



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

May 18, 2021, Volume 19, Number 5

## Member Spotlight



### Enthusiastic Community Support Leads to Whately Center Woods Protection

In Whately, MA, a 120-acre forest near the historic town center provides neighbors with trails that have become a favorite destination. This March, with enthusiastic community support, Kestrel Land Trust purchased the [Whately Center Woods](#), and is now finalizing the Conservation Restriction to be held by the town using Community Preservation Act funding granted unanimously by Whately Town Meeting voters. The forest hosts many large, mature trees, and its varied forest types and cold streams provide diverse wildlife habitat. The landowner managed the land with sustainable forestry practices, and under Kestrel's ownership, the forest will now be protected as a forever-wild forest, allowing the mature trees to sequester carbon and fight climate change. This was the first project to receive funding from Kestrel's Monica and Bob Leverett Forever-Wild Conservation Fund. Photo courtesy of Kestrel Land Trust.

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



On a recent Sunday, filtered sun on a sea of Canada mayflower lit up the forest floor at Metacomet Land Trust's beautiful Hop Brook Preserve in Blackstone.

#OurMassLandTrusts

*Robb*

### **Environmental Protection at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office: Lessons and Opportunities for Massachusetts Land Trusts**

Thursday, May 27, noon - 1:15 pm, via Zoom

Attorneys from the AG's Office will discuss the Environmental Protection Division's work tackling climate change, challenging recent federal environmental rollbacks, enforcing state wetlands laws, and furthering environmental justice across the Commonwealth. The presentation will include lessons learned and opportunities for land trust engagement on some of the most pressing environmental issues facing Massachusetts. Speakers include Chief Legal Counsel Richard Johnston (former president of the Dennis Conservation Land Trust and Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts), Assistant Attorneys General Turner Smith and Meghan Davoren and Special Assistant Attorney General David Frankel. Sponsored by the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. Free but advance registration required [here](#).

### **MLTC Steering Committee Meeting**

Friday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. via Zoom

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: revisions to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services Model Conservation Restriction. A detailed agenda will be sent in advance to all registrants. Advance registration is required [here](#).

### **Recordings available through June 18**

Recordings of the [Massachusetts and Rhode Island Land Conservation Conference](#) sessions plus the plenary panel and keynote talk will be available through June 18 (click Enter Event and log on with your conference credentials). If you missed it, [recordings-only tickets](#) are available through May 20.

### **Opportunity: Sponsored Content on E-News**

MLTC offers businesses the opportunity to post brief newsletter items of interest to the land trust community. For more information, contact [admin@massland.org](mailto:admin@massland.org).

## Policy

### **Action Needed: Senate FY22 State Operating Budget**

On May 11, the Massachusetts Senate released their FY22 State Operating Budget, with good news for our state environmental agencies. Several of the [Green Budget priorities](#) saw an increase over

the Governor's and the House's proposed budgets. Sen. Rebecca Rausch has filed Amendment #296 to increase the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to \$1M (the Green Budget request).

In addition, Senator Tarr 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 Senator by Monday, May 24 to ask him/her to support Senator Tarr's Amendment #262!** 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 proposed changes, [click here](#). For a sample language for your call or email, [click here](#).

### **Action Needed on a Bill to Protect Public Lands**

On Tuesday May 18, the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and the Environment holds a hearing on MLTC's other top legislative priority for this session: An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth (S.524 and H.851). Previously known as the Public Lands Protection Act, this longstanding MLTC priority has more momentum than ever, having passed the House at the end of the last legislative session. The bill would codify a thoughtful public process before public parks and conservation land could be used for other purposes, and require the protection of comparable land before such a change is approved. Read more about the bill [here](#). Buzz Constable will deliver [testimony on behalf of MLTC](#). While the sign-up deadline for live testimony is past, you can submit written comments until midnight May 18 to: [JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov](mailto:JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov).

### **MLTC Defines State Legislative Priorities for 2021**

At its April meeting, the Policy Committee of MLTC reviewed bills filed to date in this legislative session and determined our highest priorities are An Act Increasing The Conservation Land Tax Credit (S.1986/H.2960), sponsored by Sens. Tarr and Hinds; Reps. Jones and Pignatelli, and An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth (S.524 and H.851, sponsored by Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Balser). See the above newsletter items for more information on these two issues. MLTC also supports passage of S.603/H.983: An Act establishing a Massachusetts flood risk protection program; S.1875/H.2831: An Act to reform payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land; H.2977: An Act relative to the classification and taxation of urban public access land; S.560: An Act Establishing the Office of Outdoor Recreation; and S.556/H.937: An Act providing for the public health by establishing an ecologically based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth. As the session progresses, we'll monitor additional bills that may warrant support or opposition from the land conservation community.

### **Mass Land Trusts Send Big Delegation to LTA Lobby Day**

On April 20-21, conservation advocates from across the state met with staff from offices of both our U.S. Senators and seven members of the House of Representatives to educate them on the importance of the Land Trust Alliance's legislative priorities for this session, including the Conservation Easement Integrity Act. Participants included Buzz Constable, Jane Calvin, Robb Johnson, Ray Lyons, Patrice Murphy, Colin Novick, Kathy Orlando, and Anna Wilkins. Read more about LTA's priorities [here](#).

## **News**

### **Deadline Extended to May 28 for Opting Out of Mosquito Spraying**

The deadline for municipal mosquito spraying opt-out applications for the calendar year 2021 season has been extended to Friday, May 28. Send applications to [EEAopt-out@mass.gov](mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov). To opt-out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, a municipality must submit an alternative mosquito management plan. [Learn more and apply here](#).

## **Public Comment Period Is Open for the DRAFT Priority Habitat Map for the 15th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas**

Through July 3, 2021, the public is invited to comment on the status of areas proposed for delineation or removal as Priority Habitat. Priority Habitat maps are primarily used for determining whether or not a proposed project must be reviewed by NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). See [instructions](#) on how to access the map and leave comments. [More](#) about the comment period.

## **Worcester Polytechnic Institute Launches a Masters in Community Climate Adaptation**

*Applications due: Thursday, July 15*

In this collaborative, three-semester program (with an option of one summer), students will work within teams to use engineering, social science, and physical and biological science skills to address climate change challenges and adapt in communities around the world. [Learn more](#).

## **New Interactive Map Showcases Iconic National Parks, Trails & Other Public Outdoor Spaces**

[View the map](#). Find your local neighborhood park or take a virtual trip across the country to see the wide range of lands the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected. Funded by LWCF.

## **Personnel Changes at EOEEA**

Chief of Staff Sarah Wallach stepped down May 1, replaced by Peter Lorenz May 3.

Dan Sieger, Undersecretary of Environmental Affairs is leaving May 21, being replaced by Beth Card May 24.

## **Reopening Massachusetts**

The Baker Administration continues to take steps to expand the number of people that can gather indoors or outdoors, and to ease restrictions on businesses. [Check this website](#) for current guidelines that took effect May 10, and details regarding the full lifting of restrictions on businesses and gatherings that is now planned for May 29.

# Webinars and E-Learning



### **River Rally 2021**

*May 17 - 20 (Monday - Thursday)*

Join river advocates from around the country for this virtual annual conference for four days of workshops, networking, plenary speaker, and awards panels. Tracks include: resilient communities, water and agriculture, drinking water, policy and advocacy, science and climate, and more. [Learn more](#). [Register here](#).

Massachusetts  
Department of  
Agricultural Resources

### **Spotted Lanternfly Educational Webinar. Credits Available.**

*Tuesday, May 18, 10:00 - 11:10 a.m.*

This is the first in a quarterly series of webinars hosted by the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) about the latest spotted lanternfly occurrences, survey updates, and more. MA pesticide license (categories 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 40, 48 & CORE (L)) and association credits (1 MCH, 1/2 MQTW, MCA and ISA pending) will be available; attendance for the full session and response to poll questions will be required to receive credits.

[Register here](#).



### **Women on the Land Webinar Series**

*Wednesdays in May, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.*

Hear women landowners and forestry professionals from across the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes regions address topics on forest dynamics and stewardship. Sessions are interactive and will offer opportunities to connect with women woodland owners and enthusiasts.

**May 19 | Active Stewardship**

**May 26 | The Future of Your Woodland**

[Register here.](#)

Also of note, there is a national group called the Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOW Net), which maintains a website with general resources, articles, and regionally listed events. See more at [www.womenowningwoodlands.net](http://www.womenowningwoodlands.net).



### ***Changes In Our Bird & Mammal Life from Thoreau's Time to Today***

*Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

Peter Alden, renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide, and author of 15 books on North American and African wildlife, will examine the changing landscape and climate of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area since the early 19th century, and will describe how these changes have impacted the region's bird and mammal populations. Register [here](#). This lecture is part of the Hidden Treasures Festival of Nature, Culture & History Speaker Series sponsored by the [Freedom's Way National Heritage Area](#).



### ***Native Plants, Climate Change, and Your Backyard***

*Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.*

Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will talk about restoring biodiversity, one yard at a time. Hosted by MetroWest Climate Solutions. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### ***Info Sessions on Key Local Food System Bills in the MA Legislature***

Each virtual session will focus on a single bill, with opportunities to discuss the bill's background, analyze its potential impact, discuss ways it could be improved upon, and strategize about ways to craft and target messages to support the bill. Two that may be of particular interest to the conservation community are:

**Thursday, May 20, 4:00 p.m.** | An Act supporting the Commonwealth's farmers. [Register here.](#)

**Thursday, June 3, 4:00 p.m.** | An Act promoting equity in agriculture. [Register here.](#)

See the [full list here](#).



### ***AMC Worcester Celebrates National Trails Day with TrailsFest***

*Saturday, May 15 - Saturday, June 5*

In-person and [virtual events](#) will be offered according to a weekly theme — environmental clean-up, restorative value of the outdoors, local land trusts, and trail maintenance. Leaders and activity participants will be automatically entered in a weekly drawing to win great prizes from prominent outdoor companies such as REI, Burgeon Outdoor, Athletic Brewing Co., and Fjallraven. Winners will be randomly drawn at the weekly virtual events. Find TrailsFest events [here](#) (search for Keyword: trailsfest).

### ***COVID-19 and Climate: Lifting Up Lessons from the Pandemic for Resilient Communities***

*Tuesday, May 25, 1:00 p.m.*

Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna and Penn Loh, authors of *Opportunities to Invest in Community Resilience for COVID and Climate*, commissioned by Barr's Climate team, will discuss how the lessons learned from the pandemic have shaped equity-centered climate work. [Register here.](#)



## **Enhancing Bird Habitat & Climate Adaptation in Your Community**

3 Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

In this three-part webinar series hosted by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation with funding from the Working Forest Initiative, learn how communities across the Commonwealth are managing town forests for carbon, climate resilience, and wildlife habitat. [Learn more.](#)

**May 26** | Bird Habitat & Climate Resiliency in Your Community. [Register here.](#)

**June 2** | The Role of Your Community Forest in Mitigating Climate Change. [Register here.](#)

**June 9** | Funding for Enhanced Habitat, Climate Adaptation & Resiliency. [Register here.](#)



## **Climate Adaptation for Land Trusts – Short Course**

June 9, 16 and 30 at 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost for LTA members: \$10 thanks to support from the USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub

Sponsor: Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

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. Goals are: identify locally important climate change impacts, challenges and opportunities; use the [quick start guide to adaptation planning for land trusts](#) to consider climate change and carbon in land stewardship and management; develop actions to help a specific natural area adapt to changing conditions; and communicate with stakeholders about climate impacts and adaptation responses. [Learn more.](#) [Register here.](#)



## **Symposium on Advanced Legal Topics in Land Conservation**

Thursday & Friday, June 10 & 11

Sponsored by LTA, this symposium will discuss complex legal challenges and emerging issues such as: implications of building envelopes and inconsistent uses; case law and the impact of syndication litigation; fundraising from a legal and tax perspective; enforcement of permitted rights and stewardship; issues in drafting of amendment clauses; and more. It's ideal for attorneys, senior conservation practitioners and law school faculty, and offers up to 6.5 continuing legal education credits (including 1.5 ethics credits). [Agenda.](#) [Register here.](#)



## **A Guide to Water Quality, Climate, Social, and Economic Outcomes Estimation Tools: Quantifying Outcomes to Accelerate Farm Conservation Practice Adoption**

From American Farmland Trust, this guide features 14 outcomes estimation tools and two methods which can be used by farm conservation project managers without requiring professional computer modeling experience. [Learn more.](#) [Guide](#) (PDF). [Webinar](#) on how to use the guide.

## **Did You Miss It? Recordings from Webinars Past**

### [The Next Generation RoadMap Law & Nature Based Solutions Webinar](#)

Topics include: how you can help your community protect open space, improve climate resiliency, and increase investments in conservation, as well as how to effectively advocate to municipal

## Grants

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

Applications due: 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.

### **FY22 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Programs**

[Learn more](#) about the MVP programs and application process

#### [MVP Program Planning Grants](#)

Applications due: Friday, June 4

Provide support for cities and towns to complete climate vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans.

[Statement of Interests \(SOIs\)](#) are being accepted on a *rolling cycle* for the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance project, scoping, and planning grants. Assistance will be provided on a first come first served basis.

### **Regional Restoration Partnerships Program through the Dept of Ecological Restoration (DER)**

Pre-RFR release: Late May 2021

RFR release: mid-June 2021

Pilot Partner selection: late summer 2021

This new program supports regional partnerships working to restore aquatic ecosystems throughout Massachusetts. The RFR (Request for Responses) will solicit proposals from eligible nonprofit organizations and regional planning agencies to become Pilot Partners in the program. DER will provide funding and technical assistance to support selected Pilot Partners over a 3-5 year period. Interested potential applicants are encouraged to [contact Jenny Sanders](#) [jenny.sanders@mass.gov](mailto:jenny.sanders@mass.gov), DER's Ecological Restoration Partnerships Specialist, with questions.

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

Applications due: July 14, 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services seeks applications to the FY22 LAND and PARC grant programs. The LAND grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The PARC grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, and develop a new park. [Learn more and apply here](#).

### **Conservation Partnership Grant Program**

Applications due: July 19, 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY22 Conservation Partnership Grant Program. Conservation Partnership grants are for 501(c)(3) organizations looking for assistance in acquiring land in fee or a conservation restriction, as well as assistance with due diligence costs associated with gifts.

Contact [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) with questions. [Learn more and apply here](#).

# Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Concord Land Conservation Trust

[Central Region Director](#) - Mass Audubon

[Campaign Manager](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Institutional Giving Manager](#) - The Trust for Public Land

[Land Manager](#) - Dennis Conservation Land Trust

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

[Operations Coordinator](#) - The Nature Conservancy

[Office Manager](#) - Harvard Conservation Trust

[Open Space Protection Manager](#) - Town of Ipswich

[Solar Equity Fellow](#) - Solstice Initiative

[Seasonal Trail Steward](#) (Western, MA) - The Trustees

[Arthur V. Savage Paid Internship](#) - Parks & Trails New York

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

Also navigate to [massland.org](https://massland.org) > Resources > Job Board.

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