



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

October 15, 2020, Volume 18, Number 10

## Member Spotlight



### Greater Worcester Land Trust

The [Greater Worcester Land Trust](#) recently completed the 67 acre Asnebumskit Briarcliff Entrance conservation project in Paxton. This gift of land by the Gillian & Fleming families was made possible through a partnership with the [White Oak Land Conservation Society](#). This property adds to the previously protected 99 acre Asnebumskit Ridge and connects to a 30-acre property owned by the Paxton Conservation Commission. A 187 acre conservation area has thus been protected!

#OurMassLandTrusts

**We invite you to send us your recent conservation success stories! Send a short description and a photo to [enews@massland.org](mailto:enews@massland.org). Monthly, we'd like to highlight**

properties in various parts of the state, so if we don't get to you this month or next, we will soon!

Please send any success stories and any other E-News items to [ENews@massland.org](mailto:ENews@massland.org)



## MassLand News



I recently enjoyed a summer-like day in Truro, walking [Truro Conservation Trust's](#) Ansel Chaplin and David Kuechle trails, and accessing many miles of National Seashore fire roads from there. Well-tended paths! Impressed!  
#OurMassLandTrusts

-Barbara

### **New! Job Board on massland.org**

Check out MLTC's [new Job Board](#). Recognizing the importance of being able to post and review job opportunities between ENews publication dates, we developed this self-serve job posting tool, accessible from [massland.org > Resources > Job Board](#). Once you submit a job, it will be reviewed and published by MLTC. If we have questions about your submission, we will contact you.

### **New! Diversity, Equity, Justice and Inclusion Resources Webpage**

MLTC has developed a [webpage of resources](#) for land trusts to help inform them about developing, refining and implementing their DEJI policies. If you have any documents or links that you think are strong examples, please forward them with a "permission to use" note to [Barbara](#) at MLTC.

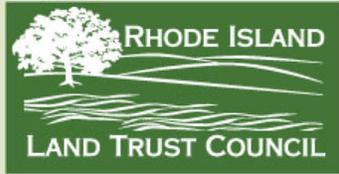
### **Young Land Professionals (YLP) Mentorship Program Has Launched**

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, please follow the links for [Mentors](#) and [Mentees](#).

### **17th Annual Land Trust & State Agency Retreat**

Thursday, November 12 (2 pm - 8 pm) and Friday, November 13, 2020 (8:30 am - noon) Intended for staff of Massachusetts land trusts and state agencies involved in land conservation to build relations and learn together, this two-day Zoom conference will focus on "Building Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion into Our Work". It will include breakouts for targeted discussion topics, keynotes, proposed in-person regional field trips, and fun evening activities. Retreat organizers are seeking volunteers to lead site visits on the morning of Thursday November 12th highlighting conservation projects that meaningfully address equity and inclusion. Volunteers are also sought to describe such projects in 6-minute "lightning presentations" on Thursday afternoon. If interested in either of these opportunities please contact: [robert.oconnor@state.ma.us](mailto:robert.oconnor@state.ma.us). Participants are encouraged to attend both days. Register for Thursday's session [here](#), and Friday's session [here](#).

**Save the Dates -- Friday & Saturday, March 19 & 20,**



**2021**

The [2021 Land Conservation Conference](#) is going virtual, and will be a joint venture between the Massachusetts and Rhode Island land trust communities. This year's topic is "Building a Stronger Land Movement through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". **Registration opens in January.** Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

### ***Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors Wanted!***

Sponsoring the 2021 MA & RI Land Conservation Conference or having an online exhibit booth is a great opportunity for businesses and organizations to connect and gain visibility with hundreds of community leaders in Massachusetts and Rhode Island who are passionate about land conservation. Stay tuned for opportunities!

### ***Young Land Professionals Event at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary***

Wednesday, October 28, 2 pm - noon

Join the Young Land Professionals for an afternoon of tree planting in Northampton, MA for floodplain restoration with a discussion following the work. We will be helping to restore 13 acres of floodplain forest in the meadows managed by Mass Audubon at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Floodplain forests are uncommon in Massachusetts and host rare plants, store stormwater during flood events, and provide important wildlife habitat. Come restore a landscape and learn about land management and restoration practices while networking with other land professionals. Register [here](#).

## **Policy**

### ***Protecting Farmland from Solar Development***

On September 17, 2020 the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released its [SMART Agricultural Solar Tariff Generation Units Straw Proposal](#), which proposes greatly expanding the use of farmland for solar development. In part, the expansion relies on the premise that certain agricultural activities could continue under elevated solar panels. While the idea of such "dual use" is laudable, actual data on the sustainability of agricultural activities under solar panels is limited at this time. While MLTC supports the state's efforts to expand renewable energy to address climate change, we are preparing written comments to encourage a cautious approach to siting solar installations on farmland. You can submit your own comments on the Agricultural Straw Proposal to DOER by the deadline of 5 pm on **Friday, October 30, 2020**. Submit comments to [DOER.SMART@mass.gov](mailto:DOER.SMART@mass.gov) with "SMART ASTGU Guideline Comments" in the subject line. [Read more here](#).

## **News**

### ***Changing of the Guard at Mount Grace***

After an incredibly successful 26-year tenure as the Executive Director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Leigh Youngblood retired October 1. Emma George Ellsworth has stepped into the position after a year of having worked with Leigh as Deputy Director. Leigh will stay on for one year in an advisory capacity to ensure a smooth transition. Leigh built Mount Grace from



a small 1-person organization into one of the strongest and most dynamic land trusts in Massachusetts, with 35,000 acres conserved in less than 35 years and a staff of 9 people. She attributes her accomplishments to inclusive collaboration and an openness to translating new ideas into action. Congratulations Leigh! [Read more about Leigh and Emma.](#)

### **Four Land Trusts Inaugurate "Give Back to the Land" Day**

Franklin Land Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, Kestrel Land Trust and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust collaborated to create a [24-hour online giving day](#) on April 22, 2020 to encourage contributions to land protection efforts in their region in honor of Earth Day. More than 325 donors participated, contributing a total of \$39,572. Of those, 190 donors chose to make an additional gift to support organizations working to address food insecurity – an option that was added in consideration of the pandemic. As a result, \$4,795 in donations was forwarded to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Quabbin Harvest.

### **Become a TerraCorps Service Site**

[Learn more](#) about becoming a TerraCorps Service Site host for the period December 2020 - July 2021. Deadline to apply is October 30, 2020.

### **Massachusetts' newest professional organization for BIPOC in the environmental fields**

Professionals of Color in the Environment (POCIE pronounced "posse") is bringing together BIPOC professionals and practitioners working in the environmental sector in any capacity, including law, art, agriculture and food, and more. Join the [POCIE Facebook group](#) to see upcoming events.

### **Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership**

EEA has announced \$225,000 in grant funding to eight municipalities and a regional economic development organization to support forest stewardship and conservation, trail improvements, and nature-based tourism in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership region. [More here.](#)

## **Events and Outings**



### **African Scholars Forum: African Heritage Sites and Climate Justice**

Friday, October 16, 11 am - noon

Guest speaker Assoc. Prof. E. Edna Wangui's research examines the gendered dimensions of rural development and rural livelihood change, environmental conservation, and climate change adaptation. Currently she's examining the gendered dynamics of sustainable land management practices in the Upper Tana watershed in Central Kenya. [Register here.](#) Read Prof. Wangui's [bio here.](#)

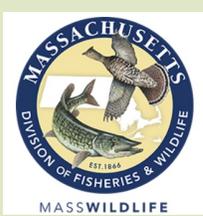
Conserving Farms, Fields & Forests Since 1987



### **Young Forest Tour with Franklin Land Trust and MassWildlife, Plainfield**

Tuesday, October 20, 3 pm - 5 pm

Join the Franklin Land Trust and MassWildlife for a [tour of young forest](#)



[habitat](#) at FLT's [Guyette Farm Conservation Area](#), Pleasant Street, Plainfield. See first-hand how young forest habitat benefits birds and other wildlife; hear how active forest management can help wildlife species in decline; and learn about MassWildlife's upcoming habitat project at the Ashfield Hawley Wildlife Management Area. To register, contact Linda Alvord at [slalvord@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:slalvord@franklinlandtrust.org). Masks and social distancing will be required.



### **Floodplain Forest Restoration**

Volunteers are needed for these time slots to plant trees at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Northampton, MA: Sat 10/24 (rain date Sun 10/25), Mon 10/26 (rain date Tue 10/27), and Wed 10/28 (rain date Thu 10/29) in three-hour shifts 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Help restore 13 acres of floodplain forest in the meadows managed by Mass Audubon. Floodplain forests are uncommon in Massachusetts, so you can be a part of this important project expanding Arcadia's existing, exemplary floodplain forests. Masks and [Registration required](#)



### **Art in the Flow Series: Themes of Climate Change and Environment in the Arts**

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 pm, with more in November

In these one-hour conversations, participants will speak with and sample the work of artists working in a variety of media to explore our relationship with the environment. [Read more and register here.](#)



### **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.](#)

## Conferences and Seminars



### **MACC's 2020 Virtual Fall Conference Week**

October 17 - 24 (Saturday - Saturday)

This year's virtual conference features 20 new workshops, 7 fundamentals modules, and 3 registration options. It starts this Saturday, so [register now](#). See the [conference at a glance](#), and the [conference webpage](#) for details.



### **Land Trusts with 1 or 2 staff: Successes and Challenges**

Wednesday, October 21, 4 pm - 5 pm

Part of MLTC's "Stronger Together" Series, this informal one-hour discussion is intended for land trust staff and board members, with a focus on exchanging information on topics of common interest. [Register here.](#)



### **Net Zero 2020 Conference: Jumpstarting a Clean, Green & Inclusive Economy for Cape Cod & the Islands**

Friday, October 23, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Cod Climate Change Collaborative's third annual Net Zero conference will

showcase economic programs, clean energy impacts, jobs, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities for growth and activism that will help kickstart an economic recovery while moving the region toward a carbon-free future. The conference is offered at no cost to participants thanks to the generosity of sponsors and patrons. [Read more](#). [Register here](#).



### **40th Annual Schumacher Lectures**

Sunday, October 25, 1 pm - 4 pm

Topic: **Land as a Commons: Building the New Economy**

Join George Monbiot, a Guardian journalist, and Kali Akuno of the Fannie Lou Hamer Community Land Trust, as they explore moving land into a Commons where it can be accessed by a broader, more diverse group through long-term leaseholds. [Register here](#).



### **Plant Diversity Symposium**

Thursday, October 29, 9 am - 1 pm

This virtual symposium will unveil a new analysis of plant diversity in New England, created through a collaboration between Native Plant Trust and The Nature Conservancy. This symposium delves into goals and strategies for conserving plant diversity in the wake of development and climate change. It will shed new light on the intersection among plant conservation, land management, and land protection. [Register here](#).



### **Land Conservation and Community Housing Needs: Points of Friction and Collaboration**

Thursday, October 29, 4 pm - 5 pm

Part of MLTC's "Stronger Together" Series, this informal one-hour discussion is intended for land trust staff and board members, with a focus on exchanging information on topics of common interest. [Register here](#).



### **All Volunteer Land Trusts: Sustaining Success**

Wednesday, November 4, 4 pm - 5 pm

Part of MLTC's "Stronger Together" Series, this informal one-hour discussion is intended for board members of all-volunteer land trusts, with a focus on exchanging information on topics of common interest. [Register here](#).

### **Conservation-based Estate Planning Webinar Series**

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Topic: Passing on your land using wills and trusts

UMass and MLTC are co-sponsoring a monthly webinar series for landowners on conservation-based estate planning, including sessions on determining the value of the land (Dec. 8); reducing property taxes through Chap. 61(Jan. 12); permanently protecting the land (Feb. 9); tax benefits (March 9); and more. Funded through the MA DCR Working Forests Initiative, the series continues through April 2021. Please consider sharing information about these free webinars with landowners in your community! [Find out more and register here](#).

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## Grants

### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program**

*Applications due: Monday, January 11, 2021*

Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes can apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land from a willing seller. The program aims to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and providing community benefits. [Read more about the program and how to apply.](#)

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

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

Through the Small Grants Program, the Foundation 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.

## Jobs

[Open Space Manager](#) - Town of Ipswich

[Operations Manager](#) - Kestrel Land Trust

[Bookkeeper/Office Manager](#) - North County Land Trust

[Land Conservation Internship](#) - The Nature Conservancy

[3/4 Term TerraCorps Member positions](#) - Dec. 2020 - July 2021 at various organizations

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

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

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition | 18 Wolbach Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 | <https://massland.org>