



## Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Thursday, June 20, 2024

... preserving open space and connecting  
people to nature since 1961



### Summer with Newton Conservators!

Welcome to summer which sure came in with a blast of heat. Stay safe and cool and hydrate. Newton Conservators just came off a very busy and successful whirlwind spring season with numerous events including walks, webinars, invasive pulls, village days, and our annual meeting.

We'll be kicking off our summer season this Sunday (6/23, 3-5 pm) with a [BioBlitz at Edmands Park](#) (aka Cabot Woods). Come learn how to identify plants (and creatures) with the iNaturalist app with a local naturalist Zach Schein. And we have two more Bioblitzes in August at [Flowed Meadow / Auburndale Park](#) (aka the Cove) and at [Crystal Lake's Levington Cove](#). Yes - like almost all of our Conservators sponsored events they are FREE! For details and registration info see the events listings below which include a few interesting events from other organizations.

The Summer Edition of our Newton Conservators Newsletter is out and now available on our website, in case you don't receive the printed edition in your mailbox.

Our updated volunteer web page lists current opportunities to help with walks, conservation restrictions, invasive plants, biodiversity, community events, photojournalism, publicity, and even helping with this e-Bulletin! To volunteer for any of these, or talk to us about sharing skills or interests we haven't already listed, please check out <https://newtonconservators.org/volunteer/>

Hope to see you out and about this summer in Newton's open spaces or at some of the great events happening around Newton.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 23, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**BioBlitz at Edmands Park**

**Blake Street, Newtonville, MA**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/edmands-park-bioblitz/>

Calling all young and old Newton citizen scientists! Join Newton Conservators for a BioBlitz in exploring the plants of Edmands Park and improve your plant

identification skills on Sunday, June 23 from 3-5 pm. This event is FREE and you can register for it at

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/edmands-park-bioblitz/>.

Surrounded by stone walls and bordered by BC Law School on one side, this park contains woods, small clearings, wetlands, Edmands Brook, and a glacial esker. Its open oak forest contains beeches, locusts, maples, birches, and pines. Edmands Brook is an intermittent stream which empties into a large wetland, filled with frogs and tadpoles.



These BioBlitz events are part of a larger effort by the Newton Conservators to document and raise awareness about the great diversity of plants and animals that inhabit Newton's open spaces. At the beginning of the event, will be a brief tutorial on the [iNaturalist](#) app, which is used to document species and as an identification aid. 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. You can check out the current iNaturalist project for Edmands Park, which includes previous observations, at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/edmands-park-newton-ma>.

The leader for this event is naturalist Zach Schein. For questions, email board member Jonathan Regosin: [jonathan.regosin@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.regosin@gmail.com). Edmands Parks is located on Blake Street in Newtonville. Parking is available along Blake Street near the North entrance to the park. Registrants will be notified by email in case the event is canceled due to rain. There will be additional BioBlitzes this summer at [Flowed Meadow / Auburndale Park on Sunday, August 4](#), and at [Crystal Lake / Levingston Cove on Sunday, August 11](#).

**Monday, June 24, 2024, 4:00 pm**  
**Gath Pool Soft Opening**  
**256 Albemarle Road, Newtonville, MA**

The two new Gath Pools don't open until next Monday, June 24, as construction is finishing up. A soft opening ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Monday. However, the beach at Newton's Crystal Lake, on Lake Avenue in Newton Highlands, is open for short hours this week from 4:00 p.m. until dusk. Next week, when more lifeguards are available, they are open for longer hours. For more info visit

## New Gath Pool



<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/aquatics/crystal-lake>

**Wednesday, June 26, 8:00 pm**  
**Firefly Walk**  
**Bates Elementary School Parking Lot by fields**  
**116 Elmwood Road, Wellesley, MA**  
**Wellesley Land Trust**

Our neighboring organization, [Wellesley Land Trust](#), is having a Firefly Walk. Join their board advisory leader Chris Crowley on a guided walk of Boulder Brook Reservation learning about and scouting out fireflies. Safely catch and release. Please wear mosquito protective clothing. Go light on insect repellent!



**Saturday, June 29, 2024, 9:30 am - Noon**

**Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull**  
**1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA (Trailhead)**

Cold Spring Park is threatened by the black swallow-wort vine, which is harmful to Monarch butterflies and which has invaded much of Newton. We will dig and remove it, as well as wisteria, knotweed and other invasive species. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



PHOTO: CADOLIN WAN ET AL.  
 Black Swallow-wort Flower

**Saturday, June 29, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Quinobequin Intertribal Paddle**  
**Newton Historic Boathouse, 2401 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA**  
<https://www.crwa.org/events/quinobequin-paddle-2024>

Join [Charles River Watershed Association](#) (CRWA) and [Indigenous Peoples Day Newton](#) for a relaxing midday paddle on one of the most beautiful stretches of the Charles River. The route winds through lightly developed residential areas and parks. The paddle will start from Newton's Historic Boathouse, pass Norumbega Park, loop around Fox Island, and end at Auburndale Park, where celebrity Chef Sherry Pocknett will provide lunch.



During your journey, you will get the opportunity to learn about the success of the Hoopa and Yurok tribes in undamming the Klamath River and the return of the salmon from special guest Danielle Frank.

Additionally, Dr. Darlene Flores will share about the sacred Taíno traditions of canoes, and we will hear reflections from Toodie Coombs and other local Native culture bearers and advocates from the Charles River Watershed Association. You will hear from CRWA's team about local efforts to undam the Charles River, allowing it to flow freely once again. For full details and to register, visit: <https://www.crwa.org/events/quinobequin-paddle-2024>

This event is rain or shine. It will only need to be rescheduled in the event of thunderstorms. This stretch of the Charles has very calm waters. Canoes will be provided with life jackets, unless you have your own. Lifejackets are required for all participants. Under 16 requires adult supervision at all times. All skill levels are welcome. Experienced paddlers will be in each vessel. Wear comfortable clothes that can get wet and wear sunscreen. This experience will last about 4 hours. Tickets: Space is limited. The event is free for all Native participants. For non-Native participants, there is a suggested \$100 donation for adults (\$25 donation for youth under 16). Tickets are nonrefundable. There is also a pay what you can option (\$30 minimum) for non-Native adult tickets. Enter the promo code "PWYC" at the top of the "Select tickets" page and on the "Add an optional donation" page, enter any additional amount you are able to pay. For more information, contact Hartman Deetz at [hartman.deetz429@gmail.com](mailto:hartman.deetz429@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 30, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**Crystal Lake Invasives Pull**  
**Centre St near 1429 Centre St, Newton MA 02459**  
**1429 Centre St, Newton, MA, 02459**  
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/crystal-lake-centre-street-invasives-pull-4/>

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

**Saturday, July 6, 2024, 9:30 am - 11:30 am**  
**Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull**  
**Hemlock Gorge Ellis Street lot, 2 Ellis Street, Newton, MA, 02464**



<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-hemlock-gorge-invasives-pull-16/>

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



**Sunday, July 7, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull**  
**Hemlock Gorge Ellis Street lot, 2 Ellis Street, Newton, MA, 02464**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/quinobequin-hemlock-gorge-invasives-pull-16/>

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



**Sunday, August 4, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**BioBlitz at Flowed Meadow and Auburndale Park**  
**Blake Street, Newtonville, MA**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/flowed-meadow-and-auburndale-park-bioblitz/>

Come explore the plants of Flowed Meadow and Auburndale Park and improve your plant identification skills. These BioBlitz events are part of a larger effort by the Newton Conservators to document, and raise awareness about the great diversity of plants and animals that inhabit Newton's open spaces.



**Auburndale Park** has a wide variety of attractions including river frontage, fields, wooded areas, ball fields, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, a 1.3 mile life course with exercise stations, a children's playground, picnic tables, and grills. **Flowed Meadow Conservation Area** is an adjacent 28-acre parcel, much of which is wetlands. It has a kettle hole containing a vernal pool.

At the beginning of the event, we will give a brief tutorial on the [iNaturalist](#) app, which we use to document species and as an identification aid. You can check out the current iNaturalist project including previous observations for Flowed Meadow and Auburndale Park [HERE](#). Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to take pictures for documenting what lives in Flowed Meadow and Auburndale 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. [HERE](#) is an interesting article on iNaturalist from our Fall 2019 Newton Conservators Newsletter and [HERE](#) is a webinar video primer on its usage by Jon Regosin.

The leader for this event is naturalist Zach Schein. For questions, email Jonathan Regosin: [jonathan.regosin@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.regosin@gmail.com). Parking is at the Cove parking lot on West Pine Street: Registrants will be notified by email in case the event is canceled due to rain. Register for this FREE event at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/flowed-meadow-and-auburndale-park-bioblitz/>

**Sunday, August 11, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

### **BioBlitz at Crystal Lake**

**Levingston Cove, Lake Avenue and Lakewood Rd, Newton Highlands**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/crystal-lake-bioblitz/>

Learn about the fish, insects, and other invertebrates that inhabit Crystal Lake. We will use dip nets and other techniques to capture and identify small fish and invertebrates. This child-friendly event is appropriate for adults and children accompanied by an adult.



These BioBlitz events are part of a larger effort by the Newton Conservators to document, and raise awareness about the great diversity of plants and animals that inhabit Newton's open spaces. At the beginning of the event, we will give a brief tutorial on the iNaturalist app, which we use to document species and as an identification aid.

People come to Crystal Lake to swim, fish, and boat. A shoreline path and sidewalks allow for walks along three sides of the lake. Because Crystal Lake is a "great pond" (a pond that's larger than ten acres), it is state owned. The city purchased the shoreline portion of the adjacent property, 230 Lake Avenue, and built a lakeside path from the Crystal Lake beach to the existing parkland at Levingston Cove. Levingston Cove was recently renovated with a new fishing platform and accessibility features. Learn more about Crystal Lake [HERE](#) on the Newton Conservators website and [HERE](#) on the Crystal Lake Conservancy website.

Learn how to use the [iNaturalist](#) app to take pictures for documenting what lives in and around Crystal Lake. 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. [HERE](#) is an interesting article on iNaturalist from our Fall 2019 Newton Conservators Newsletter and [HERE](#) is a webinar video primer on its usage by Jon Regosin.

The co-sponsors of the event are Newton Conservators and [Crystal Lake Conservancy](#). For questions, please email trip leader Jonathan Regosin: [jonathan.regosin@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.regosin@gmail.com). The event will start at Levingston Cove. You can find parking on nearby streets near Levingston Cove or the Crystal Lake bathhouse parking lot. Registrants will be notified by email in case the event is canceled due to rain. Register for this FREE event at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/crystal-lake-bioblitz/>

**Sunday, September 15, 2024, Afternoon (Rain Date, Sunday September 22)**

### **Second Annual Newton Pollinator Garden Tour**

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/edmands-park-bioblitz/>

Save the date for the Second Annual Newton Pollinator Garden Tour on Sunday, September 15th, 2024! The rain date will be Sunday, September 22, 2024. Last year's inaugural tour was a great success and we saw a huge interest in folks growing their own native plant pollinator gardens. We hope to expand the tour to additional gardens this coming year. Last year's tour was organized 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. 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. Watch for further details. Also check out the [Newton Pollinator Toolkit](#) to find out recommended plants for different conditions in Newton!

The [Newton Community Pollinator Project](#) is a volunteer coalition of gardeners, native plant and pollinator enthusiasts who have come together to promote nature-based solutions for the environment in Newton. They, along with Newton Conservators, organized last year's inaugural Newton Pollinator Garden Tour. Do you have a pollinator garden? We would love to know more about such gardens in Newton and possibly get more such gardens added to a regional map of private and public pollinator gardens in the Mystic and Charles River watersheds. If this is of interest to you, please fill out their brief survey and they will let you know further steps to register your garden officially on the map. Here is a link to the brief survey: <https://forms.gle/BHUt386pYRXrVmie9>

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

## Invasives Update by Katherine Howard

Be on the lookout for porcelain berry, which exploded around here last year, enveloping trees, signposts and anything in between. We will work on it around Crystal Lake, Webster Woods, and Quinobequin Road. It has frilly/lacy leaves, a white pith, and later blue/pink/white berries. You can help by removing it in your neighborhoods (dig the roots or cut it, especially before it fruits), and by letting us know where you see large infestations.



Porcelain Berry Closeup



Porcelain Berry Infestation



Black Swallow-wort Seed Pod



Black Swallow-wort Flower

Black swallow-wort (BSW) vines emerged in early May in our yards and parks. Look for it climbing up hedges, shrubs and fences, or just wallowing over itself on the ground. It reduces biodiversity and degrades our local environment, and, sadly, is fatal to monarch butterflies. It will soon be in bloom with small purple "flowers, followed by large seed pods that are often hidden under the plant. When the pods dry and open, the wind will disperse the seeds on white fibers to make the infestation even worse. The BSW vine has blue-green glossy, opposite leaves, small purple "flowers, and large seed pods that hang down like pea pods. (See our website for many other photos.) You can dig it up, cut it down, or just pull off the seed pods to prevent further spread. Put everything into a bag and into your trash, not into yard waste, to avoid further spread. See the invasive plant information on our website (listed under Resources), such as this link for BSW: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

Newton Conservators conducts many work sessions in spring and fall to protect Newton's open spaces and manage invasive species. We have sessions scheduled into July (listed as Events on the website) and will add more sessions for the summer and fall. If you would like to be on the email list for notices of our group activities, please email [Invasives@newtonconservators.org](mailto:Invasives@newtonconservators.org).

## Newton Conservators Newsletter

The [Summer 2024 edition](#) of our Newton Conservators is now available on our [website](#).

**NEWTON CONSERVATORS**  
NEWSLETTER  
Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961  
SUMMER ISSUE  
NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SUMMER 2024

**2024 Officers, Directors and Advisors**  
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### Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Plants and Animals: Endangered Species Conservation in Massachusetts

In September, 2023, to celebrate Climate Week, Governor Healy signed an executive order to advance biodiversity conservation in the Commonwealth. The governor pointed out that "our state is home to towering forests, numerous lakes and ponds, a vast network of rivers, and beautiful marshland, estuaries, and abundant ocean — that clean our air, power our economy, and serve as a home to hundreds of threatened and rare species."

Although Massachusetts is a conservation leader and has set ambitious land protection goals in the face of climate change, we face a global biodiversity crisis today, and Massachusetts is not immune. More than 400 species are currently listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), including 173 animal and 259 plant species. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) tracks the status of these species and works to recover and protect them. Although state-listed species enjoy regulatory protections, they still face many threats, such as habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, emerging diseases, climate change, and alteration of hydrology and other natural processes.

**Drivers of Rarity**

Many of our rare species are habitat specialists, requiring very specific habitat types for at least a portion of their life cycles. Some examples of habitats that support disproportionate numbers of rare species are pine barrens, sandplain grasslands and heathlands, river floodplains, calcium-rich wetlands (confined to western MA), and bogs and other peatlands. Other important habitats for rare species include the shores of coastal plain ponds in southeastern MA and coastal beaches. Some of these habitats have been greatly altered by human activity such as damming of rivers, filling of wetlands, wildfire suppression, road construction, and coastal development.

Rarity is a matter of scale. Some species are rare and imperiled in Massachusetts but secure globally or regionally. A good example is the large-leaved goldenrod, a plant that occurs at high elevations in the Berkshires but is much more common

**MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program**  
Conservation | Wetlands | Endangered Species | Search this organization

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state, as well as the protection of the natural communities that make up their habitats. [bit.ly/3K9Vwbj](https://bit.ly/3K9Vwbj)

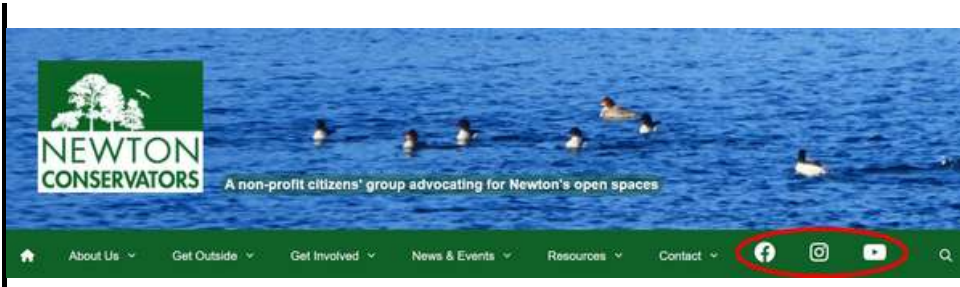
*Continued on page 2*

This [Summer 2024 Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) contains the following interesting features:

- [FULL ISSUE](#)
- [Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Plants and Animals: Endangered Species Conservation in Massachusetts](#)
- [Annual Meeting 2024](#)
- [Butterflies in Massachusetts](#)
- [BioBlitz Events](#)
- [Invasives Team Update](#)
- [Webster Woods Graffiti](#)

## Newton Conservators Social Media

Please consider following Newton Conservators on our social media channels and join our followers on Facebook and Instagram, and subscribers on YouTube. The easiest way to get to our channels is from our website's home page menu bar (see the red circled area below). Just click on the small icons on the right of the menu bar for [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) respectively.



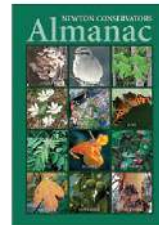
## PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP



We would be most grateful if you renewed your membership or joined us officially for the first time to support our important open space work! The challenges of protecting, enhancing and expanding open space in Newton continue. We hope that you will continue to support the Conservators efforts in these regards by renewing your membership for 2024 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!

Our [Trail Guide](#) and [Nature Almanacs](#) make great presents and are available on our website. The Trail Guide is included as part of your initial membership package.



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](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))

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6/20/24, 9:29 PM

e-Bulletin June 20, 2024 - BioBlitz on Sunday at Edmands Park!

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US



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