



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction." ~ E. O. Wilson

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MLTC News

1) REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2017 MASS LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Worcester Technical High School, One Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA

Online registration closes soon! Don't miss one of the largest gatherings of land professionals across Massachusetts. Attendees will bring take-home tools from this year's applicable theme, *Scaling Up: Meeting New Challenges*. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from world renowned and legendary American biologist, researcher, theorist, naturalist and author, Edward Wilson. Old and young generations alike will connect at this unique event. [Register](#) now! Get more information on the conference [here](#).

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2) MASS LAND'S PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINS RAYNES CITIZEN CONSERVATION AWARD

MassLand's previous Executive Director, Bernie McHugh, has been awarded the Raynes Citizen Conservation Award out in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in honor of Bert Raynes, revered naturalist. Click [here](#) for the full story!

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Local Land Trust News

3) HILLTOWN LAND TRUST AND NATURE CONSERVANCY SECURE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION & PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Excerpts from the Daily Hampshire Gazette, January 11, 2017 by Fran Ryan

When Florence resident Gary Warner, 63, was considering what to do with a parcel of land he owns in Goshen, he remembered hearing about land conservation opportunities offered through the Hilltown Land Trust and decided to pursue a conservation restriction for his 200-acre property. Warner said that over the years, he had attended a couple of seminars hosted by the Hilltown Land Trust, where he learned that his land was within an important area that the Trust was interested in protecting.

According to Hilltown Land Trust Executive Director Sally Loomis, the land is classified as both "Core Habitat," and a "Critical Natural Landscape" based on the state's BioMap2.

The donation of the Warner property, was made with assistance from the new Berkshire Wildlife Linkage Catalyst Fund managed by The Nature Conservancy. The fund is made possible by a grant from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund at the Boston Foundation. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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4) DARTMOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST, BUZZARDS BAY COALITION, U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE WORK TO SAVE ALLENS POND

Excerpts from Buzzards Bay Coalition, January 10, 2017

Over the past year, Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, and Round the Bend Farm have assembled a patchwork of federal, state, and local government funding to protect Ocean View Farm and two other parcels of land: the tree-filled shoreline of the Powel family's 58 acres, and 39 acres of sustainable farmland at Round the Bend Farm. A \$1 million federal grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program will provide one of the last major pieces of funding to forever protect more than 200 acres of scenic coastal forests, wetlands, and working farmland on Allens Pond in Dartmouth. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Nature News

5) VISITING PHYSICIAN SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON LYME DISEASE

Excerpts from MV Times, July 13, 2016 by Barry Stringfellow

Dr. Nevena Zubcevik, attending physician at Harvard Medical School and co-director of Dean Center for Tick Borne Illness at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown

(SRH) traveled to one of the nation's front lines in the public health battle against Lyme disease to speak to a group of Martha's Vineyard Hospital physicians. Over the course of the hour, she shared the most recent findings that she and her colleagues have made on the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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6) AMERICANS LIVE INCREASINGLY FARTHER FROM FORESTS - PROBLEM FOR WILDLIFE

Excerpts from Mongabay, March 14, 2017 by Mike Gaworecki

Americans living in the continental United States looking to get out into nature have a longer drive ahead of them than they would have had in the early 20th Century. That may not represent a major barrier to heading out on a nature hike, but it can make a real difference for wildlife and the overall health of ecosystems. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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News

7) THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF THE EPA DATA TRUMP DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT

Excerpts from The Guardian, March 15, 2017

The Environmental Protection Agency employs more scientists than any other government agency except NASA. Decades of work by those scientists have generated valuable information about air and water pollution, chemical toxicity and hazardous waste cleanup. This information has enabled businesses to develop new products and services - and create jobs in the process.

No one has estimated the financial benefits of making EPA data easily accessible to the private sector. But anecdotal evidence shows it plays a significant role in many billion-dollar industries, from lending and real estate to renewable energy development and auto designs and manufacturing. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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8) MEET RYAN ZINKE, INTERIOR SECRETARY, SPORTSMAN, & CONSERVATIONIST

Excerpts from Living on Earth, March 10, 2017

The new Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, is a keen outdoorsman who advocates multiple uses for federal public lands and keeping them in federal control, not the states. Dale Hall, CEO of Ducks Unlimited and former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tells host Steve Curwood why his organization applauds Secretary Zinke's appointment, and describes the challenges ahead for the former Navy Seal and former Congressman from Montana who's now in charge of one in every five acres of US soil. Click [here](#) to listen to or read the dialogue.

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9) SENATOR WHITEHOUSE, D-R.I., SAYS PROPOSED EPA BUDGET CUTS WON'T HAPPEN

With all of the doom and gloom coming from Washington, D.C., about cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and subsequently to state environmental programs, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., says not to fret. Any spending cuts must be approved through the budget process and Whitehouse is confident that Democrats in Congress will keep the funds intact. "Do not be dissuaded or dismayed by the cuts to EPA, the elimination of Sea Grant and other such efforts," Whitehouse said. "It is an act of political theater; it is not an act of budgeting." Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Trainings

10) ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10:00am - 4:30pm
766 Main Street, Worcester, MA

The Environmental League of Massachusetts is offering its Environmental Fellows Training (EFP) for college students and high school seniors. This is an exciting leadership and career development opportunity for students interested in environmental advocacy. This one day training will help participants hone skills in campus organizing, public policy research, communications, and environmental advocacy. Participation in this program will teach students to serve as effective advocates for environment. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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Events

11) POLICYMAKER ROUNDABLE WITH SENATOR JENNIFER FLANAGAN

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 2:30pm - 3:30pm
The NonProfit Center, 89 South Street, East Room, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network invites you to their first Policymaker Roundtable of 2017 with Senator Jennifer Flanagan. Senator Flanagan is on the Board of Directors for the nationally recognized Women in Government. In addition, she serves as Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. She is also a member of the Regional Transportation Authority Caucus, the Gateway Cities Caucus, the Non-Profit Caucus and the Foster Care Caucus. She serves on the following boards in the community: the SHINE Advisory Board and the Leominster Education Foundation. She is an honorary board member of the Gardner Community Action Council.

Both in the House and Senate, Senator Flanagan had part in passing several key pieces of legislation relative to mental health. An Act Relative to Children's Mental Health 2008, An Act Relative to Mental Health Parity 2008, An Act to Improve Access to Mental Health Services 2008, An Act Improving Emergency Access to Mental Health Services 2010, and Strengthening Mental Health Parity 2012. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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12) PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EVERSOURCE ENERGY'S REQUEST TO INCREASE RATES

We would like to inform you of a series of public hearings on Eversource Energy's recent request to increase electric rates. The \$96 million increase request was filed with the Department of Public Utilities in January and would result in roughly a 7% increase (\$8.45/month) for eastern Massachusetts residents, and 10% increase (\$11.64/month) increase for western Massachusetts residents.

The DPU's decision will be made by November 30, 2017 and if approved, the new rates will become effective on January 1, 2018. A schedule of the public hearings is listed below. Massachusetts residents are welcome to attend the hearings or file any written comments by the close of business (5:00pm) on May 31, 2017 to make your voices heard!

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Natick Town Hall
2nd Floor
Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room
13 East Central Street
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Department of Public Utilities
5th Floor
Hearing Room A
One South Station
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Cambridge Public Library
Lecture Hall
449 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Barnstable County Complex
Harborview Conference Room
3195 Main Street
Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Keith Middle School
225 Hathaway Boulevard
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Plymouth South High School
490 Long Pong Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Springfield City Hall
School Committee Meeting Room
Room 220
36 Court Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Katharine Cornell Theatre
51 Spring Street
Tisbury, Massachusetts 02568

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Greenfield Middle School Auditorium
195 Federal Street
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

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13) CHANGES TO THE LAND: DISCUSSIONS & LIVE PODCAST TAPING WITH HARVARD FOREST & MONGABAY

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 7:00pm
UMass Amherst, S240 Integrative Learning Center

Harvard Forest scientists will discuss with Mongabay.com editors their landmark report "Changes to the Land," about forest fragmentation, climate change, and more in the Bay State (and the wider region), plus science communication, what changes at the Long Term Ecological Research program (LTER) they're seeing, and more, to air on the Mongabay Newscast, the outlet's biweekly podcast. Come hear this discussion and query the panel about climate change and other changes to the land, regionally to globally. Panelists include:

Jonathan R Thompson, Senior Ecologist Harvard Forest, Harvard University
David Foster, Director of Harvard Forest LTER, Harvard University
Mike Gaworecki, Mongabay Newscast Host
Glenn Scherer, contributing editor, Mongabay.com

Contact Erik Hoffner to learn more about this event, erik@mongabay.com or 413-429-5296

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14) HOW TO END FLOODS AND DROUGHT: SOAKING UP THE RAIN, COOLING THE EARTH

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 5:00pm
Haller Hall (100), 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate welcomes Michal Kravčik, a hydrologist and climate expert from Slovakia and recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize. Kravčik has an urgent message for America as well as the rest of the globe: All of us, not just the "experts," must take action by soaking up the rain in soil and plants, which releases cooling cloud-forming vapor to fall again as rain and restores critical land-based water cycles. Otherwise, we will experience worsening drought, heat waves and other climate woes, including floods and severe storms. Dr. Kravčik is a seasoned world lecturer who will be touring North America in March and April 2017, presenting natural, inexpensive solutions for restoring more livable landscapes and weather patterns. For anyone, lay or professional, concerned about water supplies, land use, or climate, this will be time well spent. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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15) ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE: "HUMAN IMPRINTS ON THE TREE OF LIFE"

Thursday, April 17, 2017, 4:00pm

Geological Lecture Hall (100), 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA

Climate change, habitat loss, and overexploitation are driving species declines and extinctions across the globe. With species extinctions, we lose a leaf from the Tree-of-Life. When extinctions are many, we can lose entire branches. The branches of the Tree-of-Life represent many millions of years of evolutionary history. The loss of evolutionary history provides a resonant symbol of the current biodiversity crisis.

The Harvard University Center for the Environment hosts four world experts in biodiversity conservation for a panel discussion on the multidimensionality of biological diversity, whether the loss of evolutionary history diversity reduces our options in an uncertain future, and how conservation efforts can and must be triaged. Click [here](#) for more information.

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16) FIFTH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

April 19, 2017, 9:00am

Integrated Sciences Complex, 1st Floor, UMass Boston

Join UMass Boston School for the Environment students and faculty at this great event. Graduate and undergraduate students conducting research on a topic related to an environmental issue are invited to present their research, which can be local or global in nature, examining an environmental issue from a single or multiple perspectives. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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17) MA SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 9:00am - 2:30pm

Richard Cronin Building, Room 108, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

This year's Annual Meeting will focus on Wetland Enforcement, the state of bee populations, and DFW's new trail policy. Join other Municipal Conservation Professionals to network and learn current conservation events. This full day event will include presentations from a variety of land management professionals. Breakfast and lunch provided. Click [here](#) for the agenda and to RSVP.

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Grants

18) THE NORTH FACE EXPLORE FUND FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

April 5, 2017 deadline

The North Face Explore Fund provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that provide their participants with meaningful outdoor experiences. The Fund supports programs that take people on outdoor adventures with the goal of using time outside to promote positive personal and societal growth, love of nature, and the development of outdoor skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

April 21, 2017 pre-application deadline

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program supports locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitats, and protect agricultural viability. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Jobs

20) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MANCHESTER-ESSEX CONSERVATION TRUST

The Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust (MECT) is looking for an executive director to lead the organization. The executive director will manage priorities in land conservation, stewardship, outreach and education, and organizational management. The successful candidate will have a solid grounding in land conservation, familiarity with natural science and law, have strong oral and written communication skills, and demonstrate strong operations and staff management skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) LAND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR - BARNSTABLE LAND TRUST

The Barnstable Land Trust (BLT) is seeking a Land Stewardship Coordinator. This position will manage a portfolio of conservation restriction and fee-owned lands. Responsibilities will include planning and coordinating land management and monitoring activities, coordinating volunteers, ensuring timing monitoring of all parcels, management of

stewardship database and general support towards fulfilling BLT's mission. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR - BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Take your next career step as stewardship coordinator at Berkshire Natural Resources Council, a dynamic, growing organization in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. The Stewardship Coordinator monitors (and manages aspects of) BNRC's fee simple lands, conservation restrictions and trail easements - over 20,000 acres all told, and increasing each year. You'll be part of a team of landkeepers that is building and caring for the Berkshire High Road, a countywide trail network linking towns to nature. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - WESTPORT LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

The Westport Land Conservation Trust, in coastal southeastern Massachusetts, seeks a full-time, salaried Executive Director to lead the staff and implement the strategic plan set by the board of directors, including a multimillion-dollar capital campaign that is underway to fund a number of exciting land conservation projects. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) SEASONAL FORESTRY ASSISTANT - GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES - DCR

The Department of Conservation and Recreation seeks qualified applicants for the position of Seasonal Forestry Assistant. The individual assists in the preparation of plans for replanting trees on public and private property in the Gateway Cities, meets with homeowners to determine proper tree type(s) and location(s), interacts with private land owners to answer questions about replanting operations, assists in the supervision of daily planting operations by state forest crews to ensure trees are planted according to DCR Bureau of Forestry standards, assists Foresters with data collection and management to record locations of planted trees and periodically check their condition, and performs related duties such as maintaining records and attending staff meetings. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) CONSERVATION AGENT - TOWN OF NORTH ANDOVER

The Town of North Andover is accepting applications for a full-time Conservation Agent. Responsibilities include providing technical and administrative support and assistance to the Conservation Administrator in the enforcement of the Wetland Protection Act and the Town Wetland Protection bylaw. The individual will assist the Administrator with permit and project application review, monitor construction activities, respond to citizen inquiries, prepare enforcement and violation notices; draft and assist with permit preparation; certify compliance through field inspections and plan review; attend

Conservation Commission meetings and other relevant public hearings and meetings as necessary; assist with open space management and agricultural lease agreements. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Resources

26) APPLICATION TO BE A MASSLIFT-AMERICORPS HOST SITE

The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) AmeriCorps program was initiated in 2010 by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) as a collaboration of seven regional land trusts with a shared goal to increase the pace of land protection across the Commonwealth. In August 2017, MassLIFT will begin its eighth year with a corps of up to thirty-six new AmeriCorps members helping their host sites to build local and regional capacity for conservation outreach, land stewardship, collaborative conservation, and community engagement. Our 2017 program will run from August 28, 2017 - July 27, 2018. Our members will serve full-time (1700 hours over 11 months) in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinators, Regional Conservation Coordinators, Community Engagement Coordinators, and Youth Education Coordinators.

Non-profit organizations in MA with land conservation or land stewardship in their mission interested in applying to host MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members in our program should contact [Sean Pollock](#), MassLIFT Program Director, at Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust for further information and to discuss your position interests. New and prior organizations, as well as collaborations between staffed and unstaffed organizations, are encouraged to apply. Host site eligibility and application information is posted [here](#). Host sites will be selected on a rolling basis, with a target date of March 3. Applications will be considered after that date if there are still unassigned AmeriCorps members available.

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