



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

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Land Conservation Community
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"It would be worth the while if in each town there were a committee appointed to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment." ~ Henry David Thoreau

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MLTC NEWS

1) Marylynn Gentry To Leave Mass Land Trust Coalition

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I will soon be stepping down from my Executive Director position here at MLTC for medical reasons. This decision was incredibly difficult. The past two years have been such a joy working with a wonderful staff, board, and most importantly you, our members and friends.

I know MLTC will find a fantastic new Executive Director who will build on the strong ties MLTC has fostered with the conservation community over the years. MLTC is an organization that does tremendous work helping land trusts network, learn, and benefit from advocacy efforts at the state level. I have no doubt that these endeavors will continue in capable hands.

THANK YOU, the conservation community, for your support and for your tireless efforts in protecting the land we love. It truly means a lot to me and to the organization. I wish you all the best.

Warm Regards,

Marylynn Gentry
Executive Director

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2) Community Preservation Funding Update

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue has released the Community Preservation Trust Fund distribution for each Community Preservation Act (CPA) city and town. In total, over \$24 million was paid to the 162 communities eligible for distribution. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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3) Amherst Passes Two Groundbreaking Energy Articles

Excerpts from The Daily Hampshire Gazette, November 9, 2017 by Scott Merzbach

On November 9, 2017, the Town of Amherst passed two groundbreaking articles at Town Meeting:

- 1) a resolution urging 100% Renewable Energy and consideration of the California model of Community Choice Energy (passed unanimously), and
 - 2) a bylaw requiring that new town buildings be Zero Energy (passed by a large margin).
- The articles were brought by petitioners Mothers Out Front, Pioneer Valley and Climate Action Now. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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4) EPA Announces Appointment of Alexandra Dunn to Region 1 Administrator

Excerpts from Environmental Protection Agency, November 16, 2017

On November 16, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Alexandra Dapolito Dunn to become Regional Administrator for Region 1. With over two decades of experience in environmental law, legislation, policy, and regulatory affairs, Ms. Dunn will oversee federal environmental protection efforts in: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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5) Trump's NOAA Pick Gets Climate Change, But Could Still Weaken Key Science Agency

Excerpts from Huffington Post, November 29, 2017 by Alexander C. Kaufman

Unlike all of his predecessors, Barry Myers, President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is not a scientist. Yet unlike nearly every other environmental agency head picked by the current White House, the chief executive of the forecasting company AccuWeather understands that climate change is real and caused by humans. But Myers' apparent break with an administration stacked full of people who reject the overwhelming evidence that climate change is serious, worsening and manmade didn't trump Democratic senators' concerns that he's going to make major changes at NOAA. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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STORIES

6) *A Sportsman's Moment of Truth: The Head of Trout Unlimited Weighs In*

Excerpts from Mountain Journal, November 5, 2017 by Todd Wilkinson

Trout Unlimited's President and CEO Chris Wood Talks Zinke, Pruitt, Climate Change, Pebble Mine and Lake Trout in Yellowstone. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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7) *Invasive Hippos, Camels, and Elephants Offer a Glimmer of Hope for Earth's Megafauna*

Excerpts from Earther, October 2, 2017 by Ari Phillips

It's standard news to hear about the rapid decline of wildlife these days: As humanity's environmental impact has surged since the Industrial Revolution, animals have suffered the brunt of the consequences. But megafauna-i.e. very large animals-have been the target of human activity for much longer, and many of them went extinct thousands of years ago, often due to over-hunting. But a recent study offers unexpected signs of hope for some of these long-suffering megafauna, which make up Earth's most imperiled group of species. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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8) *Artificial Lights are Eating Away at Dark Nights - and That's Not a Good Thing*

Excerpts from Los Angeles Times, November 22, 2017 by Amina Khan

Earth is losing its darkness. A new study using satellite data finds that artificially lit surfaces around the world are spreading and growing brighter, producing more light pollution at night. The findings, described in the journal Science Advances, track what researchers called a worrisome trend that has implications for the environment as well as human health. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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EVENTS

9) *Open Space Networking Forum: Green Infrastructure & Climate Change Resiliency*

Monday, December 4, 2017, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Community Conservation Barn, Wildlands Trust, 675 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA

The Resilient Taunton Watershed Network will lead a discussion on the local engagement of green infrastructure to increase climate change resiliency. At this information session and workshop, conservation professionals will learn about resiliency methods and current plans geared towards developing our communities, open spaces,

and stewardship plans to work towards a healthy and sustainable future. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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10) A Conversation about the Massachusetts Forest Action Plan

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 10:00am - 12:30pm

MassWildlife Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

Join the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry for this conversation. The DCR is beginning the process of creating their 2020 Forest Action Plan. This document will build upon their 2010 Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategies. WE are the critical first step in this process. DCR wants to bring together a variety of forest stakeholders and stewards and hear our input on the issues, challenges and strategies related to protecting our forest resources in Massachusetts. Please RSVP to Lindsay Nystrom at Lindsay.Nystrom@state.ma.us.

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CONFERENCES

11) Landscape Safety Conference

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:30am - 3:30pm

Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA

Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito? Removed an attached tick? Encountered a poisonous plant? Do you work with pesticides? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, this Landscape Safety Conference is for you. You will explore many topics that are important for landscapers, arborists, tree wardens, lawn care professionals, grounds managers, and essentially any professionals working in outdoor environments. UMass Extension specialists and speakers from the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources and the UMass Laboratory of Medical Zoology will come together to provide this day-long program. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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GRANTS

12) National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

January 31, 2018 deadline

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. The focus is on ecological improvements, including wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; and water quality monitoring and stormwater management.

Projects should increase access to the benefits of nature, reduce the impact of environmental hazards, and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach, and implementation. The program requires the establishment of diverse partnerships of at least five organizations (nonprofit organizations, local and state government agencies, Indian tribes, and educational institutions). Grants for this program are available nationwide, but additional funding is available for specific geographic priorities. Matching grants will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, with an average of \$30,000. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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13) Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Jobs Supported

December 15, 2017 deadline

The Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program provides support to recruit, train, and place local, unemployed, and underemployed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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14) The Nathan Cummings Foundation

The Nathan Cummings Foundation is committed to creating a more just, vibrant, sustainable, and democratic society. The Foundation is currently focused on finding solutions to the two most challenging problems of our time - the climate crisis and growing inequality. The Foundation invests in the following four focus areas that together advance the vision of a healthy planet and a healthy democracy: Inclusive Clean Economy; Racial and Economic Justice; Corporate and Political Accountability; and Voices, Creativity, and Culture. Applying organizations' work should have global, national, or regional impact. Letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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15) FY18 Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant

January 11, 2018 deadline

The DWSP Grant Program has been providing grants to municipal and public water systems and fire districts for the acquisition of land in fee or a conservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction for water supply protection and land conservation purposes. Eligible projects include those that protect existing wells or intakes, planned new wells or intakes, or for groundwater recharge. The maximum grant award is \$300,000. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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JOBS

16) Executive Director - Mass Land Trust Coalition

The Board of Trustees of the Mass Land Trust Coalition is seeking a full-time Executive Director with strong non-profit management experience and a highly diverse skill set. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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17) Fee Stewardship Coordinator - MA Department of Fish & Game

The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is accepting resumes and applications from applicants for the position of Fee Stewardship Coordinator. The Fee Stewardship Coordinator is the primary overseer and manager of the realty aspects of MassWildlife's fee-owned properties, which include 167,000 acres assembled over the last century. The individual will have a thorough understanding of real estate terminology and research techniques and become familiar with the entirety of the agency's portfolio of properties, in order to advise staff on matters of acquisition and stewardship. The Fee Stewardship Coordinator will maintain realty records, coordinate boundary-marking efforts, survey contracts and other services, and manage selected boundary disputes and encroachment issues. He or she will conduct deed research and provide advice regarding property interests as necessary in support of agency stewardship, acquisition, and public enjoyment of agency lands. This effort will include periodic monitoring and site visits, collaboration in implementing the agency's Land Information System, procuring signage, assisting in the development of agency land-use policies, and being a good colleague for the other members of the Realty Section (Chief, CR Coordinator, Realty Specialist, and interns). To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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18) Farmland Protection Intern - American Farmland Trust

National non-profit agricultural conservation organization seeks a part-time intern in the Farmland Protection division. The Farmland Protection division is responsible for American Farmland Trust's ("AFT's") land project functions, including managing and stewarding conservation easements. AFT's current conservation easement portfolio includes more than 100 properties in 20 states. The primary function of the Farmland Protection Intern is to support the division's recordkeeping functions, including the implementation of new standards and practices. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) Assistant State Director - The Nature Conservancy

The Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is recruiting for an Assistant State Director to, among other things, oversee conservation programs and strategy related to our initiatives: land conservation, aquatic and terrestrial connectivity, urban-based conservation and climate mitigation/adaptation work. For a complete description and to apply, visit www.nature.org/careers and search for Job #45889. Posting closes 12/31/17.

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20) Conservation Coordinator - Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) Conservation Coordinator is based in the Exeter office and provides administrative, research, project management, outreach, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), field-related and other general assistance to the SELT Land Conservation and Stewardship staff. or more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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RESOURCES

21) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program - Additional Information

Communities are starting the process of convening stakeholders under the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) in sixty-six communities across Massachusetts. Under MVP, each community identifies climate change impacts and prioritizes vulnerabilities to be incorporated into local policy and planning. Land trusts have been getting involved in their local MVP process to promote nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions, such as conserving and restoring forest, wetlands and floodplains, play a huge role in fostering community resiliency - BUT are unlikely to happen unless local land trust allies get involved and advocate for nature-based solutions through the stakeholder process. Click here for a fact sheet on "[How to get Involved](#)" (which includes a map and list of the communities) and a "[Nature-Based Solutions Tool Kit](#)."

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