



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

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Land Conservation Community
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MassLand News



Grab those short-sleeved hikes while you can! I recently enjoyed the well-maintained loop trail at [Cohasset Conservation Trust's](#) Great Brewster Woods, located just a stone's throw from town center. #OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 10 am - 12:15 pm

To be held via Zoom. Registration information was sent to Steering Committee members on September 10. The agenda is available [here](#) (login required).

With special guest Representative Joan Meschino (D - Hull), primary author of the Roadmap Bill, which codifies the 2050 deadline for net zero greenhouse emissions and which now includes key amendments concerning natural and working lands, environmental justice and solar siting. She will describe the legislation and its prospects of emerging from the House - Senate conference committee. MLTC, TNC, MAS and TT were among those contributing to the passage of the House bill and responding to many filed amendments.

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Member Spotlight

Herring River Overlook -- Wellfleet Conservation Trust



Jacquelyn Fouse of Wellfleet has donated the largest gift of upland ever to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust. These 18.5 acres of native pine forest overlooking the Herring River estuary above the Chequessett Neck Road dike will be kept in their natural state, preserving the habitat and natural functions of the land. Limited trails will be created to the overlook. In announcing the gift, WCT President Dennis (Denny) O'Connell said, "The Trust is extremely grateful to Ms. Fouse for making this incredible conservation success happen. Jackie stepped up in a magnificent way. We honor Jackie for her commitment to conservation. It is exciting to think that this beautiful land has never been developed, and never will be". [View a video of the property](#), and [read more about it](#).

Addendum

In August, E-News highlighted the protection of Jewell Hill Farm, a 296 acre property in the towns of Ashby, Ashburnham and the City of Fitchburg, which was a collaboration among various partners. Left out was the contribution of MLTC member [Janet Morrison](#), who developed the grant funding strategy, and worked with the Town of Ashburnham and the City of Fitchburg to secure grant funding and fulfill all grant requirements. Thank you, Janet!

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Policy

Celebrating the Great American Outdoors Act



On August 28th, Congressman Jim McGovern joined conservation advocates, including MLTC's Robb Johnson, on the Connecticut River in Northampton to celebrate recent enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act. This long sought victory ensures full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at a projected level of \$900 million per year, and provides significant resources to address long-neglected maintenance needs on national parks, forests and other public lands. MLTC thanks Rep. McGovern for his longstanding leadership on this issue, and thanks our entire congressional delegation for their support of this critical legislation.

U.S. Senate Finance Committee Report on Syndication of Conservation Easements

The [report](#) describes how bad actors have disguised tax shelters as legitimate conservation donations. The introduction and summary provide a good overview of the problem. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is asking conservation organizations to take action to help stop these practices by: 1) writing an op-ed or letter to the editor -- [this detailed guide](#) provides the information you need, 2) urging your Congressional delegation to sign on to S.170/H.R. 1992, the Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act, and 3) sharing this call to action with your contacts.

Stand Up for Forests Campaign

Sourced from the Northeast Forest Network (NFN)

The Northeast Forest Network (NFN), a program of the Highstead Foundation and the Regional Conservation Partnership Network, has created an accessible library of resources for all organizations to convey the message that protection and stewardship of forests, trees, and green spaces are essential to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Northeast. The Stand Up for Forests grassroots campaign aims to create immediate support to protect urban, rural and suburban forests by expanding reach of the message, and urging all professional and personal communities to stand up and take action. A [communications toolkit](#) has been created for organizations to amplify messages about the personal connections between forests, health and wellbeing, with social media posts, infographics, images, data points, fact sheets, and email templates you can use to reach out to your members, supporters, and partners. [Visit the Stand Up for Forests website](#) to find out how you can spread the word and take action. NFN is currently soliciting conservation organizations to endorse the campaign, as MLTC has done, before the public launch on September 21.

News

CPA Estimated Match for FY21 Budgets

Sourced from Community Preservation Coalition, September 3, 2020

The Department of Revenue (DOR) has issued updated guidance concerning the CPA state match for municipal budgets. While the agency is not yet certain what the final match will be in November, DOR is advising communities to use a state match figure of 17.7% for their FY21 budgets. This 17.7% figure is based solely on revenue collected in the CPA Trust Fund as of July 31, 2020. DOR has not factored in the additional revenue that will be collected between August and November.

Mass Ct. of Appeals Rules in Favor of Wellesley Conservation Council

On August 10, the Massachusetts Court of Appeals issued a very favorable appellate [decision](#) involving financial damages as a remedy in enforcement of a conservation restriction. The decision in Wellesley Conservation Council v. Pereira, in which MLTC joined with The Trustees as amicus parties, was an appeal by Wellesley Conservation Council (recently re-named the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust - WCLT) of a lower court decision granting a restoration plan for a parcel on which a landowner had cleared mature trees and erected a sports court. While the lower court acknowledged that planting small replacement trees was not a true restoration, it declined to approve any financial damages to WCLT. The Appeals Court reversed, deciding that damages are an appropriate remedy to reasonably compensate for the time it will actually take to restore the land. The Massachusetts land trust community greatly appreciates the pro bono assistance of the Boston law firm of Sugarman Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, PC, which once again stepped in, preparing a convincing brief leading to a conservation victory.

MVP Grant Awarded to Land Acquisition Project in Littleton

On September 15, the State announced the latest round of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, including a \$763,000 award to the Town of Littleton for purchase of, and invasive species control on, a 22-acre wooded property on the southern end of Long Pond. Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) and Littleton Conservation Trust (LCT) are working with the Town of Littleton on acquisition of the property, known as Brown's Woods. It serves as an important link between LCT's Prouty Woods conservation land and the Littleton Town Forest. In October, Littleton Special Town Meeting will vote on allocation of up to \$480,000 to meet the balance of the purchase price. SVT and LCT will assist with outreach and fundraising, and SVT will hold a CR on the property. This is the third MVP Action Grant awarded to a municipal land acquisition project completed with land trust assistance.

Habitat Connectivity Survey Opportunity

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation invites you to fill out this survey on habitat connectivity and the work of land trusts, to inform development of a toolkit of resources for land trusts seeking to incorporate connectivity practices into their efforts. Toolkit components will be based on survey responses, but may include resources for finding connectivity data, sample language for communicating the importance of connectivity to partners, and case studies of ways that other land trusts have successfully incorporated connectivity into their operations. Access the

survey [here](#). Please respond by September 30.

Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve in Kingston Inducted into Old-Growth Forest Network

Sourced from Northeast Wilderness Trust

The Northeast Wilderness Trust's [Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve](#) encompasses 322 acres in Kingston. The preserve includes a 48-acre Coastal Plain Pond and 273 acres of Atlantic coastal pine barrens featuring more than 25 verified vernal pools. While not yet an old-growth forest, the barrens are home to rare and diverse flora and fauna. Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve is the third Massachusetts forest to join the [Old-Growth Forest Network](#). The others are Mohawk Trail State Forest in Franklin County and The Rivulet at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Hampshire County. The mission of the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) is to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. "Through this work, we're not only protecting a rare forest as forever-wild, we're also connecting residents to the beauty and awe of this incredible ecosystem," explained Joe Falconeri, Southern New England Land Steward for the Northeast Wilderness Trust.

What Floats Your...Float?

Sourced from State of the Waters: Cape Cod, September 2, 2020



Plastics come from sources you may not have thought of, one being floats. They're made from polystyrene foam, technically a plastic. Floats - and other plastics, as we know - degrade, their particles insidiously infiltrating water. Chathamnow has waterway regulations that require new floats to be on plastic float boxes. If blue foam is used, it must be encapsulated with a "non-permeable protective coating". Be good to the environment: check your float and encourage others to do so, too. [Read more here](#).

Important Reminder: September Marks the Start of Fall Hunting Season

Sourced from the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Many town-owned lands, public lands, Wildlife Management Areas, most state parks

and some land trust properties are open to hunting. Although hunting accidents are extremely rare, wearing blaze orange will help minimize your chances of being mistaken for game animals during the [hunting season](#), which starts in September. Safety tips for non-hunters include: Wear blaze orange to be safe and be seen; keep pets leashed and visible; know when and where hunting is allowed; make your presence known; and be courteous - don't make noise other than to make your presence known to hunters. Read more [here](#).

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Webinars & e-Learning

Conservation Conversation Series -- North County Land Trust

Thursday, September 17, 5 pm- 6:30 pm

This first event of a fall series will feature discussion of Marcela Maldonado's article "Modern Land Stewardship Requires a Modern Philosophy". In this article, Maldonado critically examines the long-held belief that "sound, long-term preservation and stewardship of natural areas requires limiting access by the public". This article will be of interest to those who have pondered how to engage new and diverse users on your conservation land and trails while still soundly managing them. Participants are encouraged to [read the article](#) before the event. Questions submitted by September 7 will guide the conversation, and live questions will be considered as time permits. [Pre-register for the Zoom discussion](#).

Connecting Farmers and Landowners Series -- Land for Good

Wednesdays (most weeks), noon - 1 pm

Looking to buy or lease farmland and have questions? Are you a landowner who would like to make it available to farmers? Join one of these sessions to get your questions answered. Advance registration is required to obtain the Zoom link.

[Read more about each session.](#)

- September 23: Make Your Land Available for Farming
- September 30: How to Conduct a Land Search
- October 14: Make Your Land Available for Farming
- October 21: How to Conduct a Land Search

How We Decide to Get Serious about Climate Solutions: Politics, Communication, and Framing

Friday, September 25, 10:00 am - 1:15 pm

This virtual event, part of the Climate Adaptation Forum, features a panel of national leaders in a discussion of climate change communication and framing efforts across the political spectrum. They will address why more people don't respond to the threats of climate change with urgency, and methods to get the message across. [View details here](#).

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Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group's 2020 Symposium

Wednesday, October 7, 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

Theme: Realistic Solutions to Managing Invasive Plants. Sessions include Aquatic Invasives, Native Alternatives, Tools & Timing of Invasive Plant Management, and more. For more details and cost, [view the conference program.](#)

Meadows: If You Build It They Will Come -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Wednesday, October 21, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Join Pennington Marchael for an overview of meadow design and creation, and explore the biodiversity that results from putting back what nature intended. This presentation offers a glimpse into the rich species diversity that comes from establishing a meadow and making the right choices from design through maintenance. Plant communities that dominate the natural ecosystems will be a focus. [Read more here.](#)

Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Featuring National Author and Thought Leader Emma Marris

Thursday, November 12, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm with early registration discounts through October 12.

Nature-based landscapes result in properties that are more resilient and capable of surviving climate change. With widespread adoption of regenerative strategies and the redesign of failed systems, communities can build resilient landscapes that improve environmental and human health. Join us to consider future landscapes and learn the importance of regenerative solutions. [Read more and register here](#)

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Grants

MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program (MHMGP) is Open

Deadline: Friday, October 16, 2020

This program provides financial assistance to private and municipal landowners of conserved lands to enhance wildlife habitat, while promoting public access for outdoor recreation. The MHMGP encourages landowners to engage in active habitat management on their properties to benefit many types of wildlife, including species of greatest conservation need and game species. Over the past 5 years, the MHMGP has awarded over \$1.9M in funding for 74 habitat projects. [Click here for information on the grant program and application instructions.](#)

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Jobs

[Executive Director](#) -- Manchester Essex Conservation Trust

[Executive Director](#) -- Five Rivers Conservation Trust (NH)

[Technical Specialist](#) -- Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

[Membership and Administration Coordinator](#) -- Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

[Procurement and Grants Specialist](#) -- MA Division of Ecological Restoration

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