



# Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, October 25, 2021

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



## Newton Conservators Annual Meeting Our 60th Year Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Virtual Event - [Register Now!](#)

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 will begin with brief business meeting, including the treasurer's report, a short president's report, election of a new slate of officers and board members, and the announcement of a very special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Then, to celebrate our 60th anniversary, our feature presentation will consist of short segments by past presidents, board members, and volunteers with stories about important and interesting times in our history, major milestones, recent successes, and future plans. Learn about the role Newton Conservators has played in helping create many of our most beloved parks and open spaces.

Pre-registration is required to attend the meeting. Please register at [bit.ly/2YDRdfi](https://bit.ly/2YDRdfi) or the button below and a link will be sent to you. We hope to see you there!

Since we can't meet for dinner in person check out this brief [video](#) prepared by Girl Scout Troop 3451 for our Annual virtual meeting.

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!

## REGISTER NOW!

**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>

## Newton Conservators Newsletter

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



FALL ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

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

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NEWTON CONSERVATORS

## 2021 Officers and Directors

Ted Kuklinski,  
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*Vice President*  
Michael Clarke,  
*Secretary*  
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William Leitch  
Don Lubin  
Brooks Mathewson  
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Richard Primack  
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Jane Sender  
William Shaevel  
Diane Tillotson  
Willis Wang  
Bruce Wenning

## 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

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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](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))

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