

# Did You Miss the Webinar on Jumping Worms? You Can Watch it Online at Any Time.



Every spring and fall since September 2020, Newton Conservators has presented a free webinar series on conservation topics important to our community. Many of our speakers have allowed us to record their presentations, and those recordings are available at [www.tinyurl.com/videoconservators](http://www.tinyurl.com/videoconservators).

In each newsletter, we plan to highlight one of these past webinar gems. This time, we focus on Annise Dobson's presentation on jumping worms from the spring of 2022: <https://youtu.be/m4gBYXtEUJY>

In Annise's enlightening webinar, she presents a distressing topic in a masterful way.

Nearly all earthworms in New England are introduced from Europe and Asia. While some species of earthworms benefit certain plant species, invasive earthworms have caused significant shifts in North American plant communities. Jumping worms are particularly destructive because they alter the structure and chemistry of the soil dramatically, leaving a grainy soil full of worm excrement (castings), and they can damage lawns, landscapes, and forest habitats. This talk presents the impacts and history of earthworms (and jumping worms in particular) and will provide information on how to identify jumping worms.

The Q&A session following Dr. Dobson's talk contains great extras, including information about the strange predators that eat jumping worms (the hammerhead worms) and tips on preventing the spread of these invasive worms.

At the time of this webinar, Dr. Dobson was a postdoctoral researcher at the Yale School of the Environment. Currently, she is the Director of Research and an Associate Research Scientist at that institution.

You can find information about upcoming webinars under the "Events" tab on Newton Conservators' website, where you can register for them: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>. Our webinars are free and available to all. ♦

🌿 Beth Wilkinson and Barbara Bates

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