



## The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

June 7, 2008

Volume 8, Number 8

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

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" We shall never achieve harmony with land, anymore than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive."

-- Aldo Leopold (1887-1948), American wildlife ecologist --

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<http://www.MassLand.org>

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## News

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

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

The Land and Water plate has remarkable potential to fund land initiatives. The three current environmental plates generate nearly \$1 million annually with 50,000 plates on the road. Money generated by the sale of this plate will be used to make DIRECT grants to land trusts for acquisition of land that helps to protect water resources in some way. It will also be a great tool for raising awareness of land conservation efforts. Imagine if people start seeing as many "Land & Water" plates driving around town as there are "Whale" plates! Don't you think that might help you make your case for land conservation in your community?

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

There are hundreds of thousands of people in the Commonwealth with a passion for land conservation. Many of those people are members of one or more land organizations. The collective strength of the land conservation community has the capacity to generate substantial funds, but it is up to Land Trusts, Open Space Committees, Conservation Commissions and others to mobilize their members.

The Trust relies on partners to help promote all of the MET plates. This keeps marketing costs down to allow for more grant funding. Including information about the new plate in your web sites, e-mails and publications does two important things - it gets the word out to the right people more effectively than MET could, and it shows your support for a program that will provide funds for land protection. We need you to demonstrate to people that this plate is important. Mass Audubon and the Mass. Office of the Nature Conservancy have already made substantial commitments to market this plate over the next year.

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

ORDER FORM & MORE INFO:

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

### **2) UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOND**

- from Jeremy Marin at the Coalition for the Environmental Bond

The last few weeks have been a period of waiting for environmental bond supporters. After a successful Rally & Lobby Day at the State House in April, members of the Coalition for the Environmental Bond met with the Chairs of the legislature's Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, which has to consider all bonding measures. Senate Chairman Mark Montigny of New Bedford and House

Chairman David Flynn of Bridgewater both expressed their support for the bill. The Committee has until this Thursday, June 12 to approve the Environmental Bond and send it to the Ways and Means Committee for its approval. The Bond must pass the full legislature by the end of the session on July 31.

We are not, however, sitting idly by. We need to continue pressuring the legislature by contacting them and specifically through Letters To the Editor (LTE) and Op-Ed pieces. Most recently, Tad Ames, Director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council had an Op-Ed placed in the Berkshire Eagle, and Judith Eiseman, Chair of the Kestrel Trust, had an Op-Ed in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Great LTEs have appeared in the MetroWest Daily News, Salem Evening News, Lowell Sun, Brockton Enterprise, Worcester Telegram & Gazette and others. Our website has links to the letters, op-eds and our news releases: <http://www.envirobond.org/news.php>

If you are willing to write an Op-Ed or letter to the editor we will help! We've recently placed a number of background information items on the website: <http://www.envirobond.org/backgrounders.php>. You can also make use of our "Why Now" points - some of the most important reasons the legislature needs to pass the Environmental Bond this session, at <http://www.envirobond.org/whynowdata.php>. If you want more help in writing and placing a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed column, email us at [info@envirobond.org](mailto:info@envirobond.org)

#### **NEW BACKGROUND INFORMATION - TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS**

Want some valuable information right now? Here are a few tidbits about the tourism industry in Massachusetts with financial data from the MA Office of Travel and Tourism 2006 and 2007 reports:

Tourism is a \$14 billion dollar industry in Massachusetts, the third largest industry in the state.

The state's open spaces, parks, waterways, forests and agriculture are important destination locations that draw tourists.

Recreation & Sightseeing/Entertainment made up almost one quarter of all domestic visitor's primary trip purpose in FY 07.

Almost 50% of domestic travelers listed destinations affected by the Environmental Bond as one of their "Top 10" activities

Beaches - 15%  
Rural sightseeing - 14.3%  
Historical Places/Churches - 11.4%  
State/National Parks - 7.4%

\* In today's tight fiscal times with gas prices rising economists predict more "local" travel, within 300 miles from home. (Boston Globe, May 20, 2008 [http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2008/05/20/vacationers\\_look\\_closer\\_to\\_home/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2008/05/20/vacationers_look_closer_to_home/?page=full) )

Figures from the Mass. Office of Travel & Tourism report "The Economic Impact of Travel on Massachusetts Counties 2006":

\* In 2006 the state saw more than \$12 billion dollars spent by domestic travelers, including those who live within 300 miles  
\* More than \$3 billion dollars was spent on lodging, almost \$3 billion more on food and almost another \$1 billion on entertainment.

\* Travelers generated approximately 125,800 jobs, 3.9 percent of the non-agricultural jobs in the state.

\* 2006 Economic Impact of Travel (payrolls, state & local tax receipts, employment, etc.) on Massachusetts Counties:

County	Expenditure (\$Millions)	Payroll (\$Millions)	Employment (Thousands)	State Taxes (\$Millions)	Local Taxes (\$Millions)
Barnstable	\$793.9	\$208.5	8.9	\$33.0	\$45.2
Berkshire	\$319.0	\$85.9	3.7	\$15.7	\$8.4
Bristol	\$362.1	\$78.2	3.1	\$19.1	\$6.7
Dukes	\$109.3	\$26.8	1.1	\$4.1	\$6.1
Essex	\$635.4	\$157.6	6.3	\$33.4	\$15.8
Franklin	\$46.4	\$8.7	0.4	\$2.6	\$1.5
Hampden	\$409.8	\$91.1	3.3	\$22.3	\$7.7
Hampshire	\$96.0	\$22.2	0.9	\$5.1	\$2.5
Middlesex	\$1,854.2	\$515.4	20.2	\$100.1	\$47.0
Nantucket	\$158.3	\$31.5	1.1	\$4.5	\$5.2
Norfolk	\$769.8	\$253.5	9.4	\$40.6	\$16.0
Plymouth	\$444.6	\$96.7	3.8	\$21.4	\$19.4
Suffolk	\$5,955.3	\$1,266.7	42.9	\$154.4	\$105.2
Worcester	\$638.1	\$133.3	5.5	\$33.7	\$13.6
All MA	\$12,592.2	\$2,976.0	110.5	\$489.9	\$300.4

The full report (warning! 55 pages!) is at:

<http://www.envirobond.org/documents/matourismreport.pdf>

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have at [info@envirobond.org](mailto:info@envirobond.org). We will let you know when there is further legislative action.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Marin  
Campaign Manager  
Coalition for the Environmental Bond  
<http://www.envirobond.org/>

The Coalition for the Environmental Bond, representing more than 250 groups and businesses, a combined membership of more than 400,000 Massachusetts families, have united to advocate for passage this legislative session before money for all the programs runs out.

### **3) SENATE BUDGET UPDATE - NATURAL HERITAGE AMENDMENT INCLUDED!**

- from Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup  
- by Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations & Jennifer Ryan, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs

The Massachusetts State Senate approved its \$28.12 billion fiscal year 2009 budget last week, adding \$8 million in spending amendments to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means FY09 state budget, a stark difference from \$200 million added by the House to their version last month.

The most important amendment, adding a funded line-item Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), was filed by Vice Chairman of The Senate Committee on Ways & Means Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre). We are VERY happy to report that the Senate passed Senator Brewer's amendment and the

Heritage line-item is restored in the Senate FY09 state budget recommendation. This supports the Governor's recommendation to also restore the Heritage line-item in the FY09 budget.

**Thank you, Senator Brewer, for your dedication to restoring funds to NHESP in the Senate Amended Budget!**

Thanks to the dedication of the amendment sponsors - Senator Pamela Resor, Senator Marc Pacheco, and Senator Brewer - three of four priority amendments were adopted!

**Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program - Amendment Adopted Line-item Restored!**

Governor's Budget: \$250,000  
House Budget: \$0  
House Budget Amended: \$0  
Senate Budget: \$0  
Senate Budget Amended: \$250,000

**Riverways - Amendment Adopted**

Governor's Budget: \$604,217  
House Budget: \$604,217  
House Budget Amended: \$650,000  
Senate Budget: \$604,217  
Senate Budget Amended: \$650,000

**Department of Conservation and Recreation Administrative Accounts - Amendment Adopted**

Governor's Budget: \$6,191,950  
House Budget: \$6,447,872  
House Budget Amended: \$7,129,872  
Senate Budget: \$6,114,096  
Senate Budget Amended: \$6,114,096 - with \$583k identified for completion of Resource Management Planning for each and every state park and urban park in Massachusetts.

**Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks - Amendment Not Adopted**

Governor's Budget: \$25,358,031  
House Budget: \$24,368,320  
House Budget Amended: \$26,545,320  
Senate Budget: \$22,696,714  
Senate Budget Amended: \$22,696,714

**Budget Next Step**

Attention now turns to the Senate-House Budget Conference Committee, where members from each chamber will meet to iron out the differences between the two versions of the FY09 budget. Since the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program was included in the Senate budget, but left out of the House version, the NHESP line-item is a conferenceable item.

**4) CONSERVATION TAX BREAK RENEWED IN HUGE FARM BILL**

Overriding a presidential veto and the objections of some environmental groups, Congress has enacted a massive Farm Bill that renews an expanded tax deduction which has helped to increase the number of conservation easements (known in Mass.

as conservation restrictions or "CRs") put in place over the past two years. With conservation restrictions, land owners continue to own their land but agree to give up their right to develop it. They receive both a one-time charitable tax deduction and permanently lowered annual property taxes.

The expanded federal tax break had expired January 1st, but is now retroactive to the beginning of the year and will last through the end of 2009. The tax deduction is especially useful for family farmers and ranchers with modest income but valuable agricultural land. The incentive, which applies to a landowner's federal income tax, will:

- \* Raise the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- \* Allow farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- \* Increase the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

Largely as a result of the expanded deduction, in 2007 Massachusetts saw a record 266 conservation restrictions covering 11,201.8 acres around the state. This was more than the last three years combined and was by far the most land put under conservation restrictions since the state program began in 1967.

In addition to renewing the easement tax incentive, the Farm Bill provides a total of \$733 million over 5 years for the Farmland Protection Program and clarifies the eligibility of land trusts to participate directly in the FPP. The bill also re-establishes the Grassland Reserve Program with a goal of 1.22 million acres, funded with an estimated \$300 million.

## **5) MLEV MID-TERM 2007 ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT**

- from Lora Wondolowski, Executive Director, Mass. League of Environmental Voters

With renewed environmental leadership from the Governor to Speaker DiMasi to Senate President Murray, the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters (MLEV) today released its 2007 Mid-term Environmental Progress Report ( [http://mlev.org/uploads/scorecards/midterm07\\_final2.pdf](http://mlev.org/uploads/scorecards/midterm07_final2.pdf) ).

The report follows the mid-term progress of the General Court on environmental issues that received a recorded vote for the first year of their two-year session. In general, the legislature has taken action on more bills in the first year of the session than in previous sessions. At the end of 2007, several major environmental bills had passed at least one chamber and the Emergency Bond was signed into law. Several of those bills have subsequently passed both chambers this year and await conference committee approval. Unfortunately several priority environmental bills passed the Senate without a recorded vote.

"We commend the legislature and particularly its leadership for heeding the call from the public for real action on the environment in 2007," said MLEV Executive Director Lora Wondolowski. "Despite few recorded votes, the legislature made great strides mid-term on environmental issues. We hope they will pass several pending environmental priorities by the close of the session in late July."

The 2007 Mid-term Environmental Progress Report includes 16 100% voting scores in the House and all 100% in the Senate except Senator Hedlund. This reflects the nearly unanimous votes in the Senate on each of the bills included in the report. The state average was 99% in the Senate and 85% in the House. The full Environmental

Scorecard that reflects the entire 2007-2008 will be released in the fall.

Each legislator's mid-term score was determined by calculating the number of pro-environment votes cast out of the total number of votes scored. The top score was a 100%. Legislators who were absent or did not vote on a particular bill did not have that bill included in the tallied votes. The Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters was only able to score bills or amendments that received a roll-call vote. Several important environmental bills including the Healthy Alternatives Bill passed the Senate by voice vote and therefore were not included in the report. Among the votes included are those on comprehensive clean energy, phosphorus pollution, oceans protection, and funding for state parks.

"Although this was one of the mid-terms for the legislature, many environmental bills did not receive a recorded vote. A vote is a fundamental part of our democracy and key votes must be transparent to the public," continued Ms. Wondolowski. "We urge the legislature to be more accountable in the future."

The Progress Report also includes an Top of the Class for 2007, recognizing those legislators that went the extra mile for natural resources. Honorees include: Speaker Salvatore DiMasi (D-Boston) and Rep. Patrick Dempsey (D-Haverhill) for their leadership in passing a comprehensive clean energy bill, the Green Communities Act and Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) and Senator Rob O'Leary (D-Duxbury) for their efforts in passing the Ocean Bill.

For more information on the Mass. League of Environmental Voters:

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

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## Wildlife News

### **6) BAT DEATHS IN MASS. & WOLF SHOT IN SHELBURNE**

- from MassWildlife News - Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

#### **BAT MORTALITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS**

After receiving reports in February from Vermont and New York about large numbers of bats dying in caves, biologists from MassWildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigated caves and mines in western Massachusetts where colonies of bats are known to spend the winter. Biologists observed bats flying around outside of the state's largest mine when they should have all been inside hibernating, and found dead bats near the entrance of the hibernacula (winter quarters) which were collected for further study. Biologists confirmed that these bats, like the ones in Vermont and New York, were affected with white nose syndrome (WNS), a term used to describe some of the bats found at these sites that look like their faces were dipped in powdered sugar. This white material is a fungus that is growing on the faces of up to 10% of the bats at the affected sites. Up to 97% of the bats at some affected sites in New York have died.

Bats with crusting white fungus were first found in New York bat hibernacula during the winter of 2006-2007. Mortality was high and aroused concern among the bat conservation community. By winter 2007-2008 the syndrome and associated mortality had spread to many of the largest New York hibernacula and to sites in Vermont and Massachusetts. New sites are still being reported. Of the eight species of bats currently found in Massachusetts, it appears that the bat species most

affected by WNS include widespread and common species such as Little Brown Bats, Eastern Pipistrelles and Northern Long-eared Bats as well as the rare, state listed Small-footed Bats. These bats hibernate in caves or mines. Big Brown Bats which commonly hibernate in buildings are not yet known to be affected. The Red Bat, Hoary Bat and Silver-haired Bat are migratory and apparently not affected.

Bats at the affected sites have exhibited some unusual behaviors. These behaviors include clusters of bats roosting in the light zone close to cave or mine entrances; dead bats or bat remains found outside of caves in the snow; nearby citizens reporting bats flying during the day in very cold weather (15-20°F) and bats roosting on exterior house walls. Flying bats have been observed falling to the ground or crash landing and several have been found roosting in woodpiles. Midwinter necropsies of bats have found the mammals' fat stores completely depleted, when they would normally last until the bats emerge in spring and begin to feed on flying insects.

Wildlife managers are concerned about the outbreak because bats congregate by the thousands in caves and mines to hibernate during winter months. If WNS is caused by an infectious agent, this behavior increases the potential that the disease will spread among hibernating bats. In addition, hibernating bats disperse in spring and migrate, sometimes hundreds of miles away, to spend the summer. Bats are important predators of mosquitoes and other insects. A study from Boston University estimates that 14 -15 tons of insects are consumed each summer by the 50,000 Big Brown Bats that live within the bounds of Route 128. "High bat mortality is a major concern because bats have a low reproductive rate," says Dr. Thomas French, MassWildlife Assistant Director for Natural Heritage and Endangered Species. "Most bats raise one pup per year. It will take decades for bat populations to rebound after a large die-off."

Currently, scientists do not know what is causing bats to die in such great numbers. It is not clear if white nose syndrome is a cause or a symptom of bat mortality. Currently, there are 9 universities, 4 or 5 federal agencies, state wildlife agencies and health departments from 3 states, and a host of other volunteers, researchers, and cavers working together to gather data, understand this condition and to diagnose the cause.

Anyone wishing to report observations of more than 2 bats flying around outdoors before April 1 can contact MassWildlife by email [mass.wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.wildlife@state.ma.us) or call 508/389-6360. The "Homeowners Guide to Bats", a bat booklet, can be picked up at MassWildlife offices or downloaded from the MassWildlife website in the Publications area:  
[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/publications/bat\\_guide.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/publications/bat_guide.pdf)

### **CANID SHOT IN SHELBURNE IS CONFIRMED TO BE A WOLF**

A large canid shot in Shelburne last October was an eastern gray wolf, according to Special Agent in Charge Thomas J. Healy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region. According to Healy, the Service's National Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, examined the wolf, conducting both genetic and morphological examinations. Forensic scientists compared the Shelburne canid's DNA to DNA from wolves of known origin and concluded that the individual was an eastern gray wolf. Their structural comparison concluded that the animal was consistent with gray wolf and inconsistent with coyote, domestic dog and wolf-dog hybrids. "We have no indication that this wolf was ever held in captivity," Healy said. "But what we don't

know about this wolf's origins far outweighs what we do know."

In mid-October, a Shelburne farmer notified Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife that a canid had killed and partially consumed lambs on his property. A MassWildlife biologist visited the farm and took photographs of the lambs and measured tracks found in the area. The following day, the canid was killed on the farmer's property. The MassWildlife biologist returned to the farm and, upon seeing an apparent wolf, took possession of the carcass. MassWildlife conducted a brief examination, determining that the animal was male, weighed 85 pounds, and the stomach contents included remains of lamb. A wolf researcher from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst also examined the carcass and concurred that it was most likely a wolf. Because wolves are a federally endangered species, MassWildlife contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and turned the carcass over to that agency.

The gray wolf was extirpated from Massachusetts by the mid-1800s. The closest known wolf population to Massachusetts is in the Canadian province of Ontario. Information about gray wolves may be found on the USFWS website at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered>. Some researchers have proposed that the eastern wolf should be recognized as a separate species than the western gray wolf, but this proposed separation has not been officially accepted by the scientific community. For more information, contact Tom Healy, USFWS at 413/253-8329.

For More Wildlife News, Visit our Website!

[www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

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## Training

### **7) REGISTRATION OPEN FOR LTA RALLY, SEPT. 18-21, PITTSBURGH**

- from the Land Trust Alliance

Rally is the largest land conservation training and networking event in America. Join us in Pittsburgh, as the city celebrates its 250th Anniversary. Each year, more than 2,000 people attend Rally, including land trust professionals, landowners and local conservation leaders - all dedicated to protecting farms, forests, trails, parks and natural areas in their communities.

Join us for:

- \* 130+ workshops featuring emerging trends in conservation that include conservation defense for the future, condemnation, diversity, climate change and core conservation practices
- \* 36 in-depth seminars, including seminars drawn from the Alliance's new Land Trust Standards and Practices curriculum
- \* 12 field trips giving participants the chance to explore Pittsburgh and the beauty of western Pennsylvania
- \* Numerous networking events, plenary speeches and the presentation of the winners of the 2008 Land Trust Alliance Awards.

Full information and on-line registration at:

<http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm>

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## Jobs & Contracts

### **8) FOREST & LAND PROGRAM COORDINATOR, EEA, BOSTON**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The Mass. Land Trust Coalition considers this to be a crucial position in state government! Please help by finding and encouraging the best, most qualified applicants and by spreading this announcement far and wide!**

**Forest and Land Program Coordinator  
Executive Office Of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston  
June 26, 2008  
Posting ID: J15055**

Assist in the coordination and implementation of EEA land and forest resource conservation and management policies, programs and initiatives. Coordinate and facilitate communication between EOEA and agency land protection staff. Assist and coordinate the Drinking Water Supply Protection, Conservation Partnership and LAND (formerly Self Help) grants - includes drafting grants materials to implement the Secretary's priorities running workshops for applicants, evaluating sites proposed for conservation land, trouble-shooting with grantees and assuring projects are completed on time and to EEA specifications.

For the full job description, go to:

[https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job\\_view.do?postingId=J15055&code=search.public&companyId=9](https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job_view.do?postingId=J15055&code=search.public&companyId=9)

#### **Qualifications:**

MINIMUM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have at least (A) four years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, professional, administrative or managerial experience in business administration, business management or public administration the major duties of which involved program management, program administration, program coordination, program planning and/or program analysis, and (B) of which at least one year must have been in a supervisory capacity, or (C) any equivalent combination of the required experience and the substitutions below. Substitutions: I. A Bachelor's degree with a major in business administration, business management or public administration may be substituted for a maximum of two years of the required (A) experience.\* II. A Graduate degree with a major in business administration, business management or public administration may be substituted for a maximum of three years of the required (A) experience.\* III. A Bachelor's or higher degree with a major other than in business administration, business management or public administration may be substituted for a maximum of one year of the required (A) experience.\* \*Education toward such a degree will be prorated on the basis of the proportion of the requirements actually completed.

NOTE: No substitutions will be permitted for the required (B) experience. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Based on assignment, possession of a current and valid Massachusetts Class D Motor Vehicle Operator's license may be required.

#### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Knowledge of the principles and practices of urban, regional, natural resources and park planning
- Ability to evaluate requests for proposals, grants, plans and other reports and documents prepared by others for conformance to guidelines, policies,

laws, regulations and sound planning principles • Ability to understand, explain, and apply the laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, specifications, standards, and guidelines governing assigned unit activities • Ability to exercise functional supervision over agency land and forest staff in implementing projects for the Division

**How To Apply:**

Mail cover letter, resume and Commonwealth of MA Employment Application to:  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Human Resources Dept.  
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114  
Attn: P. Christopher - Posting ID J15055  
NO FAX OR EMAILS PLEASE

Agency Web Address: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/>

**9) OUTREACH & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR, HARWICH**

The mission of the nonprofit Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) is to preserve land that protects woods, water, wetlands, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Harwich. Since its founding in 1988, HCT has protected more than 357 acres. HCT protects land by accepting land donations, holding conservation restrictions and purchasing land. HCT is also active in land stewardship, educational outreach and fundraising for land conservation projects. Community support continues to grow for HCT as its membership has increased by more than 100% in two years. HCT seeks a hard-working, people-oriented Outreach & Stewardship Coordinator motivated to make a difference with a dynamic and leading land conservation organization.

Full-time: 37.5 hours per week reports to Executive Director

**Required Skills:** Candidate should be highly organized, enjoy working with people, have excellent management skills, be comfortable with public speaking and possess computer experience to maintain, track, supervise, and manage volunteers as well as land stewardship and land acquisition planning projects.

**Desired Experience:** Demonstrated volunteer organizational success and experience or familiarity with land stewardship, land protection, and fundraising practices. Two years of land trust experience or related conservation field and Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in environmental field and GIS skills preferred.

**Overview of the Position:** To enhance Harwich Conservation Trust's land stewardship, land acquisition, and overall organizational capacity, the Outreach & Stewardship Coordinator will be responsible for identifying, recruiting, training, and supervising new volunteers. Additional responsibilities of the Outreach & Stewardship Coordinator will be to recruit a volunteer individual to act as HCT's Volunteer Coordinator by December 2008 to coordinate day-to-day volunteer program operations as well as guide an AmeriCorps member two days per week. S/he will track volunteer program results and coordinate volunteer recognition efforts. S/he will also be involved with organizing, publicizing, and occasionally speaking at environmental educational presentations including a winter lecture series. S/he will assist with land acquisition planning, land acquisition projects, grant-writing and fundraising. S/he will track, monitor, and coordinate land stewardship initiatives.

Willingness and availability to work some evenings and weekends appreciated.

**Directions for job applicants:**

Visit [www.HarwichConservationTrust.org](http://www.HarwichConservationTrust.org) <<http://www.harwichconservationtrust.org/>> to learn more about HCT

E-mail cover letter and resume to [hct@cape.com](mailto:hct@cape.com) by 5 pm on June 20, 2008

E-mail cover letter addressed to Michael Lach, Exec. Dir., Harwich Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661

Call 508-432-3997 or e-mail: [hct@cape.com](mailto:hct@cape.com) with any questions

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## Resources

### 10) INVASIVE PLANT GUIDE REPRINTED

Just in time for the growing season, [A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts](#) has been reprinted and is now available for purchase from MassWildlife and other partners. Currently, guides are available for sale at MassWildlife's Field Headquarters in Westboro and the New England Wildlife Flower Society in Framingham. The Guide is \$5 a copy. To purchase a guide from MassWildlife, stop in the office during business hours or send a request to Invasive Plant Guide, MassWildlife Headquarters, NHESP, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westboro, MA, 01581 and include a check payable to: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund. Credit cards are not accepted.

The Guide is designed to assist in the identification of 66 invasive plant species currently regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These invasive plants are non-native species that spread aggressively and have been determined to pose a threat to Massachusetts' native plants and habitats. This guide is the result of a collaborative effort by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group, (MIPAG) a group of state and federal agencies, private conservation organizations and plant nurseries formed to further educate citizens about the negative impact of invasive plants. First printed in January of 2007, the guide was quickly snapped up by gardeners, nurseries and garden centers, botanists, naturalists and other plant enthusiasts. Within a few months, very few copies remained and due to the demand, work commenced to reprint the guide.

Invasive plants impact the Massachusetts environment by competing with native plants for limited natural resources, dominating habitats and reducing food and shelter for a host of native wildlife. This competition can cause forests, wetlands and meadows to become degraded, diminishing their ecological values and functions, as well as the economic and aesthetic values of Massachusetts natural landscapes. In one year alone, Massachusetts spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to control aquatic invasive plants. This figure doesn't take into account extensive containment efforts undertaken by municipalities, private landowners or lost revenue due to decreased recreational boating, swimming and fishing activities.

In the Guide, each invasive plant description includes a photograph, the plant's regulatory status, key identification characteristics, habitats where the plant is likely to be found, type of threat the plant poses to native species and habitats, and its current distribution and place of origin. Similar plant species are also briefly

described to aid in plant identification. The guide includes the MIPAG definitions of three categories of invasiveness, brief explanations of how invasive plants are introduced and spread, why invasives are a problem, where to learn more about invasive plant control, and the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources' regulations regarding their importation, sale and propagation. Useful websites about invasive plants are also referenced. For more information about invasive plant species, go to:

[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/conservation/invasives/invasive\\_species](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/conservation/invasives/invasive_species)

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