



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit." ~Edward Abbey

Important Dates:

September 16 - MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

September 21 - MLTC Roundtable Workshop

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MLTC News

1) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 16

September 16, 2016 - 10:00am-1:00pm

At US Fish and Wildlife Center

300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA

MLTC Members and Friends and all Massachusetts Land Trusts are encouraged to attend and participate. Bring your lunch—we'll provide beverages and snacks. Highlights of the meeting include a discussion on the APR Program current status and proposed changes, an ongoing discussion of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) legislation, and updates on pipeline activity including recent court rulings.

View the draft agenda [here](#).

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2) NEW WORKSHOP FOR SMALL LAND TRUSTS

September 21st, 5:00-7:30pm

John & Kay Bassett Admissions Center, Clark University, Worcester, MA

Are you a land trust interested in making connections with funders? A younger audience? Then SAVE THE DATE of **September 21** because this workshop is for you.

In our recent survey, Mass Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) member land trusts listed the top challenges facing their organizations. Two of the top responses were "funding" and "how to involve the younger generation".

We heard you and invite you to attend a workshop on September 21, from 5 to 7:30 at Clark University on understanding the connections between land trusts and 1) funders and 2) aspiring conservationists.

Hear from President and CEO, Ann Lisi, of the [Greater Worcester Community Foundation](#) on what the Foundation offers and what they look for when funding a non-profit.

Following Ms. Lisi will be a discussion on how to message and involve the younger generation. The program will be facilitated by the Executive Director of the [East Quabbin Land Trust](#), Cynthia Henshaw, and Collin Adkins, New England Program Assistant Intern with the Land Trust Alliance. Students from the Clark University Environmental Sciences Program will contribute to this discussion.

This event is co-hosted by MLTC and the [Land Trust Alliance](#). To RSVP email info@massland.org.

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3) SPREAD THE WORD TO CONSERVE WATER!

The United States Drought Monitor last week more than quadrupled the area of the state considered to be under an "extreme drought," just hours before Gov. Charlie Baker was scheduled to outline the state's response to this summer's ongoing and widespread drought. All of Suffolk County, almost all of Essex County, most of Middlesex and Norfolk counties, and a slice of Plymouth County -- a total of 16.86 percent of the state's landmass and a sizable chunk of its population -- are now in an "extreme drought."

Please do your part to save water during this severe drought. The land trust community can play an important role in safeguarding our conserved wetlands and groundwater resources by raising awareness in their communities. Lawns will revive with cooler weather and rainfall. Save water indoors with these [11 easy tips](#).

Send your dry stream photos to the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance at juliablatt@massriversalliance.org. MRA is working on this issue with legislators, the administration, and the media to improve the state's drought response. A picture is worth a thousand words!

You can find more great information and resources to help conserve water through the Mass Rivers Alliance [website](#), [this editorial](#) from the Boston Globe, Mass DEP's [drought guidance document](#), and EPA's [resources for kids](#).

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Local Land Trust News

4) MLTC WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STORIES!

In our last eNews bulletin you may have noticed a story about the Pascommuck Conservation Trust. In future issues of the MassLand eNews we will be featuring stories

from across Massachusetts on what local land trusts are doing in their communities. If you recently completed a stand-out project, engaged with people in your service area in new or interesting ways, or have stories of success from your land trust, we want to feature them here!

If you have a story you would like to share in our eNews, submit them to info@massland.org.

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Legal/Legislative News

5) GOV. BAKER SIGNS COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY DIVERSITY LEGISLATION

The comprehensive energy legislation will require 1600 megawatts of the state's energy mix to come from offshore wind - a huge step to usher in a new era of clean, renewable energy. This is in addition to the 1200 megawatts of hydropower, onshore wind, and solar announced in *An Act Relative to Energy Diversity* (H. 4568). The new legislation also builds upon Massachusetts's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to enable commercial and industrial property owners to take part in the energy efficiency program.

"Massachusetts is taking yet another important step towards a clean energy economy," said State Senator Ben Downing (D-Pittsfield). "We are jump starting two industries - offshore wind & energy storage - that will shape our future, while recommitting ourselves to meeting our Global Warming Solutions Act requirements. More will need to be done, but this effort shows we are up to doing it."

Read the full press release [here](#).

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6) CLIMATE CHANGE LANGUAGE STRIPPED FROM ENERGY BILL

As the formal 2015-2016 legislative session came to an end, climate change adaptation language was stripped from the comprehensive energy bill ultimately signed into law by Governor Baker. MLTC, as a partner of the [MA Climate Change Adaptation Coalition](#), is working to raise awareness on the need for Massachusetts to implement a plan preparing for the impacts of climate change. We will be advocating for its passage again next session.

The Governor did announce an Executive Order to prepare a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Commonwealth, which will be a good first step toward Massachusetts' preparation.

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7) MA SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT STRIKES DOWN PIPELINE TAX

Excerpt from the Pipeline Awareness Network bulletin.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has struck down the so-called "pipeline tax" --

vacating the DPU's order that purported to authorize Massachusetts electric utilities to enter into contracts for gas pipeline capacity and charge their ratepayers for new pipelines. As a pipeline fighter in New York said: "It's a good victory for all of us This should put an end to some of those 'northern expansion/reversal' projects." The Pipeline Awareness Network's lawyer immediately sent the decision to New Hampshire's Consumer Advocate, along with the news that the DPU has suspended evidentiary hearings in related pipeline contract proceedings (a similar proceeding is currently pending in New Hampshire). The Mass AG has moved to have the DPU proceedings dismissed.

You can read the full decision [here](#). You can also learn more about what the Pipeline Awareness Network is doing to protect land threatened by the pipeline [here](#).

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8) EAGLE TRIBUNE HIGHLIGHTS CONSERVATION LAND TAX CREDIT

Excerpts from Eagle Tribune, August 17, 2016 article by Christian M. Wade

A tax break for landowners who shield property from development has a nearly three-year wait because of a state cap that environmentalists say is undermining conservation efforts. Landowners who set aside property under the state program can get income tax credits for 50 percent of their land's value. A landowner may claim up to \$75,000 in tax credits, but the program is capped statewide at \$2 million per year. The Conservation Land Tax Credit program has helped preserve 12,000 acres since it was created in 2011.

You can read the full article from the Eagle Tribune [here](#).

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News

9) DROUGHT EFFECTS EMERGING AS EXPERTS URGE REASSESSMENT

Excerpts from State House News Service by Colin A. Young

Farmers are worried about their crops, fire fighters are battling wild fires burning 8 inches underground, some streams have been reduced to a trickle and homeowners have watched their lawns dry to a pale brown color. Environmental science experts on Thursday agreed: much of Massachusetts is in the midst of a serious drought and its impact could be felt long after the hot weather gives way to autumn. The Drought Management Task Force, after hearing from officials from various state and federal organizations, recommended Thursday that the state broaden the scope of its drought declaration to include all of Massachusetts and consider elevating the central and northeast parts of the state to a drought warning status, one step shy of a drought emergency.

Also Thursday, the United States Drought Monitor declared portions of Middlesex and Essex counties -- a total of 3.66 percent of the state -- to be under an "extreme drought," which a National Weather Service meteorologist said is unprecedented.

Towns deemed by the Drought Monitor to be under an "extreme drought" include Andover, North Andover, Wilmington, North Reading, Tewksbury, Billerica, Concord, Lexington and Burlington.

You can listen to the full drought management taskforce meeting [here](#). See the latest drought classifications [here](#) and learn more about what the Massachusetts River Alliance is doing to urge officials to tighten water restrictions [here](#).

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Nature News

10) GYPSY MOTHS: WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SURVIVING THE LARGEST OUTBREAK SINCE 1981?

Many areas suffered at the hands (or should we say mouthparts) of gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) caterpillars this season in Massachusetts. Dr. Joe Elkinton, entomologist and professor in the UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, observes that this is "the largest outbreak we've seen since 1981". What, if anything, can be done to prepare for another outbreak next year?

Read more [here](#).

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Trainings

11) UMASS EXTENSION'S GREEN SCHOOL STARTS OCTOBER 24TH

October 24th - December 12th, Twice Weekly
Milford, MA

UMass Extension's comprehensive 12-day certificate course allows Green Industry professionals to choose from 3 specialty tracks:

- Landscape Management
- Turf Management
- Arboriculture

Both experienced professionals as well as those entering the green industries benefit from this course. Green School students learn about sensible and sustainable methods of plant and land care as well as responsible nutrient and pest management. They learn scientifically sound information that enables them to make better purchasing and management decisions, and to be better stewards of the environment.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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12) BUILDING A POWERFUL GRANTS STRATEGY FOR 2017

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

This webinar offered by GrantStation will take participants through the process of establishing a grants calendar for the next 12 to 18 months. Fast-paced, and filled with action steps, Cynthia Adams, CEO of GrantStation, will discuss how to design and adopt a

Grant Decision Matrix before beginning the process of building a specific grants strategy for each project. All participants will also receive a set of worksheets that they can use to create their own approach to building an overall grant-seeking strategy for their organization. This presentation is geared towards beginning and intermediate grant writers. Advanced grant writers may also find it useful as a refresher course.

Click [here](#) to register.

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13) ADOBE INDESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

August 30 - September 2

The Conway School will host a digital design workshop at the end of this month: Introduction to Adobe InDesign. The Adobe Creative Suite, including InDesign, offers excellent tools for designers and planners to distill complex social and environmental data into compelling documents that inform and inspire. This summer, come learn fundamental tools and techniques to communicate your big ideas with the Conway School of Landscape Design.

For program and registration information click [here](#).

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Conferences

14) 2016 NORTHEAST WILDLIFE TRACKERS CONFERENCE

October 15, 2016 - 8:30am - 4:00pm

Mass Wildlife Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA

The Northeast Wildlife Trackers are a group of knowledgeable enthusiasts who share a passion for collaborative exchanges on all aspects of wildlife tracking in the Northeastern United States. Throughout the conference, NWTC aims to develop long-term connections and strategies for inspiring wildlife habitat protection by bringing together a range of issues and experiences connected to wildlife.

The conference will host distinguished speakers from across the Northeast. New this year will be optional off-site field sessions, for conference attendees only, on Sunday October 16 for which separate pre-registration and pre-payment is required. This opportunity allows attendees to immediately carry their newly acquired skills and knowledge into the field! Please visit northeastwildlifetrackers.org to read the full conference description and learn more about the workshops offered.

Space is limited so [register](#) early!

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15) SCALING UP: NEW STRATEGIES FOR LANDSCAPE-SCALE CONSERVATION

October 7, 2016 - 8:00am - 5:00pm

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

In response to impacts of globalization, climate change, and environmental degradation, conservationists, resource stewards, and public officials are embracing a much larger, whole ecosystem approach to conserving land and its attendant historic and cultural attributes. This emerging approach requires building complex networks of partnerships and overlapping jurisdictions which work in concert to conserve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the regional landscape.

Organized by [Essex Heritage](#) and hosted by the [PEM/Peabody Essex Museum](#), the symposium is designed for natural, historical, and cultural resource professionals such as municipal officials, regional and local planners, state agency staff, nonprofit resource stewards, and college faculty.

To review the full agenda and register, please click [here](#).

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16) MASSACHUSETTS NONPROFIT NETWORK 2016 CONFERENCE & EXPO

November 2, 2016 - 8:00am - 4:30pm

Framingham Sheraton, 1657 Worcester Rd, Framingham, MA

Registration for MNN's 2016 Conference & Expo is now open! Join MNN for one of the largest gatherings of nonprofit and business professionals from across the Commonwealth. This year, MNN will bring together the collective expertise of the nonprofit sector to discuss how we can move forward for a better Commonwealth. Participants will look at what's been working, what are the current issues, and how we can learn from the past to shape a better future.

To see a list of workshops, conference schedule, and to register click [here](#).

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Events

17) MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT FALL BULB & PERENNIAL SALE

September 23, 3:00-6:00pm

September 24, 8:00am-Noon

Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd, Concord, MA

The Middlesex Conservation District, a not for profit environmental agency, will be holding its annual Fall Bulb and Perennial Sale on September 23rd and 24th. All items may be preordered for best selection through August 31 by visiting their [website](#) or [emailing](#) to receive a print catalog. The sale features tulips, daffodils, specialty bulbs, iris and perennials. All proceeds benefit the District's conservation programs. For more information please call (978) 692-9395.

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Grants

18) PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE GRANTS

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the PFW Program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Projects must advance the PFW mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Program strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity.

You can find the full grant listing and instructions for applying [here](#).

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19) COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION GRANTS

The Coastal Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to coastal communities and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Coastal Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff. Projects must advance our mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Program strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity. Applicants seeking funding under this program should review the program strategic plan and also contact the regional Coastal Program office prior to submitting an application for funding.

You can find the full grant listing and instructions for applying [here](#).

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Jobs

20) DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE - SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION

The Development Associate provides critical support for the efforts of [Sheriff's Meadow Foundation](#) to obtain financial support for its conservation mission and for the stewardship of its lands. The Development Associate reports to and is supervised by the Executive Director. The Development Associate works closely as a team with the Office Manager, Director of Stewardship, Property Managers and other staff and contractual help. The Development Associate must possess strong verbal, written and social media communication skills. The Development Associate must be diplomatic, must exercise discretion, and must maintain confidentiality at all times. The Development Associate represents the Foundation at all times in a positive and professional manner. The position may be either full-time or part-time, and the salary will be comparable to salaries

for similar positions in other charitable organizations. The position may require occasional travel. A bachelor's degree is preferred.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more and to apply.

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21) AMC NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL COORDINATOR

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is seeking an energetic and organized New England National Scenic Trail Coordinator to advance the protection, promotion, and stewardship of the New England National Scenic Trail in Massachusetts as well as the New Hampshire M-M Trail. Key goals for the NET and NHMM are to ensure a consistent, high quality recreational experience; engage communities and local stakeholders in trail stewardship; maintain communication with landowners and the public; and implement a long-term trail protection strategy. The position is based at AMC's office in Amherst, MA.

For additional details and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) RESEARCH ASSISTANT - MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

The Kennedy School's Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, is seeking a research assistant(s) with a deep interest in the clean energy economy and strong analytical skills to assist with an analysis of the ways in which electric utilities can best respond to the climate change challenge. This project seeks to deepen and broaden the understanding of why this is the case and what has to change in order for more utility executives and policymakers to adopt climate-conscious, consumer empowering - and profitable - approaches for a clean energy economy. The research assistant(s) will play a critical role in this project through analyzing utility financial models and incentives; researching innovative initiatives in the U.S. and abroad; arranging and participating in research interviews/surveys of utility executives, policy makers, and NGO leaders; and organizing study group/guest speaker activities. The successful candidate(s) will have a keen interest in the economics of the utility industry and a deep appreciation for the importance of a clean energy future.

Interested candidates may send a resume and statement of interest to john_devillars@hks.harvard.edu.

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23) MANAGER OF FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT - MASS AUDUBON

Mass Audubon is seeking a dynamic and experienced grant professional to play an integral role in our development office. This full time position manages and actively participates in the grant writing and submission process for specific units and programs across the organization. The Manager will proactively and collaboratively research and identify new funding opportunities from foundations, corporations, government agencies and also cultivate key relationships with funders. Additionally, this position will

assist with grant management duties and fulfill programmatic and budgetary grant reporting requirements.

Please see the full job description [here](#).

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24) OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN LAND CONSERVATION

Mass Audubon has many openings at: [http://www.massaudubon.org/jobs/\(all\)/1](http://www.massaudubon.org/jobs/(all)/1)

See The Trustees employment openings here: <http://www.thetrustees.org/about-us/employment/>

The Nature Conservancy posts MA job listings here:

http://jobs.nature.org/massachusetts/usa/jobs/?offset=10&num_items=20&filter_path=%2F

The Mass Association of Conservation Commissions posts conservation staff openings at: http://maccweb.org/resources_jobs.html

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