



*Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

# *the Newton Conservators*

# NEWSLETTER

Winter Issue

[www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

January/February/March 2002

## Community Preservation Committee Formed

Since passage of the CPA in Newton on Election Day, two important steps have taken place. The Board of Aldermen enacted an ordinance establishing a Community Preservation Committee, as required by state law. And the Committee has been appointed. The CPC is charged with the responsibility of recommending how CPA funds will be spent.

As determined by the Board, the CPC has nine members. State law requires that five members be selected by each of five specified city commissions. These "statutory members," as selected by their boards, are:

- Eric Reenstierna, Conservation Commission
- Glenn Vanaman, Planning and Development Bd.
- Charles McMillan, Historical Commission
- Robert Platt, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Jeffrey Sacks, Housing Authority

The Board of Aldermen determined that four additional members should be appointed by the Mayor to represent each of the four CPA spending categories. In addition, these mayoral appointees are required to come from four different geographic sectors of the city as defined by paired wards.

In early January, Mayor Cohen named the following "appointed members":

- Setti Warren (wards 1 or 2), open space
- Claudia Sauermann Wu (wards 3 or 4), historic preservation
- Doug Dickson (wards 5 or 6), recreation
- Hallie Pinta (wards 7 or 8), affordable housing

These mayoral appointees were subsequently confirmed by the Board of Aldermen, as required by the ordinance.

The first meeting of the CPC is scheduled for Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 pm (place to be determined—check with Office of Planning and Development for details at 617-552-7135).

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Hammond Pond Fundraiser

*Help restore Hammond Pond and help yourself to big savings at the same time*

Sponsored by Bloomingdale's

1. **Buy \$10 ticket by March 1, 2002**  
*(Order form on page 8)*
2. **Bring ticket to Bloomingdale's on Wednesday, March 6 and SHOP!**
3. **Get at least 15% off your purchase (20% if you spend \$300 or more)**

*Free umbrellas and tote bags*

For info: Stephanie Bacon (617-734-2904)  
Elisabeth Mundel (617-522-6425)

*See article on page 8*

This organizational meeting will be the first in a series to determine the process by which spending recommendations will be made, to collect information about community needs, possibilities and resources in the four spending categories, and to formulate recommendations for consideration by the Board of Aldermen. In addition to regular open meetings, the Committee is required to hold public hearings as it conducts its work.

CPA funds will first become available on July 1, 2002 from tax surcharges collected during the current fiscal year. About \$1.5 million is expected to be deposited into Newton's Community Preservation Fund at that time. The state match, which is assured at 100% for this year and probably the next year or two as well, will be added on or about October 15, 2002. That means a total of \$3 million will be available for expenditure this year. The Committee may choose to recommend that all or part of this money be spent in one or more of the spending categories in the current year. Money not spent in one year is carried over for use in subsequent years, as project priorities and opportunities unfold.

In the next issue of the Newsletter, due out in mid-April, look for a snapshot of the backgrounds of each of the CPC members, as well as descriptions of their early work together.

*Doug Dickson*

## **Friends of Community Preservation**

A new CPA advocacy group, picking up where the Newton Community Preservation Alliance left off, was formed in January. The Friends of Community Preservation is made up of individuals and groups who worked to pass the CPA in Newton. When the Alliance was disbanded as a ballot question committee in accordance with state law, the group felt there was a need for a continuing role. This new role includes, among other things, support for and monitoring of the work of the Community Preservation Committee, advancing ideas and projects for consideration by the CPC and advocating before the Board of Aldermen regarding CPC recommendations.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Community Preservation, contact Jim Broderick (617-332-3465, [formosush@rcn.com](mailto:formosush@rcn.com)).

Newton Conservators Newsletter

## **President's Letter**

Here's an invitation. How would you like to get more involved in the Newton Conservators? We would welcome you. As a member you are already supporting your neighbors and friends in the Conservators who advocate, organize, promote, educate for the purpose of assuring protection and good use of green spaces right here in Newton.

We would like you to join us. Specifically, we are looking to fill several director positions, starting this spring. Why not nominate yourself?

As a director, you would join a group of spirited, good-hearted, interesting, dedicated people. You would step into a spot of your choosing. We attend meetings one Wednesday evening a month and pursue various roles on our own time.

Where does your energy, passion and focus lie? Do you want to...

- Advocate? You can join us in meeting with key people at City Hall and expressing our views in effective ways.
- Enjoy our conservation areas? You can organize expert-led walks in spring and fall.
- Educate? You can help give out grants to Newton schools for environmental education.
- Organize events? You can plan the annual membership dinner or our speaker series in the library.
- Write? You can contribute articles for this newsletter or write position letters to urge preservation of critical green spaces.
- Shepherd our finances? You can serve on the finance committee.
- Help us grow? You can expand our membership mailings.
- Something else altogether? We're always open to new ideas and initiatives.

To nominate yourself—or someone else—please contact Burton Elliott at 617-244-8920.

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*  
President

**Can you contribute papers, photos or ideas for a Jackson Homestead Exhibit on the Newton Conservators?**  
Call Doug Dickson at 617-969-8661

## WEBSTER CONSERVATION AREA GETS LAND GIFT FROM NEIGHBOR

Webster Conservation Area just became a bit larger, thanks to an Elgin Street family who donated development rights on a portion of their wooded lot to the Conservation Commission. The gift assures that part of the almost two-acre property on the edge of Webster will remain wooded and unbuilt.

It's good news to the Newton Conservators, who have launched an initiative to encourage more landowners to protect undeveloped land by using such conservation restrictions (CRs) and other tax-advantaged tools. "When a landowner preserves a property like this, it is a gift to the community and a benefit to the landowner, in the form of sizable tax deductions," says Lucy Caldwell-Stair, president of Newton Conservators.

Alex Wilmerding, the owner on Elgin Street, says that the deal took careful planning and the advice of a land trust attorney. "We had to show hypothetically that there could be two more buildable lots on our land without disturbing the stream and wetlands," he says. Next, the value of the lots based on their development potential was established.

The value of a CR represents the difference between the potential gain from development and the value of the land in its undeveloped state. This difference becomes the value of the gift, as far as the IRS and the state are concerned. Just like donating to charities, CRs enable write-offs on personal income taxes, as much as 30% each year for several years on both Federal and state income taxes. CRs also lower yearly property taxes.

Wilmerding, who grew up on a farm and whose family has been involved in other land conservation projects, says his main interest was to do his part to restrict density in Newton. "The easement concept made sense. People need to juggle the economics of value with other values." As for his family, "we're not developers," he says.

"We are very glad to have this. The stream is the most important part," says Martha Horn, Senior Environmental Planner for the City of Newton and liaison to the Conservation Commission. The property has been listed for years on the Open Space Plan's inventory of significant and desirable parcels targeted for preservation.



*Alex and Ginny Wilmerding preserved their wooded property next to Webster Conservation Area by giving a CR to the city.*

Even with conservation restrictions in place, landowners can still use their property, says Stephen J. Small, a Newton land trust attorney with a national reputation. "A conservation easement generally allows you to continue current uses, including residential and recreational use. The easement protects some important conservation quality of your land, such as habitat, open space, or scenic views," he says.

Both the Newton Conservators, as a tax-exempt charitable organization, and the Newton Conservation Commission can hold and enforce a conservation easement. The easement is a recorded deed restriction.

To inform landowners who want to know more about CRs as well as other land preservation tools, such as charitable remainder trusts and deeded gifts, the Newton Conservators has written materials and can refer residents to experienced attorneys and tax law specialists.

Newton Conservators is already an active land trust, owning and managing Ordway Park, which was willed to the group in 1971. "We can hold restrictions or properties outright," says Eric Reenstierna, head of the Conservators land trust activities. He notes other avenues, too. "Easements on parcels abutting existing parks and conservation areas might be best managed by the Conservation Commission.

For information, contact Eric Reenstierna at 617-969-5820 or Lucy Caldwell-Stair at 617-928-3375.

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*



## LAND TRUST ACTIVITIES

The Conservators have again taken on the task of serving as Newton's land trust. As Helen Heyn points out, part of the original mission of the Conservators was as a land trust. The city needs a land trust to serve as the agent for open space protection by working with landowners, acquiring title and easements, and enhancing the efforts of government agencies.

Valerie Talmadge of the Trust for Public Land met with the Conservators Board of Directors to share her experience in land trust work. Val pointed out the various ways that a land trust can be effective:

- Inventorying private holdings to identifying those that are most significant as open space
- Finding what works as an incentive for a given land owner (gift, purchase, partial acquisition, conservation easement)
- Locating sources of funding
- Serving as land stewards

Val let us know that the Trust for Public Land is available for the advice we will need as we get our own feet wet in land trust work.

Stephen Small, an attorney with a national reputation in the field of conservation gifts and a Newton resident, met with the Conservators land trust group to discuss tax laws and how they can work for the benefit of landowners making conservation gifts. Steve discussed the various tools available (conservation easements, restrictions, outright gifts of land) and pointed out how these can benefit a landowner from a tax perspective, which is important for us as we meet with owners. In a city like Newton, where land values are high, the tax benefits to an owner giving up the development rights can be substantial, even on a small parcel. Steve is a former member of the Conservators Board of Directors and he let us know he is available to advise us as well.

Larry Burdick has helped the land trust group learn about some of the pitfalls of land trust work through research of other land trust groups around the country. Dan Perlman described the history of Cold Spring Park in a lecture at the Newton Free Library and is working with the land trust group in part to secure better protection for the park as open space. Lucy Caldwell-Stair has been involved with

city officials to produce a GIS map of the city that identifies a large number of open spaces that remain unprotected. Doug Dickson has been the Conservators contact with a neighbor on West Newton Hill seeking the protection of a two-acre parcel. Bart Hague comes to the group with experience in the protection of a large tract in Maine.

This team will continue to meet as the Conservators land trust group. In fact, however, the land trust task is far larger than what such a small group can accomplish. We need all the help we can get from all our members—from people who know of a site that needs protection to those who may already have developed a friendly relationship with its owners. We would like others to work as part of our group, if only to help with one particular parcel. Let us know if you'd like to be involved.

The land trust group has identified several important parcels to target for protection. We have introduced ourselves to the owners of some of those properties. Our work will be varied:

- To listen to those owners about their own history as land stewards
- To inform them of our interest in the protection of their land as open space
- To try to help them find an approach to protecting their land that will benefit both them and the community

In some cases, tax advantages may provide the means to protection. In others, our work may be to secure agreements for purchase from landowners and to seek funding for those purchases from the city's new Community Preservation Committee.

As it happens, some large holdings that are of significant interest to open space and recreational land interests are surplus holdings of city agencies other than the Conservation or Parks and Recreation Commissions. The transfer of one of these, off Nahanton Street, to Conservation already is planned. In January, two members of the land trust group met with city officials to propose a conservation easement on ten acres of DPW-owned open space in another section of the city. Parcels like these, preserved for open space use where they had formerly been available for or put to other uses, hold the potential to provide significant neighborhood benefits.

*Eric Reenstierna*

## Open Space Committee Considers Potential Parcels for Conservation

The Mayor's Open Space Committee is examining two parcels that may have the potential for restoration as green space, parks, or recreation areas. The Committee is also recommending parcels along the Charles River for purchase by the MDC (Metropolitan District Commission).

One of the restoration areas is the Pine Street parcel near Burr School along Pine Street and River Streets. With the shortage of open space in the north part of the city, this is desirable land to reclaim. A first step is to determine the extent of any environmental contamination, since it was once used as a dump. The Committee, in consultation with the Department of Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department, may engage an environmental consultant to determine how readily the land could be remediated for playing fields, trails or other passive enjoyment.

The second site is an old pump station, retired by the MWRA more than 50 years ago. Located off Woodlawn Drive near Ward Street and across the street from the Commonwealth Avenue reservoir, this 5,000 square foot parcel may have potential as a small park. The MWRA is preparing to turn this house-lot sized land back to the city.

As for the MDC, it has funds available to purchase land along the Charles River and has asked Newton to recommend parcels. The Committee referred to four parcels earmarked in the Open Space Plan as desirable for the MDC to add to its riverbank holdings. These include a 2.8 acre parcel at 56 Farwell Street bordering the Charles; a .34 acre parcel by American Tower Systems' land in Newton Upper Falls; and a large undeveloped parcel owned by Charles River Country Club that runs from Winchester Street to the River.

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*

## Marty Sender Greenway Approved

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved a plan to renovate and name a section of the Charles River Pathway in memory of Marty Sender. The section, described below, will be known as the Marty Sender Greenway.

The Newton Conservators Newsletter© is published five times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc. Issues usually appear in February, April, June, September and November. Deadlines for these issues are the fifth of each month in which an issue is scheduled to be published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles by email in MS Word or rich text format to [dgdickson@rcn.com](mailto:dgdickson@rcn.com). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor:	Doug Dickson	617-969-8661
Production:	Bonnie Carter	617-969-0686

Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Ralph Abele, Stephanie Bacon, Bob Gerst, Margorie Greville, Helen Heyn, Francois Lamonica, Eric Reenstierna, Lucy Caldwell-Stair and Doug Dickson.

For many years, Marty was an active member of the Newton Conservators, serving a number of terms on its Board of Directors. In 2000, Marty was honored by the Conservators as Environmentalist of the Year for his work in advocating for the Charles River, adjacent park and conservation land, and other open space and environmental causes across the city and region. With this memorial, his work will be recognized and remembered by all who come to this visible and heavily used area along the Charles River.

Ralph Abele, on the Board of the Charles River Watershed Association, has taken the lead in development of this memorial. The Newton Conservators have contributed financially and otherwise to this effort, as have other organizations with which Marty was associated. Printed below is an article written by Ralph (reprinted from The Streamer, the CRWA newsletter) that explains the genesis of this project and the details of its geography and design.

*Doug Dickson*

## Creating a Memorial for Marty

When Marty Sender passed away last December, the Charles River lost one of its true friends, best neighbors and most ardent admirers. I was privileged to serve on the CRWA Board of Directors with Marty from his first meeting in November 1992. We were both sons of Western

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Sender Memorial (continued from page 5)*

Pennsylvania who ended up falling in love with the Charles River—a far cry from Lake Erie and the mightier Allegheny and Monongehela Rivers of our youth. Marty was my set of eyes on the Charles from watching for ice out in the coves to monitoring the growth (and demise) of river-choking nuisance plants. On my numerous canoe paddles up and down the river, I looked forward to spotting Marty on, in or near the river and talking to him about our mutual friend.

After Marty's memorial service, I spoke with Newton Mayor David Cohen about creating a lasting memorial so that others could come to appreciate the river in the many ways that Marty did. Over the last several months, CRWA, Mayor Cohen, Doug Dickson of the Newton Conservators, Dan Driscoll of the MDC, and Robin Young's Friends of Evening Magazine group have developed and will support a plan to honor Marty.

The plan is to create the Marty Sender Greenway which will run from Lyons Field in Auburndale, along the east side of Ware's Cove through the Flowed Meadow to Forest Grove in Waltham. The entrance in Auburndale will be marked with engraved granite markers. A bench and engraved boulder will be placed overlooking his beloved Ware's Cove. Tasteful plantings will be placed around the pillars, bench and boulder areas.

Hopefully, work on the project will be completed later this year. From the Greenway one will be able to travel many miles along the river to the Lower Basin in Boston or linger next to "Marty's Cove," and remember his work and vow to help continue it.

*Ralph Abele*

## **Have You Noticed the Environmental Page in the TAB?**

By now, you may have noticed that in the first week of each month, the TAB publishes one or more pages of articles covering a wide range of environmental issues. Coordinated by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton, an Environmental Media Coalition was created in the fall of 2000.

This coalition includes the Newton Conservators, The Charles River Watershed Association, the League of Women's Voters, the

City of Newton Public Works Recycling Department, GreenCAP and other organizations.

At the initial meeting of representatives of each organization held at the offices of the newspaper in September 2000, it was agreed that the newly formed PR/Media Committee of the GDC/N would coordinate the flow of articles, making sure that it would be kept steady and diverse.

Here is a partial list of the subjects covered during the coalition's fifteen-month existence:

- Conservation and solar energy
- Environmental laws and their implementation
- Road de-icing
- Disposal of toxic wastes, including lead and mercury-containing products
- Announcements of upcoming environmental lectures and meetings
- Recycling—how to and where to
- Mosquito control
- Clean water
- Community Preservation Act
- Lead sinkers used by fishermen
- Genetically engineered foods
- Newton's Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Organic lawn care and integrated pest management
- Adopt-A-Space program
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- Arsenic in pressure treated lumber
- American chestnut tree restoration

The news about the environment is not always good and may even be quite depressing. For this reason, an effort is made to emphasize remedies and courses of action that can be taken by readers to improve a problem or to bring attention to an alternative, less polluting or destructive practice.

So if you haven't tuned in yet, please look for the Environmental Page in your TAB, always on the first week of the month. It's a section that floats a bit, so you might find it tucked away in the Education or Newton Life section.

For the most part, contributors are local residents and interested individuals have joined the coalition. So if you feel you have something to contribute, please call the GDC/N office (617-965-1995) or e-mail Francois Lamonica, the Environmental Media Coalition chair at [LFranswas@aol.com](mailto:LFranswas@aol.com).

*Francois Lamonica*



## LOST TREES AT ANDOVER NEWTON

In response to the position taken by the Newton Conservators on The Terraces, a copy of which was published in our last newsletter, we received the following letter from Alderman Bob Gerst:

Dear Editor:

In your 9/28/01 letter to the aldermanic land use committee, you note correctly that the Board of Aldermen created the Tree Preservation Ordinance for projects as large as The Terraces proposal.

I was pleased to amend the proposed board order for The Terraces project to reflect this fact. As passed by the Board of Aldermen, the board order now unambiguously requires The Terraces developer to comply with the ordinance as it is written. As a result of this amendment, the developer must indeed now replant trees on site, in a location designated by the tree warden, or contribute substantially to the city tree replacement fund as the ordinance requires.

I only wish the tree ordinance applied equally to City of Newton trees, since trees are vanishing from city streets more rapidly than the city can now replace them. This developer's contribution to the city tree replacement fund should help.

Sincerely,  
Alderman Robert Gerst

Editor's note:

Despite the clarifying language introduced to the special permit board order, The Terraces has already tried to circumvent the terms of the Tree Preservation Ordinance. The developer proposed to pay an amount equivalent to the number of trees lost on Institution Hill rather than the number of caliper inches lost, as the law requires. The Parks and Recreation Department, charged with enforcing the Tree Preservation Ordinance, has made clear to the developer that its proposal will not be accepted.

A total of 630 healthy protected trees will be removed to make way for The Terraces, representing 8707 caliper inches (using a measure called dbh, or diameter at breast height, a standard in the forestry industry). Landscape plans for the project call for planting 530 trees with a total of 1619 caliper inches. The difference between a replacement deficit of 100 trees and 7088 caliper

inches is significant. Depending on the factors used in the calculation, the city might gain \$15-20,000 based on the tree count, but as much as \$500,000 based on caliper inches. As noted in Alderman Gerst's letter, the amount intended by the ordinance would be very helpful in replenishing the city's street tree population.

Lasell College has already made a sizable contribution to the Tree Replacement Fund as a result of several large oak trees removed from its campus to make way for a parking lot. Further building proposed by the school will no doubt result in additional substantial contributions.

This is precisely the way the ordinance was designed to work. We would prefer that mature, healthy trees be left in place, and the ordinance includes incentives to encourage that result. But when a developer chooses to remove the trees instead, the ordinance prescribes a precise formula for compensating the community for the public benefits provided by those trees. The Terraces should be held to the letter of the law as it was written and intended.

We commend Alderman Gerst for his leadership in clarifying the intent of the Tree Preservation Ordinance in The Terraces special permit. He is also right to point out that more work needs to be done to address the needs of city-owned trees and that this unfinished business requires our continued attention.

*Doug Dickson*

### MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

The Newton Conservators promote 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.

*The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 40 years ago in June 1961.*

# Hammond Pond Fundraiser

The Hammond Pond Task Force, assembled by Rep. Ruth Balser in 2000, brings together local environmental groups, state and regional environmental agencies, Newton officials, local politicians, engineering consultants and local businesses in an effort to save Hammond Pond from further deterioration. Our current focus is to seek State, Federal and private grant monies to implement a storm water management plan for the pond. Currently, 71% of the annual water load for Hammond Pond comes from untreated storm water.

Last July, the Task Force applied for a grant under Secretary Durand's Lake and Pond Initiative. Although we did not receive the grant, our efforts were not wasted. The grant application required the creation of a storm water management and implementation plan, which will be adaptable to new grant opportunities this spring.

Bloomingtondale's, a Task Force member and neighbor of Hammond Pond, has invited Friends of Hammond Pond to participate in the fifth annual **Bloomingtondale's Shopping Benefit** in order to raise funds to cover the costs of grant applications and to provide a source for the matching funds, which most grants require. The event will take place on

Wednesday, March 6, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at both stores in Chestnut Hill. Tickets are \$10 and make good gifts for friends and family. Tickets are also fully tax deductible. If you want tickets or are willing to sell tickets, please call one of the following numbers or fill out the order form below.

Stephanie Bacon (617) 734-2904  
Elisabeth Mundel (617) 522-6425

## Shopping benefits include:

- 15% discount on purchases (exceptions on back of ticket). An additional 10% for opening a Bloomingtondale's charge.
- 20% discount on purchases of \$300 or more made on your Bloomingtondale's charge.
- Free umbrella for first 500 shoppers.
- Free Bloomingtondale's weekender tote for shoppers spending \$300 or more.
- 100% of our ticket sales go to Friends of Hammond Pond.
- We will receive an additional \$5 for ticket holders who attend the event, so if you are unable to attend, please pass your ticket along to a friend.

*Stephanie Bacon*

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## HAMMOND POND SHOPPING BENEFIT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets. I am enclosing \$10 for each ticket. (Full amount is tax deductible)  
Please make checks out to **Newton Conservators, Inc. (Hammond Pond)**

☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to sell. (Indicate number you would like to sell)  
We'll send you a packet with tickets and instructions

Clip and mail this form to: Elisabeth Mundel, 329 Perkins Street, Boston, MA 02467



## Brief Updates

*News of interest from various sources*

### Conservators Showed Strong Finances in 2001

It was another good year for Newton Conservators finances. Dues and donations from members was up 7 percent from the prior year, due in part to a drive for new members late in the year (the effect of which will continue into 2002). Expenses also grew as we put our funds to work promoting our goals and mission.

Partnering with school-based environmental education programs, the Conservators provided a total of \$4,375 to six worthy projects: Community Garden at Bowen School, Cheesecake Brook study at Day Middle School, Butterfly Garden at Horace Mann School, Worm Cafe at Lincoln Elliot School, Science Fun Day at Nahanton Park, and the City's summer Environmental Science Program. In addition, support totaling \$4,900 was provided to the Newton CPA effort, the planned Newton Center Powder House Hill improvement project, and a joint effort with CRWA and the MDC for a Charles River park improvement in honor of Marty Sender.

The rest of Conservators expenses went towards maintaining Ordway Park, producing the newsletter and membership mailings, and minor administrative costs. In total, income exceeded expenses by \$1,825 for the year. A full report will be provided at the Annual Meeting in the Spring.

*Katherine Howard, Treasurer*

### Eagle Scout Projects

Eagle Scouts have carried out projects to upgrade two of Newton's conservation areas.

Seth Schy's work was at Kennard Conservation Area on Dudley Road. Seth cleared brush along the road, laid down a new surface for the small parking lot there, cleaned out debris from the woods, and installed a new trail near the Audubon Drive entrance to allow visitors better access to the pond.

Isaac Carlen's project was at Norumbega. There, Isaac installed wood chips at the oval pathway, cut back foliage to expose signage, removed debris, and installed a water bar to prevent pathway erosion near the veterinarian's clinic.

Each of these scouts designed his own project, got help with funding and donations of materials, brought his project to the Conservation Commission

for approval, and enlisted help from troop members and neighbors. These scouts have taken the lead in making these places more enjoyable for all of us.

*Eric Reenstierna*

### Andy Stern Named to Parks and Recreation Commission

Andy Stern, a member of the Newton Conservators Board, has been named by Mayor Cohen to fill the Ward 6 position on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Andy also serves as Chair of the Landscape Advisory Council and has been a member for several years of the Newton Schools Foundation, including a term as Co-president.

Andy lives adjacent to Newton Centre Playground and seen firsthand how parks and recreation issues coincide with neighborhood issues. We can expect that he will be a strong voice on the Commission for community involvement and creative solutions to maintenance and other longstanding issues with respect to our parks and playgrounds.

*Doug Dickson*

### "Chestnut Trails" Now Available

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club has published a booklet titled, "Chestnut Trail: Nature Walks in Chestnut Hill." For each location covered by the book, a map showing trails, directions, history and natural features are identified. Locations include Webster Conservation Area, Houghton Garden, Hammond Pond and Hammond Woods, Lost Pond Reservation, Kennard Park and Conservation Area, Dane Park, Brookline Wildlife Sanctuary, Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area and Walnut Hills Cemetery.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained for \$12.50 each (plus \$3 postage) by writing to Chestnut Trails, Chestnut Hill Garden Club, PO Box 67442, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

This is an excellent, well-researched guide that should be in the home of everyone who appreciates or would like to learn more about the green spaces in our area.

*Margorie Greville*

### Jack Roberts, Charter Director, Remembered

Jack Roberts, a Charter Director of the Newton Conservators, died on January 13, 2002 while

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(News Briefs, continued from page 9)

sailing in The Bahamas. He was recruited by Lorenz F. Muther, Jr., the first clerk of the Newton Conservators, because Jack was President of the Oak Hill District Improvement Association. At the Time, OHDIA was battling against the 1960 rezoning of the Robert Gould Shaw estate, now known as the Wells Avenue Industrial Park.

Later, Jack was elected an alderman-at-large from Ward 8 and was known and remembered for starting the requirement for landscaping whenever gasoline stations petitioned the Board of Aldermen for permission to make changes at their places of business. He was a highly respected citizen of Newton.

*Helen Heyn*

### **State Developing BioMaps**

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, part of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, has created a series of BioMaps that identifies and prioritizes areas critical to long-term conservation of the state's biodiversity. Using over 7000 records gathered from a number of sources, the division has mapped core habitats of viable rare plant and animal species as well as exemplary natural communities. Approximately 23% of the state's land area falls into this category.

Supporting natural landscapes, large patches of natural vegetation and undeveloped watersheds that lie adjacent to core habitats and that should help maintain ecological integrity of these areas, account for another 19% of the state's land mass. Less than 1/3 of these core and supporting areas, while currently undeveloped, is protected against eventual encroachment by development.

For more information, including ordering of BioMaps and accompanying reports, go to [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/nhesp](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/nhesp).

### **Two excellent pamphlets are now available from the Land Trust Alliance:**

"Conservation Options for Private Landowners" and  
"Protecting Your Land with a Conservation Easement"

To receive a copy, please send your name and street address to Lucy Caldwell-Stair at 617-928-3375 or at [longwood@mediaone.net](mailto:longwood@mediaone.net).

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday, February 18, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Monday, February 25, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
**The Green Decade Coalition/Newton ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKERS SERIES**  
**World Trade and the Environment**  
**Congressman Frank and other experts**

Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 PM  
Room 202, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservators Board Meeting**

Thursday, February 28, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservation Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, March 6, 10 AM to 10 PM  
Bloomingdale's, Chestnut Hill  
**HAMMOND POND SHOPPING BENEFIT**  
15% to 25% off purchases—plus free gifts

Monday, March 18, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservation Commission Meeting**

Saturday, March 23  
Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA  
**Massachusetts Land Trust Conference**

Monday, March 25, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
**The Green Decade Coalition/Newton ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKERS SERIES**  
**Pesticides, Ongoing Experiment on our Kids**  
**Bernard Weiss, PhD**

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM  
Room 202, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservators Board Meeting**

# WANTED

## NOMINATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

Last year, the Newton Conservators honored Representative Ruth Balser with our annual Environmentalist of the Year Award for her work on the restoration of Hammond Pond.

Two years ago, Marty Sender won the award for his success in cleaning up the Charles River.

The year before that, Louise Bruyn received the award on her tenth anniversary as head of the Green Decade Coalition/ Newton.

And so it goes. For the past 20 years, the Newton Conservators have been honoring members of our community who undertake heroic acts in support of our environment.

**Now, we're seeking Environmentalist of the Year number 21.**

Take a moment to consider your nomination for this prestigious award and pass it along to Lucy Caldwell-Stair, 46 Woodcliff Road, 02461 • 617-928-3375, [longwood@mediaone.net](mailto:longwood@mediaone.net)

THANKS!



*Celebrating our  
40<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

### ***Newton Conservators Membership Form***

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • 617-969-8661 • [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

- ☐ YES, I'd like to start/renew my one-year membership with the Newton Conservators to help preserve open space in Newton. I'll receive informative newsletters and emails and be invited to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities.
- ☐ I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support the work of the Newton Conservators: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual member | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family member     | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor             | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron            | \$100 |

*All amounts are tax deductible*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc.

January/February/March Newsletter



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NEWTON CONSERVATORS, INC.  
P.O. Box 590011  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

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**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED**

---

Elizabeth Carter  
Director Newton Conservators  
177 Homer Street  
Newton Centre, MA. 02459

1/1/09