



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

June 15, 2017

Volume 16, Number 33

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"Sooner or later we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans." ~ Eco Morales, President of Bolivia

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MLTC News

1) NONPROFITS DEFEND AGAINST BID TO FORCE PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Excerpts from State House News Service, June 13, 2017 by Colin A. Young

The Trustees, representing land conservation groups, as well as hospitals, human service providers, churches, and YMCAs turned out for the hearing before the Joint Committee on Revenue on Tuesday, June 13 to try to sink pieces of legislation that call for some non-

profits to pay more in property taxes or community payments, better known as the PILOT bills. A letter co-signed by MLTC, the Trustees, Mass Audubon, and the Nature Conservancy provided additional supporting arguments. Click [here](#) to read the letter. Many thanks to Jen Ryan from the Trustees for leading this process for the land trust community.

The Joint Committee on Revenue solicited testimony on bills including Rep. Stephen Kulik bill (H 1565) and Rep. David Nangle bill (H 3526), each of which would establish a different system whereby property tax-exempt organizations would contribute more to their host communities. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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2) SAVE THE DATE: FALL MEMBER MEETING

Friday, September 15, 2017

Location to be announced

Save the date for the Fall MLTC Member/Steering Committee Meeting on Friday, September 15, 2017. These valuable gatherings host a wide range of topics that help promote land protection and stewardship for your land trust. They are also great opportunities to connect with fellow land professionals. Stay tuned for an agenda and location.

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Local Land Trust News

3) STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS GIVEN IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The Baker-Polito administration awarded the Kestrel Land Trust, the Department of Fish and Game, the Franklin Land Trust, the Town of Plainfield, the Hilltown Land Trust, the Town of Westhampton, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Town of Freetown, and the Nature Conservancy with various grants for conservation projects in early June. "We are proud to work with communities and conservation groups to ensure the protection of over 4,100 acres of beautiful open space and wildlife habitat for generations to come," Governor Charle Baker said. Click [here](#) for the full story!

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Legal/Legislative News

4) CONSERVATION TAX DEDUCTIONS TARGETED AGAIN

Excerpts from "Our response to a new tax break analysis," June 6, 2017 by Andrew Bowman, President, Land Trust Alliance

In early June, the *Wall Street Journal* posted to its blog an item about tax breaks associated with conservation easements. This post, "[When a Conservation Tax Break Protects Backyards and Golf Courses](#)," is based on findings from a new Brookings Institute study authored by Adam Looney. For more on that study, [visit the Brookings Institute website](#).

Andrew Bowman, President, Land Trust Alliance, believes this analysis misses the mark and acknowledges there exists a small group of bad actors seeking to profit off charitable donations. The Alliance will continue to advocate for this widely beneficial and extremely cost effective tax deduction that's proven to save the places people need and love. The entire land trust community must remain vigilant.

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5) AG HEALY CHALLENGES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER FAILURE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM TOXIC PESTICIDE

Attorney General Maura Healey today announced that she has joined six other attorneys general in filing a challenge against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s decision to abandon an important proposed ban on the use of a toxic pesticide which is widely used on food consumed by infants, young children, and pregnant women. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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News

6) REVERE BEACH SUFFERS FROM DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION CONSTRAINTS

Excerpts from State House News Service, June 12, 2017 by Andy Metzger

Last weekend one of the state's premier beaches was strewn with seaweed and detritus, recalling an earlier era for North Shore lawmakers who laid the problem at the feet of Gov. Charlie Baker. An administration official said the beach is regularly cleaned and some capital improvements are in the works.

"Over the last year, and I believe as a direct result of this Baker administration's 9C cuts, Revere Beach and other beaches along our coast have started to slide backwards sadly," Rep. RoseLee Vincent, a Revere Democrat, said on Monday. "Without proper funding and maintenance and staffing, I see America's first public beach seems to be transforming back to the days of disrepair and apathy." Click [here](#) for the full story.

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7) BAKER-POLITIO ADMINISTRATION AWARDS OVER \$1 MILLION IN CLIMATE VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS FUNDING TO 71 COMMUNITIES

Excerpts from Energy and Environmental Affairs, June 8, 2017

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced over \$1 million in grant funding and designation status has been awarded to 71 towns and cities across the Commonwealth through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The new grant and designation program, which builds on Governor Baker's Executive Order 569 as well as other administration-led state and local partnerships, will provide communities with technical support, climate change data and planning tools to identify hazards and develop strategies to improve resilience. Click [here](#) for the full release.

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8) STAND UP FOR NOAA!

Excerpts from *Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup*, June 6, 2017, by Mass Audubon

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Service budget is critical. [Contact your Congressperson](#) and tell them not to cut the budget. Let them know that [proposed federal budget cuts](#) would impact climate change and ocean research that helps prepare communities for sea level rise and more intense storms. These cuts would also impact NOAA's Sea Grant program, which works with universities in 33 states and funds coastal and marine research locally at MIT and Woods Hole.

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9) U.S. STATES UPHOLD PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Excerpts from *Business Insider*, June 9, 2017 by Leanna Garfield and Skye Gould

In early June, President Trump announced his intention to pull the US out of the landmark Paris climate agreement. But not all US states (or cities) are on board. Eleven states, plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, have vowed to pursue policies that will uphold the US' commitments to the accord. They've joined the United States Climate Alliance, a growing, bipartisan group that seeks to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions nationwide. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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10) SAVE OUR NATIONAL MONUMENTS!

The Trump administration recently ordered a "review" of national monuments, and he made clear that he thought they should be scaled back or even eliminated. Sixteen presidents from both sides of the aisle have designated national monuments to protect places like the Grand Canyon and our local Northeast Seamounts and Canyons. Trump's executive order puts the fate of these parks and monuments at risk.

The Department of the Interior recently released the names of the monuments under review and announced a formal public comment period. **With your help, we can demonstrate the overwhelming public support for national monuments and resist the administration's attack on our public lands.**

This is relevant to Massachusetts due to our local monuments at risk. For example, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, the only monument in the Atlantic ocean, is off the coast of Cape Cod. Katahdin Woods and Waters is just north of us in Maine. Click [here](#) to take action with us and protect our public lands.

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11) 13 U.S. CITIES DEFY TRUMP BY POSTING DELETED CLIMATE DATA

Excerpts from *EcoWatch*, June 12, 2017 by Lorraine Chow

More than one dozen U.S. cities have banded together to post deleted climate change information and research from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website that was notoriously scrubbed by the Trump administration. In May, Chicago became the first city to host the deleted pages, and now other mayors are

following in their footsteps by creating their own "Climate Change is Real" websites. The "Climate Change is Real" website contains information on the basic science behind climate change, the ways weather is impacted from increased greenhouse gas emissions and actions the federal government has taken to reduce the impact. Major cities including Atlanta, Boston, Houston, San Francisco and Seattle have joined the effort. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Conferences

12) LAND TRUST ALLIANCE RALLY 2017

October 26-28, 2017

Denver, Colorado

Registration is now open for the Land Trust Alliance Rally: 2017. Rally: The National Land Conservation Conference is a special place where you can gather round with fellow land conservationists from near and far to catch up and find out what's new in land conservation, discuss opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and get re-energized and inspired by folks who share your passion for conservation. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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Trainings

13) CLE - CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS - BASICS & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Boston Bar Association, 16 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

Conservation Restrictions can have the potential to give those involved great tax benefits, but if not done properly can create many difficulties for your client. This CLE is being taught by some of the leading authorities on Conservation Restrictions, including Buzz Constable and Steven Small. Among the topics attendees will learn are the basics behind Conservation Restrictions, the special process and requirements that make Massachusetts regulations unique in this area, compliance with and enforcement of a restriction once it's created, and recent legal and regulatory developments in the area, including a discussion of IRS Notice 2017-10. Click [here](#) to RSVP. Non-member fee is \$100.

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14) ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Environmental League of Massachusetts, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

The Environmental League of Massachusetts is once again 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. Our 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 and to register.

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Grants

15) WALLACE GLOBAL FUND

The mission of the Wallace Global Fund is to promote an informed and engaged citizenry, to fight injustice, and to protect the diversity of nature and the natural systems upon which all life depends. Grants are provided for initiatives at the national and global levels, as well as for significant local or regional programs offering the potential to leverage broader impact. Online letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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16) BOATU.S. FOUNDATION: GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM

The goal of the BoatU.S. Foundation is to be a leader in boating safety and environmental education and outreach, with the purpose of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of the nation's waterways, and keeping boating a safe, accessible, and enjoyable pastime. The Foundation's Grassroots Grants Program supports local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations, as well as boating clubs and student groups, that develop innovative projects to promote safe and clean boating on local waterways. Past topics have ranged from PSAs on the effects of boating under the influence to hands-on education about the effects of marine debris. Grants of up to \$10,000 are provided. Letters of intent may be submitted throughout the year. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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17) NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: PULLING TOGETHER INITIATIVE

The Pulling Together Initiative, a program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), is intended to help local communities throughout the country promote the conservation of natural habitats by preventing, managing, or eradicating invasive and noxious plant species. This program provides grants to develop or advance Cooperative Weed Management Areas and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas. Priority will be given to projects that include partnerships with a wide cross-section of invasive species stakeholders including private landowners, local nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and federal agencies. Grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. All grants require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services from non-federal sources. Nonprofit organizations, government agencies, Indian tribes, and educational institutions are eligible to apply. Pre-proposals must be submitted online by July 12, 2017; full proposals are due September 19, 2017. To learn and to apply, click [here](#).

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Jobs

18) COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER - WILDLANDS TRUST

Wildlands Trust is looking to hire a Manager for its Community Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP provides reliable and affordable on-the-ground project planning and land stewardship support for towns, private land owners, and non-profits who own conservation lands. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) VISITOR GREETER - BECKET LAND TRUST

The Becket Land Trust is looking to fill the position of a Visitor Greeter (VG) for the summer season of 2017. This person will have the responsibility of collecting parking fees or confirming membership of all visitors wishing to park at the Historic Quarry and Forest parking area. Additionally, the VG will provide information to visitors about the appropriate use of the property, its historic and natural significance. The position is for the summer season starting immediately and running until September. The hours are 40 hours a week and coverage will be Friday through Sunday and flexible days Monday through Thursday. The wage for this position is \$15 per hour. Please direct inquiries to LandTrust@BecketLandTrust.org.

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20) LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST - MASS AUDUBON

Experienced individual sought to work collaboratively with an inspired team in Mass Audubon's Land Conservation Department to identify, evaluate, and complete compelling land protection projects throughout the Commonwealth. Based at Mass Audubon Headquarters in Lincoln, MA, this position will involve planning, due diligence, and negotiation relative to the acquisition of land and rights in land to respond to climate change, provide opportunities to connect people with nature, and enhance Mass Audubon's 31,000+ acre statewide sanctuary system. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS - LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. LCV is looking for a Director of Development Partnerships to join our fundraising efforts and help us meet our ambitious revenue and program goals. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) TOWN PLANNER/CONSERVATION AGENT - TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

The Town of Southbridge seeks qualified candidates for the full time position of Town

Planner/Conservation Agent in the Economic Development and Planning Department. Responsibilities include providing specialized technical, administrative, and customer service support to the department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and other Town Boards/Commissions as required. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) ENDANGERED SPECIES REVIEW ASSISTANT - DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game seeks an Endangered Species Review Assistant. The Endangered Species Review Assistant (Office Support Specialist II) assists the Senior Review Assistant in providing administrative support to the Regulatory Review Section of the NHESP. This includes accurate, efficient, and timely processing of large volumes of correspondence; coordinating responses with Review Biologists to ensure on-time responses and excellent customer service; entering data into the Project Review Database. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT - CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) seeks an experienced, engaging, and very organized individual to serve as executive assistant to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The successful candidate, who will have solid prior experience supporting a senior executive (or comparable experience), will routinely provide administrative support to the CEO and, where appropriate, act as a trusted surrogate to further solutions on behalf of the CEO. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) ADVOCACY CENTER DIRECTOR - CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is seeking an experienced and innovative advocate on energy and the environment to lead its Massachusetts Advocacy Center, the largest of its five Advocacy Centers in New England. Working with the President, the Executive Vice President, and CLF senior staff, the Massachusetts Advocacy Center Director (ACD) will be responsible for developing and implementing an advocacy program for Massachusetts with the potential to impact law and policy throughout New England and nationally. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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26) DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE & CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER - WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Wellesley College seeks a Director for Energy, Infrastructure and Chief Sustainability Officer. Reporting to the Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Planning, the Director will be responsible for effective and sustainable operation of the College's infrastructure system, and will serve as the Chief Sustainability Officer for the College. The Director will deliver a high level of sustainability performance in the built habitat, including reducing the campus's carbon footprint, minimizing waste generation,

promoting sustainable landscaping, and improving storm water management. The Director will oversee the office of sustainability and help integrate physical planning and operations with academic programs, student and faculty research, civic engagement initiatives and community outreach. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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27) PRESERVATION EASEMENT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND

Historic New England is committed to promoting preservation best practices and providing technical guidance and expertise to historic homeowners. Partnering with owners to protect their properties with preservation easements is an important way that we deliver on this charge. The preservation services team is seeking an enthusiastic and engaging person to steward relationships between interested individuals and the organization in order to protect a diverse range of New England's historic resources. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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28) CONSERVATION COORDINATOR - CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST

Connecticut Farmland Trust seeks a full-time conservation coordinator. The successful candidate will oversee the stewardship program, prepare and manage documents for easement projects, assist Executive Director in developing new easement projects, and provide support for fundraising, publicity, and administration functions to help achieve the organization's mission, strategies, goals, and objectives. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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29) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP

American Conservation Experience, a Non-Profit Conservation Corps based in Flagstaff, AZ, in partnership with the National Park Service, is seeking TWO Cultural Resource Management Interns to dedicate 12 weeks in support of the Cape Cod National Seashore assisting the Park's Cultural Resource Program Manager with a number of essential tasks to help preserve, protect and interpret the Park's cultural resources. Start date is September 4, 2017; end date is November 24, 2017. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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30) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND ADMINISTRATOR - TOWN OF FALMOUTH

The Town of Falmouth is seeking a highly qualified individual to be responsible for providing staff support and facilitating the Community Preservation Committee in its primary areas of responsibility. Provides direction and oversight of the CPA-funded project management process, which requires compliance with the Community Preservation Act, the Falmouth Town Community Preservation Committee Bylaw, warrant articles under which Town Meeting appropriates CPA funding, and project grant

agreements and their special conditions. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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31) OPEN SPACE MANAGER - TOWN OF IPSWICH

The Town of Ipswich seeks qualified candidates for the part-time (19 hrs/wk) exempt position of Open Space Manager. Under general supervision of the Director of Planning & Development, and in collaboration with the Open Space Steward, oversees the Town's open space plans and initiatives, including: manages the Open Space Bond Program and Open Space, Recreation and Water Supply Protection Fund; works closely with boards and committees on matters that involve open space interests; and provides guidance and direction for the Open Space Steward relative to land stewardship. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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Resources

32) LAND TRUST ALLIANCE "LAND IS MY..." VIDEO CONTEST

The Land Trust Alliance's "Land is My..." video contest is back! Encourage your members to get started on planning and creating their video submissions to this second annual contest. Last year's [first place winner was Stephen Ramirez](#) of San Marcos, Texas, who designated the accredited Texas Land Conservancy to receive the grand prize of \$10,000 - and LTA is offering that prize again this year!

While the uploading of videos begins in September, community members can spend the next few months planning and filming their videos of what land means to them. Here's an [easy-to-use tutorial on how to make a video](#) you can share with your members, and a [social media toolkit](#) to use in promoting the contest. Click [here](#) for more information.

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33) BY FRIDAY: PLEASE FILL OUT STATE CLIMATE WEBSITE SURVEY

As many of you know, the state is working on a state climate website that will host new statewide climate projections and associated data, the municipal vulnerability preparedness program assessment tools and guide, a repository of climate resources specific to Massachusetts, and eventually, the state adaptation plan. As part of this build, the state is trying to determine the priority for spatial data in the site, and to get feedback on the climate change variables they will be focusing with the UMass team. Please fill out the [survey](#) by tomorrow, Friday, June 16, 2017. Thank you!

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