

Enjoy Nature... with webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our online fall webinar series in October and November.

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.



PHOTO: RICK CLICK

Barred Owl on the wing

Wednesday, October 6 ... The Lives of Native Owls

Owls are an exciting group of birds for many reasons: their amazing predatory adaptations, their nocturnal habits, their folklore, and the 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>



PHOTO: ROBERT GEGEAR

Bombus fervidus on a Purple Giant Hyssop

Wednesday, October 13 ... 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.

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 that uses eco-technology to protect and restore plant-pollinator systems native to New England. Co-sponsored by Newton Conservators, Friends of Cold Spring Park, Green Newton, and Mothers Out Front Newton. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3y1AwGH>



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Tufted Titmouse

Wednesday, October 20 ... 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 20 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, who serves on the boards of Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3iXGsfu>



PHOTO: BROOKS MATHEWSON

Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Wednesday, November 10 ... 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 15 years. **Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3j6j27T>