



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

January 14, 2021, Volume 19, Number 1

## Member Spotlight



### Native Land Conservancy Receives 10+ Acres from Generous Donor

**Source:** *Native Land Conservancy*

In November 2020, Jacqueline Rivero deeded 10+ acres comprising Simpkins Bog to the Native Lands Conservancy. The Yarmouth Conservation Trust holds the conservation restriction. Jacki inherited Simpkins Bog from her uncle Emmanuel DiTiberio (1921-1995), and wanted to ensure that the land was given back to its original inhabitants and not developed. The property comprises most of the headwaters of Whites Brook, the major freshwater tributary to Chase Garden Creek in Yarmouth and Dennis. The bog is believed to have been in cranberry production from the 1870s until the 1960's. Nowadays, it is a quiet, contemplative place, with a brook, much moss, and paths that push into the woods.

Consider supporting MLTC's efforts to inform, connect, and advocate for people in the Massachusetts land conservation community. Your monthly or one-time tax-deductible donation of any amount is appreciated. Thank you!



Donate



Nature continues to offer renewal and reconnection during turbulent times. A sunny winter day was perfect for exploring Wildland Trust's Brockton Audubon Preserve, with its varied woodland, wetlands and impressive glacial erratics.  
#OurMassLandTrusts

*Robb*

## **All Volunteer Land Trusts: Recruiting Board Members & Volunteers**

Thursday, January 21, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

This one-hour Zoom discussion for board members of all-volunteer land trusts will focus on sharing ideas and strategies for attracting and retaining good volunteers. Part of MLTC's "Stronger Together" Series, the conversation will be facilitated by Robb Johnson. Register [here](#).

## **Land Trust Networking and Collaboration: Connecticut Valley Region**

Wednesday, January 27, 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). Intended for staff and board members of non-profit land conservation organizations working in the Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties, as well as open space committee members in the region. Advance [registration required here](#).

## **Managing Increased Use of Land Trust Properties**

Thursday, February 11, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Nearly a year into the pandemic, increased use of conservation land shows no sign of letting up. This can cause wear and tear on properties, create conflicts with neighbors and strain limited stewardship resources. Exchange coping strategies in this one-hour Zoom discussion for land trust staff and board members. Part of MLTC's "Stronger Together" Series, the conversation will be facilitated by Robb Johnson and Erik Boyer, Stewardship Manager at Wildlands Trust. Advance registration required [here](#).

## **Land Conservation and Climate Adaptation**

Thursday, February 25, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Co-hosted by MLTC and the Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN) this Zoom discussion offers the opportunity for peer knowledge exchange about land conservation as a climate adaptation strategy. This is intended for land conservation practitioners with interest in climate change adaptation, to share your work, successes and challenges you may be encountering. Facilitated by Robb Johnson (MLTC) and Melissa Ocana (UMass). Advance registration required [here](#).

## **Explore Exhibitor & Sponsorship Opportunities**

at the **2021 Massachusetts & Rhode Island Land Conservation Conference**

Friday & Saturday, March 19 & 20

[Exhibitor details](#). [Sponsor details](#).

Gain visibility and connect with hundreds of community and non-profit leaders who are passionate about land conservation. A huge thanks to the organizations and businesses that have already signed on as Sponsors:

**Lead:** MassAudubon, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, The Trustees; **Patron:** Fields Pond Foundation, Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative, LandVest, The Nature Conservancy; **Supporter:** Berkshire Natural Resources Council, The Conservation Fund, Essex County Greenbelt Association, Land Stewardship, Inc., Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, Sudbury Valley Trustees, UMass Forest Conservation Program, University of RI Coastal Institute, Wildlands Trust; **Partner:** The Community Preservation Coalition at The Trust for Public Land, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Horsley Witten Group, The Trust for Public Land.

### **Attend the 2021 Massachusetts & Rhode Island Land Conservation Conference**

Friday & Saturday, March 19 & 20

Registration is coming in February! Be on the lookout for details in your inbox, and on the MLTC and RILTC websites. Choose from 29 sessions and 2 plenaries, as well as networking options and live chats with exhibitors. Featuring **keynote speaker Carolyn Finney**, author of *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*, and scholar-in-residence at Middlebury College.

## Policy

### **Act Today! Urge Governor Baker to Sign the Climate Bill**

On January 4th, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy with overwhelming bipartisan support. The Governor has until midnight on Thursday, January 14th to sign the bill into law, or the legislature will have to start from scratch in the new session. **Please urge the Governor to sign this bold legislation!** Click [here](#) for contact information and sample scripts, courtesy of MCAN. The result of months of negotiations between the House and Senate, this bill sets the Massachusetts' 2050 emissions limit to the new global standard – net zero – and defines a transparent process for achieving them. It also codifies critical environmental justice language and makes natural and working lands part of our climate strategy. Read a full summary of the bill [here](#).

### **Great News on State Budget**

Thanks to advocates' outreach to the legislature, the House and Senate overrode the Governor's vetoes and restored the Conference Committee recommendations for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER). These line items, in addition to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, will receive increases in the FY21 operating budget.

### **Massachusetts Decarbonization Roadmap**

**Public Q&A session:** Friday, January 15, noon - 1:30 pm

[Register here](#).

EEA will host this webinar to discuss and answer questions on the final 2050 Roadmap, which was published in December. [The Roadmap](#) aims to identify cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure Massachusetts reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 85% by 2050 and achieves net-zero emissions. Reports of interest within the Roadmap include [Land Sector Report](#) and [Economic and Health Impacts Report](#). Read more about the Roadmap [here](#).

**MA, CT, RI, DC First to Launch Groundbreaking Program to Cut Transportation Pollution, Invest in Communities**

Source: *Transportation & Climate Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States*

The bipartisan [Transportation and Climate Initiative Program](#) (TCI-P) will put a brake on pollution while investing \$300 million per year in cleaner transportation and healthier communities. The TCI-P will require large gasoline and diesel fuel suppliers to purchase allowances for the pollution caused by fuels they sell in participating jurisdictions, with each jurisdiction determining how to best invest program proceeds. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker commented, "By partnering with our neighbor states with which we share tightly connected economies and transportation systems, we can make a more significant impact on climate change while creating jobs and growing the economy as a result." [Read more.](#)

## News

### **Opportunity: POCIE (Professionals of Color in the Environment)**

POCIE is a new, regional professional networking community for BIPOC environmentalists from all sectors in Massachusetts with the goal of gathering, mentoring, networking, and collaborating. Most importantly, POCIE promotes integrating justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into the environmental sector through cross-sector partnerships and integrative strategy development. To join, fill out [this survey](#), join POCIE's [Facebook Group](#), or Google Group at [MassPOCIE@googlegroups.com](mailto:MassPOCIE@googlegroups.com). There is no membership fee.

### **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Opening Again**

The COVID Relief bill enacted in late December authorized \$285 billion in new PPP funding for hard-hit small businesses and nonprofits. Existing PPP borrowers may be eligible to apply for additional funds if they experienced at least a 25% decrease in gross receipts in a given quarter from 2019 to 2020. **Those that did not receive PPP loans in prior rounds are eligible to apply, even if they did not experienced a 25% drop in gross receipts.** Borrowers will also benefit from an expansion of eligible costs and a simplified forgiveness process. For more information and to prepare to apply, consult with your bank or participating lender.

### **In the Race to Lure Back Travelers, Vacations in Nature Are Winning**

Source: *Boston Globe*, December 16, 2020 (online)

Thanks to Mark Robinson of The Compact for pointing us to this article. He writes: "We have a lot of anecdotal info on the increased visitation of land trust parcels and other open space areas during the past year. But this article in the *Globe* is the best collection of data on the subject". Some highlights include: A Harris poll in the midst of the pandemic found that 69 percent had a renewed appreciation for the outdoors, and quotes like this: "People are realizing, gee, that 30-minute outdoor hike or walk in a park feels good and I want to keep doing it," said Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director of the Outdoor Industry Association. [Read the article.](#) (May require a subscription.)

### **2021 Covid Relief Bill Includes Tax Breaks for Charitable Giving**

Source: [MarketWatch](#), December 22, 2020 by Andrew Keshner, and the [Tax Foundation](#)

The 2021 Covid relief bill signed into law in late December extends the universal charitable deduction through 2021. Notably, married couples who don't itemize may deduct up to \$600 above the standard deduction for their 2021 donations. In 2020, couples were allowed \$300 above the line, the same as individuals. Individuals may continue to deduct \$300 above the standard deduction for 2021.

### **Wanted: Environmental Summer Internships and Research Positions**

Deadline: Friday, February 12

The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) at Williams College is seeking internships for students in environmental fields for 5 to 10 weeks starting mid- or late June, 2021. The internships may be unpaid. "Environmental" is broadly defined to include not only the customary fields of conservation, ecology, environmental management, renewable energy, climate, policy and activism, but also

environmental health, research, urban planning and policy, agriculture and environmental education, and related fields. If your organization could use the help of capable, smart, hardworking students this summer, submit your job posting to [Sarah Gardner](#), or contact her for questions.

## Webinars and E-Learning

the **Conway School**

### **QGIS for ALL: From LiDAR to Topos With QGIS**

*Three consecutive Tuesdays: January 19, 26, February 2*

Registration closes January 15.

Learn how to prepare a topographic map and slope analysis. Taught by [The Conway School](#) faculty through the [Conway Institute](#), [Course details and registration info here](#).

**MassWoods**

### **Forest Ecology of New England Woodlands**

*Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, free*

This webinar is part of Woodland Connections for Women, which aims to build a network of women landowners in Massachusetts to share resources and learning opportunities. A presentation will be followed by questions and discussion. Read more and register [here](#).

**MassWoods**

### **Exploring land protection tools**

*Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm*

Want to keep some or all of your land in its undeveloped, natural state forever? Learn how land protection tools, such as conservation restrictions, can help you achieve your goal. This webinar is part of the "**Protecting Your Legacy**" webinar series for landowners interested in planning the future of their land. Runs one per month through April. [Learn more](#) and view recordings of previous talks. [Register here](#).



### **Local Wood: Grow, Build, Live Webinar Series**

A webinar series hosted by Massachusetts Woodlands Institute, NEFF, and Northern Woodlands.

#### **Tree to Table**

*Wednesday, January 20, 2:00 - 3:30 pm*

Learn about design processes and sustainability considerations that went into creating a set of custom tables from local, sustainably harvested wood, as well as growth and harvesting practices used for hardwoods in New England, and the positive climate benefits of forests, forestry, and furniture making. [Register here](#).

#### **Woods to Home**

*Wednesday, February 24, 2:00 - 3:30 pm*

Learn about the process and journey of building a timber-frame home with locally harvested lumber, the benefits of using local wood products, and how new technology in Cross Laminated Timber construction is expanding the way we think of building with wood. The discussion will also explore the ripple effect of good forest management. [Register here](#).

#### **2021 Mass Open Space Conference**

*Every Thursday in March, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; networking 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

This free, peer-to-peer conference is for municipal Open Space Committees, volunteers, and others involved in the development and implementation of community-based conservation planning and projects. Hear from open space committees across the state and build partnerships

and connections to increase your town's capacity for successful stewardship and conservation projects. [Register here.](#)

**March 4** | Open Space: From Planning to Implementation

**March 11** | Protecting and Building Resilience in Local Green Spaces

**March 18** | Trail Building and Maintenance and Recreation in Open Space

**March 25** | Community Outreach, Networks, and Relationship Building



## **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace 2021**

*Wednesday & Thursday, March 3 & 4*

The ELA (Ecological Landscape Alliance's) virtual conference will teach new landscape approaches and techniques; delve into two full days of research and expertise in tracks on climate change, design, practice; and a discussion of "Native" in relation to landscapes and diversity, equity and inclusion. Choose from 24 live presentations and panels, with the option to view recordings of programs at a later time. [Learn more.](#) Early discounts are available.

the **Conway School**

## **Site Grading Fundamentals**

*Five Sundays: March 7, 14, 21 and April 11, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm*

Learn how to design grading for a site to prevent erosion, move or infiltrate storm water, and/or create a resilient building site. Taught by [The Conway School](#) faculty through the [Conway Institute](#), this course is for design professionals with minimal grading experience as well as landscape design students and architecture students preparing for the site design portion of the licensing exam and other professionals who want to address problem drainage areas by moving or holding water. [Details here.](#) [Register here.](#) Direct questions to CJ Lammers at [institute@csl.edu](mailto:institute@csl.edu).

**Did You Miss It?** Recordings of select past webinars

### ***Faculty Collaboration in Land Conservation Initiatives***

*Recorded: October 15, 2020*

This [webinar](#) focused on the role that academia can play in advancing land conservation by highlighting two examples of how faculty collaborate with land conservation partners and how they engage their students in field work of importance to land conservation.

### ***Assessing Local Economic Impacts and Opportunities for Land Protection in New England***

*Recorded: December 3, 2020*

Katharine (Kate) Sims, Associate Professor of Economics at Amherst College, presented a [webinar](#) about a research project conducted in collaboration with the Harvard Forest and The Highstead Foundation. The project uses data from towns and cities across New England between 1990 and 2015 to understand how new land protection has affected local area employment and housing permits.

### ***Saying Yes to Wildlands AND Woodlands***

*Recorded: December 15, 2020*

Hosted by Highstead Foundation, Harvard Forest, New England Forestry Foundation, Kestrel Land Trust, and Northeast Wilderness Trust, the presenters contemplated how New England can best protect its forests from climate change, biodiversity loss, development and forest fragmentation. This [webinar](#) sought to demonstrate -- through speakers from seemingly opposite ends of the spectrum -- how protecting wildlands (forests largely left in a natural and undisturbed condition) and woodlands (forests managed to provide wood products) are not in conflict, but can in fact be complementary.

# Events and Outings

## **APCC Winter Film Festival**

January 1 - 31

APCC (Association to Preserve Cape Cod) is offering free viewing of *INHABIT: A Permaculture Perspective* through January. Permaculture is agricultural practices and design based on patterns and functions found in nature. *INHABIT* explores the many environmental issues facing us today, and examines solutions that are being applied using ecological design of permaculture in rural, suburban, and urban landscapes. [Register here](#) to receive the link to watch any time during January.

## **Greenbelt's 2021 Film & Lecture Series**

Theme: Coastal Resilience Climate

Funded by a Coastal Resilience grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, this [series](#) features a lineup of local experts and award-winning films offering new perspectives on climate change resiliency for coastal communities. [Details and register here.](#)

**Wednesday, February 10** | Climate Change and Coastal Wildlife

**Tuesday, February 23** | Barrier Beaches - A Talk with Bill Sargent

**Wednesday, March 3** | Equity in Climate Change Solutions

## **Calling Youth Artists: Duck Stamp Contest**

Deadline: Monday, February 15

Any student K–12 can submit artwork in this fun, educational competition sponsored by MassWildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) program links the study of wetlands and waterfowl conservation with the creation of original artwork. The process of creating these works of art allows students to appreciate the importance of preserving wetland habitats and the delights and diversity of wildlife. The art is judged in four age group categories in a statewide competition. [Read more.](#)

## **Rally 2021 Call for Presentations**

Deadline: Monday, March 1

Rally 2021 will take place October 7 - 9 (Thursday - Saturday). Rally organizers are still considering whether the event will be fully virtual or a hybrid format. Presentations should fit into the themes of climate change, inclusion and / or water. Most workshops are 90 minutes. Get all the [details here.](#)

# Grants

## **Neighborhood Outreach Grant Program**

Deadline: rolling. Proposals reviewed until funding runs out.

[Proposals are being sought](#) for initiatives that further education and networking opportunities for conservation-based estate planning and land protection, and that encourage Open Space Committees, conservation organizations, and motivated community members interested in reaching more landowners. Proposals between \$500 and \$3,000 are encouraged. This is a reimbursement grant program with no match required. Coordinated by UMass Extension and Mount Grace Regional Conservation Trust, with funding from the MA DCR Service Forestry Program through the Working Forests Initiative. To apply, contact [Sarah Wells](#) at Mount Grace.

## **Remote Monitoring Grant Program Info Session**

Wednesday, January 27, 2 pm

Learn how to apply for grant funding from the Land Trust Alliance to explore land trust remote monitoring needs, including eligibility requirements and application guidelines. Thanks to generous underwriting from The Nature Conservancy and individual donors, this information session is complimentary. [Register here.](#)

## **2021 Restoration and Resilience COVID Recovery Fund** through the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

*Deadlines: February 1, April 1, June 1*

Grants of up to \$2,500, to be spent over six months, are available to address impacts on public lands from increased use during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, eligibility, and application instructions, [read here](#).

### **Clif Bar Family Foundation: Small Grants Program**

*Applications due: every year on February 1, June 1, October 1*

The Small Grants Program supports innovative small and mid-sized groups working to protect the Earth's beauty and bounty, create a healthy food system, increase opportunities for outdoor activity, reduce environmental health hazards, and build stronger communities. [Learn more](#), and take the eligibility quiz.

### **Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Partnership Grant Program**

*Deadline: rolling, but priority given to applications received by early February 2021*

Grants support non-profits and state and local governments managing, preserving, protecting, and interpreting the region's landscape, heritage, and stories for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations. Matching grants will be awarded in Stewardship; Special Events; Education & Interpretation; and Preservation. Read the detailed [partnership guidelines](#) for more info. Before preparing or submitting a proposal, [set up an appointment](#) with the program to discuss the development of your proposal.

### **Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program**

*Deadline: Wednesday, February 3, 5:00 pm*

Offered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Resources, Watershed Planning Program, the goal of these grants is to support long term monitoring networks by facilitating the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment and supplies. Grant proposals are sought from coalitions of watershed associations and other non-profit groups. For details and how to apply, [read here](#).

### **USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

*Deadline: Monday, March 1*

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. To enroll land through agricultural land easements, eligible partners may submit proposals to NRCS to acquire conservation easements on eligible land. To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, landowners may apply at any time at the local USDA Service Center. For more about the ACEP, including a factsheet, application materials, and much more, [read here](#).

### **2021 ALPINE Summer Institute**

and Erik Boyer, Stewardship Manager at Wildlands Trust *Thursday, April 1*

The ALPINE (Academics for Land Protection in New England) Summer Institute is designed for people interested in learning more about conservation in New England, and meeting leaders and practitioners in the field. No New England residency or affiliation with a New England college, university, or conservation organization is required. The Institute includes presentations, discussions, exercises, and writing assignments. Speakers come from a range of organizations such as Harvard Forest, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The course is being offered for two credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst University



## Jobs

Got jobs to fill? Post them on the MLTC self-serve [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime.

[New England Program Manager](#) - Land Trust Alliance

[Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Project \(SFLR\) Program Manager](#) -- American Forest Foundation

[Conservation Agent](#) - Marshfield Conservation Commission

[Visitor Services Fellow](#) - Hispanic Access Foundation

[Land Manager](#) - Town of Concord

[FarmLink Associate](#) -- Connecticut Farmland Trust CT FarmLink Program

[Native Plant Propagation and Horticulture Internship](#) - Native Plant Trust

See the [MLTC Job Board](#) on our website for the latest openings.

Also navigate to [massland.org](https://massland.org) > Resources > Job Board.