



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Inspire your peers! We invite land trusts around the state to submit a brief item describing a recently closed land protection project or other conservation success to be featured in MassLand E-News. An accompanying photo and/or map is encouraged (jpg format preferred). We also feature selected outings and events, so send us any listings you'd like to promote.

Please send submissions to info@massland.org.

Thank you for subscribing to MassLand E-News! To support our efforts to inform and connect the Massachusetts land conservation community, please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#). Thank you!

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MassLand News

2020 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference Cancelled

Due to the government orders concerning the COVID-19 epidemic, the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference scheduled for March 28th in Worcester has been cancelled. We are in the process of evaluating how we might offer alternate programming and promise to update all presenters and registrants by March 25 with information on programming and refunds. The health and well-being of our community are of paramount importance to us. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience and understanding.

Pre-Conference Gathering of Young Land Professionals Cancelled

In light of the recent cancellation of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference on March 28, YLP is similarly cancelling all events that were scheduled for the night before the conference on March 27. Stay tuned for information on our next event!

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Success Spotlight

Rattlesnake Hill



The Town of Sharon, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Mass Audubon have collaborated to protect Rattlesnake Hill, one of the largest unprotected natural properties in the Greater Boston Area and a conservation priority for decades. On February 27, 2020 the Town of Sharon acquired the land and DCR acquired a CR to secure the property for future generations. Located in Sharon, this 330-acre property contains forests, wetlands, and spectacular views from a rocky summit. It contains important wildlife habitat, including vernal pools, a mosaic of forests and wetlands, and rock ledges and boulders. Rattlesnake Hill is adjacent to and has trail connections with DCR's Borderland State Park, creating a 2,398-acre area of protected land that provides viable habitat for larger animals and allows for migration of plants and wildlife as habitats shift due to climate change. This purchase was made possible with \$2.5 million from DCR (which included \$150,000 from Mass Audubon) and

\$7.5 million from the Town of Sharon by use of its Community Preservation Act funding. Mass Audubon is raising \$150,000 to cover the funds transferred to DCR at closing. The final step in this bold conservation effort will be the conveyance of a CR on an abutting 200-acre property, ensuring that it remains a part of this protected, connected, land corridor - storing carbon, storing floodwaters, accommodating wildlife movement and other powerful climate change response services, forever. The final step in this bold conservation effort will be the conveyance of a CR on an abutting 200-acre property, ensuring that it remains a part of this large protected corridor forever. Learn more [here](#).

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Policy

Support the Conservation Land Tax Credit

We currently have two paths to raise the annual cap on the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program during the legislative session that ends on July 31. First is a bill being considered by House Ways and Means; second is the possibility of amending the state's FY21 Operating Budget. We will be in touch as these opportunities develop.

Action Alert: Massachusetts Senators are meeting with leadership to discuss their budget priorities, so now is the time to ask your state Senator to 1) make CLTC a budget priority when they meet with Senate Ways and Means; and, 2) support CLTC either as a standalone bill or as a budget amendment. All it takes is a quick call, email or letter to their office. Contact information for your legislator can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) for a sample call/email "script" that you can use with your State Senator. Please augment it with the additional information in this [fact sheet](#) or a story about a landowner you worked with who has been able to take advantage of, or is on the waitlist for, the tax credit. It's important that they understand how this program impacts their district!

Land and Water Conservation Funding is On the Move!

Thanks to awesome support from conservation advocates, permanent funding for LWCF is moving in the Senate! Earlier this week the Senate introduced the Great American Outdoors Act. This bill combines LWCF permanent funding with a bill intended to fund a backlog in National Parks maintenance. Both Senators Markey and Senator Warren have become co-sponsors of this bill. Please take a minute to thank them and to remind them how important LWCF funding is for land conservation in the Commonwealth. Senator Warren contact: Bruno Freitas: bruno_freitas@warren.senate.gov; Senator Markey contact: Hannah_Vogel@markey.senate.gov.

Public Lands Preservation Act ("Article 97 No Net Loss")

Sourced from Philip Saunders

The Public Lands Preservation Act (S459, H732) would provide enhanced protection for public open space covered by Article 97 of the state constitution. The Act is currently in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. For it to be reported out Senate President Karen Spilka and Chairman of Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues need to hear from Senators that they want the PLPA to be enacted. Please contact your senator and urge him or her to speak to Senate President Karen Spilka and to Chairman of Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues, asking them to support moving the

bill on to the full Senate for a vote. This bill would ensure that whenever lands or easements protected under Article 97 are proposed for conversion to another use, proponents would be required to examine alternatives to the proposed disposition, provide prior notice to the public, and secure Article 97 protection of replacement land of comparable acreage and natural resource value. For more information, read this [summary](#) of the act.

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News

Become a TerraCorps Service Site and Host an AmeriCorps Member

Sourced from TerraCorps

TerraCorps is an AmeriCorps affiliated environmental non-profit start-up preparing and mobilizing emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature. TerraCorps will be supporting up to 48 AmeriCorps members in Massachusetts who will serve with nonprofit organizations across the state to tackle issues around land access, urban agriculture, and conservation. They are looking for nonprofit, community-based organizations in Massachusetts that are interested in hosting a TerraCorps Service Member. Members will serve in full-time 11-month positions from August 31, 2020 - July 30, 2021. Organizations can apply to host Members in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Regional Collaboration Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Youth Education Coordinator. Members receive a living stipend, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits. Learn more [here](#).

2020 RCP Network Gathering Call for Presentations

Sourced from Wildlands & Woodlands

The Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network invites submissions of highly interactive and results-oriented workshop proposals for the 2020 RCP Network Gathering, which will be held on November 19, 2020, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Join fellow practitioners in addressing the climate crisis and exploring innovative paths forward as this year's conference centers on the theme of Resilient Regions and Communities. Find out more about submitting a workshop proposal [here](#) (Deadline: April 17, 2020). If you have any questions, please reach out to Bill Labich at blabich@highstead.net.

Congratulations to Kevin Case

Kevin Case is leaving his position as Eastern Division Director of Field Programs at the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) to accept a new position as President of Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, New York. Kevin has been with the LTA for 14 years, and has been instrumental in providing leadership for the LTA's on-the-ground work in 11 northeastern states on programs related to land, climate, and community conservation. Jennifer Miller Herzog will be stepping up to serve as interim Eastern Division Director. Please join us in thanking Kevin for his years of service to the land trust community!

Housatonic River Cleanup Settlement Reached

Sourced from Mass Audubon, February 18

A settlement agreement for the Housatonic River Cleanup between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and General Electric (GE) has been reached. For several

decades, GE polluted the Housatonic River and the surrounding lands with hundreds of tons of polyvinyl chloride (PCV) chemicals. Environmental mitigation efforts to deal with this pollution began in the 1980s, and this current settlement will expedite a more thorough river cleanup and better serve the affected communities. Learn about the settlement and cleanup effort [here](#).

Mass Audubon Closing Through March 31

Sourced from Mass Audubon, March 13

In response to COVID-19, Mass Audubon has made the decision to close their Headquarters, Nature Centers, Museums, and Shops, as well as cancel all programs, beginning 5 pm on Friday, March 13, through March 31, 2020. Mass Audubon will issue full refunds for any program or events we cancel. Learn more [here](#).

Role of Climate in Shaping the Early Forests of New England

Sourced from Phys.org, January 20

A recent paper in Nature Sustainability provides insights into the formation of forest communities in New England, and concludes that climate, not human activity, shaped the early forests of the region. This study revealed that Native people engaged in minimal active management of woodlands through clearing or burning. Instead, climate shaped the intact, old-growth forests that dominated New England. The authors recommend that land managers seeking to emulate pre-contact ecological conditions should focus on developing mature forests, while those maintaining open grasslands that today support a wide range of endangered and rare species should apply historical agricultural approaches. They specifically highlighted the work done by The Trustees here in Massachusetts, in using traditional practices like livestock grazing to maintain open lands and young forests. Read the paper [here](#), and find a summary article [here](#).

Farmland Conservation Affordability Tools

Assist a master's thesis research project at Bard College's Center for Environmental Policy by completing a survey examining the use of farmland conservation affordability tools and ground leases among conservation groups in the United States. This survey is aimed at groups and individuals involved in farmland conservation, and will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes to complete. The survey is available [here](#).

Best Practices for Connecting Volunteers with Conservation Commissions

The Belchertown Conservation Commission is working on a project to connect with a network of volunteers, and is seeking advice from other Conservation Commissions and staff for best practices for volunteer outreach, training, and management. To help, fill out the survey [here](#).

Support Rare Species When You File Your Taxes

Sourced from MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Support conservation of the more than 400 rare and endangered species in Massachusetts when you file your taxes this year. Look for line 33A on your state income tax form to contribute. Learn more [here](#).

Emerald Ash Borer Identified in Littleton

Sourced from Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been identified in Littleton's Town Commons. EAB is an

invasive insect from Asia that has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America since it was introduced in 2002. The infestation in Littleton was discovered by Rick Findlay of the Littleton Conservation Trust. So far 14 affected green ash trees have been identified for removal. Read the article [here](#), how to identify and report EAB [here](#).

Blue Sky Over Massachusetts Challenge

The Ocean River institute is launching a campaign called the Blue Sky Over Massachusetts Challenge: Capture More Carbon With Your Lawn. The goal of this challenge is to get people to pledge to stop using quick-release fertilizer on established lawns. This challenge will help Massachusetts step up carbon capture through photosynthesis and sequestration in healthier soils and plants. Learn more [here](#).

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Conferences and Meetings

Given rapidly evolving responses to the COVID-19 epidemic, please contact event sponsors for latest information on event cancellations.

Massachusetts Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Annual Conference

Originally planned for Saturday, March 21 in Worcester, this event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Learn more [here](#).

Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Originally planned for Saturday, March 28 in Worcester, this event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Learn more [here](#).

Keystone Project -- UMass Extension

Originally planned for April 2 - April 5 in Petersham, this event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Learn more [here](#).

Spring Meeting -- Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area and Metrowest Conservation Alliance

Tuesday, April 14, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, 73 Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, 2nd Floor

Join the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) and Metrowest Conservation Alliance (MSA) for their co-hosted annual spring meeting. The MCA Native Pollinator Task Force will present on pollination systems, local examples of pollinator habitat creation, and offer an invitation to join the regional collaboration on creating habitat for rare and declining pollinators. More details to come.

Massachusetts Open Space Conference

Saturday, April 25, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA

Join Open Space Committee members, volunteers, and other people who care about conservation at the fifth Massachusetts Open Space Conference. This conference is an opportunity to share with peers, meet Open Space Committee members, get involved in protecting open space across the state, and bring important information back to your communities and organizations. The conference is free to attend. Learn more and

register [here](#).

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Workshops and Trainings

Given rapidly evolving responses to the COVID-19 epidemic, please contact event sponsors for latest information on event cancellations.

Trail Planning & Permitting -- Mass Audubon

Tuesday, April 21, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary,
Natick, MA

This class is part of Mass Audubon's Trails Workshop series, and will focus on an overview of the trail planning process including determining the purpose of a trail, type of trail, uses, locations, and surfacing. The course will also include an introduction to permitting issues and a visit to wetland areas to discuss permitting and trail options. Cost is \$75. Learn more [here](#).



Photo Credit: Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary

Foresters for the Birds Training

Friday, May 15, 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Belchertown Town Hall, Belchertown, MA

Join the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Foresters for the Birds program providing cost-share assistance to landowners to hire a qualified consulting forester to conduct a Bird Habitat Assessment on their land. The assessment will provide information about the existing or potential habitat for target bird species and silvicultural recommendations for enhancing habitat through forest management. The training will include classroom and outdoor portions. Space is limited, so please register [here](#).

ALPINE Summer Institute 2020

June 5 - 7, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

July 31 - August 2, Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, ME

The Academics for Land Protection in New England (ALPINE) Summer Institute Program is designed for students and young professionals to learn more about the practice of large land conservation. The program is staffed by experts in the field of land conservation, including presenters from the Lincoln Institute, the Harvard Forest, the Highstead Foundation, and the Schoodic Institute. The program provides an opportunity for students and young professionals to meet and network with leaders in the field and think about what role they might play in the future of conservation. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young professionals, are eligible for this training. The Summer Institute is free for participants and includes room and board for the two weekend sessions (from Friday to Sunday) at the Harvard Forest in

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Webinars

Land Trust Alliance Webinars

Land Trust Alliance regularly offers webinars on a wide range of topics of importance to the land conservation community. You can register to attend a live webinar or listen to a wide range of previously recorded sessions. For details and fees, see [here](#).

Overview of Conservation Commissions -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

This webinar will provide an overview of the organization structure and key responsibilities of conservation commissions, funding and fees, and how to build productive relationships with local boards and agencies. Cost is \$55 for members and \$75 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Protecting Pollinators -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Monday, March 23, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Join the Ecological Landscape Alliance for this webinar discussing the importance of and threats to pollinators. Participants will learn about promising pollinator conservation initiatives, practical tips on getting involved in pollinator conservation, and conservation success stories. The webinar will be led by Jodi Helmer, an author and lecturer specializing in topics involving food, farming, and the environment. Learn more [here](#).

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Nature Talks and Outings

Given rapidly evolving responses to the COVID-19 epidemic, please contact event sponsors for latest information on event cancellations.

Speak for the Trees

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

50 Milk St, 20th Floor, Boston, MA

Come learn about Speak for the Trees' efforts to preserve and grow Boston's urban forest. The guest speaker will be Dr. Atyia Martin, who will discuss resilience and racial equity as they related to people, trees, and communities. You will also hear from the Teen Urban Tree Corps program. Learn more about Speak for the Trees [here](#).

Massachusetts Climate Legislation Forum -- MetroWest Climate Solutions Group

Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 pm

225 Boston Post Road, Wayland, MA

At a time when federal solutions to climate change are not moving forward, legislation in our state has the potential to generate significant solutions to the climate crisis.

Previous bills have made Massachusetts a national leader in energy efficiency, driven the transition to increase carbon-free electricity, and set a course for an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. In this forum, Massachusetts state senators and representatives from local communities will discuss climate solutions bills that are likely to come to a vote in this legislative session. Our legislators will describe how you can get involved in turning pending bills into laws. Learn more [here](#).

Designing with Plant Communities -- Grow Native Massachusetts

Originally planned for Wednesday, April 1 in Worcester, this part of Grow Native Massachusetts' Evenings with Experts 2020 lecture series with Dan Jaffe has been postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. Learn more and find the rescheduled date when it is released [here](#).



Photo Credit: Grow Native Massachusetts

Nature's Best Hope Talk & Book Signing -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

*Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA*

Join author Doug Tallamy for a talk and book signing for his newest book, Nature's Best Hope. This talk will discuss the global declines in insects, birds, and other groups around the world, and how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining biodiversity. Learn about the steps we can take to reverse declines in global biodiversity. Cost is \$30. Learn more [here](#). Listen to an interview about the book [here](#).

Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp

*August 2- 14
Moses Scout Reservation, Russell, MA*

Registration is now open for the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp (MJCC). This camp teaches children about stewardship of our natural resources through lessons and activities focusing on conservation, shooting sports, and outdoor recreation education. Natural resource professionals and educators will lead presentations and activities on wildlife, fisheries, forest management, camping, wild edibles, and archery and firearms trainings. Certifications in Hunter Education and Boating Safety are also part of the curriculum. Tuition is \$1000, but the majority of campers are eligible for full scholarships from sporting and conservation organizations. Registration deadline is May 1. Learn more [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities -- The Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees of Reservations are looking for volunteers to assist in a wide range of responsibilities at their many properties. Opportunities include long running positions, such as visitor services and communications outreach volunteers, as well as specific volunteer days doing invasive plant management and beach clean-ups. Learn more [here](#).

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Better Selves Fellowship -- Knoll Farm

Deadline: March 22

The purpose of the Better Selves Fellowship is to provide a space for fellows to do their own independent work in a supportive, peaceful, inspiring landscape. Each fellow will bring a personal or professional goal to work on during their stay. This is not a training event with taught lessons; fellows are not asked to deliver anything as a result of the fellowship. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grants -- MA Division of Ecological Restoration

Deadline: April 15

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is seeking proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing an undersized, perched, and/or degraded culvert located in an area of high ecological value. The total funding anticipated to be available in FY21 is \$750,000 - \$1,500,000. Funding is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. Only projects that intend to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will be considered for funding. Use of these Standards to design culverts improves river function and access for fish and wildlife, and reduces hazards to public safety, such as flooding, culvert failure, and road washout. Massachusetts municipalities are eligible to apply for funding to support advancing one culvert replacement project toward completion. Learn more [here](#).

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants -- Division of Conservation Services

Deadline: March 31

Land and Water Conservation Fund grants provide up to 50% of the cost of acquiring, developing, or renovating parks, trails, and conservation areas. Eligible projects include the acquisition of park or conservation land, creation of new parks, development of trails, and renovations to existing parks and conservation lands. Eligible applicants include municipalities, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Fish and Game, and Massachusetts federally recognized tribes. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Agricultural Preservation Restriction Improvement Program -- MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Deadline: April 13

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources is accepting applications for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Improvement Program. This business planning and technical assistance program helps sustain active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. The improvement program provides business planning assistance to farmers selected to participate in the program. Grants may be available on a reimbursement basis to implement identified improvements on the farm to increase productivity and profitability. The maximum grant is \$120,000 depending on the size of the farm. Learn more [here](#).

Small Communities Grants Program

Deadline: May 8

This program provides funding to municipalities with 6,000 or fewer residents to produce Open Space and Recreation Plans, complete other plans to facilitate land conservation, and/or prepare appraisals as required to apply for the other DCS grant programs. Applications are accepting on a rolling basis, with a final deadline of May 8. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grants

Deadline: June 4

Each year the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issues a Request for Responses (RFR) for competitive projects to be funded through Clean Water Act of 1987 Section 319 grants. This year's RFR is anticipated to be issued on or about April 2, 2020. Responses to the RFR may be submitted by any Massachusetts public or private organization. Projects from all basins are eligible and encouraged, excluding work covered under NPDES and MS4 stormwater permits. Projects should be of manageable size but should strive to be comprehensive projects addressing all major identified nonpoint sources affecting water quality in the watershed or subwatershed. Learn more [here](#).

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Jobs

[Eastern Division Director of Field Programs](#) -- Land Trust Alliance

[Event Manager](#) -- Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Development Associate](#) -- Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Senior Wetlands Analyst](#) -- MA Department of Environmental Protection

[Wetlands Analyst](#) -- MA Department of Environmental Protection

[Watershed Science \(Rita Barron\) Fellowship](#) -- Charles River Watershed Association

[Invasive Plant Removal Coordinator](#) -- Charles River Watershed Association

[Conservation Associate](#) -- Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Environmental Staff](#) -- Association to Preserve Cape Cod

[Ecological Restoration Partnership Specialist](#) -- MA Department of Ecological Restoration

[Seasonal Forestry Assistant](#) -- Department of Conservation and Recreation

[Summer Conservation Staff](#) -- Lexington Conservation Division

[Seasonal Coastal Ecologist](#) -- Trustees of Reservations

[Seasonal Stewardship Crew](#) -- Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Land Stewardship Intern](#) -- Concord Land Conservation Trust

[Watershed Science and GIS Internships](#) -- Charles River Watershed Association

[Intern](#) -- Environmental Voter Project

[Lifeguard](#) -- Department of Conservation and Recreation

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