



the Newton Conservators NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue

www.newtonconservators.org

May 2001

Message from the President

Conservators Celebrate 40th Anniversary

by Doug Dickson

On June 1, 2001, the Newton Conservators will complete its 40th year. Organized in June 1961 in response to a period of intense development during which open space in the city was overtaken or threatened by construction of hotels, malls, homes and businesses, the Conservators soon became a force to be reckoned with. Focus during the early days was on battling developers. Gradually, a longer-range view was adopted.

Newton's first Open Space Plan was developed by the Conservators in the early 1970s. It remains the framework for the city's current open space planning process, some thirty years later. The plan formed the impetus for acquisition of several hundred acres of conservation land throughout the city during the 70s and early 80s.

The Newton Conservators were also instrumental in passing a wetlands protection ordinance in Newton long before state legislation was enacted. It helped establish the Conservation Commission and strengthen the Parks and Recreation Commission. Various environmental ordinances were passed with our support, including those focusing on gravel removal and tree preservation.

Educational programs developed over the years provide guided tours of parks and conservation areas, funds for school environmental programs, detailed maps of the city's open spaces, and lectures on topics of broad community interest.

In its most important role as a local, grassroots organization, the Newton Conservators has monitored the activity of city government related to

open space, land use and environmental issues. By working with city leaders, developers and others, the Conservators have altered and improved the outcomes of dozens of projects over the last 40 years. Whether working behind the scenes or out front, the Conservators has gained a reputation for constructive advocacy. Some developers now come to us seeking our early input and stamp of approval.

Many challenges await us as we look ahead to the next 40 years. But we can be very proud of our early history and the people who made it possible. Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to all of them for their sense of mission, their persistence and their foresight in shaping the future of our organization and our community.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebration, we would like update the history previously written on our first 20 years. If you would like to participate in this effort by contributing stories, photographs, documents or your time, please contact Doug Dickson at 617-969-8661

Annual Dinner

Wednesday, May 30, 2001 6:15 PM
Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School

*Representative Ruth Balser
Environmentalist of the Year*

*Andy Kendall, Executive Director
The Trustees of Reservations, Speaker*

Momentum Builds for the CPA

by Mike Clarke

An article in the TAB preceded and followed by numerous letters to the editor reveal a groundswell of support for utilizing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Newton. The CPA joins advocates for open space, sports playing fields, historic preservation and affordable housing into a single coalition called the Newton Community Preservation Alliance. The Newton Conservators is a founding member of this Alliance.

While the act is detailed, basically it would allow Newton to place a modest surcharge on property taxes to be used exclusively for open space acquisition, new recreational spaces, saving and restoring historic sites and facilitating affordable housing units. If Newton does not utilize the CPA, an estimated \$26,000,000 in *annual* state funds will go to other communities.

The Board of Aldermen is now considering placing the CPA on the November ballot. In doing so, they will listen to recommendations from the public, advocacy organizations and the Newton Community Preservation Alliance.

The Aldermen must determine the amount of the property tax surcharge up to 3%, and which of several possible exemptions will be applied. It is likely these exemptions will include the first \$100,000 of assessed valuation as well as low-income residents and low-to-moderate income seniors. More debatable is whether to exempt commercial and industrial property.

A surcharge at the 2% level would amount to \$93 for the average Newton home. With all possible exemptions and the expected state match, this would garner Newton almost \$3,000,000 per year in funds that could be used *only* for community preservation purposes. Applying the surcharge to commercial and industrial property would increase this to almost \$4,000,000.

Of the homeowner's average \$93 investment, \$30 would likely be returned through federal property tax deductions.

Residents concerned about the CPA should attend the Public Hearing to be held on Thursday, May 31 in the City Hall Cafeteria.

Community Preservation Act Aldermanic Public Hearing!

in a joint meeting of the
Programs & Services
and Zoning & Planning Committees

Monday, May 31, 2001
7:00 PM, City Hall Cafeteria

To make recommendations
to the Board of Aldermen regarding a
November Ballot Referendum
on the
Community Preservation Act

Newton's Plan for Open Space

by Mike Clarke

The Mayor's Open Space Plan Advisory Committee brings together representatives of Newton environmental and neighborhood organizations, the Board of Aldermen, Planning and Development Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the MDC.

Their first task is to update the existing OSP by June 1 in order to meet the state requirements for Urban Self-Help grant funds. More important is a second phase to thoroughly revise the Plan to meet Newton's need for green space and recreation lands.

A public hearing will be held on the draft Open Space Plan on the evening of Monday, May 14, at 7:00 pm in City Hall.

The Newton Urban Tree Commission is seeking volunteers to assist with "point and click" entry of tree locations from the Newton Street Tree Survey to the City's GIS (Geographic Information System). Please contact Katherine Howard at 527-1796

Hammond Pond Task Force

From Rep. Ruth Balser's Office

Newton residents have long been concerned with the deterioration and potential loss of Hammond Pond. While the City and the Friends of Hammond Pond have arranged for consultants to perform studies and make recommendations, funding remains insufficient to implement the recommendations.

As the State Rep for the area where the Pond is located, Rep. Balser has helped assemble a task force to protect and preserve Hammond Pond. The task force includes not only local advocates for Hammond Pond and other environmentalists, but also representatives of various state agencies.

Insofar as runoff from Route 9, which is a state highway, plays a role in the condition of the pond, Mass. Highway is represented. A representative from the MDC will participate because adjacent Hammond Pond Parkway and Hammond Pond Reservation are under MDC jurisdiction. The Department of Environmental Protection has sent representatives, who will keep the task force informed of grant opportunities within the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs. Environmental Planner, Martha Horn and the Director of the Department of Public Works represent the City.

The following groups are also participating: the Newton Conservators, the Newton Conservation Commission, the Friends of Hammond Pond, the Chestnut Hill Association, the Chestnut Hill Garden Club, Green Decade Coalition, and the Charles River Watershed Association. Local politicians involved are Ward 7 Alderman Lisle Baker and Rep. Ruth Balser. C & R Management, the owners of the Chestnut Hill Mall, has also been invited to participate.

One goal of the task force is to apply for state, federal, and private funds to: 1) assess various recommendations and identify best practices, and 2) implement a clean-up and maintenance plan.

Additional information can be obtained from Rep. Balser's office: Ph. 617-722-2400, E-mail Rep.RuthBalser@hou.state.ma.us

Wanted: Expertise in PR, publicity, community organizing and fundraising. Contact Jim Broderick, chair, Newton Community Preservation Alliance. 617-332-3465

Public Hearing! on the Newton Open Space Plan

**By the Board of Aldermen
Zoning and Planning Committee
and the
Mayor's Open Space Plan Committee**

**Monday, May 14, 2001, 7 PM
Newton City Hall**

Aqueduct Pathways by Mike Clarke

The Board of Aldermen has passed a resolution requesting the Mayor to appoint a temporary committee to devise a plan for the preservation and recreational use of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts in Newton for better access and public enjoyment.

This Aqueducts Committee would discuss with the MWRA and other appropriate land owners ways to make portions of the aqueducts safe and natural walkways. The committee would be asked to report to the Mayor and Aldermen within six months. The committee would probably consist of representatives of the Mayor's office, Board of Aldermen, Parks and Recreation Department and Commission, Conservation Commission, DPW, Law Department, Planning Department and an open space organization such as the Newton Conservators.

Working with these groups the committee would clarify with the MWRA the ownership of the various parcels on the aqueduct surface and what type of access would be most appropriate within Newton. Both aqueducts are included in the charge to the committee so that it might begin developing an overall vision of the aqueducts as integral parts of Newton's park and pathway systems. In conjunction with the MDC's Quinobequin Road and the proposed Charles River Pathway along Quinobequin Road, the two aqueducts can be joined into a continuous circuit linking Waban, Newton Highlands, Newton Upper Falls and Newton Centre.

Conservators Lecture Series

by Ted Kuklinski



Well-known naturalist Peter Alden was the inaugural speaker for the Newton Conservators lecture series on March 21st. The meeting, co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library, drew an audience of about 80 to Druker Auditorium on a rainy evening. The lecture launched the Conservators' new Lecture Series, introduced the public to the work of the Conservators and garnered a number of new members.

Alden is the author of the groundbreaking *National Audubon Society Field Guide to New England*. The profits from books he signed at the lecture went to the Conservators and the Library. His slide lecture on *The Birds and the Bees, the Flowers and the Trees – Biodiversity in Newton*, was beautifully illustrated and very entertaining.

Peter gave a history of the world's first Biodiversity Day in Concord on the July 4th weekend in 1998 with a team of experts identifying over 1900 species in one day. Last June, with a commitment from Environmental Affairs Secretary Bob Durand, Alden spearheaded the first-ever statewide Biodiversity Days, in which citizen naturalists in 92 Massachusetts cities and towns went out into the field to do a species census.

In a biodiversity count, the interest is in counting the evidence of the number of species, as opposed to a census of numbers of individual birds, deer, etc. Alden offered an illustrated overview of some of the species that might be expected here in Newton. The biodiversity species count provides a valuable and interesting snapshot of common and unusual species present both in Newton and across Massachusetts. The state is developing a computerized recording system for observations that will provide a year-to-year and geographical-by-town record of species trends that may eventually enable statewide species range maps.

The early June date for last year's Biodiversity Day was chosen in order to allow school groups to be involved in the count and since there would be a larger number of species to count. With a well-organized effort it may be possible to find 2000 species right here in Newton.

Newton's Landmark Tree Ordinance

By Doug Dickson

Sixteen months ago, Newton took an important step toward protecting trees during construction. Since that time, many trees have been saved and new trees have been planted that would otherwise have been lost.

Unique in the northeast, Newton's tree preservation ordinance requires developers to file a tree preservation plan with the city. The plan identifies all trees on the property to be developed, showing which will be saved and which will be replaced. When trees are removed to make way for buildings, driveways and other improvements, they must be replaced according to a formula that requires planting of several young trees to match the loss of mature trees. This encourages siting of structures so as to preserve well-established trees. When that is not possible, we as a community benefit by the planting of replacement trees.

Another provision of the law requires protection of trees near construction sites so that their roots, limbs and bark are not damaged. Compaction of soil over the root zone and other inadvertent damage contributes to the death of trees, often several years after construction ends. Helping developers learn about the potential for such damage and take steps to prevent it is an important objective of the ordinance. Homeowners who are renovating or adding to their residences are exempted from this law.

During this first year, the city has been busy putting procedures in place to administer the new law. Time has been spent answering questions from developers and homeowners about how provisions of the law affect their plans. In addition, many communities around the state have been inquiring about our experience and several have taken steps to pass similar laws.

As we continue to gain experience with this new tool for preserving our valuable trees, you can help by keeping an eye out for building projects in your neighborhood. If it looks like trees are not being protected during construction or if you believe that trees are being cut unnecessarily, contact the office of Urban Forestry at the Parks and Recreation Department (617-552-7120).

Andy Kendall Is Annual Dinner Speaker

By Doug Dickson

Andrew W. Kendall, Executive Director of The Trustees of Reservations and a Newton resident, will be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Newton Conservators on Wednesday, May 30.

Andy is a native of Sharon, Massachusetts and a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Business School. He came to land conservation by way of a career in manufacturing. Having moved to Cleveland after graduate school to take a job at Lincoln Electric, he became aware that there was no wilderness within easy driving distance of the city. "When you lose access to nature, you really gain an appreciation of it," he stated in an interview published recently in the Harvard Business School Bulletin.

Eager to find a balance between his interest in the environment and his background in business, Andy began to explore opportunities in the non-for-profit sector. Working initially for the New Hampshire Audubon Society, he soon moved on to tackle international environmental issues in Costa Rica. There he created innovative programs for harvesting hardwood trees using local labor and environmentally sensitive methods. These programs demonstrated that economic benefits could be gained without irreparable damage to the rainforest.

When Andy returned to Boston to work for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, he took on another pioneering challenge. Under his leadership, the 70-acre site of the old Boston State Hospital in Mattapan was transformed into the Boston Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary. This groundbreaking urban sanctuary, recently opened to much acclaim, offers environmental education programs for public school students, trails and boardwalks for visitor enjoyment, a nature center and community gardens.

One year ago, Andy stepped into the lead role at The Trustees of Reservations, the 110-year-old Massachusetts institution dedicated to protecting properties of exceptional ecological, historic or scenic value. As executive director, he has responsibility for overall direction of 80 reservations and 100 staff. He has advocated putting the Trustees' properties to work to support

themselves and in addition to hosting weddings and other functions in historic buildings, the Trustees now operate two bed-and-breakfasts.

In his talk at our Annual Dinner, Andy will discuss his vision for the Trustees, the state of land conservation internationally and the opportunity presented in Newton by the Community Preservation Act. Don't miss this chance to meet and hear one of the up-and-coming stars of the environmental movement.

(Some information for this article taken from the December 2000 issue of the Harvard Business School Bulletin.)

Rep. Ruth Balser Environmentalist of the Year

by Mike Clarke

The 20th winner of the Environmentalist of the Year Award was announced recently by the Newton Conservators. Winning the award for 2001 is Representative Ruth Balser for her environmental achievements as a state legislator from Newton. The award is granted each year to a community member who provides distinguished service in improving the city's environment.

As a member of the Joint Committee on Local Affairs, Rep. Balser has chaired the Open Space Subcommittee. From this vantage point, she monitors and opposes bills seeking to transfer ownership of publicly-owned open space. In her first term, she authored a report that examined the loss of constitutionally-protected conservation land for school construction. This report led to a decision by the governor to change the school building assistance policy to encourage renovation rather than new construction, thus preserving open space.

As a result of her work on this issue, Rep. Balser has become a leading advocate for adoption of a "No Net Loss" open space bill currently before the legislature. This bill would require communities to acquire and conserve a new parcel of land of equal or greater environmental value if they seek to use constitutionally-protected land for other purposes.

Recently, Rep. Balser convened a task force to focus attention on the preservation of Hammond Pond. This state-owned "great pond," located behind Bloomingdale's and the General Cinema, is

slowly dying because of storm-water runoff from Route 9 and the Chestnut Hill Mall parking lot. The task force consists of state and local officials as well as members of Friends of Hammond Pond, Newton Conservators and other community organizations. In a dual strategy, Rep. Balser is working to get Hammond Pond declared a "demonstration pond" as part of the state's new Lakes and Ponds Watershed Action Strategy while working to correct the highway water runoff problem through a redesign of Route 9.

Other successes include passage of a bill that protects the Chestnut Hill Waterworks structures, including the open space that surrounds them. Working with other Newton legislators, Rep. Balser negotiated the planting of 1000 trees along the Mass Pike in Newtonville as a buffer against traffic noise. Last year, she received a 100% legislative report card from the Massachusetts Audubon Society and was granted the Environmental Honor Roll Award by the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

The Environmentalist of the Year Award will be formally presented at the annual meeting on May 30th.

In addition, three Directors Awards for special achievement will be presented:

- **Alderman Richard McGrath** will be recognized for his determined efforts over many years leading to successful removal of the derelict Rumford Avenue incinerator, capping of the landfill and reclaiming of the land as part of the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area.
- **Alderman Lisle Baker** will be honored for his persistence and skill in obtaining conservation restrictions on the properties along the eastern shore of Hammond Pond.
- **Richard Staley** will be recognized for his many years of distinguished service on the Conservation Commission, serving as its chairman during most of those years.

The **Newton Conservators Newsletter**® appears three or four times a year. Editor: Michael Clarke. Production: Bonnie Carter. 969-0686. We wish to thank the contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Mike Clarke, Ted Kuklinski, Ruth Balser, and Doug Dickson

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Mayor Cuts Parks & Rec Budget

By Doug Dickson

In presenting his 2002 fiscal year budget on April 17, Mayor Cohen announced that he will cut three full-time positions and several summer positions from the Parks and Recreation budget. This comes on top of cuts to the Parks & Rec budget in each of the last several years.

The three full-time positions are currently unfilled, so no layoffs will occur. They are all in the park maintenance section of the department. Some offsetting funds for contract work and overtime have been added back to the budget, but the department still has \$61,000 less to spend this year than last.

Commissioner Fran Towle and her staff have worked to identify efficiencies and they are proposing steps that will help to blunt the impact of these cuts on park maintenance. These include raising fees for some recreation programs so that money previously spent on programs can go to park maintenance.

In making these cuts, the Mayor cited fiscal uncertainty, tax limits and reduced state aid, all of which are very real obstacles. This is a particularly difficult budget year and the Mayor faces a major challenge in trying to balance the need for funding across a range of programs and services.

But cuts to the parks maintenance budget is part of a multi-year pattern. The dollars available for maintenance has decreased over the last 12-15 years while the amount of space and complexity of maintenance requirements have increased.

As a result, we have slipped badly as stewards of our public properties and we are not living up to our reputation as the Garden City. Surrounding communities, including the City of Boston, all do a better job than we do in maintaining public open spaces. Do they have bigger budget problems than we do? No, but their budget priorities are obviously different than ours.

The budget is now before the Board of Aldermen for review and approval. The aldermen and the Mayor need to hear from all of us that our parks are central and critical to our community and that we should work to preserve and strengthen them, not continue to undercut them by deferring and neglecting necessary maintenance.

New Plan For West Nile Virus Control

By Doug Dickson

Last August, the West Nile virus emerged as a new reality for Newton and surrounding communities. Faced with a disease new to our hemisphere and aware of seven deaths the previous summer in New York, the city decided twice to spray pesticides over a significant area in an effort to control the spread of the virus.

A great deal of work over the winter at the federal, state, regional and local levels has produced a revised understanding of the risks and the opportunities to control West Nile virus. Now that we know the virus is here, we can focus much greater attention on prevention and education in an effort to forestall or limit the need to use pesticides to reduce populations of adult mosquitoes.

West Nile virus is spread by adult *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes, one of about 60 varieties in our area. This mosquito bites humans (not all varieties do) and breeds in standing water near our homes (see box). The virus is spread when these bugs bite birds infected with the virus and then bite humans. *Culex pipiens* is also responsible for spreading the disease among birds.

Many birds carry the disease but a few, notably crows, die from it. This accounts for the use of crows as markers for determining spread of the virus. To learn precisely where the disease is spreading, the state will intensify its surveillance activities this summer. Any dead birds, including but not limited to crows, should be reported immediately to the Newton Health Department at 617-552-7058. Monitoring of mosquitoes for presence of the virus will also be intensified.

Other prevention actions will include applying larvicide to catch basins and wetlands, which are ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes. A new form of a bacterial larvicide will be used on a test basis in Newton this summer. This product will be used in combination with another bacterial larvicide for sensitive wetland areas and a more toxic product that is designed specifically for use in catch basins.

Residents will be asked to participate by reducing breeding sites. Not much water is required for these insects to breed and a small amount left standing for a few days will create a bounty of biting bugs.

Educational efforts will focus on reducing breeding sites as well as reminding residents to dress appropriately to avoid bites at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Efforts will also be made to inform residents about the judicious and proper use of insect repellents, which themselves contain pesticides. A variety of media and approaches will be used to reach every resident.

Ground spraying of adult mosquitoes will only occur this year if and when spread of the virus reaches a point where mosquitoes that bite humans are known to be carrying West Nile or there is a confirmed case of human infection. Spraying occurred last year at a much earlier stage—when a cluster of positive dead birds was identified. This change represents the best thinking of experts who have been studying the behavior and spread of this virus for than two years now.

One instance was reported last fall of a mosquito carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a remote area of Newton. Surveillance for EEE-infected mosquitoes will also be stepped up this summer. As its name indicates, this virus is often a greater threat to horses than humans, but the consequences of human infection are much more serious than West Nile virus.

How You Can Help Control WNV

1. Dispose of cans, containers, pots and other items that can hold water or store them indoors.
2. Pay special attention to used tires, which are a common breeding site for mosquitoes.
3. Clean clogged roof gutters, which can create pools of standing water.
4. Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
5. Replace the water in birdbaths every three or four days to prevent stagnation.
6. Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish that will eat mosquito larvae.
7. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and keep water from collecting on pool covers.
8. Avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk or wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
9. Cover infant's carriages and playpens with mosquito netting when outdoors.
10. If repellents are used, make sure they contain DEET and follow label directions carefully.

Newton Conservators, Spring Walks 2001

Saturday, April 14, 10 AM. Canoe Trip on the Charles. The canoe trip up the Charles from Nahanton Park explores a seldom-visited region of the Charles, essentially undisturbed by civilization. Broad wetlands are well populated with ducks, geese, blue herons and the occasional hawk or egret, so you may want to bring binoculars. A favorite stop for lunch is the wooded Powell's Island, which has a wonderful view of the meandering Charles, unmarred by buildings. If you would like to join the trip, need a canoe or could loan a canoe, call the trip leader, Mike Clarke at 617-552-3624 or 617-965-5074 (clarke@bc.edu). Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Meet at the canoe launch by the Nature Center (off Nahanton St.).

Sunday, May 6, 2 PM. Experience Prospect Hill Park in Waltham

This 250-acre park in Waltham, hidden behind Rt. 128's office strip, yields breathtaking views of Newton and Boston. It was originally intended by Charles Elliot in 1893 to be a part of the MDC Park System. Meet at the ski hut inside the Park's North entrance, on Totten Pond Road. 1 to 1.5 mile; abt. 1 hr. Wear sturdy shoes. Our leader is Gloria Champion (781-894-9320) of Prospect Hill Park Advocacy Group.

Sunday, May 13, 2 PM. Mother's Day Aqueduct Walk: Newton's Linear Open Space

Newton's two aqueducts are of growing community interest, and Newton and the MWRA have recently begun working together to plan their future as a more accessible open space for walkers and bicyclists. Explore with us the Sudbury & Cochituate Aqueducts, which run behind backyards and through rarely visited pine woods and meadows. Meet in the parking lot of the Waban MBTA Station. Leader: Peter Kastner (617-244-6094).

Saturday, May 19, 8:30 AM. Birding and Habitat at Flowed Meadow.

The Flowed Meadow Conservation Area connects a large area of open space that runs along the Charles River from Commonwealth Ave. to Newton's recently capped landfill. It offers wetlands, uplands, small kettles and grassy edge habitat that is attractive to warblers, thrushes and other spring migrants. Join Conservator and long-time birder Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222, tkuklinski@aol.com) in a morning walk to find them! Meet at the far end of the Auburndale Park ("the Cove") parking lot on West Pine Street (off Freeman, off Lexington Ave.)

Sunday, June 3, 2 PM. Chandler Pond in Brighton.

On Newton's eastern border lies Chandler Pond, an urban man-made pond that has suffered from silt and algal growth. Symptoms have been solved by recent dredging, but many long-term problems, compounded by erosion and fertilizer use, remain. Explore the pond and its parameter with Alex Wajsfelner, a director of the Chandler Pond Preservation Society (617-787-8898 ext. 2). Meet at 54 Kenrick St.. There is on-street parking on Larch Street, across from Kenrick.

Saturday, June 9, 2 PM. Creatures of the Forest Floor: Cold Springs Park.

Today we will explore the diversity of creatures that inhabit the leaf litter that covers the forest floor. Using coarse-meshed shaker bags and boxes, we will search for millipedes, centipedes, sow bugs, snails, springtails, worms, nematodes, ants, beetles, and other creatures. If we are lucky, we will find glowing firefly larvae and the tiny but fierce pseudo-scorpions. Though not attempting to identify these organisms to species, we will study diversity at the phylum and class levels. Be prepared to sit on the ground; you may want to bring a plastic bag if the ground is damp. You may also want to bring a field notebook for your notes or drawings. The leader will provide magnifying glasses and other equipment. Trip leader Dan Perlman (969-3047) taught conservation biology at Harvard for nine years, has created "Conserving Earth's Biodiversity", a CD-ROM with Prof. E.O. Wilson of Harvard, and leads hands-on science programs in elementary schools. Meet at Old Cold Spring Park, at the road that comes into the park from Dunklee Road. A *Biodiversity Day* event.

Saturday, June 9 & Sunday, June 10. Newton Biodiversity Days.

Last year Biodiversity Day became a state sponsored event, and amateur and professional naturalists joined together to catalogue approximately 220 species of fauna and flora at Dolan Pond in West Newton, learning from our shared expertise and having a great deal of fun! This year we will uncover what's dwelling in other Newton open spaces. Call Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222, biodiversity@dolanpond.org), Newton's Biodiversity Day coordinator, for places and specific times. Check the website at www.newtonconservators.org/biodiversity.htm for the latest walk information.

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