



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

March 11, 2021, Volume 19, Number 3

Member Spotlight



24 Acres in Ashfield / Conway Donated to Franklin Land Trust (FLT)

[These 24 acres of forested land](#) off South Ashfield Road, donated by landowners Ed Etheredge of Northampton and Larry Hott of Florence, sit at the intersection of Ashfield and Conway, with views of Mt. Monadnock, Mt. Wachusett, and Mt. Greylock in the fall and winter. Etheredge and Hott, who met as legal interns at Western Mass Legal Services in 1975, purchased the land in 1979 with a goal of using it as a woodlot to generate firewood for each of their homes, and it became a summer playground for their families. As the families grew older, Hott and Etheredge decided they didn't want to see the property sold and developed. So [they donated it to FLT](#), which plans to manage it for forestry, wildlife, and recreation. Says Alain Peteroy, FLT Director of Land Conservation: "The entire parcel is part of a large region of BIOMAP2 Critical Natural Landscape which means this land is an important piece in the puzzle of larger landscapes that support ecological processes and wide-

ranging wildlife species". Adds Tom Curran, FLT Executive Director: "We are deeply grateful for the conservation ethic of landowners Larry Hott and Ed Etheredge, who carefully stewarded and enjoyed this land with their families for over 40 years".

Photo Credit: Paul Franz, Staff Photographer, *The Greenfield Recorder*

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



A sunny day in March was perfect for exploring the trails at North County Land Trust's Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg.

#OurMassLandTrusts

Have You Registered Yet?

All interested in land conservation are welcome to attend the 2021 Massachusetts & Rhode Island **Land Conservation Conference**, whether or not you're from MA or RI. Co-hosted by Rhode Island Land Trust Council and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

Friday & Saturday, March 19 & 20, virtual

28 sessions, 2 plenaries, 9 targeted networking opportunities! All from the comfort of your home. Plus session **recordings will be available for 90 days!** [Learn more and register here.](#)

A huge "Thank You!" to the organizations and businesses that are sponsoring the conference:

Lead: Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Mass Audubon, The Trustees; **Patron:** Caldwell Coastal Solutions, Conservation Stewardship Collaborative, Fields Pond Foundation, Land Trust Alliance, LandVest, The Nature Conservancy, USDA - NRCS; **Supporter:** American Farmland Trust, Beals and Thomas Inc., Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Conservation Fund, Epsilon Associates, Essex County Greenbelt Association, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Land Stewardship, Inc., Nantucket Conservation Foundation, New England Forestry Foundation, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB), Sasaki, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Sudbury Valley Trustees, UMass Forest Conservation Program, University of RI Coastal Institute, Vineyard Wind, Wildlands Trust; **Partner:** The Community Preservation Coalition at The Trust for Public Land, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies, Franklin Land Trust, Horsley Witten Group, Kestrel Land Trust, Landscape Land Conservation Software, Marcum LLP, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Save The Bay, The Trust for Public Land, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Expanding Eligibility for Protection Funding through Farmland of Local Importance

Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Advance [registration is required here.](#)

To date, NRCS in Massachusetts has routinely recognized prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide importance as eligible for agricultural easement programs, including those

conducted in partnership with Massachusetts' APR program. If additional important soil types were recognized, more farms would be eligible for easement funding. In 2019, the first Massachusetts farmland of local importance (FLI) was recognized in Hatfield. Speaker Al Averill will share information on the potential to expand the designation of FLI throughout the Commonwealth, and discuss how land trusts could help identify tracts for such recognition. This "Stronger Together" training is sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

Building a Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Pipeline for Jobs in Conservation

Thursday, April 8, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

This informal "Stronger Together" networking discussion sponsored by MLTC will focus on how to build a stronger and more equitable pipeline to fill current and future staff positions. Come share ideas for attracting youth and early career professionals to meaningful outdoor-oriented internships and jobs -- either virtually or in person as we begin to transition back to regularly scheduled stewardship, research, and education programs. Bring your creativity, share your stories and let's enjoy an hour together on this important topic. Facilitated by Julie Early, Executive Director of Dennis Conservation Trust and Robb Johnson, Executive Director of MLTC. Intended for staff and board members of land trusts and conservation partners working in Massachusetts. This event will not be recorded. Advance registration required [here](#).

All Volunteer Land Trusts: When Is It Time to Hire Staff or Contractors?

Thursday, April 15, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Robb Johnson, Executive Director of MLTC, this Stronger Together discussion for board members of all-volunteer land trusts will focus on how you make decisions about whether and when you might need hired help to manage your land protection, stewardship, fundraising or other responsibilities. Come share questions and experiences, and learn from peers! Free, via Zoom. Advance [registration is required, here](#).

New Opportunity: Sponsored Posts

MLTC is now offering businesses the opportunity to post brief newsletter items of interest to the land trust community. For sponsorship rates and more information, contact admin@massland.org.

Policy

The new legislative session is underway and the MLTC Policy Committee is busy reviewing dozens of bills to refine our priorities for the year. [See a summary here](#). One top priority will be passing a bill to provide a much-needed expansion of the state's Conservation Land Tax Credit program. Please reach out to your state legislators to ask them to cosponsor [this legislation of critical importance to land trusts](#).

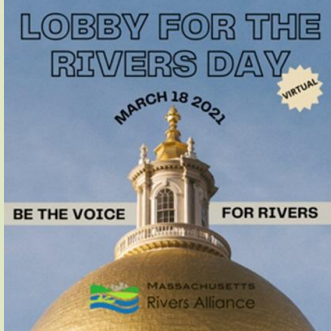
The MEPA Office is currently accepting comments on two interim protocols concerning climate change adaptation and environmental justice outreach, as well as on regulatory updates. More information is available [here](#).

MassWildlife [is proposing](#) to increase hunting and fishing license fees for the first time since 1996. They're holding [two public hearings](#): March 17 and March 29. More information [here](#).

Lobby for the Rivers Day 2021

Event date: Thursday, March 18

Be the voice for the rivers. Join Mass Rivers in advocating for river protection and environmental quality by virtually meeting with your state legislators and telling them why rivers matter to you. Connect with legislators, water conservation organizations, and fellow river enthusiasts. [Details](#). [Register here](#). This event is



co-hosted by Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

Land Trust Alliance Advocacy Days

Monday, April 19 - Wednesday, April 21

Cost: Free

LTA staff will lead on setting up virtual meetings with members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation. Sign up to learn about how to join one or more of those by video or phone, without leaving home! No advocacy experience is necessary to participate. LTA provides an issue briefing and first timers' advocacy training and virtual debriefing room to help you prepare and network with your peers. [Learn more and register](#) to make a difference and help influence policies that impact land trusts nationwide.

News

Submit a Proposal for Rally '21

Deadline: Friday, March 12

It's not (quite) too late to submit a proposal to present at Rally 2021, being held virtually October 5 - 7, 2021 (Tuesday - Thursday). Targeted themes are inclusion, climate change and water. [Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

MA Land Trusts: Complete the LTA 2021 Census Before March 31

With only 15% of New England land trusts having completed the census (as of February 25), we can do better. Here's [the census link](#). So brew up some coffee / tea / something stronger, fill out the census, and send it in. You'll even get your organization's name added to the impressive list on the LTA website! (Here's a [preview of the questions.](#))

Wanted: Hosts / Service Sites for TerraCorps Members for 2021-22

TerraCorps is seeking nonprofit, community-based organizations in Massachusetts that are interested in hosting a TerraCorps Service Member. Members will serve full-time for 11-months, from August 30, 2021- July 29, 2022. Apply to host Members in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Regional Collaboration Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Youth Education Coordinator. Click [here](#) to learn more and submit an expression of interest.

Mass Audubon & TNC Op-Ed on 30/30 Initiative

The Worcester Telegram and Gazette recently printed this Op-Ed by David J. O'Neill, President of Mass Audubon, and Deb Markowitz, State Director of The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts, in support of the Biden admin's commitment to protect 30 percent of all federal land by 2030—and to do the same in Massachusetts by 2025. Read more [here](#).

Webinars and E-Learning

2021 Maine Land Conservation Conference

Tuesday - Friday, 4 weeks: March 15 - 19, March 29 - April 2, April 12 - 16, April 26



Registration for this 4-week virtual conference is open! Presentations will be organized around the topics Climate Resilience, Indigenous Engagement, Nature-Based Education, and Responding to Increased Preserve Use. The cost of \$25 covers all sessions. Sessions will be recorded and accessible for all registrants. [Learn more and sign up.](#)



Farm Succession Planning Series

Tuesdays in March, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 16 | Getting Started with Your Farm Succession Planning

March 23 | Financial Considerations

March 30 | Legal Considerations

These free webinars for farmers and farm families offer the basics of farm succession planning, how to get started, where to find resources, and where to get support on this challenging process. Open to farmers across New England of all farm sizes and enterprises. [Learn more and register.](#) Registration gives participants access to all webinars in the series, access to webinar recordings and class worksheets and resources.



Solar Siting Reform

Wednesday, March 17, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

We need both forests and renewable energy to successfully fight climate change. Learn how improvements to solar siting programs can help avoid loss of forests and natural areas, enhance resilience, and fight climate change. Learn more. [Registration required. More info.](#)



Watershed Action Alliance 2021 Virtual Conference on Environmental Justice

Wednesdays in March, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

March 17 | What is Environmental Justice? [More info and register here.](#)

March 24 | Supporting Public Access to Recreational Waters [More info and register here.](#)

March 31 | Promoting Environmental Justice: The First Steps [More info and register here.](#)



Using Environmental & Place-Based Education to Engage with Families

Technical Assistance Webinars

[Learn more and register.](#) Sponsored by [Freedom's Way National Heritage Area](#)

Thursday, March 18 | Laying the Groundwork for Environmental & Place-based Education—A Conversation with David Sobel

Thursday, March 23 | Community Partners Panel: Successful Strategies for Outdoor Programming for Children & Families.

2021 Mass Open Space Conference

Thursdays, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.; networking 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This free, peer-to-peer conference is for municipal Open Space Committees, volunteers, and others involved in the development and implementation of community-based conservation planning and projects. Hear from open space committees across the state and build partnerships and connections to increase your town's capacity for successful stewardship and conservation projects. [Register here.](#)

March 18 | Trail Building and Maintenance and Recreation in Open Space

March 25 | Community Outreach, Networks, and Relationship Building

Introductory Workshop on Policy, Advocacy, and Becoming an Effective Advocate for Policy Change

Friday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by the [MA Food System Collaborative](#), this workshop will cover the basics of why engaging with policy is important, how bills are written and passed, and go through a quick interactive exercise. [Register here.](#)



Wild Carbon

Friday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.

Mark Anderson, Director of Conservation Science for The Nature Conservancy's Eastern U.S. Region, will share recent and ground-breaking science on carbon sequestration and storage in wild, old, and unmanaged forests. Hosted by the Northeast Wilderness Trust. [Learn more and register here.](#)



Coastal Erosion on Cape Cod: What Can We Do?

Thursday, March 25, 5:00 p.m.

Part of the Brewster Conservation Trust Walks and Talks series, this talk will cover historical shoreline changes, how beaches respond to the forces upon them, how might the shore look in the future, and what can we do now to protect beaches. Send an [email to register](#), or call 508-694-6720.



Rewilding: Past, Present and Future

Wednesday, March 31, 5:30 p.m.

Rewilding is often thought of as the act of giving the land back to wildlife, and wildlife back to the land. This presentation will cover the history and future of the movement, and will focus on the local and encompass the global. Hosted by the Northeast Wilderness Trust. [Register here.](#)



Bill McKibben: Wilderness & Climate Change

Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 p.m.

Renowned activist and author Bill McKibben will describe how wilderness conservation can mean the difference between a livable future for all beings and climate chaos. Hosted by the Northeast Wilderness Trust. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Course: Tell the Economic Story of Your Farmland Protection & Food System Programs Without Hiring an Economist

Fridays, April 9 - May 7, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Learn to develop a broad research and data-based picture of the economic effects of your programs, conserved lands and farms, and local food systems—and how to tell that story to support advocacy, fundraising, ag-based economic development, and stronger community relationships. Course registration includes post-course replays, and a one-on-one or group consultation session to address specific situations and needs. [Details and to register.](#) A discount for land trusts may be available. [Inquire here.](#)



MACC's Annual Environmental Conference

April 6 - 17, virtual

With more than 35 new workshops, 10 fundamental units, and 2 keynote speakers, this year's conference will cover topics such as climate resiliency, solar policy and municipal bylaws, coastal issues, healthy soils, wildlife habitats, and much much more. Cost is \$25 per workshop, or \$150 for as many as you wish. See the [schedule](#), [workshop descriptions](#) and about

Events and Outings

Fish & Wildlife Climate Adaptation Networking Event

Wednesday, March 31, 3:30 p.m.

Connect with fellow fish and wildlife practitioners interested in climate adaptation at an informal networking event. It will be an opportunity to share your work, successes and challenges. [Register in advance](#). Co-hosted by MassWildlife and the NE Climate Adaptation Science Center.

On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces: Access, Inclusion and Connection in Nature

This free virtual series highlights speakers whose work advances efforts to strengthen belonging and connection between communities of color and the outdoors. [Learn more](#). [Register here](#).

Wednesday, April 14 | Evelyn Rydz, Close Attention: Exploring a Creative Practice Inside and Outside the Studio

May (date TBD) | Dr. Monica White, Author of "Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement"

Wednesday, June 2 | Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Coloring the Conservation Conversation

Did You Miss It? Recordings from Webinars Past

[Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program:](#)

[Building Resilience Through Partnerships](#) Recorded February 4. Hosts: Andrew Smith and Carrieanne Petrik, EOEEA

Five Presentations from the Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation

- Building Support for Conservation in Your Town Hall
- Facilitating Land Stewardship with Volunteers
- Communicating with Signs: Effective Techniques for Messaging on Conservation Properties
- A National Boost to Local Land Conservation: Full Dedicated Funding of the LWCF
- Conservation Restriction Basics

Grants

MDAR SARA Grants for APR Landowners for FY22

(SARA = Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs)

Deadline: Friday, April 2, 4:00 p.m. in the Boston MDAR office or by email to Julie.Weiss@mass.gov.

SARA grants are intended for APR landowners focused on restoring APR land that was once in agricultural production to be put back into production. [Details here](#). Funds may be used for materials and contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner.

2021 Restoration and Resilience COVID Recovery Fund through the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

Application deadlines: April 1, June 1

Grants of up to \$2,500, to be spent over six months, are available to assist public lands impacted by increased use during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, eligibility, and application instructions, [read here](#). Certain restrictions apply.

Landscape Partnership Grant

Info. session: Thursday, April 1, 2:00 p.m. Contact nathaniel.thomas1@mass.gov to register by Monday, March 29.

Application deadline: Monday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.

Grants up to \$1,250,000 are available for the acquisition of property interests with a minimum of 500 acres in large, unique, unfragmented conservation and working lands, in single or multiple parcels, by two or more entities acting in cooperation. [Details here.](#)

Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant

Application deadline: Monday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.

Grants of up to \$300,000 in reimbursable expenses are available to municipalities and water supply and fire districts looking for financial assistance for the purchase of land in existing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)-approved drinking water supply protection areas, or land in estimated protection areas of identified and planned future water supply wells or reservoirs. [Details here.](#)

Notable

Connect with Urban Parks

The [UrbnParks](#) website (yes, without the "a") features 60+ criteria you can use to find a Boston park based on your location or amenity.

[Heritage Hub](#) is MassWildlife's new portal for users to **report observations of animals and plants, natural communities, and vernal pools**. The system can be used to report any species. MassWildlife is especially interested in reports of animals and plants listed under the [Massachusetts Endangered Species Act](#). Heritage Hub replaces the Vernal Pool & Rare Species Reporting System (VPRS), and makes electronic reporting easier than ever.

In Celebration of Women's History Month. Did you know the 21.5-mile [Wapack Trail](#), which runs the ridgeline between Watatic Mtn. in Ashburnham, MA and North Pack Monadnock in Greenfield, NH, was built by farmers Marion Buck Davis (New Ipswich, NH) and Frank Robbins (Rindge, NH) using only hand tools? Marion (1894–1986) was well-known as "a champion with an axe" having won the 1935 World's Woodcutting Championship! She also conjured up the name Wapack from the first syllables of terminal peaks **W**atatic and **N**orth **P**ack Monadnock. The trail opened in 1923, the same year work began on the Appalachian Trail. [Sourced from [Freedom's Way Natural Heritage Area's](#) March 2021 newsletter, Subject: What's In A Name?]

Jobs

Got jobs to fill? Post them on the MLTC self-serve [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime.

[Executive Director](#) - Opacum Land Trust

[Executive Director](#) - Rhode Island Land Trust Council

[Director of Marketing and Communications](#) - Barnstable Land Trust

[Administrator](#) - Oyster Pond Environmental Trust

[Project Manager](#) - Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

[Assistant to the Executive Director](#) - Barnstable Land Trust

[Summer Conservation Field Supervisor and Field Crew](#) - Town of Lexington

[Woodland Services Crew Member](#) - Long View Forest

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

[Land Research and Stewardship Intern](#) - Orleans Conservation Trust

See the [MLTC Job Board](#) on our website for the latest openings.

Also navigate to massland.org > Resources > Job Board.

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