



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

July 14, 2016

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For more news and information, go to www.MassLand.org

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"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson. American Author, Naturalist, and Poet.

Important Dates:

AUGUST 16, 2016 - Deadline for comments on the Land Trust Alliance's Standard's and Practices Discussion Draft to be compiled by MLTC.

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UPDATE

1) CONSERVATION LAND TAX CREDIT - UPDATE

We wish we had better news to report on the progress of increasing the cap on the Conservation Land Tax Credit, but it appears to be dead this year. There was one last valiant try by the Nature Conservancy's Steve Long. Steve reached out to Representative Stephen Kulik and asked if he would sponsor the Conservation Land Tax Credit as an amendment to the Economic Development bill before the House. Representative Kulik agreed but the amendment failed due to concerns over lack of revenue.

Special thanks go to Steve for spearheading this initiative. His work went above and

beyond what was expected. MLTC also thanks Representatives Kulik and Jones for being our legislative champions.

Stay tuned as we re-group and decide how best to introduce this initiative next year.

Regards,
Marylynn Gentry, Executive Director

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MLTC News

2) INTERIM E-NEWS COORDINATOR

While we finish the search for our next Outreach Coordinator, MLTC has enlisted the help of Collin Adkins, New England Program Assistant for the [Land Trust Alliance](#), to develop our E-News bulletins.

Collin has been involved in land conservation in Massachusetts since first serving in the AmeriCorps in the Berkshires with [MassLIFT](#). He also volunteers with the [Northeast Wildlife Trackers](#) to plan their annual conference and lead workshops. Collin is currently completing an internship with the Land Trust Alliance in partial fulfillment of his Master's degree in Environmental Policy from the [Bard Center for Environmental Policy](#).

Please feel free to send any additional eNews items including news, resources, job listings, and stories from the field to Collin at masslandeneews@gmail.com.

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3) IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: HOW NATURE CAN SAVE US

From the 2016 MA Land Conservation Conference - April 2, 2016



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4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL COULD HURT NONPROFITS

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has signed onto a letter in opposition to an amendment to the proposed [Economic Development Bill](#). A joint letter to the Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, urged committee members to oppose an amendment to *An Act Relative to Job Creation, Workforce Development and Infrastructure Investment* that would allow for a property to be taxed for four years after purchase by a nonprofit. This would be a significant change from existing law, and would impact future land protection projects.

You can read the letter [here](#).

Late-Breaking News: The amendment has been withdrawn by Sen. Mike Rush.

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5) MLTC SIGNS LETTER URGING SPEAKER TO OVERRIDE GOV'S VETO REQUESTS

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has signed onto a letter urging House Speaker Robert DeLeo to override the Governor's veto requests. Governor Baker's vetoes would result in a \$10 million loss to environmental agencies' budgets in FY17. The letter has over 40 signatures from members of the Green Budget Coalition. You can read the letter in its entirety [here](#).

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Legal/Legislative News

6) ACT NOW TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE SENATE TO APPROVE CLIMATE LEGISLATION

The Massachusetts Senate passed legislation to prepare the state for the impacts of climate change! An Act providing for the establishment of a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan in response to climate change (CAMP) was attached as an amendment to the comprehensive energy bill passed unanimously last week.

In addition to CAMP, the bill also includes a commitment to 2,000 MW of offshore wind while excluding a proposed "pipeline tax" that would have required citizens to pay for the installation of new natural gas pipelines.

Now that the energy bill is in conference committee, you can help to make sure CAMP remains a part of it! Send a quick email to [your legislators](#) asking them to let the conference committee members know they support CAMP.

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7) REGULATION OF MA WATER POLLUTION WILL STAY WITH EPA FOR NOW

Modified from MA River Alliance, 06/30/2016

Legislation proposed by Governor Baker to transfer authority from the federal government (EPA) to the state (MassDEP) to regulate water pollution will not be voted on this session and has been sent to study.

Mass Rivers opposed efforts to transfer authority for regulation from EPA to MassDEP at this time, a move that would cost the state about \$6M annually. As one legislator put it, we wondered, "What will we get for our \$6M?" MassDEP's water programs have been severely underfunded for the past few years, and the agency has lost staff both to budget cuts and early retirements. As a result, the agency currently does not have the resources to meet its existing water management responsibilities. In our view, adding a new program would only further overwhelm the state agency.

MA River alliance is hopeful that their work with the legislature increased awareness about MassDEP's needs and will lead to more funding. They will continue to make this case to our legislators. Whether or not Governor Baker tries again to take control of water pollution control from EPA, MassDEP will need additional resources to protect the health of our rivers.

For more detail read Mass Rivers' [letter in opposition to delegation](#) that was sent to members of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture regarding the proposed bill (H.4254).

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News

8) MASS DEP CLEARS WAY FOR KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE

From The Berkshire Edge, 07/01/16, by Heather Bellow

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) told Kinder Morgan subsidiary Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company Wednesday (June 29) that its application for a water quality certificate was approved for its Connecticut Expansion Project, natural gas storage loop that will cut through a pristine slice of state protected land in Otis State Forest, located in the town of Sandisfield. In a letter to pipeline project manager James Flynn, MassDEP Wetlands Program Chief David Cameron said the approval was based on "reasonable assurance" that the project would be conducted in a way that would not violate the state's surface water quality standards and other state laws.

Learn more [here](#).

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9) BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF \$50,000 IN AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Modified from MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

The Baker-Polito Administration announced last Thursday, July 7th, grants totaling \$50,000 for projects that will help farmers improve the overall utilization of land resources permanently protected from development under the Department of

Agricultural Resources' (DAR) Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR).

"By choosing to protect their land from development, these farmers have committed to supporting a strong agricultural industry that benefits our local and regional economies," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This assistance to dedicated farmers illustrates our administration's ongoing support for the Commonwealth's vibrant agriculture industry, which provides fresh, healthy food for our state's residents."

The grants are being provided through a new DAR grant program, Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA). SARA will fund activities related to restoring and preparing land for active agricultural use and a suite of other activities that assist with enhancing the purposes of APR. The first round of grants has been awarded to three farms in the towns of Ashfield, Dartmouth, and Greenfield.

Read the full story [here](#).

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Events

10) PIZZA, POLITICS, AND POLICY

Thursday, July 14: Media/Journalism

hosted at The Conservation Law Foundation, 62 Summer St., Boston

Wednesday, July 20: Lobbying

hosted at The Nature Conservancy, 99 Bedford St. #5, Boston

Thursday, July 28: Grassroots Organizing

hosted at The Conservation Law Foundation, 62 Summer St., Boston

Wednesday, August 3: Government/Legislation

hosted at Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy St., Boston

This summer ELM will once again host a free educational lunch sessions for environmental and legislative interns! All interested interns from Boston and the surrounding areas are welcome to attend any or all of the lunchtime sessions to eat lunch and hear from experts on the various topics we have scheduled for discussion. Lunch will be provided, and all sessions will run from 12:00-1:30pm.

[Please RSVP here](#) if you plan on attending any of the sessions. Please feel free to contact Jasmine Opie at jopie@elmaction.org or 508-367-9366 with any questions. Stay connected: Follow ELM on Twitter at [@enviroleaguema](#)

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11) VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES WITH MASS AUDUBON

The following Thursdays from 8:00am to 4:00pm

July 14, 28

August 11, 25

September 8, 29

October 13, 27

November 3, 17

December 1, 15

Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge in Sudbury needs your help! Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was The Great Wall of China, but they'll be building a boardwalk throughout the summer and right up to the end of December.

[Volunteer work parties](#) can also be a great workout! This workout isn't about picking daisies. We'll be digging up roots by hand and pick ax, hauling dirt and gravel in wheel barrows over rough terrain, removing old wooden structures, measuring, cutting, and nailing lumber.

Interested in joining a work party? Contact Amber Carr at acarr@massaudubon.org or (978) 259-2198. Groups are welcome!

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Conferences

12) MACC FALL CONFERENCE - MANAGING MASSACHUSETTS FORESTS

Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 9:00am to 4:00pm
Holyoke Community College, Kittredge Center, Holyoke, MA

This fall the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions will be hosting their annual conference. This year's conference is themed Managing Massachusetts Forests: Conservation, Stewardship, and Regulation. Land trusts, foresters, conservation commission members, and landowners alike are encouraged to attend!

The event will cover important regulations such as the wetland protections act and the forest cutting practices act, forest management best practices, ecosystem services, stewardship, and more!

To learn more and register for the conference, click [here](#).

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Training

13) WHAT ROLE DO NATIVARS PLAY IN AN ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE?

July 27, 2016 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm
The Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Woods, Framingham, MA

As interest increases in native plants for ecological landscapes, growers and nurseries are meeting the demand through increased production of native plant cultivars (nativars) and through asexual propagation methods like cuttings, grafting, and tissue culture.

Co-sponsored by ELA and New England Wild Flower Society, this program is intended to raise awareness of the many aspects of this important topic. The audience for this event will be landscape designers, landscape architects, conservation and restoration specialists, growers, and others in the landscape field. We hope that this discussion will reveal current research into the ecological value of nativars and other asexually propagated native plant species, and address the challenges of meeting the demand for genetically diverse native landscapes.

Register and learn more about the speakers [here](#).

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Grants

14) GRANTS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN NEW ENGLAND

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is continuing its seed and grow programs. Their focus is on community-based, local initiatives that support the environment.

NEGEF's Seed & Grow grants are designed for groups that:

- are doing community-based environmental work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI or VT;
- are volunteer-driven or have no more than 2 full-time paid staff (or equivalents);
- have an annual operating budget under \$100,000.

Seed grants range from \$250-1,000 while Grow grants range from \$1,000-3,500. NEGEF funds can not be used for retroactive expenses, lobbying purposes, micro-grant programs or large capital acquisitions.

Full grant descriptions, rules and forms can be found [here](#).

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15) COMMUNITY GRANTS UP TO \$25,000 FROM GREATER WORCESTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards Community Grants to support nonprofit organizations that build healthy and vibrant communities in Central Massachusetts. Community Grants are made possible by donors who have set up endowment funds with us for this purpose. The typical grant ranges is \$5,000 to \$25,000. Areas of interest eligible for grants are Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement, the Environment, Early Childhood Development, Youth Development and Education, Economic Security, and Healthy Communities.

Find out more at their GWCF's [website](#).

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16) PATAGONIA ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

The grant application period is open for Patagonia's Environmental Grants. Each year Patagonia awards grants up to \$12,000 to community groups for efforts to enact positive change for the environment. Projects have included dam removal, forest restoration, climate change mitigation, habitat protection, endangered species protection, and supporting sustainable agriculture.

Interested? Visit <http://www.patagonia.com/environmental-grants.html>.

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Resources

17) FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program is now accepting project proposals for consideration in the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 application process. The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between participating States and the USDA Forest Service to protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. The Federal government may fund up to 75% of project costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state or local sources. The MA Forest Legacy Program FY 2018 Request for Proposals application instructions are posted here. Additional background information on the Forest Legacy Program is available [here](#). Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 pm on September 12, 2015.

For more information please contact Lindsay Nystrom, MA Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at lindsay.nystrom@state.ma.us or 508-792-7714 x114.

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Jobs

18) DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - THE HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment (HCE) is seeking a part-time Director of Development to provide leadership in creating and executing a strategy for a robust and sustained base of annual donors. The HCE is an independent nonprofit environmental education center located in Amherst, MA. Founded in 1962, its mission is to foster a greater understanding and awareness of the environment and to create environmentally literate citizens. With an annual operating budget of \$650,000, HCE serves an average of 8,200 children, youth, and adults, 30% from low-income households, throughout western Massachusetts and increasingly beyond annually.

The Director of Development is a new position for the organization. S/he will be part of a team responsible for developing and implementing the HCE's Annual Fund plan, a comprehensive fundraising plan to secure unrestricted gifts and grants from individual, corporate, and foundation sources.

View the full listing [here](#).

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19) APR PROGRAM STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANT - MA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

MDAR seeks qualified applicants for the position of Seasonal Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program Stewardship Assistant. MDAR's APR Program preserves and

protects agricultural land, including designated farmland soils which are a finite natural resource, from being built upon for non-agricultural purposes or used for any activity detrimental to agriculture and to maintain APR land values at a level that can be supported by the land's agricultural uses and potential.

The APR Program Stewardship Assistant will report to the APR Program Coordinator and assist APR Stewardship Staff with a variety of duties including management of the APR properties database, tracking incoming Baseline Documentation and Monitoring Reports, records management, approvals and permitting paperwork, mailings to landowners, compilation of materials for contractors, and other support functions as needed. In addition, the APR Stewardship Program Assistant will work with the APR Program Coordinator and APR Land Acquisition Staff on related land protection issues and projects, such as organizing documents and materials for acquisition project for EOEAA MDAR and Federal partner reviews.

View the full job listing [here](#).

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20) AMERICORPS CAPE COD - MEMBER POSITIONS

Only 8 slots left - General corps and FireCorps both available!

The Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod (BCACC) program is accepting applications for AmeriCorps Members. Term of service is Sept. 2, 2016 - July 27, 2017. Corps members conduct service in the focus areas of natural resource management, environmental education, volunteer engagement, and disaster preparedness and response.

Candidates must meet Corporation for National and Community Service eligibility requirements including clearance on all required National Service Criminal History Checks; must be 18 years or older; be a United States citizen, a national, or a legal permanent resident; have two years of college or equivalent work or volunteer experience; provide your own reliable motor-vehicle and valid driver's license; reside in program-provided residence for duration of term of service.

Click [here](#) to read more and learn how to apply.

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21) PROGRAM COORDINATOR - AMERICORPS CAPE COD

The Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod (BCACC) program is accepting applications for 1 full-time, Program Coordinator. The position will supervise activities of 32 AmeriCorps members and 5 staff. The position oversees the program's day-to-day activities; assures compliance with federal, state, and county funders; provides guidance and direction for program policies and procedures. The position is also responsible for program evaluation and assessment.

Full listing including qualifications and compensation [here](#).

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22) WLA PROJECT DIRECTOR - AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

American Farmland Trust (AFT) seeks an energetic self-starter to lead Connecticut's Working Lands Alliance (WLA). WLA is a diverse coalition of individuals and over 200 businesses and organizations dedicated specifically to farmland preservation in Connecticut. Since its creation in 2000, WLA has raised over \$50 million in public funding and successfully championed several visionary pieces of state legislation. The WLA Project Director is responsible for directing all WLA activities, which include research and education, policy development, grassroots and direct advocacy, outreach and communications, member and public events, budgeting and administration, and fundraising.

View the full job listing [here](#).

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23) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION TECHNICIANS

Land Stewardship, Inc. (LSI) has 2 openings for Ecological Restoration Technicians (ERT) for the 2016 field season. They are seeking strong, conservation-minded people for work in many of New England's most biodiverse and imperiled natural landscapes in need of our ecological restoration services.

Priority will be given to those applicants who submit their materials by Friday, July 22, 2016. Email cover letter, resume and references to: info@landstewardshipinc.com. Visit LSI'S [website](#) for more information.

Feel free to contact Chris directly if you have questions:

Chris Polatin

Land Stewardship, Inc.

413-367-5292

chris@landstewardshipinc.com

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24) BLUE CITIES FELLOWSHIP - CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), winner of the 2011 International Riverprize, is seeking a full-time one-year fellow for our Blue Cities Initiative, commencing September 2016. Competitive salary based on experience, plus benefits. CRWA is an environmental research and advocacy nonprofit based in Weston, MA.

This fellowship provides an exciting opportunity for an early or mid-career professional to play a key role in CRWA's [Blue Cities Initiative](#) projects and to hone their skills in landscape design, green infrastructure, public education and outreach, and project management. CRWA's Blue Cities Initiative incorporates the design of natural green corridors and infrastructure to help treat stormwater runoff while enhancing neighborhoods and connecting existing open spaces. Restoring urban greenscapes and natural hydrologic function—designing with nature—is at the heart of Blue Cities.

View the full job listing [here](#).

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25) MASSLIFT-AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITIONS

The mission of the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT-AmeriCorps) is to strengthen and grow the land conservation movement by developing the next generation of land trust leaders and mobilizing them in every MA community. Our vision is one where the benefits of land conservation reach every community and are meaningful for all people.

This year, 36 MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members will serve at 21 different host sites (including urban conservation and community gardening/food systems non-profits) across Massachusetts as Land Stewardship Coordinator, Regional Conservation Coordinator, Youth Education Coordinator, or Community Engagement Coordinator. Members create and accomplish projects that increase their host site's capacity, educate people in environmental stewardship, engage people in volunteerism, and include new constituencies. Specific activities vary by host site.

People of color are strongly encouraged to apply. AmeriCorps programs provide equal service opportunities. MassLIFT works to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to any particular status. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request. The program runs 8/29/16 - 7/28/17. More info at masslift.org.

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26) IMPACT MANAGER - MASSLIFT-AMERICORPS

Full-time, staff position, available July 25

The mission of the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT-AmeriCorps) is to strengthen and grow the land conservation movement by developing the next generation of land trust leaders and mobilizing them in every MA community. Our vision is one where the benefits of land conservation reach every community and are meaningful for all people.

The Impact Manager (IM) is a key staff member for implementing the MassLIFT-AmeriCorps program vision on a statewide scale. Reporting to the MassLIFT Program Director, the IM is responsible for driving the successful implementation of the MassLIFT service model by building and cultivating strong partnerships and supporting MassLIFT members' service experience and professional development. The IM plays a primary role in recruitment, orientation, training, and supervision of MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members and host site partners across Massachusetts.

MassLIFT is aiming to fill this position by July 25. MassLIFT-AmeriCorps may spin off as a separate nonprofit between Fall 2016 and Summer 2017, in which case program headquarters would likely move to Lowell, MA. Applicants should be prepared and willing to relocate to be able to work out of a Lowell office. View the complete position description and application instructions at masslift.org.

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27) OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - MASSLIFT AMERICORPS

Full-time, staff position, available Sept./Oct.

The mission of the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT-AmeriCorps) is to strengthen and grow the land conservation movement by developing the next generation of land trust leaders and mobilizing them in every MA community. Our vision is one where the benefits of land conservation reach every community and are meaningful for all people.

The Operations and Communications Coordinator (OCC) supports the MassLIFT-AmeriCorps program vision on a statewide scale. Reporting to the MassLIFT Program Director, the OCC manages member recruitment and onboarding, communications and marketing, and day-to-day administration of program operations.

MassLIFT is aiming to fill this position in September/October 2016. MassLIFT-AmeriCorps may spin off as a separate nonprofit between Fall 2016 and Summer 2017, in which case program headquarters would likely move to Lowell, MA. Applicants should be prepared and willing to relocate to be able to work out of a Lowell office. View the complete position description and application instructions at masslift.org.

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