



## MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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*"We are at our moment of having the greatest impact. We have protected over 30,000 acres in Massachusetts last year alone. We are on a 3-to-1 pace of conservation to development. One out of 11 acres that have been protected in Massachusetts has been protected in the last five years alone."*

-- Bob Wilber, Chair, Mass. Land Trust Coalition and Director of Land Protection, Mass Audubon --

*"Let's make conservation our own local stimulus."*

-- Wes Ward, Vice-President for Land Protection, The Trustees of Reservations --

*"What we preserve is just as important as what we build. We need to leave for future generations a legacy of nature, beauty, and serenity, along with a legacy of commerce and prosperity. That makes land preservation a worthy investment for the Commonwealth, now and in the future."*

-- Deval L. Patrick (b. 1956), Governor of Massachusetts, 2007-present --

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**1) MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS  
400+ ATTEND WORKSHOPS, HEAR ADDRESS BY GOV. PATRICK**

The 20th Annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference, held on Saturday, March 27 in Worcester, was a great success. Below is a news story on the Conference from the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

**GOVERNOR GIVES LAND TRUSTS STATE GRANTS**

--From Telegram & Gazette Staff, By Linda Bock

WORCESTER -- John M. Mitchell, U.S. attorney general from 1969-1972, once said, "The conservation movement is a breeding ground of communists and other subversives. We intend to clean them out, even if it means rounding up every birdwatcher in the country."

Bernie McHugh, of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, used that quote to introduce folks at the 20th annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference to Gov. Deval L. Patrick early yesterday.

"It's great to be among all you communists and subversives," the governor said to the hundreds of conservationists and environmentalists. The crowd laughed and enjoyed his friendly, tongue-in-cheek remark, and the governor was clearly in a great mood as the crowd in the Worcester Technical High School auditorium welcomed him with a rousing standing ovation, the first of three he received.

In introducing the governor, Mr. McHugh spoke of a 2006 debate, when then-candidate Patrick was asked if he would be willing to make a \$50 million commitment to land acquisition for conservation. Mr. Patrick agreed on the spot.

"And you have stuck to it even in these challenging times," Mr. McHugh said. He then presented the governor with a framed map of the state that shows in green the land protected during the Patrick administration.

In the last three years, the Patrick administration has invested more than \$140 million in conservation and preserved more than 61,000 acres at a cost of approximately \$2,500 per acre, Mr. Patrick said. The open space projects include 72 urban park projects, the preservation of about 5,200 acres for farmland and 17 square miles preserved for habitat.

"Over 1,089 projects to date," Mr. Patrick said. "We've completed one project for every day we've been in this office."

Mr. Patrick congratulated the Land Trust Coalition on its 20th anniversary: "You've worked to coordinate over 100 land trusts across the commonwealth; your work is invaluable," he said. He then announced \$450,000 in conservation partnership grants ranging from \$24,000 to \$85,000 each to help land trusts and environmental groups protect 235 acres in 10 communities, including Athol, Hardwick and Phillipston.

Wes Ward, vice president of land and conservation for the Trustees of Reservations, and Bob Wilber, chairman of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, also made brief remarks before conference participants dispersed to their choice of more than 30 workshops for the rest of the day. Mr. Ward said the theme of the conference was the next generation of conservation.

"Let's make conservation our own local stimulus," Mr. Ward said. Mr. Wilber said conservation efforts in the state are at an all-time high.

"We are at our moment of having the greatest impact," Mr. Wilber said. "We have protected over 30,000 acres in Massachusetts last year alone. We are on a 3-to-1 pace of conservation to development. One out of 11 acres that have been protected in Massachusetts has been protected in the last five years alone."

The Trustees of Reservations was founded in 1891 and is the oldest statewide land conservation organization in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is a volunteer association of land trusts founded to exchange ideas and information and work with state and environmental agencies.

"Things are really firing on all cylinders," Mr. Wilber said.

Participants in the conference had their choice of 70 speakers from all over New England. The discussions included nonprofit fundraising; starting and managing community farms and gardens; land trusts, property taxes and charitable exemptions; and understanding the politics and process behind municipal conservation funding.

In between workshops, participants browsed displays set up in the corridors. Howard G. Hoople of Andover, Sharon B. Stichter of Newbury and Madeline Champagne of Foxboro staffed the Massachusetts Butterfly Association booth. The statewide organization started in 1990.

"There are over 100 species of butterflies in Massachusetts," Ms. Champagne said. The trio was there to advocate for conservation and to encourage eco-friendly management of land that is preserved.

Exhibitors Ellen Arnold of the Friends of the Upton State Forest, which has approximately 130 members, and Shari Heller of the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network were there to encourage people to start "friends" groups in their own communities. "Upton has one of the most wonderful friends groups," Ms. Heller said. "All our forests and parks are in need of friends."

See this story at <<http://www.telegram.com/article/20100328/NEWS/3280389>>

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## **2) MLTC IS UPDATING THE SERVICE PROVIDERS DIRECTORY**

MLTC's Service Providers Directory is a web-based resource available to land trusts, other non-profit groups, landowners, and the entire Mass. conservation community. It is important that the Directory represent the wide variety

of services that Mass. land trusts use throughout Massachusetts - for this reason MLTC is updating and expanding our Service Providers Directory!

Listings on the Service Provider Directory are free and open to any business, consultant or contractor that has worked with at least one Mass. land trust who is willing to be listed as a client.\* Providers that have worked for other types of non-profits may also be included at the discretion of MLTC.

To see our current Directory go to: <http://www.massland.org/?q=service-providers>

**Land Trust Members:**

If your organization has worked with any service providers in the past, especially accountants, appraisers, attorneys, biologists, web developers, land stewardship consultants, and surveyors, and found them capable such that you would hire them again please e-mail their name, company, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Lindsey Sarquilla at [lsarquilla@massland.org](mailto:lsarquilla@massland.org)

**Service Providers:**

If you would like to be listed on MLTC's Service Provider Directory please fill out the attached Service Provider Form and mail it to MTLC at PO Box 629, Lincoln, MA 01773 or e-mail it to [lsarquilla@massland.org](mailto:lsarquilla@massland.org)

Please contact Lindsey Sarquilla if you have any questions, suggestions, or additional contacts in the future for MLTC's Service Providers Directory by e-mail at [lsarquilla@massland.org](mailto:lsarquilla@massland.org) or by phone at (978) 443-5588 ext. 24

\*Our Service Providers' Directory is not a list of "recommended professionals," but rather a list of professionals whose experience with land trusts is confirmed by at least one member land trust, which MLTC makes available for the convenience of the community.

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**3) CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS HELP LAND TRUSTS PROTECT 235 ACRES**

**WORCESTER** - March 27, 2010 - Addressing the 20th Annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference this morning, Governor Deval Patrick announced \$447,598 in Conservation Partnership Grants that will enable nine non-profit organizations to preserve 235 acres of open space from the North Quabbin hills to Cape Cod.

"Protecting our open spaces and natural habitats, creating recreational opportunities for all our residents and visitors and preserving our working landscapes are critical to the quality of life in Massachusetts," said Governor Patrick.

"As we continue to invest in our land conservation, these grants will foster a stronger, cleaner environment for our residents today as well as future generations," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

Nine grants ranging from \$24,000 to \$85,000 were awarded to fund conservation projects in the following 10 communities: Athol, Brewster, Dartmouth, Hampden, Hardwick, Hull, Mattapoisett, Phillipston, Wareham, and Truro. The projects protect rare ecosystems, provide recreational opportunities, protect drinking water sources and preserve habitat to ensure the survival of endangered species.

"As part of Governor Patrick's ongoing commitment to land conservation, these grants bolster efforts by our conservation partners to protect wildlife habitat, farmland and forests across the state," Energy and Environmental

Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles said. "With our investment of over \$140 million over the past three years, a total of 1,089 conservation projects have been completed to date, and these grants will add to these land conservation achievements."

In the last three years, the Patrick-Murray Administration has preserved more than 61,000 acres, at a cost of less than \$2,500 per acre. These open space projects across the state include 72 urban park projects, the preservation of more than 5,200 acres of farmland, and conserving 17 square miles of habitat.

The grants announced today - part of the Conservation Partnership program at EEA - are designed to help nonprofit organizations purchase land or interests in land (such as conservation restrictions) for conservation or recreation. Grant recipients must convey a perpetual conservation restriction to either the community where a project is located or to a state agency, and protected property must provide a public benefit. The maximum grant award this year is \$85,000. Grants finance no more than half of total project costs.

EEA's Conservation Partnership Program has protected 1,387 acres of land since it was established in 2005. Funding for Conservation Partnership grants comes from the Energy and Environment Bond Bill Governor Patrick signed in August 2008.

Proposed projects are evaluated and selected based on their ability to conserve biodiversity, protect water quality, promote recreation and preserve working farms and forests. This year's projects include properties that enlarge or connect to other conservation land, increase opportunity for hiking and other passive recreation, are wetlands or contain prime agricultural soils or important wildlife habitat.

Click here for a statewide map of all grant recipients.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conspart\\_grants\\_all.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conspart_grants_all.jpg)>

\* **The Coalition for Buzzards Bay** - \$85,000 for 24 acres to protect frontage along Tripps Mill Brook, a tributary of the Mattapoissett River that runs into Buzzards Bay. The property's forest and wetland fall within rare species habitat and is located over a drinking water aquifer. (Mattapoissett)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_mattapoissett\\_tripps.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_mattapoissett_tripps.jpg)>

\* **East Quabbin Land Trust** - \$35,750 for 40 acres on the northern edge of Gilbertville that are part of the Dougal Range forest. The land features a historic stone bridge over Danforth Brook and includes habitat for rare species. (Hardwick)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/cons10-rd1/eea\\_harwich\\_cons-trust.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/cons10-rd1/eea_harwich_cons-trust.jpg)>

\* **Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust** - \$23,850 for 17 acres at the head of the Little River to protect significant river frontage and form a crucial link to nearly 600 acres of protected land. The land features and extensive salt marsh that is important coast habitat for wildlife, particularly birds. The property includes walking trails. (Dartmouth)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_dartmouthPainter.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_dartmouthPainter.jpg)>

\* **Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust** - \$45,085 a 70-acre property on the border of Athol and Phillipston that features mature forests and wetlands. Thousand Acre Brook passes through the wetland on the way to Millers River. This property is important habitat for migratory birds and will link the Phillipston Reservoir to over 5,000 acres of protected land. (Athol, Phillipston)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_phillipston\\_thousand-acre.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_phillipston_thousand-acre.jpg)>

\* **Brewster Conservation Trust** - \$37,350 for eight acres of a marsh wetland and coastal pine-oak forest within the town of Orleans drinking water zone and rare species habitat. The property features mixed oak forest and will be open for passive recreation. (Brewster)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_brewster\\_clay-hole.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_brewster_clay-hole.jpg)>

\* **Minnechaug Land Trust** - \$25,000 for a 36-acre property that has been the site of local gatherings and recreation for more than 100 years. The upland ridge property features views south to Minnechaug Mountain and north to the Holyoke Range. The property includes Goat Rock and a popular trail along the Wilbraham Mountain ridge that leads to Hampden Memorial Park athletic fields. (Hampden)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_hampden\\_goat-rock.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_hampden_goat-rock.jpg)>

\* **Wareham Land Trust** - \$85,000 for 35 acres in five parcels along Patterson's Brook, a tributary of the Weweantic River, an important coldwater trout habitat. The mixed upland and wetland parcels of this property are habitat for rare species and located over the Plymouth-Carver aquifer. The property features a five-acre pond and will connect 24 acres of existing conservation land. (Wareham)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_wareham\\_patterson.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_wareham_patterson.jpg)>

\* **Truro Conservation Trust** - \$35,000 for five acres of pine-oak upland forest that lies within a wellhead protection area for drinking water. The property will help to protect the lower Pamet River salt marsh. The property is rare species habitat and will make possible a planned new public trail. (Truro)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_truro\\_kenniston.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_truro_kenniston.jpg)>

\* **The Trustees of the Reservations** - \$75,563 to preserve a 0.21 acre undeveloped house lot to provide a public entrance, including parking, to the Weir River Woods Preserve. The preserve is located on Jones Island and contains multiple ecosystem types on its 18 acres. (Hull)

Click here to download JPG maps of the grant recipient.

<[http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea\\_conpart\\_hull\\_chatham-st.jpg](http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/maps/100325/eea_conpart_hull_chatham-st.jpg)>

EEA's Conservation Partnership Program has protected 1,387 acres of land since it was established in 2005. Funding for Conservation Partnership grants comes from the Energy and Environment Bond Bill signed by Governor Patrick in August 2008.

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#### **4) HEALTH CARE BILL OFFERS TAX CREDIT TO SMALL CHARITIES**

--From The Chronicle of Philanthropy 3/22/2010 by Suzanne Perry

The historic health-care bill adopted by the House of Representatives Sunday night provides relief to small charities that offer health insurance to their employees -- a victory for nonprofit leaders who fought for such language.

By adopting the Senate version of the major health-care overhaul, the House agreed that both nonprofit groups and businesses could qualify for tax credits. The original House bill offered only income-tax credits to small employers, which would not have helped tax-exempt groups.

The final bill, set to be signed by President Obama in the next day or two, allows nonprofit groups to apply the credit to certain payroll taxes, like the money withheld from employee checks for Medicare. The provision applies to employers with no more than 25 full-time employees and average wages below \$50,000.

For tax years 2010 through 2013, nonprofit groups will be eligible for up to 25 percent of the costs if they pay for at least 50 percent of the premiums (businesses get 35 percent). Starting in tax year 2014, they will be eligible for up to 35 percent of such costs if they buy insurance from new exchanges, or insurance marketplaces, that states must set up for small businesses.

The legislation will affect a broad swath of the nonprofit world. In a letter to Congressional leaders in January, Independent Sector, a coalition of charities and foundations, said more than half of the country's 1.5 million nonprofit employers have fewer than 10 employees, and 65 percent have fewer than 25. "Nonprofit organizations face the same escalating health insurance costs as small for-profit businesses," it wrote.

Larger nonprofit groups will be affected by a provision that is included in a separate bill approved by the House, known as the "reconciliation bill," which includes changes that the body made to the Senate version of the legislation. That bill, which has been sent to the Senate, would stiffen the penalty for certain employers with more than 50 workers that do not offer health insurance. If at least one of a group's full-time workers must rely on subsidies to buy insurance, the employer would be fined \$2,000 for each of its full-time workers -- up from \$750 in the Senate bill.

Information about both health-care bills is available on the Web site <<http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/legislation?id=0361>> of Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker.

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## **5) MA DOR ESTIMATES FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TRUST FUND**

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) has issued an updated projection of the first round CPA Trust Fund distribution that communities can expect to receive this coming October. DOR is estimating the first round distribution will be between 31% and 32% of the amount that communities raise locally from their CPA surcharge.

This projection is higher than DOR's previous estimate of 28%, as Trust Fund revenues collected at the Registry of Deeds are up slightly from last year. Below is the text from the DOR Bulletin, FY2011 Budget Issues and Procedures (2010-02B):

*During FY2010, 142 cities and towns collected the local Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge and are eligible for state matching grants in FY2011. As a result of recent positive trends in the collection of Registry of Deeds fees that provide state funding for the CPA program, and given the relatively slow increase in the number of cities and towns participating in the program, the Division of Local Services (DLS) estimates that the balance in the state trust fund will be sufficient to provide a first round match of between 31 and 32 percent of the surcharge levied by each city and town. This will trigger a second round or equity distribution for those cities and towns that have adopted the maximum three percent surcharge. With the equity distribution, the total state reimbursement for qualifying cities and towns will increase, depending on their quartile and total surcharge amount. Please note that these estimates are subject to change depending on Registry collections between now and September.*

Click here for an explanation of the formula used to distribute CPA trust fund payments <[http://www.communitypreservation.org/enews/Distribution\\_Formula.htm](http://www.communitypreservation.org/enews/Distribution_Formula.htm)>

Questions? Call the Community Preservation Coalition at 617-367-8998, email us <[stuart.saginer@communitypreservation.org](mailto:stuart.saginer@communitypreservation.org)>, or visit our website <<http://www.communitypreservation.org/index.cfm>>.

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## 6) MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS FOR SALE ON TREEBAY!

Massachusetts' Environmental Assets For Sale as Treebay Launches Online Auction at:  
[www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com](http://www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com)

*(Treebay is a project of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Environment Massachusetts, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Council of Churches, Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, and the Trustees of Reservations.)*

With massive budget cuts looming, state can no longer afford to protect our environment

Boston, MA - Massachusetts' environmental resources will be put up for auction to the highest bidder according to the founders of Treebay, who today launched their online auction website [www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com](http://www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com). Treebay is auctioning off the environmental resources the state can no longer afford to maintain in the face of continual budget cuts over the last decade and even more cuts anticipated in next year's state budget, which is currently being deliberated by the state legislature. Treebay Executives expect tremendous interest in items that have never before been available for private consumption.

The state's economic woes have given way to new opportunities in the private sector. Treebay is offering a wide variety of items from state parks and endangered species to water monitoring equipment for the do-it-yourselfer. New auction items will continually be posted for bidding as they become available. Items currently available include Ashland State Park, Plymouth Rock Pilgrim Memorial, and Streeter Point Recreational Area, which the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) can no longer staff. It will also include hazmat suits for your loved ones in the face of the Department of Environmental Protection's limited ability to proactively find hazardous waste sites and oversee existing cleanups. These items are expected to be hot commodities both with citizens and with entrepreneurs looking for a way to capitalize on the state's heritage.

The ambitious founders of this commercial enterprise have been patiently awaiting the day when they would be able to acquire some of the state's most valuable resources. The environmental programs in Massachusetts have seen a 44% drop in funding over the last decade, when adjusted for inflation. The Department of Environmental Protection, which is responsible for protecting our air, water, land, and health from environmental threats, has lost 27% of its employees over the last five years. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, which is responsible for maintaining and staffing our state parks, pools, and beaches, has lost 18% of its employees over just the last two years. This has meant that fewer people are on the ground maintaining our parks, monitoring our water quality, regulating polluting facilities, and enforcing our environmental laws.

"Treebay has been a dream of ours for almost a decade," said Ivana Polluti, Founder and CEO of Treebay Unlimited. "Back in 2002 and 2003 when Massachusetts' environmental agencies were first being slashed we began to plan for the day when funding would dry up and the state would no longer be able to protect the environment. And here we are today!"

"In 2003, Massachusetts ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in funding for environmental programs as a percentage of the total state budget," said Nancy Goodman, Vice President for Policy at the Environmental League of Massachusetts. "A

recent Beacon Hill Institute Report, out of Suffolk University, found that we spend less than half the national average per capita on parks. With the upcoming FY2011 budget, our environmental programs will look even worse."

"We spend less than 1% of our state budget on parks and environmental protection - just over 0.6%," said Megan Amundson, Political Director of the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters. "It is a shame that the state budget has come to this. But personally, I've had my eye on Revere Beach for a while now. I'm hoping that shows up on the auction block soon. It's just miserable having to share such a small span of sand with so many people each summer."

"The consequences of underfunding environmental protection will reverberate for decades to come," said Ben Wright, Advocate for Environment Massachusetts. "Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution guarantees that 'the people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment.' What does it say when lawmakers are no longer willing to fulfill the requirements of our constitution and do not fund our environmental programs?"

For more information on environmental funding and recommendations for adequately funding our environmental agencies, visit the Green Budget FY2011: On the Brink at [www.environmentalleague.org](http://www.environmentalleague.org).

To bid on our environmental resources, visit [www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com](http://www.MassEnvironmentForSale.com).

For more info, contact Megan Amundson, Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters  
Cell: 617-462-3633 or [megan@mlev.org](mailto:megan@mlev.org)

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## **7) DRIVE SLOWLY! FROGS, TOADS AND SALAMANDERS ON THE HOP**

'Tis the season for amphibians on the move, especially on warm, rainy nights. Salamanders, spring peepers, wood frogs, and toads will be hopping and crawling across Bay State roadways on warm wet nights, heading to vernal pools and other wetlands to mate and lay their eggs. Reports of amphibians chorusing and on the move have already come in to Division of Fisheries and Wildlife during the heavy rains of March.

The height of spring amphibian activity comes during rainy nights when spring peepers are heard calling. Thousands of frogs, salamanders, and toads are moving across roadways on warm rainy nights, and many are squashed by vehicles traveling after dark. Some local communities and conservation groups host salamander crossings where traffic is slowed to allow for safe progress of amphibians. Other local conservation groups meet at known "Big Night" crossings to share this seasonal phenomenon with the public or look for new road crossings to document the presence of nearby vernal pools. Consider doing your daily errands before dark or during dry evenings as a way to reduce amphibian traffic mortality.

Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use the pools to breed. Also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds, vernal pools typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising ground water and rainfall and remain full through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish that eat eggs or tadpoles from establishing permanent populations. Many amphibian and invertebrate species rely on this unique breeding habitat free of fish predators.

Find out much more about what vernal pools are, what they look like, and what creatures use them in Massachusetts! Consider ordering a Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools, published by the Division's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Vernal Pool Association. Beautiful photographs and descriptive text are combined to aid in the identification and study of amphibians, reptiles and many invertebrates. The Field Guide may be ordered by calling the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program at (508) 389-6360. Visit the Division's website at [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife) and click on the Natural Heritage button for other information about ways to certify and protect vernal pools. Another useful website with information on vernal pools, crossing signs, and other educational materials can be found at the Vernal Pool Association at [www.vernalpool.org](http://www.vernalpool.org)

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## **8) PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITY: TRANSPORTATION AND WILDLIFE**

--From Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup 3/19/2010

--By Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director, & Christina McDermott, Assistant to the Director

Are you knowledgeable about the impacts of transportation on our flora and fauna? Massachusetts will be hosting the Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst on **September 12-15, 2010**, and presenters are needed. The conference theme is "Sustainability in an Uncertain Landscape." Conference planners are inviting interested presenters to **submit abstracts by April 30, 2010**. Focal topics can be research, planning, monitoring, design, and/or active conservation. A clear link to wildlife conservation and transportation planning in northeastern states must be justified. For more detailed information on guidelines go to: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/calendar/meetings/pdf/netwc\\_call\\_for\\_presenters.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/calendar/meetings/pdf/netwc_call_for_presenters.pdf)

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## **9) CLIMATE CHANGE & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE, APR. 26 NEWTON REDUCED CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE: LIMITED SPACE**

### **66th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**

**Monday, April 26, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM**

**Boston Marriott Newton in Newton, MA**

Space is filling up for this conference!

Register Now at: <[https://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5808/t/7580/shop/custom.jsp?donate\\_page\\_KEY=1729](https://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5808/t/7580/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=1729)>

In November of 2008 a group of forward-looking conservation organizations came together to host a conference at Bentley University called Responding to Climate Change: Working Together to Conserve Land, Wildlife and Habitat. The conference also spawned the creation of the Climate Change and Wildlife Alliance-Massachusetts (Alliance). The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) invited the Alliance to co-host an afternoon workshop at the 66th Annual NEAFWA Conference, taking place on Monday April 26, 2010. The conference theme is Climate Change and Wildlife Conservation - Adaptation and Mitigation.

Thanks to a grant provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences is subsidizing the first 200 registrants who were invited to the November 2008 conference Responding to Climate Change. With this subsidy, the cost to attend the one day program is \$50 (rather than \$100). Register Now

<[http://org2.democracynaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=-1&url\\_num=4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.climateandwildlife.org%2Fconference-registration](http://org2.democracynaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=-1&url_num=4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.climateandwildlife.org%2Fconference-registration)> The morning plenary session, being facilitated by DFW, will commence with prominent and distinguished speakers, including:

- \* Commissioner Mary Griffin, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
- \* Ian A. Bowles, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- \* John Kostyack, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation and Global Warming for the National Wildlife Federation
- \* Kevin Knobloch, President, Union of Concerned Scientists
- \* Dan Ashe, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- \* Hector Galbraith, Ph.D., Director, Climate Change and Energy Initiative, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

These speakers will set the stage for the afternoon workshop that is being presented by the Alliance entitled Responding to Climate Change II: Tools and Solutions for Safeguarding Wildlife and Habitats. The afternoon workshop builds on the conversation which began at Bentley. It features speakers who will provide the latest thinking on how climate change will impact fish and wildlife resources, present opportunities to become actively involved in monitoring and on the ground management activities, establish a regional context for climate change issues, and identify emerging issues. In addition to the one day conference, there will be an evening buffet dinner for an additional \$50. This will be a great way to network with your peers. You can register for the buffet dinner when you register for the conference. There are two ways to register:

- \* Register Online at <[https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5808/t/7580/shop/custom.jsp?donate\\_page\\_KEY=1729](https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5808/t/7580/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=1729)>
- \* Download the Registration Form (PDF) and mail or fax your registration at <[http://www.climateandwildlife.org/sites/ccwa/files/ConferenceRegistrationForm\\_Download.pdf](http://www.climateandwildlife.org/sites/ccwa/files/ConferenceRegistrationForm_Download.pdf)>

## **10) PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WORKSHOP FOR LAND TRUSTS**

**April 14, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**

**127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA**

**Presented by: Robert Levite, Esquire., U. Mass Extension Service**

On February 6, the Coalition's workshop on Local Property Tax Exemptions for Land Trusts premiered at the Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation, attended by over 100. This workshop discussed how recent tax case rulings may affect property tax exemptions on land owned by land trusts for conservation purposes; how land trust Articles of Incorporation support their property tax exemptions; what steps need be taken by a land trust to ensure that any property it takes under its ownership is eligible for tax exemption.

### **Workshop Description:**

Recent tax case rulings may affect property tax exemptions on land owned by land trusts for conservation purposes. What would the loss of property tax exemptions mean to your land trust?

### **Learn:**

- How a land trust's Articles of Incorporation support their property tax exemptions
- What steps need be taken by a land trust to ensure that any property it takes under its ownership is eligible for tax exemption
- What to do if your property tax exemptions are challenged

*Refreshments will be served.*

The workshop will be repeated in various locations around the state later this year. The presentation and handouts are available to members on the Coalition website:

**In the Land Trust Operations, Tax Topics section at** <<http://www.massland.org/?q=category/land-trust-operations/tax-topics-operations>>

Property Tax Exemptions for Land Trusts in Mass (the workshop presentation)  
Property Tax Case Resources (a resources guide of relevant statutes and cases)  
FAQs on Local Property Tax Exemptions

**In the Land Trust Operations, Organization Documents section at**  
<<http://www.massland.org/?q=category/conservation-practitioners-land-trust-operations/organization-documents>>

Sample Clauses for the Purposes Section of Articles of Incorporation (phrases and language for a land trust's Purposes section can help land trusts describe how they "occupy" their property for tax purposes)

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## **11) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CONFERENCE: NORTHAMPTON, SAT. MAY 8**

Registration is now open for the upcoming CPA Conference in Northampton, MA!

Click here! <<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2oucpryg4ogzael/a0121g7f69445/questions>>

This FREE conference will feature 8 targeted workshops, two CPA Roundtable discussions, and an engaging plenary session. Tentative workshop topics will include Evaluating the Significance of CPA Historic Resources; Municipal Affordable Housing Trusts; How to Run a Successful CPA Campaign; CPA Financial Q&A and much much more.

Join us on Saturday, May 8, from 8:30am - 2:30pm at the Northampton Senior Center in Northampton, MA.

\* Register today! <<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2oucpryg4ogzael/a0121g7f69445/questions>>

To read about CPA topics that we've covered at past conferences, please see the CPA Conference Page <<http://www.communitypreservation.org/Conferences2003.cfm>> on our website.

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## **12) HELP IMPROVE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND REDUCE ROADKILL**

--From Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup 3/19/2010

--By Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director, & Christina McDermott, Assistant to the Director

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation <<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>>, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and endangered Species Program <<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/nhosp.htm>>, and the Vernal Pool Association <[http://www.vernalpool.org/vernal\\_1.htm](http://www.vernalpool.org/vernal_1.htm)> have launched an effort to minimize the impact of roads on wildlife and improve highway safety. Anyone can submit data on the locations of wildlife crossings and roadkill hotspots. Please participate, and encourage others you know to join in too. Visit the website at: <<http://linkinglandscapes.info/roads/home.html>>

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## 13) NEW GRANTS! LAND, CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP, SMALL COMMUNITIES

### The Division of Conservation Services FY11 Grant Round Is Now Open!

RFRs and application information are available on Comm-Pass at <<http://www.comm-pass.com>> and on the DCS website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/dcs>

#### \* Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant

Reimbursement funding to municipal conservation commissions for the acquisition of land or interests in land for conservation or passive recreation. Maximum award: \$500,000 Reimbursement rate: 52-70%. **Application deadline: July 15, 2010**

**Contact:** Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 [celia.riechel@state.ma.us](mailto:celia.riechel@state.ma.us)

#### \* Conservation Partnership Grant

Reimbursement funding to 501(c)(3) non-profits for the acquisition of land or interests in land for conservation or recreation. New for FY11: Baseline Documentation Reports are eligible for reimbursement. Maximum award: \$85,000. Reimbursement rate: 50%. **Application deadline: July 12, 2010**

**Contact:** Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 [celia.riechel@state.ma.us](mailto:celia.riechel@state.ma.us)

#### \* Conservation Appraisal for Small Communities Grant - **New for FY11!**

Reimbursement funding for appraisals contracted in order to apply to the LAND grant program. Available to all communities with a population of fewer than 5,000 people. Funding is non-competitive; all eligible applicants will receive contracts on a rolling basis until all available funding is allocated. Participants must have an executed state contract prior to getting the appraisal. The Participant must submit a LAND application for the appraised property to receive reimbursement. Reimbursement under this grant is not contingent upon the Participant's LAND application being selected for funding.

Maximum award: \$5,000 per appraisal. Reimbursement rate: 80%. **Application deadline: rolling, no later than June 11, 2010.**

**Contact:** Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 [celia.riechel@state.ma.us](mailto:celia.riechel@state.ma.us)

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## 14) BERKSHIRE BEAVER GRANT FUNDING

Thanks to a grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation, the MSPCA has funding to assist with installation of water flow devices to humanely, non-lethally, and ecologically mitigate beaver-related flooding in the Berkshires.

**Who can participate?** Any individual, town, business, or organization *in the Berkshires*.

**What are the criteria?** A willingness (of all parties involved) to resolve problems non-lethally for the long term, a site that is conducive to flow device usage, and permission of the landowners and the local Conservation Commission to install water flow devices.

**How do I request assistance?** Send a description of your conflict site(s) and the limitations of your budget to the MSPCA for consideration. Starting in the spring, we will evaluate the sites to determine if they are conducive to flow device usage.

**Funding assistance:** The amount of funding offered to each applicant will depend on the number of requests, the amount of each viable request, and the ability of each requester to pay for part of the flow device, or the maintenance contract for the device, themselves.

**Deadline:** Requests will be accepted throughout 2010 until funding is exhausted or the flow-device season is over in the late fall.

Requests will be considered in the order in which they are received. Submit ASAP, please.

**Send requests to:** Linda Huebner, MSPCA, 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston, MA, 02130 or via email to: [Lhuebner@mspca.org](mailto:Lhuebner@mspca.org)

**Please include the following information with requests:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Download** Word document <<http://www.mspca.org/programs/wildlife-resources/species-information/beaver/2010-beaver-funding-assistance-request.doc>> to send via email  
or PDF <<http://www.mspca.org/programs/wildlife-resources/species-information/beaver/2010-beaver-funding-assistance-request.pdf>> to send via regular mail

Note: If you have a problem with beaver-related flooding in another part of the state, please contact Linda for more information: [Lhuebner@mspca.org](mailto:Lhuebner@mspca.org)

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## **15) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COMMUNITY CONSERVATION COORDINATOR**

### **The Hilltown Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations**

**Deadline: April 2, 2010 or sooner**

The Trustees of Reservations and the Hilltown Land Trust (HLT) are partnering in an effort to increase their collective capacity to more effectively pursue their common land conservation goals in the Hilltowns region of western Massachusetts. The part-time Hilltown Land Trust Executive Director / Trustees Community Conservation Coordinator ("ED/CCC") is an employee of The Trustees of Reservations with primary responsibility for implementation of HLT's and The Trustees' joint conservation vision for the Hilltowns. The ED/CCC provides strategic conservation leadership to the Hilltown Land Trust and serves as the key land conservation staff for The Trustees within the Hilltowns; conducts land acquisition transactions from inception to completion; supports local efforts to raise private and public funds for individual land protection projects and organizational needs of HLT and The Trustees; and oversees the HLT conservation restriction program.

A complete position description is available at <http://www.thetrustees.org/about-us/employment/current-openings/hilltown-land-trust-executive.html>. Please send resume and cover letter to The Trustees of Reservations, 193 High Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, Attn: Cynthia Sommer, or to [csommer@ttor.org](mailto:csommer@ttor.org) with subject line "HLT ED/CCC application". Resumes will be considered as they are received.

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## **16) PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, MASS. SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE**

The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance is pleased to announce an opening for a new position to support our growing network and implementation work. The Partnerships and Communications Director is a new, full-time position established at the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, which is a coalition of seven policy organizations concerned with promoting sustainable and equitable development in the state.

The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA) promotes healthy and diverse communities, protects critical environmental resources and working landscapes, and supports equitable community development and urban reinvestment. It was formed in 2003 by the following organizations: Boston Society of Architects (BSA), Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston (FHC), Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

The Partnerships Director will lead the effort to grow the Alliance into a statewide, broad-based network with a strong public voice. This individual will oversee membership and partnership development; technical assistance; programming and events; and grassroots communications including the website. A significant area of focus for the Partnerships Director will be the implementation and coordination of the Alliance's new Great Neighborhoods initiative, which will develop partnerships, policy, and technical assistance tools to help resident groups achieve their smart growth goals.

The Partnerships and Communications Director will work closely with the MSGA Executive Director, as well as with the Alliance's Steering Committee and policy teams, composed of directors and staff from the seven organizations.

### **Responsibilities will include:**

- \* Build and manage partnerships with local and regional organizations across the state, particularly outside of greater Boston, in order to build the constituency for smart growth in Massachusetts
- \* Strengthen relationships among Alliance organizations, including staff, boards, and members, and assist in coordinating their involvement with Alliance campaigns/programs
- \* Engage the smart growth network in policy formation and advocacy
- \* Oversee Great Neighborhoods program implementation including: setting up local organizing campaigns, managing relationships with local partners, coordinating the development and application of technical assistance tools, maintaining Alliance members on task, and ensuring proper reporting and evaluation
- \* Ongoing documentation of program goals and achievements that includes reporting to Alliance members, grant reporting, and sharing of lessons learned with regional and national partners
- \* Develop robust communication tools for the Alliance network, including regular bulletins, action alerts, web-based tools and content, membership meetings and social networking events
- \* Recruit and manage volunteers and interns
- \* Support the executive director with fundraising, communications, campaign coordination, and office management

\* Represent the Alliance at meetings, give presentations, and communicate to the media as needed

**Qualifications:**

- \* Bachelor's degree required; master's preferred
- \* Superior communication skills (both written and verbal)
- \* Ability to manage multiple projects and ensure effective implementation of program goals
- \* Political, community, or network-based organizing experience
- \* Self-starter and problem solver
- \* Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to facilitate meetings, build consensus among diverse perspectives, and work with strong personalities and diverse audiences
- \* Interest in sustainable and equitable development policy issues
- \* Fundraising, planning or political experience would be welcome

**Salary:** \$50,000 or negotiable based on skills and experience.

Please send resume and cover letter expressing interest and qualifications to Andre Leroux at [andre@ma-smartgrowth.org](mailto:andre@ma-smartgrowth.org). Candidates of color are encouraged to apply.

**Please submit materials by April 5, 2010.**

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## **17) VP EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY**

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay seeks a creative and energetic professional to serve as Vice-President of Education & Public Engagement for this rapidly growing regional conservation organization. The full-time position reports directly to the President and joins a talented management team and dedicated Board of Directors.

In 2008, The Coalition completed an extensive strategic planning process in which its supporters and community leaders called on the organization to expand its efforts to ignite public action to restore Buzzards Bay today and to sustain Bay stewardship for generations to come. The Vice-President of Education and Public Engagement position has been created in response to this need and will be responsible for the creation and implementation of all aspects of the Coalition's education programs for the general public, key decision-makers in government and business, and young people.

The ideal candidate will bring more than 5 years of education, communications or natural resource management experience, a proven track record of success in organizations of equal or greater size, excellent interpersonal and communication skills; and a passion for Buzzards Bay. In return, the organization offers a great working environment; the opportunity to contribute to the success of a dynamic organization working to improve our community; and an outstanding quality of life on the shores of Buzzards Bay - all one hour from Boston and half an hour from Providence, Cape Cod and the Islands.

Competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. The position is available immediately. Please send a resume and cover letter, in confidence, by e-mail **by Friday, April 9, 2010** to Mark Rasmussen, President, at [rasmussen@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto:rasmussen@savebuzzardsbay.org). For a complete description of responsibilities and qualifications, visit <http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/jobs>

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## 18) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MERRIMACK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Executive Director is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Merrimack River Watershed Council including cultivating key partnerships and donor relationships, acting as the champion and voice of the Merrimack River, ensuring that all products and projects are produced and carried out in an effective, professional and timely manner, overseeing staff and volunteers, and developing and managing the budget. The Executive Director is responsible for developing and implementing short and long-term strategic plans to help grow and strengthen the organization's ability to have a positive impact. To read entire position description, click here <[http://www.merrimack.org/main/documents/ED\\_Job\\_03-24-10.pdf](http://www.merrimack.org/main/documents/ED_Job_03-24-10.pdf)>

### TO APPLY:

Please submit a detailed and compelling letter showing your passion and fit for the mission of the Merrimack River Watershed Council and why you should be the next Executive Director along with a resume to:

[jbernard@merrimack.org](mailto:jbernard@merrimack.org) with "Executive Director" in the subject line. Or by mail to:

Merrimack River Watershed Council

600 Suffolk Street, 5th Floor

Lowell, MA 01854.

Attn: Joe Bernard

No phone calls please.

Please submit **by April 15, 2010** and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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Prepared by:

Bernie McHugh, Editor

MassLand E-News

[Info@MassLand.org](mailto:Info@MassLand.org)

Tel: 978-443-5588

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