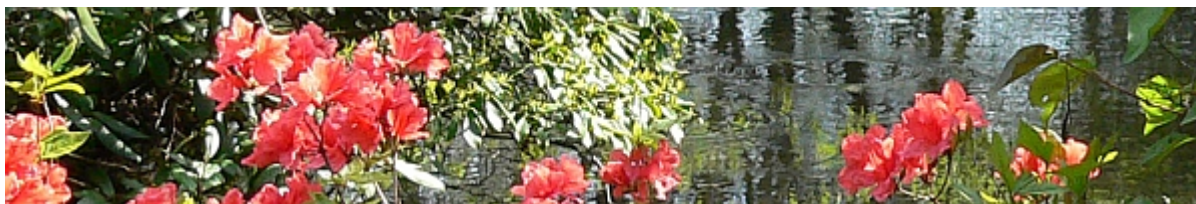




Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, April 5, 2019

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



Spring Events!

Spring is here and the Newton Conservators have a very full schedule of events that you may find of interest. Our schedule of walks begins this Saturday with a **Vernal Pool Event in Webster Woods**. Our **Invasive Removal** season starts later this month on April 21 at Cold Spring Park and in earnest with four (count em!) pulls on NewtonSERVES day (Sunday, April 28). We have bird walks, hikes, and lots more on tap.

Our **Annual Meeting** with a feature presentation on coyotes will be on Wednesday, May 8 at Post 440. Check out the full schedule for April through mid-May below which lists our events and a few others of interest as well. Printable versions of our [Spring Walks Schedule](#) and our for our [Invasives Sessions](#) can be found online.

Please note that portions of Cold Spring Park will have restricted access on Monday, April 8, Tuesday, April 9, and Tuesday, April 16 due to Paramount Pictures filming (details below).

And be sure to check out our newly designed website at www.newtonconservators.org which has a convenient listing of upcoming events at the bottom of the front page.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 pm (Rain or Shine)

The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools:

Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/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.

Monday, April 8
Tuesday, April 9
Tuesday, April 16
Restricted Access in portions of
Cold Spring Park due to
Paramount Pictures filming on site

Please be aware that the walking paths around Plymouth Road in Cold Spring Park will have restricted access on all three days listed above. In addition, the dog park area and adjacent field will be closed on Tuesday, April 16th. Please see map for details. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carol Stapleton with the Newton Parks and Recreation Department at 617-796-1508.



Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 pm (Rain or Shine)
The Hidden Life of Vernal Pools:
Forest and Vernal Pool Exploration at Webster Woods
<https://newtonconservators.org/property/webster-woods/>

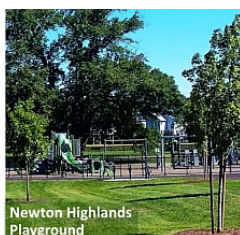
This popular walk/activity is being repeated from April 6 (see description from that date). Trip Leader: Jon Regosin, 774-364-2443.

Sunday, April 21, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Buckthorn Demonstration Project
Cold Spring Park
<https://newtonconservators.org/property/cold-spring-park/>

We will continue the work, started two years 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, 617-962-0646, Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Friday, April 26, 4:00-7:00 pm
Celebrate Newton Highlands Playground!
Newton Highlands Playground, 10 Dedham Street



Come put the revitalized Newton Highlands Playground through its paces with games, family activities and refreshments! The Parks & Recreation Department combined \$2.7 million in CPA funding with CDBG (federal) funds to create a new tot lot, courts, playing fields, and accessible pathways and to improve the woodland trails. The playground is at 10 Dedham Street.

Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am - Noon
Hemlock Gorge Spring Cleanup

Hamilton Place (Elliot St at the Charles River on Needham side)

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/hemlock-gorge/>

The Friends of Hemlock Gorge's Annual Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019, rain or shine, unless extreme weather is expected. It will be the day before the Run of the Charles. Volunteers should meet at Hamilton Place between 9:30 and 10 a.m. Parking available at Hamilton Place, the Mills Falls parking lot, and at the Hemlock Gorge parking lot at the intersection of Ellis St. and Rte. 9. Clean-up materials supplied and refreshments provided for all volunteers! Please dress appropriately for the work and weather. We plan to have a



lunch available for volunteers after the cleanup, at noon. Visit <http://www.hemlockgorge.org/> for more info. We also note

with sadness the passing of **Brian Yates** on March 15, former Newton City Councilor and the Founder and President of the Friends of Hemlock Gorge, and long time member of the Advisory Board of the Newton Conservators.



Saturday, April 27, 1:00 pm "Land of the Giants" Spring Tree Tour Newton Cemetery

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/newton-cemetery/>



Did you know the arborists working at the cemetery call the Newton Cemetery "Land of the Giants" because of the many gigantic trees there? Arbor Day is around the corner- come celebrate and learn about all the tree work that's happening at this year's Spring Tree Tour, "Land of the Giants". Cemetery arborist Abigale Parker and Bartlett Tree Experts arborist Andrew Balon will discuss the ongoing maintenance program, future plans and share other fun tree facts! The tour will meet at the fountain area just inside the front gate at 791 Walnut Street, Newton MA. Parking is available along the Cemetery roads or the chapel parking lot. For more information, call 617-332-0047 or

email fonc@newcemcopr.org. The tour is free and open to all, however donations to the Friends of Newton Cemetery are welcome and support arboretum education and care. Suggested Donation: \$10

Sunday, April 28, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project). 76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/dolan-pond/>

Meet at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area. (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 will also do some general cleanup and trail maintenance, and perhaps even a little nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753. Register online at <http://newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php>.



Sunday, April 28, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES Project) 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/cold-spring-park/>



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. Leaders are Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571. Register online at <http://newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php>.

Sunday, April 28, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project)
near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472**

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-bridge-street/>

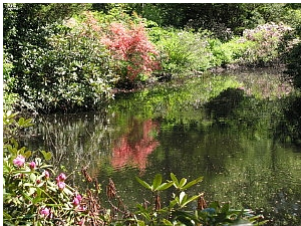
We will work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, and will do nature study as time allows. Wear long pants and sleeves, sturdy shoes and garden gloves. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner farthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or, park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St. a block away from the river. Leaders are Ron Joseph and Anndy Dannenberg, 617-694-9674. Register online at <http://newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php>.



Sunday, April 28, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Invasives Pull at Houghton Garden (NewtonSERVES Project)
near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472**

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/houghton-garden/>



Help tackle the garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods. Help keep these invaders out of beautiful Houghton Garden! Wear long pants tucked into socks, closed shoes, and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Sally Baker and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571. Register online

at <http://newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES-volunteer.php>.

Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 pm

Take a Real Hike in Newton: discover the Newton Aqueducts

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/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.



Sunday, April 28, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Run of the Charles Paddling Race



As Charles River Watershed Association's signature event, the Run of the Charles is the largest flat-bottomed boat race in New England and a major event in Greater Boston, where it draws 1,500 racers and spectators each year! This is the 37th annual event and races are from 3 to 14 miles in length and this year paddleboards and kayaks can participate in the relay race. Find full info at <https://www.crwa.org/run-of-the-charles>.

Sunday, April 28, 1:00 pm
Crossing Borders in Lower Falls
Walking Tour sponsored by Historic Newton

This special tour with Historic Newton and the Wellesley Historical Society focuses on the rise and fall of industry in Lower Falls, as well as the village that early residents built. Learn how the Charles River once powered nationally renowned paper mills. Stop by St. Mary's Church and the one-time community hall that is now Lower Falls Wine Company. The tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and is recommended for adults and teens. Part of our "Crossing Borders" series, a collaboration between history organizations in Newton, Natick, Needham, and Wellesley sponsored by Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation. Suggested donation, \$10 per person. Information: 617-796-1450 or 781-235-6690. Register at www.historicnewton.org under Historic Walking Tours



Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 am (Rain Date: May 21)
Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park
Cold Spring Park (Beacon Street entrance - far end of parking lot)
<https://newtonconservators.org/property/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 5, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.
Opposite 120 Vine St., Newton, MA 02467
<https://newtonconservators.org/property/sawmill-brook/>

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. Leaders are Francesco DiTullio and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Sunday, May 5, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wellesly Trails Committee Hemlock Gorge Walk

Echo Bridge Office Park, Newton MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/hemlock-gorge/>



Explore the trails in Hemlock Gorge, a scenic and historic area along the Charles River at the corners of Wellesley, Needham and Newton. Get a birds-eye view of the gorge from Echo Bridge, a 70-foot high stone bridge across the Charles River used to carry Sudbury Aqueduct water to Boston. Stand under the main arch and count the number of times you hear your echo. Meet at the Echo Bridge Office Park parking lot at 381 Elliot Street, Newton. See

<https://wellesleyma.gov/419/Guided-Walks-Events> for info and detailed directions.

Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Newton Conservators 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting American Legion Post 440, 295 California St

The 58th annual dinner meeting of the Newton Conservators will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. The featured speaker will be John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer and Massachusetts representative of Project Coyote. Newton Conservators members will receive an invitation and registration form in the mail. Social hour begins at 6 pm with dinner and annual meeting and awards at 7 pm. followed by the featured presentation. Come join us for this informative and entertaining evening. Anyone can register for the dinner online at www.newtonconservators.org.



Sunday, May 12 at 8:00 am Nahanton Park Mother's Day Bird Walk <https://newtonconservators.org/property/nahanton-park/>

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 and Haynes Miller, 617-413-2419.



Sunday, 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 <https://newtonconservators.org/property/charles-path-bridge-street/>



We continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, and will do nature study as time allows. Wear long pants and sleeves, and sturdy shoes and garden gloves. Bring digging tools and clippers if you can. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner furthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left 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.

Tuesday, May 14, 3:00 pm
Rachel Carson Proclamation
Newton City Hall

Come witness the Mayor's Proclamation of Newton's Annual Rachel Carson Day and Call to Action Honoring the legacy of Rachel Carson (May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964) and her message that our health is intimately connected and dependent on the quality of our environment. We commit to Use Less and Green the Rest. This event will recognize individuals and groups who contribute to Newton's sustainability.



Wednesday, May 15 7:00 am
Spring Bird Walk at Newton Cemetery
Newton Cemetery, 791 Walnut Street, Newton MA
<https://newtonconservators.org/property/newton-cemetery/>



Join the Friends of Newton Cemetery and Manomet for this year's Bird Walk at Newton Cemetery & Arboretum. Test your skills and pick up some new ones with guides from Manomet's Landbird Conservation program as they lead the walk once again. Birders of all experience levels are welcome on this leisurely, two-hour walk around the Cemetery's arboretum in search of migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more! Scheduled for the peak of spring migration, there will be ample opportunity to brush up on your birding-by-ear techniques, as well as catch a glimpse of breeding males in their most dapper

plumage. Changes in climate will be discussed and how Manomet's long-term research projects bring its effects on migration to light. Birders of all experience levels are welcome to join us, just come equipped with comfortable walking shoes, binoculars if you have them (we will have a few pairs for sharing), and water. The walk will meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available along the cemetery road or chapel parking lot. Participation is limited, and last years' program reached capacity so be sure to register early! Cost: \$15 Non-Members, \$10 Members. Register online at <https://www.manomet.org/event/newton-cemetery-bird-walk-3/>. For additional information, please contact Chris Boudreaux at (508) 224-6521, ext. 226 or cboudreaux@manomet.org or visit Manomet.org.

**Note: Lots more events to follow in later May, June and July
 in the next e-Bulletin!**

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 Spring 2019 Newsletter has been printed and mailed to members and is posted on our website at https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19_03.pdf.

Here are some of the articles in the current issue to check out!

- [Beavers: Urban Wildlife Extraordinaire](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [What to Know About Invasive Plant Removal](#)
- [Invasive Pulls Spring 2019](#)

- [Walks Schedule Spring 2019](#)
- [Beavers-References](#)



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**
SPRING ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

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Beavers: Urban Wildlife Extraordinaire

Beavers are big — no, *really* big. The North American beaver, *Castor Canadensis*, is the second largest rodent in the world — the capybara in South America is the largest. How big? Visualize a large golden retriever: an adult beaver is three to four feet from nose to tail tip and can weigh in at 60 pounds or more.¹ Everything about *Castor Canadensis* is so big and so interesting that Newton Conservators is presenting the beaver profile in two installments. This first covers the beaver's anatomy, adaptations, and life cycle. The second, in our summer newsletter, will explore the profound ecological effects this keystone species has on our landscape.

Most people assume a beaver is smaller than it really is and often mistake muskrats for beavers. A muskrat, running six to seven pounds, is about the size of a beaver's head.



PHOTO: KILDMERID
A beaver swimming with only head showing doesn't show how big beavers really are.



PHOTO: WINIFRED A. BATES
Freshly beaver-felled tree.

What you are more likely to see is the signs of beavers: their teeth marks on trees and branches. As lumberjacks of the animal kingdom, beavers' teeth are big — they need to be to gnaw through trees. According to South Dakota's Division of Wildlife, a beaver can gnaw down a five-inch diameter willow in three minutes². Can a beaver get splinters? Yes, according to web sources, but I could find no authoritative information about this. I theorize that because a beaver gnaws *living* wood, which is softer and wet, *across* the grain horizontally to the ground, it would be harder for them to encounter splinters.

I recall seeing the orange teeth of a rodent, a gopher, for the first time as a child and thinking, "Eew, that animal has serious dental hygiene issues." Not true! All rodents and especially beavers have orange enamel covering the front of their incisors to add strength to the teeth — the color comes from

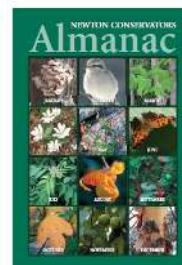
Continued on page 2

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 <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/> 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.



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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle *NEW! | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> 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., Bracebridge 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 to renew/join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

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



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