



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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



May Days... perfect for getting out!

Newton Conservators has a jam-packed schedule of activities coming up through July including [webinars](#), [walks](#), [invasive pulls](#), Newton Serves, festivals and village days, and even our first live outdoor [Annual Dinner Meeting](#) on Wednesday, May 24th. Thanks to all who came out this past weekend for our four NewtonSERVES events!

This evening it's not too late to register and tune in to our special FREE Webinar on Rewilding our Communities for Climate Resilience featuring Hannah Lewis, expert on Miyawaki Forests! See registration info below. The May weather has changed for the better and the birds are loving it. This coming weekend is traditionally the height of the spring bird migration in Newton and nice weather is expected to bring in lots of warblers, thrushes, and other colorful migrants. We have two great bird walks this weekend on both Saturday at Dolan Pond and on Sunday for our traditional Mother's Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park.

And for the kids, don't miss the Newton Family FunFest outside at City Hall where you will find our tent with some kids activities as well as lots more happening including rides, music, food, theatre and good times! If you feel like getting some exercise in the afternoon, join us for some invasive pulling in Saturday afternoon along the Pony Truss Trail near Riverside Park, on Sunday morning at Sawmill Brook and on Sunday afternoon at the Blue Heron Bridge. The Spring 2023 issue of the Newton Conservators Newsletter is now available on our [website](#).

Make sure to register soon for our Annual Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, May 24, outside in a tent at the lovely Mt Ida Campus of UMASS Amherst (yes - it's in Newton!). See details on all these events below.

Check out our remaining May events below or the full list on our website [Events](#) listing. Hope to see you out and about in Newton this Spring!

Upcoming Events in May

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
[Rewilding our Communities for Climate Resilience](#)
Hannah Lewis

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/rewilding-our-communities-for-climate-resilience/>



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

What holds some 500 species, sequesters 500 pounds of CO₂/year, is 10° F cooler than its surroundings, soaks up lots of rainwater, and is created by children and their elders in spaces no bigger than a tennis court? A “mini-forest” planted using the Miyawaki Method, of course! After a couple of years of as-needed weeding and watering, these nascent forests form a canopy and — like any other healthy ecosystem — become self-sufficient. We’ll discuss what a mini-forest is, what it can do for your neighborhood, how to plant one, and why people all over the world are organizing their communities to plant mini-forests in the small spaces around where they live and work.



Hannah Lewis is the author of *Mini-Forest Revolution: Using the Miyawaki Method to Rapidly Rewild the World*, published in June 2022 by Chelsea Green; a French translation of the book was released in January 2023 by Editions Eyrolles in France. Hannah has an MS in Sustainable Agriculture and Sociology from Iowa State University and a BA in Environmental Studies from Middlebury College. She lives in Minneapolis, where she works for the non-profit Renewing the Countryside to build sustainable local and regional food systems and plant mini-forests.

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 7:30 am - 9:30 am

Spring Birding at Dolan Pond

Leaders: Ian Buzby, Mike Hanley, and Ted Kuklinski

Dolan Pond, 76 Webster Park - West Newton

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/spring-birding-at-cold-spring-park/>



Explore Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton at a peak time 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. Colorful wood ducks have nested and had babies here in recent years.



Over 60 species are usually seen each spring and it is considered an eBird hotspot - you can find the latest eBird results for Dolan Pond Conservation Area at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2829294>

This will be an easy walk over accessible paths and boardwalk in this 9 acre conservation area. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children and beginners are welcome. If the group is large, we will split into multiple sections. Meet near 76 Webster Park and park around the circle (HP parking available). Trip Leaders, who all frequently bird at Dolan Pond, are Ian Buzby, Mike Hanley, and Ted Kuklinski (tkuklinski@aol.com).

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Newton Family Funfest - SHINE

Newton City Hall - War Memorial Circle

Look for the Newton Conservators table and red tent at the Newton Family FunFEST. We'll have some kids's pollinator activities.

Newton Family FunFEST is a celebration of art and entertainment for all ages including live musical performances, Tanglewood Marionettes, carnival, arts & crafts workshops, live public art event, vendor booths and more. What does it mean to Shine? To be radiant, brilliant, to stand out, to excel! At Newton Cultural Development we believe we have talented shining stars among our youth in Newton, and it'd exciting to give them a platform during Family FunFEST to

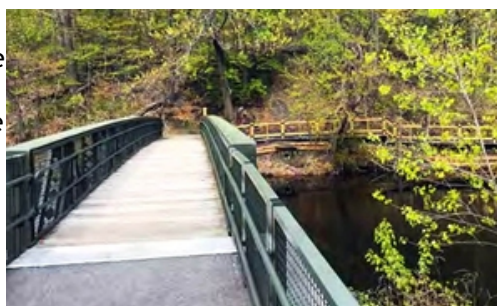


SHINE . Public Art Project SHINE - Congratulations to the selected student artists who will be painting mural boards to be on display in our parks and playgrounds this summer! There will be musical performances, theater, food, rides, and more at this great outdoor event at the City Hall War Memorial Circle. Find out more at: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/cultural-development/family-funfest>

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 1 pm - 3 pm
Pony Truss Trail and Riverside Park Invasives Pull
Riverside Park, Recreation Road, Weston

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/pony-truss-trail-and-riverside-park-invasives-pull-3/>

Help tackle the garlic mustard, buckthorn, bittersweet, and knotweed in our beautiful new park . Help keep these invaders out! 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 Ted Chapman and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571. Directions: For the location of Riverside Park use this



link: <https://goo.gl/maps/nWmmRm3YxAoaSVi86>. Access the park from Recreation Road on the North side of Leo J Martin Golf Course; or from Grove St take the access road (I-95 North, stay to the right after passing under the RR Bridge. Park in the lot for Riverside Park or along the access road from Grove St.

Sunday, May 14, 2023, 8:00 am - 10:30 am

Mother's Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park

Leaders: Alison Leary & Haynes Miller

Nahanton Park - Nahanton Street entrance

471 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA Sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park



Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for migrants as well as resident species. See what birds are being seen at Nahanton Park on its eBird hotspot listing (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L458870>). Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Waterproof shoes are recommended. Walk will be canceled in steady rain. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)



Sunday, May 14, 2023, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook

Sawmill Brook Conservation Area

93 Vine Street, Chestnut Hill, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/invasives-pull-at-sawmill-brook-6/>

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, May 14, 2023, 2 - 4 pm
Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge
40 Albemarle Road, Newton, MA, 02460

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/invasives-pull-at-blue-heron-bridge-7/>

We will work along the **Charles River Greenway** at this bridge site, pulling garlic mustard and cutting back other invasives. Wear long pants and sleeves, sturdy shoes and garden gloves. You can park on the Newton side at Albemarle Rd, or at the Stop and Shop lot at 700 Pleasant St Watertown and go left on the greenway to the Blue Heron Bridge. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.**



Saturday, May 20, 2023, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Kids- Exploring Dolan Pond

Leader: Barbara Bates

Dolan Pond, 76 Webster Park, Newton, MA, 02465

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/kids-exploring-dolan-pond/>

Sign up: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/kids-exploring-dolan-pond/>



Join Barbara Bates, Newton Conservators Board member and retired teacher naturalist at Mass Audubon to explore the animals and plants in the Dolan Pond conservation area and play nature-themed games. Open to children 5 through 9 years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 8 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 9:30 am - Noon

Invasives Pull at Nahanton Park

Nahanton Park

455 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/nahanton-park-invasives-pull-5/>

Many native habitats, including the grassland **Woodcock Meadow**, home to threatened American Woodcock, and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. **Nahanton Park** has invasions of black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, Tree of Heaven, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park (and help the American woodcock) by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves recommended. We will meet at the small upper lot adjacent to Woodcock Meadow, next to the Canoe rental on Nahanton St. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.**



A Stroll Through Cold Spring Park

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Leaders: Alan Noguee & Pete Gilmore
Cosponsored by Friends of Cold Spring Park
Cold Spring Park, Duncklee Road, Newton, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/a-stroll-through-cold-spring-park-cosponsored-by-friends-of-cold-spring-park/>

Tour Cold Spring Park, a natural gem in the heart of Newton, and explore some of its natural and unnatural wonders, mysteries, threats, and possibilities with Friends of Cold Spring Park founder and President Alan Noguee. See how its seven different habitats create a wildlife haven, why its ability to continue supporting wildlife is at risk, and what we can do about it. Trip Leaders: Alan Noguee

(friendsofcoldspringpark@gmail.com) and Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com).



Sunday, May 21, 2023, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Birding at Cold Spring Park

Leader: Pete Gilmore

Cold Spring Park, Duncklee Road, Newton, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/birding-at-cold-spring-park-4/>

Participants will meet near the turnaround at the end of the left side of the Beacon Street parking area. This is an easy walk on fat woodland trails. We will look for resident birds as well as spring migrants. The latter may include warblers, thrushes and vireos. We saw a Philadelphia Vireo on this walk two years ago. Beginners and children are welcome. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com)



Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting Speaker: Norm Smith, Raptor Specialist

Mount Ida Campus of UMass Boston

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/2023-annual-meeting-may-24-2023/>



WHEN:

Wednesday May 24, 2023

5:00 p.m. Social gathering

with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

6:30 p.m. Dinner, business meeting, awards ceremony and keynote speaker

INFO & REGISTRATION

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/2023-annual-meeting-may-24-2023/>

WHERE:

Under a tent on the University of Massachusetts, Amherst's beautiful Mount Ida Campus in Newton
 100 Carlson Avenue - Newton, MA

AWARDS:



Environmentalist of the Year:

Marcia Cooper, President, Green Newton

Directors' Awards

Luis Perez Demorizi, Dir. Parks & Open Space, Newton
 Ruth Balser, State Representative, Commonwealth of MA
 Philip Saunders, Jr., Organizer, PLPA (land protection)
(posthumously accepted by Elizabeth Saunders)

PRESENTATION:

Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls
 Featuring Norman Smith
 Raptor Specialist, Mass Audubon

Since 1981, Norman Smith has spent countless days and nights, in every imaginable weather condition, observing, capturing, banding and relocating snowy owls at Logan International Airport. Data has been collected on roosting, hunting and behavior while on their wintering grounds. Since 2000, satellite transmitters have been attached to owls to learn more about their movements. Find out what has been learned to date, what questions remain and how this project developed to include research on saw-whet owls.

Norman Smith is a self-taught naturalist who has worked for Massachusetts Audubon since 1974. He recently retired as Director of Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Norman Smith Environmental Education Center in Milton, Massachusetts, where he had worked for over 50 years, and has taken on a part-time role to continue his research on raptors.

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Invasives Pull at Cold Spring Park**Cold Spring Park, Beacon Street**

<https://newtonconservators.org/locations/cold-spring-park-beacon-street-trailhead/>

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. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to the walking trail - from Beacon St entrance, left to the circle at the end of the parking lot. Leaders are Nyssa Patten and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Sunday, May 28, 2023, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Invasives Pull at Houghton Garden**Houghton Garden, 210 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/houghton-garden-invasives-pull-7/>

We are tackling garlic mustard, black swallow-wort, and other invasives near the entrance of **Houghton Garden** where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods. Help keep these invaders out of Houghton Garden! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Sunday, May 28, 2023, 9:30 am - Noon

Invasives Pull at Quinobequin Road

[Radcliff Rd & Quinobequin](#), 24 Radcliff Rd, Waban, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-rd-invasives-pull-3/>

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations on the Charles River's Quinobequin trail, which leads to beautiful [Hemlock Gorge](#). Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will properly dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the corner of Quinobequin and Radcliff Rd, near 24 Radcliff. **Leaders are Ann Ritchie and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.**



We have lots more events past this date on our [website](https://newtonconservators.org/events/) at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>!



NEWSLETTER

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

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In Praise of Spring Ponds

Over 60 years ago I read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, and I can still recall his descriptions of ponds. He claimed a pond is: "... a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

Every time I see reflections in Bare Pond in Webster Woods, I think of an eye reflecting the world back at me.

When the first thaws unlock winter's grip, I look for the first hints of spring in the wetlands and at pond edges: willow branches turning yellow green long before other trees



Bare Pond inlet reflections in March 2022

Before its green leaves emerge, look for the skunk cabbage's well-camouflaged spathe — a claw-like structure containing the flowers on a spadix that looks like a tiny pineapple. These spathes sometimes push up through snow in February because the plant's giant, leek-like

root generates enough heat to warm the air around it to over 60 degrees. That heat helps the funky smell of the flowers attract the carrion-loving insects that pollinate the plant. By May one can barely see the claw-like spathes because the huge green leaves of the plant overshadow everything.

By March the vernal witch-hazel at the northwest corner of Bulloughs Pond has a beautiful patch of brilliant orange flowers.



Skunk cabbage spathe in Cold Spring Park April 2021

and the emerging yellow-streaked, purplish spathes of skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*).



Vernal witch-hazel blooms in March

Our native witch-hazel blooms yellow in the fall. Witch-hazel flowers have an amazing ability to survive cold by curling their petals into a ball to reduce water loss.

Continued on page 2

The Spring 2023 Newton Conservators Newsletter has been published and is being sent to those who subscribe to the print edition. It is also available online [HERE](#) and contains the following interesting articles and features:

- [In Praise of Spring Ponds \(Barbara Bates\)](#)
- [Preserving At-risk Wildlife and Biodiversity Through Gardening \(Alan Noguee\)](#)
- [Spring Webinars](#)
- [Save the Date! Outdoor Annual Dinner Meeting/NewtonServes](#)
- [Spring Walks](#)
- [Remembering John Bliss \(Tamara Bliss, Bonnie Carter\)](#)

- [Invasives Update](#)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP



We would be most grateful if you renewed your membership or joined us officially for the first time to support our important open space work! The challenges of protecting, enhancing and expanding open space in Newton continue. We hope that you will continue to support the Conservators efforts in these regards by renewing your membership for 2023 or joining us if you are not.

Perhaps consider renewing at a higher level, adding a new donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups. As part of the donation process, you can specify specific funds. This year we call your attention to our special "Trails Fund" in support of additional trails work in Newton. Thanks so much!

You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/>. Donations may be made at our securely via our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/ways-to-give/>.

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.

Newton Conservators is committed to fostering a sense of belonging for all people in Newton's open spaces by:

- *planning and evaluating all of our activities through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) lens*
- *continually educating ourselves and our constituents about DEIJ issues*
- *building authentic relationships with regional organizations serving historically marginalized people*
- *working to include previously underrepresented people on our Board and among our members, program participants, and open space visitors*
- *diversifying all with whom we partner and do business.*

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

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