

# Enjoy Nature... with webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our spring webinar series online from April to June.

Each program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. You may register for the programs using the links below or by going to the event listing at [newtonconservators.org](http://newtonconservators.org). You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



PHOTO: SHARED BY RUSS COHEN

Russ Cohen teaching Winged-Shining Sumac Fruit

## Wednesday, April 6 ... Nibbling on Natives in Your Back Yard and Beyond

Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of *Wild Plants I have Known... and Eaten*, for a webinar featuring at least two dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your own landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with edible portions, seasons of availability and preparation methods, and guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging.

Since his retirement as the Rivers Advocate for the Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, Russ has more time to pursue his avocation, which is connecting to nature via his taste buds — and assisting others in doing the same. He has set up a small nursery in Weston where he grows over 1,000 plants that he propagates from seed.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3offda9>



Some Newton inhabitants

## Wednesday, April 13 ... April Foolery in Nature

Is it fair to call someone a “bird brain” when they can't remember things? What animal is compared to the Mafia? Do eastern screech owls really screech? Enjoy some *interactive* fun trying to tell fact from fiction while exploring common and not-so-common knowledge about nature in Newton. Kids of all ages are welcome.

Barbara Bates will entertain you with portraits of common (or fake?) New England animals and their behaviors while challenging you to use your thinking skills to spot the fakes. Barbara is a teacher, naturalist, and Newton Conservators' board member.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3ATbOev>



PHOTO: FLICKR BY ALFREDO ELOISA

Invasive Jumping Worm

## Wednesday, April 20 ... Jumping Worms in Field and Forest

Nearly all earthworms in New England were introduced from Europe and Asia. While some species of earthworms benefit some species of plants, invasive earthworms have caused major shifts in North American plant communities. Jumping worms alter the structure and chemistry of the soil dramatically, leaving a grainy soil full of worm excrement (castings), and they can damage lawns, landscapes and forest habitat. This talk will present the impacts and history of earthworms (and jumping worms in particular) and will provide information on identification of jumping worms.

Presented by Dr. Annise Dobson, a postdoctoral researcher at the Yale School of the Environment. Currently, she is working to identify the movement of jumping worms through New York City and assessing their impacts on urban plant communities.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3L1KAaq>



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Magnolia Warbler

## Wednesday, May 11 ... Spring Warblers in Newton

We will view the field marks (using photographs) and will listen to the vocalizations, both calls and songs, of 25 species of warblers that are in Cold Spring Park each May. The audio tapes are from the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, as are some of the photos. Most of these species are migrating through Newton to their nesting territories north of us. A few species nest in Cold Spring Park and can be experienced throughout the summer. A central theme will be to use both sight and sound to appreciate these little living jewels.

Presented by Pete Gilmore, who serves on the boards of Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/343wZhS>



Street Trees in Newton

### Wednesday, June 15 ... Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future

Trees growing along the roadways of Newton have been a part of the fabric of the community for over 100 years. How did these trees get here? What is their importance? What can we expect in the future? The City's street trees provide incredible benefits to the public but also require thoughtful care, planning, and perspective. We will look at how the trees and their care have evolved over the years. We also will discuss ways to ensure these trees remain assets to the community.

Marc Welch is the City Forester and Deputy Commissioner of the Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. He is a Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden and Massachusetts Certified Arborist. Marc is entering his twentieth year managing the City's trees.

Co-sponsored by The Newton Tree Conservancy.

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3s3DCsv>

## Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA



Individuals 70½ and older can make a tax-free gift to the Newton Conservators directly from their IRA. Please consider a gift to the Conservators from your 2021 IRA distributions. The benefits to you include the reduction in income subject to tax, even if you don't itemize, and the amount donated counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The benefits to the Conservators are immense and allow for us to continue to help preserve open space in Newton. Ask your IRA holder for a simple transfer letter or form. The Newton Conservators is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

— Thank you.

Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton, MA 02459