



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"Let's wander where the wifi is weak." ~ Barcelover, author

In this issue:

- 1) [MLTC News - MLTC Wishes You A Happy Holiday Season!](#)
- 2) [MLTC News - MLTC Annual Appeal](#)
- 3) [Local Land Trust News - Linda Loring Nature Foundation Receives Nearly 20 Acres From Nature Conservancy](#)
- 4) [Legal/Legislative News - Governor Baker's Cuts Affect Environmental Programs](#)
- 5) [Legal/Legislative News - Baker-Polito Administration Announces Over \\$7.2 Million in Municipal Park & Recreation Grants](#)
- 6) [Nature News - Rhode Island's Deer Are More Immediate Threat to Forests Than Climate Change](#)
- 7) [Nature News - PCB Levels in Fish & Insects Higher in 2014 than 2012 in Housatonic River in Connecticut](#)
- 8) [News - Historic Drought Conditions Continue for Massachusetts](#)

[9\) News - Environmental Leaders On Hope & Progress in the Age of Trump](#)

[10\) Trainings - How to Craft a Proposal to a Foundation](#)

[11\) Grants - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#)

[12\) Grants - Captain Planet Foundation: Small Grants for Youth Environmental Projects](#)

[13\) Grants - AmeriCorps State & National Grants Program](#)

[14\) Grants - Open Space Institute Grants](#)

[15\) Grants - Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Grant Program](#)

[16\) Grants - Department of Agriculture - Waste Management Grants](#)

[17\) Grants - MDAR: Drought Funding for Water Conservation Projects](#)

[18\) Grants - EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#)

[19\) Grants - Smart Growth & Livable Communities Matching Grant Program](#)

[20\) Grants - Build Health Challenge National Grant Program](#)

[21\) Jobs - Development Manager - Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust](#)

[22\) Jobs - 2017 SCAMA Forests & Parks AmeriCorps Position DCR - Wompatuck](#)

[23\) Jobs - Visitor Services Internship - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

[24\) Jobs - Administrative & Event Assistant - Urban Sustainability Directors Network & Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#)

[25\) Jobs - Marine Science Educators - Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)

[26\) Jobs - National Wildlife Refuge Interns](#)

[27\) Jobs - Trail Team Massachusetts Corps](#)

[28\) Jobs - Plant Conservation Volunteers - New England Wild Flower Society](#)

[29\) Resources - Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan](#)

[30\) Resources - MassWildlife New Field Guide: Amphibians & Reptiles of Massachusetts](#)

[31\) Resources - Land Trust Alliance 2015 National Land Trust Census Report](#)

[32\) Resources - Greening Your Community with Cost-Effective LID Solutions, Mass Audubon](#)

[33\) Resources - USDA To Expand Targeted Conservation Effort for Wildlife on Farm & Forest Lands](#)

MLTC News

1) MLTC WISHES YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

This is the final MassLand ENews of 2016. Stay tuned for more excellent updates, news, and helpful resources for the Massachusetts land conservation community in January. MLTC wishes you very happy holidays. Check out Eco Rhode Island News' interesting [article](#) on whether plastic or pine trees are more eco-friendly.

Happy Holidays

[Back to top](#)

2) MLTC ANNUAL APPEAL

Please invest in the future of land conservation in Massachusetts. Your donation to the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition will help people in your community and across Massachusetts protect the landscapes we all love, ensuring clean air and water, sustaining locally grown food, providing you with those special places to explore, and offering inspiring natural beauty.

If you like the twice monthly MassLand E-News or have benefited from the annual Mass Land Conservation Conference or have used our List Serve to get help with a difficult conservation question, please donate to help us keep delivering these programs and more.

Your gift of \$50 or more will help the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition continue our mission to:

- be a strong voice advocating for land conservation,
- fight attacks on the permanent protection of land,
- provide access to training, technical assistance and resources,
- offer a forum for the exchange of knowledge and skills for the land conservation community.

Thank you!
- All of us at MLTC

[Donate](#)



[Back to top](#)

Local Land Trust News

3) LINDA LORING NATURE FOUNDATION RECEIVES NEARLY 20 ACRES FROM NATURE CONSERVANCY

Excerpts from the Linda Loring Nature Foundation, December 7, 2016 by Sarah T. Bois

On December 5, 2016 the Nature Conservancy (TNC) officially deeded the Linda Loring Nature Foundation (LLNF) 18.5 acres of sandplain grassland and heathland habitat bumping up the LLNF land holding to just over 104 acres. While this may be a relatively small amount of land, it is significant that TNC, the largest conservation organization in the world, has granted the parcel to one of the smallest conservation organizations. For

the full story, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Legal/Legislative News

4) GOVERNOR BAKER 9C CUTS AFFECT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Excerpts from the Boston Globe, December 6, 2016 by Joshua Miller

Governor Charlie Baker announced on Tuesday, December 6 that he is slashing \$98 million from the state budget to remedy what his administration says is a gap between projected revenue and authorized spending. Unfortunately, almost 10% of them were to environmental programs. To view the environmental cuts, click [here](#). For the full Globe story, click [here](#).

The Environmental League of Massachusetts submitted the following reaction to the media and Legislature:

"The Governor's 9C budget cuts disproportionately devastate agencies protecting our environment and public health. The cuts will have a negative impact on the state's ability to fulfill its responsibilities, both environmentally and economically. Our future growth requires clean water and the safe clean-up of contaminated sites, particularly in our Gateway Cities. Our public health requires clean air to slow the growth of childhood asthma. And working families who cannot 'jet away' for exotic vacations need our nearby parks and recreation areas. The \$9 million worth of budget cuts to environmental programs may seem small, but represents almost 10% of the Governor's \$ 98 million of 9C cuts. This comes on top of a 30% reduction in state spending on environmental protection since 2008. State agencies such as DEP and DCR are on the verge of dysfunction. State spending on environmental agencies in the aggregate represents only .5%, half of one percent of the overall state budget, an infinitesimal number. With these cuts we continue to move in the wrong direction."

*- George Bachrach, President & Erica Mattison, Legislative Director
Environmental League of Massachusetts*

Stay tuned for updates.

[Back to top](#)

5) BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES OVER \$7.2 MILLION IN MUNICIPAL PARK & RECREATION GRANTS

Excerpts from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, December 12, 2016

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$7,259,512 in grant funding for park and recreation improvements in 24 Massachusetts communities. The grants, administered through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program, will be used to help municipalities acquire, develop, or renovate land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Click [here](#) to read more.

[Back to top](#)

6) RHODE ISLAND'S DEER ARE MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO FORESTS THAN CLIMATE CHANGE

Excerpts from ecoRI news, December 1, 2016 by Todd McLeish

According to foresters, biologists and ecologists throughout the Northeast, the overabundance of deer poses an even greater threat to the state's forests than climate change. For the full story, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

7) PCB LEVELS IN FISH & INSECTS HIGHER IN 2014 THAN 2012 IN HOUSATONIC RIVER IN CONNECTICUT

Excerpts from the Berkshire Environmental Action Team, December 8, 2016

The 2014 General Electric Connecticut Housatonic River Fish & Aquatic Insect Report released in July 2016 indicated an upward trend in PCB levels in Brown Trout and Smallmouth Bass compared to the previous monitoring cycle in 2012. PCB levels in the three aquatic insect species monitored (Caddisflies, Dobsonflies & Stoneflies) were also somewhat elevated. GE did claim that although the 2014 levels were higher than 2012, they still remained well below the levels found in 1992 and most prior years. Still, the plan is to do NO remediation in Connecticut... For the report, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

News

8) HISTORIC DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE FOR MASSACHUSETTS

Excerpts from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, November 9, 2016

While portions of Massachusetts have experienced measurable amounts of rainfall in the past month, large portions of the state continue to experience rainfall amounts remaining below average. As a result, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton declared the following drought levels throughout the Commonwealth: a Drought Warning for the Connecticut River Valley; Western, Central, Northeast, and Southeast Massachusetts, that's unchanged for the Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast and Southeast Regions, and up from a Drought Watch for the Western Region in October; and a Drought Advisory for the Cape and Islands. For the full story, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

9) ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS ON HOPE & PROGRESS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

Excerpts from Grist, November 22, 2016

Many environmentalists are wary of the upcoming change in office. Grist staff says President-elect Donald Trump has promised to gut the Paris accord, scrap the Clean Power plan, bring back coal, and roll back pollution restrictions. However, environmental leaders remain hopeful. Click [here](#) to read the full story and feel more optimistic!

[Back to top](#)

Trainings

10) WEBINAR: HOW TO CRAFT A PROPOSAL TO A FOUNDATION

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 2:00pm

In this webinar, Judith Margolin, independent consultant & workshop leader on foundations & grants, provides invaluable tips on developing a compelling proposal narrative, what your proposal package should include, how to let your funder take the lead, & advice on writing and submission techniques that get your proposal noticed by foundation decision makers. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Grants

11) NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: FIVE STAR & URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

January 31, 2017 deadline

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, an initiative of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations & enhancing habitat for local wildlife. The focus is on ecological improvements, including wetland, riparian, forest, & coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; & water quality monitoring & stormwater management. For more information & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

12) CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION: SMALL GRANTS FOR YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

January 31, 2017 deadline

The Captain Planet Foundation supports educational programs that enable youth to understand & appreciate our world by getting involved in hands-on projects to improve the environment. The Foundation provides Small Grants to innovative programs that inspire youth to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. For more information & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

13) AMERICORPS STATE & NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM

January 18, 2017 deadline

The AmeriCorps State & National Grants program provides support to engage AmeriCorps members in interventions to strengthen communities. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

14) OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE GRANTS

January 25, 2017 deadline

The Open Space Institute invites applications to the Northeast Resilient Landscapes Fund, which provides capital grants to safeguard places that will help wildlife mitigate the effects of a changing climate. To be eligible, projects must permanently protect unfragmented habitat in one of OSI's focal areas, from Maine to Georgia. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

15) MASSACHUSETTS PRESERVATION PROJECTS FUND GRANT PROGRAM

March 24, 2017 deadline

Secretary William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission is pleased to announce that Round 23 of the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant program has been scheduled. It is anticipated that funding will be in the range of the previous grant round, Round 22, which was \$780,000.

Administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the MPPF is a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or nonprofit organization. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

16) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS

December 31, 2016 deadline

The Solid Waste Management Grants program helps reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources through funding for organizations that provide technical assistance to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. For more information & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

17) MDAR: DROUGHT FUNDING FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS

January 6, 2017, 4:00pm deadline

Recognizing the hardship that farms throughout the Commonwealth have faced during the 2016 growing season due to unprecedented drought conditions, Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito announced additional grant funding for water conservation projects to be released through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

MDAR will administer \$250,000 of grant funding through its Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) for water conservation projects that help farms reduce their operational impact on the environment and better prepare for, and recover after, this year's severe drought. Selected proposals will be reimbursed up to \$25,000 or 85% of

total project costs of approved projects. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

18) EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

January 31, 2017 deadline

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$30,000. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

19) SMART GROWTH & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

January 31, 2017 deadline

Partners for Places, an initiative of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, is a matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. Through the program, national funders invest in local projects to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being of all residents. For Round Ten, grants will range between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one-year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two-year projects, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

20) BUILD HEALTH CHALLENGE NATIONAL AWARD PROGRAM

February 21, 2017 & May 23, 2017 deadline

The BUILD Health Challenge is a national award program designed to support community collaborations that are working to give everyone a fair chance to be healthy. Through the current Call for Applications, the Challenge will award 17 grants to communities across the country working to improve the health of low-income neighborhoods within cities with populations greater than 150,000. The Challenge will support hospital-community-public health partnerships to address environmental factors that influence health, such as early childhood development, employment opportunities, food insecurity, air and water quality, transportation, educational attainment, public safety, and housing. Grants of up to \$250,000 over a two-year period will be awarded. Lead applicants must assemble a partnership including a hospital or health system, local health department, and nonprofit community organization or coalition of organizations. The Round One application deadline is February 21, 2017; Round Two applications are due May 23, 2017. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Jobs

21) DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - GREENBELT, ESSEX COUNTY'S LAND TRUST

Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust, seeks to hire a full-time Development Manager. This position advances Greenbelt's mission by ensuring a solid revenue base for general operations and by expanding the constituency for the organization. Reporting to the Director of Development and Community Engagement, the Development Manager provides operational planning, execution and continuous evaluation for all fundraising activities, gift processing, donor stewardship and database management. Deadline to apply is Dec 31. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

22) 2017 SCA MA FORESTS & PARKS AMERICORPS POSITION DCR-WOMPATUCK

This position is part of the Student Conservation Association Massachusetts Forests & Parks AmeriCorps program. MA Parks is seeking 6 Preservation & Stewardship Crew Members to serve at the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)'s Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, MA. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

23) VISITOR SERVICES INTERNSHIP - U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

The individual will serve as a visitor services and communications intern for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office. This will include assisting Service staff with a variety of projects related to public use of national wildlife refuges such as environmental education, environmental interpretation, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, volunteers, Friends and community partnerships, the Urban Refuge Initiative, and connecting people with nature. For more information & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

24) ADMINISTRATIVE & EVENT ASSISTANT - URBAN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS NETWORK & CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE

The [Urban Sustainability Directors Network & Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#) is seeking an Administrative & Event Assistant. This individual plays a crucial role in supporting information exchange among members by delivering member services in support to other staff in a virtual team environment. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

25) MARINE SCIENCE EDUCATORS - NARRAGANSETT BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

The [Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) is accepting applications for two full-time, seasonal positions as Marine Science Educators to work at the reserve on Prudence Island, Rhode Island for the spring/summer & summer/fall 2017. This is an excellent opportunity for an individual looking for hands-on experience in coastal science

& environmental education. For more information & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

26) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE INTERNS

This position is part of the SCA MA Forests and Parks AmeriCorps program. The intern selected for this position will be working in a team of 6 at the Fort River Division of the Silvio O. Conte NFWR in Hadley, Massachusetts. Projects will include trail construction and maintenance on two Massachusetts divisions of the Silvio O. Conte Refuge. The 2017 crew will primarily be building on the work of previous SCA/AmeriCorps members on the Fort River Division in Hadley, MA as well as starting a new universally accessible birding and nature trail as a part of our Springfield Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership in Longmeadow, MA. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

27) TRAIL TEAM MASSACHUSETTS CORPS

SCA Massachusetts Trail Team members will begin their service in March 2017, joining 18 other SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps members who will have been serving since October 2016. The majority of the position is dedicated to hands-on, outdoor conservation projects ranging from trail construction and maintenance to habitat restoration and invasive plant species removal. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

28) PLANT CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS - NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

New England Wild Flower Society is seeking enthusiastic people who have a commitment to plant conservation & protecting natural habitats to participate in their Plant Conservation Volunteer Program. Plant Conservation Volunteers (PCVs) put the skills of citizens to work by collecting information on rare plants & their habitats across all six New England states. The majority of the work focuses on rare plant monitoring, but there are also opportunities to assist with invasive species removal, habitat management projects, & botanical surveys that benefit rare plants. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Resources

29) MASSACHUSETTS STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP)

In November, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service granted final approval of the 2015 Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). It will serve as the state's wildlife conservation strategy for the next decade. The SWAP identifies 570 species of greatest conservation need & actions needed to prevent further decline. To view the plan, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

30) MASSWILDLIFE NEW FIELD GUIDE: AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES OF MASSACHUSETTS

MassWildlife has released the Field Guide to the Amphibians & Reptiles of Massachusetts. The field guide features species accounts, images of common pattern & color variations, & information about reptile & amphibian conservation. Click [here](#) to order yours!

[Back to top](#)

31) LAND TRUST ALLIANCE 2015 NATIONAL LAND TRUST CENSUS REPORT

The Land Trust Alliance has released its 2015 National Land Trust Census Report, featuring the important conservation work of state, local, and national land trusts across the United States. To view it, click [here](#). To view Massachusetts' data, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

32) GREENING YOUR COMMUNITY WITH COST-EFFECTIVE LID SOLUTIONS, MASS AUDUBON

This series of five fact sheets helps community officials, residents, and others understand the benefits of Low Impact Development (LID), Green Infrastructure (GI), and sustainable design. From reduced flooding and improved water quality to lower maintenance costs and increased property value, these fact sheets will help communities navigate the many aspects of LID and put them to use, and include cost breakdowns, success stories, and answers to frequently asked questions. Click [here](#) to view the fact sheets.

[Back to top](#)

33) USDA TO EXPAND TARGETED CONSERVATION EFFORT FOR WILDLIFE ON FARM & FOREST LANDS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adding dozens of new target species to [Working Lands for Wildlife](#) (WLFW), the agency's targeted, science-based effort to help landowners restore and protect habitat for declining species on farms & working forests. NRCS provides technical & financial help to agricultural producers & forest land owners to plan & implement conservation practices that benefit these target species. To learn more & to apply, click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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