

Subject:

FW: E-Bulletin - Jan 9, 2012 - Houghton Garden Lecture!



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Monday, January 9, 2012

... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



Happy New Year!

Make a resolution to get out in Newton's open spaces in 2012 whether it's hiking, birding, canoeing or kayaking, cross country skiing, gardening, studying nature or even just plain walking! Please note the interesting lecture we are sponsoring on Houghton Garden at the Newton Free Library on Tuesday evening (7 pm). Check out some other events of interest locally this winter as well!

Newton Conservators Winter Lecture
Discovering Houghton: Views of Newton's Secret Garden
Tuesday, January 10, 7 - 9 pm
Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium



Discover Houghton Garden, one of Newton's little-known gems! Located in Chestnut Hill, this sanctuary in the middle of the city has half a mile of trails that meander around ponds and streams adorned with azalea and rhododendron, as well as an alpine rock garden that was one of the first of its kind. The evening will include:

- - Welcome - Ellen Meyers, Newton Free Library
 - Introduction - Jane Sender, President, Newton Conservators
 - "A History of Houghton Garden and its Restoration" - Michele Hanss, Friends of Houghton Garden
 - "Warren Manning and the Context of Houghton's Design" - Jane Roy Brown, Library of American Landscape History
 - "A Photographic Tour of Houghton"
 - Historic photos by Herbert Wendell Gleason
 - Contemporary photos - Daniel Jackson
 - "Looking at Houghton" - Sarah Luria, Prof of English, Holy Cross
 - The Common - Jennifer Acker, Editor
 - Panel and open discussion; reminiscences of Houghton; moderated by Jane Sender

This program came about from a literary and photographic piece by Daniel Jackson and Sarah Luria in the new literary journal *The Common: a Modern Sense of Place* - www.thecommononline.org which is cosponsoring this program. The program is also cosponsored by the Friends of Houghton Garden and the Newton Free Library.



Learn more about Houghton Garden at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm>

Friday, January 13 Last Day for Christmas Tree Collection

The City of Newton will collect undecorated, unbagged Christmas Trees left curbside on your regular collection day from January 2nd through January 13th for recycling.* Please place your undecorated Christmas tree out to the curb during this time. All decorations and lights must be removed and trees cannot be in a bag. After this time, the City will not collect Christmas trees. Residents will be responsible for disposing their own trees, they will NOT be accepted as bulk waste.

Friday, January 13 Massachusetts Eagle Count

Friday, January 13, 2012 is the new date for a concentrated survey of major rivers, lakes, reservoirs and the coast by staff from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and volunteers across the state. In 2011, a record 107 bald eagles were documented in Massachusetts during the one-day event. This event is part of a nationwide Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey that is held every year in early January. Anyone spotting an eagle from January 4, 2012 - January 18, 2012 is encouraged to report the sighting by email at Mass.wildlife@state.ma.us or by postal mail to "Eagle Survey" MassWildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Please provide date, time, location and town of eagle sightings, number of birds, juvenile or adult, and observer contact information. Yes - eagles have been spotted in the past in winter in Newton, particularly along the Charles River (e.g. the Cove in Auburndale).

January 16 - February 20+ Newton Community Farm CSA Applications

There is nothing like cold winter days to make one think of fresh produce, a bountiful field, and time spent on the farm! With that in mind, Newton Community Farm is pleased to announce that the enrollment process for the 2012 CSA program will begin soon!

As in the past, CSA sharers will pick-up fresh, locally-grown vegetables each week from June through late October. The cost is \$570 for full shares and \$300 for alternate week shares. The work commitment remains at 12 hours per share (6 hours for alternate week share) with an option of paying \$9/hour if you want to buy out your obligation. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org for more information about the CSA program and policy.



As in the past, all applicants must be Friends of the Farm for 2012 (\$35 for the individual level and \$60 for the family level). For a description of the benefits and the enrollment form, please go to the website "[Friends of the Farm information](#)". Those who are not already Friends must submit an enrollment form along with non-refundable payment (please send separate check). Also, all forms and checks must be received at NCF (mail or drop off) by the due dates (see below) for consideration in each phase. Mailing instructions, costs, and other information are included on the form, which will be available on NCF's website by 1/16/12.

Phase I: January 16 - 28 (due date) for 2011 CSA Sharers. Re-enrollment for 2011 CSA participants who wish to return. 2011 shareholders who do not re-enroll during this period can still enroll by participating in the general enrollment period.

Phase II: Jan 30 - February 17 (due date) for Newton Residents. General enrollment for Newton residents. Applications will be accepted from Newton residents only. At the end of this period, NCF will hold a lottery to select as many new participants as we have shares available. The lottery will be random, with no preference given for when the application was received before the due date. To participate in the lottery, we must receive your CSA enrollment application along with payment (checks will be returned to those who we cannot accommodate) and a Friend of the Farm form for 2012 for those who are not already friends (payment is non-refundable; please send separate check). Those whose applications were selected in the lottery will be notified by email by February 20th.

Phase III: February 20 until CSA is full, for General Public. In the event that there are remaining shares available after the enrollment period for Newton residents, we will begin accepting applications from non-Newton residents on a first come, first served basis until we are full.

Tuesday, January 24, 7-9 pm
Community Preservation Act 10th Anniversary

For West Newton, Auburndale, Lower Falls (Wards 3 & 4) Warren House, 1600 Washington Street, West Newton

How would you allocate nearly \$20 million for affordable housing, historic resources, open space & recreation land in Newton over the next 5 years? Come tell us at a neighborhood birthday party for West Newton, Auburndale & Newton Lower Falls / Wards 3 & 4 7-9 pm on Tuesday, 24 January 2012, Warren House, 1600 Washington Street. *Snow date:* 7 February 2012, same time, same place. Enjoy a slide show about past projects & neighborhood history. Add your project ideas to our interactive maps. Refreshments provided!



The CPC is celebrating the CPA's 10th anniversary by holding neighborhood meetings to provide input for determining funding priorities for the next 10 years. The first meeting for Wards 1-2 was held on November 15 at Newton North High. Here are some of the past projects from Wards 3 and 4. mbria Road (housing), Lexington Street (housing), Dola Pond / Forte' Property (open space & housing), Flowed Meadow Conservation Area, Historic Burying Grounds (West Parish), Vetern House / Commonwealth Ave (housing), Warren House, Wellington Park. If you worked on or have enjoyed any of these projects, please come tell us and your neighbors about them on January 24th. If you can't come, please contact us anyway for a possible oral history project.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) wants to know what residents feel is important to their villages in terms of open space, historic preservation and affordable housing in the future. Are there important green spaces near your home that might be preserved either by acquisition or a conservation restriction? Are there historic landscapes that could be preserved? Is the place where you take your contemplative walks possibly threatened by loss of access or development?

Times and places for the gatherings for other wards are as follows (location TBA): Tuesday, March 20, 2012 for Waban, Newton Upper Falls, & Newton Highlands (Ward 5), Tuesday, May 15, 2012 for Newton Centre, Thompsonville, Chestnut Hill (Wards 6 & 7), and Tuesday, September 11, 2012, for the South Side, including Oak Hill & Oak Hill Park (Ward 8).

Take the 8-question survey online from the link at www.newtonma.gov/cpa or directly from www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYFZCDH. Partial results to date (more analysis to come!):

Q5. How would you rate Newton's CPA program overall?

great - 50% / good - 25% / fair - 17% / poor - 8%

Q6. How would you rank Newton's CPA-eligible needs?

As always, the CPC especially welcomes projects that support 2 or more resources at once.

- Affordable Housing - most or fairly important - 66%, fairly or least important - 34%
- Open Space - most or fairly important - 60%, fairly or least important - 40%
- Historic Resources - most or fairly important - 50%, fairly or least important - 50%
- Recreation Land - most or fairly important - 24%, fairly or least important - 76%

Newton was one of the first communities in the Commonwealth to adopt the [Community Preservation Act](#) (CPA), and this year marks its 10th anniversary. Newton has used CPA funds to acquire about thirty acres of open space and recreation land. Without the CPA, Newton's high land costs would make it impossible to acquire and improve open space for both recreation and conservation, to create affordable housing and to save historic structures and landscapes, such as the 1732 Durant Homestead. Open-space acquisitions alone include [Kessler Woods](#), the [Angino Farm](#), parkland on [Crystal Lake](#), and conservation land around [Dolan Pond](#)—all for only about \$60/year for a midrange single-family house in Newton. Please direct any questions on the CPA to Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager (617-796-1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov).

Wednesday, January 18, 7 - 9 pm

Duck Walk Primer (Waltham Land Trust)
Waltham Public Library, 735 Main Street

You won't want to miss this fun primer course for the upcoming Waltham Land Trust Duck Walk, even if you don't plan to attend on January 22. Learn through a show-and-tell demonstration about how to dress for cold and/or wet nasty weather. That will be followed by a beautiful slideshow of winter waterfowl commonly found on the Charles River. Become the expert and know what to wear when leading your pals on a your own private duck walk! For further info, visit www.walthamlandtrust.org.



Thursday, January 19, 2012 (snow date January 25)
Sustainable Practices for Ecosystem Restoration
Wellesley College Botanic Gardens' Visitor Center

Groundscapes Express has worked on many ecosystem restoration projects throughout the region. Groundscapes' approach treats the whole site as an ecosystem or a sub-watershed for greatest success. Projects implement best practices for improved water quality, soil compaction, invasive species, and erosion control. John Engwer will describe ecosystem restoration projects at sites including Wellesley College, Kent Hospital, the Rose Kennedy Greenway, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and Fresh Pond Reservation. Though the sites differ widely, the issues of soil compaction, stormwater management, and invasive species control are common to all. Effective stormwater management is a major component of successful restoration projects. On some sites, large turf areas, impervious roads, and parking areas are pre-existing conditions and in many cases are essential to the function of the public and private spaces. Existing site features are often not capable of handling the volume of runoff during high-intensity rain events. Large volumes of rainwater from turf, road, or roof areas sheet-flow down slopes, which then drain into the drains, streams and lakes. Site disturbance such as tree removal, soil compaction, or the addition of increased impervious surfaces can dramatically changed site conditions, exacerbating stormwater problems. Site disturbance is also ideal for invasive plant colonization. Registrations are limited (\$25 non member). More information: ela.info@comcast.net or (617) 436-5838. Sponsored by the Ecological Landscaping Association Co-Hosted by Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture Sustainable Practices for Ecosystem Restoration.

Sunday, January 22, 10 am -- noon
Waltham Land Trust Annual Duck Walk

Park and meet behind Shaw's, 130 River Street, Waltham



Bring your binoculars and knowledge gleaned from the Warm Up to the 7th Annual Duck Walk. The group will stroll along the Charles River Greenway in search of the winter waterfowl that make their way down from Canada to vacation on the river. The walk is on even if the temperatures are frigid; please dress warmly. For further info, visit

www.walthamlandtrust.org.

Monday, January 30, 7:00 pm
Mapping Gas Leaks in Newton and Beyond
Nathan Phillips, Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies
Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium

In Newton and around the country, neglected infrastructure shows increasing signs of decay and dysfunction. Here, leaks in water, sewer, and other civil infrastructure are receiving well-deserved attention. Less known are pervasive leaks in our natural gas distribution systems. BU Professor Nathan Phillips will share results of preliminary mapping of gas leaks in Newton, following on a recently completed comprehensive mapping of thousands of leaks in the City of Boston, the first study of its kind. He uses a special meter that is highly sensitive to trace amounts of methane and is able to record gas leaks that the gas company's equipment cannot detect. These gas leaks are damaging, and sometimes fatal, to trees.



Placing this work in a broader context, Dr. Phillips will explain why these leaks have economic, ecological, environmental, and human health implications. He will also describe the ecology of interdependent infrastructure systems within and across rural, suburban, and urban communities and how we can address several infrastructure problems comprehensively.

Nathan Phillips is Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment, at Boston University. Nathan lives in Auburndale with his wife Robyn and two children. He is also vice-president of Bike Newton.

This lecture is part of the "Greening Our Community Series" of Green Decade/Newton and is also cosponsored by the Newton Free Library, the Newton Tree Conservancy and Bike Newton. For info visit <http://greendecade.org/events.html>.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland * Saturday, February 11th, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Come and join as Marc Welch, Newton's official arborist takes folks on a guided winter tree walk. The walk will begin at Newton Community Farm and head over to Nahanton Park before returning to the farm.



The walk will focus on identifying local tree species during the winter months and how the Farm has played a role in the 'treescape' we see today as well as thinking about how our own personal choices today may impact this aspect of our natural environment in the future. A fun activity to be enjoyed by all during the winter months. Please register for this event by visiting our website at;

www.newtoncommunityfarm.org/education/classes. \$5 per person \$12 per Family (max 4)

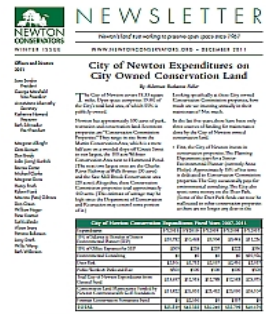
Please note that in the event of inclement weather on the day of the class or if there is too much accumulated snow the class will be re*scheduled for March. Please check the farm website before attending for an update. The route and content of the class may be altered at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the conditions on that day. Being a winter outdoor activity it is the responsibility of all participants to be dressed and prepared appropriately.

Tuesday, February 28 Newton Conservators Grant Deadline

The Newton Conservators, Inc. provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering [its mission](#). The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$750 may receive priority, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a longer-term project, or for multiple year funding. Projects for multiple year funding must be reported upon and resubmitted annually. See full details on criteria and procedures at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/grants.htm>

Newton Conservators Winter Newsletter - December 2011

The December, 2011 newsletter is now posted on our website at www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/dec11.pdf, so please take a look - it's really great! Many thanks to Beth Wilkinson on her inaugural issue as newsletter editor, as well as to Pat Robinson for her ever beautiful graphic design and layout work. Thanks very much to Eric Reenstierna for his many years of talented newsletter editing. You can find past issues as well on the website at www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters.



Weeks Act Anniversary

by Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager

I just got my last reminder from the U.S. Forest Service about the 2011 centennial of the Weeks Act, which has an important Newton connection -- I've been thinking all year we should point this out somehow. We owe the existence of all national forests east of the Mississippi to this Act, which was sponsored by and named for Congressman John Wingate Weeks. Weeks served as an alderman and Mayor in Newton before becoming our Congressman, Senator, and later President Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of War. Weeks' house was on Highland Ave. on West Newton Hill. Since most national parks were carved out of national forests, we really owe most of our eastern national parks to Weeks as well.

The Weeks Act allowed the US government to purchase private land for national forests. Until then, the only option for creating such permanently public land was to hold land already in public ownership back from sale through the Homestead Act. This essentially meant we could only create national forests (and parks) in the west. The U.S. Forest Service has made quite a fuss over the Weeks Act this year, but I don't think people in Newton are really aware of either its importance or its local connections, which reflect the broader theme that the impact of Newton residents on the wider world has long been out of proportion to their numbers. For more, see <http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Policy/WeeksAct/PassingAct.aspx> or <http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Policy/WeeksAct/JohnWeeks.aspxOther> Notes

Free Energy Audits:

Did you know you can sign up for a free energy audit, the first step in weatherizing your home. The audit is a 1-2 hour process where auditors come to your home, provide free, energy efficient light bulbs, seal any obvious air leaks, and provide a report on steps you can take to weatherize your home - including cost, rebates, tax breaks, and projected payback. If you are interested in an energy audit, all I need is a phone number where the energy audit folks can reach you to sign you up. If you prefer,

there is an online sign-up page at: <http://nextsteplivinginc.com/newton-eco-team-project/?program=Newton>.

Nature Calendar:

It's January and still not too late to obtain a nice local nature oriented calendar. The 2012 "Charles River Wildlife" calendars with photographs by Carole Smith Berney are available. You may remember Carole from her Newton Conservators lecture "Flora and Fauna of the Charles River" several years ago. Calendars open to 11" x 16" with a color photograph of a Charles River bird featured for each month. Please contact the photographer at csberney@rcn.com or 617-926-4552 to order (\$20).

Newton Conservators Sponsors

The Newton Conservators appreciate the generous contributions of "Gold" and "Silver" Sponsors on the occasion of our Annual Dinner. We are indebted for their contributions, which will help to defray land acquisition and other costs.



Gold Sponsors

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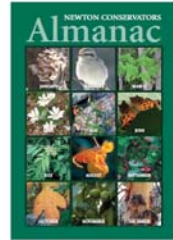
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com or emaillist@newtonconservators.org. The current 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/>. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to dolanpond@aol.com.

Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online?



Mission: 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 organization was formed as a not-for-profit 50 years ago in June 1961.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)



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