

# Enjoy Nature... with Newton Conservators

Join us for our online spring Wednesday webinar series.

With continuing concerns for social distancing in the time of Covid-19, we offer a new series of online talks given by some of our expert walk leaders.

Each program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. Please register in advance for each webinar since **registrations will close at 3 PM on the day of the event**. You may register for the programs using the links below or by going to the event listing at *NewtonConservators.org*. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered. If after registering you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation (as indicated on your confirmation) so that someone else may use the slot. **Registration is limited to 100 slots.**



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES

*Exploring a vernal pool.*

## Wednesday, April 7, 2021 ... Vernal Pools

Seasonal ponds — known as vernal pools — are full of life right now and can be found throughout our area. Bare Pond and Dolan Pond are two examples. Discover how these pools form and the many wonderful adaptations that allow the invertebrates and amphibians that inhabit these ephemeral pools to survive in the low oxygen water. See fairy shrimp, salamanders, wood frogs, and many more. We will also describe the commonly available materials you need if you want to try your hand at seeing these interesting creatures up close and personal. Presented by Barbara Bates, teacher, naturalist and Newton Conservators' board member.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3k0vyoe>



PHOTO: ALAN NOGEE

*Vernal pool in Cold Spring Park.*

## Wednesday, May 5, 2021 ... Exploring Cold Spring Park

We will tour some of the fun and unique, natural and unnatural, historical and current, features of Cold Spring Park — a 67-acre green oasis in the heart of Newton. We'll look at some of the environmental and other challenges facing the park, and how the Friends of Cold Spring Park — with the support of Newton Conservators — is taking them on. Presented by Alan Noguee, a mostly retired career environmentalist who worked as the Clean Energy Program Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists and is the President of The Friends of Cold Spring Park.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3sawOHZ>



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

*Black and White Warbler.*

## Wednesday, May 12, 2021 ... Spring Birds in Cold Spring Park

Since one can easily access photos of the common resident birds by going to the Newton Conservators' web site and watching the fall webinar on birds in Cold Spring Park, we will focus on the colorful migrant and summer birds of Cold Spring in this webinar. We will look at the two different orioles, our hummingbird, the tanager, and grosbeak, and then sort out the sights and sounds of the American Wood Warblers. These latter birds are found only in the New World. Getting to know wood warbler sounds and field marks can be a challenge. This webinar will provide a decent start on that project. Presented by Pete Gilmore, who serves on the boards of Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/2ZoSFzb>



PHOTO: BETH WILKINSON

*Bumblebee on butterfly weed.*

### Wednesday, May 19, 2021 ... Planting for Pollinators

Pollinator populations are decreasing at an alarming rate. Why? Partly due to climate change and the use of herbicides and largely due to vanishing habitat. Together, we can help to save the pollinators by preserving large tracts of habitat, but each of us also can do important work on a smaller scale — in our own yards and parks. Join this webinar to learn what you can plant to encourage pollinators to visit. We will review specific plants that grow well in Newton and the pollinators that they attract. Presented by Beth Wilkinson, who serves on the Newton Conservators' board, was trained as a Master Gardener and has a certificate in field botany.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/2ZnMkns>



PHOTO: ERIC OLSON

*Red admiral butterfly on goldenrod.*

### Wednesday, June 2, 2021 ... Pollinator Meadow-Making at Brandeis University: Lessons Learned

Starting with a small plot in 2016, a vibrantly colorful and diverse pollinator meadow has grown to cover a half-acre of former lawn, close to the center of the Brandeis campus. This successful habitat-making project was catalyzed by undergraduate student Matt Smetana, who back in 2015 requested permission to install a small patch of wildflowers to support local insects. The Brandeis administration eventually gave the go-ahead to expand the meadow to ten times its original size. By 2019, student and faculty surveys of pollinators and other meadow life demonstrated in striking fashion just how quickly we can give biodiversity a boost, even in a thickly settled community like Waltham. This webinar will reflect on lessons learned. The talk is supplemented by an annotated bibliography of how-to books, articles, websites, and videos, and also lists local organizations ready to help homeowners, schools, parks, and others to do their part supporting native bees and butterflies. Presented by Eric Olson, who recently retired from Brandeis University, where he taught Field Biology and other courses for many years. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3bk1vny>



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

**YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.**

**Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$ _____ |

**Want to make an even bigger impact? Help us support these special funds:**

Woodcock Meadow \$ _____	Trails Fund \$ _____
Ordway Endowment Fund \$ _____	
Land Stewardship Areas (Dexter Rd., Bracebridge Rd.) \$ _____	Other \$ _____

All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer!  
*Please email me.*

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit [newtonconservators.org/membership/](http://newtonconservators.org/membership/) to renew or join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at [president@NewtonConservators.org](mailto:president@NewtonConservators.org).