



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"Nature has been for me, for as long as I remember, a source of solace, inspiration, adventure, and delight; a home, a teacher, a companion." ~ Lorraine Anderson, writer, editor, teacher, musician

Important Dates:

November 14 - MLTC Workshop - Keeping an Eye on Stewardship

November 18 - MLTC Member/Steering Committee Meeting

November 23 - Deadline for Workshop Request for Proposals for Conference 2017

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MLTC News

1) MA LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - DUE 11/23

27th Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - Worcester, MA

Proposals due - November 23, 2016

We are seeking proposals for workshops for the 2017 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference. This year's theme is "Scaling Up: Meeting New Challenges." This annual, day-long training and networking event provides land trust board members and staff, parks administrators and advocates, watershed organizations, trails and friends associations, municipal commission members and others interested in land conservation with the information, skills, and connections they need to be most effective. We welcome your workshop proposals addressing land conservation topics in these categories:

- Theme & Emerging Issues
- Land Management & Stewardship
- Land Protection Tools & Techniques
- Legal, Tax & Compliance Matters

- Organizational Management & Fundraising
- Urban & Community Conservation

To submit a workshop proposal, click [here](#). Please be sure to click "DONE" at the end of the form to submit your proposal. If you have questions about the submission process or problems submitting your proposal online, please contact Kathy McGrath at kmcgrath@massland.org.

In addition, we are very grateful to the organizations who have been conference sponsors in the past. If you would like to be a sponsor, get details [here](#). Get a sponsorship form [here](#).

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2) MLTC WORKSHOP - KEEPING AN EYE ON STEWARDSHIP

Monday, November 14, 2016, 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Stockbridge Town Hall - Community Room - Stockbridge, MA

Brought to you by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, the Land Trust Alliance, Berkshire Natural Resources Council and Great Barrington Land Conservancy, this workshop will address tackling that mountain of baseline documentation and annual monitoring visits. It will offer guidance and resources for growing volunteer monitoring programs and strengthening your conservation restriction enforcement.

Our discussion will be led by the Land Trust Alliance's New England Program Manager, Becca Washburn. The evening will include many opportunities for problem solving your specific stewardship needs, so come armed with questions! Bring one of your real life stewardship challenges to discuss. We will conclude with handouts and direct you to the resources available to make stewardship a manageable and fun process.

Free pizza, salad, and refreshments will be served at 5:00pm; program begins at 5:30pm. RSVP by emailing your name to info@massland.org with the subject "Stewardship Workshop." Click [here](#) for the flyer.

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3) MLTC MEMBER/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - OPEN TO ALL

November 18, 2016, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Assabet National Wildlife Refuge, 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA

All MLTC Members are invited to attend and participate. These valuable gatherings host a wide range of topics that help promote land protection and stewardship [for your land trust](#). Look for an agenda in an upcoming E-News and plan to attend! You will not be disappointed.

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Local Land Trust News

4) BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL WORKS TO CREATE "THE HIGH ROAD"

Inspired by the Coast to Coast trail in England or the Camino de Santiago in Spain, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council is working to create a completely hike-able Berkshires. The system of trails and conservation land will tie together the finest features of the region, including mountains, streams, farm valleys, and wildlands to the villages, cafes, and cultural institutions. It is a demonstration of connecting livable communities to nature. The system will offer variations in terrain, starting points, and durations of walks, from 30 minutes to 30 days. BNRC has made great progress, but they still need help! Click [here](#) to donate and learn more.

If you have a success story you would like to share with the MassLand Community submit a 200-300 word summary to enews@massland.org.

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News

5) PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY VIOLATES ARTICLE 97 IN MARTHA'S VINEYARD - MLTC WEIGHS IN

A company has recently proposed to install a solar array on Martha's Vineyard land taken in 1990 by the Town of Oak Bluffs "for the protection of the town water supply and the establishment of a well." MLTC weighed in, informing the Martha's Vineyard Commission that this is clearly a violation of Article 97, which states that land taken or acquired for the "conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources" shall not be used for other purposes or "otherwise disposed of" without the two thirds vote of the General Court. Land being used as a commercial solar array is clearly a change in use from well protection. This is an issue that continues to arise and one that we as a conservation community must pay attention to. To read the letter from MLTC, click [here](#).

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6) ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS LINGER AHEAD OF CASINO VOTES

As Massachusetts voters line up for the polls on Election Day next week, they will be posed with Question 1: allowing the Gaming Commission to issue an additional slots license. The state of Rhode Island has the same question on their ballot. The Eco Rhode Island News explored the environmental impact of their proposed casino. To read the full story, click [here](#).

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Nature News

7) THE NATION'S NEWEST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - CLOSE TO HOME

Excerpts from the Department of the Interior, October 25, 2016

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has successfully secured the nation's newest national wildlife refuge, the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, a conglomeration of shrubland and young forests for wildlife in New England and eastern New York. Secretary

of the Interior Sally Jewell says, "Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge will give New Englanders and New Yorkers the chance to conserve important habitat in the region, ensuring current and future generations can experience the rich variety of animals and plants that call these special places home." To read the full story, click [here](#).

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8) ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE - A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO FORESTS

Excerpts from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, November 2, 2016



Climate change means that trees germinating today will be living in a much-altered climate by the time they reach middle age. The expected changes are likely to hit them hard and threaten key forest functions in the decades ahead. However, appropriate management shall enable to increase the forest habitat's adaptability. To read more, click [here](#).

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Workshops

9) NEW ENGLAND PLANT DIVERSITY: SESSION 1

Sunday, November 6, 2016, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Join Garden in the Woods and learn how to make sense of the new plant universe from one of the best botanists in the field, Arthur Haines. In session 1 of this 5 session series, students will examine necessary vocabulary that allows for comprehension of plant identification and classification based on vegetative and reproductive structures. An introduction to plant nomenclature, phylogeny, and scientific names will also be provided. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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10) WILD EDIBLES

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Conway, MA

Join [Earthwork Programs](#), [Natural Vitality](#) and a community of beginners and experienced alike for an afternoon of identifying, gathering, processing & eating wild edibles! \$50/adult, \$30/child with adult, prepaid. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Conferences

11) 2nd ANNUAL BERKSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), Church Street, North Adams, MA

The 2nd Annual Berkshire Natural History Conference features an incredible series of fun, inspiring, and informative presentations by regional naturalists who love what they do - and the place they study. The conference features Pam Weatherbee, Joan Edwards and Alyssa Bennett (in addition to local field biologists and naturalists), exhibits, a book sale and more to explore! Lunch is included. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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12) NCSE 17th NATIONAL CONFERENCE & GLOBAL FORUM: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

January 24-26, 2017

Washington, D.C.

On January 24-26, 2017, the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) will host the 17th National Conference and Global Forum: Integrating Environment and Health. The conference will address the critical, interconnected issues of environment and health and how to improve the health and well-being of people, the planet, and its ecosystems.

Join over 1,000 leaders in science, technology, government, business, civil society, and education to consider cutting-edge issues, explore new technologies and best practices, identify research priorities, and recommend solutions for policy and practice. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Events

13) APR PROGRAM REGULATION INFORMATION SESSION

November 9, 2016, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Brigham Hill Community Farm, Grafton, MA

Commissioner Lebeaux will host this informative and engaging meeting, featuring a presentation by the Department on the regulatory changes made to the APR Program, including a summary of stakeholder comments. There will also be an opportunity for discussion and questions. In addition to the meeting, the Department will be hosting additional information sessions over the next year on various aspects of the APR Program. Details such as location/time and topic areas to be announced. For questions, contact Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us.

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14) GREAT MARSH SEA LEVEL RISE SYMPOSIUM 2016: IMPLICATIONS FOR QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

November 17, 2016, 8:30am - 3:00pm

Woodman's of Essex, 121 Main Street, Essex, MA

Is your town one of the Great Marsh communities? Do you live near the coast? Whether your answer is yes or no to these questions, it is essential to discuss predicted sea level rise in Massachusetts. Join fellow local officials, residents, business owners, and partners to discuss the implications of climate change and sea level rise specifically for the Great Marsh communities, from economic impacts to transportation challenges and safety issues. Anyone is encouraged to attend. Register by November 4th for discounted registration of \$15, or after November 4th until noon on November 16th for \$20. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

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15) FOSTERING A CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP - CAN WE LEVERAGE THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK MODEL BEYOND NEW HAMPSHIRE?

November 17, 2016, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension invites you and the conservation community of New England to learn about [The Stewardship Network: New England](#), an initiative piloted in 2013 in New Hampshire. Since its inception, organizations beyond New Hampshire have inquired about expanding the Network into other New England states. The objective of the meeting is for New England conservation partners to explore the model and ponder its potential expansion. RSVP by November 10th. To learn more and RSVP, click [here](#).

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16) STORMWATER FOR TOWNS: SAVE MONEY! SAVE STREAMS & LAKES!

Friday, November 18, 2016, 9:00am - 11:30am

Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA

Join the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition in this roundtable discussion about cost-effective stormwater solutions for cities and towns. The meeting will feature expert speakers on runoff remedies, costs of Best Management Practices, EPA municipal (MS4) permits and stormwater assistance programs. Municipal officials, stormwater committees, highway departments, lake associations, watershed groups and concerned citizens will gain practical guidance to help improve the health of streams and lakes. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

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Trainings

17) WEBINAR: EPA GRANTS AWARD PROCESS

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. The webinar will cover grants topics, including: how to find and apply for grant opportunities; EPA's new Grants.gov requirement; and preparing a proper budget detail. In addition, we will be hosting a Q&A session during the second half of the webinar. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

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Grants

18) U.S. FOREST SERVICE COMMUNITY FOREST GRANTS

January 13, 2017 deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry staff, requests applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program or CFP). This is a competitive grant program whereby 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 from a willing seller. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and provide the 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.

Eligible lands for grants funded under this program are private forests that are at least five acres in size, suitable to sustain natural vegetation, and at least 75% forested. The lands must also be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

The U.S. Forest Service has kindly offered this useful resource to guide you through the Community Forest Program Grants application process and understanding of next steps if you are selected for funding next spring. To view the road map, click [here](#).

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19) NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS

November 8, 2016 deadline

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in cooperation with its federal partners, is offering an initiative to connect youth to the outdoors by providing support for conservation employment programs. This initiative brings together public and private partners to support those organizations that are creating innovative conservation job opportunities for youth (aged 16-25 years old) on public lands. Project work funded through this program is restricted to habitat and species restoration projects that directly benefit the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, or U.S. Forest Service facilities, lands, programs, or missions. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, educational institutions, and Indian tribes. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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20) RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANTS

February 1, 2017 deadline

The Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program (RTP) generally provides grants for project costs ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000. However, larger projects of up to \$100,000 will be considered if the project is proven to directly impact multiple communities upon completion. The RTP is a REIMBURSEMENT grant program, meaning grantees must first pay for expenditures themselves and then submit for reimbursement using the required documentation. Grants are awarded for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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21) ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION: TD GREEN STREETS GRANT PROGRAM: URBAN FORESTRY PROJECTS

November 23, 2016 deadline

TD Green Streets, a grant program funded by TD Bank and administered by the Arbor Day Foundation, provides funds to municipalities in the communities served by TD Bank in 15 eastern states (including Massachusetts), as well as Washington, DC. Through the program, municipalities are eligible to receive one of ten \$20,000 grants in support of local forestry projects in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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Jobs

22) CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGER - GREENBELT, ESSEX COUNTY'S LAND TRUST

Greenbelt seeks to hire a full time Conservation Project Manager. The Project Manager will assist with project research tasks, landowner cultivation and follow up, coordinating acquisition due diligence, drafting and submitting conservation land tax credit applications, grant-writing, and CR baseline documentation reports. Interested individuals should apply by close of business Friday, November 30, 2016. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - WILLIAMSTOWN RURAL LANDS FOUNDATION

The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF), a 30-year old land conservation trust and education organization in Williamstown Massachusetts, is looking for an Executive Director to lead the WRLF during an exciting time in its history. He or she will replace its current director, who is retiring after 23 years of exemplary service to our community.

The Executive Director will manage priorities in land conservation, outdoor education and organizational growth as recently revised and determined by our Board of Directors. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) MANAGING DIRECTOR - GROW NATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Grow Native Massachusetts is a vibrant and growing nonprofit founded in 2010 that promotes the importance of native plants to landscapes across Massachusetts. The Managing Director will assume responsibility for all day-to-day administration and operations, working closely with the President and the Board of Directors to manage the organization's growing programs. This position requires an ability to wear many hats and to work independently on a full-time or ¾ time basis. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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25) OFFICE MANAGER - ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) seeks an Office Manager to manage its Boston office on Beacon Hill and provide administrative support to staff and the board of directors. The Office Manager reports to the Executive Director. This position is responsible for general office operations, board and committee support, human resources, and general administrative support and may also assist with fundraising and communications efforts when necessary. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

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Resources

26) LAND TRUST ALLIANCE STANDARDS & PRACTICES - COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 16

The Land Trust Alliance has extended the comment period to revise the existing Standards & Practices until December 16, 2016. Edits made during the initial community participation phase submitted by September 15, 2016 can be found [here](#). Based on the helpful feedback that you have already provided, LTA has created a new discussion draft. It is important that the Massachusetts land trust community participates and helps shape this new version. The Standards & Practices are important guiding principles for land trusts to follow to ensure best practices. You can provide feedback online [here](#) or by e-mail to SandP@lta.org.

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