



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Celebration of Land Conservation About the Honorees

Jack Clarke, Buzz Constable, Don Henley, Joel Lerner, Bob Levite, Bob O'Connor, Pamela Resor, Wes Ward, Fred Winthrop & George Wislocki



Jack Clarke -

Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Mass Audubon
For the past 16 years of directing Mass Audubon's policy and legislative agendas, Jack has been indispensable in promoting sound environmental laws and regulations in the Commonwealth. He has been instrumental in helping to pass key legislation like the Rivers Act, Oceans Management Act, Community Preservation Act and much more. His quiet, behind-the-scenes style allows him to have the discussions that count with the people who matter. Before landing at Mass Audubon, Jack spent 13 with the Mass. Coastal Zone Management Office and 10 years with the US National Park Service.



William "Buzz" Constable -

For over 30 years Buzz has been a fixture in Massachusetts land conservation, serving as Director, Chair and now President of the (unstaffed) Lincoln Land Conservation Trust. He is one of the nation's leading advocates for local, volunteer land trusts. Buzz is a founding member of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and his contributions to the Coalition's work have been invaluable, drawing upon his experience in land stewardship, land use & environmental law, real estate investment, and local, regional & state public service. He is Executive Vice-President of A.W. Perry Inc. and oversees the company's commercial development division and legal services. He has served on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council since 1985, currently as Executive Committee & Legislative Chair



Photo by Olaf Heine

Don Henley -

Don Henley has been one of the best-known voices in the world of music for over 30 years, both as a member of the Eagles and as a solo artist. In 1990, home from touring, Don saw a television report stating that Walden Woods, where Henry David Thoreau had lived for two years while writing "Walden", was under threat by real estate developers. The works of Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson had a profound impact on Don in high school and college. He became involved in the effort to save the area known as the birthplace of the American environmental movement by founding The Walden Woods Project. He later started the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, to provide for research

and education regarding Thoreau. Don has written "Thoreau's writing struck me like a thunderbolt. I loved Emerson, too, and his essay, 'Self-Reliance,' was instrumental in giving me the courage to become a songwriter." The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is proud to honor Don Henley for "Preserving the Ideas of Conservation" by bringing new attention to Henry David Thoreau, one of our most influential thinkers on conservation.

Joel Lerner -



Joel was the Director of the Division of Conservation Services since before Mass. had an Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Over 37 years and 9 Secretaries of Environment, Joel reviewed and approved EVERY conservation restriction in the Commonwealth and administered the critical funding programs of Self-Help, Urban Self-Help and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He had a personal hand in the conservation of 183,000 acres and the wise investment of over \$250 million in parks, open space and wildlife habitat. Many in the Mass. conservation community regard him as one of the finest public servants we have ever known and his advice to the Coalition has been invaluable.



Robert Levite, Esq.-

Bob has been providing pro bono advice to land trusts and small non-profits for many years. His contributions to the Coalition's work have been invaluable. Among other chores, he chairs the Coalition's Attorneys' Advisory Panel, which considers legal issues of importance to the Mass. land protection community. Bob also lectures and teaches on land conservation and non-profit governance, including co-leading the Coalition's Tax Assessment traveling workshop.



Robert O'Connor -

As the Forest & Land Policy Director for the state Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) Bob O'Connor has been instrumental in ensuring that Massachusetts has some of the most effective state land conservation policies and programs in the nation. He is continually coming up with creative ways to get more conservation done, and to make it easier for landowners to work with state agencies. He has been especially effective in thinking about forest conservation from the twin perspectives of sustainable use and habitat conservation. Bob's approach to working with the land trust community is a principal reason that the relationship between land trusts and state agencies is one of the best public / private partnerships in the state.



Senator Pamela Resor -

Pam Resor has spent her professional career protecting the environment. From 1986-1988, Pam served as the Executive Director of MACC where she brought new professionalism to MACC's education and advocacy. She was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1990, and then was elected to the Massachusetts Senate in a special election in 1999. She rose to the position of Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture and to the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change before retiring from public service in 2008. During her entire career in the legislature she was the "go-to" on environment and conservation. She was our champion.



Wes Ward -

Wes Ward has had an inestimable impact on preserving the landscapes of the Commonwealth during his 25 years at The Trustees of Reservations. He has been a mentor to a host of land protection activists and professionals and provided thoughtful, wise counsel to any who seek it. Wes was one of the inaugural members of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. He was one of the founders of the Mass. Land Trust Coalition and served as Chair for its first seven years. Wes holds a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from University of Mass.



Frederic Winthrop, Jr. -

As Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture from 1975 to 1984, Fred Winthrop brought new energy and creativity to the department and redefined the role of Commissioner. He was keenly interested in keeping state owned land in agriculture, in land preservation, and in direct marketing of Massachusetts farm products. He instituted the regulation of pesticides in the Commonwealth, protecting people's health as well as the land against their harmful effects. He established the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program which buys the development rights to farmlands and has protected

priceless agricultural areas throughout the Commonwealth. In 1990, his Farmland Protection Program received the honor of being included in the final 1990 Farm Bill and has now become supported financially on a national basis. In 1985, he became Executive Director of The Trustees of Reservations, retiring in 2000 after 15 years of service. He currently serves on the President's Council of the American Farmland Trust.



George Wislocki -

George Wislocki came to the Berkshires in 1967 and ran the Berkshire Natural Resources Council for 34 years, where he became a formidable mover in environmental initiatives. He has been described as having a nearly religious zeal for defending the Berkshires, and particularly Mount Greylock. His charm, wit and one-liners are legendary. After a 1990 meeting with gubernatorial candidate John Silber, Wislocki told the Boston Globe that on environmental issues Silber was "one of the great minds of the 14th century." There are thousands of acres that would not have been saved without his efforts, and hundreds of colleagues and protégés whom he inspired, loved and tormented.

George was one of the founders of the Mass. Land Trust Coalition, and served on many statewide boards and commissions. He continues to serve the Berkshires as a director of Project Native and of Green Berkshires.