



**MASSLAND E-NEWS**

**The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community**

**April 29, 2011**

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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*"Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites."*

*-- William D. Ruckelshaus (b. 1932), first EPA Administrator, as quoted in Business Week, June 18, 1990 --*

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**MLTC News**

- 1) MASS LAND TRUST COALITION NEW PHONE NUMBER!**

You can now reach the Mass Land Trust Coalition at our new phone number: (978) 443-2233. Give us a call! We'd love to hear from you.

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## News

### **2) SPECIAL BUDGET UPDATE**

*--from Environmental League of Massachusetts*

Good News on the Environmental Budget! Today the House took up amendments to the House Ways and Means environmental budget that increased funding by a total of \$3.9 million dollars.

Increases to the House Ways and Means budget included:

- \* \$1.4 million for the main DEP account
- \* \$700,000 for DCR state and urban parks
- \* Restoration of the line-item for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program at \$150,000
- \* \$60,000 for the Division of Ecological Restoration
- \* \$275,000 for recycling (had been zeroed out in HW&M's budget)
- \* Inclusion of specific language to ensure that the Toxics Use Reduction Institute receives its share of funding
- \* \$300,000 for the Dept. of Agricultural Resources for its "buy local" programs
- \* \$527,000 for DCR's Office of Water Resources (includes a large earmark).
- \* \$500,000 for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife account within the Dept. of Fish and Game

Also included was language that directs DFG to detail a plan for a long term funding solution to dam repairs and maintenance including the feasibility of a revolving loan program and utilization of seaport bonds and directs DCR to develop a plan for long term funding solution for repairs and maintenance of seawalls.

While in the case of DEP and DCR these increases do not get us to the levels included in the Governor's budget, they are now a good starting point for our fight in the Senate. It's not too early to contact your state Senator and urge him or her to support increased funding for our environmental agencies. The Senate Ways and Means Committee will release its budget in mid-May.

We want to thank our champions-Vice-Chair of HW&M, Rep. Steve Kulik, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee Anne Gobi, Rep. Frank Smizik, Rep. Carolyn Dykema, Rep. Cleon Turner, Rep. Jay Kaufman, and Rep. Paul Donato. Please take a moment to thank these Representatives who made the case to their colleagues about the importance of our environmental agencies and programs.

Also, thanks to everyone who made calls or contacted their House members during past week. We heard from many House members that they were hearing from constituents. Your efforts helped!

On to the Senate-stay tuned.

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### **3) ADMINISTRATION MARKS EARTH DAY WITH CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO LAND PROTECTION, SETS 500,000-ACRE FOREST CONSERVATION GOAL**

BOSTON – April 22, 2011 – In celebration of Earth Day and reflecting the Patrick-Murray Administration's precedent-setting commitment to land conservation, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr. today announced a 500,000-acre goal for two programs designed to "keep forests as forests."

To meet this forest conservation goal over the next four years, the Administration will work with private woodland owners and professional foresters to augment approximately 420,000 acres of forest already protected from development. Land owners who place their properties under professional forest management plans and enter into long-term commitments to keep their land forested receive property tax incentives.

During the past four years, Governor Deval Patrick has led an unprecedented land conservation effort, resulting in the permanent protection of 75,000 acres of land – 84 percent of which is forested. Partnerships with private and community organizations have also been instrumental in safeguarding the Commonwealth's most undisturbed large forest landscapes – 14,000 acres in ten premier forest habitat reserves.

Read more of this press release [here](#).

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## Public Hearings

### 4) COMMENT ON NEW OHV RULES

--from Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup - 4/29/11

Illegal riding of off-highway vehicles (OHVs - including ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles) can cause serious environmental damage. While some areas have appropriate, designated trails, illegal riding on areas not designed for motorized use is a widespread problem. Ruts and erosion caused by illegal OHV use can be severe, harming wetlands, wildlife, and endangered species. In response to these concerns, last year the Legislature passed An Act Regulating the Use of Off-Highway and Recreation Vehicles - a Mass Audubon legislative priority.

The new law strengthened requirements for registration of OHVs, increased penalties for illegal riding on public or private lands, and created new education requirements for young riders. It also established a dedicated fund for fees and fines to be applied to support enforcement and the acquisition and maintenance of legal riding trails.

To implement the new law, revisions to state regulations are being adopted. This is a positive step, but the proposed regulations need to be strengthened and clarified in order to fully achieve the intent of the law.

You can help by submitting comments during public hearings or in writing. Suggested points:

- \* Support strong enforcement against illegal riding, especially where sensitive areas such as wetlands, vernal pools, and rare species habitats are impacted.

- \* Request that the regulations be amended to clarify that riding in any wetland or vernal pool, at any time of year, is prohibited. The clause about wetlands being posted (in section 323 CMR 3.03(10)) should be deleted - the law prohibits riding in all wetlands, and does not require them to be posted.

- \* Support a system where riding is allowed only on designated, clearly marked trails.

#### **Public hearings details:**

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

6:00 - 9:00 pm.

Massachusetts Environmental Police Headquarters

251 Causeway St.

Boston, MA 02114

Thursday, May 12, 2011

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Quinsigamond State Park

10 North Lake Ave.

Worcester, MA 01612

**Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 13, 2011.** Submit to:

Attn: OHV Regulation Comments, Suzette Pacheco  
Massachusetts Environmental Police  
251 Causeway St., Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02114

**Submit via Email to:** [OHV.SafetyCourse@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:OHV.SafetyCourse@MassMail.State.MA.US)

Subject Line: OHV Regulation Comments

**Via fax** to (617) 626-1670

For more information see the public hearing notice [here](#)

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## Workshops

### 5) BECOMING AN OUTDOORSWOMAN STRIPER FISHING WORKSHOP

The Cape Cod Salties, our partner in this workshop, tell us that times and tides will be right, stripers will be in and instructors will be on hand to help beginning adult women learn to catch Bluefish and Striped Bass. The workshop itself will take place on Saturday May 14 from 10AM - 4 PM. However, the best fishing is from about 4 PM to dark, there will be mentored fishing opportunities for participants on Friday night, May 13, Saturday night, May 14 and even on Sunday. Special lodging rates will be available from the Inn at Swann River, West Dennis for those who want to stay over and we will make arrangements for those who want a guide while fishing the evening tide. You must have a [saltwater fishing permit](#). Registration is limited to 15 participants. Register now! [Registration materials](#)

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## Events

### 6) NEW ENGLAND FORESTS EXHIBITION OPENS MAY 21

At Harvard Museum of Natural History's new Zofnass Family Gallery

On Saturday, May 21, 2011 the Harvard Museum of Natural History will debut the new Zofnass Family Gallery with the opening of New England Forests, a permanent multi-media exhibition that explores the natural history and ecology of our regional forests, their responses to human activity, and their environmental significance. The museum will offer a special preview of the new gallery with a reception for museum members on Thursday, May 19, 2011. To complement the exhibition, the museum will sponsor a fall 2011 series of public lectures, workshops, and symposia featuring Harvard faculty and other experts.

*Read more of the press release [here](#).*

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### 7) THE SECRETS OF FIELD NOTES: CAPTURING SCIENCE, NATURE, AND EXPLORATION

*Tuesday, May 10, at 6:00 pm*

Editor Michael Canfield, lecturer in biology at Harvard, will discuss what makes these notes and journals so important, the secrets they reveal, and how they can help us cultivate skills as a bird watcher, citizen scientist, or adventurer. *Free and open to the public, Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street. Co-sponsored by Harvard University Press.*

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### 8) BACKYARD INVASIVES

*--from Conservation Common*

May 7, 2011

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Brookwood Farm at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton

What makes an invasive species invasive? How did they get here and how can we control them? Join a DCR Forestry Ranger to learn answers to these questions and field identification instruction of the most common invasive species in the area. Begins at 1:00 PM and lasts for 1.5 hours.

*More information available [here](#)*

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## Resources

### 9) NEW FROM TECHSOUP!

#### [Enroll in Online Courses from easyLearning](#)

Get technology and professional training with 1,500 online courses from easyLearning (admin fee: \$85 for 10 courses). Learn technical skills like web design, networking, and database construction, and business skills like project management, strategy, and operations. These courses are available at all levels, from beginners to experienced users looking to build on the knowledge they already have. In addition to nonprofit staff, courses are also available to constituents of organizations that provide workforce and job-skills training.

#### [Coming Soon: Boost Fundraising with GrantStation](#)

Mark your calendars! On May 3 and 4, 2011, nonprofits and libraries can get a one-year membership to GrantStation for only \$99 — a \$300 discount off the regular administration fee. Identify thousands of private and government grantmakers with GrantStation's online database and use the step-by-step tutorials to secure funding. Already have a GrantStation membership? Add another year during this two-day offer.

#### [Put Your Presentations Online with SlideRocket](#)

Build presentations and share them online or in person with cloud-based tools from SlideRocket. SlideRocket (admin fee: \$24 – \$144) lets you go beyond traditional text and image slides with video, audio, and narration. You can even embed flash animation, Flickr streams, YouTube clips, plus your Twitter feed and Facebook wall. Up to 25 people can watch your presentation live on SlideRocket's website. Or, embed your presentation into your own site so anyone can watch and interact with it at any time.

#### [Now in Stock: Mapping and Directional Software from Microsoft](#)

Get where you need to go and help others find their way with Microsoft's mapping software. This software includes customizable trip-planning features, from driving directions to calculating mileage and costs.

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### 10) THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF FARMLAND PROTECTION

*--From American Farmland Trust*

In many places, the real estate market has collapsed, taking some pressure off farmers in the path of development—but also sapping farmland protection of its urgency. Forward-thinking communities understand that this is an ideal time to invest in protecting working lands. Learning from the past, they are preparing for the inevitable time when development picks up again. And they're taking the larger view, finding ways to protect farmland with innovative programs and fewer resources.

[Read about the changing landscape of farmland protection.](#)

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### 11) DIVISION OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Check out DER's 2010 Annual Report [here](#). Click [here](#) to access the 2011 Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months Calendar on DER's web page.

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## Grants

### 12) FY 12 PARC AND LAND GRANT OPPORTUNITY - DEADLINE JULY 14<sup>th</sup>

The Division of Conservation Services announces the opening of the FY 12 grant round. PARC funding is available for the acquisition of parkland or the development or renovation of a park. LAND funding is available for the acquisition of conservation land. The maximum grant award for both grants is \$500,000. **Please attend an informational grants workshop on May 4, 2011 at 10:00 am at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston or May 10, 2011 at 11:00 am at 101 University Drive, Suite C4, Amherst.** RSVP to Melissa Cryan at [melissa.cryan@state.ma.us](mailto:melissa.cryan@state.ma.us) or 617-626-1171 for the PARC grant program or Celia Riechel at [celia.riechel@state.ma.us](mailto:celia.riechel@state.ma.us) or 617-626-1187 for the LAND grant program. **Grant deadline is July 14, 2011 at 3:00 pm.**

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### 13) USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR MA ORGANIC FARMERS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PRACTICES

--From Conservation Common

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced another funding opportunity for certified organic farmers and those transitioning to organic production to implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations. Fiscal year 2011 marks the third year of USDA's Organic Initiative.

The financial and technical assistance available through the initiative will help Massachusetts farmers to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production. For example, conservation practices might include planting cover crops, establishing integrated pest management plans, constructing seasonal high tunnels, or implementing nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards.

While applications are accepted on a continuous basis, the cutoff date for this application period is set for **May 20, 2011**. Producers interested in applying for EQIP Organic Initiative funding must submit applications through their local NRCS Service Center, which can be located through the Web site at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Program information is available at [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov)

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### 14) NATIONAL GRID FOUNDATION SEEKS PROPOSALS

--from Conservation Common

The National Grid Foundation endeavors to improve the quality of life within its grant making area (focusing on the New York Metropolitan area, upstate New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island) by supporting educational opportunities that assist people of all ages advance their opportunities for self sufficiency. The Foundation seeks to develop partnerships with outstanding organizations that benefit the communities in which it makes grants. Grants (typically in the range of \$5,000-\$25,000) are made on a competitive basis to non-profit organizations for programs and projects that fall within its major areas of focus: Education and Environment. Environmental priorities include: projects that support the sustainability of our natural resources; programs and projects that inspire and educate young people about their connection to and responsibility for the preservation of the environment; and projects that seek to preserve open spaces for future generations. **Proposals for a given year will be accepted and reviewed on a first come/first served basis through October 31, 2011.** [http://www.nationalgridus.com/commitment/d3-6\\_giving.asp](http://www.nationalgridus.com/commitment/d3-6_giving.asp)

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### 15) FEDERAL FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICATIONS - Deadline May 6

--from Conservation Common

Massachusetts State and Local Governments, Non-governmental Organizations and Tribes May Apply for Federal Farmland Protection Program. The MA state office of the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications from state and local units of government, federally recognized Tribes, and non-governmental organizations for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). FRPP provides up to 50 percent matching funding for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands. Landowners may not apply directly to NRCS for this program. NRCS only accepts FRPP applications from eligible entities that have a farmland protection program that purchases agricultural conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use and related natural resource conservation benefits. Applications for federal funding must be submitted by 4:30 pm on Friday, May 6, 2011 to the NRCS State Office, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA, 01002. For more information on FRPP in Massachusetts, visit [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html) or contact Barbara Miller, State Resource Conservationist, at 413-253-4380 or [barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov).

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## Jobs, Internships & Volunteering

### 16) TTOR SEEKS HILLTOWN CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

The Trustees of Reservations and the Hilltown Land Trust (HLT) have formed a permanent partnership in order to more effectively pursue their common land conservation goals in the Hilltowns region of western Massachusetts. The part-time Hilltown Land Trust Executive Director / Trustees Hilltowns Conservation Coordinator ("ED/HCC") is an employee of The Trustees of Reservations, with primary responsibility for implementation of HLT's and The Trustees' joint conservation vision for the Hilltowns. The ED/HCC provides organizational leadership to the Hilltown Land Trust; conducts land conservation transactions for both HLT and The Trustees within the Hilltowns; coordinates the relationship between The Trustees and HLT; and represents both organizations within the broader community. A complete position description is available at <http://www.thetrustees.org/about-us/employment/current-openings/hlt-executive-dir-cons.html>. Please send resume and cover letter to [mriviera@ttor.org](mailto:mriviera@ttor.org) with subject line "HLT ED/HCC application". Applications will be considered as they are received.

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### 17) LAND MANAGEMENT INTERN, LINCOLN LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

The LINCOLN (MA) LAND CONSERVATION TRUST (LLCT) is pleased to announce the availability of at least two internships for motivated individuals. The LLCT is a private, non-profit organization (located approx. 16 miles west of Boston) helping to administer approximately 2,000 acres of protected open space, including management of almost 80 miles of trails. While hours are flexible, the positions require 30-40 hours per week and a vehicle. Each position provides ample opportunity for continuing field studies.

The land management interns carry the primary responsibility for maintaining the trails and land management activities on Land Trust properties. Will also work closely with Town of Lincoln Conservation Department staff on maintenance and special projects on Town conservation land. Anticipated compensation is \$11.00 – 12.50 per hour, depending upon experience and skills. Formal training is less important than initiative, organization, and enthusiasm for independent outdoor work.

Serious inquiries should be addressed to LLCT Anna Wilkins, Outreach Coordinator at [wilkins.llct@lincolnconservation.org](mailto:wilkins.llct@lincolnconservation.org), or to Box 6022, Lincoln Center, Massachusetts 01773, or by fax to (781) 259-9251. And include a current resume and references.

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### 18) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AMPHIBIAN MONITORING

We are seeking volunteers willing to adopt pre-selected routes in Massachusetts as part of a long-term amphibian monitoring program. The North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP) was created to coordinate national and local efforts to collect long-term data on amphibian populations across much of the United States. NAAMP relies on volunteer monitors as a cost-effective way to gather long-term data over broad geographic areas. These efforts are coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey and a network of Regional Coordinators. The Massachusetts coordinator is Scott Jackson at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Routes are established by NAAMP based on a national protocol. Monitoring routes are run four times each year during the amphibian calling season. These runs are done at night, according to a set protocol, and usually take 1.5 hours to complete plus travel time. The most reliable data are obtained when they are collected year after year by the same volunteers. Thus it is our preference to recruit volunteers that imagine that they might stick with a route for an extended period of time.

For more information about the NAAMP in Massachusetts go to: <http://www.massnaamp.org/index.html>

For a list of available monitoring routes go to: <http://www.massnaamp.org/routes/index.html>

If you are interested in adopting a route please contact Scott Jackson ([sjackson@umext.umass.edu](mailto:sjackson@umext.umass.edu); 413-545-4743).

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