

WALKS SCHEDULE SPRING 2019

www.newtonconservators.org

Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt.

Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 pm

(Rain or Shine)

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF VERNAL POOLS: FOREST AND VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION AT WEBSTER WOODS



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. *Trip Leader: Eric Olson, 617-872-9928 on April 6.*

Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 pm

(Rain or Shine)

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF VERNAL POOLS: FOREST AND VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION AT WEBSTER WOODS

This popular walk/activity is being repeated from April 6 (see description from that date).

Trip Leader: Jon Regosin, 774-364-2443.

Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 pm

TAKE A REAL HIKE IN NEWTON: DISCOVER THE NEWTON AQUEDUCTS

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 4 at 8:00 am

(Rain Date: May 21)

BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

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 group.

Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore, 617-969-1513.

Sunday, May 12 at 8:00 am

NAHANTON PARK MOTHER'S DAY BIRD WALK



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. Co-sponsored 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 and Haynes Miller, 617-413-2419.

Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 am

(Rain date: May 19)

BIRD WALK ALONG CHARLES RIVER PATHWAY

Please join Alison Leary for a neighborhood bird walk along

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the Charles River Path to enjoy the sights and sounds of the river including new spring migrants. Length: About 3 miles at an easy pace. We will look for seasonal migrants as we stroll the Charles River path along the Newton/Watertown line. I expect to find

several species of warblers, including yellow, northern parula, yellow rumped and palms. Also, northern orioles, warbling vireos, cardinals, goldfinches and wrens.

Bring binoculars if you have them. In the event of steady rain, we will rechedule for Sunday. Meeting place: Path entrance at Chapel and California Street.

Trip Leader: Alison Leary, 617-821-5619

Sunday, June 2 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

COLD SPRING PARK INVASIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL WALK

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. Repeat session on June 9.

Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning, 617-962-0646.

Sunday, June 9 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

COLD SPRING PARK INVASIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL WALK

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. The same walk is offered on June 2.

Trip Leader: Bruce Wenning, 617-962-0646.

Saturday, June 22 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Rain Date: June 23)

FERNS OF WEBSTER CONSERVATION AREA

The Webster and Cohen Conservation areas and the DCR Reservation form a large wooded expanse that stretches from the shopping malls of Route 9 almost to Newton Centre. The woods extend on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway and both sides of the MBTA Riverside tracks and are home to 20 kinds of ferns and related plants. We will visit the southeast corner near Hammond Pond and see about a dozen or more kinds of ferns.



Wear long pants to protect against poison ivy and bugs. If you have a hand lens, bring it. Bring any native fern you would like me to identify.

Park and meet near the woods behind The Street Shopping Center (near Davio's Restaurant), between the pond and Hammond Pond Parkway.

Trip Leader: Don Lubin, 617-254-8464, don@nefern.info, <http://nefern.info>

PHOTOS ON PREVIOUS PAGE: VERNAL POOL WALK: DAN BRODY, AMERICAN REDSTART: HAYNES MILLER, PHOTOS THIS PAGE: PALM WARBLER: HAYNES MILLER, FERN: DAN BRODY

About the Plant Invaders



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Garlic Mustard arrived from Europe as a medicinal and garden herb, and is now an invader of our backyards, parks, forests, and conservation areas. It quickly covers vast areas and low-light forested areas, shades out other plants, chemically alters the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and alters habitat for native insects such as butterflies. It is easy to manage by pulling when the second-year plants are flowering in April/May. If not, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds that will become first-year plants the next year, or remain as viable seeds for several more years. The plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Buckthorn is another non-native shrub that is proliferating in forested areas (see Cold Spring Park), covering the understory and preventing native forests from re-seeding.

Our sessions also tackle black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, oriental bittersweet, and black locust.