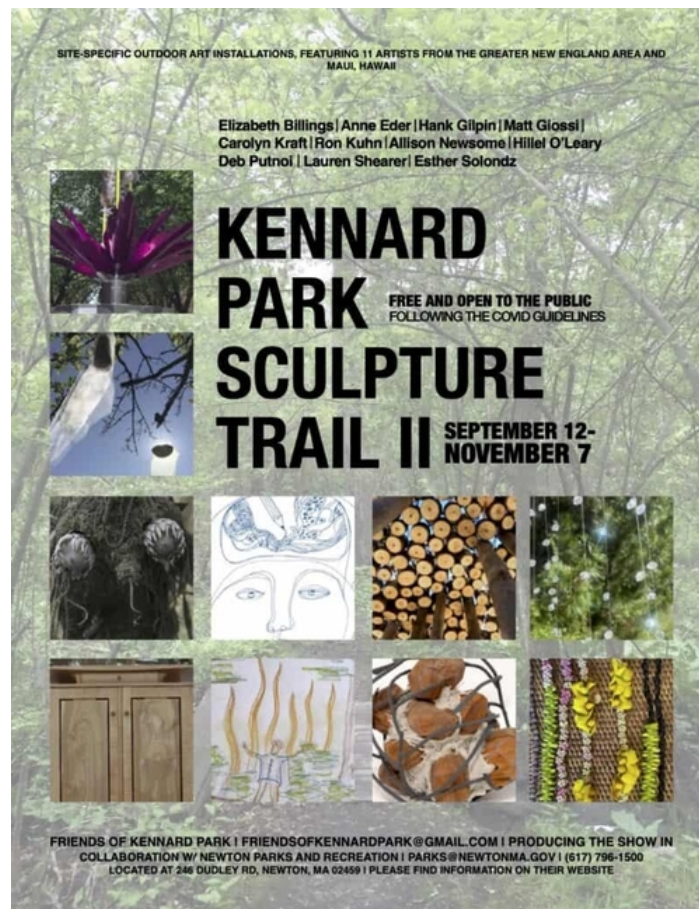


## Fall Happenings

Fall is only a few days away. In this issue, check out some upcoming Open Space related public meetings, our wonderful free Newton Conservators Webinar events, our latest newsletter, and a few other open space trail notes of interest! The Webinars this week are on Wednesday (Monarchs) and Thursday (Invasives) - sign up soon!

### Kennard Park Sculpture Trail II Now through Saturday November 7

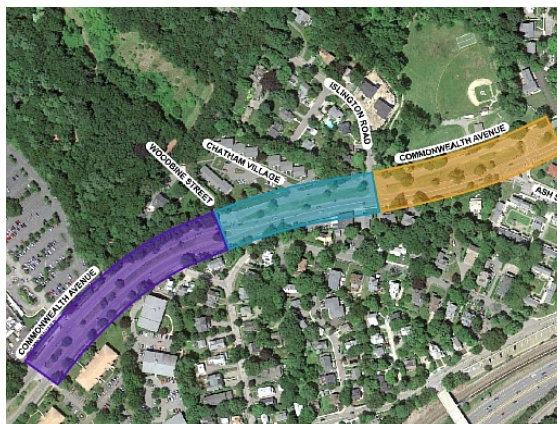
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/kennard-park-sculpture-trail/>



Enjoy sculptures from 11 New England artists (and Maui, Hawaii) along the trail at Kennard Park now through Saturday, Nov. 7. The Friends of Kennard Park and the Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department organized this Kennard Sculpture Park, located off 246 Dudley Road (Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department HQ). The artists will be giving talks about their sculptures (following COVID-19 safety guidelines) on weekends. More information and a schedule can be found at [friendsofkennardpark.org](http://friendsofkennardpark.org).

## Tuesday, September 15 Community Preservation Committee Meeting

Among the items discussed at this meeting will be the **Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Project**. The City of Newton requests \$390,000 in CPA Recreation funds for the creation of a new bike and pedestrian pathway and green space in place of the north carriageway of Commonwealth Avenue in Auburndale.



The proposal will use CPA funding to complete the 100% designs of this critically compromised segment of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway from Lyons Field to the Charles River Bridge, in the process creating new green space and adding a continuous walking and bicycle path by rerouting vehicular traffic to the south side of the median. The project increases the overall amount of green space in the area, links myriad trail networks including the Charles River Path, the Riverside Greenway trail network (in development), and Weston's planned shared use path (currently at 25% design), increases visibility and access to the historic boathouse on the Charles River, and improves transit access in the area by upgrading bus stops. The CPC will also receive an update on the **Crescent Street Housing and Playground Proposal**, which has been on hold at the request of the applicants since 2018.

The meeting packet is at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civica3/filebank/documents/106008>. To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your computer, at the above date and time, go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), click "Join a Meeting" and enter the following Meeting ID: 803142080. You can also access the meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/803142080>. One tap mobile: +16465588656,,803142080#

## Wednesday, September 16, 7 pm

### Webinar: Meet the Monarchs

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



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, educational, 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](#).

## Thursday, September 17, 7 pm

### Webinar: 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.

**Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
**Lower Falls Shared-Use Trail Feasibility Study**  
**Virtual Public Meeting**

Register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uCSTgGfTSAu2ex3R8ZAm8A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uCSTgGfTSAu2ex3R8ZAm8A)

The Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is conducting a feasibility study for a shared-use trail connection between the Route I-95 rail bridge (“Two Bridges”) at the southeast corner of Leo J. Martin Golf Course, Wellesley, and the south side of the I-95 Overpass on Quinobequin Road, Newton, MA. The project has analyzed DCR-owned parklands, other open space and roadway right of ways to evaluate alternative layouts toward safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian accommodations through the Lower Falls area.



At this public virtual meeting, DCR will present and obtain public input on a proposed shared-use trail layout. To register for the meeting, please click on the link above or enter it into your browser, and you will be prompted to submit your name and email. Please register in advance so that we can start the meeting promptly. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. This information can't be shared, the participation link is unique to you. If you need assistance when registering, please contact Jennifer Norwood at [jennifer.norwood@mass.gov](mailto:jennifer.norwood@mass.gov). After the presentation, the public will be invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed alternatives, using Q&A functionality that will be available through the virtual participation platform.

After the public meeting, the presentation will be available for viewing at <https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>. DCR encourages the public to share additional feedback, with a deadline for receipt of comments by DCR of October 6, 2020. Comments may be submitted online at [www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment](https://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment) or via email at [jennifer.norwood@mass.gov](mailto:jennifer.norwood@mass.gov). Please note that the content of comments you submit to DCR, along with your name, town, and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Providing additional contact information when commenting, notably email address, is optional, and will only be used for outreach on future updates on the subject project or property.

If you have agency-related questions or concerns or would like to be added to an email list to receive DCR general or project-specific announcements, please email [Mass.Parks@mass.gov](mailto:Mass.Parks@mass.gov) or call 617-626-4973.

**Wednesday, September 23, 7 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**Native Bees: Our Pollination Powerhouses**  
**Heather Holm, Author**  
**Grow Native Massachusetts - Evenings with Experts**

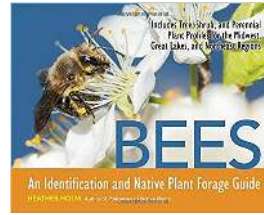
<https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/evenings-experts/Native-Bees-Our-Pollination-Powerhouses>

Native bees are the most important and effective pollinators for our flowering plants. Although they play a crucial role in sustaining biodiversity, they are poorly understood and under threat from human activity. Heather Holm will teach us how to recognize common bee genera, and enlighten us about their fascinating life cycles, nesting habitat, and foraging needs. Come learn more about the mutualistic relationships that they have with native plants— a powerful reminder



that the salvation of one is inextricably linked to the proper stewardship of the other.

Heather Holm is an expert on pollinators whose first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, brought her national attention. She is a sought-after speaker who is passionate about educating audiences. Her recent book, *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*, won the 2018 American Horticultural Society Book Award. Free registration at link above



**Thursday, September 24, 7 pm**

**Webinar: That Lovely Summer Pond - Wait! Is that a Beaver?**

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



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES  
*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**

**Webinar: 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.



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE  
*What fall warbler is this?*

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.

**Thursday, October 8, 7 pm**

**Webinar: Ferns, More Important Than You Might Think, And How to Know the Common Ones**

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3hd0uPz>



Most 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.

**Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm**

**Webinar: Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants**

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

Learn about 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.



*Tree of Heaven*

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, October 21, 7 pm - 9 pm**

**Newton Conservators 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, November 18, 7 pm**

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

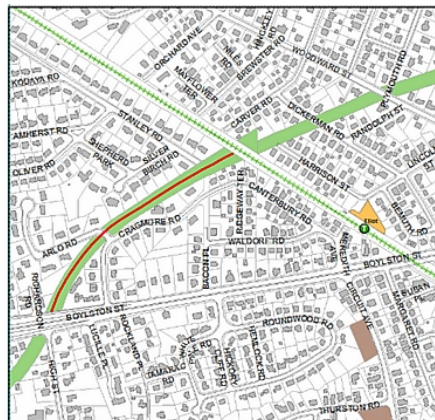


*We have rescheduled our 60th Annual Dinner Meeting to Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at American Legion Post 440 at 6 pm. Honorees from 2020 will be honored in person at this event. At 6 pm will be a social hour followed by dinner at 7 pm where we will have our annual short election/business meeting and award 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 always a possibility that this event may need to be postponed to later in 2021.*

### Path on Sudbury Aqueduct Officially Open (from Mayor Fuller's Update)

It's official. The Newton Highlands path that runs for a third of a mile on top of the Sudbury Aqueduct that many of us have used, especially to get to and from the Eliot Street T station, is officially open.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which owns the land, just granted official access. This is good news because now the City of Newton can make improvements to make it safer and more accessible. We're going to install wayfinding medallions and improve the footpath and stairs that cross the aqueduct and connect the end of Stanley Road to Canterbury Road.



Where do most people access the path? Four points are well-established and well-used: the Boylston Street/Route 9 ramp to Chestnut Street, Arlo Road, the dead-end of Stanley Road, and the footpath off Canterbury Road. Parking is, and will remain, informal, at street crossings.

The trail will be open from dawn to dusk. It can be used for low-impact activities only, such as walking, jogging, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Yes, dogs are allowed but only on leashes and all pet waste must be carried away and properly disposed of off-site. Motorized vehicles, off-leash dog walking,



picnicking and other “high-impact” uses remain specifically prohibited. MWRA, thankfully, will continue to mow, typically twice a year.

This is an important step forward (no pun intended) in our goal of providing more pedestrian and bike connections across Newton. I’m grateful to Senior Environmental Planner Jennifer Steel, City Councilor Andreae Downs from Ward 5, and Assistant City Solicitor Andrew Lee for a lot of work to make this possible. Find more information about the MWRA aqueduct trails program [here](#).

**New Access Point for Webster Woods  
(from Mayor Fuller’s Update)**


New box stairs now replace the previous eroded slope at the trailhead to Webster Woods. Try them out off the entry drive for The Shops at Chestnut Hill (a.k.a., the Chestnut Hill Mall) and The Towers apartment complex. Thanks go to Jennifer Steele and Claire Rundelli in the City of Newton Conservation Office who oversaw their construction. The stairs make it easier and safer to enjoy the special forest which the City purchased last December to preserve as open space in perpetuity.



**Newton Conservators Fall 2020 Newsletter**

The just published issue of the [Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is now available online and contains the following items of interest:

- [Turtle Watching in Newton](#)
- [Seasonal Changes of a Vernal Pool](#)
- [2020 Fall Nature Webinars](#)
- [2020 Fall President’s Message](#)
- [Fall 2020 Invasive Plant Sessions](#)



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**  
FALL ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

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


NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2020

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## Turtle Watching in Newton

Everyone seems focused on bird watching, but I like to watch turtles. And now is a great time to watch them in Newton. My “top turtle in Newton” is probably the eastern painted turtle because it is the champion basker and, like a wood frog, can freeze without dying in the cold New England winters. And it is also the most common turtle in Massachusetts, making it the easiest to watch.




*Champions at basking, Eastern painted turtles are the only known turtles to have waxes arranged in straight lines across their carapaces.*

Painted turtles are reptiles and cold blooded. To keep their temperature warm enough, they climb onto logs and rocks to lie in the sun with their legs, neck, and head extended as far out of their shells as possible to maximize the sun’s warmth on their skin. This can mean balancing on their bottom shell (called the plastron) while they bask. Painted turtles will bask for at least several hours a day and have been known to bask on the backs of looms and, more startlingly, on the backs of snapping turtles! I find this last claim to be somewhat odd since snapping turtles often bask in the water, slightly below the surface, making them look like shadows in ponds.

In addition to painted turtles, the snapping turtle is common in Newton. You can observe both of these turtles around ponds and streams from spring until the fall weather turns cold. Late July and August can be an especially engaging time to watch since both turtles’ eggs usually hatch then.

**How can you identify the turtle you are watching?**

I look at the color of the turtle’s skin and shell, plus the shape of the shell and size of the turtle. I’ll describe only the two most common Newton turtles, but you can find excellent turtle “fact sheets” at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/turtles-of-massachusetts> for all our native turtles.



*Male eastern painted turtle’s middle claws on front feet are 2-3 times longer, distinguishing them from females.*

Continued on page 2

**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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