

NEWTON CONSERVATORS FALL WALKS SERIES 2008

All walks will meet at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Some walks are weather dependent; please call the trip leader if in doubt.

October 5 (Sunday)

Nahanton Park Early Morning Migratory Bird Walk (7:30-9:00am).

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands and meadows along the Charles River, making it a good place to observe a variety of migratory songbirds, as well as resident species.

Enter park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. The walk is weather dependent. Call if in doubt. Trip Leader is Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222).

October 12 (Sunday)

Kennard Park

This is a walk along the trails of the Kennard properties, where a 32 acre post-agricultural forest has grown up on 19th century farmland that became an early 20th century gentleman's estate, and finally a Newton park, adjacent to Brookline's 58-acre Lost Pond properties. Explore South Meadow brook, the mixed conifer woodland with colonial stonewalls, a red maple swamp with century old trees, and throughout, a wide variety of trees, shrubs and ferns.

Meet at the main entrance on Dudley Road at 2:00 pm. Trip Leader is Larry Burdick (617-584 4633).

October 19 (Sunday)

Ferns near Hammond Pond (Noon to 2:30 pm)

The Webster and Cohen Conservation areas, together with the MDC reservation, form a large wooded expanse that stretches from the shopping malls of Route 9 almost to Newton Centre. They extend on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway and are home to at least 20 kinds of ferns and related plants. We will visit the southeast corner near the large Hammond Pond, and try to find about a dozen types of ferns. So late in the season some of them may not be looking their best, but a few are evergreens and will stand out more clearly as the other plants fade in the fall. Wear long pants to protect against poison ivy, but bugs should not be a problem so late.

Meet at the trail entrance from the small parking lot at the southwest corner of Hammond Pond, between General Cinemas and the Hammond Pond Parkway at noon. Trip Leader is Don Lubin (617-254-8464).

October 26 (Sunday)
Newton Cemetery Tree Walk

The Newton Tree Conservancy is a new conservation organization, a private non-profit dedicated to provide better stewardship for Newton's urban forest and funds for tree plantings. (See articles in Fall, 2008 issue of the Newton Conservators' newsletter.) Its kickoff event is at City Hall, 12 to 5 pm. Part of the event is a guided tree walk through Newton Cemetery, home of large, century-old specimen trees. There will also be tree plantings and children's activities.

Find details at www.newtontreeconservancy.org.

October 26 (Sunday)
Oakdale Woods

The Oakdale Woods are typical of the many small open space parcels in the southern part of the city that were developed after World War Two. This small space has been used by neighborhood children (including the tour guide), for winter sledding, acorn fights and informal camping for many generations and was left undeveloped due to its geological features, including a substantial deposit of Roxbury Puddingstone and glacial boulders, as well as a steep cliff running the length of the woods. Old maps going back to at least 1917 show a paper street continuing Oakdale Road through the woods, but for a combination of factors, the road was never built, and the land never developed.

While walking through the woods, using old maps, Peter Kastner will talk about the development of the surrounding area and the specific geological formations that made the woods hard to develop and now make a wonderful, small conservation area.

Meet at Oakdale Woods' entrance (near old bottling shed) at the eastern end of Oakdale Street at 2:00 pm. Parking is available at the entrance. Trip leader is Peter Kastner (617-244-6094).

November 9 (Sunday)
Newton Aqueducts Hike

This is a popular 4-6 mile hike through woods, meadows and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. Parts of the paths traverse close to backyards, so hikers do need to be respectful of private property. This is a steady, but not fast, hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. See the loop map. (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike).

Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station at 2:00 pm. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

November 23 (Sunday)

Cutler/Millennium Park Hike

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park and Millennium Park and will complete the tour by way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved for recreation over the last several years and now provide a wide variety of trails, river landings and playing fields. This approximately 5.5 mile hike will be steady but not fast, and participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group. Hiking boots or heavy all weather shoes are recommended.

Meet at the Cutler Park entrance, a quarter mile south of the Charles River Bridge on Kendrick Street in Needham, at 2:00 pm. Trip leader is Henry Finch (617-964-4488).