



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, October 12, 2021

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



October Happenings and News!

This fall we have a spectacular lineup for you - walks, talks, and other great events.

We are pleased to bring you again our third [Webinar Series](#) this Fall with many informative speakers and topics. Don't miss renowned bee expert Robert Gegear on Wednesday evening! We have resumed our traditional [Fall Walk Series](#) (weekend events) - this week is a walk in Webster Woods (but it may be filled at this point). There is an ever popular bird walk with Pete Gilmore on Saturday, Oct 23 which is preceded by Pete's webinar on birds on Wednesday, Oct 20.



Stop by the Newton Conservators Booth at the Newton Harvest Fair this coming Sunday at Newton Centre Common (10 am to 5 pm).

We will have our [Annual Meeting](#) of the Newton Conservatives and election on **Wednesday, October 27, at 7 pm**, but virtually once again - see registration info below.

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

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](#)



Sunday, October 17, 2021, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Newton Harvest Fair / Green Expo

Newton Centre Common

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-harvest-festival-green-expo/>

The Harvest Fair brings our community together in one place to share good food, peruse unique hand-crafted goods, learn about local businesses and organizations such as the Newton Conservators. There will be music, entertainment, kids activities, and much more. The GreenEXPO 2021 sponsored by Green Newton is also held as part of the City of Newton's Harvest Fair. The events draw 1200+ visitors from Newton and surrounding communities.



Come see the many options available to make your life greener. Available will be representatives from sustainability focused companies, community organizations, and city departments to share information and answer questions. Come for a great day of interesting exhibits, fun activities for the kids, and products that will help you live more sustainably. With each action, we can make an impact on climate change.

Look for our booth at the fair on Sunday, October 17 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Newton Centre Common. This year we celebrate our 60th year of open space advocacy! We'll have our popular Newton Trail Guides and Nature Almanacs as well as schedules of our Fall Walks and Webinars, newsletters, pollinator info, free milkweed seeds, and a chance to chat with our board members to explore how you could help with open space in Newton. Please stop by!

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)



Saturday, October 23, 2021, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Meet the City Council Candidates - Saturday Night at the Races
Virtual Event

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/meet-the-city-council-candidates-saturday-night-at-the-races/>

Join League of Women Voters – Newton (LWVN) and its co-sponsors – Charles River Regional Chamber of Commerce, Green Newton, Mothers Out Front Newton, Newton Conservators – on Saturday evening, **October 23, 2021**, for Newton's second biennial **Saturday Night at the Races**. Like most everything else in 2021, this event will be virtual, but it will be fun!!



The goal of the evening is to provide voters an opportunity to learn more about city council candidate positions on important challenges and issues that Newton is facing today. Therefore all city council candidates, whether or not they have a challenger, are invited for this evening.

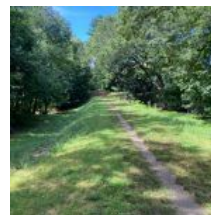
Each ward is represented by a table, and each of the candidates running for office in that ward able to attend the event are seated at the table and are available to answer voter questions. A moderator assigned by the LWVN is present at each table to make sure all voters have a chance to ask their questions, and to insure each candidate has an equal opportunity to speak. Voters are given approximately 15 minutes at each table before they are asked to move on to another table. There are eight rounds so that each voter has an opportunity to visit with the candidates from each ward. [REGISTER HERE](#).

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 Annual Meeting - Our 60th Year
Virtual Event - [Register Now!](#)

[newton-conservators-60th-anniversary-celebration/](https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-60th-anniversary-celebration/)

Please join us the Newton Conservators for our 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 to be held virtually on Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Delta variant surge, our board felt that it was too soon to host our Annual Meeting indoors as planned at Post 440.



The Annual Meeting and Election will take place virtually as a Zoom meeting and will include our required annual business meeting with our annual Treasurers Report, Election of Officers and Board members, a brief President's Report and announcement of a very special Lifetime Achievement

Award. In honor of our 60th Anniversary, the meeting will feature a number of short segments by past presidents, board members, and volunteers with stories about some interesting aspects of our history, major milestones, recent successes, and future plans.

Pre-registration is required to attend the meeting. Please register at bit.ly/2YDRdfi and a link will be sent to you. We hope to see you there!

Our long delayed in-person Newton Conservators awards for 2020, announced at our last Annual Meeting, were presented outdoors on Monday, September 27, 2021 (Rachel Carson Day) at the Newton City Hall Pollinator Garden. Given an improving Covid situation, Newton Conservators tentatively is looking forward to our next Annual Meeting and in-person 60th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at Post 440!

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/3j6j27I>

News

Submit Measurement Info on Your Trees to Help Understand Their Benefits

Newton North High School senior and scout in Newton Troop 205, Zac Lobel, is working on an Eagle Project for the City of Newton, Urban Forestry Department. He is interested in increasing awareness of the importance of, and ecological benefits provided by trees in our city by creating an inventory of trees on private property to supplement the tree inventory that the Forestry Department has been building on public property. The idea is to identify and take measurements of trees and use the information to calculate the ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, removal of air pollutants, and mitigation of stormwater runoff. Zac will summarize the information gathered and provide a report on the Urban Forestry Department web page. He is asking Newton residents to help by **October 20**. The information will help us better understand the value of our city trees. See more details at



<https://greennewton.org/help-needed-submit-info-on-your-trees-to-help-understand-their-benefits-newton-north-high-school-senior-and-scout-in-newton-troop-205-zac-lobel-is-working-on-an-eagle-project-for-the-city-of-newt/>

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 articles:

- * [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 (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)

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