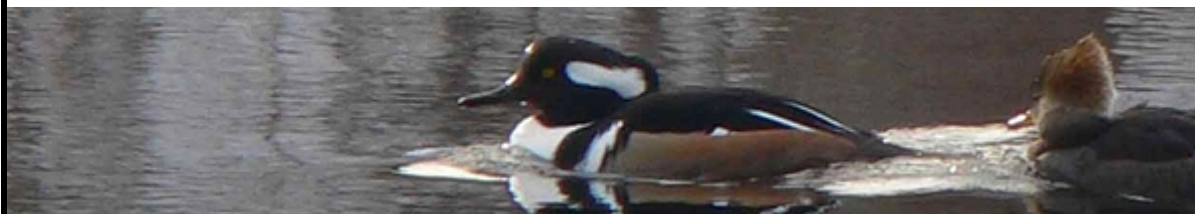




Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, February 18, 2022

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



Spring Webinars & Backyard Bird Count!

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. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.

Our Webinar Coordinator, Beth Wilkinson, has put together a terrific lineup for our Spring 2022 Webinar Series - our fourth series! Russ Cohen's presentation should inspire us as we're planning spring planting. Barbara Bates will present a fun, interactive nature trivia session, and Pete Gilmore will make spring warblers come alive for us. Anise Dobson's jumping worm webinar does a great job of presenting a distressing topic. Marc Welch's street tree webinar will provide information on the state of the city's trees and be an important introduction as work begins on the city's new street tree plan.

See below for the complete Spring Webinar schedule and signup links. We will also be announcing our Spring Walk Series shortly as well. And don't forget to save the date Wednesday, May 4 for our Newton Conservators Annual Meeting - details coming soon. Also check out the info on the **Great Backyard Bird Count** this weekend.

Enjoy Nature ... with webinars from Newton Conservators

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

[Nibbling on Natives in Your Back Yard and Beyond](#)

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

Presenter: Russ Cohen

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3oflda9>

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.



PHOTO: SHARED BY RUSS COHEN

Russ Cohen teaching Winged-Shining Sumac Fruit

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.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

April Foolery in Nature

Presenter: Barbara Bates

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

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

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.



Some Newton inhabitants

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.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Jumping Worms in Field and Forest

Presenter: Dr. Annise Dobson, Yale School of the Environment

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

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

Nearly all earthworms in New England

are 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.



Invasive Jumping Worm

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.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

[Spring Warblers in Newton](#)

Presenter: Pete Gilmore

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

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

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.



Magnolia Warbler

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

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

[Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future](#)

Presenter: Marc Welch, City Forester

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

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

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.



Street Trees in Newton

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.

Friday-Monday, February 18-21, 2022

Great Backyard Bird Count

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is Friday, February 18 through Monday, February 21. This year, the GBBC is celebrating 25 years of coming together to enjoy birds. The GBBC was one of the first online projects to collect information on wild birds and was also instrumental in the creation of eBird back in 2002. Now there are more ways than ever to participate and share your love of birds!

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds.

Step 1: Decide where you will watch birds, including in your own backyard.

Step 2: Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 18-21, 2022.

Step 3: Count all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your bird sightings:

If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to the count, try using the [Merlin Bird ID app](#). If you have participated in the count before, try [eBird Mobile app](#) or enter your bird list on the [eBird website](#).

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our Winter 2021-2022 Newsletter is now available at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters>.

The Spring 2022 Edition will be out soon!



NEWSLETTER

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



WINTER ISSUE

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2021-22

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Hands-On Nature for Children

For the first time this fall, Newton Conservators offered walks especially for children and their parents. Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, board members of Newton Conservators, led the walks at two different locations: Dolan Pond and Riverside Park (by the Charles River). We played nature-themed games to train eyes for camouflaged animals. This was to demonstrate how predators catch prey and how those prey avoid the predators, and to illustrate how deer can get out of balance with their habitat. Our walks through the landscape also revealed treasures like the remains of a turtle nest, where everyone got a chance to feel the remnants of turtle eggs!

Judging by the reactions from both children and parents, everyone had lots of fun. We plan on offering more walks for families with young children again soon.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND TOP TO BOTTOM: PHOTOS 1, 3, 4, COURTESY BARBARA BATES, PHOTOS 2, 5, SAM CORBIN

The Winter 2021-2022 issue contains the following interesting articles:

- [Full Issue](#)

- [Hands-Nature for Children](#)
- [Newton Conservators' 60th Anniversary Annual Meetin - Oct 27, 2021](#)
- [History of Newton Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation: Part 3](#)
- [Books: A World on the Wing by Scott Weidensaul](#)
- [Recent Events on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice in Land Conservation](#)

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 securely via our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/ways-to-give/>. 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 specific funds. 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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