



**MASSLAND E-NEWS**

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

**October 15, 2010**

**Volume 10, Number 14**

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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](mailto:Info@MassLand.org)>

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*"The more we exploit nature, the more our options are reduced, until we have only one: to fight for survival."*

-- Morris K. Udall quotes (American Congressman, 1922-1998) --

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Thank you for subscribing to MassLand E-News. Please forward this to friends, family and colleagues interested in Massachusetts land conservation issues, and encourage them to subscribe.

To subscribe, send an email request to [Info@MassLand.org](mailto:Info@MassLand.org)

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## MLTC News

### 1) LAST CHANCE TO BUY CELEBRATION TICKETS!

*Tickets are going fast for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition!*

## BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

**Guest Tickets \$40 each - VIP Tickets \$100 each\***

***TICKET SALES END OCT. 15!***

*Buy Tickets [Here](#)*

**Friday, October 22, 2010**

**6:00 p.m. VIP Reception - 7:00 p.m. Celebration  
Riverview Banquet Facility at the Hudson Portuguese Club  
14 Port Street, Hudson, Massachusetts**

***NEW! Bid via Email or Live on Our Auction Items:***

***"Great Escapes to Great Landscapes"***

1. A Weekend at the Edward Hopper House on Cape Cod Bay
2. Two Nights at AMC's Maine Lodges
3. Two Nights at TTOR's Inn at Castle Hill
4. Two Nights at a lovely Cottage in Westport from Mass Audubon  
...and more!

*Want to bid on a "Great Escape to a Great Landscape" but simply can't make it to the Celebration? We are accepting advance bids on our four "Great Escapes." Simply email your offer to Lindsey at [lsarquilla@MassLand.org](mailto:lsarquilla@MassLand.org) and we'll enter it into the live auction!*

*More details coming soon to [MassLand.org](http://MassLand.org)!*

### **Join Your Friends & Colleagues for a Night Honoring these Champions of Conservation!**

Jack Clarke, Buzz Constable, Joel Lerner, Bob Levite,  
Bob O'Connor, Pamela Resor, Wes Ward & Fred Winthrop  
also being honored are Don Henley & George Wislocki, who cannot attend  
(Click [here](#) for pix & bios of our Honorees!)

**Special Guest Speaker - Nationally Renowned Conservation Attorney  
Steve Small**

**Help Support the Coalition by becoming a Patron or Sponsor of this Celebration!**

**Patrons \$500 for Two - Sponsors \$250 for Two\*\***

*Sponsor and Patron tickets include a tax-deductible contribution to MLTC*

*Click [here](#) to learn more!*

**Deadline for Patrons and Sponsors to be included in the program is October 15th! Buy your tickets [NOW!](#)**

**Visit [MassLand.org](http://MassLand.org) for Details!**

*\*Includes admission for One to VIP reception and dinner*

*\*\*Includes recognition in the program book and admission for Two to the VIP Reception and dinner*

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## Calls for Proposals

## 2) MASS LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE- CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 21st Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference will take place on **Saturday, March 26, 2011** in Worcester, MA. The Conference Planning Committee is now seeking proposals and ideas for workshop topics, to be **submitted by October 25, 2010**. They welcome rough concepts, suggestions, or fully developed proposals.

The conference is an annual, day-long training and networking event that provides land trust board members, staff, volunteers, municipal commission members, and others interested in land conservation with the information, skills, and connections they need to be most effective. It is co-hosted by The Trustees of Reservations' Putnam Conservation Institute and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

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

The 2011 conference will offer the following eight workshop tracks:

- \* Communities, Parks & Urban Conservation
- \* Conference Theme: Climate Change and Land Conservation
- \* Emerging Issues & Special Topics
- \* Land Management & Stewardship
- \* Land Protection Tools & Techniques
- \* Legal, Tax and Compliance Matters
- \* Organizational Management & Fundraising
- \* Working Lands & Natural Resources

To submit a proposal or an idea, click [here](#).

All submissions **received by October 25, 2010** will be considered.

If you have questions about the submission process please contact Miriam Scagnetti at (978.840.4446 x1935; [miscagnetti@ttor.org](mailto:miscagnetti@ttor.org))

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## News

### 3) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT NEWS

--from Community Preservation Coalition

#### **CPA Trust Fund Distribution Announced**

The Department of Revenue (DOR) released the Community Preservation Trust Fund disbursements for each CPA municipality.

Although trust fund revenue was strong during the first half of the year, collections began to slip in March, reflecting weakness in the market for home sales and a decline in mortgage refinancings. As a result, trust fund disbursements will be less this year for most CPA communities.

Click [here](#) for DOR's distribution spreadsheet and specifics on the disbursement to your community.

#### **State Legislature Passes Updates to Open Meeting Law**

Recent changes in the state's Open Meeting Law will affect how Community Preservation Committees operate. The changes cover use of meeting agendas, email discussions among committee members, minutes of CPC

meetings, conducting executive sessions, and use of documents and exhibits during meetings. The new rules took effect in July 2010, so CPC members should spend a few moments understanding the changes. Read on for more information on this law [here](#).

#### **CPA: Preserving and Restoring Historic City & Town Hall Buildings across the Commonwealth**

CPA funding has been used on the restoration and rehabilitation of an impressive number of historic City and Town Hall buildings across the Commonwealth. In fact, at least 67 communities have used CPA funds on these projects! This is especially significant in this time of fiscal constraint, as many of these projects would not have been able to happen without CPA. The Boston Globe acknowledged the critical role of CPA for these projects in an [editorial](#) last year.

Click [here](#) to view photos of several of these impressive town hall restoration projects from across the state.

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#### **4) TRAILS PLAN FOR DCR'S MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION RELEASED**

--from ELM Bulletin

**Even if you don't live near or use the Fells, please read on and consider commenting on this plan as this approach has implications for all DCR properties and how and when management decisions get made.**

On Monday, September 20th, DCR presented a draft Trail System Plan for the Middlesex Fells Reservation. The Fells is a heavily used property in the midst of a densely populated area and there is a history of user conflicts and illegal trail use. In particular, mountain bikers have been urging DCR to open up more trails for their use, although the plan addresses other needs and uses as well.

Given the complexity of the site, the significant natural resources documented on the site including rare species, wetlands, and vernal pools, and the potential impact of expanding trail uses, several environmental groups and the Friends of the Middlesex Fells called on DCR to undertake a full Resource Management Plan and make the Trails Plan a component of the RMP. While the good news is that DCR has agreed to begin an RMP process for the Fells this November, the Draft Trails Plan still recommends a number of significant changes be implemented prior to the full RMP being completed.

ELM, MA Sierra Club, Mass Audubon, AMC, and TTOR have written to DCR asking for clarifications about decisions and timing and urging DCR to conduct the full RMP process before any significant management decisions are made.

Comments on the draft Trail Plan are due on November 19th. The draft can be found at

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr>

Scroll down to Middlesex Fells.

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#### **5) MLEV RELEASES 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD**

The Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters has released its Environmental Scorecard. Check it out [here](#)!

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#### **6) DRAFT BIOMASS REGULATIONS RELEASED**

The Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources recently released a draft proposed regulation that details what criteria woody biomass facilities would have to meet to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits under the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This draft regulation was informed by the study sponsored by the state and led by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences entitled, "Biomass Sustainability and Carbon Policy". **Comments can be submitted through Thursday October 21, 2010** at [doer.biomass@state.ma.us](mailto:doer.biomass@state.ma.us)

A public hearing on the proposed regulation will be held on Friday, October 15th at:  
Berkshire Community College Koussevitsky Arts Center  
1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA  
3:00-5:00 pm

Further information, including the proposed regulation, an overview of the proposed regulation, and the full study can be found [here](#).

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## **7) FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ISSUES PLAN FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE ERA**

By Andrew Freedman, *ClimateCentral*, 9/28/10.

Calling global climate change 'the transformational conservation challenge of our time,' the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a new climate change [strategic plan](#) on Monday, which represents a significant shift in the agency's approach to protecting species. The plan puts a heavy emphasis on the need for the federal government to work closely with state and local agencies, academia, and private groups as climate change alters the suitable habitat for many species across the country. As the plan notes, climate change is already shifting habitat and threatening species large and small, from polar bears to alpine plants.

In the history of wildlife conservation, the Service and the larger conservation community have never experienced a challenge that is so ubiquitous across the landscape. Our existing conservation infrastructure will be pressed to its limits -- quite likely beyond its limits -- to respond successfully,' the plan states. The agency, which is part of the Interior Department, announced several concrete measures to respond to climate change, including placing a high priority on helping species adapt to changing temperatures and precipitation patterns, and to sea level rise. The FWS plans to establish a network of regional hubs for scientific research and information sharing, to be known as [Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#), which will serve as a scientific research and information sharing arm of FWS and its partners. The scientific data produced from these cooperatives would be incorporated into FWS' plans to help species adapt to the effects of climate change.

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## **Wildlife News**

### **8) DRIVERS, BREAK FOR MOOSE AND DEER THIS FALL**

Because fall is the breeding season for both moose and white-tailed deer, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reminds motorists to be mindful of increased deer and moose activity, especially during early morning and evening hours. September and October are the peak of the breeding season for Massachusetts' small but expanding moose population in central and western Massachusetts. The breeding season (also known as "the rut") for white-tailed deer closely follows the moose breeding season, running from late October through early December.

Because moose have no natural predators in Massachusetts and are protected by law from hunting, these large members of the deer family are unwary as they move through populated areas. During the mating season this indifference is magnified by the "tunnel-vision" created by the urge to reproduce.

Be aware and heed "Moose and Deer Crossing" signs erected by highway departments. Motorists are advised to slow down and drive defensively should a moose or deer be spotted on or by the road. Moose are less likely to move from the road than deer; braking for moose is your best policy. Police and other departments involved in moose or deer/car collisions are reminded that while drivers are allowed by law to keep white-tailed deer they have hit, only the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife or the Environmental Police can make decisions regarding the disposition of moose involved in vehicle collisions. All moose or deer/vehicle collisions should be reported to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife District offices. The Environmental Police Radio Room is open 24/7 and can be reached at (800) 632-8075

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## Events

### 9) AZTEC TWO-STEP TO PERFORM IN ASHBURNHAM--OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

**October 16, 2010 at 8:00 PM**, the folk/rock group Aztec Two-Step will be at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium (9 Oakmont Dr., Ashburnham, MA) for a special performance to benefit the Ashburnham Conservation Trust, an organization dedicated to land conservation in Ashburnham and surrounding communities. **Tickets are \$25** for the concert and **can be purchased by calling 978/827-6427, via PayPal at [www.ashburnhamconservationtrust.org](http://www.ashburnhamconservationtrust.org), or by visiting the Ashburnham Family Pharmacy on Main St.** This is the fourth in a series of annual fall concerts to benefit the Trust. The proceeds of the prior concerts enabled the Trust to partner with the State to purchase Mt. Hunger, a 170 acre tract of land with a key portion of the Mid-State Trail corridor and a spectacular overlook.

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### 10) YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST PROGRAM LUNCH

--from ELM Bulletin

The next YEP session will be held on **Wednesday, October 20th from 12-1:30** at the ELM office (14 Beacon St., Suite 714, Boston) instead of Wednesday, October 13. We will be joined by Tedd Saunders, [CEO of Ecological Solutions, Inc](#), which provides innovative environmental solutions for the hospitality industry. Mr. Saunders is on the cutting edge of those working to make hotels more environmentally sound, and he is a dynamic speaker. Come learn what it takes to green a business from the inside out.

Please encourage your interns and junior staff to attend.  
For questions or to RSVP please contact [Eugenia Gibbons](#).

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## Workshops

### 11) NEW IRS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND TRUSTS

Tuesday, October 26

6:30-8:30 pm

Providence, RI

Presenter: Katharine G. Estes, CPA

Sponsor: RI Land Trust Council

**Free, Registration Required**

The IRS has added new reporting requirements on the 990 Form for Land Trusts. They want to know:

- \*What are your stewardship costs?
- \*What are your stewardship expenses?
- \*How many volunteer hours were spent on stewardship?
- \*What are your valuation policies for accounting for conservation easements?

This workshop will discuss these new reporting requirements and how to prepare for filing your land trust's tax return.

**Information & Registration:** Rupert Friday (401) 932-4667, [rfriday@rilandtrusts.org](mailto:rfriday@rilandtrusts.org) (please say: "990 Workshop" in subject line)

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### 12) MAKING VITAL CHOICES: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, October 28

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Boston, MA

Sponsor: Third Sector New England

Cost: \$99 *lunch is included*

Strategic Planning - All too many strategic plans sit on a shelf and gather dust. Other nonprofits use their strategic plan all-year round as a vital decision-making tool. This interactive workshop will guide you past the “Dilbert” jokes and laundry lists of nice ideas so that your organization’s strategic plan will be indispensable.

You will learn about:

- \* Mission statements that drive decision making;
- \* Developing criteria to choose between options;
- \* Strategic thinking even when time is short;
- \* Engaging the team in planning;
- \* Hearing from stakeholders;
- \* Identifying community involvement and impact; and
- \* The link between planning and fundraising.

Program Development - the work horses of organizational strategy: its programs. Many groups make false starts in developing programs or do not know how to renew or retire old ones. In this hands-on workshop, participants will develop their own new program through real-life case studies. Case studies will focus on testing and sharing vision for new programs, research with stakeholders, and design of program elements. Participants will also be introduced to how to develop staffing patterns, budget, evaluate and fundraise for new programs.

**Information & Registration:** <http://www.tsne.org>

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### **13) BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN: WOMEN SUSTAINING WOODLANDS**

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Harvard Forest

Petersham, MA

Cost: \$35

Forest Stewardship can take many forms and may include management for sustainable timber production, for wildlife habitat, for recreation, or for a combination of purposes including the preservation of rare species and habitats.

At this workshop, professional foresters and wildlife experts will provide an introduction to reading a forested landscape and formulating your individual stewardship goals. Then we will head into the woods for some hands-on experience. Fall is the perfect time to learn how to evaluate the resources of a piece of land and also how to move your forest management and wildlife objectives forward. Share your questions and experiences with other women who share an interest in understanding the forest.

More details available [here](#).

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## Conference

### **14) MACC CONFERENCE STIMULUS PACKAGE!**

*Register Now - Bring a Friend - Save Money!*

MACC is offering a one-time only opportunity to attend the 2010 Fall Conference

~ HOT TOPICS! NEWS YOU CAN USE ~

**Full price (\$90) for the first registration and HALF-PRICE (\$45) for the second registration!**

Reserve your seat now for an interesting day of varied topics. You can find the conference agenda, list of speakers and registration [here](#).

Dates are **Saturday, October 23rd in Wellesley** and **Saturday, November 6th in Northampton**.

An exciting day filled with useful information and great networking. We are giving out a special spiral notebook with pen to take notes, and a 1 GB flash drive with all the presentations for you to take home. *Morning refreshments and a boxed lunch are included*

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## **15) SOCIAL CHALLENGES OF WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE**

November 9

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Plymouth Radisson, Plymouth, MA

COST: Elected or Appointed Town Officials: \$35

Non-Profit and Academic: \$35

Everyone Else: \$55

The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences is pleased to announce the first conference on the Social Challenges of Wind Energy.

Join us on November 9 as we examine efficient and science-based ways to talk about wind energy. Hear from community leaders, developers, conservationists and social outreach experts who have firsthand experience with wind power permitting and development. Panelists will discuss projects that faced significant social challenges and projects that were permitted and built without acrimonious opposition.

Attendees will receive a collection of the panelists' best practices for wind energy outreach and discussion. [Sign up here](#) to discover a more effective way to determine appropriate wind energy sites. Please click here to visit the conference's [web page](#) to sign up for this event and read updates. A conference agenda is available [here](#).

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## Resources

### **16) NEW FROM TECHSOUP!**

#### **[2010 Microsoft Visual Studio Products Now Available](#)**

TechSoup just added four Microsoft Visual Studio products updated for 2010. Visual Studio tools are geared toward individuals and teams developing applications for Microsoft products.

#### **[Free Download: CutePDF Writer](#)**

CutePDF Writer is the free version of commercial PDF creation software. CutePDF Writer installs itself as a "printer subsystem" and enables virtually any Windows application to create professional-quality PDF documents.

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### **17) SURPLUS OFFICE FURNITURE**

The Nature Conservancy offices in Boston are combining into a new space in 2011. TNC is looking for like-minded organizations to sell (and possibly donate) surplus furniture and equipment to. If you have a need for used office furniture, cubicles, equipment, or supplies, please contact Meg Connerton at [mconnerton@tnc.org](mailto:mconnerton@tnc.org) or 617.227.701 ext. 325. Some items are available immediately, others will be available no later than January 2011.

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## Grant Opportunities

## **18) US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE/NORTH AMERICA WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**

**Deadline: October 28, 2010**

This is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act). Grants are available to partners who can provide at least a 1:1 in non-federal match in support of wetland and associated upland habitat protection. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Contact the [Joint Venture Coordinators](#) to help you assess the competitiveness of a project, to provide information on bird conservation plans and priorities in your area and for help developing an application. Contact them if you are considering submitting an application or if you have any questions.

The contacts are:

Andrew Milliken (413) 253-8269, [andrew\\_milliken@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_milliken@fws.gov) or  
Mitch Hartley (413) 253-8779, [mitch\\_hartley@fws.gov](mailto:mitch_hartley@fws.gov)

More details available [here](#).

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## **19) OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE'S SAVING NEW ENGLAND'S WILDLIFE GRANT**

The Open Space Institute is pleased to announce a third grant round for *Saving New England's Wildlife*. Interested non-profit conservation organizations and agencies are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for capital and non-capital grants (amplification grants). Please note that the application process, including the deadlines, is different for the two types of grants.

For details on the *Saving New England's Wildlife* capital grants, please click [here](#). For the amplification grant information and deadline click [here](#).

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## **20) DISNEY WORLDWIDE CONSERVATION FUND**

**Inquiry Deadline: January 1, 2011**

The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) manages an annual cash awards program to support efforts to study and protect the world's wildlife and ecosystems that also involve community participation and address human needs. Along with a focus on species and habitat conservation science, DWCF encourages programs that engage local residents and benefit both human and animal communities.

The fund's interests are in furthering the support of established conservation programs - particularly those long-term in nature - that contain a strong scientific field studies component; promote education, awareness, and training in country (education programs); and demonstrate a marked benefit to in-country participants, habitats, and species by working with local communities, regional/national non-governmental organizations, and government agencies that directly impact the initiative.

Application is by invitation only. Emails of inquiry are accepted on an ongoing basis. The fund recommends that inquiries be submitted no later than January 1, 2011 to be considered for an invitation to apply. Invited applications will be due by January 25, 2011. More details available [here](#).

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## **21) 2011 MASS RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM - STATEWIDE TRAILS EDUCATION GRANTS**

**Deadline: February 1, 2011**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration is now accepting applications for the Recreational Trails Program - Statewide Trails Education Grants. This is the first round of educational grants which will be awarded under the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program and will likely become an annual offering through the program, dependent upon funding.

The RTP will award 2-3 new grants with a maximum award amount of \$10,000 focused on statewide trail education initiatives which address all user groups in Massachusetts (motorized and non-motorized). The deadline for this grant application is February 1, 2011.

Please visit the Recreational Trails Program website for grant guidelines, application materials, and paperwork guidelines: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/regionalGrants.htm>

Contact **Amanda Lewis**, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator with any questions at [amanda.lewis@state.ma.us](mailto:amanda.lewis@state.ma.us) or 413-586-8706 ext. 19.

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## **Jobs**

### **22) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING, ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT ASSOCIATION**

*Full-Time Position*

The Director of Community Outreach and Marketing reports to the Executive Director and is a member of Greenbelt's senior management team. The Director will implement a strategic marketing plan and be responsible for brand, image and position. The Director plays a leading role with the board, staff and volunteers to strategically position the organization, manages the relationship with constituents, attracts new markets, and delivers a clear, consistent message to enhance the Greenbelt brand through a variety of media.

More details available [here](#).

#### **To Apply:**

Please send a resume and cover letter electronically to [smd@ecga.org](mailto:smd@ecga.org) by close of business Friday, October 29th, 2010.

No phone calls please.

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### **23) CONSERVATION RESTRICTION PROGRAM MONITORING SPECIALIST, TTOR**

The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) is dedicated to the protection of exceptional landscapes throughout Massachusetts. Perpetual conservation restrictions (conservation easements) are an important tool for accomplishing The Trustees' land protection goals. Conservation restrictions (CR) allow landowners to place their properties under permanent protection while retaining ownership of the land. The Trustees currently has responsibility for 340 conservation restrictions on more than 19,000 acres of land statewide.

The Conservation Restriction Monitoring Specialist is a full-time position reporting to the CR Program Director. It is based at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster and requires frequent travel throughout Massachusetts. The primary responsibility is to see that every CR is monitored every year, documented with a written report, and (together with the CR Program Director) any issues resulting from the monitoring inspection is addressed in a timely manner. An ideal candidate will be highly motivated, energetic, able to handle multiple

responsibilities, be comfortable working in both an office setting and outdoors year-round, and be able to coordinate and motivate a diverse group of staff and volunteers.

More details [here](#).

### **Application Instructions**

Please email resume, cover letter, & references to [crodstrom@ttor.org](mailto:crodstrom@ttor.org) (emailed responses preferred), Subject line "CR Monitoring Specialist Search". Regular mail submission should be sent to:

Attn: CR Monitoring Specialist Search  
Trustees of Reservations  
464 Abbott Avenue  
Leominster, MA 01453

No phone calls, please.

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## People

### **14) ENVIRONMENTALIST TERRY BLUNT DIES AT 69, PROTECTOR OF SPECIAL PLACES**

--By Dan Crowley, Daily Hampshire Gazette

NORTHAMPTON - Terry A. Blunt, a West Hatfield resident who worked for decades to protect lands in the Connecticut River Valley from development, died Saturday at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Blunt, 69, was known for his fierce commitment to environmental betterment in the Valley and for working behind the scenes to stretch scarce funding and enlist even dubious landowners in the cause of preservation.

For more than a quarter-century, Blunt led the former state Department of Environmental Management's Connecticut Valley Action Program. In that work, he guided efforts to safeguard natural resources, working with both public and private agencies to create a tapestry of protected lands along essential waterways and habitats in the Valley, from the French King Gorge to the Mount Tom Range.

"It's definitely in the thousands of acres that he's been instrumental in protecting," said Jennifer Howard, director of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation's Land Protection Program. "He's had a huge impact on what the Connecticut Valley looks like. It's just mind-boggling."

As director of the Connecticut Valley Action Program, Blunt was a key player in the creation of the approximately 3,500-acre Connecticut River Greenway State Park. The belt connects open spaces, parks, scenic vistas, archaeological and historic sites along the length of the river as it winds through Massachusetts. It includes the 12-mile Connecticut River Water Trail from Hatfield to Turners Falls, a passage that is a haven for canoeists and kayakers.

Colleagues say Blunt went about his work methodically, patiently and passionately. Early on, he held a series of meetings with stakeholders up and down the river, forging partnerships and listening to various constituencies, recalled Howard who worked with Blunt for 18 years. He spearheaded action plans that would later become a blueprint for land conservation, management and recreation along the Connecticut River.

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

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