



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2026

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The Growing Threat to Summer Fun: And What We Can Do About It

By Andreae Downs, Newton Conservators' board member, former City Councilor from Ward 5 (at large), and Director of the Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA.

Cyanobacteria are everywhere: in the water, and in the soil. They grow on rocks in the Arctic, the desert, and in hot springs. They predate us by at least two billion years.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MASS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Lower basin of the Charles River

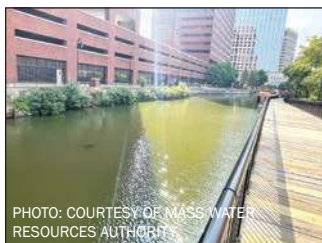


PHOTO: COURTESY OF MASS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

The locks at Fort Point Channel

Cyanobacteria hit the headlines nearly every summer — closed lakes, blooms at the Esplanade — and most recently it turned the renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool green.

They are impressive life forms, and we wouldn't be here without them.

According to Current Biologyⁱ, these bacteria are what originally created our oxygen-rich atmosphere. In fact, they may account for a good percentage of the oxygen we breathe now. They also “discovered” photosynthesis — and all other organisms that photosynthesize use their method. Once called blue-green algae because they photosynthesize, cyanobacteria are no longer considered algae by scientists.

If you take Spirulina or eat something with blue food coloring, you are eating a kind of cyanobacteria. Other kinds may be helpful in



producing organic fuel oils, or as animal food. They can also improve poor soils.

The trouble is in an overabundance of cyanobacteria — or a lack of balance. When fresh water is warm and full of nutrients, the perfect conditions exist for cyanobacteria to proliferate — and since they are everywhere, they do.



They are more than a summer nuisance — some of these cyanobacteria blooms produce liver and neurotoxins; exposure may also be carcinogenic.ⁱⁱ Dogs that swim in affected waters can die of liver failure.

Continued on page 2

...The Growing Threat to Summer Fun: And What We Can Do About It (Continued from Page 1)

The blooms also kill aquatic life — first by blocking sunlight, then by removing dissolved oxygen. And their toxins can travel by air, by as much as two miles.

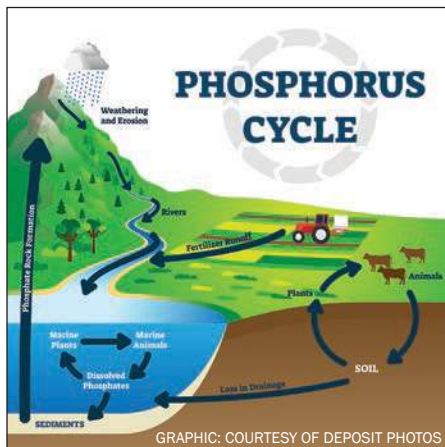
Unfortunately, it's not easy for a layperson to tell if the green scum on the local lake is toxic or not — but cyanobacteria are a vivid green, and blooms can look like spilled paint. They often smell bad, too.

Cyanobacteria are occurring more frequently in New England because of climate change — both the warmer weather and the more intense rains that pick up nutrients from parking lots and lawns as they speed into storm drains and ponds. Blooms don't usually occur in free-flowing rivers, unless they, like the Charles, are mostly still.

It's hard to add turbulence to your local lake, and even harder to cool it when the planet is warming. But we can do something about the nutrients.

Fertilizers provide the nutrients plants need to grow. Most nutrients are naturally abundant. All are needed to form a cyanobacteria bloom. The only one that is rare is phosphorus — so the key to reducing cyanobacteria blooms appears to be reducing the phosphorus that runs into fresh waters.

Not all fertilizers contain phosphorus — it's controlled (somewhat) in Massachusetts, so you should only be buying fertilizer without phosphorus unless you are a professional landscaper. But who checks?



Leaf litter is a good source of phosphorus — and sweeping streets and clearing catch basins is the main thing Newton is doing to contain phosphorus. If leaves are composted or left on garden beds, it's actually the plants that take up the phosphorus, not so much the soil —

another reason to “leave the leaves,” in your garden, not on the pavement.

Phosphorus is the least abundant and most inaccessible of the six nutrients necessary for carbon-based lifeⁱⁱⁱ. Your muscles can't move without it. It is critical for plant growth, and, in fact, ancient civilizations were built on efficient recycling of phosphorus — either effective reuse of sewage and corpses or mining guano off sea islands — these later

became a key acquisition for colonizing empires, including the U.S. (one reason why the US has scattered military bases on islands like Midway and Guam).

While we debate what to do with biosolids (treated wastewater sludge) that may be contaminated with pharmaceuticals, PFAS or plastic, researchers estimate that they could provide half of the country's phosphorus needs for agriculture. If only we could keep the contaminants out...

Corpses are also a good source of phosphorus — particularly the long-dead from ancient environmental collapses now secreted in limestone deposits. These are rapidly being mined out of existence — at a huge cost to local communities and the environment. White Phosphorus, a product of such mining, ignites when exposed to air, and the US military^{iv} uses it on the battlefield for illumination — it also has a side effect of melting any flesh it contacts.

Phosphorus overapplication or wastage is also one reason for growing dead zones in Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Baltic Sea, and other water bodies. Phosphorus is also a nuisance for wastewater treatment plants as it coats the inside of pipes as a hard substance known as “struvite.”



The Environmental Protection Agency has taken a first step to control phosphorus in our water bodies by imposing a stormwater permit on communities like Newton — called an MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system). It's one reason Newton's stormwater fee has doubled

and then doubled again — Newton's system is mostly over 100 years old, and there are leaks and illegal connections to toilet-connected sewers (both old and new).

EPA is also tightening controls on combined sewers — in Newton's area that's just Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and Chelsea. And in the last administration, it started to look at permits for large landowners with acres of buildings or

pavement — car exhaust, it turns out, deposits phosphorus on asphalt, which is washed into local water bodies (large swathes of asphalt also warm the water that swooshes off them).



Floating islands in Boston

And the Charles River Conservancy has launched a “floating wetland” of native plants that provide habitat for cyanobacteria-eating microorganisms — as have some communities in the Midwest.

Finally, each of us can use less fertilizer, particularly the soluble, inorganic kind, clear nearby catch basins of leaf litter, line our home sewer laterals^v (usually clay pipes that convey sewage from buildings to sewer lines), and remove pavement from our properties.

In time, with all these efforts, we can perhaps keep phosphorus where it’s needed — and not in the water. ♦

Editor’s note: Crystal Lake was closed three times this swim season, but only the first was for cyanobacteria. The last two were for high fecal bacteria concentrations, which would not necessarily be visible or smelly.

Author’s notes:

ⁱ Crockford PW, Bar On YM, Ward LM, Milo R, Halevy I (November 2023). “The geologic history of primary productivity”. *Current Biology*. 33 (21): 4741–4750. e5. Bibcode:2023CBio...33E4741C. doi:10.1016/j.cub.2023.09.040. PMID 37827153.

ⁱⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11600067/>

ⁱⁱⁱ I am drawing from a wonderful *London Review of Books* article: ***Where the Power Is***, by James Vincent.

^{iv} Also, Russia and Israel

^v All but the newest sewer laterals are leaky. Rather than digging them up and replacing them, a process called **Trenchless Pipe Lining** uses Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) process. A flexible, resin-saturated tube is pulled through the existing pipe and inflated, essentially creating a brand-new, seamless PVC pipe *inside* the old leaking structure. It cuts construction timelines and costs drastically.

Birding Nahanton Park

By Haynes Miller, 40 year Newton resident, emeritus professor at MIT and long-time birdwatcher, has records of more than 1,350 visits to Nahanton Park.

Nahanton Park has many personalities. For many, it’s known for the soccer field; for others, it hosts a kayak rental; for still others, it’s home to the Newton garden plots. For some of us, it’s famous as the “birdiest” spot in the city. Over the years, some 197 species of birds have been reported from the park on eBird, which lists Nahanton Park as a hotspot. More than 40 species breed in or adjacent to the park, and dozens more visit regularly in fall and spring.

Common breeders in the park include Song Sparrow (often nesting on the ground near garden plot fences), Tree



Map courtesy of Newton Conservators from their new trail guide

Swallow, House Wren, Ruby-throated Hummingbird (common around the garden plots), and, most years, Eastern Bluebird (using the many bird boxes around the garden plots and in Woodcock Meadow). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Red-eyed Vireo nest in the woods. Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, and Northern Yellow Warbler are common in the forest margin (though in the past couple of years Yellow Warblers have been fewer). Pine Warbler breeds in pines near the

Continued on page 4



Song Sparrow



Eastern Bluebird



Great-crested Flycatcher



Blackpoll Warbler

Warbler known to old-timers as Myrtle Warbler, sometimes shows up in substantial flocks in both spring and fall). It's exciting when one of the more unusual species shows up, as they do occasionally in the fall: Yellow-breasted Chat, and Orange-crowned, Mourning, or Connecticut Warbler. Other expected species include Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. All these birds are easiest to see in the forest margins around the garden plots or the soccer field.

Some 15 species of sparrows are regularly reported from the park in the fall. For them, and hence for bird watchers, the main attraction is the pair of garden plot areas. The fenced off plots provide excellent cover for these generally

Jewish Community Center, and Red-winged Blackbird and Warbling Vireo breed along the riverside.

Fall migration kicks off in August with an influx of wood warblers. They peak in September, as the sparrow migration builds up to a climax in October before tapering off in November. Fall birding tends to be more intensely bird-watching than bird-listening, since most species don't bother singing at that time of year.

Overall, some 33 wood warbler species have been reported in the park. Expected migrants — in both fall and spring — include American Redstart (also an occasional breeder), Northern Parula, and Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Nashville, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Palm, Black-throated Green, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (the Yellow-rumped



One of two garden plots in Nahanton Park

ground-loving birds, and the paths between the plots provide us humans excellent opportunities to observe them. Expected sparrow species include Chipping (sometime



Indigo Bunting

quite numerous), White-throated, White-crowned, Savannah, Fox, Field, and Swamp Sparrow, along with Indigo Bunting in its cryptic fall coloring. The beautiful Lincoln's Sparrow is something of a specialty of the



Eastern Towhee

park. Clay-colored Sparrow is annual, and occasionally a Dickcissel or Grasshopper, Vesper, or Lark Sparrow shows up. Sometimes a Pileated Woodpecker visits in November. Some of these species continue through the winter — Song and White-throated especially — and are joined by winter residents such as American Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco, joining resident woodpeckers, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Eastern Towhee is often present at any time of year, along with Red-tailed and occasionally Red-shouldered Hawk. American Robins seek residual fruit on trees in the woods. The Nature Center, just below Woodcock meadow, often stocks its feeder, attracting activity.

Springtime comes early at the park, with one of its most characteristic avian features. American Woodcock uses the field above the Nature Center for its mating display,



Aerial view of Woodcock Meadow, which is maintained by the city to encourage the Woodcock mating displays.



American Woodcock

usually starting in late February. On a still evening, this unique behavior typically commences at 15 minutes after sunset. It's convenient to park in the small lot off of Nahanton Street just east of the main entrance and

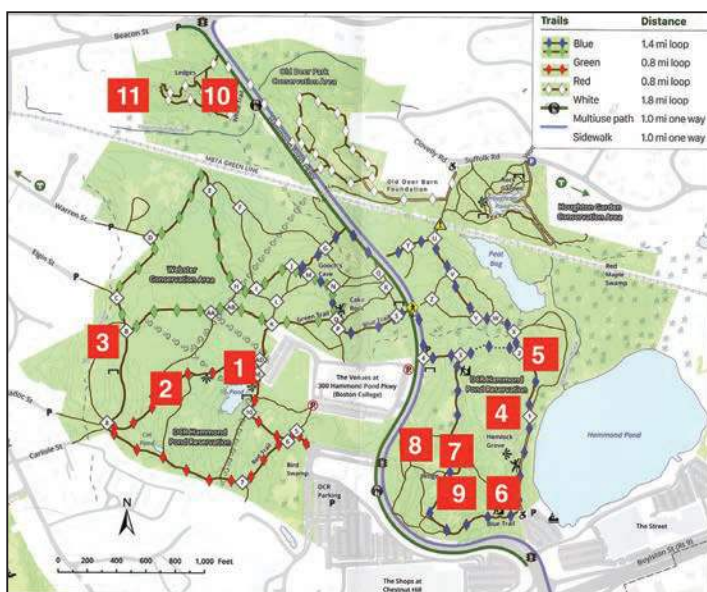
walk through a narrow-forested screen onto “Woodcock Meadow.” The males stand on the ground issuing a sequence of “peent” calls, then fly up in a large loop and return to the same spot. These birds breed in the woods in Nahanton Park, but they are nocturnal and almost never observed over the summer.

As the weather warms, waves of migrants move north, and some birds drop down in Newton to feed and rest on their way to their breeding grounds. Among the early arrivals, look for Blue-headed Vireo and Palm, Pine, and Myrtle Warbler. In addition to the warblers seen in the fall, one can expect Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, and Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warbler. Cape May and Hooded Warbler both seem to be increasing, and again the unexpected sometimes shows up, such as Worm-eating or Prothonotary Warbler, and, recently, Summer Tanager. Thrushes also come through — Hermit and Swainson's Thrush (that one often all the way from Argentina) and Veery, and occasionally the rarer Gray-cheeked Thrush. The peak of the spring migration occurs in the first two weeks of May.

Nahanton Park will always have a surprise for the observant bird watcher — at any time of year! ♦

The Wonderful Rocks of Webster Woods

*By Richard B. Primack, a lifelong Newton native and a Professor of Plant Ecology at Boston University.
He can be reached at primack@bu.edu.*



See the map for the locations indicated by the number in each specific area.

The most striking feature of the Webster Woods is its abundance of rocks, from sheer cliff faces and rocky slopes to isolated boulders and old stone walls. These are mostly puddingstone, a gray conglomerate rock in which pebble- to cobble-sized rounded stones are embedded in a muddy-sandy matrix, but there are also layers of brownish sandstone. This prevalence of rocky features is found nowhere else in Newton so abundantly and is likely why the area has remained undeveloped.

The woods can be a wonderful place to see leaves change into dazzling displays of colors in autumn, marvel at winter's snow-covered branches, and observe wildflowers and the arrival of migratory birds in spring. I would argue, however, that what makes the Webster Woods special are the unique and varied rock formations left behind when the glaciers melted 15,000 years ago.

Continued on page 6

Webster Woods South



Pyramid Rock in the center of Bare Pond (1)

northern edge is the Bare Pond Overlook, a perfect place to sit and enjoy the view. A rock wall, constructed around 200 years ago, cuts through the pond. To the west is an impressive slope of jumbled rocks to explore, though at this site and elsewhere caution must be used to avoid falls. In late winter and early spring, a thin sheet of ice covers one of the rock faces, called Movie Rock. Water droplets seeping between the ice and rock create a unique display of descending bubbles, winking off and on.



Quarry Rock (2): Note the vertical groove.



Salamander Rock (3): Note keys for scale.

Farther west is Quarry Rock (2), which shows the vertical marking of a two-man hand drill used to break out a block of rock. The rock was then hauled away, perhaps to make a threshold. Nearby in the Vale, Salamander Rock (3), an inconspicuous flat rock about two feet across, can be tilted up by a strong adult and usually has salamanders underneath. Great for kids!

(B-K) is Cake Rock (O-P), named by rock climbers for its straight sides and vertical faces. Nearby Gooch's Caves (M), supposedly named for a past local character, is another rocky slope with chambers and hideouts that are fun to explore, including a deep cave that is difficult to find. On the west slope is a massive 8-foot-tall boulder, which amazingly has not rolled off since it was left by the melting glaciers.

Webster Woods North

North of Temple Road

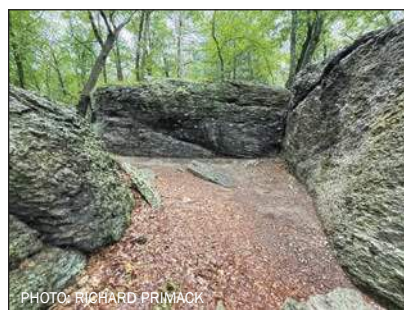
Hammond Pond Woods



Hammond Pond Cliffs (4)



Hanging Rock (5)



The Alcove (6)

of huge rocks and a valley filled with towering hemlock trees, many now dead and dying because of the woolly adelgid infestation.



Hemlock Grove (7) with rockfall

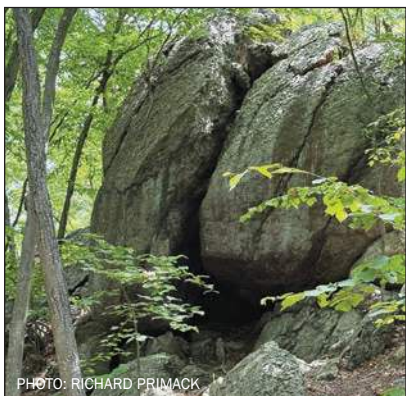
area should not be approached closely as it's still unstable.

Paralleling the shore of Hammond Pond is an elongated ridge, including a tall cliff face that I call the Hammond Pond Cliffs (4). Perhaps 50 feet high and 100 feet long, it's a premier rock-climbing location due to its size and numerous vertical cracks and handholds. On top of the ridge is a lovely rock wall covered with light gray lichens.

Just north from the Cliffs along the ridge is a hanging rock (5), two feet on a side and six feet long, caught at eye-level between two rock faces. At the southern edge of the ridge near the Parkway, a passageway leads to a magical courtyard enclosed on three sides with 15-foot walls, known to climbers as the Alcove (6).

Hemlock Grove

On the back of the ridge is the Hemlock Grove (7), with a slope of huge rocks and a valley filled with towering hemlock trees, many now dead and dying because of the woolly adelgid infestation. Recently, a massive sheet broke off from a rock face, tumbled 30 feet downslope, and broke into four large pieces and many smaller fragments. The newly exposed rock surface is distinctly lighter in color and the



Elephant's Head (8)



Mountain Lion Rock (9)

At the base of the slope is a round moss-covered rock about 4 feet across with an uncanny resemblance to the Incredible Hulk.

On the Parkway side of the slope is the Elephant's Head (8), probably the largest surface rock in the woods at 100 feet across and weighing tens of millions of pounds.

Above the Hemlock Grove is Mountain Lion Rock (9), a huge boulder with a cat-like face. Nearby is a cluster of four large, block-like boulders, with two of them holding up a third



Angled Sandstone at the Ledges (10)

on the west side of the Parkway. With a combination of cliffs and rocky slopes, including alternating sandstone and puddingstone layers, the Ledges have a fantastic mixture of rock forms. The most striking is the Pinnacle,

a 15-foot free-standing column. At one place, the cliff face is broken up into an exposed matrix of right-angled sandstone fragments.

At the top of the cliff, a gap leads to a private alcove overlooking the valley below.

Continuing westward along the trail and turning left at the old fence, an isolated cluster of a dozen massive boulders (11) suggests the toys of a long-vanished giant.

These are some of the most interesting features of the woods, some named by others and some by me. There are far more waiting to be discovered and appreciated by you!

Editor's note: For letter notations as locations on the map, go to the online version of the newsletter.

tetrahedron-shaped one in the air.

The Ledges

The Ledges (10) occur in the northwest section of the woods between Beacon Street and the T tracks, accessed

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.

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: Andreae Downs, Katherine Howard, Susan Lyon, Haynes Miller, Richard Primack, and Beth Wilkinson.

GUIDED WALKS FALL 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, Sept. 12 from 8 - 10:30 am

MORNING BIRDING IN NAHANTON PARK



PHOTO: HAYNES MILLER

Common Yellowthroat

Follow Haynes Miller, an avid birder and long-time Newton resident, as he leads fellow bird enthusiasts through Nahanton Park, one of the best birding spots in Newton with almost 200 reported species. The focus of this morning excursion will be on continuing breeders, such as House Wrens

and Common Yellowthroats, and welcoming fall migrants, especially the warblers — Blackpoll, Palm, Nashville, and many others. Meet at the Community Garden area off the Winchester Street entrance to Nahanton Park. Waterproof shoes and binoculars are recommended. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 13, 8-10:30 am.*

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, Sept. 19 from 12 - 4 pm

4TH ANNUAL NEWTON POLLINATOR TOUR

For sign-up, see <https://newtonconservators.org/events/fourth-annual-newton-pollinator-garden-tour/>. *Rain Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 12-4 pm.*

Sunday, Sept. 27 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm

SEE WHAT'S NEW AT RIVERSIDE PARK!



PHOTO: NEWTON CONSERVATORS

A swan glides along the Charles

Come tour the newly upgraded Riverside Park area and learn about the efforts to connect Newton's walking areas and park lands! Tod Cochran of the Riverside Greenway Working Group will lead interested walkers on a short 1.5-mile loop. Participants should meet at Riverside Park at the end of Charles Street in Auburndale

(the closest address is 107 Charles Street). From there, Tod will bring the group across the Charles on the recently reopened Lasell Boathouse Bridge, continue on the Weston side to the Pony Truss Bridge and Newton's Pony Truss Trail, and then loop back to the Charles Street parking area. Much of the walk is flat and paved, while the Pony Truss Trail is natural and narrow. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Saturday, Oct. 31, 12:30-2:30 pm.*

Trip Leader: Ted Cochran, (questions to Katherine Howard 617-721-2571)

Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 - 12 noon

EXPLORE OAK HILL'S RIVER TRAILS



PHOTO: NEWTON CONSERVATORS

The Charles on an August evening

One of the long walks in the Newton Conservators' new Trail Guide includes the Charles River area in Oak Hill across from Cutler Park, which connects to Brook Farm and Millennium Park. Participants will meet at the end of Saw Mill Brook Parkway in Oak Hill Park (the closest address is 781 Saw Mill Brook Parkway).

We will explore the river trails (and enjoy the gorgeous views), continue to the historic Brook Farm conservation area and Millennium Park, and return the same way to the walk starting point. Total distance is about four miles; the trails are natural and mostly flat. A steady rain will cancel the walk.

Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 am-12 noon.

Trip Leaders: Katharina Elbert, Conservators' board member, and Katherine Howard, Conservators' president (617-721-2571)

Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 - 11 am

ENJOY THE FALL FOLIAGE AND HISTORY OF HOUGHTON GARDEN

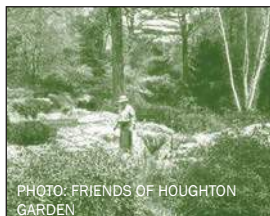


PHOTO: FRIENDS OF HOUGHTON GARDEN

Martha Houghton in her garden

Created in 1906 by Martha and Clement Houghton on what was then 26 acres, Newton's Houghton Garden was designed to take advantage of the natural contours of the landscape, including a rock garden that is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is archived at the Smithsonian.

Explore the past and the present of this woodland oasis with Michele Hanss of the Friends of Houghton Garden, a long-time park advocate and, most recently, one of the founders of Mass Parks for All, a state-wide advocacy group for open space.

Sturdy shoes and appropriate weather gear are recommended. Tour participants should meet at the Garden kiosk on 210 Suffolk Road in Chestnut Hill. The tour will go on rain or shine.

Trip Leader: Michele Hanss

Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 - 12:30 pm

FABULOUS FALL FLORA AT EDMANDS PARK



PHOTO: JEFF ADAMS
Jeff Adams leading a walk

Join naturalist Jeff Adams for a guided walk at Edmands Park to learn how to identify the plants that shape our local ecosystem and inform our natural history. From wildflowers and towering trees to shrubs tucked along the trails, you'll discover the clues nature provides — from branching patterns and leaves to flowers, fruits, galls, and other distinctive features. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced nature enthusiast, you'll leave with practical plant identification skills and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Jeff is an avid outdoor enthusiast who has led plant ID walks for the Town of Lincoln, Friends of the Fells, and several other organizations. **This walk is limited to 16 people.** Terrain can be uneven and may include a steep ascent of the park's eskers. Registered participants should meet at the Blake Street entrance to the park. Parking is available along the street. *Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 am-12:30 pm.*

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

Sunday, Oct. 11 from 8 - 10:30 am

FALL BIRDING AT NAHANTON PARK



PHOTO: HAYNES MILLER
Lincoln's Sparrow

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands and meadows along the Charles River, as well as the Newton City garden plots, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton with almost 200 reported species. Join longtime birder Haynes Miller to look for late fall migrants such as Field, Savannah, Lincoln's, and

Swamp Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, and Nashville, Blackpoll, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Meet at the lot accessed by the Winchester Street entrance to Nahanton Park. Waterproof shoes and binoculars are recommended. *A steady rain will cancel the walk.*

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 - 12 noon

NOTICING NATURE AND POETRY

Join Barbara Bates, a Newton Conservators' director and retired Mass Audubon teacher/naturalist, for an easy ramble around Cutler Park's Kendrick Pond with its waterfowl and fall foliage. We will be stopping often to simply "notice" the poetic as well



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES
Fall color in Cutler Park

as the scientific and historical sides of nature around the pond. Bring your favorite short nature poem to share as well as a pad and pencil to document what you notice for use in a poem you might like to write.

The wide trail is a 1.6-mile loop and is predominantly flat with frequent rocks and roots. Registration is required to receive instructions regarding where to meet. **The walk is limited to 20 people.** *Rain Date: Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 am-12 noon.*

Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

Sunday, Oct. 25 from 2 - 3:30 pm

WHAT ARE THOSE KNOBBY ROCKS?



PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK
"Mountain Lion" Rock

Join Richard Primack, professor of plant ecology at Boston University, to learn about the notable rocks and geological features of Webster Woods, including the Cliffs, the Alcove, "Mountain Lion" Rock, hanging rocks, and the recent enormous rockfall. People should meet at the kiosk at the parking lot

next to Hammond Pond, where there is a path into the woods. Long pants and good footwear suggested. Terrain is steep in places. *Rain Date: Sunday, Nov. 1, 2 - 3:30 pm.*

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

Sunday, Nov. 8 from 10 - 12 noon

LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE TREES AND OTHER PLANTS AT COLD SPRING



PHOTO: ALAN NOGEE
Amur cork tree in Cold Spring Park

Rusty on what a non-native plant is? Curious about the plants you walk by when you stroll in the woods? Come to a guided walk in Cold Spring Park where Zach Shein, a naturalist and consultant, will point out and discuss key non-native plants and their effect on our ecosystem. Zach will also explain and provide an update on the Amur Cork Tree

removal project currently underway in the park. The terrain is generally flat with a few gentle slopes, and the footing is either compacted stones or the forest floor. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10-12 noon.*

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



Sixth Annual Newton Monarch Festival

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9-11:30 am (Rain date, Sept. 20)
Wellington Park, Kilburn Road, West Newton

Info and Registration: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/6th-annual-newton-monarch-festival/>

Enjoy Nature... with webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our fall webinar series online from September through December

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 visiting the event listing at newtonconservators.org. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



South Meadow Brook

Thursday, September 17 ... Exploring and Photographing Newton's Brooks and Streams

Newton has over 14 miles of streams and brooks, including those that flow freely in the daylight and those that are confined underground. Since 2019, city resident Alex Griswold has been walking Newton's streams to find and photograph them — from their sources to where they arrive at the Charles River and everything in between. Tracing the streams through parks and conservation areas, backyards, and parking lots, the photographs reveal hidden glens and secret waterfalls, remarkable stonemasonry, and the astonishing resilience of nature. Join us to see a selection from this photographic project and learn more about the history and surprising beauty of Newton's streams.

Alex Griswold is a multimedia producer specializing in science documentaries and interactive museum exhibits. His photographs of Newton's streams have been exhibited at Newton Free Library, Newton City Hall, Harvard University, and New Art Center.

Sign up: <https://shorturl.at/v6BYE>



Thursday, November 12 ... How to Love a Mushroom

Maria Pinto is a Boston-area naturalist, educator, and author of fiction and nonfiction. She leads regular fungal forays at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum and has given lectures and led workshops for mycological clubs and environmental organizations around the country. Her writing has appeared in *Science*, *Orion*, *Necessary Fiction*, and *Obsidian*, among other publications. Her book of lyric essays inspired by fungi, *Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless: What Fungi Taught Me about Nourishment, Poison, Ecology, Hidden Histories, Zombies, and Black Survival* was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, is a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award, and was the recipient of the Don Kessel Prize for Nonfiction.

Sign up: <https://shorturl.at/IRsH8>

More information about a December 10 webinar on stormwater management in Newton will be available soon.

To learn about the webinars when they become available, join our email list (<https://newtonconservators.org/follow-us/>), or monitor the Events listing on our website (<https://newtonconservators.org/follow-us/>).

Invasives Update



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Oriental bittersweet

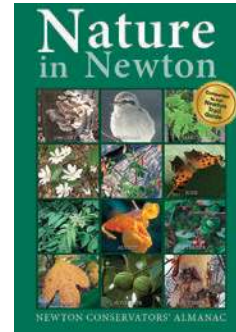
Newton Conservators' Invasives Team conducts invasive plant removal sessions year-round, in many of Newton's parks and conservation areas. The City of Newton and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation support us administratively and with debris removal.

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!

Fall's Here. Enjoy the Beautiful Outdoors!

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.



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 — conducting Biodiversity surveys, pulling invasive plants, monitoring conservation restrictions, performing outreach, and assisting with guided walks — 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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ \$250 Directors' Circle | ☐ \$50 Family Membership |
| ☐ \$125 Patron | ☐ \$35 Individual Membership |
| ☐ \$100 Donor | ☐ \$15 Student Membership |
| ☐ \$75 Sustaining Member | ☐ 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.





NEWTON CONSERVATORS, INC.
P.O. Box 590011
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NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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Graphic courtesy of vecteezy.com



IN THE FALL ISSUE:

The Growing Threat to Summer Fun: And What We Can Do About It.	1
Birding Nahanton Park	3
The Wonderful Rocks of Webster Woods	5
Guided Walks Fall 2026	8
Webinars	10
Invasives Update.	11
Help Wanted	11



Great-crested Flycatcher
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.