



## Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

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

Working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961



### Spring Schedule of Events is Here!

Spring is officially here although it may not really look like it! Yes snow still covers the ground but if you step outside these mornings you can hear the change in the air as the chickadees sing their two note spring song. This issue is chock full of the many many events in the Newton Conservators spring lineup of walks and invasives pulls. Birders - see the first listing about a free program at Babson College this evening! In addition, our latest Newton Conservators newsletter is out now and can be found at [http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18\\_03.pdf](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18_03.pdf). Check out the info on our Annual Dinner meeting on May 2 at Post 440 which will feature naturalist and field guide author Peter Alden. Visit our Facebook page and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/NewtonConservators>. Hope to see you out and about in Newton this spring!

### Calendar

**Tuesday, March 27, 7 pm**

**On the Wing: A Celebration of Birds in Music and Spoken Word**  
**Carling Sorenson Theater, Babson College, 231 Forest St., Wellesley MA**

Inspired by his love of nature, composer and Berklee College of Music Professor Andrew List has created a uniquely collaborative performance piece that marries music, song, poetry, and expert commentary on birds. On the Wing will showcase 12 original songs by List and features pianist George Lopez, Artist-in-Residence at Bowdoin College, and mezzo-soprano Krista River. Interspersed through the song cycle will be poems written and recited by poet and Babson College English Professor Mary Pinard (who also wrote lyrics to the music) and commentary by Wayne Petersen, Mass Audubon's Director of Important Bird Areas and an expert guide. FREE. For info and RSVP see:

[https://activedata.babson.edu/EventList.aspx?fromdate=10/3/2017&todate=3/31/2018&display=Month&type=public&eventidn=9586&view=EventDetails&information\\_id=41188](https://activedata.babson.edu/EventList.aspx?fromdate=10/3/2017&todate=3/31/2018&display=Month&type=public&eventidn=9586&view=EventDetails&information_id=41188)



**Saturday, March 31 at 1:00 pm (Rain or Shine)**

**The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools:**  
**Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm](http://www.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 for 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 Leader: Eric Olson (Cell phone on day of outing: 617-872-9928).



**Sunday, April 1 at 1:00 pm**

**The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools:**

**Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm)

This popular walk/activity is being repeated from March 31 (see description from that date. Trip Leader: Jon Regosin (774-364-2443).

Don't know about Webster Woods? Check out the recent 3 minute video on our YouTube channel called "*One Year in the Webster Woods / Hammond Pond Open Space*" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHe5YZMabOQ&t=13s> It presents a quick photographic journey through the seasons at the Webster Woods/Hammond Pond open space areas in Newton, MA featuring the beautiful nature photography of Anne Kane (Newton, MA) along with musical excerpts from Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" as performed by John Harrison, violin, with Robert Turizziani conducting the Wichita State University Chamber Players If you would like to learn more about Webster Woods and the Hammond Pond open space areas, please visit [ww.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm](http://ww.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm).



**Sunday, April 15, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Buckthorn Demonstration Project, Cold Spring Park**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm)

We will continue the work, started a year ago in collaboration with horticulturalist Bruce Wenning and ecology professor Eric Olson, to save the red maple swamp, believed to be one of the oldest forested areas in Newton. The maple and oak swamp is in danger of dying out due to its understory being shaded out by invasive nonnative buckthorn. We will maintain and expand the buckthorn-free demonstration areas to allow the forest to survive. Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

**Saturday, April 21 at 10:30 am (Cancelled if it is raining at 9:30 am)**  
**A Walk Around Hammond Pond and Nearby Plant Communities**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm](http://www.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](mailto:primack@bu.edu))



**Sunday, April 29, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project).**  
**76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm)

Meet at Webster Park (a street of 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.) Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive garlic mustard from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year it gets easier. We may also do some general cleanup and path chipping. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and garden gloves. Leader is Jerry Melnick, 978-423-4311. Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.



**Sunday, April 29, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES Project).**  
**1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://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 Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly 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). Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.

**Sunday, April 29, 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](http://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. Register online at <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php> after April 1.



**Wednesday, May 2, 5 pm**  
**Charles River Bird Walk with Naturalist Peter Alden**  
**Post 440 Parking Lot, 295 California Street, Nonantum**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/3charlesgalen.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/3charlesgalen.htm)

Since the annual meeting venue is so nicely situated next to the Charles River Pathway at the beginning of peak bird migration, Peter Alden will also be leading a one hour nature walk along the Charles River Pathway from the Post 440 parking lot beginning at 5 pm and returning there at 6. You are likely to see warblers, vireos, and other interesting nesting and migrating species with a true birding expert. This free walk is open to the public.

**Wednesday, May 2, 6 pm (social), 7 pm (dinner)**  
**Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**Environmentalist of the Year, Maynard, and Director's Awards**  
**Featured Speaker - Peter Alden, Naturalist**  
**American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Nonantum**

The Newton Conservators Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at the American Legion Post 440 at 295 California Street in Nonantum. A social hour will begin at 6 pm with dinner being served at 7 pm, followed by a brief official meeting and awards ceremony. The highlight of the evening will be a wonderful presentation by author and naturalist, Peter Alden, on "Changes in New England Wildlife over Time." The awards ceremony will recognize efforts to protect, preserve, and reclaim Newton's natural areas and to educate and disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. The awards include: the Environmentalist of the Year Award - presented to a local citizen or group who has contributed to improvements in the city's environment; the Charles Johnson Maynard Award - to recognize efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation, and natural resource protection; and Director's Awards for other notable achievements.



In his talk, Peter Alden will describe how our habitats have morphed from glacial ice cover, to tundra, to boreal forest, to transition forest, to grasslands/farms, and to today's rewilding forests. He will also discuss how bird and mammal life has changed. Recently we've added new elements such as invasive alien plants, pesticides, bird feeders, introduced-species, and widespread bans on trapping and hunting. Learn about those critters that have vanished and those that have made remarkable comebacks and why. Peter is a past president of both the Brookline Bird Club and the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He served in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for four years and spent 12 years on the Harvard Museum of Natural History board focusing on the Roger Tory Peterson Memorial Lecture series. In 1998 he organized the world's first Biodiversity Days with Harvard's Dr. Edward O. Wilson. Biodiversity Days were subsequently held in many Massachusetts communities (including Newton) to catalog our natural environment. Check out his website at [peteraldenwildlife.com](http://peteraldenwildlife.com). Peter has been scouting out, leading, and lecturing

on 300 bird and wildlife tours, safaris, cruises and excursions to 100 countries and the seven seas for diverse organizations such as Mass Audubon, the Harvard Museums, Thomson Safaris, National Geographic and Road Scholar. He has authored 15 books, including the popular, easy to use National Audubon Field Guide to New England. He is currently working on a "travel misadventures" autobiography and new regional Audubon field guides to Texas, the Midwest, Great Plains, and Alaska. Signed copies of a number of his books will be available at a special discount before and after the dinner. Always a bit irreverent, he is sure to be both informative and entertaining!

You can register for the Annual Dinner by going online at <http://newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2018invite.htm> or by returning the response form in the official invitation that will be sent to

all members in early April. Tickets will remain at \$35/person this year. Hope to see you at this exciting annual event with other like-minded individuals interested in preserving our open space and environment.

**Sunday, May 6, 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](http://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. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

**Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 pm**  
**Take a Real Hike in Newton: Discover the Newton Aqueducts**  
<http://www.newtonconservators.org/17aqueducts.htm>

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 12 at 8:00 am (Rain Date: May 21)**  
**Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://www.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 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 the group. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513).

**Saturday, May 12, 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](http://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 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. Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

**Sunday, May 13 at 8:00 am**  
**Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm](http://www.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).

**Saturday, May 19, 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](http://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. The invasive plant material will be properly 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 20, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
**Nahanton Park Invasives Pull.**  
**Near 507 Winchester Street. Newton, MA 02461**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm](http://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 out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park suffers from invasions of black swallow-wort, multi-fora 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. Turdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot of Winchester Street. Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell) and Suzette Barbier.

**Sunday, May 27, 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](http://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.

**Saturday, June 2, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Houghton Garden/Webster Invasives Pull. Opposite 210**  
**Suffolk Rd., Newton, MA 02467**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm)

We are tackling garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the MBTA tracks 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 City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd. (of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).

**Sunday, June 3 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Cold Spring Park Invasive Plant Educational Walk**  
**1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm)

Join horticulturalist Bruce Wenning for training in identifying the invasive species that are found in this park as well as in everybody's yards! Learn the traits of invasive species, how and why they are so successful and hurt the native ecosystems, and how you can identify and control them in your yards and neighborhoods. Wear long pants and closed shoes. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning (617-962-0646).

**Sunday, June 3, 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm**  
**Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (repeat visit). 1200**  
**Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461**  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://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 City will properly dispose 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 9 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 18)**

**Ferns of Cold Spring Park**

[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm)

We will visit the large popular Cold Spring Park that runs south from Beacon Street. We expect to find a dozen different ferns and a horsetail. We will mostly walk on the level paths, but wear long pants and insect repellent. Bring any fern you would like to identify. Meet at the Plymouth Road entrance in the southwest corner of the park. You should be able to park on Plymouth Road between Cochituate Road and Kingston Road. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464), don@nefern.info, <http://nefern.info>

**Sunday, June 10, 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](http://www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm)

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallowwort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose 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).

**Sunday, June 17, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**

**Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives**

**Pull (repeat visit). Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464**

[www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm)

We will continue our control of garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose 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).

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## Newton Conservators Newslette

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. Here is the link to our Fall Newsletter—chock-full of interesting information: [http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18\\_03.pdf](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18_03.pdf). Check out some of these exciting articles:

- [The Story of Jolly's Hollow: How Conservation Land Builds Community](#)
- [Mated Birds Singing Duets](#)
- [Thoughts of a Conservators Intern](#)
- [May 2 Annual Dinner Meeting](#)
- [Spring Walk Schedule](#)
- [Invasive Plant Sessions](#)



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**

SPRING ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## The Story of Jolly's Hollow: How Conservation Land Builds Community

*By Sarah Lania, Associate Professor, Department of English, College of the Holy Cross*

**Editor's Note:** This article was originally published in the *Newton TAB*, November 30, 2017.

For years I have cherished the ability to walk off-road along Newton's aqueduct trail from the Four Corners area to Mason-Rice Elementary School. The highlight of that trip, as many lucky aqueduct walkers know, is the winding path through Jolly's Hollow, a secluded dell with a little stone bridge to one side and shaded by gloriously tall healthy trees. Though the path actually runs through private property, for the past many years a charming pair of signs have invited us in: "Welcome to Jolly's Hollow. Please keep to the paths, Beware of the gardener, she talks!" I always wanted to thank that chatty gardener, and would sometimes glimpse her among her gorgeous flower garden and ornamental trees, but I was too shy to tell her how much it meant to me to walk through her beautiful grounds.



*Jolly's Hollow Sign*



*Newton Conservators President Beth Wilkinson makes an appearance on Chronicle earlier this year talking about the Bracebridge Road conservation restrictions.*

My wish came partly true the other day, when I met someone planting 50 native low bush blueberry plants under the pine grove near the lip of the hollow where it borders Bracebridge Road. This was André Wilson, who grew up on the property after 1966 when André's father, Harvard physicist Richard Wilson, and mother, Andrée Désirée Wilson, moved there with their six children. (André is transgender and in tribute to André's enabling support has taken and adapted her name.) The elder Andrée was the legendary "gardener" who, during the 50 years she lived there, created this special place. Beginning in the 1990s, as Newton was becoming ever more subdivided, she and Richard began the extraordinary and arduous process that would eventually donate the Wilson Conservation Area to the city and put all but 0.4 acres of their remaining

*Continued on page 2*

### 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! Our Trail Guide and Almanac make great holiday gifts!



**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](mailto:dolanpond@aol.com))*



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