



## The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

January 26, 2009

Volume 9, Number 1

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

Please send items of interest to [Info@MassLand.org](mailto:Info@MassLand.org)

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**“ Now boys, your troubles are over and mine commence.”**

-- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), 16th President of the United States; on Nov. 7, 1860, to reporters on the morning after his election (as reported in the Chicago Tribune of Nov. 6, 1876) --

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#### **JOIN MLTC!**

Is your organization a member of MLTC? Check out our list at

<http://www.MassLand.org>

You can support MLTC individually by becoming a Friend. Contributions of any amount will help support our work.

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## MLTC News

### **1) SAVE THE DATE! MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE - MARCH 28**

The 19th Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Saturday, March 28, 2009

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

***Registration available soon.***

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## News

### **2) LAND CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVE BECOMES LAW!**

***In a HUGE success for land protection in Massachusetts, Governor Patrick has signed into law the "Land Conservation Incentives" Act (House 5080), which provides a tax credit for donations of certain land to land trusts or public conservation agencies.***

#### **The New Law**

Eligible donations of land or Conservation Restrictions to land trusts, state or Federal conservation agencies or municipal Conservation Commissions, **MAY** receive a credit equal to 50% of the appraised fair market value of the land, up to \$50,000 per gift. *The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) will first determine whether any given property proposed for donation (CR or fee) meets the public interest standards for natural resource protection.* These tax credits will apply to land donations that result in the permanent protection of drinking water supplies, or wildlife habitat and biological diversity, scenic and cultural values, and agricultural and forestry production and the program is capped at \$2 million per year.

**IMPORTANT! This tax credit does not take effect until January 1, 2011 and it is NOT automatic for all donations of land or CR! EEA must come up with eligibility guidelines.**

The law further requires that:

- \* Gifts of land must be permanently protected
- \* Tax Credit is valued at 50% of the appraised fair market value of the land
- \* Tax Credit is limited to \$50,000 per gift
- \* Tax Credit cannot exceed the donor's annual state income tax liability, but may be carried forward for 10 consecutive years

Please read the full bill

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw08/sl080509.htm> for more information.

### **A Great Team Effort**

State policy leaders and the conservation community came together for an outstanding team effort to enact this measure into law, led by The Nature Conservancy and supported by Mass Audubon; Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition; Environmental League of Massachusetts; Mass Green Agenda; Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters; Mass Municipal Association and others. Special thanks to the Boston Globe for a strong editorial in favor of the law.

*Please offer your thanks to our state policy officials (and their terrific staff members!) for their leadership -- just a quick email or call would do it, including:*

\* Governor Deval Patrick

Phone: 617-725-4005 or 888-870-7770 (in state) - Fax: 617-727-9725

Email (Web form):

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=Agov3\\_contact\\_us](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=Agov3_contact_us)

\*Environment & Energy Secretary Ian Bowles

Phone: 617-626-1000 - Fax: 617-626-1181

Email: [env.internet@state.ma.us](mailto:env.internet@state.ma.us)

### **IF ONE OF YOUR LEGISLATORS IS ON THIS LIST, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL YOUR THANKS!!!**

E-mail addresses for Legislative Leaders and Cosponsors

House: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm>

Senate: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenus.htm>

- \* **Chief sponsors:** Senator Stephen Brewer and Representative Steve Kulik; and co-sponsor House Minority Leader Bradley Jones
- \* **Senate Cosponsors:** Edward Augustus, Gale Candaras, Benjamin Downing, Robert Hedlund, Brian Joyce, Michael Knapik, Richard Moore, Robert O'Leary, Marc Pacheco, Pam Resor, Stan Roseneberg, Bruce Tarr, James Timilty, Susan Tucker
- \* **House Cosponsors:** Geraldo Alicea, Demetrius Atsalis, William Brownsberger, Jennifer Callahan, Christine Canavan, Steven D'Amico, Vinny DeMacedo, Christopher Donelan, Lewis Evangelidis, David Flynn, William Galvin, Anne Gobi, William Greene, Denis Guyer, Bradford Hill, Donald Humason, Bradley Jones, Louis Kafka, John Keenan, Kay Khan, Peter Kocot, Robert Koczera, William

Lantigua, John Lepper, David Linsky, Barbara L'Italien, Paul Loscocco, Matthew Patrick, Alice Peisch, Jeffrey Perry, George Peterson, William Pignatelli, Denise Provost, Robert Rice, Michael Rodrigues, Michael Rush, Tom Sannicandro, John Scibak, Carl Sciortino, Frank Smizik, Todd Smola, Theodore Speliotis, Christopher Speranzo, Joyce Spiliotis, Thomas Stanley, Harriett Stanley, Ellen Story, David Sullivan, Walter Timilty, Timothy Toomey, Eric Turkington, Cleon Turner, Patricia Walrath, Marty Walz, Alice Wolf

- \* **Legislative leaders:** Senate President Therese Murray and Senate Ways and Means Chairman Steven Panagiotakos and House Speaker Sal DiMasi and Ways and Means Chairman Robert DeLeo, Revenue Committee Chairs Senator Cynthia Creem and Representative John Binienda, and Environment Committee Chair Frank Smizik (Pam Resor is retired).

### **3) EEA'S 2008 "LAND PROTECTION REPORT" SHOWS MAJOR GAINS**

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) recently released a report on land acquisition over the past fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) a total of 24,104 acres were protected through EEA action, almost double the acreage conserved in FY07. In FY08, \$54.9 million was expended on 223 projects that protected 13,819 acres through grants, fee purchase, and conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions. An additional 10,285 acres were preserved through EEA approved conservation restrictions.

Acreage preserved	
via Expenditure	= 13,819
via Restrictions	= 10,285
TOTAL	= 24,104

Expenditures	
Bond Funding	=\$ 49,471,332
Land Stamp	= \$ 1,366,485
MWRA	= \$ 4,046,000
TOTAL	= \$ 54,883,817

The \$50 million of state capital funds spent in FY08 is a 55% percent increase in land spending over the previous administration's annual average. With these funds, EEA is working to meet the three conservation priorities Governor Patrick identified for land spending:

- \* Commonwealth Urban Parks - the creation of significant urban parks in Gateway Cities, as well as new or expanded urban parks in all cities over the next four years.
- \* Commonwealth Habitat Reserves - protection of at least 10 large, unfragmented ecosystems across the state
- \* Commonwealth Working Landscapes - conservation of prime agricultural and forest lands that support local sustainable agriculture and forest industries.

These activities have leveraged significant additional funding from non-state sources and greatly expanded the cooperative capacity and human capital of the Commonwealth's diverse private and non-state actors, including more than \$32 million in funding from partners across the state on 223 different projects.

To read the full report, go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/landprotectionreport>

#### **4) BOSTON GLOBE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE**

- By Carolyn Y. Johnson, Globe Staff | December 26, 2008

##### ***Going with climate's flow***

##### ***Environmentalists shift approach, planning to adapt to nature's changes***

Environmental advocates, wildlife officials, and land trusts charged with protecting the natural world are beginning to take a new approach to climate change: rather than focus only on stopping it, they are also thinking about how to adapt to what's coming.

That may mean accepting that certain northern species - such as moose or loon - may not be part of Massachusetts' future ecology. More immediately, it means restoring bogs that could help prevent flooding, or serve as a fallback position for wildlife if sea levels rise - and tearing down dams to give fish access to cooler waters. Both such efforts are underway.

"The old model is - let's protect a certain species or natural community; let's protect this habitat for box turtle or for maple forest," said Andy Finton, director of conservation science at The Nature Conservancy. "We've got to be more flexible in our thinking, because we can't necessarily nail down all the species . . . In a way, we're protecting the stage, while the actors may change over time."

This shift in approach comes as President-elect Obama recently announced his environmental team, calling global warming an urgent issue.

Locally, a range of environmentalists and state officials are trying to anticipate the effects of climate change: From whether the spruce and fir trees atop Mount Greylock will turn into northern hardwood forests, to the fate of the region's vernal pools, home to salamanders.

See the rest of this story at:

[http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2008/12/26/going\\_with\\_climates\\_flow/?s\\_campaign=8315](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2008/12/26/going_with_climates_flow/?s_campaign=8315)

#### **5) MAS AUDUBON'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

- From the Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup 1/16/2009 by Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations; Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director; Christina McDermott, Assistant to the Director

Legislative clerks have reported that over 6,000 bills had been filed as of last Friday, January 16, the bill-filing deadline for this legislative session. 2,047 of these bills came from the Senate, and 4,014 have been received from the House of Representatives. Bills were submitted electronically by legislators to the Senate or House Clerks, and legislators now have until Wednesday, February 4 to sign onto bills as co-sponsors.

Delays could occur as bills go on to be reviewed by committees, as many committees have not yet been assigned new members and joint legislative rules could change during the start of the new session.

Mass Audubon's legislative priorities this session are as follows:

- \* An Act to Sustain Community Preservation (Senator H. Creem, Representative S. Kulik)

- \* An Act Relative to Sustainable Water Resources (Representative F. Smizik)
- \* An Act Relative to Land Use Partnership (Senator H. Chandler, Representative K. Honan)
- \* An Act Relative to the Regulation of Snow and Recreation Vehicles (Representative F. Smizik)
- \* An Act to Protect the Natural and Historic Resources of the Commonwealth (Senator J. Eldridge, Representative R. Balsler)

We'll also be working on:

- \* An Act Amending the Conservation Restriction and Agricultural Preservation Restriction Statutes (Senator S. Brewer, Representative S. Kulik)
- \* An Act Authorizing the Establishment of Old Growth Forest Reserves (Senator S. Brewer, Representative S. Kulik)
- \* Renewable Energy Facilities Siting Reform

We'll be updating our website soon with this session's priorities and fact-sheets.

## Wildlife News

### **6) SEVENTY BALD EAGLES COUNTED CURING MIDWINTER SURVEY**

#### ***Quabbin Reservoir Tops list with 26 Birds Sighted***

BOSTON - An annual one-day survey of wintering bald eagles conducted throughout the Commonwealth today yielded sightings of 70 individual birds, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles announced.

Between 40 and 50 state and federal wildlife officials and volunteers observed birds through binoculars and spotting scopes on the ground and from the air during the event, which is part of a national survey. State data is pooled with national data and used by wildlife officials to track the progress of the recovery of the bald eagle, delisted from federal threatened status in 2007.

The 2009 preliminary statewide number is 70 eagles, with 48 adults and 22 juvenile eagles and the largest number of birds - 26 eagles - seen at the Quabbin Reservoir. The 2008 count was 73 eagles and the 2007 count was 48 eagles.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) noted there is a new pair of eagles nesting in Hadley on the Connecticut River, which bodes well for eagle reproduction in the Bay State.

"For more than two decades, state and federal officials have worked with the private sector to protect and grow the Massachusetts bald eagle population," Secretary Bowles said. "The sighting of 70 birds today - nine times the number counted thirty years ago - is proof this treasured national symbol is prospering here, thanks to this collaborative effort to study and protect bald eagles and their habitat."

There were 17 adult and nine juvenile eagles spotted at the Quabbin, 14 adults and three juvenile eagles at in the Connecticut River area, and two adult eagles at the Wachusett Reservoir. Wildlife experts and volunteers also saw two juvenile eagles on the Mashpee River, five adult and two juvenile eagles in the Lakeville area, and three adult and one juvenile eagles at the Merrimack River. Eagles were also spotted in Sheffield, Plymouth, New Bedford, and Wayland.

Statewide, the number of birds surveyed has trended upward from eight birds counted in 1979 to 70 birds counted this year. Last year marked the first time bald eagles nested successfully in the lower Merrimack River. From 1989 to 2008, the number of chicks fledged - birds that hatched and survived to fly - in Massachusetts reached 300 chicks for the first time.

Officials and volunteers traveled to more than nine locations across the state from Newburyport to Pittsfield during the daylong event. Officials also conducted an aerial survey of the Quabbin Reservoir and Connecticut Valley by helicopter, which was supplied by National Grid, a partner in the state's bald eagle restoration efforts since 1982.

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## Public Comment

### **7) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED DCR TIMBER HARVEST**

The latest semi-annual postings of newly proposed timber harvesting projects are now available on the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/manage/ProposedForestProductsSales.htm>

Comments can be submitted through February 20, 2009 to [Timber.Comments@state.ma.us](mailto:Timber.Comments@state.ma.us)

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## Training

### **8) ADVOCACY TRAINING FROM MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATIVE**

- By Ken Pruitt, 617-742-2553, Environmental League of Massachusetts  
[kpruitt@environmentalleague.com](mailto:kpruitt@environmentalleague.com)

**Please register for the Legislative Priorities & Advocacy Training Session on February 11th.**

**FREE** for employees and board members of Mass. Environmental Collaborative organizations whose dues are paid for the current fiscal year (please see below list of PAID members)

**\$35** for all others.

The Mass. Environmental Collaborative will discuss its legislative priorities and provide lobbying training members of non-profit environmental groups. **501(c)(3) nonprofits CAN lobby** on legislation without jeopardizing their nonprofit status, as long as they remain under a certain threshold and follow guidelines.

#### **10am-Noon - State House, Hearing room B1**

We will be joined by Rep. Frank Smizik, House chair of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture.

**10:00-11:00 am: Discussion of Legislative priorities for the Environmental Collaborative**

**11:00-Noon: Training on "How to Lobby"**

**"How to Lobby" will be a panel featuring:**

Lisa Conley, legal counsel to the House Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture; Paul Pezzella, former Dep. Chief of Staff to Governor Michael Dukakis and veteran lobbyist; Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy, Dir. Of Government Relations and former Senate Ways & Means staff; George Bachrach, President of ELM and former state senator.

For helpful guidance, visit the Center for Nonprofit Management's website at: <http://www.cnmsocal.org/resources/articles/faq-lobbying-and-advocacy.html>

**To register**, e-mail your name and contact information to Sarah Moser at [smoser@environmentalleague.org](mailto:smoser@environmentalleague.org). Please register even if your organization's dues are current.

If you are not an employee or board member of a Collaborative organization that is current in its dues payments, please send your name, contact information, and a \$35 check payable to ELM or your credit card information to Sarah Moser at ELM, 14 Beacon St., Suite 714, Boston, MA 02108.

**Collaborative Members PAID for FY09**

American Planning Association, MA Chapter	Lincoln Land Conservation Trust
Appalachian Mountain Club	Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
Arborway Coalition	Manoment Center for Conservation Science
Association of Mass. Wetland Scientists	Mass. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions
Association to Preserve Cape Cod	Mass. Interfaith Power & Light
Bay Circuit Alliance	Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.	Merrimack River Watershed Council
Charles River Conservancy	Nashua River Watershed Association
Charles River Watershed Association	New England Wild Flower Society
Coalition for Buzzards Bay	North & South Rivers Watershed Association
Emerald Necklace Conservancy	Organization for the Assabet River Preservation
Esplanade Association	MassSalem Sound Coastwatch
Essex County Greenbelt Association	Saugus River Watershed Council
Essex County Trail Association	Save the Harbor/Save the Bay
Franklin Land Trust	Sheffield Land Trust
Friends of the Blue Hills	Sudbury Valley Trustees
Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation	Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts	The Nature Conservancy
Green Berkshires	The Trust for Public Land
Green Decade Coalition	The Trustees of Reservations
Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition	WalkBoston
Island Alliance	
Jones River Watershed Association	
The Kestrel Trust	

Environmental League of Massachusetts | [smoser@environmentalleague.org](mailto:smoser@environmentalleague.org) | Boston | MA | 02108

**9) APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR KEYSTONE TRAINING**

Application deadline March 2nd, 2009

The Keystone Project is an intensive 3-day training at the Harvard Forest <<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/>> which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land protection. The 30-hour training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants. In addition, each participant is given significant resources to take home <<http://masskeystone.net/resources/index.html>> . Participants are required to attend all parts of the program. We suggest visiting the Keystone web site <<http://masskeystone.net/index.html>> , which has other details including a sample program <[http://masskeystone.net/pdf\\_word/Keystone\\_Sample\\_Program\\_2008.pdf](http://masskeystone.net/pdf_word/Keystone_Sample_Program_2008.pdf)> .

This spring, the program will take place on: **Thursday evening, April 23rd through Sunday afternoon, April 26th, 2009 at the Harvard Forest** in Petersham. The application deadline is: **Monday, March 2nd, 2009**. Applications can be found at the Keystone website <<http://masskeystone.net/apply/index.html>>

In return for this valuable educational opportunity, participants agree to return to their communities as a local resource and **volunteer at least 30-hours** of time on a forest conservation project of their choosing with continued support from UMass Extension. **Last year, active Keystone Cooperators from past programs collectively reported volunteering over 24,000 hours of time towards conservation!**

Keystone Cooperators can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an active community leader. This year we are particularly interested in training municipal officials interested in moving forest conservation projects forward in their town, including: forest or wildlife management on town land, developing a town Ch. 61 right-of-first refusal policy, land protection, and outreach to private landowners.

The Keystone Training will be held thanks to generous support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) <<http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/>> , the MA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy <<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/massachusetts/>> , USDA Cooperative Extension <<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/forests.cfm>> , the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife <[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw\\_toc.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_toc.htm)> , Harvard Forest <<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/>> , and The Trustees of Reservations' Highland Communities Initiative <<http://www.highlandcommunities.org/>> .

The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, connectedness within the community, special skills, and diversity. Space in the program is limited to 25.

Contact Paul Catanzaro <<mailto:cat@umext.umass.edu>> if you have any questions.

## **10) WETLANDS ASSESSMENT & FIELD TECHNIQUES COURSE**

The UMass Department of Natural Resources Conservation in cooperation with UMass Extension is offering "Wetlands Assessment and Field Techniques," a 2-credit course during spring semester at the University of Massachusetts. The University is offering conservation commissioners and administrators, environmental consultants, agency personnel and other natural resource professionals two options for participating in this course: 1) for two graduate credits through the Department of Natural Resources Conservation or 2) as a non-credit option through UMass Extension. Course instructors are Scott Jackson and Curt Griffin.

Class meets at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and begins January 29, 2009.

This course offers in-depth information about Massachusetts wetland regulations, wetland classification, boundary delineation, wetland condition assessment, functional assessment, vernal pool certification, wildlife habitat evaluation, and techniques for evaluating and mitigating development impacts on wildlife habitat. Class will meet once a week for 14 weeks during the spring semester. Nine indoor sessions will meet from 7 to 9 pm on Thursday evenings. Five field sessions scheduled later in the semester will meet once a week on Wednesday afternoons (1:25 to 5:30 p.m.).

The cost for this course is \$495 for the non-credit option. For graduate credit the cost is \$1,476 for MA residents and \$2,535 for non-residents. Space is limited. For registration or more information, contact: Scott Jackson at (413) 545-4743 or [sjackson@umext.umass.edu](mailto:sjackson@umext.umass.edu)

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## Conferences / Workshops

### **11) IMPROVING HABITAT VALUES IN VERNAL POOLS, MARCH 14**

A Conference for Improving Water Quality and Habitat Values in Vernal Pools  
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Cordially Invites You to A Conference of  
Individuals and Organizations Concerned About Water Quality and Vernal Pools  
Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Stonehill College, Stanger Hall Room 209, Easton, MA  
Conference Cost is Free. Please Bring Brown Bag Lunch.  
Space is limited! To register, or for questions, please contact Beth Brazil at  
[bbrazil@manomet.org](mailto:bbrazil@manomet.org) or 508-224-6521.  
Topics to be included:

Presentations by Project Partners

- \* Results from Manomet's Project on Water Quality in Vernal Pools
- \* Status of Water Quality in Charles & Taunton Rivers
- \* Habitat Value of Vernal Pools
- \* Low Impact Lawn Care & Landscaping
- \* How Conservation Commissions Can Protect Vernal Pools

Visit [www.manomet.org](http://www.manomet.org) for more details.

Support for this project provided by:

Partnering organizations include: Charles River Watershed Association, MA Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program, Taunton River Watershed Alliance and Vernal Pool Association

### **12) ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING ASSOCIATION'S 2009 CONFERENCE**

DIGGING IN: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping  
February 26-28, 2009  
MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA

February 26 forums focus on Lawns, Energy in the Landscape, Permaculture, and Soil.

February 27-28 conference includes 18 workshops presented by preeminent educators, writers, and practitioners in the field of ecological landscaping. A concurrent Eco-Marketplace features exhibitors and live demonstrations showcasing landscape techniques, information, products, and services needed to create and manage healthy communities.

Full brochure available mid-December at <<http://www.ecolandscaping.org/>> or call: 617-436-5838 (attendees); 978-874-1373 (exhibitors).

### **13) ANIMAL TRACKING WORKSHOP**

Instructors: Noah Carney, Charley Eiseman

Dates: First two weekends in February (Jan 31, Feb 1, Feb 7, Feb 8)

Time: 9:30-3:30

Location: Meet at UMass, specific location TBA

Registration: [noah@bio.umass.edu](mailto:noah@bio.umass.edu)

Cost: \$130 Sliding Scale

Space Limited

During 4 full field days, we will explore local forests, fields, wetlands, and other habitats. Expect to encounter signs of the majority of the local mammal species, from mink to moose. Immersion in the tracking experience will allow both beginners and experienced trackers to expand their skills. By looking at the footprints and other traces that animals leave behind, we will investigate the interactions taking place across the landscape. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from each other about winter plant identification, bird vocalizations, and other natural history tidbits.

Charley Eiseman and Noah Charney have studied tracking together for 10 years, are certified in track and sign interpretation (<<http://www.WildlifeTrackers.com>> ), and are currently writing a field guide to tracks and signs of North American invertebrates to be published in 2010. This is the sixth year that they are offering the animal tracking workshop.

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## **Resources**

### **14) ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE RESOURCES**

New Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program website

<http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/index.htm>

UMass Extension Outreach Newsletter on Asian Longhorned Beetle

<http://www.umassextension.org/index.php/news-events/newsletter/winter-2008-2009>

City of Worcester ALB Website

<http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/cmo/beetles.htm>

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## People

### **15) MCHUGH, BOWLES NAMED TNC "CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR"**

Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy presented its 2008 Conservationist of the Year award to Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles and Mass Land Trust Coalition coordinator Bernie McHugh.

Ian Bowles is the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy (EEA) and Environmental Affairs, appointed by Governor Deval Patrick. During his tenure, Secretary Bowles has worked to increase support for numerous environmental policies, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy conservation, renewable energy, green jobs and the Energy and Environmental Bond.

"Under the Secretary's leadership, EEA is poised to be the most effective environmental affairs office in history of the Commonwealth," said Wayne Klockner, state director for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. "We deeply appreciate our partnership with the Secretary, his commissioners and their professional staff."

"Governor Patrick understands that protecting the environment is crucial not only to the Commonwealth's rich natural resources, but also to our economy and quality of life," said Secretary Bowles. "The Nature Conservancy's Conservationist of the Year Award reflects that commitment, and it's a great honor for me to accept it."

For the past ten years, Bernie McHugh has been the volunteer coordinator for the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC), a member organization that coordinates and serves the land trust community in Massachusetts. MLTC is a voluntary association of over 150 Mass Land trusts and other groups founded to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, to increase our effectiveness in working with the legislature and state agencies, and to promote high professional standards. In November of this year, McHugh played a leading role in the organization of the multi-state conference "Responding to Climate Change," one of the nation's first conferences to focus on wildlife and habitat adaptation.

"MLTC has played a crucial role in supporting key conservation legislation and is an important networking resource for the state land trusts," continued Klockner. "Bernie's commitment to this association has given an immeasurable benefit to the landscape of which we are a part."

"For me, the real work of the last 10 years has been helping to nurture and sustain the working relationships between conservation groups and state government, and between small, grassroots organizations and the larger groups with multi-faceted missions and a broader perspective," said McHugh. "The last two years have been especially exciting, with a solid commitment to conservation from the Patrick Administration and the willingness of The Nature Conservancy to commit to a higher level of effective advocacy and to work productively with the other conservation and environmental advocates on crucial issues of natural resources protection and climate change."

McHugh also remarked (with tongue firmly planted in cheek) that "Giving matching awards to Secretary Bowles and myself is a real Oscar and Felix moment for the Massachusetts environmental community."

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## Miscellany



### **16) NEW "LAND & WATER" PLATE SUPPORTS LAND PROTECTION - ORDER TODAY!**

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has been working with the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to establish a new "Land and Water Conservation" license plate program. The Trust's experience with license plate programs has demonstrated that this can be a stable and sustainable source of funding for land protection.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles requires that 3,000 plates be pre-ordered and held with checks sent in advance, before they will put this plate into production. Once the 3,000 checks are received, they will ship the plates to the vehicle owner. If the 3,000 plates are not sold in a year, they return the checks.

Please contact Bill Hinkley at MET for additional information about the plate or the program in general. He can be reached at 617.626.1177 or [william.hinkley@state.ma.us](mailto:william.hinkley@state.ma.us)

ORDER FORM & MORE INFO:

<http://www.masslandandwater.info/>

### **17) BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION!**

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition relies on its network of Member Land Trusts and Friends of the Coalition for support. "Member" status is offered to "all non-profit, charitable organizations chartered to hold and/or convey land and/or interests in land for conservation purposes in Massachusetts". "Friend" status is offered to organizations, public entities, individuals and businesses that do not meet the requirements for membership but who wish to support and participate in the work of the Coalition.

Please join us and help support our efforts to encourage private, voluntary land protection and support sound public conservation policy. Please visit our membership page at:

<http://massland.org/pages/resources/membership.html>

"The most radical thing we can do is introduce people to one another"

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