

*Working to preserve open space in Newton for 47
years!*

The Newton Conservators **e-Newsletter**

May 7, 2008

www.newtonconservators.org

Newton Conservators e-Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of our sporadic e-Newsletter, whose purpose is to provide some timely updates on open space and nature related news in Newton. It's the Merry Month of May! Birds are singing, the weather has been relatively pleasant and thoughts of summer vacation are even starting to creep into our consciousness. There is much to enjoy outdoors this spring out and about in Newton. Check out our free Newton Conservators **Spring Walk Schedule** (including some biking and boating too!). This coming weekend, make sure you check out the **Vernal Pool Day** on Saturday, and the **Annual Mother's Day Bird Walk** on Sunday. Those interested in plants should check out Newton Pride's Annual Garden Market and take in some interesting educational sessions as well (with talks by some Conservators board members). This issue contains lots of info so make sure to check it out.

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Newton Conservators Spring 2008 Walk Series

Each Spring and Fall, the Newton Conservators organize a series of walks to local open space areas. These walks are led by knowledgeable leaders and are free and open to the public. They normally last for an hour or two. Some events are for bicycle or canoe. These walks are a great way to get to know open space areas in Newton. Below is the current walk schedule for Spring 2008. The current walk schedule can be found online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm>.

Two events in our walk schedule are cosponsored with other organizations – the popular Vernal Pool Day this coming Saturday, May 10 (with Newton Angino Community Farm) and the BikeNewton Rally at City Hall on Sunday, May 18th (with the Green Decade Coalition).

Saturday, May 10, 2008, 10 am – 4 pm **Vernal Pool Day**

Join Newton Community Farm and the Newton Conservators as we celebrate Spring and Newton's vernal pools. Vernal pools are incredibly diverse ecosystems, supporting a wide array of amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. Join us as we explore vernal pool life, and discuss conservation issues facing Newton Vernal Pools.

10:00 am - Noon -- Vernal Pool Walk. Meet at west end of Saw Mill Brook Parkway, at trailhead to Charles River Path. We will visit several vernal pools (different than last year) Flat terrain, fairly easy walk. Adults & children welcome.

Noon – 1 pm -- Take a break, or picnic at the Newton Angino Community Farm (please bring your own picnic).

1 pm – 4 pm -- Vernal Pool Extravaganza back at Newton Angino Community Farm (303 Nahanton Street, located at the corner of Winchester & Nahanton). Come and see vernal pool critters under the

microscope, learn to identify frog & toad calls by ear, participate in a frog calling contest (imitate a frog and win a prize), check out the turtle display, see maps of Newton's vernal pools, and more! Adults & children are welcome.



This event will be canceled by heavy rain - to receive cancellation notice, or for additional information, contact Jon Regosin at berkowitz.regosin@verizon.net. Check out more details on this event at Jon's Natural Newton blog site at <http://naturalnewton.blogspot.com/2008/04/vernal-pool-day.html>

Saturday, May 10, 2008, 9 am – 4 pm
Newton Garden Market - City Hall Lawn

Newton Pride is having their annual **Newton Garden Market** on the Lawn at City Hall with a theme of "Experience the Joy of Gardening". Shop thousands of plants, enjoy talks by local experts, ask a master gardener, and buy fun garden gear. The event is held rain or shine and info is at www.newtonpride.org. There will be thousands of plants to choose from for sunny, shady, woodland, wetland, formal, cottage, container, or basket! Here's a schedule of lectures at the event featuring our own board member Sue Avery, president elect Beth Schroeder, and Angino Farmer Greg Maslowe.

10 am, Sue Avery, Invasive Plants

11 am, Beth Schroeder, Native Plants for Suburban Gardens

12 pm, Richard Abrams, Pruning for Beginners and Experienced

1 pm, Greg Maslowe, Organic Gardening

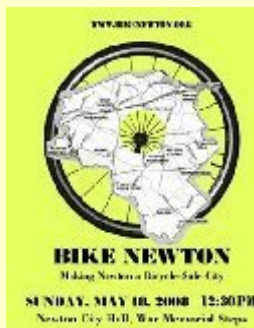
2 pm, Tom Strangfeld, Ten Best Ways to Assure Plant Success

The planning committee is also seeking volunteers for this event in plant sales, information and raffle tables, and other areas. To volunteer, please contact Margaret Ford at mford@greendecade.org or 617-964-0606.

Sunday, May 11, 2008, 7:30 am
Mothers Day Bird Walk

The mix of woodlands, wetlands and meadows along the Charles River make Nahanton Park a wonderful place for catching spring bird migration. Wood warblers should be abundant and those who would like to learn some "birding by ear" will not be disappointed. Enter the park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river and meet at the Nature Center. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them - beginners as well as established enthusiasts are welcome! The walk is weather dependent – call if in doubt. The trip leader is Ted Kuklinski (617-969-6222, dolanpond@aol.com) a long time birder with the Newton Conservators.

Sunday, May 18, 2008, 12:30 – 2:15 PM **BikeNewton Rally and Ride**



Imagine Newton with safe and convenient routes for bicyclists! With bike lanes, bike route signs, "Share the Road" signs, smooth shoulders and more. Imagine Newton if we could safely bike to do errands, bike to the T, and if kids could bike to school, sports, and friends' homes. Imagine many more people biking just for fun.

On paper, Newton's roads look friendly to bikes: the new Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Section and the Newton Energy Plan are pro-bike, the state provides incentives for bikeways (Paulsen Bill), and a realistic City of Newton Bicycle Accommodation & Integration Plan was drafted in 2004. We need your help to turn talk into action! Join us on Sunday, May 18 for a rally and ride to support making Newton a truly bicycle-friendly city! And take a look at our Goals.

Some facts:

- Transportation's share of greenhouse gas emissions in Newton...30%*
- How much more polluting short car trips are than long car trips...300%*
- Miles of streets in Newton...310*
- Miles of streets in Newton marked as bike routes...0*
- Percentage of Newton children who walk or bike to school...13%*
- Number of cars in Newton (pop. 83,000)...77,000*

Get full information and pre-register (encouraged) at www.bikewebton.org. Onsite registration is at 12:30 PM with free bike safety checks, bike displays and demonstrations, healthy snacks and water, and raffles of bike equipment and services.

A Bike Rally is scheduled for 1 pm with Dr. Anne Lusk of the Harvard School of Public Health and some other special guests! The 2.5 mile Friends and Family Ride starts at 1:30 PM and loops back to City Hall. Each participant must have a bicycle in good working condition and be wearing a helmet. This event is cosponsored with the Green Decade Coalition. The event organizer is Lois Levin (617-527-1237, loislevin@comcast.net).

Check out the other great events the same weekend in Newton and nearby:

Newton Open Studios – Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18, Noon-6 pm

200 artists & craftspeople invite you to locations all across Newton. Browse and shop. Meet the artists, find exciting paintings, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, photography, watercolors, and more. Info at <http://www.newtonopenstudios.ycom/>

Newton Historical Society's Open House Tour - Sunday, May 18, Noon-5 pm

This 26th annual self-guided House Tour takes you inside eight historic Newton homes spotlighting the work of local architects, contractors, and designers. Info at <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/>.

In nearby Waltham, the “Cornelia Warren Wildflower Walk”, Sunday, May 18, 1-3 pm

will take place at the height of the spring wildflower season, when the woods and fields of Cedar Hill (Waltham) will be ablaze with trillium and other wildflowers. Following the walk, there will be a small picnic with cucumber sandwiches and fruit tea and live music. Free and open to the public. Straw hats optional! Reservations requested so that there will be sufficient food for all attendees. Call (781) 893-3355 or visit <http://walthamlandtrust.org/calendar-events/a-wildflower-walk-with-cornelia-warren/>

Sunday, May 25, 2008 , 2 pm Riverside Park

Visit the little used Riverside Park that holds wonderful views and access to the Charles River as well as hidden wooded areas. Even few Auburndale residents know this area and this walk is a rare opportunity to learn about this development-ringed open space. The Riverside Park area was the home of Norumbega Park and the north-south rail loop. Due to its proximity to mass transit this area has been threatened by development. Trip leader, Bob Persons (rpersons@rcn.com), has had a long-term interest in making this open space area more accessible to the public. We will meet at the parking lot of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's building at 107 Charles Street, Auburndale.

Sunday, June 1, 2008, 2 PM Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueduct Hike

Henry Finch will be leading a hike of between 4 and 6 miles through parts of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts that go through Newton. This is a steady (not fast) hike which has grown in popularity over time, and serves as a way to introduce new and old residents of Newton to this wonderful resource. As with the Aqueduct biking tour, you will pass by paths, pinewoods, meadows and hills. Parts of the paths traverse close to backyards and hikers need be respectful of homeowner privacy. Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA Station. See the loop map: <http://www.usatf.org/routes/view.asp?rID=26084> (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). For more info call Henry Finch (617-964-4488).

June 8, 2008
To Be Announced

Check <http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm> for updates on what we might be adding for this weekend.

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 2 PM
Cutler Park/ Millennium Park Hike

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park, Millennium Park and complete the tour by way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved over the past several years and now provide a wide variety of trails, river landings and playing fields. This is a long walk (5.5 miles, 2.5 hours) and the leader has advised that the pace will be steady (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. Henry Finch (617-964-4488), Newton Conservators board member, will lead the hike.

Sunday, June 22, 2008, 2 PM
Charles River Lakes District

Come on a walking tour of the Charles River Lakes District where we will visit Ware's Cove, the Waltham Watch Factory Building, Mount Feake Cemetery, Brandeis University, the Duck Feeding Area, the Charles River Canoe Service, Norumbega Park, and Lyons Field. Meet at the parking lot for Auburndale Park ("The Cove") off of West Pine Street. The walk will last about 2 ½-3 hours. Wear comfortable walking shoes. This is a long loop so call ahead in case of poor weather. The leader is Peter Kastner, (617-244-6094).

Sunday, June 29, 2008, 2PM
Lakes District Canoe Trip on the Charles

This trip is a leisurely paddle that explores the Charles River Lakes District. Starting at Charles River Canoe & Kayak Service, off Commonwealth Avenue, you will pass along the MDC duck feeding area and park land and go through the narrow channel at Norumbega Park. The trip continues to the Lakes district, including Fox Island, the views of the Islington Peninsula and Mount Feake Cemetery and views of the Waltham Watch Factory. This lake is well populated with ducks, geese, great blue herons and the occasional hawk. You will also look at the small creatures that inhabit the waters, using portable field microscopes. Bring binoculars and a lunch or snack for a stop along the river. If you would like to join the trip, need a canoe or could loan a canoe, call the trip leader William Hagar (617-964-2644). Canoes and kayaks are available to rent at the Charles River Canoe & Kayak (2401 Commonwealth Ave). Park across the river at the Duck Feeding Area.

Wednesday, May 28
Newton Conservators 47th Annual Meeting and Dinner

Join us for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Newton Conservators on Wednesday, May 28. This year it will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church, 76 Eldredge Street, Newton Corner MA 02458. Directions to the location can be found at <http://www.gracenewton.org/directions.html>. If you did not get an invite in the mail see details for the event on <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2008invite.htm>. There will be a social gathering at 6:15 pm, dinner at 7 pm and the program at 8 pm. During the social gathering, you can peruse various exhibits on Conservator grant and related projects. The formal part of the evening consists of a short business meeting, election of officers and directors. There will be awards for Environmentalist of the Year (76 Webster Park Team), Charles Johnson Maynard Award (Eddy Street/Cheesecake Brook CDBG Citizen Group), and Directors Awards (Marc Welch and Anne Pearson).

Our guest speaker this year is **Professor Jeffrey Dukes** of the University of Massachusetts, Boston with a talk entitled “**Global Warming: Future New England Flora?**”. Jeffrey Dukes and his research team have built experimental greenhouses in Waltham that will be used to predict vegetation growth in an unsettled warming future. The facilities are built on an old farm at 240 Beaver Street. The Boston Area Climate Experiment (BACE) features different temperatures and different rainfalls regimes that will affect plant growth and survival in the possible warming conditions of the future. If global warming continues as predicted, these facilities will help scientist predict the future flora of the area. BACE is supported by several grants including one from the National Science Foundation. More information can be found at the BACE website.

Tickets are \$25 each and reservations before May 23 are requested (checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc). Please reply by May 23, 2008 to: Dorothy Hagar, 248 Winchester Street, Newton

Highlands, MA 02461, Telephone (617) 964-2644. Please specify if you prefer a vegetarian entrée.

Newton's First Annual Invasive Species Clean-Up – Join Us!

Newton North senior Leah Wang is working with Green Decade member and ecology professor Eric Olson to carry out a Senior Year Project on invasive plants. This May, she will be leading plant pull days at both Dolan Pond in West Newton and at Hammond Pond Reservation in Chestnut Hill. The focus is on noxious garlic mustard and Japanese Knotweed. It has been quite an effort to get permission to work in these conservation areas, but Leah is now working closely with the City Planning department to ensure proper methods are used. Now that she has some big sites to tackle, she needs your help! Several weekends in May starting May 10th are possible, and you don't have to devote the entire day. Contact Leah Wang at leah924wang@gmail.com if you are interested, with your availability and group size. Leah will reply with details of times, dates, and locations with directions.

Monday May 19, 7 pm

Green Decade's Environmental Speaker Series:

"Making Materials Matter", Ken Geiser, U Mass Lowell

Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton Centre

Professor Ken Geiser, Director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, will talk about the importance of focusing on materials — materials science, resource conservation, hazardous chemicals, green chemistry and toxics use reduction — as a way to advance sustainable forms of production and consumption. Topics will include new directions in chemical and materials policy in Europe, Canada and China and present examples of communities and corporations that are working to implement more effective chemicals policies. Local examples are The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Program and the proposed Safer Alternatives Bill. Free and co-sponsored by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton and the Newton Free Library. For more information about the series, call 617-965-1995 or see the Green Decade website.

Monday June 9, 7:00 pm

Green Decade's Anniversary Gala

New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville

Join Green Decade for their festive evening at the New Art Center, site of the Green Decade's 15th Anniversary Gala in 2006! All Green Decade members -- new, old and lapsed -- are invited to enjoy desserts, refreshments, and the program, including the Annual Environmental Leadership award to an

individual, a group and a business. This year's program also features speakers, discussion groups and a multi-media celebration of the Green Decade's activities, people and influence in the Newton community for nearly 20 years! To join our planning committee or to volunteer to bring dessert, fruit, cheese or other treats, contact Marcia Cooper at marciac@aol.com or 617-964-8567.

Newton Angino Community Farm News



Keep up to date on our local community farm at <http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/>. Here's a small sampling of some of the farm events.

Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31 - Barn Spring Cleaning Work Days

On Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31, we will need volunteers to clean out the barn to get ready for the barn renovation. Please show up any time between 8:30 and 5 pm either (or both) days. Wear sturdy clothing, bring work gloves, and rain gear if necessary (we will work rain or shine). Our plan for the two days is to clean the barn, the farmhouse basement, and the grounds, of the remaining stuff that accumulated over the years but has no use to us. We will have a dumpster in the driveway to take it all away after the weekend. Any questions, please call Peter Barrer 617-630-0923 or Greg at the farm (617-916-9655).

Farm Fun - Saturday, June 7

Please join us for an afternoon of fun at the farm as we kick off our 2008 season. We will open our on-site Farm Stand, lead tours of the Farm, have activities for kids, and give you the opportunity to socialize with other interesting people in this community. Our website will have more information soon!

Honey...coming soon

Honey bees will be a new addition to the farm this spring. We hope to install four hives of Italian honeybees in the next few weeks. Italian honey bees are very gentle and are good honey producers! Honeybees are an integral part of our eco-system, providing the prime method for pollination on the planet and have a very intricate and interesting colony structure. The colony generally consists of a Queen bee, her attendants and workers (all women), and a smaller number of male bees used for mating purposes. The honeybee is a gentle bee and, unlike wasps and hornets, will not sting you unless you threaten them or the hive. They are not very interested in humans and are mainly focused on flowers and pollination; when you see a flying insect next to your hamburger or drink, don't blame the honey bee! Besides honey, honeybees also provide us with royal jelly, beeswax, and propolis. Increasingly, problems from pollution and global warming, and the effect they are having on some of the important building blocks of our ecology like the honeybee, have been in the news. We are hoping to do our part in combating these ill effects with our hives...and get some sweet rewards in return!

Farm Wish List

If you can help us with any of the following, please contact Greg Maslowe at 617/916-9655 or newtoncommunityfarm@comcast.net.

- Gloves (preferably leather or with leather palms) in good condition
- Rain gear--both jackets and pants
- Shovels
- Wheel barrows in good condition
- 3/4 ton or 1 ton pick up truck--long bed
- Volunteers who can help with PR, graphic design, and fundraising

Crops for 2008

Here are some of the crops you might expect at the Farm this growing season:

Arugula	Chard	Mizuna	Radishes, daikon
Asian greens	Cilantro	Mustard	Scallions
Basil	Collards/Senposai	Onions	Spinach
Beans, bush	Cucumbers	Pac Choi	Squash, Summer
Beets, roots	Dill	Parsley	Squash, Winter
Broccoli	Eggplant	Peas	Turnips
Cabbage	Garlic	Peppers, Bell	Tomatoes, Slicing

Cabbage, Napa
Cantaloupe
Carrots
Cauliflower

Greens
Herbs, Miscellaneous
Kale
Leeks
Lettuce

Peppers, Hot
Peppers, Sweet
Potatoes
Radishes

Tomatoes, Heirloom
Tomatoes, Paste
Tomatoes, Cherry
Watermelon

Newton KIDservators Corner:
Environmental Articles by the younger generation
Vermicomposting! A new way to recycle

by Jared Freedman

Don't make trash. COMPOST!!! Vermicomposting is a method of composting that uses red wiggler earthworms to compost faster than conventional composting. Red wiggler (*eisena fetida*) worms are used because they reproduce faster than regular worms and they reproduce somewhat quickly (in about 3 months).

A vermicomposting class run by Barbara Herson, part time recycling coordinator for the city of Newton, took place on October the 21st at the Newton Angino Community Farm. The Newton Angino Community Farm is a farm on 303 Nahanton Street. "...We are setting up classes to help the city of Newton" says Herson.

Using earthworms to decompose the matter faster, vermicomposting is almost the same as outdoor composting except it is small enough to fit in one's kitchen. Other animals that compost naturally are other worms, fungi, beetles, flies, and centipedes. Some items one shouldn't put in compost are meat, dairy, fats, oil, or cooked foods with sauces.

Nature has been composting and vermicomposting for thousands of years using various decomposers to break down the plants and other organic material. Newton has been composting and recycling for about 20 years at the Rumford Avenue Resource Recovery Center.

The city of Newton spends \$6 million to pick up the trash and ship it to be burned. Burning trash does not completely get rid of it. It leaves behind dioxins, a group of highly toxic chemicals, which settles on crops and waterways and eventually ends up in our food. Composting is a way to reduce trash and help plants. "It's like a natural composting," says Herson.

Composting is a great way to reduce trash, and less trash equals less pollution. It also saves resources and helps plants flourish.

Composting not only helps the environment, it also helps the plants one uses it on. Composting is a

great alternative to chemicals because it is organic. Composting saves time and money because one doesn't have to go to a store to buy special soil or fertilizer. Composting also enriches the soil, which reduces erosion in the soil and adds the nutrients plants need to the soil. Compost can also suppress plant diseases and pests. Compost is a great way to reduce the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

To vermicompost, one would need to start by grinding dry leaves into a box and hosing them down. Then one can add dirt for the worms. After that, one would add 10-40 worms (preferably red wigglers). One should try to keep a worm to garbage ratio at about one 2 pounds of worms for every 1 pound of trash. Once one pokes holes in the box, one is ready to add fruits and vegetables. One needs to keep the worm bin in mild temperature (50°-80°F).

It is important to get to know what one's worms like and what they don't like. A good place to get worms is from Flowerfield enterprises in Kalamazoo Michigan (http://www.wormwoman.com/acatalog/Wormwoman_catalog_Redworms__Eisenia_fetida__43.html).

The Newton Angino Community Farm is a community farm on 303 Nahanton Street. The president of the farm is Rebekah Smillie and the farm manager is Greg Rubin. The farm's goal is to teach sustainable agriculture and environmental practices while modeling it on the farm.

Some Notes from the Mayor's Recent Budget Address

Mayor Cohen recently addressed the Board of Aldermen on the city budget - see the text at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x1929887649/Text-of-Mayor-David-Cohens-budget-address-to-Board-of-Aldermen> . Here are some excerpts related to the Conservators interests.

Another expenditure we're planning is \$50,000 to restore, repair and replenish City trees. Our street trees are multi-million dollar assets that beautify our community and now require our care and maintenance.

We will also dedicate \$50,000 to the Parks & Recreation Department to help aid our park maintenance program. In recent years we have asked Commissioner Towle to endure cuts to 11 maintenance workers and to lessen the frequency of grass cuts from our turf maintenance program. Today the budget cuts of the past are taking their toll on our fields, and it shows. Now is the time to tend to our fields and open spaces that are enjoyed by thousands of Newton residents, youth groups, and students.

Short Notes

Newton recently lost two of its greatest contributors – **Thelma Fleishman**, historian extraordinaire for Newton and who wrote about our historic burying grounds, and **Leo Levi**, the man of a thousand trees who helped so much in greening Newton (see today's Tab).

Now is one of the most delightful times to do some tree watching in Newton with so many in bloom. Newton Conservator and Citizen Pruner Julia Malakie sends along this link to a slideshow of spring trees done by a photographer at the Lowell Sun at <http://extras.lowellsun.com/slideshows/springTrees/index.html>. She might even be inspired to do something similar for Newton trees in the future.

Francoise LaMonica recommends this site on “**How to Green Your Life**” – very interesting ideas! http://www.news.com/8301-11128_3-9920324-54.html?tag=nl.e703

Check out Jon Regosin's wonderful **Natural Newton** nature blog at <http://naturalnewton.blogspot.com> which chronicles nature happenings throughout the season.

The **Charles River Watershed Association** (CRWA) has recently launched their newly redesigned website! Visit them at www.charlesriver.org and check out their new look! From the home page, you can see featured projects, latest news articles, action alerts and upcoming events. It's also easy to navigate to view water quality information, volunteer opportunities, and make a donation to help us continue to protect the Charles River.

For those folks who might be like in depth natural history weekend workshops Workshops for amateur naturalists in botany, lichenology, bryology, geology, odonatology, herpetology, entomology, ornithology, ecology, and any other ology that strikes their fancy. Check out the series at **High Pond Farm** in Plymouth, NH. Their workshops are limited to 10 students and they have recognized experts teaching, nice accommodations and food included. Visit them at <http://www.highpondfarm.org/>.

Newton Conservators member Harry Sanders recently uncovered in **Norumbega** one of the boulevards that was part of the old park and leads up to the Marriott property. Those who may be interested in seeing this can contact him at 508-241-5445.

There is now a **Dogs Off-Leash Advisory Committee** which has started meeting. It is gathering information on potential off-leash sites and is looking for ways to encourage groups to petition for official sites allowed under a new city ordinance. If you are interested in this topic, please contact committee chair Amy Koel, Ph.D., akoel@rcn.com.

Saturday, May 17, 8 am
Habitat For the Birds - a Habitat for Humanity Bird Walk

Join Habitat for Humanity Newton on Saturday May 17 for a bird walk at the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. This area, adjacent to the Newton Habitat project, is rich in wildlife with its mix of upland, swamp, and vernal pools. This is especially true during spring migration when warblers and other species find Dolan Pond a convenient rest stop on their northward journey. Newton Habitat Coordinating Committee co-chair and birder Ted Kuklinski will lead this fundraising bird walk on Saturday, May 17 (raindate, Sunday May 18) starting at 8 am. Bring binoculars if you have them but we will have some extra pairs. Meet at the 76 Webster Park Habitat site where we might even see and hear a scarlet tanager! We'll conclude the bird walk with a tour of the Habitat building itself. Suggested donation is \$10 to Habitat Greater Boston (www.habitatboston.org). Children welcome. For further info contact Ted Kuklinski (dolanpond@aol.com, 617-969-6222).

Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8 Take a Hike for Humanity – Habitat for Humanity Hike-a-thon

Mark your calendars for the 13th Annual “Take a Hike for Humanity” hike-a-thon, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston to benefit the Habitat Newton Build at 76 Webster Park next to the Dolan Pond Conservation Area. This year’s hike takes place on Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, at the Blue Hill Reservation in Milton, MA. Register as an individual or as part of a team (\$25 per hiker) for either day, then set a goal and start collecting pledges from friends, family members, neighbors, etc. Walkers of all ages and ability levels – and their dogs – are welcome! Registration forms are available on-line at www.habitatboston.org/events.html, or call 617-423-2223 to request one. All proceeds benefit the Newton Habitat project (www.habitatboston.org). This event is a great way for youth to participate in Habitat for Humanity. When you register, make sure to specify that you are raising money for Habitat Greater Boston, as there are many other Habitat affiliates participating. There is also another Hike-a-thon location at Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire but Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston’s hike is at the nearby Blue Hills Reservation.

Crystal Lake Update

As you may know, on April 7 the 230 Lake Ave measure was passed by the Board of Aldermen with just enough votes in favor. You can check out the Newton Tab article at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/homepage/x623550242>. The plan changed a bit at the last minute and the city allocation for the open space portion of 230 Lake Ave was capped at \$950K. It depended on having a private buyer acquire the property for the asking price, a buyer who would agree to the open space subdivision, easement for a shore path, and historic restriction. The deal carries some risk but a number of potential buyers in fact materialized. The property was recently listed as under agreement and there is a buyer for the property who was willing to work with city. An independent valuation was done on the property components that the city would acquire and apparently

came in at \$750, 000. You can read about the latest developments in this week's Newton Tab at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x1308515088/City-Update> in a note entitled "City finds Crystal Lake buyer".

Thanks to all the "aldermen of vision" who voted for this plan. There were many diverse interests and positions of the aldermen on this acquisition (e.g., some wanted to keep the house, others felt it would be better as open space) and there was a great deal of effort by citizen, aldermanic, CPC, and city advocates to address any concerns. It became a somewhat complex and changing proposal in trying to meet these concerns – even to the last minute. Some key votes were those of Steve Linsky (who advocated strongly for the shared acquisition model) and Jay Harney, who changed his previous stance by voting for the new plan (balancing Marcia Johnson's change to No from her previous Yes vote). If all can be worked out and the city can acquire a portion of 230 Lake Avenue and connect all the city parcels with an easement, we will have a terrific workable park at Crystal Lake. Finally, here is the tally of how the aldermen voted:

Yes - *Susan Albright, Lisle Baker, Bill Brandel, Vicki Danberg, Mitch Fischman, John Freedman, Jay Harney, Ted Hess-Mahan, Stephen Linsky, George Mansfield, Carleton Merrill, Ken Parker, Amy Mah Sangiolo, Sydra Schnipper, Greer Tan Swiston, Brian Yates*

No - *Allan Ciccone, Paul Coletti, Lenny Gentile, Marcia Johnson, Cheryl Lappin, Scott Lennon, Anthony Salvucci*

Absent – *Verne Vance*

The city has contracted with a firm to come up with a new master plan for Crystal Lake (partly funded by the Newton Conservators) and they will be coming forth with some plans over the next several months which will be open for public comment. Basically, the Crystal Lake Task Force compiled a wish list for Crystal Lake at a previous public hearing at the Library and the firm will be looking at how to implement those goals in the more well defined space to be available.

May Environmental Show: Bicycling in Newton With Dan Fitzmartin and Bill Aldrich

In keeping with the month of May as National Bike Month and May 12-18 as Bay State Bike Week (www.baystatebikeweek.org), bicycling in Newton is the topic of the Green Decade-produced [May Environment Show](#). Two dedicated bikers, Bill Aldrich and Dan Fitzmartin are Beverly Droz's guests. Both are experienced bikers of the Newton streets and, in their conversation, share their concerns and vision for a safe, non-polluting, health-enhancing mode of transportation. Tips, resources, and proposed solutions to current problems are put forward. Viewers are also encouraged to join Newton's own [Bike Newton](#) celebration of National Bike Month, a May 18 rally and ride in support of a truly bicycle-friendly city.

The Environment Show is broadcast on the [NewTV](#) Blue channel (Comcast Chan. 10, RCN Chan. 15, Verizon Chan. 34): Mondays, 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays, 1:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m., Thursdays:12:00, 4:00 and 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. Videos of previous Environmental Show programs from both the Newton Conservators and Green Decade are available for viewing online at <http://www.greendecade.org/environmentTV.html>. Online versions of “Edible Wild Plants of New England – Parts 1 and 2” – based on a lecture by Russ Cohen – are now posted. These programs were broadcast in Feb and April of 2008. This monthly show is produced alternatively by the Green Decade and the [Newton Conservators](#).

EcoAlert from American P.I.E.

Tune-up the Two-wheeler

(Note: this is from March 19 but is relevant in these days of high gas prices and the upcoming BikeNewton event)

Spring officially arrives tomorrow with the promise of fairer weather. This is good news for the 100 million recreational cyclists in the United States. Many people will also start bicycling to work...which is good news for the planet. Whether for work or play, it time to tune-up the two-wheeler.

True or False: Biking to work one day a week would reduce the average commuter's greenhouse gases by 1000 pounds of carbon per year.

True, according to an EcoQuiz developed by the Sierra Club. Figuring a 20-mile round-trip commute, traveling by bike 50 times a year saves 1,000 pounds of carbon; burning a gallon of gas to go 20 miles makes approximately 20 pounds of carbon dioxide. And, of course, a weekly bike ride provides great exercise. For every hour on the bike, you'll burn 90 more calories than you would sitting in a car.

A few more bicycle facts:

- *A short, four-mile round trip by bicycle keeps about 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe (WorldWatch Institute).*
- *60 percent of the pollution created by automobile emissions happens in the first few minutes of operation (Bicycling Info). Shorter car trips can often be easily bicycled.*
- *You can travel hundreds of miles by bicycle on no more than a thimbleful of oil.*
- *You can park 20 bicycles in the same space as an SUV.*
- *In the Netherlands, 30 percent of all variety of trips are made by bike compared to less than 1 percent in the United States (International Bicycle Fund).*

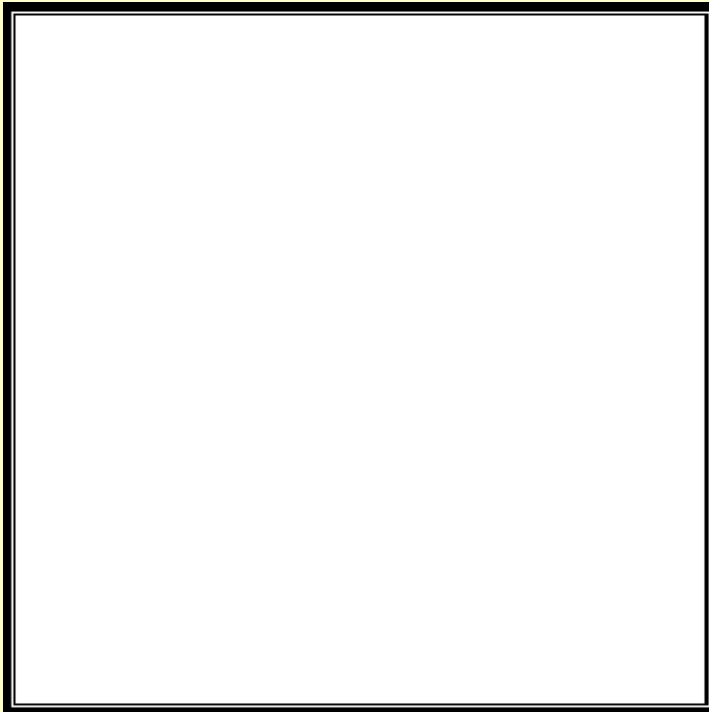
Speaking of other countries, bicycles outnumber cars worldwide by two to one, with much of the one billion-sized fleet concentrated in China and India. Bicycles transport more people in Asia alone than do automobiles in all other countries. Bicycles rule the streets in China. Despite the proliferation of luxury cars and fuel-cell buses in Beijing, bicycles still remain the fastest and most efficient method of getting across town; bicycles are used to transport people and goods.

Whether for work or play, this spring discover the benefits of bicycling for you...and the planet. It's time to tune-up the two-wheeler.

Act today on this EcoAlert, and thank you for your environmental responsibility. Source: American P.I.E., Public Information on the Environment, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, P.O. Box 676, Northfield, MN 55057-0676, Telephone: 1-800-320-APIE(2743); fax 507-645-5724, E-mail: Info@AmericanPIE.org

What is the e-Newsletter?

The printed edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter (published about 4 times a year) is sent by mail/email to the membership of the Newton Conservators. PDF copies are available: <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. This Newton Conservators e-Newsletter replaces our previous Newton Conservators Nature Notes. Our format is a little different and may include some photos (which will be kept somewhat low resolution) but should be fairly easy to print out. If your email is set to receive text only, there may be some settings in your email program to allow html formatted email. If you have difficulty please let us know. If you no longer wish to receive this email newsletter, please let us know by replying to this email. We welcome articles and news notes that might be of interest to our readers. If you have any suggestions, email Ted Kuklinski (e-Newsletter editor) at dolanpond@aol.com or calling 617-969-6222.



MISSION - Newton Conservators, Inc.

The 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.

The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 47 years ago in June 1961.

Newton Conservators Membership Form

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • www.newtonconservators.org

*Celebrating 47 years
of open space advocacy
in Newton*

- YES, I'd like to start/renew my one-year membership with the Newton Conservators to help preserve open space in Newton. I'll receive informative newsletters and emails and be invited to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities.
- I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support the work of the Newton Conservators: \$_____

Please do not share my name and address with other groups.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Individual member \$25
- Family member\$35
- Sustaining member \$50
- Donor \$75
- Patron \$100

All amounts are tax deductible

NAME _____

STREET _____

VILLAGE _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Make checks payable to **Newton Conservators, Inc.**

**Please renew today.
And consider a tax-deductible gift to support our work!**

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? [Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.](#)