



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

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Land Conservation Community
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"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders. Do not let selfish men and greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

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MLTC NEWS

1) *Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation - February 3*

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:15am - 12:30pm

Upper Cape Technical High School, 220 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA

Spend your Saturday morning at this annual event co-sponsored by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Mass Land Trust Coalition. You will have a choice of two workshops in the morning, and two in the afternoon. The Plenary Speaker will be Rand Wentworth, Louis Bacon Senior Fellow in Environmental Leadership, an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy and a member of the faculty for the Senior Executive Fellows at the Harvard Kennedy School, and former president of the Land Trust Alliance. RSVP to mark@thecompact.net. For more information, click [here](#).

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2) *MLTC Leadership Workshop - February 7*

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 3:00pm - 6:30pm

Fidelity Bank Community Room, 9 Leominster Connector, Leominster, MA

Save the date for the next MLTC workshop for Board Members and Executive Directors out in Leominster, MA. Discussions include challenges facing land trusts and solutions, and opportunities to strengthen connections. RSVP to Kara at kcampbell@massland.org. Click [here](#) for more information.

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3) Save the Date - MLTC Annual Meeting - February 23

Friday, February 23, 2018

Location To Be Announced

Save the date for the next MLTC Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

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NEWS

4) Energy & Environmental Affairs Announces New Conservation Restriction Reviewer!

Please welcome John Gioia who will be the new Conservation Restriction Reviewer at the Massachusetts EEA Division of Conservation Services. John comes to EEA from the Coastal Mountains Land Trust in Maine where he was a land conservation project manager. Prior to this, John did regional environmental planning work in Western Colorado where he received his Master's Degree in Environmental Management from Western State Colorado University. John is from the Boston area and is happy to be working with our excellent land trust partners to protect conservation land in Massachusetts.

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5) Migratory Birds at Risk Once Again

Excerpts from Mass Audubon Political Landscapes, January 5, 2018 by Christina W.

Last month, the US Department of the Interior made a decision to cripple the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). In a legal memorandum, the Department states that "incidental," as opposed to "intentional," bird deaths resulting from energy industry activities will no longer result in prosecution, effectively removing accountability over such deaths - for example, birds killed in oil spills. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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6) Attorney General Healy Appeals Eversource Rate Case Decision

Excerpts from The Office of the Attorney General, December 20, 2017 by Chloe Gotsis

Attorney General Maura Healey appealed the Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) ruling in the Eversource rate case, specifically the DPU's approval of a costly 10 percent shareholder return, one of the highest rates allowed by an electric distribution company regulator in the last five years. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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7) Offshore Drilling Proposal Could Threaten Massachusetts' Coasts and Marine Wildlife

Excerpts from Environment Massachusetts, January 4, 2018 by Ben Hellerstein

Bidding for offshore oil and gas leases could expand to more federal waters, including an area off the coast of Massachusetts, under a draft plan released by the Trump administration on January 4. Environment Massachusetts denounced the plan, which would open vast new areas of the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico to drilling. These areas could include Georges Bank, a wildlife-rich region of the North Atlantic near Massachusetts. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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8) Wildlife Habitat Management Grants Awarded

Excerpts from Energy & Environmental Affairs, January 3, 2018 by Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Eighteen municipalities, organizations, and private landowners across the state have been awarded a total of \$506,856 in grants for wildlife habitat improvement projects. The MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program was developed to establish partnerships between MassWildlife and private and municipal landowners to enhance habitat and increase recreational opportunities on properties across the state. This year, funds provided through the grant program will benefit 20 wildlife habitat improvement projects, totaling 950 acres in 19 Massachusetts communities. The projects will complement the ongoing habitat management efforts currently underway on state owned lands. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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STORIES

9) The Best Use of Widett Circle? Don't Develop It At All

Excerpts from The Boston Globe, January 4, 2018 by Bob Zimmerman and Elizabeth Henry

In the wake of the "Bomb Cyclone" last week, there is no question of discussion regarding how to prevent such extreme flooding events that occurred in Boston and coastal communities. Click [here](#) to read Charles River Watershed's Bob Zimmerman and Environmental League of Massachusetts President Elizabeth Henry's op-ed to not develop the Widett Circle.

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10) Birds Keeping Warm

Excerpts from "Naturally Curious with Mary Holland," January 3, 2018

Birds utilize a number of behavioral adaptations that afford them some protection from

frigid air such as we have been experiencing lately. They include sunning (turning their backs to the sun, exposing the largest surface of their bodies to the heat), shivering, tucking (placing one foot up inside feathers while standing on other leg, or squatting to cover both legs and feet with feathers; tucking their bill into their shoulder feathers and breathing air warmed by their body), roosting together in small groups (often in a small cavity, so as to conserve heat) and, most obvious of all, fluffing themselves up (creating air pockets that are warmed by body heat).

While feathers serve many purposes, from helping to attract a mate to providing camouflage, one of the most important jobs they have in winter is to keep a bird warm and dry. A bird's body heat (the average bird's body temperature is 105 degrees Fahrenheit), warms the air between its feathers. Birds fluff up in the cold to trap as much air in their feathers as possible, as the more trapped air, the warmer the bird. They can appear two or three times larger than they appear on a 32 degree day. This insulation is effective because it also is a barrier to water. The oil that birds apply to their feathers when they preen serves to waterproof the feathers.

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EVENTS

11) *Climate, Water, Soil and Hope/Soil Biology's Role in Public Health and Climate Resiliency*

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Cox Reservation Headquarters, Essex County Greenbelt Association, 82 Eastern Avenue, Essex, MA

Join Didi Pershouse of the Soil Carbon Coalition in this participatory workshop to explore the deep relationship between carbon and water in the soil pore and in the atmosphere. Learn the principles of healthy land functions, and how biological work of plants, soil microbes, and other life forms create the water absorbing and water filtering soil infrastructure that our farms and communities depend on. This workshop welcomes farmers, teachers, scientists, climate activists, climate skeptics, land managers, conservationists and any other interested people. This event is co-sponsored by NOFA/Mass and Essex County Greenbelt Association. Cost is \$15 for NOFA and Greenbelt Members, \$20 for Non-members, \$25 for walk-ins. Workshop capacity limited to 40 participants. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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GRANTS

12) *2018 Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program Grant*

February 1, 2018 deadline

Apply to receive funds for the construction or maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities, land acquisition or easements, trail assessments, and more! This year, DCR anticipates an increase in funding over past years. As such, eligible grant applications for up to \$100,000 in federal-share funding are now being accepted. Visit the Recreational Trails Program [website](#) for updated grant guidelines, application materials, and past

awarded projects.

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13) Stewardship Assistance & Restoration on APRs (SARA)

January 16, 2018 deadline

The Department of Agricultural Resources invites responses from Massachusetts farmers who own or operate farm land under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction ("APR") Program who wish to apply for Round 5 of the Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program ("Program") in Fiscal Year 2018. The purpose of the Program is to address stewardship issues and restore active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Department's APR Program in order to maximize productive agricultural use of the protected resource. Funding of up to \$25,000, with a 15% match, may be available on a cost reimbursement basis for approved projects. **Applications are due in the MDAR Amherst office by 4:00pm on January 16, 2018.** (No postmarks or electronic submissions will be accepted). Applicants selected to the program must wait until a contract is signed to begin work on approved projects and complete by June 30, 2018 and then 85% of the total project costs will be reimbursed. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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14) USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to Protect Wetlands

March 2, 2018 deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has recently announced the availability of funding to help landowners protect and restore wetlands in Massachusetts. The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), created by the 2014 Farm Bill to protect critical water resources and wildlife habitat, and encourage private owners to maintain land for farming and ranching. Through the voluntary sale of an easement, landowners limit future development to protect these key resources. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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15) Energy & Environmental Affairs FY 18 Conservation Assistance for Small Communities

March 30, 2018 deadline

The grant program provides funding to communities with a population of 6,000 people or fewer for the preparation of real property appraisals, Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs), and other planning efforts. Funding is non-competitive; all eligible applicants will receive contracts on a rolling basis until all available funding is allocated. Funding is available on a first come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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16) CSX Community Investment Program

March 30, 2018 deadline

The CSX Community Investment Program supports nonprofit organizations that serve the communities where the company is located, primarily in the Eastern, Southern, and Upper Midwest areas of the United States. The program provides assistance to nonprofit organizations that address one of the following categories: Safety, with a focus on railway, public, and personal safety; Environment, with a focus on land, water, and air preservation and restoration; Wellness, with a focus on healthy lifestyles and wellness education; and Community, with a focus on community leadership and service. Cash grants (\$2,500 to \$5,000), sponsorships, volunteer support, and in-kind transportation services are provided. Online applications may be submitted from January 1 through December 15 of each year. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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17) Healthy Estuaries Grant Program

On December 14, MassBays [posted a Request for Responses](#) under the Healthy Estuaries Grant Program. Up to \$110,000 will be distributed for projects that help characterize the 68 assessment areas identified in the [2017 Estuary Delineation and Assessment](#). They seek projects that will:

- generate new data and information on trends and conditions of estuarine resources.
- apply new or innovative approaches to improve estuarine conditions (including restoration efforts).
- advance on-the-ground actions that result in the reduction of identified stressors.
- provide information for decision-making and resource management.

Important dates:

NOW 1/16/18, 12pm: Pre-proposals due

2/23/18: Full proposals due (by invitation only)

4/30/18: Anticipated project start

For more information, go to [COMMBUYS](#), visit the [website](#), and send questions to [Prassede Vella](#).

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JOBS

18) Assistant Coordinator - Mass Audubon's Shaping Program

Join the [Shaping the Future of Your Community](#) team and help communities plan for sustainable development, climate change resilience, and more. We are looking for a part-time Assistant Coordinator to help conduct workshops and engage citizens at the local and regional levels. The Assistant Coordinator will also work with local officials on community planning and natural resource protection, as well as with Mass Audubon sanctuaries. This position enhances our program's capacity in the Southeast region of

Massachusetts, and will be based out of Mass Audubon's Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary in Attleboro. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) Director of Strategic Conservation Initiatives - Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

The Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is hiring a Director of Strategic Conservation Initiatives. Their initiatives include science-driven land conservation to advance resilient and connected landscapes in Vermont and across the region, aquatic health and connectivity, and climate mitigation/adaptation. The ideal candidate has deep conservation knowledge, excellent people skills, and experience inspiring and managing a highly motivated team, forging successful partnerships, and raising revenue. For a complete description and to apply, visit www.nature.org/careers and search for Job #45956. Posting closes 1/21/18.

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20) Director - Orleans Conservation Trust

The Orleans Conservation Trust seeks a Director. The Director must demonstrate a knowledge of, and a passion for, open space, environmental protection and the mission of OCT. The Director reports to the OCT Board of Trustees and is responsible for advancing the mission of OCT through land protection, stewardship, and community outreach. The Director is also responsible for the administrative operations of OCT, which include: marketing, fundraising, major donor cultivation, grant writing, membership development, financial management and budgeting, supervising part-time staff and contractors, office organization, and reporting. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) 2018 Native Plant Nursery Propagation Intern - New England Wild Flower Society's Nasami Farm in Whately, MA

The New England Wild Flower Society at Nasami Farm in Whately, MA is seeking a Native Plant Nursery Propagation Intern. The position will last six months, starting late March/April. Interns gain hands-on experience identifying, propagating, and cultivating North American native plants in a nursery setting. As part of this experience, interns assist in many facets of nursery operations, including propagation of numerous species, retail plant sales, seed collection and processing, record keeping and public information duties. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) State Lands Administration Management Chief - Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is seeking a State Lands

Administration Management Chief. Duties include developing, coordinating, maintaining and carrying out the Agency of Natural Resources' land administration and management processes and protocols, and management coordination of state owned lands. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) Climate Resilience Program Officer - Barr Foundation

The Barr Foundation is seeking a program officer for its newly established Climate Resilience focus area within the Climate Program. This program officer will report to the Co-Director of Climate who focuses on mobility, and work with the overall climate team to help roll out the Climate Resilience focus area. The program officer will play an important role in thought leadership, strategy implementation, and grantmaking. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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