



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961



Newton in Summer . . .

The summer season is upon us, seemingly a little early with the hot temps of July and August making an appearance already. While our spring Walk Series has recently wrapped up, we have a series of three upcoming Newton Conservator sponsored lectures to which we wanted to draw your attention. The series begins this evening (6/14/) with one by ecologist and avian photographer Brooks Mathewson at 7:30 at the Newton Free Library. Check out the lectures and a few other upcoming events of interest which are listed below. The Newton Conservators are celebrating their 50th year as Newton's Land Trust. Thanks to all those who attended last month's Annual Meeting and especially to the Newton Conservator sponsors and those who donated items for the silent auction. It was a wonderfully successful event and a full account will be coming along shortly in the Newton Conservators Summer Newsletter (now in production) and shortly after in the next e-Bulletin.

Newton Conservators Summer Lecture Series

Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 pm

The Birds of Rhode Island

**Lecture / Slideshow with Brooks Mathewson, ecologist and avian photographer
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer St, Newton Centre**

Rhode Island provides critical wintering, migratory, and breeding habitat for a great diversity of bird species including ducks, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. Over the past decade ecologist and nature photographer Brooks Mathewson has been photographing these birds on the mudflats, barrier beaches, upland forests, rocky shores, and ponds of the state's national wildlife refuges. During this lecture Brooks will present his photography of these birds while discussing their biology as well as some of the best places in Rhode Island to observe them.



Brooks Mathewson is a nature photographer and ecologist holding a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Biology and a Master's Degree in Forest Science from Harvard University. His research on the distribution and relative

abundance of terrestrial salamanders has been published in the journals *Northeastern Naturalist* and *Arnoldia*. In addition, Brooks' photography has appeared in magazines, journals, textbooks, and field guides, and is sold at art galleries and museums in the Boston area including Harvard's Museum of Natural History. For more information visit www.AvianArtImages.com. This presentation is free and the Newton Conservators have cosponsored this presentation with the Newton Free Library (www.newtonfreelibrary.net, 617-796-1360).

Monday, June 27, 7 pm

**Darwin's 'Abominable Mystery': the Search for the First Flowering Plants
Lecture by Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer St, Newton Centre**

Professor Friedman will speak on Darwin and the origin of flowering plants. As he noted on the Arnold Arboretum's Web site: "Charles Darwin spent a lifetime studying the big questions of evolutionary biology, and he was baffled by the origin of flowering plants. Recent advances in the fossil record offer clues to understanding what these plants looked like, where they lived, and how they reproduced. We will explore what Darwin termed 'the abominable mystery.'"



In January 2011, Dr. William (Ned) Friedman became the director of the Arnold Arboretum, the oldest public arboretum in North America. He also is the Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. Before coming to Boston, Dr. Friedman was on the Faculty of the University of Colorado. He conducted his doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley, where he did research on the reproductive structures of plants and on the rise of flowering plants. He and his research associates recently discovered a reproductive structure in an ancient flowering plant that may represent a critical link between flowering plants and their ancestors. Friedman also has long been interested in the history of biology, particularly the history of evolutionism. This event is co-sponsored by the Newton Conservators, the Newton Tree Conservancy and the Newton Free Library.

Thursday, July 14, 7:30 pm

Riding the Wild Charles:

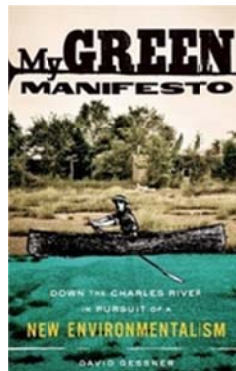
A Journey Toward a New, Wilder (and Funnier) Environmentalism."

Lecture by David Gessner based on his new book "My Green Manifesto"

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer

Street, Newton Centre

Gessner took a wild canoe trip down the environmental planner for the state and a green the banks of the Charles over the Gessner's new book, *My Green Manifesto*, journey, but it's also a lot more: a bracing environmentalism that leaves behind its old virtues of humor, common sense, and a Manifesto suggests that rather than bemoan the fact that the world is doomed, we would do better to fight like hell for our neighborhoods. In his talk Gessner will celebrate the raw pleasure that people can take from wildness, even from a limited wild like the once famously-dirty Charles. His talk, and the book, are a cry for renewed contact and a love song to what is left. And, finally, they are an attempt to break nature writing out of its eco-ghetto, and into the larger world. "I wrote *My Green Manifesto* in part because I was sick of the same old enviro books with the same sort of language," Gessner



On July 4th, four years ago, David Charles River with Dan Driscoll, a senior man who has made it his mission to course of the last two decades. tells the story of that exhilarating call for a new environmentalism, an stuffy, superior ways and embraces the new, living language. *My Green*

said. "I was sick of it in my own writing too. I wanted to be more honest, raw and funny."

David Gessner is the author of eight books, including *Sick of Nature*, *The Prophet of Dry Hill*, and *Return of the Osprey*, which was chosen by the Boston Globe as one of the top ten nonfiction books of the year and the Book-of-the-Month club as one of its top books of the year. The Globe called it a "classic of American Nature Writing." In 2006 he won a Pushcart Prize; in 2007 he won the John Burroughs Award for Best Natural History Essay; and in 2008 his essay, "The Dreamer Does Not exist," was chosen for The Best American Nonrequired Reading. His work has appeared in many magazines and journals



including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *Outside*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Harvard Review*, and *Orion*. He has taught environmental writing at Harvard, and is currently an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he founded the national literary journal, *Ecotone*. This summer he has two books coming out: *My Green Manifesto* in July and *The Tarball Chronicles* in September, both from Milkweed. Together they both describe and embody a new way of writing about nature and place, full of humor and strangeness, stripped of the old pastoral clichés, and focused on a more "limited" nature, the only nature left to most of us. This nature may involve kayaking up to have dinner and drinks at the Irish Ale House in Boston or may involve watching birds near Haliburton Road in southern Louisiana during the height of the BP oil spill. But while the nature may be less pure, it is still full of wildness and joy. For more information please go to: <http://www.davidgessner.com/>

Other Events

Wednesday, June 15

Utility Tree Trimming in Waban and Auburndale Begins

NStar tree trimming for utility line clearance is going to resume this week in Waban (June 15) and Auburndale (June 17 or 20). After last summer's problems in Auburndale and the Stop Work order issued by the City, over the winter the City negotiated terms and conditions with NStar and agreed to a June 15 start date.



Line clearance is important for public safety and to reduce power outages; it also must be done properly per agreed standards negotiated with the City. Otherwise, the City could issue another Stop Work order. The NStar contractors (TREETECH in Auburndale; LEWIS TREE in Waban) must follow the conditions outlined below. Workers will have an instruction sheet. Should you see deviations from these conditions - discuss with the worker, ask for a supervisor, and/or contact the Forestry Department or the Urban Tree Commission. A photograph could be helpful.

The negotiated standards apply only to City trees (typically in the berm, or 6-8 feet from the street). For tree trunks completely on private property, NStar must seek permission from the owner. To report problems, contact Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, 617-796-1500 newtonforestry@gmail.com, or Katherine Howard, Urban Tree Commission, 617-527-1796 howard_katherine@hotmail.com.

Requirements include:

- (1) qualified workers with pruning experience and supervision by Certified Arborist;
- (2) compliance with industry pruning standards, such as pruning back to a branch (healthy and suitable) at least one third the diameter of the branch being removed, and not removing more than 25% of a tree's live canopy;
- (3) not removing live branches larger than four inch diameter unless they are a clear and present

danger to the electrical wires;

(4) not cutting lateral branches originating from the main trunk of any tree with a strong central leader back to the trunk of the tree without prior approval from the Tree Warden - instead, reducing them in length by pruning back to a suitable branch at least one third its size;

(5) not cutting or reducing a central leader without prior approval from the Tree Warden.

Wednesday, June 15, 7 pm
Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Public Meeting
Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville

The agenda includes: updates on current active projects, including discussion of draft scope for City Historic Buildings Survey, with Public Buildings Commissioner Stephanie Gilman, finalizing CPC deadlines and meeting schedule for 2011-2012, community outreach for updating funding priorities and commemorating program's 10th anniversary. Please note that this agenda includes no pre-proposals, public hearings, working sessions, or potential funding votes. The full agenda is available online at www.newtonma.gov/cpa. Contact Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, 617-796-1144, alingerson@newtonma.gov for more info. In other CPA news, An Act to Sustain Community Preservation (H. 765, sponsored by Representative Stephen Kulik), the Community Preservation Act amendments bill was reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses and is now set for review in the House Committee on Ways and Means.



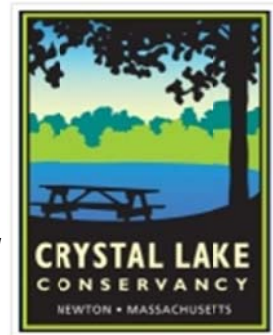
Monday, June 20, 7 pm
Annual Meeting of the Newton Tree Conservancy (NTC)
Brigham House, 20 Hartford St, Newton Highlands

The NTC will elect Directors and Officers and discuss NTC goals and plans. The NTC is now accepting nominations for Directors and Officers. Now is the time to show your zeal for community service and your love of trees. The NTC welcomes those who'd like to get involved to become members, attend their meetings, serve on a committee, and/or do a project for the NTC. Refreshments will be served and you can "talk trees." Please RSVP to howard_katherine@hotmail.com, but drop-ins are also welcome. Information about Newton Tree Conservancy is available at www.newtontreeconservancy.org.



Sunday, June 26, 1:00 to 3:30 pm
Crystal Lake Conservancy Volunteer Reception and Training
Crystal Lake Neighborhood Location (TBA)

Thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers and environmental scientists last spring and summer, the Crystal Lake Conservancy has learned a great deal about pollution in Crystal Lake and has begun to research ways that we can minimize pollution that enters it. We have obtained initial data on algae blooms, depth visibility and temperature changes that could indicate some potential issues, but the Conservancy is looking for volunteers to continue this important investigation in three areas during the summer:



1. Watershed Survey: Volunteers will be conducting, on foot, a one time survey of the watershed area (specific designated streets) to assess what types of land use (impervious surfaces, runoff, drainage, soil erosion, fertilizer, etc) may potentially be impacting the lake. This will be conducted over several weeks at the volunteer's schedule, walking around and filling out specific forms. If interested, please

contact Simone Taubenberger at simpetra@yahoo.com

2. Water temperature and visibility readings: During the course of the summer, volunteers will go out on a rowboat and take these readings at specific locations across the lake using some simple tools and a GPS system. Often people are paired up to do this. It involves the person logging into an online database to record their readings. If interested, please contact Jean Artin at jeanartin@rcn.com

3. Water Testing: This is new this summer and will involve using lab kits that we will be purchasing to test specific outfalls of water coming into the lake. This will require folks taking tests during or just after a storm so we can see the quality of the water discharging into the lake as well as the specific location of the outfall that may correlate to the data we gather from the watershed survey. If interested, please contact Jean Artin at jeanartin@rcn.com

Come meet other volunteers and learn more about our efforts!! Volunteer Reception and Training will take place on June 26 from 1:00 to 3:30 pm at the home of a Crystal Lake neighborhood resident. If you wish to volunteer please contact: Jean Artin (jeanartin@rcn.com) or Simone Taubenberger (simpetra@yahoo.com) or email the Conservancy at CrystalLakeConservancy@gmail.com. You can also visit their website: www.crystallakeconservancy.org

Sunday, June 26, 2 pm
Finding Newton's Old Waterworks at Cutler Pond
Historic Newton Walks
Cutler Pond DCR Parking Lot on Kendrick Street.

Few people walking through the woods at Cutler Pond realize that this state park is the site of a waterworks that was constructed by Newton in the 1870s for its supply of clean water. Guided by old diagrams and photos, join Lucy Caldwell-Stair to locate the old pumps and wells along the 1.5 mile trail and visualize how this elaborate engineering system worked. Extra option: a 1-mile walk along the site of the old filter basins and the pumping station at Needham Street. Meet at the Cutler Pond DCR parking lot on Kendrick Street just across the Charles River in Needham. This free walk is sponsored by Historic Newton. Visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/calendar/index.asp> for more info.



Sunday, July 10, 2 pm
A Waban Childhood: Waban in the 30's and 40's
Historic Newton Walk
Angier School, 1697 Beacon Street, Waban

See Waban through the eyes of young George Nugent, growing up in the village in the 1930's and 1940's. Join him for a walk around the village center, and discover what has changed and what has stayed the same about both the village itself and the way its residents live. This free walk is sponsored by Historic Newton. Visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/calendar/index.asp> for more info.



Sunday, July 24, 2 pm
Newton Centre: From the Meetinghouse to the Revolution
Historic Newton Walks
Parks and Rec Hut on Tyler Terrace, Newton Centre

Imagine a time when everyone in Newton went to the same church. There was once only one school and the only traffic on Centre Street was foot, hoof, and carriage. Take a stroll through Newton Centre with Allison Carter



on a visit to the extant sites from the colonial period. Learn about Newton's contributions to the Revolutionary War, changes in civic and religious life, and the earliest settlers of the Garden City. This free walk is sponsored by Historic Newton. Visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/calendar/index.asp> for more info.

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The Newton Conservators appreciate the generous contributions of "Gold" and "Silver" Sponsors on the occasion of our Annual Dinner. We are indebted for their contributions, which will help to defray land acquisition and other costs.



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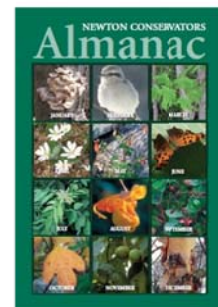
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

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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 50 years ago in June 1961.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)



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