



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

SUMMER ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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The Tree We Barely Noticed: A New Conservation Plan for Cold Spring Park

By Alan Noguee, *President of the Friends of Cold Spring Park and a director at Newton Conservators*

The opening days of summer in Cold Spring Park are heralded by the intoxicating aroma of common milkweed — vital food for monarch caterpillars — blooming in a small meadow. Bumblebees and butterflies, and less familiar red-headed bush crickets, marmalade hoverflies, jagged ambush bugs, and many more call it home. More than a decade of volunteer work by Newton Conservators and Friends of Cold Spring Park, clearing invasive trees of heaven, has allowed milkweed and other native species to recover and spread.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Bumblebee on milkweed



*Map of Cold Spring Park
courtesy of Newton Conservators' new trail guide
<https://newtonconservators.org/new-edition-of-conservators-trail-guide/>*

Conservation works!

The marsh by the park entry bridge tells another success story. Once choked with knotweed, it now hosts goldenrod, cattails, cursed crowfoot — a species of conservation concern — young cottonwood trees, and silky dogwoods, the latter planted by

the Department of Public Works.

But there is so much left to do. Like every Newton green space, Cold Spring Park harbors a host of invasive plants. To help focus restoration efforts, Dr. Jon Regosin

— a Newton Conservators' director and former Deputy Director of Mass. Fish & Wildlife — volunteered to lead a comprehensive Natural Resource and



PHOTO: ALEXANDER GUMEN

Red-headed bush cricket

Continued on page 2



PHOTO: ALEXANDER GUMEN

Jagged ambush bug

Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the Friends of Cold Spring Park and the Department of Parks & Recreation. We retained a part-time consultant, Zach Shein, who has worked at the Arnold Arboretum and Parterre Garden Services, to assist.

Their draft report came with a shocker: one tree we had barely noticed now poses a grave threat to the park's entire ecosystem.

Meet the Amur cork tree. Fast-growing and relentless, it:



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Amur cork tree in Cold Spring Park

- Thrives in wet and dry soil and in sun and shade.
- Sprouts new trees from long, sprawling roots; the largest colony in the heart of the wetland has over 200 stems!
- Produces up to half a million berries — junk food that birds spread but cannot live on.
- Emits berberine, a natural herbicide that kills understory plants.
- Could go from less than a few percent of the canopy today to one-third or more in only a few decades.

Our native red maple forest canopy — already stressed by invasive buckthorn — could become a virtual monoculture of cork trees. Eight years ago, this newsletter, in an article by Eric Olson, asked “Cold Spring Park Red Maple Swamp — Can It Endure?” The Amur cork tree wasn't even mentioned. Now, descendants of four trees planted in the cemetery across Beacon Street have colonized the



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Japanese knotweed

wetland, spread into our upland oak forest, and appeared in neighbors' yards.

Invasive plants aren't inherently bad. In their native ecosystems, they

Invasive Alert: The Amur Cork Tree Threat to Newton's Ecosystems

Forest & Soil Disruption

Chemical Warfare in the Soil
The tree releases allelopathic chemicals like berberine that inhibit native plant growth and alter soil microorganisms.

Native Tree Suppression
Aggressive, fast-growing root suckers and seeds of Amur cork tree crowd out native oak, maple, and hickory.

Allelopathic chemicals inhibit native growth and soil health.
berberine

Brook & Aquatic Impact

"Rewiring" the Seasonal Calendar
Early leaf-out shades brooks too soon, while sudden, synchronous fall leaf-drops cause a "boom and bust" nutrient cycle.

Toxic Leaf Litter
Submerged fallen Amur cork tree leaves often release secondary metabolites

Altered Stream Temperatures
Alter a rise in water temperature due to reduced canopy cover.

A "Nutritional Sink" for Wildlife
Amur cork tree berries are visually unappealing and have a high-sugar, low-fat content nutritional profile.

High-sugar, Low-fat

Scale of the Invasion in Cold Spring Park (CSP) — 2024 Data

Metric	Red Maple Swamp (CSP)
Total Identified Stems: -800	
Largest Single Colony: 201 Stems	
Invasive Density Rank: Tier 4	Tier 4 (Highly Invasive)

© NotebookLM

fill useful niches and are kept in check by other species they evolved with. Knotweed colonizes lava flows on Mount Fuji; the Amur cork tree is revered in Asia for its medicinal properties. But here, they crowd out the native plants our wildlife has evolved with and depends on.

No one likes removing trees, but the cork tree spread is at a tipping point. Most are still small, and even the mature ones can come down without opening large canopy gaps.

The Conservation Commission has approved a cork tree removal plan filed by Parks & Recreation Commissioner Marc Welch, Newton Conservators, and Friends of Cold Spring Park. We have begun removing small trees, and the Friends and Conservators have committed at least \$25,000

to hire the city's forestry contractor to remove larger ones near the Cold Spring Loop. Cutting alone triggers resprouting, so licensed applicators are dabbing small amounts of herbicide on stumps. We will plant new trees in the largest gaps.

We applied for but ultimately did not win a state biodiversity grant to help fund this work. There were 200-plus applicants for this new state grant program, and only a dozen received an award. So, more fundraising lies ahead.

The management plan goes far beyond cork trees. It sets five goals with 28 action recommendations:

- Protect forest health: establish invasive plant exclusion zones in the park's healthiest sections and monitor forest health plots.
- Expand pollinator habitat: grow the meadow, reduce mowing, and plant native wildflowers at field edges.
- Restore brook and wetland sites: partner with the Stormwater Division and Native Fish Coalition to improve habitat for our newly discovered native fish.
- Make the park a learning showcase: add native habitat demonstration areas, partner with Zervas School, and expand wildlife inventories.
- Maintain trails proactively: create a long-term plan and minimize off-trail use in sensitive areas.

We'd like your feedback about our plan and goals. Read the full draft and submit feedback at coldspringpark.org.

Some recommendations may not be universally popular. Certain paths cut through the park's few intact native plant communities. One is home to 7 nut-bearing species, 14 berry producers, and at least 20 pollen and nectar plants. It is the only spot where keystone oaks still dominate, and young oaks are taking hold. We hope to close some woodland and wetland paths to allow the areas to recover and to restore their native plant communities.

Making Cold Spring Park a model is an important goal. All Newton parks need more stewardship to help meet Massachusetts' goal of reversing species decline. The stakes are stark: species are disappearing at ten to one hundred times historical rates, and scientists forecast the loss of more than one million species — one quarter of all life on Earth — if trends continue over the coming decades.

More than 450 plant and animal species are on Massachusetts' endangered list, and many more are declining. Last year, the Commonwealth adopted a state-leading

Biodiversity Action Plan. Newton must now do the same.



The Massachusetts Biodiversity plan can be viewed at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/biodiversity-goals-for-massachusetts>

Our green spaces also anchor climate mitigation and resilience. In other cities, for example, parks covering just 25% of the tree canopy store 67% of the carbon. Healthy natural areas absorb more stormwater too, and help ecosystems bounce back from pests, disease, and extreme weather.

Nature is also good medicine. Access to natural areas is linked to less depression, longer lives, healthier babies, and other health benefits.

Newton's revised climate plan calls for forest protection and a new biodiversity working group to secure these benefits. Our city should lead on biodiversity as we have on clean



Volunteer removes invasive tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

energy. Both are interlinked but independent crises. We are optimistic our administration and city council will deliver.

You can help by removing invasives, planting natives, and volunteering to help steward our parks and conservation lands. Conservation works! As Grow Native Massachusetts says, "Every garden counts, every landscape matters."

The Cold Spring Park Natural Resource and Biodiversity Conservation Plan, prepared by Zach Shein and Dr. Jon Regosin, is available at coldspringpark.org. ♦

Annual Meeting 2026

Newton Conservators' 65th annual meeting began with brief remarks from Mayor Marc Laredo.

Mayor Marc Laredo



Mayor Marc Laredo

Mayor Laredo thanked the City of Newton staff and elected officials present, including former Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, and continued: "I just want to welcome everyone here this evening to the annual dinner of Newton Conservators. This is an absolutely wonderful organization. I don't have to tell anyone in this room that you do a terrific job day in and day out promoting conservation, open space, and environmental initiatives in the City of

Newton. We are very grateful for the partnerships that we have with organizations like the Conservators."

"I've been talking a lot, as I've been going around the city, about the importance of community, and one of the things about community is that when you bring people together to do good things, we not only improve our city, but we help one another, and that's exactly what this organization does. So, I'm extraordinarily grateful for the work that you all do."

President's Message



Katherine Howard, President

Newton Conservators' President Katherine Howard continued the program by welcoming everyone, including the environmentally active high school and college students in attendance. She thanked the sponsors (listed on pg. 5), Nature Advocate ticket holders, and the JF&CS invitation-stuffing group. She read a quote from Aldo Leopold: "When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Katherine Howard continued: "Newton Conservators is now 65 years old, thanks to members like you over all those years. I have been involved for more than half of those years. Its mission was, and still is, to preserve and conserve land for the benefit and recreational enjoyment of humans. We

now know so much more about the science behind humans needing nature and open space to thrive for physical and mental health. And we now know the critical importance of biodiverse habitats to support all species. That importance is not just in far-away national parks or up in Vermont and Maine — that importance is also here, in our urban open spaces, including our yards. Newton Conservators has taught and continues to teach me about this — for example, I learned recently from board member Pete Gilmore the importance of urban open spaces to migrating birds, which become diverted by the light pollution of urban areas, and come down into our parks looking for nutritious food to fuel their migration. Our open spaces need to provide that food.

"Newton Conservators continues to be an entry point for the public to enjoy, appreciate, and care for the open spaces we have; the open spaces that help make Newton such a great place to live. As ever, we provide the free guided walks, quarterly newsletter, the grants program, and now the webinar series, all of excellent quality, that people have come to know us for. We are always looking for more ways to draw people in and expand our reach. We are still involved in the occasional land acquisition; such opportunities in our developed city are less frequent and are critically important.

"But there is still so much to do — our land stewardship function has grown, often working in coordination with the city as landowner. We do invasives work in many of the city's open spaces, we fund and promote pollinator gardens, and we encourage homeowners to improve their own habitats, a la the Homegrown National Park model that Professor Doug Tallamy started. This is essential because open space that is turfgrass, exotic ornamentals, or is dominated by invasives has reduced biodiversity and does not provide the food and ecosystem services that pollinators and hungry birds need. Our invasives team is busy and always looking for more volunteer help!

"When I started with Newton Conservators, I began to notice plants and birds and see them as individual species, and it has taken me these many years to become more confident in plant identification. (Of course, that's easier now with iNaturalist and other apps.) It's been a more recent realization that there is more than plants going on in our open spaces and our yards, and now also in our waterways. I'm now learning about the insect world and pollinators (catching up to the 2nd graders who stop by our booth), and that "Bugging is the new birding." Also thanks to such incredible resources as the Caterpillar Lab of Newton native Sam Jaffe, and our own Ted Kuklinski. And I have the special close-up binoculars to help me see! Newton Conservators continues to help the public understand that

open space must have the plants that insects need to eat and reproduce on, as the start of the food web on which species depend. It has also been a recent pleasure to learn that there is life and important biodiversity in our overlooked brooks and streams. The Newton public is now learning from the Native Fish Coalition's programs, articles, and activities about that aquatic life (and yes, I now have the special polarized sunglasses to help me see it!).

"It is also great to see how our work is getting in synch with broader efforts such as regional pollinator networks, other nonprofits, the city's Climate Action Plan, and the state's new biodiversity goals. We had a terrific meeting with the mayor and John Rice last month, agreeing on basic premises, including, to quote board member Jon Regosin, that nature matters and that what's good for nature is good for people. We need to fund active management and stewardship, for which a little more funding would go a long way, and we can have a beneficial public-private partnership to accomplish this. The state's new biodiversity goals provide encouraging support and the possibility of grant funding for our initiatives. Newton Conservators will continue to conduct the local walks, programs, and stewardship for which it is known, while also participating in and advocating for broader initiatives. Thank you all for your support over the years, and for thinking globally and acting locally!"

Election of Officers and Directors

Katherine Howard noted we have several new board members, Andreae Downs, Katharina Elbert, and Jacob Mihalak, and one new Advisor, Garry Miller. Another change is that Mike Clarke is moving from board member to an Advisor role.



Pete Gilmore

Pete Gilmore conducted the election by reading the Slate of Officers and Directors. The slate includes Katherine Howard, President, Nyssa Patten, Vice President, David Backer, Secretary, Jacob Mihalak, Treasurer, and board members Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Andreae Downs, Katharina Elbert, Henry Finch, Maurice Gilmore, Daniel Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Howard, Susan Lyon, Ken Mallory, Larry Smith,

and Beth Wilkinson. He then took a voice vote of the Newton Conservators' members present, and the slate was unanimously approved.

Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Clarke



Katherine Howard and Michael Clarke

Katherine Howard presented a certificate to Michael Clarke in recognition of "your 33+ years of service to Newton Conservators, including as Secretary, VP, and President, leading us through important land acquisitions. Also, for your dedicated chronicling of the history of Newton's Parks system for the benefit of future generations, and for your willingness to continue serving as an Advisor. Thank you, Mike!"

Thank you to our generous sponsors.

- **Nahanton Park Paddler/Gold Sponsor:**
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- **Newton Community Farm Harvester/Bronze Sponsors:**
Lalor and Patricia Burdick, Paddle Boston, The Village Bank
- **Crystal Lake Swimmer/Friends Sponsor:**
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- **Newton Small Business Sponsor:**
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Awards Presentations

Environmentalist of the Year Award to Ruthanne Fuller



Beth Wilkinson

Citing her for championing of open space and the environment during her two mayoral terms, board member Beth Wilkinson presented the Environmentalist of the Year award to former Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, observing that it was "an honor and a total delight to confer the honor upon her.

"Your eight years as Mayor began with your commitment to save the ecologically valuable Webster Woods, almost 15 acres that include the Bare Pond vernal pool. Many of us in this room joined in that fight with you, and for some of us, it became an almost all-consuming mission. At the end of 2019, under your leadership, the city acquired the land by

eminent domain, preserving the vernal pool, the habitat for animals, and the land's important connection to other open spaces, which helps preserve the biodiversity of the land.

“In the early 1970s, Newton had 40,000 street trees, which are critical for reducing heat and carbon in the environment and for processing stormwater. By 2017, that number had declined by over 35%, with virtually no new planting. Thanks to you, the Forestry Department budget increased by 35%, and four positions were added. For the first time, there was money for planting, much of which targeted heat islands in the city, and to do some pruning.

“You allocated funding for important improvements at Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake, the Marty Sender Path in Auburndale, and Spears Park in Nonantum, all of which increased the quality of people's outdoor experience at those sites and the environmental status of those open spaces. You started the policy of adding pollinator gardens to all school building projects — and allowed (and encouraged) the pollinator garden at City Hall. I could list more — and go back to provide details about your time as a city councilor, when you (amongst other important projects) helped to launch the Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan — but I will stop here and simply express our strong gratitude for all that you have done.”

Ruthanne Fuller



Ruthanne Fuller

Former Mayor Ruthanne Fuller thanked the Newton Conservators for honoring her work, especially in protecting Webster Woods. She made it clear that the work is not over yet, as the eminent domain legal battle continues. She reminded us that “It takes a village” and singled out city council members and others in the audience for their important work, including, in particular, Jennifer Steel and members of Newton Conservators.

As part of her acceptance speech, she noted, “Katherine mentioned all the amazing things that are done year in, year out, day after day by so many of you as part of Newton Conservators, from pulling invasives to taking care of pollinator gardens to creating field guides. It's amazing, but what strikes me is the long-term perspective that all of you have and that we share, because I think all of us are dedicated to what this city of Newton is to be like 100 to 200 years from now.”

Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Native Fish Coalition

Conservators' board member Alan Nogee presented this award with the following comments.



Left to right: MA NFC board member Jeff Moore, MA NFC Vice Chair Ben Hienze, MA NFC Secretary Jason Reyes, MA NFC Chair Shane Johnson, MA board member Dominic Brown, National Chair Emily Bastian, Executive Director Bob Mallard, Alan Nogee

“I'm honored tonight to present the Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Bob Mallard and Native Fish Coalition for their extraordinary work helping us to discover, understand the importance of, and care for the native fish in our Newton waters.

“A little over a year ago, their Mass board member, Jeff Moore, who grew up next to Cold Spring Park, happened to be walking over the entry bridge when he saw a small school of fish swimming in the brook.

“As far as I know, though it was originally named Smelt Brook, no one had seen or reported a fish in Cold Spring Brook for years. They returned with us and netted two native golden shiners, and later captured and quickly released two American eels, a native fish that had to swim hundreds of miles from the Sargasso Sea and overcome great obstacles to get here.

“NFC went on to painstakingly document temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the brook, take environmental DNA samples, explore its condition, and write a report with recommendations to improve habitat. They went on to hunt fish and document conditions in the Newton Cemetery, City Hall ponds, and Cheesecake Brook. And now they are helping improve habitat for native fish throughout Newton. Tomorrow, Bob will tour the cemetery ponds, and the next day restore fish from Bullough's Pond to the city hall ponds.

“Their national President, Bob Mallard, who also grew up near Crystal Lake, oversees similar work of chapters in 21 states. He is a force of nature, writing lengthy responses to emails in only seconds. I'm only sorry we don't have the capacity to move faster in implementing all his excellent recommendations.”

Directors' Award to Newton Conservators' Trail Guide Committee



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Left to right: Doug Greenfield, Dan Brody and Katherine Howard

This year's Directors' Award was presented to Newton Conservators' Trail Guide Committee, comprised of Dan Brody, Doug Greenfield, and Todd Macalister. The award

recognized its years-long dedicated effort to bring Newton Conservators' popular Trail Guide to its next edition, expanded and with maps produced from the City of Newton Geographic Information System. Introduced by Katherine Howard, Newton Conservators' director Dan Brody took the podium with Doug Greenfield, manager of the city's geographic information system, noting the absence of a critical player in the guide production, Todd Macalister.

Citing Todd's work as co-editor on the project, spending six or seven years applying his encyclopedic knowledge of different works in open space, Dan noted: "This has been a years-long, huge effort to bring our trail guide to its next edition, and we are so incredibly grateful for all your years of hard work and happy that it has now paid off."

Credited as well was Doug Greenfield, manager of the city's geographic information system, for his dedication to the project, and Newton Conservators' board for its support.

Keynote Speaker: Nick Dorian, Ph.D.

The Secret Lives of Native Bees

Nick Dorian is a pollinator ecologist, consultant, and storyteller. He studies the ecology and conservation of insect pollinators. He has developed methods to study wild bees throughout their life cycles and co-authored a popular field guide to PB identification. Nick received his BS and Ph.D. in biology at Tufts University and did his postdoc research fellowship at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As of August, he will be an assistant professor at the City College of New York. As a consultant, Nick brings science-backed insights to improve the conservation outcomes of design projects. He works with landscape architects, urban planners, and



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Nick Dorian, Ph.D.

land managers to envision green spaces that benefit both people and nature, such as the award-winning Somerville pollinator action plan.

In his presentation, Dr. Dorian explained that over 4000 species of wild bees inhabit North America. They come in every size, shape, and color you can imagine, and they live all around us, hiding in plain sight. He introduced 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. He explained why they're important for our environment, showed us

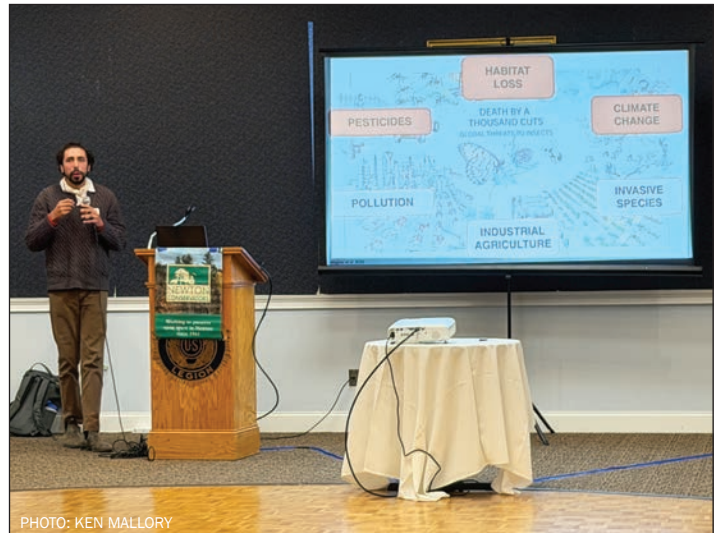


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

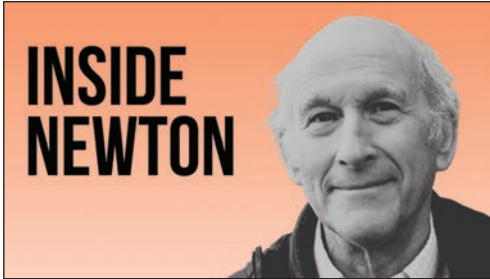
Nick Dorian discussed the several challenges facing the native bee population.

how to notice and appreciate these important pollinators in our community, and how we can support them. His talk was inspiring and fascinating, and the audience seemed energized to improve their habitats to better support these native bees. ♦

🌿 Ken Mallory

Newton's Webster Woods Teaches Us the Value of Forests

By Richard B. Primack, a lifelong resident of Newton and plant ecology professor at Boston University.
He can be reached at: primack@bu.edu



Originally published in the *Newton Beacon*.

of technology encroaching on the landscape: strange equipment attached to tree trunks, wires and tubing snaking through the underbrush.

This high-tech gear is part of the staging for cutting-edge forest ecology research conducted by Boston University scientists. Armed with a \$634,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a team of BU professors, graduate students, undergraduates, and technicians has turned our local woods into a living laboratory.



PHOTO: CORINNE VIETORISZ
Collecting soil samples for analysis back in the lab.

What's the aim of this elaborate research undertaking? The answer lies in the air we breathe and the water we drink.

The university's eight-year-long "Urban New England" project is monitoring air pollution, air temperature, soil temperature and moisture, and several measures of forest health at a time of ongoing development and environmental challenges.

By studying a strip of land stretching from the busy Hammond Pond Parkway to the forest interior, researchers are uncovering how roads and human activities influence the health of trees and soils and their ability to clean our air and water. Webster Woods serves as a crucial puzzle piece in a much larger network of study sites, stretching from Boston to central Massachusetts.

"Our goal is to understand how trees can provide a cleaner and healthier urban environment," explains BU Professor Pamela Templer.

If you've taken a stroll through Newton's Webster Woods or Houghton Garden over the past few years, you might have noticed subtle signs

What they are finding right here in Newton might surprise you.

City trees: Fast-growing pollution fighters

Counterintuitively, this project has shown that trees grow faster in cities and suburbs like Newton — especially at forest edges along busy roads — than in rural areas, despite heavier air pollution in cities from burning fossil fuels.

Much of the air pollution comes from higher vehicle traffic along city roads, such as Hammond Pond Parkway. The higher growth rate of trees is due to the extra nitrogen contained in air pollution and the higher light levels on forest edges.

These fast-growing trees act as environmental filters. Their roots and leaves scrub pollutants from the air and soil, absorb climate-warming carbon dioxide, and prevent some contaminated runoff from reaching our water supplies.



PHOTO: CORINNE VIETORISZ
Measuring the circumference of a tree to determine growth rates.

BU graduate student Emma Daily is documenting this in Webster Woods by examining living leaves.

"There are often so many air-pollution particles on leaves that we think the leaves might have a reduced ability to photosynthesize," she reports. Yet, despite this heavy coating of pollution, these trees in Webster Woods still have high growth rates.

The hidden workforce beneath our feet

Meanwhile, BU graduate student Corinne Vietorisz is extracting DNA from soil samples, revealing a staggeringly diverse and productive microscopic world: roughly 8,000 species of fungi and 20,000 species of bacteria at the study sites.

These microbes break down dead leaves and recycle essential nutrients back into the soil. Certain fungi are surprisingly good predictors of soil nutrient availability — even better predictors than the plant community or soil structure.



PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK

Air temperature monitor on a tree.

“Microbes are the unseen workforce maintaining soil fertility and supporting forest growth,” explains Vietorisz. “Identifying these microbial groups helps us predict how forests will respond to environmental changes like climate warming and urbanization.”

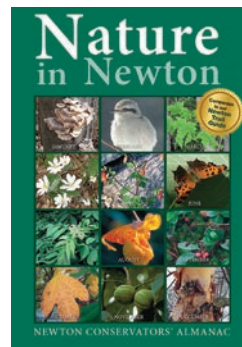
Near the forest edge, there is a noticeable decline in beneficial, root-dwelling fungi, likely due to the drier conditions and human disturbance. In the same forest edge zones, there is also an increase in parasitic and disease-causing fungi and bacteria that can harm trees, animals, and people.

This federally funded BU project underscores the essential need to preserve forests like Webster Woods. They are complex ecosystems filtering our air pollution, protecting our water supply, and providing other vital services we are still learning about. ♦

Summer’s Coming. Enjoy Newton’s Nature!

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.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a free trail guide 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: Katherine Howard, Susan Lyon, Ken Mallory, Alan Nogee, Richard Primack, Zack Shein, and Beth Wilkinson.

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

Invasives Update

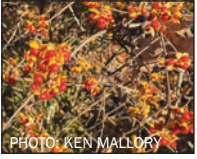


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Oriental bittersweet

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 are detailed in the Events entries 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!



The New *Trail Guide* is here!

To order a copy of our new and improved *Trail 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.

Anyone who joins the Conservators as a new member will receive a free copy of the guide. To join, visit newtonconservators.org/membership/.

Copies are also for sale at local bookstores.

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

HELP WANTED

Involved volunteers make us a strong organization.

Please help us fill our volunteer positions, including Membership Coordinator, which is for age 18+ and requires some relevant experience. Our other volunteer activities — Biodiversity survey, Invasives, CR Monitoring, Outreach and Tabling, Walks assistant — are suitable for all ages. Visit newtonconservators.org/volunteer, or email volunteers@newtonconservators.org. 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 \$ _____ |

NAME _____
 EMAIL _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Memberships run for the calendar year. 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/.

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.



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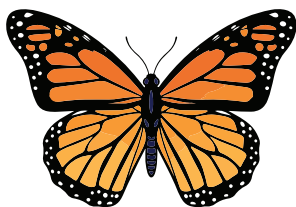
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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Graphic courtesy of vecteezy.com



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Common Yellowthroat Female
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.