate.



Visit <http://newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2017invite.htm> for full info!

Saturday, May 6 at 8:00 am (Note: originally scheduled for May 20)

Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park

<http://newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm>

This 67-acre parcel has ample wooded areas, open fields, a brook and wetlands. It is one of the places in Newton 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)



Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.

Opposite 120 Vine St., Newton, MA 02467

www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm

Sawmill Brook Park is a lovely, long, natural trail connecting Newton to West Roxbury. It has garlic mustard and black swallow-wort infestations at its entrances and along Lagrange St. and Wayne Road borders. We will work at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrol previously worked areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City continues to help us dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Frescesco DiTullio.

Saturday, May 13, 12:00 noon – 2:00 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 continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of 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 farthest 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. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 1:00pm
Spring Tree Tour
Newton Cemetery
<http://newtonconservators.org/12cemetery.htm>

Enjoy a tour showcasing the trees that enhance the grounds. Cemetery arborist Robert Reardon will highlight some interesting and unique characteristics of the numerous recently planted varieties. The tour will last approximately 90 minutes and take place rain or shine. Comfortable walking shoes, water and plenty of questions are recommended. Meet outside the main office just inside the front gate at 791 Walnut Street, Newton Massachusetts. Parking is available along the cemetery roads or the chapel parking lot. For more information, call 617-332-0047. The tour is free and open to all. Donations to the Friends of Newton Cemetery are welcome and support arboretum education and care.

Sunday, May 14 at 8:00 am
Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk
<http://newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm>

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. Mother's Day occurs during the peak of the spring migration, so we will look for a variety of brilliantly colored tropical birds on their way to breeding grounds further north. Also expect newly arrived resident warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, swallows, and wrens. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Waterproof walking shoes are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Cosponsored by the Newton Conservators and the Friends of Nahanton Park. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619), Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Wednesday, May 17

Newton Cemetery Bird Walk

<http://newtonconservators.org/12cemetery.htm>

Test your skills and pick up some new ones this spring with Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Manomet's Director of Landbird Conservation, as he leads this year's Newton Cemetery Bird Walk. We welcome birders of all experience levels on this two hour walk around the cemetery's arboretum in search of migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more! Scheduled for the peak of spring migration, you're sure to have ample opportunity to brush up on your birding-by-ear techniques, as well as catch a glimpse of breeding males in their most dapper plumage. We'll also discuss changes in climate and how Manomet's long-term research projects bring its effects on migration to light. Be sure to come equipped with comfortable shoes, binoculars (we will provide a few pairs to share), and water. The walk will meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available along the cemetery road or chapel parking lot. Contact/Registration Information: \$15 Non-member, \$10 member (Newton Cemetery). Participation is limited. Visit www.manomet.org to register. Contact Justin Barrett at 508-224-6521 x237 or jbarrett@manomet.org for additional information.

Saturday, May 20, 12:00 noon – 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 keeping the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. 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 21, 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 the grassland Woodcock Meadow, home to threatened American Woodcock, and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They outcompete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park suffers from infestations of invasive plant species, including black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park (and help the American woodcock) 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 off Winchester Street. Leaders are Suzette Barbier and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

Sunday, May 28, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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 off Hammond Pond Parkway at Route 9 adjacent to pond at "The Street" mall. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Sunday, June 4, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (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. 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, June 10, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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! 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. Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Michele Hanss.

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull.

Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464

www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallowwort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! 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 17 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 18)

Ferns of Kennard Park

<http://newtonconservators.org/24kennard.htm>

Kennard Park is a fairly large conserved area off Dudley Road that lies between Chestnut Hill and Newton South High School. We will see more than a dozen common ferns and one club-moss. There won't be much climbing involved. Wear long pants, and bring a lens if you have one and any ferns you'd like me to identify. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464), <http://nefern.info>, don@nefern.info

Boston Globe Grant Program

The Newton Conservators would appreciate your support to help us earn an ad in the Boston Globe Grant program. If you subscribe, please consider applying your grant to the Conservators. The deadline is April 30 to apply your grant.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Newton Conservators publishes its newsletter approximately four times a year. It is distributed by mail to the membership and is available online. Extra copies are also available at the Newton Free Library. The latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter can be found online at: http://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_04.pdf. This was Beth Wilkonson's last issue as editor. Welcome to our new editor, Ken Mallory, formerly chief of publications at the New England Aquarium!

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Tenth Anniversary of the Newton Community Farm

By Craig Grenier, Member of the Board of Directors of the Newton Community Farm

Since 1679, there has been a farmhouse on the corner of Winchester and Nahanton Streets. The old farmhouse, situated approximately where the current farmhouse stands today, and 120 acres of surrounding land were owned by Samuel Truesdale. At that time, and well into the early 20th century, the southern part of Newton from the Charles River to Route 9 was predominantly farmland, woods, and streams. As Ted Chapman explains in his *Cultural History of the Angino Farm*, "the Charles River in the Oak Hill region was slow, meandering, with extensive wetlands. It was because of the lack of potential waterpower to run mills that the land remained agricultural and pastoral, unlike much of the rest of Newton. Wealthy landowners owned huge estates along the Charles in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the hillier land remained farms."

Crescenzo Angino, a recent immigrant from Italy, purchased the farmhouse and land that is now Newton Community Farm in 1917. He and his family maintained its status as a working farm for 84 years, until his son



Charlie Radoslovich, Assistant Farmer



Volunteers Jasper and Matissa

Jerry's death in 2001. The Anginos planted five hundred tomato plants every year, some with seeds brought from Italy, yielding fruit coveted by many Newtonites. Jerry especially loved a hybrid red tomato named *Ramapo* (*Lycopersicon lycopersicum*) that was developed at Rutgers University and became the quintessential "Jersey" tomato (<http://njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/Ramapo-Tomato.htm>). The Anginos also grew corn renowned for its sweetness.

In 2004, the Newton Conservators achieved a long-term goal: facilitating the purchase of the farm by the City of Newton. In the period between the Aldermen's vote to approve the purchase and the subsequent release of Community Preservation funds, it was the Newton Conservators who guaranteed the mortgage on the purchase of the farm. They continue to hold the conservation restriction to this day.

Under the auspices of the newly created non-profit, Newton Community Farm, Inc., farming began anew in 2006. Newton

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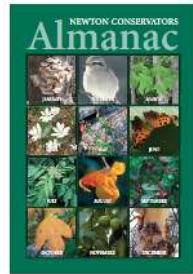


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Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton 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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