



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

June 8, 2011

Volume 11, Number 09

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

For more news and information, go to <<http://www.MassLand.org>>

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"I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?"

-- Robert Redford (b.1937), American actor & environmentalist --

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MLTC News

1) KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR MLTC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Support MLTC's free e-news, listserves, website resources and land trust workshops, and avoid missing out on discounts to the 2012 Mass Land Conservation Conference. Renew your membership today!

If your organization is not a member, you can **join now!** Get a 2010-2011 membership form [here](#)

Not a Land Trust? Become a [Friend of the Coalition!](#)

Not sure if you're a member? Check the list of current members [here](#)

The MLTC membership year runs from July 2011 to June 2012.

News

2) NEW STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS MEET WITH ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATIVE

--From ELM Bulletin, 6/3/2011

On Tuesday, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Ken Kimmell, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Ed Lambert met with members of the Mass. Environmental Collaborative in Framingham. The Collaborative is a statewide coalition of more than 50 environmental and conservation organizations that work together to advance a shared agenda to improve protection of the Massachusetts environment.

We discussed a wide range of issues including the environmental budget, state spending on land protection, the ongoing initiative to ensure sustainable use of water from the state's imperiled rivers, how to balance preservation and recreation at the Middlesex Fells Reservation, the need for an updated Bottle Bill, and much more.

More than 50 advocates from across Massachusetts, including a number of MLTC representatives, attended to meet the new heads of EEA, DEP and DCR. Attendees asked questions about the Patrick administration's environmental priorities during his second term and made suggestions about how to improve state environmental protection efforts.

Among the highlights were: Secretary Sullivan's commitment for the state to continue funding land protection at \$50 million per year; DEP Commissioner Kimmell's overview of DEP's cost-saving efforts in light of devastating budget cuts, including consideration of regulatory reforms that save money without reducing environmental protection; clear statements from a number of advocates that the state needs to finish the Sustainable Water Management Initiative to ensure adequate protections for streamflow; and a good discussion about how to allow more volunteers to help DCR with park maintenance and activities.

After a presentation from ELM's Vice President for Policy Nancy Goodman, Collaborative members discussed the state environmental budget and strategized ways to advocate for more funding. Members also raised priorities for their respective organizations to get advice from their peers.

We are grateful for everyone's participation and particularly to Secretary Sullivan and Commissioners Kimmell and Lambert for devoting substantial time to meet with us.

3) SENATE APPROVES PERFORMANCE-BASED CONSERVATION FUNDING

--From The Nature Conservancy, May 26, 2011

BOSTON, MA – Faced with closings, shorter seasons and limited maintenance for state and urban parks operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; the State Senate late Wednesday night approved a budget amendment that provides performance-based incentives for the agency that could restore major funding to the parks system.

Under an amendment sponsored by State Senator Dan Wolf (D), of the Cape and the Islands, the performance-based funding provides the Department of Conservation and Recreation with an incentive for increasing the numbers of visitors and providing better services.

The amount of funds from the performance-based incentive would vary from year to year based on the number of visitors to state and urban parks who pay admission and camping fees. The amendment does not authorize an increase in fees, yet the total benefits for the state's conservation work would be significant.

In recent years, budget cuts as high as 30 percent have led DCR to reduce visitor services and shorten seasons, effectively closing parks and reducing the opportunity for Massachusetts residents to enjoy nature.

“Our state parks are all about making it possible for all of our citizens – old and young, rich and poor, urban and rural – to enjoy our environment and natural heritage,” Wolf said.

“I’m proud to have helped put those parks on better financial footing, knowing that this will mean not just better access, but more support for conservation and management as well,” he said.

Nature Conservancy staff worked closely with members of the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Stewardship Council, Senate leadership and state officials to come up with a solution that would complement the Senate President Therese Murray’s efforts to ensure performance-based management and efficiencies.

More of this press release available [here](#).

4) DCR RELEASES DRAFT MAP IN ANTICIPATION OF ITS SECOND WORKSHOP SERIES ON LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS FOR STATE PROPERTIES

BOSTON – As part of its upcoming series of public workshops to discuss proposed landscape designations on state properties, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is releasing the following draft map. DCR is holding a series of seven regional workshops across the Commonwealth this spring to seek public input on the application of landscape designations for DCR properties.

At each workshop, DCR staff will provide the statewide context for the draft designations, but the discussion will be focused on park land in that particular region of the Commonwealth. The workshops are public and therefore open to anyone interested in the future management of DCR park land. The designations will be finalized by fall 2011.

More of this press release available [here](#).

5) BACHRACH AND BEGELFER AGREE: DEP CUTS WILL HURT ECONOMY

--From ELM Bulletin, 5/20/2011

ELM President George Bachrach and Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP) CEO David Begelfer co-authored an op-ed that appeared in the Salem News and other publications opposing proposed cuts to the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

In their op-ed, Bachrach and Begelfer argued that proposed reductions in MassDEP's budget will hurt the economic recovery by stymieing the regulatory agency's ability to issue project permits in a timely manner, thereby costing jobs tied to those projects.

Read the full op-ed [here](#).

6) SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE RELEASES BUDGET

--From *ELM Bulletin*

The Senate Ways and Means Committee released its FY 2012 budget. The Senate included some additional funding for environmental programs above the House budget.

For the items listed below, the point of comparison is the House budget as amended.

- * DEP Administrative account: \$1.96 million increase
- * TURI/OTA/DEP Toxics: \$28K increase (same as Governor's budget)
- * DEP Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup-Senate and House figures the same (an almost \$2m cut (13.8%) from FY '11)
- * DCR Administrative account: \$200,000 increase
- * DCR Office of Water Resources: Senate figure same as House amended figure
- * Division of Ecological Restoration: \$6k increase
- * DCR Stormwater-Senate figure same as House
- * DCR Dam Safety-Senate figure same as House
- * DCR State and Urban Parks - \$624,000 increase
- * DFG Natural Heritage Program - the Senate did not restore a line item with funding for the Program (the House did restore the line-item at \$150,000).

Overall environmental spending has reached historic lows. We are seeking further increases through amendments for programs that will still be seriously impacted without restored funding.

Allies in the Senate have agreed to file the following five amendments:

- * DEP Administrative Account: \$800,000 filed by Senator Downing
- * DEP Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Account: \$700,000 filed by Senator Donnelly
- * DCR State and Urban Parks: \$500,000 filed by Senator Hart on behalf of Senator Rush
- * DCR Retained Revenue: Would authorize DCR to retain \$7 million in revenues raised from the parks (currently DCR can only retain \$5.3 million) filed by Senator Wolf
- * Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program: restore the line item at \$150,000 filed by Senator Wolf.

Public Hearing

7) UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING

The Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture is holding a hearing on Tuesday, June 14 at 10 am. Note the hearing will be held in Warren, MA at Quaboag Regional High School. Bills being heard include those on forestry, hunting, old growth, raw milk and dairy production. For the full list of bills click [here](#).

8) CONTRIBUTE TO THE VISION FOR THE 495/METWROWEST REGION

Where should open space be preserved?

What transportation needs should be addressed?

How can we ensure continued economic prosperity in the region?

Share your input at upcoming public forums:

Wednesday, June 15
Westborough High School
90 West Main St.

Tuesday, June 21
Boxborough Holiday Inn
242 Adams Place

Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. (REVISED TIME)
Public Meeting 7:00 - 9:15p.m.
Light refreshments provided.
RSVP to info@495partnership.org

Learn more about how to get involved by visiting www.495partnership.org/compact
Click here to download the [event flyer](#), and for further details on the June Forums, click [here](#).

Conferences

9) 2011 SUSTAINABILITY CONGRESS - JUNE 20TH

This year's Sustainability Congress, on June 20, is at MIT in Cambridge. The Sustainability Congress is sponsored by the New England Water Works Sustainability Committee, a group working to strengthen relationships among water suppliers, the environmental community, and others, to better address issues of water management in our region. This year's Congress will feature MIT's Dr. Larry Susskind, a world renowned mediator and trainer, and the day will be interactive - Dr. Susskind will guide us through a role play exercise about water management. Please join us if you'd like to improve your negotiation skills and collaborative problem solving, together with colleagues across New England working on similar issues (from all stakeholder perspectives). **This all-day conference is specifically targeted for water utility professionals, watershed activists, and government regulators.**

Registration for the day is \$25 and includes lunch. To sign up, please download and fill out the attached form, and send it to NEWWA or to register online, follow this link to the NEWWA's website;
<http://www.newwa.org/NetCode/EventDetails.aspx?eID=96>

Workshop

10) LOCAL COMMUNITIES ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: MANAGING RISK IN DECISION-MAKING

Monday, June 20, 2011
9 am to 4:30 pm

This one-day course will introduce municipal leaders and planning professionals to the tools they need to better assess and manage the risks associated with climate change. Our approach helps community leaders to consider how they can alter everyday decision making to better prepare for the risks that may lie ahead. This course is tailored specifically for the needs of suburban and rural communities. The key concepts introduced will be "scenario planning" and collaborative approaches to decision-making.

WORKSHOP LEADERS:

Patrick Field is Managing Director of North American Programs at the Consensus Building Institute and Associate Director of the MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program. Patrick has helped thousands of stakeholders reach agreement on natural resource, land use, water, and air issues across the United States and Canada. Steve Aldrich is the founder and President of Bio Economic Research Associates LLC, an independent research and consulting firm specializing in complex issue analysis at the intersection of our emerging knowledge of biology and the economy. Steve studied evolutionary biology and has more than 25 years of experience working in various industries, including energy planning.

*Registration fee: \$45 for two participants, bring your own lunches. Pre-registration required: pci@ttor.org

Events

11) YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST PROGRAM IS BACK!

This summer's YEP session kicks off on Wednesday, **June 22nd from 12:00 to 1:15 @ ELM's offices**. We'll launch the program with a lively discussion and overview of MA's environmental priorities and challenges - and there are many - ranging from implementation of the state's climate plan to regional threats facing RGGI, environmental budget cuts to expansion of the bottle bill, and more. This first session will help provide a lay of the land, a framework for future sessions.

To sign up or get more information, please contact Program Coordinator Eugenia Gibbons at egibbons@environmentalleague.org

12) RIVERFEST: CELEBRATING THE SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

June 11-13

This is the 10th annual Riverfest event, celebrating the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers. All weekend there will be events on and along the rivers in 11 towns highlighting the natural and cultural resources of the rivers. All events are free and open to the public, many are family friendly. Boating, hiking, birding, arts, music, history and more! Visit an event in your community or come to a center of activity where there will be a number of events taking place. Visit www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org for a complete listing of events, and visit us on Facebook at Suasco Riverfest.

13) WHAT'S NEW IN PROTECTING RARE SPECIES?

Revised Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations

June 14, 2011 7:00 pm

NRWA River Resource Center, 592 Main Street (Rt.119), Groton, MA

The public is invited to learn about revisions to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations at the "What's New in Protecting Rare Species?" presentation. Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) staff are offering a series of informational meetings across the state for interested citizens, property owners, Conservation Commissioners, land managers, city and town officials, potential land developers, and others, to provide an overview of how rare species habitats are mapped in Massachusetts, how the NHESP regulatory review process works, the recent changes to the MESA regulations, and some detailed examples of habitat and species conservation outcomes that can be achieved.

This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Susan Benoit, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, at (508) 389-6393, or email susan.benoit@state.ma.us.

Resources

14) OPENINGS FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION GROUPS TO HOST AMERICORPS MEMBERS

The Massachusetts Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) has openings for regional conservation groups to host full-time AmeriCorps members for the service year 2011 – 2012 (FY12). AmeriCorps members serving with MassLIFT will complete 1,700 hours of service over an 11.5 month term, starting September 12, 2011 and ending August 24, 2012. Our FY 12 program has openings for qualified organizations to host a community outreach coordinator or a service learning coordinator, or both.

AmeriCorps members serving as Service Learning Coordinators design and lead projects that engage children and youth in education and service activities supporting the protection and stewardship of farms, forests, wildlife habitats, water resources, community gardens, and parks. Examples of activities developed and led by service learning coordinators include: exploring and certifying vernal pools; creating pollinator, rain, or community gardens; monitoring streams; surveying plant and wildlife species; creating and maintaining trails on protected lands; constructing and installing wood duck boxes, and a variety of other conservation service projects.

AmeriCorps members serving as Outreach Coordinators help increase local interest and participation in land protection by engaging community groups in projects such as creating and maintaining trails and community gardens, and assisting with stewardship tasks on protected lands. They also develop informational materials; give public presentations; seek community input regarding potential sites for land conservation; and plan outreach events such as nature walks and wildlife tracking forays on protected lands.

If you would like to learn more about hosting an AmeriCorps member with the MassLIFT program, contact Dee Robbins, MassLIFT Program Manager, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust by phone: 978-833-4192 or email - robbins@mountgrace.org. For more information about the program, position descriptions, and a list of current partners, visit the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust website: www.mountgrace.org.

15) BAD WEBSITES, GOOD FUNDRAISING

--From *TechSoup Blog*, by Elliot Harmon

When people look at the website of a nonprofit organization, they're looking for evidence that it's a real organization with real people with whom they can really communicate, not necessarily the most professional website.

For tips on sharpening your organization's website, visit this TechSoup article [here](#).

16) NEW FROM TECHSOUP

Expression Studio 4 Web Professional

This suite of products for web authoring includes three different tools: Expression Web 4, Expression Encoder 4, and Expression Design 4. Together, the Expression Studio 4 Web suite allows beginning users to create web pages without knowing any code, design vector-based graphics, and encode video for use around the web.

Just Added: Refurbished Condition-B Desktop and Laptop PCs

To meet demand for low-cost hardware, TechSoup is expanding the offerings available through our Refurbished Computer Initiative (RCI) to include Condition-B products. "Condition B" means that the hardware may have superficial imperfections, but it also means we can offer more computers to nonprofits and libraries.

***HP C2D Windows XP Notebook** (admin fee: \$291) features a 2-GHz Core 2 Duo processor, 80-GB hard drive, and 2 GB RAM.

***HP C2D Windows XP Desktop** (admin fee: \$253) comes equipped with a 2.13-GHz Core 2 Duo processor, 80-GB hard drive, and 2GB RAM.

All hardware comes with a 90-day warranty, Microsoft Office 2007 Basic, and a Windows XP operating system already installed. See our entire catalog of refurbished hardware.

Organize Your Constituent Outreach with Dynamics CRM Server 2011

Dynamics CRM Server provides your organization with a shared constituent relationship management database of donor, constituent, and communications records. It gives your whole staff access to up-to-date contact information and to a unified system for email, tasks, and scheduled outreach efforts. It's available in two versions: [Dynamics CRM Workgroup Server 2011](#) (supports up to five users; admin fee: \$106) and [Dynamics CRM Server 2011](#) (supports unlimited number of users; admin fee: \$212). Both are CRM server applications designed to run on Windows Server 2008 or Windows Small Business Server 2008 in conjunction with Exchange Server.

Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Products Now Available at TechSoup

Meet all of your organization's creative needs with the latest Adobe products. Adobe's Creative Suites — Design Premium and Production Premium — and individual products like InDesign, Dreamweaver, Flash Professional, and Premiere Pro are now available in version 5.5. New to 5.5 Production Premium: Audition, a professional sound editing tool, is now included in the bundle.

Grants

17) RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANTS

Application deadline: October 1, 2011

Please visit the Recreational Trails Program website [here](#) for more information and for workshop dates for potential applicants. The 2012 Statewide Trail Education Grant Round is also open with the same application deadline of October 1, 2011. For more information on this funding opportunity and for workshop dates for potential applicants, go [here](#).

Contact Recreational Trails Program Coordinator Amanda Lewis with any questions at amanda.lewis@state.ma.us or 413-586-8706 ext. 19.

18) COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTERN MA GRANT

Deadline: August 4

Proposals are requested from IRS designated 501(c)(3) organizations with 509(a) status, for projects that serve the residents of Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. (If an organization is headquartered outside of the Pioneer Valley, the project must directly benefit residents of these counties.)

Competitive Grants are made in the areas of arts, culture, education, environment, health, housing, and human services. The Community Foundation encourages creative and collaborative responses to existing or emerging problems or opportunities, and projects that leverage additional support for programs from other private and public funding sources. *More information available [here](#)*

Jobs

19) DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS - TNC - Concord, NH (Full-Time)

The Nature Conservancy is seeking a Director of Government Relations to join our team in Concord, New Hampshire. Position is responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating a comprehensive program to affect government policy and legislation primarily at the State and Federal levels to further the Conservancy's mission. Position ensures the program complies with federal lobbying laws and regulations. Duties include daily contact with local, state and federal officials on matters pertaining to administrative and legislative actions in relation to the mission of the Conservancy, and public fund raising activity to increase the level of financial support for the Conservancy's projects and priorities in NH and region. Position represents TNC before state and local agencies and special interest groups, and is responsible for assisting with building grassroots support for statewide and national policy objectives that support TNC's mission.

More information available [here](#).

20) MASSLIFT AMERICORPS OPENINGS - DEADLINE JULY 8

The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) is an AmeriCorps program developed by a collaboration of seven regional land trusts and watershed associations to meet community needs for land protection, stewardship of protected lands, outreach to the broader community, and service learning that engages young people in conservation. MassLIFT has openings for 20 AmeriCorps positions for service from September 12, 2011 – August 24, 2012. AmeriCorps members serve in regional land trusts and partner organizations across the state and in one of four positions: land steward, regional conservationist, service learning coordinator, or community outreach coordinator.

These fulltime positions come with stipends, health insurance, and the potential to earn education awards. The application deadline is July 8, 2011. Application specifics and further information about AmeriCorps-MassLIFT partners and service positions can be found on the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust website: <http://mountgrace.org/join-masslift>, and on the web pages of our partner sites. Contact Dee Robbins at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust for further information. robbins@mountgrace.org. No phone calls please.

21) RFP CHOCORUA LAKE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION STEWARDSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation (CLCF) holds 75 perpetual Conservation Easements (CE's) on properties in the Chocorua Lake basin of New Hampshire. Properties subject to the CE's are owned by about 60 different landowners. The majority of the CE's originated in the late 1960's and early 1970's; in most cases, the property subject to the CE is owned by members of the family which created it. In order to prepare CLCF's records for stewardship of the CE's in perpetuity, it is necessary enlist the cooperation and assistance of property owners to:

- *Document the features of the CE property at the present time, using photography, GPS mapping, GIS data layers, and other sources of relevant information (baseline documentation);
- *Develop a system for creating and maintaining secure permanent records of such documentation; and
- *Develop a system employing the assistance of volunteers for annual landowner contact and monitoring of CE's, including permanent records of contacts and monitoring.

CLCF is seeking to contract with a person with excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, who will be readily accessible to CLCF Trustees, CLA Board members, and the Chocorua community for the duration of the project.

Read more of the RFP [here](#)

To Apply: Please email letter of interest and resume by **June 20, 2011**, to:
John Watkins, M.D., CLCF President john.watkins@childrens.harvard.edu
Margaret Wheeler, CLCF Vice President m.wheeler10@verizon.net AND
Harriet Hofheinz, CLA President hhofheinz@verizon.net

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