



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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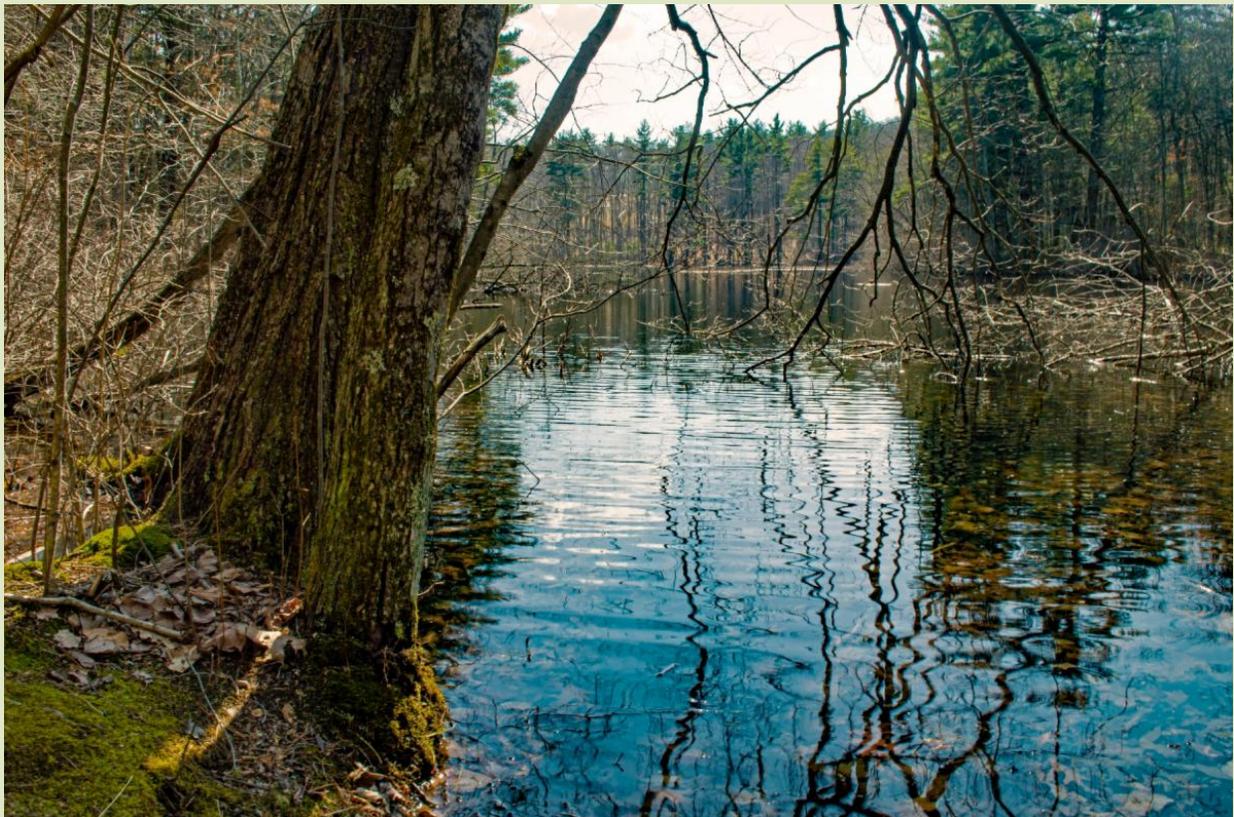
Member Spotlight

We Need Your Input: Help Us Highlight Your Success!

Our readers tell us that the featured-property-of-the-month is one of their favorite eNews sections.

Please tell us about conservation successes so we can continue to offer this fun spotlight. Small properties and large, anywhere in the state, send your contributions to admin@massland.org.

Thanks!



Horseshoe Pond in Berlin Is Conserved

[Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) (SVT) has purchased the Horseshoe Pond conservation area — 100 beautiful acres on the northeast face of Mount Pisgah — and is holding the land while the Town of Berlin secures funding to purchase it and create a public conservation area. With the good news that the Town received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant in late August, the Town

is poised to buy the land from SVT this fall, with SVT holding a conservation restriction. For decades the Town and SVT have been hoping to protect this special property – formerly known as McGrail Farm – and through a collaborative partnership between SVT and the Conservation Commission and with the support of many in the community, the conservation effort was made possible. Spanning a meadow, a vernal pool, and a forest, the land sits in an environmentally important area that supports critical wetlands, an extensive wildlife corridor, and access to well-maintained trails that are part of the Mount Pisgah trail network. "Many local residents have enjoyed the trails on this property for years, perhaps without realizing that it was privately owned land," said Christa Collins, former SVT Director of Land Protection. Located at the intersection of Linden Street and Lyman Road, Horseshoe Pond was the largest remaining piece of unprotected land on [Mount Pisgah](#). [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

Remember to support MLTC on [AmazonSmile](#) when you make a purchase. Thank you!

MassLand News & Programs



After last month's Steering Committee Meeting, it was a joy to take in the awesome view from Pascommuck Conservation Trust's Old Trolley Line Conservation Area in Easthampton. #OurMassLandTrusts

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Register Now for the 19th Annual Land Trust / State Agency Retreat!

Wednesday and Thursday, November 9 (virtual) and 10 (in person at Harvard Forest, Petersham)

There are still plenty of spots available! Join land trust and state agency conservation colleagues for this annual opportunity for networking and collective problem-solving. This year features both in-person and virtual programming. Attend one or both! View the [agenda here](#).

- **Wednesday, November 9th**, 1:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **virtual** via Zoom. Free. **Theme:** Innovative Land Management Projects. Advance registration required here.
- **Thursday, November 10th**, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., **in-person** at Harvard Forest, Fisher Museum, Petersham. Cost: \$10. Limited to 75 attendees. Advance registration required via Eventbrite. Registration will close at noon, Monday, November 7. **Theme:** Strengthening conservation collaborations between municipalities, land trusts and state agencies. The agenda includes social networking time and fun activities. Note: Upon registration, attendees must attest to taking a COVID-19 test the day prior to the event.

Proposals Sought for Annual Conference Workshops and Field Trips

Deadline: Thursday, October 27

Share your experience at the **2023 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference**, which will convene in person on Saturday, March 25 at Worcester Technical High School, with field trips to be held across the state on Friday, April 28, 2023. Proposals are invited on any issue of interest to the land conservation community. This year's conference plenary is titled "Land Conservation and Housing: Not an Either/Or". We encourage workshop proposals that address this topic, and encourage all presenters to address issues of equity and inclusion in their presentations. Each workshop speaker receives one free admission to the full conference. [Submit your proposal](#)

[here!](#) (Preview the form as a [PDF here.](#))

New Land Trust GIS Data Layer

MLTC's "[Find a Land Trust](#)" data can now be added to your maps! Jack Nessen (Mass Audubon) and Megan Gordon (The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts) have classified and dissolved land trust service areas in a feature layer accessible on ArcGIS Online. You can view the towns served by each land trust, based on MLTC's latest information, and pull the data into your ArcPro or AGOL projects. Access the data [here](#).

News

Call for Workshop Proposals: MACC's 2023 Annual Environmental Conference

Deadline: Friday, October 28

MACC is soliciting proposals directly related to these tracks: Climate Change & Resilience; Wetlands Protection Act; Regional Topics (Coastal, Inland); Land Conservation, Management, Stewardship; Environmental Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Technology, Tools, and Tips; and Law and Advocacy. The conference will be held in March 2023, with the location still TBD (in-person, virtual or hybrid). Contact Michele Girard with questions at michele.girard@maccweb.org. [Submit a proposal](#).

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Awarded USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant

Congratulations to NEFF for receiving a \$30 million grant as part of USDA's Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities, which they will implement in partnership with major environmental organizations and forestry groups, large forest landowners, and others. Key elements of the grant include: climate-smart forestry incentives for practices that accelerate carbon storage; market-building for climate-smart forest products; and monitoring, verifying and reporting functions. [Learn more](#).

Webinars and eLearning



Pro Bono Partnership Webinar: Hiring Your First Employee

Wednesday, October 26, noon - 1:30 p.m.

This webinar will cover the fundamentals of hiring your first employee. It will include topics such as state registration and payroll taxes; insurance and liability concerns; wage and hour basics; background checks; and more. Cost: \$30. [Learn more and register](#).



Considering Applying to the ACEP-ALE Program?

Info session: Wednesday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Want to learn more about the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Program that's run through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)? Join us for an Intro to ACEP-ALE Program training. During this virtual session you'll meet fellow New England land trusts who have participated in the program, hear from NRCS staff about the basics of how to apply, and learn about Land Trust Alliance resources. Participation is free, but registration is required. [Sign up here](#).



Accessible Trails Discussion

Thursday, November 3, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Meg Bandarra, Unpaved Trails for All, and Marcy Marchello, Universal Access Program Coordinator, Department of Conservation and Recreation,

will discuss the importance of accessible trails, considerations for wayfinding, information sharing, and where to find trails. This discussion is best suited for those already managing accessible trails or considering them for the future. [RSVP here](#). The event will be recorded, so if you can't make it, register in order to receive the recording.



Conservation Restriction Baselines 101 Workshop

Wednesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40 MACC members / \$60 non-members / \$35 full-time students

This class covers a step-by-step process on how to do everything from fieldwork, report contents, and document storage. Special attention will be paid on how to catch up if you lack baselines for some of your CRs. This is a great class for those new to doing CR baselines or who just need a refresher. [Learn more and register](#).

Events and Outings



Training: How to Ensure Your Bylaws and Best Practices Are Climate Resilient-Friendly

Thursday, October 27, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Middleborough, MA

Local land use rules that support nature-based solutions to climate change have many benefits, including reduced flood risks, protection of water quality and supplies, reduced costs of road and storm water maintenance, open space protection, and more. Outdated bylaws and regulations can prevent communities from implementing these win-win solutions. Learn how to use a Bylaw Review Tool that can help you give your community's land use regulations a tune-up to ensure they support cost-effective best practices. Participants from Massachusetts and Rhode Island are eligible. Limited to 40 participants. Free, but pre-registration is required. Exact location will be sent to registrants. [Learn more and register](#).



2022 Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering

Thursday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., online

The RCP Network Gathering is a free, one-day virtual conference that brings together conservation practitioners to support their work in advancing collaborative landscape protection in the Northeast. This year's focus is 'How to Advance Climate Justice and Resilience'. [Learn more and register](#).



Waypoint Adventure Accessible Hiking Programs

Waypoint Adventures leads accessible adventure-education programs for youth and adults of all abilities. The cost is \$20 per person, flexible based on need. One parent/friend/PCA of program participant with a disability can attend at no charge. Pre-registration is required. [Register here](#). Contact Brenda Kennedy Davies at bkdavies@waypointadventure.org with questions.

Sunday, October 23 | Maudslay State Park, Newburyport — 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15 | Wompatuck State Park, Hingham — 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29 | Western MA Location, TBD — 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Grants

USDA - State Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration

Deadline: Thursday, November 10

This program funds collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed function, invasive plant mitigation, etc. State agencies, Federally Recognized Tribes, non-profit organizations, universities, and units of local government are eligible. [Learn more](#).

MassDEP Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program

Deadline: Monday, November 14

These grants support ongoing or new water quality monitoring and data collection efforts. Estimated grant period is February 6 through June 30, 2023. [Learn more](#).

Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant

Deadline: rolling through Friday, May 5, funded first come / first served

This program provides funding to towns of <7,000 residents for the preparation of property appraisals, Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs), and other plans in support of land conservation and recreation to facilitate applications for other DCS grant programs (LAND Grant, PARC Grant, LWCF, Landscape Partnership or Conservation Partnership Grant). [Learn more and apply](#).

NOAA Funding Opportunities

Up to \$2.96 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds are available through several NOAA programs over the next five years to make investments in habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and climate data and services. [Details here](#). Selected projects will support three major initiatives:

- [Climate Ready Coasts](#) to help coastal communities invest in natural infrastructure projects that build coastal resilience, create jobs, store carbon, remove marine debris, and restore habitat.
- [Climate Data and Services](#) to support government efforts to address the climate crisis by providing information and tools for decision-makers to address floods, wildfire, drought, and ocean health.
- [Fisheries and Protected Resources](#) to support efforts to restore important fisheries habitat and promote community economic development.

Resources & Opportunities

The Land Trust Alliance Has Updated Their Resources Website!

Please take a few moments to [check it out](#).

Urban Ag Coalition Builds Skills and Capacity

The MA Urban Agriculture Coalition was formed in 2020 in response to the pandemic as a mutual aid group. The coalition has held more than twenty skill shares on topics ranging from municipal land access, to building raised beds, to grant writing. [Notes from previous skill shares are available here](#). The coalition creates space for practitioners to connect and nurture relationships that can lead to greater collaboration.

Do Not Sell! Ornamental Invasive Plants to Avoid

The Northeast Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change (RISCC) Management Network has produced [this informative guide](#) for nurseries, landscapers and gardeners. It explains problems with many common ornamental plant species and suggests native plant alternatives.

Integrating Land Use and Water Management: Planning & Practice

This Lincoln Institute [Policy Focus Report](#) clearly describes best management practices for how land use planners and water managers can better work together to support community resilience in the face of climate change. View the [Policy Brief](#) for a summary of the report.

That's Batty!

Of the nine bat species found in Massachusetts, five are endangered. [Get bat house plans and learn how you can help conserve bats.](#)

Brake for Wildlife

Fall is breeding season for moose and white-tailed deer in Massachusetts. Be mindful of increased deer and moose activity on the roads, especially in the early morning and evening. [Read more.](#)

Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Friends of Herring River

[Executive Director](#) - Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC)

[Director of Communications](#) - Earthwatch Institute

[Director of Sales](#) (Parental Leave Cover) - Earthwatch Institute

[Cranberry Bog Restoration Program Manager](#) - MA Division of Ecological Restoration

[Restoration Partnerships Program Manager](#) - MA Division of Ecological Restoration

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

[Membership and Database Coordinator](#) - Lakes Region Conservation Trust

[Environmental Education Manager](#) (Temporary) - Earthwatch Institute

[PUDDLESTOMPERS Nature Exploration](#) - various teaching positions

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