



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

July 12, 2008

Volume 8, Number 10

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

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" In the olden times man and creature walked as friends who carried the beauty of the land in their hearts. Now each one of us is needed to make sure the salmon can find a place to spawn and the bear cub a tree to climb. There is little time left and much effort needed

-- Chief Dan George, born Geswanouth Slahoot ("Thunder coming up over the land from the water"), (1899-1981), Hereditary Chief of the Coast Salish Tsleis-waututh tribe of British Columbia --

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News

1) UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOND

(Editor's Note: Our friends in the State House expect that the Environmental Bond will pass by July 20. If this doesn't happen, be prepared to respond to an Action Alert the week of July 23)

- 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 Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets released the Environmental Bond (now known as H. 4847) and sent it to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Analysis shows an increase of roughly \$100 million. The initial version filed by Governor Patrick totaled \$1.4 billion, the version reported by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture \$1.5 billion, and the most recent version reaches \$1.6 billion.

The bonding committee gave significant increases to coastal facilities, hazardous waste cleanup, marine fisheries, and agricultural sustainability programs. There were no significant decreases. The conservation and environmental communities thanks the joint chairs of the bonding committee, Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) and Representative David Flynn (D-Bridgewater), and the committee staff for their leadership and hard work!

The Environmental Bond still has several steps to go before the July 31st end of session deadline. The next step is the House Committee on Ways and Means. Bond Coalition members have already met with House Ways and Means staff to encourage swift action and movement to the House floor for a vote.

For more information visit 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.

2) STATE BUDGET INCLUDES \$250,000 FOR NATURAL HERITAGE!

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

After five years, the legislature has restored operating funds (revenue from tax dollars) to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)! Funding was included in the Governor's budget proposal, but was initially rejected by both the Senate and House budget writing committees. Ultimately, the \$250,000 proposed by the Governor was included. NHESP has received no operating funds since fiscal year 2003, when the account was zeroed by the Senate.

Senator Stephen Brewer's (D-Barre) outstanding efforts ensured that funding was in the final Senate budget and retained during budget deliberations between the two chambers.

This has been a fantastic effort of the legislature, administration, and environmental community. We'd like to thank Senator Brewer, Senator Pamela Resor (D-Acton), Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game Mary Griffin, staff at the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, Mass Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, the environmental community, and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

The lead supporting organizations are the Berkshire Environmental Action Team, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Gun Owners Action League, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, Mass Audubon, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, The Nature Conservancy, New England Wild Flower Society, Teaming With Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Trust for Public Land, and the Trustees of Reservations.

Throughout the process you have written letters and called your legislators; without your advocacy this would not have happened!

We hope that the new funding will translate to four full-time science staff. With permanent jobs, the program will be able to retain staff with scientific expertise, leading to better protection of Massachusetts' rare plants, animals, and natural communities.

Other conservation priorities and how they fared in the final budget:

State parks received \$26,091,714; Urban parks received \$29,701,754. Both are on the high end of expectations.

DCR Resource Management Planning: Conservation groups requested \$444,000; the final budget has \$100,000.

DCR Revenue: DCR will be able to retain more of the revenue it generates from its properties. The final provides \$6,004,826, close to a \$1.5 million increase from previous years.

3) TAX INCENTIVES & PUBLIC LANDS PRESERVATION ACT

- from the Environmental League of Massachusetts by Nancy Goodman

Conservation Tax Incentives

Environmental groups met with senior staff in Speaker DiMasi's office in an effort to get the bill approved by the House so that the Senate can take it up. Given that the legislation has previously passed in the Senate, we are confident that the Senate is poised to vote on the bill before the session ends if the House takes action. The bill would provide a tax credit to landowners who donate ecologically valuable land to the state or a nonprofit conservation organization.

Public Lands Preservation Act

This legislation is still stuck in the House Ways and Means Committee. However, we are hearing from legislators that they have been contacted by constituents about the bill so we want to keep the pressure on. As you know, the bill states that any change in use or disposition of protected open space should take place ONLY when there is no feasible alternative and if replacement land of equivalent acreage and market value is provided. If you haven't yet contacted your representative, please do. More information can be found at http://www.protectmassenvironment.org/public_lands_preservation_act.htm

4) EEA MAPPING ASSISTANCE FOR LAND TRUSTS

- from the Exec. Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

EEA Announces Land Mapping Assistance for Conservation Commissions and Non-profit Land Trusts

Free Geographic Information System software helps local officials guide local land use and conservation

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is extending a popular in-kind grants program that helps municipal conservation commissions and land trusts obtain free computer mapping software, training and digital maps to guide local land use decisions, EEA Secretary Ian Bowles announced today.

The Massachusetts Conservation Mapping Assistance Partnership Program (MACMAPP), a partnership between EEA's MassGIS Office and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), has provided valuable GIS technology and training to more than 50 conservation commissions and more than 20 non-profit land trusts across the state since its inception two years ago. Valued at \$3,000 each, the geographic information systems (GIS) software, training and support packages awarded through MACMAPP are a benefit many small towns and non-profit groups could not otherwise afford.

"Through this program, municipalities and land conservation groups with limited budgets and little or no experience with computer mapping can start using innovative GIS technology at minimal cost," Secretary Bowles said. "Using GIS software, conservation commissions can develop computerized maps of their open space inventories and plans, locate wetlands, and map trails and recreational assets – helping to delineate areas that are priorities for conservation."

Under the program, ESRI provides software, technical support and online training courses, while MassGIS provides map data, a comprehensive two-day hands-on training course, and ongoing support. Grant recipients are required to share all GIS data they develop through the program with MassGIS.

"As a conservation agent, I use GIS nearly every day to locate vernal pools, check for illegal wetland alterations, map the town's storm drain system, determine parcel ownership, compile abutters lists and much more," said Ashland Conservation Agent Matt Selby, a MACMAPP grant recipient . "I consider GIS an indispensable tool for this line of work."

Non-profit land trusts use the software to map existing holdings and to plan strategically for future land protection initiatives. Those eligible for MACMAPP grants include municipal conservation commissions and non-profit organizations with a conservation mission. For more information on the program and to apply, go to <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/macmapp.htm>

5) NEW MODEL CR & APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

The new 2008 Model Conservation Restriction and the updated Conservation Restrictions Application are now available from the Division of Conservation Services at EEA. PDF versions can be downloaded from the DCS website at <http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/restrictions/default.htm>.

Versions in MS Word are available from MLTC at:

www.massland.org/pages/tools/ModelCRMarch08.rtf

www.massland.org/pages/tools/CRapplicationformrevisedMay08.rtf

NOTE: ALL CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS SUBMITTED SHOULD USE THIS MODEL!

The Conservation Restriction Handbook is being revised and updated to reflect the changes, so Land Trusts and Conservation Commissions should NOT use the CR model and application in the Handbook. Please use the new Model CR and Application rather than the one in the Handbook.

Conservation Restrictions should be submitted for review in their final form (prior to getting signatures). Submitting rough drafts, or multiple drafts for review before all other comments have been incorporated is strongly discouraged. Following the format of the model Conservation Restriction above will provide a degree of confidence that there will be no major revisions required for the Secretary's signature.

In cases where the Conservation Restriction being submitted is extraordinarily different, or you have very unique issues you would like to run by DCS, please call DCS at 617-626-1138 to determine if submitting a rough draft of the unique issues is advisable. This will assist us in our efforts to review everyone's restrictions in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation.

6) CHAP 61/61A LAND VALUE CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR

(Editor's note - Sorry to be so late in providing this news)

In late January representatives of the Department of Conservation & Recreation presented proposed values for woodlands classified under Chapter 61 and 61A for fiscal year 2009 to the Farm and Forest Land Advisory Committee which is charged with setting rates for Chapter 61A and Chapter 61. The values proposed were \$108 per acre for woodlands east of the Connecticut River and \$173 per acre for woodlands west of the Connecticut River. Facing a February 1st statutory deadline for providing values to town assessors, the Farm and Forest Land Advisory Committee voted to approve the values.

As a result, valuations for Chapter 61 land in towns where general full market land valuations have been less than \$2,000 per acre will rise substantially (a full market value of \$2,000 per acre would translate to a \$100 value under the previous version of Chapter 61), as much as 500 percent in some towns west of the Connecticut River. Owners of woodlands in eastern Massachusetts, where full market values have been as much as \$25,000 per acre for woodlands, will see their taxes cut by hundreds of dollars.

The new Massachusetts values, taking effect for the first time next year, assess all Chapter 61 woodlands the same based on stumpage averages regardless of stages of growth, species composition, or quality of timber. By comparison, a new schedule of land values proposed for land under New Hampshire's Current Use program would set rates for managed white pine woodlands at \$102 to \$152/acre, for high value hardwood lands (red oak, sugar maple, yellow and white birch) at \$33 - \$50/acre and for other woodlands (red maple, aspen, hemlock) at \$20 - \$40 per acre.

While woodlands under Chapter 61A are allowed to classify up to 50 percent of the acreage as unproductive (wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, roads, etc) with a fixed value of \$29/acre, no such classification has been proposed for lands under Chapter 61, despite increasing restrictions on landowners from wetlands or endangered species regulations.

MFLA has discussed with DCR representatives how the new values were arrived at and ways to change the valuations to make them more equitable for landowners with differing quality woodlands in the next fiscal year. MFLA plans to ask that a Chapter 61 landowner be appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee that recommends the values.



7) 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

ORDER FORM & MORE INFO:
<http://www.masslandandwater.info/>

Public Hearings

8) DCR TIMBER CUTTING PLANS PUBLIC REVIEW

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is accepting public comments on their timber cutting proposal until August 15th. Simultaneous public hearings will be held throughout the state on July 17th. See the DCR website <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/manage/ProposedForestProductsSales.htm> for times and locations.

Events

9) GOV. PATRICK'S SUMMER TOWN HALL MEETING TOUR

Governor Deval Patrick will embark on a town hall-style meeting tour across Massachusetts. The meetings will be open to the public, giving residents a chance to talk directly to Governor Patrick about issues they care about. Governor Patrick will also assemble his full Cabinet for four meetings in different regions of Massachusetts, giving the public more opportunities to ask questions and raise important matters in their communities.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION AND TO ASK HIM TO KEEP IT UP!

Town Hall Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, July 16th Amesbury 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 17th Holyoke 6 p.m.

Monday, July 21st Milton 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23rd Webster 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 29th Rehoboth 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30th Athol 6 p.m.

Monday, August 4th Great Barrington 6 p.m.
Monday, August 11th Hyannis 6 p.m.
Saturday, August 23rd Boston - Caribbean Day Parade 2 p.m.

Governor's Cabinet Meeting Schedule:

Times and locations TBA

Thursday, July 17th Amherst

Tuesday, July 22nd Lowell

Tuesday, July 29th New Bedford

Wednesday, July 30th Worcester

Details and specific locations at:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3terminal&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Key+Priorities&L2=Civic+Engagement+%26+Strong+Communities&sid=Agov3&terminalcontent&f=townhall&csid=Agov3>

10) MASSWILDLIFE FORESTRY PROGRAM HABITAT MGT TOURS

MassWildlife's Forestry Program is hosting a series of public site visits on state wildlife lands throughout the summer and fall of 2008. Each visit will focus on wildlife habitat enhancement goals for the property, and the forest harvesting and other habitat management activities employed to achieve those goals. Foresters and biologists from MassWildlife will lead the site walks, provide information and answer questions.

The series resumes with two forest habitat management walks on state wildlife lands in Windsor and Dalton on July 18. These walks will focus on the results of shrubland habitat management activities at the Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and forest reserve establishment at the Chalet WMA in Dalton. The walks will take place rain or shine--wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footgear for walking in the woods and fields. Bring insect repellent, binoculars and a camera!

For the first walk, which will take about an hour, meet at 2 PM at the large parking area at the Moran WMA in Windsor on the east side of Rte 8A. The group will walk up Forbes Hill to observe and discuss abandoned field management by MassWildlife's Upland Habitat Program.

The second walk will begin at 3 PM, meeting at the Holiday Farm which can be reached from the Moran WMA by following Rte 8A south for 0.2 miles to Route 9. Turn right (west) on Route 9 and travel for about 4 miles, and turn right into Holiday Farm. Park near the office and prepare to hike up into the Chalet Forest Reserve. This walk will have two components; first, a half hour hike of moderate difficulty on a logging road into the forest reserve to an area with discussion on how the area came to be a reserve and how reserve status impacts wildlife habitat. At this point in the walk, attendees have the option of returning to the parking area or embarking on a further exploration of the Reserve with MassWildlife staff. This portion of the walk will be a strenuous hike through rugged terrain over a couple of hours. Participants should be in good physical condition, wear quality hiking boots, and carry water, snacks, and insect repellent. For more on Forest Management Site Walks, visit the Habitat area of MassWildlife's website at:

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/management/bdi/forest_mgt/forest_site_walks.htm

DFW Forestry Public Site Visit Schedule

July 18, 2008 2:00 pm Eugene Moran WMA, Windsor & Chalet WMA, Dalton
Abandoned pasture reclamation for shrubland habitat, and 6,800 ac forest reserve

Aug. 15, 2008 6:00 pm Fox Den WMA, Middlefield, MA Aspen regeneration and
abandoned orchard reclamation

Sept. 9, 2008 5:00 pm Peru WMA, Peru, MA Conversion of Norway spruce plantation
to a mixed, two-aged stand of northern hardwood, white pine, Norway spruce, and
balsam fir

Oct. 14, 2008 4:00 pm Phillipston WMA, Phillipston, MA White pine seed tree harvest
and adjacent moose wintering site.

11) GREEN MASTERPIECES CONCERT, JULY 16, HATCH SHELL

Wednesday, July 16th 7:00 pm

The DCR Hatch Shell at the Esplanade

NEW: Family Friendly Earth Fest 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Landmark Orchestra Green Masterpieces concert. The nature inspired
night promises to be an exciting celebration of this year's theme, clean air and
water, and the performing arts. The July 16th event will be carbon neutral and will
feature a newly commissioned whale piece, Speak, Sing, Whale, as well as Handel's
Water Music and Smetana's The Moldau.

Come early (5-7pm) and enjoy a family-friendly Earth Fest, featuring live animals,
sea creature touch tanks, speakers, and Calvin the Whale. For more information,
contact the Mass League of Environmental Voters at (617) 742-8822 or go to
<http://www.landmarksorchestra.org/>

Co-sponsoring this event are the Boston Harbor Association, Charles River
Conservancy, Charles River Watershed Association, Esplanade Association,
Environmental League of Massachusetts, Mass Audubon, Massachusetts League of
Environmental Voters, New England Aquarium, and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

Training

12) LAND TRUST RALLY, PITTSBURGH, SEPT. 17-21

Rally is the largest land conservation training and networking event in America. The
event offers a unique time to come together with your partners in conservation to
celebrate all of the hard work that's been done, and to strengthen your skills for the
challenges that lay ahead.

Join us in Pittsburgh, as the city celebrates its 250th Anniversary, and meet with
more than 2,000 of your fellow land trust professionals, landowners and local
conservation leaders - all, who like you, are dedicated to protecting farms, forests,
trails, parks and natural areas in their communities.

Take advantage of the early-bird discount and register by July 21st.

Find roommates and make shared travel arrangements at www.eBoard.com (enter
board name "Rally2008")

Registration and info at:

<http://www.lta.org/learning/rally>

13) STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING - RALLY WORKSHOP[

Land Trust Alliance Rally
Seminar 34 Strategic Conservation Planning
September 19th from 9:30am to 5:00pm

Training Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Presenters: Ole Amundsen - The Conservation Fund, Diane Rosencrance - The Natural Lands Trust, Dr. Kent Messer - University of Delaware and Allison Borchers - University of Delaware.

Strategic conservation planning is a process that identifies, prioritizes, pursues, and protects those specific tracts of land that will most effectively achieve the land trust's or government agency's mission and conservation objectives. The training topics will include: reviewing the major components of a successful planning process as shown through case studies and connecting action planning with implementation. Attendees will participate in a hands-on role playing GIS exercise on prioritization. Financial optimization tools will be highlighted that can be used to promote cost-effective conservation. Participants will receive a copy of the Land Trust Alliance Guide to strategic conservation planning. Last year's seminar sold out early so reserve your seat at the seminar soon!

14) NOFA ORGANIC LAWN & TURF COURSE, AUG 19, UMASS DARTMOUTH

The 4th annual NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course will be held on Tuesday, August 19th, 2008, at UMass Dartmouth in Dartmouth, MA, and we'd love for you to attend! This is a one-day intensive turfgrass and lawn course, building upon the principles you learned during the 5-day course - but focused solely on turfgrass. The course will be taught by well known scientists and OLC professionals Mike Nadeau, Donald Bishop, Chip Osborne, Dr. Kim Stoner and Bill Duesing and includes plenty of time booked in for questions-and-answers as well as an interactive case study on an organic demo lawn in CT. A special half hour Q&A session on products will also be included this year. Lunch/coffee/tea and a copy of the NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Handbook: Beautiful Grass Naturally, are included. The cost is \$150 for the first person from a firm/town and \$125 for each additional person.

I'm attaching PDFs of the course registration brochure for you. Feel free to copy and pass it on if you know others who may be interested in the course! To register, print the PDF and send the form to me at the address below, or visit www.organiclandcare.net and register online using a credit card.

Contact me anytime with questions. Thanks so much!

Kathy Litchfield
NOFA/Mass Organic Land Care Program Coordinator
75-R Bascom Road, Gill, MA 01354

Resources

15) SUMMARY OF FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROVISIONS

At the MLTC Steering Committee meeting on June 12, Cris Coffin, New England Director for the American Farmland Trust, gave a very comprehensive summary of the conservation provisions in the recently passed Farm Bill. This bill has major provisions for farmland conservation.

Programs covered in Cris' summary include Wetlands Reserve, Conservation Stewardship, Farmland Protection (FPP), Grasslands Reserve, Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives (WHIP), Open Fields, Conservation Easement Tax Deduction, the new Endangered Species Tax Deduction, and others.

Cris' summary of the bill (PDF) can be downloaded from the MassLand website at: www.massland.org/pages/tools/documents/SummaryofConservationProvisionsforMLTC.pdf

16) MASS. WILDLIFE VIEWING SITES POSTED ON LINE

A new addition to MassWildlife's website has been posted for wildlife watchers. A listing of the 67 Wildlife Viewing Sites as designated in the Massachusetts Wildlife Viewing Guide are now posted on line in the Recreation area. The Wildlife Viewing website provides helpful hints on how and when to watch wildlife, links to Viewing Site webpages, and updated telephone numbers for current site information. Use the material presented to plan a wildlife viewing trip and to make the most of your time in the field, whether it be going on a coastal whale watch, looking for wintering bald eagles, or just spending an hour in a nearby park. Take advantage of the sites listed on the website and discover the scores of others that are your gateway to wildlife watching.

Find the Wildlife Viewing Sites at:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/viewing/wildlife_viewing_intro.htm

Click on "Index" under "Quick Links" to find wildlife sites in your area.

17) NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION MAP PUBLISHED

On July 1, at Walden Pond, Massachusetts environmental officials displayed a new "Massachusetts Outdoor Recreation Map" packed with information for residents and visitors looking for places to enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, hunting, camping, hiking, wildlife watching, and swimming across the Bay State. The newly revised and updated Massachusetts Outdoor Recreation Map shows conservation lands managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. It also identifies all boat access, sport fishing piers, and shore fishing areas built by DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access. There is additional information about outdoor safety and ethics, licensing requirements for fishing and hunting, and web links to further information regarding recreational opportunities on state properties. Officials praised the maps as a great resource for tourists and Massachusetts residents alike.

"Whether you appreciate active recreation like kayaking in the rapids of one of the state's rivers or more sedate activities like strolling down a beautiful beach, Massachusetts has much to offer to anyone who loves the great outdoors," Governor

Patrick writes in a message to map users. "This outdoor recreation map is a fantastic resource for you to get to know all of our natural assets."

"Summer is here. It's time to get out and enjoy the 620,000 acres of open space managed by the Massachusetts Departments of Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, whose office oversees both departments. "At a time when many people are concerned about travel and fuel expenses, I encourage folks to see what Massachusetts has to offer for summer vacation options and outdoor activities throughout the year." Mary Griffin, DFG Commissioner noted, "Massachusetts has an incredible diversity of parks, forests, reservations, and wildlife management areas that offer all kinds of recreational opportunities for adults and children."

Publication of this map is the latest example of environmental agencies collaborating on a common goal of promoting outdoor recreation, welcoming tourism and helping to boost the state's economy. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, recreational anglers in Massachusetts (both residents and non-residents) spent more than \$769 million in 2006, while hunters spent more than \$70 million and people who enjoy wildlife watching spent about \$755 million. The USFWS estimates that 1.9 million people participated in wildlife watching in Massachusetts in 2006, about 500,000 people enjoyed fishing, and 73,000 hunted. According to the DCR, more than 14 million people visit Massachusetts state forests and parks annually. The DCR reports that reservations at state campgrounds are up nearly 14 percent from last year.

The Massachusetts Outdoor Recreation Map will be available for free at the DFG and Office of Fishing and Boating offices in Boston, all MassWildlife offices and hatcheries, DCR properties across the state, and selected highway information centers. To obtain a map by postal mail, send a self-addressed 59 cent stamped business sized envelope to: Outdoor Recreation Map, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westboro MA 01581. The map is also available online at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/publications/recreation_map.pdf

18) BATS IN THE BELFRY? HOW TO EVICT THEM HUMANELY

With summer's hot, humid weather, some Bay State homeowners may discover bats residing in their home! Attics are the most common portion of a house in which bats roost and raise their young. After a few hot summer days, an attic may become too warm for the bats, forcing them out and sometimes into people's living quarters as they search for cooler places to roost. Inexperienced young bats may fall down a chimney, fly in open windows or down attic stairs. What's a homeowner to do? Fortunately, a single bat flying in a room can usually be dealt with quite easily. Open an outside window or door in the room containing the bat and close off the rest of the room from the house. It's usually only a matter of a few minutes of circling before the bat locates the open window and leaves the house. Bats do not attack people or fly into people's hair.

If a bat has landed, it can be assisted out of a house in several ways. For a bat on a curtain, place a jar, coffee can or small box over the bat, carefully working the animal into the container, and cover it. A bat on the floor can be covered with a towel. Another method is to put on leather gloves and simply pick up the bat and release it outdoors-don't use cotton gloves or handle a bat with bare hands. Whatever method is used, don't worry when the bat squeaks loudly when handled.

Take the bat outdoors and release it. If anyone has had direct contact with a bat or if a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, the bat should be safely captured and not released. Contact local health officials for assistance in evaluating potential rabies risk and submitting the bat to the Department of Public Health for rabies testing.

Little Brown Bats and Big Brown Bats are the most likely species to be found in buildings. In some cases, with small numbers of bats, people don't mind their presence and concentrate on blocking holes and cracks leading into the human living quarters. Where there is a large colony in house walls, biologists recommend that homeowners wait to initiate eviction proceedings until the first week of August through November. Waiting to evict the colony allows time for young bats to mature and leave the house on their own.

Learn how to evict bats safely or live with them using "A Homeowner's Guide to Bats" booklet available from MassWildlife. This publication contains tips on handling a bat in the house, designs for one-way doors, bat house plans, and a key to identifying the nine bat species in Massachusetts. The booklet is posted in the Wildlife area of the agency website at

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/pdf/homeowners_guide_bats.pdf and is also available in hard copy at MassWildlife offices.

To receive a hard copy of the booklet by mail, send a business sized, self-addressed, 59 cent stamped envelope to: Bat Booklet, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westboro, MA 01581. Homeowners who wish to hire someone to evict a bat colony can find a list of licensed Problem Animal Control agents in the Wildlife area of MassWildlife's website.

19) SAVE WILDLIFE HABITAT - BUY A DUCK STAMP!

(Editor's note: Even though I'm not a hunter, I've been a Duck Stamp Holder for over 25 years...)

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System and sales of Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than \$670 million, which has been used to help purchase or lease over 5.2 million acres of waterfowl habitat since 1934.

Duck stamps for 2008 - 2009 went on sale June 27th and all wildlife watchers should consider buying one to support the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Waterfowl are not the only wildlife to benefit from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. Numerous other bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian species that rely on wetland habitats have prospered. Hunters have places to enjoy their hunting heritage and other outdoor enthusiasts have places to hike, watch birds, and visit. Moreover, the protected wetlands help purify water supplies, store flood water, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and provide spawning areas for fish important to sport and commercial fishermen.

Hunters over the age of 16 must purchase a Federal Duck Stamp each year if they want to hunt migratory waterfowl. Birders and other visitors to National Wildlife Refuges purchase a \$15 Federal Duck Stamp each year in order to gain free

admission to refuges. Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamps are, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make in the future of America's wetlands.

Where to buy Federal Duck Stamps online:

<http://shop.usps.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10152&storeId=10001&categoryId=21401&productId=38905&langId=-1>

Duck Stamps can also be purchased at most staffed U.S. National Wildlife Refuges and major sporting goods stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

U.S. National Wildlife Refuges in Massachusetts:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ma.htm>

More about Duck Stamps:

<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

People

20) MACC NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) recently announced the appointment of Linda A. Mack as their new Executive Director.

Linda has over 18 years experience as a Conservation Commissioner and five years as an agent. With Linda's background and experience we are sure that she will help advance MACC's goals to continue their outstanding educational programs for Conservation Commissioners, to advocate and lobby for strong state and local environmental laws and policies, and to rally generous financial support for MACC.

Welcome Linda! We look forward to working with you on important conservation initiatives in the Commonwealth.

MACC Website: <http://www.maccweb.org/>

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