



NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS

WINTER ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2019-2020

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## A Letter from Edwin S. Webster

*Based on historical documents, Newton Conservators' director Dan Brody has created a narrative that Edwin S. Webster, the original owner of Webster Woods, might have composed at this moment when the future of much of the woods is about to be decided. A version of the letter, with references, larger maps, and additional photos and maps, can be found online at [newtonconservators.org/webster-letter](http://newtonconservators.org/webster-letter).*

### To the members of the Newton City Council:



My name is Edwin S. Webster. I have a unique perspective for you to consider as you evaluate Mayor Fuller's proposal to take by eminent domain 17 acres of the woods that are named after my family.

I was born in 1867. My friend Charles Stone and I founded Stone & Webster in 1889. What began as a small engineering consulting firm quickly grew to a large enterprise that built streetcar systems, power plants, and office buildings throughout the world.

By 1895, our success made it possible for my wife, Jane, and me to build a 20-room country house on Hammond Street in Newton. I have resided in (or, you may say, haunted) the house ever since.

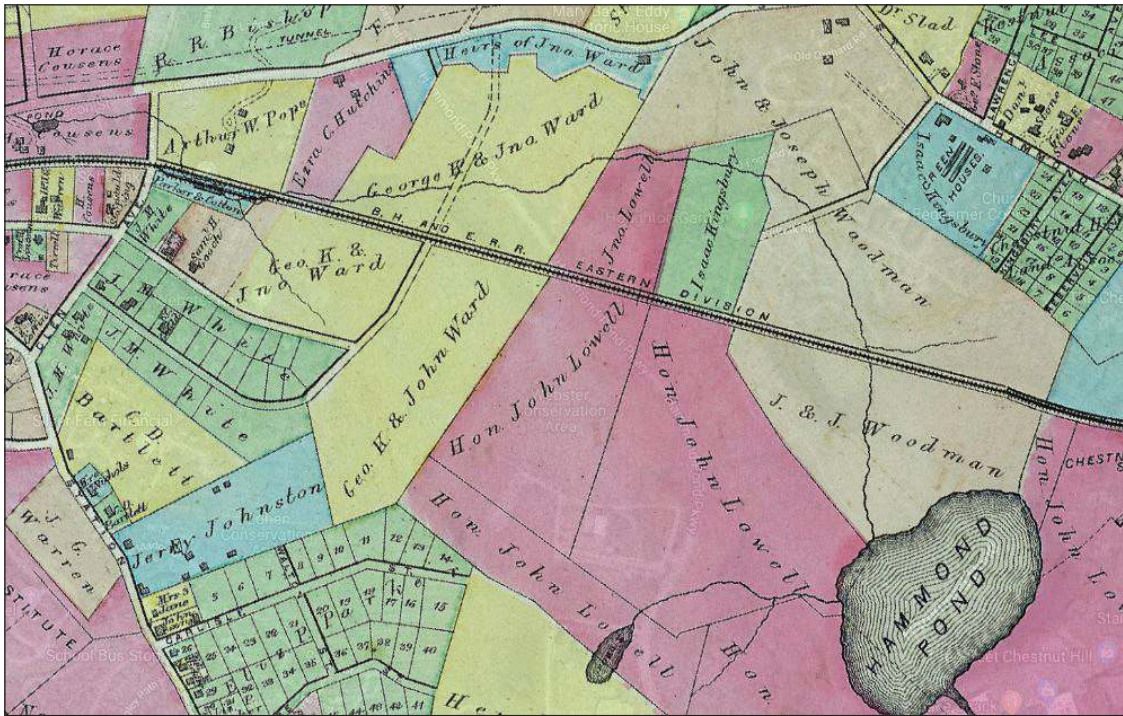
Hammond Street, and the nearby pond, were named for Thomas Hammond, who farmed much of the nearby land in the 17th century. By the time we moved to this part of Newton, farmland had mostly been replaced by forest, and the land was fragmented among a half dozen owners. Much of the land was owned by my friend, U. S. Circuit Court Judge John Lowell. John and his children built several stately houses on their land on the east side of the pond.

Jane and I were attracted to the area by this description in the 1889 *King's Handbook of Newton*:

*"So broad and sequestered and unfrequented is this lovely forest that no sounds of prosaic human life invade its cloisters, and nothing disturbs the saunterer's reflections but the low songs of the birds, or the scampering of an occasional gray squirrel over the dry leaves."*



*Continued on page 2*



*The 1874 Hopkins Atlas showed fragmented ownership of the woods before Jane and I began buying land.*

Another attraction was the frequent train service to Boston provided by the Boston & Albany railroad from the new Chestnut Hill station, built by noted architect H. H. Richardson in 1886. Our home was just a 10-minute walk from the station. Considering the poor condition of the roads to Boston, taking the train was faster and more comfortable than using our carriage when we wanted to visit our Back Bay home or my office.

In 1906, our neighbor Martha Houghton bought 10 acres of land

next to her house and began creating the lovely garden that still graces the site and bears her name. Martha helped found the American Rock Garden Society in 1934. I chat with her from time to time, and I want to report how pleased she is in the work the Chestnut Hill Garden Club and many neighbors have done to restore and preserve this beautiful spot.

Jane and I admired Mrs. Houghton's garden, but we feared that the rest of the pristine woods in the neighborhood would soon be destroyed by residential and commercial development. We began acquiring property in the woods that stretched between Chestnut Hill and Newton Center. By 1916, we had bought much of the land between Beacon Street and Boylston Street.

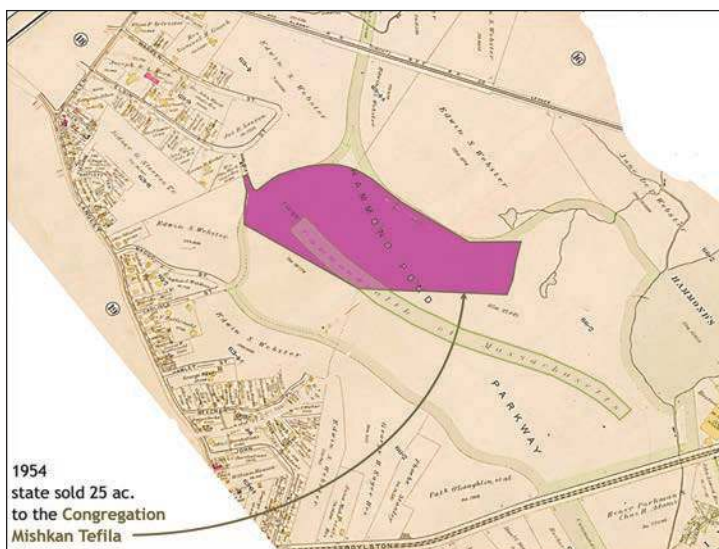
Unfortunately, the Boston and Albany train line formed a barrier between our house and most of our newly acquired land. So we were pleased to reach an agreement with the railroad in 1917 to give us permanent rights to a grade crossing at the end of Lowell Lane. A hundred years later, this crossing of what is now the MBTA Green Line still gives walkers easy access between Houghton Garden and Hammond Pond.

Jane shared my passion for conserving land and making it accessible to the public. Near our house, she created the "Deer Park," which for decades allowed these graceful creatures to delight visitors to the woods. She also led land conservation efforts near our summer home in Falmouth.

In 1893, the Legislature had established the Metropolitan Park Commission to acquire and protect parks and conservation areas in the region. One of the Commission's first acts was to purchase the 6000-acre Blue Hills Reservation, to preserve it forever as conservation land. Its first purchase in Newton, in 1895, is now the Hemlock Gorge Reservation. By 1897, the state had preserved the Middlesex Fells, Beaver Brook, Lynn Woods, and Stony Brook Reservations. An 1897 report submitted to the Commission by noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted reported that:

"The purpose of investing public money in the purchase of the several metropolitan reservations was to secure for the enjoyment of present and future generations such interesting and beautiful scenery as the lands acquired can supply. ... It is, moreover, quite unlikely that there will ever be any need of artificially modifying them in any considerable degree. Such paths or roads as will be needed to make the scenery accessible will be mere slender threads of graded surface winding over and among the huge natural forms on the ground."





In 1915, I was about to turn 50, and Jane and I were thinking about how to assure that our woods would be preserved in their natural state for all time. The creation of the Park Commission convinced me that the Commonwealth shared my view of the importance of protecting conservation land. Therefore, in 1915 I donated land in the heart of the woods to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for use as a conservation area. I was confident that the Commonwealth would preserve this land forever, as that was the explicit goal of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the stated purpose of my gift. Events soon after my death were to show that I was sadly mistaken.

By 1917, the Commonwealth had acquired additional land from John Lowell's estate, so that much of the woods was under the protection of the state.

In 1936, I donated another seven acres, at the edge of the woods next to Warren Street, to the City of Newton for use as a play field, because I understood that some more active uses of land were needed.

I died in 1950, and my earthly remains were interred in Mount Auburn Cemetery, another lovely spot. But I turned over in my grave when I learned, just four years later, that the Metropolitan District Commission (the successor to the Park Commission) decided by a 3 to 2 vote to sell 25 acres of the reservation for development by Temple Mishkan Tefila.

The state's argument for selling the land was laughable. The *Boston Globe* reported that "The MDC voted to sell the site after it had been determined that the cost of developing the area for recreational purposes would be prohibitive because of ledges." The land I donated to the state **already** was perfectly suited to "recreational purposes" such as walking and nature study, without the need for any development.

The state didn't even get market value for the land, which it sold to the temple for just \$10,000. This amount was the price of one typical house in Newton at the time.

I was glad to hear that the City of Newton immediately challenged the sale in court after the Board of Aldermen voted 15 to 3 to try to block it. Unfortunately, the City lost its lawsuit, and the temple developed a portion of the land.

I wondered why 25 acres of land was sold, even though the temple building and parking lots took up less than a third of its new property. I found the answer in a 1958 history of the temple: "As for telephone and electric service, the most economical way was to go westerly over our land to Elgin Street and in order to enable the Edison Co. to string its wires we had to cut a road through virgin forest for a distance of 1600 feet."



Although I have long feared for the fate of the 17 acres that the temple did not develop, I am gratified that the public has had use of the land ever since my donation in 1915, despite the 1954 sale. Newton residents still freely walk on paths throughout this area, regarding it as one continuous forest area.

The sale to the temple was not the only actual or threatened abuse of land in the state reservation. The state evidently concluded that this land was too valuable to preserve. In the 1950s, five acres adjacent to Hammond Pond were transferred to a shopping center developer for use as a parking lot.

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*Almost half of the conservation land owned by the state in 1917 has been turned over for private development.*

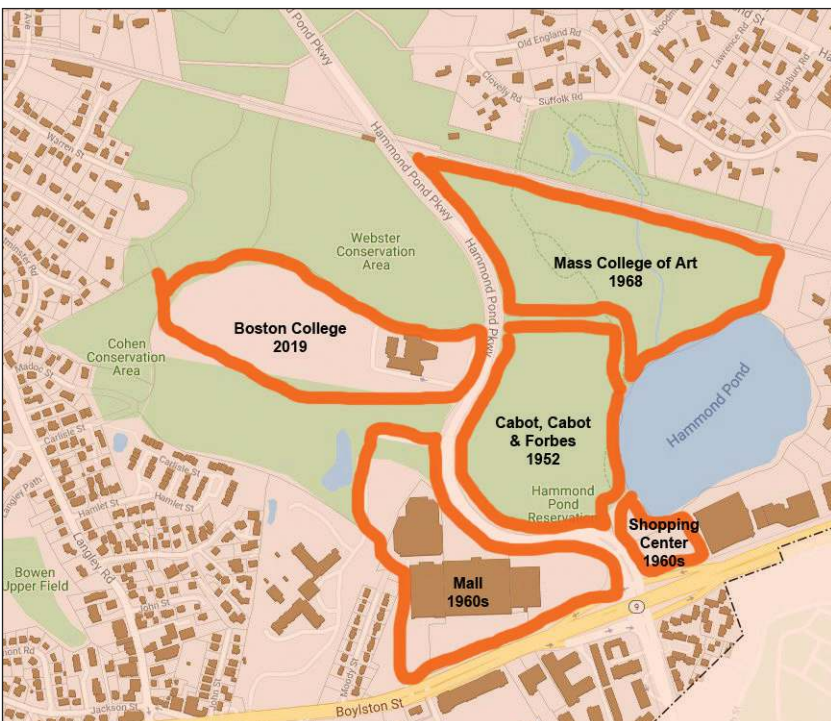
In 1952, the state sold another 26 acres, just west of the pond, to Gerald W. Blakely, the chairman of the real estate development firm Cabot, Cabot & Forbes. However, for reasons I haven't been able to determine, the Legislature reconsidered and in 1956 ordered the land to be repurchased.

On the west side of what is now Hammond Pond Parkway, another 21 acres was sold for the development of a shopping mall. In all, almost half of the 100 acres that I donated to the public in 1915 or that the state bought in 1917 have been turned over for private development.

This is not what Olmsted had in mind when he wrote in 1897 that state conservation land would be disturbed only by "mere slender threads of graded surface winding over and among the huge natural forms on the ground."

The strangest episode began in 1968, when another section of the woods came under threat. On November 14th, the Board of Trustees of State Colleges filed an eminent domain taking of 31 acres of our land between Hammond Pond and the railroad tracks. Its plan, which had been authorized by a legislative appropriation, was to build a new campus for the Massachusetts College of Art. My service as a trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts is testimony to my love of art. But I think this would have been a terrible location for a college of art.

The Newton Board of Aldermen agreed with me, and on December 2nd filed its own taking of the land, for "park, recreation, and conservation purposes." The City of Newton, together with Jane and the other trustees of the Chestnut Hill Farm Association, which Jane and I had set up to control this land after my death, went to court to challenge the state's taking of the land. The Supreme Judicial Court agreed (on a technicality) that the state's taking was invalid, leaving Newton's taking in effect. The land was later added to the Webster Conservation



*Most of the woods has been developed or threatened with development.*

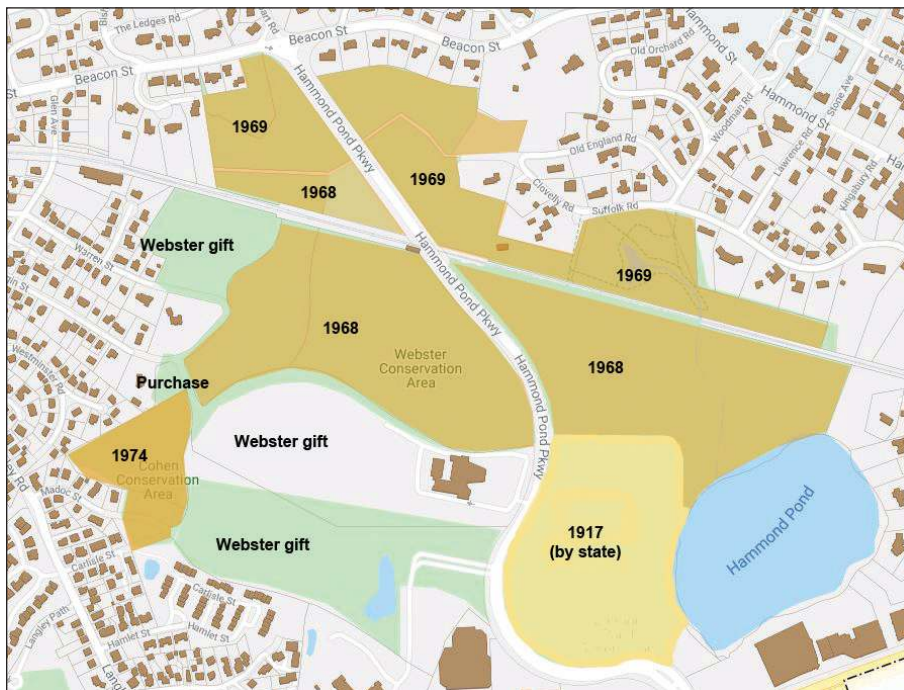
Area. (Several years later, the College of Art received a new home just a block from the Museum of Fine Arts, a far better location.)

If all of Webster Woods that was taken for or threatened with development had been developed, the woods would have been decimated. Fortunately, the City of Newton and other open space advocates saved most of the woods on the east side of the parkway. But the west side remains under threat from Boston College's recent purchase. In a 2019 court filing, Boston College's president wrote that "The University has plans in progress and anticipates future development of the entire HPP [Hammond Pond Parkway] Property."



However, there's also been some good news during the past 50 years. One positive result of the outrageous misuse of my land donation and other similar cases around the state was the passage by Massachusetts voters in 1972 of Article 97 of the constitution, which requires approval by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature before any publicly owned park or conservation land may be developed.

And I am pleased that the City of Newton has taken vigorous action to protect additional portions of the woods. In 1968, the City used a “friendly” eminent domain taking to purchase 38 additional acres of Webster Woods from my estate. Jane and I were honored that the city named this conservation area in our memory.



*Land in Webster Woods was protected by takings in the years shown.*

After Martha Houghton's death in 1956, her garden fell into disuse, and a portion of it was subdivided for development. But in 1968 and 1979, the City of Newton used eminent domain to acquire the remaining 10 acres that are now held as the Houghton Garden Conservation Area.

After Jane's death in 1969, the Cohen family acquired one of the most pristine sections at the western edge of the woods, with the intention of subdividing it for housing development. I was pleased that in 1972, the City again used eminent domain to buy most of this beautiful valley, known as Webster Vale, from the Cohens. The City has named this land the Charles Cohen Conservation Area, and it forms an integral part of Webster Woods, along with several other parcels acquired by the city over the years.

I'm baffled to hear some people today say they support saving Webster Woods

but oppose the use of eminent domain for this purpose. If the city and state had been unwilling to use eminent domain, virtually none of the Webster Conservation Area and Hammond Pond Reservation would have been protected. In this map, the areas shaded in gold or yellow were preserved through eminent domain takings. Some of these takings were friendly and others less so, but all were necessary to save the woods.

The 2016 sale of the 25 acres to Boston College put an essential part of my 1915 gift to the public in immediate danger. I have resigned myself to the fact that the 8 acres nearest to Hammond Pond Parkway have been developed and are unlikely ever to be restored to forest. But it is a travesty that the 17 acres of forest remain under the threat of destruction.

**I donated conservation land to the people of Massachusetts in 1915 so that it could be preserved forever. In 1954, 25 of these acres in the middle of the woods were taken from the people, contrary to the terms of the gift and to the stated purpose of the government agency to which I entrusted this land. The City of Newton now has the power and the responsibility to return to the people 17 acres of the woods that are named in my memory. I urge the City Council to authorize this action.**

✍ Edwin S. Webster

**The Newton Conservators would like to thank the Newton City Council for unanimously voting on December 2, 2019, to save in perpetuity 17.4 acres of Webster Woods.**

## 🍁 President's Message 🍁



*A Conservators' walk in Webster Woods*

This is a very special issue of our newsletter, and it comes at a critical time for the future of open space in the City of Newton with its focus on the beloved area known as Webster Woods. You have seen the signs “Save Webster Woods” around the city for years now. And this month may truly be the culmination of much effort and dedication to make sure this crucial open space parcel will remain so for future generations.

As early proponents of the CPA (Community Preservation Act), Newton Conservators strongly supports the proposed acquisition of the current 17.4 acre open space portion of Webster Woods as proposed by Ruthanne Fuller, recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and recently unanimously approved by the City Council. For years we have been urging protection of this critical portion of Webster Woods, which connects existing city and state conservation land, thus insuring its continued open-space use as originally intended by donor Edwin Webster. In this case, the whole is indeed more than the sum of its parts from an environmental perspective. Webster Woods is somewhat unique in Newton for its true “forest” quality that is mostly undisturbed by invasive understory – a place for easy meandering in quiet solitude.

The Webster Woods area has a long history, and we are very fortunate to be able to bring that to you in this issue due to the very fortuitous circumstance of a “ghost written” letter from one Edwin Webster, somehow mysteriously discovered by Newton Conservators’ board member Dan Brody. Dan also led the last of our recent special Webster Woods’ walks exploring the trail system that connects the land Boston College purchased three years ago with conservation land owned by the City and by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. In the walk, visitors experienced scenic features such as Bare Pond, Gooch’s Cave, and Cake Rock.

Our other feature article this month recounts some of what we learned on an earlier fall walk in Webster Woods with the always informative and interesting Brandeis ecologist Eric Olson. You may remember that Eric was the recipient of our Environmentalist of the Year award this past year. He has a special talent for opening up nature-related topics to the average person as anyone who meets him can attest. We are so fortunate to have Eric as a contributor to this issue.

Finally, we continue to keep our eye on the NewCAL process and are moving ahead with exciting developments with the Riverside Trails Working Group, as the planning for this ambitious trail system starts to fall into place. We are very grateful for your continued support and hope you will renew your membership, which helps sustain our free walks, lectures, open space monitoring, invasives removal, advocacy, and more. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season, which hopefully includes getting out and enjoying the wonderful open spaces of Newton!

*Ted Kuklinski*

Ted Kuklinski  
President, Newton Conservators

# A Ramble in Webster Woods

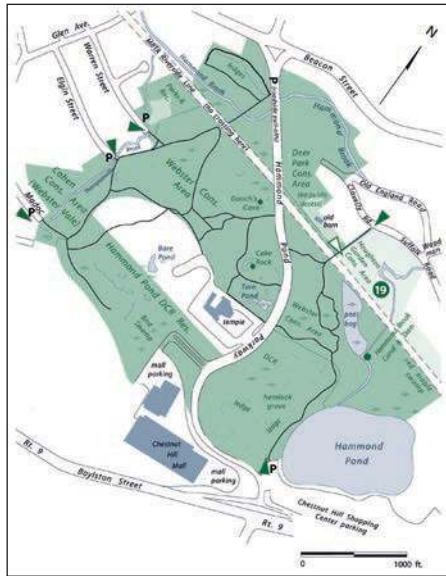
By Eric Olson, Senior Lecturer in Ecology at Brandeis University

**Editor's Note:** The following article is written as a companion piece to the letter from Edwin Webster elsewhere in this newsletter. Its intent is to show one of the many ways we can appreciate the park. As the author notes, "Naturalist-educators simply cannot do what we do without wild green canvases to walk out into, with a group of curious locals in tow, looking for opportunities to celebrate rich local biodiversity."

On a recent fall Conservators' outing in Webster Woods, I chose to weave into the walk three questions that, to an evolutionary ecologist, come under the heading of life history theory. The life history of a species of course includes birth, growth, and reproduction. But it also considers the "why" of key details such as "why that number of eggs in a nest, and not more?" We are such visual creatures that we tend to focus on form, size, and color when we consider the evolution of life; but life history theory reminds us that organisms live within energy and resource budgets. Details like egg number for a bird, or seed number for a wildflower, take close study to document, but like color and form are also sculpted by natural selection. To illustrate, here are three questions I discussed as I led my group through Webster Woods this fall: 1) why do birds migrate? 2) why do most — but not all — salamanders lay eggs in ponds? And 3) why does the magnificent cecropia moth only live a week?

## The "why" of bird migration.

Those of us lucky enough to have lived in the tropics for a time have direct experience with the bewilderment of riches such places present. Our local species of hummingbird, the delightful Ruby-throat, takes a thousands-of-miles journey north from as far as Panama, to build its tiny nests and zip through our flower beds here in Newton. But in Panama and surrounding nations in South and Central America, the field guides show not just a few more kinds of hummingbirds, there are *pages and pages* of hummingbirds! Fifty-four species in Costa Rica! An unbelievable 150 species in Colombia! Almost none of these hummers are long-distance migrants.



Map of Webster Woods

Much the same pattern holds true of the orioles — our brilliant Baltimore Oriole has eight or so relatives in Nicaragua, handsome bright birds that never migrate and are doing just fine, thank you. Migration takes a lot of energy, and long-distance travel over unfamiliar ground is risky; those facts and all those handsome stay-put species demand we seek an answer: why migrate?

This question has intrigued ecologists for years, and the details of bird reproduction provide essential clues. Migration may be risky but so is staying put, and the old saying "don't put all your eggs in one basket" definitely applies here. The tropical forests are rich with predators that relentlessly seek out nests and prey on eggs and chicks. There are hawks and owls both here and there,

but let me mention boas and other arboreal snakes, then add in clever bandits like capuchin monkeys, and need I say more?



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Baltimore Oriole

There are hazards in the jungle that birds just never have to worry about up here, and as expected by this risk argument, on average a female oriole in Massachusetts lays more eggs per nest than her close relatives in the tropics. The life history trait "egg number per nest" reflects relative risk, and a tropical oriole must hold egg-making resources in reserve in case her first (and second, etc.) nest attempt is foiled by predators.

There's another benefit to migration: the northern spring is when moths and butterflies by the thousands hatch and lay eggs, and their caterpillars grow quickly on new tender leaves. Plus, those long June days mean that parents start provisioning nestlings around 5 a.m. and keep right on bringing in food well into the evening. Low risk — wouldn't you migrate, if you were an oriole? It suddenly

*Continued on page 8*





Eric Olson describes some of what he has discovered in Webster Woods.

looks like we should turn it around and ask of all those tropical home-bodies, “why stay?” The persistence of these species tells us it must be about equally effective over the long haul, to stay put and spend energy re-nesting if monkeys snatch your eggs. We

conclude that *migration is a lifestyle choice*. Or as ecologists would say, one of two available life history pathways.

**Salamanders and ponds** — to go or not to go? This story is also about a migration of sorts, and here again egg number proves to be central. Contrast the red-backed, the most common salamander in our local woods, with the spotted salamander. Both inhabit the under-log and leaf-litter world of Webster Woods, but only spotted salamanders migrate early each spring over several hundred yards distance, from their forest floor hideouts to nearby vernal pools. In Webster Woods, many make the trek to Bare Pond, Newton’s biggest vernal pool.



Yellow-spotted salamander

During migration spotted salamanders are out in the open, exposed to predators like skunks and foxes, plus sudden changes in the weather like late-winter snows. These then mate and lay their eggs in ponds that by definition go bone dry each year. Females never know if a pool holding their precious eggs will last long enough for their tadpoles to metamorphose into air-breathing adults. Sometimes they do, often they don’t.

In contrast, red-backed salamanders never migrate; they lay their eggs snug under logs. Isn’t that a better choice? Again, here, why migrate?

Egg number again provides needed insight. In their moist log habitats, non-migratory red-backs can lay only about eight eggs each year, and each egg is surprisingly large for such a small amphibian. True for all amphibians, these eggs



Bare Pond, a vernal pool in Webster Woods, in the spring and summer.

first produce a tadpole — but red-backed tadpoles never hatch! They remain inside their egg membranes, tiny tailed creatures in tiny gelatinous aquaria, and they metamorphose prior to hatching. The eggs must be large and therefore few, because females use a lot of energy to provision each egg with enough yolk for their wee tadpoles to complete development.

The result is that very small adult-form salamanders eventually hatch and immediately start their independent existence. Salamanders so small are easy prey for many predators, but since they start life tucked under logs and in other shelters, they never need to emerge for the long risky trek to open water.

In contrast spotted salamanders do make the annual trek, and the great bonus is that females lay as many as 100 small eggs each year, in a single gelatinous mass. Tiny tadpoles hatch from these eggs and swim out into warming vernal pools teeming with life including fairy shrimp, mosquito and midge larvae, and many other small aquatic bugs. The



Eric Olson looks for salamanders under one of Webster Woods’ many fallen logs.

tadpoles grow fast and fat dining on such an abundance of food, and if the pond holds water for long enough, dozens





PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

*Red-backed salamander*

treks. Just a few young are born each year, and they're tiny, but they're already snug in good habitat! Back and forth we go, every life history path has pros and cons. In those species that do seek a vernal pool each year, females can lay



PHOTO: BETH WILKINSON

*Spotted salamander eggs*

And finally, what about those flash-in-the-pan cecropia moths? What a life history: eight days in the egg, 45 or so days feeding as a caterpillar. Then August to May (ten months!) in a tough cocoon, silked tight to a branch, adults emerge in June as spectacular big moths with 400 eggs in the abdomen of every female. A female "calls" for a mate with her powerful pheromones, and once mated she has about 8 nights to find a hundred or so host trees on which

of robust new salamanders can eventually emerge and wander off through the forest. But "hold water long enough" turns out to be a big if.

Here we see sharp trade-offs: for eggs laid under logs the free-swimming tadpole stage must be dispensed with, and as a result, females must stock each egg with plentiful yolk. But the gain is, there's no need for adults to take annual risky cross-country treks. Just a few young are born each year, and they're tiny, but they're already snug in good habitat! Back and forth we go, every life history path has pros and cons. In those species that do seek a vernal pool each year, females can lay smaller eggs and therefore a lot more of them. Their tadpoles hatch into a world of abundant food, so they need little maternal provisioning. These start life as free tadpoles and — with luck — make it to good-sized adult ready for life in the forest.



Graphic courtesy of Julian Phillips

in the Northeast, so it's not easy to hide such a large insect for long. They must be quite conspicuous to both birds and bats, and life is likely short. The solution arrived at is a poignant one: take just about every ounce of host plant energy consumed by the caterpillar the summer before and convert it into hundreds of tough-shelled little eggs the next summer. Female cecropias are fast-flying egg delivery vessels. "Only eight days?!" people exclaim, upon hearing this life history. "What's the point??" some ask.

The point is to make more moths, and this life history obviously works because I can find wild cecropia moths every year, *right here in Newton*. And that, dear reader, is actually "the point" of all these stories — more birds, more salamanders, and more handsome moths. It is not so simplistic for us humans, thankfully! We are long-lived and reflective enough. We plan our own life stories to a good degree, and uniquely among all the world's living things, we can seek a better answer to that "what's the point?" question.

For me, and I hope for you too, part of my "point" is to share these kinds of stories, life histories we biologists call them, with others, in the hope that we will protect our local wild places in perpetuity. For as that famous saying goes, "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.) A walk through Webster Woods will bring these thoughts to life. ♦

to lay her eggs. Then she dies. No mouth parts, no stomach, no feeding, just egg laying.

This life history is relatively easily told: at about the size of your hand, cecropia are among the largest insects



PHOTO: DAN BRODY



## Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA

Individuals 70 1/2 and older can make a tax-free gift to the Newton Conservators directly from their IRA. Please consider a gift to the Conservators from your 2019 IRA distributions. The benefits to you include the reduction in income subject to tax, even if you don't itemize, and the amount donated counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The benefits to the Conservators are immense and allow for us to continue to help preserve open space in Newton.

**Ask your IRA holder for a simple transfer letter or form. The Newton Conservators is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.**

Thank you.

Newton Conservators  
P.O. Box 590011  
Newton, MA 02459

## Do You Use Amazon for Purchases for your Home or Business?



As explained in past newsletters, Amazon Smile is a program through which Amazon donates 0.5% of most purchases (yes, \$5 of every \$1000) to a nonprofit (501c3) organization of your choice (the Newton Conservators, we hope!).

How does one use Amazon Smile? Instead of going to Amazon.com, you go to Smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will be asked to choose a nonprofit organization to receive the bonus donation. Enter "Newton Conservators," and you are ready to go. The rest of your shopping proceeds exactly the same as if you had logged in to Amazon.com initially.

**Even with relatively few members using the program so far, the rewards have grown. For the first quarter we participated in 2014, we received \$22.32. In 2018, we received \$171.04, and it has now grown to \$100 per quarter.**

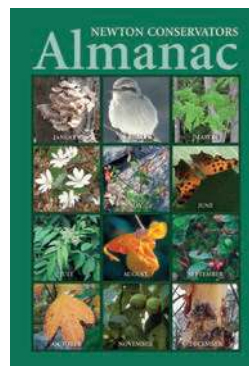
If you have any further questions about the program, check the FAQ page: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.



# Winter's Coming! Take a Hike!

Shop online at [newtonconservators.org/publications/](http://newtonconservators.org/publications/) to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. *Almanac* is \$19.95 + shipping, and the *Trail Guide* is \$8.95 + shipping.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.



## 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 | <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/](http://newtonconservators.org/membership/) to renew/join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at [president@NewtonConservators.org](mailto:president@NewtonConservators.org).

### MISSION

#### Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 was formed as a not-for-profit organization 59 years ago in June 1961.*

### The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is

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We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to [articles@newtonconservators.org](mailto:articles@newtonconservators.org). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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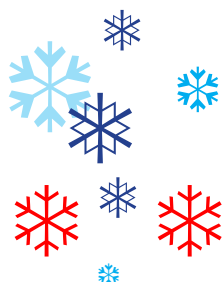
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*Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961*

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## IN THE WINTER ISSUE:

A Letter from Edwin S. Webster . . . . .	1
President's Message. . . . .	6
A Ramble in Webster Woods. . . . .	7



**White-throated Sparrow**  
*photo by Haynes Miller*

**Go Green!** ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at [newtonconservators.org/newsletters](http://newtonconservators.org/newsletters). To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, update your membership profile at [newtonconservators.org/membership](http://newtonconservators.org/membership)