



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

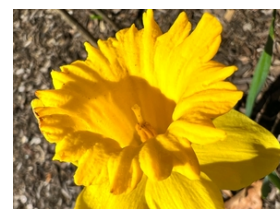
Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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



Spring Schedule!

The birds are singing their happy tunes again and colorful flowers are starting to burst forth. April is upon us and we have a multitude of great events to keep you busy which are listed below. Happy Spring!



Don't forget to save the date **Wednesday, May 4** for our Newton Conservators [Annual Dinner Meeting](#) with election, awards, and a special presentation "**Newton: Land of the Massachusetts.**" by **Sagamore Faries Gray** and **Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon** of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#). This will take place at Post 440 - get your tickets (before April 19) for this very special in-person event.

Newton Conservators kicks off our [Spring 2022 Webinar Series](#) on **Wednesday evening (4/6/22)** with renowned foraging expert, Russ Cohen. 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 in this e-Bulletin and in the "Upcoming Events" section of the "[News and Events](#)" banner on the home page of the Newton Conservators website. **You will need to sign up for each webinar separately and in advance.**

Our [Spring 2022 Walk Series](#) is underway already and, like last Fall's series, includes a number of kid oriented events. Get outside in nature with local nature

experts! See the details of our remaining walks in our events listings later in this e-Bulletin.

- [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](#)

In addition, our invasive pulls are once again open to the public including a number of events as part of [NewtonSERVES](#) on Sunday, May 1. We will also have informational tables for a number of events in April and May.

Our [Spring 2022 Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is online and was mailed last month to members requesting the printed edition. 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!*

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

[Nibbling on Native Plants 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.

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.



PHOTO: SHARED BY RUSS COHEN

Russ Cohen teaching Winged-Shining Sumac Fruit

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.



Some Newton inhabitants

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.

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.



PHOTO: FLICKR BY ALFREDO ELOISA

Invasive Jumping Worm

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

Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



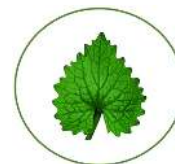
Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' board members, as they explore what's emerging now that spring is in the air at Dolan Pond. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration 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)



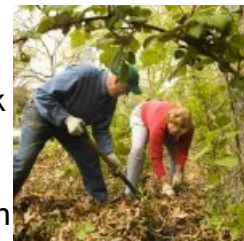
Saturday, April 23, 2022 9:30 am - Noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull

**Cold Spring Park Beacon Street trailhead
1200 Beacon Street, Waban, MA**



Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, buckthorn, and other species. We will keep the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Saturday, April 23, 2022 1 pm - 4 pm

Earth Day Table at the Shops at Chestnut Hill

The Shops at Chestnut Hill - Center Court Mini-Tours of Webster Woods

In celebration of Earth Day weekend, come visit the Newton Conservators table in [The Shops at Chestnut Hill](#). Earth Day is officially on Friday, April 22 but we will carry it on through the weekend with an information table in the Center Court of the mall at The Shops of at Chestnut Hill near the garden and statue there. We will have trail guides, almanacs, pollinator and butterfly information, and lots more - stop by while shopping and say hi. In addition, you can sign up for mini tours of Webster Woods held throughout the afternoon a short distance away starting in the corner of the parking lot for the Shops. Naturalists from Newton Conservators will lead short round trip walks through the spring woods to a high stone outcropping and a large pond where special vernal pool creatures like yellow-spotted salamanders and wood frogs breed. Shoes, not sandals, advised. *Watch for details.*



Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:30 am - Noon

Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook

Sawmill Brook Conservation Area, 93 Vine Street, Chestnut Hill, MA



Sawmill Brook Conservation Area is a lovely, long, natural trail connecting Newton to West Roxbury. It has garlic mustard and black swallow-wort infestations at its entrances and along Lagrange St. and Wayne Road borders. We will work at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrol previously worked areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Francesco DiTullio and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Sunday, April 24, 2022 1 pm - 3 pm

Quinobequin Rd Invasives Pull

Radcliff Rd & Quinobequin, 24 Radcliff Rd, Waban, MA

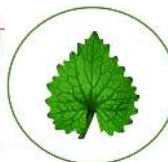


We will control garlic mustard on the walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd in Waban. Help keep the invaders out of this beautiful trail! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at intersection of Quinobequin Rd and Radcliff Rd, near the house at 24 Radcliff. Leaders are Ann Ritchie and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 9 am - Noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull

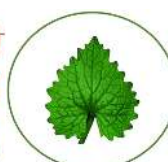
Cold Spring Park Beacon Street trailhead
1200 Beacon Street, Waban, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#)
(pre-registration required)



Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, buckthorn, and other species. We will keep the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-

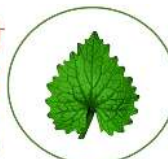
2571.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 9 am - Noon
[Dolan Pond Invasives Pull and Cleanup](#)
Dolan Pond, near 76 Webster Park, West
Newton, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#) (pre-registration required)



Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive garlic mustard from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year it gets easier. We will also do some nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 1 pm - 4 pm
[Houghton Garden Invasives Pull](#)
Houghton Garden at MBTA tracks,
210 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#) (pre-registration required)



Help tackle the garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods. Help keep these invaders out of beautiful Houghton Garden! Wear long pants tucked into socks, closed shoes, and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Sally Baker and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 6 - 9 pm
[Newton Conservators Annual Meeting](#)
American Legion Post 440



259 California Street Newton, MA
Register for the dinner meeting online [HERE](#)
[Dinner Invitation](#)

The 61st annual dinner meeting of the Newton Conservators will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Social hour starts at 6 pm and the meeting/dinner starts at 7pm. The meeting will feature our annual election of officers and board as well as our annual awards ceremony. Tickets for the event are \$45 per person. The featured speakers will be **Sagamore Faries Gray** and Tribal Elder **Elizabeth Solomon** of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#). Their topic is “Newton: Land of the Massachusetts.”



Sagamore Gray will focus on the tribe’s long history and association with our region’s landscapes. He has worked with local historical societies in both Natick and Newton, has done field research to reveal the enduring traces that indigenous land uses and technology left on the land, and has offered numerous presentations on Massachusetts history.



PHOTO: DAN BRIELMANN

Tribal Elder Solomon will connect the tribe’s history to present policies and issues. She serves on many advisory boards, including for the Boston Harbor Islands’ Stone Living Lab, which develops collaborative approaches to managing climate change. She is committed to using her master’s degree in museum studies to bring to the forefront the voices of native communities.



PHOTO: MICHAEL RICE

We thank our generous sponsors who make the meeting possible:

- [Paddle Boston](#)
- [Lalor and Pat Burdick](#)
- [Crystal Lake Conservancy](#)
- [The Village Bank](#)
- [Lucy Caldwell-Stair](#)

Covid protocols: We request that all attendees be vaccinated. We will follow the City of Newton’s Covid protocols in force on May 4. Although masks may not be required then, we welcome those who choose to wear them. Refunds: If changing circumstances force us to hold the event virtually, we will issue ticket refunds. Current members will receive a printed invitation in early April, and may register via the RSVP card and pay by check, if they prefer.

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)



Photo: Sam Corbin

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)



Photo: Ken Mallory

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.



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.

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

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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 HARMOND, HARMOND 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.

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

Continued on page 2

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- [Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial](#)
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- [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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