



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

March 7, 2011

Volume 11, Number 03

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

Please send items of interest to <Info@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, philanthropist --

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1) 2011 MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE - [REGISTER NOW!](#)

Early Bird Discount for MLCC Ends Soon, so [Register Now!](#)

When: Saturday, March 26, 2011 | 8AM - 4:00PM

Where: Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

Register now for the 21st Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference, featuring 30 workshops on all aspects of land conservation. The conference is convened by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and The Trustees of Reservations' Putnam Conservation Institute. This year we are very pleased to welcome co-sponsors Mass Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and the Land Trust Alliance.

The 2011 Conference Theme is "Climate Change and Land Conservation" with a focus on raising awareness about climate change and ways in which land protection and stewardship can contribute to adaptation and mitigation strategies.

We are very excited to have as our keynote speaker Curt Spalding, EPA's Region 1 Administrator. Mr. Spalding will be talking about EPA's strategies for adaptation and resilience to climate change of natural resources, including the role of land conservation. Also speaking will be Rick Sullivan, Gov. Patrick's new Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Who should attend?

- * Land trust volunteers, staff and *especially Board members!*
- * Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission members,
- * State, Federal & municipal agency staff
- * Elected & appointed officials
- * *Anyone else committed to land conservation in Massachusetts!*

Download the 2011 conference brochure and list of workshops at www.massland.org/files/MALandTrustConf2011.pdf

MLTC members, remember your discount when you register!

- * Basic members receive one discounted registration
- * Plus (Supporting, Sponsoring and Sustaining) members receive four discounted registrations

Please note that online registration operates on the honor system. Members who claim more discounted registrations than they are entitled to will be charged the additional amount when they sign in at the conference. *Not sure about your membership status?* Check the current member list [here](#).

Registration information and further details are available at www.massconservation.org and check out the conference [Facebook page!](#)

Questions about the Conference? Contact [Miriam Scagnetti](#) (978.840.4446 x1935)

Let Us Know If You Can Help

Pitching in behind the scenes not only helps to keep the conference affordable, but it's also a great way to meet others who care about land conservation in Massachusetts. If you are interested in volunteering for conference projects, see <http://www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do/special-events/massachusetts-land-conservation-conference/volunteer-opportunities.html> or contact Volunteer Coordinator Josiah Richards (jrichards@ttor.org 978.840.4446 x1905).

2) TRYING TO REACH THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY?

BE AN EXHIBITOR AT THE MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Share your story, products, or services with conservation practitioners, volunteers, board members and landowners from all across Massachusetts at the Annual Mass. Land Conservation Conference (described above) by reserving a table and being an Exhibitor. The conference offers a broad diversity of workshops that will attract close to 500 attendees, who look forward to this opportunity to learn more about all aspects of land conservation. The participation of our Exhibitors is a key component of this very informative day.

For more information read MLTC's [Exhibitor Policy](#) and check out the [Map of the Exhibition Space](#).

Complete the [Exhibitor Registration Form](#) and return to:

Mass. Land Trust Coalition

Attn: Lindsey Sarquilla

PO Box 629, Lincoln MA 01773

For more information on exhibiting at the conference, please contact Lindsey Sarquilla at 978-443-5588 (w) or at Lsarquilla@massland.org

News

3) DOJ RULES AFFECT TRAIL USE BY POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES

-- from *American Trails*

ALERT! On March 15, 2011, new Department of Justice rules will allow "power-driven mobility devices" to be used on trails by "individuals with mobility disabilities."

If you manage a trail that is open to the public this rule applies to your trail. **This DOJ ruling applies to any place, indoors or outdoors, that is open to the public.** Under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II this DOJ rule applies to trails on State or local government lands. Also under the ADA Title III it applies to other "public accommodations" that would include trails open to the public on privately or commercially managed lands. Federal agency managed lands are not directly covered under the ADA, however this rule sets legal precedents the Federal agencies must watch. So the Federal agencies are also reviewing their policies, procedures, and the way in which trails on the land base they manage have been assessed.

Find out more about this rule [here](#).

4) GOVERNOR RELEASES FY2012 BUDGET

-- from *ELM Bulletin*

The Governor has released his FY 12 budget and as expected we saw additional cuts to the environmental agencies' budgets, although perhaps not as deep as anticipated. The Secretary thanked everyone who came to the budget hearings and advocated for 1% for the environment.

We will be doing more analysis, but from a pre-release phone call with Secretary Sullivan and his staff, we know the following. The overall EEA budget for FY 2012 is \$197 million dollars (includes \$13 million for the energy agencies and \$6.5 million that they hope to raise from an expanded bottle bill-not a sure thing). This represents a 1.2% cut compared to the overall FY 11 budget. Without the funds from the bottle bill, EEA will see a 4.5% cut. The environmental agencies are still receiving a paltry .65% of the entire \$30.5 billion state budget.

The energy agencies are funded through assessments, so these cuts just affect the environmental agencies. The budget is allocated as follows:

EEA-\$22.2 million (3% cut)

DEP-\$51.6 million (would be a slight increase with portion of bottle bill proceeds dedicated to DEP-without these funds, DEP would be cut 7.5%)

DCR-\$71.3 million (2.3% cut)

DFG-\$17.7 million (slight increase due to increased appropriations from the dedicated inland fish and game fund for some line-items, however, both the Commissioner's Office and Division of Marine Fisheries will see significant cuts as they are funded through appropriations from the operating budget and cannot use inland fish and game funds for their functions.)

DAR-\$15.6 million (8% cut)

The complete FY12 H1 budget proposal can be found on-line [here](#) and the EOEEA section [here](#).

5) MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET DECLINES AGAIN; ELM'S GREEN BUDGET PROPOSES INCREASES

-- From the Boston Globe by Beth Daley, February 17, 2011

State environmental spending is now less than one percent of the total Massachusetts budget, a troubling low for a state that has long prided itself on its environmental innovations and protections, a new analysis shows.

The Environmental League of Massachusetts, a group of 40 environmental organizations, says that budget cuts stemming in large part from the financial crisis have shrunk the fiscal year 2012 environmental budget to less than .6 percent, or \$178.5 million.

"Environmental budgets have taken disproportionate cuts and state agencies are now in danger of becoming dysfunctional," said George Bachrach, president of the Environment League. He said lag times in permitting and cleaning up polluted sites for future development could slow economic recovery. And if the state can't protect rivers and beaches, "we risk the jobs of our \$14 billion tourism industry and the quality of life that attracts corporate leaders..."

To view the full article, go [here](#).

To see ELM's Green Budget FY2012, go [here](#).

Wildlife News

6) REMEMBER ENDANGERED SPECIES CHECK-OFF ON YOUR STATE TAX FORM!

Help protect Box Turtles, Peregrine Falcons and other endangered wildlife by supporting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund when you file your state income tax this year. Since 1983, Massachusetts tax filers of Form 1 have had the option of donating to this effort through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund when filing their state income tax (Line 32a: "Endangered Wildlife Conservation"), and tens of thousands of people have done so over the years. All contributions go directly into the Fund, an important portion of the annual operating budget of DFW's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), which conserves and protects endangered species and their habitats in Massachusetts. Over 20,000 tax filers support the program with over \$200,000 in critically-important donations each year. Won't you join them? With your contributions to the Fund, you directly help to study, protect, and restore endangered animals and plants and their habitats. Donations help restore populations and conserve and maintain habitat for many vulnerable kinds of wildlife, from raptors to reptiles. You can also contribute directly to the Fund by sending a check payable to: "Comm. of Mass-NHESP Fund" and send it to: NHESP, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA, 01581.

7) METAL POSTS NEEDED FOR WOOD DUCK BOXES

Beavers pose an unexpected challenge for wood duck housing when they chew down the cedar poles state biologists have traditionally used to mount Wood Duck boxes in lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Resourceful as ever, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) has begun using metal posts, most commonly U-channel, whenever possible. This metal alternative can be very expensive when dozens of boxes across the state need new poles. Conservation-minded citizens are invited to help solve this problem.

Part of the solution could involve local departments of public works (DPW). When sign posts are damaged by auto accidents or snow plows they are replaced by state, city, or town highway or public works departments and the old posts are scrapped. Often the damage is minor and the posts are still usable as Wood Duck nest box supports. Even badly-bent posts can be cut and two sections bolted together to provide sufficient support. Holes in U-channel poles are spaced every few inches, so boxes can easily be mounted at any height.

Consider calling or stopping by the DPW in your town to see if you can salvage any old metal sign posts for Wood Ducks. At \$26 per pole, a new 12-foot U-channel is relatively expensive for the average Wood Duck, or state wildlife agency. The poles scrapped by DPWs all over the state provide an efficient, low-cost foundation to anchor Wood Duck boxes firmly in the ponds and wetlands these birds share with beaver. Depending on where you live in the state, you can deliver the poles to the Westborough Field Headquarters 1 Rabbit Hill Rd (off North Drive) (508) 389-6321; or to one of the five Wildlife District Offices: Ayer - 85 Fitchburg Road; (978) 772-2145; Belchertown - East Street; (413) 323-7632; Bourne - 195 Bournedale Road; (508) 759-3406; Dalton - 88 Old Windsor Road; (413) 684-1646; West Boylston - 211 Temple Street; (508) 835-3607.

If the department of public works in your town has poles, but you have no vehicle space, MassWildlife will try to arrange to pick up the poles. To facilitate this process, please call H Heusmann at (508) 389-6321. For those interested conservationists who don't have the time or ability to find poles, but want to support this project, the Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation, Inc., has partnered with Mass Wildlife for the past two years by accepting cash and material donations that go directly toward the Wood Duck housing effort. Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible. To contact the Foundation go online to www.massoutdoorheritage.org or call (413) 230-4945.

8) CITIZEN SCIENTISTS NEEDED TO IDENTIFY TURTLE CROSSINGS

Turtles have existed for millions of years, but roadways are threatening the survival of local populations. Turtles in Massachusetts often cross roadways late spring to early fall and are vulnerable to car collisions. Ambitious citizen scientists, turtle enthusiasts, and conservation organizations are encouraged to join state wildlife and transportation personnel in collecting data for a Turtle Roadway Mortality Monitoring Program. Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife, a recent partnership between the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), Department of Transportation (DOT) Highway Division and UMass-Amherst, trained volunteers to collect data in 2010 and is expanding its volunteer program by offering two citizen scientist information and training sessions in Amherst and Westborough. These sessions are designed to train new volunteers, acknowledge current volunteer efforts, and share results from the first year of data collection. The information gathered thorough this volunteer effort will be used to coordinate local turtle conservation efforts.

The first information and training session will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 10am – 12pm at the Notch Visitor's Center located at 1500 West Street in Amherst. The second session will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, from 7pm – 9pm at the Karl Weiss Educational Conference Building located on North Drive in Westborough. This facility is on the same property as the DFW Field Headquarters. The sessions are free, but pre-registration is required. Interested volunteers can register with DFW's Dave Paulson at dave.paulson@state.ma.us or call him at (508) 389-6366.

Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife is a long-term and multifaceted effort to minimize the impact of the existing road network on wildlife, while improving highway safety. Linking Landscapes offers three

Massachusetts citizen science research efforts that allows online reporting of site specific wildlife roadway mortality through a Google Maps interface. For more information on Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife, go to: <http://linkinglandscapes.info/roads/home.html>

Of Interest

9) ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASS YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST PROGRAM IS BACK

The spring semester of ELM's Young Environmentalist Program will commence on **Wednesday, March 23rd**. Please tell your young staffers to mark their calendars. For more information about the YEP program, go [here](#).

Conferences

10) REGISTER NOW FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend the Community Preservation Coalition's upcoming CPA conference, to be held on Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm in Bridgewater, Massachusetts at Bridgewater State University.

The day will be full of workshops, presentations, and round-table discussions on all aspects of the Community Preservation Act. Click [here](#) to view a preliminary conference schedule. The conference is **FREE** to Community Preservation Coalition member communities, those considering CPA adoption, and other invited guests.

Registration is now open. Space is limited, however, so be sure to sign-up soon. Click [here](#) to register

Feel free to contact us with any questions at stephanie.elson@communitypreservation.org

11) CONFERENCE ON RIVER MONITORING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Presented by the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

May 18 & 19, 2011

Cost: \$20

This conference is presented by the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance in partnership with the MA Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration. Day #1, May 18th will consist of presentations, break-out sessions, and discussions from 9am-4pm at the Trustees of Reservations' Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, MA. Day #2, May 19th, participants may choose to go on one of two fields trips, to sites in either eastern or western Massachusetts. The conference is funded primarily by a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. The cost of the conference is \$20 per person.

Please mark your calendars - more information available [here](#).

Workshops

12) ORGANIC LAWNS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Register NOW for an "Organic Lawns for Homeowners" workshop near you! NOFA/Mass Statewide Organic Lawn Days – Organic Lawns for Homeowners workshop series - will take place April 7 and 9, 2011 at the following locations: Stockbridge, New Bedford, Ayer, Arlington, Hyannis, Natick, Newburyport, Stoneham, Northampton, Pelham, Boylston and Danvers. Each workshop is three hours long and taught by a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional. Lecture-style with hands-on component for those interested. Ayer and Stoneham held at NOFA/Mass Organic Lawn Demonstration sites. Funded by the Toxics Use Reduction

Institute of UMass Lowell. Workshop fee: \$25. For more information or to register contact Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or Kathy@nofamass.org

13) BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS IN BOSTON AREA

--from the Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation & the MetroWest Nonprofit Network

A board-development series featuring a special version of Andy Robinson's acclaimed workshop, "Building a Board That Works." Choose from five MetroWest locations. To find out more about the session offered at your preferred location, click on the date below:

[March 22:](#) West Newton

[March 23:](#) Concord

[March 24:](#) Sudbury

[April 6:](#) Framingham

[April 7:](#) Franklin

Each session runs 6-9pm and includes a light supper

Fee: \$50 per organization

*Maximum of 6 representatives (board members and executive directors) from each organization. Your representatives are encouraged, but not required, to attend in the same location.

Training

14) LTA WEBINARS

Accounting and Reporting Challenges: Conservation Easements and Restricted Gifts

Instructor: Kay Sohl

Audience: Beginner/Intermediate

Date: March 9, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm ET

Cost: \$55

Learn how land trusts are dealing with the challenges of accounting for conservation easements, and for the receipt and use of restricted gifts. Explore financial reporting strategies to make your financial position clear to board members and donors.

To register or obtain more information go to <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/webinars-workshops>

Strategies for Increasing Membership Funding and Building Long-Term Community Support for Conservation

Instructor: Judy Anderson

Audience: Beginner/Intermediate

Date: April 6, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm ET

Cost: \$55.00

In this webinar, you will learn how land trusts of various sizes and capacity are using community-based techniques to connect their mission and work with the interests and needs of new and existing supporters. We will discuss how this approach, when combined with upgraded outreach/communication techniques, has increased their membership support (for some, up by 40-50 percent over a three-year period.), broadened their conservation impact, and engaged new partners and people. The webinar will touch upon the communication upgrades that helped make this turn-around possible and encouraged longer-term support.

To register or obtain more information go to <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/webinars-workshops>

Appraising Conservation Easements

Instructor: Mark Weston

Date: April 13, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm ET

Cost: \$55.00

Qualified appraisals are the lynchpin of the process that allows landowners to benefit from federal income and estate tax incentives flowing from the donation of a conservation easement. A poorly supported appraisal, whether fraudulent or merely sloppy, damages the integrity of a conservation easement transaction regardless of the conservation values involved. It also damages the reputation of the land trust involved in the transaction, risks violating the public trust, may reduce support for conservation in general, and can land both the landowner and appraiser in hot water. This webinar will provide an overview of the requirements for appraisal of real estate and conservation easements used to seek charitable deductions outlined in §1.170A(13)(c) and §1.170A(14) of the Treasury Regulations. Participants will learn how to select an appraiser, the common mistakes made in valuing easements, the role of land trusts with regard to IRS Form 8283 and how to communicate with donors.

To register or obtain more information go to <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/webinars-workshops>

Events

15) ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASS. EARTH NIGHT

Saturday, April 9, 2011

6:00-10:00 pm

Sheraton Boston

Tickets available online at www.EarthNight.org

Resources

16) JOIN MLTC'S STEWARDSHIP LIST SERVE

Are you a land steward or manager for land trust, municipal or state land? If so, we invite you to join MLTC's Stewardship List Serve to share in the discussion of land stewardship issues in Massachusetts. **MLTC membership is not required to subscribe to MassLand List Serves.** Learn more about the Stewardship List Serve and subscribe [here](#).

Grants

17) 2ND ROUND FY11 CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT IS NOW OPEN

Conservation Partnership grants provide funding to assist non-public, not-for-profit corporations in acquiring interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation purposes.

Grant type: 50% reimbursement of total project cost

Maximum grant award: \$85,000

Application due date: Thursday, March 31, 2011, 3pm

The RFR and application materials are available at www.comm-pass.com or the DCS website: www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants

Contact: Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 or celia.riechel@state.ma.us

Jobs

18) MA MARINE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Marine Program Director has primary responsibility for The Nature Conservancy's coastal and marine conservation in Massachusetts and for working with partners to develop collaborative and multi-faceted regional and community-based initiatives. The Marine Program Director will organize and oversee a variety of program activities; recognize and develop new opportunities to advance program goals; communicate regularly and effectively with a wide variety of people with different backgrounds and perspectives; develop and manage the program budget and work with Philanthropy staff to achieve necessary funding.

All applications must be submitted in the system prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 10, 2011. More information available [here](#).

19) THREE FULL-TIME, 6 MONTH POSITIONS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, NH

Northern NH Seasonal Land Steward will be responsible for stewardship and management support of the Conservancy's preserves and conservation interests northern New Hampshire. The position will be based in the Conservancy's North Conway office, and will focus on the Mount Washington Valley and Northern Forest project areas. Responsibilities: Monitoring & stewardship of preserves and equipment maintenance and organization; Trail & boundary line maintenance; Participation in trail construction projects, including installation & maintenance of preserve signage; Invasive species management; Stocking and maintaining kiosks; Supporting prescribed burns at the Ossipee Pine Barrens; Coordinating & leading volunteers; Rare plant species monitoring; and positive engagement with the general public throughout all aspects of work.

Southern NH Seasonal Land Steward will be responsible for stewardship and management support of the Conservancy's preserves and conservation easements around Great Bay and in Southwestern New Hampshire. The position will be based in the Conservancy's Great Bay Project office in Newmarket NH. Responsibilities: Monitoring and stewardship of preserves; Equipment maintenance & organization; Stewardship of conservation easements as needed; Trail and property boundary line maintenance; Trail construction projects, including installation & maintenance of preserve signage; Invasive species management; Stocking and maintenance of informational kiosks; Supporting prescribed burns at the Ossipee Pine Barrens; Leading volunteers and being engaged in a positive manner with the general public while working on preserves.

Oyster Conservation Coordinator. Seeking coordinator with exceptional organizational and interpersonal skills to manage shell handling for oyster reef construction and coordination of a community volunteer program for growing oysters on private docks. This is a short-term (6 Month) full-time position, based from The Nature Conservancy's Great Bay Office in Newmarket, NH. Activities involve small boat operation.

To Apply for any position: Please go to www.nature.org/careers and click "How to Apply", and then, "View Positions". Search for this position using "New Hampshire" as the key word and then complete the online application and upload your cover letter and resume. All applications must be submitted online by **3/11/2011**.

20) CONSERVATION LAND MANAGER, TOWN OF LINCOLN

The Town of Lincoln, MA seeks a full-time Land Manager to work under the direction of the Conservation Director and the Conservation Commission. This is primarily a field position with some office responsibilities. Duties include managing town-owned land/trees, monitoring conservation and agricultural land, maintaining trails, assisting with regulatory activity, and supervising seasonal/ volunteer staff. 2-4 years experience required in natural resource management, ability to use, and provide basic maintenance on, power equipment; working in all weather and conditions. Must be effective in dealing with the public and have strong computer skills. B.S. or

B.A. in the Environmental Sciences preferred. GPS and GIS experience helpful. Starting pay is \$20.75/hr. Submit cover letter and resume to Anita Scheipers, Asst. Town Administrator, Town Offices, 16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln MA 01773, or jobs@lincolntown.org before April 1, 2011. AA/EOE

Internship

21) STEWARDSHIP INTERN - CONSERVATION LAND MGT PLANNER, SVT

Prepare conservation management plans for Sudbury Valley Trustees properties. Prepare detailed management plans for 3 ecologically-significant properties. Prepare general management plans for 20 small properties (1 – 4 acres). Temporary, full time, 40 hrs/week.

Application Deadline: March 15, 2011

More information available [here](#).

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Prepared by Bernie McHugh, Lindsey Sarquilla & Kathy McGrath, Editors

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