



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, June 1, 2021

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

Last Call for Tonight's Webinar on Pollinator Meadowmaking with Dr. Eric Olson!

Join us tonight for the last event in our online spring Wednesday webinar series and on Wednesday, June 22 for a joint program with the Newton Free Library about the designer of NYC's H Line Garden. Last call for tonight's webinar. **Please register by 3 pm today [on our Zoom page](#)!**

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Pollinator Meadow-Making at Brandeis University: Lessons Learned
Dr. Eric Olson - Brandeis Ecologist

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/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. Matt obtained funding for several scores of plants from the Brandeis University Sustainability Fund and sought faculty support from Brandeis ecologist Dr. Eric Olson.



With work from 2017 on by Eric and other faculty, the meadow continued to thrive, and 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.

In this webinar Dr. Olson will describe the stages of this transformation, and will reflect on lessons learned. The talk is supplemented by an annotated bibliography of how-to books, articles, websites, and videos, that also lists local organizations ready to help homeowners, schools, parks, and others to do their part supporting native bees and butterflies.

Our presenter is Eric Olson, who recently retired from Brandeis University, where he taught Field Biology and other courses for many years. **To sign up for this webinar, [please register on our Zoom page](#).**

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 7 pm
A Piet Oudolf Story (Garden Designer of NYC Hi-Line)
Free Webinar with Deborah Chub
Cosponsored by the Newton Free Library and Newton Conservators
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/a-piet-oudolf-story/>

Join Deborah Chud for a personal introduction to the design principles of the

Leading naturalistic landscape and garden designer in the world, Piet Oudolf. Anyone who has visited NY's High Line or The Battery has seen his work, and it's rumored Massachusetts may soon have its own example. During the talk she will discuss:



How she discovered Oudolf's work and her research on his plant combinations
Her use of that research to create a garden in Oudolf's style

The historical context in which he emerged as a landscape designer
Oudolf's design principles, particularly his concept of structure and the special balance he creates between coherence and contrast

Deborah Chud is a Massachusetts landscape design consultant and educator with a special area of expertise—the work of Piet Oudolf. You may not know his name but you may have seen one of his projects: NY's High Line. Oudolf is arguably the pre-eminent landscape designer in the world today and a leader of the naturalistic landscape movement. Within the past year, this presentation has been given at the following institutions and organizations: Mass Horticulture, Arnold Arboretum, JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), and Delaware Botanic Gardens. The latter two public gardens have Oudolf-designed sections. Deborah is currently collaborating with the education department of TBG on a multi-session online course to coincide with the restoration of their Oudolf Entry Walk.



This program is cosponsored by the Newton Free Library and the Newton Conservators.

Please register for this free virtual webinar through the Newton Library at

<https://newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com/event/7712597>

Newton Conservators Newsletter

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

- [Full Issue - Spring 2021e - Spring 2021](#)
- [Saving Houghton Pond](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [History of Newton Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation: Part 2 Back Story](#)
- [Enjoy Nature...with Newton Conservators](#)
- [Invasive Pulls](#)



NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve
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SPRING ISSUE NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2021

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Saving Houghton Pond

For years, people had been telling me of a beautiful garden with a pond located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton. At the time, my mother was living with us but was confined to a wheelchair in order to travel any distance. She loved short trips to the outdoors, so we checked out the

Newton Conservators' trail guide to locate Houghton Garden, one of the few open spaces in Newton with an accessible trail then. What a delightful afternoon we had

there, with its beautiful lush green paths, colorful flowers, stone bridges, and lovely vistas, seemingly out of a Thomas Kinkadee painting.

To those who also wish to seek out this "Secret Garden," the Newton Conservators' webpage on Houghton Garden

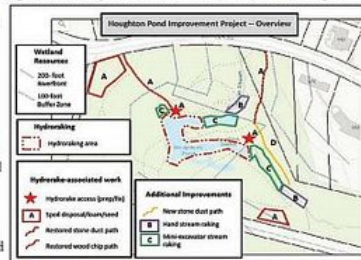
(<https://newtonconservators.org/property/houghton-garden/>) is a great starting point,

leading to useful maps and a number of articles espousing the rich history, beauty, and nature of this incredibly special peaceful refuge in Newton. There are three entrances: one at the intersection of Suffolk Road and Woodman Road, one at the junction of Suffolk Road and Clovelly Road, and another on Lowell Lane near the MBTA tracks. All three are in Chestnut Hill with plentiful street parking along Suffolk Road.

The garden was started in 1910 by Martha Gilbert Houghton, who lived in the Spanish mission-style house at 152 Suffolk Road. The garden was acquired by the City of Newton in 1968 via eminent domain, with



Trail guide map of Suffolk Road



Houghton Garden Main Gate

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PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS 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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