



*Newton Conservators*

# *E-Bulletin*

*Thursday, September 5, 2019*

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



## Fall Events!

This summer went by so fast and there is always renewed energy in the Fall! It's a fresh start for students and perhaps a relief for some adults. The air has been notably crisper on many recent days despite Summers attempts to linger on. We present here a rather full lineup of nature and open space oriented activities to consider from the Newton Conserators and other local organizations! See our listings below of upcoming events starting this weekend!

Maybe you have seen some Monarch butterflies in your garden - check out our Monarch Butterfly Workshop and Walk on Saturday at the Elm Street Farmer's Market. And if you would like to roll up your sleeves a little, check out not one but two invasive removal sessions this weekend at Hemlock Gorge/Quinobequin Road and Crystal Lake.

The following weekend is a terrific tour of the proposed Riverside Greenway Trails and we have invasive work at Bracebridge Rd and Nahanton Park! Look further on for bird walks, hike & canoe outings, and important public open space hearings.

And check out the hot off the press Newton Conservators Newsletter available now on our website (<https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>). It also contains handy sheets on our Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series and our invasive pulls. Hoping to see you out and about in Newton this Fall!

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## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, September 7, 10 am - 12 noon****Monarch Workshop and Butterfly Walk**

Elm Street Farmer's Market (between Washington and Border Streets), West Newton

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/adventures-in-monarchy-workshop/>



Learn how easy it is to raise your own monarch butterflies from eggs. Join the Newton Conservators at the Elm Street Farmers' Market this Saturday for a special Monarch Workshop at 10 AM followed by a short walk at 11 am to two neighborhood butterfly gardens. Learn how to collect monarch eggs, raise them into caterpillars, watch them turn to chrysalis, emerge as butterflies, and then tag them for their fall migratory journey to Mexico.

This is a great workshop for those of all ages who care about the environment and want to help increase monarch populations. Participants

who sign up early will also receive a milkweed plant for their yard or milkweed seeds with growing instructions. Milkweed plays a critical role in the monarch lifecycle. Supplies of these plants and seeds are limited, so please RSVP by emailing Ted Kuklinski at [president@newtonconservators.org](mailto:president@newtonconservators.org).

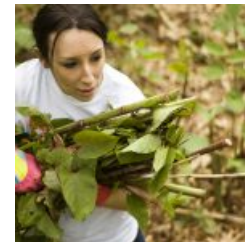
Then, at 11 AM, a short butterfly walk will leave the farmers' market to visit two neighboring monarch and pollinator gardens, with plenty of time to return to the market to shop. The free workshop and walk are sponsored by the Newton Conservators, and both activities take place at their tent at the market. Questions? Contact Ted Kuklinski, [president@newtonconservators.org](mailto:president@newtonconservators.org), or text (617) 763-3470.

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon****Invasives pull at Hemlock Gorge.**

Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-hemlock-gorge-invasives-pull/>

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallowwort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and the adjoining walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Some tools and gloves are available but bring your own digging tool and loppers if you can. Meet at the Ellis St parking lot. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

**Sunday, Sept. 8, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**

## Invasives pull at Crystal Lake

Centre St near 1429 Centre

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/crystal-lake-centre-st-invasives-pull/>



We will work at the city's small pocket park along Center St. just outside of Newton Center, next to the house at 1429 Centre St. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Some tools and gloves are available, but bring your own digging tool and loppers if you can. Leader is Beth Wilkinson, 617-966-7491.

**Sunday, September 8, 9 am - 12:30 pm**

**Tour de Newton 2019**

<https://bikenewton.org/tour-de-newton/>

The Magical Mystery Tour Continues! Bike Newton riders had so much fun last year with the mysteries along the way and the rally at city hall. Tour de Newton 2019 will have routes starting in 4 villages - Newton Centre, West Newton, Newtonville and Waban + City Hall. All routes will rendezvous at Newton City Hall on Commonwealth Ave to celebrate. In addition, there will be a Petite Tour and Contra Tour leaving from City Hall. All routes will begin at 9 AM and travel to several other villages, experience fun surprises, see hidden Newton treasures and then lead to an 11AM rally at Newton City Hall with all the riders. Return with ride leader to your start location to finish by 12:30PM. This year's celebration, we are working on live musical entertainment and some bike equipment demos as well. Note: Landry's Bicycles will be doing a free bike safety check for any rider from 9-11 a.m.! Preregistration is required. Register at <https://www.bikereg.com/tour-de-newton-2019> (\$15 adults, \$7 18 & under)



**Tuesday, September 10, 7 pm**

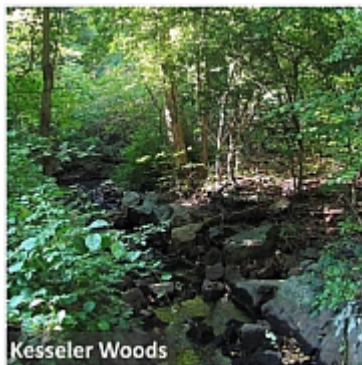
**CPA Public Hearing on Kessler Woods Conservation Restriction Funding**

**Newton City Hall, Room 204**

[www.newtonma.gov/cpa](http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa)

The first item on the CPC agenda at this meeting includes a public hearing on the Newton Conservators' \$15,000 funding request for holding the Conservation Restriction (CR) on Kessler Woods. the south Newton open space acquired in 2003-2004 with CPA funds; these restrictions are required by the Community Preservation Act.

Our monitoring of the CR terms is required every year (in perpetuity) and involves our team inspecting this large property and writing up a report to the Conservation Commission. Attendance, emails, or letters of support are helpful (sent to CPA Program Manager, Alice Ingerson, [aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov).) The agenda also includes an update on the project to convert the historic Allen House in West Newton into a community arts and cultural center, an updated program budget for Fiscal 2020, and program planning for proposed revisions to Newton's CPA ordinance, and



planning for a staff transition in January 2020. The agenda can be found at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/98619>

Great news for Newton and the other 174 CPA communities in Massachusetts: on August 1st, Governor Baker signed into law two measures that will increase the future state match for the CPA funds raised by each local community: a permanent increase in the Registry of Deeds fee that funds the state's CPA Trust Fund, and a provision allowing (but not requiring) an additional, one-time only contribution to the state's CPA Trust Fund from the state's Fy19 budget surplus. This increased state funding reflects

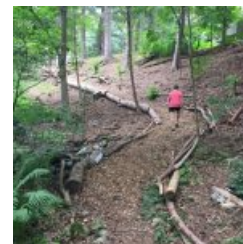
the strong support expressed for the Community Preservation Act and Newton's own CPA program by Newton's residents, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, and elected officials, including Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and State Senator Cynthia Creem, who has sponsored a bill to increase state CPA funding every year for the past decade, including the one that just became law. Special thanks to Senator Creem!

### **Saturday, Sept. 14, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon** **Cleanup and Invasives Pull - Bracebridge Road**

**Path through 15 Bracebridge Rd**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/cleanup-and-invasives-pull-at-15-bracebridge-rd/>

Come see the many native species planted here as habitat restoration of this beautiful site, and help keep up that project and the walking path. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Some tools and gloves are available, but bring your own digging tool and loppers if you can. Leader is Beth Wilkinson, 617-966-7491.



### **Sunday, Sept. 15, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon** **Invasives pull at Nahanton Park Woodcock Meadow**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/nahanton-park-invasives-pull-2/>



Many native habitats, including the grassland Woodcock Meadow, home to threatened American Woodcock, and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. We will get any stragglers of black swallow-wort, cut the knotweed and bittersweet, and pull seedlings from the meadow. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Some tools and gloves are available, but bring your own digging tools and loppers if you can. Meet at the Woodcock Meadow parking lot on Nahanton St. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



**Sunday, Sept. 15 at 2:00 pm**

## **Tour of Riverside Trails with the Newton Conservators and Historic Newton**

**Lasell Boathouse, 107 Charles Street, Auburndale**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/riverside-trails/>

Explore sites of canoeing activity 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 (where we will look inside). For those interested, after returning to the Lasell Boathouse, the walk will continue south to Riverside Station and across I-95 to the Leo J. Martin Golf Course. This second portion of the walk lasts approximately one hour and has more challenging terrain. Meet at the Lasell Boathouse, 107 Charles St., Auburndale. Note: Historic Newton, our co-sponsor, suggests a \$10 donation. You may just show up on the day of the walk or register with them in advance through [newtonma.gov/HNwalks](http://newtonma.gov/HNwalks). For more information contact Historic Newton at 617-796-1450. Walk leader Larry Smith: [Larry@paddleboston.com](mailto:Larry@paddleboston.com)



**Sunday, September 15, 11 am - 2 pm**

## **Newton Upper Falls Village Day - 2019**

**Chestnut Street @ the Upper Falls Greenway, 1225 Chestnut Street**

<https://www.ournewton.org/event/upper-falls-village-day/>

Join the fun at the annual Village Day in Newton Upper Falls! Riverboat Stompers and Magician Eric Benton will provide entertainment. There will be children's activities, food, games, treats, and more!



**Thursday, September 19, 7-9 pm**

## **NewCAL Community Meeting**

**Newton Education Center, 100 Walnut St., Newtonville**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newcal-community-meeting/>

The City of Newton will be holding a community meeting in Room 111 of the Education Center to discuss the proposed Newton Center For Active Living, or NewCAL. Information about the meeting and the project is available on the NewCAL website at <https://newcal.projects.nv5.com/>. Read the Newton Conservators position on the siting of NewCAL at <https://newtonconservators.org/the-conservators-position-on-newcal/>. The Mayor's AUGust 13 update on NewCAL is available at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/98447>.



**Friday, September 20 9 am - 3 pm**

### **Climate Strike Boston**

<https://strikewithus.org/boston>

On September 20th, 2019, millions of people will strike around the world to demand action on the climate crisis. Thousands in Boston at City Hall Plaza will kick off a week of climate actions.



**Sunday, September 22, 11 am - 3 pm**

### **Newton Community Farm Festival**

**Newton Community Farm, 655 Winchester Street, Newton**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-community-farm-fall-festival/>



Come to Newton Community Farm for a day of family fun. Celebrate the fall season with music, food, activities, and games! Look for the Newton Conservators table at the festival. More information:

<https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/news-events/>

**Sunday, September 22, Noon - 5 pm**

### **Newtonville Village Day - 2019**

**Walnut Street between Washington Street and Washington Park**

<https://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/newtonville-village-day.html>



Newtonville Village Day will have live music and performances, a train ride and bounce house for the kids, food, caricature artists, and a variety of vendor booths! This is a FREE day of music, art and fun, sponsored by the Newtonville Area Council.

**Saturday, September 28, 8 am - 10:30 am**

### **Brookline Bird Club Walk in Nahanton Park**

**Nahanton Park - Winchester Street Lot**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/brookline-bird-club-bird-walk-in-nahanton-park/>

We will search for sparrows and other fall migrants at Nahanton Park and another location to be determined nearer the date of the trip. The leader is Newton Conservators member and well

known birder Haynes Miller. More information can be found at  
<https://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/tripevent/nahanton-park-newton-and-other-nearby-locations/>



**Saturday, Sept. 28 at 1:00 pm**  
**Canoe and Kayak Trip at Nahanton**

**Nahanton Park**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/canoe-and-kayak-trip-from-nahanton-park/>



This canoe/kayak trip will start in Nahanton Park. We'll paddle upstream on the Charles against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham, and Wellesley. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one at the canoe/kayak rental stand in Nahanton Park. The area up-stream is a region of significant beauty and almost pristine conditions. Fall is a good time to view the many turtles and other wildlife along this stretch of water. We should see numerous fish, including pickerel, bass, and carp. We also will see many birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this habitat. We'll pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch, then stop for lunch on Cow Island. On the return trip, the current will help carry us back. It's an interesting trip for adults and children and usually is completed within three hours. Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie

Hagar (617-964-2644)

**Saturday, October 12, 8 am - 12 pm**  
**Brookline Bird Club Walk in Nahanton Park**

**Nahanton Park - Winchester Street Lot**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/brookline-bird-club-bird-walk-in-nahanton-park/>

We will search for sparrows and other fall migrants at Nahanton Park and another location to be determined nearer the date of the trip. The leader is Linda Ferraresso. More information can be found at  
<https://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/tripevent/nahanton-park-newton-and-other-nearby-locations-2/>



**Wednesday, October 16, 5 pm - 7 pm**  
**Concert and Picnic at Newton Community Farm**  
**Newton Community Farm, 655 Winchester Street, Newton**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/concert-and-picnic-at-newton-community-farm/>

Enjoy live music from local band, the Circuit Breakers, and good company to celebrate the bounty



of the harvest at the end of the season concert picnic night at Newton Community Farm. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket, enjoy the music, connect with old friends and make new ones as we gather to celebrate the bounty of the harvest! More information:

<https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/education/adult-programs/#concert-picnics>

**Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 am**

**Fall Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park**

**Cold Spring Park, Beacon Street Parking Lot Circle**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/cold-spring-park-bird-walk/>

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. Take an easy walk on fairly fat woodland trails to look for fall migrants like warblers and vireos as well as early winter birds such as White-throated Sparrows and our resident birds such as Northern Cardinals. Park at the Beacon St. parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call. This walk is cosponsored by the Brookline Bird Club, Trip Leader is Newton Conservators board member and frequent newsletter contributor Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477).



**Saturday, October 19, 1 pm**

**Fall Tree Tour at Newton Cemetery**

**Newton Cemetery and Arboretum**

<https://www.newcemcorp.org/news-events>



Enjoy a tour with Newton Cemetery arborist Julie Clements as she guides a tour showcasing the interesting variety of Fall colors. The tour will take place rain or shine. Comfortable walking shoes, water, a camera and plenty of questions are recommended. The tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available on the Cemetery roads or in the chapel parking lot. For more information, call

617-332-0047 or email [fonc@newcemcorp.org](mailto:fonc@newcemcorp.org). Newton Cemetery is an accredited Arboretum with the Morton Register of Arboreta. The tour is free and open to all. Suggested Donation: \$10 Donations to the Friends of Newton Cemetery are welcome and support arboretum education and care.

**Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Newton Aqueducts Hike**



### Starbucks Coffee Shop, 474 Woodward Street, Waban

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-aqueducts-hike-2/>

Join a five-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, Oct. 26, 9:00 am - noon

#### Bedrock Geology of Newton and Environs

Hammond Pond Reservation, 323 Hammond Pond Parkway

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/bedrock-geology-of-newton-and-adjacent-areas/>



The bedrock geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the south pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story. This trip will not be one of the usual Conservator “walks” since we will need to carpool to different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. If there is time and interest, we may choose to go a bit beyond Newton to view rocks within a volcanic caldera from

that time. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation area-east, at the west end of Hammond Pond off of Hammond Pond Parkway near Rt. 9, behind “The Street” complex — near the movie theatre (see Newton Conservators’ Walking Trail Guide, pg. 35). We will first visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will be about 3 hours. If there is moderate rain or worse, the trip will be cancelled. You can call the leader the evening before if in doubt. Most stops are close to a road, but at one stop we will walk a few hundred yards into the woods, and there is a bit of scrambling to reach the exposure. Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)



### Sunday, October 27, 3:30 pm

#### Halloween Tour of East Parish Burying Ground

Corner of Cotton and Centre Streets

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

Who says cemeteries have to be spooky? Newton’s oldest cemetery, the East Parish Burying Ground, dates back to 1660 and serves as the resting place of Newton’s founding families. Learn about

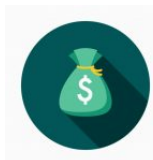


Newton's history and explore this community resource as an educator from Historic Newton guides you in this special tour of the art of remembrance, and life and death in Newton. Hear the stories of those memorialized and consider the lives and deaths of those whose final resting places are unmarked. Location: Meet at the corner of Cotton and Centre Streets; park on Cotton Street. Sponsored by Historic Newton

**Thursday, October 31**

**Deadline to Apply for a Newton Conservators Grant**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/deadline-to-apply-for-a-newton-conservators-grant/>



The Newton Conservators provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering its mission. October 31st is the deadline to apply for a grant this fall. Learn more:

<https://newtonconservators.org/grants-program/>



## Fall Newsletter - 2019

Our Newton Conservators Summer Newsletter is now available online at <https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Newsletter-2019-Fall.pdf> and all other issues are on our Newsletter page at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>.



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**

FALL ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

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

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NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2019

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Beth Wilkinson.

## Beavers Part II: The Penultimate Eco-Engineer

**Editor's Note:** In this second installment on the beaver, the Newton Conservators delves into the beaver as keystone species and engineer extraordinaire, exploring its dam-building, ecological significance, and its conflicts with that other engineer — humans.

*Past President*

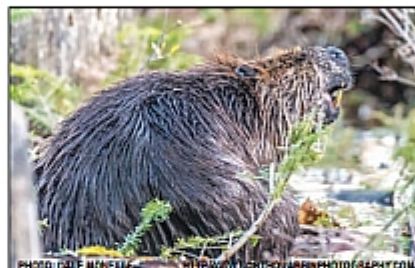
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**Y**ou can see it from space. It's a 2,790-foot-long dam built by beavers in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Beavers build their dams from stones, mud, and branches. Some of the branches, like willow, sprout and start growing on the dam reinforcing the strength of the dam. Historical diaries record dams so wide and strong you could drive wagons across them. Most dams are usually less than 100 feet long, with exceptional ones reaching 500-600 feet.

According to the Mass Audubon Society (MAS), Massachusetts had been beaver-free since 1750 (trappers extirpated beaver). Then forests reclaimed agricultural land in the early 1900s, renewing the supply of food and dam-building material for beavers. Finally



*Beavers are huge rodents that use their formidable teeth to harvest material for their dams*



*Google Earth image of the longest beaver dam in the world in Northern Alberta, Canada, courtesy of EcoInformatics International, Inc.*

in 1928, a beaver showed up in West Stockbridge. MAS wanted to help restore the beaver population so "three additional beavers were brought from New York and released at Mass Audubon's Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox."

Since then, the beavers have spread across Massachusetts and can be found everywhere except Cape Cod. One hotbed of beaver activity is Prescott Peninsula in the Quabbin Reservoir. The Massachusetts DCR has completed over 65 surveys of beaver activity in this area illustrating how

beaver populations change without extensive trapping. When DCR started the surveys in 1952, there were two beaver colonies in the Prescott Peninsula survey area. This grew to

*Continued on page 2*

Check out the interesting articles in this issue:

- [Beavers Part II: The Penultimate Eco-Engineer](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [iNaturalist: Sharing Nature](#)
- [A Fable: A Story of Nature in Your Own Backyard](#)
- [Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA](#)
- [Fall 2019 Walks](#)
- [Fall 2019 Invasive Plant Sessions](#)

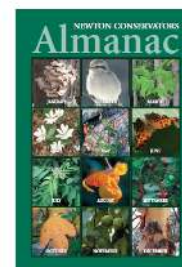


## Membership & Publications!



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 <b>*NEW!</b> | <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](https://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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