



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Thursday, October 1, 2009
... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

In This Issue

Fall is definitely upon us and that brings the Newton Conservators Fall Walk Series whose schedule is included here. Check out the latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter and some other local events of interest. And the Newton Conservators are publishing an exciting new Almanac for Newton to guide you through what you might expect to see in nature month by month! Give a listen on a clear night and you might hear the peeps of warblers flying south!

Newton Conservators Walk Series - Fall 2009

Maybe you've been inspired by the Ken Burns Series on the National Parks to get out and see some of our natural national treasures. Well the Newton Conservators spring and fall walks provide a free opportunity to get out and see some of our LOCAL treasures right here in Newton.

Sunday, October 4, 8 am **Nahanton Park Bird Walk**

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands and meadows along the Charles River, making it a good place to observe a variety of fall migrants, as well as resident species. Last year's Conservators' fall bird walk was busy with migrants. Included in the sightings were an indigo bunting, a red eyed Vireo, a red bellied woodpecker, numerous palm warblers, several Nashville's, a very bright black throated green and loose flocks of yellow-rumped warblers. Also many sparrow species were spotted, including song, swamp, white throated, savannah, chipping and Lincoln's. Meet at 8:00 am. Enter the 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. Steady rain will cancel trip. Call trip leader if in doubt. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary Mooradian (617-821-

5619) and Jane Zanichkowsky

Sunday, October 11, 2 – 3:30 pm

Preserving History and the Environment in West Newton

This walking tour will begin at the historic (1781) West Parish Burying Ground at River and Cherry Streets in West Newton. We will see the grave sites of characters in early Newton history, gravestones recently conserved through the Community Preservation Act (CPA), and burial tombs that need restoration. From there, we will walk a short distance to the renovated Dolan Pond Conservation Area. In this hidden treasure of Newton, we will traverse the accessible trails and boardwalks past vernal pools to the Forte estate that was acquired with CPA funds. This project has resulted in a 10% open space addition to the Dolan Pond Conservation Area, the preservation by the Newton Housing Authority of the 1925 homestead, and the creation of two additional Habitat for Humanity housing units. We will return to the starting point via the Webster Park Historic District, which contains many fine examples of mid-19th century houses. This tour is offered in collaboration with **Historic Newton**. Park on Cherry Street north of River Street. Trip Leaders are Sheila Donahue and Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753 / dolanpond@aol.com).

Sunday, October 25, 2 pm

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 Road. Parking is available at the entrance. Trip leader is Peter Kastner (617-244-6094).

Sunday, November 1, 2 pm

Newton-Wellesley-Needham Aqueduct Bike Ride

This walk will cover the Newton-Wellesley-Needham Aqueduct-Long Loop. Meet in

front of the Starbucks at Waban Square for a scenic 15 mile bike ride along the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts and connecting roads. The bike route is mostly flat, unpaved path. There are some narrow more challenging trail sections which can be walked. The route is about 75% off-road and 25% connecting roads. This is a very interesting and pretty route. Participants should be in good enough shape to keep up with the group at a reasonable (not fast) pace. Helmets must be worn. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

**Sunday, November 8, 2 pm
Kennard Park**

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, 244-246 Dudley Road. Trip Leader: Larry Burdick, (617-584 4633)

**Sunday November 15, 2 pm
Cutler/Millennium Park Hike**

Starting at Cutler Park, we will explore Cutler Park and Millennium Park and complete the tour by way of the Wells Avenue Charles River Pathway. These areas have been improved 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. Trip Leader Henry Finch (617-964-4488)

Other Events

**Thursday, October 1, 6 pm
Unveiling of HISTORIC NEWTON
Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street, Newton Corner**

The Joint Board of the Newton Historical Society, Inc. and the Jackson Homestead is pleased to announce that the organization will operate under the new banner of

"Historic Newton" effective October 1. Historic Newton includes: Jackson Homestead and Museum, Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, Historic Burying Grounds Preservation, and the Newton Historical Society, Inc. For many years, the nonprofit Newton Historical Society, Inc. and the city department of the Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead have functioned as one organization with one board, one staff and director, one office and one phone number -- but has struggled with two names. Now, as they are about to add Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds to our offerings, we want to make our identity clear. The organization is changing its identity to "Historic Newton" to better articulate our vision of the future. The Newton History Museum and the Newton Historical Society, Inc., headquartered at the Jackson Homestead, have significantly expanded their endeavors over the past several years. Expanded programs including the popular historic walking tours, new exhibitions for children and their families, and better stewardship of our properties and collections are all part of this effort. The name change is being made to clarify and consolidate the entities and offerings which promote and preserve our city's legacy. Please join them on Thursday, October 1 at 6 pm at the Jackson Homestead and Museum for the unveiling of 'Historic Newton.' Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday October 2, 10 am – 11:30

Bike Newton Fall Sunday Ride

Newton Community Farm/Nahanton Park to Newton Centre

Join Bike Newton (www.bikenewton.org) on this latest in their family-friendly, no-rider-left-behind rides, paced to accommodate all riders. Start at front of Newton Library (Homer St.) Arrive early; rides leave promptly. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Riders must wear helmets, have bike in good working order, and feel confident they can complete the route. The route can be found at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=3193051>. Contact Nathan Aranow, nathan.aranow@verizon.net, 617-969-6227, for more info.

Saturday, October 3, 10 am – 5 pm (rides and food)

Sunday, October 4, 11 am – 5 pm

2009 Newton Harvest Fair

Come to the 2009 Newton Harvest Fair at Newton Centre Green (Beacon and Centre Streets). Saturday features amusement rides and food vendors only while Sunday also include entertainment, pumpkin decorating (sponsored by Trader Joe's), Children's activities, face painting, sand art, and service organizations. The event will be cancelled in case of rain. The event is sponsored by Newton Pride (617-527-8263, contactus@newtonpride.org).

Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4, 9 am – 4 pm (rain or shine)
Green Decade's Yard Sale of the Decade!
Linder Terrace, Newton Corner

Help support this giant yard sale for a cause to benefit the Green Decade Coalition held on Linder Terrace in Newton Corner. It features antiques, jewelry, books, furniture, china, CDs, records, DVDs, Art, kids' toys and clothes, exercise equipment, and family fun! Visit <http://www.greendecade.org/yardsale.html> for info and map.

Sunday, October 4, 2009 10 am-2 pm (9:30 am registration)
9th ANNUAL SOLAR/GREEN HOMES TOUR

Learn how to make your home Green in this Green Decade sponsored annual tour. It's \$15 per person in advance, \$18 at the door. Space is limited Meet at Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. See <http://www.greendecade.org/events.html> for details.

Monday, October 5, 7 pm
Mayoral Candidate's Forum on Environmental Issues
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium

The mayoral contest finalists, Ruth Balser and Sett Warren, present their positions on the environmental issues facing the Newton community. Brooke Lipsitt, former President of the Board of Aldermen, will moderate. Free to the public

Wednesday, October 7, 6-8 pm
Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape
COG Design: Lynden Miller in Boston
One Financial Center overlooking the Boston Greenway

Lynden Miller, well known NYC public garden designer, will speak about designing, maintaining, and funding beautiful, four-season plantings for public places. Her garden projects in NYC have become urban oases with economic benefits and the power to transform the way people behave and feel about their city. Lynden will sign her new book, Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape, after her presentation. Lynden Miller's life-long work is creating beautiful gardens in challenging locations. She has been featured on the Martha Stewart Show and in Fine Gardening, Horticulture, and House Beautiful magazines. Her message about the

fundamental necessity of healthy green spaces is critical for today; her new book documents the 'how to' of her success. Learn more about Lynden Miller on her web site www.publicgardendesign.org. Seating is limited to 250. Sponsors and hosts include members of many greater Boston municipal and community groups. For advance tickets at \$25, visit www.cogdesign.org and use Paypal; receive a \$5 discount towards the advance purchase of Parks, Plants, and People for signing.

Sunday, October 11, 1 pm
Waltham Land Trust's Walk in Chester Brook Woods
(part of the Western Greenway)

Join Waltham Land Trust Board Member Diana Young for a walk in the Chester Brook woods section of the Western Greenway. The walk will start at an entrance to the Storer Conservation Land that is along the road to the Waltham High School. This entrance to the woods is before you get to the High School. Watch for WLT signs as you drive up the road. Parking is available on the road and in the high school parking lot. We will first walk in the Storer Conservation Chester Brook trail and then will explore the newest part of the trail that is on the land that is between Waltham High School and the Kennedy Middle School. This walk is part of a series to introduce the trails that are part of the Western Greenway, a comprehensive nine-mile trail plan to link open spaces from Belmont and Lexington, with a loop through Waltham that will eventually connect with the future rail trail.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Waltham Land Trust's 10th Annual Meeting
Waltham Public Library Meeting Room

Come and celebrate Waltham Land Trust's past successes and learn about their visions for the future! Come at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy refreshments and chat with Land Trust Board members and other members. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Keynote speaker is Chris Rodstrom, from The Trustees of the Reservations where he is Conservation Restriction Program Director and Community Conservation Specialist. His presentation "The History of the Land Trust Movement: from Waverley Oaks to The Trustees of Reservations to the Waltham Land Trust" will talk about our history and inform us of current land conservation trends.

Sunday, October 18, 2009, 1-4 pm
Newton Angino Community Farm Harvest Festival

Come to Newton Community Farm's annual festival featuring food, music, and family

activities. There will be Pumpkin Decorating, Jams and Jellies, Printmaking, Live Music, Cooking Demonstrations, Gardening Demonstrations, Farm Tours and more! Newton Community Farm is at 303 Nahanton Street, Newton (corner of Nahanton and Winchester Streets). Parking is available roadside on Nahanton and Winchester Streets. There is also a parking lot at Nahanton Park, 455 Nahanton St. (0.3mi to the west). Limited handicap accessible parking is also available. Visit <http://newtoncommunityfarm.org/events/> for more information.

**Tuesday, October 27, Wednesday, October 28, or Thursday, October 29
Wetlands Workshops for Educators (one day workshop)**

Educators of all types are invited to participate in one or more “Wonders of Wetlands” workshops co-sponsored by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Concern, Inc. Participants will be introduced to wetland ecology through a study of the three parameters of wetlands (vegetation, soils, & hydrology) as well as wetland functions and values by utilizing K-12 hands-on, inquiry-based, cross-curricular activities. Three 1-day workshops will be held October 27, 28 and 29 in Sudbury and Uxbridge. **Pre-registration is required by October 13, 2009.** For more details and registration information go to www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/education/educators_corner.htm.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Members of the Newton Conservators would have received their latest edition of Newton Conservators Newsletter in the mail recently. You should be aware that it is also available free as a PDF on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/sep09.pdf>. It's a very full issue with the following articles to check out:

- Nahanton: the City's New Dog Park?
- Nahanton Park: What Is It For?
- President's Message: Where Do We Put the Dogs?
- Off-Leash: the Other Side
- Garden Thugs
- Letters
- Events
- Water Chestnut Update
- Warren Street Outcome
- Canoeing Upstream
- Conservators Co-Sponsor New CPA Proposal
- The Newton Almanac Has Arrived!

Newton Conservator Almanac

What are you doing next year? Spend 12 months getting to know Newton's parks with the Newton Conservators Almanac to be published very shortly. The Almanac is organized month by month with "quick to locate" seasonal color bands. Native representatives of conifers and deciduous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, butterflies and birds are some of the monthly entries you will find in this book. It contains beautiful color photographs of the flora and fauna you are likely to find in Newton. Each entry displays the common name, scientific name, and a group graphic with description and local field notes. It makes a great companion to our trail guide. You can pre-order your copies of the Newton Conservators Almanac now (get your order in – only 500 copies of this stunning book will be available in its initial run). It would make a great holiday present. The book is \$21.95 plus \$2.50 for postage per copy. Send a check for \$24.45 per copy along with your name, address, city, state, zip and phone to Newton Conservators Almanac, PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

E-Bulletin Notes

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