



Newton Conservators *E-Bulletin*

Friday, September 22, 2017

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



Fall Walk Schedule is Out!

Fall is here and the hurricanes are certainly bringing us a lot more moisture locally than last year! It's time again for our annual walk (and other modes) series which is in our latest event calendar below. Fall in Newton is a great time to get out to enjoy the leaves and explore our open spaces. And as you know, Newton is choosing a new mayor in November - so check out the Mayoral Candidates Forum on Environmental Issues this coming Thursday at the Newton Free Library. The latest issue of the [Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is hot off the press with stories about our lost wetlands, Dolan Pond, the Greenway, the risky lives of birds and much more!

Events Calendar

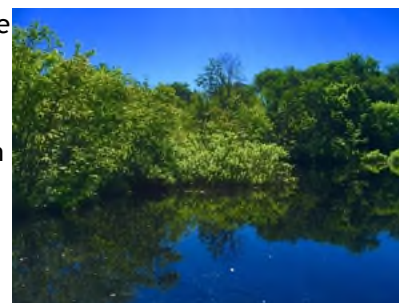
Saturday, September 23, 11 am

Dolan Pond Tour from Elm Street Farmer's Market

Meet at Newton Conservators Table at Elm Street Farmer's Market

Elm Street and Washington Street - West Newton

Dolan Pond is a hidden gem of West Newton and is home to a wide diversity of bird, animal and plant life. Only a short walk from downtown West Newton, it has accessible trails and boardwalk passing by several ponds (actually vernal pools). This free walk starts at the Newton Conservators table at the busy Saturday Elm Street Farmer's Market in West Newton (parking nearby in municipal lot with access from Elm or Cherry Street - free during market hours). On the short walk to Dolan Pond, we will pass interesting examples of 19th and 20th century architecture and then explore the three major trails and ponds and be back to the market within an hour where you can pick fresh produce, bakery items, and many other goodies and learn more about invasives from the Conservators booth. See the article in the current issue of the our print newsletter:



http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_dolan.pdf. See <http://www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm> for more info on Dolan Pond. Contact Ted Kuklinski, tkuklinski@aol.com, 617-332-7753. This walk will also be given on Saturday, September 30 and possibly on Saturday, October 7 (last day for Elm Street Farmer's Market).

Saturday, September 23, 8 am - 2 pm
Newton Swap Day
Newton Recycling Depot, 145 Rumford Ave

Newton Swap Day is on Saturday, September 23 from 8am-2pm and is free! Save your stuff for this money saving eco-friendly event at the Newton Recycling Depot (145 Rumford Ave). Bring usable but unwanted belongings for swapping or donating or just pick something up - for free! • Appliances - Bicycles - Books • Household items and non-upholstered furniture (No mattresses or couches) • NO computer monitors, NO televisions, NO hazardous materials • Pretty much anything, so long as it is usable, non-toxic, non-hazardous - and clean! This is for Newton residents only (ID required). Hours for drop off 8am-12pm. Hours for pick-up from 8am-2pm. Please contact: newtonrecycling@gmail.com.



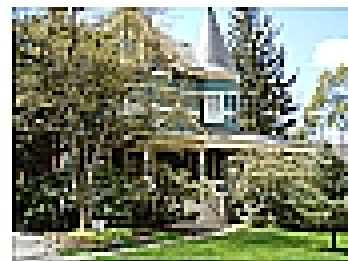
Sunday, September 24, 11 am - 3 pm
Fall Festival at Newton Community Farm
303 Nahanton Street

Come visit the Newton Community Farm for an afternoon of family fun! There will be pumpkin decorating, face painting, singing, cornhole, a farm scavenger hunt, apples, corn, baked treats and more! Come hang out with the chickens and meet the new Farm Director of Education, Danielle. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org for more information!



Sunday, September 24, 2 pm
Historic Newton Walking Tour - West Newton Hill's 1890's Building Boom
Prince and Dartmouth Streets, West Newton

The decade of the 1890s was a boom period in many parts of Newton including West Newton Hill. Architects and builders combined careful craftsmanship with eclectic designs, incorporating turrets, stained glass windows, decorative shingle patterns, porte-cochères and carriage houses. Learn more about the distinctive features of Queen Anne and other styles, as well as the backgrounds of the families who first owned these homes. Meet at the corner of Prince and Dartmouth Streets. Park along nearby streets. Suggested donation, \$10 per person. Register in advance or come on tour day. Contact 617-796-1450. Sponsored by Historic Newton (www.historicnewton.org).



Monday, September 25, 6 - 7:30 pm
Bike Newton Trip to Auburbdale Cove

Meet at Newton Free Library

Bike Newton offers a pleasant Loop on the Commonwealth Ave. Carriage lane to Auburndale, through the Cove north and along Charles river path in Waltham, to Newtonville and back to the Library. Meet in front of the Newton Main library on Homer St. in Newton Center, and we'll leave promptly at 6pm. This is a family-friendly, "no-rider-left-behind" ride and all ages are invited, but all young children must be accompanied by an adult. Bike helmets are required. 10 miles roundtrip. Approximate Route: <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6804080>. Be sure to check bikenewton.org for any last-minute changes.



Thursday, September 28, 7 pm Mayoral Candidates Forum on the Environment Featuring Ruthanne Fuller and Scott Lennon Moderated by NewTV's Jenn Adams Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton MA 02459

Join program co-sponsors Green Newton and the Newton Conservators for a forum with the two finalists in Newton's Mayoral race. The candidates will share their visions for addressing local environmental challenges, if elected. Jenn Adams, NewTV News Director, will ask a series of questions submitted by the Newton Conservators and Green Newton. An audience Question and Answer session will follow.



Saturday, September 30, 1 pm Canoe and Kayak Trip at Nahanton Park <http://www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm> Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

This canoe/kayak trip will start in Nahanton Park. We'll paddle upstream on the Charles against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham, and Wellesley. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one at the canoe/kayak rental stand in Nahanton Park. The area upstream is a region of significant beauty and almost pristine conditions. Fall is a good time to view the many turtles and other wildlife along this stretch of water. We should see numerous fish, including pickerel, bass, and carp. We also will see many birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this habitat. We'll pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch, then stop for lunch on Cow Island. On the return trip, the current will help carry us back. It's an interesting trip for adults and children and usually is completed within three hours. Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644)



Saturday, September 30, 11 am Dolan Pond Tour from Elm Street Farmer's Market

See full description for Dolan Pond tour on September 23. Meet at the Newton Conservators table at the Elm Street Farmer's Market for this architecture and



nature tour of Dolan Pond Conservation Area.



Sunday, October 1, 8 am
Nahanton Bird Walk with Haynes Miller
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm>
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

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 fall migrants as well as resident species. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park & the Newton Conservators. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance between the JCC and the Charles. Parking is available inside the park. Cancelled if steady rain. If concerned about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)



Sunday, October 1, Noon - 4 pm
Homestead Hayfest
Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington Street

Come enjoy 19th century crafts at the Jackson Homestead and Museum on Sunday, October 1 from noon to 4 p.m. The annual Hayfest is a free, family-friendly outdoor festival. Learn through hands-on activities how Newton families lived in the 1800s. Try your hand at butter making, cider pressing, candle dipping, and weaving. Jump into a burlap sack for a race or play the hoop-tossing game of graces. Enjoy a day of old-fashioned fun. Info at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/hayfest.asp>



Saturday, October 7, 9 am - 2 pm
Measure Noise Pollution in Webster/Hammond Woods
with Richard Primack and Lucy Zipf (Boston University)
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm>
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

The Webster/Hammond Woods is Newton's largest woods, covering a diversity of habitats on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway. Please join Prof. Richard Primack and Lucy Zipf from Boston University for a citizen science event mapping the distribution of noise pollution using the mobile app "SPLnFFT" available on iPhones. The mapping will locate the quietest places in the woods, and determine how far noise from the Parkway and other human activities extends into the woods. Please plan to arrive between 9 am and 1 pm. Meet at the end of Elgin Street where Lucy and Richard will assign you to particular places in the woods and show you how to calibrate and use the app and how to transmit data via email.



PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK



It would be best for volunteers to download the "SPLnFFT" app in advance. Please make sure that your iPhone is set up to send emails, since the app uses email to export data. Unfortunately, for this project, we are able to work with only iPhone users. If you do not have an iPhone but would like to



observe the process, we will pair you with someone with an iPhone if you notify us in advance. We hope that each volunteer can help for two hours, but one hour would also be OK, and three to four hours would be even better. Volunteers who participate in this project will learn a valuable new skill on how to monitor noise pollution. If possible, please let us

know via email (lzipf@bu.edu) if you can help with this event and when you can arrive so that we can plan out areas for monitoring. You can arrive anytime between 9 am and 1 pm for calibration of your iPhone. Parking is available along Elgin Street. The event is cancelled if it is raining. If concerned about the weather, please call or email. Trip Leaders: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu) (857-636-8378) and Lucy Zipf (lzipf@bu.edu)

Saturday, October 7, 2-5 pm

Kennard Park Celebration

Kennard Park, 246 Dudley Road, Newton

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

Mayor Setti D. Warren Commissioner Robert J. DeRubeis invite you to a celebration at Kennard Park. Adults and Children are all Welcome Saturday to visit Kennard Park (which is also home to Parks and Recreation HQ) to enjoy music, dancing and other fun activities. Due to limited onsite parking, auxiliary parking will be available at Oak Hill and Brown Middle Schools with free shuttle to Kennard Park provided.



Sunday, October 8, 9 am

Bedrock Geology of Newton and Environs

Parking Lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond DCR Reservation

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm>

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

The 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 four different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the



Hammond Pond DCR Reservation area across from the Showcase SuperLux movie theater and at the west end of Hammond Pond (see page 39 of the Newton Conservators Walking Trail Guide). We will visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Cancelled if steady rain. Trip will last 2-3 hours. Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)

Saturday, October 14, 8 am (Rain Date: October 15)

Fall Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park

Cold Spring Park - Beacon Street Parking Lot Circle

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

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Cold Spring that are available inside the park. Park at the



Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477)



Saturday, October 21, 11 am
The Wolves of the Forest Floor at Edmands Park (Cabot Woods)
Edmands Park, Blake Street
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/7edmands.htm>
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

Eastern red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) are the most abundant vertebrates in forests in the northeast United States, accounting for twice the biomass of all breeding birds. As top-level predators of soil invertebrates, red-backs are believed to reduce soil decomposition rates resulting in a decrease in the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere and an increase the amount stored in the soil. Red-backs are increasingly utilized as indicators of forest health for these reasons among others. In this walk, ecologist Brooks Mathewson will discuss the research he has conducted on this species at Edmands Park with the help of the Newton North High School. In addition, we will monitor the cover boards Brooks has set out to study this population as well as search for salamanders under natural cover objects. Meet at the central parking area for Edmands Park on Blake Street. The walk will be approximately 90 minutes. Trip Leaders: Brooks Mathewson, Ecologist (Cell Phone on day of outing 617-851-3513); email: bgmathewson@post.harvard.edu



Sunday, October 29, 1 pm
Exploring Future Trail Possibilities in Newton Upper Falls
The Depot at the corner of Oak and Chestnut Streets
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

The recent opening of the Upper Falls Greenway provides the opportunity to create a network of trails that extend from Newton Highlands along the Greenway to the Blue Heron Trail on the Charles, and then all the way south to Millennium Park in Boston. Heading north, the network could connect to Hemlock Gorge and on to Newton Lower Falls. Join us for a two-mile hike (with an optional two-mile extension) that will explore this route, including an abandoned railroad bridge across the Charles and two little-known paths along the river. The route is rough in places.



Meet at The Depot at the corner of Oak and Chestnut Streets.

There is ample on-street parking on Chestnut just east of Oak. Trip Leaders: Dan Brody (Newton Conservators) and Jim Lerner (Friends of the Upper Falls Greenway). Email UpperFallsHike@Newtonconservators.org for more information.

Sunday, November 5, 2 pm
Newton Aqueducts Hike
Meet at Starbucks near the Waban MBTA station
Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series

Join 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).



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. Fall is here! Just in time, here is the link to our Fall Newsletter—chock-full of interesting information: http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09.pdf. Here are links to articles in this issue:

- Newton's Lost Wetlands and Buried Brooks
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_creeks.pdf
- Dolan Pond Conservation Area - Hidden Gem of West Newton
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_dolan.pdf
- Along the Greenway - and Beyond!
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_greenway.pdf
- The Risky Lives of Birds
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_birds.pdf
- Book Review: Half-Earth - E.O. Wilson
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_half_earth.pdf
- President's Message
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_president.pdf
- Fall Walks Schedule
http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/17_09_walks.pdf



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2017

2017 Officers and Directors

Beth Wilkinson, *President*

Chris Hepburn,
Vice President

AnnaMaria Abernathy,
Secretary

Katherine Howard,
Treasurer

David Backer

Dan Brody

Bonnie Carter

Michael Clarke

Margaret Doris

Henry Finch

Robert Fizek

Maurice Gilmore

Daniel Green

William Hagar

Ted Kuklinski

Ken Mallory

George Mansfield

Larry Smith

Advisors

Lisle Baker

Rodney Barker

Octo Barnett

John Bliss

Lee Breckenridge

Lalor Burdick

Lucy Caldwell-Stair

Michael Collora

Douglas Dickson

Ann Dorfman

Bart Hogue

Judith Hepburn

Duane Hillis

Peter Kastner

Alison Leary

William Leitch

Dan Lubin

Brooks Mathewson

Eric Olson

Anne Pearson

Richard Primack

Eric Reenstierna

Jon Regosin

Patricia Robinson

Jane Sender

William Shaevel

Willis Wang

Brian Yates

Newton's Lost Wetlands and Buried Brooks

By Richard B. Primack, a long-time Newton resident and a biology professor at Boston University

Editor's Note: This article is an expansion of an article originally written in the *Newton TAB*, August 8, 2017.

Until about 120 years ago, Newton was known for its many wet meadows, marshes, and swamps, connected by miles of brooks that emptied into the Charles River. Where did they go?

And maybe more importantly, should we bring them back?

Over the past two centuries, as Newton changed from farming to industry, and then to a Boston suburb, developers and town workers filled in most of our wetlands and buried our brooks in underground culverts or put them into aboveground channels. Water was re-directed to power mills, and wetlands became the sites of playgrounds, schools, other public buildings, and homes.

A drainage map from 1892, available on the city website (<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/39235>), shows Newton situated beside a large bend in the Charles River. At that time, Newton's

extensive wetlands were drained by three brook systems (Cheesecake, South Meadow, and Hammond/Cold Spring/Laundry) that meandered into the Charles.



Modified 1892 drainage map showing the main brooks and associated wetlands, with the current position of some schools and village centers and the Newton Library.

Cheesecake Brook drains northern Newton, starting in Waban and Auburndale, flowing eastward across the Brae Burn Country Club, along Washington Street, past the Horace Mann School, Day Middle School, and Albemarle Field. In the south, South Meadow Brook begins at Lost Pond, and then flows past

Newton South High School and the two middle schools; a second branch begins at Crystal Lake and heads south past Weeks. After the branches meet near Parker Street, the brook heads west toward the Countryside School and then along Needham Street, and enters the Charles at Newton Upper Falls.

Hammond Brook, Cold Spring Brook, and Laundry Brook together form the most

Continued on page 2



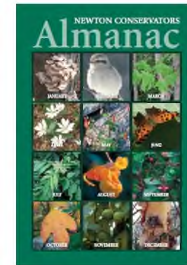
Visit our Facebook page and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/NewtonConservators>

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)



Working to preserve open space
in Newton since 1961

[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

vertical
response
DELIVERED BY
Try It Free Today!

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.