



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

Please forward this to friends, family and colleagues interested in Massachusetts land conservation issues.

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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. 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."

-- 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) POSTPONED! MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION 20th ANNIVERSARY
Originally scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2010
will be RESCHEDULED to a date this Fall.

The Officers of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition have decided that our 20th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for May 28th, must be postponed to this fall, most probably in October. Regrettably, but not altogether surprisingly, Friday evening at the start of the Memorial Day weekend turns out to be a difficult date for many people, including several of our Honorees. We will be contacting all ticket purchasers directly but if you have invited family, friends and colleagues please let them know about this change ASAP. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause any of you who are helping us publicize this event. We will let you know as we set a new date, and we hope you can plan to attend! Question? Email bmchugh@massland.org

2) ALERT! SUPPORT LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- From Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup 5/14/2010 by Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director and Christina McDermott, Ass't to the Director

Since its inception, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided Massachusetts with over \$185 million for land conservation and outdoor recreation. This includes \$89.7 million in federal appropriations for sites like the Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Cape Cod National Seashore, and matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Although Congress authorized LWCF to receive a small percentage of offshore oil and gas fee revenues - up to \$900 million a year - most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Legislation introduced by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (S. 2747) is now pending before the U.S. Senate that would ensure this funding. The legislation would make a permanent annual appropriation and guarantee LWCF funding for the future.

Please contact U.S. Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown to ask them to cosponsor S. 2747 that would provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The best way to contact the Senators is through their email portals at:

<http://kerry.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>

<http://scottbrown.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/emailscttobrown>

Here's a suggestion of a simple message: The Land and Water Conservation Fund needs full and permanent funding because it benefits nature and people in Massachusetts. Legislation introduced by Senators Baucus and Bingaman (S. 2747) is now pending before the U.S. Senate that would ensure this funding. I urge the Senator to support S. 2747 and ensure the Fund keeps benefiting our state.

3) 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.

Read the rest of this story at <http://www.telegram.com/article/20100328/NEWS/3280389>

4) MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION SERVICE PROVIDERS DIRECTORY

MLTC is updating and expanding our Service Providers Directory - 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, so please help us build the 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

Service Providers:

If you would like to be listed on MLTC's Service Provider Directory please download the Service Providers application at http://www.massland.org/files/SP_FORM_031510.pdf and mail it to MLTC at PO Box 629, Lincoln, MA 01773 or e-mail it to lsarquilla@massland.org

Please contact Lindsey if you have any questions, suggestions, or additional contacts for the Directory by e-mail at lsarquilla@massland.org or by phone at (978) 443-5588 ext. 24

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

5) HOUSE BUDGET MAKES SEVERE CUTS TO ENVIRONMENT

--From the Environmental League of Massachusetts Bulletin & Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup

The House Budget (<http://www.mass.gov/legis/11budget/house/>) has a number of severe cuts to environmental agencies. Across all agencies within the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA), spending drops \$11.4 million from the current fiscal year, and the percentage of the state budget spent on environmental programs drops, going from 0.66% in the FY10 General Appropriations Act to 0.64%.

- * Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program - unfunded. This important endangered species protection program remains precariously funded only by donations, permit review fees, and other sources that vary year to year.
- * Department of Environmental Protection - down \$1.9 million to \$26.04 million.
- * Department of Conservation & Recreation State & Urban Parks - down \$3.6 million to \$41.3 million. DCR's administrative budget was also slashed by more than \$500,000.
- * Riverways is level funded from the current fiscal year, but still down \$60,000 from where they were before this year's budget cuts.
- * MassGIS has moved from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs to the state's Information Technology Division within Administration & Finance. They have retained their line-item, or account, but are funded at \$70,000 total with the plan that they will be supported by other agencies that use their data, such as emergency services. MassGIS, the backbone of environmental stewardship, should be better supported by the state's general fund.
- * Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup line-item; the House recommended cutting \$1.55 million from its \$15.4 million FY2010 budget.
- * Office of Dam Safety was cut from \$427,000 to \$410,000
- * Surprisingly, House Ways & Means cut expenditures from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife land stamp program from \$1 million to \$500,000. This program takes a \$5.00 fee on all hunting and fishing licenses and uses the funds to protect important wildlife habitat. Making cuts here will not affect the state's bottom line.

The Senate will release its budget soon so watch for updates.

6) ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES COMMONWEALTH FOREST HERITAGE PLAN

Nearly 200,000 acres will be held in reserves, protected from logging, as state forests are managed with focus on conservation biology

BOSTON - April 21, 2010 - Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles announced today a Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan for management of state forests that quadruples the amount of forest land where no commercial logging takes place. The Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan also calls for greater coordination of land management across all state agencies, and a shift in how DCR conducts forest stewardship - toward one focusing more on conservation biology and greater public engagement and transparency.

"Governor Patrick sees our state forests as precious natural resources, and we intend to protect them, not exploit them," said Secretary Bowles. "We need to manage these assets to maximize benefits for forest ecosystems, and that means protecting more of our forests from any kind of logging and sharply restricting timber harvesting where we do allow it. From now on, we will be clear about how we manage the different kinds of forest land that are owned by the state."

The forest management approach announced today in large measure follows that recommended by a year-long Forest Futures "visioning" process held by DCR. Final recommendations to DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan from the Forest Futures Technical Steering Committee were also made public today. Specific measures announced today will apply to forests managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as state and urban parks.

"I am very grateful to everyone who participated in the Forest Futures process, which gave me great insight into the diverse interests and values held by people who cherish our state forests the way I do," said Commissioner Sullivan. "I am confident that the thoughtful recommendations of the Technical Steering Committee, as adopted and amplified by Secretary Bowles, will make Massachusetts a national model in forest stewardship."

"We applaud the leadership that Secretary Bowles and Commissioner Sullivan have provided, and we are eager to see the Technical Steering Committee's recommendations implemented," said Lisa Vernegaard, chairwoman of the Technical Steering Committee. "We are confident that our recommendations will help DCR improve its stewardship of our state forests and parks so they will continue to provide the Commonwealth's citizens with an abundance of values - today, and into the future."

Going forward, DCR will adopt a "zoning" model that specifies management practices according to forest designation. These zones will be established through a consultative public process. The three zones for DCR forests and their attendant management practices will consist of:

- * Parklands: primarily managed for recreation, human experiences and protection of cultural and natural features. Commercial timber harvesting not allowed. Cutting is limited to that which is necessary to support recreational assets and uses, including public safety.
- * Reserves: primarily managed for biological diversity based on natural processes and the protection of large contiguous blocks of high-value ecosystems. Commercial harvesting not allowed. A new Forest Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, informed by the public process, will guide the department in selection and stewardship of reserves.
- * Woodlands: primarily managed for state-of-the-art sustainable forestry, forest products, and active carbon management. No new harvesting contracts will be issued while woodlands are being zoned. Once woodlands are delineated, commercial harvesting will be allowed under new, more protective guidelines:

- o Level 1 - small patch reserves for areas of ecological or cultural significance (e.g., wetlands, endangered species protection, etc.) - no commercial harvesting
- o Level 2 - uneven aged management in high productivity forests up to 150-200 years old - maximum of 1/3 acre openings and requirement of best management practices.
- o Level 3 - under exceptional circumstances (invasive insect infestation, fire risk, storm damage, or compelling biodiversity/habitat needs), larger cuts between 1/3 acre and 5 acres may be allowed. Prior to any proposed action that would result in greater than a 1/3 acre opening, DCR will engage in wide consultation with experts and the public. Any such cut will require a determination by the Commissioner that certifies compelling need and the use of best management practices.

Currently, roughly 40,000 acres, or about 13 percent of State and Urban Parks lands are held in protected reserves. Under the new plan, at least 60 percent of forest land, or 185,000 acres will be designated as parklands and reserves, and therefore protected from logging. DCR will soon begin a public process to identify areas of state-owned forest land to be included in the greatly expanded reserves.

Secretary Bowles is also directing DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection and DFG's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to review their forest land management practices in light of the Forest Legacy Plan, with the goal of coordinating and integrating forest stewardship across state agencies.

For DCR Water Supply Protection forests

- * Review: Before new FY2011 timber sales on DCR Water Supply Protection forests are finalized, DWSP will have the existing Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) conduct a review of the scientific principles that guide existing Land Management Plan objectives. The STAC will also analyze DWSP proposed changes to implementation on issues such as opening sizes and retention standards. Resulting recommendations will be reviewed by the existing public Advisory Committees and appropriate changes or clarifications to Land Management Plans and future watershed forestry projects implemented. DCR will defer any new timber sales for FY11 until this review is concluded. Habitat management practices will be reviewed in coordination with the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) as part of a broader statewide effort.
- * Increase review and oversight of all existing timber sales to ensure strict compliance with all standards.
- * Implement new transparent process with cutting plans posted online and increased public input opportunities for planned projects.

For DFG/DFW Wildlife Management Areas

- * Review: DFG/DFW will conduct a 10 year review of its existing "Forest Management Guidelines for Wildlife Management Areas" in the context of the 2006 State Wildlife Action Plan, and as part of a larger review of its statewide land protection and habitat management. DFG/DFW will conduct a public process on recommendations to update the Guidelines in the context of a review of overall land protection and habitat management effectiveness. One goal of the process will be to align, coordinate and integrate forest stewardship on all state lands.
- * Maintain transparency: DFG/DFW will continue to post online information about any active forestry management sites to make this information easily available to the public, and will invite interested members of the public to view and tour agency sites where active management has occurred.

"This new approach to land stewardship is the biggest change in a generation and will benefit people and wildlife for many years to come," said Laura Johnson, president of Mass Audubon. "These lands encompass an incredible variety of natural features within large areas of forest that provide clean water and air, all the more important as we experience a rapidly changing climate."

"The Forest Vision will expand forest reserves and return missing, and crucially important, old growth forest to the MA landscape", said Wayne Klockner, Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. "The Vision also provides for sustainably managed forests, which are crucial for both locally produced forest products and wildlife species, some in decline, that are dependent upon young forest growth. The Vision strikes the right balance between preservation and sustainable use, between economic benefits for people and the Commonwealth's wildlife; our children and grandchildren will benefit from this vision of responsible forest stewardship."

"Our state forests and parks contribute greatly to the quality of life in Massachusetts and they also help support a \$14 billion tourism industry. The Forest Futures Vision recommendations put us on a path to ensuring that these precious resources are something the state can be proud of and will continue to attract visitors from around the country and the world," said George Bachrach, President of the Environmental League of Massachusetts. "In order to realize the full potential of our parks, however, we need to make sure that DCR has the resources it needs."

"Quality close-to-home outdoor recreation areas are critical the health of local citizens, and the new vision for DCR's forest lands is a positive step toward providing first rate public parks," said Andrew Falender, President of the Appalachian Mountain Club. "We are pleased at the breadth of this vision, which will also protect habitat and ensure that public forests are managed to adapt to an uncertain climate future and contribute to local economies."

"From globally rare pitch pine/scrub oak forests of the Cape to old-growth stands nestled in the Berkshires, the Commonwealth's forests offer invaluable opportunities for habitat protection, recreation, tourism, and a broad range of necessary eco-system services," said Dan Proctor, chairman of the Massachusetts Sierra Club. "DCR's new Forest Vision provides a framework for much-improved stewardship of these natural resources and we look forward to cooperating with the public, the legislature, and the Administration to ensure that the Vision is adequately funded, implemented, and enforced."

BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE - "NEW PLAN PROTECTS STATE FORESTS"

--From Boston.com by Beth Daley

Logging banned on 60% of lands; watershed rules review is expected

Massachusetts is more than quadrupling the amount of forested state land that is off-limits to commercial logging and will sharply limit the use of clear-cutting, according to a plan announced recently. The new policy, the most significant change in state forest management in decades, reflects the growing use of public land in Western Massachusetts for recreation, and was adopted after an outcry about logging practices on some of those properties.

For the first time, the state will clearly articulate what is a park, a nature preserve, or an area where trees can be cut, replacing vague rules that have led to logging in some parklands.

"From now on, we will be clear about how we manage the different kinds of forest land that are owned by the state," said Ian Bowles, secretary of energy and environmental affairs. "Governor Patrick sees our state forests as precious natural resources, and we intend to protect them, not exploit them."

Today, about 40,000 acres, or 13 percent of the forests and parks managed by the state Department of Conservation, are off-limits to logging. Under the new plan, logging will be banned on at least 185,000 acres, or 60 percent of the lands. In most cases, clear-cutting will be limited to one-third of an acre.

The plan does not include watershed lands, however, such as those around the Quabbin Reservoir or Division of Fish and Game property where controversial cutting has also taken place. The state says it will review watershed lands before any new timber sales are approved to ensure they fit in with state goals and will post all cutting plans online. Meanwhile, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife officials will conduct a review of their forest management guidelines this year to ensure they are aligned with state forest goals.

The announcement followed a yearlong evaluation of forest policy prompted by public outrage after the discovery of large clear-cuts on public lands in the last five years. State Department of Conservation and Recreation officials have acknowledged that some cutting violated their own rules, and they recently disciplined some foresters over the issue.

Reaction to the plan was mixed, with environmentalists largely praising it and forestry industry officials slamming it. They said state lands have a long legacy of logging, and with much state land placed off limits, foresters could lose money cutting only on smaller tracts of private land.

Read the rest of this article at:

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2010/04/22/new_plan_protects_states_forests/?s_campaign=8315

7) MA DOR ESTIMATES FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

- from the Community Preservation Coalition

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

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

8) SUSTAINING JOBS BY INVESTING IN OUR GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE

--From Ebb & Flow, By Tim Purinton, Acting Director, Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Mass. Department of Fish and Game

There are a suite of economic studies now available that have examined the job creation potential for a range of economic industries, and the results are surprising. Public funds invested in restoring our natural infrastructure support as many, if not more jobs, than conventional infrastructure projects. Investing in our natural aquatic infrastructure - an interconnected system of rivers, wetlands and floodplains is what DER and our partners do through dam removal, culvert replacement, flow restoration and stream naturalization.

Wetlands and rivers provide vital ecosystem services such as flood mitigation and water purification. To engineer these services from scratch requires reliance on hard engineering and a heavy investment in capital, coupled with a long term-commitment to operation and maintenance. Our projects give nature the opportunity to restore itself, without the need of excessive engineering, manipulation and maintenance.

Groups like The Nature Conservancy have been touting the benefits of the green economy <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/connecticut/connecticutriver/news/news3043.html>, and cite the research of the Economic Policy Institute. The University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute <http://www.peri.umass.edu/236/hash/efc9f7456a/publication/333/> found that reforestation, land and watershed restoration and sustainable forest management has the highest direct and indirect job creation per million dollar investment, outperforming the repair of roads and bridges and investments in conventional water infrastructure. Jobs created per million dollar invested for forest management and watershed restoration are 17.55 jobs (direct) and 12.95 jobs (indirect), compared to, for example, new roads and bridges that create 8.7 jobs (direct) and 3.94 jobs (indirect).

Read the rest of this Ebb & Flow article at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/newsletters/ebbflow3.htm>

9) HELP IMPROVE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND REDUCE ROADKILL

--By Carrie Banks, Stream Team and Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee Coordinator

Ever wondered what it would be like if our roads and highways were constructed in such a way that bridges were impassable, roads were blocked by large objects, or if you had to dodge pedestrians walking across a four-lane highway? Driving would become a hair-raising experience, and your chances of actually reaching your destination would be greatly reduced.

Now think about what it is like for wildlife to have to cross that four-lane highway, for a fish to swim through a perched culvert with no place to rest inside, for a turtle to have to crawl up and over the road to get to the wetland on the other side.

In response to this concern, the Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT), in partnership with the Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the Vernal Pool Association, recently established an initiative entitled Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife. Anchored by the www.Linkinglandscapes.info website, this initiative is part of a long-term and multifaceted effort by these programs and others to improve landscape connectivity in Massachusetts by minimizing the impact of the

existing road network on rare and non-game wildlife, while improving highway safety. The website's role in this effort is to serve as a user-friendly interface for gathering and documenting the locations of wildlife road kill hotspots http://www.linkinglandscapes.info/roads/roadkill_map.html, amphibian road crossings http://linkinglandscapes.info/roads/salamander_map.html, turtle crossings http://linkinglandscapes.info/roads/volunteer_to_monitor.html and other evidence of wildlife movement across the landscape. Data contributed to the website will enable transportation planners, engineers and others to more cost-effectively evaluate state wildlife transportation issues, prioritize wildlife-related transportation mitigation opportunities, integrate wildlife upgrades into transportation infrastructure, improve highway right-of-ways for wildlife, and foster environmental stewardship partnerships with the public. Everyone is encouraged to submit their observations to the website (click here to submit roadkill data: http://www.linkinglandscapes.info/roads/roadkill_map.html) - the more data that's submitted, the more useful it will be in shaping future decision making.

Read the rest of this Ebb & Flow article at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/newsletters/ebbflow3.htm>

10) SuAsCo INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS & TRAINING

--Ted Elliman, Vegetation Management Coordinator, New England Wild Flower Society
508-877-7630, ext. 3203, telliman@newenglandwild.org

The New England Wild Flower Society is seeking volunteers to help with the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (SuAsCo Cisma)'s EARLY DETECTION INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS.

The goal of the project is to develop a prioritized list of invasive plant populations for management by means of documentation, mapping, and control of early detection invasive plants that are just starting to enter the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SUASCO) River watershed area.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN STOPPING THESE INVASIVE SPECIES BEFORE THEY BECOME WIDESPREAD AND UNCONTROLLABLE!

Volunteers receive one day of training in early detection invasive surveys, then are assigned to survey for the target species. The training sessions run from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and include a powerpoint presentation on the early detection species with a discussion of their identification, habitats, impacts, and control. The rest of the morning includes a discussion of survey and documentation methods, survey locations, use of GPS, and how/where to report findings. Volunteers will receive training packets and invasive plant identification guides at the training.

The afternoon part of the training is primarily in the field, honing your skills in invasive plant identification and documentation. The SuAsCo Cisma partnership plans to start controlling some of the populations documented by volunteers within this field season.

After the training session, volunteers are assigned to specific sites in their hometowns (and further afield, if they prefer) to look for the invasive plant species listed below. The SuAsCo Cisma partnership plans to survey in each of the watershed's 36 towns.

To volunteer for the training and survey work, please contact Ted Elliman, Vegetation Management Coordinator for New England Wild Flower Society at telliman@newenglandwild.org, or by phone at 508-877-7630 x 3203.

SuAsCo CISMA training dates have been set. Volunteers can choose any one of the sessions. They are:

- * Saturday, May 22 - Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, 73 Weir Hill Road, Sudbury 01776
- * Sunday, May 23 - Bedford Town Hall, 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, 01730
- * Saturday June 5 - Bolton Town Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton 01740

The eleven early detection species that are the targets of the survey, taken from the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group list, are:

- * Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- * Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- * Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- * Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- * Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- * Reed mannagrass (*Glyceria maxima*)
- * Tansy ragwort/ stinking willie (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- * Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*)
- * Great yellowcress (*Rorippa amphibia*)
- * Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- * Parrot-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

This is an extremely important project for the 36 towns which comprise the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River watershed area. It is most important that these invasive plants populations be documented, then removed to protect our native plant populations and their habitats. All volunteers under 18 must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian. Send us an email for a copy.

11) NATURAL PEST CONTROL

--from New England Wild Flower Society

Learn how to apply natural or "organic" control techniques and products to combat a variety of insect pests, diseases, and weeds. Feel free to bring sample pests and lots of questions. Leave the workshop with information to defend your landscape, using the most environmentally sensitive and effective products available today.

Saturday, May 22

10 a.m.-12 noon

Location: Nasami Farm, Whately, MA

Instructor: James McSweeney

To register contact Lana Reed, registrar, at 508-877-7630 x3303.

12) WILDFLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND

--from New England Wild Flower Society

This course focuses on learning to identify wild plants and provides field experience across the spectrum of New England flora. Students will become familiar with the family characteristics, growth patterns, habitats, and pollination mechanisms of many of our native wildflowers.

Thursdays, June 3, 10,17 - 5:30-7 p.m. and

Saturdays, June 5, 12 - 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Location: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, CT

Instructor: Lauren Brown

Cosponsor: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
To register course, contact Lana Reed, registrar, at 508-877-7630 x3303.

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**

*** 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**

*** 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

14) OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR MDAR GRANTS

Over the next couple of months, MDAR will be accepting applications from farmers who wish to participate in Department programs in Fiscal Year 2011. Interested farm operators are encouraged to review these options on the web pages of the Department <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs> or by attending one of upcoming MDAR Grant Workshops announced below.

Farm Viability Enhancement Program

This popular business planning and technical assistance program provides management advice and grants of up to \$75,000 to implement farm growth and sustainability strategies. Farm operators not only receive upfront cash awards for signing a 5 or 10 year Agricultural Covenant, but also receive valuable consultations and visits from a team of experts to discuss farm production and management, marketing, and business planning. Typical uses of funds from the Farm Viability Program include building or repairing farm structures, modernizing field equipment, purchasing delivery vehicles and tractors, improving marketing structures or food processing capacity, and establishing a farm website.

Applications and program information are available by clicking on this link [AGR- FVEP-11-18](http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/farmviability/docs/AGR-FVEP11-18.doc) <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/farmviability/docs/AGR-FVEP11-18.doc>, or on line at the Agricultural Resources web site <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/farmviability/index.htm> , or you can request a copy of the application by calling the Farm Viability Program at 617-626-1723. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday June 24, 2010.

APR Improvement Program

The purpose of the APR Improvement Program (AIP) is to help sustain active commercial farming on land protected by the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. AIP provides technical assistance and business planning to improve farm productivity with the goal of enhancing the significance of APR farm operations and their contribution to the state's agricultural industry. The program assists with issues of economic viability, environmental sustainability, resource conservation, ownership control, modernization of infrastructure and other issues that may enhance the long term continued use of the agricultural resource. The AIP uses a process of providing services to participant farms including technical assistance, business planning, and access to capital.

Eligibility requirements include: an applicant must own APR land (or co apply with the owner) that they have been actively farming for at least the last three years; Current owners who are the original owners of the APR are eligible if their APR was closed or recorded on or before December 31, 1999; Successors in title to the original APR owner are eligible if successors have owned the APR since December 31, 2004 or before.

The current Request for Response with application is available by clicking here RFR# [AGR-AIP11-2](http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aip/docs/RFR_AIP11-02.doc) http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aip/docs/RFR_AIP11-02.doc or by calling the APR Improvement Program <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aip/index.htm> at 413-268-8269. Responses must be received by June 30, 2010.

NEW - Grant Program for Beginning Farmers in MA

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is pleased to announce an open application period for a pilot program aimed at providing farm viability funding to new and beginning farmers. The purpose of the Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) Program is to help with business expansion on new and beginning farms. MEGA will provide technical assistance and business planning help, and then provide funds for farm improvement strategies. Funding provided from this Program will be made available on a one to one matching grant basis and the maximum award shall be \$10,000.

It is the objective of MEGA to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and who aspire to develop their farms into commercially viable operations. Priority will be given to new and beginning farm enterprises that have operated commercially as a new or beginning farm for 1 to 5 years, have knowledge or have direct experience in agriculture, and have a potential to expand productivity or commercial significance with the infusion of additional technical support and capital.

MEGA applications and program information are available by clicking on this link [AGR- MEGA-1](http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/MEGA-1), or on line at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website <http://www.mass.gov/agr%20> or you can request a copy of the application by calling 617-626-1723. The deadline for submitting applications is June 15, 2010.

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program

Applications for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) will be available shortly. Please follow this link for updates: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/index.htm> or contact Laura Maul at 617-626-1739.

Agricultural Energy Grant Program

Applications for the Agricultural Energy Grant Program will be available shortly. Please follow this link for updates: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/energy/index.htm> or contact Gerry Palano at 617-626-1706.

If you want to learn more about these programs, visit the <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/index.htm>

15) ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

--From Ebb & Flow

* North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects that result in long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. Application Deadline July 30.

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>

* The Perkins Charitable Foundation (no web page) makes grants totaling more than \$1 million annually to a number of environmental and other organizations. The Foundation may be contacted c/o Marilyn Best, 1030 Hanna Building, 1422 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115, (216) 621-0465.

* The French Foundation (no web page) makes grants totaling more than \$250,000 annually to a number of environmental organizations in New England . The Foundation may be contacted c/o Bank of New York Mellon, P.O. Box 185, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0185, (617) 722-7353.

* The Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment seeks to bring about a higher level of awareness of urgent environmental issues and to support those individuals and organizations who work to find solutions". Click on the "Who We Support" button to see a sampling of past Foundation grant recipients. While the Foundation accepts applications for funding by invitation only, it is possible that a letter of inquiry or other contact might result in such an invitation. Contact info: Ramsay Ravenel, General Manager, Grantham Foundation, 40 Rowes Wharf, Boston, MA 02110, rravenel@granthamfoundation.org, (617) 880-8941.

<http://www.granthamfoundation.org/>

16) LAND PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST, NEW BEDFORD

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, Inc. (CBB) is a private, non profit membership organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of Buzzards Bay and its 432 square mile watershed. The organization works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy. Specific programs include: a Bay-wide water quality monitoring program; a watershed protection program supporting the conservation and restoration of important watershed lands; education programs on the Bay; and a Baykeeper advocacy program to support the cleanup and protection of Buzzards Bay. The Coalition is managed by a 15 member volunteer Board of Directors which is currently supported by a full time staff of twelve.

Since 1998, CBB has successfully accelerated land protection in the watershed in the face of strong development pressure and has permanently preserved more than 3,500 acres of land. Southeastern Massachusetts is one of the fastest growing regions in New England and presently 55% of the Buzzards Bay watershed is threatened by sprawl. CBB seeks to increase the rate of land protection and the amount of protected land in the watershed, to pursue a Bay-focused land protection strategy, to empower local land trusts and to educate private landowners about land conservation.

Position Description

This position will manage the stewardship of a growing portfolio of conservation restrictions and lands owned in fee by CBB as well as coordinate land protection activities in the town of Wareham for the Wareham Land Trust (WLT). The full-time position will split time between the CBB office in New Bedford and the WLT office in Wareham. Tasks include, but are not limited to:

Create baseline documentation, monitor properties, maintain records and landowner relations.

Coordinate ongoing land management activities on protected lands. This includes conducting field work, managing contractors and coordinating volunteers to manage vegetation, remove debris, develop/maintain visitor parking areas, trails and signage, etc.

Provide support to local land trusts within the bay watershed regarding land stewardship activities.

Coordinate identification, prioritization and acquisition of land protection projects in the town of Wareham, in partnership with the Wareham Land Trust;

Work with landowners, local town officials and boards, state conservation agencies, and other land trusts to encourage and support land conservation acquisitions in Wareham;

Research and pursue funding opportunities to assist in land protection and stewardship. Coordinate and partner with other land protection organizations and governmental agencies as needed, assist with various project reports, budgets, documentation, press releases and presentations.

Professional Qualifications

Bachelors Degree (science or resource management desired) and minimum three years professional experience in land conservation, natural resource management or related field.

Highly motivated and self directed with strong communication skills and the ability to independently make informed decisions.

Direct experience with planning and implementation of land management activities (such as trail building, installation of signage, vegetation/tree removal & maintenance and/or landscaping). Ability to use hand and power tools in the field will be a plus.

Familiarity with land conservation methods and procedures, including conservation restrictions/easements, conservation funding sources, and real estate transactions.

Strong computer and technology skills including email/internet and Microsoft Office required.

Proficiency with GIS preferred.

Comfortable with working in remote field locations associated with protected natural lands.

Knowledge of communities, real estate and natural landscape of Buzzards Bay region and Southeast Massachusetts desired.

Salary/Benefits

Competitive nonprofit salary plus benefits including employer contributions towards Health Insurance and 401(k) Retirement plan and access to supplemental benefits.

To Apply

Interested applicants should respond before May 21, 2010 with a letter and resume by email to:

annett@savebuzzardsbay.org

17 FOREST DIRECTOR, N.E. FORESTRY FOUNDATION

The New England Forestry Foundation seeks a Forest Director to serve as the Foundation's chief forest policy director and spokesperson and to oversee the organization's community forests and forestry.

This position brings together the three equally important components of NEFF's land activities - land protection, forest stewardship and conservation easement management. This is designed to capitalize on

opportunities where these components intersect, achieve efficiencies, and provide opportunities for cross-training. The Forest Director will work in close coordination with NEFF's outreach and educational programs with a focus on NEFF's demonstration community forests.

Responsibilities

Forest Policy and Information
Land Protection
Forest Management
Conservation Easement Stewardship
Fund-raising and Outreach
Personnel and Management

Qualifications

We seek a seasoned professional with forest education and industry background as well as knowledge about land conservation. Candidates must be an SAF Certified Forester (CF) and Licensed Forester in at least one of the states where NEFF has property and that offer state licensing (NH, MA, ME, CT).

Before applying, please see complete description at:
<http://newenglandforestry.org/about/employment.shtm>

Send resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Maria Garcia
Accounting and Personnel Manager
New England Forestry Foundation
P.O. Box 1346
Littleton, MA 01460
mgarcia@newenglandforestry.org
978 952 6856 (p)
978 952 6356 (f)

Electronic submission of credentials is strongly encouraged. We would appreciate receiving applications by June 8, 2010. New England Forestry Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and seeks a diverse pool of candidates.

18) AMERICORPS LAND PROJECT PROGRAM MGR, ATHOL

Position Summary:

Work with Massachusetts land trusts to initiate and run an AmeriCorps program that provides stipended volunteers to assist with land conservation, land stewardship, outreach, and service learning.

About the Organizations:

Seven regional Massachusetts conservation groups, Franklin Land Trust, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Kestrel Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts have applied as partners to host a total of twenty full-time AmeriCorps members for three years beginning in September 2010. The position is contingent on federal funding. Notification of grant funding is anticipated by June 7, 2010.

About the Program:

The program is based on Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's existing Common Ground Initiative, which offers four distinct one-year service positions focusing on:

- * land conservation,
- * land stewardship,
- * outreach to the community, and
- * service learning.

Common Ground volunteers are members of the Massachusetts Commonwealth Corps—a state program modeled on AmeriCorps—which engages volunteers of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to the community and provides stipends for volunteers.

About the Job:

The Program Manager's main responsibilities are to oversee the recruitment, orientation, training, and supervision of the corps members; to serve as a resource for land trust staff who directly supervise members; to oversee the financial administration of the program; to monitor the program to insure that members and staff are in compliance with AmeriCorps regulations and are meeting the grant benchmarks, and to prepare and submit all program reports.

Before the members are recruited, the Manager will train at least one staff person per partner organization in compiling program and financial information for the monthly reports. The Manager will also organize one technical-assistance training session focusing on program management and one training session on volunteer management for staff from the partners.

Job Description:

Title: Program Manager

Reports to: Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Status: Full-time salaried Mount Grace employee, health insurance, vacation

Salary: \$36,000-\$48,000 annually—length of position contingent on funding (15-39 months), office location to be determined.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- * Carry out financial administration, including payroll, payables, and receivables
- * Obtain monthly information from partners on members' program activities
- * Provide ongoing financial and programmatic reports, including final report
- * Coordinate with all of the partners to address technical, financial, programmatic, and administrative questions and to resolve problems
- * Help recruit qualified AmeriCorps members
- * Schedule staff and member training
- * Provide additional supervision for members serving at smaller conservation groups
- * Maintain consistent communication and coordination with participants
- * Attend bi-monthly statewide meetings for AmeriCorps grantees
- * Organize affiliated networking events
- * Additional duties and responsibilities as required

Required Minimum Qualifications and Skills:

- * Ability to manage \$650,000 federally-funded conservation volunteer program
- * Five years of professional experience in community organizing, volunteer coordination, nonprofit management, or equivalent business experience
- * Thorough understanding of land trusts and land conservation

- * Experience working in an environmental field
- * Experience developing project work plans to produce outcomes and reach goals
- * Demonstrated ability to work independently
- * Excellent time management and organizational skills
- * Strong verbal and written communication skills
- * Strong training and facilitation skills
- * Quick learner
- * Detail-oriented
- * Proficiency with MS Office and Quickbooks software

Desired Qualifications and Skills:

- * Masters degree in relevant field
- * Program management experience, nonprofit experience preferred
- * Familiarity with the Massachusetts land conservation community
- * Experience working in a start-up non-profit organization or business
- * Familiarity with AmeriCorps or Commonwealth Corps programs

To Apply: Email cover letter, resume, and 3 references to kotker@mountgrace.org, or mail to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331. If emailing, please send by 5:00 pm on May 28, 2010. If mailing, please postmark by May 25, 2010. Start date is July 1, 2010. Interviews will be held in June for selected candidates.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is an equal opportunity employer.

****No phone calls please****

19) POLITICAL DIRECTOR, MASS. LEAGUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL VOTERS

The Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters (MLEV) is a statewide, nonpartisan organization dedicated to making environmental protection a top priority for Massachusetts elected officials, candidates, and voters in order to better protect our environment and health. To that end our activities are centered on holding elected officials accountable through our scorecard and voter outreach. We also work to elect pro-environment candidates. MLEV seeks a Political Director to advocate for environmental policies at the state level, manage MLEV's accountability program, and in election years, develop and implement campaign plans.

Primary Responsibilities Include:

- * Working with the broader environmental community to advocate for their environmental priorities during the legislative session.
- * Coordinating the activities and strategy of the Mass Green Alliance and advocating for the Alliance's priorities.
- * Tracking the Massachusetts Legislature including legislation identified by the Scorecard Advisory Committee, Mass Green Alliance, and any roll call votes
- * Writing a variety of documents including the Environmental Scorecard, testimony for priority legislation, candidate questionnaires, scorecard letters, and Eco-Politics, our e-newsletter.
- * Coordinating with the other environmental advocates on a regular basis during the legislative session.
- * Managing MLEV's endorsement process and developing and implementing campaign plans and activities during election years.
- * Helping expand MLEV's network of volunteers interested in politics and the environment.

- * Helping with other duties as required (including fundraising).

General skills/experiences we are seeking include:

- * Strong understanding of Massachusetts' legislative process and political climate.
- * At least 3 years experience in political or issue campaigns.
- * A demonstrated interest in environmental issues
- * Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- * Experience working with policy-makers, the media, and non-profit organizations.
- * Strong computer skills, including experience with spreadsheets, and databases.
- * Ability to manage many different tasks well.
- * Ability to work under own initiative, as well as part of a team
- * Ability to work well with others and good sense of humor

Compensation: Compensation depends upon qualifications and experience and includes benefits such as health insurance, vacation and 401K plan.

To Apply: Please submit letter of interest and resume to Lora Wondolowski, Executive Director lora@mlev.org. No phone calls please. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. MLEV is an equal opportunity employer.

20) FRANCIS W. HATCH, JR.: LAWMAKER PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

--From The Boston Globe, 4/10/2010 by Gloria Negri

A Republican minority leader in the Massachusetts Legislature known as an old-style Yankee, Francis W. Hatch Jr. was passionate about the environment and authored the Hatch Act, the state's 1965 landmark wetlands protection law.

David Bartley, Democratic speaker of the Massachusetts House during Mr. Hatch's tenure, described him as "one of the finest and most able Republican leaders the Legislature ever had. He had integrity, decency, and dignity."

Mr. Hatch died Thursday at his Back Bay residence. He was 84. His son, George, of Wenham, said his death was caused by sepsis. Mr. Hatch had been active in environmental and civic projects until a week before he died, his son said.

"Frank's signature achievement was the Hatch Act, the very first wetlands protection act in the country and possibly the world," said Douglas Foy, a friend of 40 years and former president of the Boston-based Conservation Law Foundation. "Frank was not only a visionary but a crusader. He knew how important environmental issues were."

After he left the State House in 1978, Mr. Hatch was chairman of the Conservation Law Foundation for more than a decade. During that time, Foy said, the foundation won some of its most well-known lawsuits, in areas including the Boston Harbor cleanup and the banning of all-terrain vehicles on Cape Cod National Seashore.

Known as Frank, Mr. Hatch was respected on Beacon Hill by Democrats and Republicans alike. "He contributed to all the fashioning of legislation all of the time because he had very good ideas. People listened to him very respectfully, including all of us in the loyal opposition," said former Senate president William Bulger.

"There are people like Frank Hatch," Bulger said, "who know that it is worthwhile to be part of the political process. I believe he always thought of it as a very noble undertaking."

Representative Barney Frank, a Democrat who met Mr. Hatch when Frank was elected to the Massachusetts House in 1972, said he voted for him in his unsuccessful bid for the governor's seat in 1978. "Hatchie was a fiscal conservative and socially more moderately liberal," said Frank. "He was a wonderful man, representative of an old-style Yankee."

Read the rest of this Boston Globe article at:

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/obituaries/articles/2010/04/10/francis_w_hatch_jr_lawmaker_protected_environment/

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