

Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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



Fall Events and News!

This fall we have a spectacular lineup for you - walks, talks, and other great events. Our [Fall 2021 Newsletter](#) has just been posted online and should be arriving in your mailbox in the near future. The issue has a great [History of the Newton Conservators](#) in this, our 60th Anniversary Year, as well as an article on the recently dedicated [Pony Truss Trail](#) - an initial component of the planned Riverside Greenway.



We are pleased to bring you again our third [Webinar Series](#) this Fall with many informative speakers and topics (4 Wednesday evening events) starting on October 6 with a session on Owls. A printed Fall Webinar listing is available in our newsletter [here](#). But wait, there's more - we have resumed our traditional [Fall Walk Series](#) (8 weekend events) which even includes some geared to kids starting on Saturday, Sept 25. Get the handy Walks PDF list [here](#). Speaking of walks, make sure to check out the news in this issue about [Pollinator Story Walks](#) in a number of our parks.

We had planned a wonderful annual dinner meeting for our 60th Anniversary Year. But, alas, the Delta variant seems to have put yet another delay into our return to normalcy! Indeed, we will have our [Annual Meeting](#) and election on **Wednesday, October 27, at 7 pm**, but virtually once again. The awards from 2020 announced at last year's virtual Annual Meeting will finally be presented in person to our deserving recipients in an outdoor [Awards Ceremony](#) held near the new pollinator garden at City Hall on **Monday, September 27 at 3 pm**. And given continued Covid recovery progress, we do hope for a return to our in-person annual dinner meeting next spring on **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** at Post 440.

Below is a chronological listing of all the Newton Conservators events this Fall. Hope that you can attend a number of them!

Newton Conservators Fall Events

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10 am - 11:30 am

Kid's Discovery at Dolan Pond

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/kids-discovery-at-dolan-park/>

Join Barbara Bates, Newton Conservators Board member and teacher naturalist at Mass Audubon, to explore the animals and plants in the Dolan Pond Conservation Area and play nature-themed games. Open to children 5 and 6 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 8 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. *Trip Leader: Barbra Bates* (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



Saturday, September 25, 2021, 11 am - 1:30 pm

Houghton Garden Fern Walk

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021

210 Suffolk Road - Chestnut Hill<https://newtonconservators.org/events/houghton-garden-fern-walk/>

This garden remains from the Houghton Estate and is now part of the Webster Conservation Area complex near Hammond Pond that runs from Route 9 north beyond the MBTA Riverside line. The garden, only lightly managed now, retains a variety of flowering plants and a diversity of ferns. We will see more than a dozen fern species and one clubmoss. Park on Suffolk Road (off Hammond Street.) and meet near the gate at Woodman Road. Be prepared for insects and some poison ivy.



Don Lubin is a leading New England fern expert, who has been growing ferns since 1980 and doing field identification since 1991. He has led workshops and field trips since 1998 for the Native Plant Trust and others. Don assisted Cheryl Lowe and Elizabeth Farnsworth in their revision of Boughton Cobb's Field Guide To The Ferns and is a co-author of the Newton Conservators Almanac and other publications. For more information on ferns, please visit Don's informative website nefern.info. A [video](#) of Don's Webinar last fall is now available on our YouTube Channel. Bring any native fern you would like Don to identify. *Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-254-8464).*

Monday, September 27, 2021, 3 pm - 4 pm (Rachel Carson Day)
Newton Conservators Awards Presentations for 2020
Newton City Hall Pollinator Garden

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-award-presentations/>

Traditionally, Newton Conservators present awards at its Annual Dinner Meeting, typically held in May. Unfortunately, Covid has stymied our attempts to present these awards in person - we have had to reschedule the in-person dinner four times already (May 2020, October 2020, May 2021, October 2021). We announced these awards last October at our virtual Annual Meeting on Zoom. This [article from our Newton Conservators Winter 2021 newsletter](#) provides more background on the awards and recipients. Rather than wait until next year to present these awards in person, we have scheduled an outdoor presentation ceremony at City Hall on **Monday, September 27 at 3 pm**. Somewhat appropriately, this is also *Rachel Carson Day*.



The event will take place in the vicinity of the new Pollinator Garden installed last spring in conjunction with the Pollinator Working Group and support of the Conservators. The Pollinator Garden is to the left of the main City Hall entrance steps toward Homer Street. In case of rain, the ceremony will be moved into the City Hall Lobby.



If you attend, please bring a mask since they are required inside City Hall. Parking should be available along the street, along the drive between Comm Ave and Homer Street, or the Library parking lot.

Directors' Awards will be presented to recent city retirees Bob DeRubeis, Alice Ingerson, and Ouida Young for their open space efforts as part of the Parks Recreation and Culture Department, the Community Preservation Program, and the Law Department respectively. Alan Noguee will be presented with the Charles Maynard Award for his efforts in founding Friends of Cold Spring Park and much great work there. And (drum roll please) our Environmentalists of the Year Award will go to the "Webster Woods Team", both city personnel and citizen volunteers who managed to "Save Webster Woods." These included: Rory Altman, Councilor Lisle Baker, Peter Barrer, Suzanne Berne, Dan Brody, Kathy Cade, Suzanne Carleo, Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, Alissa Giuliani, Jeff Goldman, Barney Heath, Ken Kimmel, Rebecca Mayne, Eric Olson, Richard Primack, Steve Small, Jennifer Steel, Beth Wilkinson, Jonathan Yeo, and Ouida Young.

Saturday, October 2, 9 - 10:30 am
Monarch and Milkweed Day
Wellington Park Monarch Garden, Kilburn Road, West Newton
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/monarch-and-milkweed-day/>

Do you like Monarch Butterflies? Did you know they need milkweed to sustain

them in their caterpillar stage? Come learn a little about Monarch butterflies and various types of Milkweed. See how easy it is to raise Monarchs from finding a tiny egg on a milkweed leaf to a full grown colorful butterfly. Learn about planting and growing different native varieties of milkweed as well as other pollinator plants that feed the adults in a beautiful Monarch-centric pollinator garden. If you raise monarchs or milkweed, please come and share your knowledge. This informal event will bring together those who would have milkweed seeds or plants and those who are willing to share them. We may have monarchs at various life stages (caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly) to show.



This informal event will take place at the Monarch Garden / Monarch Waystation at Wellington Park on Kilburn Road in West Newton. Street parking is available on Kilburn Road (opposite side from the park) or on Lindbergh Avenue. For more info contact Ted Kuklinski (617-763-3470, tkuklinski@aol.com). Also check out our [Newsletter article on raising Monarchs](#) and a [video](#) of last fall's webinar, Meet the Monarchs.

Sunday, October 3, 2021, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Kids' Exploration by the Charles River

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/kids-exploration-by-the-charles-river/>

Join Barbara Bates, Newton Conservators Board member and teacher naturalist at Mass Audubon, to explore the various habitats around Riverside Park next to the Charles River and play nature-themed games. Open to children 7 and 8 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 8 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Trip Leader: Barbra Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com). [Register](#)



Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

The Lives of Native Owls

Presenter: Barbara Bates

Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/the-lives-of-native-owls/>

Owls are an exciting group of birds for many reasons: their amazing predatory adaptations, their nocturnal habits, the folklore and legends that surround them. Join Newton Conservators' Board member Barbara Bates to learn more about our local owls, their adaptations and nesting habits, where to look for them, and how they manage to survive in our western suburbs. We will focus on four species: the Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Screech Owl, and Saw-whet Owl. Presented by Barbara Bates, teacher, naturalist and Newton Conservators board member. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3k2iOh8>



Saturday, October 9, 2021, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Charles River Pathway Walk

Leaders: Sonja Waldman (WLT) and Ted Chapman (RGWG)

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021

Lyons Field, Commonwealth Ave, Auburndale, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/charles-river-pathway-walk/>

Join the Newton Conservators and Waltham Land Trust for an easy, one-way 2-mile walk on the Charles River Pathway. We'll discuss historic and natural points of interest along the way, starting in Newton's Lyons Field, going through Auburndale Park and into Forest Grove in Waltham, over the new Woerd Ave bridge, past the boat launch and Waltham Watch Factory, and along the Riverwalk to Waltham's vibrant Moody Street.



There participants can pick up produce and snacks at the Waltham Farmers'

Market, stroll a closed-to-traffic Moody Street, and grab lunch al fresco on "Restaurant Row. Meet at Lyons Park, Commonwealth Ave at Islington Road, Auburndale 02466. *Trip Leaders: Sonja Wadman from the Waltham Land Trust & Ted Chapman (781-893-3355 x101) of the Riverside Greenway Working Group.*

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

More Than Just the Buzz:

**Using ecological data to restore native pollination systems
(and why it matters)**

Presenter: Professor Robert Gegear - Bee Expert

Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/more-than-just-the-buzz-using-ecological-data-to-restore-native-pollination-systems-and-why-it-matters/>

Join Dr. Robert J. Gegear to learn what you can do to maximize biodiversity in your own backyard by creating pollination systems that are at risk of local extinction. He will also discuss his Beecology Citizen Science Project, highlighting recent examples of how communities from across Massachusetts have used his native plant list to successfully restore pollination systems in areas with high levels of human disturbance, including parks, golf courses, old fields with invasives/non-natives, agricultural areas, conservation lands, and school campuses. Co-sponsored by Newton Conservators, Friends of Cold Spring Park, Green Newton, and Mothers Out Front Newton.



Dr. Robert J. Gegear is a Professor in the Department of Biology at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He has been studying the neuroecology and conservation of plant-pollinator systems for over 25 years. Dr. Gegear is the founder of the Beecology Project, a citizen science project uses eco-technology to protect and restore plant-pollinator systems native to New England. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3y1AwGH>

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Walking Webster Woods

Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/walking-webster-woods/>

Join Barbara Bates, Newton Conservators Board member, in navigating the more common trails in Webster Woods while admiring fall foliage and learning about how leaves turn color. Includes visits to the vernal pool (Bare Pond) and Gooch's Cave. Registration limited to 25. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Adults and families welcome! *Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com).* [Registration](#)



Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Meet the Birds who Spend the Winter in Cold Spring Park

Presenter: Pete Gilmore

Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series - 2021

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/meet-the-birds-who-spend-the-winter-in-cold-spring-park/>

We are blessed with a variety of interesting and colorful birds in Newton. Each fall our resident birds must ready themselves to survive the coming winter. Join Pete Gilmore as he presents slides of twenty different resident bird species with background information provided about each species. Different groups of birds have different strategies for surviving the winter months. We will spend about five minutes on each avian friend, building empathy and connection with a natural world that is in peril. Presented by Pete Gilmore, expert birder, who serves on the boards of Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3iXGsfu>



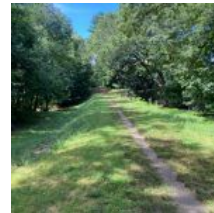
Saturday, October 23, 2021, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Birding at Cold Spring Park**Leader: Pete Gilmore****Cold Spring Park - Beacon Street Parking Area**<https://newtonconservators.org/events/birding-at-cold-spring-park/>

Participants will meet near the turnaround at the end of the left side of the Beacon Street parking area. This is an easy walk on flat woodland trails. We will look for resident birds as well as fall migrants. The latter may include warblers, thrushes and vireos. We saw a Philadelphia Vireo on this walk two years ago. Beginners and children are welcome. *Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore* (petegilmore79@gmail.com)

**Sunday, October 24, 2021, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm****Newton Aqueducts Hike****Leader: Henry Finch****Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series - 2021**<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-aqueducts-hike-3/>

Join a five-mile hike through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group (there are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. *Trip Leader: Henry Finch* (617-964-4488)

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm****Newton Conservators 60th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting****Virtual Event with Registration**<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-60th-anniversary-celebration/>

Please join us the Newton Conservators for our 60th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 on Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the Covid surge and the Delta variant, our board felt that it was too soon to host our Annual Meeting indoors as planned at Post 440. Our October Annual Meeting and Election will take place virtually on Zoom. This year's meeting will look back at our past 60 years through the



recollections of some of our past and present members. We have a proud legacy of open-space accomplishments. Watch for more details soon and zoom registration info. The long delayed in-person Newton Conservators awards for 2020 will take place outdoors on Monday, September 27, 2021 (Rachel Carson Day) near the new City Hall Pollinator Garden at 3 pm. However In addition, we do look forward to our next in-person Annual Meeting next year on Wednesday, May 4, 2022!

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**The Wolves of the Forest Floor:****The Eastern Red-backed Salamander****Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series - 2021****Presenter: Brooks Mathewson**<https://newtonconservators.org/events/the-wolves-of-the-forest-floor-the-eastern-red-backed-salamander/>

Eastern red-backed salamanders are important indicators of forest health. They are abundant, sensitive to environmental change, permanent forest residents, and play an important role in ecosystem function and carbon storage as predators of soil invertebrates. In this talk Brooks Mathewson, ecologist, educator, and photographer, will discuss his work and share images of these fascinating amphibians.



Brooks' research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and his

photography has appeared in textbooks, magazines, and newspapers and has been exhibited widely including at the National Science Foundation. Brooks has studied amphibians in both rural and urban forests over the past fifteen years. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3j6j27T>

News

Pollinator Story Walks Installed in Local Parks

Now you can take a walk in a number of Newton parks and enjoy a book while strolling!

Earlier this year a group of residents and City Councilors formed **The Newton Community Pollinator Group** to recommend policies and programs to support pollinators. Work includes encouraging the planting of more native and pollinator friendly plants to developing policies that will help ensure a healthier pollinator population into the future to educating the public on the wonders of pollinators.

One goal was a project to engage children and parents in learning more about pollinators. And **Story Walks®** are a way to mount storybooks so that children can read them as they are walking along a path or through a park. They have been popular in parks all over the country. In Newton the Pollinator Group has now initially installed five **Story Walks®** at four locations around the city. Additional locations may be planned. In addition, our Newton walks have been designed to be able to rotate around to different locations.



The books chosen are all appropriate for children. They have beautiful illustrations and either provide great detailed information in an age-appropriate way or tell a good story. The books can be seen on this public list at https://a.co/4WaTajc_



The Bug Girl – by Margaret McNamara and Sophia Spencer

Real-life 7 year old Sophia Spencer was bullied for loving bugs until hundreds of women scientists rallied around her. Now Sophia tells her inspiring story in this picture book that celebrates women in science, bugs of all kinds, and the importance of staying true to yourself. **Bug Girl** is at City Hall starting at the Pollinator Garden

The Puddle Garden – by Jared and Laura Rosenbaum

In this children's story full of native plants and wildlife, learn how lonely Bear Cub invited friends to his new home by creating a puddle garden. Bear Cub plants cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, blue flag iris, elderberry, and more. His garden quickly fills with grateful wildlife. His home landscape is no longer lonely. **Puddle Garden** is at Cold Spring Park starting from the kiosk at the south east end of the parking lot and fanning out towards Zervas.

Wangari Maathai – by Frank Prevot and Aurelia Fronty

Returning home, Wangari was determined to help her people and her country. She recognized that deforestation and urbanization was at the root of her country's troubles. Her courage and confidence carried her through adversity to found a movement for peace, reconciliation, and healing. **Wangari Maathai** is at Cold Spring Park starting from the kiosk at the south east end of the parking lot and fanning out towards the meadow.

Begin with a Bee – by Lisa Ketchum, Jacqueline Brigg Martin, and Phyllis Root

By looking closely at the life cycle of one bee, *Begin with a Bee* helps readers of all ages understand and appreciate the contributions and significance of all bees. The life cycle of the rusty patched bumblebee is a tale of wonder, the adventure of one queen bee who carries an entire colony of bees inside her tiny body. **Begins with a Bee** is at the Waban Hill Reservoir/Heartbreak Hill Park.

What's Inside a Flower – by Rachel Ignotofsky

Budding backyard scientists can start exploring their world with this stunning introduction to these flowery show stoppers from seeds to roots to blooms. Learning how flowers grow gives kids beautiful building blocks of science and inquiry. **What's Inside a Flower** is at Wellington Park, Kilburn Road, West Newton.

The **Newton Pollinator Working Group** consists of dedicated Newton residents and City Councilors working on policies and programs to support pollinators, including encouraging the plantings of more native and pollinator friendly plants, developing policies to help ensure a healthier pollinator population and educating the public on the wonders of pollinators. The Pollinator Group's Facebook page can be found at <https://m.facebook.com/NewtonCommunityPollinatorProject/>.

The first project was a new **Pollinator Toolkit** – a guide to native plants that are appropriate for various types of gardens and conditions. In conjunction with that was a wonderful demonstration Pollinator Garden at City Hall (one of the locations for the Story Walks.)

Thanks to the sponsors of the Newton Pollinator Story Walks® :

- Newton Conservators
- Green Newton
- Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
- Newton Mayor's Office

The Story Walk® project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our Fall 2021 Newsletter is now available at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters>.



NEWSLETTER

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

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60th Anniversary of Newton Conservators

Newton Conservators has turned 60! Since its establishment in 1961, the organization has worked to fulfill its mission of "the protection and preservation of natural areas... for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation."

Over time, that mission has broadened to encompass new issues and to be concerned with conservation beyond the borders of our city.

In the past year, the board created a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) committee and has been working to re-examine the structure of the board and its activities. More information about that process will be forthcoming. The board also has endorsed statewide issues such as the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA) to strengthen protection of open space in Massachusetts, and it also supported Massachusetts Green Budget amendments.

As we plan for the future of Newton Conservators, let's also visit the past and celebrate the many accomplishments of our organization over the past 60 years.

The Beginning

After World War II, returning veterans and their families had trouble finding affordable homes in Newton. The city reacted creatively to this shortage by taking a large tract of land in Oak Hill by eminent domain and building affordable homes there. As the decade progressed, shopping centers and industrial and office buildings, as well as more homes and apartment buildings, were built across the city. Boston College, which had been a six-building complex, expanded rapidly. The Metropolitan District Commission (now



In the 1950s, the Metropolitan District Commission had begun selling some of the woodlands, near Hammond Pond for development of parking for the new Chestnut Hill Shopping Center.

DCR) sold off some of its woodlands near Hammond Pond for development, as did the privately-owned Norumbega Park. The Mass Pike Boston Extension took over homes in West Newton and a number of Newton's villages. By 1960, Newton citizens began to discuss the importance of preserving open space as the city continued to develop.

A small group of people from across the city met to discuss what could be done, and together the following people and others formed the Newton Conservators, which was incorporated in 1961.

- Allard M. Valentine, president of the Auburndale Cooperative Bank, and Murray I. Rothman, rabbi of Temple Shalom, were concerned about plans first for a racetrack and then for high rise buildings proposed for Norumbega Park.

- Jack M. Roberts and Helen A. Heyn, both members of the Oak Hill District

Continued on page 2

The **Fall 2021** issue contains the following interesting pieces:

- * 60th Anniversary
- * President's Message
- * Pony Truss Trail
- * Walks
- * Webinars

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 (bulletin@newtonconservators.org)

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