



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Kestrel Celebrates 50 Years with a Big Move

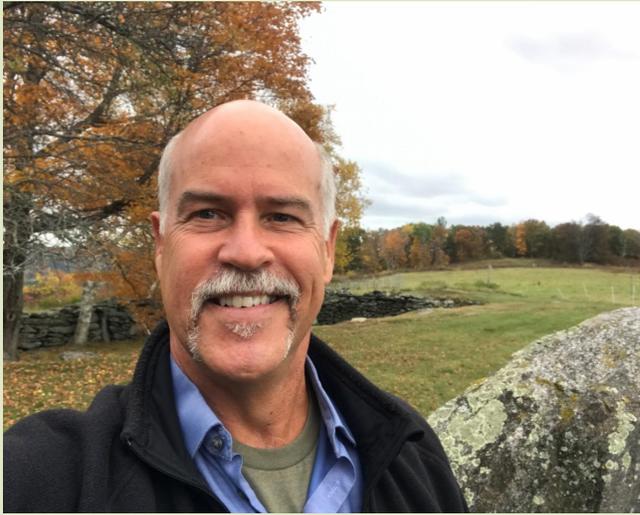
Kestrel Land Trust will move to a new "home on the Range" in South Amherst starting in 2021. The property was acquired as part of a collaborative conservation project with the Town to acquire and permanently conserve the adjacent 7-acre pond and the surrounding 30 acres of woods. Located contiguous to the Atkins Farms Village Center Kestrel will work with the Town to enhance public access to the pond and trails from trailheads at the foot of the Mount Holyoke Range. [Read more.](#)
#OurMassLandTrusts

We invite you to **send us your recent conservation success stories** Send a short description and a photo to enews@massland.org. We'd like to highlight properties in various parts of the state, so if we don't get to you this month, we will soon.

If you'd like to support MLTC's efforts to inform, connect, and advocate for people in the Massachusetts land conservation community, please consider making a monthly or one-time tax-deductible donation Thank you!



MassLand News



Despite drought and some unseasonably early snow, it's been an amazing year for fall color. On my late October visit to East Quabbin Land Trust's Mandell Hill in Hardwick, the drive couldn't have been more beautiful!

Robb

MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

Friday December 11, 10:00 am - 12:15 pm via Zoom

Land trust staff and board members as well as conservation partners are welcome to this quarterly meeting, featuring relevant news from state agencies, a timely update on state and federal policy matters, announcements, and a featured topic. A detailed agenda will be sent in advance to all registrants. Click [here to register](#).



2021 Land Conservation Conference: Request for Workshop Proposals

Proposals due: Friday, November 27

The 2021 Massachusetts & Rhode Island Land Conservation Conference will be held virtually on Friday March 19 and Saturday March 20, 2021. **This year we are specifically soliciting proposals directly related to our conference theme: Building a Stronger Land Movement through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** All workshops will be 75 minutes long, of which at least 20 minutes must be reserved for questions and discussion. [Further details here.](#) [Submit a proposal here.](#)

Reminder: Job Board on MassLand Website

MLTC's self-serve [Job Board](#) is now available for you to post your jobs and find a new one. Accessible from massland.org > Resources > Job Board.

Looking for Mentees for Young Land Professionals (YLP) Mentorship Program

This initiative – inspired by last year's member survey where many expressed a desire for continued learning and professional development through mentorship – is designed to match individuals based on specific skill sets, interests, and availability. The YLP Committee of MLTC invites you to sign up as either a mentor or mentee. For more information and to sign up, follow the links for [Mentors](#) and [Mentees](#).

State Operating Budget

On Nov. 5, the Massachusetts House released their FY21 Operating Budget, which included increases over the Governor's revised budget for all four of the Green Budget Coalition's priority line items: the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). [See summary here](#). In addition, we are grateful to Rep. Ruth Balser for filing the Public Lands Protection Act as an amendment (#23). The House budget debate will conclude this week. The Senate will put out their version of the budget very soon. **Now** is the time to reach out to your state Senators (find yours [here](#)) and ask that they maintain House funding levels for the [Green Budget Priorities](#). If you have questions, contact Emily Myron at emily.myron@tnc.org.

Take Action: Protect Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation

Not all donations of conservation easements are created equal. While the vast majority are truly charitable endeavors, a few bad actors are promoting conservation easement donations as a way for investors to make a fast profit by gaining access to very large federal tax deductions. These transactions are essentially tax shelters and cannot be allowed to continue. Please encourage your Congressperson to urge the passage of the Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act this year. To take action, see [details here](#).

News

Level 2 - Significant Drought in the Southeast and Cape Cod Regions and the Nashua River watershed

Sourced from EEA, Water Resources Commission

Although drought conditions have improved in most regions of the Commonwealth since last month's Level 3-Critical conditions in the Southeast region, water conservation is still necessary. The Cape Cod Region Remains at Level 2-Significant Drought. In the Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeastern, and Islands regions, conditions improved to a Level 1-Mild Drought. To enhance awareness on the current drought conditions, EEA is asking local, state and regional partners and stakeholder groups to assist in disseminating [this critical information](#). Consider using this one-page [drought alert sheet](#) when reaching out to your communities.

Nine New Communities Adopt CPA

Sourced from the Community Preservation Coalition, November 5

A total of three cities and six towns voted in favor of adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), all by a wide margin: Framingham, Franklin, Greenfield, Hopedale, Lancaster, Lee, Milton, Shrewsbury, and Whitman. This brings the total number of CPA communities to 186, or 53% of municipalities in Massachusetts. [Read more](#). Estimated distribution numbers and this year's match are expected to be released by the DOR by November 15.

Harvard Conservation Trust Welcomes a New Executive Director

The HCT is happy to introduce their new Executive Director, Brian Colleran. Brian has a long history of supporting the health of land and its natural communities. His previous experience spans public, private, and non-profit sectors. His technical expertise is in ecological restoration, with an emphasis on the climate resiliency implications of invasive species ecology and management along waterways. As Executive Director, Brian will help further HCT's role in preserving Harvard's ecological health and increasing their landscape's resilience to climate change vulnerability. [Read more about Brian and the Harvard Conservation Trust](#).

The 300 Committee Land Trust Quietly Celebrates 35 Years During Pandemic

Sourced from The Falmouth Enterprise, October 23

The 300 Committee (a.k.a. T3C) was formed in 1985 with the goal of saving 300 acres of open space to celebrate Falmouth's 300th anniversary the following year. Since then, it has preserved more than 2,500 acres all over Falmouth, from farmlands to woodlands, from a third of an acre acquired in 1986 to the 70-acre Shallow Pond Woodlands south of Thomas Landers Road. Says Mark H. Robinson, Executive Director of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, the umbrella organization for all Cape Cod land trusts: "I consider The 300 Committee as one of the flagship land trusts on Cape Cod due to its longevity, sophistication and ability to get things done. It is looked at with great envy by many other towns on Cape Cod and nonprofit organizations concerned with the critical issues of preserving open space." [Read more.](#)

One Simple Thing That Will Greatly Improve Your CPA Program

Sourced from the Community Preservation Coalition website

When a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) votes to recommend a project to the legislative body (Town Meeting or City Council), they often miss the simple step of sending a formal, written recommendation to their municipal officials. There are many items that should and can be included in a recommendation. Though there is no requirement in CPA legislation for a written recommendation, communities that use them have far fewer problems during the implementation stage of projects. View the CPC website for [example documents and other tips](#) on what to include in a CPC recommendation.

Some Like It Hot. Trout Do Not.

Sourced from Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, November 3

In a changing climate, brook trout and other species that rely on cold water may have a hard time finding suitable habitat year-round. Partners are working to gather data and find patches of cold water where fish can shelter during heat and drought. One such partnership involves the Nashua River Watershed Association ([NRWA](#)), the Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited ([TU](#)), and MassWildlife. Partners are tracking stream conditions to inform habitat improvement and stewardship efforts on the watershed level. Acquiring land or otherwise protecting areas from development within the watershed is one key way to safeguard areas of cold water refugia. [Read more.](#)

Stuart Saginor Presented with the Lewis Conservation Award

Since becoming Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition in 2006, Stuart has helped almost 100 cities and towns in Massachusetts adopt the Community Preservation Act, and most recently spearheaded last year's efforts to increase state funding for the CPA program by 150%. The Lewis Conservation Award is named in honor of co-founder of the Sudbury Valley Trustees, George Lewis, and it recognizes those who demonstrate a broad commitment to conservation in the SVT region and who encourage others to take action to protect the environment. [Read more.](#)

Rethinking Partnerships Thanks to Rue Mapp

By Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council

On October 17th, keynote speaker Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO of Outdoor Afro, challenged attendees at CLCC's 2020 Land Conservation Conference to think more deeply about how they define partnerships, and to consider them in the context of relationship building. For specific steps, [read Amy's article](#). Amy's favorite takeaway? Don't wait for a checklist or toolkit on how to break down barriers. Start engaging and reaching out **now** with others who share your love of the outdoors.

State Awards \$8.7 Million to Support Local Parks and Land Conservation

Sourced from EEA press release, November 5

More than \$8.7 million in grants have been awarded to municipalities and land trusts to

Your trails need work? SCA can help!

Deadline: December 15

SCA Massachusetts Conservation Corps is now accepting partner projects for the 2021 field season! SCA Trail Crews are teams of five

support the acquisition and conservation of over 676 acres of land throughout the Commonwealth. The grants, awarded through four separate grant programs, will fund 46 projects in 35 communities, creating or renovating 20 parks and supporting projects to help farmers and forest landowners improve the management of soils and natural resources. [Read more.](#)

\$500,000 in Grants Awarded to Nine "Buy Local" Organizations

The Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$500,000 in grants to regional Buy Local organizations for projects that will support the agricultural industries in western, central, northeastern, and southeastern Massachusetts. These grants build upon the administration's efforts to support regional economies across the Commonwealth. On August 25, 2020, the Administration [announced](#) the launch of the "My Local MA" campaign to encourage residents to support their local economies by shopping at local Massachusetts businesses and attractions, either in person, online, or by using curbside pickup or takeout. [Read more.](#)

highly trained AmeriCorps members led by SCA's experienced trails staff. SCA's partnership with AmeriCorps allows it to offer project work to Massachusetts land trusts at a reasonable cost while providing motivated young adults the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the conservation industry. Preference given to applications received by Dec 15. [More information here.](#)

Spotted Lanternfly: Report This Invasive Insect

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula* or "SLF") is an invasive insect first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. It causes damage to trees and other woody plants by feeding on their sap. While the primary host plant of SLF is the invasive tree-of-heaven, researchers have found that it also targets grapevines, hops, and fruit trees. [What's it look like?](#) [MA factsheet.](#) [Report it.](#)

Events and Outings



Sea Change Film Shorts 2020

Sunday, November 15 - Monday, November 23

Sea Change Film Shorts is a virtual film festival hosted by the [Center for Coastal Studies](#). It will stream free online between November 15 and November 23. Hosted by NPR/WBUR's Barbara Moran, this one-hour special will feature three short documentaries – including the award winning Spinnaker – as well as a lively panel discussion with CCS scientists regarding the future of our oceans. [Register here.](#)

Webinars and E-Learning



Mass ECAN Fall Series

Monday, November 16, 10:00 am, Nature Based Solutions Workshop

Thursday, December 3, 10:00 am, Joint Mitigation-Adaptation Workshop

Mass ECAN (Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network) works at the intersection of climate adaptation, ecosystem resilience and natural resources conservation. Join one or both of their workshop / networking events to connect and collaborate with peers across the state and to advance adaptation actions together. [Register and learn more here.](#)

Evolving from Land Conservation to Land Justice

November 18, 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm (introductory)



conversation) AND December 3, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (in-depth conversation with questions)

Join Peter Forbes of [First Light Learning Journey](#) for two sheltered conversations among practitioners about the primary reasons why land justice is central to the future of land conservation and what the obstacles are that stand in our way. Offered through the [Erasure and Restoration Series](#) of the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, the goal of these two presentations is to introduce concepts deeply enough for practitioners to make their own decisions about how to move forward. Registration is restricted to staff, leadership, and board members of land trusts, and other conservation and land based groups. Though the ultimate goal is inclusivity and diversity, these initial conversations will take place in an affinity space of majority white-led land holding groups. Contact Kristine Downing at kristine@karunacenter.org to register.

Boundary Marking Orientation & Training, Brewster area

Wednesday, November 18, 9:00 am (Classroom via Zoom) AND Thursday, November 19 at 9:00 am or 10:30 am (Field work. Pick one slot.)

RSVP to dorria@brewsterconservationtrust.org or call 508-694-6720

Brewster Conservation Trust has helped protect over 1,400 acres of open space in Brewster. BCT boundary crew members help locate and mark boundaries on over 200+ properties. Boundary marking is an important step in helping BCT monitor and maintain our properties. Boundary Crew volunteers normally meet once or twice a month during the fall and early winter months. We will provide everything you need including an orientation, training, and equipment.

2020 Regional Conservation Partnership Network Gathering

Thursday, November 19, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Online.

Registration is required by November 17.

The theme of this year's RCP Network Gathering is "Resilient Regions and Communities" and the burning question addressed by presentation and discussion is: How can RCPs and the RCP Network and others help measurably increase community well-being at scale? More information and free registration [here](#).



Land Trust Networking and Collaboration: Berkshire Region

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Land trusts big and small have much to learn from one another. This "Stronger Together" networking event, sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition through funding from MA DCR's *Working Forests Initiative*, will be facilitated by Robb Johnson (MLTC) and Paul Catanzaro (UMass), and will focus on exchanging information among peers on topics of common interest in your region. The one-hour informal discussion is intended for staff and board members of non-profit land conservation organizations working in the Berkshires, as well as open space committee members in the region. The event will not be recorded. Advance [registration required here](#).



Climate Adaptation Forum: Creating Connections - Resilience and Equity in Transportation

Friday, November 20, 10:00 am - 1:15 pm

Transportation infrastructure is some of the most expensive to build and maintain, especially in the face of the climate crisis. Everything from public transportation to roads and bridges to the port are deeply impacted by sea

level rise, extreme storms and even sweltering heat. Join the Climate Adaptation Forum as we explore initiatives around the country to improve transportation resilience and the resilience of the communities that rely on this infrastructure to get around. [Register here](#). Registration closes 11 am November 20.



Online Class: NGICP National Green Infrastructure Stormwater Solutions

35-hour class offered on 7 afternoons 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Monday 11/30, Tuesday 12/1, Tuesday 12/8, Thursday 12/10, Tuesday 12/15, Thursday 12/17, and Tuesday 12/22

This program provides the foundational understanding needed to properly design and oversee construction, inspection, and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure. Designed to meet international best practice standards, this program provides candidates with the technical skills necessary to incorporate green infrastructure into projects successfully.

[More information here.](#)



Essex County Open Space Conference

6 webinars throughout December, first on Wednesday, December 2

Registration required.

Greenbelt's Open Space Conference is being held this year as a series of FREE lunchtime webinars on a variety of topics. Professionals and volunteers will learn about landowner outreach, stewardship, climate resiliency, land use planning, and more. [Learn more and register here](#) for any or all the sessions.



Land Protection for Flood Resilience: What Role Can Land Trusts Play?

Wednesday, December 2, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Join the Land Trust Alliance and Open Space Institute for this highly interactive discussion on the role that land trusts in the Northeast can play in addressing flooding through science-based conservation planning, targeted land acquisition, and other tools. Participants will be invited to share their experiences and provide feedback on challenges and opportunities in smaller breakout discussions. More information [here](#). Register [here](#).



Land Trust Networking and Collaboration: Southeast Massachusetts

Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

This "Stronger Together" networking event, sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition through funding from MA DCR's *Working Forests Initiative*, will be facilitated by Robb Johnson (MLTC) and Paul Catanzaro (UMass), and will focus on exchanging information among peers on topics of common interest in Southeast Massachusetts. The one-hour informal discussion is intended for staff and board members of non-profit land conservation organizations working in the Berkshires, as well as open space committee members in the region.

[Register here.](#)



Webinar: Saying Yes to Wildlands and Woodlands

Tuesday, December 15, 4:00 pm –5:30 pm

Curious about how New England can best protect its forests, or have a



hand in conserving forestlands yourself? Tune in to this critical and timely discussion about the complementary conservation strategies of wildlands and woodlands. The webinar will feature a conversation between [Northeast Wilderness Trust](#) Executive Director Jon Leibowitz and New England Forestry Foundation Executive Director Robert Perschel, two compelling speakers who bring years of either wildland or woodland conservation experience to the table. [Register here](#).

Grants

MDAR SARA grant for APR landowners

(SARA = Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs)

Deadline: Friday, December 18, 4:00 pm at the Boston MDAR office or emailed to julie.weiss@mass.gov

This grant is intended to help APR landowners restore APR land that was once in agricultural production to be put back into production. [See here for more information](#) and how funds may be used. In addition, funds may be used to restore farm resources that have been negatively impacted by flooding, erosion, storms, tornadoes and other natural disasters or for restoration on land impacted by a third party.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program

Deadline: February 1, 2021, 3:00 pm

The LWCF grant program provides financial assistance to municipalities and the state's Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Fish and Game for the acquisition of parkland, development of a new park, renovation of an existing park, development of trails in an existing conservation or recreation area, or the acquisition of conservation land. Grants up to \$1,000,000 are available this grant round. **Two virtual grant workshops** will be held, the first on Wednesday, December 2 at 2:00 pm and the second on Thursday, December 10 at 11:00 am. Please RSVP to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov to receive the Zoom link. For additional information, and [to apply for a grant, click here](#).

Jobs

[Director of Engagement and Community Development](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Director of Finance and Administration](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Conservation Director](#) - Town of Lincoln

[River Restoration Director](#) - Neponset River Watershed Association

[Land Information Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

See the [MLTC Job Board](#) on our website for the latest openings.
Also navigate to massland.org > Resources > Job Board.