

Invasive Pulls

Invasive plant sessions in 2021 will once again be conducted by our small but intrepid Invasives Team. Due to the continuing covid situation, we have decided to not publish the schedule in the newsletter and to instead manage the sessions by email. If you wish to be added to the email list for the invasives sessions or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Katherine Howard at katherineh998@gmail.com or 617-721-2571.

Individual efforts are also important, and welcomed. It can be quite relaxing and therapeutic to spend an hour pulling invasives. In particular, garlic mustard, the focus of our spring removal efforts, is easy and fun to pull (for all ages), and it is in many backyards and neighborhoods. It has overwintered green under the snow cover, ready to shoot up flower stalks in April-May. For more information see the new invasives section of our website, found under Resources: <https://newtonconservators.org/garlic-mustard/>

About the Plant Invaders



PHOTO: K. MALLORY

Garlic Mustard Lush groundcover with 1-3' stalk with pretty little white flowers at top. Antler-like seed pods then grow large. Base leaves and first year plant leaves are rounded; leaves up the stalk are heart shaped. If unchecked will carpet an area and crowd out native species; has alleopathic properties chemically altering the soil to harm native species. Biennial with roundish leaves on first year plants and producing flower stalks in 2nd year. Seed pods have hundreds to thousands more seed which are released in mid to late summer or early fall (the sunnier the spot the earlier the dispersal). Seeds can last 5 or more years in the ground seed bank.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Buckthorn is another non-native shrub that is proliferating in forested areas (see Cold Spring Park), covering the understory and preventing native forests from re-seeding.

Our sessions also tackle black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, oriental bittersweet, and black locust.

MISSION

Newton Conservators, Inc.

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.

The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 60 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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