



## Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

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



### Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is just around the corner! After a pleasantly mild fall, the trees are finally looking bare and November-ish due to all the recent high winds and rain. But it was sure nice to experience 60s and 70s in November!

Just a reminder that our last event of our **Fall Webinar Series** occurs Wednesday night with some very topical "Turkey Talk" with teacher/naturalist Barbara Bates (details below). If you missed any of these presentations, we have good news. They will be available on our [YouTube](#) channel in the near future. So far we have posted Eric Olson's talk, [Why Care About Invasive Plants](#), Pete Gilmore's talk on [Fall Plumage: Virtual Bird Walk in Cold Spring Park](#), and our annual meeting feature presentation by Sam Jaffe on [Caterpillars: The Whole Story](#).



Check out some other webinars in our Events section including tonight's on the interaction of government policies and segregation of neighborhoods including here in Newton. Also an interesting program at the Lowell Land Trust on kids and nature, as well as another on the always entertaining Peter Alden on the relation between Birds and Invasives.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) and now on TikTok! Watch for our annual membership renewal letter coming soon. We are so grateful for your continued support! Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Events

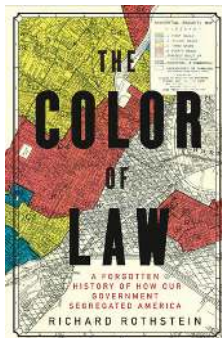
**Tuesday, November 17, 6:30- 8:00 pm TONIGHT!**

**The Color of Law - A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (with author Richard Rothstein)**

Sponsored by Newton Free Library, FORJ, and League of Women Voters-Newton

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/the-color-of-law/>

Registration is [here](#)



In "*The Color of Law, A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*", national best selling author **Richard Rothstein** argues with exacting precision and fascinating insight how segregation in America is the byproduct of explicit government policies at the local, state and federal levels. This will be an online moderated virtual plenary session with Mr. Rothstein. Jared Johnson, Executive Director of *Transit Matters*, will moderate.

**You are encouraged to stay for the second half of tonight's program as we have two compelling speakers who will bring a Newton-specific perspective to the session.**

Newton-native and Community Activist, **Richard Evans**, will speak about the devastating impact the building of the Mass

Pike had on, "The Village", his family and Newton's historic African American community.

City Councilor , Deb Crossley, who is Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee and is also an architect, will then give an overview of Newton's zoning reform planning process. Attendees will come away with a deeper understanding of the systemic issues that contribute current housing inequities, particularly as Newton engages in a comprehensive review of its zoning codes.

In preparation for this event, attendees are encouraged to watch the the 17-minute video, [Segregated by Design](#), which was written and narrated by Richard Rothstein and directed by Mark Lopez. Also, think about why you live where you do and consider what unseen forces led you there. Who is and is not able to live where you live? The following resources will give attendees a better sense of how Newton fits into the larger national story of segregation and suburban development:

- [Some Newton Housing Facts](#),
- [Metro Boston Race and Income Dot Maps Showing Newton](#),
- [The Civil Rights Movement in Newton, 1950-1970](#) (Katherine Jones, Lillie Jefferson, and Nina King, 2002)

The webinar is being presented by the Newton Free Library, Families Organizing for Racial Justice, and is part of [Overdue: Confronting Race and Racism in Newton](#), a city-wide read and event series. The session is cosponsored by the [League of Women Voters/Newton](#).

**There are close to 1,000 people registered for this event! Given that the Zoom capacity is only 500, Newton Free Library has arranged for NewTV to livestream the session so that everyone will be able to watch it. If you are unable to login using the [Zoom link](#), please watch via the live stream here: <https://vimeo.com/472303039>**

**Wednesday, November 18, 7 - 8:15 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. If registration for this event is full, please note that the presentation will be recorded and available on our [YouTube channel](#) in the near future.



**Thursday, November 19, 6:00 - 7:15 pm**

**Virtual Lecture by Richard Louv**

**Author of Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder**

<https://lowelllandtrust.org/30th-annual-meeting-author-richard-louv/>

Richard Louv is an American non-fiction author and journalist. He is best known for his seventh book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, which investigates the relationship of children and the natural world in current and historical contexts. His writing has helped launch an international movement to connect children, families, and communities to nature. This lecture is given in conjunction with the 30th Annual Meeting of the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, a similar organization to the Newton Conservators in Lowell, MA. Register for



this free event [here](#).

## Extended through Thanksgiving, November 26

### Kennard Park Sculpture Trail II

Kennard Park, 246 Dudley Road, Newton MA

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



The Kennard Park Sculpture Trail exhibit has been extended through Thanksgiving! Enjoy sculptures from 11 New England artists (and Maui, Hawaii) along the trail at Kennard Park. 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). More information can be found at [friendsofkennardpark.org](http://friendsofkennardpark.org) or write to [friendsofkennardpark@gmail.com](mailto: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/>.

## Tuesday, December 1, 7 pm

### Birds and the Spread of Invasive Plant Species

Peter Alden, Naturalist / Birding Expert

As winter approaches, berries and the seeds of invasive plants are an essential food source for birds. Author and naturalist Peter Alden, co-founder of the Bio Blitz, will present the mixed feelings environmentalists have to this phenomenon. We want to support declining bird populations but how to keep the new plants from taking over other native species? Peter will share stories and photos and welcomes questions. Here is a [signup link](#) if you care to join the free webinar.



Peter has a new website, <https://www.sparkbirding.com/> with resources for beginning birders. Why Spark Birding? As the website describes: "Do you recall a time when you were first fully entranced by the outdoors? Was there a defining moment that transformed you into a passionate observer nature? This memory was a spark moment." Read some of these birding spark stories [here](#) or [submit](#) your own.

## News

### Remembering Duane Hillis

It is very sad to report that our long term former board member, Duane Hillis, who passed away on November 3 surrounded by his family at Berkshire Medical Center after a short battle with heart failure and cancer. He had moved to Lenox MA to live near his daughter Molly's family last year.

Duane was President of the [Friends of Nahanton Park](#) for thirty years and most recently received our Environmentalist of the Year Award in 2016 as part of the Woodcock Meadow team. He was instrumental in the CPA acquisition of Angino Farm (now known as [Newton Community Farm](#)) and had also received our Environmentalist of the Year Award in 2006. He was also the force behind getting our organization into video open space advocacy with the Environmental Show on NewTV where he produced many episodes including [Saving Newton's Last Farm](#). Duane was truly a force both of and for nature and a Newton Conservator in every sense. Our condolences go out to his wife Mary, and





his children, and grandchildren. His obituary can be found [here](#).

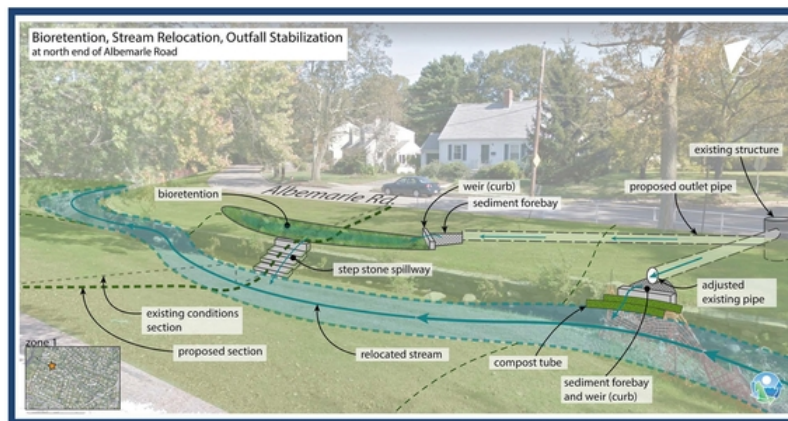
### Mask Up Outside in Public!

Face Covering Order Expanded: Everyone over the age of 5 is required to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose **when in public locations, whether indoors or outdoors**, regardless of whether they are able to physically distance from others. **This includes walking or running on sidewalks or in parks, bicycling, or riding in cars with non-household members.** People with medical conditions that prevent wearing a face covering are exempt from this requirement. The order allows fines of up to \$300 per violation. See the official proclamation [here](#).



### Restoring and Naturalizing Cheesecake Brook

The [Charles River Watershed Association](#) (CRWA) recently hosted a public meeting online on October 27th to showcase a conceptual design for Cheesecake Brook that promotes climate resilience based on a recently completed study. The project team provided context and shared design concepts. In case you missed it, a video of the meeting is now posted online [here](#).



*An infographic explaining the proposed interventions to the Albemarle Road portion of Cheesecake Brook that would restore a healthy stream environment.*

Cheesecake Brook, a tributary to the Charles River in Newton, has a history of water quality and flooding issues, and has been highly altered through history. In 2019, CRWA began working with the local community to develop a vision for restoring Cheesecake Brook. Restoration may include creating more natural river banks by removing stone and concrete, and planting native vegetation on the banks. Naturalizing this stream would improve water quality and stream habitat, and would restore floodplain area to help reduce stormwater flooding. CRWA hopes that this community-driven visioning process becomes a model for other stream restoration projects in urban settings. A summary of the Vision Plan is available [here](#). The presentation from the meeting can be viewed [here](#). For further information, please contact Lisa Kumpf at CRWA ([lkumpf@crwa.org](mailto:lkumpf@crwa.org)).

### Black Gum Trees in Newton

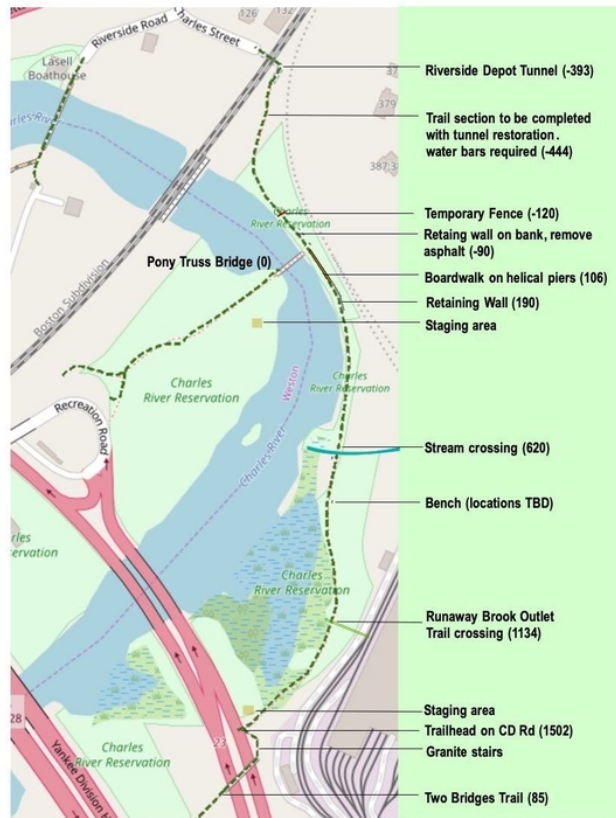
BU Professor Richard Primack, published his article about the colorful Black Gum trees, also known as Black Tupelo, recently in the [Newton Tab](#). Interestingly, our Newton Conservators board member, Nyssa Patten (shown right examining black gum leaves at the Newton Centre playground), was named after this type of tree (*Nyssa-sylvatica*). Here is some other background info on this type of tree found around



Newton: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyssa\\_sylvatica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyssa_sylvatica)

### Pony Truss Trail Now Open!

The [Pony-Truss Trail](#), named after the key trail landmark the Pony Truss Bridge, is identifiable on maps dating back to 1875; it provided a footpath for canoeists traveling from Boston on the trolley to Riverside Depot to walk to boathouses at Riverside Park across the Pony-truss bridge. The rerouting of the Lower Falls Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad to its current location on the Newton (south) side of the Charles created a steep slope (approximately 40%) above the trail. After much work over the past year, this trail along a beautiful scenic section of the Charles River is open. A nice loop hike can be made from the Riverside parking area on Recreation Road. Check it out!



### Inspiration in Covid Times



### Early Riser

5:30 a.m.

**“GOBBLE-GOBBLE-GOBBLE”**

I’m awakened by a bird’s call,  
but not the usual resident blue jay or cardinal  
that year after year  
perched in the tree  
outside our bedroom window.

**“GOBBLE-GOBBLE-GOBBLE”**

No, this is a far bigger bird,  
strutting down our sidewalk,  
and with a distinctive nonmelodic cry.

**“GOBBLE-GOBBLE-GOBBLE”**

But perhaps it’s easier on the ears  
of the females of his species,  
even enticing, romantic.

**“GOBBLE-GOBBLE-GOBBLE”**

But are they awake at this hour?  
Or is this such an impatient Romeo?

**“GOBBLE-GOBBLE-GOBBLE”**

“Come out, chicks!  
The sun’s almost up,  
and I’m ready for love!”

- Keith Tornheim

### 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



# 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 boats 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](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))

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