



# Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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



## Annual Meeting Tonight on Zoom! Feature Presentation: Newton - Land of the Massachusett Free

Tonight is the Newton Conservators [Annual Meeting](#) with election, awards, and a special presentation “**Newton: Land of the Massachusett.**” by **Sagamore Faries Gray** and **Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon** of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#). Regretfully, due to the increase in Covid numbers and safety concerns, Newton Conservators decided to convert the meeting to a FREE virtual one. See the [event notice](#) on our website for full details. It's not too late to register for this FREE and interesting event. [Click HERE for the program.](#) which also lists our awardees for this year.

Newton Conservators continues our free [Spring 2022 Webinar Series](#) with a wonderful range of topics again this season presented by local nature experts. Aside from these, [Doug Tallamy is doing a virtual program](#) at the Newton Library co-sponsored by the Newton Conservators. **You will need to sign up for each webinar separately and in advance.** Here are the two remaining webinars:



- [Spring Warblers in Newton - Pete Gilmore - 5/11/22](#)
- [Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future - Marc Welch - 6/15/22](#)

Our [Spring 2022 Walk Series](#) is underway already and, like last Fall's series, includes a number of kid oriented events. The kid's events require pre-registration. Get outside in nature with local nature experts! Note that we have added an Aqueduct Walk with Henry Finch this Sunday (4/24) and the dates of the Kids events in May and June have been



changed since our last e-Bulletin. See the latest details of our remaining walks in our events listings online or later in this e-Bulletin.

- [Changing Landscape of the Webster Woods -Richard Primack - 5/7/22](#)
- [Birding at Dolan Pond - Mike Hanley & Ian Buzby - 5/14/22](#)
- [Birding at Cold Spring Park - Pete Gilmore - 5/8/22](#)
- [Kids - Nature Ecology Games - Barbara Bates - 5/28/22](#)
- [Kids - Webster Woods Adventure - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 6/11/22](#)
- [Fern Walk at Saw Mill Brook - Don Lubin - 6/11/22](#)

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

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## Newton Conservators Events

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

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7 to 9 pm

[Newton Conservators Annual Meeting on Zoom](#)  
**Feature Presentation: Land of the Massachusett  
 Sagamore Faries Gray & Tribal Elder Elizabeth  
 Solomon**  
[Program](#)  
[Free Registration](#)



The 61st annual dinner meeting of the Newton Conservators will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. The meeting will feature our annual election of officers and board as well as our annual awards ceremony. The featured speakers will be Sagamore Faries Gray and Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#).



[Click here for the program](#), which also lists our awardees for this year.

The 61st annual meeting of the Newton Conservators has been moved from an in-person dinner meeting to a virtual Zoom meeting due to rapidly increasing wastewater COVID numbers and a desire to preserve the health and safety of our members, guests, and featured speakers. There will be no charge to attend the Zoom meeting, but advance registration is required. *If you plan to have guests join you on their own devices, please know that each attendee will need their own registration reflecting their own email for Zoom to allow them to join the webinar.*

Please [click here to register](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

*If you had previously purchased a ticket for the in-person dinner, you should have received an email from us offering you the option of either a full refund or converting your ticket to a tax-deductible donation or a refund.*

The business meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM and will start with remarks by Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, Presidents' report, election and also include our Annual Awards:

- \* Directors' Award - Claire Rundelli
- \* Charles Maynard Award - Jon Regosin
- \* Environmentalist of the Year - Ted Chapman
- \* Lifetime Achievement Award - Anna Maria Abernathy

The Awards will be followed by our featured keynote speakers who are **Sagamore Faries Gray** and **Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag**. Their topic is "Newton: Land of the Massachusett."

**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](#)

**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.

**Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 7:30-9:00 am**

**[Birding at Dolan Pond](#)**

**Leaders: Ian Buzby,  
Mike Hanley, Ted  
Kuklinski**



**Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022**

Explore Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton for newly arrived colorful residents, as well as migrating warblers, thrushes, vireos and more. This area is home to a number of vernal pools which provide habitat for ducks, herons, turtles, frogs, and toads. This will be an easy walk over accessible paths and boardwalk (there is HP parking via the Webster Park entrance). Bring binoculars if you have them. Over 60 species are seen here each spring.

Participants will meet near the Webster Park entrance (near 76 Webster Park). Beginners and children are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them. Leaders are very experienced birders at Dolan Pond. For info contact Ted Kuklinski (tkuklinski@aol.com).



*Magnolia Warbler*



**Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 11 am - 3 pm**  
**[Butterfly Event at Newton Family FunFest](#)**  
**Newton City Hall**

Newton Conservators will have a butterfly themed table as part of the City of Newton Family FunFEST on Saturday, May 14. We'll have info on butterflies, raising Monarch butterflies and milkweed, and our pollinator toolkit. Watch as artists will be decorating giant butterflies to be placed around the city. You can check out the demonstration pollinator garden at City Hall as well.

There are lots of other kids activities at the FunFEST. Newton Family FunFEST is a celebration of art and entertainment for all ages! Join us on Newton City Hall grounds for carnival rides, arts & crafts workshops, a live musical performances by Vanessa Trien & The Jumping Monkey's, live public art making, The Dragon King by the Tanglewood Marionettes, vendor booths and more!



This is a two day event: Saturday will be the full festival with rides, performances,

and entertainment. Sunday will be carnival rides ONLY. Detailed schedule of Saturday events can be found below. Check out the full schedule of events [HERE](#).

**Saturday, Sunday, May 14,15 2022**  
**[Newton Community Farm Seedling Sale](#)**  
**Newton Community Farm,303 Nahanton Street**

Newton Community Farm's annual Seedling Sale with over 27,000 seedlings grown right at Newton Community Farm will take place in-person at the Farm on Saturday, May 14-Sunday, May 15, 2022 from noon to 5 pm. ll seedlings will be \$6 per unit that they are started in, either a 6-pack, 4-pack, or pot depending on the type of plant. Further info at <https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/news-events/>



**Thursday, May 26, 2022 7 - 8:30 pm**  
**[Sustainable Landscape Designs: Nature's Best Hope](#)**  
**Virtual Lecture**  
**Professor Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware**  
**Co-sponsored by Newton Free Library, Newton Conservators, Green Newton, and Newton Tree Conservancy**

Join renowned expert Doug Tallamy for a talk that will reveal how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at preserving the plants and animals that sustain us. Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check and a wakeup call for homeowners to create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them. Learn how native plant communities that sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities and manage our watersheds, can empower everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.



Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 106 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 41 years. He is the author of several books, including his most recent, The Nature of Oaks. In 2021 he co-founded Homegrown National Park with Michelle Alfandari, a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain.

This program is part of the Green Newton series and is cosponsored by Green

Newton, Newton Conservators, and Newton Tree Conservancy. Registration for this program will end two hours before the start time. The login information will be sent just after registration closes. Please be sure to check your spam folder in case it lands there. Register [HERE](#)

**Saturday, May 28, 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 11, 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)



Photo: Ken Malloy

**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.



PHOTO: MARC WELCH

*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.

## **Camp Staff Opportunities with Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture**

Do you love the outdoors and working with children? Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture is looking for camp staff for this summer.

Outdoor Adventure is a half day nature program at Nahanton Park for children in grades 2 - 6. It includes hiking, fishing, canoeing, and nature activities. The camp runs Monday through Thursday with Friday as a rain date. Staff hours are 8:30 am - 1:15 pm with an option to work at the afternoon specialty camp at Nahanton Park as well. Camp runs July 5th - August 11th and the camp is looking for a counselor, a senior counselor, and an assistant director. Openings are for staff 16 and older.





Camp Extreme is a daily field trip camp that includes hiking, swimming, climbing, adventure and more for children in grades 5 - 8. The camp runs Monday through Friday with 2 sessions available for staff, one from July 11 - August 5 at the Brigham House in Newton Highlands, and one from August 15 - September 2 at the Lower Falls Community Center. Staff hours are 8:00 am - 3:45 pm, with options to work at extended day until 5:30 pm. This camp is looking for a counselor, a senior counselor, and a specialist. Openings are for staff 17 and older.

Staff applications are available online at <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/camps> or by emailing Channon Ames at [comes@newtonma.gov](mailto:comes@newtonma.gov)

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## 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

## 2022 Officers and Directors

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Eric Olson

Richard Primack

Eric Reentsienna

Jon Regasin

Patricia Robinson

Jane Sender

William Shaevel

Diane Tiltonson

Willis Wang

Bruce Wenning

## Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial

By Maria Rose, Environmental Engineer at City of Newton

**R**ain 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 FARWELL, FARWELL 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 gate.

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](#)
- [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 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.



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**

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](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))

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