



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

SPRING ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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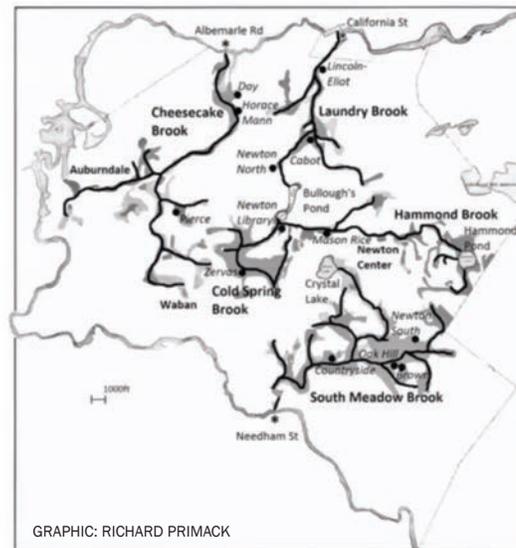
Investigating Newton's Streams: Fish Hiding in Plain Sight...

By Bob Mallard, *founding member and Executive Director for Native Fish Coalition*

Growing up in Newton Highlands in the 1960s and 1970s, I spent much of my time exploring Crystal Lake and the nearby streams, swamps, and ponds. Aquatic ecosystems and aquatic lifeforms fascinated me and continue to do so to this day. And fishing has been my primary pastime for as long as I

can remember. While Crystal Lake was my "home water," I also frequented Cold Spring Park, Newton Cemetery, Newton City Hall,

Waters of Newton



Modified 1892 drainage map showing the main brooks and associated wetlands.

Newton Center Playground, Bullough's Pond, and the occasional trip to Cheesecake Brook. I would ride my Stingray bicycle with an AM radio wired to the handlebars to these places every chance I had.

Cold Spring Park was home to what we called "the toad swamp," now known as Muskrat Pond,

a large unnamed swamp in the northeast corner, several small vernal pools, and Cold Spring Brook. The swamps and pools held



One of four ponds in Newton Cemetery and Arboretum

Continued on page 2



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Bullough's Pond

green frogs, bullfrogs, wood frogs, spring peepers, American toads, and painted turtles. And the stream had some unidentified fish.

The four ponds in Newton Cemetery were home to tadpoles and frogs as well as the most robust turtle population in the area. There were painted, musk, and snapping turtles. Although those ponds were closed to fishing, fish would sip bread meant for ducks off the surface of the murky water. Newton City Hall was similar to the cemetery, with three interconnected ponds and the same lifeforms. The area surrounding the ponds was mowed grass, not tree-lined as it is today. Like the cemetery, although fish were there, you were not allowed to fish for them.

Newton Center Playground was intersected by a section of walled but daylighted, or unburied, stream. While I did not know it at the time, this is Hammond Brook, which originates at Hammond Pond. There were some frogs and the occasional unidentified fish in the stream.

Bullough's Pond was surrounded by fences and lined with dense cattails. It was murky, weed-choked, and muddy. There were turtles, including some outsized snappers, frogs, snakes, and, while difficult to fish due to the weeds, the pond was home to carp and goldfish.

By the mid-1980s, I had moved away from Newton and relocated to Medford and Pepperell, Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, and then central Maine where I have resided for the last 25 years. While I had fond memories of Newton, I stayed away for nearly 40 years.

nonprofit dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring wild native fish. NFC now boasts chapters in 21 states, from Maine to Arkansas and northwest to Wisconsin.



NFC undertook a project in Dover, Massachusetts, to assess the condition of Trout Brook and whether the wild native brook trout persisted. After completing the project, I reached out to Massachusetts NFC board member Jeff Moore, who went to Hyde Elementary School with me, and asked if he was interested in taking a look at Cold Spring Brook. Cold Spring Brook was believed to be fishless by everyone we spoke with. However, NFC, with help from Friends of Cold Spring Park, Newton Conservators, and MassWildlife,



PHOTO: JON GOLDBERG

Native Fish Coalition board member Jeff Moore displays an American eel from Cold Spring Brook.



After a career in software and 15 years owning and operating a fly-fishing shop in Maine, I helped found Native Fish Coalition (NFC), a



PHOTO: COURTESY JON MALLARD

White sucker from Cheesecake Brook

was able to confirm the presence of self-sustaining native golden shiners and catadromous American eels in Cold Spring Park.

Having worked with Charles River

Watershed Association (CRWA) on Trout Brook, NFC also offered to take a look at Cheesecake Brook to see if we could find any fish. This too, was believed to be fishless. With help from CRWA and MassWildlife, we were able to confirm the presence of native white suckers, pumpkinseed and redbreast sunfish, and American eels, as well as nonnative carp.



PHOTO: FRIENDS OF COLD SPRING PARK

Seining to catch freshwater fish

While Newton's streams are some of the most altered and, in some cases, degraded waters NFC has worked on, multiple species of wild native fish have found a way to persist. And American eels are travelling over 100 miles from their birthplace in the Sargasso Sea to live in these waters.



PHOTO: FRIENDS OF COLD SPRING PARK

Golden shiner in Cold Spring Park

NFC decided to take a look at Newton Cemetery and Arboretum to see which fish species were there. It is the next section of Cold Spring Brook downstream

from Cold Spring Park. NFC was able to confirm the presence of native golden shiners, yellow perch, and pumpkinseed sunfish. And cemetery employees have seen American eels as well.

Next, NFC took a look at the Newton City Hall ponds. This is where Cold Spring Brook and Hammond Brook end, and Laundry Brook begins. NFC was able to confirm the presence of native pumpkinseed sunfish, even though the ponds were drained and dredged just a year earlier.

NFC used visual inspection, angling, non-lethal angling, seining, and trapping, eDNA metabarcoding, and electro-fishing to survey these waters. While proof-of-presence, these techniques are not proof-of-absence, and there may be other species of fish present. The discovery of wild native fish in Cold Spring Park, Newton Cemetery and Arboretum, Newton City Hall, and Cheesecake Brook was an unexpected and pleasant surprise.

Newton's streams are subject to point and nonpoint pollution. In some cases, NFC has detected sewage odor, indicating that there is likely some intrusion from generations-old municipal sewer pipes. Much of the nonpoint pollution comes from stormwater runoff which carries petroleum, fertilizer, and other chemicals. Stormwater also increases salinity due to road sanding/salting, especially in the early spring. Sewage and fertilizer increase phosphorus.

The lack of instream structure and natural banks in most Newton streams greatly limits refuge for fish. Fish need structure to hide from predators. Canopy loss, another problem on many Newton streams, increases sun penetration, which warms the water. It also limits incidental terrestrial insect contributions, depriving fish of an important food source. Instream structure also increases flow, adds oxygen, and promotes scouring, creating a deep-water refuge. In some cases, dissolved oxygen is low due to accumulated decaying organic matter.

In addition to reducing pollution, phosphorus, and salination, increasing in-stream structure, natural banks, and canopy, improving fish passage, and increasing dissolved oxygen, there needs to be more focus on the fish themselves. We need to understand what is where, what is missing.

Bob Mallard is a founding member and Executive Director for Native Fish Coalition. He is a former fly shop owner and Registered Maine Fishing Guide. Bob has written five books and hundreds of articles on fly fishing, fisheries management, and native fish conservation. He can be reached at: NativeFishCoalition.org or Info@NativeFishCoalition.org ♦

Upper Falls Greenway and Riverwalk Improvements

By Ted Chapman, Riverside Greenway Working Group, Project Manager



PHOTO: TED CHAPMAN

Bridge abutment

A short walk west from the Depot on Oak Street in Upper Falls, the Upper Falls Greenway ends at a bridge, locally referred to as the “sunset bridge.”

The bridge’s massive stone abutment speaks to the history of this structure built to carry the railway line that moved sand and gravel from Needham to fill Boston’s Back Bay. Starting in 1858,

working “day and night as 145 gravel cars and 80 men made 25 trips per day — loading, transporting and dumping” [Urban Geology] 50-foot-high ridges of sand and gravel eskers (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esker>) were leveled.

The removal of these glacial landforms along the Charles River in Needham and Newton created ‘deserts’ that have been redeveloped within the I-95/Route 128 corridor into office parks, residential areas, and even part of Woodlawn Golf Course in Auburndale. One preserved esker, now a challenging mountain bike course, is present on the west side of Cutler (Kendrick) Pond abutting I-95/128; evidence of tracks from the rail line can still be seen near the north entrance of Cutler Park.

The Riverside Greenway Working Group was created in 2017 to advocate for creating trail connections and restoring a recreation and transportation legacy that existed on and along the banks of the Charles River in Newton in the 1800s. I met Jay Werb and Jerry Reily on a dry-run walk of the Upper Falls loop of the city’s new ACROSS trail

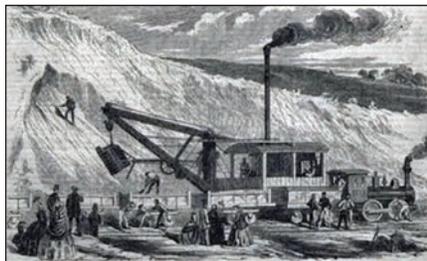
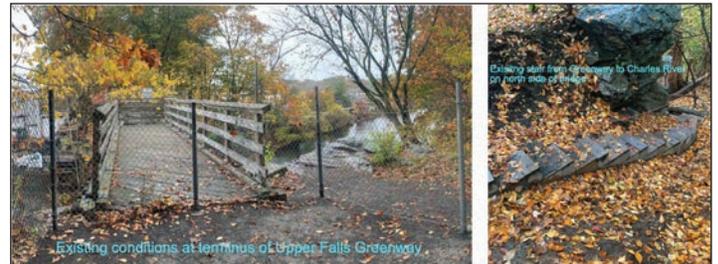


Figure 1: Engraving of Steam-powered Excavator Loading a Gravel Train in 1858; from Ballou’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, Boston Public Library



Figure 2: A Steam-powered Locomotive and Gravel Train Makes its Way Through the Town of Newton

system. It is a network of trails branching from the MBTA Greenline, accessing conservation land, recreation areas, open spaces, schools, and streets being developed by Chief Environmental Planner Jennifer Steel’s office. While standing together at the bridge with beautiful views of the river, Jennifer, Jerry, and Jay spoke of their vision for creating a safe connection between the Upper Falls Greenway and the Upper Falls; and the need for improvement to these existing conditions is self-evident.



Snaking along the shoreline, the Upper Falls Riverwalk is visible 25-feet below, the only connection between the two trail a precarious 18”-wide stairway built by local residents to access the trail. From where we stood, fencing and a condemned platform on the bridge obscured the full potential to take in views of the river and the bridge’s impressive structure.

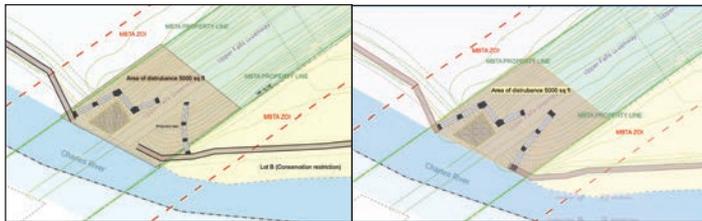
The Upper Falls Riverwalk is a segment of the Blue Heron/ Charles River Path that leads Newton residents all the way to Boston. From the bridge this trail goes upstream to the Upper Falls Riverwalk Conservation Area on Williams Street and downstream to the Bobby Braceland (Upper Falls) Playground. There the unmarked trail climbs up through the off-leash dog park, exiting the playground through a gate on Pennsylvania Avenue in Upper Falls heading on streets to Hemlock Gorge.

The Upper Falls Greenway is a mile-long rail trail renovated in 2016 through the work of many citizen advocates, including George Kirby, Jerry Reilly, Jim Lerner, and then City Councilors Deb Crossley, John Rice, and Brian Yates. A stairway connection to the Riverwalk was proposed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Department in 2022 but was never built, due to permitting issues. We set a goal to link the two arms of the Riverwalk and create a connection to the Greenway above with funding from the MassTrails program.

With financial support from the Upper Falls Area Council and Community Development Corporation, and the Newton Conservators we hired trails professionals from

Conservation Works and Terramore, LLC, the firms that did the work on the Pony Truss Trail, to assess feasibility and then design and provide construction estimates for the project. We arrived at proposed solutions:

- to build two sturdy stairways with railings, one on the North and one on the South side of the rail line embankment;
- to replace the fenced-off overlook platform with one perched atop of the abutment to the right of the Greenway;



Two options for the south side stairway

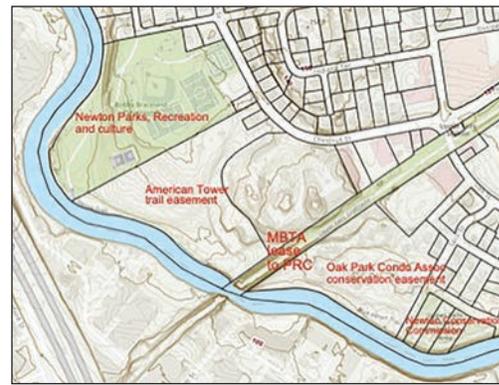
- to stabilize the tread of the 2900-foot-long Riverwalk by adding 3 inches of gravel basepack to the trail tread to make walking easier and protect tree roots;
- to make a new connection from the Bobby Braceland (Upper Falls) Playground to the Blue Heron trail closer to the river, avoiding the off-leash dog area.
- and begin to address invasive plant populations along the trail, replacing them with native species.

The initial vision of constructing a boardwalk under the bridge to connect the two arms of the Riverwalk, was ruled out due to the complexity of attaching a boardwalk to the narrow foot of the abutment, permitting, and cost challenges.

The design team provided these construction estimates for the proposed work:

- Two stairs and viewing platform: \$92,000
- Riverwalk improvements: \$78,000
- Survey, invasive species mitigation and signage, misc.: \$10,000

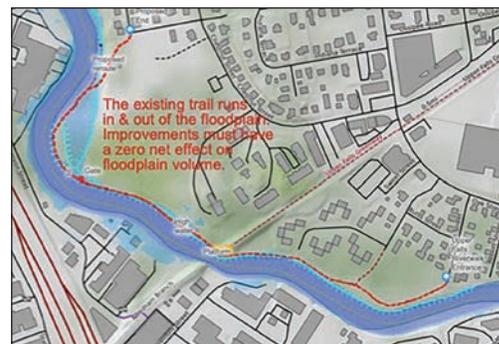
Beyond design, the major challenge of this project is the complexity of permitting, involving five landowners and three easements. The permitting uncertainty required two options for the south stairway until permissions were resolved, a process which should be eased by the fortunate decision of Newton’s new administration to financially support the project. When Mayor Marc Laredo and Chief of Community Services John Rice heard about this project



from the Ward 5 Councilors Julie Irish, Rena Getz, and Brittany Hume, they decided that this high-value project should be fully funded by the City using Northland funds and be coordinated through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Because the previous iteration of the project was approved in 2022 by the Parks and Recreation Commission, this step can be skipped this round. For this project to be approved, a proposal will be docketed with the Public Services and the Finance Committees by the Ward 5 City Councilors; following these committees’ endorsements, final approval by the full City Council is required.

After permitting and funding, the challenges to completing construction are straightforward: finding a capable contractor to do the work under the city’s bidding process; receiving a construction permit from the MBTA, which owns the land



the Greenway is built on; and meeting the requirements of environmental regulations. Wetland regulations require that within the 100-year-flood

zone (the turquoise, hatched line in the image above) the net volume of soil filled or removed must be zero. This means that when 2-3 inches of base pack area added to the trail tread (red dashed line), it must be balanced by removing and equivalent volume of soil within adjacent areas of the flood zone. Approximately half the length of the trail is under this condition.

Assuming all the approvals are received, and a suitable construction firm is available, this exciting project should be built by the end of 2026. This is a model for public-private partnership, a collaboration between the city and citizen advocates. The next step in the story of this railtrail will be achieved through citizen advocacy, encouraging Newton, Needham and the MBTA to reestablish connection across the Sunset Bridge to Needham on the “Community Way.” ♦

New Edition of the Trail Guide

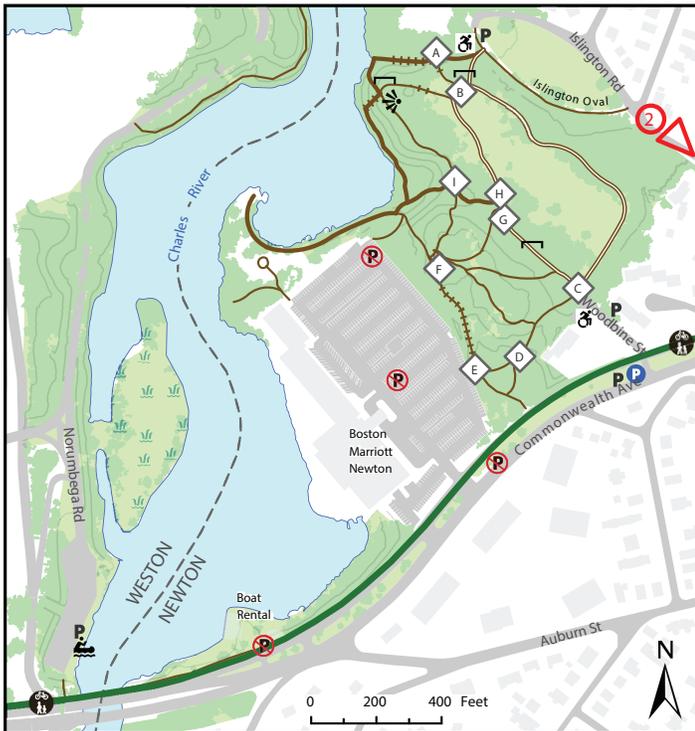
A new edition of Newton Conservators Trail Guide will soon be published. The guide has text, maps, and photos describing 28 open space sites in and adjacent to Newton.

The new guide's pages are almost 40% bigger than those in the previous guide, allowing the use of larger, more informative maps.

Site Maps

Prior editions of the guide contained hand-drawn maps. The new edition has maps created from the City of Newton Geographic Information System, or GIS, by Doug Greenfield, Newton's GIS administrator. Doug's extraordinary skills and dedication to this project were critical to its success. The maps have field-tested locations of trails, water and land features, and points of interest.

The map below is of Norumbega Conservation Area in Auburndale. It is printed here at the same size as it appears in the Trail Guide, to give you a sense of the level of detail visible in the maps.



Citywide Maps

In a pocket in the back cover of the book, you'll find a folded sheet that opens up to 18" x 24". On each side of this

sheet is a citywide map. One side shows the routes of the Blue Heron Trail (along the Charles River from Watertown Square to Cutler Park and Millennium Park) and of the Aqueduct Trails (extending to the west and southwest from Newton Centre).

The map on the other side of the sheet shows the routes of seven Long Walks that visit more than one of the sites in the book. More information about these walks, which range in length from 1.5 to 7 miles, can be found on our website at newtonconservators.org/long-walks/

The 1:25,000 scale of these maps is the same as in the paper maps published by the US Geological Survey, or USGS. These maps show enough detail that they've been used by generations of hikers to navigate trails. Our citywide maps will, for the first time, provide walkers with an easy way to follow the Blue Heron Trail or one of the Aqueduct Trails.

The citywide maps are printed on a sheet of synthetic paper called Polyart, which is waterproof and can withstand repeated folding and unfolding without tearing.

Photographs

For the first time, this edition of the Trail Guide contains full-color photos of each park and conservation area, and of other subjects, such as this photo on the page about invasive plants and pollinator gardens.



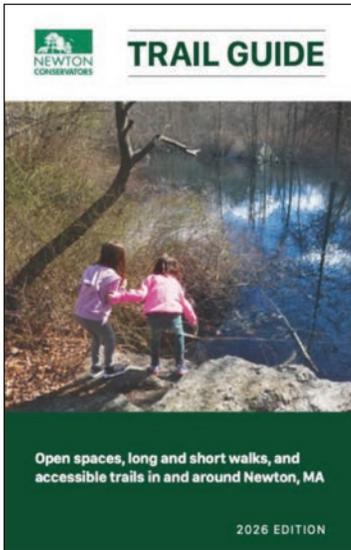
Black swallow-wort

QR Code Links to Website Resources

Our website, newtonconservators.org, has far more information than could fit in a printed guidebook. To make it easy for readers of the book to find more information about an open space site or a conservation topic, the book is full of QR codes, such as this one:



If you open the camera on your smartphone and point at the code, you should see a link to the relevant page on the website. Click on the link to open the page. The code above takes you to the page for Webster Conservation Area and Hammond Pond Reservation.



To Obtain a Copy

To order a copy of the guide, visit newtonconservators.org/buy-a-guide/ or scan this QR code:



The price of the guide is \$20 for Conservators members and \$23 for non-members, plus shipping.

Orders will be fulfilled this spring as soon as the new Trail Guide is available.

Anyone who joins the Conservators as a new member, or joined during our recent renewal season, will receive a free copy of the guide. To join, visit newtonconservators.org/membership/

Those eligible for a free guide from their recent renewals will receive their copies soon. Copies will also be for sale soon at local bookstores.

The Trail Guide was edited by Dan Brody and Todd Macalister. ♦

Annual Meeting 2026

Save The Date! Newton Conservators' Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6 pm



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Sweat Bee

Our featured speaker will be Nick Dorian, Ph.D., pollinator ecologist and bee expert — and storyteller. He works to advance urban conservation and methods for studying wild bees and is co-author of a popular bee field guide. Dr. Dorian will introduce us to some of the fascinating wild bees of eastern North America and their varied lifestyles, habitat needs, and intricate relationships with native flowering plants and other insects and will explain why they're important for our environment. We'll learn to notice, appreciate, and how to help these important pollinators in our community.

New Insect Pest: Spotted Lanternfly is in Newton

Sadly, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) invasive pest is now all over Newton. SLF arrived in the US in 2014 (PA) and in MA in 2021. It is destructive to certain crops and plants, weakens trees, and is a bothersome annoyance, spreading sticky honeydew which becomes moldy and smelly. We can help slow the spread by educating ourselves, and at this time of year by destroying the egg masses (found Sept - June on tree trunks, wood/lumber, rusty metal, really anything). Educational resources are at <https://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/spottedlanternfly.html>. **Sign up for our May 14 webinar with an SLF expert! See page 10.** ♦



PHOTO: JENNIFER FORMAN ORTH

Spotted Lanternfly

🌿 Katherine Howard

WALKS SCHEDULE SPRING 2026

Please note: Walks are limited to 30 people. Participants must register so leaders can contact them for weather updates or changes. Please register at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>

Saturday, April 11 from 10 - 12:15 pm

TAKE A GUIDED NATURE WALK IN KENNARD PARK



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Jeff Adams inspecting a plant at Kennard Park

Follow local naturalist Jeff Adams as he identifies native species, searches for spring ephemerals, and shares various plants' natural histories. Jeff has led walks for the Friends of the Fells, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and several other organizations. Terrain can be uneven. Meet at Kennard Park on Dudley Road. *Rain Date: Sunday, April 12, 10 am -12:15 pm.*

Trip Leader: Jeff Adams (jeffreeradams@verizon.net; 781-866-8311)

Sunday, May 3 from 2 - 3:30 pm

STROLL HAMMOND WOODS WITH NOTED PLANT ECOLOGIST



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Richard Primack

Join Richard Primack, professor of plant ecology at Boston University, to learn about various wildflowers, unusual trees, unique geological features, and evidence of past land use at Hammond Woods. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Terrain is relatively flat. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Hammond Woods

next to Hammond Pond near the Street at Chestnut Hill Mall. *A steady rain will cancel the walk.*

Trip Leader: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu)

Sunday, May 3

NEWTONSERVES

We will have several activities — check our Events page or the city's NewtonSERVES page for more info. <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>

Saturday, May 9 from 8 - 10 am

COME BIRD IN THE DOLAN POND CONSERVATION AREA



PHOTO: MICHAEL HANLEY
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Come bird with longtime avian enthusiasts Ian Buzby, Michael Hanley, and Ted Kuklinski (a past president of Newton Conservators) at Dolan Pond and see migrating warblers, thrushes, and other newly arrived colorful residents. Dolan

Pond is a Newton eBird hotspot (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2829294/bird-list>). Terrain includes accessible wooded paths and a boardwalk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children and beginners are welcome. Meet near 76 Webster Park, West Newton, and park around the inner Webster Park circle. *A steady rain will cancel the walk.*

Trip Contact: Ted Kuklinski (tkuklinski@aol.com; 617-332-7753)

Sunday, May 10 from 8 - 10:30 am

MOTHER'S DAY BIRDING AT NAHANTON PARK



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA
Black-capped Chickadee

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton. Follow along with birding guides Alison Leary and Haynes Miller as they search for migrants and resident species. Bring binoculars if you have them and

wear sturdy shoes. Park and meet in the lot at the canoe/kayak rental location on Nahanton Street. *A steady rain will cancel the walk.*

Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and **Haynes Miller** (617-413-2419)

Saturday, May 16 from 10 -12 noon

EXPLORE COLD SPRING PARK

COSPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF COLD SPRING PARK



PHOTO: SUSAN LYON
Alan Nogee discusses invasive plants

Tour Cold Spring Park, a woodland haven in the heart of Newton, with Alan Nogee, a Newton Conservators Director and president of Friends of Cold Spring Park. See how its different habitats create a wildlife refuge, why its ability to continue supporting wildlife is at risk, and what citizens can do about it. Terrain is mostly

flat. Meet at the kiosk at the far-left end of the park entrance on Beacon Street. *Rain Date: Saturday, May 23, 1-3 pm. Note later time.*

Trip Leader: Alan Nogee (617-821-1265; friendsofcoldspringpark@gmail.com)

Sunday, May 17 from 2 - 4:30 pm

HIKE NEWTON'S SUDBURY AND COCHITUATE AQUEDUCTS

Henry Finch, a Newton Conservators' director and avid hiker,



PHOTO: HENRY FINCH

Henry Finch (at right) before an aqueduct hike

Centre Street and Tyler Terrace. A steady rain will cancel the walk.

Trip Leader: Henry Finch (henryjfinch@gmail.com)

Saturday, May 24 from 10 - 12 noon

LEARN ABOUT FERNS IN HAMMOND WOODS



PHOTO: JIM MEADORS

Ellen and Jim Meadors

led numerous fern and wildflower walks in their hometown

will lead a 4.9-mile trek through Newton's sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. Henry plans on walking roughly two miles per hour on mostly level terrain. If the pace is slower than this, Henry can shorten the route or offer cutoffs to those who wish to leave the hike early. Meet at the Newton Centre playground at the intersection of

Ferns are everywhere, and they are beautiful, interesting, and varied. Ellen and Jim Meadors, plant enthusiasts with a special interest in ferns, will take fellow fern lovers through Hammond Woods and demonstrate how to easily identify the most common species in the Boston region. The Meadors have

of Lincoln. Meet at the Hammond Pond parking lot, off Hammond Pond Parkway, behind the Street shops at Chestnut Hill Mall. *Rain Date: Sunday, May 31, 10 am - 12 noon.*

Trip Leaders: Jim and Ellen Meadors (jmmeadors@verizon.net; 781-995-7720)

Sunday, June 7 from 9:30 - 12 noon

TOUR HEMLOCK GORGE



PHOTO: SUSAN LYON

Echo Bridge and Hemlock Gorge

reservation. The walk includes steep slopes and uneven terrain. Meet at the Hamilton Place entrance off Central Ave (just over the bridge on the Needham side of the Charles River). *Rain Date: Sunday, June 14, 9:30 am - 12 noon.*

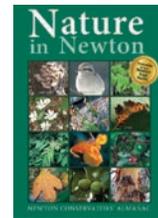
Trip Leaders: Katherine Howard (617-721-2571) and John Mordes (617-888-4488)

Hemlock Gorge, a national historic landmark with wooded paths and a spectacular view of the Charles River, is a hidden gem straddling Newton and Needham. Follow Newton Conservators' President Katherine Howard and John Mordes, President of Friends of Hemlock Gorge, as they discuss the flora, geology and history of this 23-acre

Spring is Here. Get outside and look around!

Shop online at newtonconservators.org/publications/ to purchase our books. The Almanac is \$19.95 plus shipping, and the new Trail Guide is \$23.00 plus shipping. See pgs. 6 & 7 about our new Guide.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a trail guide free with their first membership.
- Our books are also sold at Newtonville Books in Newton Center.



MISSION

Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 was formed as a not-for-profit organization 65 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the newsletter: Dan Brody, Ted Chapman, Katherine Howard, Susan Lyon, Bob Mallard, Richard Primack, and Beth Wilkinson.

Enjoy Nature... with webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our spring webinar series online from April through June.

Each online program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. You may register for the programs using the links below or by going to the event listing at newtonconservators.org. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



PHOTO: DR. ELIZABETH BARNES

Adult Lanternfly and larvae

Thursday, May 14 ... Spotted Lanternfly: Impact, current status, and management options

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that feeds on over 100 plant species and is an agricultural and nuisance pest. In addition to killing grapes, black walnut saplings, and Ailanthus saplings, they also are a major nuisance pest in yards, parks, and outdoor venues. This presentation will cover the issues they cause, their current distribution, and an overview of management options.

Elizabeth Barnes is the Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and previously worked as the Exotic Forest Pest Educator at Purdue University. She received her doctorate in plant-insect interactions from the University of Denver, where she studied tent caterpillars and fall webworms.

Sign up: <https://shorturl.at/1fuFk>



PHOTO: KATHLEEN KENSLEA

Barred Owl in Cold Spring Park

Thursday, June 4 ... Nature for Newton: Learning from initial restoration efforts in Newton's central and largest park

Climate change can already feel overwhelming, and now we have a biodiversity crisis too?

Can local conservation in our own parks and yards make a real difference in protecting wildlife, strengthening forest health, slowing climate change, and improving nature's ability to adapt? Using Cold Spring Park restoration efforts as a case study, we will highlight what we are learning from new and ongoing projects to restore native ecosystems and avoid catastrophic ecological tipping points.

Join us to learn why acting locally matters, what's working, how you can apply this information in your own yard, and how we can create a model for building community to ensure healthy and vibrant natural areas for our wildlife, ourselves, and future generations.

This webinar will feature three presenters:

- Alan Noguee, President, Friends of Cold Spring Park; Board Member, Newton Conservators
- Zach Shein has worked for Parterre Ecological and the Arnold Arboretum and did much of the research for the Natural Resource and Biodiversity Management Plan for Cold Spring Park
- Dr. Jon Regosin, former Deputy Director, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife; Board Member, Newton Conservators

Sign up: <https://shorturl.at/k5BIx>

A webinar on bats will be announced soon for April 30. To learn about it when it becomes available, join our email list (<https://newtonconservators.org/follow-us/>), or monitor the Events listing on our website (<https://newtonconservators.org/events/>).

Did You Miss the Webinar “Reading the Stories Told by Animal Tracks” in 2023?

You can watch it online at any time.



Since September 2020, Newton Conservators has presented a webinar series on conservation topics that are valuable for members of our community. Many of our speakers have allowed us to record their presentations, and you can watch them on our YouTube page.

In each newsletter, we highlight one of these past webinar treasures. This time, we focus on Barbara Bates’ informative (and fun) presentation on “Reading the Stories Told by Animal Tracks and Signs” from January 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ5-ZNQ1iv4>.

Many animals are secretive, avoiding people and finding food at night. Snow and mud provide a canvas for these animals’ tracks and enable us to see who has been out and, often, what they were doing. Barbara explains what tracks and animal signs you can find in Newton’s open spaces as well as in your own back yard. And this is the perfect time of year to experiment with the knowledge you’ll gain from this presentation! Barbara is a talented teacher, experienced naturalist and Newton Conservators’ board member.

Information about upcoming webinars can be found 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

Invasives Update

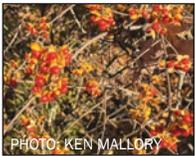


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Oriental bittersweet

The Newton Conservators’ Invasives Team conducts invasive plant removal sessions year-round, in many of Newton’s parks and conservation areas. The City of Newton and the state (Department of Conservation and Recreation) support us administratively and with debris removal.

Our sessions will be published as Events on the website; if you would like to receive notices and updates about our plans, please email volunteers@newtonconservators.org. There is no obligation, and you can come to as many or as few of the sessions as you like. Thank you!



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

Count me in! I want to help Newton Conservators preserve open spaces and connect people to nature in Newton. Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors’ Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted Additional Contribution \$ _____ |

Special Contributions:

- Trails Revolving Fund \$ _____
- Land Stewardship Fund \$ _____

To support other special purposes, please email us at membership@newtonconservators.org

By joining or renewing, you agree to receive our informational **emails**, which always include the option to unsubscribe.

Our **quarterly newsletter** will be sent by email only unless you check here:

- US mail only
- US mail and email

- I would like to learn more about volunteering with Newton Conservators.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Memberships run for the calendar year. New members New members will receive our *Trail Guide* as a welcome gift.

Please send checks made payable to Newton Conservators to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, OR renew or join online at newtonconservators.org/membership/.



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NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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Lincoln Sparrow
photo by Haynes Miller

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at newtonconservators.org/newsletters. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, email us at membership@newtonconservators.org.