

Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin

Wednesday, January 28, 2021

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

Events TONIGHT

Sometimes, interesting events come at the same time. This evening is one of those. Here are three fascinating events online this evening concerning the Charles River, Nature's Best Hope, and Bees! Find out more about the Hammond Pond Improvement project as well!

Thursday, January 28, 2021 7 pm to 8:15 pm Building Resilience Across the Charles River Watershed

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/building-resilience-across-the-charles-river-watershed/>



Adapting to the impacts of climate change is a daunting task but many local cities and towns are facing this challenge head on. Having the best possible information on the impacts of climate change locally can help guide effective local investment and appropriate regulatory changes. Fifteen communities that are part of the [Charles River Climate Compact \(CRCC\)](#) have teamed up to develop a Charles River watershed flood model.

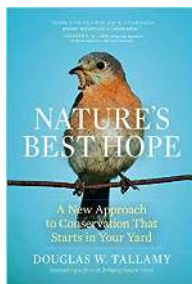
Hear about the development of this important planning tool and how you can be involved. Speakers will be Julie Dyer Wood (CRWA), Indrani Ghosh, PhD (Weston & Sampson), Marianne Iarossi, (Town of Natick), and Ethan McDonough (C.R.E.W.)

This webinar is part of [CRWA's Virtual Events Series](#), a new venture in their 50+ years of river restoration. They have had a long history of adaptation, resilience, and innovation—and are excited to connect with you in this new way, bringing events that you can enjoy right from home. This event is co-hosted by [Communities Responding to Extreme Weather](#). To register for this free webinar, sign up with Zoom [HERE](#).



Thursday, January 28, 2021 7 pm - 8:30 pm Nature's Best Hope - Virtual Talk by Doug Tallamy

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/natures-best-hope-virtual-talk-by-doug-tallamy/>



Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Professor Doug Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can- and must- take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 103 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. The *Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014.

Doug's new book 'Nature's Best Hope' released by Timber Press in February 2020, is a New York Times Best Seller. Among his awards are the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence, the 2018 AHS B.Y. Morrison Communication Award and the 2019 Cynthia Westcott Scientific Writing Award.



Co-sponsored by the Cary Library Foundation and by [Lexington Living Landscapes](#), a partnership of Sustainable Lexington, the Lexington Field and Garden Club, Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition, and Citizens for Lexington Conservation to promote sustainable landscaping in Lexington. Learn more at www.lexingtonlivinglandscapes.org. Open to the public, no charge. More information about this event and registration are available on the [Cary Library events calendar](#). Register [HERE](#).

Cary Memorial Library
1874 Massachusetts Ave
Lexington, MA 02420
781-862-6288
<http://www.carylibrary.org/>

Thursday, January 28, 2021, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Pollinators: Understaffed, Underpaid, and Underappreciated
NH Beekeepers present Dr. Samuel Ramsey

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/pollinators-understaffed-underpaid-and-underappreciated/>

NH Beekeepers are excited to announce that Dr. Samuel Ramsey will be doing three talks with the NH Beekeepers Association. The first will be Thursday January 28th. Please register at the link below. All the talks are free thanks to a generous IPM Grant from the NH Department of Agriculture. They are also grateful to the UNH Cooperative Extension for their help running these meetings. The event is FREE for everyone. There will be a question and answer time after the talk. Registration is limited.



<https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJmpf-mrrz8jGN1HWGPFfAMNUAnH7dA9o5HZ>

Thursday, February 18, 2021
Deadline to comment on Proposed Hammond Pond Parkway Improvements

<https://newtonconservators.org/comment-on-proposed-hammond-pond-parkway-improvements/>

Hammond Pond Parkway is a four-lane road that carries fast-moving traffic between Beacon Street and Route 9 in Chestnut Hill. The Parkway runs through the middle of Newton's Webster Conservation Area and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Hammond Pond Reservation. View the area on Google Maps.



At an online public meeting on January 21, 2021, DCR presented preliminary plans for a pedestrian- and bike-friendly redesign of the Parkway, and asked for public comments about the plans.

The proposal would reduce the number of vehicle lanes from four to two between Beacon Street and the traffic signal at the driveway leading to The Shoppes at Chestnut Hill Mall. It would create a 12-foot-wide shared-use lane for bicycles and pedestrians on the west side of the roadway, separated by a landscaped median. The shared-use lane would extend all the way from Beacon Street to Route 9.

The plan proposes to add a pedestrian crossing about 200 yards north of the driveway to the Boston College building. The crosswalk would connect trailheads on either side of the road, marked as intersections S and Z on the Conservation Commission map.



At its January 27th meeting, the Newton Conservators Board of Directors voted to endorse the proposal, and to suggest several modifications designed to further improve pedestrian safety and public access to the conservation lands. The Conservators' position appears below.

The meeting presentation can be found [HERE](#) and the video recording of the meeting [HERE](#).

DCR encourages the public to comment on the plan by the deadline of February 18, 2021. Comments may be submitted online at www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comments.

Newton Conservators Position on the DCR proposal

The Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators strongly supports the DCR plan for improvements to Hammond Pond Parkway. The proposed plan will greatly enhance the safety of the road for bicyclists and pedestrians, and will improve public access to the Webster Conservation Area and the Hammond Pond Reservation. The Board requests DCR to include in the project the following new and modified elements:

1. The proposed pedestrian crossing of the Parkway should include pedestrian-activated signals that slow or stop automobile traffic on the Parkway.
2. DCR owns much of the northernmost parking lot used by the Shops at Chestnut Hill (Newton Assessor parcel 65008 0004). The 1971 deed (Book 11995, Page 259) that authorized the mall owner to build the parking lot on state land gave DCR the permanent right to allow users of Hammond Pond Reservation to park on this lot. To expand public use of this parking area, we propose the following:
 - Add signs reading “Webster Woods and Hammond Pond Reservation Parking” to each side of the existing signpost at the traffic light on the Parkway:
 - Add a similar sign at the edge of the mall parking lot nearest the trailhead that leads into the reservation.
3. Add several additional small parking areas on both sides of the Parkway to facilitate access to the former Deer Park and to the portions of Webster Conservation Area on the west side of the Parkway both north and south of the MBTA tracks.
4. Include bicycle racks at trailheads and crosswalks on both sides of the Parkway.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Find our latest Winter 2020-2021 Newsletter online at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters> which contains the following interesting and informative articles:

- [Full Edition](#)
- [Arriving at the Whole Story](#)
- [2020 Annual Meeting](#)
- [History of Newton's Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation - the Prequel](#)
- [Thank you, AnnaMaria Abernathy](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Birding Along the Charles River in the Winter of COVID-19](#)



NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2020-2021

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Arriving at the Whole Story



Left to right: *Carpocapsa Giant Silk Moth*, *Hyalophora catespiae*, found on hawthorn, Boston MA. *Elm Sphinx*, *Ceanothus amyntor*, *Mimic of dried elm leaves*, found at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, Harvard MA. *Abbott's Sphinx*, *Sphocidina abbotti*: *False-eye* and *grape-patterns*, found in Newton, MA on fox grape.

My name is Sam Jaffe, and I founded The Caterpillar Lab — an educational outreach, art, and science non-profit organization that uses native caterpillars and their stories to engage and inspire the public with their own, local, and ecologically important creatures. The Caterpillar Lab is a fluid thing, constantly changing as we learn from our audiences and our creatures alike. I would like to share with you a little about how my work, my perspectives, and The Caterpillar Lab's goals have shifted over the years and present a short piece that demonstrates how we now understand our caterpillars and how we hope to challenge our audiences to see the natural world in a new way.

Twelve years ago, my work was only caterpillars. But much has changed over the last decade. When I started photographing and educating with these charismatic insects, my attention was squarely focused on the caterpillar as an object, a moment in time, something beautiful, curious, and unexpected. My images of caterpillars, which highlighted their impressive camouflage,

bright warning colors, or strange inflatable tails and false eye-spots drew people in, sparked interest and imagination. But today, caterpillars represent so much more to me. From working so closely with these insects for so long, from rearing over five hundred species and countless thousands of individuals, and from bringing them to meet audiences every spring, summer, and fall, the world of caterpillars has exploded in size.

A caterpillar is indeed beautiful and inspiring on its own; I will never tire of them as individual characters that deserve our attention just for being... awesome! But a caterpillar also represents something much bigger, and much more meaningful. At the Lab, we have seen caterpillars grow, shed, pupate, and emerge as adults, we have gathered a seemingly endless variety of host plants to supply for our specialist feeders, and we have witnessed time and time again as parasitoid wasps and flies have fed on our caterpillars internally, emerged, and moved through their own cycles of growth and reproduction.

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 Houghton Garden, the Riverside Trails Working Group, 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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