



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

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"There's a sunrise and a sunset every single day, and they're absolutely free. Don't miss so many of them." ~ Jo Walton, Welsh-Canadian fantasy & science fiction writer & poet

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MLTC News

1) MLTC WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MLTC wishes you a prosperous, healthy, and happy 2017. Thank you for all of your support in 2016. Let's continue to work together and persevere as a strong conservation community willing to defend our land against any threats that emerge in the future.

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2) SAVE THE DATE - MLTC MEMBER/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 24, 2017 - 10:00am - 1:00pm

Join us for our Annual Meeting. MLTC Members and Friends and all Massachusetts Land Trusts are encouraged to attend and participate. Bring your lunch -- we'll provide beverages and snacks. Draft agenda coming soon.

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Local Land Trust News

3) NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST CONSERVES 114-ACRE TRACT

Excerpts from the Berkshire Eagle, January 2, 2017 by Dick Lindsay

A 114-acre parcel of open fields, forest and a vital part of the Umpachene River watershed will be conserved for agricultural and recreational use. In just two months, the New Marlborough Land Trust raised the \$260,000 needed to buy the property two days before its Dec. 31 deadline to close the deal with the out-of-state owner, according to the nonprofit organization. The single-largest acquisition in the Land Trust's 34-year existence brings its total to 589 acres - mostly donated - since the group was formed in 1983. For the full story, click [here](#).

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News

4) NATIVE & NON-NATIVE LAND TRUSTS SIGN CULTURAL RESPECT AGREEMENT

On December 19, 2016, the Native Land Conservancy (NLC) signed the first of what we hope will be many Cultural Respect Agreements with another conservation land trust, the Dennis Conservation Trust (DCT), and other public and private land owners. As negotiated, the agreement will provide NLC with formal access to sacred sites and other culturally-significant properties for educational and ceremonial purposes. This is the first such agreement of its kind on land east of the Mississippi. Click [here](#) to read the article published in the Cape Cod Times. Click [here](#) to read the text of the agreement.

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5) AMERICANS ARE QUIETLY PRESERVING 56 MILLION ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND

Excerpts from Mother Nature Network, December 20, 2016 by Russell McLendon

A new census shows that U.S. landowners voluntarily protect more land (and water) than all national parks in the lower 48 states. Public ownership is a powerful force in conservation, but it's often not enough given the scope of threats like deforestation, urban sprawl and climate change, plus the need for corridors to relink increasingly fragmented wilderness. And that's where private land comes in. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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6) UPDATE ON CT EXPANSION: MA SETTLES WITH KINDER MORGAN TO PURCHASE CT EXPANSION PIPELINE RIGHT OF WAY

Excerpts from No Fracked Gas in Mass Newsletter, January 3, 2017

On December 29, 2016 the Massachusetts Attorney General's office announced that, on behalf of the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), they reached a settlement with Kinder Morgan for the pipeline Right of Way through Otis State Forest in Sandisfield.

Though several press sources (i.e. Berkshire Eagle, WWLP) are reporting the CT Expansion compensation package at \$1.2 million, that number is somewhat inflated. Aside from the actual \$640,000 to be paid to the state, it includes the maximum amount that Kinder Morgan would legally be required to pay for compliance with state's environmental protection requirements including hiring an environmental monitor and other costs not related to compensation for the land. For the full story, click [here](#).

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7) TOP 10 HAPPY ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES OF 2016

Excerpts from Mongabay, December 28, 2016 by Shreya Dasgupta

Mongabay covered a mix of environmental stories in 2016. While some species went extinct, several new species were discovered. Some forests were wiped out, but others were restored. Some animal species showed signs of recovery after years of decline; the world became serious about protecting our oceans by establishing some of the largest marine protected areas ever; countries moved towards ending domestic ivory trade, and researchers discovered the world's tallest tree. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Legal/Legislative News

8) IRS MAKES CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX SHELTERS A "LISTED TRANSACTION"

This guidance zeros in on transactions that disguise a profitable tax shelter as a charitable donation for conservation. By making these arrangements a listed transaction, the IRS has taken an important first step in stopping donations structured to give donors back more than they give. Importantly and appropriately, the IRS does not require land trusts to report these transactions, sparing their boards from having to make technical tax determinations on donations. Additionally, the IRS notice says land trusts will not be subject to penalties merely because they received such a donation. To read the full notice, click [here](#).

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9) POLL REVEALS POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL BELIEFS OF TRUMP VOTERS

Glover Park Group (GPG) and Morning Consult released the results of a poll of self-identified Trump voters, the first post-election poll conducted to probe specific policy views, many of which include positive environmental beliefs. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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10) BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$375,000 IN FARM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Excerpts from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, January 6, 2017

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that seven Massachusetts farms with land permanently protected from development through the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR) have been selected to receive up to \$375,000 in total grant funding from the APR Improvement Program (AIP). Governor Charlie Baker said, "Massachusetts' agricultural industry provides important jobs within local communities and produces farm fresh products. Our Administration remains committed to supporting the Commonwealth's farms, and I congratulate the AIP Grant Program recipients on today's grants and on their commitment to agriculture and the environment." For the full story, click [here](#).

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Trainings

11) WORKSHOP SERIES: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE TAUNTON WATERSHED

Friday, January 27, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Friday, February 3, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Norton Public Library, Norton, MA

Has your town been impacted by flooding or drought? Are you interested in making your community more resilient to climate change?

Join Mass Audubon, Manomet, TNC, MAPC, and SRPEDD in one of five communities in the Taunton watershed: Norton, Taunton, Middleboro, Dighton, and Halifax. Each location is hosting two interactive, half-day workshops to identify what keeps our communities healthy, where we are vulnerable to weather, and how green infrastructure can solve many of the challenges we face. AICP CM | 3.5 | per daily session

[Learn more here](#) and register by emailing shapingthefuture@massaudubon.org. Please specify which location you're registering for. Attendees should plan to join both sessions. Refreshments provided.

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12) WETLANDS ASSESSMENT & FIELD TECHNIQUES COURSE, UMASS AMHERST

Beginning January 24, 2017

University of Massachusetts Amherst or webinar

The UMass Department of Environmental Conservation in cooperation with UMass Extension is offering "Wetlands Assessment and Field Techniques," a 3-credit course during spring semester at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The format of this course has been modified to allow natural resource professionals and conservation commissioners to participate in the lecture portion of the course either in person or via web-casting (webinar). The course instructor is Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The course offers in-depth information about Massachusetts wetland regulations,

wetland classification, wetland soils and boundary delineation, wetland condition assessment, functional assessment, vernal pool certification, and wildlife habitat evaluation. An abbreviated syllabus is available [here](#).

For registration or more information, contact: Scott Jackson at (413) 545-4743 or sjackson@umass.edu.

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13) UMASS EXTENSION'S INVASIVE INSECT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

February 2, 16, and March 2, 2017
Hadley Farms Meeting House, Hadley, MA

This three-day program will look at the characteristics of invasive insects, the impacts and costs they have regionally and nationwide, and highlight the biology, ecology, and identification of some of the most destructive insects including, but not limited, to: emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, winter moth, Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly, cynipid gall wasp, invasive scale insects, and more. Management of these insects in the landscape will include strategies to prevent human assisted movement. Integrated Pest Management will be the focus, highlighting cultural and mechanical management options along with the use of biological control.

Participants may receive a certificate in INVASIVE INSECT MANAGEMENT by attending all three sections and earning a passing score on a quiz following each class. Participants not interested in a certificate may also attend without taking the quizzes. Attendees are encouraged to take all three sessions in one season to get the most out of the information. For more information, click [here](#). To register and to see other upcoming events, click [here](#).

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14) FREE WEBINARS FROM TECHSOUP

TechSoup's free webinars are a great way to get started with a new tech topic or learn a few new tricks. January's workshops include information on Microsoft Windows, Adobe Acrobat Pro DC, Finding & Cultivating Local Tech Expertise & Support, GrantStation, and how to write successful grants. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Conferences

15) SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST CONVOCATION

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:15am - 12:30pm
Upper Cape Technical High School, 220 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA

Join the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Buzzards Bay Coalition & Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition for this FREE annual Saturday morning Convocation featuring excellent workshops and a plenary speech from Jack Clarke, Director of Advocacy, Mass Audubon. The final MLTC workshop in the All-Volunteer Land Trust (AVLT) program will also be included, titled "Cracking the Communication Nut." Don't miss out

on this great event! Click [here](#) for the agenda.

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16) ELA CONFERENCE - SUSTAINING THE LIVING LANDSCAPE

March 8 and 9, 2017

University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center, Amherst, MA

The 23rd Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace will take place on March 8 & 9, 2017 at the UMass Campus Center, Amherst, MA. Attendees will be immersed in a two-day exploration of ecological concepts that support living landscapes!

Explore topics ranging from the role of aesthetics in ecological restoration to the carnivore's role in the soil foodweb as we look for ways to design, build, and restore the landscape. Click [here](#) to read the ELA Conference brochure. Click [here](#) to register.

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17) RHODE ISLAND LAND & WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT

Sunday, March 11, 2017, 7:45am - 4:30pm

University of Rhode Island Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

Registration is now open. Land trust board members and staff are encouraged to join their peers from around the region along with colleagues from watershed organizations, conservation commissions and environmental education at this conference. Highlights include a Keynote Address from Eric Chivian, MD, Founder & Director of Program for Preserving the Natural World and Founder and former Director for the Center for Health & the Global Environment, as well as 33 "How-to" workshops on land & water conservation. Only \$50 before February 24, \$75 after February 24, and includes continental breakfast, lunch & coffee mug. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

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Events

18) GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED MEETING

January 23 2017, 5:30pm

Drumlin Farm, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA

Join the Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited at their next meeting. The speaker will be Brendan Annett, Vice President, Watershed Protection, of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Brendan will discuss his involvement over the past 15 years with scientific research, protection and restoration of the remaining salter brook trout streams on the coast of Massachusetts. Challenges and recent successes in protecting watershed resources around Buzzards Bay will be presented. Special emphasis will be given to recent efforts to protect the unique and important group of salter streams that flow to the Westport Rivers Estuary at the west end of the Bay. The meeting will include a social hour and light dinner, the guest speaker, and door prizes. We expect to have several skilled fly tiers who will be happy to share their expertise with you and demonstrate techniques or introduce to the fly tying. Come and learn, refine your technique or share your knowledge. Equipment provided. No experience necessary.

Doors open at 5:30 and the presentation will begin at 6:45. Bring a friend! Refreshments

will be served. Your Donation enters you in the raffle for door prizes.

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Grants

19) FY17 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS

March 9, 2017 deadline

FY17 LWCF grant round is open. LWCF grants can be used for acquisition of conservation or recreation land, the development of trails on conservation land, and the development or renovation of parks. Please attend a grant workshop. The first will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 11:00 am at DAR's office in Amherst. The second will be on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 11:00 am in the 2nd floor conference room C at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) PEOPLE, PROSPERITY, & THE PLANET (P3) AWARD PROGRAM - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

February 3, 2017 deadline

The People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Award Program provides support to research, develop, and design solutions to real-world challenges involving sustainability. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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21) PRESERVATION OF BATTLEFIELDS - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 19, 2017 deadline

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service invites non-profit groups, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments to submit applications for the 2017 Battlefield Planning Grants. The purpose of this grant program is to provide seed money for projects that lead directly to the identification, preservation and interpretation of battlefield land and/or historic sites associated with battlefields. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Jobs

22) MANAGING DIRECTOR - GROW NATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Grow Native Massachusetts is a vibrant and growing nonprofit founded in 2010 that promotes the importance of native plants to landscapes across Massachusetts. This is a new position created as our founder transitions from seven years of primary operational responsibility. The Managing Director will develop and manage our growing programs, working closely with our President, the full Board of Directors, and one other staff person. S/he will assume responsibility for day-to-day operations, with a

leadership role in running all programs. S/he will also be responsible for meeting budget and fundraising targets, while engaging our strong member and volunteer base. This position requires an ability to wear many hats and to work independently, along with strong organizational skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NORTH COUNTY LAND TRUST

The North County Land Trust, a regional land trust in north central Massachusetts, is seeking an executive director. We are looking for someone to lead our small but energetic team and take our conservation efforts, stewardship and community engagement to the next level. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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24) EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER - LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

The Land Trust Alliance seeks an External Relations Officer. This position can be based anywhere in the New England region. The officer is a key player in the organization's strategic goal to increase the individual membership base of the Alliance, raising funds to support the wide array of services, tools and training available to land trusts across the nation. The incumbent's primary responsibility is to manage the relationships for a group (150+/-) of donors and prospective donors in the New England area who contribute or have the potential to make major gifts to the Alliance. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) SEASONAL LAND STEWARD - SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES

Sudbury Valley Trustees seeks to hire a part-time, seasonal Land Steward (April to October) to assist with the management of 89 reservations and the monitoring of 73 conservation restrictions. Responsibilities include monitoring and maintaining properties, locating property boundaries, preparing reports, and working with volunteers. Application Deadline: March 3. Read more [here](#).

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26) SEASONAL BOTANY & ECOLOGY FIELD ASSISTANT - NANTUCKET CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Inc. (www.nantucketconservation.org), Science and Stewardship Department seeks two seasonal field assistants with strong botany skills for the 2017 field season. This position is primarily field-based, requiring extensive plant identification experience. Field work includes rare plant identification and documentation, vegetation community sampling associated with research projects and land management, wildlife monitoring, and land stewardship activities. Field assistants will have the opportunity to gain experience in rare species conservation, land management-based research, applied ecological monitoring, and hands-on restoration

activities while involved in a wide variety of different field work projects. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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27) CONSERVATIONIST - HIGHSTEAD

Highstead is now accepting applications for a Conservationist. Highstead seeks an individual with a collaborative spirit and experience in land conservation, land use planning, environmental education or natural resources management to fill the new position of Conservationist. The Conservationist will support the activities of the [Regional Conservation Partnership \(RCP\) Network](#) and work with the Senior Conservationist, RCP Network members, Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative partners and others to help advance the pace and practice of large landscape conservation in New England and eastern New York. Read the full job description, requirements, and information about submitting an application [here](#).

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28) 2017 NATIVE PLANT NURSERY PROPAGATION INTERN - NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

The New England Wild Flower Society is seeking their 2017 Native Plant Nursery Propagation Intern. 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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29) SUMMER GREEN TEAM PROGRAM ASSISTANT & SUMMER GREEN TEAM CREW LEADER - EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is seeking qualified individuals for two positions in the Green Team Program. The Green Team is a unique and exciting program that employs teens who work in the field of conservation, landscaping and park maintenance. The [Program Assistant](#) will be responsible for the day to day logistics of running the program, some administrative work, and leading outdoor enrichment activities. This position also works with the crew leaders and two or three youth crews to support their work in the parks. This is a temporary full time exempt position (36-40 hrs. per week) from Monday, June 5 to Friday, August 17, 2017. The [Crew Leader](#) is responsible for creating a rewarding, safe and productive experience for the ten youth members in their crew, as well as working with an assistant crew leader. Crew leaders work the entirety of the program and must participate in a paid eight day orientation prior to the start of the program.

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30) 2017 EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARDS

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) announced it is now accepting nominations for its annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education until March 30, 2016. EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton will present awards this spring to Massachusetts teachers and students involved in school-based programs that promote environmental and energy education. Click [here](#) for more information.

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