



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Monday, March 23, 2009
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

March - April Event Calendar

Here is a collection of some upcoming events that may be of interest to our readers. Of special note is community hearing this evening on the Newton Conservators sponsored Lower Falls Rail Bridge project. (see below). Our Spring Lecture on Trees has been rescheduled to May 18. Our next issue will contain the complete list for our spring walk series and our invasives removal efforts in May.

Monday, March 23, 7-9 pm

**Community Meeting - Lower Falls Rail-to-Trail Charles River Bridge Project
Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street**

There will be an important community meeting regarding the Lower Falls Rail-to-Trail Charles River Bridge project. Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove St. This came out of a previous public hearing before the CPA on this project which has been put forth. The Newton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force Bike Newton, and the Newton Conservators (project cosponsor) encourage you to attend this important meeting where the public can let attending aldermen have their input on this project to restore this bridge connection to Wellesley for public use. Visit the website of the Newton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force at www.newtonbikeped.org for more information on the project including the presentation on the project to the CPA. Please visit <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/projects/lower-falls/lower-falls.htm> for the CPC page devoted to the project. As with most projects, there was some vocal neighborhood opposition and aldermanic support is not clear at this point. Please check out the proposal and let your voice be heard on this. Please voice your support for this project by writing a note to Alice Ingerson, the Newton Community Preservation Program Manager (aingerson@newtonma.gov, Newton Planning Department, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton Centre, MA 02459, with a copy to newtonbikeped@gmail.com. It would also be helpful to let your aldermen know of your feelings on the project. Contact info for the Board of Aldermen can be found at <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Aldermen/index.asp>.

Tuesday, March 24, 7-9 pm

Tuesday, March 31, 7-9 pm

Saturday, April 4, 9 am

Citizen Pruner Workshops

Citizen Pruners - If you are interested in becoming a Citizen Pruner, sign up for free training sessions on Tuesday, March 24 and 31 (7-9 pm) and an outdoor session on Saturday, April 4, 9 am. This program is run by the City of Newton Parks and Recreation Department and

cosponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy. It is a great opportunity to learn tree pruning and participate (if you decide to) in fun monthly pruning get-togethers. Register by emailing Marc Welch at newtonforestrymw@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 29, 1-3 pm
Making Your Digital Camera Work for You
240 Beaver Street, Waltham

Back by popular demand, Amy Rothstein of [Pond Productions](#) and Eric Smith, [teacher/photographer](#) will offer their 2-hour workshop on "Making your Digital Camera Work for You!" Gain insight about your digital camera to improve photo quality, content and artistry! Topics will include aperture, shutter speed, exposure, when to override the defaults and tips for editing, organizing and storing your photos. The workshop is at 240 Beaver Street, location of the Waltham Land Trust offices. You will need to register by calling 781-893-3355 or emailing chutchison@walthamlandtrust.org. Space for this workshop is limited. Waltham Land Trust members may attend for free; non-members \$10.

Saturday, April 4, 7-11 pm
Fowl Play Gala to Benefit Mass Audubon Visual Arts Center
Reebok World HQ in Canton

Fowl Play - Party for a Cause!, the fourth annual gala to benefit the children's programs at the Mass Audubon Visual Arts Center, will be held at the fabulous Reebok World Headquarters in Canton on Saturday, April 4, 7-11 pm. Guests will enjoy live jazz and Latin music by The Jazz Marauders, sushi by Mai Place, a sake tasting table, and the delicious offerings of Savoy Catering. In celebration of its 10th year, the Visual Arts Center will honor James Baird, curator emeritus and former Vice President of Mass Audubon, who was instrumental in the founding of the center. The auctioneer for the event will be Stephen Fletcher of Skinner Auctioneers & Appraisers (seen on PBS' *Antiques Road Show*) who will be sure to provide an electrifying live auction. Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased online by visiting www.massaudubon.org/fowlplay or by calling the Mass Audubon Visual Arts Center, 781-821-8853.

Saturday, April 11, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Warm-up to Earth Day: Indoor Market
240 Beaver Street, Waltham

Join Waltham Land Trust's 10th Anniversary Celebration events! Come celebrate with the Waltham Land Trust by shopping at the "Warm-up to Earth Day: Indoor Market" on April 11, 2009 9:30 am - 2:30 pm at the former Waltham Field Station located at 240 Beaver Street in Waltham. We are featuring local Massachusetts merchants. Buying local is such an integral part in preserving our earth and world. At the market, local producers will be offering a variety of products including fresh baked pastries and breads, cheeses, a variety of soaps and other bath products, spices and marinades, jewelry, handmade handbags, pottery, handsewn textiles, photographs of Waltham and more. We are adding vendors each day. Check out the [Waltham Land Trust](#) website for the full list of vendors and their products. Come to the market and shop with these local Massachusetts businesses! To benefit the Waltham Land Trust each of these vendors has donated a raffle item. You will have the opportunity to win some of their products while supporting the Land Trust.

Thursday, April 16, 7-9 pm
Three Centuries on West Newton Hill
Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

An 1849 subdivision, aptly named "Sylvan Heights," marked the beginning of suburban development of West Newton Hill. Today the area still honors the past while building the future. A stone castle, new homes, the mysterious Bullough family, Horace Mann, and Nathaniel Hawthorn are all part of the fabric of West Newton Hill. Susan Abele, Curator of Manuscripts at the Museum, will present this fascinating look at the changing face of this area of West Newton.

Wednesday, April 22, 1-3 pm
Children's Earth Day Charles River Walk

Celebrate Earth Day with a walk along the Charles River. This event will start with a story that will guide the observations along the river. The activity is suitable for children in elementary school. All children will need to be accompanied by adults. This event is free and open to the public. Visit <http://walthamlandtrust.org/calendar-events/kids-river-walk/> or contact mforbes@walthamlandtrust.org (761-893-3355) for more info.

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm
Mayoral Candidates Transportation Forum
Newton City Hall - War Memorial Auditorium

Bike Newton is sponsoring a Mayoral candidates Transportation Forum on April 23. Send us your questions for the candidates. They would like the next mayor to commit to: reducing the number of cars on our streets, enhancing access to public transit, and, of course, dramatically improving bicycle accommodations and amenities. The moderator will be Jenn Adams of NewTV. Join Bike Newton for a lively discussion of the gamut of transportation issues - transportation aspects of development projects in Newton, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian issues, traffic, more. Visit www.bikenewton.org or call Lois Levin at 617-527-1237 for more info.

Sunday, April 26
Newton SERVES

Save the date for Newton's annual volunteer service extravaganza on Sunday, April 26. Check out <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/newtonserves/default.html> for more information. Contact Beverly Droz, 617-796-1290 (bdroz@newtonma.gov) if you are interested. Watch for further details on the over 50 local projects that will take place.

Saturday, May 2, 2 pm
Historical Walk with Lucy Caldwell Stair
NC Walk Series (watch for details)

Watch for details on this and other walks in the series coming soon. Perhaps there is some special place in Newton that you would enjoy showing other interested folks. We rely on

knowledgeable leaders for our walk series. Visit our Walks page at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/trips.htm>. Some of the walks are tentatively listed here but watch for possible changes. Our next issue will contain details on the walks.

Monday, May 18, 7-9 pm (rescheduled from March 2)
Newton Conservators Spring Lecture - "Woody Plant Pests and Diseases"
Speaker: Julie Coop, Manager of Plant Health, The Arnold Arboretum
Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

The trees of the Garden City of Newton have been under attack! Maybe you remember the invasion of the Winter Moths and the defoliation they have caused in the past few years, or perhaps you have been dismayed by the cottony evidence of the Woolly Adelgid on your hemlocks. Maybe you were wondering if the dreaded Asian Long Horned Beetle wreaking such havoc in Worcester could show up in Newton. Get answers to these concerns on Monday, May 18, at a lecture by an expert on the subject, Julie Coop, the Manager of Plant Health at Boston's tree treasure trove, the world famous Arnold Arboretum. She will discuss tree health issues, including winter moth and the new threat of the Asian Long Horned Beetle in Massachusetts, and what we should be doing about them. This event is cosponsored by the Newton Tree Conservancy, a new non-profit working to raise public awareness of the importance of Newton's urban forest and promoting the health of Newton's street trees and park trees, the Arnold Arboretum, and the Newton Free Library. Information can be found on our websites www.newtontreeconservancy.org and www.newtonconservators.org.

Wednesday, May 27
Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting
Post 440 - 295 California Street, Nonantum

Join the Newton Conservators for their annual dinner meeting with speaker Richard Primack. His talk will be centered on a comparison of plant life in the Walden Pond area during Henry David Thoreau's time period and now. He will present material showing differences in flowering times between then and now, and also what changes in plants have occurred. He is also looking into the changing flora of Concord's botanical record to identify species that have become rare or locally extinct and those that have become common over the past 150 years. Awards for Environmentalist of the Year and others will also be presented. For the first time you will even be able to buy your tickets online at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/dinner2009invite.htm>. 6:15 pm will be a time for social gathering, 7 pm dinner and awards and 8 pm the program.

Nature Notes

Have you heard about the [Eurasian Teal](#), discovered in Cold Spring Park recently by Pete Gilmore (Newton Conservator birder and board member)? The Teal, together with a few Mallards and a pair of Wood Ducks, was still present on Sunday (3/22) and is very much worth a look. To find it, enter Cold Spring Park from Beacon Street, turn left and go to the end of the parking lot. After you park, start along the trail around Cold Spring Park (clockwise). Walk

across the bridge at the end of the soccer field. Continue along the path with the swamp area on your left. Just before you arrive at the first trail intersection, there is a large pool on the right, across from the swamp. The teal has been feeding and resting there, usually toward the back of the pool. On Sunday, the visiting Teal was delighting numerous birders and photographers (some with very long lenses). It does not appear to be a shy bird and was very active, hanging out and feeding with the much larger mallards.

Cold Spring Park is also the site of Newton's first official off-leash area at the old ballfield area. Official signs went up last week (even one at the start of the trail near the parking lot directing visitors to the proper area). There is a bag dispenser near the entrance. The field appeared to be well used on Sunday, particularly after an article in that morning's Globe West about the new area. It was very apparent from the signs that it was important for dogs to be ON-leash while traveling to and from the off-leash area. The local Cold Spring Park group was the first to apply for and receive off-leash status on a trial basis. The city's off-leash task force has been interested in finding interested applicants for other suitable areas within the city.

E-Bulletin Notes

You may notice that this E-Bulletin is not coming from dolanpond@aol.com as it has in the past. We will be utilizing the emailing services of Vertical Response (www.verticalresponse.com) which generously is providing us with free emailing service as a non-profit. You can more easily automatically subscribe to our newsletter and even remove yourself quite easily. The Winter edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/dec08.pdf>. The Spring edition will be in production in the near future. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to dolanpond@aol.com.
