



# Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

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



## Spring is coming soon but our NEW WEBSITE is already here!

Hard to believe but Spring is coming in a short time! Despite the remnants of the latest snowstorms, you can hear our avian friends starting to sing their spring songs.

And something new and exciting for the Newton Conservators is our brand new website. Our webmaster, Dan Brody, has been working with Scott Lewis of [trailwebsites.com](http://trailwebsites.com) to modernize the appearance of our site, to make it work better on smartphones and tablets, and to add a host of new features. You will hopefully find it much more user friendly and a convenient place to find the latest open space news, events and walks to attend, maps and info for our open spaces, and past newsletters, bulletins, and videos, and many handy search features. Check it out now if you would like to easily find the current events that you usually find in the e-Bulletin!

[www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

If you don't have time now, here is a quick look at a screen shot of the new hot off the "wordpress" home page:



### Explore Our New Website

After 16 years of incremental changes, the NewtonConservators.org website has received a complete make-over. Scott Lewis of Trailwebsites.com has modernized the appearance of our site.

[READ MORE »](#)



### Annual Dinner Meeting May 8th

Online registration is now open for the 58th annual Conservators dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 8th.

[READ MORE »](#)



### 2019 Spring Newsletter

In this issue:

- Beavers: Urban Wildlife Extraordinaire
- President's Message
- What to Know About Invasive Plant Removal
- Invasive Pulls Spring 2019
- Walks Schedule Spring 2019
- Beavers-References

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### Road Salt Storage in Webster Woods

In February 2019, Boston College began fencing off the rear parking lot on the land it owns in Webster Woods, apparently in anticipation of the start of construction of a road salt storage facility.

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### Website Design History

The Conservators website has had several different looks over the years. The earliest home page image we can find dates to 2001. Mike Clarke was the website manager.

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### Newton Community Farm Summer Internship Program

Newton Community Farm is now accepting applications for its high school intern programs: Summer internships are unpaid opportunities for high school age youth to learn about organic and community farming in a fun,

[READ MORE »](#)

[All News](#)

## Upcoming Events



**Woodcock Mating Display**  
 Nahanton Park – Nahanton Street entrance, Newton MA  
 03/01/2019 - 03/31/2019  
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
[Read more »](#)



**Brookline Bird Club Woodcock Walk in Nahanton Park**  
 Nahanton Park – Nahanton Street entrance, Newton MA  
 03/20/2019  
 7:00 pm - 8:20 pm  
[Read more »](#)



**The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools**  
 Webster Conservation Area – Warren Street entrance, Newton MA  
 04/06/2019  
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Read more »](#)



**The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools**  
 Webster Conservation Area – Warren Street entrance, Newton MA  
 04/14/2019  
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Read more »](#)



**Buckhorn Demonstration Project**  
 Cold Spring Park Beacon Street trailhead, Waban MA  
 04/21/2019  
 9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
[Read more »](#)



**Charles River Cleanup Day**  
 04/27/2019  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
[Read more »](#)

## Upcoming Events

We will be putting out our usual Events listing shortly in e-Bulletin form and rest assured we have a very big spring agenda with lots of walks and invasive pulls and our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 8. A printable version of our Spring Walks list

[https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19\\_03\\_walks.pdf](https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19_03_walks.pdf) and our Invasives Sessions at [https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19\\_03\\_invasives\\_sessions.pdf](https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19_03_invasives_sessions.pdf).

However we wanted to highlight a special event this evening at the Newton Cemetery related to Climate Change's effect on our trees:

### **Our Woods in a Warming World: The Future Outlook** **Jennifer Hushaw Shakun - Manomet Applied Forest Scientist** **Tuesday, March 12, 6-7:30 pm** **Newton Cemetery Chapel 791 Walnut Street, Newton Centre**

Learn about climate change, the role of forests and what it means for you. Nearly 80% of New England is covered by forests, and they play an important role in our daily lives. From clean drinking water and clean air, to wildlife habitat, recreation, and economic benefits, forests are



critical to our well-being and quality of life. But, with the changing climate, will tomorrow's forests look the same as they do today? Will maple syrup become a thing of the past? Will spruce and fir disappear from our mountains? Jennifer Hushaw Shakun, Manomet's Applied Forest Scientist, will answer these questions and more at a special evening presentation. Join us to learn how our climate is changing, what it means for our forests, and how healthy forests are one of our best tools for combating the challenge of climate change. As an urban forest, the Cemetery's mature canopy plays an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change. The Cemetery has an active tree planting program to sustain its canopy coverage that assesses the survivability of newly planted trees in a changing climate and long term outcomes of planting decisions made now. This event is FREE, but please register to ensure your spot!

Visit <https://www.newcemcorp.org/news-events/our-woods-warming-world-future-outlook> to register.

## Hello Washington Street and Zoning Redesign

"Hello Washington Street!" is the City of Newton's initiative to plan proactively the future of Washington Street in a community-based process with residents, local businesses, and City Councilors, with the help of the Principle Group, the planning firm under contract with the City of Newton. The thirteen-month process, started in April 2018 and anticipated to go until May 2019, will result in a vision plan and draft zoning recommendations for the areas that link West Newton to Newtonville to Newton Corner. If you would like to make



comment on Draft Two of the plan, please

visit: [http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/washington\\_street\\_vision.asp](http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/washington_street_vision.asp)

It is open for public comments through tomorrow.

The City of Newton is rewriting and redesigning its Zoning Ordinance. Newton's current zoning was last changed in 1987 and needs to be redesigned to reflect current best practices and to better protect the characteristics of this city that make it a great place to live. The goal is to create an easily understood ordinance that preserves what is best about Newton and is, at the same time, forward thinking. For more info

visit [http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning\\_redesign.asp](http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign.asp)

The proposed rezoning map can be seen at <http://gis.newtonma.gov/zcompare.html>

## Riverside Greenway Presentation Now on Video

Creating Greenways Along the Charles River' features a panel discussion on plans for parklands and greenways along Charles River in the Newton area. This well attended event occurred on Thursday, January 24 in the Druker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library in Newton, MA. The video can be found at <https://youtu.be/Flkjin7lhBWM> or click the video picture below.



Three outstanding panelists presented the history and a vision to restore this heritage, including new bike/pedestrian greenways along the Charles River and the role that greenways play in maintaining the health and vitality of the river, the people and the communities. Alicia Bowman, President of Bike Newton, moderated the discussion and introduced the panelists.

Emily Norton, Newton City Councilor and Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA - [crwa.org](http://crwa.org)), described the history of the Charles River, the work of the CRWA, issues of pollution, and past and future improvements to the Charles River watershed. Dan Driscoll, Director of the Office of Recreational Facilities Planning in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, gave an overview of the trail and greenway projects across the state and metropolitan area, with special focus on the past efforts on the Charles River Greenway and exciting possibilities for the new Riverside Greenway.

Herb Nolan, Executive Director of The Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation ([solomonfoundation.org](http://solomonfoundation.org)), and member of Riverside Greenway Working Group ([riversidegreenwayma.wildapricot.org](http://riversidegreenwayma.wildapricot.org)), focused on specifics of the vision of creating further access along the Charles River through the Newton area via new greenways, old rediscovered paths, and restored bridges. His review culminates with an exciting drone's eye video of the proposed greenway along the Charles. An interesting and wide ranging "Question and Answer" session

followed the panelist presentations.

In addition to the Newton Conservators, sponsoring organizations for the event included the following: Bike Newton, Green Newton - [greennewton.org](http://greennewton.org), League of Women Voters Newton, Newton Free Library, Riverside Greenway Working Group, Safe Routes to School Task Force Newton, and the Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation.

### Boston Globe GRANT Program

Again this year, The Boston Globe GRANT program will award ads to nonprofit organizations that receive the most votes from their subscribers. If you are a Globe subscriber, please help Newton Conservators by designating us as the recipient of your GRANT award. We would greatly appreciate your support. This year, we would use an ad to increase awareness of our guided walks and invasive-plant pulls. If you are a Globe subscriber, you can visit <https://manage.bostonglobe.com/grant/RedeemVoucher.as>



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### 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. Our Winter 2019 Newsletter has been printed and mailed to members and is posted on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. Here are some of the articles in the current issue to check out!

- [What Does the Newton Conservators Organization Do?](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Cold Spring Park Needs Some Love](#)
- [Florrie's Path Gets a Welcome Addition;](#)
- [Pudding Stone in Hammond Woods](#)
- [Newton Power Choice](#)
- [Irruption Excitement](#)



# NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2019

## 2019 Officers and Directors

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## What Does the Newton Conservators Do?



PHOTO: HENRY FINCH

*Newton Conservators' Board Meeting at Weber Library*

The mission of Newton Conservators can be stated briefly: it is to promote "the protection and preservation of natural areas... for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation."

Telling you about the ways that the Conservators' board members and volunteers fulfill that mission cannot be so brief because we do so in many ways.

### 1. The Conservators advocates for and works to preserve critical open spaces in Newton.

Unlike many communities outside Route 128, Newton does not have many hundreds of acres of open space (except for golf courses). The green space that does exist is essential for the health of all the people and wildlife in the city. Concerned members keep track of what is happening with important open-space parcels and work to find ways to protect those that are at risk. Helping the city to acquire the Newton Community Farm was one of those projects.

Preserving Webster Woods, the core of the largest natural area in Newton, has been one of our big projects for the past three years. The Conservators collaborated with the Friends of Webster Woods to make sure that



PHOTO: KEN MULLOY

*Children learn about the kind of wildlife that can be found in the vernal pond in Webster Woods.*

people throughout the city recognized the environmental importance of the former Congregation Mishkan Tefila land at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway. (The land is now owned by Boston College.) The coalition was delighted to receive the unanimous

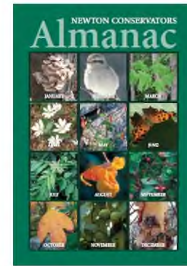
*Continued on page 2*

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/19win.pdf>

## 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

Almana 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.*



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- \$250 Directors' Circle **\*NEW!**
- \$125 Patron
- \$100 Donor
- \$75 Sustaining Member
- \$50 Family Membership
- \$35 Individual Membership
- \$15 Student Membership
- Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Want to make an even bigger impact? Help us support these conservation areas:

- Woodcock Meadow \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Ordway Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Land Stewardship Areas (Dexter Rd., Brocabridge Rd.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributors at this level receive a copy of the Newton Conservators Almanac. All new members receive Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer!  
 Please email me.

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit [NewtonConservators.org/membership.htm](http://NewtonConservators.org/membership.htm) to renew/join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at [president@NewtonConservators.org](mailto:president@NewtonConservators.org).

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators ([ebulletin@newtonconservators.org](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))



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