



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, September 5, 2022

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



Check out our new Fall Event Schedule!

Happy Labor Day! The rest of the weekend has been wonderful and it is certainly refreshing to get some sorely need rain today! The plants and ponds are very grateful. Although still technically Summer, there have been hints of Fall in the air in the past week making for a great time to get out and enjoy Newton's open spaces. Newton Conservators has been hard at work on a great number of Fall events including walks, webinars, neighborhood fairs, and even a Monarch Festival!



Fall 2022 Walk Series - We kick off our Fall

Walk Series this coming Saturday, September 11 at Cutler Park led by Jon Regosin. We have 6 walks scheduled, three of which are kid-oriented (and require pre-registration.)

The walks are now listed on our Events Page and full details are provided in this e-Bulletin below. A handy one page schedule of walks is available [HERE](#). Please note that walks are at different times and some trips are weather dependent.



- [Sunday, September 11, 2022, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm](#)
[The Bogs, Marshes, and Vernal Pools of Cutler Park](#)
- [Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am](#)
[Kids- Nature Adaptation Games](#)

- [Saturday, October 1, 2022, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm \(Rain Date: Sunday Oct 2\)](#)
[Notable Features of Webster Woods](#)
- [Saturday, October 8, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am](#)
[Kids- Riverside Adventure](#)
- [Saturday, October 22, 2022, 8:00 am - 11:00 am](#)
[Birding at Cold Spring Park](#)
- [Saturday, November 5, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am](#)
[Kids- Discovering Natural Changes](#)



Fall 2022 Webinar Series - Enjoy Nature... with

webinars from Newton Conservators! Join us for our fall/winter webinar series online from September through January. 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. A handy one page schedule of our Fall Webinar Series is available [HERE](#). See full details below. Many of our past webinars are now available on our [YouTube channel](#).



- **Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**
[Newton's \(Buried\) Streams: Now You See Them ... Now You Don't](#)
- **Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**
[Darkness in Distress - Light Pollution](#)
- **Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**
[What Is a Native Plant Ordinance and How Can You Get One?](#)
- **Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**
[Reading the Stories Told by Animal Tracks and Signs](#)

Public Festivals and Fairs - We will be having information tables at a number of other public events this Fall including those listed below. We would love to have some volunteers to assist at our tables at these various events for even an hour or two. Please contact our Public Events coordinator, Margaret Doris (text to 617-462-6161)



- **Saturday, September 17, 9 am - 11 am**
[Newton Monarch Festival](#)
Wellington Park, Kilburn Rd, West Newton
- **Sunday, September 18, 2022, Noon - 4 pm**
[Newtonville Village Day](#)
Walnut Street, Newtonville
- **Sunday, October 2, 2022, 11 am - 2 pm**
[Newton Upper Falls Village Day](#)
Chestnut Street / Upper Falls Greenway
- **Monday, October 10, 2022, 11 am - 5 pm**
[Newton Indigenous Peoples Day](#)
Albemarle Park / Playground
- **Sunday, October 16, 2022**
[Newton Harvest Fair](#)
Newton Centre Common

Our Fall Newsletter is now available online [HERE](#) - and the paper version will be in your mailbox in the near future for those who prefer that method. Here are the articles contained in this issue:

- **[Are Pollinators Being Supported in Newton?](#)**
- **[Beautiful but Destructive: The Invasive Spotted Lanternfly](#)**
- **[Three Resident Warblers of Cold Spring Park](#)**



- [Fall/Winter Webinar Series](#)
- [Fall Walks](#)
- [Remembering "Cris" Crisitiello](#)
- [Black Swallow-wort Alert](#)

Social Media

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#). Our expansive and informative website is www.newtonconservators.org.

You can subscribe to this eBulletin by sending an email to ebulletin@newtonconservators.org or unsubscribe by clicking the unsubscribe line at the end of this email. Hoping to see you out and about soon in Newton's open spaces!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 11, 2022, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
[The Bogs, Marshes, and Vernal Pools of Cutler Park](#)



Leader: Jon Regosin

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Cutler Park - Kendrick Street, Blue Heron Trail, Needham, MA, 02494

Did you know that one of the largest freshwater marshes in greater Boston is found at Cutler Park? The glacial deposits in the park have also created vernal pools and a very interesting kettle hole bog. Join Newton Conservators volunteer and MassWildlife Deputy Director Jon Regosin on a walk to explore the wetlands of Cutler Park. We will meet in the parking lot at Kendrick Pond and walk the trail out to Powell's Island



across a boardwalk through the marsh. Please be prepared for an approximately 3.5 mile round trip hike. We should be able to keep our feet dry, but we will go briefly off trail to better view the bog.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[Newton's \(Buried\) Streams: Now You See Them ...Now You Don't](#)



**Presenter: Jennifer Steel (Newton Chief Environmental Planner)
Newton Conservators Webinar Series**

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3QuuBE8>

Newton was once dotted with wetlands and criss-crossed by streams flowing to the Charles River. But one doesn't see many streams, marshes, or wooded wetlands nowadays. Where did they go? Where does our rainfall go now?



Jennifer Steel will share her recent exploration of Newton's "buried" streams. She is the Chief Environmental Planner for the City of Newton. Part of her professional responsibility is implementing the State Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations and protecting the few, precious, "natural" streams and wetlands that remain in Newton.

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Second Annual Newton Monarch Festival](#)

Wellington Park, Kilburn Road, West Newton, MA

Cosponsored by Newton Conservators, Newton Parks,

Recreation & Culture Department and Friends of Wellington Park

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/second-annual-newton-monarch-festival/>

There has been a lot of publicity lately about Monarchs with their recent classification as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. There have been estimates that the population of monarch butterflies in the eastern United States has declined between 85-95% since the 1990s. We are pleased to announce that we will be having our Second annual Monarch Festival on Saturday, September 17 from 9 am – 11 am in Wellington Park (Kilburn Road, West Newton).



The Monarch Festival will feature:

- Butterfly oriented kids activities and crafts
- Native milkweed seed and plant exchange
- Pollinator garden tours
- Info sessions with Monarch Raisers
- Live Monarchs at various stages from caterpillar to butterfly
- Monarch Tagging demonstration
- Butterfly release

If you have milkweed plants, seeds, or seed pods to share please bring them along to our Exchange table. Please label seeds and plants according to the type of milkweed. We will provide a sheet with planting instructions and guidelines. After all, if you want help Monarchs, plant Milkweed!



Get to know and recognize the three typical milkweed for our region – Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, and Butterfly Weed. We will have tours of the Monarch Butterfly Garden next to the tennis court in Wellington Park which has these three types of milkweed as well as other flowers and plants attractive to Monarchs. In addition, the Wellington Park Garden bordering Kilburn Road also has a variety of milkweed and other attractive pollinator plants and is maintained by volunteers from the Friends of Wellington Park.



There are a number of folks in Newton who look for Monarch eggs on milkweed and collect the eggs to raise – free from predators – in a process that takes about a month from egg to caterpillar. Many will be attending and will be happy to share their methods and tips for raising Monarchs involving very simple supplies. There will also be present many of the people in Newton who maintain official Monarch

Waystations that are gardens containing milkweed and other pollinator plants to help sustain the Monarch population,

Mid-September is a peak time for migrating Monarchs which are making their way to the central mountains of Mexico to spend the winter. The organization, Monarch Watch, has been supplying tiny tags to citizen volunteers to attach to the wings of migrating monarchs to research their migration routes. It is likely we will have some raised monarchs that will be ready to release for their journey south and there will be a demonstration of how to tag them.

Kids have a natural fascination with nature and butterflies and will enjoy seeing the live caterpillars, the chrysalis stage, and hopefully some just emerged adult Monarchs. In addition, Channon Ames of Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture will have a variety of butterfly themed craft projects and coloring sheets. The Newton Monarch Festival is FREE to attend and is being co-sponsored by Newton Conservators, Friends of Wellington Park, and the Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department.



Visit our Monarch and Milkweed web page at

<https://newtonconservators.org/monarchs-milkweed/>

where you can find links to lots of other Monarch and Milkweed information. Join us for free at this festival to learn how you can help the recently endangered Monarch Butterfly. For more information contact Ted Kuklinski from the Newton Conservators at tkuklinski@aol.com. You can download a PDF of the Newton Monarch Festival Flyer here: Newton

Monarch Festival 2022 Flyer

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Kids- Nature Adaptation Games

Newton Conservators Walk Series (Kids)

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Webster Woods Conservation Area,

250 Hammond Pond Pkwy, Chestnut Hill, MA, 02467

Register [HERE](#)



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators Board members, in navigating Webster Woods while learning about how its inhabitants survive in this environment! Open to children 5 and 9 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration for this event is required.

Meeting location and directions will be emailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact

the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group.



Saturday, October 1, 2022, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

(Rain Date: Sunday Oct 2)

Notable Features of Webster Woods:

Rock Walls, Cake Rock, the Beautiful Vale, Bare Pond, Black Gum Stands, Gooch's Cove, and More!

Leader: Professor Richard Primack

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Webster Conservation Area - Elgin Street Entrance,

120-160 Elgin Street, Newton, MA



The Webster Woods has numerous special geological, botanical, historical and landscape features. Come discover this amazing area acquired by the city in 2019. Learn about them from Richard Primack, life-long Newton resident and Professor of Plant Ecology at BU. Meet at the end of Elgin Street on the edge of the woods. The Rain date will be October 2nd



for this event at the same time.

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Kids - Riverside Adventure

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Walk Series (Kids)

Register [HERE](#)



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin as we explore the Charles Riverside Park and learn about migration by playing games focusing on environmental interactions, food selection, and more! Open to children 5 and 9 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration for this event is required. Meeting location and directions will be emailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group.



Saturday, October 22, 2022, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Birding at Cold Spring Park

Leader: Pete Gilmore

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Cold Spring Park, Beacon Street, Newton



Join Pete Gilmore and the Brookline Bird Club for an easy walk on flat woodland and meadow trails, looking for fall migrants including confusing fall warblers. In case there is a large turnout, we may split into smaller groups. Be advised, if it rains the walk can be muddy. Pete Gilmore is an avid birder and board member of both the Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club.



Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Darkness in Distress - Light Pollution

Presenter: Kelly Beatty (Sky & Telescope Magazine)

Newton Conservators Webinar Series

Register: <https://bit.ly/3pfojvU>



Light pollution, simply put, is any unnecessary or excessive outdoor illumination. Sadly, it's become a pervasive and ugly consequence of modern 24/7 society. Light pollution robs us of the night sky's beauty, negatively affects the ecosystem, and creates an in-your-face waste of energy. But a new mindset and new technology are poised to slow — and perhaps reverse — this



bane of modern life. Come learn how you can safely light up your home, business, and community without wasting energy, disturbing your neighbors, or creating an unhealthy environment for humans and wildlife.

Kelly Beatty has been explaining the science and wonder of astronomy to the public since 1974, when he joined the staff of Cambridge-based Sky & Telescope magazine. An award-winning writer and communicator, he holds a Bachelors degree from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. Kelly has been active in efforts to reduce light pollution for more than 30 years.

Saturday, November 5, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Kids - Discovering Natural Changes

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Walk Series (Kids)

Webster Woods - 199 Boylston St, Chestnut Hill, MA, 02647

Register [HERE](#)



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators Board members, as they explore how Webster Woods is preparing for winter! Open to children 5 and 9 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration for this event is required. Meeting location and directions will be emailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group.



Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[What Is a Native Plant Ordinance and How Can You Get One?](#)



**Presenters: Renée Scott & David Falk (Green & Open Somerville)
Newton Conservators Webinar Series**

Register: <https://bit.ly/3SOd8bb>

Renée Scott and David Falk, both founders of Green & Open Somerville in 2014, will walk you through why native plants are important and how they advocated for and helped author Somerville's Native Planting Ordinance. They will answer questions about the ordinance specifically and native plants in general. Renée grew up in rural Vermont and has a degree in Environmental Planning and just completed a Master in Public Policy degree from Tufts University. David grew up in Brooklyn. He started with the Audubon Society in Vermont and now works at the Native Plant Trust as a horticulturist.



Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[Reading the Stories Told by Animal Tracks and Signs](#)



Presenter: Barbara Bates

Newton Conservators Webinar Series

Register: <https://bit.ly/3pneHPC>

Many animals are secretive, avoiding people and finding food at night. Snow and mud provide a canvas for these animals' tracks and enable us to see who has been out and, often, what they were doing. Join Newton Conservators' Barbara Bates to learn what tracks and animal signs you can find in Newton's open spaces as well as in your own back yard. Barbara is a teacher, naturalist and Newton Conservators' board member.



Newton Conservators Newsletter

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Are Pollinators Being Supported in Newton?

By Richard B. Primack (a life-long Newton resident and professor at Boston University), Selby Vaughn, and Katia Landauer (Boston University undergraduates)

Is Newton — replete with public open spaces, private landscapes, and ever more pollinator gardens — adequately supporting its native pollinators?

Are non-native European honeybees competing with or harming our native insect pollinators? The City of Newton is asking these questions as it considers new regulations that would restrict honeybee numbers on public and private land. The questions emerge from two interrelated activities.



Pollinator garden at Wellington Park; Richard and Selby making observations



Honeybee visiting milkweed flowers

First, the Newton Conservators and the City of Newton, among others, are establishing pollinator gardens in public places and encouraging homeowners to plant native wildflowers favored by native insects. These gardens are intended to

support native pollinators that are declining in Newton and elsewhere in the region and around the world. In particular, certain native bumblebee species are declining, with three of the remaining species at risk of disappearing from Massachusetts over the next decade.

Second, some residents keep honeybee hives on their properties. For them, keeping honeybees is a satisfying, educational, and delicious hobby. Some beekeepers have permission to keep multiple hives on public land in Newton, in part because of their educational value.



A group of researchers from Boston University, Tufts University, and University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth meet in Newton Centre to discuss bees and pollinator gardens.

However, some residents are concerned that native pollinators and non-native honeybees might be competing for flowers. Will masses of honeybees consume most of the floral nectar and pollen the native insects need to survive?

Continued on page 2

The Fall 2022 edition has gone to press and will be mailed shortly and also available online [HERE](#) and contains the following interesting articles:

- [Are Pollinators Being Supported in Newton?](#)
- [Beautiful but Destructive: The Invasive Spotted Lanternfly](#)
- [Three Resident Warblers of Cold Spring Park](#)
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- [Remembering "Cris" Crisitiello](#)
- [Black Swallow-wort Alert](#)

Black Swallow-wort

Please be on the lookout for the Black Swallow-wort (BSW) vine. It's a non-native invader now infesting Newton (you'll find it in many of your yards, and hiding in hedges and shrubs). It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to Monarch butterflies. Later this summer its large seed pods will open, and the wind will disperse the seeds on white fluffy fibers to make the infestation even worse.



The BSW vine has blue-green glossy, opposite leaves, small purple flowers, and large seed pods that hang down like pea pods. You can dig it up, cut it down, or just pull off the seed pods to prevent further spread. Put everything into a bag and into your trash, not into Yard Waste, to avoid further spread.

For more photos and information about this and other common invasive species in Newton, see the Newton Conservators invasive plant information on our website (listed under Resources), such as this link for BSW:

<https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

To assist in our group activities to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org. Thank you!

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP



We would be very grateful for your continued support by joining Newton Conservators or renewing your membership. Perhaps, consider renewing at a higher level, adding an extra donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space.

You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/renewal-2020/>. A link to our annual members' renewal letter outlining last year's activities can also be found at the above link.

Donations may be made at our securely via our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/ways-to-give/>. As a 501(c)(3) non-

profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups including Friends of Webster Woods, Friends of Houghton Garden, the Riverside Trails Working Group, Trails Fund, and others. As part of the donation process, you can specify specific funds. Thanks so much!

Mission: *The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.*

- E-Bulletin Editor & President Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)

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