



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin Saturday, June 10, 2023

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



Summer Soon!

It has been a whirlwind of events this Spring so far and we have a bunch more still to come! Thanks to those who attended any of them so far - whether a walk, webinar, fair, or invasive removal!



Newton Conservators Awardees

Special thanks to those who came to our tented Annual Meeting last month at the Mt Ida Campus of UMass Amherst. The weather was beautiful right up to the hour of the event and there was a beautiful sunset later as well but Mother Nature did try to test us a bit for the dinner time itself with a bit of chill, rain, and wind. But attendees enjoyed a nice dinner, made some new environmentally conscious friends, learned a little about the Conservators works, applauded our awardees, and enjoyed learning about owls from our humorous and entertaining speaker, Norm Smith - and his surprise guest at the end of the evening.



We definitely learned a few lessons for the future about having our dinner at an outdoor venue. And welcome to our new President Alice Ingerson and VP Nyssa Patten! Read a nice account of the dinner and awards in this past week's [Fig City News](#) (a great resource for local news and events!)

Newton Conservators has a jam-packed schedule of activities coming up through this Summer and into the Fall including **webinars, walks, bio-blitzes**, festivals and village days, and more! Tomorrow morning (Sunday, 10-12) will be a [tour](#) of one of our most scenic Newton open spaces with the Friends of Hemlock Gorge and Newton Conservators. And in the afternoon, please stop by our Newton Conservators tent (11-4) at the popular Newton Highlands Village Day.

On Wednesday evening, our final [Spring Webinar features Emily Blaisden](#) of the Maine Wild Seed Project discussing Gardening for Habitat. There's still room for you even though we have over 300 people pre-registered!

Our ongoing invasive pulls continue this summer with one next [Saturday morning](#) at Dolan Pond (focused on [knotweed](#)) with other listed below. You can still pull out [garlic mustard](#) which has now gone to thin upward facing seed pods, and it's also a good time to watch for [black swallow-wort](#) which seems to be quite prevalent this year in Newton. Dispose in trash rather than yard waste to avoid spreading. See the [Invasive Plant Guide](#) for Newton on our website.

And next Saturday afternoon at Cold Spring Park, we kick off an exciting new summer/fall series of [Newton Bio-Blitzes](#) led by board member Jon Regosin (former Deputy Director of MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife). It's a great opportunity to get involved in citizen science as we will be using the iNaturalist phone app to identify and inventory any living organisms in this and other nature laden open spaces in Newton. Learn how to identify that plant, insect, bird, flower, fern, or bird that you have been curious about!



The Summer edition of our Newton Conservators has almost gone to press and should be posted on our [website](#) in the near future or you will be receiving it by mail.

In a piece of bad news, there was a major theft of plants overnight this past Thursday at the Newton Community Farm. See the [account](#) and call for assistance in catching the thief later in this e-Bulletin.

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 11, 2023 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Exploring Hemlock Gorge

Hemlock Gorge - Hamilton Place, Needham

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/exploring-hemlock-gorge-co-sponsored-by-the-friends-of-hemlock-gorge/>



Join [Friends of Hemlock Gorge](#) and Newton Conservators for a tour of this gem of a park, "hidden" at the intersection of Rtes 9 and 95, once a Sunday destination for thousands of Boston city dwellers, and designed by Charles Eliot of the Olmsted design firm. We will visit the historic Echo Bridge, talk some history and geology, and enjoy the stunning topography and views. The walk includes some steep slopes and uneven terrain. Meet at the Hamilton Place entrance/lot off Central Ave (on the Needham side of the Charles River). There are only a few parking spots at Hamilton Place, so we recommend parking in the Mills Falls lot at the intersection of Chestnut and Elliot Streets. If you enter that lot from Elliot Street, it is only a couple of minutes walk to our meeting. In the event of steady rain, the rain date is Sunday June 25 10-12. Trip Leaders: John Mordes MD, president of Friends of Hemlock Gorge (617 888 4488), and Katherine Howard of Newton Conservators (617 721 2571).



Sunday, June 11, 2023 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

46th Newton Highlands Village Day

Lincoln Street between Walnut and Bowdoin

<https://highlandsvillageday.org/>



Stop by our Newton Conservators tent this year at Newton Highlands Village Day. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, all kid activities at the Village Day are FREE! That includes bounce houses, caricatures, and face painting! Plus, enjoy delicious food, enjoy live music, and much more! Lincoln St will be closed to traffic from 8am to 5pm. The festival runs from 11-4.



Tuesday, June 13, 2023 7:00 pm

The Impact of Newton's Zoning and the MBTA Communities Law on Climate Change Green Newton Webinar



<https://greennewton.org/event/the-impact-of-newtons-zoning-and-the-mbta-communities-law-on-climate-change/>

The City of Newton recently released Version 2.0 (with draft maps) for Village Center Zoning and how it meets the requirements of the MBTA Communities Law. Join Green Newton for a presentation by Kathy Pillsbury, former climate change researcher for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and an active member of 350 Mass Newton Node, and of the Engine 6 Zoning Group. Jay Walter, a local architect and founder of the Building Professionals Zoning Working Group, will



also speak on several ways that the proposed zoning changes can benefit our community. **A public hearing on the new zoning will be held on June 26, 2023.** There will be time for questions and discussion.

Thursday, June 15, 2023 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Gardening for Habitat

Presenter: Emily Baisden - [Wild Seed Project \(Maine\)](#)

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series

Info: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/gardening-for-habitat/>

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3Zfnao5>



Gardens are habitats, but the degree to which they support local wildlife depends on how we plant and manage them. Our plant choices determine who visits, stays, or passes by as creatures look for food, shelter, to nest and lay eggs. When and how we decide to clean up leaves or cut plants back affects life cycles of salamanders, bees, birds, moths, and butterflies.



Emily Baisden will explain how to create habitat in the garden year-round while balancing your workload and garden aesthetics. Prior to joining [Wild Seed Project](#) in 2022, Emily served as Entomologist and Educator at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. She has an extensive background in native horticulture and environmental education, and focuses largely on using native plants to support food webs and biodiversity. She holds a BS in Environmental Science from the University of New England and an MS in Entomology from the University of Delaware. She lives in Brunswick, Maine, where she spends most of her time adventuring with her partner and their dog, and establishing wildlife habitat in her yard.

Saturday, June 17, 2023 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Knotweed Pull at Dolan Pond

Dolan Pond Conservation Area - near 76 Webster Park

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/knotweed-pull-at-dolan-pond-5/>



We will work to control knotweed along the path through the Conservators' conservation restriction area and other areas of this gem of a pocket park. We may also work on black swallow-wort. Bring shovels and clippers if you have them and wear long pants and garden gloves. There will also be some special tools for chopping the knotweed. We will meet near the Webster Park entrance. Leader is



Ted Kuklinski, 617-763-3470, and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Saturday, June 17, 2023 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Cold Spring Park Bio-Blitz
Cold Spring Park - Beacon St trailhead
1200 Beacon Street, Waban, MA, 02468



Info: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/cold-spring-park-bioblitz/>

Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Or maybe you are more interested in birds or butterflies? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas? Maybe you have developed skills identifying ferns or pollinators and you want to share that knowledge with others? Or perhaps you are just curious to learn more about nature in Newton? If this piques your interest, join us for this Newton BioBlitz event! We will spend a few hours surveying plants and animals, learning, and posting our observations to iNaturalist. You do not need to be an experienced naturalist or expert to participate. Families are welcome. To Register for this or our other Bio-Blitz events go [HERE](#). Registration is encouraged but not required!



Crystal Lake/Centre Street Invasives Pull
Sunday, July 2, 2023 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Centre St near 1429 Centre
1429 Centre St, Newton, MA, 02459



<https://newtonconservators.org/events/crystal-lake-centre-street-invasives-pull-3/>

We will work at the city's small pocket park along Centre St just outside of Newton Center, next to the house at 1429 Centre St. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Some tools and gloves are available but bring your own digging tool and loppers if you can. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Fourth of July Festival
Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Albemarle Field
Albemarle Road - Newtonville

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/cultural-development/events/july-4th>

Stop by our Newton Conservators booth this year at the City's July 4th Festival on Albemarle Field for kids activities and to learn about pollinator gardens, bio-blitzes, walks, trails, and our open pace efforts. There are lots of vendors, carnival rides, food, and musical entertainment at the Gazebo, kid's activities and more! Tabling volunteers welcome! Stick around for the Bo and Bill Winiker Band at 6 pm followed by the Fireworks Spectacular at 9:10 pm.

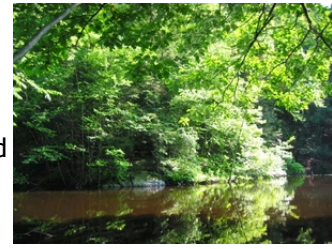


Saturday, July 8, 2023 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull
Hemlock Gorge Ellis Street lot
2 Ellis Street, Newton, MA, 02464



<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-hemlock-gorge-invasives-pull-14/>

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge, and the adjoining walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Sunday, July 9, 2023 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull
Hemlock Gorge Ellis Street lot
2 Ellis Street, Newton, MA, 02464



<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-hemlock-gorge-invasives-pull-13/>

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge, and the adjoining walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:00 am
Community Water Chestnut Removal
Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA)
Paddle Boston: Newton Historic Boathouse
2401 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA, 02466
 Register at <https://www.crwa.org/events/bittersweet-23-1-wpcf4>



Help clear the current of water chestnuts! These fast-growing, aquatic invasives spread rapidly across the river, reducing biodiversity, harming water quality, and impeding recreation. But with your help, we can remove water chestnuts & restore the river ecosystem. You don't want to miss this! Join CRWA for a fun day out on the river in canoes. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Sunday, July 16, 9:00 - Noon
Webster Woods (west) BioBlitz



Webster Woods is one of our larger open spaces. Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Or maybe you are more interested in birds or butterflies? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas? Maybe you have developed skills identifying ferns or pollinators and you want to share that knowledge with others? Or perhaps you are just curious to learn more about nature in



Newton? If this piques your interest, join us for an upcoming Newton BioBlitz event! We will spend a few hours surveying plants and animals, learning, and posting our observations to iNaturalist. You do not need to be an experienced naturalist or expert to participate. Families are welcome. To Register for this or our other Bio-Blitz events go [HERE](#). Registration is encouraged but not required!

Wednesday, July 26, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Dolan Pond Bio-Blitz
Dip-netting for Aquatic Invertebrates
Dolan Pond Conservation Area, West Newton
Meet near 76 Webster Park



Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas? Maybe you have developed skills identifying ferns or pollinators and you want to share that knowledge with others? Or perhaps you are just curious to learn more about nature in Newton? If this piques your interest, join us for an upcoming Newton BioBlitz event! We will spend a few hours surveying the waters in Dolan Pond Conservation Area, learning, and posting our observations to iNaturalist. You do not need to be an experienced naturalist or expert to participate. Families are welcome. To Register for this or our other Bio-Blitz events go [HERE](#). Registration is encouraged but not required!



Saturday, September 9, 9:00 to 11:00 am
3rd Annual Newton Monarch Festival
Wellington Park - Kilburn Road, West Newton



Please Join us for the free Third Annual Monarch Festival on Saturday, September 9 from 9 am - 11 am in Wellington Park, West Newton (entrances on Kilburn Road and Princess Road). 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. For more information contact Ted Kuklinski from the Newton Conservators at tkuklinski@aol.com. Learn about local efforts to help the Monarchs at the festival which will feature:

- Butterfly Oriented Kids Games, Activities, and Crafts
- Native milkweed seed and plant exchange
- Setting up a Monarch Waystation
- Pollinator Garden Tours at Wellington Park
- Live Monarchs at various stages from caterpillar to butterfly
- How to Raise Monarchs
- Monarch Tagging demonstration
- Butterfly release
- Free Drawing for Butterfly Related Prizes



Sunday, September 10, 9:00 am - Noon
Nahanton Park Bio-Blitz
Nahanton Park



Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Or maybe you are more interested in birds or butterflies? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas? Maybe you have developed skills identifying ferns or pollinators and you want to share that knowledge with others? Or perhaps you are just curious to learn more about nature in Newton? If this piques your interest, join us for an upcoming Newton BioBlitz event! We will spend a few hours surveying plants and animals, learning, and posting our

observations to iNaturalist. You do not need to be an experienced naturalist or expert to participate. Families are welcome. To Register for this or our other Bio-Blitz events go [HERE](#). Registration is encouraged but not required!

**Saturday, September 23,
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Hammond Woods Bio-Blitz
Late Season Pollinators and More**



Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Or maybe you are more interested in birds or butterflies? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas? Maybe you have developed skills identifying ferns or pollinators and you want to share that knowledge with others?

Or perhaps you are just curious to learn more about nature in Newton? If this piques your interest, join us for an upcoming Newton BioBlitz event! We will spend a few hours surveying plants and animals, learning, and posting our observations to iNaturalist. You do not need to be an experienced naturalist or expert to participate. Families are welcome. To Register for this or our other Bio-Blitz events go [HERE](#). Registration is encouraged but not required!



Keep up to date on our events on our [website](https://newtonconservators.org/events/) at [https://newtonconservators.org/events/!](https://newtonconservators.org/events/)

Other News

Plants Stolen from Newton Community Farm!

Below is some disturbing very recent news from our friends at Newton Community Farm:

Friday - June 9, 2023

Dear Farm Friends

Unfortunately, Newton Community Farm was the victim of theft sometime between 7:30 pm Thursday and 7 am Friday morning. Please help us find whomever did this and help us protect this Farm.



What you can do:

- *Be on the lookout for anyone who suddenly has hundreds of plants going into gardens or is offering lots of plants for sale who hasn't done this before.*
- *Call the police if you see vehicles parked near the Farm perimeter on Nahanton or Winchester Streets late at night or early in the morning. The Farm is closed from dusk to dawn.*
- *Call us at 617-916-9655 to report suspicious activity. You can leave an anonymous tip or speak to me directly.*

We came in this morning to discover many, many plants missing from the Farm. Someone, or multiple people, took basil, scallions, eggplant, and cucumbers planted in the field and trays of cucumber, tomato, kale, corn, and other seedlings from the new greenhouse. They stole hundreds

of plants. Whomever took these plants knew what they were doing and targeted certain crops and even certain plants. They tried to find the scallions by first picking some leeks and then onions before they found what they were looking for. They took other plants by digging them out from the roots, presumably so they could be re-planted. They removed cloth that was over the eggplant and cucumber plants in the field and took them.



These plants were being grown for our community: for our CSA sharers, farm stand and farmers' market customers, and for donation to the Newton Food Pantry and Freedge. We are devastated and angered by what happened and the impact to our community.

We have notified the police and they have seen the footprints and knee-prints in the soil. There will be increased patrolling of the Farm area and we are installing security cameras.

Farming is a difficult, stressful job as it is. Dealing with drought, heat, flooding, animals, insects, and all the rest pose huge challenges. Our farm manager and his family live onsite and have had their safety and security violated. We have been here going on 18 years and have never before had theft like this. Please help us find the person or persons who did this and help make sure this does not happen again.

Thanks for your support as we address this situation.

Sue Bottino, Executive Director (Newton Community Farm)

Help the City Improve the Washington Street Corridor Monday, June 12, 2023 (Last Day for Survey)

<https://greennewton.org/event/help-the-city-improve-the-washington-street-corridor-take-the-survey-by-june-12/>

The City of Newton is planning to implement improvements along the Washington Street Corridor with a pilot project between Chestnut Street and Lowell Avenue. The pilot will aim to reallocate roadway space to create a more attractive, friendly welcoming environment for all travelers, with improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure for increased safety. Before the City begins the planning and design of this pilot, they would like to hear your feedback,



experiences, and safety concerns. Please note that this survey is intended for residents of Newton and those who frequent the Washington Street corridor between Chestnut Street and Lowell Avenue. The pilot's goals are to improve safety, visibility, comfort, and accessibility for everyone. The pilot will use low-cost methods and materials to test, monitor, and study improvements on the roadway within the short-term, while allowing for further adjustment following evaluation. The project will not provide permanent reconstruction to the Washington Street corridor. This survey is estimated to take about 10 minutes to complete. Feedback provided in this survey will remain anonymous. Please respond by June 12. Take Survey

at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKDCZN7>

The Summer edition of our Newton Conservators has almost gone to press and should be posted on our [website](#) in the near future or you will be receiving it by mail. Here's a preview snapshot of what to expect!



NEWTON CONSERVATORS
Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961
SUMMER ISSUE
NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SUMMER 2023

NEWSLETTER

2023-24 Officers, Directors and Advisors

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Deer Park in Webster Woods

The former "Deer Park" in Webster Conservation Area is now open to the public. A half-mile trail loops around the property. Access points are on Hammond Pond Parkway (just north of the MHTA tracks) and from the dirt road on the western side of Houghton Garden Conservation Area.

Parking is prohibited on the east side of the parkway. The nearest parking is on the opposite side of the parkway, 300 yards north near Beacon Street (just caution crossing the parkway). Access to the Deer Park is east



entrance to Houghton Garden, and turn left before the chain link fence.

If you enter from the east side, go straight through the gate in the old Deer Park fence. The trail that goes to the left, around the fence, is a rough route adjacent to the MHTA tracks. It leads to Hammond Pond Parkway and doesn't offer access to the Deer Park.

The Deer Park trail is marked with white blazes. It forks in several

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Blackpoll Warbler
photo by Hayes Miller

The Spring 2023 Newton Conservators Newsletter is 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 \(Alan Nogee\)](#)
- [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)*

[Save](#)

6/10/23, 2:33 PM

June 10, 2023 - Summer Soon!

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