

## 5th Joint Land Trust / State Agency Overnight Retreat

Dear Mass. Land Trust Coalition Members & Friends,

Although it's VERY short notice, we have scheduled a firm date for our 5th Joint Land Trust / State Agency Overnight Retreat at Harvard Forest. Many thanks to Bob O'Connor and Bob Wilber for pulling this together.

**When:** Friday, March 7th, 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
Saturday, March 8, 8:30 AM - 12 noon

**Where:** Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

**Who:** MLTC Land Trusts & State Land Agency Staff

**Cost:** FREE. 30 participants will be able to stay at Harvard Forest overnight on Friday for \$50 per person. First come, first serve!

**(NOTE: DO NOT send money if you plan to stay overnight. Bring a check with you made out to "Harvard University")**

**PLEASE RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE to  
bmchugh@massland.org**

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS! There will be some space available for people who can only attend one of the days, but our goal is to have a working group together for two days.

There are 35 spaces for Land Trust representatives at the Retreat. They will be reserved in the following order:

1st) One representative from MLTC Supporting Members

2nd) One representative from MLTC Basic Members and MLTC Friends

If we still have room after all MLTC Members and Friends have had the chance to send one representative, we will accept additional representatives from all on a first come, first served basis.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to attend. And be sure to say if you plan to stay overnight at Harvard Forest.

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### **Land Trust/State Agency Retreat Proposed Agenda**

Friday, March 7th, 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday, March 8, 8:30 AM - 12 noon

Topics (order TBD)

- \* Opening Address (Speaker TBA)
- \* Habitat Reserves and the Wildlife Action Plan- a discussion  
How can the state and land trusts show measurable progress on the Secretary's highest land priority?
- \* EOEEA's Climate Change Action Plan - Opportunities for Forest Conservation
- \* Important Initiatives for 2008:
  - \* Environmental Bond
  - \* Off Highway Vehicle legislation
  - \* Dedicating state institutional land to Article 97
  - \* Landowner "One Stop Shopping" Incentives
  - \* A new park in each city in 5 years
  - \* Land License Plate

- \* Easement National Forest
  - \* Improving the Conservation Partnership Program
  - \* Role of MA Forests in Sequestering Carbon - What has been learned at Harvard Forest  
David Foster, Director, Harvard Forest
  - \* Taking full advantage of the pro-land conservation environment: Great New Land Ideas for 2008 and Beyond
    - \* Brainstorm session
  - \* Ideas from last year that are moving forward:
    - \* Pass out land "Cap" early
    - \* Announce grants early
    - \* Hire more state acquisition staff
    - \* More \$ in the Conservation Partnership Program
    - \* Take proceeds from DCR forestry and put back into forests
    - \* Create "Working Forest" APR program
    - \* Vigorously uphold "No Net Loss" Article 97 Policy
    - \* Sever land programs from Commonwealth Capital Program
    - \* Recognize other public benefits of land such as carbon sequestration
  - \* New Strategies for Land Conservation Funding and Incentives – a series of presentations and discussions
  - \* Overview on Federal Funding Outlook
  - \* Changes in our congressional committees
  - \* Identifying sources of federal money
  - \* Possibility of a new state bond bill
  - \* Extending the federal conservation tax deduction
  - \* Passing a state conservation tax credit
  - \* Farm Bill
    - \* Merges national forest, state & private interests--land trusts need to support
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Regards,

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