

# Enjoy Nature... with Webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our Fall/Winter Webinar Series online from September through February.

Each online program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. The in-person event on October 22 will begin at 6:30 pm. You may register for the programs using the links below or by going to the event listing at [newtonconservators.org](http://newtonconservators.org). You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES

*Leaves and seeds*

## Thursday, October 10 ... Fall Color and Seed Dispersal — How Do They Do That?

In New England, we prize our trees' fall color — the reds, yellows, oranges, and purples. And starting in August, we notice how seedy our native plants become — falling nuts dent our cars; burs make grooming pets a challenge. But how and why do they do what they do? Join Barbara Bates as she explores the mechanisms of fall color and seed dispersal timing and strategies.

Barbara is a teacher, naturalist, and Newton Conservators' board member. She loves all things nature.

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4dObn7z>



PHOTO: SKY & TELESCOPE

*Night Sky*

## Tuesday, October 22 ... In-person Observation of the Night Sky. Rain date is Friday, October 25

The open space of Newton is beautiful by day **and** by night! Join local amateur astronomer and dark-sky defender Kelly Beatty on a tour of the evening sky. He'll provide us with some stargazing basics and show off some interesting sky sights through a small telescope. The sky that night will feature the bright planets Venus and Saturn, along with the Summer Triangle, Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way! **Bring your binoculars to enhance the experience and a dim, red-filtered flashlight if you have one.**

Kelly Beatty has been explaining the science and wonder of astronomy to the public since 1974, when he joined the staff of Cambridge-based *Sky & Telescope* magazine. After 43 years of pounding the keyboard, he retired from full-time work in early 2018, but remains actively involved in many *S&T* articles, tours, and other projects. An award-winning writer and communicator, he holds a Bachelor's degree from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. Kelly has been active in efforts to reduce light pollution for more than 30 years and presented "Darkness in Distress" for Newton Conservators in the fall of 2022. He is also author of a Newton Conservators' newsletter article entitled "Darkness in Distress" in the summer of 2023.

**You must register for this limited-enrollment event in advance: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/in-person-observation-of-the-night-sky/>**



PHOTO: AVALON OWENS

*Light pollution and insect populations*

## Thursday, November 21 ... Floodlights and Fireflies: Environmental Sustainability Starts in your Front Yard.

Insect populations around the world are declining rapidly. But why? While habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change all have something to do with it, Dr. Avalon Owens shows in this talk that light pollution is another important — but too often overlooked — bringer of the insect apocalypse. Light pollution interferes with the development, movement, foraging, courtship, and reproduction of diverse insect species, including many that we know and love to see in our gardens. Fortunately, light pollution can be cheaply, easily, and instantly eliminated. Doing so will help ensure that we live in harmony with our insect friends and neighbors for generations to come.

*(continued)*

Dr. Avalon Owens is a research fellow at the Rowland Institute at Harvard. Her research group studies the impact of light pollution on organisms and ecosystems, with a focus on firefly conservation and moth evolution. Avalon holds a B.A. in Integrative Biology from Harvard University, an M.S. in Entomology from National Taiwan University, and a Ph.D. in Biology from Tufts University.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3YQkz7e>



PHOTO: BETH WILKINSON

*Webster Woods*

### **Thursday, December 5 ... Protecting Urban Forested Natural Areas: Making the Case for Conservation**

Urban forested natural areas provide numerous ecosystem services and places for urban residents to recreate, interact with nature, and seek respite from the hustle of urban life. Despite these benefits, forests are often cleared and the consequences are severe. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of urban forested natural areas, the threats they face, and what you can do to help conserve these spaces.

Sam Lawson, National Partnerships Coordinator at the Natural Areas Conservancy, has made a career helping people share information and support each other to build more resilient networks. He works with the Forests in Cities network, a national initiative to connect professionals who care for urban natural areas. Previously, he conducted community engagement at New York City's Department of Emergency Management. He holds a bachelor's from Bennington College and a master's degree in natural resources from Cornell University.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/4dvA4Wp>



*Animal Love*

### **Thursday, February 13 ... Animals Looking for Love on Valentine's Day – It's Not Just Humans!**

Winter is a cold time to find a mate and start a family, but it is also an ideal time for many animals. Join Barbara Bates for a look at some of Newton's larger animals looking for love in February and the myths that surround their quests. We will cover owls, groundhogs, skunks, beaver, foxes, coyotes, and bobcats.

Barbara is a teacher, naturalist, and Newton Conservators' board member.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/4dRiH2q>

## **Fall's here. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors!**

*Shop online at [newtonconservators.org/publications/](http://newtonconservators.org/publications/) to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. The Almanac is \$22.45, and the Trail Guide is \$10.95.*

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

