



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

September 21, 2021, Volume 19, Number 9

## Member Spotlight



### Stonefield Farm in Acton Protected via Collaboration

[Stonefield Farm](#), 51.5 acres of important farmland and wildlife habitat, has been permanently protected thanks to [Boston Area Gleaners](#) (BAG), which purchased the Acton farm and granted an Agricultural Preservation Restriction to [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) (SVT) and the Town of Acton. In addition to funding from the Town, many donors to BAG, the Acton Conservation Trust and SVT made this project a success. The farm lies within the Heath Hen Meadow/Fort Pond Brook greenbelt, an ecologically significant corridor that extends from Concord to Stow and includes priority wildlife habitat and thousands of acres of conserved land. Stonefield Farm will serve as BAG's new headquarters, where they will continue to provide critically needed produce for Massachusetts families in need.



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



The cooling days of September are a great time to visit the trails at Nicky's Park in Provincetown. Provincetown Conservation Trust holds a CR on this town-owned property, and owns land surrounding it on three sides.

#OurMassLandTrusts

*Robb*

### **COVID and Your Fall Events**

*Wednesday, September 22, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom*

This informal "Stronger Together" networking discussion sponsored by MLTC provides an opportunity for conservation leaders to share questions and ideas about how news regarding COVID breakthroughs and variants is impacting plans for your fall meetings and events. Go live or virtual? Hybrid? Masks or no masks? Vaccine Requirements? Exchange ideas with peers on this timely topic. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded.

Advance registration required [here](#).

### **All-Volunteer Land Trusts: Approaches to Building Capacity**

Tuesday, September 28, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

This "Stronger Together" networking discussion sponsored by MLTC provides an opportunity for Board Members of all-volunteer land trusts to discuss their needs for outside advice and assistance, and strategies to meet them. When an issue is beyond your in-house capacity, do you recruit skilled volunteers? Hire contractors? Get advice and help from other organizations? Exchange ideas with peers and help inform how MLTC might help. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded. Free Advance registration required [here](#).

### **Increasing the Pace of Conservation: What's Holding You Back?**

Wednesday, October 13, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

This "Stronger Together" networking discussion sponsored by MLTC provides an opportunity for land trust staff and volunteers to discuss current barriers to getting land conservation projects done. What are the most important limiting factors? Market conditions? Funding? Your own capacity? Exchange ideas with peers and help inform how MLTC might help. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded. Free. Advance registration required [here](#).

### **MLTC Names New Conservation Advisory Council**

On September 17, MLTC hosted the inaugural meeting of our new Conservation Advisory Council, a non-governing body made up of seasoned conservation professionals who will provide advice and support to our Board and Staff. Co-Chaired by Loring Schwarz and Henry Woolsey, other members include Whit Beals, Ed Becker, Jocelyn Forbush, Mary Griffin, Laura Johnson, Wayne Klockner, Mary McFadden, Bernie McHugh, Bob O'Connor, Brian Rehrig, Mark Robinson and Wes Ward. Welcome and thanks to each of you!

### **Have You Remembered to Renew Your MLTC Membership?**

You are important to us! MLTC members like you make our work possible. From planning and holding workshops and conferences to advocating for policies that affect you and your organization at the state and national levels, we literally could not do it without you. Consider joining us today. [Membership details here](#). A huge "thank you" to those who have already renewed or become a new member for FY22!

## **Policy**

### **Huge Opportunity to Invest in a Green Recovery**

The Massachusetts Legislature is currently hearing public input on how to spend \$4.9B in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Eight statewide environmental NGOs, including MLTC, developed a list of priorities for a green recovery – both to create jobs and to make significant progress toward building a more resilient Commonwealth. NOW is the time to contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to support significant ARPA funding for land acquisition and restoration, climate resiliency, and outdoor recreation. For background and details you could cite, see our joint letter [here](#), and find your legislator [here](#).

### **Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA) Advances**

We are pleased to announce that An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth (S.524 & H.851), also referred to as the Public Lands Preservation Act, was passed by the House in late July, and is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. House passage this early in the session gives the bill great momentum! Right now the focus is on reaching out to members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and [Sen. President Spilka](#). We urge you to call or send them an email to urge passage! For background and language you can use see a copy of a recent [partner letter](#) here.

Find a list of Committee members with their contact information [here](#).

### **Protecting Important Federal Tax Deductions**

One of the Land Trust Alliance's top legislative priorities, the Charitable Easement Program Integrity Act, has recent momentum by being included as a component of the budget reconciliation bill now pending in Congress. Now is a great time to contact your members of Congress to ask them to support it. Learn more about [how you can take action](#) to support it. Meanwhile, Partnership for Conservation, a.k.a. P4C, has hired public relations firms to recruit conservationists to work in opposition to this important bill. If you have been, or are, approached by P4C or someone representing P4C interests, please contact LTA at [policy@lta.org](mailto:policy@lta.org).

## News

### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Announces Action Grant Winners**

Among \$21 million in MVP grants awarded this month was an Action Grant of \$480,000 to the Town of Belchertown to support efforts to support protection of the Scarborough Brook headwaters to improve habitat and water supply resilience under future climate conditions. Scarborough Brook is a coldwater fishery and tributary for a town well serving 3,000 homes. The town is receiving funding from the Forest Legacy Program to preserve an 80-acre parcel known as the Dubois Parcel, while the MVP grant will fund acquisition of 32 nearby acres known as the Jackson Parcels. There will also be assessments of 9 culverts along Scarborough Brook as well as a dam removal study. In conjunction with these efforts, the Town is working with the Belchertown Justice Collaborative to expand the conversation around land preservation so that racial and environmental justice are centered in the process.

### **New Handbook Offers Resources for Community Conservation**

The Open Space Handbook is targeted towards Open Space Committees, Conservation Commissions, land trusts, and volunteers working on conservation in their local communities. It covers land protection tools, finding funding, stewarding conserved lands, and planning for conservation - all from a community volunteer perspective. With the help of case studies, it offers ways in which conservation can help meet the needs of your specific community, though it is not meant as a one-size-fits-all tool. [The handbook](#) is authored by Kate Sutcliffe of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust; Paul Catanzaro of UMass Amherst; and Sarah Wells, North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership.

### **Hunting Season Has Begun**

Hunting is a safe activity, and non-hunters should feel comfortable using the woods at any time of year. Brush up on simple [safety tips](#) and review [hunting season dates](#) as you plan outdoor activities this fall.

## Webinars and E-Learning



### **Parks, Equity and Public Health**

Tuesday, September 21, 3:00 p.m.

Co-hosted by [Olmsted-200](#) and [American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#), this panel will explore the role parks and nature can play in achieving health equity, and what can be done to ensure safe and equitable access to parks and green space for all communities. The panel discussion will be moderated by Mitchell Silver, former commissioner for the New York City Parks Department. [Learn more](#). [Register here](#).

### **Sustainably Managing Forests with Birds in Mind**



This interactive webinar series, presented by Steve Hagenbuch, Senior Conservation Biologist and Forester at Audubon Vermont, will focus on best practices in silviculture and forestry management for birds in New England, with a focus on at-risk species. [Learn more](#). Continuing Education credits may be available. Sponsored by Highstead and partners. All dates are Wednesdays.

### **Habitat Requirements and Management Considerations for Forest Birds in New England**

September 22, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. [Details and register here](#).

### **Bird-friendly Forestry Practices and Strategies for Landowners**

September 29, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. [Details and register here](#).

### **Technical and Financial Assistance for RCPs, Conservation Partners, and Landowners**

October 13, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. [Details and register here](#).



### **2021 MA Historic Preservation Conference**

September 23 and 24 (Thursday and Friday)

Presented by Preservation Mass, this virtual event will cover topics ranging from "Preservation as an Act of Reclamation", to sustainability, barn restoration, tax credits, connecting preservation trades trainees with companies that are hiring, and more. The [program](#) features two keynote speakers (one is [Sara Zewde](#) from Harvard's Landscape Architecture program), 14 breakout sessions, plus on-demand virtual content. [Register here](#) (\$25). [Learn more](#).



### **Youth Voices in Climate Change, with Varshini Prakash, moderated by WBUR's Miriam Wasser**

Thursday, September 23, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Varshini Prakash is Executive Director and co-founder of [Sunrise](#), a movement of young people working to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process through the Green New Deal. Miriam Wasser is a reporter for WBUR's environmental desk. Input is being gathered from registrants as to what topics and questions they would like addressed this evening. Registration is required for this free Zoom event. [Learn more and register here](#).



### **Eco-Answers with Two Eco-Pros - Topic: Native Plants**

Wednesday, September 29, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Native plant specialists Julie Snell and Lisa McDonald will provide answers to some common questions on native plants, and delve into audience questions. They will share information about incorporating native perennials, shrubs, and trees in your gardens and landscapes. [Learn more and register](#).



### **Mass Urban Forest Advocacy Roundtable**

Friday, October 1, noon - 1:00 p.m.

This first in a series of roundtable events regarding urban forestry across the Commonwealth will be an opportunity for Massachusetts organizations and individuals championing and advocating urban forestry to learn about and support each other's work. [Register here](#). If you would like to present your organization's work with a single slide and a 1 minute introduction, contact Erin Baker at [erin@treeboston.org](mailto:erin@treeboston.org).

**RALLY 2021**  
October 5-7 | Virtual Event



### **Registration is Open for 2021 Virtual Rally**

October 5 - 7 (Tuesday - Thursday)

Rally is the annual gathering of land conservation practitioners from across the country where diverse interests and perspectives inform a shared interest in protecting special places. [Learn more](#) about this year's Rally. Highlights include group pricing, over 60 workshops including access to recordings post-conference, networking, and Rock & Roll Trivia(!). [Register here](#).



### **How Will Climate Change Impact Forest Wildlife?**

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 | 4:00 pm

[Toni Lyn Morelli](#), U.S. Geological Survey

The forests of the northeast are highly exposed to climate change, and many of the species that inhabit our forest ecosystems are at their southern range edges here and considered sensitive to climate change. Species' adaptive capacity is limited by habitat fragmentation, high rates of invasive species, and other stressors. This presentation by Toni Lyn Morelli of the U.S. Geological Survey will review some of the latest research on mammal, bird, and other species' responses to climate change, and projections for future impacts. It will also showcase coproduced research results that indicate climate change refugia, areas buffered from climate change that can be conserved to enable persistence of species in the face of changing climate. Sponsored by the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center. Zoom connection information will be posted on [this page](#) approximately one week prior to the scheduled date.



### **MACC's 2021 Fall Conference Registration is Open**

October 19 - 23 (Tuesday - Saturday)

This fall, MACC's virtual conference offers seven units of Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners, as well as 19 new workshops. Workshops will focus on climate-change resiliency and other topics important to conservation commissions, open space stewards, and environmental practitioners. With three registration options and workshops to fit a wide range of interests and skills, check out MACC's website for [more info and to register](#).

## **Grants**

### **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements**

Informational webinar: Friday, September 24. [Sign up here](#) by entering "Webinar" in the Subject line. Webinar link [here](#).

Application deadline: Monday, October 25

These Cooperative Agreement arrangements are available for projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to historically underserved farmers, including socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, tribal, and veteran. Proposals should support activities that introduce the concepts of climate-smart agriculture, and to assist producers with planning and implementation of conservation practices and principles. [Learn more](#).

### **Salt Water Fishing Enhancement Grant**

Application deadline: Friday, October 15

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is offering a grant of up to \$15,000 to coastal communities in Massachusetts to promote or enhance salt water fishing access. Eligible applicants

include municipalities and NGOs, including recognized land trusts and similar organizations (Buzzards Bay Coalition and Marshfield Tennis at Peter Igo Park have been awardees). Funded projects have included canoe and kayak launches, boat ramp lighting, fillet stations, surveying of public ways to water, and architect landscapers. The project area must have equitable access to all individuals, and be located where salt water fishing can take place. This is a reimbursement grant and all projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Email [ross.kessler@mass.gov](mailto:ross.kessler@mass.gov) for an application and supporting documentation.

### **onX Access and Stewardship Project Grants**

*Application deadline: Friday, November 19*

onX, a company that creates navigation apps for "adventurers", is accepting applications to help fund public recreation access and land stewardship projects across the country. [Learn more.](#)

### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grants**

*Application deadline: Monday, January 10, 2022*

Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses, and provide community benefits such as sustainable forest management; environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#). For questions about the CFP application process or to discuss a potential project, contact Eastern Region CFP Program Manager Neal Bungard at 603-833-3287 or email [neal.bungard@usda.gov](mailto:neal.bungard@usda.gov).

## Resources & Opportunities



### **Explore Your Rivers Interactive Tool**

In this crowd-sourced guide, you can find information on the best paddling, boating, swimming, walking, and biking spots around the state, organized by watershed, including public transportation options to get there. Also learn about Massachusetts' waterways, how to safely enjoy them, and the local organizations working to protect them. [Explore here.](#)

## Jobs

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

[Deputy Director for Policy](#) - Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

[Full Time Conservation Planner](#) - Worcester County Conservation District

[Ecological Horticulturist](#) - Norcross Wildlife Foundation

[Creighton Conservation Specialist](#) - The Trustees of Reservations

[Land Steward](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Plant Sale Coordinator](#) - Middlesex Conservation District