



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

November 18, 2021, Volume 19, Number 11

Member Spotlight



140-Acre Gift of Art and Land Finalized in Shutesbury

In 1976, Julian Janowitz bought a remote forested property near Lake Wyola in Shutesbury, which became, according to his obituary, "a big, three-dimensional canvas for [his] creativity". This special property, known to his friends as "Julian's Bower", is a landscape of wetlands and forest traversed by 5 miles of trails leading to a dramatic cliffside overlook. The land is dotted with Julian's whimsical modern wood, glass, and stone sculptures, as well as his poetry. The property includes the 22-acre Ames Pond and its adjoining bog with a several-hundred-foot-long boardwalk—built by Mark

himself. He began protecting the property with a conservation restriction in 2003 with the help of Kestrel Land Trust, and in 2016 contacted Kestrel again to ensure that the experience of art and nature on his land would be enjoyed by the public in perpetuity . When Julian passed away in 2019, his will - finalized in July 2021 - left this 140-acre natural "canvas" to Kestrel, which now owns and stewards the land. [Read more.](#)



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



Donate

MassLand News



What a pleasure to gather with colleagues earlier this month at the 18th Annual Land Trust/ State Agency Retreat, hosted by the Rose Family at Red Apple Farm in Phillipston. We enjoyed a walk to the 1000 Acre Swamp through forest land protected by a conservation restriction held by Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, and enjoyed lunch outside on the APR-protected orchard. #OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

Help MLTC Work for You: A Forum for Urban Conservation Organizations

Thursday, December 2, 3:00 pm -4:00 pm, via Zoom

This networking discussion provides an opportunity for staff and volunteer leaders of conservation organizations that do a substantial portion of their work in urban settings to provide input on MLTC's current strategic planning process. What needs of yours could/should we be addressing? How relevant are we to your work, and how could we be more so? Hosted and facilitated by Robb Johnson. This discussion will not be recorded. Free, but advance registration required [here](#). If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input, please let Robb know at robb@massland.org.

MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. via Zoom

All 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 this month's featured topic: a progress update on BioMap 3, a mapping initiative to guide strategic biodiversity conservation in Massachusetts. A detailed agenda will be sent in advance to all registrants. Advance registration is required [here](#).

Leadership Succession Planning for Land Trusts

Four 90-minute sessions: January 26, February 2, February 9 and March 9, via Zoom

At its heart, [succession planning](#) is not about replacing people, but a way to facilitate change and growth, making your mission more enduring. Through a series of virtual sessions with separate tracks for staffed and all-volunteer land trusts, this Land Trust Alliance (LTA) seminar series will give you tools and resources to build new leaders, transform your organization and create a timeline for thoughtful succession processes. Cost: \$95 for LTA members; \$125 for non-members. [Learn more](#) and [register](#) today. **This series is co-sponsored by the MLTC's Stronger Together program, which will provide a significant discount for Massachusetts land trusts. Please contact us for details at admin@massland.org.**

Save the Dates: 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Thursday March 24 – Saturday March 26, online

The theme this year is "**Communicating Conservation: Building the Message for the 21st Century**". Watch for registration information early in 2022! **Sponsoring** the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference offers the opportunity promote your organization or business to a large audience of conservation practitioners over the course of **several months**, starting now. Opportunities include (based on level): sponsorship of workshops, name or logo placement on email and social media outreach, and the possibility to schedule a one-hour info session of your own topic and design. [Details and sign up here.](#)

Many thanks to the sponsors who have already joined us!

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Supporter: [Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#) | [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#) | [Essex County Greenbelt Association](#) | [Horsley Witten Group](#) | [New England Forestry Foundation](#) | [Sheriff's Meadow Foundation](#) | [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) | [Wildlands Trust](#)

Introductory: [The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts](#) | [Landscape - Land Conservation Software](#) | [Law Office of Stephen J. Small](#)

Policy

Conservation to Receive a Share of ARPA Funding

A House-Senate Conference Committee is currently working to reconcile differences between their respective proposals for spending the first installment of \$4.9B in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding coming to Massachusetts, with a goal of sending a bill to the Governor before Thanksgiving. Funds will address a broad range of community needs, including environmental

concerns such as improved water infrastructure, land acquisition and park creation, tree-planting, green jobs, and climate resiliency. Next year, the legislature will take up plans to spend the remainder of ARPA funds.

Water Quality and Climate Resiliency Benefit from Federal Infrastructure Package

The trillion-dollar infrastructure package signed into law by President Biden on November 15 is slated to bring over \$9 billion in funding to Massachusetts over the next five years, including funding to upgrade wastewater infrastructure, improve energy efficiency and reduce climate-change impacts to communities. Read more [here](#).

Comments sought on Draft Environmental Justice Protocols

Deadline: Friday November 26

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office has issued two protocols relative to environmental justice for public comment. Public comments can be submitted by November 26, 2021 to MEPA-regs@mass.gov. More information [here](#). These protocols will supplement proposed amendments to MEPA regulations planned for final promulgation by December 2021. In addition, a new MEPA Interim Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency is now in effect as of October 1, 2021.

Input Sought on Clean Energy and Climate Plans for 2025 and 2030

Under the Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy bill that was signed into law last March, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is required to set emissions-reductions targets every 5 years, with detailed plans for reaching them. As the state writes rules and makes plans related to addressing climate change, they need to hear from conservationists, farmers and environmental justice advocates about their specific ideas, needs and priorities. More information on how to comment is available [here](#).

NOAA Requests Public Input

Deadline: Tuesday, December 28

NOAA welcomes public input on how it can advance the [goals and recommendations in the report on "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful"](#). The Report recommends a decade-long national initiative to promote locally led conservation and restoration in public, private, and Tribal lands and waters to address three threats: 1) disappearance of nature loss, 2) climate change, and 3) inequitable access to the outdoors. [Learn more and provide your input](#).

News

Mark Anderson Named Kingsbury Browne Fellow

Mark Anderson was recently named a [Kingsbury Browne Fellow](#) at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and is the recipient of the [Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award](#) from the Land Trust Alliance. Mark is director of The Nature Conservancy's Center for Resilient Conservation Science, and an ecologist who has conducted groundbreaking work to map climate-resilient lands and waters across the United States. These maps are used by government agencies, land trusts, and other organizations to prioritize conservation work. [Read more](#).

CPA Trust Fund Breaks a New Record

Over \$79 million has been distributed to CPA communities this year, an all-time high for the statewide program. All CPA communities received a 39.4% match on round one of the trust fund distribution. For a full breakdown of this year's CPA Trust Fund distribution, and to see how much state funding each community received this year, [click here](#).

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition Receives First-Ever SNEP Pilot Watershed Grant

BCWC was awarded a 5-year \$750,000 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Pilot Watershed

grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. As one of four recipients of this new grant program, BCWC will use their award to help restore 56 acres of cranberry bogs at the headwaters of the Marstons Mills River to a natural wetlands system. An estimated 40% of the excess nitrogen load for Three Bays Estuary transits these cranberry bogs. The grant will fund design, permitting, and a portion of the implementation of the bog restoration. [Read more.](#)

Webinars and E-Learning



Landowner Webinar Series: Plan for Your Land

2nd Thursday of each month, November 2021 - April 2022, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Hosted by UMass MassWoods

This six-part webinar series for landowners 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.](#)

December 9 - What's my land worth financially and ecologically?

January 13 - Who will own my land next?

February 10 - How can I reduce my property taxes?

March 10 - How can I conserve my land?

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



Tips from Terrafirma

Thursday, December 9, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Leslie Ratley Beach, director of conservation defense at the Land Trust Alliance and vice president of Alliance Risk Management Services, will cover lessons learned on best practices from more than a thousand claims submitted over the years. Free to LTA members. There is a prerequisite of at least one LTA risk management training to attend. [Details and register.](#)



Oaks in New England Forests: keystones for Biodiversity and Resiliency

Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

[Dr. Desiree L. Narango](#) of UMass Amherst and Logan Johnson of the [Forest Steward's Guild](#) will discuss the essential role oaks play in supporting a complex web of wildlife and the resilience of our woods. Seventy percent of southern New England forests are dominated by oaks – champions of carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, and watershed management due to their enormous root systems – yet this forest type is facing growing pressures. Sponsored by the [Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership](#). To register, email Lisa Hayden at lhayden@newenglandforestry.org to request the Zoom link and dial-in info.



Conservation Finance Learning Lab

Five dates, December 14, 2021 to April 2022

These free webinars, sponsored by Highstead and The Conservation Finance Network, feature panel discussions, case studies, and networking opportunities for participants to take a deep dive into tangible, innovative approaches to conservation funding and financing. Learn more [here.](#)



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Conservation

Wednesday, December 15, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Host: ALPINE (Academics for Land Protection In New England)

Presenters TBD. [Register here.](#)



Insurance 101

Tuesday, January 11, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meghan Mullee, vice president of Alliant Insurance Services, will cover which insurance coverages respond to physical incidents and which are designed for management/financial incidents. This crash course to insurance will help attendees gain a better understanding of how to protect their land, partners, and people. Sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance. Free to LTA members. [Details and register.](#)



Risk Management Case Study: Sonoma v. Thompson

Thursday, January 20, 3:30p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join Sarah Sigman, an attorney with Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger, and Bob Neale, stewardship director at Sonoma Land Trust, for an in-depth case study of this landmark conservation victory. Not only did the land trust and TerraFirma fight to protect the property, but they also successfully fought for costs and fees to compensate the land trust for their time and effort in doing so. Free to LTA members. There is a prerequisite of at least one LTA risk management training to attend. [Details and register.](#)

Grants

Neighborhood Outreach Project

Deadline: rolling

The Working Forest Initiative is sponsoring grant funding to implement "neighborhood-based outreach" to landowners about conservation-based estate planning, including land protection options. This project aims to use social networks to help inform landowner decisions about the future of their land. This grant is intended for areas with significant forest cover. Maximum funding is \$5,000. All activities of this reimbursement grant must be completed by April 15, 2022. [Details here.](#)

Remote Monitoring Grants

Info. session: Thursday, November 18, 12:45 p.m. [Register](#)

Application deadline: Friday, January 14

These Remote Monitoring Grants from the Land Trust Alliance support land trusts in exploring how remote monitoring technologies can help to enhance their stewardship work. One-year grants of up to \$20,000 will help land trusts identify remote monitoring solutions that address their unique needs, and help organizations to build capacity to implement new technologies. [Learn more.](#)

Farm Credit East AgEnhancement Grants

Application deadline: Wednesday, December 1

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to support programs, projects, and activities that assist in the development of young and beginning farmers; encourage leadership development with the aim of strengthening agriculture and the food and fiber industries; generate a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber industries in the region; recognize the accomplishments of leaders of the agriculture and food and fiber industries; advance the economic viability of agriculture and the food and fiber industries in the Northeast; and/or promote interest in agriculture/horticulture/forest products/commercial fishing. [Details here.](#)

Temper of the Times Grant Program

Application Deadline: Wednesday, December 15

Temper of the Times Foundation provides funds to underwrite advertising designed to promote the

conservation and restoration of native wildlife, plants, and ecosystems in the United States. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 may be used to fund the production of print, radio, or television ads; to pay for advertising space or airtime; or to produce or distribute pamphlets, books, videos, or press packets. Learn more [here](#).

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant

Application deadline: Friday, January 7, 4:00 p.m.

The MVP Planning Grant offers funding to municipalities that want to assess their vulnerability to, and prepare for, climate change impacts, build community resilience, and receive designation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as an MVP Community. MVP Communities are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding to implement the priority actions identified through the planning process. [Learn more](#).

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grants

Application deadline: Monday, January 10

Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land by protecting it from conversion to non-forest uses, and to provide 1) community benefits such as sustainable forest management; 2) environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; 3) benefits from forest-based educational programs; 4) benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and 5) recreational benefits secured with public access. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#). For questions about the CFP application process or to discuss a potential project, contact Eastern Region CFP Program Manager Neal Bungard at 603-833-3287 or email neal.bungard@usda.gov.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program

Deadline: Monday, January 24, 2022 at 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 informational workshops will be held: Tuesday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov to receive the Teams link. This is the first year that applications will be accepted via an online form. [Learn more and apply here](#).

2022 MassTrails Grant Round Now Open

Application deadline: Tuesday, February 1

MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities, and non-profit organizations to plan, design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. [Details here](#).

Small Communities Grants

Deadline: Rolling, with a final deadline of May 6

The [Small Communities Grant Program](#) provides funding to municipalities with 6,000 or fewer residents to produce Open Space and Recreation Plans, complete other plans to facilitate land conservation, and/or prepare appraisals as required to apply for other [Division of Conservation Services grant programs](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The final deadline is May 6. [Apply here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

Watershed-Scale Climate Collaboration Toolkit

Collaborating across a watershed is an effective and impactful way to tackle climate change. [Advancing Climate Adaptation through Watershed-Scale Collaboration](#) provides context for, and highlights the benefits of, these types of collaborations.

Rare Falcon Featured in New Worcester Mural

A new peregrine falcon mural was recently unveiled in downtown Worcester, with a new nesting box to help a pair of resident falcons. This effort combines art and conservation to raise public awareness of rare wildlife. [Learn more](#) about the falcons and where to see the mural.

Be Safe, Be Seen, Be Aware: Hunting Season in Massachusetts

While hunters are required to wear blaze orange during certain seasons, all outdoor users who are in the woods during hunting seasons should also wear blaze orange clothing as a precaution. For safety, know when and where hunting is allowed before venturing out. [Learn more](#) for traveling safely during hunting season.

Jobs

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

[Senior Director of Administration, Development, and Finance](#) - Sheriff's Meadow Foundation

[Owner's Project Manager](#) - Sipson Island Removal and Renewal Project

[Communications Manager](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Land Conservation Project Manager](#) - Upper Valley Land Trust, Inc.

[Capital Project Manager](#) - Mass Audubon

[Land Stewardship Manager](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

[Farmland Preservation Specialist](#) - Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

[Land Conservation Paralegal and Contracts Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

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