



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

November 2, 2009

Volume 9, Number 9

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.
For more news and information, got to <http://www.MassLand.org>
Please send items of interest to Info@MassLand.org

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"Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting over."

-- attributed to Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) (1835-1910), American writer & humorist --

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MLTC News

1) MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION RECEIVES CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANT!

The Coalition is very pleased to announce that it has received a leadership grant for expanding services in 2010 and beyond. This generous \$25,000 gift and the matching funds we hope to raise will allow the Coalition to expand its services by adding a part-time Communications and Outreach Manager, executing our 3-year business plan for long-term sustainability and implementing our Regional Training and Outreach program, which will deliver educational opportunities for land conservationists across the state where they work.

We hope to raise an additional \$25,000 in gifts and grants of \$500 - \$5,000 and would greatly appreciate any offers of assistance from individuals, donor-directed funds, family foundations and businesses or suggestions on who we could approach for such assistance. It would be most helpful if potential donors could make a 3-year commitment to supporting the Coalition while it executes its business plan.

Please contact Coordinator Bernie McHugh at 781-248-7045 or bmchugh@massland.org for more information.

2) MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION SEEKS BOARD TREASURER

As the Coalition enters this exciting time of transition there is much to do to realize our 2010-13 Business Plan designed to help land trusts across the Commonwealth succeed in this increasingly challenging and complex work. The Coalition seeks a Treasurer to join our Officers in implementing this strategy.

The individual we seek will:

- * be committed to land conservation in Massachusetts
- * have experience in financial management
- * be prepared to assist the Coalition in achieving 501(c)(3) non-profit status

Responsibilities include:

- * Assisting in developing the Coalition's annual budget
- * Preparing and delivering a financial report at each quarterly steering committee meeting
- * Monitoring the financial status of the Coalition and advising the officers of significant changes and requirements
- * Participating in occasional officers' meetings
- * Assisting in the preparation of any financial reporting required by MLTC's transition to independent non-profit status

This is a volunteer position and will require approximately 4 hours per month of time. Please contact Coordinator Bernie McHugh at 781-248-7045 or bmchugh@massland.org if you are interested.

3) THANKS TO RENEWING MLTC MEMBERS & FRIENDS! HAS YOUR LAND TRUST RENEWED ITS MLTC MEMBERSHIP?

The Coalition's Officers wish to thank the 120 Members and Friends of MLTC who have renewed or joined this year! You can get a complete list of current members at <http://www.massland.org/files/Mbrscurrent.pdf>

If your organization is not a member, you can join now. Get a 2009-2010 membership form at <http://www.massland.org/files/Memberform10.pdf>. Please contact Kathy McGrath at kmcgrath@massland.org to renew or with questions.

We especially want to thank our Sustaining, Sponsoring and Supporting Member and Friends!

Sustaining Members - \$1,000 and up

Mass Audubon
The Nature Conservancy Mass. Office
Trust for Public Land Mass. Office

Sponsoring Members - \$500 and up

American Farmland Trust NE Office
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Concord Land Conservation Trust
Essex County Greenbelt
Franklin Land Trust
Lincoln Land Conservation Trust
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
New England Forestry Foundation
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
Sudbury Valley Trustees
The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

Supporting Members - \$250 and up

Boxford Trails Assoc/Boxford Open Land Trust
Carlisle Conservation Foundation
Coalition for Buzzards Bay
East Quabbin Land Trust
Egremont Land Trust
Grafton Land Trust
Greater Worcester Land Trust
Groton Conservation Trust
Hilltown Land Trust
Land Preservation Society of Norton
Littleton Conservation Trust
Minnechaug Land Trust
Nantucket Conservation Foundation
Nantucket Land Council
Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield
North County Land Trust
Paxton Land Trust
Princeton Land Trust
Rural Land Foundation of Lincoln
Sheffield Land Trust
Southborough Open Land Foundation
The Kestrel Trust
The Trustees of Reservations
Truro Conservation Trust
Valley Land Fund
Wareham Land Trust
Wellfleet Conservation Trust

Westport Land Conservation Trust
Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Mass

Sponsoring and Supporting Friends

Ed & Kate McNierney
LandVest, Inc.
Jim Lentowski
Attorney Ray Lyons & Associates

4) WHAT'S NEW ON THE MLTC WEBSITE?

The new www.MassLand.org website is the result of the Coalition's extensive makeover to expand content, improve organization and enhance user-friendliness. We hope you'll try it and let us know what you think!

For instance, the **Recent News** section of the home page presents information on current issues, legislative items, new resources, and advice from the experts.

Latest additions are:

- * EEA Secretary Ian Bowles' Letter on Wind Energy Siting
- * Irene Del Bono's Newest Clarification on Drafting CRs
- * Lasting Legacy: NE Governors' Report on Land Conservation

Or look through the extensive resource library for **Conservation Practitioners**, with sections on Land Protection Practices, Land Trust Operations, Stewardship, Legal Issues and Advocacy. (To access this members-only feature, MLTC members must register. Registration is easy - see below.)

To **Register** to access areas restricted to members:

Select *Member Area Login* (top right hand corner of the home page).

Select *Create New Account*

Enter your preferred username, password and other required information.

Click the *Create New Account* button to send your registration request to the web administrator.

As soon as you have been approved, you can access any feature of the site.

Any and all comments are most welcome! Send to Kathy at kmcgrath@massland.org

News

5) IMPORTANT STATE BUDGET UPDATE!

-- From the Environmental League of Massachusetts - October 29, 2009

In response to revenue shortfalls since the beginning of the fiscal year in July Governor Patrick has announced \$352 million in cuts to the state's current FY '10 budget. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Secretary Ian Bowles and his staff detailed the cuts to environmental agencies and programs. Overall EOEEA's budget of \$175 million is being cut by \$9.3 million (5.3%). Agency breakdown as follows:

Secretary's office: \$1.5 million cut (5.6%) - primary accounts affected are Information Technology and Environmental Police.

Dept. of Environmental Protection: \$2.7 million cut out of \$53.4 million (5%) - primary accounts affected are DEP's administrative line - item (\$1.7 million), Clean Air Act enforcement (\$300,000) and wetlands retained revenue (\$640,000). **DEP is down 80 positions from FY '09.**

Dept. of Fish and Game: \$360,000 cut out of \$7.2 million (5%) - evenly spread across most line-items; probably won't result in many program shifts

Dept. of Conservation and Recreation: \$4.3 million cut out of \$82.7 million (5.2%) - primary accounts affected are state parks and recreation (\$1.6 million) DCR's administrative account (\$600,000), stormwater account (\$600,000 - they hope to make up for this using capital dollars), Office of Dam Safety (\$400,000 - again, hope to make up for this by using capital dollars). While there is a significant cut to the state parks and recreation account (this is the consolidated state and urban parks line-item, EOEEA said this was a better outcome than they had anticipated and they looked closely at trusts funds for specialized purposes to see how they could be used to offset cuts). **DCR is down 172 positions since FY '09.**

Dept. of Agricultural Resources: \$380,000 cut out of \$5 million (7%) - impacts to Integrated Pest Management and administrative accounts.

Because the Dept. of Energy Resources and the Dept. of Public Utilities are "off budget" accounts, they are not included.

EOEEA is in the process of figuring out what the cuts will mean in terms of program reductions or eliminations. They are considering consolidations, privatization of certain programs, shifting some responsibilities to municipalities, etc. They plan to convene advocates within a week or two to discuss changes. Depending on the revenue picture as the year progresses, it is possible that additional cuts will be necessary. We'll keep you posted.

6) FY10 CAPITAL/BOND FUNDING AND LAND PROGRAMS

-- From Steve Long, Government Affairs Director, The Nature Conservancy MA Office --

(Editor's Note: Despite the state's fiscal crisis, just over \$45 million in bond funds have been set aside for land protection programs this year. The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition thanks Governor Patrick for keeping his commitment to land protection even during such tough economic times. For details on capital funding, visit http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/dept/he_and_eea.htm. We are also indebted to Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles for his support of historically high levels of conservation investment.)

In mid October, the Administration released the FY10 Capital Bond Plan including \$45.2 million for Land Programs (note: language describing programs is drafted by the Administration)

EEA

Details at: http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/agy/he_and_eeaenv.htm and http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/agy/hcommun_investeaenv.htm

\$1 million Conservation Partnership Grants: This program funds grants to land trusts to assist with the acquisition of priority land and requires a conservation easement to be held by an EEA agency and at least a 1:1 match is required. Grants are reviewed by a panel of land experts.

\$6.2 million Urban Signature Parks: This program will provide funding to create 10-15 large signature parks in cities to provide open space and recreation opportunities in underserved areas. This program allows for the assessment and clean up of brownfields in locations appropriate for parks as well as the design and construction of the parks.

\$6.7 million PARC (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities - formerly Urban Self-Help): This program funds the restoration and creation of new city parks and outdoor recreation facilities, often in under-served neighborhoods, and is a vital part of improving the quality of life in cities and of the smart growth initiative. Cities and towns must have an Open Space and Recreation Plan approved by EEA in order to apply for this grant and the need for the project must be ranked highly in the plan in order for the municipality to gain significant points in the EEA evaluation. Grants are evaluated by a panel of park experts.

\$4.6 million LAND (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity - formerly Self-Help): This program assists municipalities in acquiring conservation land based on Open Space and Recreation Plans approved by EOEEA. This program complements state agency acquisition programs by focusing on the best quality, highest priority local conservation acquisition projects. This program focuses on the best habitat, outdoor recreation, and other resource values on a local basis and is critical to helping to meet our Statewide Land Conservation Plan goals.

DCR

Details: http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/agy/he_and_eeadcr.htm

\$7 million Land Protection: This program funds the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Land Protection program to acquire and develop parcels of environmentally significant land for both conservation and recreation functions throughout the state.

\$700K Working Forest Preservation Restriction: This program has dual goals of protecting high quality forest land and supporting rural economic development via sustainable forestry. It is modeled after the nationally renowned MA Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. Like APR, Working FPR would be an application program for landowners and with a committee of forest landowners and forestry experts reviewing applications based on the quality of the forest resource and the viability of the land to support sustainable forest businesses. Working FPR easements would be held by DCR or DAR. Funding from the new bond bill will enable both agencies to develop projects.

DFG

Details: http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/agy/he_and_eefwe.htm

\$9.5 million Land Protection: This program funds the Department of Fish and Game's Land Protection program to acquire parcels of environmentally significant land for protection of important species throughout the state. This program also provides public access on the land acquired for recreational uses including hunting and fishing.

\$1 million Division of Aquatic Habitat Restoration: DFG proposes the creation of a new Division of Aquatic Habitat Restoration (DAHR) which would combine the programs, staff, and fiscal resources of DFG's Riverways program and EEA's Coastal Zone Management - Wetlands Restoration Program. DAHR would provide proactive restoration of degraded aquatic habitats by supporting selected projects that improve habitat and ecosystem functions and services. Projects include dam removals, culvert replacements, and physical restoration of rivers and wetlands.

DAR

Details: http://www.mass.gov/bb/cap/fy2009/rec/agy/he_and_eeaagr.htm

\$8.5 million Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR): This program offers a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding the future use and disposition of their farms. Towards this end, the program offers to pay farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

7) DEP "SAFE YIELD" RIVER LEVELS CAUSE FLOOD OF PROTEST

-- The Boston Globe, Oct 15, 2009 --

Globe Headline: "Conservationists rip water policy, quit state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) panel"

"Members of four influential conservation groups abruptly resigned from a state waterway advisory panel yesterday, alleging that a new state policy undercuts environmental protection of rivers so greatly that some could run bone dry.

Members of the Conservation Law Foundation, Charles River Watershed Association, Ipswich River Watershed Association, and Clean Water Action sent a joint resignation letter to Governor Deval Patrick saying the policy 'removes any environmental consideration' from decisions about how much water is safe to remove from a river basin for industry, agriculture, or household use."

For the rest of this Boston Globe article, click here;

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2009/10/15/mass_waterway_members_resign_over_safety_issue/s/?s_campaign=8315

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON RIVER LEVELS ISSUE

-- From Julia Blatt, Executive Director, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance - Oct. 27, 2009 --

Hello. Our voice has been heard on the safe yield issue.

In response to a very large public outcry over its safe yield decision, the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) met with members of the environmental community to find a way to work together to restore this important protection to Massachusetts' rivers. I am pleased to report that these talks have gone well and that we have made substantial progress. I would like to thank the Charles River Watershed Association, the Ipswich River Watershed Association, and the Conservation Law Foundation for their leadership on this issue.

As an environmental community, we have been extremely effective in making our position known, and the agencies are now responding; however, things are still in flux. As soon as things have settled down, I'll send a more substantive update, along with some next steps. In the meantime, please feel free to email or call if you have questions, and I will do my best to respond (it's been a busy time).

In one week, the 55 organizations (including the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition) signed onto the safe yield letter. A huge, grateful thank you to all of you for the quick responses of your organizations and your outstanding support for rivers. This support is making a real difference.

Julia Blatt, Executive Director
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
62 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-0990
massriversalliance.org

8) GOAL FILES ARTICLE 97 MORATORIUM BILL

-- From Jim Wallace, Executive Director, Gun Owners' Action League --

In the past years it has become very apparent that there are increasing pressures on the Commonwealth to remove environmental and conservation protections from state and locally owned lands. In the past, some of these efforts came from municipalities that were desperately seeking land to build schools or other such projects.

Most recently, the greatest threats to our state forests, wildlife management areas and other conservation lands is industrial development, some under the guise of "green" energy. Unfortunately, it is far too easy and common for these lands to lose their protections through the legislative process.

As a representative of gun owners and sportsmen and women, our members have a deep heritage in conservation efforts. For nearly a century, we have worked diligently to enhance and protect wildlife habitat and open space lands. We have done so in initiatives like the 1937 Pittman Robinson Act and the 1990 Land Stamp Act through which we have self taxed ourselves to set aside land and habitat for the benefit of all. I believe it is safe to say that sportsmen and women, past and present, did not work for nearly a century to conserve land and protect wildlife habitat only to have it used for industrial development of any kind.

Due to these pressures on our precious natural resources, sportsmen and women have once again taken the lead in conservation. We are pleased to announce that Representative Denis Guyer has is filing, on behalf of Gun Owners' Action League, a bill to provide a ten year moratorium on industrial development, including energy, on any lands previously protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

I hope you will join Gun Owners' Action League in supporting this legislation thereby taking a crucial step in relieving our precious conservation lands from some of the pressures of industrial development.

Legislative Language:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Chapter 132A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting after Section 18 the following section:

Section 19. Any lands or easements taken or acquired for natural resource purposes under Article XCVII of the amendments of the Constitution, shall be subject to a moratorium prohibiting industrial development, including energy, on said lands, for a period of ten years after any disposition or change of use.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon passage.

James L. Wallace, Executive Director
Gun Owners' Action League
www.goal.org

Of Interest

9) CLARIFICATIONS FOR DRAFTING CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS

As the Mass Division of Conservation Services has been reviewing 2009 end-of-year Conservation Restrictions, there is some guidance they would like to share on the drafting of conservation restrictions, in particular subordinations and proportional value sections.

<http://www.massland.org/?q=library/clarifications-drafting-conservation-restrictions>

MLTC members: view the DCS Model CR at <http://www.massland.org/?q=library/model-conservation-restriction>

10) N.E. GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT ON LAND CONSERVATION

-- From Bernie McHugh, Coordinator, Massachusetts land Trust Coalition --

Last year, at the urging of former Mass. Secretary of Environment Charles H.W. Foster and others, the six New England Governors, commissioned a "Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation". "A Lasting Legacy", containing the recommendations of the Commission was accepted by the Governors at their recent meeting.

Many land trust colleagues from around the region participated in the framing of the report, which offers a set of guiding principles upon which to base the Governors' actions, including:

- * It is now insufficient to view land conservation as a "good" solely for its natural benefits; it must today be linked directly with economic and social benefits, as well.
- * Multi-state collaboration toward New England land conservation, to protect and preserve this important natural heritage at a regional scale, is a matter of national interest, particularly in light of climate change and its impacts; and is, therefore, deserving of federal support.
- * Whatever the Governors may ask of the federal government in this regard, it needs be expressed in terms of advancing the national interest and, perhaps, proposed as a pilot project for the nation.

The Commission also recommends five compelling goals for regional collaboration across New England, a set of policy priorities upon which to build a regional conservation strategy. These are:

1. Keep Forests as Forests,
2. Keep Farmlands in Farming,
3. Connect People to the Outdoors,
4. Protect Wildlife Habitat, and
5. Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands.

The full "Report of the NEGC Commission on Land Conservation" (5 MB) can be downloaded from the N.E. Governors' Conference website: <http://www.negc.org/documents/2009/Conservation.pdf>

I hope you'll take the time to look through it and I think you'll find it to be a very interesting document. It will inform my work in shaping the messages we send to our Governor, agencies, Legislature and Congressional delegation.

I was pleased to be invited to participate and I can't say enough about the great work of the Chair, Dick Barringer of the University of Southern Maine, and his colleagues at the Muskie School of Public Service who served as professional staff, along with John Shea of the New England Governors' Conference.

11) IRS DEMANDS GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS

-- From the Land Trust Alliance - October, 2009 --

Since 1985, federal law has required that in order to qualify for a tax deduction of \$250 or more, a donor must have a letter from the charity they donated to, dated no later than the tax return on which they claimed the gift, stating that the charity received the gift and that it provided no goods or services to the donor in return. The IRS is applying this to donations of conservation easements.

In the past year there have been two court rulings denying donors any tax deduction for their gift, simply because they did not have such a letter. The IRS is now asking every conservation easement donor they audit to show them this letter, and will deny their entire deduction if they do not have it.

If you do not already provide such a letter to your donors, please set up a system to do so - and make sure you keep a copy, in case the donor loses theirs!

12) IRS FOCUSES ON TAX-AVOIDANCE EFFORTS OF VERY WEALTHY

-- From the Chronicle of Philanthropy Government and Politics Watch - October 27, 2009

The Internal Revenue Service has started a new audit program that will try to stop very rich individuals from using "complex financial arrangements" - including private foundations - to avoid paying taxes.

The new Global High Wealth Industry group "will centralize and focus IRS compliance expertise involving high-wealth individuals and their related entities, which can often have an international component," Douglas H. Shulman, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, told a Washington conference of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

"For a variety of reasons, including valid business reasons, many high-wealth individuals make use of sophisticated financial, business, and investment arrangements with complicated legal structures and tax consequences," Mr. Shulman said. "Many of these arrangements are entirely above board; others mask aggressive tax strategies."

Mr. Shulman said examples of these complex arrangements could include "trusts, real-estate investments, royalty and licensing agreements, revenue-based or equity-sharing arrangements, private foundations, privately held companies," and partnerships that "require looking at the entire, and often huge, spectrum of transactions and entities."

A single high-wealth individual "may have actual or beneficial ownership of numerous related entities, sometimes alone and sometimes along with other family members or business associates," Mr. Shulman said.

Training

13) TREE STEWARD TRAINING WORKSHOP - NOV. 6-7, PETERSHAM

For two days on November 6th and 7th, 2009, the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban and Community Forestry Program will host our annual Tree Steward Training Workshop at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts. This workshop is a great introduction to the world of community forestry for citizen tree advocates and a good refresher course for those of you who are "old hands" in the urban and community forestry scene. The workshop is conducted at the Fisher Museum of the Harvard Forest, an idyllic location for those of us who are interested in all things trees and forests. Overnight accommodations at the Harvard Forest are available on a first come, first served basis. This workshop is usually a very productive learning experience for participants as well as being a lot of fun. If you are interested in learning about the types of topics that we cover in the workshop and to see details about registration and costs, please visit

http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/urban/docs/tst_reg.pdf

Eric F. Seaborn, Program Coordinator
DCR Urban and Community Forestry
ISA NE # 6451A, MCA, MCH
617-626-1468
eric.seaborn@state.ma.us

14) MASS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES, NOV. 10

On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs will be hosting a statewide water policy conference to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Trust.

The event will take place at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. It will be a commemoration of 20 years of MET and all the great work that our grant partners have accomplished and a look forward to new environmental challenges. There will be a full day of speakers and workshops --climate change, emerging contaminants, sustainable water infrastructure, storm water management, waterfront revitalization, water supply, stream flow, and conservation, and other topics!

The conference brochure and registration form is available at [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeeamodulechunk&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Grant+%26+Loan+Programs&L3=Massachusetts+Environmental+Trust+\(MET\)&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea_met_met_wr_conf&csid=Eoeea](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeeamodulechunk&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Grant+%26+Loan+Programs&L3=Massachusetts+Environmental+Trust+(MET)&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea_met_met_wr_conf&csid=Eoeea)

Join Us! To register, please mail a \$30 check and registration form to sue.lanza@state.ma.us by November 3, 2009. For more information contact Susan Lanza at 617-626-1068.

Dorrie Pizzella, Director of Grant Assistance
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA. 02114
(617) 626-1052

15) MASS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 15, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Stata Center, MIT, 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA

Join climate activists from across the state at the 8th Annual Mass Climate Action Network conference.

Speakers include Gina McCarthy, the EPA Assistant Administrator who leads the EPA's climate efforts. Fifteen panels on issues ranging from saving energy in your own home to building a climate movement in your town to the future of energy and the Copenhagen talks.

For more information, and to register, visit MCAN's conference page at:
<http://massclimateaction.net/conference/2009-conference.html>

16) MASS AUDUBON'S SHAPING THE FUTURE OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

As a follow-up to its recently released Losing Ground report <http://www.massaudubon.org/losingground/PDF/MassAudubonLosingGroundsmall.pdf> Mass Audubon is hosting a series of free workshops beginning in Fall 2009, targeting communities in the state's two sprawl frontiers: the Blackstone River watershed in Central Mass. and the Taunton, Ten Mile, and Narragansett Bay watersheds in Southeastern Mass.

The workshops will review land use and development patterns in these communities, and provide guidance for crafting and implementing effective strategies to: update and implement community plans; identify and protect the highest priority lands to protect habitat and water supplies; provide incentives for well-planned growth; develop housing and jobs in a sustainable manner; and establish and apply regulations to minimize the impacts of development. See the full schedule of workshop times, locations and descriptions here:
<http://www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture/outreach.php>

Grants

17) OSI OFFERS TWO NEW CONSERVATION FUNDS

The New York City-based Open Space Institute (OSI) recently announced the availability of: **Saving New England's Wildlife** http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Places_NewEngland

Grants will fund 10 to 15 transformative projects that accelerate the conservation of high priority wildlife habitat in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. OSI will award \$5 million in capital land protection grants on a competitive basis, with a minimum of \$1 million awarded in each state. Projects will be reviewed by a regional advisory committee made up of experts from the environmental, scientific and political arenas that will recommend grants and loans for approval to OSI 's Board of Trustees. Another \$600,000 is also available to support public education efforts to increase and diversify funding for conservation of wildlife habitat. OSI has opened up a second and final round of grant proposals due December 11, 2009 For more info: http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Places_NewEngland_More

OSI is also requesting proposals for a separate but related fund focused on protecting the forested landscapes of western Massachusetts. **The Western Massachusetts Land Protection Fund** http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Program_Grants_WesternMass

This fund will provide matching capital grants to protect landscapes, with a focus on protecting wildlife habitat while also facilitating appropriate human use. Proposals are due December 11, 2009 - For more details: http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Program_Grants_WesternMass

Contact Jennifer Melville at (207) 846-9700 or jmelville@osiny.org for more info on either of these New England-focused OSI grant programs.

Jobs & Contracts

18) NOFA/MASS SEEKS PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc. (NOFA/Mass) seeks a dynamic individual with excellent communication skills sought for NOFA/Mass Publicity & Newsletter Coordinator. This 20-hour/week position requires strong written and oral communication skills, strong organizational skills, creative vision and follow-through and the ability to strategize. Goals are to publish our monthly online newsletter with advertising, mobilize NOFA/Mass to reach new audiences, have a strong media presence and increase overall organizational visibility.

Visit <http://www.nofamass.org/about/jobs.php> for details.

This staff position starts at \$13/hour with annual increases. Benefits include NOFA Summer Conference registration (including housing and one meal) and mileage reimbursement at 45 cents/mile (except travel to committee meetings). Must attend NOFA/Mass Winter Conference, the two NOFA/Mass staff/board retreats each year, and keep current NOFA/Mass membership. Please email resume, cover letter, three written published clips and three professional references to: Julie Rawson, NOFA/Mass Executive Director, at Julie@Nofamass.org and to Kathy Litchfield, NOFA/Mass Communications Director, at Kathy@nofamass.org by Nov. 15th.

19) DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION, THOUSAND ISLANDS LAND TRUST, NY

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (Clayton, NY) seeks an experienced person with a commitment to conservation to manage its land conservation programs (3,500 acres in preserves and 3,600 acres under conservation easement). Located in the heart of the 1000 Islands with offices on the St. Lawrence River.

Job Requirements

The Director of Land Conservation will also coordinate community outreach programs, while participating in all aspects of the land trust's activities including fundraising, preserve management and in land and easement acquisition. Responsibilities include oversight of TILTreks and field trips, coordinating educational programs through the summer season, as well as oversight of summer interns and assisting with baseline documentation with the Director of Stewardship.

Requires bachelor's degree or higher in natural resources, environmental science, or related field. Experience in land trust conservation projects desirable. Skill in field work, landowner relations, boat handling, property documentation and staff management important. Competitive salary commensurate with experience, plus benefits.

Applications will be accepted through December 1, 2009. To apply, send a letter of interest that demonstrates your writing abilities and addresses your career goals and interest in the position, resume and references to:

Andrew Wood, Executive Director,
Thousand Islands Land Trust,
PO Box 238, Clayton, N.Y. 13624
or atwood@tilandtrust.org. No phone calls please.

20) PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK SEEKS DIRECTOR, CAMPAIGN FOR PARKS

Director, Campaign for Parks

Parks & Trails New York is the leader in efforts to increase funding and improve stewardship of New York's state and local parks. Our Campaign for Parks, begun in 2007, has had several victories, including successfully advocating for the largest infusion of capital funding in state park history. For full info, go to

<https://www.ptny.org/about/jobopenings.shtml>

Qualifications

- * At least three years of proven, successful experience in organizing and mobilizing a diverse constituency and developing outreach and public education strategies and materials, including working with the media
- * Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to build consensus and public-private partnerships
- * Significant experience in government relations involving New York State's legislative and budget processes
- * Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including public presentations and e-communications.
- * A self-starter able to work with minimum supervision and thrive in a collaborative and fast-paced office environment
- * Ability to undertake some degree of in-state travel with overnight and evening commitments
- * A passion for New York's environment and for parks

Application Process

Submit a resume and cover letter addressing why you are excited about this position and why we should be excited about you. Please include your salary requirements. Send to: Campaign for Parks Director Search, Parks & Trails New York, 29 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207, careers@ptny.org. The position will remain open until filled.

21) NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION TEAMS, SCA

The Student Conservation Association (SCA), Charlestown NH, has an exciting and professionally challenging leadership opportunity in our Conservation Team program based at our national headquarters in Charlestown, New Hampshire. We are seeking a National Director who will lead a dedicated staff in the development and implementation of mission driven conservation service opportunities for SCA members, field staff and agency partners.

The National Director of Conservation Teams oversees all aspects of program operations including risk management, staff hiring and development, budgeting (\$12M), evaluation and reporting. Key to the success of this position is the ability to lead the development of new SCA conservation team programs and partnerships throughout the United States.

* Health and Dental * Basic Life Insurance * Short Term Disability * Long Term Disability * Flexible Spending Account * 403(b) Savings Plan * Generous Paid Time Off * Community Service Leave * Casual Dress

Please send cover letter and resume to Kim Henning, Vice President for Human Resources, SCA, PO Box 550, Charlestown NH, 03603 or email khennig@thesca.org

For more information: <http://www.thesca.org/green-jobs/national-director-conservation-teams/charlestown-nh>

Miscellany

22) TTOR SOLICITS INPUT ON ACCREDITATION APPLICATION

The Trustees of Reservations is applying for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, which conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how The Trustees of Reservations complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/2008-indicator-practices.

To submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to:
Land Trust Accreditation Commission
Attn: Public Comments
112 Spring Street, Suite 204,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.
(fax) 518-587-3183

Comments on The Trustees of Reservations' application will be most useful if received by December 28, 2009.

Chris Rodstrom, Conservation Restriction Program Director
The Trustees of Reservations
464 Abbott Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453
978.840-4446 x1915 (phone)
978.537.5835 (fax)
www.thetrustees.org



23) 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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Prepared by:

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