



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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"It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit."

-- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) Scottish Essayist, Poet and Author --

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MLTC News

1) RENEW YOUR MLTC MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Support MLTC's free e-news, listserves, website resources and land trust workshops, and avoid missing out on discounts to the 2012 Mass Land Conservation Conference. Renew your membership today!

If your organization is not a member, you can join now! Get a 2011-2012 membership form [here](#)

Not a Land Trust? Become a [Friend of the Coalition!](#)

Not sure if you're a member? Check the list of current members [here](#)

The MLTC membership year runs from July 2011 to June 2012.

News

2) MLTC URGES PARTICIPATION IN EEA OUTDOORS SURVEY

MLTC urges all land conservationists in Mass. to participate in the SCORP surveys now being compiled by the Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. It's very important that the results of these surveys underscore the need for a sustained level of land acquisition by the state for protection of natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities.

Under the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), states work closely with the National Park Service to analyze recreation needs, set priorities for funding, and supervise and coordinate the selection of projects. In order to remain eligible for funding from the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant program, the National Parks Service requires every state to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years – the SCORP is the state's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and provides regional data for the entire state.

To help inform the SCORP process and guide future use of LWCF funds, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is conducting three surveys to gather data from Commonwealth residents, land trusts, and community officials. **Please participate in the surveys below that apply to you and forward them to others too:**

- 1) [User Survey](#) (for Commonwealth residents)
- 2) [Land Trust Survey](#) (for directors, staff, board members, etc.)
- 3) [Community Officials Survey](#) (for municipal employees, park and recreation directors, conservation agents, community planners, etc.)

3) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

--from ELM Bulletin

Good news on the "dam" front: This week the Senate advanced the legislation dealing with dam inventories, inspections, repairs and removal sponsored by Senator Marc Pacheco (S. 367). The bill has been reported out favorably by the Senate Ways and Means Committee with only minor tweaks. We expect it to pass in the Senate and will turn our attention to moving it through the House.

The full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

For further information, please contact Nancy Goodman, ELM VP for Policy, at ngoodman@environmentalleague.org

4) BERKSHIRES PROJECT BENEFITS WILDLIFE HABITAT & RECREATION

BOSTON – July 20, 2011 – In keeping with the Patrick-Murray Administration's unprecedented commitment to the protection of open space, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner Mary Griffin today announced that a public-private partnership between DFG and the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) has resulted in the permanent protection of 290 acres of conservation land in West Stockbridge. These newly protected public lands feature recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, and bird watching, while preserving critical habitat for waterfowl and several rare plant and animal species.

“This conservation project is vitally important for protecting wildlife biodiversity, providing recreational opportunities and conserving open space in the Berkshires, and is a prime example of the land conservation legacy the Patrick-Murray Administration is building,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr., whose office includes DFG. “Since 2007, under the leadership of Governor Patrick, the Commonwealth has taken action to permanently protect more than 75,000 acres of land across the state.”

Located in the southwest corner of West Stockbridge, the new parcel includes 273 acres just north of the Massachusetts Turnpike, which will be named the Flat Brook Wildlife Management Area. The acquisition incorporates an additional 17 acres south of the Turnpike into the existing Maple Hill Wildlife Management Area. Both properties will be managed by DFG’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), which oversees more than 190,000 acres of conservation land in Massachusetts, all of which are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and nature observation. The acquisition provides public access to Crane Lake, Flat Brook, and Cranberry Pond, which will greatly improve fishing opportunities in the area.

“Most of the acreage we purchased is core habitat for several state-listed species of rare plants and animals, and it is superb habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife,” said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin. “The acquisition of these rich and productive lands along Flat Brook is a highlight of our land protection accomplishments this year, and we’re especially pleased to have accomplished this with the invaluable assistance of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council.”

More of this press release available [here](#)

5) CELEBRATION OF LAND ACQUISITION IN NEWBURY

24.5-acre parcel adds key acreage and enhanced access to state Wildlife Management Area

Officials from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game’s (DFG) Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board were joined by conservation partners today to celebrate the recent addition of a 24.5-acre parcel to the Commonwealth’s Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

“Acquiring this land preserves an important wildlife habitat and underscores the Patrick-Murray Administration’s commitment to land conservation,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr., whose office includes DFG. “We couldn’t have achieved this without the help of our partners in Essex County and the town of Newbury.”

The new addition to the Martin Burns WMA brings a key parcel to the 1,600-acre property owned and managed by MassWildlife. This purchase prevented the fragmentation of habitat that would have occurred if the area was developed. Preservation of this parcel will protect vital upland forested habitat for vernal pool species such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders.

More of this press release available [here](#)

Events

6) GREENBELT’S WILD EDIBLES WALK WITH RUSS COHEN

Sunday, July 31st

1:00-3:00 pm

Tompson Reservation, Gloucester

The mixed habitat of the Tompson Reservation is great for mushrooms and other wild edibles. Join us as Russ guides us along the rugged terrain of the 300-acre reservation.

The Essex County Greenbelt walks are held the last Sunday of every month. Walks begin at 1:00 p.m., are conducted at a moderate pace, and last approximately two hours unless otherwise noted. Sensible clothing and footwear, as well as insect repellent in the warmer months, are encouraged. Registration required for each walk. Please email smd@ecga.org or call (978) 768-7241 ext.10.

More information available [here](#)

7) NATIVE FERNS OF NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday, August 3rd

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cambridge Public Library, Main Branch

Free

[Grow Native Massachusetts](#) presents Don Lubin, noted fern expert, collector and educator. Learn about the life cycle of ferns and their evolutionary history, spanning 400 million years. From among New England's 68 native species, we will examine twenty of those most commonly found. This survey will include detailed photographs, techniques for field identification, and a look at the adaptive niche that each species occupies. Don Lubin has been teaching about ferns for over a decade and he grows 44 species in his small yard in Allston. He has collected more than 50 herbarium specimens and has identified previously unrecorded taxa at several locales in Massachusetts.

Resources

8) NEW FROM TECHSOUP!

Just Added: QuickBooks Made Easy

Access donated QuickBooks training CD-ROMs and [live instructional seminars](#) with QuickBooks Made Easy, now available in TechSoup Limited. Training CD-ROMs (admin fee: \$46) are designed exclusively for the nonprofit sector. Live seminars (admin fee: \$20) are also nonprofit-specific and led by CPA Gregg Bossen, who's been teaching QuickBooks for over ten years. **Quantities are very limited.**

Updates to the Sage Donation Program

New to the Sage Payment Processing service, Sage Mobile Payments converts your cell phone, smart phone, or tablet into a secure and convenient portable credit card terminal. Learn more here (PDF). Plus, constituent management and accounting programs in the Sage Donation Program are now available to nonprofits and libraries with annual budgets of up to \$500,000. This means more organizations can take advantage of donated Sage Peachtree Premium Accounting, Sage Act!, and Sage Simply Accounting software.

New at TechSoup: Donated Flip Video Bundles

Cisco has launched a new Flip Video Donation Program with TechSoup: UltraHD and MinoHD video cameras are now available to eligible organizations. These video cameras are ideal for documenting your organization's work in action. With one-button operation, even staff or volunteers with little technical knowledge can record, edit, and upload video to the web.

[Bundle of six MinoHD cameras](#) (admin fee: \$55)

[Bundle of two UltraHD cameras plus a tripod](#) (admin fee: \$28)

Featured Product: Build Databases with Caspio

Caspio Bridge (admin fee: \$48) gives you the tools to create searchable online databases and customize them to your organization's needs. Caspio hosts the databases, saving your organization computer and server space. This cloud-based tool provides helpful wizards for database creation, either from scratch or from existing database files, so you don't have to do any actual programming.

9) NEW BOOK FROM LTA: APPRAISING CONSERVATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENTS

This new publication will help you learn the intricacies of the appraisal process as applied to conservation and historic preservation easements. Drawing on legal, regulatory and professional appraisal literature, this comprehensive text examines the valuation of conservation and historic preservation easements from the contradictory perspectives of the IRS, the courts, easement-holding organizations and appraisers. Author Richard J. Roddewig, MAI, CRE, FRICS, covers:

*the history of easements

*general land use considerations

*valuation methodologies to be applied to specific easement-related appraisal assignments

*detailed examples and sample sections of appraisal reports relating to various easement properties and appraisal situations

This book, a joint project between the Appraisal Institute and Land Trust Alliance, goes well beyond earlier publications on this topic. Order this book from the Land Trust Alliance website [here](#)

Cost: \$60 for LTA members, \$75 for non-members

10) MERGER RESOURCES FROM BLUEAVOCADO.ORG

--From RI Land Trusts E-News

For some, just the word "merger" can bring on a feeling of pathos and dread, because many people assume only groups in trouble would consider the option. But organizational mergers can actually be a sensible way for two or more successful organizations to restructure in order to maximize efforts, share expenses and reach new audiences.

The website Blue Avocado has some interesting print resources on mergers. You can download a PDF of [The M Word: A Board Member's Guide to Mergers](#), a 30-page booklet from CompassPoint Nonprofit Services. And you may be interested in an article entitled: [Should You Be Considering a Merger?](#)

Blue Avocado has many other related resources. *More information is available [here](#)*

Grants

11) WILLIAM P. WHARTON TRUST PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS DUE SEPT. 15

Fall Round Preliminary Application Deadline: Thursday, September 15, 2011 by 2:00 pm EDT

The Trust supports projects that directly promote the conservation, study, and appreciation of nature, including:

- 1) Natural areas preservation, primarily in Massachusetts and New England, including funding acquisitions of land for conservation purposes,
- 2) Management techniques designed to improve environmental quality and species diversity,
- 3) Bird and forestry research and management, especially at the applied level rather than the theoretical or molecular level, and
- 4) Creation of materials or projects designed to foster an appreciation of and a concern for wildlife and natural systems.

More information available [here](#).

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Jobs

12) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FELLS ESTATE AND GARDENS - NEWBURY, NH

The Fells Estate and Gardens, located on Lake Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire, has initiated a search to fill the full-time position of Executive Director. Our new executive Director will play a key role in building on our past success and taking The Fells to the next level. He or she will work closely with the Board and staff to prioritize new projects. The Executive Director will also take a lead role in an extensive capital campaign to raise the necessary funding to support this next phase of our development. This is a unique opportunity for a motivated candidate to be part of an exciting and transformational time in the history of The Fells.

Qualifications include a minimum of five years of senior management experience, non-profit preferred, with a proven track record of success and achievement. Horticulture, ecology and/or history background desired. College degree (BS, BA). Cover letters and resumes may be sent to fellssearch@gmail.com. Please go to [http://www.thefells.org/stories/storyReader\\$109](http://www.thefells.org/stories/storyReader$109) for more details regarding the job description and requirements.

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