

Join and Help Conduct Two BioBlitzes in Newton!

Saturday, June 20, from 10 am – 12 noon at Kennard Park and
Lost Pond **AND Saturday, August 1**, 10 am – 12 pm at Saw Mill Brook



PHOTO: KIMBERLY CURTIS



PHOTO: DIMDA

From left to right, Sensitive fern and Narcissus bulb fly, both photos from iNaturalist

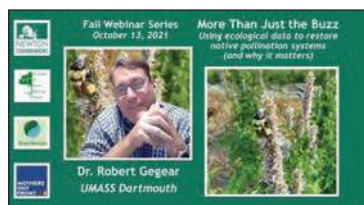
If you are interested in learning how to identify the many species of plants and animals inhabiting Newton's parks and conservation areas, join Zach Shein, an experienced botanist and habitat restoration professional, for a BioBlitz! Zach will spend a few hours surveying and discussing plants with Bioblitz participants and posting the group's observations to the iNaturalist app. Participants do not need to be experts. Families are welcome.

Download the free iNaturalist app to your phone beforehand from the Apple App Store for iOS or the Google Play Store for Android. The numerous observations of Newton's parks in iNaturalist can be found online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/newton-ma-conservation-areas-parks-survey>. Participants should wear long pants and sturdy shoes. A steady rain will cancel the walks.

- For the Kennard Park Bioblitz, meet at the parking lot at 246 Dudley Road.
- For the Saw Mill Brook Bioblitz, meet at the Vine Street entrance (opposite 5 Hollywood Drive). Extra parking is available on Wayne Road.

Trip Leader: Zach Shein (zshein12@gmail.com)

Did You Miss the Webinar "More Than Just the Buzz" in 2021? You can watch it online at any time.



Since September 2020, Newton Conservators has presented a free webinar series on conservation topics that are important for 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 gems. This time we focus on Dr. Robert J. Gegear's inspiring presentation on **"More Than Just the Buzz"** from December 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs60YDw-8FQ>.

Native pollination systems, defined as the collection of a native flowering plant species and all its native animal pollinator species (bees, butterflies, moths, flies, hummingbirds, etc.), are being degraded at an alarming rate worldwide. Eventually, the continued degradation of wild pollination systems will lead to ecosystem collapse and massive reductions in biodiversity. Dr. Gegear explains what you can do to maximize biodiversity conservation in your own backyard through the creating and sustaining of pollination systems at risk of local extinction. He also discusses his Beecology Citizen Science Project, highlighting recent examples of how communities from across Massachusetts have used Dr. Gegear's research-based native plant list to successfully restore pollination systems at risk in areas with high levels of human disturbance.

Dr. Gegear is an associate professor in the Department of Biology at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He has been studying the conservation of plant-pollinator systems for over 25 years. He also is the founder of the Beecology Project, a citizen science project that uses eco-technology to protect and restore plant-pollinator systems native to New England.

Information about webinars in the spring and the fall 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 and Barbara Bates