



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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

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"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness." ~John Muir

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.

In this issue:

- 1) [MLTC News - UPDATE - Green Budget Coalition Letter](#)
- 2) [Local Land Trust News - Mutterfield Accessible Trail Project](#)
- 3) [Legal/Legislative News - New E-Waste Bill Heads to Congress](#)
- 4) [Legal/Legislative News - Baker Implements Hiring Freeze as Legislature Overrides Budget Vetoes](#)
- 5) [Legal/Legislative News - State Legislature Passes Energy Bill](#)
- 6) [News - As Much as 90% of Ground Water in Mass. May be Corrosive](#)
- 7) [News - Low Streamflow and how DER is Helping](#)
- 8) [News - Help Document Low Streamflow](#)

[9\) Nature News - NASA Imagery Shows Extensive Gypsy Moth Defoliation](#)

[10\) Conferences - NOFA Summer Conference](#)

[11\) Conferences - Request for Workshop Proposals - MACC Conference](#)

[12\) Grants - Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants](#)

[13\) Resources - State-Based Climate Assessments for New England](#)

[14\) Jobs - Public Programs Coordinator - New England Wildflower Society](#)

[15\) Jobs - Executive Director - Barnstable Land Trust](#)

[16\) Jobs - Vice President of Community Engagement - Buzzards Bay Coalition](#)

[17\) Jobs - Program Coordinator - Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture](#)

[18\) Jobs - Senior Conservation Specialist](#)

[19\) Jobs - Policy Interns - Environmental League of Massachusetts](#)

[20\) Jobs - Two Openings with The Nature Conservancy](#)

[21\) Jobs - MassLIFT-AmeriCorps Member Position](#)

MLTC News

1) UPDATE - GREEN BUDGET COALITION LETTER

GOOD NEWS! This weekend, in the final formal sessions of the 2015-16 legislative session, the legislature overwhelmingly overrode the Governor's vetoes of funding for DEP and DCR.

Our coalition especially had our eyes on DEP Administration (line-item 2200-0100), a \$1.5 Million veto, and DCR State Parks and Recreation (line-item 2810-0100), a \$5.3 Million veto. The legislature, with bi-partisan support, overrode both of these vetoes. That is good news for environmental protection and good news for state parks.

[Back to top](#)

Local Land Trust News

2) MUTTERFIELD ACCESSIBLE TRAIL PROJECT

Easthampton's Pascommuck Conservation Trust is nearing completion of a handicap accessible trail at the Mutter's Field Conservation area. Funding was provided by the MA DCR Recreational Trails Grant, Easthampton's CPA fund, Fields Pond Foundation and gifts from private donors. In the coming months they will be adding interpretive signage about the area and its flora and fauna.

The accessible trail will be an 1800-foot loop skirting the 2-acre Mutter Field meadow and will connect to the current Brickyard Brook trail. This will provide a quality outdoor recreation opportunity for people of all abilities in a tranquil setting with spectacular views of Mt. Tom.

The accessible trail will benefit currently under-served populations, as the trail will be

accessible by wheelchair and other mobility assistive devices. Anticipated users include the elderly, disabled veterans, and others with disabilities, as well as families with young children and the general public.

Continue reading [here](#).

If you have a story you would like to share with other land trust submit them to info@massland.org.

[Back to top](#)

Legal/Legislative News

3) NEW E-WASTE BILL HEADS TO CONGRESS

While the U.S. was watching the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, a new bill made its way to the House of Representative. The Secure E-Waste Export and Recycling Act (SEERA), or H.R. 5579, calls for increased recycling of electronic waste within the United States. Proponents of the bill are applauding measures to:

- reduce pollution from e-waste processed in countries with less-stringent environmental standards
- reduce harm to e-waste recycling workers in unsafe working conditions
- increase the quality of recycled materials
- reduce counterfeiting
- reduce the risk of security breaches from extracted data

You can read more about the bill proposed by Rep. Gene Green (D-Tex) and Rep. Paul Cook (R-Cal) [here](#) and track its progress [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

4) BAKER IMPLEMENTS HIRING FREEZE AS LEGISLATURE OVERRIDES BUDGET VETOES

Excerpts from State House News Service by Michael P. Norton, July 25, 2016

In a lightning round of veto override votes that stretched for several hours on Saturday, the Legislature appeared to have restored about \$100 million in spending to favored accounts. Lawmakers guaranteed spending on an array of accounts, including pediatric palliative care, the Bay State Reading Institute, career centers, pre-school partnerships, and their own budgets in the Legislature.

Baker vetoed \$256 million from the \$39.1 billion fiscal 2017 budget, warning the bill did not include about \$250 million in appropriations that he is confident the state will need to make this fiscal year.

A hiring freeze takes effect across the executive branch Monday, part of the Baker administration's plans to hit a \$100 million "efficiency savings" target in the new state budget.

Administration and Finance Secretary Kristen Lepore outlined the hiring controls in a July 15 memo, and said the freeze would continue through her secretariat's "spending plan

process."

[Back to top](#)

5) STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES ENERGY BILL

Late Sunday night, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act to Promote Energy Diversity (H.4568). This historic legislation represents an important victory for clean energy and our efforts to combat climate change. It creates a path for the development of the nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind farm. It provides for more than hydro by ensuring onshore wind and Class 1 renewable energy resources can participate in any hydropower/transmission procurements. It excludes any affirmative measures that would put electric ratepayers on the hook to pay for new gas pipeline capacity. And it includes valuable provisions to accelerate repairs of leaking gas pipes and to advance the storage of renewable energy.

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

[Back to top](#)

News

6) AS MUCH AS 90% OF GROUND WATER IN MASS. MAY BE CORROSIVE

Excerpt from Boston Globe by David Abel, July 24, 2016

Massachusetts is at greater risk than all but five other states from ground water that's potentially corrosive enough to cause toxic metals in household pipes to leach into drinking water, according to a new report by the US Geological Survey.

As much as 90 percent of the state's ground water is potentially corrosive, but the dangers are mainly for 534,000 Massachusetts residents who draw their water from private wells, the report found. Unlike public water systems, wells are not subject to state and federal testing and treatment requirements.

[Back to top](#)

7) LOW STREAMFLOW AND HOW DER IS HELPING

As you may have noticed, Massachusetts has had an unusually dry spring and summer so far, leaving many of our rivers at critically low flows. In fact, streamflow in many rivers has been below normal for several months and at levels typically not seen until late August and September. These conditions have led the Commonwealth to declare a Drought Watch for Central and Northeast Massachusetts and a Drought Advisory for Southeast and the Connecticut River Valley.

While Massachusetts is a relatively wet state, a number of streams and rivers regularly experience below-normal flow conditions in the summer, due in large part to water withdrawals and impervious cover. DER continues to monitor streamflow in streams across the state to better understand conditions in headwater and stressed streams. They continue to be a partner with EPA's regional climate change monitoring network and are hopeful that data collected as part of that effort will further their understanding

of the impacts of climate change on summertime low flow events, which are predicted to increase in duration with climate change.

[Back to top](#)

8) HELP OARS DOCUMENT LOW STREAMFLOW



Danforth Brook. Image by Sue Flint used with permission from OARS.

After months of low rainfall central and northeastern Massachusetts is in a "severe drought," according to the US Drought Monitor's classifications. Our region has had about 5 inches less rainfall than usual and our rivers have been at historic lows.

Please help OARS document what our rivers, streams and ponds look like during a drought! This weekend, grab your camera (or cell phone), take some photos and send them to us. Include a date stamp on the photos or include it in your email along with the location (water body name, closest street address or GPS coordinates) and your name.

Please send to office@oars3rivers.org.

[Back to top](#)

Nature News

9) NASA IMAGERY SHOWS EXTENSIVE GYPSY MOTH DEFOLIATION

These were posted to demonstrate the extensive gypsy moth defoliation that has taken place between late May and late June in the portion of Rhode Island that lies west of Narragansett Bay.



May 25, 2016



June 26, 2016

Images were provided courtesy of NASA and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation.

[Back to top](#)

Conferences

10) NOFA SUMMER CONFERENCE

August 12-14, UMass Amherst

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO AUG 6TH -- The Northeast Organic Farming Association's Summer Conference is the community learning hub of the NOFA universe. Learn, play, and enjoy a weekend of skill building, inspiration and entertainment. It is an opportunity to get together and inspire one another during a family friendly weekend with people living the same lifestyle, holding the same vision and working respectively in many ways toward the same goals.

Visit [NOFA's website](#) for workshop and registration info.

[Back to top](#)

11) REQUEST FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS - MACC CONFERENCE

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions is currently accepting workshop proposals for their Annual Environmental Conference scheduled for March 4, 2017. Workshops will be 90 minutes long. The conference will have three sessions throughout the day, the seven or eight workshops in each session. Be a part of the largest environmental conference in New England by suggesting a well thought-out idea for a workshop OR by proposing your own workshop. The topic should enhance the knowledge and expertise of our region's environmental stewards.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, August 26, 2016. Click [here](#) for the RFP application.

[Back to top](#)

Grants

12) COASTAL ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY GRANTS

The principal objective of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants solicitation is to implement projects that use a proactive approach to improve or restore coastal habitat to: 1) strengthen the resilience of U.S. marine and coastal ecosystems and decrease the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather and 2) support sustainable fisheries and contribute to the recovery of protected resources. The application deadline is August 16, 2016.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

[Back to top](#)

Resources

13) STATE-BASED CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS FOR NEW ENGLAND

For several years there has been a stated need for projections of future climate change at the local level across New England for local and regional decision makers. Climate Solutions New England (CSNE) has built upon the original analysis presented in the 2014 report titled "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire: Past, Present and Future" to provide a detailed analysis of past (1895-2012) and potential future (out to 2099) climate change for ten regions across New England, including northern and southern Maine. The results of these analyses are available on the [CSNE website](#). Products include: Climate Slides, Climate Grids, Fact Sheets, maps and more.

[Back to top](#)

Jobs

14) PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR - NEW ENGLAND WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

The Public Programs Coordinator is a full-time, permanent position that is responsible for assisting with the development and execution of all public programs and projects. He/she provides exceptional customer service, takes the lead role in administering programs, and serves as an ambassador for the organization. The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to streamline current department operations and help create a strategic vision for the Society's public programs.

For more information and application instructions click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

15) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - BARNSTABLE LAND TRUST

Barnstable Land Trust seeks a capable, accomplished, driven professional to serve as Executive Director for this well regarded, successful conservation organization serving the seven villages of Barnstable on central Cape Cod. This full-time position reports to the Board of Directors, supervises a small professional staff and has responsibility for

driving all aspects of the organization including strategic planning, progressive fundraising development, effective administration/finance functions and implementation of all land conservation, land management and community engagement programs and activities. Our ideal candidate will be characterized by integrity and a confident attitude that fosters a culture of excellence, teamwork, creativity and professionalism while bringing a positive influence to our work.

For more information see the full job posting at <http://blt.org/edjobposting/>

[Back to top](#)

16) VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - BUZZARDS BAY COALITION

The Buzzards Bay Coalition seeks a Vice President of Community Engagement to join the Coalition's senior management team and lead a team of 6 full-time staff and 4-6 service corps members. The Vice President of Community Engagement is responsible for the development and implementation of all aspects of fundraising and public outreach.

Fundraising activities include management of the annual development program including meeting annual operating budget targets, major and planned gifts, annual fund, membership acquisition and retention, events, foundation relations, and volunteer engagement. Outreach activities include implementation of all of the organization's active outdoor public programming for adults and youth including maintenance and promotion of [Discover Buzzards Bay](#), interpretation of a system of open space reserves and indoor learning centers, school-based programs, and web, email, social media and print communications.

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

[Back to top](#)

17) PROGRAM COORDINATOR - COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) is a non-profit organization that strengthens farms and engages the community to build the local food economy. The Program Coordinator for Farm Business Support will implement our farm business support programs. This position will coordinate a multifaceted technical assistance and support program for Beginning Farmers with less than 10 years of experience and participate in the Farm and Business support team, providing direct technical assistance and resources to farms and food businesses.

To view the full application and apply click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

18) SENIOR CONSERVATION SPECIALIST - THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

The Senior Conservation Specialist reports to the Director of Conservation and is responsible for leading and expanding the land conservation work of The Trustees. She/he will help to drive strategic plan priorities, encourage teamwork and collaboration on the land conservation team and help The Trustees to achieve/maintain a high level of

practice.

The Senior Conservation Specialist will manage a diverse portfolio of land conservation projects, with a focus on strategic reservation acquisitions and including additions to existing reservations, CRs, and other transactions. She/he will maintain and expand strong partnerships with local conservation organizations appropriate to this work, build broader support for conservation, work with other regional staff and volunteers to implement the organization's strategic plan, and support the operations of the Land Conservation program. The Senior Conservation Specialist works as part of the Land Conservation team and also works collaboratively with Regional staff and Stewardship staff on land conservation initiatives.

To read the full job description and to apply click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

19) POLICY INTERNS - ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Development/Communications Intern: Development and Communication Interns play a key role assisting with fundraising, communications, events, general administration, and special projects at ELM. The position offers an opportunity to develop and hone professional skills, gain exposure to best practices in fundraising and communications at an advocacy organization, and help strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the environmental community in Massachusetts.

Policy Advocacy Intern: Put your research, communication, and data management skills to use to contribute to our advocacy team's work to influence state environmental policy. You will attend and assist with numerous meetings and events, conduct research, draft testimony and other brief documents, proofread materials, assist with keeping our database up-to-date. You will gain exposure to a wide-range of issues related to environment, energy, and climate. You will meet leaders from dozens of environmental organizations. You will come away with a greater understanding of how policymaking on the state level really works.

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

[Back to top](#)

20) TWO OPENINGS WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy in Boston is recruiting for a **Donor Relations Manager** to join a successful fundraising team and be responsible for the identification and qualification of major and planned gift prospects. S/He will also assist in cultivating and soliciting donors through meetings, events, trips, and other activities. For more information and to apply, please visit www.nature.org/careers and search for Job #44503.

The Nature Conservancy in Boston is recruiting for a **Development Coordinator** to provide event coordination and general administrative support to a successful fundraising team. S/he partners with fundraisers, staff, trustees, donors and external partners to plan and execute events, field trips and other opportunities to support major gift fundraising. For more information and to apply, please visit www.nature.org/careers

[Back to top](#)

21) 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.

[Back to top](#)

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