

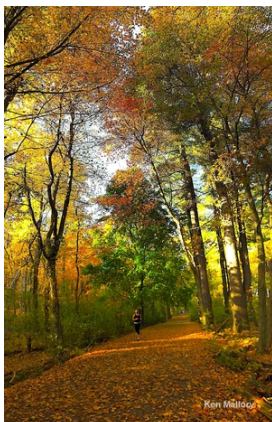


Newton Conservators E-Bulletin Tuesday, October 27, 2020

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



Autumn Leaves!



Thanks to all those who attended our virtual Annual Meeting last week where you enjoyed an amazing talk by Sam Jaffe on Caterpillars. See our announcement of Newton Conservators Award Winners later in this issue as well!

Many of you took advantage of our first ever Fall Webinar Series in September and October (in place of our usual Walk Series). We have one more coming up on November 18 - of course dealing with Turkeys! If you missed these presentations, we have good news. They will be available on our [YouTube](#) channel in the near future. Eric Olson's talk, [Why Care About Invasive Plants](#), is the first one ready for viewing - now available [here](#)!

Check out the Sculpture Trail at Kennard this weekend (closing the following Saturday, Nov 7). And this evening, our friends at [CRWA](#) have a special virtual presentation on conceptual plans for a future Cheesecake Brook (see below).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) and coming soon on TikTok! But please remember that autumn in New England is a great time to get outdoors into our wonderful open spaces! And don't forget to VOTE!

Events

Tuesday, Oct 27, 7-8:30p pm
Restoring and Naturalizing
Cheesecake Brook
(from CRWA)

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/restoring-and-naturalizing-cheesecake-brook/>



Charles River Watershed Association

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. For further information, please contact Lisa Kumpf at CRWA (lkumpf@crwa.org). The meeting will be held virtually on **TONIGHT, from 7 to 8:30 pm** on Zoom. Here is the login information to attend: Zoom Meeting #810 3260 8487, or click this



link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81032608487>

Tuesday, November 3 or Before Vote !

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/vote-2/>

Election Day is November 3rd. However, **early voting** is available to all Massachusetts voters, both in person and by mail-in ballot. Here is non-partisan information about how, when, and where you can vote.

1. **In person** on Tuesday, November 3rd. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm. You can find your polling place at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com
2. During the in-person "early voting" period, from October 17th through October 30th. Voting locations and schedules will be posted at www.MassEarlyVote.com no later than October 9.
3. **By mail**. Anyone can vote by mail. [Details are here](#). The Secretary of State recommends that you apply for a ballot no later than October 20th. If you live in Newton, you can drop off your application, and eventually drop off your completed ballot, at a drop box outside of the main entrance to Newton City Hall. This reduces the likelihood of post office delays preventing you from voting.



Saturday, November 7

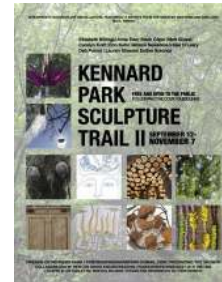
Last Day for the Kennard Park Sculpture Trail II

Kennard Park, 246 Dudley Road, Newton MA

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

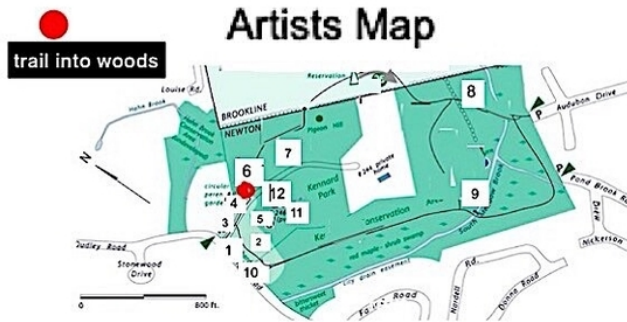


This is the LAST FULL WEEKEND for this exciting event! Enjoy sculptures from 11 New England artists (and Maui, Hawaii) along the trail at Kennard Park through



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 can be found at friendsofkennardpark.org or write to friendsofkennardpark@gmail.com.

It's also 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 and map at <https://newtonconservators.org/property/kennard-park/>. Here is a map of where to find the sculptures at Kennard Park:



Kennard Park Sculpture trail
Please follow signs for Sculpture trail

1. Allison Newsome
2. Allison Newsome
3. Esther Solondz
4. Elizabeth Billings
5. Hank Gilpin, Ron Kuhn, Matt Giossi
6. Anne Eder
7. Hank Gilpin/ Ron Kuhn/ Matt Giossi
8. Hillel o' Leary
9. Hillel O leary
10. Carolyn Kraft
11. Allison Newsome (Kennard House park office)
12. Lauren Shearer (screen porch Kennard House park office)

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.



Newton Conservators Annual Meeting Awards - October 21, 2020

The Newton Conservators were pleased to announce the following awards at their virtual Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 21. The awards will be presented to the recipients at our next in person Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for

May 2021.



Environmentalists of the Year

The Environmentalist of the Year Award goes to the individual or group that has made the greatest contribution to the protection of Newton's environment. This award was first presented in 1981.

Presented in recognition of

Saving Webster Woods



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

• Rory Altman	• Kathy Cade	• Barney Heath	• Steve Small
• Councilor Lisle Baker	• Suzanne Carleo	• Ken Kimmel	• Jennifer Steel
• Peter Barrer	• Mayor Ruthanne Fuller	• Rebecca Mayne	• Beth Wilkinson
• Suzanne Berne	• Alissa Giuliani	• Eric Olson	• Jonathan Yeo
• Dan Brody	• Jeff Goldman	• Richard Primack	• Ouida Young

Through incredible teamwork that started in earnest in the summer of 2015, Webster Woods officially was saved as city-owned open space in perpetuity in December 2019. That significant accomplishment, which will be enjoyed by many generations of people to come (and the plants and creatures that live in the woods), was accomplished through a combination of political skill, legal expertise, political acumen, financial and land-use analysis, the ability to communicate scientific knowledge in a clear and engaging way, and just plain hard work by many. Congratulations to everyone!



Charles Johnson Maynard Award

The Charles Johnson Maynard Award is given each year to recognize efforts "to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation, and natural resource protection." Charles Johnson Maynard was a naturalist and ornithologist who was born in Newton in 1845.



Presented in 2020 to

Alan Nogee

Friends of Cold Spring Park



For his leadership and tireless efforts to establish and lead the *Friends of Cold Spring Park*, raising public awareness and support to protect and enhance this large, diverse, and beloved open green space.



Directors' Awards

Directors' Awards are given each year to individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the preservation of open space in Newton.



Bob DeRubeis

In gratitude for his many decades of stewardship to our Garden City parkland in his leadership roles with the Newton Parks and Recreation Department





Alice Ingerson

In gratitude for her role in shepherding so many of our open space related Community Preservation Act projects through the governmental process





Ouida Young

In gratitude for her role in clearing the legal hurdles for our open space projects over decades in her role as Solicitor in the Newton Legal Department





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Recent DCR Meetings - Lower Falls & Quinobequin

Two DCR public meetings dealing with trails along the Charles River recently took place in September and October. Various design options were described and feedback was sought. In both cases, the official deadline for comments has passed. The comment periods were relatively short. However, please see the following links on these projects if you are interested in these areas. They contain the full presentations. Additional feedback could be sent to jennifer.norwood@mass.gov.

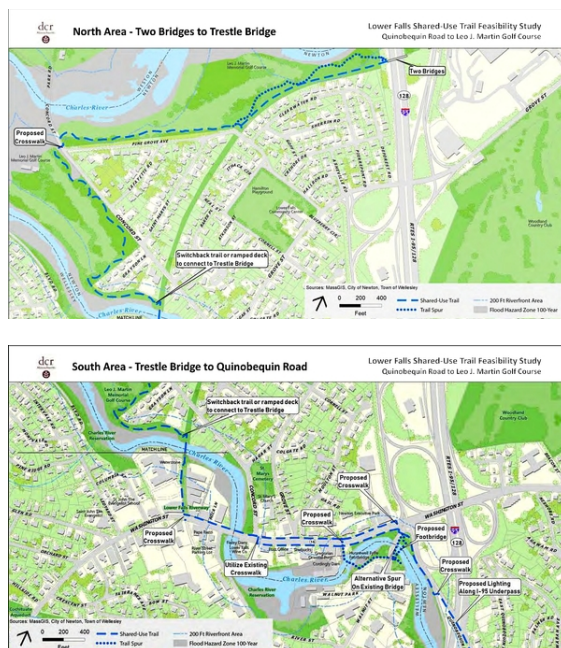
Quinobequin Road and Trail Improvements - October 8

<https://www.mass.gov/event/quinobequin-road-and-trail-improvements-newton-virtual-public-meeting-2020-10-08t183000-0400>



Lower Falls Shared Use Trail Feasibility Study - September 22

<https://www.mass.gov/event/lower-falls-shared-use-trail-feasibility-study-2020-09-22t183000-0400-2020-09-22t200000-0400>



Black Gum Trees in Newton

BU Professor Richard Primack, is interested in finding places in Newton where Black Gum trees (*Nyssa-sylvatica*), also known as Black Tupelo, might be growing in Newton. He has already located hundreds in Webster Woods, Lost Pond swamp and Kennard Park. If you know of other locations in Newton, please let him know at primack@bu.edu. Here is some general info on this type of tree: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyssa_sylvatica



(Photo by Jean-Pol GRANDMONT - travail personnel, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3102901>)

Inspiration in Covid Times




Drone View of the Charles River in Autumn - by Ken Mallory

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](#)
[Invasive Plant Info](#)



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**
FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

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William Shoovel
Willis Wang
Bruce Wenning

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.

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)

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