



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

For more news and information, go to <<http://www.MassLand.org>>

Please send items of interest to <Info@MassLand.org>

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"One final paragraph of advice: Do not burn yourself out. Be as I am-a reluctant enthusiast... a part time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still there. So get out there and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains. Run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to your body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those deskbound people with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards."

-- Edward Abbey (1927-1989) American author and environmentalist -- from a speech in Missoula, Montana in 1978, published in High Country News under the title "Joy, Shipmates, Joy."

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MLTC News

1) A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING MLTC COORDINATOR BERNIE MCHUGH

Dear Friends in the Conservation Community,

For the past 12 years it has been my great pleasure and privilege to volunteer as the part-time Coordinator for the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. In that time, the Coalition has evolved from a small brown-bag lunch group to a service organization that strives to help all the Commonwealth's land trusts increase their individual and collective capacity to protect and steward land.

At the end of April I will be relocating to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for a year-and-a-half along with my wife, Frances Clark. With that transition, I am stepping down from the role of Coordinator. Why? Read the opening quote above from Lonesome Ed Abbey. As a city kid who was in his 30's before learning to love the outdoors, I am proof that we should never underestimate the power of providing *adults* with the opportunity to encounter nature and wildlife on their own terms.

I'm very pleased that I will remain engaged with the Coalition as a member of the Board. The success of the Coalition is not my doing, but yours. I have yet to meet anyone associated with a Massachusetts land trust who is not a passionate and committed advocate for the land. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience working with each of you. I hope to see many of you at Saturday's Conference.

Bernie McHugh

2) LAST CHANCE- 2011 MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE - [REGISTER NOW!](#)

When: Saturday, March 26, 2011 | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

This is your last chance to register for the 21st Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference, featuring 30 workshops on all aspects of land conservation. The conference is convened by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and The Trustees of Reservations' Putnam Conservation Institute. This year we are very pleased to welcome co-sponsors Mass Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and the Land Trust Alliance.

A limited number of walk-ins will be accepted at the door.

The 2011 Conference Theme is "Climate Change and Land Conservation" with a focus on raising awareness about climate change and ways in which land protection and stewardship can contribute to adaptation and mitigation strategies.

We are very excited to have as our keynote speaker Curt Spalding, EPA's Region 1 Administrator. Mr. Spalding will be talking about EPA's strategies for adaptation and resilience to climate change of natural resources, including the role of land conservation. Also speaking will be Rick Sullivan, Gov. Patrick's new Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Who should attend?

* Land trust volunteers, staff and *especially Board members!*

- * Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission members,
- * State, Federal & municipal agency staff
- * Elected & appointed officials
- * *Anyone else committed to land conservation in Massachusetts!*

Download the 2011 conference brochure and list of workshops at www.massland.org/files/MALandTrustConf2011.pdf

If you are attending a workshop, handouts and other materials are available on www.massland.org – select “New! 2011 Conference Materials” under Recent News.

Registration information and further details are available at www.massconservation.org and check out the conference [Facebook page!](#)

Action Alert

3) ASK YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO CO-SPONSOR EASEMENT INCENTIVE LEGISLATION

Please ask your senators and rep to co-sponsor new legislation in the 112th Congress to make the easement incentive permanent:

* **Urge Representatives to become *original* co-sponsors of the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, to introduced by Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA).** They can sign on by contacting Lori Prater Rep. Gerlach's office at 5-4315 or Carla McNeill in Rep. Thompson's office at 5-3311.

* **Urge Senators to co-sponsor the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act, S. 339, introduced by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA).** They can sign on by contacting Tiffany Smith of the Finance Committee at 4-4515.

Click [here](#) for new fact sheets and talking points from the Land Trust Alliance, including new [House](#) and [Senate](#) coalition letters signed by 64 agriculture, conservation and sporting organizations.

News

4) FIGHT LOOMS IN HARWICH OVER PRESERVATION FUNDING

--From *The Cape Cod Times* By Susan Milton, March 15, 2011

HARWICH — A possibly precedent-setting request from the town's finance committee to use Community Preservation Act money shows the concern of Cape towns facing multimillion-dollar payouts for wastewater projects.

The committee plans to ask voters May 3 to petition the state Legislature to permit Harwich to invest CPA funds in wastewater infrastructure as well as the act's current targets — affordable housing and open space, including recreation and historic preservation.

"There have been a lot of worthwhile Community Preservation Act projects in the past," finance committee co-chairman Albert Patterson said Monday. "But when you compare the needs for community preservation projects versus the need for wastewater treatment in all or part of town, I think it's a no-brainer to say wastewater treatment is the higher priority."

Harwich would be the first town to use the act's steady stream of money but would likely not be the last. All Cape towns are facing wastewater bills of hundreds of millions of dollars — an estimated \$441 million in Harwich, alone.

Read more of this article [here](#).

“Wastewater treatment to protect our bays, ponds and aquifer is the number one environmental issue for Cape Cod in the 21st Century. Trying to fund it on the narrow back of the Community Preservation Act, however, is not the way to go. There are lots of important societal needs to meet, but polluting the CPA's original intent will render this funding source meaningless for anything.”

--Mark H. Robinson, Exec. Dir., The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.

5) MASSACHUSETTS FOREST UPDATE - REVISED AND LOWER FOREST TAX VALUES

--from Mass Forest Landowners Association, March 2011

The new tax values for Chapter 61 and 61A woodlands listed in last month's Update turned out to be in error. The correct (and even lower) values for the fiscal year that begins July 1st are for an average value of \$59/acre for woodlands west of the Connecticut River (compared with \$75/acre in fiscal 2011), a reduction of 21.3%. Average values for woodlands east of the Connecticut River will be \$35/acre (compared with \$48/acre in fiscal 2011), a reduction of 27.1%.

The new valuations are the third year of declines in woodland values since the new Chapter 61 valuation formula was developed three years ago. Since 2009, values have declined 66% for woodlands west of the Connecticut River, and 68% for woodlands east of the Connecticut River.

To calculate what the tax bill for your woodland is under the FY 12 rates, you can use the Chapter 61/61A Forestland calculator on MassWoods by going [here](#).

6) CPA TRUST FUND ESTIMATE RELEASED

--from Community Preservation Coalition

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) has released a projection of the first round CPA Trust Fund distribution that communities can expect to receive on October 15, 2011. **DOR is estimating that the first round distribution will be 25% of the amount that communities raise from their local CPA surcharge.**

Cities and towns that have adopted CPA at the full 3% local surcharge will receive additional funds on the second and third distribution rounds, however it is still too early to estimate these distribution amounts.

Below is today's announcement from DOR's website:

During FY2011, 143 cities and towns collected the local Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge and are eligible for matching grants in FY2012. The Division of Local Services (DLS) estimates that the balance in the state trust fund will be sufficient to provide a first round match of 25 percent of the surcharge levied by each city and town. This will trigger a second round or equity distribution for those cities and towns that have adopted the maximum three percent surcharge. With the equity distribution, the total reimbursement for qualifying cities and towns will increase, depending on their decile and total surcharge amount. Please note that these estimates are subject to change depending on Registry collections between now and September.

Click [here](#) for an explanation of the formula used to distribute CPA trust fund payments

A distribution rate of 25% on the first round represents a decline from last year's 27%. The Community Preservation Coalition has been advocating for passage of *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation* - a bill

designed to stabilize and strengthen the Community Preservation Act. One of the most important amendments in this bill would increase the annual minimum CPA trust fund distribution. Learn more about [An Act to Sustain Community Preservation](#).

Questions? Call the Coalition at 617-367-8998 or [visit our website](#).

Wildlife News

7) BEARS AND BIRDFEEDERS

--from *MassWildlife News*

If you feed birds and live in northern Middlesex County, Worcester County, or western Massachusetts, it's time to think about removing bird feeders before bears emerge from hibernation. Snow melt and longer day length will begin to encourage bears to leave their winter dens and seek food. In many cases, bears will ignore natural foods such as skunk cabbage and instead head to the nearest birdfeeder for a good meal. To avoid this problem in central and western Massachusetts, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) is issuing its seasonal reminder that bird feeders should be taken down by mid-March and other preventive steps be taken. "There is little in the way of natural foods and bears learn to seek out high-energy human foods such as bird seed," says Laura Hajduk, DFW Bear Project Leader. "This may lead to conflicts that pose hazards to both bears and people." Removing bird feeders will not create a problem for birds as birdfeeders are more of a supplement to the natural foods available throughout the winter. Massachusetts is home to approximately 3,000 resident bears, with the majority living west of the Connecticut River. Although many bears keep to their dens during the winter, some can be sporadically active and can seek out human related food sources.

Bears have excellent long-term memories and remember which foods are available at different seasons, as well as where food sources can be found. Even if a feeder is inaccessible to bears, they will be attracted by the scent of seed and suet. Once they find a feeder, bears will return. Bears are generally shy and fearful of people, but deliberate or indirect feeding, coupled with a lack of harassment can cause bears to become accustomed to people. If bears lose their fear of people and develop a taste for human foodstuffs, bears can become bolder and may cause damage that ultimately results in harm to people or to the demise of the animal.

If a bear is passing through a neighborhood without stopping, enjoy the sight. However, if the bear stops to feed on trash, bird seed, or other human generated foods, remove them after the bear has left and advise your neighbors to do the same. Generally, due to their fear of people, bears tend to leave a yard when people step outside and make loud noises. Keep garbage in airtight containers, securely stored in a cellar, garage, or shed. Put trash out on the day of trash pickup, not the previous evening. Keep doors to sheds and barns latched or locked to prevent bears from finding grain. Don't feed pets outdoors. Don't dump sweet or meaty items in compost piles as bears will soon find them. In residential areas where bears are known to be present, the entire neighborhood must take recommended actions or bears will move from yard to yard seeking food. Hajduk noted that taking these actions also reduces problems with other common wildlife species such as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. More black bear information is at:

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bears.htm

Conferences

8) 5TH ANNUAL MUDDY RIVER SYMPOSIUM

Sustainability, Public Health, and the Politics of Urban Parks

April 28, 2011

4:30-7:30 pm

Wheelock College

43 Hawes Street

Brookline Campus

For more information, contact Michael Berger: 617-521-2722 or bergerm@simmons.edu

Registration is open: <http://muddyriversymposium.eventbrite.com/>

Workshops

9) SUCCESSFUL TECHNIQUES FOR FUNDRAISING:

March 29 - 8:30 am - 12 noon

Tewksbury Holiday Inn

4 Highwood Drive

Tewksbury, MA

Free (lunch included)

Join presenters Win Brown, Vice President of Administration at Lowell General Hospital; Phil Hall of the Parker Foundation; and Robin Toof, Co-Director of Center for Family, Work, and Community at UMass Lowell for a discussion of:

- *grant writing and fundraising
- *cultivating major donors
- *timing of major fundraising efforts
- *attracting a new generation of donors
- *outreach efforts to new constituencies
- *benefit of market research in strategic planning for major fund drives

More information available [here](#).

Events

10) MANOMET CO-SPONSORS *THE WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL*

March 25 and 26 in Boston

Manomet is pleased to be a nonprofit sponsor of the third annual *The Wild and Scenic Film Festival* to be held March 25 and 26, 2011 in Boston. The festival will be hosted by "[e](#)" inc., the environment science learning and action center. *The Wild and Scenic Film Festival* is the largest environmental film festival in the United States. Created eight years ago by a small group of riverkeepers in California, the festival is designed to inspire by showing actions and ideas from around the globe on a wide array of environmental issues. This two-day event includes film shorts MC'd by National Public Radio's Bruce Gellerman and an opening night reception with a panel discussion on *The Future of Energy*, hosted by WBUR's Robin Young. Day two will include shorts, documentaries, and animations from around the world, and an evening finale of wonderful foods and wine from some of our area's great eateries, followed by a feature documentary just released "CarbonNation." The Film Festival evening is rounded off with dessert and a silent auction. For more information about Boston's *Wild and Scenic Film Festival*, and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

11) REGIONAL DEER MANAGEMENT FORUM - MARCH 29

7:00 pm - March 29

Visitors' Center

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

Representatives of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will speak about practical aspects of whitetail deer management. This will be a forum for town conservation commissions, land trusts and conservation partners who are interested in solutions to deer population-related problems.

Tom O'Shea (Assistant Director, Mass Wildlife) will discuss hunting access in Massachusetts while Sonja Christensen (Mass Wildlife deer and moose biologist) will discuss deer management. Town representatives who have worked to adopt a deer management program will discuss their experiences, and local hunters will share their perspective. The goal will be to build a support system and begin to plan a path for the management of our deer populations on a regional level. This meeting will take place **at 7:00 pm on March 29th at the Visitors' Center at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA).**

12) WOMEN SUSTAINING WOODLANDS - FOREST STEWARDSHIP 101

Swift River Sportsman's Club
Belchertown, MA
Saturday, April 16
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

If you love forests and/or if you are in a position to shape the management plan for a local woodland, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman's Forest Stewardship workshop, to be held in **Belchertown on Saturday, April 16th**, is right for you. What do you want from your woodland? Spend the day with foresters and wildlife biologists learning to read the woods and how to devise a plan that will make a woodland meet your needs. Whether this is your own land or land that you influence as a trustee or committee member, you owe it to yourself to learn to explore the land and to ask cutting edge questions. Join us for an enjoyable day in the woods learning some key techniques of land management!

Registration materials available soon [here](#).

Resources

13) BIOMAP2 NOW AVAILABLE ON MASSGIS!

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and The Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed *BioMap2* in 2010 as a conservation plan to protect the state's biodiversity. *BioMap2* is designed to guide strategic biodiversity conservation in Massachusetts over the next decade by focusing land protection and stewardship on the areas that are most critical for ensuring the long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats, exemplary natural communities, and a diversity of ecosystems.

Please visit <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/biomap2.htm> for full details and a link to the free data download (a set of 13 feature classes).

The BioMap2 Core Habitat and BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscapes layers may be viewed at <http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap2.htm>.

14) DECIDING THE FUTURE OF YOUR LAND CHECKLIST

--from *MassWoods Forest Conservation Program*

If planning the future of your land seems too complicated, download our Deciding the Future of Your Land Checklist. This checklist provides a step-by-step breakdown of important information to collect, conversations to have, and professionals to contact. Break it down into manageable, bite size steps. Our checklist can help.

Download the [checklist](#)

15) VIEW THE "YOUR LAND, YOUR LEGACY" WEBINAR

--from *MassWoods Forest Conservation Program*

Check out a recording of the recent, 'Your Land, Your Legacy: Deciding the Future of Your Land' webinar. This webinar discusses the role of estate planning as it pertains to land and its conservation, provides tips on family communication towards goal setting for the land, outlines the professionals that woodland owners should seek for assistance, and illustrates examples of landowners using estate planning tools to reach their goals.

[View the webinar](#) (high speed connection needed)

[Download a PDF](#) of the "Your Land, Your Legacy" publication.

[Request a free hard copy\(ies\)](#) of "Your Land, Your Legacy"

16) NEW FROM TECHSOUP

[Intuit QuickBooks 2011](#)

The latest version of QuickBooks — Intuit QuickBooks 2011 is now in stock at TechSoup! Available for Mac and in 1- and 3-user versions for Windows, QuickBooks 2011 Premiere assists in paying bills, tracking expenses and payments, and includes a nonprofit-specific version with built-in features for grant tracking, financial reporting, and IRS Form 990 data. New in 2011: instantly generate batch invoices, quickly locate accounts with QuickBooks Search, and send invoices directly to Yahoo!, Gmail, or Hotmail accounts.

[Free Download: Sunbird](#)

Sunbird is an open-source calendar and scheduling application. Users can send and accept appointment requests and receive reminders for upcoming appointments.

[New Refurbished Servers and Tablet PCs in from RCI](#)

TechSoup's Refurbished Computer Initiative (RCI) connects nonprofits and libraries with high-quality refurbished computer equipment while creating environmentally friendly alternatives to the disposal of used computers.

We've recently updated our catalog with a new server product and with our first tablet PC. It is great for nonprofits that work in the field, featuring a Core 2 Duo processor, which means more speed, reduced energy consumption, and superior multitasking ability compared with Pentium 4 or M processors. All refurbished hardware is protected by a 90-day warranty. [Learn more about RCI.](#)

[Keep Files Safe with Symantec Backup Exec 2010](#)

Protect your valuable donor, constituent, and project information with Symantec's desktop security software. Backup Exec 2010 R2 (admin fee: \$100) is an enterprise-level program, meaning it provides continuous data backup protection for systems and applications running across entire networks. New in this version: helpful installation and setup wizards as well as a backup recommendation tool that identifies weaknesses in your data protection.

Grants

17) EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The U. S. EPA's [Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#) (EJSG) supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The Program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health issues in their communities. Successful collaborative partnerships involve not only well-designed strategic plans to build, maintain and sustain the partnerships, but also to work towards addressing the local environmental and public

health issues. The EPA is now accepting grant applications (**through March 31, 2011**) for a share of \$1.2 million in funding to support projects designed to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EJSG funding is available for two categories of projects: 40 grants of up to \$25,000 each, to support projects that address a community's local environmental issues through collaborative partnerships, and; 4 grants of up to \$50,000 each, to support research on the environmental and human health impacts of exposure to multiple sources of pollution in communities. Click [here](#) for more info and [here](#) to download the FY 2011 Application Guidance document.

Jobs

18) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH MASS AUDUBON

Director of Development for Sanctuaries and Programs

Immediate opening for a Director of Development for Sanctuaries and Programs in Mass Audubon's Development department. Reporting to the Vice President for Philanthropy, the successful candidate will be a highly skilled and seasoned development professional who will oversee fundraising for Mass Audubon's statewide system of wildlife sanctuaries and conservation programs. Responsibilities include developing and executing plans to maximize philanthropic revenue for operating, capital, and endowment needs. This is an excellent opportunity to work with a dynamic development team and environmental leaders to advance an ambitious conservation mission. *More information available [here](#).*

Public Relations and Communications Manager

Immediate opening for a Public Relations and Communications Manager in Mass Audubon's marketing department. Individual will manage public relations and media activities for the organization, which includes proactively identifying, developing, and pitching stories to external media; responding to media inquiries; and when necessary, acting as a spokesperson for the organization. He/she will be responsible for maintaining close working relationships with the news media, as well as Mass Audubon staff and volunteers. Other responsibilities include serving as editor of Mass Audubon's statewide newsletter, Connections, working closely with the Internet Marketing Manager to coordinate print and online marketing and communication activities, and providing media and communications support and training to staff throughout the organization. *More information available [here](#).*

Wildlife Care Supervisor

The Wildlife Care Supervisor is primarily responsible for the the health and overall care of resident wildlife. S/he supports the Wildlife Program Coordinator by designing and conducting teacher naturalist trainings as it pertains to the use of wildlife, training of program animals, and other aspects of the operations of the Wildlife Care Unit. The Wildlife Care Supervisor co-supervises the assistants and volunteers in the department. *More information available [here](#).*

19) SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR, THE TRUSTEES OF REERVATIONS

The Southeast Regional Director (SERD) serves as the internal and external leader for The Trustees of Reservations' operations in Southeastern Massachusetts. The Director reports to the Executive Vice President and provides overall strategic and operational leadership for all Trustee's activities in a region encompassing Cape Cod and the Islands as well as the South Coast and Buzzards Bay including the cities of Fall River, New Bedford and the Taunton River Watershed.

Qualifications:

10-plus years of progressively responsible management of staff and programs in the nonprofit sector.
Demonstrated management and leadership expertise and a track record of

effectively leading an outcomes-based operation and staff.

Strong commitment to staff development and a successful track record of recruiting, retaining and leading a diverse team.

Proven experience in implementing new programs, especially those targeted to new and more diverse constituencies.

Managing change in a complex organization.

Outstanding communication and presentation skills and the experience and proclivity to be an outstanding spokesperson and relationship builder.

For complete job description, click [here](#)

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