



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Thursday, February 18, 2021

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

Winter Happenings

Spring will be here in a little over a month! While we haven't been able to have live events ourselves yet, we try to find virtual events related to open space that you might enjoy. So check these out in the listings below. Coming soon will be our first ever Spring Webinar Series in place of our Spring walks. Today is the deadline for comments on the exciting Hammond Pond Parkway project so check out the info on this below. Enjoy the winter weather while you can and dress warm!

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

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.

Newton Conservators has coordinated with the Transportation Advisory Group, the Newton Safe Routes to School Task Force, Bike Newton, Friends of Webster Woods, and Green Newton in a joint letter of support which can be found at the following link: [Hammond Pond Parkway letter](#). The letter covers pedestrian, biking, wayfinding, and parking improvements to the DCR plan.

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. If you find the plan attractive, please take a moment to show your support via the DCR website TODAY! It only takes a few moments.



Monday, February 22, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
A Roundtable Discussion on the Preservation and Use of Crystal Lake

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/a-roundtable-discussion-on-the-preservation-and-use-of-crystal-lake/>

Please join the [League of Women Voters of Newton](#) on **Monday, February 22, 2021 from 7:00-8:00 pm** for a virtual roundtable discussion on Crystal Lake. The discussion will focus on how to balance the competing interests regarding Crystal Lake – the preservation and sustainability of the Lake, and the use and enjoyment of the Lake by the general public. The event will “kick off” with remarks by the Crystal Lake Conservancy on the environmental sustainability of the Lake.

Questions explored will include: How do the rules and regulations regarding the use of the Lake for swimming, boating and fishing compliment the environmental concerns regarding the use of the Lake? How do they compete with those environmental concerns? Do the current rules and regulations concerning the use of the Lake best meet the desires of the general public to use the Lake as a resource for recreation? This event is open to all. For one-step registration, go to: bit.ly/lwvncrystallake

Monday, February 22, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
What About Chestnut Trees?

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/what-about-chestnut-trees/>



Our neighboring organization, [Waltham Land Trust](#) has an interesting Zoom webinar this month. Hear about **Chestnut trees** from [Waltham Land Trust](#) member, [Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis](#), Emerita, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven. **Bring your questions to ask after the slide**

show! Dr. Sandy has researched American chestnut trees, *Castanea dentata*, and other nut trees for more than 50 years.



American chestnuts were used and spread by Native Americans; the Appalachians were the heart of their range. They were huge forest and timber trees. There were few chestnut trees in Massachusetts before European settlement, but because of their larger nuts, European species were quickly planted. Sadly, two imported diseases greatly reduced the populations and vigor of American and European Chestnuts. Because of their unique qualities, efforts have been made over many decades to produce hybrid chestnuts for forest and timber, as well as for orchards and eating.

Dr. Anagnostakis will share **findings, stories, and photos** from her extensive studies, including this picture of a magnificent specimen from Connecticut in 1905. **Look for the tiny human** next to the tree's base in the picture to the right!

Questions concerning chestnut trees' potential for restoration and **adaptability to climate change**, as well as where to find them locally, will be answered. **Registrants will receive the Zoom link the day of the presentation.** Register for this event at [HERE](#).

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Thoreau and the Miracle of Poetry

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/thoreau-and-the-miracle-of-poetry/>



A poem is one undivided, unimpeded expression fallen ripe into literature," Thoreau wrote in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. Join the Walden Woods Project on **Wednesday, February 24**, for **Thoreau and the Miracle of Poetry** and hear four contemporary poets, who will read from their work that echoes Thoreau's, often about nature, social reform, and living deliberately. A discussion with the featured poets about how Thoreau, among others, has inspired their writing will follow the readings. The four featured poets include: **Catherine Staples, Ernesto Estrella, David Leff, and Quintin Collins**. This event is sponsored by the **Walden Woods Project**. This is a free virtual Zoom event but donations will be accepted to be split among the featured poets. Learn more about the poets and register at <https://walden.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/thoreau-and-the-miracle-of-poetry>.

Friday, February 26, 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Ask the Expert: Birding (WGBH)

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/ask-the-expert-birding-wgbh/>



Whether you're an avid beginner or experienced birder, connect with David Allen Sibley author and illustrator of the *Sibley Guides* birding book at the next *GBH Ask The Expert: Birding* event. Bring David all of your birding questions and learn tips on how you, too, can become a birdwatching expert.

David Allen Sibley is the author and illustrator of the series of successful guides to nature that bear his name, including *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. He has contributed to *Smithsonian*, *Science*, *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Birding*, *BirdWatching*, and *North American Birds*, and to *The New York Times*. He is the recipient of the Roger Tory Peterson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Birding Association and the Linnaean Society of New York's Eisenmann Medal. He lives and birds in Massachusetts.

Get ready for this virtual event by listening to GBH's News reporter and Newton resident **Craig LeMoult's** story on David [here](#). Craig will be conducting the interview and moderating audience questions for this event.

This FREE virtual event will begin at 12pm Eastern Standard Time on Friday, February

26. Register for this virtual WGBH *Ask The Expert* event

at <https://wgbh2.force.com/events/s/lt-event?id=a7E3q000000H2uaEAC> You will be emailed the link to this virtual event once you have registered.

Monday, February 28, 2021

Newton Conservators Spring Grant Application Deadline

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-spring-grant-application-deadline/>

The Newton Conservators provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering its mission. The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$750 may receive priority, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a longer-term project, or for multiple year funding. Projects for multiple year funding must be reported upon and resubmitted annually.



Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded twice a year, with application deadlines of **October 31** and **February 28**. However, proposals may be submitted at any time, and grants

are sometimes awarded before the next regular review cycle begins.

How to Apply:

1. Download the [Grant Application Form](#), a Microsoft Word document.
2. Complete the form on your computer, and save it as a DOC or PDF file. Include your name or the project name as part of the file name.
3. Attach the form to an email that you send to application@newtonconservators.org

Please visit our Grants Page at <https://newtonconservators.org/grants-program/> for criteria and complete information!

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Building Resilience Across the Charles Watershed

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/building-resilience-on-the-charles/>



COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO EXTREME WEATHER AND THE CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION PRESENT:

BUILDING RESILIENCE ON THE CHARLES

A discussion with lower watershed communities, including Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Watertown, Somerville, Dedham, and Westwood about flooding and green infrastructure.

03/03/21 FROM 6:30-7:30 VIA ZOOM

RSVP:
FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE:

Having the best possible information on the impacts of climate change within your community can inform effective local investment and regulatory changes. CRWA has developed a Charles River watershed flood model. This computer flood model will provide simulations on different kinds of flooding events and possible solutions like green infrastructure. What kind of flooding events are most important in your community? What kind of solutions do you think will work best? Please join us for a discussion with Lower Watershed communities so we can collect your feedback and determine how this tool will be used!

The [Charles River Watershed Association](#) has created a flood monitoring tool that shows flooding and rainfall scenarios in the Charles River Watershed and the impacts of potential green infrastructure solutions. This tool will equip watershed communities with the best possible information on **community-specific impacts of climate change, helping to guide effective local investment, regulatory changes and predict and implement the best ways to respond to flooding.** CRWA invites you to a small Zoom discussion to hear your opinions, feedback, and ideas about the tool and how it can best serve you and your community.

The first Zoom discussion, to be held on **Wednesday, March 3rd from 6:30-7:30 pm**, will focus on the tool's relevance to the **lower parts of the Watershed, including Boston, Cambridge, Watertown, Somerville, Brookline, and Dedham.** Please join to give input about your own climate-related stressors, your opinions about changing infrastructure, and your hopes for building climate resilience in your community! Share this email with your fellow residents, this is a conversation for everyone! **RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Wednesday, April 24, 2021, 10:00 am - 11:00 am Coffee and Conversation with the Newton Conservators

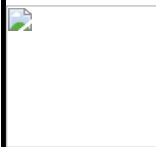
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/coffee-and-conversation-with-the-newton-conservators/>



Each week on Wednesdays at 10 am, Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) Departments' Over 55 program hosts weekly topics of conversation, guest speakers, entertainment and games. **Newton Conservators President, Ted Kuklinski**, will be the special guest on **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 10 am** on the talk show like program hosted by Nancy



Scammon of the PRC Department. He will talk about all of the wonderful open spaces, parks and opportunities right here in Newton. Also find out a little more about the Newton Conservators, Newton's own open space and land trust organization celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year!



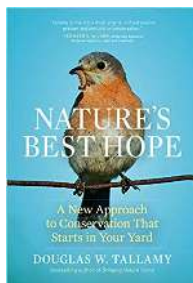
The schedule of topic can be found at https://newtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30128 The programs are free but you must register through Zoom

at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sdeGhqj4tE91LgPBwDF8WBJUAcgnFr0M9>
After you register once, you may attend any or all of the series. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and a link to join. Call 617-796-1506 for more information.

Nature's Best Hope - Virtual Talk by Doug Tallamy

Video Recording Now Available of January 28 Talk

<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.



This talk was 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](#).

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





ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE: SAM JAFFE

Left to right: *Carpocapsa Giant Silk Moth*, *Hyalophora catespiae*, found on hawthorn, Boston MA.
Elm Sphinx, *Cronastis anystrus*, *Mimic of dried elm leaves*, found at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, Harvard MA.
Abbott's Sphinx, *Sphecodina abbottii*, *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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