



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

February 17, 2022, Volume 20, Number 2

Member Spotlight



Night Pasture Protected in Hardwick

Night Pasture is a 33 acre parcel of a 200+ acre farm in Hardwick, originally purchased by the Robinson family in 1892. Ray and Pam Robinson, the last of four generations of Robinsons to own the property, recently retired and had to sell the farm, but donated Night Pasture to the East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT). That donation will ensure farming can continue on at least a portion of the original farm, which transitioned from conventional milk production to an organic raw milk and award-winning cheese operation in 2006. Says Ray, "It feels good to see it preserved, and we hope the gift of the Night Pasture is the start of a larger block of conserved land in the future".

Conservation values of the property include historic farmland, scenic landscape, wildlife habitat in the hedgerows and fields, and protecting the water quality of nearby Danforth Brook. Importantly,

Night Pasture is adjacent to another piece of land that is likely to be donated to EQLT through the CLTC program in a few years. EQLT looks forward to continuing the Robinson's tradition of allowing the land to grow good food, and has started discussions with local farmers about grazing and haying in the next growing season. Future plans for the land may include a walking trail, grazing animals, and wildlife monitoring. [Read more.](#)

Consider supporting MLTC

If you've found value in the education, tools, networking opportunities, and advocacy that we provide, **please consider a tax-deductible donation** to MLTC so we can continue to help land trusts do what they do best: protect more land. [Donate here.](#) Any amount is appreciated!



Donate

MLTC News & Programs



The view from Franklin Land Trust's Guyette Farm in Plainfield was brilliant in winter white.
#OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

Discussing Your Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

This Stronger Together networking discussion provides an opportunity for land trust staff and board members to exchange ideas on efforts to advance racial justice, equity and inclusion initiatives within their organizations. Kitty Pochman, Executive Director of the Linda Loring Nature Foundation, will kick off the discussion by briefly sharing how the Association of Nature Center Administrators designed and is using member surveys to help inform their DEIJ work with their national organizational members. Barbara Bates from Newton Conservators will share the challenges their all-volunteer land trust has encountered in exploring the use of surveys. This discussion will not be recorded. Sponsored by MLTC and facilitated by Robb Johnson, Executive Director. Free, but advance registration required [here](#).

Meet the Young Land Professionals of MLTC

The Young Land Professionals (YLP) are a subset group of MLTC, formed in 2017 to provide networking and training opportunities for those in their first 10 years of a career in land conservation. Get to know the members of the YLP Organizing Committee, starting with President Stephen O'Grady. View his [bio](#). If you'd like to join email admin@massland.org with your name, affiliation, and role. And if you're already signed up as a YLP, keep an eye on your email for a March or April event at Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum.

Registration Open for the 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Thursday, March 24 – Saturday, March 26, online and in-the-field

Join us for 28 virtual sessions, 9 field-based outdoor sessions around Massachusetts, topical talks by our lead sponsors, keynote address by Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Energy, Environment and Open Spaces for the City of Boston, and access to the recordings through May 31. **Reduced rates through March 11**, with discounted admission for MLTC members. One registration

gains you access to all virtual sessions! [Register here](#). [Schedule](#). [Session descriptions](#).

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors!

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Friend: Community Preservation Coalition at The Trust For Public Land | The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts | Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies | Ecopixel | Jankowski & Spencer P.C. | Landscape Land Conservation Software | Law Office of Stephen J. Small | The Trust for Public Land | Upstream Tech

Stop & Shop Community Bag Program Benefits MLTC in March

If you shop at the Acton Stop & Shop, and if you'd like to support MLTC, for the month of March MLTC will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag from the Acton Stop & Shop at 100 Powder Mill Road. We're honored to have been selected, and very grateful for any participation.

Policy

A 30x30 Update

The Interior Department, in coordination with the Agriculture Department, Commerce Department, and the Council on Environmental Quality, announced a [public comment period](#) on the development of the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas. According to the Interior Department, the atlas will be used to reflect baseline information on the lands and waters that are conserved or restored as part of the America the Beautiful initiative. Deadline for comments is March 7. The Land Trust Alliance, on behalf of its members, will submit written comments ahead of the deadline. **If your land trust plans to submit comments**, please email Chelsea Welch, the Alliance's energy and

climate policy advisor, at cwelch@lta.org in order to ensure a consistent message.

The interagency working group convened three 90-minute public listening sessions, which you can listen to at these links: [Thursday, Jan. 13](#) | [Wednesday, Jan. 19](#) | [Friday, Jan. 21](#)

Public Discussions on the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment

Register to participate in one of the public listening sessions (up to 90 minutes each)

- [Conversation 1: March 1 at 11:30 a.m.](#)
- [Conversation 2: March 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Conversation 3: March 8 at 11:30 a.m.](#)
- [Conversation 4: March 9 at 6 p.m.](#)

Information garnered here will inform the [2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment](#), which the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is undertaking to identify the most pressing current and future climate challenges and impacts. Ultimately, the conversations will inform how the study will assess statewide climate impacts, and how the State prioritizes actions to address these challenges as part of the upcoming [State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan](#) 2023 update.

News

In Memorium

With heavy heart we note the passing of Brian Rehrig, an inaugural member of MLTC's Conservation Advisory Council. Brian was the long-time face of the Fields Pond Foundation, as well as a founder of the all-volunteer Arlington Land Trust. As Bob Wilber, Director of Land Conservation at Mass Audubon, notes: "Many marveled at how Brian was so well connected, so well respected, and so politically adept – pulling on multiple levers simultaneously to make [projects] happen". Brian was a great conservationist and staunch advocate for protecting open space. He was not only an essential mentor both in land conservation and in guiding many through the maze of the grantmaking world, but also a true friend to many that he assisted. Find his obituary, tribute and service information [here](#).



One Compact, Every Town, 35 Years

Source: *A Cape Cod Voice*, by Seth Rolbein

Local press highlights The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts' 35 years as a quiet national model which has helped conserve thousands of acres. Read the [full article](#).

Wildlands Trust Surpasses 50 Communities Served in Southeastern Massachusetts

[Wildlands Trust](#), a regional land trust in southeastern Massachusetts founded in 1973, marked the end of 2021 with the donation of 65 acres of land in Foxborough, which expanded its service area to 51 communities. The organization celebrated several other year-end acquisitions including the 16-acre Hart conservation restriction, which adds to an existing assemblage of protected land along Eagles Nest Creek in Duxbury; and a 17-acre property within the headwaters of Leonard Washburn Brook in Lakeville. The self-described "small organization with a big reach" has protected nearly 13,000 acres of open space since its founding.

Five MLTC Members Awarded New MassWildlife Grants

Five MLTC members were funded in the inaugural year of MassWildlife's Climate Change Resilience Grant Opportunity program, which provides financial assistance to private and municipal landowners of conserved land to improve resiliency in ecological communities susceptible to climate

change. Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and The Trustees will use funds for a range of habitat management projects across the state. Read more [here](#).

Burial Alternatives Draw Attention

A January 25th [Boston Globe article](#) shares how Better Place Forests, a for-profit company based in California, purchased 200 acres of [mostly wooded land in the town of Florida](#) and now offers the opportunity to scatter one's cremated remains there at a cost of nearly \$6000 and up. The company tells MLTC that it is in the process of granting a Conservation Restriction on the property to an accredited land trust. Though some question claims that cremated remains provide any substantial nutrient value to trees, this Berkshires project joins the company's existing forest in Connecticut's Litchfield Hills as their second entry of this business model in the Northeast. Another company, [Eternal Roots](#), states on its website that it will open a similar memorial forest "in the eastern foothills of the Berkshires" later this year; no details are provided on whether that property will be protected by a Conservation Restriction.

Meanwhile, the non-profit [Green Burial Massachusetts](#) has been working for years to promote environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional burial and cremation, highlighting the fact that both have significant environmental impacts. The organization's website features [a searchable list](#) of the growing number of Massachusetts communities that allow natural burial, defined here as burial without any embalming, metal casket, liner or vault, with only minimal grave markers. The organization is currently partnering with [Kestrel Land Trust on a search for property](#) to create the state's first cemetery dedicated exclusively to natural burial. Costs of acquiring and protecting the property will be funded in part by burial fees. Learn more about green burial at their [upcoming webinar](#) on February 27th at 4:30 p.m.

Proposals for Presenting at Rally Due Monday, February 28

Share your wisdom with the land trust community at Rally 2022 -- in-person in New Orleans September 15 - 17 (Thursday - Saturday)! Ideal proposals will incorporate three intertwined themes that are critical to the future of land conservation: Inclusion, Climate Change and Water. Share lessons that will help the conservation community increase our impact. [Learn more](#). [Submit a proposal](#).

Webinars and E-Learning



28th Ecological Landscape Alliance Conference

Wednesday, February 23 - Thursday, February 24

Topics will include: [Ecological Lessons from Pollinator Habitat](#) · [Strategies for Supporting Urban Landscapes and Pollinators](#) · [Focus on Design](#): parks, watershed design, garden ethic · [Focus on Practice](#): native grass/sedge/rush, communication · [Idea Exchange](#): jumping worms, hummingbirds, monarchs. [Details and register](#).



2022 Massachusetts Open Space Conference

February 24 (last date of a series), webinar: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., networking: 1:35 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

February 24 — The Financial Context of Your Community

This event is for those interested in protecting open space to gain practical skills, share experiences, build partnerships, and come away with an increased capacity to facilitate successful land conservation projects - be it through planning, outreach, or stewardship.

[Learn more](#). [Register](#).

Wildlife Management Adaptation Planning and Practices

Monday, February 28 - Wednesday, April 20

This program, consisting of seven 1-hour interactive lectures and three discussion sessions, will provide hands-on training in considering climate information and identifying adaptation actions relevant to wildlife habitat management and conservation. Participants will receive coaching and feedback to develop their own project. Offered by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. [Learn more.](#) [Register.](#)



MACC Annual Environmental Conference 2022

Week 1: March 1, 2, 3 and 5 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday)

Week 2: March 8, 9, 10 and 12 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday)

This year's conference covers 32 new workshops, two keynote speakers, and nine Fundamental Units. Topics include climate resiliency; salt marsh restoration; BioMap 3; equitable access to nature; Chapter 91; Wetlands Protection Act regulation updates; woody plant identification; solar; culverts; riverfront area redevelopment; and much more! Sessions are in one-hour blocks; fundamentals units are in 2.5 hour blocks. Details [here.](#)



2022 Maine Land Conservation Conference

4 consecutive weeks in March starting Tuesday, March 8

With 8 sessions over 4 weeks in March, and a keynote presentation by two Maine-based adaptive adventure advocates, Maine's annual land conservation conference will cover topics such as organizational administration (leadership succession, raising funds, financial oversight), including indigenous needs, accessibility, and community engagement in land conservation. [Learn more.](#)



Creating Culturally-Centered Nature-Based Programs

Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

This one-hour presentation will provide an overview of seven strategies for creating culturally-centered nature-based curriculum and programs. Sponsored by Antioch University New England. Cost is \$20. [Learn more.](#)



Conservation Finance Learning Lab

Tuesdays, March 8 and April 12, 2:00 p.m. (virtual)

These webinars will feature panel discussions, case studies, and networking opportunities for participants to take a deep dive into tangible, innovative approaches to conservation funding and financing. March 8th topic: Corporate Engagement: Successfully Selling Your Project. April 12th topic: Project Consultations. [Learn more.](#)



Landowner Webinar Series: Plan for Your Land

2nd Thursday of each month through April 2022, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This six-part webinar series is for landowners interested in planning the future of their land. Sessions will feature relevant professionals to provide information and help answer questions. Sign up for individual webinars or the entire series. Co-sponsored by MLTC. [Learn more and register.](#)

March 10 — How can I conserve my land?

April 14 — What are the financial benefits of land conservation?

Strategic Conservation Planning in a Changing Climate

Tuesday, March 22, 2:00 p.m.

Join climate experts Danielle Shannon and Kristen Schmitt, Northern Forests Climate Hub, as they discuss climate change planning, with a particular focus on the benefits of clearly articulated values and conservation goals. There is a fee to attend. [Learn more and register.](#)



Climatic Adaptation and Restoration of Ecosystem Services (I-CARES) Workshop

Thursday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.

Rapid urbanization and changing temperature and precipitation patterns are putting severe strain on the health of local ecosystems. To assist communities in building resilience to these changes, the online I-CARES model presents a suite of assessments that model specific ecosystem services under current and future climate scenarios. The workshop will provide an overview of the I-CARES model, including applications of the model to specific areas of the Commonwealth. Zoom link [here](#).

Grants

U.S. Standard NAWCA Grants

Application deadline: Friday, February 25

This matching grants program supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Cornell Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative Grant Program

Application deadline: Tuesday, March 1

These grants provide between \$5,000-\$25,000 for projects that contribute to bird conservation on private lands through activities such as (but not limited to) strategic planning, outreach, habitat management, stewardship, bird monitoring, eBird use, capacity building, and land or easement acquisition. Funds will be dispersed at the end of May/June in the following categories: Capacity and Partnership Projects – up to 6 grants of \$5,000 each; Management and Restoration Projects – 8 grants of \$25,000 each. [Learn more.](#)

Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative (NBHCI) Mini-Grants

Application deadline: Tuesday, March 15

These mini-grants of up to \$500 are intended to help Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCPs) support development of their own eBird trainings for their partners, and to help build an ambassador network to promote the tool's effectiveness in conservation and community engagement. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) Grant Program

Application deadline: Friday, March 18

This 50% matching grant reimbursement program supports the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or nonprofit organization. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to view the MPPF [Application Presentation video](#). [Learn more and apply.](#)

Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA) Grants

Application deadline: Friday, April 1, 4:00 p.m.

The Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA) helps resolve stewardship issues caused by a prior owner to restore active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Department's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Funds may be used for materials and contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim

inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Two USDA / NRCS Grant Opportunities

Application deadlines: Wednesday, April 13

The U.S. Department of Agriculture / Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA / NRCS) will award up to \$225 million to conservation partners through the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP). The projects should address climate change, benefit historically underserved producers, and support urban agriculture.

RCPP Classic

Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. [Details here](#).

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)

AFA projects allow partners more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers that would not be otherwise possible with Classic projects. [Details here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

Invasive Plant Control Database

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network's [Invasive Plant Control Database](#) tool summarizes different management techniques for different invasive species. It gives ideal treatments with explanations of how they work, rates of application, and efficacy. This database was developed for the Midwest so it may not contain all Massachusetts' invasive species. ****Note: this database was developed out of state, and may identify different pesticide rules and regulations than in Massachusetts. Review labels and protocols to ensure the herbicide and method of application is approved for MA.****

Communicating About Climate Change Guide

This online guide can help land trusts create a climate change communication strategy. In the guide are tips, action steps, and examples for effectively bringing climate action into your communications. [Learn more](#).

Go Wild on Your Taxes

Support endangered animals and plants when you file your state income taxes. Your donation on Line 33A for Endangered Wildlife Conservation provides critical support for MassWildlife's Natural Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and makes a big difference for rare species.

"Alive with Birds": Museum Exhibit on William Brewster, Mass Audubon's first President

Dates: March 4 - September 5

Where: the [Concord Museum](#)

Drawn to Concord for its natural beauty and abundant bird life, William Brewster made October Farm, his 300-acre property, into an experimental field laboratory, and documented its wildlife for scientific study and public enlightenment. "Alive with Birds" is a collaboration between Concord Museum and Mass Audubon, with additional contributions from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University and the Chesterwood Archives at Williams College. [Learn more](#).

2022 ALPINE Summer Institute Now Accepting Applications

Application deadline: Friday, April 1

ALPINE's (Academics for Land Protection in New England) Summer Institute is designed for those interested in getting in-depth exposure to the practice of large landscape conservation in New England. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young professionals with a wide variety of academic backgrounds and levels of experience, are eligible to apply. The program will include once-a-week virtual sessions between early June and early August, as well as feature (if public health conditions allow) a face-to-face meeting at the Schoodic Institute in Winter Harbor, Maine

from June 24 to 26. There is no cost to students for the program. [Learn more.](#) [Apply.](#)

Junior Conservation Camp Registration Is Open

Application deadline: Sunday, May 1

Dates: August 7 - 19 (Sunday - Friday)

Teens will learn about nature, wildlife, outdoor skills, conservation education, and ethics. The camp will be held at the Moses Scout Reservation in Russell. Scholarships are available. [Learn more.](#)

Jobs

Post your job openings on the MassLand **self-serve** [Job Board!](#) Add one anytime.

[Executive Director](#) - Chatham Conservation Foundation

[Eastern Division Director of Field Programs](#) - Land Trust Alliance

[Vice President of Administration & Finance](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Director of Development](#) - Barnstable Land Trust

[Capital Project Manager](#) - Mass Audubon

[Conservation Director](#) - Saratoga Preserving Land and Nature

[Conservation Manager](#) - Northeast Wilderness Trust

[Community Engagement and Stewardship Manager](#) - Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

[Community Property Manager](#) - Boston Farms

[High Road Manager](#) - Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Land Protection Manager](#) - Northeast Wilderness Trust

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts , Inc.

[Conservation Science and Land Steward](#) - Linda Loring Nature Foundation

[Land Conservation Specialist](#) - The Trustees of Reservations

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

[Endangered Species Review Biologist \(Conservation Biologist III\)](#) - Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game

[Southern New England Trails Volunteer Programs Field Coordinator](#) - Appalachian Mountain Club

[Administrative Assistant / Office Manager](#) - Mass Audubon

[Administrative Assistant](#) - Southborough Open Land Foundation

[Summer Land Stewardship Intern](#) - Orleans Conservation Trust

