



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Friday, December 14, 2018

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



Happy Holidays!

The Newton Conservators wish you the happiest of holidays, best wishes for 2019, and hopes that you get out to enjoy the wonderful open spaces here in the Garden City and beyond! Our latest newsletter is recently published and may be found online in pdf form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/19win.pdf>. If you ever wonder what it is that our organization does, you need to check out the [lead article!](#) Still looking for that perfect gift? Consider our Newton Trail Guide or Almanac (see ordering info below) or a membership in the Newton Conservators!

Check out some other interesting upcoming local events and lectures in our calendar below. This Sunday morning is the annual Christmas Bird Count and any birders and "wannabe" birders are invited to join in our annual census of Newton's bird population - not sure if we will find a partridge in a pear tree but seven swans a swimming is a likely bet! Also note our sponsored panel discussion on creating new Greenways along the Charles River at the library on January 24. Winter is a good time to get out and about and you will find interesting listings of indoor and outdoor activities below.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 16, 7 am (5 am for Owling) Annual Newton Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Meet at 1 Raeburn Terrace, Newton Highlands

This year's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Newton takes place this coming Sunday morning. After all, the early birder gets the birds counted! This is the 119th year of the CBC and helps to measure changes in population of our avian species (and perhaps more global trends such as climate change). In Newton, birders will meet at 7 am at 1 Raeburn Terrace in Newton Highlands (Raeburn is off Hillside which is off Walnut). Owlers (the real early birds) usually meet at the same location at 5 am. The group usually hits a few good spots and tries to call in the owls. At 7 am, groups will be formed to go off to various open spaces throughout the city to count all the birds that they see.



Great Horned Owl



The most common question of course is "how do you know you don't count the same bird twice?" Well you can't know for certain but we try our best! Beginners are welcome to accompany some of the more experienced birders (bring binoculars and dress warmly). Most of the counting is done in the morning. You are welcome to join the counting even for a short time if you like. Tallies are made by afternoon and consolidated with tallies from other areas within a 15 mile Greater Boston count circle. Check out <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count> for details on the history of the count and past national results. Your questions about the count can probably be answered at <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird>. If

you are interested in joining the count this year, please email Pete Gilmore and Liane Hartnett (petegilmore79@gmail.com, lianehartnett26@gmail.com).

Tuesday, January 1, 12:30 pm 13th Annual New Year's Day Walk Prospect Hill Park, Waltham Sponsor: Waltham Land Trust

Start off the New Year getting exercise outside with friends and family! Come along on this very popular annual hike up Prospect Hill in Waltham with our friends at the Waltham Land Trust, where the expansive view into Boston is just as



rewarding as the treats we'll provide. Over 120 folks of all ages usually attend each year! People wanting a longer trek on a variety of trails in the park should leave from Starbucks. Those seeking a shorter hike either along the paved (not plowed) service road or via trails in the park should depart from the South Gate. All routes may be icy. Please dress appropriately and bring walking sticks if they help. Cancelled in extremely cold temperatures and/or if heavy precipitation is falling.

Departures: 12:30 p.m. from Starbucks at 1265 Main Street (near Market Basket) OR 1 p.m. from South Gate of Prospect Hill Park, by 186 Prospect Hill Road off Main Street.
www.walthamlandtrust.org.

Saturday / Sunday, January 5 & 6, 10 am - 5 pm
Free Weekend at Historic Newton
Jackson Homestead / Durant-Kenrick House



Enjoy free admission to both of Historic Newton's museums, the Jackson Homestead and Museum, 527 Washington Street, and the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, 286 Waverley Avenue, on Saturday or Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. See <http://www.historicnewton.org/> or call



617-796-11450 for details.

Sunday, January 6, 2019, 9 am - 2 pm
National Learn to Ski Day (and Snowshoe!)
Weston Ski Track, 190 Park Road, Weston MA

Experience the excitement of winter! National Learn to Ski Day introduces people to the great fun of getting outside in the winter on cross-country skis or snowshoes. It's perfect for beginners! The event will run from 9 am-2 pm on January 6, 2019. All snowshoe events will be free and do not require pre-registration. Everyone will receive a free snowshoeing trail pass, there will be free snowshoe demos. Free cross-country ski lessons will be available with pre-registration and the purchase of a trail pass (and rental if needed); Free ski lessons are only available with pre-registration and payment. To register or view a class schedule, please visit <https://www.paddleboston.com/skitrack/events/wintertrails.php>.



Sunday, January 6, 2 pm - 3:30 pm
Walk: The Rail Trail, Jericho Forest, and the Sunday Woods in Weston
Weston Forest and Trail Association
Concord Road near Laxfield Road, Weston, MA

The Weston Forest and Trail Association's next trail walk will be on Sunday, January 6, 2019. The walk will begin at 2:00 PM and will last about an hour-and-a-half. The meeting place will be on Concord Road, Weston, near the beginning of Laxfield Road. Tail-gate refreshments will follow the walk. The walk will begin by going west down the abandoned Mass Central train line right-of-way. The return will be via Jericho Town Forest and Sunday Woods, one of the oldest and newest public forest areas in Weston, respectively. Snow and cold may slow the walk down, but it won't deter. You do not have to be a member of the Weston Forest and Trail Association to join the walk. Well behaved dogs are welcome but must be on leash. For more information please contact the walk leader, Gail Palmer, telephone 617-273-0276. For map and details see <http://www.westonforesttrail.org/rail-trail-and-jericho-forest>



Saturday, January 19, 10 am - 11:30 am
Annual Charles River Duck Walk
Shaw's Back Parking Lot, 130 River Street, Waltham MA 02453
Sponsor: Waltham Land Trust

Take a walk with the Waltham Land Trust looking for hooded and common mergansers, ring-necks, and golden eyes while walking along the Charles River paved (not plowed) pathway to Moody Street and back. Bring cameras and binoculars. The route may be icy. Please dress appropriately and bring walking sticks if they help. Postponed in extremely cold temperatures and/or if heavy precipitation is falling. Free.
www.walthamlandtrust.org



Male Bufflehead (top),
 Female Bufflehead (bottom)

Thursday January 24, 7 pm to 9 pm
Creating New Greenways Along the Charles River

Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, Homer Street, Newton

Join us for a panel discussion about the history of the Charles River in Newton. The panelists will also present a vision of how local greenways could be created and explore the role greenways play in maintaining rivers and supporting important community goals such as health and village vitality. The program is cosponsored by the Riverside Greenway Working Group which is a coalition of Lower Falls and Auburndale neighbors, the Newton Conservators, Bike Newton, Green Newton and the Solomon Foundation. For more info please visit <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/friend.cfm?curOrg=NEWTON&tEvt=5784882&tfPopup=1>



Thursday, January 31, 7 pm Katharine Lee Bates: Poet of "America the Beautiful" Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street Historic Newton

Most of us know the song, "America the Beautiful," but may not know that its author, Katharine Lee Bates, has local ties. Perhaps she was inspired by her time here in the "Garden City?" How did Bates' Falmouth childhood, her student days at Newton High School and Wellesley College, as well as her trips to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and up to Pike's Peak in Colorado inspire her to write the first version of the song? Why did she revise it ten years later into the version that we sing today after her months in Spain and her knowledge of the bloody Philippine-American War? How did it help New England's Yankee Division soldiers celebrate the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918? And what was her final vision of her song? Free lecture by Melinda Ponder, author of *From Sea to Shining Sea*. Free



Friday, February 15 through Monday, February 18 Great Backyard Bird Count

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You are invited to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 15-18, 2019, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! For more information visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>



Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Newton Conservators publishes its newsletter approximately four times a year. It is distributed by mail to the membership and is available online. Extra copies are also available at the Newton Free Library. Our Winter 2019 Newsletter has been printed and mailed to members and is posted on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. Here are some of the articles in the current issue to check out!

- [What Does the Newton Conservators Organization Do?](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Cold Spring Park Needs Some Love](#)
- [Florrie's Path Gets a Welcome Addition:](#)
- [Pudding Stone in Hammond Woods](#)
- [Newton Power Choice](#)
- [Irruption Excitement](#)



NEWSLETTER

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

WWW.NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2019

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What Does the Newton Conservators Do?



Newton Conservators' Board Meeting at Wilson Library

The mission of Newton Conservators can be stated briefly: it is to promote "the protection and preservation of natural areas... for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation."

Telling you about the ways that the Conservators' board members and volunteers fulfill that mission cannot be so brief because we do so in many ways.

1. The Conservators advocates for and works to preserve critical open spaces in Newton.

Unlike many communities outside Route 128, Newton does not have many hundreds of acres of open space (except for golf courses). The green space that does exist is essential for the health of all the people and wildlife in the city. Concerned members keep track of what is happening with important open-space parcels and work to find ways to protect those that are at risk. Helping the city to acquire the Newton Community Farm was one of those projects.

Preserving Webster Woods, the core of the largest natural area in Newton, has been one of our big projects for the past three years. The Conservators collaborated with the Friends of Webster Woods to make sure that



Children learn about the kind of wildlife that can be found in the vernal pond in Webster Woods.

people throughout the city recognized the environmental importance of the former Congregation Mishkan Tefila land at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway. (The land is now owned by Boston College.) The coalition was delighted to receive the unanimous

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<http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/19win.pdf>

Membership & Publications!



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? The Trail Guides and Almanac are also available at your local Newton Bookstores. Shop Local! Our Trail Guide and Almanac make great holiday gifts!



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 in June 1961.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- \$250 Directors' Circle ***NEW!**
- \$125 Patron
- \$100 Donor
- \$75 Sustaining Member
- \$50 Family Membership
- \$35 Individual Membership
- \$15 Student Membership
- Additional Contribution \$ _____

Want to make an even bigger impact? Help us support these conservation areas:

- Woodcock Meadow \$ _____
- Ordway Endowment Fund \$ _____
- Land Stewardship Areas (Dexter Rd., Bracebridge Rd.) \$ _____

*Contributors at this level receive a copy of the Newton Conservators Almanac. All new members receive Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

I would like to volunteer!
Please email me.

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit NewtonConservators.org/membership.htm to renew/join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

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- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)



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