

WALKS SCHEDULE FALL 2017

www.newtonconservators.org

Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt.

Saturday, Sept. 30 at 1:00 pm

CANOE AND KAYAK TRIP AT NAHANTON

This canoe/kayak trip will start in Nahanton Park. We'll paddle upstream on the Charles against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham, and Wellesley. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one at the canoe/kayak rental stand in Nahanton Park. The area up-stream is a region of significant beauty and almost pristine conditions. Fall is a good time to view the many turtles and other wildlife along this stretch of water. We should see numerous fish, including pickerel, bass, and carp. We also will see many birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this habitat. We'll pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch, then stop for lunch on Cow Island. On the return trip, the current will help carry us back. It's an interesting trip for adults and children and usually is completed within three hours.

Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644)

Sunday, Oct. 1 at 8:00 am

NAHANTON BIRD WALK WITH HAYNES MILLER

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for fall migrants as well as resident species. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park & Newton Conservators. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance between the JCC and the Charles. Parking is available inside the park. Cancelled if steady rain. If concerned about the weather, please call.

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

MEASURE NOISE POLLUTION IN WEBSTER/HAMMOND WOODS WITH RICHARD PRIMACK & LUCY ZIPF (BU)

The Webster/Hammond Woods is Newton's largest woods, covering a diversity of habitats on both sides of Hammond Pond Parkway. Please join Prof. Richard Primack and Lucy Zipf from Boston University for a citizen science event mapping the distribution of noise pollution using the app SPLnFFT available on iPhones. The mapping will locate



PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK

Noise Pollution Team

the quietest places in the woods, and determine how far noise from the Parkway and other human activities extends into the woods.

Please plan to arrive between 9 am and 1 pm. Meet at the end of Elgin Street where Lucy and Richard will assign you to particular places in the woods and show you how to calibrate and use the app and how to transmit data via email.

It would be best for volunteers to download the SPLnFFT app in advance. Please make sure that your iPhone is set up to send emails, since the app uses email to export data. Unfortunately, for this project, we are able to work with only iPhone users. If you do not have an iPhone but would like to observe the process, we will pair you with someone with an iPhone if you notify us in advance.

We hope that each volunteer can help for two hours, but one hour would also be OK, and three to four hours would be even better. Volunteers who participate in this project will learn a valuable new skill on how to monitor noise pollution.

If possible, please let us know via email (lzipf@bu.edu) if you can help with this event and when you can arrive so that we can plan out areas for monitoring. You can arrive anytime between 9 am and 1 pm for calibration of your iPhone.

Parking is available along Elgin Street. The event is cancelled if it is raining. If concerned about the weather, please call or email.

Trip Leaders: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu) (857-636-8378) and Lucy Zipf (lzipf@bu.edu)

Sunday, Oct. 8 at 9:00 am

BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF NEWTON AND ENVIRONS

The geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the south pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story. This trip will not be one of the usual "walks" since we will need to carpool to travel to four different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond DCR Reservation area across from the Showcase SuperLux movie theater and at the west end of Hammond Pond (see page 39 of the *Newton Conservators Walking Trail Guide*). We will visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Cancelled if steady rain. Trip will last 2-3 hours.

Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)

Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8:00 am (Rain Date: October 15)

FALL BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Cold Spring that are available inside the park. Park at the Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call.

Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477)

Saturday, Oct. 21 at 11:00 am

THE WOLVES OF THE FOREST FLOOR AT EDMANDS PARK (CABOT WOODS)

Eastern red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) are the most abundant vertebrates in forests in the northeast United States, accounting for twice the biomass of all breeding birds. As top-level predators of soil invertebrates, red-backs are believed to reduce soil decomposition rates resulting in a decrease in the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere and an increase the amount stored in the soil. Red-backs are increasingly utilized as indicators of forest health for these reasons among others. In this walk ecologist Brooks Mathewson will discuss the research he has conducted on this species at Edmands Park with the help of the Newton North High School. In addition, we will monitor the cover boards Brooks has set out to study this population as well as search for salamanders under natural cover objects.

Meet at the central parking area for Edmands Park on Blake Street. The walk will be approximately 90 minutes.

Trip Leaders: Brooks Mathewson, Ecologist (Cell Phone on day of outing 617-851-3513); email: bgmathewson@post.harvard.edu

Sunday, Oct. 29 at 1:00 pm

EXPLORING FUTURE TRAIL POSSIBILITIES IN NEWTON UPPER FALLS

The recent opening of the Upper Falls Greenway provides the opportunity to create a network of trails that extend from



Newton Highlands along the Greenway to the Blue Heron Trail on the Charles, and then all the way south to Millennium Park in Boston. Heading north, the network could connect to Hemlock Gorge and on to Newton Lower Falls. Join us for

a two-mile hike (with an optional two-mile extension) that will explore this route, including an abandoned railroad bridge across the Charles and two little-known paths along the river. The route is rough in places. Meet at The Depot at the corner of Oak and Chestnut Streets. There is ample on-street parking on Chestnut just east of Oak.

Trip Leaders: Dan Brody (Newton Conservators) and Jim Lerner (Friends of the Upper Falls Greenway). Email UpperFallsHike@Newtonconservators.org for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2:00 pm

NEWTON AQUEDUCTS HIKE

Join a five-mile hike through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group (There are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station.

Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)



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Mayoral Candidates Forum on the Environment

Jenn Adams, Moderator

Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Join program co-sponsors Green Newton and the Newton Conservators for a forum with the two finalists in Newton's Mayoral race. The candidates will share their visions for addressing local environmental challenges, if elected. Jenn Adams, NewTV News Director, will ask a series of questions submitted by the co-sponsors. An audience Q and A will follow.

The Newton Free Library is an accessible facility. If you need a reasonable accommodation contact Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting at: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253.