

Speaker Biographies

Have you thanked a speaker today?

Today's presenters volunteered their time and expertise to help further conservation in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition appreciates their invaluable contributions.

Plenary Speaker

Gina McCarthy, former U.S. EPA Administrator, Director of C-CHANGE (Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment) at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Gina McCarthy is Professor of the Practice of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Director of the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment. In this capacity, she leads the development of the School's strategy in climate science, health, and sustainability; strengthens the climate science and health curriculum; and liaises with climate science leaders across the University.

McCarthy has been a leading advocate for common sense strategies to protect public health and the environment for more than 30 years. She served under President Barack Obama as the 13th Administrator of the EPA from 2013–2017. Her tenure as EPA Administrator heralded a paradigm shift in national environmental policy, expressly linking it with global public health. She led EPA initiatives that cut air pollution, protected water resources, reduced greenhouse gases, and strengthened chemical safety to better protect more Americans, especially the most vulnerable, from negative health impacts. McCarthy signed the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever national standards for reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, underscoring the country's commitment to domestic climate action and spurring international efforts that helped secure the Paris Climate Agreement. McCarthy also worked with the United Nations and the World Health Organization on a variety of efforts and represented the U.S. on global initiatives to reduce high-risk sources of pollution. (Plenary)

Round Table Facilitators

William "Buzz" Constable provides land counsel to conservation and development projects, utilizing a few decades' experience in real estate conservation, law, development and investment. Buzz currently serves on several conservation, business and civic boards and committees, including the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Defense Network, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, Mass Land

Trust Coalition Board of Trustees and Attorney Advisory Panel, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, and The Trustees of Reservations. (3I)

Cynthia Henshaw has been the Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust, which covers eight towns in central Massachusetts, since 2007 and involved with various aspects of land conservation and organizational development for over twenty years. Cynthia serves on the Board of Trustees of the Mass Land Trust Coalition. (2K)

Steve Long is Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts as well as teaching Environmental Planning and Policy. Professor Long currently lectures at both Tufts University and Suffolk University. (1K)

Workshop Presenters

Evan Abramson worked internationally as a photographer and documentary filmmaker for over a decade, before redirecting his career toward regional landscape planning and design as a solution to our global ecological challenges. His environmental documentaries have won over two dozen film festival awards, and influenced policy makers across the globe. His photographs have been published widely, in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications. In 2014, Evan became a community organizer for Food & Water Watch, where he helped pass a statewide moratorium on fracking waste in Connecticut. He is presently a Land Use and Natural Resources Planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in Greenfield, with projects spanning Franklin County. Before working at the FRCOG, he farmed at the biodynamic and organic Hawthorne Valley Farm in Ghent, New York. He holds a Master of Science in Ecological Design from the Conway School in Northampton, a Certificate in Permaculture Design and a Certificate in Biodynamic Gardening, and is the father of two young and energetic children, Luz and Lief. While a student at the Conway School, he designed a Pollinator Action Plan for the Town of Great Barrington, which is presently being implemented, and which you can view here: <https://www.townofgb.org/home/news/great-barrington-pollinator-action-plan-healthy-habitat-gb-bees-and-others> (1C)

Tom Anderson is the program administrator for the Conservation Land Tax Credit Program in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. (3F)

Judith Barr is a member of the Board of Directors for the Wellesley Conservation Council. Inc. (3C)

Andrew Bentley started as Conservation Easement Manager at New England Forestry Foundation in August 2017, coordinating easement stewardship for NEFF's 147 CEs around New England. Andrew is a graduate of UMass Amherst and started in land trust work in 2010 as an intern with The Trustees of Reservations and then its CR Specialist from 2011 to 2017. (1B)

Becky Bottomley is a retired environmental science teacher and Envirothon coach. (3H)

Donald Burn has been involved with land preservation and trail building for over 26 years as a volunteer. At present he is the Chairman of Land Preservation for the Westborough Community Land Trust, on the board of OARS the river advocacy organization for the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers, and leading building both a hiking trail network and a multi-use trail in Westborough. (2I)

Sara Burns is a water resource scientist with the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Sara works with a range of partners and technical experts around Massachusetts to plan and fund nature based solutions projects to improve water quality, reconnect aquatic ecosystems, and reduce natural hazard impacts. Sara is a certified MVP service provider, and has a MS in Environmental Science from Indiana University. (2B)

Kate Buttolph is a Land Protection Specialist at Mass Audubon. Kate has worked in land conservation in New Jersey and Massachusetts since 1998. Her experience includes serving on the Board of Trustees for Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust, Counsel to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Counsel for the Department of the Interior, and Director of Land Acquisition and Stewardship for the Hunterdon Land Trust where she was instrumental in preserving over 6500 acres. Prior to her career in land conservation, Kate worked in the Office of General Counsel at Princeton University for 14 years. (2E)

Rachel Calderara served as a MassLIFT AmeriCorps member at Wildlands Trust in 2014-15, and then joined as a full-time staff member in August of 2016. She graduated with a BS in Environmental Science from UMass Amherst in 2012. (3H)

Melissa Cryan is the Grant Programs Supervisor for the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, where she directly administers the PARC, Conservation Partnership, and Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Programs. She also reviews and approves all Open Space and Recreation Plans. She has a BS in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Rochester and an MA in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy from Tufts University. (3G)

Christa Collins joined Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) in 2002. She currently serves as Director of Land Protection. Christa represents SVT on matters regarding land protection, leads their Land Protection team, and manages a portion of their land protection projects, primarily involving assistance to landowners. Previously, Christa was the Director of Land Protection for the Nashua River Watershed Association. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Middlebury College and a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan. She lives in Concord with her husband and two children. (1D)

Becky Cushing is Director of Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, oversees six wildlife sanctuaries, 12 miles of hiking trails and the countywide Berkshire Environmental Literacy program. She's a trained field biologist and environmental educator with a passion for cross disciplinary collaboration, environmental problem-solving and connecting people to nature. Some recent collaborations include an international broadcast of live concert music and nature sounds with the BBC, BSO and WGBH, and the Nature and Mindfulness program at Kripalu. Becky has worked in the conservation field for 15 years in science, education, and administrative roles at other Mass Audubon sanctuaries across the state, the University of Vermont and The Nature Conservancy. She earned an MS in Plant Biology from the University

of Vermont Field Naturalist program and a BA in Conservation Biology from Middlebury College. She's a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and Sea Education Association (SEA), a Switzer Environmental Fellow and author of journal article, Exploring the Role of Ospreys in Education. (2J)

David Ciernia is the Conservation Coordinator for the Student Conservation Association Massachusetts AmeriCorps program. He works with conservation partners throughout the state in assessing their trails and planning out how make them more sustainable. He is responsible for the training of 26 SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps members in how to implement the trail projects that need to be done on public lands. He selects and supervises over 40 conservation projects each year. These projects are each 10 days long and include work such as rock staircases, rustic timber bridges, dimensional bridges, retaining walls, new trail, re-routes, and more. The projects are completed by the SCA MA AmeriCorps members using the trainings they received from the program. David has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning & Studies from CSU – Chico, and holds certifications in Leave No Trace, Rigging & Chainsaw. (2C)

Paul Catanzaro is Co-director of the Family Forest Research Center, a partnership between the UMass Amherst and the USDA Forest Service. As extension faculty, my work integrates research and outreach to family forest owners. The goal of this integrated approach is to learn about family forest owners in order to better inform their decisions. A main focus of my work is to help landowners decide the future of their land through conservation based estate planning. My outreach methods include peer learning, social networks, and internet based tools. (3D)

Garry Crago is a highly accomplished executive with a demonstrated history of success in numerous industries including biotechnology, financial services, chemicals, and consumer products. He has also served on several non-profit boards. He is skilled in negotiation, operations, sales & marketing, leadership, strategy and development of high-performance teams. Garry has worked on numerous projects with Land Trusts to preserve and protect cold-water resources. He is currently the National Leadership Council Representative for the MA-RI Council of Trout Unlimited. (2I)

Steve Daoust is Director of Programs for Kripalu Center in Stockbridge Massachusetts and Chair of the Mass Audubon Berkshire Sanctuaries Advisory Council. After studying Fine Arts at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Stephen found his calling in outdoor program operations in Yosemite National Park in California. Part guide and part chef, he returned to the East Coast to run some of New England's most famous historic inns and restaurants for the Barron Hotels Group before entering the retail sector as buyer and program designer for the specialty outdoor industry. In his current role at Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, Stephen oversees the design and curriculum of nearly 50 multi-day outdoor programs and over 500 recreational activities each year, exploring the intersection of mindfulness and appreciation of the natural world. He lives with his wife and two children in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. (2J)

Irene Del Bono has 23 years of experience in real property law. She worked as an assistant attorney general from 1992 to 2001, defending and asserting the Commonwealth's property interests primarily in Land Court. She then went to the DCR as the director of land acquisition from 2001 to 2004, and was promoted as chief of encroachments in 2005. She then moved on to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as statewide conservation restriction reviewer, and retired in 2015. She has represented numerous private clients and

assisted other attorneys in clearing-up and establishing complicated title issues regarding boundaries, easements, roads, adverse possession, tax titles, coastal issues, tree rights, and public and private rights in property. (3I)

Paul Doscher worked for 27 years at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, retiring in 2014 as the Vice President for Land Conservation. His work involved acquisition of land and conservation easements and stewardship of the Forest Society's more than 800 conservation easements. The Forest Society is one of the nation's oldest land trusts, founded in 1901. During Paul's tenure the Forest Society protected or helped protect nearly 400,000 acres across the entire state. He was Secretary of the National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited (TU) and also served on the national board of trustees through 2018. In 2013 he was selected as the recipient of the Ray Mortensen Award, TU's highest honor for volunteer leadership. He led the effort to establish a land conservancy program designed to create partnerships for cold water habitat protection and restoration between TU and land trusts. (2I)

Larry Field is Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance. He is a former Director of the Commonwealth's Permit Regulatory Office. (3E)

Zoe Foster is a student intern at the EEA Division of Conservation Services. Her work includes reviewing the Conservation Restriction database, and helping develop the Greening the Gateway Cities Program and Healthy Soils Action Plan. (2H)

Jacob Freedman has worked as a teacher-naturalist and camp counselor with Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, using environmental education to engage young people with crucial habitats and wildlife. Working with the Greater Worcester Land Trust, he has connected young people to local ecosystems and urban forestry projects, establishing a bi-annual environmental day-of-service for students at the Bancroft School to participate in on-the-ground conservation initiatives. (3H)

Kurt Gaertner is Sustainable Development Director at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and is responsible for implementing the TDR Revolving Fund. (3E)

Prof. Dr. Robert J Gegear studies animal sensory and cognitive systems within the contexts of evolutionary ecology and conservation biology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His laboratory is particularly interested in 1) how cognitive traits such as working memory capacity and perceptual bias influence the foraging ecology of flower-visiting animals, 2) how floral signal complexity in plants is adaptively linked to sensory and cognitive traits in animal pollinators, and 3) how human-induced changes to sensory and cognitive abilities of animals at the individual level 'scales up' to influence the structure, dynamics, and diversity of ecological communities and natural networks. To effectively address these questions, our research approach spans multiple organizational and disciplinary boundaries, combining concepts and experimental techniques from behavioral ecology, neurobiology, experimental psychology, molecular biology, population and community ecology, evolutionary biology, and computer science. (1C)

John Gioia is Conservation Restriction Reviewer at the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2H)

Vanessa Johnson-Hall is Assistant Director of Land Conservation at Essex County Greenbelt. Vanessa brings 15 years of experience in land acquisition, conservation restrictions, and a passion for working with people to her leadership position as Assistant Director of Land Conservation. Vanessa values working with landowners to help them achieve their conservation goals, and played a key role in the preservation of Leonhard Farm in North Andover and Boxford, Mehaffey Farm in Rowley, Wheeler Brook Farm in Georgetown and Bailey Farm in Haverhill. Vanessa evaluates acquisition and conservation projects using a detail-oriented approach and a strong educational background in natural sciences. She has an important responsibility for obtaining funding through grant writing, coordinating partnerships and negotiating achievable conservation outcomes. Vanessa also develops and delivers educational programs for landowners, municipalities, and farmers. Vanessa enjoys visiting Essex County's many local farm stands, kayaking its rivers and bays, trail running in its open spaces, bicycling its quiet roads, and hiking the high peaks of the White Mountains and beyond. She previously worked as a Land Protection Specialist for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, and for The Land Trust of Napa County, California. Vanessa received her Master's of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. (2H)

Lisa Hayden has managed a landowner communications initiative with numerous partners in the MassConn Woods region since 2014 as Landowner Outreach Coordinator at the New England Forestry Foundation, where she also works with volunteer Forest Stewards. A former journalist and a Keystone cooperator, she has worked on strategic communications and climate change policy for The Nature Conservancy, including a blog on forest carbon and adaptation planning. She received an MA in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning from Tufts University. A Connecticut landowner, she enjoys working with other landowners to achieve their conservation and forestry goals. (1A, 2F)

Elizabeth James-Perry, native artist and speaker, is enrolled with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head -Aquinnah, at the richly colored clay cliffs of Noepe (Martha's Vineyard). She has over a decade of experience working as a Senior Cultural Resource Monitor for Aquinnah. Elizabeth received the 2014 Traditional Arts Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She revived endangered Native art forms, including woven quillwork and plant dyeing. She was an original Board of Advisors for NEFA's Native Art Program. Her writing has appeared in Dawnland Voices 2.0. She gave an interview for the podcast Curating Indigeneity. Elizabeth contributed to National Parks Service reports in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and consults on the Indian Papers projects at Yale and Harvard. She co-produced the background roll in scenic Dartmouth, Massachusetts for As Nutayunean, the Wampanoag language film. Elizabeth holds a degree in Marine Science, and resides in south coast Massachusetts. (1I)

Chris LaPointe is Director of Land Conservation at the Essex County Greenbelt Association, works with landowners, communities, land trusts, and public agencies across Essex County, Massachusetts, on complex land protection projects. Previously, Chris worked for twelve years with The Trust for Public Land. Over his career, he has helped conserve more than 4,000 acres of land worth more than \$90 Million. Chris has a BA in Environmental Policy from Colby College and an MS in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont. Chris is a past President of the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust. (1D)

Lucy Lee is a Research Assistant and Spatial Analysis Outreach Specialist at the Harvard Forest. As a research assistant, Lucy manages and analyzes data on New England's protected areas. As the Spatial Analysis Outreach Specialist, she helps connect scientific research with conservation practice by coordinating development of a scenario planning web tool and organizing workshops to engage practitioners with scenario planning. Lucy has an MS in Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment from Clark University. (2B)

Ray Lyons is a conservation attorney based in Harvard, MA. He represents landowners, the New England Forestry Foundation, the Northeast Wilderness Trust, and works with many conservation organizations to protect forests, farmland, and other important open spaces throughout New England. Ray is a member of the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Defense Advisory Council, its Education Committee, and the Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee (MEDS). He is a former trustee of his local conservation land trust. He holds a BA in Music from Ithaca College and a law degree from Suffolk University. (2F)

Michael Madole is the Conservation Restriction Monitoring Specialist for the Trustees of Reservations, where in addition to assisting with the annual monitoring of over 350 easements, he focuses on encroachment prevention and mitigation, mobile data acquisition, GIS, and drone technology. Prior to working with the Trustees he served as an Americorps Land Stewardship Coordinator at Hilltown Land Trust in Ashfield, MA. (3B)

Ariel Maiorano is Assistant Coordinator of the Shaping the Future of Your Community Program at Mass Audubon. In her current role, Ariel supports local governments to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change through targeted conservation. She is a Keystone Cooperator and a certified provider of the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program. She received an MS and BA in Environmental Science and Policy at Clark University, where she had the opportunity to contribute to stakeholder-driven environmental justice research. (1A, 3A)

Margot Mansfield is Climate Change and Coastal Hazards Analyst with MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. She is a program lead for EEA with the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. She has extensive knowledge of the program, the grant administration process, preference for nature-based solutions, and common community questions. Margot also supports CZM's efforts on a regional coastal resilience project developing a monitoring protocol and guidance for living shoreline projects in coastal New England. (3A)

Laura Mattei is the Stewardship Director at Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). Over the past 19 years, Laura has managed the myriad challenges of stewarding lands, including dealing with unhappy neighbors, errant visitors, trials & tribulations with dog walkers, trail planning and relocation, biological monitoring, habitat restoration, and management planning. Laura has an MS in Natural Resources Management with a specialty in Landscape Ecology. (2K)

Professor Dr. Malcolm MacGregor is chair of the Plymouth Planning Board and has served as a member of the town's conservation commission, community preservation committee, board of health and open space committee. He has also served as a member of the Wildlands Trust Board of Trustees. Professionally, Dr. MacGregor is a Professor and department head at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and has a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Connecticut. (3E)

Lis McLoughlin holds a PhD in Science and Technology Studies and a BS in Civil Engineering. She currently works with the Tribes protecting the Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape. Lisa serves on the Northfield Historical Commission, and the board of directors of The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Also a writer, she edits NatureCulture, the science page of the Montague Reporter. (1I)

James Monahan is a *Senior Advisor* with the Real Estate Consulting Group of LandVest, a broad-based real estate company involved in all aspects of land planning, real estate brokerage, broad-scope consulting, development, and conservation planning. As Senior Advisor, he is responsible for oversight and management of residential and commercial real property appraisals, development feasibility studies, land use planning and design, conservation planning and implementation of limited development projects. Mr. Monahan's specific area of expertise involves the design, valuation and implementation of multi-use disposition plans for privately-held land in the context of generational asset/estate planning. (2E)

Professor Thomas Mullin is an Associate Professor of Parks and Forest Resources at Unity College in Maine. A founder and fellow of the National Association for Interpretation, he also serves on the Stewardship Council of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and chair of the Waldo County Trails Coalition. Past professional experience has included work as Executive Director of two land trusts and park manager for a county park agency outside D. C. (1H, 3C)

Helena Murray is a Graduate Research Assistant at UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation. (3D)

Emily Myron is government relations specialist for The Nature Conservancy, where she works with both the state and federal legislatures, agencies, and partners to advance land and water conservation policy. She holds a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and a BA in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland. (1F)

Sally Naser is Conservation Restriction Stewardship Manager for the Trustees of Reservations. She manages The Trustees portfolio of over 400 conservation restriction (CR) properties across MA which protect over 20,000 acres of land. Sally has been an avid wildlife camera trapper since 2013, deploying remotely triggered cameras on CR properties in western and central MA as a way to inspire and educate landowners on the importance of protecting & preserving wildlife habitat. Sally previously served as Boundary Program Manager for the Appalachian Trail (AT) in partnership with the National Park Service and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Sally earned her Master's degree in Sustainable Landscape Planning & Design from the Conway School in 1998. (2K)

Liz Newlands has worked for MassWildlife for the past 15 years, first as a contractor and now as CR Stewardship Coordinator. She has assisted the agency and other conservation partners in efforts to survey, monitor and restore rare and endangered species and native wildlife habitat and prepared numerous Baseline Documentation. Liz holds a BS in Environmental Education and an MS in Environmental Studies & Conservation Biology. (2D)

Melissa Ocana is Climate Adaptation Coordinator and Extension Project Manager at UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation. She coordinates partnerships and encourages climate adaptation with natural resources conservation in mind. Current projects

include coordinating the Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN) and helping resource managers incorporate climate impacts into their work. She also manages projects with Scott Jackson related to aquatic connectivity, wildlife conservation, resiliency of road-stream crossings to storms, and tools for prioritizing land conservation and restoration. Before moving to Massachusetts, Melissa was a Program Coordinator at Stony Brook- Millstone Watershed Association. There, she built capacity among NJ's non-profit conservation community through trainings and a small grants program. Previously, Melissa was Assistant to the Climate Change Policy Advisor at the US Fish & Wildlife Service, where she worked on the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy through a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship. She also worked on natural resource policy as a fellow in the House of Representatives. Melissa has a MS in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, where she studied sea turtle nesting and community use of eggs in Mexico. (1K)

Bob O'Connor is the Director of the Division of Conservation Services at MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. He coordinates land conservation efforts among land trusts, municipalities and state divisions. He also coordinates the forestry and forest conservation efforts among environmental agencies and private landowners. Previously, he was Director of the Watershed Initiative and Natural Resources for the agency that supplies drinking water to the Boston Metro area. Prior to this, he was the Superintendent of Quabbin Reservoir. He has a B.S. in Forestry from S.U.N.Y Syracuse and an M.B.A. from the University of Massachusetts and will soon complete his Masters in Conflict Resolution at the University of Massachusetts. (1J, 2H)

Thomas O'Shea is Director of Stewardship and Natural Resources at The Trustees. Over the past year and half, Tom has been leading The Trustees' coastal vulnerability assessment project and coastal adaptation strategies. He currently oversees four teams focused on trails, ecology, structures and landscapes, and stewardship excellence. Tom has over 20 years of experience and accomplishments in natural resource conservation and stewardship in Massachusetts and previously served as the Assistant Director of Wildlife for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Tom has taught natural resource management as adjunct faculty at Clark University and holds a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Masters of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. (1K, 2A)

Melissa Patterson is a western Massachusetts native and comes to the Franklin Land Trust from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Massachusetts AmeriCorps program, where she served as both the Conservation Coordinator and the Program Director during her seven years with the program. While at SCA, Melissa had the opportunity to work alongside FLT staff to coordinate a wide variety of projects and trainings at FLT's Guyette Farm and Walnut Hill Woods properties. Through the SCA/FLT partnership, Melissa gained a deep appreciation of FLT's role in conserving the fields, farms and forests that are so commonly valued and celebrated within the region. She will be working as part of FLT's outreach team as well as with the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute to promote programs designed to help landowners manage their woodlands for wildlife habitat. Melissa began working in the conservation field as a trail crew leader with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and at Merck Forest and Farmland Center as a stewardship educator. She received a BA in environmental studies from Allegheny College and holds a teaching certificate in elementary education. When she isn't at work she loves to run, go on slow walks with her old dog, and cross country ski. (1J)

Jamie Pottner, M.A., is the Farm Conservation Program Manager at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust where she specializes in protecting working farms across north central and western Massachusetts and strengthening our local food systems. Jamie is deeply committed to a personal journey of anti-racism work and believes in the potential for land trusts to conserve and steward the special places in our communities, while also addressing systemic racial and economic inequities. (1I)

Chris Pryor is Director of Forest Stewardship for the New England Forestry Foundation. Chris began working at NEFF in 2001 to manage the organization's communications, and then became the conservation easement coordinator in 2003. For nine years, he was responsible for the monitoring of 135 easements covering over 1.142 million acres in seven states. Chris is now the director of forest stewardship. He oversees the management of NEFF's 27,000 acres of Community Forests. Before joining NEFF, Chris worked in New Hampshire, Colorado, and West Virginia. Chris received his degree in forestry from Virginia Tech, and is a licensed forester. (2K)

Caleb Pourchot is the founder of LANDSCAPE land conservation software. He works with big and small land trusts across the country to improve their data management capacity and process efficiency through the use of powerful software tools. Caleb has spent 11 years in the conservation trenches protecting land and stewarding easements with Groundswell Conservancy in Madison, WI. (3B)

Oscar Psychas, a Middlebury College Environmental Studies-Geography Major '21, walked 280 miles from his house to Florida's state capitol to support land conservation and founded "Young Leaders for Wild Florida," a successful two-week environmental leadership summer program for teens with a local land trust (second program planned for summer 2019). He also served for two years as a member of the EarthEcho International Youth Leadership Council, creating national-scale initiatives to engage youth with conservation alongside other young conservation leaders from across the United States. (3H)

Gabby Queenan is the Policy Director at the Massachusetts River Alliance where she is an advocate for state environmental policies that protect and promote healthy rivers and clean water throughout the Commonwealth. (1F)

Dr. Jon Regosin is Deputy Director Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Jon received a MS in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Biology from Tufts University. His research has focused on a variety of species including protected species such as blue-spotted salamanders, northern red-bellied cooters, and piping plovers. (2D)

Heidi Ricci is the Assistant Director of Advocacy at Mass Audubon. She created and oversees the *Shaping the Future of Your Community* program, which assists communities in building resilience through low-impact development and targeted conservation. (2B, 3E)

Jeff Ritterson is a Field Ornithologist at Mass Audubon, where his focus is on working landscapes and forest management, including the coordination of the Foresters for the Birds program. Originally hailing from Delaware, Jeff attended grad school at UMass Amherst, and remained in Massachusetts for the vibrant conservation community and magnificent forests. (1A)

Mark Robinson has served as Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts since its founding in 1986, providing technical assistance to 23 local and regional land trusts, including landowner negotiations, fundraising, land management and state/municipal coordination on open space projects. A graduate of Williams College and the University of Rhode Island, Mark previously worked on coastal management and water quality issues for the Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission. He has served as Chairman of the Barnstable Conservation Commission, Co-Chair of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Conservation Study Group, Vice-Chair and Treasurer of MLTC, and Vice-President of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. The US EPA acknowledged his work with a lifetime achievement award in 2009. He has completed over 500 land preservation projects. (3F)

Nick Rossi is currently a Land Protection Specialist at Mass Audubon. Previously, he worked as a CR Steward for Mass Audubon and Massachusetts DCR for over four years. During that time, he completed or oversaw numerous baseline documentation reports and worked on various other CR stewardship related challenges. He has a B.A in GIS and an M.S. in Environmental Science, both from Clark University. (1B)

Mary Lynn Sabourin, CFRE is Director of Philanthropy at the Franklin Land Trust. Mary has been with FLT for sixteen years. She has dedicated her career to connecting and engaging with members and donors to support Franklin Land Trust community-based approach to land and resource management. Mary has been recognized throughout the area for her efforts as a top fundraising professional in the Valley Gives Campaign and has brought FLT to the national stage through her co-development, branding and staging of the D2R2 cycling event. Mary was recently granted her Certified Fund Raising Executive credential (CFRE). Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, and demonstrated fundraising achievement for nonprofit organizations. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights. The CFRE credential is accredited by the American National Standards Institute. (1G)

Jen Ryan is a trained conservation biologist and passionate advocate for natural resource protection and connecting people to the land and great outdoors. As Director of Policy for The Trustees she will be spearheading advocacy initiatives that support the organization's mission to protect and promote iconic natural, historic, and cultural places of Massachusetts. Ryan will work to inform and engage Massachusetts residents and visitors to protect these special places, using the organization's wide array of statewide scenic, natural, agricultural, and cultural sites as a platform. (2A)

David Santomenna is the Associate Director of Land Conservation at The Trustees. and is responsible for land conservation projects statewide, including new reservations, reservation expansions, and conservation restrictions. Prior to joining The Trustees in January 2015, David served as Essex County Greenbelt's Director of Land Conservation, and as a project manager for the Trust for Public Land. While at Essex County Greenbelt, David worked with landowners to complete over 150 land conservation projects both large and small, and served as liaison to Essex County communities on land conservation issues. In addition to his professional experience, David has served as the chairman of both the Ipswich and Hamilton Planning

Boards. He is an advisor to the Essex County Trails Association, and serves as a board member of the Hamilton-Wenham Youth Soccer Association. (2E)

Stephen Small is recognized as the nation's leading authority on private land protection options and strategies. Mr. Small is a tax attorney at his own firm, the Law Office of Stephen J. Small, Esq., P.C., in Newton, Massachusetts. He is the author of *The Federal Tax Law of Conservation Easements* (Land Trust Alliance, 1985); three *Preserving Family Lands* Books (Landowner Planning Center); and *The Business of Open Space: What's Next??* (Landowner Planning Center, 2013). More than 150,000 copies of the *Preserving Family Lands* books have been sold. Before going into private practice, Mr. Small was an attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., where he wrote the federal income tax regulations on conservation easements. Mr. Small has worked on matters that have resulted in the protection of more than 1.5 million acres around the country. Mr. Small has given more than 400 speeches, seminars, and workshops around the country on tax planning for landowners, succession planning for family lands, and tax incentives for land conservation. (2G, 3I)

Will Snyder represents UMass Extension on the Massachusetts Envirothon steering committee. He provides leadership to the Envirothon Current Issue, which challenges high school teams to investigate a current environmental issue as it occurs in their community, and to present their findings and recommendations to a panel of judges. He has done graduate study in history, geography, and science education, and has long-term research and curriculum development interests in youth-led, community-connected projects that encompass civic engagement and natural resource conservation. He is associated with UMass Extension's 4-H Youth Development program. (3H)

Sofie Traficonte joined New England Forestry Foundation as the Land Protection and Planned Giving Associate in November 2017. She supports NEFF's land protection efforts through communications with private landowners and by leading the implementation of the Pooled Timber Income Fund, which uses planned giving principles to draw new lands into protection. Sophie graduated from Connecticut College in 2015 with a BA in Environmental Science. She gained experience in conservation during her time at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, where she started out as a Directors' Fellow and was then promoted to a project manager. As a project manager, Sophie spent more than two years working on statewide conservation-focused initiatives and partnerships. (2F)

Chris Volonte is Conservation & Stewardship Manager at Kestrel Land Trust, with a focus on Kestrel's fee lands and public trails. Chris came to land conservation work with a master's degree in conservation biology, a master's degree in English, and twelve years' experience working and volunteering for conservation and education nonprofits in Massachusetts. Chris served as Kestrel's Land Steward through the AmeriCorps MassLIFT program for two years before coming on board as its first Stewardship Manager. (1B)

Rob Warren is Managing Director of Conservation at The Trustees. This role includes land protection planning, building partnerships, overseeing the Conservation Restriction Program of The Trustees, and working directly with landowners to conserve their lands. Rob returned to his conservation roots in 1990, after a decade as a cabinet and furniture maker. Following a brief

internship with the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, he accepted a position with the MA Dept. of Fish & Game land protection program where he served as Habitat Protection Coordinator. Prior to joining The Trustees, he was Director of Protection & Policy for the MA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. (1E, 2A)

Bob Wilber has been the Director of Land Conservation for Mass Audubon since 2000. Previously, he worked in similar capacities for Massachusetts State Forests & Parks, and the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Bob is a past president of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC), and currently serves on the MLTC Board of Trustees. He lives in Stow, where he is a director of the Stow Conservation Trust, and a member of the Town of Stow Open Space Committee. During his 30+ year career, Bob has been directly involved in the protection of more than 40,000 acres in Massachusetts. (1E)

Julie Wood is the Director of Projects for the Charles River Watershed Association. She has a Master of Science degree in environmental science and over a decade of experience working on environmental restoration in urban watersheds. (2B)