



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

SPRING ISSUE

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: GENE RAYMOND, RAYMOND DESIGN ASSOCIATES

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 grate.

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

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

Continued on page 2

...Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial continued from page 1

(undeveloped) conditions. Green Infrastructure also provides ecosystem services and aesthetic benefits to our outdoor spaces.

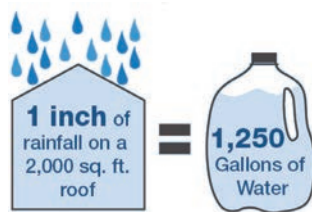


PHOTO: GENE RAYMOND, RAYMOND DESIGN ASSOCIATES

If you would like to suggest a rain garden location within the public right-of-way (e.g., traffic island) for the City's consideration, then reach out to Maria Rose at mrose@newtonma.gov.

The first half-inch of runoff from a rainstorm, called the “first flush,” is the most polluted and ideally Green Infrastructure designed to capture this first flush. Studies from the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Stormwater Center demonstrate that capturing the first quarter-inch of runoff also reduces pollution considerably.

Rain gardens are small but mighty if properly designed and installed. Depending on your soil type, you may be able to capture and naturally infiltrate your entire roof runoff from a 1-inch storm with a few well-placed rain gardens!

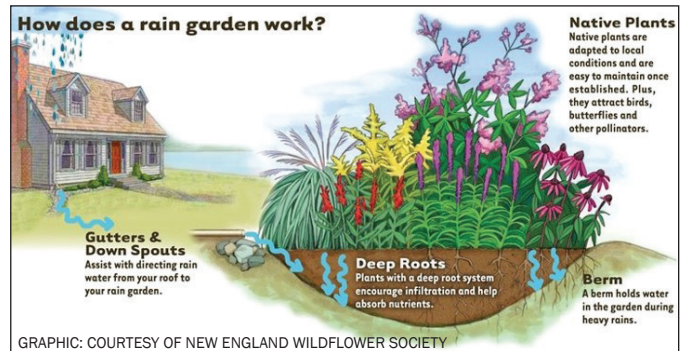


Properly constructed rain gardens are in the natural path of runoff, slightly depressed and designed to infiltrate ponded water in under 24 hours.

Rain gardens can be stand-alone entities or incorporated with existing vegetated areas and provide similar ecological benefits. Here are some factors to consider when locating a rain garden:

- To avoid potential water problems, rain gardens should be placed a minimum of 10 feet from the foundation of your house or structure.
- Avoid placing rain gardens in poorly drained or wet areas. A rain garden is not a water garden. Placing it in poorly drained soil will lead to slow infiltration, long-term ponding, and potentially a mosquito breeding area.

- Flat or modestly sloped areas work best for construction and maintenance.
- Before you dig, always call 1-800-Dig-Safe or visit www.digsafe.com and call the City's Water/Sewer Division at 617-796-1640 to mark-out the utilities on your property.



Understand your soil type to achieve the best results. One way to determine if your soils are suitable for a rain garden is to perform a small percolation test. Dig a hole about 6 inches deep and 1 to 2 feet wide and fill it with water. If the water drains within 24 hours, the site is suitable for a rain garden. If the water drains within a few hours, the location is also very well suited for a rain garden.

When sizing your rain garden, it may be best to enlist the help of a landscape designer. If you prefer a Do-it-Yourself approach, the University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) program has a wonderful on-line “how to” guide with “rules of thumb,” simple sizing calculations, and interactive features to help you design your own rain garden. Check out Rain Gardens: a Design Guide for Connecticut and New England Homeowners (<https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm>).

Now for the fun part — deciding what plants and shrubs should go in your rain garden! Choosing native plants that can survive New England winters and provide wildlife habitat is an important consideration. There are a multitude of possibilities from traditional perennials like irises and brown-eyed susans to woody plants, such as red twig dogwood and red chokeberry, which provide winter interest. Simply browsing the options can lift your spirits with the promise of springtime and warmer days on the horizon. If you have the space, consider adding a specimen tree, such as Sweetbay Magnolia or a Pin Oak, which can tolerate periodic ponding. Trees soak up more water, add structure to your garden, and provide shade. EPA in collaboration with UNH and others developed a resource guide called Native Plants for New England Rain Gardens (<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/native-plants-new-england-rain-gardens-fact-sheet>). ♦

Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods

By Richard B. Primack, a long-time Newton resident and a biology professor at Boston University. He can be reached at primack@bu.edu.

I have been walking for over 60 years in the Webster Woods, the forest on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway, and sometimes called the Hammond Woods. When people ask me if the woods have changed over that time, my instinct is to say that they have pretty much stayed the same. But upon further reflection, while some parts of the woods have not noticeably altered in my lifetime, overall, much has changed — some parts slowly and others very quickly.

Past Changes

The history of the woods begins with the retreat of glaciers from Massachusetts about 16,000 years ago, when the area was barren and lichens began colonizing newly exposed rock. We can still see evidence of the glaciers in the giant boulders they left behind in the woods. One giant cube-shaped boulder, five feet across, still perches on the ridge above Gooch's Caves.

In more recent times, the woods' rugged landscape, steep ridges, and swamps protected them from being developed.



Graphic courtesy of Doug Greenfield, Newton's GIS manager and Newton Conservator board member Dan Brody, modified by Ken Mallory

The woods could not be easily crossed by roads, and they were not suited to cultivated crops. Hardy souls used the land for pasture, as evidenced by the rock walls running through the woods. These walls were likely constructed in colonial times and had wooden rail fences running along the top. Farmers used the land as pastures for dairy cattle, with scattered patches of wood lots providing firewood.

Continued on page 4

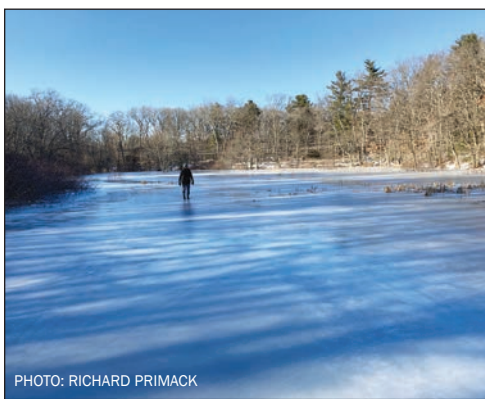


Giant boulder

cut firewood in the woods.



Rock walls running through the woods



Flooded field

field from undergoing succession to become a swamp forest.

Slow Change

The ridge and plateau just west of Hammond Pond and the plateau just to the southwest of Bare Pond seem to have changed the least. At these locations, the oak, black birch, and red maple trees are only about 20 to 30 feet tall with twisted, often broken trunks, but they are likely 100 years or

According to Brendon Whittaker, who grew up in Newton, in the 1940s Mrs. Webster (namesake of the woods) still had dairy cattle at her barn near Suffolk Road and her employees still



Stunted pitch pine on ridge east of Bare Pond



Pine saplings growing up in the former deer park; the oak tree above has a spreading crown from growing in the open.

with plenty of light after the pastures were abandoned around the time of the Civil War. When oaks died or were damaged, fast-growing black birch trees with upright branches grew up in the gaps.



Tree trunk broken in the 2020 storm

the direction of the hurricane wind. Other groups of trees, such as around Cake Rock and Hemlock Grove, lean to the east probably due to another great storm of unknown date. Two years ago in 2020, a windstorm broke many trees (most weakened by disease) 10–30 feet above ground.

more old. The short, bonsai-like stature of these trees is likely due to thin, nutrient-poor soils. Rings of tree stumps provide evidence of past tree cutting; sprouts grow out of the edges of some of the cut trunks.

Between the ridges in the woods are distinctive mixtures of massive oak trees with spreading branches and smaller, upright black birch trees. These oak trees may have grown in open pastures

Big winds were responsible for toppling many of the oaks that fell. The Great New England Hurricane of 1938, with gusts of wind up to 186 miles per hour, knocked down many trees and broke the tops off others. The winds from that storm probably caused many of the old trees, including one of the huge pine trees along the road leading west from the former Temple, to lean to the northwest, away from

Fast Change



Hemlock tree on a cliff

Other parts of the woods are being transformed more quickly. With the deer herd removed from the old deer park, just east of the Parkway, hundreds of white pine saplings are rapidly growing up and forming thickets. Within a few decades, this field will become a pine forest. This change is typical in New England, where people (or deer) have stopped maintaining open areas.

The notch in the ridge just west of Hammond Pond is also changing rapidly. For a century or more, a stand of hemlock giants presided over the most tranquil and coolest spot in the woods.



Sassafras shoots sprouting from the roots of a burned tree

The hemlock grove provided a glimpse of what New England forests might have been in the past. But today, these trees are sick and dying because of the hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect which infests their twigs, leaving behind dead branches. Black birch saplings are filling the

gaps left by the dead trees. Within a few years, most hemlock trees will be gone.

About four years ago, a ground fire between Bare Pond and what I call the Thompsonville Road, which runs from the end of Madoc Street to the train tracks, ignited leaves, fallen branches, and the bases of some trees. The fire killed many small and medium-sized trees and shrubs, leaving the area more open. The roots of some trees, especially oaks and sassafras, survived and are producing new sprouts.

Tree diseases are also changing the Webster Woods. Chestnut trees were once common in the woods, but 90 years ago

a fungus infected their stems and killed them, creating opportunities for young birch and oak trees to grow into



Fungus growing out of a black birch tree

the forest canopy. The roots of chestnut trees persist and send up new shoots that usually live just few years until the fungus kills them too. Many of the stately beech trees in Webster Vale (the valley which includes Thompsonville Stream) are sick because of beech bark disease, which discolors and cracks the bark. Oak trees are prone to rotten hollow trunks, and birch trees

suffer from a dry rot fungus with abundant white fruiting bodies. These diseases reflect the declining health of our forests.

Introduced Norway maples and buckthorns are increasing in number and size, particularly along paths leading into the woods. Such non-native trees thrive in our rapidly changing conditions, contributing to the decline of native tree and wildflower species by shading and crowding them out.

The Future of the Webster Woods

The Webster Woods will continue to change. As the climate continues to warm and rainfall patterns alter, some tree species will benefit — perhaps the oaks and hickories and non-native species such as Norway maple, buckthorn, and tree of heaven — while others might start to die. The increased presence of deer could transform the forest understory, as they prefer to eat native and more palatable plant species, thus encouraging the less palatable species.

The complex interaction of birds, insects, and disease could tip the balance in favor of some tree species over others. Even though change may appear slow in the Webster Woods, parts of it are shifting quite quickly and will change even faster in coming decades — faster than we may think possible.

Now that the City of Newton has acquired the remaining section of undeveloped forest from Boston College, the future of the Websters Woods seems more secure. However, the people of Newton still need to monitor the woods and take action in response to ongoing and future threats, such as fires, tree diseases, and harmful non-native species. ♦

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



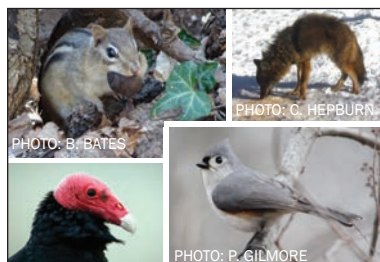
Russ Cohen teaching Winged-Shining Sumac Fruit

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/3of1da9>



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>



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>



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

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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 2022 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

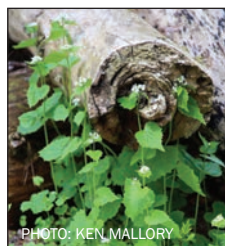
..... Invasives Team Update



Black Swallow-wort



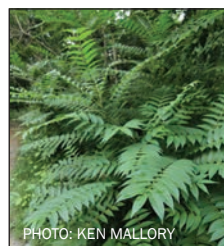
Japanese Knotweed



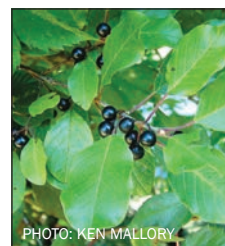
Garlic Mustard



Multiflora Rose



Tree of Heaven



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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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Maria Rose, Richard Primack, Katherine Howard, and Beth Wilkinson.

WALKS SCHEDULE SPRING 2022

www.newtonconservators.org

Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt.

Saturday, March 26 from 10-11:30 am

KIDS - VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BARBARA BATES

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)

Saturday, April 23 from 10-11:30 am



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

KIDS - DISCOVERING SEASONAL CHANGES

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)

Saturday, May 7 from 10-12:00 pm

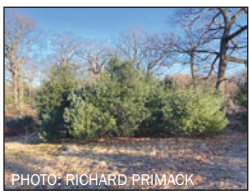


PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK

CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE WEBSTER WOODS

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 from 8-11:00 am

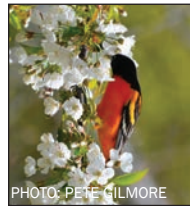


PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

BIRDING AT COLD SPRING PARK

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.

Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com)

Saturday, May 21 from 10-11:30 am

KIDS - NATURE ECOLOGY GAMES

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 from 10-11:30 am

KIDS - WEBSTER WOODS ADVENTURE

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 at 12:00 pm



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

FERN WALK AT SAW MILL BROOK

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)

New Membership System: Little Green Light

In the fall of 2021, Newton Conservators converted to the constituent and donation tracking system “Little Green Light” (LGL). In addition to being less costly than our previous system, it also is better integrated with our website, which allows a more streamlined support of such things as Trail Guide and Almanac ordering and has numerous other features.

LGL does not allow individual access to view or update membership information (a practice which tends to result in varying email addresses being used and duplicate membership records). Instead, if you have any questions about your membership, you will need to email us: membership@newtonconservators.org, and we'll be happy to look up the info and get it to you.

We are also starting to make more use of automated responses and tax acknowledgements by email. This has

always been the case with credit card transactions. Now we are also doing it whenever possible for payments made by check. However, if a donor's record shows that they did not opt in to receive emails from us, we still send a hard copy acknowledgement. Emailed acknowledgments come from “info@newtonconservators.org.” There will not be any additional year-end tax acknowledgement reports sent, but if you can't find the email or need more information, please contact us. Also, if you received a hard copy acknowledgement but would be just as happy to get it by email in the future, please let us know and we can change your opt-in status.

If you have any questions about your membership or suggestions, please contact us at membership@newtonconservators.org. Thanks! ♦

❧ Bird Drawings by Suzette Durso ❧

To see more of this artist's work, visit www.gallerytwist.com where you can find all of her bird paintings. Questions can be directed to suzedurso@aol.com. Works by this artist and others can be found in the artist's section of our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/artists-look-at-nature-in-newton/>



Red Bellied Woodpecker



Kingfisher



Baltimore Oriole



Pileated Woodpecker



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Green Heron

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$_____ |

**Want to make an even bigger impact?
Help us support these special funds:**

Woodcock Meadow \$_____ Trails Fund \$_____
Ordway Endowment Fund \$_____
Land Stewardship Areas (Dexter Rd., Bracebridge Rd.) \$_____ Other \$_____

Memberships run for the calendar year. All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

☐ I would like to volunteer!
Please email me.

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit newtonconservators.org/membership/ to renew or join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

Do You Use Amazon for Purchases for your Home or Business?



As explained in past newsletters, Amazon Smile is a program through which Amazon donates 0.5% of most purchases (yes, \$5 of every \$1000) to a nonprofit (501c3) organization of your choice (the Newton Conservators, we hope!).

How does one use Amazon Smile? Instead of going to Amazon.com, you go to Smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will be asked to choose a nonprofit organization to receive the bonus donation. Enter "Newton Conservators," and you are ready to go. The rest of your shopping proceeds exactly the same as if you had logged in to Amazon.com initially.

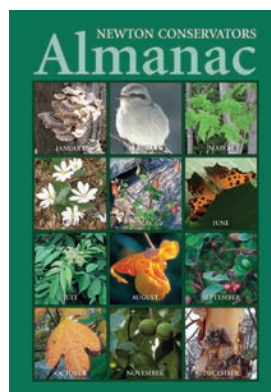
Even with relatively few members using the program so far, the rewards have grown. For the first quarter we participated in 2014, we received \$22.32. In 2018, we received \$171.04, and it has now grown to \$100 per quarter.

If you have any further questions about the program, check the FAQ page: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Spring's coming. Take a walk!

*Shop online at newtonconservators.org/publications/ to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. The *Almanac* is \$19.95 + shipping, and the *Trail Guide* is \$8.95 + shipping.*

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a trail guide free with their first membership.





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Newton Centre, MA 02459

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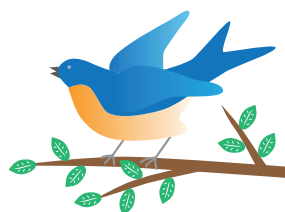
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NEWSLETTER

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

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IN THE SPRING ISSUE:

Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial.	1
Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods	3
Enjoy Nature with Webinars from Newton Conservators	6
Invasive Team Update	8
Spring Walks.	9
New Membership System: Little Green Light . . .	10
Bird Drawings by Suzette Durso	10



Common Yellowthroat
photo by Haynes Miller

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at newtonconservators.org/newsletters. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, email us at membership@newtonconservators.org.