



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
 ... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

September Update:

iNaturalist Webinar Tonight at 7 pm! Pollinator Garden Tour rescheduled to Sunday!



How many times have you come across a plant or bug or seen a bird or animal and wondered what it was? In the old days, you might have to remember what it looked like, look it up in a guidebook at the library and still be pretty unsure. iNaturalist is the amazing free tool available as a phone app and website resource that can help you identify almost any living thing in a flash. Tonight, our own board member and former Deputy Director of Mass Wildlife is giving a free webinar as part of our Fall Webinar Series on how to use

iNaturalist! [Register today](#) to learn how to use this amazing tool.

You might remember that it rained a bit last Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately we had to postpone our inaugural [Newton Pollinator Garden Tour](#) scheduled then to this coming Sunday afternoon.

It will focus on demonstration gardens of native plants suited to Newton at City Hall and Cold Spring Park, extensive gardens at Wellington Park and a number of examples of front lawns turned into mostly native pesticide free plant enclaves. And you can still [preregister](#) for the tour to receive an updated guide, map, and plant list prior to the tour. And you can follow this learning session up with some field work using iNaturalist in two BioBlitz events at Hammond Woods (9/23) and Nahanton Park (9/30) - see details below in our events schedule!



Last Saturday's Third Annual Monarch Fest was again a great success with ideal weather and a great turnout of over 175 in attendance with arts and crafts, games, milkweed plants and seeds, caterpillars galore and a monarch release (named Jasper) to the delight of the crowd!

Our [Fall Walk schedule](#) is out with two BioBlitz events (Hammond Woods & Nahanton Park), two birds walks (Nahanton Park and Cold Spring Park), and a walk for all ages at Webster Woods! And be sure to come by and say hello to Newton Conservators in our brand new GREEN tent booth at a number of upcoming public festivals - Newtonville Village Day, possibly Upper Falls Village Day, Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration (Albemarle Field), and the Harvest Fair / Green Expo (Newton Center).

And what a lineup we have in our very popular [Webinar Series](#) hosted by Beth Wilkinson - where you can learn how to use iNaturalist for identification, about why the Watertown dam should be removed, all about crickets & friends, how rodenticides are killing our raptors, and just in time for Thanksgiving - the lowdown on turkeys!

Our [invasive removal program](#) under Katherine Howard is going full blast this fall with regularly scheduled invasive pulls on Monday and Saturday mornings most weeks (dates posted in our Events schedule). If you wish to join us and find out the specific site we'll be working on, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org

Our [Fall 2023 Newsletter](#) edited by Ken Mallory is available online and has been mailed to those who subscribe that way. Our features include stories on how some are abusing our parks, our tree warden's perspective on the importance of trees, and information on our Trails Fund to support additional trails in Newton - and listings of our Walks and Webinar series!



Volunteers - We hope you will consider volunteering with us! Newton Conservators needs volunteers to help with various activities, including annual monitoring of the conservation restrictions we hold on City of Newton properties, pulling out 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 Fair, 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.

Upcoming Newton Conservators Events

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Webinar: Using iNaturalist to Improve Your Identification Skills
Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series**

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

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/webinar-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 a variety of projects, including the preservation of Newton Community Farm and Newton Bioblitz. Jon's iNaturalist observations can be seen [here](#).

**Saturday, September 16, 2023, 9:30 - 11:30 am
Invasive Removal Session**

Join the Conservators' Invasives Team for a two-hour work session at one of Newton's parks and conservation areas. Weather permitting, the team meets on Monday mornings and Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 or so. We tackle a variety of invasive plants, depending on the season and the needs of the park area. If you wish to join us and find out the specific site we'll be working on, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org and we will email you back with the details. Check out our [Invasives Resource Page](#). An invasive Black Swallow Wort pod is shown to the right.



Sunday, September 17, 2023

Newton Pollinator Garden Tour

Wellington Park, Kilburn Road, Newton, MA (1-3 pm)

Newton City Hall, Newton Centre (2-4 pm)

Cold Spring Park, Beacon Street, Newton (2-4 pm)

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-pollinator-garden-tour/>

The Newton Pollinator Garden Tour was postponed from its original date of September 10 to Sunday, September 17 due to rain. You can still register for this event!

Join gardening enthusiasts on a FREE tour of public and private pollinator gardens in Newton "the Garden City" on Sunday, September 17 from 1 to 4 pm. This will be the inaugural Newton Pollinator Garden Tour which is scheduled 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). Nearby are a number of additional front yard pollinator-oriented gardens and a planted traffic island.

The South Area (2-4 pm) will be cover the areas around the Community Demonstration Pollinator Gardens at Newton City Hall (Homer Street, Newton Centre) and at nearby Cold Spring Park (Beacon Street, Newton)

Attendees can drop in at the gardens during the corresponding time periods. There will be volunteers to answer questions and provide information on the development of the gardens. Pre-registration is encouraged to receive updates, maps, and plant lists for the tour.

Why pollinator gardens? Gardens with native plants can be both beautiful and functional at sustaining our pollinators. Our environment is at risk because of precipitous declines in native plants and the insects, birds, and other animals that depend on those plants.

The tour is cosponsored 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. The tours are free but please pre-register using the "Bookings" button above and note in the "Comments" field which tour(s) you plan to take so we can notify you of any changes or cancellations.

Monday, September 18, 2023, 9:30 - 11:30 am Invasive Removal Session

Join the Conservators' Invasives Team for a two-hour work session at one of Newton's parks and conservation areas. Weather permitting, the team meets on Monday mornings and Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 or so. We tackle a variety of invasive plants, depending on the season and the needs of the park area. If you wish to join us and find out the specific site we'll be working on, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org and we will email you back with the details. Check out our [Invasives Resource Page](#). An invasive Black Swallow Wort pod is shown to the right.



Saturday, September 23, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Late Season Pollinators and More - Hammond Woods Leader: Jon Regosin, Naturalist Hammond Pond Reservation, Newton, MA

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/late-season-pollinators-and-more-hammond-woods/>

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 for 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.

Read more about the BioBlitz effort in Newton in our Summer 2023 Newton Conservators Newsletter in an article by Jon Regosin - [Newton Biological Survey – Surveying Plants and Animals in our Parks and Conservation Lands](#). Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to take pictures for documenting what lives in the Hammond Pond Area. Download this free and useful identification app to your phone or tablet beforehand from the Apple App Store for iOS or the Google Play Store for Android.

Sunday, September 24, 2023, Noon - 4:00 pm Newtonville Village Day Walnut Street, Newtonville

<https://figcitynews.com/2023/08/newtonville-village-day-sept-24/>

Look for our brand new Newton Conservators GREEN tent at Newtonville Village Day, where you can pick up the latest schedules, try some crafts for the kids, or learn about volunteer opportunities from our board members.

Come to the Village Party of the year! The Newtonville Area Council (NAC) proudly presents its annual village day celebration - a day full of family, fun, food, music, and art featuring our local talent and businesses. There will be a variety of more than 75 craft and vendor booths, tasty treats from area restaurants, and family activities throughout the day. Games, crafts, and train rides will be available for the kids. Local musicians and student performers will entertain us on two stages. Mayor Fuller will be present to cut the ceremonial cake (from Icing on the Cake), and as always, general admission is FREE!



Monday, September 25, 2023, 9:30 - 11:30 am Invasive Removal Session

Join the Conservators' Invasives Team for a two-hour work session at one of Newton's parks and conservation areas. Weather permitting, the team meets on Monday mornings and Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 or so. We tackle a variety of invasive plants, depending on the season and the needs of the park area. If you wish to join us and find out the specific site we'll be working on, please email Invasives@newtonconservators.org and we will email you back with the details. Check out our [Invasives Resource Page](#). An invasive Black Swallow Wort pod is shown to the right.



Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Why We Should Remove the Watertown Dam

**Lisa Kumpf & Robert Kearns, CRWA
Newton Conservators Fall Webinar Series
Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/3YnRjT7>**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/webinar-why-we-should-remove-the-watertown-dam/>

Did you know, each spring, thousands of migratory fish return to the Charles 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 the 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 to 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, 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 Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he focused upon the intersection of the environment, policy, and law.

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Nahanton Park BioBlitz Nahanton Park Nature Center, 471 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA <https://newtonconservators.org/events/nahanton-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 for 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 a Newton BioBlitz event at Nahanton Park! 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. Read more about the BioBlitz effort in Newton in our Summer 2023 Newton Conservators Newsletter in an article by Jon Regosin - Newton Biological Survey – Surveying Plants and Animals in our Parks and Conservation Lands.



Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to take pictures for documenting what lives in Nahanton Park. Download this free and useful identification app to your phone or tablet beforehand from the Apple App Store for iOS or the Google Play Store for Android. To Register for any of these BioBlitz events, click here! Registration is encouraged but not required. Below is the current BioBlitz schedule for this summer and fall:

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

Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Fall edition of our Newton Conservators is now available on our [website](#) or you will be receiving it by USPS mail shortly.



**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

This Fall 2023 [issue](#) contains the following interesting features:

- [Protect Newton's Conservation Areas from Misuse and Abuse](#)
- [The Importance of Being an Arborist: Preserving Trees for the Health of Our Planet](#)
- [Newton Conservators' Trails Revolving Fund](#)
- [Enjoy Nature...with Webinars from Newton Conservators](#)
- [Fall 2023 Walks](#)
- [Invasives Update](#)
- [Third Annual Newton Monarch Festival](#)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

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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