

Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

December 5, 2005
Volume 5, Number 20

Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

*"If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals;
if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers"*

-- Joseph Wood Krutch (1893-1970) American Author & Naturalist

IN THIS ISSUE

News

[Makepeace Conservation Negotiations Discontinued](#)
["State Lags on Upkeep of Parks System" - Boston Globe](#)
[LNG Station on Boston Harbor National Park Island?](#)

Grants & Resources

[Holiday Gift Ideas From MassWildlife](#)
["Reinventing Conservation Easements" From the Lincoln Institute](#)
[Easement Defense Principles on MassLand Website](#)
["Planning for Wildlife" for Open Space Committees](#)
["TerraServer" Website - Free Aerials and Topos for the U.S.](#)
[SCA AmeriCorps Looking for Conservation Projects](#)

Training and Events

[Lobbying & Elections for Nonprofits Online Workshops](#)
[Nurturing and Promoting Nature on Your Trail](#)
["The Smaller Majority" Book Launch with Edward O. Wilson](#)

Jobs

[Director, Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative](#)
[Director, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Mass Audubon](#)
[Part-Time Office Administrator, TNC Sheffield](#)
[Program Director, TNC Southeast Mass.](#)
[Assistant Director, Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation](#)
[Newsletter Editor, AMC Worcester Chapter](#)

News

MAKEPEACE CONSERVATION NEGOTIATIONS DISCONTINUED

There has been a great deal of concern in the state's land protection community about the breakdown of negotiations to conserve some of the roughly 9,000 acres in Plymouth, Carver and Wareham slated for development by the cranberry grower A.D. Makepeace Company. Below are links to several relevant articles:

* From the Boston Globe, November 20, 2005 by Sandy Coleman, Globe Staff

"Stalled land talks raise concerns - Makepeace parcel reviewed by state"

"After four years of discussion and a year of serious negotiation, talks have come to a standstill between a conservation partnership and representatives of the A.D. Makepeace Co. over protecting 2,500 acres of its Plymouth holdings from development." For the rest of this article, go to:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/11/20/stalled_land_talks_raise_concerns_1132339686?mode=PF

* From the (New Bedford) Standard-Times, November 20, 2005

"After five years of on-and-off negotiations, plans to develop and/or preserve thousands of acres of land owned by the A.D. Makepeace Co. are in limbo once again. The company -- without the help offered by conservation groups -- will go it alone with the state in sorting out the terms and quantities of land preservation. The conservationists, who had been talking with the company since May 2004, were frustrated last week when they were excluded from the talks with the state." For the rest of this article, go to:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/daily/11-05/11-20-05/a02lo954.htm>

* Joint press release from Mass Audubon and The Nature Conservancy Mass. Office

"Makepeace Conservation Negotiations Discontinued"

"Members of the Southeastern Massachusetts Conservation Partnership announced today that talks to conserve 2,500 acres of land owned by the A.D. Makepeace Company in Plymouth, Carver and Wareham have been suspended."

For the full text of the press release, go to:

<http://www.massaudubon.org/news/index.php?id=247&type=press>

"STATE LAGS ON UPKEEP OF PARKS SYSTEM"

By Stephanie Ebbert, Globe Staff | November 28, 2005

Many facilities suffer from cuts in funding, staff

More than two years after Governor Mitt Romney promised to create a "world-class" parks system, advocates say many of the state's ice rinks, bridges, and pathways are crumbling and the newest head of the parks department acknowledges that he does not have the staff to correct the problems any time soon.

Stephen H. Burrington, commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, blamed a "legacy of neglect" for a backlog of projects that he said preceded Romney's governorship. But in response to criticism, Burrington acknowledged that the department has difficulty managing everyday upkeep such as cleaning graffiti off signs and bridges.

"When you don't have enough people to go around and there are only so many hours in the week, even the things that any ordinary person would think there ought to be a way to do can't get done," Burrington said in an interview.

Among the problems:

Since 2003, the DCR has lost 158 employees, 13.5 percent of its workforce, a Globe review of payroll data found. The funding for the parks department has dropped by more than 10 percent since 2002. Governing Magazine recently ranked state spending on parks and recreation and found Massachusetts last in the nation.

For the rest of this Boston Globe article, go to:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/11/28/state_lags_on_upkeep_of_parks_system?mode=PF

RULES IN WAY OF LNG STATION ON PARK ISLAND, SAYS EOEI SECRETARY

- By Beth Daley, Globe Staff | November 23, 2005

Rules stand in way of LNG station
Island proposal faces hurdles, official says

A proposed liquefied natural gas terminal on a Boston Harbor island would have to overcome significant hurdles to be approved, the state's top environmental official said yesterday, the first indication that the Romney administration may come out against the controversial plan.

Stephen Pritchard, secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, said that Outer Brewster Island, part of the national park system, is protected by multiple regulations designed to keep it operating as a park in perpetuity.

"There are multiple issues here," Pritchard said in a telephone interview. He said the land can't be converted to another use except under "exceptional circumstances," and it would require the approval of federal and state authorities.

AES Corp. of Arlington, Va., proposed a \$500 million LNG facility for the 22-acre island in September, immediately sparking controversy. Environmental groups came out in force against the project, saying that putting an industrial facility on the island would be contrary to the intent of the park.

Earlier this month, the state's top development chief (Douglas Foy) recused himself from involvement in the project because a portion of his individual retirement account was invested with AES. Then, two state representatives sponsored legislation to allow the island to be leased for an LNG terminal, but language in the bill excluded every company interested in building a terminal in Massachusetts except AES. The legislation is pending and would require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

For the rest of this Boston Globe article, go to:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/11/23/rules_stand_in_way_of_lng_station?mode=PF

Grants & Resources

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM MASSWILDLIFE

Looking for a wildlife-related gift for the outdoors or wildlife enthusiast on your holiday list?

A two year subscription to Massachusetts Wildlife magazine (\$10) delivers eight full color issues of the Commonwealth's best wildlife publication.

For the budding conservationist try a copy of the recently revised "Critters of Massachusetts" book (\$5). "Critters" is a perfect gift for the curious youngster or the beginning adult naturalist with an interest in backyard wildlife and beyond.

For the more advanced naturalist, "Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies" (\$20) or "A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools" (\$12) might be just the ticket. In-depth descriptions and detailed photographs help the reader identify and learn more about these creatures.

The Massachusetts Wildlife Viewing Guide (\$8.95) listing 67 sites across the state where a variety of wildlife can be seen is a perfect gift for the outdoor explorer or a visitor to the state.

Click <<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwpubs.htm>> for more details.

"REINVENTING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS" FROM LINCOLN INSTITUTE

In "Reinventing Conservation Easements: A Critical Examination and Ideas for Reform", author Jeff Pidot asks: Are the increasing numbers of unsupervised land trusts and

conservation easements throughout the nation good for our (and their) future? What kinds of reforms should be considered to create a greater level of confidence in this popular conservation instrument?

To order, go to:

<http://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/pub-detail.asp?id=1051>

EASEMENT DEFENSE PRINCIPLES ON MASSLAND WEBSITE

The Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee (MEDS) has put together Operating Principles for Easement Defense that all Massachusetts land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies that hold Conservation Restrictions (CRs) should seek to implement. The operating principles have received the endorsement of the Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and are drawn from years of land conservation experience.

MEDS is compiling and drafting sample policies and instructional materials to assist CR holders in implementing these principles. We hope that by leading by example and helping others to implement these operating principles, conserved land in Massachusetts—that we have all worked very hard to protect—will remain protected forever.

Go to: <http://www.MassLand.org> and click on "Final Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee Operating Principle Guidelines" to download the PDF file.

"PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE" FROM MANOMET CENTER

A well-prepared Open Space and Recreation Plan combines natural resources information with local values and vision to produce a document that benefits a community's residents, its wildlife, and the resources upon which they both depend. Planning for Wildlife helps make this happen.

Planning for Wildlife provides a comprehensive review of strengths and weaknesses contained in Open Space and Recreation Plans, identifies sources of local information on wildlife and their habitats, and provides specific recommendations on increasing the effectiveness of Plans for conserving wildlife and their habitats.

Applicable to every city and town in Massachusetts, Planning for Wildlife is intended for use by Open Space and Recreation Committees, in conjunction with the Division of Conservation Services' Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements and the Open Space Planner's Workbook.

To download the PDF, go to:

<http://www.manomet.org/programs/planning/resources/>

"TERRASERVER" WEBSITE - FREE AERIALS AND TOPOS

The MSN "TerraServer" website allows you to access free aerial photographs and topographic maps for the whole country. Go to:

<http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.aspx>

SCA AMERICORPS ACCEPTING PROJECT REQUESTS

The SCA Mass Parks AmeriCorps is currently accepting project requests for our 2006 conservation season! This year our trails season runs from May 8th through August 11th, and generally will consist of four crews of 6 members each. Last summer SCA crews completed 34 service projects contributing over 10,000 hours to statewide conservation efforts!

Who we are:

We are the Student Conservation Association Massachusetts Parks AmeriCorps. Based in Dubuque State Forest in the Berkshire hilltowns, SCA Mass Parks AmeriCorps is a residential community of emerging leaders who devote 5 or 10 months to full time conservation service. Most members have completed, or are in the process of completing, their college degrees. This program is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the Massachusetts Service Alliance/Corporation for National and Community Service. SCA is the nation's leading conservation service-learning organization and has been offering conservation service opportunities to people of all ages for nearly 50 years.

SCA Mass Parks AmeriCorps crews tackle a wide variety of projects including trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, bridge construction, renovation of historic structures, invasive species removal, and environmental education, with an emphasis on trail projects. Many of our projects occur in State Forests and Parks, and we have also had fantastic partnerships with other state and national agencies, city and town governments, and non-profit organizations (we cannot work with for-profit organizations).

With over four weeks of training including Wilderness First Responder, chainsaw use and safety, grip-hoist rigging and use, and conservation work skills, SCA Mass Parks AmeriCorps crews provide a level of service unmatched by ordinary volunteers.

Please consider sending in an application by the January 13, 2006 deadline.

If you have any questions you can contact:

Will Kirkpatrick, Conservation Service Coordinator
SCA Mass Parks AmeriCorps
466 West Hawley Rd. Plainfield, MA 01070
(NOTE: for FedEx/UPS use Hawley, MA 01339 !)
(413) 339-6631

wkirkpatrick@thesca.org

The application can be found on-line at www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship.htm

Training and Events

LOBBYING & ELECTION ACTIVITY FOR NONPROFITS

The Alliance for Justice Presents Two Online Workshops:

Lobbying Rules for Nonprofits (December 12th) &

The Rules of the Game: Election Activity by Nonprofits (December 15th)

Sit at your desktop in your office or home and join the Alliance for Justice for a virtual lobbying training. These workshops are great and cover all the basics of lobbying rules for 501(c)(3) organizations.

What You'll Need to Participate:

You will need a computer with internet access and working computer speakers in order to participate. Questions will be taken through an online chat mechanism, but not through voice, so you do not need a microphone. Once you've registered, you will receive two e-mails: the first will be automatically generated letting you know your registration is complete, the second will be sent two days before the training and will include instructions on how to log in to the training (if you do not receive the instructions please e-mail rpowers@afj.org).

Lobbying Rules for Nonprofits

This one-hour web-based training will cover the rules for 501(c)(3) lobbying activity, including lobbying limits, definitions of lobbying, and some notable lobbying exceptions.

When: Monday, December 12th, 2005, 2:00 pm, Eastern

COST: \$30 REGISTRATION:

Click here to register Online

http://e2ma.net/go/162678933/137720/3859728/goto:http://www.allianceforjustice.org/events/eventDetail.asp?eid=886&referrer_level_id=7495&ref_color=blue&ref_name=nonprofit&inform=5

Rules of the Game: Election Activity by Nonprofits

This one-hour web-based training will cover the rules for election-related activity including candidate elections, voter guides, voting records, and candidate debates and forums.

When: Thursday, December 15th, 2005, 2:00 pm, Eastern

COST: \$30 REGISTRATION:

Click here to register Online

http://e2ma.net/go/162678933/137720/3859729/goto:http://www.allianceforjustice.org/events/eventDetail.asp?eid=904&referrer_level_id=7495&ref_color=blue&ref_name=nonprofit&inform=5

QUESTIONS?

Contact <mailto:rpowers@afj.org>

Alliance for Justice

11 Dupont Circle Second Floor

Washington DC 20036

202-822-6070

www.afj.org

NURTURING AND PROMOTING NATURE ON YOUR TRAIL

The final Trails and Greenways Seminar for 2005 will take place at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, Mass from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on December 7.

Speaker Jeff Collins from the Massachusetts Audubon Ecological Extension Service will be talking to us about nurturing and promoting nature along trails. Please e-mail or call to reserve your space at betsy@railtrails.org or 978-275-9777.

Nurturing and Promoting Nature on Your Trail

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Multi-use trails double as greenways through urban, suburban and rural communities, often providing public access to open space or creating a natural oasis within a concrete setting. Jeff Collins will discuss ecological inventorying, mapping, management planning, interpretation and design that will aid trail developers in creating a trail that both nurtures and promotes the natural assets on multi-use trails. Attendees will get a chance to participate in hands-on exercises.

Directions are located on the Northeast Region web page at www.railtrails.org. The seminar is \$10.

"THE SMALLER MAJORITY" BOOK LAUNCH

Dec 15 - "The Smaller Majority." Lecture and book launch reception with Piotr Naskrecki. With an introduction by Edward O. Wilson.

Conservation International's Piotr Naskrecki has explored six continents to photograph the smaller majority -- the 90% of animal life that are smaller than a human finger, yet dominate the ecology of the world's tropical biodiversity hotspots. In this lecture, Naskrecki will discuss his photographic journey, and the critical need to conserve these vital organisms and their vanishing habitats.

Lecture and reception are open to public. 6:00 pm in the Geological Lecture Hall.
Reception sponsored by Harvard University Press and Conservation International.

Jobs

DIRECTOR - MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATIVE

The Environmental League of Massachusetts seeks an experienced, committed, creative, and entrepreneurial leader to be Director of the Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative.

The Collaborative is the association of organizational members of the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), a non-profit, non-partisan organization that advocates for strong state environmental policies and effective environmental programs and educates the public about these issues. The Collaborative's mission is to improve the combined research, advocacy, and communications capabilities of the state's environmental groups and to increase the cohesiveness of the environmental community in advancing a strong common agenda. There are currently over fifty diverse member organizations, including land trusts, watershed and other resource protection associations, environmental health and justice groups, historic preservation societies, recreational advocates, and regional environmental groups.

The successful candidate will have five or more years of significant, relevant professional responsibility, preferably in non-profit, political, or governmental settings, with demonstrated ability to work effectively with many people and groups both as leader/organizer and as team player. Experience working with coalitions and collaborations strongly preferred.

The Environmental League is eager to fill this position as soon as possible and expects the new Collaborative Director will begin work in the late winter or early spring of 2006.

Compensation: \$45-55K, with excellent health, dental, and vacation benefits.

Review of applications will begin immediately; deadline for applications is January 10, 2006.

For a full job description, go to:

<http://www.environmentalleague.org/jobs/director05.html>

Phone calls are very strongly discouraged.

SANCTUARY DIRECTOR, MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Sanctuary Director, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary (Martha's Vineyard)

Mass Audubon is seeking a talented, dynamic individual with a strong background and experience in natural history, environmental education, and non-profit management to serve as Sanctuary Director at our Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary on Martha's Vineyard. Community relations and outreach, staff management, donor cultivation, fundraising, and membership development are primary components of the job. Interpersonal skills are critical as the Sanctuary Director will represent Mass Audubon by working with members of the community including neighbors, town officials, and conservation partners on a variety of conservation issues on the island.

The responsibilities of the Sanctuary Director include: hiring, training, and supervision of full-time and part-time staff, interns, and volunteers; operation and management of the nature center and wildlife sanctuary, including the development of annual plans and budgets; program and project development; raising funds for annual operations as well as special projects through donor cultivation and solicitation. Strong birding skills are preferred.

Desired qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in natural history, environmental education, biology or related field or equivalent work experience; five years+ experience in

teaching, program coordination, or environmental management; ability to work well with staff and volunteers; successful fundraising experience; strong natural history background and communication skills; computer skills including facility with word processing and spreadsheets; excellent organizational, written and verbal communication skills; valid driver's license.

Send cover letter and resume to Elaine Kile, Massachusetts Audubon Society, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 or e-mail ekile@massaudubon.org

PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, TNC SHEFFIELD

TNC seeks a PART-TIME Office Administrator to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of office activities within the Berkshire Taconic Landscape (BTL) program in Sheffield. S/He coordinates such activities as telephone/public reception, maintaining office supplies, general purchasing requests, scheduling, office maintenance/vendor relations, meeting/event planning and various administrative and general office duties. For a complete description & application info, please see: <<http://www.nature.org/careers>> . EOE.

SE MASS. PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TNC

TNC seeks a Southeast Massachusetts Program Director to direct landscape conservation efforts in mainland Southeastern Massachusetts with an emphasis on the Towns of Plymouth, Kingston, Carver, Wareham and the watershed of the Taunton River. Responsible for implementing strategies to conserve and restore TNC's priority conservation areas, including terrestrial and freshwater systems. Strategies will be developed in concert with other TNC staff, the local communities, and other partners and will include building local, long-term support for conservation, defining compatible development, and formulating public policy approaches. BS in biology, forestry, natural resources management or related field and five to seven years related work experience. Master's degree preferred. For a complete description and application instructions, please visit: www.nature.org/careers

ASS'T DIRECTOR, WILLIAMSTOWN RURAL LANDS FDN.

Assistant Director needed for western Massachusetts land conservation organization. This is a full time salaried position, with personal and professional development opportunities.

General office, basic bookkeeping, computer and excellent writing skills required. Grant writing, member development and publication skills preferred. Applicant must be well organized, dependable, be comfortable with the public, and able to work with minimum direction. Salary commensurate with skills and prior experience.

Please send cover letter and resume to lre@rnetworx.com or to Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, PO Box 221, Williamstown, MA 01267. A full job description will be sent out upon their receipt.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, AMC WORCESTER CHAPTER

Volunteer Newsletter Editor needed for the Worcester Chapter Appalachian Mountain Club to provide a quarterly newsletter for our 3000 members. Computer experience preferred. Editor will serve on the AMC Executive Committee which meets once a month. Contact Barbara Dyer at barbaradyer@hotmail.com or (508)735-3281 (3-9).

Bernie McHugh, Coordinator
Mass. Land Trust Coalition
18 Wolbach Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
BMcHugh@MassLand.org
Tel: 978-443-5588
Fax: 978-443-2333
www.MassLand.org

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