



NEWTON
CONSERVATORS

FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2023

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Please Help to Protect Newton's Conservation Areas from Misuse and Abuse

By Jennifer Steel, Chief Environmental Planner, City of Newton

The Newton Conservation Commission cares for over 310 acres of natural open spaces in the city. Some of the larger conservation parcels

get a lot of use by walkers, joggers, birdwatchers, and dog walkers from all over the city and region; some of the smaller parcels tend to be used only by nearby residents. Newton's conservation areas and the other natural open spaces cared for by state agencies or the Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, are critical to the city's overall ecological health. These wooded areas provide habitat for native species, rainwater capture that feeds our streams and rivers in times of low rainfall, and biological and physical filtering of stormwater that removes pollutants from our environment. They all contribute to a cooler environment and the quality of life that city residents enjoy. They provide sanctuaries of tranquility and healing, opportunities for exercise, and safe spaces to share with family and friends.

Most users of these precious places respect and care for them. They abide by the land use regulations, pick up litter, help remove invasive plants, volunteer on workdays, and

donate funds and infrastructure to ensure that these public spaces are as nice as they can be for all to enjoy.



PHOTO: JENNIFER STEEL

Dirt bikes at the Norumbega Conservation Area

Unfortunately, three of our largest and most cherished conservation areas are being actively damaged, not only by people who ignore protective regulations but even commit outright vandalism. Unleashed dogs have been a long-term problem in Webster, Saw Mill Brook, and Norumbega Conservation Areas. Dog poop is often left in the woods and on the trails; dogs may erode stream banks, harass native wildlife, trample delicate understory plants, and frighten or dissuade others from using these parcels for tranquil enjoyment. Now fires, graffiti, motorized vehicles – from electric mountain bikes to dirt bikes (i.e., motorcycles) and outright vandalism are all becoming more common. The Conservation Commission needs everyone's help in stopping this escalation of damage.

In the Webster Conservation Area, graffiti has turned beautiful rocky cliffs and outcroppings and the rocks of the large vernal pool into blighted areas of spray paint (see photos next page). Webster Conservation Area

Continued on page 2



Graffiti in Webster Woods



Norumbega's protective fence ("Before")



Norumbega's protective fence just days later

has also suffered a proliferation of off-trail bike riding and new trail creation -- killing vegetation, fragmenting wildlife habitats, and exacerbating erosion.

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area is subject to frequent dumping of trash and yard waste in its parking lot, as well as graffiti on a magnificent outcropping of bedrock near the babbling brook.

Norumbega Conservation Area has seen the most rampant misuse over the past several years. A large and elaborate platform was built to facilitate use of an (illegal) rope swing, cutting into the roots of mature trees. Numerous "campfires" have been set, one of which became a significant ground fire that charred trees and roots. Staff have had to paint over crude graffiti sprayed on large trees. In 2019 the Newton Conservation Office spent \$50,000 to restore an extremely

eroded slope above the Charles River and install a footpath to preserve the bank's mature trees and reestablish an understory. In July 2023 the Conservation Office spent another \$5,500 to add slope stabilizing jute netting, understory plantings, and a visually unobtrusive fence to protect the planted areas, but the signs asking people to respect the restoration area and the protective fence were ripped out, destroyed and burned. Recently, motorcycles were seen entering the conservation area.

Repairs and restoration work are expensive. They absorb both time and money that could otherwise be used for proactive improvement projects. In an effort to catch those responsible for destructive acts, the Conservation Commission is considering placing cameras in some of its parcels.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful oases of open space in Newton. The vast majority of residents respect and help care for them. Here are some ways you can help:

- The Newton Conservation Office coordinates a group of Volunteer Land Stewards who take responsibility for periodically walking a conservation parcel and reporting their findings to the Conservation Office. If you are interested in joining, contact the Conservation Office (conservation@newtonma.gov).
- Report damage, trail maintenance needs, or opportunities for improvement to the Conservation Office by calling 617-796-1134 or emailing photos and an annotated map to conservation@newtonma.gov.
- If, when you are out on a conservation parcel, you see someone ignoring the regulations who seems open to conversation, point out what is amiss. Many users are unaware of the problems associated with off-leash dogs, the damage created by off-trail use, or the trail erosion that even non-motorized bikes can cause. Gentle education can go a long way towards creating a culture of stewardship.
- If you see vandalism in progress and can do so safely, report it to the Newton Police. ♦

The Importance of Being an Arborist: Preserving Trees for the Health of Our Planet

By Marc Welch, Deputy Commissioner/City Forester, Newton

Trees are a critical part of fighting the effects of climate change. They clean our air, provide oxygen, improve personal health, reduce pollutants, provide cooling, save energy, foster wildlife and biodiversity, and can even reduce crime. There may be no one single thing that does more for our environment than trees. Beyond this, trees link communities together, from residential neighborhoods to busy downtown areas, connecting neighborhoods, cultures, and generations. Trees are known to all. Everyone has a connection to trees, either directly or indirectly, whether they know it or not. Fostering trees, be they private or public, is incredibly important.

Caring for trees, promoting their importance, and demonstrating their value is the cornerstone of arboriculture. Arboriculture is the art and science of caring for, maintaining, and planting woody plants such as trees, shrubs, and woody vines. The science involves tree biology, tree growth, tree identification, learning to



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Charles River foliage near Hemlock Gorge

prune, nurture, and place new trees into the landscape. Arborists do day-to-day field work, often as a member of a crew. This position allows a person to work outdoors every day, stay physically active and have an opportunity to see each day the work they have accomplished and how the work they do impacts our surroundings. An arborist working in the field is a skilled professional who must be physically fit and comfortable with heights. This career is an excellent opportunity for those who love to work outdoors and are comfortable with physical exertion in varying weather conditions.

There are many other ways to have a fulfilling career in the industry. There are positions as field technicians assessing trees and managing a tree healthcare program. People in this role use their learned skills to prevent problems, address insects and disease, and assess the need for fertilizing. Consulting arborists are highly qualified

specialists who work with clients to make decisions on proper protection during construction, evaluate risk, and make determinations on preservation. So being an arborist is also a great way to work with people.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
A member of an arborist crew trims excess foliage.

Just like the many different varieties of trees, there are many different careers in the tree care industry. One of the most in demand positions is working as an arborist. Arborists use science to properly care for and diagnose trees' needs and to artfully

recognize hundreds of insects and diseases, understanding a tree's structural dynamics, and assessing risk. There is also an art to managing individual trees. Each species of tree is unique and each tree within the population is unique. Understanding how to prune or where to place a tree based on unique characteristics requires understanding the surroundings and a feel for what "looks right."



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Arborist crew members cleaning up

Not only are arborists critical for the care of private trees, but they also play a significant role in conserving, protecting, and caring for public trees. In fact, arboriculture in the Northeast

is rooted in the care of public trees. In 1895 botanist Dr. George E. Stone began lecturing about the importance of caring for trees, including trees along roadside edges. His lectures at the Massachusetts Agricultural College are the foundation from which the arboriculture industry and the management of public trees was born.

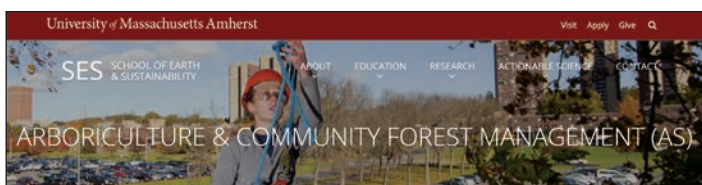
Continued on page 4



An arborist tends to a dead limb.



Neighbors help plant trees on the berms of their street.



The first program for teaching arboriculture in the United States is still in existence today at what is now known as the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Stone taught the first courses on how to care for trees with a specific focus on public trees. These courses were taught to the nation's first state-mandated protectors of public trees, Massachusetts' local tree wardens. Annually towns and cities would send their tree wardens to learn about the latest techniques for caring for trees and how to address newly discovered insects and disease. These individuals formed the first organization in the country dedicated to the care and protection of public trees.

Today the importance of having qualified people care for and manage public trees has never been greater nor has the need been more important. Many municipalities, such as Newton, have made renewed commitments to managing their publicly owned trees. To do so, communities

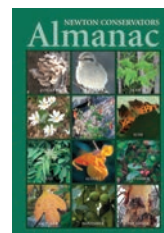
are looking more at hiring their own staff arborists and contracting with outside contractors as well. Communities are recognizing how trees are an important part of the battle against climate change and therefore are looking to hire people in the arboriculture industry. Across the state many communities have openings for arborists and tree care workers. Many private companies have openings on crews that will directly be working to preserve public trees.

With renewed interest in preserving public trees and protecting and preserving private trees the demand for arborists in all types of roles has never been greater. At the same time the number of individuals entering the profession is shrinking. People completing an education in arboriculture and urban forestry have a 100% placement rate into the field. For an individual looking to work as an arborist on a field crew, there are often 20 to 30 positions available per graduate leaving school. In the private sector it is not uncommon to see job postings for positions with salaries in the six-figures. The field of arboriculture, especially the care of public trees, provides a unique opportunity to make a direct positive impact on the environment, to work outdoors, and to produce results that last for generations. ♦

Fall's here. Enjoy a beautiful walk!

Shop online at newtonconservators.org/publications/ to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. The Almanac is \$19.95 + shipping, and the Trail Guide is \$8.95 + shipping.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a trail guide free with their first membership.



Contribute to the Newton Conservators' Trails Revolving Fund

Newton Conservators uses its Trails Revolving Fund to support trails through open space in our city. The needs are great. Some trail needs are in new areas, such as the newly acquired areas in Webster Woods and Kessler Woods. Trails in many existing parks and conservation areas also need work after decades of little attention and greatly increased use.



PHOTO: DAN BRODY

Webster Woods

This fall we are reaching out to our membership to bring more money into the Trails Revolving Fund. We are off to an excellent start, thanks to early generous donations from AnnaMaria Abernathy, Rachel Coben and Roger Klein, Ted Kuklinski, Deborah Stone, Beth and Hugh Wilkinson, and a few more who wish to remain anonymous.



Cold Spring Park trail before restoration, funded by its friends' group and city.



Cold Spring Park trail after restoration, funded by its friends' group and city.

The Trails Revolving Fund was established in 2019 with a gift of \$20,000. About half of it has been used for two projects: the Pony Truss Trail, a historic walking trail along the Charles River at Riverside, and the Marty Sender Trail, a heavily used trail in Auburndale Park. We found that our modest but timely financial support was essential to leverage much greater funds from the state of Massachusetts.

We now want to increase the balance in the fund to nimbly enable larger funding for upcoming opportunities. Newton's official Trails Subcommittee has established priorities for coming years, including Riverside Greenway connections, Christina Street bridge, Upper Falls Greenway, ACROSS trail loops (Access to Conservation Recreation Open Space and Schools),

and the development of standards, including accessibility, for trail signs throughout the city, building on the long-standing work of Newton Conservators.



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening of the Pony Truss Trail



PHOTO: TED CHAPMAN

New trail construction on the Pony Truss Trail

Please support this initiative by donating online (the "Get Involved/Ways to Give" page linked here lists the Trails Revolving Fund as a donation option) or by sending a check to Newton Conservators, PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, with "Trails Revolving Fund" in the memo section. (Newton Conservators is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.) If you'd like to discuss any issues, please contact Peter Barrer (pbarrer@gmail.com) or any Newton

Conservators' board member. Thank you! ♦

✍ Peter Barrer

Enjoy Nature... with Webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our Fall Webinar Series online from September through mid-November.

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.



Wednesday, Sept. 13 ... Using iNaturalist To Improve Your Identification Skills

Are you interested in improving your plant or animal identification skills? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's parks and conservation areas? iNaturalist is an incredibly powerful web-based tool for natural history learning and biodiversity tracking. For example, you can take a few pictures of an interesting butterfly on your phone and post them to iNaturalist. iNaturalist can help you identify the butterfly with computer-driven algorithms *and* crowd-sourced recommendations from a community of experts. You can also query iNaturalist to look for other observations of the butterfly in Newton or any geographic area you are interested in. The Newton Conservators is using iNaturalist for open space biological inventories and bioblitz events. Join Jon Regosin for this webinar to learn about this important tool, including a tutorial and tips to help you use iNaturalist.

Jon is the former Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and is a returning board member of Newton Conservators, for which he's worked on variety of projects including the preservation of Newton Community Farm and Newton Bioblitz. Jon's iNaturalist observations can be seen at <https://bit.ly/3rRcyQM>

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



Herring in the Charles River

Thursday, Sept. 28 ... Why We Should Remove the Watertown Dam

Did you know that each spring thousands of migratory fish return to our river to spawn in the lakes, ponds, and tributaries? Across Massachusetts, there is a growing movement to remove aging, defunct mill dams and restore free-flowing, climate-resilient rivers. There are numerous benefits and considerations to dam removal, including reinstating migratory fish passage, restoring the ecosystem, and protecting downstream communities from catastrophic flooding. Join us for a webinar talking about this extraordinary migration and learn why we should remove the Watertown Dam to restore the ecosystem.

Speakers include Lisa Kumpf and Robert Kearns. Lisa is the River Science and Restoration Program Manager at Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), where she oversees the water quality monitoring programs. Her vision for the River Science program is to collect reliable water quality data that is both communicated clearly with the public and used to support CRWA's advocacy goals. Lisa received her B.S. in Geology in 2013 from UMass Amherst and conducted her graduate research at Boston College.

Robert serves as CRWA's Climate Resilience Specialist and works with the team to implement Climate Resilience 101 virtual training sessions for local officials. He also helps manage the Charles River Climate Compact and works to further the organization's advocacy and community engagement goals. Prior to joining CRWA, Robert served as Youth Education and Community Engagement Coordinator with Mass Audubon's Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary through the Americorps program, TerraCorps. Robert holds a Bachelor of Science in the Environmental Science from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3YnRjT7>



PHOTO: MATT PELIKAN

Male fork-tailed bush Katydid

Wednesday, Oct. 18 ... Springers and Singers: The Art and Science of Observing Orthoptera

Widespread, plentiful, and in some cases really loud, Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids) get surprisingly little attention from naturalists. But these insects are everywhere, if often extremely well camouflaged, and anyone can learn to find them and ID them by sight or sound. In this webinar, Matt Pelikan will introduce the basics of Orthoptera biology and ecology, discuss their diversity in eastern Massachusetts, and present a range of tips and tricks for finding and recognizing these interesting insects.

The Director of the Martha's Vineyard Atlas of Life project at BiodiversityWorks in Vineyard Haven, Matt is a lifelong naturalist who has conducted a decade-long survey of the Orthoptera of Martha's Vineyard, documenting more than 50 species on the island. Matt's other interests include bees (his current obsession), butterflies (he compiled and maintains a detailed checklist for the Vineyard), and birds (he's a former editor of the Massachusetts journal *Bird Observer*). You can learn more about the Martha's Vineyard Atlas of Life at its website, mval.biodiversityworksmv.org.

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/47lalxj>

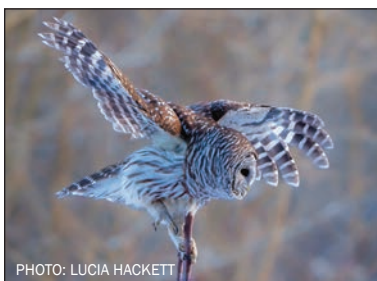


PHOTO: LUCIA HACKETT

A barred owl perches delicately on a branch.

Thursday, Nov. 2 ... Rodenticides in Birds of Prey in Massachusetts

Some rodenticides (rodent poisons) have the ability to bioaccumulate in the food chain and can potentially affect a predator or scavenger that ingests an animal that consumed the poison bait. In this talk, Dr. Murray will present the findings of her research investigating exposure to rodenticides in four species of birds of prey in Massachusetts.

Maureen Murray, DVM, is the Director of Tufts Wildlife Clinic and an Associate Clinical Professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. In addition to her ongoing research on rodenticides in birds of prey, Dr. Murray provides medical and surgical care to native New England wildlife and teaches veterinary students about wildlife medicine in the clinic and in the classroom.

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



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES

Thursday, Nov. 9 ... Why Are There So Many Turkeys? (Talking All Things Turkey)

The native turkeys we currently see in such abundance were extirpated from Massachusetts not so long ago. Their revival is a true success story, unless you've tangled with an aggressive one. Join Newton Conservators' Barbara Bates as she explores the habits and natural and cultural history of this interesting bird, including "pecking order" and how it survives so well in our cities.

For more than 16 years, Barbara Bates was a teacher naturalist for Mass Audubon's Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont, MA. Before the pandemic, she led guided nature walks for all ages on a variety of subjects and presented programs at several Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Senior Centers. She currently serves on the board of the Newton Conservators and leads walks for all ages. Barbara has retired several times — first from a long career in the high-tech world and more recently from teaching negotiation and conflict resolution as an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University. She loves all things nature.

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

WALKS SCHEDULE FALL 2023

www.newtonconservators.org

Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call or email trip leader if in doubt.

Sunday, Sept. 10 from 1-4 pm

NEWTON POLLINATOR GARDEN TOURS



Join gardening enthusiasts on a FREE tour of public and private pollinator gardens in Newton “the Garden City.” This will be the inaugural Newton Pollinator Garden Tour, which is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, September 10 in both a North

area and a South area. The **North Area (1-3 pm)** will be focused around the garden areas at Wellington Park (Kilburn Road, West Newton). The **South Area (2-4 pm)** will cover the areas around and near the Community Demonstration Pollinator Gardens at Newton City Hall (Homer Street, Newton Centre) and at nearby Cold Spring Park (Beacon Street, Newton).

Pre-registration is encouraged, and those who register will receive a map and detailed planting lists of the gardens on the tour. Pre-register at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-pollinator-garden-tour/>. The tour is sponsored by the Newton Community Pollinator Project in conjunction with the Newton Conservators, Newton Parks Recreation and Culture Department, Green Newton, Friends of Cold Spring Park, Friends of Wellington Park, and the Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways Group.

Event Coordinators: Ted Kuklinski (tkuklinski@aol.com), Alan Noguee, and Alicia Bowman

Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10-12 pm

iNATURALIST BIOBLITZ: HAMMOND WOODS



Are you interested in learning more about how to identify native plants? Or maybe you are more interested in birds or butterflies? Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to take pictures for documenting what lives in Hammond Woods. Registration for this event is required. Please visit our website to sign up and see location information.

Trip Leader: Jon Regosin (jonathan.regosin@gmail.com)

Sunday, Sept. 30 from 10-12 pm

iNATURALIST BIOBLITZ: 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?

Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to take pictures for documenting what lives in Nahanton Park. Registration for this event is required; please visit our website to sign up and see location information.

Trip Leader: Jon Regosin (jonathan.regosin@gmail.com)

Sunday, Oct. 1 from 8-10:30 am

BIRD WALK AT NAHANTON PARK



Join Haynes Miller in a leisurely walk through Nahanton Park, Newton, looking especially for migrant warblers and sparrows. Binoculars and waterproof shoes are recommended. Cancelled in case of steady rain. Cosponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park. Meet at the lot off of Winchester Street.

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Sunday, Oct. 22 from 8-10 am

BIRDING AT COLD SPRING PARK



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 flat woodland trails. We will look for resident birds as well as fall migrants. The latter may include warblers, thrushes, and vireos.

We saw a Philadelphia Vireo on this walk three years ago. Beginners and children are welcome.

Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com)

Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10-11:30 am

EXPLORING WEBSTER WOODS: A WALK FOR ALL AGES



Join Barbara Bates, Newton Conservators' board member, in navigating the more common trails in Webster Woods while admiring fall foliage and learning about how leaves turn color. Includes visits to the vernal pool (Bare Pond) and Gooch's Cave. Registration

limited to 25. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Adults and families welcome.

Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

► Invasives Update ◀



Black swallow-wort pods in summer and fall



Carolyn van der Laan

Black swallow-wort flowers

The work of our invasives team continues. We will do sessions twice weekly, generally Monday and Saturday mornings. Join us if you want some fun and educational work! Email the address shown below.

It is now prime black swallow-wort (BSW) season. Please be on the lookout for this vine, a non-native invader infesting Newton, often hiding in hedges and shrubs. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies. Right now, it has bloomed (small purple flowers), and the large seed pods have formed. Starting soon the pods will dry and open, and the wind will disperse the seeds on white 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. (See our website for many other photos.) 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 invasive plant information on our website (listed under Resources), such as this link for BSW: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

Newton Conservators conducts many work sessions in spring and fall to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species. If you would like to be on the email list for notices of our group activities, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org. Thank you! ♦

✍ Katherine Howard

Get Involved with the Conservators - Volunteers Needed

The Newton Conservators needs volunteers to help with various activities, including annual monitoring of the conservation restrictions we hold on City of Newton properties, pulling invasive plants, updating our inventory of plants and animals on Newton's public lands, and collecting new signups from interested Newton residents on our walks or at community events such as Village Days, the Harvest Fest, and others. You'll work alongside and be trained as needed by experienced Conservators' board members. If you're willing to volunteer for a couple of hours, it would be most appreciated. Please send an email to: president@newtonconservators.org and someone will contact you. Additional volunteer opportunities are listed on our website.

Thank you.

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

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.

Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 62 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor:	Ken Mallory	617-965-1908
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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the newsletter: Peter Barrer, Sam Corbin, Pete Gilmore, Katherine Howard, Marc Welch, Beth Wilkinson and Jennifer Steel.



Third Annual Newton Monarch Festival on **Saturday, September 9** **from 9 – 11 am**

in Wellington Park, West Newton
(entrances on Kilburn Road and Princess Road)

Monarch Festival

Rain date: Sunday September 10, 9-11 am

Monarchs were recently classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Learn about local efforts to help the monarchs at the festival which will feature:

- Butterfly oriented kid's games, activities, and crafts
- Native milkweed seed and plant exchange
- Pollinator garden tours
- Live monarchs at various stages from caterpillar to butterfly
- Information on how to raise monarchs
- Monarch tagging demonstrations.
- Butterfly release
- Free drawing for butterfly related prizes



The Newton Monarch Festival is FREE to attend and is being co-sponsored by Newton Conservators, the Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, Green Newton, and Friends of Wellington Park. Visit our monarch and milkweed resource web page at <https://newtonconservators.org/monarchs-milkweed/>. For more information contact Ted Kuklinski from the Newton Conservators at tkuklinski@aol.com.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

Wellington Park is in West Newton a few blocks north of West Newton Square. There are two entrances to the park — on Kilburn Road and another on Princess Road (near Princess and Lindbergh Avenue).

Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA

.....

Individuals 70½ and older can make a tax-free gift to the Newton Conservators directly from their IRA. Please consider a gift to the Conservators from your 2023 or 2024 IRA distributions. The benefits to you include the reduction in income subject to tax, even if you don't itemize, and the amount donated counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The benefits to the Conservators are immense and allow for us to continue to help preserve open space in Newton. Ask your IRA holder for a simple transfer letter or form. The Newton Conservators is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

— Thank you.

Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton, MA 02459



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$_____ |

**Want to make an even bigger impact?
Help us support these special funds:**

Woodcock Meadow \$_____ Trails Fund \$_____
Ordway Endowment Fund \$_____
Land Stewardship Areas \$_____ Other \$_____

☐ I would like to volunteer!

Memberships run for the calendar year. All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/> to renew or join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

☐ **Yes, I agree to receive emails from the Conservators!**

I'd like the quarterly newsletter...

☐ via US mail ☐ via email ☐ Both





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P.O. Box 590011
Newton Centre, MA 02459

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NEWSLETTER

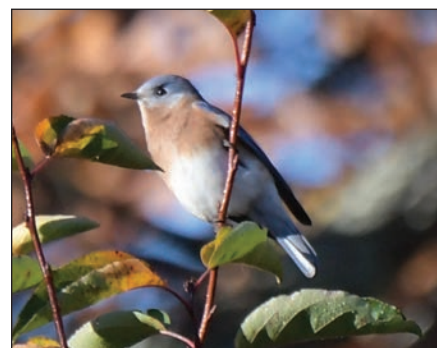
Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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Bluebird
photo by Haynes Miller

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at newtonconservators.org/newsletters. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, email us at membership@newtonconservators.org.