



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

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



Walks, Webinars and More!

What wild weather variation we have had lately! It's March finally and spring is only a few short weeks away. This will be a very busy season for Newton Conservators with so many free activities to choose from.

Our [Spring 2022 Walk Series](#), organized by Sam Corbin, has now been published and, like last Fall's series, includes a number of kid oriented events. Get outside in nature with local nature experts! See the details in our events listings later in this e-Bulletin.



- [Kids - Vernal Pool Exploration - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 3/26/22](#)
- [Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 4/23/22](#)
- [Changing Landscape of the Webster Woods - Richard Primack - 5/7/22](#)
- [Birding at Cold Spring Park - Pete Gilmore - 5/8/22](#)
- [Kids - Nature Ecology Games - Barbara Bates - 5/21/22](#)
- [Kids - Webster Woods Adventure - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 6/4/22](#)
- [Fern Walk at Saw Mill Brook - Don Lubin - 6/11/22](#)

Newton Conservators is delighted to announce our [Spring 2022 Webinar Series](#) put together by Beth Wilkinson. There is wonderful range of topics again this season presented by local nature experts:

- [Nibbling on Natives in Your Back Yard and Beyond - Russ Cohen - 4/6/22](#)
- [April Foolery in Nature \(an interactive event\) - Barbara Bates - 4/13/22](#)
- [Jumping Worms in Fields and Forests - Anise Dobson - 4/20/22](#)
- [Spring Warblers in Newton - Pete Gilmore - 5/11/22](#)
- [Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future - Marc Welch - 6/15/22](#)

The individual events are listed below and in the “Upcoming Events” section of the “News and Events” banner on the home page of the Newton Conservators website, and you can learn more about each one there. You need to sign up for each webinar separately-and in advance.

In addition, we will be doing three invasive pulls of garlic mustard for NewtonSERVES to be held this year on Sunday, May 1. And don't forget to save the date Wednesday, May 4 for our Newton Conservators Annual Meeting - details coming soon. Please scroll down for some additional upcoming events that you may find of interest - with several this week!

Our [Spring 2022 Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is now online and is being mailed. It contains the following interesting articles and features:

- [Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial](#) - Maria Rose
- [Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods](#) - Richard Primack
- [Enjoy Nature...with webinars from Newton Conservators](#) -Beth Wilkinson
- [Invasive Team Update](#) - Katherine Howard
- [Spring 2022 Walks](#) - Samantha Corbin
- [New Membership System: Little Green Light](#) - Katherine Howard

You may see some changes in receiving our eBulletin in the near future as we have moved our database to a new platform as you will read in the Spring Newsletter. We will be working on verifying emails for our friends and members who receive our eBulletin. Remember that You can subscribe by sending an email to ebulletin@newtonconservators.org or unsubscribe by clicking the unsubscribe link at the end of this email.

Newton Conservators Events

*Enjoy Nature . . . with the Newton Conservators
Walks, Webinars & More!*

Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

[Kids - Vernal Pool Exploration](#)

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Webster Woods

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' board members, to explore the vernal pool within Webster Woods and discover what critters call it home. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

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



Russ Cohen teaching Winged-Shining Sumac Fruit

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.

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.

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.



Photo courtesy of Barbara Bates

**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>



Some Newton inhabitants

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.

Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes

**Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin
Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022**



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' board members, as they explore what's emerging now that spring is in the air at Dolan Pond. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



Sunday, May 1, 2022
NewtonSERVES
Cold Spring Park, Dolan Pond, Houghton Garden

NewtonSERVES is taking place in Newton this year. Newton Conservators will be having three invasive pulls that day, two in the morning at Cold Spring Park and one in the afternoon at Houghton Garden. Watch for signups and details in the near future.



Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 6 - 9 pm
Newton Conservators Annual Meeting
American Legion Post 440, California Street

Save the date for Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting. Covid has disrupted our plans the past two years but we are planning on an in-person dinner meeting this year! We will have our annual election, awards, a delicious dinner, and wonderful speakers to be announced soon.



Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 10-12:00 pm
Changing Landscape of the Webster Woods
Leader: BU Professor Richard Primack
Hammond Pond Parking Lot
Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Learn about how the landscape of the Hammond Woods has changed over the past 200 years. Some parts have hardly changed at all over the past century, and other parts are undergoing rapid changes. The focus will be on trees and forests, with many notable trees pointed out. Meet at the Hammond Pond parking lot, near the kiosk where the trail enters the woods. Trip Leader: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu)



Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 8-11:00 am
Birding at Cold Spring Park
Leader: Pete Gilmore
Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



This is an easy walk on flat woodland trails. We will look for resident birds as well

as spring migrants. Beginners and children are welcome. Participants will meet near the turnaround at the end of the left side of the Beacon Street parking area. Pete Gilmore is an experienced birder, Newton Conservators and Brookline Bird Club board member. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com)



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



Magnolia Warbler

Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Nature Ecology Games

Leader: Barbara Bates

Riverside Park

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Learn about the life strategies of baby animals at Riverside Park by playing games focusing on camouflage, population dynamics, nurseries, and more. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Webster Woods Adventure

Leader: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' Board members, in navigating the more common trails in Webster Woods while admiring rock piles, lichens, and hopefully Pink Lady Slippers! Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group.

Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 12:00 pm

Fern Walk at Saw Mill Brook

Leader: Don Lubin

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



This conservation area runs along Saw Mill Brook. We will see woods and swamps and Roxbury puddingstone outcrops, and nearly a dozen ferns and a club-moss. Meet at the parking area off Vine Street near Wayne Road. Wear long pants and bug spray. Bring any native fern you would like Don to identify. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-964-4488) (don@NEfern.info)



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.

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.



Street Trees in Newton

Other Interesting Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm

Bicycling, Birding and BLM Across America in a Summer of Chaos

Dr. Scott Edwards, Professor of Biology at Harvard Outdoor Enthusiast

On Belonging Series

Register for the Scott Edwards Program [Here](#)



Through vivid photographs and videos, Scott will bring you along on his 76-day, 3800-mile bicycle trek across the United States in the summer of 2020, when the world was leveled by a pandemic and outraged by the murders of George Floyd and others. As he rides through varied landscapes and communities, with "Black Lives Matter" signs affixed to his bicycle, Scott will reflect upon the people, landscapes and birds that he encountered, and convey the challenges, generosity and hope that inspired and surprised him throughout his journey. His two-wheeled story is a clarion call to people of all stripes to enjoy the open road, make connections across divides, and help break down stereotypes often attached to people of color in the United States.



Scott's interest in ornithology and natural history began as a child growing up in Riverdale, Bronx, NYC. As an undergraduate, Scott took a gap year to work at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, and assist with fieldwork in his native Hawaii and in northern California. After 9 years teaching at the University of Washington, he returned to Harvard as a professor in 2003. Scott spent two years of national service at the National Science Foundation in Washington DC and has served on the advisory boards of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the National Museum of Natural History. He has devoted his career to increasing the number of BIPOC in the environmental sciences and in 2020 was awarded the inaugural Inclusiveness, Diversity and Equity and Access (IDEA) award from the Society for the Study of Evolution.

The On Belonging Series is co-hosted by six organizations, Farrington Nature Linc, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Mass Audubon, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, The Food Project, and Walden Woods Project. Spring 2022 Sponsorship

generously provided by the Ogden Codman Trust.

Thursday March 3, 2022 4 pm - 5 pm

Spring Emergence

Presenter: John Calabria

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation

Free Virtual Program - Register [HERE](#)



Spring is coming! Join Naturalist John Calabria to explore some of our favorite signs of spring through pictures, sounds, and video clips. Bring your springtime questions! This program is family-friendly and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Free, all are welcome. Spring is coming! From buds to bugs to bears, how does life know when it's time to awaken from its winter slumber?



Join John Calabria as we explore some of our favorite harbingers of Spring and learn some new ones to look for. Through pictures, sounds, and clips we'll celebrate nature's unfolding. Bring your springtime questions. This program is family-friendly and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Free, all are welcome. Please register to receive the Zoom link for this virtual program. John Calabria is a lifelong naturalist and has been teaching mindfulness for more than two decades. He spends much of his time outside, taking notice of nature's wonders and sharing his observations. John also cares for more than 75 bluebird nest boxes.

Thursday, March 3, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Newton - Reconstruction of Commonwealth Ave (Route 30)

From East of Auburn Street to Ash Street

MA Department of Transportation

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of Commonwealth Ave (Route 30), From East of Auburn Street to Ash Street project in Newton, MA. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed



Reconstruction of Commonwealth Ave (Route 30), From East of Auburn Street to Ash Street project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

The proposed project consists of improvements to Route 30 (Commonwealth Avenue) and the adjacent carriageway with the goal of improving safety, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity. The project begins at the easternmost driveway of the Boston Marriott Hotel, meeting the project limits for MassDOT Project #110980, and ends at Ash Street. For the entire project limits, a two-way

separated bike lane and sidewalk will be constructed on the north side. For the segment from the hotel to Woodbine Street, this is accomplished by relocating the westbound barrel of the roadway south of the median to re-purpose the space on the north side for multimodal accommodations. East of Woodbine Street, the existing 22-foot carriageway will be converted to exclusive pedestrian and bicycle facilities. In front of Lyon's Field, vehicular access will be maintained but there will be circulation changes as Ash Street will be reconstructed as an unsignalized T-intersection, with the approach from the carriageway to be removed. The sidewalk on the south side of Route 30 will also be reconstructed, and several crossings with Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) will be installed. Lighting and utilities in the median are expected to be retained and drainage impacts should be minor. A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Newton is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. The City's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing. Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116

The project has advanced to the 25% design stage. Practically, this means that the high level design has now been determined. Information about the hearing itself is [HERE](#). The City of Newton's info on the project is [HERE](#).

Friday, March 4, 2022 - 7:45pm

[Birding while Black](#)

Presenter: Dr. J. Drew Lanham - Conservation Ornithologist / Author

Free Online Webinar - Register [HERE](#)

Sponsors: Peabody Essex Museum / Essex County Ornithological Club



"Equity is a hard bird to find. Diligently search for it in places with common ground." Join J. Drew Lanham, conservation ornithologist and celebrated writer as he explores the intersection of race, place and nature. Dr. Lanham, a professor of wildlife ecology at Clemson



University, will share his way of seeing, hearing and witnessing birds and nature - both past and present. Prof. Lanham blends science, art, and social practice in his celebrated prose and poetry, including in his book *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* (2017) and *Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts* (2021). This event is made possible by The Echo Charitable Foundation. This event is co-sponsored by Essex County Ornithological Club. A brief meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Thursday March 10, 2022 5:30 pm

Albemarle Public Session on Traffic Calming and Bike Lanes

Zoom Info: [Join via Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 874 8238 9468, Passcode: 661700

Mark your calendars for this Public Session on Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 PM to discuss a proposal for Albemarle Traffic Calming and Bike Lanes. This is a City of Newton Public Information Session. This is an additional meeting to make your voice heard regarding Albemarle. Please attend if possible to speak up on Albemarle. Zoom Info: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482389468?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482389468?pwd=N29DcVlUV0lEZWdsS01yUkVNMnQvZz09)

pwd=N29DcVlUV0lEZWdsS01yUkVNMnQvZz09,

Meeting ID: 874 8238 9468, Passcode: 661700

Sunday, March 13

Deadline for Albemarle Survey

Friends of Albemarle and Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Dept.

[Take Albemarle Survey](#)

Your perspective is vital to planning a future vision for Albemarle (fields and park; see definition below). The link below takes you to a survey on your use of Albemarle Park. Please take 10-15 minutes to share insight into your priorities for this important open space in Newton.



Wednesday, March 16, 2022

[Building Biodiversity: Summer Planning/Spring Practices](#)

Free Webinar - Register [HERE](#)

Studio for High Performance Design



Join The Studio for High Performance Design and Construction (SHPDC) for the first in a 4-part series led by Elise Bernstein on yard care techniques that foster a haven for the many animals, insects, and plants that help maintain a healthy environment.



Newton Conservators Newsletter

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



NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2022

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Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial

By Maria Rose, Environmental Engineer at City of Newton

Rain gardens are stormwater management systems designed to receive, infiltrate, and cleanse concentrated flows of stormwater. They collect polluted runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g., roofs, driveways, parking lots, and streets), allowing it to soak into the ground, where the plants, soil, and beneficial bugs filter out pollutants that are picked up by stormwater as it flows across the land. What pollutants you may ask? Many, including phosphorus, bacteria, and oil to name just a few!

It has been shown that the degradation of our streams and rivers increases with our built environment. Many studies have shown that stream ecosystems and water quality become degraded as impervious surfaces increase. When more than 10% of the land within a watershed is covered with impervious surfaces, streams are often impaired. When impervious cover exceeds 25%, severe habitat and water quality impairment tends to result (source: *Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems*, Center for Watershed Protection, March 2003). Installing rain gardens helps to offset the impacts of development.

There are several rain gardens here in the City of Newton. You can find them at Zervas Elementary School, Oak Hill Middle School, and soon near Crystal Lake.



PHOTO: BOB LANGRISH, LANDSCAPE DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY
Oak Hill Middle School roof runoff is piped to the rain garden, where the water slowly seeps into the ground. During large storm events, overflow is directed to the domed open grass.

use of plants, soil, and hydrologic processes to treat runoff in a way that mimics natural

Rain gardens planted with shrubs, grasses, and perennial plants can be a cost-effective and beautiful way to reduce runoff, improve the water quality in lakes, ponds, and streams, replenish aquifers and minimize soil erosion. Rain gardens also provide food and shelter for butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife.

More complex rain gardens with drainage pipes and amended soils are often referred to as "bioretention." Both rain gardens and bioretention systems are types of Green Stormwater Infrastructure or more simply, Green Infrastructure. Green Infrastructure is the intentional

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- [Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods](#)
- [Enjoy Nature...with webinars from Newton Conservators](#)
- [Invasive Team Update](#)
- [Spring 2022 Walks](#)
- [New Membership System: Little Green Light](#)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP

We would be very grateful for your continued support by joining Newton



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

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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