



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Thursday, June 10, 2021

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

Summer Events and News!



While our Spring Webinar Series has ended, we wanted to remind you of a few upcoming events that may be of interest. If you were inspired by our last two webinars on pollinator gardens, Newton Conservators is cosponsoring with the Newton Library [a virtual talk by Newton Landscape Designer, Deborah Chud on the work of Piet Oudolf](#), the designer of the the New York City Hi-Line Park.

This weekend is a great opportunity to give a plant and get a plant at a special [Garden Swap event](#) to be held at the Durant-Kendrick House. And if you want to save on your gardening water bill, **tonight at midnight** is the deadline to order a rain barrel or other aids at a special discount price arranged by the City of Newton (details below).

You are all invited to attend the [Ribbon Cutting ceremony \(and tour\) of the new Pony Truss Trail](#) section of the Riverside Greenway next week on Thursday, June 17 at 10 am. The Pony Truss Trail is worth discovering - its a beautiful stretch of river that most people don't know about!

As Covid restrictions ease up, we are opening up our Invasive Removal sessions once again to the general public to be held at various of our beautiful open spaces this month and next. Check out the current upcoming dates and locations in this issue and join our Invasives Team led by Katherine Howard. See our we

Our Summer newsletter is going to press shortly so keep an eye in your mail or email for it. Take advantage of the upcoming week of pleasant seasonal weather to get out and enjoy our gorgeous open spaces!

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10 am to Noon

Rain Date: Sunday, June 13, 2021

Mary Morganti's Annual Plant Swap

Durant-Kenrick House & Grounds

286 Waverley Ave, Newton, MA,

[Info Link](#)

Attention Gardeners! Here is a special free event, known to many Newton gardeners, which has been held for almost 40 years at Newton gardener, Mary Morganti's house. It has expanded in popularity to the point it is being held at a larger venue to accommodate more people! Mary has potted up over 150 plants herself from her garden to make sure there is enough to go around. She even found some milkweed for those who want to encourage Monarch butterflies. It's a great chance to share extra plants you have and pick up ones you don't have.



What a nice way to ease out of quarantine and get outside safely. Free but Masks required! If you have plants (or other garden items) you'd like to swap for

something else, bring them to the event, and take home something new in exchange.

Please bring something (tray, box, etc.) to carry the plants you are taking home. Please bring your plants (or any other garden items) individually packaged and labeled for easy sorting and distribution. If you would like to drop off your items the day before the event, someone will be on-site at Durant-Kenrick to receive them on Friday, June 11, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Find full details and directions [HERE](#).

Thursday, June 17, 2021, 10 am - Noon Pony Truss Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Riverside Park

[Info Link](#)



A ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently completed Pony Truss Trail will be held on Thursday morning, June 17, 2021 from 10 am to Noon. Please join Massachusetts DCR Commissioner James Montgomery, EEA Assistant Secretary Kurt Gaetner, State Representative Kay Khan, Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, the Riverside Greenway Working Group

(RGWG), Newton Conservators, and others to celebrate the restoration of the historic Pony Truss Trail completed in March 2021 with grants from the Mass DCR Recreational Trails Program and Solomon Foundation. Following the ceremony, tours of the trail will be available.

Since the 1850s the Pony Truss Bridge and Pony Truss Trail brought folks to the banks of the Charles River Lakes District to walk, boat, and enjoy the beauty of the Charles River. The Pony-Truss trail, named after the key trail landmark the Pony Truss Bridge, is identifiable on maps dating back to 1875; it provided a footpath for canoeists traveling from Boston on the trolley to Riverside Depot to walk to boathouses at Riverside Park across the Pony-truss bridge.

The rerouting of the Lower Falls Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad to its current location on the Newton (south) side of the Charles created a steep slope (approximately 40%) above the trail. The trail is almost entirely on land owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The entire trail is under the purview of the Newton Conservation Commission.

With the restored Pony Truss Bridge in 2013 and now the Pony Truss Trail in 2021, together with planned trail connections in the next few years, the legacy of "The Riverside Recreation Grounds" as the "Riverside Greenway" is being restored. Instrumental in this process has been the Riverside Greenway Working Group of which Newton Conservators is a member along with the Solomon Foundation and others.



Directions: For the location of Riverside Park use this link: <https://goo.gl/maps/nWmmRm3YxAoaSVi86>. Access the park from Recreation Road on the North side of Leo J Martin Golf Course; or from Grove St take the access road (I-95 North, stay to the right after passing under the RR Bridge. Park in the lot for Riverside Park or along the access road from Grove St.

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>

Wednesday, June 23, 7:00 - 8:15 pm Charles River Flood Model Results Charles River Watershed Association

Join the CRWA to see the initial results of the Charles River Flood Model! They will be sharing how this information can be used to guide future decision-making in our communities, including implementing nature-based solutions to keep your community safe from the flooding impacts of climate change. All residents of the Charles River Watershed are welcome to join, please share with family, friends and neighbors!

If you have been engaged with the Charles River Watershed Association's

Project: Building Resilience in the Charles River Watersheds, CREW wants to thank you all for your work, attention, and dedication. It's been great to see residents from the watershed at the informational events and to hear back from you about how the tool will most benefit your community.



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

BUILDING RESILIENCE ON THE CHARLES

This event will not only serve as a wrap-up but also as a transition into the implementation phase of this project. We will be sharing with all community members how this fully functioning tool could possibly affect your future and your communities, including possible green infrastructure development to keep your community safe from flooding.

RSVP [HERE!](#) Watch our first webinar [here](#) to learn more about this project. Here is the official project [website](#). For further questions contact: ethan@climatecrew.org

News

Invasive Removal Sessions

The Newton Conservators Invasives Team has been engaged since late April in invasive removal sessions at various locations around Newton including 4 such events as part of NewtonSERVES. With relaxed outdoor Covid protocols, Newton Conservators is welcoming the public to join the Invasives Team.



Join the Newton Conservators for these invasive removal sessions. 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.

Also check out our new website section on invasives to learn about specific plants. Here are some of the currently scheduled sessions (join the email list to get exact locations and any cancellations):

- [Sat. June 12, 9:30 - Quinobequin / Hemlock Gorge](#)
- [Sat. June 19, 9:30-11:30 - Dolan Pond \(knotweed \)](#)
- [Sat. July 10, 1-3 - Cold Spring Park \(Black swallow-wort\)](#)
- [Sat. July 11, 1-3 - Crystal Lake / Centre St \(Black swallow-wort, Bittersweet\)](#)
- [Sat. July 17, 9:30 - Quinobequin / Hemlock Gorge \(Black swallow-wort\)](#)
- [Sun, July 18 1-3 - Quinobequin / Hemlock Gorge \(Black swallow-wort\)](#)

Introducing the Pollinator Toolkit



PHOTO: BETH WILKINSON
Bumblebee on butterfly weed.

Our environment is at risk because of precipitous declines in habitat, native plants and the insects, birds, and other animals that depend on those plants. The pollinators that are an essential part of making the whole system work are in serious decline, too.

The new Pollinator Toolkit contains information about the problem and some easy steps you can take to help alleviate it—while creating a fascinating and vibrant garden at the same time.

When you access the Toolkit, you will find charts of pollinator plants for mostly sunny, part sun/part shade, and mostly shady gardens. There are lists for perennials, shrubs, trees, and vines. When you click on the name of each plant, a photo appears.

In addition, the Toolkit lists sources for buying native plants in our area, tips for starting your garden, and information for making your environment support pollinators all year long. There also are lists of helpful books and websites. Find the Pollinator Toolkit [HERE](#).

City Hall Pollinator Garden

A new Pollinator Garden has been installed at City Hall by Beth Wilkinson and Mark Feldhusen with a grant from the Newton Conservators. Here's what Mayor Fuller posted recently out the City Hall garden:



"Next time you're at City Hall, keep an eye out for hummingbirds, butterflies and bumblebees. Thanks to the good work of the Newton Conservators, the Newton Pollinator Working Group, and Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, City Hall now has a garden to help feed all the native pollinators that call Newton home. Watch and enjoy as this garden transforms into a blossoming buzz of aster and ironweed, bluestar and goldenrod, and so much more. The Newton Conservators have also developed a Pollinator Toolkit, so you can help feed the

bumblebees in your own backyard this summer; check it out at newtonconservators.org/pollinator-toolkit. "

Newton Rain Barrel Program - Today is last day to order!



To keep your garden green in the withering heat of summer, consider a rain barrel. The City of Newton is hosting a rain barrel sales event ending tonight at MIDNIGHT. When You Buy a Rain Barrel, you will: decrease your water bill by up to 40%, have an alternate source of water during droughts, have a healthy, chlorine and chemical-free water source for plants and gardens, improve residential storm

management, slow pollution from runoff, lower municipal water demands & save energy at treatment plants.

The Great American Rain Barrel being offered is 100% re-purposed, food grade, UV protected and BPA free barrels, produced in Massachusetts, one of the most durable rain barrels on the market: 3/16" wall thickness, will last for years when properly drained & stored for winter, and pay for themselves in one year. It is screen filtered to keep mosquitoes out and several can be linked together. They come in a variety of colors: Forest Green, Earth Brown, and Nantucket Grey. Also available unpainted.

How to Purchase Your Rain Barrel: Rain Barrels are available for purchase by residents at the discounted price of \$79.00. Order online at <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/> Slect Massachusetts and then Select Newton. **Pick-Up will be on Tuesday, June 22nd from 4:30-6:30 pm at the Newton DPW Utilities Building 60 Elliot St Newton Highlands, MA 02461. The deadline to order is June 10th (TODAY!) at midnight.**

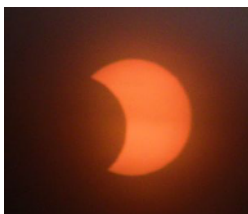
Coloring the Conservation Conversation On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces

The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and other local Lincoln organizations put together a wonderful series "On Belonging Outdoors" (onbelonginoutdoors.org), a speaker series on access, inclusion, and connection in nature.



On June 2nd, Dr. Drew J. Lanham gave a poetic and inspiring presentation "Coloring the Conservation Conversation" to close out the Speaker Series. He the Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife, Ecology and Master Teacher at Clemson University. He is the author of "Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts" (April 2021) and "The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature" (October, 2016). You can view a recording of the webinar [HERE](#).

Eclipse over Newton



Early this morning (around 5:45 am) over Newton this picture of the partial solar eclipse was taken through solar filter glasses across from the Gath Pool. If you missed it, on April 24, 2024, portions of NY, VT, NH, and ME will experience a total eclipse - a rare opportunity for New England! Check out the path in 2024 at <https://nationaleclipse.com/maps.html>

Turtle Time

We have been getting reports of snapping turtles laying eggs at various open spaces around Newton. One might even show up in your yard. Read more about snapping turtles and their nests [HERE](#). Here is a recent picture from Laura De Veau of this almost prehistoric looking creature.



Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our Summer 2021 Newsletter is going to press shortly but meanwhile enjoy 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 open space since 1961



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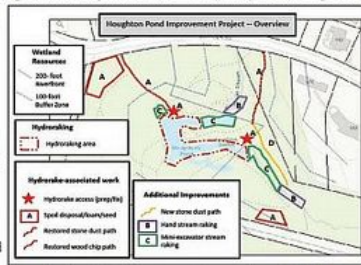
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Saving Houghton Pond

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

[\(https://newtonconservators.org/property/houghton-garden/\)](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



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

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.



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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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