

Annual Meeting 2025



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Save The Date! Newton Conservators' Annual Meeting, Thursday May 8, 2025, 6pm.

Marking 20 years of Newton Community Farm, the featured speaker is NCF's Greg Maslowe. He will give a talk entitled "Can Farming Save Open Spaces? A Very Old Debate." The description of his talk is as follows.

"As land prices increase throughout the United States, and agricultural lands continue to be consolidated into massive corporate holdings, the options available to young farmers to acquire land are getting squeezed. One innovative approach, found here in Newton and being explored in places like northern Colorado, is to utilize open space for community farms. This approach has some significant benefits to the land holder as someone else takes financial and physical responsibility for maintaining and managing the land. There are also potential environmental benefits as some farming techniques can reverse soil carbon loss and actually provide a net sequestering of carbon, which helps slow climate change. But it also raises the question of whether intensively managed landscapes are what we mean by "open space." Farm Manager Greg Maslowe will explore the pros and cons of farming on public lands, harkening back to a very old debate between two of the founders of the modern environmental movement."

New Insect Pest: Spotted Lanternfly is in Newton

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) confirmed that as of December 2024, Newton has the invasive sap-feeding spotted lanternfly (SLF) found in the Upper Falls area, as far as we know. SLF arrived in the US in 2014 (PA), spread into MA in 2021, and was found in Wellesley and Weston in the past year. It is destructive to certain crops, weakens trees, and is a bothersome annoyance, spreading sticky honeydew, which gets moldy and smelly. We can help stop the spread by educating ourselves, reporting egg masses (found Sept - June on tree trunks, wood/lumber, rusty metal), the spotted nymphs when they emerge in April, and the spotted adults starting in July-December. See Newton Conservators' newsletter in fall 2022 for an article about the spotted lanternfly. Educational resources (id, lookalikes) and reporting links are on this website <https://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/spottedlanternfly.html> ♦



PHOTO: JENNIFER FORMAN ORTH

Adult lanternfly and nymph

— Katherine Howard