



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin
 Friday, July 5, 2019
 ... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



Summer Events!

Our Spring Walk Series and Invasive Plant sessions are over now. But there are still lots of nature and open space oriented activities to consider from the Newton Conservators and other local organizations! See our listings below of upcoming events. Maybe you have seen some Monarch butterflies in your garden - perhaps check out our short workshop at the Elm Street Farmer's market tomorrow. We also list bioblitzes, river cleanups, bike rides, and lots more including a special info session from the Friends of Webster Woods.

The turnout for last month's Cold Spring Park event at Zervas School was amazing (watch for postings of the presentations coming on our YouTube channel shortly). Also, our summer newsletter is now online and should be in your mail shortly if not already. Now is a good time to get rid of Black Swallow-wort which is causing great confusion for Monarchs (details in this issue). So get outdoors in Newton this summer! There's a lot to do this Summer!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 6, 9:30 am - 11 am
Monarch Butterfly Workshop
Elm Street Farmer's Market, West Newton
(between Washington and Border Streets)

Come to the Elm Street Farmer's Market to learn about Monarch Butterflies! These lovely creatures are not as abundant as in the past due to lack of suitable milkweed for their egg-laying and as a caterpillar food source. Learn about their interesting life cycle, steps you can take to help them grow the population, and their incredible fall migration. You can even see how to collect monarch eggs and raise them through caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly stages with a free handy guide. Look for the Newton Conservators table near the Paper Mouse booth (where you can make 3D butterfly note cards.) Not to mention there is a paper airplane contest at 10 am and loads of fresh vegetables and other goodies available this holiday weekend! Janet Kuklinski (617-332-7753) will be leading this session.



Saturday, July 6
Great Walden BioBlitz 2019
Concord and Lincoln, MA
<https://www.walden.org/great-walden-bioblitz/>



This Saturday, dozens of ecologists and natural history experts will be in Walden Woods and Thoreau Country for a BioBlitz with the goal of finding 2,000 species! In honor of world-famous ecologist and author Dr. E.O. Wilson's 90th birthday, the Walden Woods Project, E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation, the National Park Service's Minute Man National Historical Park, and naturalist Peter Alden are organizing a massive effort to identify 2,000 species within the greater Walden Woods ecosystem. Join organized field trips with local experts or strike out on

your own explorations! We are strongly encouraging use of the iNaturalist app for participants to document and post observations throughout the BioBlitz event.

Sunday, July 7, 10 am - 1 pm
Bike Newton - Chinatown for Dimsum Ride
Start at Star Market - Newtonville

A nice ride along the Charles River, past the Public Gardens and through a bit of downtown to Chinatown for DimSum brunch. Riders have the option of either biking back to Newton or taking their bikes back on the commuter rail from South Station. Trains leave at 12:40, 2:20, 4:20PM. Meet in front of the Star Market on Austin St. in Newtonville, and we'll leave promptly at 10am. This is a family-friendly, "no-rider-left-behind" ride and all ages are invited, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bike helmets are required. 10 (or 20) miles roundtrip. Be sure to check bikenewton.org for last-minute changes. Approximate Route: <https://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6804073>. Be sure to check www.bikenewton.org for last-minute changes.



Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 pm
Walking Tour of Oak Hill Park

Shuman Center, 675 Saw Mill Brook Parkway, Newton, MA, 02459
<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/walking.asp>



Oak Hill Park, a little-known corner of Newton, was built in the late 1940s by a public-private partnership not just to house but to honor recently returned WWII veterans. Boston Globe architecture critic Robert Campbell in 1995 wrote, "The greenbelt system is what's unique about Oak Hill Park. There's nothing else like it in Massachusetts. And it's still intact. Even in today's privatized world, nobody has chopped the Oak Hill Park greenways into private, fenced barbecue patios." Led by Paul Eldrenkamp, Oak Hill Park resident of 26 years, the tour

will show us what Campbell found so appealing about this close-knit neighborhood, and what's changed since Campbell wrote so compellingly of its charms. Suggested donation, \$10 per person. Register in advance or come to the start of the tour. Register at (<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/walking.asp>)

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

IN-River Cleanup of the Charles River

Have Boat: Woerd Ave Boat Launch, Waltham, MA

Need Boat: Charles River Canoe & Kayak, 195 Moody Street, Waltham, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/waltham-charles-in-river-cleanup/>

Help out with the an In-River cleanup of the Charles. With the support of Charles River Canoe and Kayak/Paddle Boston, canoes and kayaks will be provided to those who need watercraft. People who have their own should start at the Woerd Ave boat launch. Grabbers will be supplied for getting hard-to-reach items, as well as trash bags, gloves, granola bars, and awesome water bottles. Power boats will gather trash from the manual boats. Lunch with sandwiches, ice cream and snacks for all volunteers near the Woerd Ave boat launch afterwards. Learn more and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/waltham-charles-in-river-cleanup-tickets-58934888839>. Sponsored by our friends at Waltham Land Trust (www.walthamlandtrust.org).



Saturday, July 13, 1-3 pm

The World of Insects at Prospect Hill Park

Prospect Hill Park Lodge, 314 Totten Pond Road, Waltham



Join naturalist/teacher Linda Graetz in this fun and entertaining program that starts with slides and a hands-on look at some common groups of insects. We'll learn their unique characteristics and how to recognize them. Then Linda will lead an easy walk up Prospect Hill to discover insects in the wild. Flowers should be blooming, so expect to see many butterflies, dragonflies, interesting beetles and more! Suitable for families and folks of all ages who want to learn and explore. Sponsored by the Waltham Land Trust (walthamlandtrust.org).

Monday, July 15, 7-8 pm

Friends of Webster Woods Information Session

Altman Residence - 180 Elgin Street, Newton MA

The Friends of Webster Woods are having an important meeting to discuss the efforts to save the woods. Learn more, and RSVP if you're planning on attending, on the Friends' Google Group page at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/FriendsofWebsterWoods/-n95mZ_Yu90/GRcV49mmDAAJ.



Sunday, July 21, 2:00pm

Who Inspired Our School Names - Newton Cemetery Walk

Newton Cemetery & Arboretum

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



Newton's two high schools simply use North and South for identification, but many elementary and middle schools are named after a notable person from Newton. Stroll through the Newton Cemetery to see the final resting places and learn more about the lives of Dr. Henry Bigelow, F.A. Day, William Clafin and others whose legacy continues in our public schools.

Meet in front of the chapel just inside the main gate, 791 Walnut Street, Newton Centre. Park in the lot to the left of the chapel. Suggested donation \$10 per person. Register at historiconewton.org or come on tour day.

Monday, July 22, 6:00-8:30 pm

Dinner on the Farm

Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/dinner-on-the-farm/>

Visit Newton Community Farm for an evening at the farm featuring delicious food from Gourmet Caterers who've created a delicious produce-forward menu for all to enjoy. Tickets are NOW on sale. Register at <https://ncfarm.zsystems.com/np/clients/ncfarm/eventRegistration.jsp?event=10218a>.



Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Fields of Green - Newton Community Farm

Newton Community Farm - 303 Nahanton Street - meet on the deck of the Barn

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/fields-of-green-newton-community-farm/>



Did you know that 150 years ago, much of Newton was active farmland? Come learn about the last active link to our agricultural past! This tour, led by Historic Newton and Newton Community Farm, covers the history of a site that has been farmed continuously for over 300 years. Explore different time periods, including the influence of Italian immigration to Newton. Finish the evening with a freshly harvested snack in the historic

barn. Walk is sponsored by Historic Newton. Walks sometimes fill up; pre-register on the Historic Newton website (www.historicnewton.org).

Sunday, August 11, 2:00 pm

**Two Scenic Spots: Hemlock Gorge and Echo Bridge
Elliot and Chestnut Streets (near the old mill)**

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/walking.asp>



Explore the geology, trees, plants and history of DCR Hemlock Gorge Reservation, one of the first five parks acquired by the Metropolitan Parks Commission in 1893. Learn about the National Register listed Echo Bridge and plans to restore its historic railings. This guided tour will include stairs and an uphill trail segment over rocky terrain so proper footwear is recommended. Location: Meet at the corner of Elliot and Chestnut Streets near the old mill (a.k.a. Echo Bridge Mall). Park on nearby streets. Sponsored by Historic Newton.

Saturday, September 7, 9:30 - 12:30 pm

Adventures in Monarchy Workshop

Newton Farmer's Market

Elm Street (between Washington and Border Streets), West Newton

Come to the Elm Street Farmer's Market to learn about Monarch Butterflies in a featured workshop! These colorful creatures are not as abundant as in the past due to lack of suitable milkweed for their egg-laying and as a caterpillar food source. Learn about different types of native milkweed and invasive imposter plants. We will discuss and the interesting life cycle (and likely display live examples at various stages), steps you can take to help them grow the population, and their incredible fall migration. You will even learn how to identify and collect monarch eggs and raise them through caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly stages with a free handy guide. Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753) will be leading this workshop.



Sunday, September 15, 2:00 pm

**Riverside Trails with the Newton Conservators and Historic Newton
Lasell Boathouse, 107 Charles Street, Auburndale**



Explore sites of canoeing from the early 20th century and the proposed new Riverside Trail System by following some old pathways from the Lasell Boathouse to the former MDC Police Station on Commonwealth Avenue. For those interested in an optional second part, the walk continues south to Riverside Station and across I-95 to the Leo J. Martin Golf Course.

Please Help the Monarch Butterflies

Have you seen the pea-like pods of the black-swallow-wort climbing up fences and plants all over Newton? We're asking for your help to remove them.



Why do we care so much about removing these plants?

As you probably know, the population of monarch butterflies in Massachusetts has declined significantly in the past decade. They, like bees, are important pollinators in our environment. Milkweeds, such as our native common milkweed, are the only plants that monarch larvae can eat, and loss of meadow habitat in the state has led to a loss of available native milkweed to feed the caterpillars.

To make their situation worse, to the female monarch butterflies, black swallow-wort appears to be a fine plant on which to lay their eggs. It is in the same family as common milkweed. However, when the monarch larvae hatch, they do not recognize the plants as food, and they starve to death.

Please look for the black swallow-wort vines, and remove them, or at least their banana shaped pods. Look in your yards and the edges of fields, parks and parking lots for small purple flowers that turn to pea-like pods hanging from vines with glossy leaves. Then, dig up, pull up, cut down, or as a last resort just pull off the pods - and get the plants and pods into trash bags and dispose as trash - before the pods burst!



If you are interested in monarch butterflies, check out the article on raising monarch butterflies in our latest newsletter or perhaps attend one of our Farmer's Market workshops on Saturday, July 6 or Saturday, September 7 in West Newton.

NewCAL

Perhaps you have heard recently of the NewCAL Newton Center for Active Living Project and controversy over its potential siting. You can visit the official NewCAL site at https://newcal.projects.nv5.com/?doing_wp_cron=1562365506.1646339893341064453125 to learn more about the project, criteria for siting, and a list of potential sites. The Board of the Newton Conservators has taken the following position on the siting of NewCAL at this time:

The Newton Conservators have been helping to acquire and preserve open space in Newton for 58 years. Lately, we have been closely following the progress of the NewCAL project to provide a new multigenerational community recreation center.

Many of our members would likely appreciate such a facility in Newton. However, in recent site evaluations, the locations have been narrowed to 24 locations, a majority of which are currently public open space land.

The Newton Conservators are not in favor of the use of existing open space park land where green space is replaced with hardscape and buildings. This position is strongly in alignment with our mission statement:

"Newton Conservators Inc. promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, park lands, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters."

Parklands are always the "easy" choice for finding land for development, but these are precious natural areas, certainly in short supply in Newton.

The city should look more carefully at some of the other choices in the original list and perhaps modify its criteria. In particular, there could be more attention paid to whether NewCAL's program requirements could be satisfied on a site smaller than 2.5 acres and whether there are existing hardscape areas that could work rather than park land.

Here in Newton, the "Garden City," converting our existing open space into buildings and parking would result in a lot less "Garden" and a lot more "City."

Summer Newsletter - 2019

Our Newton Conservators Summer Newsletter is now available online at <https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Newsletter-2019-Summer.pdf> and all other issues are on our Newsletter page at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>.



NEWSLETTER

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

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Webster Woods: A Natural Place of Memories and Discoveries

Richard B. Primack, Professor of Biology at Boston University and a lifelong Newton resident

Editor's Note: This article is an expansion of an article originally written in the *Newton TAB*, April 4, 2019.

"Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain." Henry David Thoreau

I have walked and explored the Webster Woods for over 60 years. At 114 acres, this landscape of forests, wetlands, and rock outcrops is the largest natural area in Newton. They are my favorite natural gardens in Newton, providing opportunities in all seasons for recreation, relaxation, and new experiences for myself, my children, friends, students, and neighbors. I still explore these woods almost every day and continue to make new discoveries.



Richard Primack examines manjula plant

I hope that residents and the city continue to protect these woods so that future generations of Newton families can create their own memories and discoveries.

My favorite place in the woods is Bare Pond, which is a vernal pool next to the rear parking lot of the Boston College property on the Newton Center side of Hammond Pond Parkway. In early spring, the pond is alive with calling frogs and toads, and newly arrived migratory birds searching for insects at the pond edges. It even has a built-in bench — a puddingstone rock shelf above one side of the pond, which is perfect for relaxing and talking with friends. In late spring and summer, I lean over the shore of the pond to study tiny crustaceans chugging through the water and water beetles darting about. If I am very lucky, I see the aquatic larvae of spotted salamanders.

When our children were small, they waded enthusiastically in the pond. In fall, the fringing border of black gums, red maples, and highbush blueberries along the pond



Eric Olson explains pond life in Webster Woods vernal pool

Continued on page 2

Check out the following articles in this issue:

- [Webster Woods: A Natural Place of Memories and Discoveries](#)

- Richard Primack
- [Adventures in Monarchy - Raising Monarchs at Home!](#)
 - Ted Kuklinski
- [President's Message](#)
 - Ted Kuklinski
- [2019 Newton Conservators Annual Meeting - Coyotes, Remembrances and Awards](#)
 - Margaret Doris

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

- | |
|--|
| Woodcock Meadow \$ _____ |
| Ortway Endowment Fund \$ _____ |
| Land Stewardship Areas (Dixie Rd., Brosebridge 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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