



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

April 19, 2022, Volume 20, Number 4

## Member Spotlight



### 59.95 Acres of Farmland Conserved in Ashfield

Thanks to Cal and Joan Clark's generous donation of a conservation restriction on the old Culver farm in Ashfield, Franklin Land Trust has added nearly 60 acres to protected landscape of over 1,000 acres of public and private land in the area, including 367 acres the Clarks conserved in 2007 and 2008 with Franklin Land Trust. The old Culver farm contains open agricultural fields, abandoned pasture, forests and wetlands. In addition, the farm contains both prime and statewide important farm soils and portions of an unnamed cold water stream that flows into Poland Brook. Cal Clark comments, "As we learned of all the protected land around us, and more abutting property became available, we purchased it and finally learned of the advantages of a conservation restriction. Someone once told us 'there will always be land for housing, but may not always be enough land for

nature' - so this seemed like the perfect property to save for nature and add to the land around it".  
[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 here.](#)



Donate

## MassLand News & Programs



The fields looked ready to pop on this sunny spring day at Common Ground Land Trust's Small Family Memorial Trail in Spencer.  
#OurMassLandTrusts

*Robb*

### ***New Tools for Communicating the Value of Nature's Services***

Have you ever wanted better data to convince your local leaders of the importance of protecting land? Over the past three years, an MLTC working, led by Board Member Christa Collins of Sudbury Valley Trustees, has been grappling with this issue. The group partnered with consultant Jessica Sargent from Primrose Research Group LLC to develop a toolkit of materials that anyone can download and use to educate, inform and/or advocate for land conservation in their community. Resources include a technical white paper that summarizes some of the latest data available for Massachusetts, a PowerPoint presentation that can be customized to address the needs and concerns of individual towns and cities, and a one-page summary that can serve as a leave-behind for your audience. Learn more and access the materials [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. This month we introduce Mariah Auman, Vice President of YLP and Community Conservation Manager for the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. View her [bio](#). If you'd like to join the YLP, email [admin@massland.org](mailto:admin@massland.org) with your name, affiliation, and role.

### ***2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference Wraps Up***

Thanks to all the sponsors, speakers, walk leaders, session hosts and helpers who made last month's conference a success! Recordings are available to attendees via the conference portal through May 31.

#### Virtual session hosts and helpers

**Mariah Auman**, Berkshire Natural Resources Council

**Emily Boss**, Franklin Land Trust

**Rachel Calderara**, Wildlands Trust

**Allen Decker**, Buzzards Bay Coalition

**Mary Doucette**, Buzzards Bay Coalition

**Olivia Lukacic**, The Trustees

**Rosemary Malfi**, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.

**Rich Montone**, Berkshire Natural Resources Council

**Jess Moskowitz**, Mount Holyoke College

**Tessa Dowling**, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust  
**Lee Halasz**, UMass Amherst  
**Abby Hardy-Moss**, Essex County Greenbelt  
**Cynthia Henshaw**, East Quabbin Land Trust  
**Scott Jackson**, UMass Amherst

**Mark Noonan**, Town of West Springfield  
**Vidya Tikku**, The Trustees  
**Jennifer Tuomala**, University of Maine  
**Rob Warren**, The Trustees  
**Laney Wilder**, Opacum Land Trust  
**Lily Zanta**, Americorps/Sudbury Valley Trustees

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

## Policy

### **ACTION NEEDED: House FY23 State Operating Budget**

On April 13, the Massachusetts House released their FY23 State Operating Budget, and Minority Leader Jones has filed an amendment addressing one of MLTC's highest legislative priorities – to increase the annual cap for the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program. **Please contact your Massachusetts State Representative by Monday, April 25 and ask them to support Minority Leader Jones' Amendment #76!** All it takes is a quick call or email to their office. Contact information for your legislator can be found [here](#). For a fact sheet on the CLTC program and Amendment #76, click [here](#). For sample language for your call or email, click [here](#).

**Sample language:**

Sample call script and email that you can send your State Representative to support the budget for the Conservation Land Tax Credit program. Feel free to augment it with the additional information in the fact sheet or a story about a landowner you worked with who has been able to take advantage of, or is on the wait list for, the tax credit.

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

As part of [*land conservation organization*] in your district, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you co-sponsor and support Amendment #76 to the House budget for the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program, filed by Minority Leader Brad Jones. The amendment would increase the program's annual cap from \$2 million to \$7.5 million over three years to eliminate the backlog of this successful program and to enable our organization to collaborate with private landowners to conserve land for farming, forestry, wildlife, and clean water. The CLTC is also a critical tool for meeting the Commonwealth's climate goals, as conserving our natural and working lands ensures that they will continue to sequester and store carbon in perpetuity.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Your Name and Org/Group

[Give your home address or org address, whichever is in their district]

### ***PLPA Passes in the Senate!***

On April 14, the State Senate passed S. 2820, *an Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth*, often referred to as the Public Lands Protection Act. Securing passage of this bill has been a long-time priority for MLTC, but this is the first time the bill has passed both houses in the same legislative session. We thank Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Ruth Balser for lead sponsorship and steadfast support of this bill, and heartily thank our many advocacy partners, including MACC, the Sierra Club, Charles River Watershed Association and, most of all, Phil Saunders. The bill now goes back to the House, which will either accept the Senate version or send the bill to a conference committee to work out differences between the House and Senate versions. MLTC will continue to advocate for the best possible bill to win final votes this session. Thanks to all of you who responded to our action alerts on this over the years. Hopefully we're near the finish line! Read more about the bill [here](#).

### ***Mosquito Control Task Force Makes Recommendations***

*Summary courtesy of Massachusetts Rivers Alliance*

The [Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force](#) has concluded, and has issued its final report. The Task Force was created by the state legislature to study current mosquito-borne disease control management in Massachusetts, and provide comprehensive recommendations on how to improve the system. The Task Force is comprised of representatives of state agencies, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and those in the field doing mosquito control work. The Task Force overwhelmingly agreed that Massachusetts' mosquito management system needs an overhaul, and recommends that the legislation that created our current system be repealed and replaced with a more modern approach. [Learn more](#).

### ***MA Governor's Race Forum on Energy & the Environment***

*Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.*

*WBUR CitySpace (890 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215) and streaming online*

Join the Environmental League of Massachusetts and WBUR for a forum with candidates for governor Sonia Chang-Díaz, State Senator, MA 2nd Suffolk District, and Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General. The candidates will have the opportunity to discuss their plans for renewable energy, clean transportation, environmental justice, resilient communities, and more. Free, but [registration requested](#).

## **7 Massachusetts Land Trusts Join Together for Earth Day Fundraising**

On Friday April 22, Kestrel Land Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Berkshires Natural Resources Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, North County Land Trust and Pascommuck Conservation Trust are collaborating on [Give Back to the Land Day](#), a 24-hour online giving event to raise awareness and support for their work in conserving trails, forests, farms, and waterways. We salute their collaboration and encourage you to support [YOUR favorite land trust](#) this Earth Day!

## **Pascommuck Conservation Trust Celebrates 40 Years!**

Saturday, June 25 at John Bator Park in Easthampton, MA

[Pascommuck Conservation Trust](#) (PCT) celebrates 40 years of protecting open space and farmland in Easthampton. PCT acquired their first parcel for preservation in 1982, and currently stewards 16 properties, many with trails, throughout the City of Easthampton. Join the festivities on Saturday, June 25th at John Bator Park, off Williston Avenue, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be surprise guest speakers, arts and crafts, and delicious homemade goodies. Parking will be available at the City Hall lot adjacent to the park. To continue the celebration, PCT will host guided nature walks on their properties through the year. Dates to be announced on [pctland.org](#).

## **Central Mass. Land Trusts Join Land Justice Project**

[Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust](#) and [East Quabbin Land Trust](#) will participate in a project funded by [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) to increase land access and land transfers to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) farmers and non-profits in central Massachusetts. Led by Carmen Mouzon of [The Farm School](#), other partners in the project include [Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust](#) and Massachusetts State Senator Jo Comerford. The project aims to define the organizational, state, and federal policies and practices that have contributed to the current reality of nearly 100% white ownership of farmland in rural Massachusetts. The partners will work together to develop and implement new policies and practices devoted to increasing BIPOC owned farmland, and increased access to farming resources for BIPOC farmers in their region.

## **From the Ground Up: How Land Trusts and Conservancies Are Providing Solutions to Climate Change**

This new report from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy shows how land conservation organizations in the U.S. and abroad are partnering with the public and private sectors to provide land-based solutions to the climate crisis. They offer largely nature-based solutions that are conceptually creative, measurably effective, strategically significant, transferable, and potentially enduring. [Read the report](#).

# Webinars and E-Learning



## **New Online Tool for Assessing Climate Change Impacts at a Local Level**

Wednesday, April 20, noon - 1:00 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. Q&A will be part of the presentation. Individual consultations will be available and scheduled



## **Climate Adaptation for Land Trusts**

Register by Friday, April 22

4 Wednesdays in May: 11, 18, 25, 1:00 p.m.

This online short course is designed for land trusts actively working on stewardship projects in rural, suburban and urban forests, forested watersheds and wetland systems. There is a cost to attend. [Learn more and register.](#)



## **Recruiting Your Best Board of Directors**

Wednesday, April 27, 5:00 p.m.

This workshop, part of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and Audubon Society of Rhode Island's [Summit Speaker Series](#), will feature nationally renowned consultant Gayle Gifford. Participants will learn practical ways to find, vet and recruit the board members they need and want, and get helpful guidance to ensure that their board is one people want to serve on. [Learn more and register.](#)



## **Designing Park Projects That Improve Community Health**

Thursday, April 28, 2:00 p.m.

Learn about City Parks Alliance's updated report, "A Smart Investment for America's Health", which includes health statistics and case studies. Guest speakers from Anchorage, Alaska and Mobile, Alabama are featured in the report, and will discuss major park and greenway projects they're working on which have important connections to health, and will improve park access and connectivity for thousands of residents. They'll talk about how they've approached these projects, as well as the funding sources, engagement processes, and partnerships they've put in place to set the projects up for success. [Learn more and register.](#)



## **Talking in Circles: Speaking Another Language**

Tuesday, May 3, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join Rich Holschuh, founder of the [Atowi Project](#), for a place-based perspective on listening to the layers of stories embedded in the land. [Learn more and register.](#)



## **Forest Carbon Webinars**

4 Wednesdays in May: 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (May 25 until noon)

Part of the [Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program](#), each webinar will focus on a different aspect of forest carbon. Dr. Alexandra Kosiba, Climate Forester for the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation, will lead the first 3 webinars. The fourth will include five presenters from forest carbon project developer companies. SAF CFEs are available for foresters. [Learn more and register.](#)

May 4 | [The Science of Forest Carbon](#)

May 11 | [The Science of Forest Carbon Management](#)

May 18 | [Forest Carbon Markets/NRCS Funding](#)

May 25 (until noon) | [Forest Carbon Project Developers](#)



## **Risk Management in the Non-Profit Sector**

Wednesday, July 20 | Risk Management Fundamentals

Thursday, October 13 | Advanced Risk Management and ERM

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is partnering with the Nonprofit Risk

Management Center to offer LTA affiliates free registration for the 2022 Virtual Risk Summit. That means staff or Board members of MLTC member organizations can attend up to three full days of virtual training for free. Recordings are available for 30 days after the live event. [Learn more.](#)  
[Register.](#)

## Programs and Events



### **Celebrate Boston Farms' 5th Anniversary**

Thursday, April 21, 7:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (virtual)

Celebrate Boston Farms' 5th year anniversary and groundbreaking of their 5th site with a friendly trivia night competition. [Details and register.](#)



### **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**

Saturday, April 30, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (virtual)

The ["e" inc.](#) Wild and Scenic Film Festival aims to raise awareness of environmental issues globally and in the greater Boston area, and to inspire activism in the local community. All-access passes start at \$25. All proceeds benefit "e" inc. and its educational programs for area children and youth. [Details and purchase tickets.](#)



### **Planning a Wildlife Habitat Project on Your Land**

Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Helfand Farm](#), Dartmouth, MA

Hosted by the [Women on the Land](#) network and the [Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust](#), this free woods walk for women at DNRC's Helfand Farm, led by Linda Vanderveer (DNRT Land Manager) and Marianne Piche (MassWildlife Habitat Management Biologist), will focus on planning forest management strategies to diversify bird habitat with particular focus on woodcock. The program will include a discussion of understanding landscape context, identifying habitat types, options for wildlife habitat management, and professionals and programs to help participants achieve their goals. There will be lots of time for Q&A and networking. Lunch will be provided. Limited to 25 people. [Register.](#)



### **Earth Night Reception**

Thursday, May 19, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

[New England Aquarium](#), Harborview Terrace & tent

Environmental League of Massachusetts' Earth Night gala is attended by policymakers, environmental advocates, and business and civic leaders from across the Commonwealth. This year's focus is on the intersection of climate, health, and equity. In addition, the Commonwealth Environmental Leadership Awards will be presented to those who have worked at this nexus. [Learn more and register.](#)



### **Restoring the Heirloom Apple Orchard at Tower Hill**

Wednesday, June 15, noon - 1:00 p.m. (virtual)

Learn about the restoration of the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill's heirloom apple orchard. [Learn more and register.](#)

## **2022 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) RFP**

*Pre-Proposals Due: Thursday, April 21, 11:59 p.m.*

About \$140 million in grants will be awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to create and restore natural systems in order to increase protection for communities from current and future threats from coastal hazards, and improve habitats for fish and wildlife species. [Details](#).

Questions? Contact [Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov](mailto:Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov)

## **Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grants**

*Deadline for Letter of Intent: Tuesday, April 26, 4:00 p.m.*

Restore America's Estuaries offers grants to target water pollution, habitat degradation, and other high-priority environmental issues to foster sustainable coastal and watershed communities. Learn more [here](#), read the [RFP](#).

## **Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council 2022 Land Protection Grants Program**

*Application deadline: Sunday, May 8*

These grants support acquisition, transaction, and other due diligence costs for land protection projects (fee or easement/restriction) in the Nashua River watershed, including the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers, and their Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values as set forth in the *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan*. [Learn more](#) (RFP). [Apply](#).

## **Healthy Communities Grant Program**

*Application deadline: Monday, May 9, 11:59 p.m.*

EPA New England will award approximately 15 cooperative agreements that focus on projects which target resources to benefit communities at risk; assess, understand, and reduce environmental and human health risks; increase collaboration through partnerships and community-based projects; build institutional and community capacity to understand and solve environmental and human health problems; and achieve measurable environmental and human health benefits. [Details](#).

## **MassTrails Spring Grant Round Open**

*Application deadline: Monday, May 16*

MassTrails is seeking to fund shared use path projects that will fill critical gaps in the statewide trails network. Apply to receive grant funds up to \$500,000 per award for project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of shared use pathways. For more information click [here](#).

## **Land and Climate Catalyst Planning Grant Program**

*Info session: Friday, May 13, 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.* [Register here](#).

*Application deadline: Wednesday, June 8*

This grant program, offered through a collaboration between Open Space Institute (OSI) and Land Trust Alliance (LTA), provides funding and technical support to build capacity of land trusts, recognized Tribes, and other not-for-profit organizations that conserve and steward land by integrating climate change into land protection, management decisions, stewardship, or communications plans. Qualified applicants can apply for grants between \$5,000 - \$15,000 and/or for one-on-one technical support. *Important notes:* technical support awards are only available through LTA; land trusts must be LTA members to apply; preference is given to accredited land trusts, or those who plan to pursue accreditation. Learn more about the grants [here](#) (OSI) and [here](#) (LTA). Apply via LTA's grant portal, found on the LTA page linked.

## **State Incentive Payments for New Hires**

The state's HireNow program provides \$4,000 in funding per new employee to Massachusetts employers who hire and retain Massachusetts residents. Non-profit employers are eligible.



Employees must work at least 30 hours per week at a rate of at least \$14.25 per hour but no more than \$85,000 per year, and must be hired between March 23 and December 31, 2022. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. [Learn more and apply.](#)

## Resources & Opportunities

### **Register for Junior Conservation Camp**

*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.](#)

### **Scholars for Conservation Leadership Program**

*Application deadline: Friday, May 13*

This career and leadership development program expands opportunities for ten rising college seniors to pursue careers in natural resource management and conservation, with an emphasis on engaging students of color and underrepresented students. Program benefits include: learn about career tracks and options; be paired with mentors; participate in Rally; qualify for the selection process of a year-long, post-graduate fellowship; and more! [Learn more and apply.](#)

### **Database of Supports for Farmers Facing Climate Change**

The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative has developed a [searchable data set](#) of many federal, state and private programs and information that may help farmers explore and implement solutions to climate change and enhanced food security. The data can be filtered in a variety of ways, such as type of climate risk, program name, type of program, and agency/business implementing programs. This effort is supported by The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. This resulting data is a work in progress, and can be downloaded for use. Learn about [more climate resources.](#)

### **Conservation Finance Learning Lab**

These free, pre-recorded webinars feature panel discussions, case studies, and tangible, innovative approaches to conservation funding and financing. Brought to you by Highstead and the Conservation Finance Network. Watch [here.](#)

### **Toolbox for Farm Transfer Planning**

For those in the beginning stages of thinking about retirement, looking for a farm successor, or are a part of a farm family in transition, [this toolbox](#) offers guides, worksheets, articles, and other resources to inform decision-making, and guide the planning of the farm transfer. Interested in farmland issues? Check out the [New England Farm Link Collaborative](#) and [American Farmland Trust.](#)

### **Managing Suburban Wilds: How Communities Manage Deer**

Boston University's Department of Earth and Environment hosts an interdisciplinary team working to explore the social and environmental dynamics of wildlife in suburban and urban spaces. One research focus is management responses to white-tailed deer. [Learn more.](#)

### **What To Do When You Find Young Wildlife**

Young animals found alone may look helpless, and you might assume they're orphaned. However, it's common for young animals to be left alone while parents search food. If you see young wildlife this spring, leave them be—their best chance for survival is in the wild. [Learn more.](#)

## Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

[Executive Director](#) - Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

[Executive Director](#) - Just Roots

[Executive Director](#) - Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

[Executive Director](#) - York Land Trust

[Vice President of Operations](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Communications and Engagement Coordinator](#) - Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

[Development Associate](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Director of Land Conservation](#) - Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Land Conservation Project Manager](#) - Sebago Clean Waters

[Community Property Manager \(part-time\)](#) - Boston Farms Community Land Trust

[Property Manager](#) - Mass Audubon South East

[Conservation Restriction Stewardship Coordinator](#) - Department of Conservation and Recreation

[Land Use and Stewardship Coordinator](#) - Nantucket Land Council

[Stewardship Associate](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Seasonal Forestry Assistant \(ALB Ground Survey\)](#) - Department of Conservation & Recreation

[Stewardship Intern](#) - Concord Land Conservation Trust

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