



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

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Land Conservation Community
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"Never underestimate the ability of a small group of people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead (1901-1978), American anthropologist and author

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MLTC NEWS

1) MLTC Annual Meeting - February 23

Friday, February 23, 2018, 10:00am - 1:00pm

MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA, Room 108, Southeast Conference Room, Richard Cronin Building

Please join us for this gathering for networking and valuable discussions including

legislative priorities and dog management on conservation land. Click [here](#) for a draft agenda.

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2) Mass Land Conservation Conference - Register Now For Early Discount

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

Take advantage of the early registration discount until March 9th. [Register](#) today. For more information about the conference including speakers, registration fees, workshop schedule and materials, click [here](#).

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

3) The Nature Conservancy's Procurement Guide to Nature-Based Solutions

The Nature Conservancy just released the new [Procurement Guide to Nature-Based Solutions](#), recently developed by our North America Urban and Freshwater teams. As leaders across the country think about how to invest in their communities-from improved infrastructure and increased economic development to flood management and more livable spaces-they should seriously consider investments in nature-often referred to as "natural infrastructure" or "nature-based solutions." Check it out!

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4) APR Program Requests Public Comments on Guidelines to Construct a Renewable Energy System

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program is requesting public comments on the following guidelines:

[Guidelines for Requests for a Certificate of Approval \(COA\) to Construct a Renewable Energy System.](#)

Agricultural structures on land that is protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction held by the Commonwealth require MDAR's prior written approval which is granted through our COA process. Per the terms of the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, only agricultural structures may be constructed on APR land. In order for a renewable energy system to qualify as an "agricultural structure" the majority of the energy generated must support the agricultural needs of the farm.

As part of their commitment to the "APR Program - Looking Forward" process, MDAR is sharing these guidelines with the public to provide opportunities for comment.

MDAR will then revise the policy, as needed, based upon the public's feedback. MDAR will then bring a revised policy to the ALPC for their comment, approval, and hopefully their adoption of the policy. Written comments on the Guidelines should be submitted to the [MDAR Comment Webportal](#). **Comments are due by 5 PM on March 14, 2018.**

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5) *Climate Resilience for Land Protection in Massachusetts Survey*

MLTC is in the midst of planning a training to help Massachusetts land trusts incorporate climate resilience into your land protection work. This training is being developed and offered in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and the Open Space Institute. The Land Trust Alliance has created a survey for land trusts in Massachusetts to fill out to help us frame the workshop and get a better understanding of the needs, perceptions, attitudes and work being done by land trusts in response to the changing climate. Please complete by Monday, February 26, 2018. at your earliest convenience. Click [here](#) to start the survey. Thank you!

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6) *Application Period Opens for 2018 Excellence in Energy & Environmental Education Awards*

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has announced it is now accepting nominations for its annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education until March 30, 2018. EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton will present awards this spring to Massachusetts teachers and students involved in school-based programs that promote environmental and energy education. Click [here](#) for information.

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NEWS

7) *Government Puts Outdoor Industry Size at \$373 Billion*

Excerpts from Outside, February 14, 2018 by Frederick Reimers

The outdoor recreation economy is officially a big deal. On February 14, the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released numbers detailing the economic power of the outdoor recreation industry, showing it comprises 2 percent (\$373.7 billion) of the entire 2016 U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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EVENTS

8) *"The APR Program - Looking Forward" Listening Sessions*

As the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program celebrates its 40th year, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is hosting a series of three (3) listening sessions to hear from the public about their ideas for protecting farmland for the future in Massachusetts. Titled "The APR Program- Looking Forward", these sessions are intended to be opportunities for you to recommend ideas and policy considerations for the APR program to meet the evolving needs of farming in Massachusetts and to address the challenges that can result from placing agricultural

land under a restriction for posterity. The dates and times are:

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 - 7:00 PM: The Red Barn at Hampshire College, 893 West St., Amherst (snow date, 3/6)

Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 - 7:00 PM: Middleborough Public Library, 102 North Main St., Middleborough

Wednesday, March 7, 5:30 - 8:00 PM: MassDEP Office, 8 New Bond St, Worcester between Reed Machinery and Abby Kelly High School (FACILITATED SESSION)

The Amherst and Marlborough sessions will have a presentation followed by a comment period. The Worcester session will have a presentation with small facilitated discussion groups afterwards. Click [here](#) for flyer. Written comments may be [submitted here](#) through March 31, 2018, or emailed to Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us Pre-registration is not required for any session but is recommended for the Worcester meeting by emailing Dorothy.Du@state.ma.us.

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9) MassWildlife Public Hearing to Extend Archery Deer Season

March 7, 2018, 7:00pm

MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

MassWildlife is proposing to open the archery deer season two weeks early in Wildlife Management Zones 10-14. To read the proposed regulatory language, please click [here](#). The current archery deer season opens across the state six weeks before Thanksgiving and closes the Saturday after the holiday. The proposed change opens the archery deer season in WMZs 10-14 eight weeks before Thanksgiving. In WMZs 1-9, the archery deer season would remain the same, opening six weeks before Thanksgiving. The proposed season change will increase hunting opportunities in a region where deer numbers are above management range goals. No changes were recommended for WMZs 1-9; deer numbers in those zones are within management range goals.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board will accept written public comment on the proposal at any time prior to the public hearing and for an additional two weeks after the hearing. Written and oral comments are accepted at the public hearing. Comments (both oral and written) must focus on the proposed regulation. Written comments can be mailed to:

Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board, c/o MassWildlife Director
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Public comments by e-mail may be sent to Susan.Sacco@state.ma.us, Attn: Fisheries & Wildlife Board.

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TRAININGS

10) UMass Extension's Invasive Plant Management Certification

In the last several years, there has been growing interest in invasive plants and their management. While turf and landscape professionals might be very proficient in the

development of a weed management program for turf and/or landscape, invasive plant management often reveals many new and unique challenges. This 4-day program is intended to help participants meet these challenges when attempting to develop an invasive plant management program as part of their business. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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11) "Bee the Change" Beecology Project Webinar

February 24, 2018, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Bumblebees play a role in maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity throughout Massachusetts, yet many species have declined in abundance at an alarming rate over the past decade for unknown reasons. The New England Beecology project aims to rapidly determine the major factors driving these declines by crowdsourcing the collection of field data on bumblebee-plant species interactions from across the state. Interested in becoming a 'beecologist'? Call in to the first Beecology Project Webinar "Bee the Change" on February 24th from 12pm-1pm. You'll get the buzz about bumblebees, online resources, and teach you how to use new smartphone apps (Android and iPhone) to conduct bumblebee research in your own backyard! Download the android app on our Facebook page: The Beecology Project RSVP on our Facebook Group: The Beecology Project: Bee the Change Webinar! See this link to connect: Go to (<https://zoom.us/join>) and join with this meeting code: 879303189

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12) Massachusetts Real Estate Professional Training

March 2, 2018, 9:00am - 12:00pm

John W. Oliver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA

Free training session! Learn how commercial farm buyers differ from other property buyers and what they look for in properties, PLUS how to reach them. Massachusetts real estate professionals will receive guidance, tools and resources to understand & describe what a commercial farm buyer looks for in a farm property such as soils, field acreage, buildings & infrastructure, water & forest resources, identify legal & tax issues relevant to farm properties, explore farm financing options, understand conservation easements & more! Plus discover helpful state and regional "land linking" programs. Not eligible for continuing education credits. Presented by Land For Good and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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13) UMass Keystone Project

Thursday, April 12, 2018 - Sunday, April 15, 2018

Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

The Keystone Project is an intensive, 3-day, retreat style training at the Harvard Forest which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land protection. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal

time to learn from fellow participants. For more information about Keystone or to download an application please visit www.MassKeystone.net. The application deadline is Monday, March 5, 2018.

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CONFERENCES

14) Mass Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Environmental Conference

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:00am - 4:00pm

College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Center, 1 College Street, Worcester, MA

The Annual Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Conference is coming up! For workshop descriptions and registration information, click [here](#).

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15) Rhode Island's Land & Water Conservation Summit

Saturday, March 10, 2018

University of Rhode Island Memorial Union, Kingston, Rhode Island

Don't miss out on Rhode Island's annual Land & Water Conservation Summit. Keynote speaker, Gus Seelig, Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, will speak about "Building Community Through Conservation: Lessons from 30 Years." At lunchtime, there will be a celebration of 15 years of land and water conservation in Rhode Island with two special presentations. There will be 32 exceptional workshops to select from. Registration for the day is only \$55 if you register by Friday, February 23. Click [here](#) to register and SAVE \$25. Registration increases to \$80 after February 23.

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16) Mass Audubon's Annual Birders Meeting

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 8:00am - 4:45pm

UMass Boston, Campus Centre, Ballroom, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA

Mass Audubon's Birders Meeting, the largest conference of its kind in New England, returns to the UMass Boston campus on Dorchester Bay Sunday, March 11, when hundreds of birding enthusiasts will gather to hear the latest avian news from experts, learn more about specific species, and reconnect with like-minded nature lovers they've met at previous Meetings. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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17) Facing Climate Change with Courage and Heart

March 18-21, 2018

Kripalu, The Berkshires

Join experts in the fields of climate change and resilience to explore activism, self-care, practical engagement, and effective solutions. Whether you are a concerned citizen

looking to get involved for the first time or you are already working on climate issues, this unique conference offers the opportunity to chart a way forward in the face of immense challenges. With an opening session that includes a special message from Bill McKibben via Skype, and a broad array of workshops addressing everything from global warming facts to ways of best communicating about this issue, learn how you can develop personal resilience to create successful global solutions. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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GRANTS

18) Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

Pre-Request For Responses: February 12- March 12

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, is seeking proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing an undersized, perched, and/or degraded culvert located in an area of high ecological value. Total funding available in FY19 is anticipated to be \$750,000. The purpose of this funding is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) Environmental Education Grant Program - Environmental Protection Agency

March 15, 2018 deadline

The Environmental Education Grant program supports environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) The Solutions Project: Fighter Fund

The Solutions Project unites science, business, culture, and community to accelerate the transition towards 100% clean, renewable energy for all people and purposes. The Solutions Project's Fighter Fund is a rapid response grantmaking program that provides support to pivotal frontline leaders accelerating the transition to clean energy in the United States. The Fund's interest areas include the following: state policy campaigns supporting 100% clean energy for 100% of the people; fossil fuel infrastructure resistance; indigenous organizing and indigenous led movements; supporting transparent, cleaner, and democratically controlled rural electric cooperatives; and community-owned clean energy demonstration projects in need of seed capital. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) Energy & Environmental Affairs FY 18 Conservation Assistance for Small Communities

March 30, 2018 deadline

The grant program provides funding to communities with a population of 6,000 people or fewer for the preparation of real property appraisals, Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs), and other planning efforts. Funding is non-competitive; all eligible applicants will receive contracts on a rolling basis until all available funding is allocated. Funding is available on a first come, first-served basis. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program

June 1, 2018 deadline

This grant program is authorized under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act for implementation projects that address the prevention, control, and abatement of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. In general, eligible projects must: implement measures that address the prevention, control, and abatement of NPS pollution; target the major source(s) of nonpoint source pollution within a watershed/subwatershed; contain an appropriate method for evaluating the project results; and must address activities that are identified in the Massachusetts NPS Management Plan. Proposals may be submitted by any interested Massachusetts public or private organization. To be eligible to receive funding, a 40% non-federal match is required from the grantee. The 319 grant round will look similar to last year but with an emphasis on implementation work in MS4 areas before such work becomes ineligible via the new NPDES permits, and support for projects with a land conservation component through the Healthy Watershed-types of projects. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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JOBS

23) President - Essex County Greenbelt

Essex County Greenbelt seeks a passionate, results-oriented President to lead the organization as it engages in conservation opportunities that are important to the diverse communities and constituencies it serves, and that contribute to the region's extraordinary quality of life. As Greenbelt looks towards its next chapter of leadership, it seeks a President who will embrace the organization's history while strategically and thoughtfully charting a course forward. Greenbelt is ready and eager to embrace its next long-term executive leader. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) Event & Outreach Coordinator - Essex County Greenbelt

Greenbelt seeks an enthusiastic professional, with a passion for the outdoors, for the new full-time position of Event & Outreach Coordinator. They will work as an integral member of the Development & Community Engagement Team to organize, support and manage an extensive calendar of year-round weekday, evening and weekend events. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2018. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) Steward - Western Region, The Trustees

The Trustees is seeking a Steward for the Western Region. The Steward is a member of the Trustees stewardship staff in the Western Region, employing the best professional practices to provide for safe and enjoyable visitor use of Trustees properties. The Steward performs routine maintenance and project-based work with other staff/volunteers and independently: cares for fields, trails, gardens, structures, and other natural and cultural features. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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26) Land Steward Program Coordinator - Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests seeks a well-organized, communicative, personable, and self-motivated individual for the position of Land Steward Program Coordinator. The successful candidate will have a four-year college degree in an applicable discipline, experience training and supervising adult volunteers, excellent oral communications skills, and significant outdoor stewardship skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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27) Land Acquisition Coordinator - Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is seeking an experienced and collaborative leader to join the Lands Administration and Recreation Division as Land Acquisition Coordinator. The successful candidate will work closely with the Director of Lands Administration and Recreation and other staff to advance FPR's land protection and easement stewardship goals. Responsibilities include identifying, developing and completing conservation projects, coordination and completion of associated due diligence, coordinating with Agency staff and partners, landowner relations and easement stewardship activities including annual monitoring. This position offers an impactful, demanding work opportunity with the Agency of Natural Resources. Interested candidates can learn more and apply before March 5th by searching for position # 622874 at <http://humanresources.vermont.gov/careers>.

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28) Conservation Restriction Stewardship Coordinator - Department of

Conservation & Recreation

The Department of Conservation and Recreation seeks qualified applicants for the position of Regional Planner III - Conservation Restriction Stewardship Coordinator within the Bureau of Resource Protection. The CR Stewardship Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of the CR Stewardship Program including overseeing completion of baseline documentation reports, monitoring CRs, landowner outreach, maintaining accurate paper and digital stewardship records, and ensuring sound stewardship procedures and protocols are developed and upheld. The CR Stewardship Coordinator will serve as the Program liaison with other DCR divisions, sister agencies and partner organizations on CR Stewardship issues. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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29) Land Conservation Program Administrator - Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is seeking a Land Conservation Program Administrator. Responsibilities include program administration, land records management, internal and external communications, fundraising and event planning, and conservation legacy agreement portfolio management. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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30) Seasonal Land Management Crew - Town of Lexington

The Town of Lexington Conservation Department is now accepting applications for the position of Seasonal Land Management Crew. This is a full-time, seasonal position lasting 16 weeks from mid-May through late August. Duties of the job include maintaining conservation trails, mowing conservation meadows, managing invasive species, restoring plant and wildlife habitat, building/repairing boardwalks, supporting volunteer stewardship efforts, and conducting outreach and educational efforts related to conservation land. The job will be open until filled; first consideration given to those who submit their application by March 30th. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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31) Project Assistant - Emerald Necklace Conservancy

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is seeking a Project Assistant. This individual will work closely with the Education and Operations departments to coordinate volunteers and programs designed to preserve, maintain, and protect the historic Emerald Necklace. Primarily, he/she will be responsible for developing curriculum and leading Sunday activities targeted to youth and families on topics such as invasive plants, habitat, woodland restoration, plant and animal ID. The position is a paid, part-time position starting mid-March. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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