

..... Invasives Team Update



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Black Swallow-wort



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Japanese Knotweed



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Garlic Mustard



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD
Multiflora Rose



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Tree of Heaven

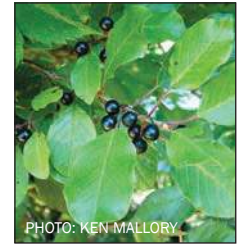


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Glossy Buckthorn

The Newton Conservators' Invasives Team conducts invasive plant removal sessions throughout much of the year. We started mid-February this year and go through the fall. We work in city parks, conservation parcels, and on state lands, with excellent support and assistance from the City of Newton and DCR.

Invasive non-native plants take over large areas quickly and disrupt the functioning of local ecosystems and food chains of plants, insects, birds, and other animals. These plants got where they are through human activity, and humans need to do what they can to offset this harm and restore the health of our open spaces. You can help by joining our efforts, and by learning about the plants and how to identify them in your yard and elsewhere. Newton Conservators has a new website area with invasive plant information and it includes identification tips. Visit <https://newtonconservators.org/invasive-plants/>

Our season is starting early this year, with late winter removal of bittersweet vines (which girdle and take down trees) and buckthorn (which forms thickets and shades out natives, threatening our red maple forests and other habitats). By late April it's time for garlic mustard, the easiest of all the invasives to control and pull. Yes, it is downright fun and satisfying - try it and you will also be hooked. NewtonSERVES day is Sunday May 1 this year, and we expect to have three garlic mustard sessions. Starting in June we are madly trying to keep black swallow-wort (fatal to monarch butterflies) out of our parks, or at least get the seed pods removed before they scatter seed to the wind. In the summer we also work on large shrubs such as buckthorn, barberry, burning bush, bush honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose. During the whole season we have multi-pronged efforts to dig, cut, and generally discourage Japanese knotweed, which threatens to take over the world. We try to remove invasive plants where they are threatening native species, and also have plans to add new native plantings in selected areas.

The open spaces we work in include Cold Spring Park, Hemlock Gorge, Quinobequin, Houghton Garden, Heartbreak Hill Park, Dolan Pond, Blue Heron Bridge, Webster Woods, Sawmill Brook, Upper Falls Greenway, Riverside Park, Pony Truss Trail, Hammond Pond, Crystal Lake, Nahanton Park, and Woodcock Meadow. We also work in the three Conservators-owned properties: Dexter Road, Awtrey Dell, and Ordway Park.

You are welcome to join in these efforts. The sessions will be published as Events on our website; and if you would like to receive notices and updates about our plans, you can get on our email list. Please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org. There is no obligation, and you can come to as many or as few of the sessions as you like. ♦

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

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.

The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 61 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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