



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

June 23, 2022, Volume 20, Number 6

## Member Spotlight



Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) has permanently protected approximately 130 acres of Ice House Hill Farm in Richmond by working with its generous owners to place the farm under a Conservation Restriction. Richmond Land Trust was instrumental in first discussing the possibility of permanent conservation with the landowners, then invited BNRC to lead the project to completion.

The site was once part of the larger Malnati Farm holdings, most of which were previously placed into conservation. Ice House Hill Farm is widely known for its natural scenic beauty and is home to a herd of Hereford cattle and abundant wildlife, including red fox, black bear, and upland birds, such as woodcock.

"Preserving Ice House Hill Farm is important to ensure that local agriculture remains a strong and

significant part of Berkshire culture", said BNRC President, Jenny Hansell. "It has timeless views, rich habitat, and holds a special place in the hearts of many people who love Richmond and the region. BNRC is immensely grateful to the landowners for choosing to conserve Ice House Hill Farm forever. Their generosity made this special gift possible". Chris Magee, President of Richmond Land Trust said: "[The] Land Trust is glad to have worked with the landowners and BNRC on this wonderful outcome for Richmond. Ice House Hill Farm is one of the locations for the Richmond Land Trust annual pie social, so we know it well. A Pittsfield couple, who remember the farm fondly as the site of their marriage proposal, donated funds to cover the legal fees of the transaction. This land, and all of the present-day Berkshires, are the ancestral homeland of the Mohican people who were forcefully displaced to Wisconsin by European colonization. These lands continue to be of great significance to the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation today. To learn more visit [mohican.com](http://mohican.com).

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](#).



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

## MassLand News & Programs



Thanks to Restoration Ecologist Sara Quintal for an informative tour of Weweantic River restoration efforts at Buzzard Bay Coalition's Horseshoe Mill in Wareham. Great work, on a beautiful property!  
#OurMassLandTrusts

### Board News

MLTC is pleased to welcome two new members of its Board of Trustees: Anna Wilkins, Executive Director of North County Land Trust, and Cormac Collier, Executive Director of Nantucket Conservation Foundation. Both bring a wealth of land conservation and non-profit management experience, and we're grateful to have them aboard! We also express our heartfelt appreciation to outgoing Trustees Loring Schwarz and Bob Wilber, both of whom have served on MLTC's Board since our formal incorporation in 2011. Thanks so much for your dedicated service! Also in July, Trustee Cynthia Henshaw will take the helm as MLTC's President, relieving Buzz Constable, who served in this role for the past four years. Thank you for your capable leadership, Buzz!

### Strategic Plan Finalized

MLTC's Board recently approved a new 5-Year Strategic Plan for MLTC, a summary of which can be accessed from our [website](#). For additional details, or to offer input as we implement the plan, please contact Robb Johnson at [robb@massland.org](mailto:robb@massland.org). Thank you to everyone who provided input on the plan over the past year, including Committee members Buzz Constable, Janet Milkman, Rich Hubbard, Karen Grey, Bernie McHugh, and consultant Alex Howard from Cause & Effect.

### We're Hiring!

MLTC is growing! We're hiring a new part-time Development and Operations Coordinator. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to lend administrative and development skills to an

## Policy

### ***Last Chance to Expand Conservation Land Tax Credit***

As the legislature puts final touches on the FY23 state budget, we have our last chance to raise the annual cap for the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program. The CLTC provides a powerful incentive for land conservation, but the long waitlist puts too many great conservation projects at risk. An increase in the program cap was included in the House version of the budget but not the Senate version, so the Conference Committee will ultimately decide. Please contact your Massachusetts State legislators TODAY and ask them to support an increase in the annual cap for the CLTC program in the FY2023 state operating budget. If your legislator is a member of the Conference Committee, please contact them directly. If not, it is better to contact your own legislators and ask that they contact the Conference Committee in support of the CLTC. Members of the Conference Committee include:

- Representative Aaron Michlewitz
- Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante
- Representative Todd Smola
- Senator Michael Rodrigues
- Senator Cindy Friedman
- Senator Patrick O'Connor

All it takes is a quick call or email to your legislators' offices. Contact information for your legislator (searchable by municipality) can be found [here](#). For a fact sheet on the CLTC program and proposed budget language, please click [here](#). For sample language for your call or email, click [here](#).

### ***Take Action on PLPA in Memory of Phil Saunders***

With both House and Senate having passed versions of *An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth*, often referred to as the Public Lands Protection Act (PLPA), legislators will hopefully agree on final language and send the bill to the Governor in the final weeks of the session. We've come this far thanks to lead sponsors and steadfast supporters Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Ruth Balsler, and -- more than anyone -- Phil Saunders, the major force keeping this bill moving over the last 25 years. Sadly, Phil passed away last month before seeing the bill passed into law. Read a fitting tribute [here](#). In his memory, we have the chance to take action one more time. The Senate version of the bill includes a provision that would allow funding to be set aside in lieu of providing replacement land when protected open space is diverted to another use. We encourage you to call or write the Senate President TODAY stressing how important it is for this bill to pass, without the cash-in-lieu provision. For more information and language you might use, [see this letter](#) signed by a statewide coalition of organizations opposing this provision. The Senate President may be contacted at 617-722-1500 or by email to [Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov](mailto:Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov).

### ***Speak Out to Fund Nature and Climate!***

With \$6 billion in surplus funds and \$2.5 billion in remaining federal COVID relief funds, the Commonwealth has a generational opportunity NOW to invest in protecting nature and responding to climate change. Advocates have been meeting with legislators the week of June 20 as part of a "Nature and Climate Lobby Days" event organized by Mass Audubon, Mass Rivers, MACC, AMC, and MLTC. There are a number of potential funding bills moving in the next several weeks. With a quick call or email to your legislators, you can add your voice NOW. Find talking points [here](#). Find your legislator [here](#).

## News

## **Beech Leaf Disease**

[Beech leaf disease](#) (BLD) is a newly described disease, first identified in Ohio in 2012. The disease complex is associated with a foliar nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae*. The disease causes damage to a tree's leaves, leading to reduced vigor, and can eventually lead to mortality. The disease has quickly spread and has now been found in eight U.S. states and one Canadian province. The first detection in Massachusetts was in 2020 in Plymouth and symptomatic trees have since been found in Bristol, Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, and Norfolk Counties.

## **Boston Mayor's Coffee Hours in Parks**

Mayor Wu is hosting spring coffee hours in parks throughout Boston. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Mayor and members of her administration about needs in your local park, greenspace, or neighborhood. Enjoy coffee and take home a free flowering plant from the City's greenhouses. [Check the schedule here.](#)

## **Seeking Nominations for the Leopold Conservation Award**

*Nominations due Monday, July 18*

This prestigious award recognizes a farmer or forest landowner who has a strong conservation ethic and works to protect soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat in New England. The winner receives \$10,000, and the Sand County Foundation, which coordinates the award, makes an award video. [Details.](#)

## **Mass Timber Article in The New Yorker**

Source: Mass Forest Alliance / *The New Yorker* April 18, 2022

Mass timber projects continue to increase around the world, as they are low in embodied carbon - the carbon emitted to create the building materials - and have been shown to lower stress and cortisol levels in those who use them. *The New Yorker* recently featured an article on tall mass timber buildings in Norway, and the growing enthusiasm for this technology. [Read the article.](#)

## **Massachusetts Drought Updates**

Due to lower than normal rainfall for the past three months, conditions have deteriorated in many regions of the state. On June 15 EEA Secretary Bethany Card announced that she has declared a Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Northeast and Southeast Regions. View [this page](#) for regular state-wide drought status updates.

## **Elizabeth Wroblecka Appointed to LTA Council**

Elizabeth Wroblecka, a Massachusetts conservation counsel and consultant with Conservation Works in Hatfield, has been appointed to the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Advisory Council (CDAC), a small group of experienced land trust professionals who consult with each other and LTA on legal matters affecting land trusts across the country. Elizabeth has previously worked for land trusts, the Land Trust Alliance, and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She is a founding member of MLTC's Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee (MEDS). Previous Massachusetts members of the Council have included Leigh Youngblood, Ray Lyons, and Buzz Constable.

# Webinars and eLearning



## **Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series: Building Equity into Nature-Based Solutions for Massachusetts Communities**

*Thursday, June 23, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

This EPA-hosted webinar will showcase MA programs supporting nature-based solutions at the local level, and share lessons learned for equitable community engagement in environmental projects. [More details and register.](#)

## Info Session on American the Beautiful Challenge Grant

Monday, June 27, 2:30 p.m.

Join the Land Trust Alliance [to learn how your land trust can apply for the America the Beautiful Challenge funding opportunity](#). Featured speakers include staff from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation who can answer questions about this new grant program. This webinar is targeted specifically for the land trust community.



**FITCHBURG**  
Massachusetts

## Fitchburg Forest Forum

Monday, June 27, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., virtual or in person at Fitchburg City Hall (details in link below)

Join Chris Capone (DCR Service Forester for Fitchburg and No. Worcester County) and Susan Masino (Professor of Applied Science at Trinity College, Hartford, CT) with moderator Ralph Baker (Fitchburg Conservation Commission member) as they present the range of options available to forest landowners and stakeholders to manage their forests. This is a free educational event sponsored by the Fitchburg Conservation Commission. To participate virtually, register [here](#). [Learn more and register here.](#)

CONSERVATION  
FINANCE NETWORK

## Conservation Finance Boot Camp Virtual Track

June 27-30, 2022 (Monday - Thursday), online.

Increase your understanding of the latest funding and financing strategies for building ecological and social resilience at this month's Conservation Finance Boot Camp's virtual track. The Boot Camp is co-hosted by the Conservation Finance Network, the CSU Warner College of Natural Resources, and the University of Wyoming Haub School of the Environment and Natural Resources. Tickets for the virtual track are \$165. [Learn more and register here.](#)



## Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future

Tuesday, June 29, noon

American farmland and rangeland is rapidly disappearing, threatening food security, undermining the agricultural economy, and making us vulnerable to climate shocks. What can be done? *Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future*, a new report from American Farmland Trust, maps three alternative futures through the year 2040. This webinar will highlight the findings and what they mean for the future of agriculture. Sponsored by American Farmland Trust. [Register.](#)



## Protection & Management of Mature Urban Trees

Thursday, June 30, noon - 2:00 p.m.

Offered as part of Urban Forestry Today's "Summer Tree Summit", Dr. Kevin Smith from the USDA Forest Service will outline how trees grow and mature with the potential to increase environmental benefits, and will offer real-world strategies to protect and manage larger, mature trees in the urban landscape. Fee: \$15. Arborist credits are available. [Learn more and register.](#)



## 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.](#)



### **Open to All: A Disability Inclusion Guide for Land Trusts**

Thursday, July 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m - 4:30 p.m., online

Land trusts can play a transformational role in improving access to nature for people with disabilities, who have been historically underserved by the conservation community. The Land Trust Alliance, in partnership with the Lakeshore Foundation, created a guide that provides concrete steps to expand your land trust's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts with an emphasis on people with disabilities. This webinar will cover ethical, practical and legal reasons why people with disabilities should be included in your organization's culture and programming; different types of disability and how to connect with people in your community; and elements of program design and developing partnerships. Led by members of the Land Trust Alliance's Advisory Council on Inclusive Health and Disabilities including Bonnie Lewkowicz of Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program and Chrissy Beardsley Allen of Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Free to land trust staff, volunteers and board members in New England. Space is limited so [register](#) before July 15!



### **Insurance 101: The Basics for Protecting Your Land Trust**

Tuesday, July 26, 2022, noon - 1 p.m., online.

What kind of insurance policies does your land trust need? Do your current policies adequately protect against your biggest risks? Learn the basics, including policy must-haves and coverage red-flags. Ample Q&A time, will offer you a forum to ask about your most pressing concerns. Presented by Meghan Mullee of Alliant Insurance Services. Free to staff, volunteers and board members of LTA Member Land Trusts. Space is limited so [register](#) now! This webinar will not be recorded.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Plowden, New England Program Manager at [jplowden@lta.org](mailto:jplowden@lta.org).

## Events and Outings



### **Native Garden Tours in MetroWest Boston**

Multiple dates: Thursday, June 23; Saturday, June 25; Monday, June 27; Wednesday, June 29

The Native Pollinator Task Force (NPTF) is hosting tours of public display Pollination Preservation Gardens (PPG). These tours are designed to demonstrate how to design and install public display PPGs, and how to spread the word in communities. NPTF's goal is to have at least one public display Pollination Preservation Garden in each of the 36 communities in the MCA region. [Read more.](#)



### **Mount Grace Unveils Renovated Farmhouse Headquarters**

Saturday, June 25, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will unveil their renovated farmhouse headquarters in an event called Farmhouse for the Future. Tours will explore how a 1790s farmhouse was renovated to be energy efficient using the latest technology. [Visiting information.](#) Free, but

[RSVP](#) requested.



### **Rhode Island 2022 Land & Water Conservation Summit**

July 14 - 16 (Thursday - Saturday, main event Friday, July 15)

Univ. of Rhode Island Memorial Union and sites in South County

Join land trusts, watershed organizations, conservation commissions, and other conservation organizations for workshops and panels on a range of topics, with keynote by Lorén Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum, who will address traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous peoples' rights and environmental justice, and the history of Indigenous peoples and the Narragansett Nation. [Learn more.](#) [2022 summit at a glance.](#) [Register.](#)



### **BIPOC Mirroring Training: Reflecting BIPOC Stories through Nature and Belonging**

July 17 - 23, Wild Mountain (near Buena Vista, CO)

Open to all who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), this program is part of a series of trainings intended to empower BIPOC guides for leadership in nature-based programming. Participants will learn to find their own unique way to listen and mirror, key skills for responding to diverse stories of pain, trauma, belonging, celebration and resilience. There is a \$100 registration fee required up front, with tuition pay-as-you-are-able. [Learn more.](#)



### **Land Trust Alliance Rally 2022**

September 15 - 17 (Thursday - Saturday)

New Orleans, Louisiana (in person)

Earlybird registration ends July 25th

More information [here.](#)

## Grants

### **Habitat Management Grants**

Applications accepted Friday, July 15 - Wednesday, August 31

This program provides financial assistance to private and municipal owners of conserved lands to enhance wildlife habitat (notably game and State Wildlife Action Plan species), enhance ecological communities disproportionately susceptible to climate change, and promote public access for wildlife-related recreational opportunities. To speak to a MassWildlife Habitat Biologist about habitat management on your property, or your eligibility for the MHMGP, contact [James Burnham](#), Program Coordinator. [Learn more.](#) Technical assistance to landowners is available until July 15. If your project site is within priority habitat ([check here](#)), a pre-review of the project is highly encouraged. Email Emily Holt, Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist, with a site map and description of the project to begin the pre-review process.

### **Grant: 30 x 30 Federal Funding Available**

Info session webinar: Monday, June 27, 2:30 p.m. [Register.](#)

Application deadline: Thursday, July 21

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is accepting proposals for the 2022 America the Beautiful Challenge. Over \$1 billion in grants will be awarded over the next five years toward land, water, and wildlife conservation efforts nationally. The program prioritizes proposals that implement voluntary large-scale conservation activities that lead to on-the-ground implementation through capacity building, community engagement, planning, and project design. The overarching goal is to advance existing landscape conservation plans and/or propose to knit together a diverse stakeholder

partnership that develops and/or implements new conservation plans. As part of this, projects should address priority species and/or habitat conservation actions identified in existing plans or other species recovery or conservation plans. [Read more and apply.](#)

### **LAND and PARC Grant Programs**

*Application deadline: Thursday, July 14*

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services seeks applications for the FY23 LAND and PARC grant programs. The [LAND](#) (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The [PARC](#) (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities) grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, and develop a new park. To learn more and apply, tap the desired program link above.

## **Resources & Opportunities**

### **Land Conservation Tools: A Compendium**

Our friends at UMass Amherst have assembled and posted an outstanding [summary of land conservation tools](#). Easily accessible and clearly described, this offers a great go-to source to guide decision making by Massachusetts land conservation practitioners.

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

For those in the beginning stages of thinking about retirement, looking for a farm successor, or who 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. Land For Good also has a great [Youtube channel](#) with loads of webinars on succession planning, making your land available for farming, and more. Need more guidance? Land For Good offers one-on-one advising to New England farmers. You can get help to start, continue, or complete your farm succession plan. Low or no-cost assistance is available. To initiate a consultation, [complete this farm succession form](#).

### **Request for Conference Proposals: Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering**

The RCP is soliciting proposals for conference events, and for panels, webinars, and field trips that share how organizations are advancing climate justice and resilience by making land more accessible, more useful for nature and people, and more resilient to the impacts of climate change for the benefit of others. [Learn more and apply.](#)

### **Coastal Resilience Success Stories**

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation released [eight case studies](#) on coastal resilience projects with the goal of transferring knowledge and strategies to other practitioners. Strategies include adaptive management, partnerships, and outreach and engagement.

### **Forest Carbon Webinar Recordings**

Offered by the North East State Foresters Association, this May webinar series - part of the Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program - has been recorded. Watch the recordings and download the slide decks [here](#).

### **Accessible Outdoors**

Get out to enjoy nature -- on a hike, in a kayak, on a bicycle -- whatever your ability. Check out [accessible trails](#) throughout the state, guided accessible programs like kayaking and cycling by [Waypoint Adventures](#), accessible outdoor suggestions by [Everyone Outdoors](#), and the DCR's [adaptive program schedule](#) for this summer.

### **Transitioning from Volunteer Leaders to Paid Staff**

Thinking of shifting your land trust from an all-volunteer to a staffed organization? [This article](#) has one consultant's perspective of steps you can take to maximize success.

### ***Learning To Do Better: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Maine Land Trusts***

[Check out](#) three brief articles produced by Maine Land Trust Network in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at Maine conservation organizations.

### ***Resources in Honor of Pride Month***

Check out these LGBTQ+ climate organizations [Queers X Climate](#), [Our Climate Voices](#), and [Queer Ecojustice Project](#). Learn more about their work to support LGBTQ+ climate activists and elevate queer voices on climate issues. Also available: [Queering Environmental Justice: Unequal Environmental Health Burden on the LGBTQ+ Community](#) and this policy brief: [The Need for Equitable Disaster Response for LGBTQ+ Communities](#).

### ***Invasives Management Treatment Calendar***

Tackling invasive plants, but not sure on timing of treatments? [This calendar](#) outlines suggested timing for species-specific treatments. It highlights the most effective treatments along with those that are less effective, but worth considering if the other treatment isn't feasible.

### ***A Community-Based Program for Management of Japanese Knotweed***

[Learn how to](#) manage large corridors of Japanese Knotweed.

### ***Invasives ID Species Guide***

DCR's species ID guide of common invasive species can be used as a [cheat sheet](#). It highlights features of the plants that are most helpful when trying to identify a plant.

### ***Conservation Defense Initiative Practical Pointer Series***

The Practical Pointer Series contains tips to help land trusts stay informed and navigate the risks associated with specific legal challenges faced in land conservation. Topics range from mortgage subordination to managing neighbor disputes. The Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Initiative team prepares and updates these pointers regularly. Find the series [here](#). Available to LTA members.

### ***Propose a Project for a Student Team***

Do you have a planning or design project that a student team could help with? Help the [Conway School of Sustainable Planning and Design](#) celebrate their 50th year in 2022-2023 by proposing a project. Get inspired by [checking out previous projects](#). The Conway School has worked with numerous land trusts over the years, and looks forward to hearing from more. Contact CJ Lammers at [Lammers@csl.edu](mailto:Lammers@csl.edu).

### ***Job Board at DiversityOutdoors.com***

[DiversityOutdoors.com](#) is a coalition of digital influencers, affinity groups, and allies promoting diversity in outdoor recreation and conservation with the aim to provide resources to others seeking information, allyship, and collaboration opportunities. View the Job Board [here](#).

## **Jobs**

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

[Development and Operations Coordinator](#) - Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

[Executive Director](#) (part-time) - Warren Land Conservation Trust (RI)

[Director of Land Protection](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Director of Rivers & Lands](#) - The Nature Conservancy

[Director of Strategic Communications](#) - Northeast Wilderness Trust

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

[Major Gifts Manager - Northeast](#) - The Conservation Fund

[Fundraising Associate & Grant Writer](#) (part-time) - Boston Farms Community Land Trust

[Conservation Administrator](#) - Town of Duxbury MA

[Restoration Costs Data Specialist](#) - MA Department of Fish & Game

[Ecological Restoration Coordinator](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Endangered Species Review Biologist \(Conservation Biologist III\)](#) - MA Department of Fish & Game, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

[Seasonal Regulatory Review Assistant](#) - Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Squam Lakes Conservation Society

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

[Land Stewardship Coordinator - Americorps](#) - Hilltown Land Trust

[Land Stewardship Coordinator \(TerraCorps-Americorps\)](#) - The Trustees of Reservations

[AmeriCorps/TerraCorps Service Members](#) - available at additional land trusts and conservation organizations

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