



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

July 31, 2009

Volume 9, Number 6

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

Please send items of interest to Info@MassLand.org

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"Inanimate objects are sometimes parties in litigation... So it should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. The river, for example, is the living symbol of all the life it sustains or nourishes—fish, aquatic insects, water ousels, otter, fisher, deer, elk, bear, and all other animals, including man, who are dependent on it or who enjoy it for its sight, its sound, or its life. The river as plaintiff speaks for the ecological unit of life that is part of it."

-- William O. "Wild Bill" Douglas (1898-1980), longest-serving U.S. Supreme Court Justice; dissent in *Sierra Club v. Morton*, 405 U.S. 727 (1972) --

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JOIN MLTC!

Is your organization a member of MLTC? Check out our list at <http://www.MassLand.org>

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

MLTC News

1) NEW MASSLAND.ORG WEBSITE UP & RUNNING!

Dear Friends,

We're really excited to launch the Mass. Land Trust Coalition's new website at <<http://www.MassLand.org>> !

Here are some of the features you'll find (links will take you directly to the page):

- * Find A Massachusetts Land Trust - with a spiffy new map system!
<<http://new.massland.org/?q=land-trusts/state-map>>

* Massachusetts Land Trust Photo Gallery - send images of your protected lands to info@massland.org!

<<http://new.massland.org/?q=photo-gallery>>

* Service Providers - find attorneys, appraisers and other specialists with land protection expertise

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=service-providers>>

Resource Libraries provide well-organized topic pages. You may search the libraries by keyword, use the advanced search to find specific phrases, or browse topics by category. *Certain areas (such as [Information for Conservation Practitioners](http://www.massland.org/?q=conservation-practitioners)) are restricted to Mass. Land Trust Coalition Members and Friends. To access these, you must request a member ID and password. (Clicking on the links will take you directly to the Topic Page)*

Landowner Information Library

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=landowner-information-library>>

Find definitions, news, samples and links to related material in the libraries for landowners. Categories include:

Conserving Your Land:

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=conserving-your-land>>

Introduction to land conservation, Conservation options, Conservation values, Conservation restrictions (easements), Agricultural restrictions (easements), Donations of land, Bargain sales.

Advantages of Land Conservation

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=advantages-land-conservation>>

Why protect land, State of the environment, Community benefits, Reducing community services cost, Economic benefits of land conservation

Taxes and Land Conservation

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=taxes-and-land-conservation>>

Estate planning for conservation, Tax benefits for agricultural and forestry use, Income tax reduction, IRS guidelines

Managing Land for Conservation

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=managing-land-conservation>>

State assistance for land conservation, Forestry planning

Community Resources Library

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=community-resources-library>>

Find definitions, news, samples and links to related material in the libraries for landowners. Categories include:

Conserving Land in Your Community

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=conserving-land-your-community>>

Introduction to Land Conservation, Conservation Values, Why Protect Land, State of the Environment, Economic benefits of land conservation, Public health benefits of land conservation

Planning for Land Conservation in Your Community

<<http://www.massland.org/?q=planning-land-conservation-your-community>>

Conservation Restrictions (Easements), Donations of Land, Bargain Sales, Forest and Farmland Protection

Community Action

<http://www.massland.org/?q=community-action>

Organizing for Land Conservation, Funding Land Conservation

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, LINKS, IMAGES, & LIBRARY DOCUMENTS TO INFO@MASSLAND.ORG

News

1) ENVIRONMENT SPENDING REDUCED IN STATE BUDGET

-- From the Environmental League of Massachusetts --

At the end of June the Legislature's budget conference committee released the final budget and sent it to the Governor for his review. As anticipated, given the continued revenue decline in the state, the budget includes the lower dollar amount for almost every program (the Senate's numbers since that budget came out after the House's). The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has been allotted a total of \$211.8 million, down about \$29.6 million from last year at this time. Governor Patrick sent the budget back to the legislature with a number of line-item reductions including two that are Green Budget priorities -- cutting an additional \$117,000 from DEP's administrative line-item and \$125,000 from DCR State and Urban Parks. Additionally, the Governor cut \$75,000 from DCR's beach preservation line-item, \$250,000 from DCR State House rangers account, \$200,000 from DEP's recycling redemption center account and \$1 million from DAR's Emergency Food Assistance program. The final budget also eliminated the line items for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell that is entirely funded by fees assessed on industry.

ELM has sent a letter on behalf of all those that endorsed the Green Budget asking the legislature to override the vetoes on the two Green Budget priorities. We also will be working to seek restoration of the Natural Heritage and TURI accounts, perhaps in a supplemental budget.

Next up will be Governor's Patrick's vetoes, which the legislature can choose to override. Complete analysis of the cuts to the environmental budget to come.

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3) MASS AUDUBON RELEASES "LOSING GROUND" 4TH EDITION

The fourth edition of the Losing Ground series, Beyond the Footprint investigates land development trends throughout Massachusetts and identifies priority conservation sites. Though the report provides some hopeful news -- we are actually protecting twice as much land today as we are developing -- it is clear that we still have a long way to go toward sustainability. New houses being built today are bigger and more energy-intensive than ever, and the growth of Sprawl Frontier continues to threaten many of our more rural communities. For more information on Massachusetts land-use patterns or to download a copy of Losing Ground: Beyond the Footprint, please visit <http://www.massaudubon.org/losingground/>

Boston Globe article:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/05/18/more_land_saved_than_developed_study_finds/

Key Findings from Losing Ground: Beyond the Footprint

- * Between 1999 and 2005, government agencies and conservation organizations protected twice the land that was developed.
- * From 1999 to 2005, a total of 109,863 additional acres of land were protected in Massachusetts. This represents an additional 2.2% of the state's total land area.
- * Between 1999 and 2005, Massachusetts lost 22 acres of land to development each day.
- * 55% of critical wildlife habitat still lacks permanent protection. Aquatic species habitat is in dire need of protection; only 16% of wetlands are permanently protected.
- * Agricultural land is also highly threatened by development in many of Massachusetts' communities at the edge of the sprawl frontier - statewide, 215 towns had less than 5% of their land in agriculture in 2005, compared to 153 and 184 in 1985 and 1999 respectively.
- * Residential housing accounts for nearly 87% of land use change. More than 40,000 acres were converted to residential development from 1999 to 2005 - 30,000 acres from forest and 10,000 acres from agricultural land.

4) MASS AUDUBON LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Massachusetts Senators and Representatives showed strong support for environmental issues, receiving an average A- on environmental votes in 2008. The average score in the House was 92 percent; in the Senate, 93 percent.

Mass Audubon's Legislative Report Card is a compilation of the roll call votes taken by state legislators on environmental bills or funding measures. Such a vote is the single objective measure to evaluate Massachusetts legislators on their environmental performance. A legislator's score does not represent an endorsement, or lack thereof, by Mass Audubon. Mass Audubon has compiled the environmental voting records of the Massachusetts Legislature since 1985, with the goal of informing citizens of their state legislators' performance.

The 2007-2008 legislative session was the greenest in recent history, and many of Mass Audubon's legislative priorities were signed into law. We are committed to continuing to work with the legislature to support environmental programs and improve their effectiveness.

As we look forward, the challenge this year is to provide environmental agencies with sufficient funding to implement the environmental laws now on the Commonwealth's books.

To download this year's Legislative Report Card and see how your legislators scored, click here:

http://www.massaudubon.org/PDF/advocacy/report_cards/LRC_2008.pdf

5) IRS DENYING EASEMENT DEDUCTIONS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIATION LETTERS

-- From the Land Trust Alliance --

This week we have an important message about donations to your land trust. Whatever you have been told or assumed, the failure to provide contemporaneous written substantiation letters to donors of easements or land could make them vulnerable to audit.

A recent Federal District Court decision, *Bruzewicz v. USA* <<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/bruzewicz-v.-usa>>, invalidated the tax deduction of an easement donor because they did not have a letter from the donee describing their donation AND declaring that the donee provided no goods or services in exchange for the gift (or stating the value of goods in the case of a bargain sale).

In recent months, the IRS has repeatedly asserted that the requirement for a "contemporaneous written substantiation," required by Internal Revenue Code section 170(f)(8) <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode26/usc_sec_26_00000170----000-.html#f_8> is NOT met by the signing of a Form 8283.

To help landowners avoid audits on this point, land trusts should send each donor of a conservation easement (or any charitable contribution valued at \$250 or more), a separate letter or postcard acknowledging the gift and specifying if the donor received any goods or services in return. The donor must keep this communication - and the land trust should also keep a copy.

Click here <<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/easement-deductions-denied>> for more information and advice on how to proceed if you haven't sent such letters in the past.

6) MASS. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE LAUNCHED

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has launched the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee called for by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008. The Advisory Committee has been charged by the Legislature with evaluating strategies for adapting to the predicted effects of climate change. These effects include increased sea levels, warming temperatures, and increased incidences of floods and droughts. The CCAAC will report its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2009.

As mandated by the Act, the panel includes members representing the following sectors: transportation and built infrastructure; commercial, industrial and manufacturing activities; low income consumers; energy generation and distribution; land conservation; water supply and quality; recreation; ecosystem dynamics; coastal zone and ocean; rivers and wetlands; and local government. The committee also includes experts in public health, insurance, forestry, agriculture, and public safety.

Environmental representatives on the commission include:

Bernie McHugh, Mass Land Trust Coalition
Laura Johnson, Mass Audubon
Wayne Klockner, The Nature Conservancy
Bob Zimmerman, Charles River Watershed Association
Hector Galbraith, Manomet Center for Conservation
Peter Weiskel, US Geological Survey
David Foster, Harvard Forest

"I am pleased that the administration has begun to implement the adaptation provisions that were in the bill," said Sen. Marc R. Pacheco, chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. "These provisions, once put in place, will help us to cope with the impact of climate change, while we work at the same time to avoid the worst effects of climate change with a cap on carbon."

"Climate change will impact every aspect of life in the Commonwealth, from the crops that we grow to the cost of insurance policies for homeowners who live on the coast," said Rep. Frank Smizik, chairman of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. "The question now is not whether the climate is changing, but how we are going to adapt as a state to the impacts on our economy, public health, and the natural environment. This commission, with such a wide variety of stakeholders, is a good first step in beginning to plan for adaptation."

7) MASS GREEN ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

The Mass Green Alliance is a new collaboration of nine leading conservation, environmental, and faith-based organizations in Massachusetts. The Alliance advocates working for legislative and administration action on critical environmental issues. Immediate priority issues selected for this legislative session include:

- * The Sustainable Water Resources Act (HB 834), which includes development of streamflow standards and options for mitigating the ecological impacts of water withdrawals;
 - * An Amended Community Preservation Act (SB 90) that calls for improvements to legislation that preserves and protects open space, as well as incentives for new communities to adopt the Act;
 - * Off-Highway Vehicle Oversight (HB 3330), which aims to reduce illegal off-road and all terrain vehicle riding on municipal and state conservation lands through education programs and increased penalties;
- And working to limit budget cuts for environmental programs and agencies.

Members of the Mass Green Alliance:

[Appalachian Mountain Club](#)
[Charles River Watershed Association](#)
[Mass Audubon](#)
[Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters](#)
[The Jewish Community Relations Council](#)

[Massachusetts Council of Churches](#)
[The Nature Conservancy](#)
[The Trustees of Reservation](#)
[Trout Unlimited](#)

For more information, please visit <http://www.massgreenagenda.org/>.

8) "LAND" GRANTS PROTECT 446 ACRES IN 11 COMMUNITIES

- from Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs -

The Patrick Administration has announced land conservation grants totaling \$3.5 million that will help 11 Massachusetts municipalities purchase 446 acres of land to protect farms, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat. The Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grants will fund land conservation projects in Brewster, Falmouth, Littleton, Mendon, Pelham, Provincetown, Randolph, Southampton, Wellfleet, Wilbraham, and Worcester. This grant round of \$3.5 million leverages \$2.8 million additional non-state dollars raised by cities and towns and land trusts.

"These grants are in keeping with the Patrick Administration's steadfast support for protecting open space across the Commonwealth," Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles said. "Through grant programs such as this, the Commonwealth last year partnered with municipalities and conservation organizations to conserve more than 24,000 acres of woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and farmland for residents and visitors to enjoy."

LAND grants announced today help fund a variety of projects, including one in Southampton to preserve 200 acres of wildlife habitat and another in Littleton to protect 54 acres on a historic site of a 17th century Native American village. Other grants fund projects to protect rare species habitat, and add to contiguous areas of protected land, including projects to protect key water resources, working farms, and regional trails and greenways.

"Congratulations to those communities receiving the LAND Grants," said Senator Anthony Petrucci, co-chairman of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. "It is a badge of honor that we, here in the Commonwealth, take pride in our natural resources and seek to expand these resources and access to them."

"I am pleased the state continues to support a program that not only protects our natural resources but promotes the use of this land for recreational purposes," said Representative Bill Straus, co-chairman of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. "The LAND Grant awards will provide a great boost to municipal conservation commissions working to acquire land in tough economic times."

Since 1961, EEA's LAND (formerly known as Self-Help) awards have helped cities and towns acquire land for conservation and outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, wildlife watching, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing. Funding for LAND grants comes from the \$1.7 billion Energy and Environment Bond Bill signed by Governor Patrick in August 2008. To qualify for the reimbursement grants, communities must fund the projects up-front through local, federal, or private sources and the protected open space must be open to the public. Municipalities may use grant funds for outright land purchases or partial interests, such as conservation restrictions, and for acquisition costs.

Wildlife News

9) BATS ON YOUR PROPERTY? REPORT COLONIES TO MASSWILDLIFE

With the onset of hot, humid weather, Bay State homeowners may discover bats residing in their homes. Because Massachusetts and other northeastern states are experiencing a sudden and unexpected decline of bat populations due to a white powdery fungus on bat faces called White Nose Syndrome (WNS), the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is asking anyone with a summer colony of ten bats or more on their property to report that information to agency biologists. Little Brown Bats and Big Brown Bats are the most likely species to be found in buildings. Please report the colony's location, what kind of place it is in, and how many bats are in the colony, by calling (508) 389-6300, or email mass.wildlife@state.ma.us. Everyone's response to this call will be greatly appreciated.

Bats with WNS 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. In the winter of 2008-2009, WNS was found in bats throughout the Northeast and in caves as far south as Virginia and West Virginia. Although the reasons are not well understood, bats with WNS deplete their winter fat reserves too quickly by the middle of winter. The affected bats exhibit unusual behavior, often moving to cold parts of the hibernacula, leaving the cave or mine during the day and during cold winter weather in an attempt to find food during a time when insects are not available. Wildlife managers are concerned about WNS because bats congregate by the thousands in caves and mines to hibernate during winter months. Bats, and possibly even people, are spreading WNS from one cave to the next.

High bat mortality is a major concern to MassWildlife biologists because bats have a low reproductive rate. Since most bats raise only one pup per year, it can take decades for a bat population to rebound after a large die-off. For more information about the work in the region conducted by scientists relating to bats and WNS, go to www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/bat_mortality_ma.htm.

10) NATURAL HERITAGE SEEKS INFO ON SNAKES, TURTLES & AMPHIBIANS!

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is asking interested conservationists for reports or sightings of certain specific reptiles and amphibians.

The species of NHESP interest include: Smooth Greensnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Ribbonsnake, Eastern Musk Turtle, Spotted Turtle, and the Northern Leopard Frog. NHESP is particularly interested in sightings of the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake.

These particular species are of interest for a variety of reasons: 1) the species is thought to be rare, declining or vulnerable, but there is insufficient information on the condition, number and size of populations to make a determination; 2) the species was removed from the official regulatory list, but the Program believes it still is in need of some conservation attention; 3) the species distribution and abundance are not well known. Herpetologists want to bring attention to and track reports of

these reptiles and amphibian in order to determine whether any of the species listed are appropriate for proposal to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act list.

Anyone who has seen the above mentioned wildlife are encouraged to submit a Rare Animal Observation Form found on-line at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/species_info/pdf/electronic_animal_form.pdf. Information needed includes date of sighting, specific mapped location and a photo of the observed animal. Submit the form, map and photo(s) to: Data Manager, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. For more information about this conservation effort, visit the following web page: www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/conservation/herps/reptiles_amphibians_undstat.htm.

Events

11) FOREST LANDOWNER FORUMS, AUG. 25 & 27

"Forest Landowner Forums: Forest Management, Insect/Disease Threats, and Forest Conservation"

All forest and woodlot owners are invited to attend free Forest Landowner Forums co-sponsored by the New England Forestry Foundation and the Nashua River Watershed Association. The forums feature three forestry professionals who will address a range of current topics. The first forum, geared to MA landowners, will be held on Tuesday, August 25th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Nashua River Watershed Association's River Resource Center, 592 Main Street (Rt. 119) in Groton, Massachusetts. The second forum, for NH landowners, will be held on Thursday, August 27th, also beginning at 7:00 PM, at Beaver Brook Association, 117 Ridge Road, in Hollis, New Hampshire.

On August 25th, Doug Hutcheson, a Service Forester with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's Bureau of Forestry, will discuss storm damage and insect/disease threats, and will also cover Green Certification, a program of the Forest Stewardship Council meant to encourage responsible forest management and independent certification. DCR's Forest Stewardship Program currently has funds available for preparing new stewardship plans and upgrading existing plans for the purpose of enrolling in Green Certification. Whit Beals, Director of Land Protection for the New England Forestry Foundation, will speak on "Protecting Forestland for the Next Generation: What's in the Toolbox?" Along with covering current stumpage prices and timber market updates, Whit will discuss the details of what is involved in donating land and protecting it for the next generation, including a discussion of Conservation Restrictions (MA) and Conservation Easements (NH), what is involved in donating a CR/CE on your property, income and property tax benefits, enrollment in preferential tax programs, including Chapter 61, 61a and 61b (MA) or current-use programs (NH), protecting land through a CR/CE in your will, and a short discussion on forestland as an investment.

On August 27th, our speakers will be Jon Nute, an Extension Educator on Forest Resources with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, speaking on forest land management planning and how to involve a professional forester. He will also speak about forest recovery from last year's ice storm, as well as insect and disease issues. Jon will be joined by Whit Beals, Director of Land Protection for the

New England Forestry Foundation, and he will again speak on "Protecting Forestland for the Next Generation: What's in the Toolbox?" as described above.

Following the speakers at both forums, there will be a question and answer session, and time to speak informally with the presenters and local foresters.

These free public presentations are made possible by an EPA Targeted Watershed grant for the project Protecting Today's Water for Tomorrow: Combating Threats to Source Water in the Squannacook Nissitissit Sub-basin of the Nashua River Watershed, a multi-year partnership project led by the Nashua River Watershed Association, Trust for Public Land, New England Forestry Foundation, and Beaver Brook Association.

Pre-registration is required; to pre-register, or for more information, please contact Al Futterman, NRW Land Programs Director, at (978) 448-0299 or email AlF@NashuaRiverWatershed.org.

12) NOFA ORGANIC LAWN & TURF COURSE, AUG. 7, UMASS AMHERST

Fifth Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association Organic Lawn & Turf Course
UMass, Amherst
Friday, August 7, 8 am - 5 pm

This one-day course will provide information for managing lawns and turf organically and is geared toward land care professionals who are responsible for the establishment and care of grass, as well as anyone interested in learning organic methods. The course will include a special section on Water Management and Conservation.

All course participants will receive a copy of the NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Handbook: Beautiful Grass Naturally, which serves as the course manual. Topics include: Why Organic? Site Analysis, Soil Health, Cultural Practices, Weeds, Insects, Diseases, Obtaining Materials and Equipment, Running a Business, Client Relations and much more.

The NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course is happening concurrently with the NOFA Summer Conference. The NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course costs \$150 for the first person from a firm/town and \$125 each additional person. Sat/Sun NOFA Summer Conference registrants receive a \$30 discount on the combined registration fees. For more information or to register, visit www.organiclandcare.net or www.nofasummerconference.org. With questions, please contact Kathy Litchfield, NOFA/Mass OLC Program Coordinator, at (413) 773-3830 or kathy@nofamass.org

13) LOTS OF EVENTS & WORKSHOPS LISTED AT TOWNBOARD.ORG

For a more complete listing of approximately 50 workshops and events, including family oriented environmental education events, go to WWW.TOWNBOARD.ORG and click on Calendar

Here's a sample of what you will find:

- * Summer Workshops on the Farm (a series of six workshops)
- * When Removal of Dams Makes Sense
- * Highlands' Least Wanted
- * Navigation, Maps and Compass
- * New England Forests

- * Sustainable Woodlands
- * Conservation Land Appraisals
- * The Effectiveness of Smart Growth Policies
- * NOFA Summer Conference
- * Ecological Landscaping Association Summer Roundtable
- * Creative Agriculture: Sustainability
- * Land Use Institute: Planning, Regulation, Litigation, Eminent Domain and Compensation

You can also add your own events and workshops to this calendar by following the simple directions ("add entry").

Training

14) "IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING"

Implementing Strategic Conservation Planning (seminar #32)
 Land Trust Alliance Rally - Portland, Oregon
 Monday, October 12th 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

It's a question all conservation organizations face: how can we focus on saving the most important land in our area when we have limited resources? The answer is "strategic conservation planning."

Strategic conservation planning is a process that helps land trusts identify, prioritize, pursue, and protect land that will most effectively achieve their mission and conservation objectives. The training topics will include: exploring why strategic conservation is vital for successful land trusts; learning the major components of a successful planning process; assessing your organization's readiness for developing such a plan; and finally investigating various methods and decision aiding tools (both high tech and low tech approaches). This engaging full day seminar will highlight how strategic conservation planning can help you prepare for Accreditation, how conservation planning can help you during this economic downturn, and discussion issues specific to Western landscapes. Interactive exercises connect participants with real life scenarios, providing the skills for land trust staff and board members to help their organization reach its full potential.

Seminar participants will get a copy of the Land Trust Alliance approved Strategic Conservation Planning Guide by Ole Amundsen to help with their planning initiatives.

Seminar Faculty Include:

Ole Amundsen, Strategic Conservation Program Manager, The Conservation Fund,
 Stephen Johnson, Executive Director, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Bozeman Montana
 Jessica Pierce, Operations Manager, Placer Land Trust, Auburn, California

Cost \$140/\$170 and all skill levels welcomed!

To register for the seminar, visit the Land Trust Alliance Conservation Website and Select seminar#32 Implementing Strategic Conservation Planning:
<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally/registration>

15) ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOPS

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Outreach and Survey Project is looking for volunteers to receive training about ALB and other forest pests. Register now for an Asian Longhorned Beetle "Train the Trainer" session and get the tools you need to teach others about Asian longhorned beetle <<http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/>> and protect your neighborhood from this invasive pest!

These sessions, organized by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources <<http://www.mass.gov/agr>> , are geared towards nursery and landscape professionals, environmental group leaders, master gardeners, and anyone else that is willing to commit to passing on this valuable information to the rest of the community. Come to a train-the-trainer session and leave with:

The ability to recognize ALB and tree damage caused by ALB

Tips to distinguish ALB from similar species and to recognize when tree damage is not caused by ALB

Copies of various outreach materials and other cool ALB gear to distribute to the people you will be training

Access to beetle specimens and damaged wood for your own training sessions

The latest information on the infestation in Worcester

Boston session:

August 11th, 6pm-8pm <<http://bit.ly/albBoston2>>

Springfield sessions:

July 30th, 8:30am-10:30am <<http://bit.ly/albSpring1>>

August 13th, 6pm-8pm <<http://bit.ly/albSpring2>>

Breakfast or dinner (pizza!) will be provided.

Sign up via the links above, or email jennifer.forman-orth@state.ma.us or call 617-626-1735.

Resources

16) ELM HAS OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT ACROSS FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Are you a public policy advocacy group that needs office space near the State House? The Environmental League of Massachusetts has a office suite of approximately 200 square feet available for rent at 14 Beacon Street. The space can accommodate up to four desks and staff with access to a conference room and shared copier, fax, and printer. We can offer the suite as a whole unit or smaller groups could rent a desk. Please contact Ken Pruitt at kpruitt@environmentalleague.com for more information.

17) NEW LIVING WITH WILDLIFE FACT SHEETS AND BIRD CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

New Living With Wildlife fact sheets on Deer, Skunks, Raccoons, and Neighborhood Wildlife have been posted on the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife web pages. The Living With Wildlife series fact sheets are designed to provide information about some of the common types of wildlife people encounter and how to live with and enjoy wildlife responsibly. Tips on preventing conflicts are provided. Hard copies of fact sheets will be available at MassWildlife District offices and the Westborough Field Headquarters. Links to the fact sheets are posted on the agency website at: www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_home.htm

Bird enthusiasts will also welcome a revised, resized, and updated Birds of Massachusetts Check-list. Compiled by former state ornithologist Brad Blodget, this check-list is larger in size, includes check boxes, information on the listing criteria, and a legend that indicates the status of the 473 bird species that have been recorded in Massachusetts. Veteran birders will also appreciate the extensive bibliography at the end of the check-list. Check-lists can be picked up at MassWildlife offices. To receive a check-list by mail, send a \$1.22 stamped 6 x 9 inch envelope to Bird Check-list: MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

18) MUNICIPAL PERMIT TRACKING SYSTEM AVAILABLE FREE!

In September 2007, the Massachusetts Interagency Permitting Board granted funds to the Town of Grafton to develop a database program to track local land use permits and generate reports, forms and permits. The Municipal Permit Tracking System (MPTS) and Users Manual is available at <<http://www.mass.gov/mpro>> to ALL cities and towns free-of-charge.

The Municipal Permit Tracking System (MPTS) provides an affordable alternative for cities and towns to comply with best practices as outlined by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MAPRA) in the Best Practices Model for Streamlined Local Permitting
<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eheadterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Economic+Analysis&L2=Executive+Office+of+Housing+and+Economic+Development&L3=Massachusetts+Permit+Regulatory+Office&sid=Ehead&b=terminalcontent&f=permitting_streamline_permit_bestpractices&csid=Ehead> .

Highlights of MPTS include:

- * Database program based in Microsoft Access
- * Affordable and flexible technology is easily adapted to meet specific needs
- * Links to GIS
- * Facilitates workflow and departmental teaming

Please contact Pamela McCarthy at <<mailto:Pamela.McCarthy@State.Ma.Us>> or 617-788-3651 for more information.

19) CONSERVATION & CLIMATE CHANGE CLEARINGHOUSE WEBSITE

New at the Conservation and Climate Change Clearinghouse <<http://www.ccc-clearinghouse.net>> :

HIGHLIGHTS page

- New book: Early Spring: An ecologist and her children wake to a warming world
- Science magazine on climate change's ecological and phenological effects
- Regional conference on wildlife & climate change in US northeast
- Resources at the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center
- Biodiversity Convention meeting on climate change
- New California "indicators" report

INSTITUTIONS page

- Updated resources from the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention
- Climate Institute added, with a number of useful links

USA IMPACTS page

- New link to the USGS's "National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center"

TAXA-SPECIFIC IMPACTS page

- PRBO Conservation Science
- Effects of climate change on pika populations

ONLINE RESOURCES & MULTIMEDIA page

- Tom Lovejoy on "Climate change: Prospects for nature" (YouTube)

PERIODICALS page

- New link to journal: Climate Change Letters
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Jobs & Contracts

20) HARVARD CONSERVATION TRUST SEEKS P/T EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Harvard Conservation Trust is seeking its first professional Executive Director. The Executive Director will report to a 15 member Board of Trustees and will work directly with and receive work guidance primarily from the President and the Executive Committee. The Trustees seek an Executive Director with excellent managerial skills who is a proven and effective leader with a record of achievement particularly in the areas of organizational development, fund raising, new program initiatives, and who is able to gain the trust of the community and work effectively with a wide variety of people. Compensation: This is a part-time position, approximately 20 hours per week. Competitive salary provided commensurate with experience. Deadline: open until filled.

Send letter of intent, resume, and three references to: Harvard Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 31, Harvard, MA 01451 or e-mail to: info@harvardconservationtrust.org. For more information about the Harvard Conservation Trust visit www.harvardconservationtrust.org.

Grants

21) MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT ROUND OPEN

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) FY 2011 General Grants RFR is now open. The Request for Proposals is now posted to the state RFR site, <http://www.comm-pass.com>. Letters of inquiry for this round are due on October 16, 2009 for projects that will begin in July 2010.

To access the RFR directly,

1. Go to <http://www.comm-pass.com>
2. Select the "Solicitation Search" link
3. Enter EEA 10 MET 01 in the Document Number field
4. Select the Search button
5. Click on the search result
6. Select the View icon for the matching record to access all current information

For full information on MET, go to www.massenvironmentaltrust.org

If you prefer a copy of the RFR e-mailed directly to you, please contact:

William W. Hinkley
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

617.626.1177

<mailto:william.hinkley@state.ma.us>

22) MASS. RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT ROUND OPEN

Please visit the Recreational Trails Program website for updated grant guidelines, application materials, and paperwork guidelines:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/regionalGrants.htm>

Also, the most recent rounds of RTP Grant Awards are now posted on the website. Please take a look at the 28 projects which have been funded this year as well as past grant round awards.

Contact Amanda Lewis, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator with any questions at amanda.lewis@state.ma.us or 413-586-8706 ext. 19.

23) 2011 FOREST LEGACY RFP NOW AVAILABLE

The MA Forest Legacy Program FY 2011 Request For Proposals announcement is posted at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/other/>

The due date for Forest Legacy proposals is September 16, 2009.

Important: all project proposals must be entered into the "Forest Legacy Information System" (FLIS) by September 18, 2009 for project proposals to be considered complete and eligible for ranking by the Forest Legacy Committee. Project proponents should work with the appropriate Forest Legacy Area Sponsor to complete the data entry into FLIS.

For additional information or questions please contact:

Michael J. Fleming

Department of Conservation and Recreation

PO Box 155

Clinton, MA 01510

phone: 978-368-0126 x114

fax: 978-368-0217

e-mail: mike.fleming@state.ma.us

web: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/index.htm>

24) LAND TRUST RALLY 2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship application for Rally 2009 (Portland, OR) takes just a few minutes to complete. All staff and board members of Alliance member land trusts are encouraged to apply. Scholarship awards will range from \$500-\$1000 and will be paid as a reimbursement after Rally. Please distribute the application to your land trusts, and Service Center staff should also consider applying! Supply is limited - act today.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally/scholarships/?zbrandid=4120&zidType=CH&zid=1324194&zsubscriberId=1002013777>

Miscellany



25) NEW "LAND & WATER" PLATE SUPPORTS LAND PROTECTION - ORDER TODAY!

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

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

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

ORDER FORM & MORE INFO:

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

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