



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"We must plant trees, grow gardens instead of lawns, ride bicycles when we can and support responsible local businesses over big brands." ~ Bryant McGill, Human Potential Thought Leader, Best-Selling Author, Top Social Media Influencer, and United Nations Appointed Global Champion

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MLTC News

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

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

Location TBA

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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Nature News

2) OBAMA PROTECTS BUMBLEBEE ON WAY OUT OF PRESIDENCY

Excerpts from the New York Times, January 10, 2017 by Tatiana Schlossberg and John Schwartz

The Obama administration, rushing to secure its environmental legacy, has increased protection for the rusty-patched bumblebee, once common across the continental United States. This bumblebee has been designated an endangered species by the Fish and Wildlife Service: the country's first bumblebee, and the first bee from the lower 48 states, to be added to the register. Seven bees were previously listed as endangered, but they are found only in Hawaii.

Since the late 1990s, the population of the rusty-patched bumblebee has declined by nearly 90 percent, a result of a combination of factors, including exposure to pesticides, climate change, habitat loss and disease, federal wildlife officials said. The species, once found in 28 states, the District of Columbia and two Canadian provinces, is found today only in small pockets of its once-sprawling habitat. The designation will accelerate efforts to protect the bees' habitat and to reduce the use of pesticides that are killing them. For the full story, click [here](#).

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Legal/Legislative News

3) ALERT: TRACK IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR NORTHEAST CORRIDOR - COMMENT PERIOD ENDS JANUARY 31

The Federal Railroad Authority recently released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for track improvements to the Northeast Corridor. The preferred alternative presented in the EIS runs up through Providence to Boston. The proposal calls for some realignment of the corridor along new routes. In Rhode Island, the proposed new routes go directly through several large protected lands, one owned by the Nature Conservancy and others owned by land trusts. At present, there is no funding for this project, but there is speculation it might be funded under the infrastructure investments planned by the new administration.

To view the EIS, click [here](#). There is an appendix with maps of a representative rail corridor ([Appendix AA Part I](#)). Massachusetts maps are on pages 34-36. This EIS is for the "Tier I" plan. When adopted, the Authority will proceed with Tier II planning and more detailed EIS for the different sections of the project so *there will be other opportunities to comment*.

Please let us know if your land trust is affected.

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4) TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IMPOSES FREEZE ON EPA GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Excerpts from ProPublica, January 23, 2017 by Andrew Revkin and Jesse Eisinger

The Trump administration has imposed a freeze on grants and contracts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a move that could affect a significant part of the agency's budget allocations and even threaten to disrupt core operations ranging from toxic cleanups to water quality testing, according to records and interviews. To read more, click [here](#).

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5) 2017-2018 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Excerpts from the Environmental League of Massachusetts, January 19, 2017

Close to 100 attendees, including 30 state legislators, staff and advocates gathered together at the 2017-18 Environmental Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Environmental League of Massachusetts and 17 co-hosting advocacy organizations. Attendees heard remarks from Erica Mattison, ELM Legislative Director, Senate President Stan Rosenberg, Representative Stephen Kulik, and closing thoughts from George Bachrach, ELM President.

The Senate President spoke about the importance of passing robust clean energy and environmental legislation and declared fighting climate change needs to be a top priority. Representative Kulik discussed how policies contributing to a healthy environment help create jobs and strengthen our economy. He noted that the people of the Commonwealth are often more ready for forward-thinking environmental laws than the legislature, and that legislators need to catch up and make sure the Commonwealth is fulfilling its responsibilities, particularly those set in the Global Warming Solutions Act.

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6) HOW TO HELP SUSTAIN THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT TRUST FUND

Excerpts from the Environmental League of Massachusetts, January 19, 2017

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) Trust Fund, which is derived from a surcharge on real estate transactions at the state's Registries of Deeds, is distributed to CPA communities for land protection, historic restoration, and other local projects. The Community Preservation Coalition has been working to secure a more permanent solution to stabilize the CPA Trust Fund. Click [here](#) to read an update from the Coalition, including ways you can help.

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7) MLTC SIGNS ONTO LETTER TO SENATOR MARKEY IN OPPOSITION TO EPA APPOINTEE

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and over 20 other Massachusetts organizations signed on to a letter to Senator Markey expressing opposition to the appointment of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the EPA. As Attorney General for Oklahoma, Pruitt regularly sued the EPA to diminish regulations protecting land, water and air and has been a vociferous climate change denier. For the full text of the letter, click [here](#).

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Trainings

8) YALE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ONLINE CLASSES

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Senior Lecturers and Research Scholars at Yale

School of Forestry and Environmental Studies are currently offering four six-week online courses. These are featured as a specialization under the theme of "Journey of the Universe: A Story for our Times." For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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9) 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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10) KEYSTONE PROJECT TRAINING

April 6, 2017 - April 9, 2017

Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

The Keystone Project is an intensive, 3-day, retreat style training at the Harvard Forest which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land protection. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants. The Keystone Project educates forest owners and community leaders. In return for this valuable educational opportunity, participants agree to return to their communities as a local resource and commit at least 30-hours of time to a conservation project(s) of their choosing.

This spring, the program will take place on Thursday evening, April 6 through Sunday afternoon, April 9, 2017. The application deadline is March 6, 2017. The Keystone Training will be held thanks to the generous financial support of Harvard Forest, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and UMass Extension. For more information about Keystone or to download an application, click [here](#). Contact [Paul Catanzaro](#) or 413-545-4839 if you have any questions.

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11) 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

12) 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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13) SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY - SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 2017 WINTER CONFERENCE

February 24, 2017, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Eversource Energy, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT

The Soil and Water Conservation Society Southern New England Chapter 2017 Winter Conference program will deliver 6 hours of professional development content, including a CTDEEP presentation on sustainable forestry. USDA NRCS Resource Soil Scientist Lisa Krall will explore the unique hazards faced by urban soils and the many benefits they offer. NRCS Soil Health Specialist and District Conservationist Raymond Covino will focus on soil health, the principles of permaculture and how to grow by the square foot. Other topics being developed include municipal resilience planning assistance. Check back for updates! To register, click [here](#).

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14) UMASS COMMUNITY TREE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 8:00am - 3:30pm

Stockbridge Hall, UMass Amherst

Sponsored by UMass Extension in cooperation with the UMass Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the USDA Forest Service Urban Natural Resources Institute, the 38th Annual UMass Community Tree Conference - Utilities, Communities and Urban Trees: Partnerships in Practice is designed for tree care professionals, volunteers, and enthusiasts including arborists, tree wardens/municipal tree care specialists, foresters, landscape architects and shade tree committee members. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Events

15) CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE ORDER PUBLIC HEARINGS

February 6-8 2017

The Baker-Polito Administration recently issued [draft regulations](#) that aim to build upon the Commonwealth's nation-leading efforts to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The draft regulations, filed with the Secretary of State, are required as part of Governor Charlie Baker's [Executive Order 569](#), An Order Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth. Click [here](#) to learn more.

The public involvement process will include the following public hearings:

Monday, February 6, 2017

9:00-11:30 a.m., 1:00-4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

MassDEP Boston Office

1 Winter Street

Boston, MA

Monday, February 6, 2017

9:00 a.m.

MassDEP Southeast Regional Office

20 Riverside Drive

Lakeville, MA

Wednesday, February 8, 2017,

9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

MassDEP Central Regional Office

8 New Bond Street

Worcester, MA

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Springfield Central Library

220 State Street

Springfield, MA

Testimony may be presented orally or in writing at the public hearings. MassDEP will also accept written comments until 5 p.m. on February 24, 2017 - [more details on how to submit those here](#).

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16) GREEN INDUSTRY WINTER FORUM

February 7, 2017

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

The Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) is hosting the Green Industry Winter Forum, "Dreams & Solutions." The "Dreams" component includes a Career Fair where landscape, nursery, garden center and greenhouse companies will connect with individuals looking for jobs in the green industry. The "Solutions"

component includes Winter Forum Education, with access to the Career Fair and admission to the Annual Meeting Luncheon. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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17) NATURE'S TEMPLES: COMPLEX OLD GROWTH FORESTS

February 22, 2017, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Hunnewell Building

Are you interested in learning more about old-growth forests? Join Joan Maloof, Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University, Maryland and Founder and Director, Old-Growth Forest Network in this discussion at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University as she expresses her passionate case for the importance of old-growth forests. She will discuss the differences between the life forms in an undisturbed forest and those in a forest manipulated by humans. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Grants

18) 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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Jobs

19) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HOOSIC RIVER REVIVAL

The Hoosic River Revival is searching for an Executive Director. They are a community-based nonprofit on the forefront of the movement to restore rivers channelized for flood protection in the 1950s. They are working to reclaim the Hoosic River as the gem of downtown North Adams, MA with a 21st-century design including wetlands, parklands, and paths that reconnect residents and tourists to a clean, beautiful, safe river. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) 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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21) CLIMATE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP - NEWPORT RESTORATION FOUNDATION

The Newport Restoration Foundation is now accepting applications for a four-month directed graduate fellowship in climate and cultural heritage to begin September 5, 2017. They are looking for a curious and communicative interdisciplinarian to help them build and advance a Climate & Heritage Knowledge Community. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) 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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23) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MANCHESTER-ESSEX CONSERVATION TRUST

The Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust (MECT) is looking for an executive director to lead the organization. The executive director will manage priorities in land conservation, stewardship, outreach and education, and organizational management. The successful candidate will have a solid grounding in land conservation, familiarity with natural science and law, have strong oral and written communication skills, and demonstrate strong operations and staff management skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM MANAGER - LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

The Land Trust Alliance is launching a new initiative to strengthen the role of land trusts in addressing climate change. After investing decades of hard work and billions of dollars in conservation in the U.S., and looking to expand their efforts to permanently conserve important landscapes, land trusts are increasingly concerned about the impacts of climate change. They are seeking tools, resources and training to help them adopt climate adaptation and mitigation practices.

The climate change program manager position offers an exciting opportunity for an entrepreneurial, highly energetic conservation leader to develop and implement this new initiative and play a leadership role in the conservation community nationally. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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Resources

25) 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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26) LAND TRUST CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

The Land Trust Alliance, in partnership with the Open Space Institute and other organizations, has launched a new program to help land trusts address climate change (see description [here](#)). Funded by a generous catalyst grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the "[Land Trust Climate Change Initiative](#)" is a bold new program that will provide land trusts with the strategies, training and tools they need to both adapt to and mitigate climate change in their land conservation work. The partnership was announced with a webinar featuring Abigail Weinberg, OSI's Director of Research, on January 24th. To view the slides from the webinar, click [here](#).

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27) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WINTER COTTONTAIL SURVEYS

This winter, NH Fish & Game and UNH Cooperative Extension need help from citizen science volunteers to conduct surveys in southern New Hampshire for Eastern cottontail rabbits, a known threat to the state-endangered New England cottontail. Come to a volunteer training at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Feb. 18th to learn more about rabbits in NH and how to collect samples. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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