



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Monday, October 5, 2020

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



A Busy October!

Fall greetings! Please take a moment to look through this chock filled e-Bulletin. This month we still have a number of our very successful **Fall Webinar** events (this Thursday with Fern expert, **Don Lubin**), our virtual **Annual Dinner Meeting** featuring Caterpillar expert **Sam Jaffe**, info on recent and coming public meetings (**Lower Falls and Quinobequin**), our latest newsletter, and bunch of other open space notes of interest! Follow us on our newly revived [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or check us out on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Autumn in New England is a great time to get outdoors into our open spaces!

Tuesday, October 6

Deadline for Comments

for Lower Falls Charles River Trail !

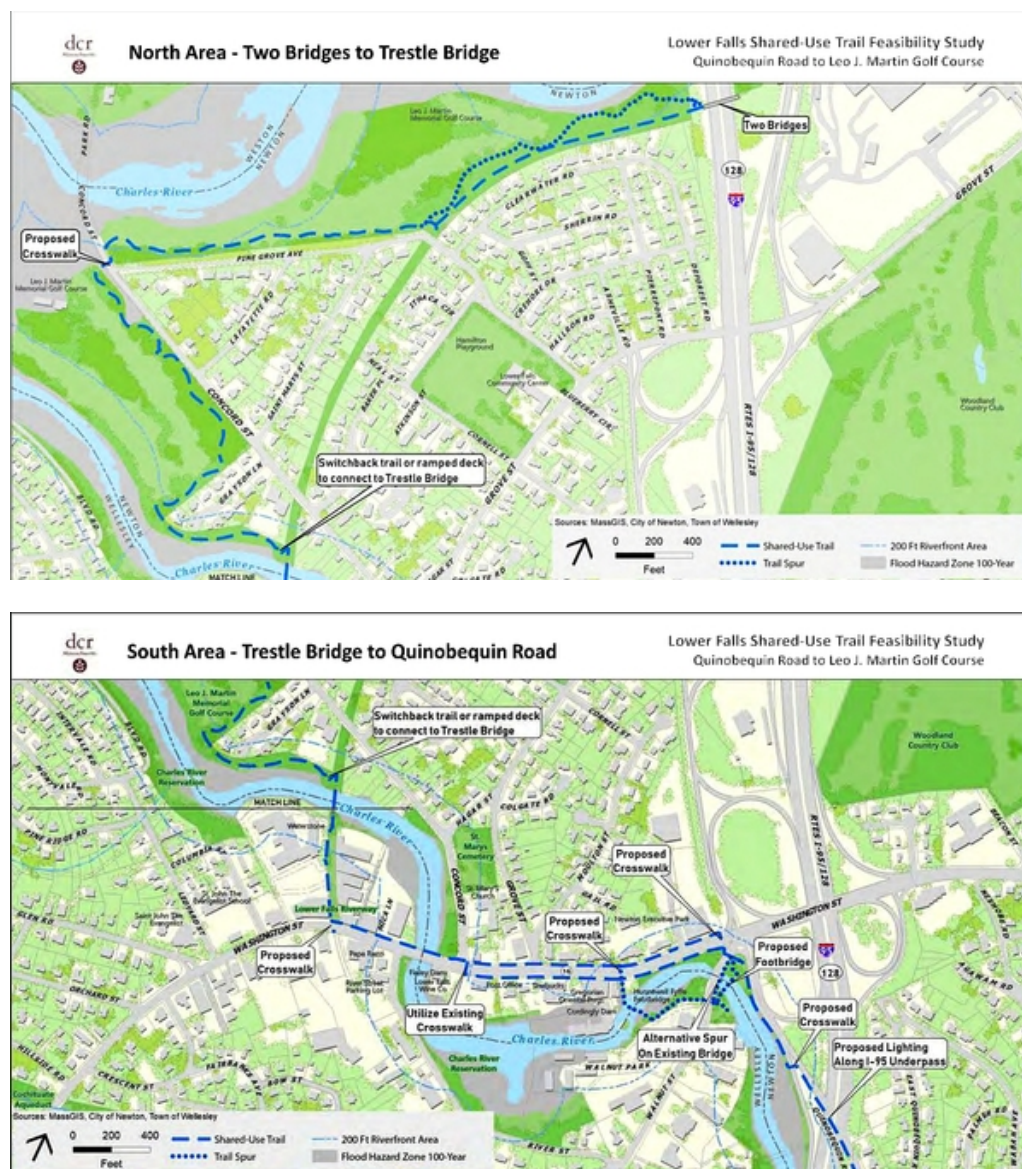
(from MA DCR)



As you may know, the 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, Newton, 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 a virtual public meeting held in September, DCR presented and obtained public

input on a proposed shared-use trail layout. The presentation from the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.mass.gov/dcr-public-meetings-information/events/past>.



We encourage the public to share 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 or via email at 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. We appreciate your interest and input.

- Jennifer Norwood, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Thursday, October 8, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Quinobequin Road and Trail Improvements, Newton Meeting Notice from MA DCR

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be holding a virtual public meeting on Thursday evening, October 8 to present, and obtain public input on alternative concepts for the design of Quinobequin Road and Trail Improvements in Newton. This project aims to address existing safety, mobility and accessibility concerns along Quinobequin Road, while also making sustainable and long-lasting improvements to stormwater management and riverine ecology.



Register Here & Join Here:

[https://vhb.zoom.us/j/91716862275?
wd=QmFpUXptNmp0ZE1VWENjOGc4MjhMZz09](https://vhb.zoom.us/j/91716862275?wd=QmFpUXptNmp0ZE1VWENjOGc4MjhMZz09)

Meeting ID: 917 1686 2275

Passcode: 277744

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,91716862275#

Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

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. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you need assistance when registering, please contact Peter Sorensen at psorensen@vhb.com. During the meeting, after the presentation, the public will be invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed design concepts, using a chat function that will be available through the remote participation platform.

After the public meeting, the presentation made will be available for viewing at <https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>, and DCR encourages the public to share additional feedback, with a deadline for receipt of comments by DCR of Friday, October 23, 2020. Comments may be submitted online at www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment or by emailing psorenson@VHB.com.

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 or call 617-626-4973.

Editor's Note: The presentation from a previous DCR listening session on Quinebequin Road is at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/quinebequin-road-and-trail-improvements-presentation/download>.



Thursday, October 8, 7 pm - 8:45 pm

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

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



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.

This program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately 90 minutes followed by 10-15 minutes of Q & A. Please register in advance for this webinar since registrations will close at 3 PM on the day of the event. You will receive an email confirmation after

you have registered. If after registering, you cannot attend, please cancel your registration (as indicated on your confirmation) so someone else may use the slot. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3hd0uPz>

Saturday, October 10, Pt 1: 11 am - 12:15 pm, Pt 2: 4:30-6 pm

TEDx Countdown

Walded Woods Project

<https://www.walden.org/events/tedxthewaldenwoodsproject/>

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, The Walden Woods Project will participate in the TEDx Countdown—a global initiative to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis, turning ideas into action. The goal is to build a better future by cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the race to a zero-carbon world—a world that is safer, cleaner and fairer for everyone.



TEDxTheWaldenWoodsProject will start with a live virtual session with Bill McKibben entitled: Using one crisis to solve the next: What does Covid teach us about how to think in emergencies, and how might it set us up to address the overarching climate predicament? Bill is an environmentalist, award-winning author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College and a Co-founder of the climate campaign group 350.org.

At the conclusion of Bill McKibben's session will be streamed global presentations from other leading climate activists and experts, including The Honorable Al Gore and HRH Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge. The FREE program will be held via zoom. Registering for the program gives you access to ALL SESSIONS. You can participate in as many or as few sessions as you'd like.

Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm

Webinar: Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants

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



Tree of Heaven

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.

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.

This program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately an hour. Please register in advance for this webinar since registrations will close at 3 PM on the day of the event. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered. If after registering, you cannot attend, please cancel your registration (as indicated on your confirmation) so someone else may use the slot.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 pm

Crisis Farming: The Essential Work of Feeding a Community

The 2020 growing season at Newton Community Farm has been a year like no other. With pandemic quarantining, social distancing, growing food insecurity, and increased focus on the importance of local food systems, there's so much to talk about right now. Newton Community Farm is holding a special online event on October 20 at 7:30 pm. "Crisis



Farming: The Essential Work of Feeding a Community" will feature an insightful conversation with Farm Manager Greg Maslowe on the challenges facing small community farms and building the resilience of our local food system. This program will address how the Farm has adapted and thrived during the pandemic and the role NCF plays in addressing local food security. Preregistration is required. Info at newtoncommunityfarm.org.

Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm - 9 pm

Newton Conservators Virtual Annual Meeting

Presentation: Caterpillars, the Whole Story

Speaker: Sam Jaffe, Director - The Caterpillar Lab

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/annual-meeting-with-sam-jaffe-of-the-caterpillar-lab/>



The 59th Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators (originally scheduled for May 6, 2020), will be held virtually on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 starting 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. Around 7:30 pm, our speaker will be the wonderful Newton raised Caterpillar expert, Sam Jaffe, who will give his presentation virtually - webinar style. Preregistration is required for this special event and you can sign up online [HERE](#). All are welcome to attend this FREE event - members and non-members alike.

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. To view some of Sam's amazing photographs and videos, please check out [his website](#).

Tuesday, Oct 27, 7-8:30p pm

Cheesecake Brook Conceptual Design Presentation (from CRWA)

The [Charles River Watershed Association](#)

(CRWA) is hosting a public meeting online to showcase a conceptual design for Cheesecake Brook



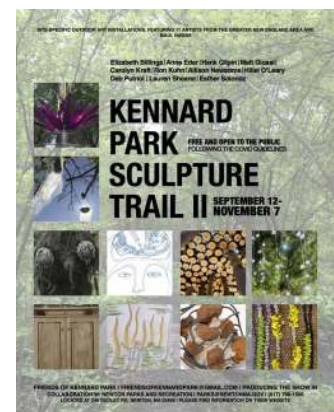
that promotes climate resilience based on a recently completed study. The project team will provide project context and share design concepts rendered by environmental engineering consultants. The meeting will then be opened up for conversation and discussion about these designs and discuss next steps. We hope you can join us! Watch for registration information in the near future.

Saturday, November 7

Last Day for the Kennard Park Sculpture Trail II

<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.



It's a great opportunity to visit the HQ for Parks, Recreation, and Culture and the lovely extensive Kennard Park in the colorful autumn season! Visit the lawn

sculptures and around the Kennard house and then take a beautiful loop hike through Kennard Park. Check out Kennard Park info at <https://newtonconservators.org/property/kennard-park/>.

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.

To register with The Newton Free Library, click [here](#). This program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately an hour. Please register in advance for this webinar through The Newton Free Library's Events page. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered. If after registering, you cannot attend, please cancel your registration so someone else may use the slot.

Destructive Spotted Lanternfly Found in Massachusetts!

<https://www.mass.gov/news/state-agricultural-officials-urge-residents-to-report-signs-of-invasive-spotted-lanternfly>.

Sooner than expected, the destructive Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Massachusetts. The Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources is urging residents to report any sign of the invasive pest. The Newton Free Library' invasive Spotted Lanternfly program (cosponsored by Newton Conservators) with Josh Bruckner of the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources in June is available on our YouTube channel at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWAn0DSHNSl&feature=youtu.be> It's a good way to learn about identifying this pest.

Peter Alden's New Birding Course



You may know Peter Alden as an expert birder and bioblitz organizer or perhaps had attended his 2018 Newton Conservators Annual Dinner presentation, or been a user of his popular *Field Guide to New England*. The current pandemic has certainly sparked a surge in getting outdoors and people taking up birding. If you want to become a better birder or know someone who is new to birding, Peter has a brand new website and online course in birding: "Birding for Beginners: New England States". Check it out at this [link](#): if you decide to try it (free lesson samples) or have someone in mind, save 50% off with this coupon code: "peter50" through October 15th! For around \$20 (with the discount) it may be a great way to learn all about birding and the common birds of New England.

Orienteering in Newton



Our Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) Department is working on an orienteering course initiative. Much of it would involve helping develop orienteering courses and maps for a number of sites, particularly trails, on park land and conservation land, along with orienteering materials such as maps, control card, punches, compasses and posts with markers. If you are knowledgeable in this area and would like to volunteer with the Newton Conservators to assist PRC in this effort, please contact Ted Kuklinski (president@newtonconservators.org) or Luis Perez Demorizi, Open Space Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department

Newton Conservators Fall 2020 Newsletter

The recently published issue of the [Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is 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](#)



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 scales arranged in straight lines across their carapaces.

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.

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 logs and, more startlingly, on the backs of snapping turtles! I find this last claim to be somewhat odd since



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)

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