



**Newton Conservators**  
**E-Bulletin**  
 Thursday, September 3, 2020  
 ... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



## Enjoy Nature... with Newton Conservators

**Newton Conservators is pleased to present  
 its first ever online Webinar Series!**

*In past years, we welcomed you to fall walks in Newton's open spaces. With continuing concerns for social distancing in the time of Covid-19, we are replacing the fall walks this year with a new series of online talks given by some of our expert walk leaders. We hope to resume outdoor walks and events next Spring!*

*Each program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. Please register in advance for each webinar since registrations will close at 3 PM on the day of the event. You may register for the programs using the links in each webinar below or by going to the event listing at [Newton Conservators.org](https://www.newtonconservators.org). You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered. If after registering you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation (as indicated on your confirmation) so that someone else may use the slot. **Registration is limited to 100 slots. Sign up soon!***

### **Wednesday, September 16, 7 pm** **Meet the Monarchs**

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3hdJHfu>



PHOTO: ETH WILKINSON  
*Monarch Butterfly on Swamp Milkweed*

Monarch butterflies are colorful and delightful garden visitors that depend on milkweed as a host for their eggs and food for their caterpillars. It can be easy and fun to raise them. Learn about planting milkweed, finding monarch eggs, and the care and feeding of the beautiful striped caterpillars. Watch them turn to chrysalises, emerge as butterflies, and then get tagged for their fall migratory journey to Mexico. This workshop is for those of all ages who care about the environment and want to

help increase monarch and other pollinator populations.

Our presenter is Ted Kuklinski, President of Newton Conservators, who has been raising monarchs for several seasons and whose front yard is a Monarch Way Station. See his newsletter article on the subject [here](#). He has been a board member of Newton Conservators since the late 1990's and has served as e-Bulletin editor, lecture coordinator, video producer, walk leader, and vice president, and he is particularly active at the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton.

### **Thursday, September 17, 7 pm** **Why care about invasive plants?**

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/2FlmQuN>

Newton is blessed with dozens of forested parks, and that means anyone can learn about New England's rich variety of plants, insects, and birds, right here in town. The connection of plant-insect-bird is a crucial one, holding the ecology of our parks together, since most birds feed on insects at some point in their lives.

This is a central reason to care about invasive non-native plants: few insects can feed on non-natives, and that means allowing non-native invasives to proliferate does make our parks less vibrant. This presentation by ecologist Eric Olson will introduce the "Least Wanted" six or so species of local problem plants, illustrate

the food web connections that research has revealed, and describe the ways citizen stewards can help push back against these plant invaders.

Our presenter is Eric Olson, who recently retired from Brandeis University, where he taught Field Biology and other courses for many years. Dr. Olson has a lifelong interest in insect-plant interactions, with particular interest in moth and butterfly caterpillars and their host plants. He has led dozens of invasive plant control sessions in both Newton and Waltham.



*Japanese Knotweed*

### Thursday, September 24, 7 pm That Lovely Summer Pond - Wait! Is that a Beaver?

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/2YftQAU>



*Beaver Lodge*

Pond life includes a wide variety of aquatic animals and plants, including some turtles, frogs, and snakes as well as wading and diving birds. Ponds may also house muskrats and beavers. Find out more about what's below the pond surface, what's at the surface, who built it, to what they are doing there.

Our presenter is Barbara Bates. For the past 16 years, Barbara has been a teacher naturalist for Mass Audubon's Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont, MA. Before the pandemic, she led guided nature walks for all ages on a variety of subjects and presented programs at several Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Senior Centers. She currently serves on the Board of the Newton Conservators. Barbara has retired several times - first from a long career in the high-tech world and more recently from teaching negotiation and conflict resolution as an adjunct faculty at Northeastern University. She loves all things nature.

### Thursday, October 1, 7 pm Fall Plumage: Virtual Bird Walk in Cold Spring Park

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3hdMfKA>

Join expert birder Pete Gilmore for a virtual walk through Cold Spring Park to enjoy the birds there. Pete will point out how to best recognize each species, where it nests and where it is going.

Our presenter is Pete Gilmore, who is a retired mathematician from Northeastern University. Pete has been a birder since 1951 and has been active in Newton's Christmas Bird Count for 15 years. He writes a quarterly article on Newton's birds for the newsletter and leads spring and fall bird and nature walks. Pete serves on the boards of the Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club and is its field trip coordinator.



*What fall warbler is this?*

### Thursday, October 8, 7 pm Ferns, More Important Than You Might Think, And How to Know the Common Ones

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3hdOuPz>

Many people think ferns are pretty. They lend texture to our landscapes. But that's not all. Don Lubin will discuss the contributions they have made to our world and show what to look for to distinguish about 20 common species.

Our presenter is Don Lubin, who has been growing ferns since 1980 and doing field identification since 1991. He has led workshops and field trips since 1998 for the Native Plant Trust and others. Don assisted Cheryl Lowe and Elizabeth Farnsworth in their revision of Boughton Cobb's *Field Guide To The Ferns* and is a co-author of the Newton Conservators Almanac and other publications.



*Osmunda regalis* fern

### Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/2QesWER>

Learn about



*Tree of Heaven*

the invasive traits of exotic woody plants infesting our local woodlands and yards and why these traits are a pathological force that is slowly changing the fate of native plant succession. Find out how to recognize and remove some of our common invasives.

Our presenter is Bruce Wenning, horticulturist at The Country Club. His areas of expertise include insect taxonomy, plant pests and all soil-dwelling arthropods. Bruce has over fifteen years working with exotic invasive plant species common to Massachusetts for private clients and with volunteer groups at Newton Conservators, Mass Audubon, and Land's Sake.

### Wednesday, November 18, 7 pm Talking Turkey

Sign up: <https://newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com/event/6897098>



*Male Turkey*

The native turkeys we currently see in such abundance were extirpated from Massachusetts not so long ago. Their revival is a true success story, unless you've tangled with an aggressive one. Explore the habits and history of this interesting bird, including "pecking order," and how it survives so well in our cities. Presented by Newton Free Library and co-sponsored by Newton Conservators.

Our presenter is Barbara Bates. For the past 16 years, Barbara has been a teacher naturalist for Mass Audubon's Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont, MA. Before the pandemic, she led guided nature walks for all ages on a variety of subjects and presented programs at several Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Senior Centers. She currently serves on the Board of Newton Conservators. Barbara has retired several times - first from a long career in the high-tech world and more recently from teaching negotiation and conflict resolution as an adjunct faculty at Northeastern University. She loves all things nature.

### Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm - 9 pm Virtual Annual Meeting - Wed. Oct 21, 2020 Presentation: Caterpillars, the Whole Story

Speaker: Sam Jaffe, Director - The Caterpillar Lab

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/annual-dinner-meeting-2020/>



The 59th Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators (originally scheduled for May 6, 2020), will be held virtually on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7 pm. Due to the continuing Covid-19 threat, the annual meeting will be held on Zoom. We will have election of officers, annual update on Newton Conservators activities, and announcements of our Environmentalist, Maynard, and Director's Awards. Our speaker will be the same originally scheduled wonderful Newton raised Caterpillar expert, Sam Jaffe, who will give

his presentation virtually. Watch for signup information and award announcements as we get closer to the date.

Sam Jaffe, Director of [The Caterpillar Lab](#), will present "Caterpillars: The Whole Story," which will explore backyard pollinators, plants, parasitoids, and the many caterpillars that are positioned at the center of it all. He will also discuss his work growing the Caterpillar Lab from its roots in Newton's Cold Spring





Park to its present-day region-wide activity and influence. To tell the story, Sam will show a variety of caterpillars found during the seasons. His perspective on natural history study and appreciation just might make you reconsider an herbivore's place in our world and our town.

Sam is a New England based naturalist, photographer, and educator who has been working with native insects since a very early age. He grew up in Newton chasing birds, mucking through ponds, and turning over leaves. For the last 12 years he has been photographing and filming caterpillars to promote these special creatures to the public. In 2013, he founded [The Caterpillar Lab](#), a non-profit educational outreach organization in Marlborough, NH, and he now travels across the country working with museums, nature centers, schools, and individual teachers, helping native insects find their place in our everyday lives. When he is not behind the camera or tending his zoo of caterpillars, you can invariably find Sam up to his waist in vegetation.



**Wednesday, May 5, 6 pm - 9 pm**  
**Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**American Legion Post 440**

*We have rescheduled our 60th Annual Dinner Meeting for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at American Legion Post 440 at 6 pm. Honorees from 2020 will be honored in person at this event. At 6 pm will be a social hour followed by dinner at 7 pm where we will have our annual short election/business meeting and award ceremony honoring activists for Webster Woods and Cold Spring Park as well as a number of recently retired city personnel who have been important to our open space efforts. Our speaker for this spring event is to be determined. Conservators members will receive an invitation and registration form in the mail as the date gets closer. Anyone will be able to register for the dinner online. Please note that, due to the COVID-19 situation, there is a always a possibility that this event may need to be postponed to later in 2021.*

**Inspiration in Covid Times**

**Urban Ponds:  
Essential Ecosystems for the Enjoyment and Discovery of Nature**

Enjoy this beautiful [virtual photo exhibit](#) (through October 11) at the Arnold Arboretum by Newton photographer, Bruce Wilson, featuring Newton and Arboretum ponds. As described by the Arboretum, "He shares with us his discovery of shadows, reflections, visitor interaction, and flora. His images complement the trees, emphasize the subtle or saturated colors of water, and capture interactions between visitors and scenes of rich pond life. Water is a magical, as well as a crucial element in our lives. The wonderful images in this show provide "Enjoyment and Discovery of Nature" for all ..."



Brief Encounter, photograph by Bruce Wilson 17" x 23" copyright 2020 Bruce Wilson

## Bombus: the Bumblebees of Lincoln Massachusetts

Bumblebees are an important component of the pollinator world. Become a Beecologist! Enjoy a [short video](#) from the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust on identifying bumblebees. To learn more techniques for ID-ing bumblebees visit <https://beecology.wpi.edu/website/participate#page-title>.



Bumblebee from the video

## PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



We would be very grateful for your continued support by joining Newton Conservators or renewing your membership. Perhaps, consider renewing at a higher level, adding an extra donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space.

You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/renewal-2020/>. A link to our annual members' renewal letter outlining last year's activities can also be found at the above link.

Donations may be made at our secure link <https://newtonconservators.123signup.com/donation/21167>. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups including Friends of Webster Woods, Friends of Cold Spring Park, Friends of Houghton Garden, the Riverside Trails Working Group, a Trails Fund, and others. As part of the donation process, you can specify a group in the "Comments" section of the form. Thanks so much!

*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.*

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

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