



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

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

May-June Webinars!

It's Cinco de Mayo already! Given that our outdoor walk series is still restricted due to the pandemic and the success of our first webinar series last Fall, please join us for the remaining events in our **Spring Webinar Series** - see full information below! **The next one is all about Cold Spring Park and takes place [THIS EVENING \(May 5\)](#) featuring Friends of Cold Spring Park founder Alan Noguee.** And next Wednesday, learn about the [Spring birds](#) with another virtual bird walk at Cold Spring Park with expert birder Pete Gilmore!

Thanks to those who participated in our four NewtonSERVES events this past Sunday - the weather was terrific and a lot of invasives were pulled. We have lots more pulling events for those who are experienced. Find out how to join the effort [HERE](#).

Our **Spring Newsletter** is out now - links below - with articles on Houghton Garden and the History of our Parks (and Department) in Newton as well as the above mentioned Webinar Series and Invasive Removal opportunities!

Newton Conservators Spring 2021 Webinar Series

Enjoy Nature... with the Newton Conservators!

Join us for our online spring Wednesday webinar series. With continuing concerns for social distancing in the time of Covid-19, we offer a new series of online talks given by some of our expert walk leaders. 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. If after registering you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation (as indicated on your confirmation) so that someone else may use the slot. Registration is now limited to 500 slots due to increased demand! Check out these and other events on our [Newton Conservators Events Page](#)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Cold Spring Park: Problems, Progress and Possibilities

Alan Noguee, President - Friends of Cold Spring Park

Newton Conservators Spring 2021 Webinar Series

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/cold-spring-park-problems-progress-and-possibilities/>

We will tour some of the fun and unique, natural and unnatural, historical and current, features of Cold Spring Park – a 67-acre green oasis in the heart of Newton. We'll look at some of the environmental and other challenges facing the park, and how the Friends of Cold Spring Park – with the support of Newton Conservators – is taking them on.



Our presenter is Alan Noguee, the president of The Friends of Cold Spring Park. Alan founded Friends of Cold Spring Park in 2018. He grew up in Newton Highlands, playing in Cold Spring Park in the 1960s, and moved back in 2003. Alan is a mostly-retired career environmentalist, having worked as the Clean Energy Program Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and with other non-profits. Alan won an award from the Newton Conservators in 2020 for his work with Friends of Cold Spring

Park.

To sign up for this webinar, [please register on our Zoom page.](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Spring Birds in Cold Spring Park

Pete Gilmore - Walks Coordinator for the Brookline Bird Club

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/planting-for-pollinators/>

Since one can easily access photos of the common resident birds by watching the fall webinar on Birds in Cold Spring Park, we will focus on the colorful migrant and summer birds of Cold Spring Park in this webinar. We will look at the two different orioles, our hummingbird, the tanager and grosbeak and then sort out the sights and sounds of the American wood warblers. These latter birds are found only in the New World. Getting to know their sounds and field marks can be a challenge. This webinar will provide a decent start on that project.

Our presenter is Pete Gilmore, who is a retired mathematician from Northeastern University. Pete has been a birder since 1951 and has been active in Newton's



Christmas Bird Count for 15 years. He writes a quarterly article on Newton's birds for the newsletter and

leads spring and fall bird and nature walks. Pete serves on the boards of the Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club and is its field trip coordinator.

To sign up for this webinar, [please register on our Zoom page.](#)



Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Planting for Pollinators

Beth Wilkinson - Master Gardener

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/planting-for-pollinators-2/>

Without the work of pollinators, we would not have food to eat. However, pollinator populations are decreasing at an alarming rate. Why? Partly due to climate change and the use of herbicides and largely due to vanishing habitat. Together, we can help to save the pollinators by preserving large tracts of habitat, but each of us also can do important work on a smaller scale—in our own yards and parks. Join this webinar to learn what you can plant to encourage pollinators to visit. We will review specific plants that grow well in Newton and the pollinators that they attract as well as what sorts of nesting materials they require.



Our presenter is Beth Wilkinson, who became a Master Gardener in 2003 and then earned a Field Botany Certificate from Native Plant Trust in 2009. In addition to helping to preserve publicly owned areas like Webster Woods where native plants and their pollinators can flourish, Beth enjoys working to attract pollinators to her own garden. She is a board member and the Walks Coordinator for Newton Conservators and a member of both

the Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission and the Newton Tree Commission.

To sign up for this webinar, [please register on our Zoom page.](#)

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Pollinator Meadow-Making at Brandeis University: Lessons Learned

Dr. Eric Olson - Brandeis Ecologist

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/pollinator-meadow-making-at-brandeis-university-lessons-learned/>

Starting with a small plot in 2016, a vibrantly colorful and diverse pollinator meadow has grown to cover a half-acre of former lawn, close to the center of the Brandeis campus. This successful habitat-making project was catalyzed by undergraduate student Matt Smetana, who back in 2015 requested permission to install a small patch of wildflowers to support local insects. Matt obtained funding for several scores of plants from the Brandeis University Sustainability Fund and sought faculty support from Brandeis ecologist Dr. Eric Olson.



With work from 2017 on by Eric and other faculty, the meadow continued to thrive, and the Brandeis administration eventually gave the go-ahead to expand the meadow to ten times its original size. By 2019, student and faculty surveys of pollinators and other meadow life demonstrated in striking fashion just how quickly we can give biodiversity a boost, even in a thickly settled community like Waltham.

In this webinar Dr. Olson will describe the stages of this transformation, and will reflect on lessons learned. The talk is supplemented by an annotated bibliography of how-to books, articles, websites, and videos, that also lists local organizations ready to help homeowners, schools, parks, and others to do their part supporting native bees and butterflies.

Our presenter is Eric Olson, who recently retired from Brandeis University, where he taught Field Biology and other courses for many years. **To sign up for this webinar, [please register on our Zoom page.](#)**

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 7 pm

A Piet Oudolf Story (Garden Designer of NYC Hi-Line)

Free Webinar with Deborah Chub

Cosponsored by the Newton Free Library and Newton Conservators

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/a-piet-oudolf-story/>

Join Deborah Chud for a personal introduction to the design principles of the leading naturalistic landscape and garden designer in the world, Piet Oudolf. Anyone who has visited NY's High Line or The Battery has seen his work, and it's rumored Massachusetts may soon have its own example. During the talk she will discuss:

How she discovered Oudolf's work and her research on his plant combinations
Her use of that research to create a garden in Oudolf's style
The historical context in which he emerged as a landscape designer

Oudolf's design principles, particularly his concept of structure and the special balance he creates between coherence and contrast



Deborah Chud is a Massachusetts landscape design consultant and educator with a special area of expertise-the work of Piet Oudolf. You may not know his name but you may have seen one of his projects:

NY's High Line. Oudolf is arguably the pre-eminent landscape designer in the world today and a leader of the naturalistic landscape movement. Within the past year, this presentation has been given at the following institutions and organizations: Mass Horticulture, Arnold Arboretum, JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), and Delaware Botanic Gardens. The latter two public gardens have Oudolf-designed sections. Deborah is currently collaborating with the education department of TBG on a multi-session online course to coincide with the restoration of their Oudolf Entry Walk.



This program is cosponsored by the Newton Free Library and the Newton Conservators.

Please register for this free virtual webinar through the Newton Library at

<https://newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com/event/7712597>

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Find our latest Spring 2020-2021 Newsletter online at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters> which contains the following interesting and informative articles:

- [Full Issue - Spring 2021e](#) - Spring 2021
- [Saving Houghton Pond](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [History of Newton Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation: Part 2 Back Story](#)
- [Enjoy Nature...with Newton Conservators](#)
- [Invasive Pulls](#)



NEWSLETTER

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



SPRING ISSUE NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2021

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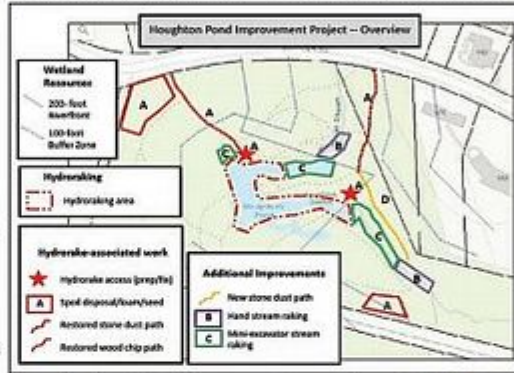
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Saving Houghton Pond

For years, people had been telling me of a beautiful garden with a pond located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton. At the time, my mother was living with us but was confined to a wheelchair in order to travel any distance. She loved short trips to the outdoors, so we checked out the

<https://newtonconservators.org/property/houghton-garden/> is a great starting point,

leading to useful maps and a number of articles espousing the rich history, beauty, and nature of this incredibly special peaceful refuge in Newton. There are three entrances: one at the



Newton Conservators' trail guide to locate Houghton Garden, one of the few open spaces in Newton with an accessible trail then. What a delightful afternoon we had



Trail guide map off Suffolk Road

there, with its beautiful lush green paths, colorful flowers, stone bridges, and lovely vistas, seemingly out of a Thomas Kinkadee painting.

To those who also wish to seek out this "Secret Garden," the Newton Conservators' webpage on Houghton Garden

intersection of Suffolk Road and Woodman Road, one at the junction of Suffolk Road and Clovelly Road, and another on Lowell Lane near the MBTA tracks. All three are in Chestnut Hill with plentiful street parking along Suffolk Road.

The garden was started in 1910 by Martha Gilbert Houghton, who lived in the Spanish mission-style house at 152 Suffolk Road. The garden was acquired by the City of Newton in 1968 via eminent domain, with



Houghton Garden Main Gate

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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



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

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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