



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

March 17, 2022, Volume 20, Number 3

Member Spotlight



Collaboration Saves a Family Farm from Development in Seekonk

Source: [Community Preservation Coalition \(CPC\)](#) website

Although the Medeiros family received offers from developers for their 40 acre farm that exceeded the \$2 million appraised value, they decided to have the town of Seekonk purchase it through the CPA program to preserve it for future generations. The historic chicken farm, known for its iconic red and white farmhouse and outbuildings, includes several open fields and swaths of forested wetlands. Through a collaboration between the local CPC, Seekonk town officials, and the [Seekonk Land Conservation Trust](#), the town worked with the Medeiros family to develop a vision for the farm that will serve multiple needs for the community, while following CPA restrictions required for open space, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation. The proposal incorporated the preservation of historic farm buildings, and plans to

create new athletic fields, community gardens, and trails within the forested open space. In a resounding vote of 145 to 6, Seekonk Town Meeting approved this community-driven preservation project by appropriating \$2 million in CPA funds. Thanks to the foresight of the Medeiros family, this land will remain protected -- not only as part of the town's agricultural history, but also as a valuable outdoor resource for residents to enjoy for decades to come. [Read more.](#)



Consider supporting MLTC

If you've found value in the education, tools, networking opportunities, and advocacy that we provide, **please consider a tax-deductible donation** to MLTC so we can continue to help land trusts do what they do best: protect more land. [Donate here.](#) Any amount is appreciated!



Donate

MLTC News & Programs



Long winter shadows cast a nice light on Rattlesnake Gutter Trust's East Leverett Meadow.
#OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

Coming Next Week! *The 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference*

Thursday, March 24 – Saturday, March 26, online and in-the-field

One [registration](#) gains you access to all 28 virtual sessions and the option of 9 field-based outdoor sessions around Massachusetts. Topics include:

- working with municipalities and other partners
- communicating the value of land conservation
- practical land conservation tools
- running a land trust: funding, legal topics, and more
- wildlife habitat restoration and climate change response
- farming and forestry in land conservation
- sponsor-specific content such as offshore wind and nature's services

Discounted admission for MLTC members. Recordings will be available to registrants through May 31. [Register here.](#) [Schedule.](#) [Session descriptions.](#)

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors!

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Friend: Community Preservation Coalition at The Trust For Public Land | The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts | The Conservation Fund | Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies | Ecopixel | Jankowski & Spencer P.C. | Kestrel Land Trust | Landscape Land Conservation Software | Law Office of Stephen J. Small | The Trust for Public Land | Upstream Tech

Blue Hills Trailside Museum Tour

Friday, April 8, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Join the [Young Land Professionals](#) (YLP) for a private tour of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum with Mass Audubon staff. (1904 Canton Avenue, Milton, MA). This guided walk, which includes native wildlife exhibits and a natural history museum, will better connect you with New England nature and other Young Land Professionals (people in the first ten years of their conservation careers). Exhibits include rescued animals that could not survive without human intervention. Register [here](#). Post-tour social hour will be at the nearby Trillium Brewery. Schedule: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.—Museum tour, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.—Social hour at Trillium Brewery.

Policy

Help Push the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA) Over the Finish Line!

Having passed the House last summer, An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth (S.524 & H.851), also referred to as the Public Lands Preservation Act, is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. MLTC's Executive Director Robb Johnson and fellow advocates had a encouraging meeting with Senate President Spilka earlier this month to urge Senate passage. Please reach out to your State Senator to express your support for this bill and ask them to contact their

colleagues on Senate Ways & Means and President Spilka to ask for the bill to move forward. For background and talking points you can use, see a copy of our latest partner letter [here](#). Find contact information for your Senator [here](#).

New Marlborough and Other Communities Weigh Rules To Protect Dark Night Sky

Source: *The Berkshire Eagle*, by Larry Parnass

The town of New Marlborough is poised to become one of the first communities in the Bay State to enact zoning legislation designed to prevent light pollution and make sure the night sky remains visible. An MLTC-supported bill (S.2147 / H.3306, An Act to Improve Outdoor Lighting, Conserve Energy, and Increase Dark-Sky Visibility) was recently reported favorably out of Joint Committee and is now before the Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee. Read more [here](#).

Natural and Working Lands' Role in State Climate Plans

Thursday, April 14: noon - 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The state is hosting two virtual public meetings on the **Clean Energy and Climate Plans for 2025 & 2030** that focus on natural and working lands. Registration for the meetings is not yet available. You can sign up to be notified of upcoming public meetings with agendas and registration links [by clicking here](#). Recordings and slide decks from previous meetings [can be found here](#), including past forest-related meetings.

News

State Revolving Funds a Source for Conservation Funding

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed in November 2021, allocated \$11.7 billion to Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). [Land acquisition and restoration](#) can be funded through the CWSRF, typically as a Nonpoint Source (NPS) project to protect water quality. Projects can take the form of conservation easements or fee simple purchases, or restoration activities such as tree planting. Read more about this underutilized funding source for conservation [here](#).

Urban Forests May Store More Carbon Than We Thought

Source: *WBUR*, February 16, 2022, by Barbara Moran

Urban forests don't get a lot of respect. Yet these small patches of forest may play an outsized role in combatting climate change, especially in the Northeast. [Read the article](#).

Osprey on Power Poles

Osprey often perch and nest on power poles and other utility equipment. This can be dangerous for the osprey and cause service reliability issues for customers. Given the abundance of osprey nesting on utility poles on Cape Cod, Eversource developed the [Cape Cod Osprey Management Plan](#) (CCOMP). Though the management plan is local, it could be extrapolated for your area. Read more about [actions to take](#) if you see an osprey nest on fire, or an injured or deceased osprey on or near a power line.

Your Best Friend's Poop Is Harmful to Nature

Source: *MotherJones* February 8, 2022 (by permission from *The Guardian*), by Damian Carrington

A new study on the impacts of dog poop on conservation lands found that the resulting overfertilization of the ground with nitrogen and phosphorus by footpaths could reach levels that would be illegal on farmland. [Read the article](#).

Webinars and E-Learning

Building Pollinator Habitat Through the USDA-NRCS Program

Thursday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Kelly Gill and Emily May, Pollinator Conservation Specialists with the Xerces Society, will provide an overview of creating and protecting pollinator habitat on working lands; practices that can be used to support pollinators; additional benefits of improving biodiversity; and USDA-NRCS programs that offer technical and financial assistance for implementing conservation practices that address wildlife and invertebrate resource concerns. [Register](#).



Strategic Conservation Planning in a Changing Climate

Tuesday, March 22, 2:00 p.m.

Join climate experts Danielle Shannon and Kristen Schmitt from Northern Forests Climate Hub as they discuss climate change planning, with particular focus on the benefits of clearly articulated values and conservation goals. There is a fee to attend. [Learn more and register](#).



Make Your Land Available for Farming

Wednesdays March 23, 30 and April 6, noon - 1:00 p.m.

This free webinar series is to help farming and non-farming private landowners and their representatives (i.e., real estate agents) understand their land's potential for farming, learn what goes into a good farming arrangement, and explore strategies for making any amount of land available to a farmer. [Learn more](#). [Register](#).



The 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Thursday, March 24 – Saturday, March 26, online and in-the-field
Information and registration [here](#).



Climatic Adaptation and Restoration of Ecosystem Services (I-CARES) Workshop

Thursday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.

Rapid urbanization and changing temperature and precipitation patterns are putting severe strain on the health of local ecosystems. To assist communities in building resilience to these changes, the online I-CARES model presents a suite of assessments that model specific ecosystem services under current and future climate scenarios. The workshop will provide an overview of the I-CARES model, including applications to specific areas of the Commonwealth. Zoom link [here](#).



Risk Management in the Non-Profit Sector

Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Insurance Fundamentals

Wednesday, July 20: Risk Management Fundamentals

Thursday, October 13: Advanced Risk Management and ERM

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is partnering with the Non-profit Risk Management Center to offer LTA affiliates free registration for the 2022 Virtual Risk Summit. That means staff or Board members of MLTC member organizations can attend up to three full days of virtual training for free. Recordings are available for 30 days after the live event. [Learn more](#). [Register](#).



Forests Are for the Birds

Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The [Women on the Land](#) network will host a free webinar for women interested in learning the basics of bird watching, and hearing how one landowner used forest management to improve bird habitat. [Register](#).



MassMapper Training

Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

MassMapper has replaced MassGIS Oliver. This session will provide introductory training on how to use the tool, and will include the opportunity to complete an activity. Registration is limited, but is not yet open for April's session. Keep an eye out [here](#).



Landowner Webinar Series: Plan for Your Land

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This is the last of a six-part webinar series for landowners interested in planning the future of their land. April's topic is "What are the financial benefits of land conservation?", presented by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. Main sponsor is MassWoods at UMass Amherst. Co-sponsored by MLTC. [Learn more and register](#).



Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program Webinar Series

4 Wednesdays in May, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. except May 25, which is until noon.

Offered by the Northeast State Foresters Association, this series covers a variety of topics on forest carbon. More about the [program](#).

May 4: [The Science of Forest Carbon](#)

May 11: [The Science of Forest Carbon Management](#)

May 18: [Forest Carbon Markets / NRCS Funding](#)

May 25 (until noon): [Forest Carbon Project Developers](#)

Programs and Events

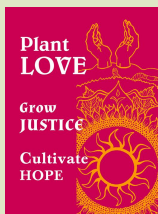


Growing Up Wild Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

Registration deadline: Monday, March 28

Training date: Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Nashoba Brooks School, Concord, MA

Educators will be guided through the "Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children" program, which builds on 3 - 7 year old children's sense of wonder, and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the guide and a certificate of completion. [Learn more and register](#).



Making a Livelihood on the Land

Application deadline: Friday, April 1

Workshop date: Friday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center in Orange, MA

This on-site workshop for new or aspiring farmers will cover creative ways to find and access land, offer ideas for funds and financing, provide low-budget farming techniques for personal and climate resilience, and include conversations about allies and community building. [Learn more and apply here](#). In dedication to a rising, diverse generation of new farmers, participation costs are offered at a deep discount on a sliding scale.

ALPINE's (Academics for Land Protection in New England) Summer Institute is designed for those interested in getting in-depth exposure to the practice of large landscape conservation in New England. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young professionals with a wide variety of academic backgrounds and levels of experience, are eligible to apply. The program will include once-a-week virtual sessions between early June and early August, as well as feature (if public health conditions allow) a face-to-face meeting at the Schoodic Institute in Winter Harbor, Maine from June 24 to 26. There is no cost to students for the program. [Learn more](#). [Apply](#).



Junior Conservation Camp Registration Is Open

Application deadline: Sunday, May 1

Dates: August 7 - 19 (Sunday - Friday)

Teens will learn about nature, wildlife, outdoor skills, conservation education, and ethics. The camp will be held at the Moses Scout Reservation in Russell. Scholarships are available. [Learn more](#).

Grants

Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

Application deadline: Friday, March 18

This grant provides funding for the purchase of land in existing DEP-approved drinking water supply protection areas, or land in estimated protection areas of identified and planned future water supply wells or reservoirs. [Learn more](#).

Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) Grant Program

Application deadline: Friday, March 18

This 50% matching grant reimbursement program supports the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or non-profit organization. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to view the MPPF [Application presentation video](#). [Learn more and apply](#).

Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants

Deadline for Letter of Intent: Tuesday, April 26, 4:00 p.m.

Restore America's Estuaries offers grants to target water pollution, habitat degradation, and other high-priority environmental issues to foster sustainable coastal and watershed communities. Learn more [here](#), read the [RFP](#), or register for an informational webinar on [Thursday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m.](#) or [Tuesday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m.](#)

Grants for Habitat Management Through the Massachusetts Collaborative for Private Forestland

Application deadline: Thursday, March 31

\$1.5 million is available to Massachusetts landowners who own forestland of at least 10 acres to help them plan and enable practices that benefit rare and declining habitats on private lands that can help vulnerable species; and expand on existing habitat projects on public lands. [Learn more](#).

Nellie Leamann Taft Foundation

Deadline to request application access: Friday, April 1

Funding is focused on promoting greater human well-being by supporting grassroots and other efforts to promote clean air, protect water resources and coastal areas, and preserve open space resources, including recreational space and natural areas in urban, rural, and wilderness locations. Geographic focus is inside the Boston 495 beltway. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Preference is given to small to mid-sized organizations, and includes seed funding for new ideas and initiatives, start-up and on-going support for grass roots organizations, and entrepreneurial projects that may enable an organization or its constituents to achieve greater self-sufficiency. [Details here.](#)

Climate Adaptation Fund

Pre-proposals deadline: Friday, April 8

The Wildlife Conservation Society, through the Climate Adaptation Fund, offers grants to non-profits implementing ground breaking, science based projects using traditional and new conservation tools applied in strategic ways to help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to climate impacts. [Learn more.](#) [Applicant Guide.](#)

Two USDA / NRCS Grant Opportunities

Application deadline: Wednesday, April 13

The U.S. Department of Agriculture / Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA / NRCS) will award up to \$225 million to conservation partners through the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP). The projects should address climate change, benefit historically underserved producers, and support urban agriculture.

RCPP Classic

Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. [Details here.](#)

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)

AFA projects allow partners more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers that would not be otherwise possible with Classic projects. [Details here.](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants

Application deadline: Thursday May 5

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is seeking proposals for MVP Action Grants, which provide designated MVP Communities funding to implement priority climate adaptation actions identified through the MVP planning process or similar climate change vulnerability assessment and action planning that has led to MVP designation after EEA review. Projects are required to use climate data and projections. Projects that propose nature-based solutions or strategies that rely on green infrastructure or conservation and enhancement of natural systems and that have robust community engagement plans are preferred. Applicants can request up to \$3 million in funding (regional proposals may request up to \$5 million), and a 25% match of the total project cost is required (see RFR for new exceptions). More information [here.](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grants

Application deadline: Tuesday June 7

EEA is also seeking proposals for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grants, which provide support for Massachusetts cities and towns to complete climate vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans. The program helps communities define climate related hazards; understand how their community may be impacted by climate change; identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths; and develop, prioritize, and implement key actions. State-trained MVP providers offer technical assistance to communities in completing the assessment and resiliency plans. Communities that complete the MVP planning grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding. More information [here.](#)

LAND and PARC Grant Programs

Deadline: July 14 at 3:00 pm

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications for the FY 2023 LAND and PARC Grant Programs. The LAND grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The PARC grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, and develop a new

park. Two grant workshops will be held via Teams: May 4 at 11:00 am or May 12 at 2:00 pm. If applying to the LAND grant program, please RSVP to [Vanessa Farny](#) to receive the Teams invitation. If applying to the PARC grant program, please RSVP to [Melissa Cryan](#) for the Teams invitation. For additional information and to apply, [click here](#).

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

Deadline: July 18 at 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY 2023 Conservation Partnership Grant Program. Conservation Partnership grants are for 501(c)(3) organizations looking for assistance in acquiring land in fee or a conservation restriction, as well as assistance with due diligence costs associated with gifts. Questions on the grant program can be directed to [Melissa Cryan](#). For additional information and to apply, [click here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

Nominate a Conservation Leader

Nominations due Friday, April 8

The Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award—Land Trust Alliance's signature award—is given annually to honor outstanding leadership, innovation, and creativity in land conservation, and to highlight leadership that enriches the entire conservation community. [Learn more and nominate someone](#).

Sierra Club Political Committee Looking for Volunteers

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club is looking to expand its Political Committee to include more representation from across the state. The volunteer committee identifies and supports candidates for state and local public office who best represent the goals of the Sierra Club on environmental issues and legislation. People who care about environmental issues and are looking to get more involved are encouraged to apply; no prior experience is necessary. [Learn more](#).

Jobs

Post your job openings on the MassLand **self-serve** [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime.

[Director of Development](#) - Barnstable Land Trust

[Director of Development](#) - The Nature Conservancy

[Director of Land Conservation](#) - Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Director of Land Protection](#) - South Kingstown Land Trust

[Connecticut Valley District - Land Acquisition Agent](#) - CT Department of Fish and Game

[Conservation Science and Land Steward](#) - Linda Loring Nature Foundation

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

[Ecological Restoration Specialist - Ecohydrology](#) - MA Division of Ecological Restoration

[Watershed Restoration Coordinator](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Community Engagement and Stewardship Manager](#) - Mattapoisett Land Trust

[Summer Conservation Field Supervisor and Crew](#) - Town of Lexington

[A variety of positions](#) - Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition | 18 Wolbach Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 | <https://massland.org>