



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

February 1, 2010

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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

Please send items of interest to Info@MassLand.org

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"Conservationists have to win again and again. Developers only have to win once."

-- David Ross Brower (1912 - 2000), environmentalist, founder of Sierra Club Foundation, Friends of the Earth, League of Conservation Voters, Earth Island Institute, first Executive Director of the Sierra Club --

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26) Miscellany - Order a "Land & Water" License Plate & Support Land Protection!

27) BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION

Thank you for subscribing to MassLand E-News.

Please forward this to friends, family and colleagues who are interested in Massachusetts land conservation issues and encourage them to subscribe.

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MLTC News

1) **20th MASS. LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE - MARCH 27, WORCESTER!**

2010 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
and The Trustees of Reservations' Putnam Conservation Institute

Saturday, March 27, 2010, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

\$42 if you register by Mar 12; \$62 after Mar 12 (Box lunch available for additional \$12)

MLTC members get \$10 off

"Basic" Members & Friends receive ONE registration at reduced rates. "Plus" Members & Friends (\$250 and up) receive SIX registrations at reduced rates. Uncertain about your membership status?

Check online at: <http://www.massland.org/?q=member-list>

2010 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Join 400 of your closest friends for the largest statewide land trust training day in the nation! Anyone can attend - Land Trust Board Members, Volunteers and Staff; CPA Committees, Conservation Commissioners, Municipal Employees, Open Space Committees, Students, etc.! More than 30 workshops on all aspects of land conservation.

Learn the nuts and bolts of what it takes to conserve land for everyone, forever. Join novice and long-time conservationists for a wide array of workshops and legal, financial, political and social realities of land conservation. This conference almost sold out last year, so be sure to register early.

View the Conference Schedule and Workshop Descriptions:

<http://www.massland.org/?q=node/33>

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

<https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=043e3196-b4bb-45c1-88b7-9e4dd9c210b9>

This year's workshops include:

- * *Increasing Support for Land Conservation: The Role of the New England Governors' Commission*
- * *Nonprofit Fundraising 101*
- * *Creating Baseline Documentation Reports for Conservation Restrictions*
- * *Drafting Conservation Restrictions to Stand the Test of Time*
- * *Protecting Land in Massachusetts: The Basics of Planning & Funding Projects*
- * *How to Talk to Your Legislator and Advance Your Agenda*
- * *Taxing Matters: Land Trusts, Property Taxes and Charitable Exemption*
- * *Growing Your Organizational Membership in Tough Economic Times*

- * *State Funding Opportunities for Land Trusts and Municipalities*
- * *Restoring Conservation Lands and Assessing Ecological Restoration Opportunities*
- * *Understanding the Legal Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards*
- * *Recordkeeping Essentials for Land Trusts*
- * *Getting the Grant: Tips from a Grant Seeker and a Grant Maker*
- * *Managing Conserved Land: The Basics of Effective Stewardship*
- * *Legal Roundtable: Open Q&A With Expert Panel*
- * *Conserving Lands Held by Religious Institutions*

EXHIBITORS INVITED TO DISPLAY AT CONFERENCE

We invite you to publicize your products, organization, and/or services at the Mass. Land Conservation Conference. It's a great way to put yourself in front of the best land conservation people in the nation! All tables must be reserved prior to the conference; they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$75 for prime space (front entry area), and **FREE** for non-prime space (hallway in front of auditorium)

To reserve an exhibit space please contact MLTC Clerk Cynthia Henshaw (chenshaw@eqlt.org) 413.477.8229). Registration forms are available online at: http://www.massland.org/files/2010_MLCC_Exhibitor_Form.pdf

Conference registration is NOT included in your exhibitor registration. You must register separately at: <https://guest.event.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=043e3196-b4bb-45c1-88b7-9e4dd9c210b9>

JOIN MLTC - GET DISCOUNTED ADMISSION FOR YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION!

Remember - MLTC members and friends get a reduced rate for the Conference. Paid-up MLTC Basic Members (\$50/year) and Friends get ONE reduced-rate admission; MLTC Plus Members (\$250/year) get up to SIX reduced-rate admissions.

Is your organization a Member or Friend of MLTC? Check out our list at <http://www.massland.org/?q=member-list>

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THIS CONFERENCE DEPENDS ON VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN - PLEASE SIGN UP!

- * Labeling & stuffing folders for all conference participants
- * Setting up 13 workshop rooms, the registration, and the exhibitor area
- * Registration Desk Crew
- * Returning 13 workshop rooms and lobby area to original condition

Let Us Know If You Can Help

Contact Conference Director Andrea Freeman (afreeman@ttor.org) ; 978.840.4446 x1929)

News

2) FURTHER CUTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES IN GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

-- From Mass Audubon, Environmental League of Mass. and The Nature Conservancy MA Office

The Governor's FY 2011 budget (see it at: http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy11h1/brec_11/sect_11/h200.htm) has been released and as expected, the environmental agencies have been hit once again. The cuts amount to 6.4%

on top of even more significant cuts the Governor made this fiscal year (called 9C cuts). Compared with the final budget passed in FY 09, the environmental agencies have seen an 18% drop in funding!

The 6.4% figure is based on removing about \$5.3 million dollars included in the Governor's environmental budget for recycling as those funds are dependent on the passage of an expanded bottle bill which the Governor includes as an outside section. We also are not counting \$1.6 million that appears in a DEP Toxics Use Retained Revenue account, as that amount will be passed through to UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute.

Among the many impacts of the additional losses are a \$3.3 million hit to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)'s state and urban parks, and a \$1.4 million drop in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s enforcement and compliance program funding. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, part of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), continues to go unfunded. These cuts also extend to unfilled positions and job losses - DCR is down 200 employees, while DEP has lost 150. Riverways is level-funded from last year, but down roughly \$260,000 from their peak of \$650,000. MassGIS has been moved out of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) into the Information Technology Division of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, reflecting the statewide nature of the program. MassGIS environmental analysts remain within EEA. This program has been hobbled by budget cuts, and we hope that the move will result in better support for the critical data infrastructure and analysis which MassGIS provides.

Those agencies with the biggest budgets - DCR and DEP - see the biggest hits. All comparisons below are based on the difference between the Governor's FY 2011 budget recommendations and the most recent FY 2010 figures that include the 9C cuts.

Department of Environmental Protection--DEP's administrative line-item which covers most of DEP's compliance and enforcement work is cut an additional \$1.4 million; hazardous waste site clean-up (21E) program is cut by \$1.5 million; and the brownfields audit program by about \$400,000. Again, all these cuts are on top of steep cuts during the last two fiscal years. Reduction of staff 7% from FY10, down 150 employees.

Department of Conservation and Recreation --a big hit to DCR's administrative line-item of \$470,000 on top of previous cuts, the watershed management program was cut by 57%--we are trying to determine if any of that gap will be covered by other sources; stormwater management actually saw some restoration of funding as did the Office of Dam Safety, both of which were cut to the bone in FY 2010; beach preservation was cut an additional \$500,000; state and urban parks were cut an additional \$3.3 million (7.4%) and the parkways snow and ice account was cut by more than \$2.5 million. Also included in an outside section of the budget was a provision to allow DCR to enter into long-term leases with outside entities to operate pools and rinks. Other impacts: down 200 employees (management, parks, forestry); reduced time and staff at state parks (timing and services posted to be transparent), will maintain public safety; Heritage Landscape and ACEC will continue

Department of Fish and Game -- no restoration of funding for the Natural Heritage Program. No additional cuts to DFG's administrative line-item which had been previously cut. Many of DFG's programs are funded through the Inland Fish and Game Fund (from hunting and fishing license fees) and these programs have been level funded. Legislation recently passed that institutes saltwater sportsfishing licensing and DFG's budget includes a new \$50,000 in revenue from that source.

Department of Agricultural Resources -- the Agricultural Innovation Center that was completely unfunded this year still has not been reinstated. The Integrated Pest Management program has seen a steep cut, however, the state has secured federal grants that will cover the program.

Because the **Division of Energy Resources** and the **Department of Public Utilities** are largely funded through assessments, these agencies did not see significant cuts.

In addition to the bottle bill, other revenue measures the Governor included in his budget as outside sections are a lifting of the sales tax exemption for candy and soft drinks, and language that would expedite the sale of certain surplus state lands.

ELM's Green Budget recommendations will be published in mid-February. The action now moves to the House and Senate as they draft their own versions of a state budget. The state budget typically isn't finalized until late spring or early summer.

3) OHV BILL PASSES IN STATE SENATE

-- From Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup by Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Jennifer Ryan, Legislative Director & Christina McDermott, Assistant to the Director

The bill regulating illegal and destructive off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity passed in the Senate this week! Now renumbered as **Senate Bill 2251** (formerly S.2206), *An Act to Regulate the Use of Off-Highway Vehicles*, (view it at: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st02/st02251.htm>) it gives enforcement officers the tools they need to curb illegal riding, which leads to extensive and long-term environmental damage on private and public lands and unsafe conditions. Thanks to everyone who called their Senator and urged them to support this important bill! Next stop: the House.

4) WIND SITING BILL: NEW BILL NUMBER AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

An updated version has been substituted for the Wind Siting bill: formerly **H. 3330**, it is now **S. 2245** (view it at: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st02pdf/st02245.pdf>) Proposed Senate amendments are available on the Legislature's website, http://www.mass.gov/legis/senate/s2245_amendments.htm

5) ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS MEET WITH GOVERNOR

Last week, Mass. environmental leaders, including Mass. Land Trust Coalition Coordinator Bernie McHugh, met with Governor Deval Patrick to discuss some of the environmental challenges facing the Commonwealth and the Administration's efforts to address them. The meeting was cordial and candid with many areas of agreement and a few issues raised where not all the environmental representatives present wholly agreed with the Administration's approach - or with each other.

All agreed that better cooperation between government and the non-profit sector was needed to more clearly communicate environmental goals, challenges and achievements to the general public.

Governor appreciates environmental partnership as essential to jobs, quality of life:

For the Governor's part, he sees the environmental community as fundamental and essential partners in advancing the green agenda to protect natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, reduce air and water pollution, address climate change and realign the energy industry to meet our environmental goals while building the green economy. He was strong in his view that protection and improvement of the environment was crucial quality of life, public health and jobs retention and creation.

The environmental leaders expressed their strong appreciation for the Administration's efforts on:

- * land protection and acquisition
- * implementing energy efficiency programs

- * national leadership on climate change (e.g., RGGI - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, GWSA - Global Warming Solutions Act)
- * moving forward with the climate mitigation and adaptation advisory committees
- * Solid Waste Master Plan - recycling, moratorium, performance standards: C&D suspension and study
- * continuing incinerator moratorium
- * Low Carbon Fuel Standard
- * Ocean plan, and greater focus on conserving ocean resources
- * cooperating to modify Safe Yield standards
- * Sustainable Water Initiative
- * Support for agricultural sector, dairy
- * Most agreed about progress on wind and solar, although not all were happy with specifics, so far

Priorities/concerns raised by environmental leaders:

- * Budget: environment agencies have taken a disproportionate hit over the last 10 years and services will be reduced
- * Addressing additional water issues (e.g., stormwater, nutrients, etc.)
- * Need to get out and communicate the achievements on energy efficiency and clean energy
- * Environmental enforcement
- * Differences within the environmental community on appropriate scale and sustainability of biomass energy
- * Integrating greenhouse gas reductions into state decision making (e.g., transportation: prioritizing public transit over roadway expansion)
- * Ethics reform impacts on non-profit NGOs: unintended consequences
- * How can we better focus on re-localizing jobs and the economy, smart growth

Shared legislative priorities:

- * Bottle bill
- * Article 97 - no net loss
- * Safer Alternatives
- * Wind energy siting reform
- * Off highway vehicles
- * E-waste

6) STATE PROTECTS ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT IN WAREHAM & PLYMOUTH

Patrick-Murray Administration Announces 245-Acre Land Acquisition in Wareham, Plymouth
 Purchase of A.D. Makepeace land protects Red Brook watershed and improves habitat for 11 rare species
 Click here for a map of the Plymouth/Wareham acquisition:
http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/dfg_makepeace_jan10.jpg

BOSTON - Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles today announced the purchase of 245 acres of land on Red Brook in Wareham and Plymouth that will protect one of the most diverse fish and wildlife habitats in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) acquired the land, commonly known as Century Bog, from A.D. Makepeace Company for \$3 million. The acquisition - through conservation and ongoing ecological restoration - will protect the Red Brook watershed and protect habitat for 11 rare species, several fish species and other wildlife.

" Under Governor Patrick, the Commonwealth has undertaken the largest land conservation initiative in state history, and this important partnership with A.D. Makepeace is our latest success," said Secretary Bowles. "

This project will protect critical habitats, conserve coastal land and help to continue ongoing ecological restoration efforts, and is in line with our efforts to protect 54,000 acres of land across the Commonwealth in the past two years - the equivalent of 74 acres per day."

The property consists of 176 acres in Wareham and 69 acres in Plymouth, beginning at the southern end of White Island Pond and linking to MassWildlife's Red Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Red Brook WMA is 673 acres and adjacent to The Trustees of Reservations' 210-acre Lyman Reserve. With the Century Bog acquisition completed, 883 acres of contiguous land are permanently protected, from the headwaters of Red Brook all the way to Buttermilk Bay, a shallow estuary located at the head of Buzzards Bay.

Funding for the acquisition comes from the \$1.7 billion Energy and Environment Bond Bill signed by Governor Patrick in August 2008.

" This is the most important acquisition for the agency this year," said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin, who added that DFG plans to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the property that includes consideration of climate change adaptation strategies. " Conservation and restoration of the Red Brook watershed will ensure the protection of one of the remaining native sea-run brook trout streams in Massachusetts, as well as habitat for a variety of fish and 11 plants and insects recorded on MassWildlife's list of endangered, threatened, and special concern species."

A.D. Makepeace - the world's largest cranberry grower and the largest private landowner in eastern Massachusetts - has been an active participant in ongoing habitat restoration efforts on Red Brook. During the term of a six-year lease agreement, the company has agreed to provide further restoration services on the property such as removing culverts and berms, and excavating the main channel. Under that agreement, A.D. Makepeace has the right to continue its cranberry operations at the 70-acre Century Bog for five years.

This is the Commonwealth's second major land conservation effort in partnership with A.D. Makepeace in the past year. In July 2009, Secretary Bowles, Commissioner Griffin and representatives of A.D. Makepeace celebrated a three-phase project to preserve of thousands of acres of critical habitat and open space in southeastern Massachusetts.

"The A.D. Makepeace Company, and particularly the many avid anglers on our staff, have long recognized that the Century Bog property is a unique habitat," said A.D. Makepeace President and CEO Michael P. Hogan. "We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Commonwealth as well as Trout Unlimited and the Trustees of Reservations to ensure the long-term protection of the many wildlife species which live in the area."

7) STATE FUNDS 6 RIVER & SALT MARSH RESTORATION PROJECTS

Patrick-Murray Administration Awards \$76,000 for River and Salt Marsh Restoration

BOSTON - Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles today announced that five river and salt marsh restoration projects will receive more than \$76,000 in grant funding in fiscal year 2010 through the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Ecological Restoration (DER).

" Rivers and wetlands provide flood control, supply our drinking water, and support critical habitats important to the Commonwealth's native fish and wildlife," Secretary Bowles said. " The Department of Fish and Game and its Division of Ecological Restoration have made dam removal, salt marsh restoration and urban river revitalization priorities in order to restore these vital systems."

The following projects were selected to receive funds:

- **Town of Marshfield:** \$6,180 for the Green Harbor River Restoration Project
- **Town of Somerset:** \$30,000 for the Somerset Marsh Restoration Project
- **Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District:** \$20,000 for removal of the State Hospital Dam on the Mill River
- **Ipswich River Watershed Association:** \$10,000 to examine the feasibility for the removal of the South Middleton Dam
- **Hoosic River Revival Coalition/Hoosic River Watershed Association:** \$10,000 for the revitalization of the Hoosic River in North Adams

8) NEW STATE ETHICS LAW CAUSING HEADACHES FOR NON-PROFITS

-- From Michael Segal, InstaTrac

To register or not: that is the question?

Confused as to whether you or your clients and colleagues - and their board members or others peripheral to the legislative process - should register with the Mass. Secretary of State? Join the crowd.

Letters of inquiry have been written. Forums held. Opinions released. And nobody, apparently, can say for sure whether you or a colleague has to register. Here's a recent exchange between lawyer-lobbyist Roger Donoghue and Alan Cote of the state lobbying office.

First came a 5 January email from Donoghue to Cote requesting an opinion on a couple of issues (<http://www.instatrac.com/uploads/Donoghue2Cote.pdf>). Next came Cote's reply on 21 January (<http://www.instatrac.com/uploads/Cote2Donoghue.pdf>).

Early in our attempts to help you figure out the controversial new law, we published a memo written for us by long time ethics and campaign finance watcher, and lawyer-lobbyist, Ben Fierro. And later we made available a letter of inquiry from lawyer-lobbyist Carl Valvo to Cote, and Cote's reply to Valvo.

Still confused after reading everything you can get your hands on and attending every seminar you can? **Your best bet, according to a high level exec at the state secretary's office: err on the side of caution and register.** Heh, it's only time and money.

Michael Segal

InstaTrac

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9) IRS NEWS FROM THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

-- From Russ Shay, Director of Public Policy, Land Trust Alliance, rshay@lta.org --

* Nonprofits that Fail to File a 990 for Three Years Will Automatically Lose Their Exempt Status

Since tax year 2007, even the smallest non-profit organizations have been required to file some version of Form 990 <<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/990s/990s#what-land-trusts-need>> . Organizations with gross receipts under \$25,000 may file the 990-N e-postcard, with just 8 simple questions. Please do it! The consequences for not filing are steep.

Starting May 15, 2010, organizations that have not filed a 990 for three consecutive years will *automatically* lose their tax exempt status on the due date of their return (the 15th of the fifth month following the end of their

fiscal year -- May 15 for calendar year filers). Click here <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=218550,00.html> for an IRS notice that discusses this requirement.

Please visit our Detailed Guide to the New Form 990

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/990s/990-instructions> for information about the form and filing thresholds for the 990-EZ and 990-N, which have changed since last year. Even if your organization is eligible for one of these short forms, we recommend you take a look at the full Form 990 and particularly the conservation easement questions in Schedule D

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/990s/990-instructions#schedule-d-supplemental-financial> . Starting next year, organizations with gross receipts exceeding \$200,000 or assets exceeding \$500,000 will be required to file the full form and the questions on Schedule D will be asked by the IRS in any audit of your land trust. Reading them and being prepared to answer them can be the ounce of prevention that could save a good deal of time and money if you or your easement donors are ever audited.

*** IRS Releases Governance Check-sheet Used in Audits of Non-Profits**

The Internal Revenue Service has released the check sheet on nonprofit governance

http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/governance_check_sheet.pdf used by its revenue agents in audits of 501(c)3 public charities. Few land trusts have been audited, but some have -- and more will, as IRS continues to ramp up its scrutiny of all nonprofits, including nonprofit hospitals, universities, and, yes, land trusts. This check sheet provides insight into the kinds of questions the IRS may ask. Click here

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/990s/irs-governance-guidelines-for-501-c-3> for more guidance on nonprofit governance including resources from Independent Sector and the Land Trust Alliance.

For some additional insight into what the IRS is looking at, we've posted some examples of closing letters <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/closing-letters> sent to land trusts at the successful completion of their audits. These letters reveal how the IRS views the details of running a land trust and may include conditions for a nonprofit organization to retain its tax exempt status and/or additional advice. More at: <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/990s/990s#land-trust-audits>

*** Substantiation Letters: Recent Cases Suggest Leeway, but Don't Put Your Donors at Risk!**

As donors begin preparing their 2009 taxes, it's critical that land trusts send contemporaneous written acknowledgement letters <http://www.lta.org/substantiation> for all gifts of \$250 or more, including gifts of land and easements. The IRS requires donors to obtain such a letter before they file their tax return, or the due date of that return, whichever is sooner. The letter must describe the gift and state that no goods and services were received in exchange for it, or indicate the value of goods and services received in the case of a bargain sale.

At Rally, IRS officials suggested that a taxpayer donating a conservation easement may want to attach their letter to their tax return! This is not required by law -- but it may mean that an IRS revenue agent who hopes to disqualify a donation because of the lack of such a letter won't open an audit just to see if the donor has the letter. Click here <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/ce-audits/rally09-irs> for more highlights from that session.

Land trusts that haven't sent these letters in the past may find solace in two recent Tax Court cases: *Simmons v. Commissioner* <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/simmons> and *Consolidated Investment Group v. Commissioner* <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/taxpayers-win> . These cases suggest that substantial compliance through other documentation may be adequate, but the IRS disagrees and land trusts shouldn't risk putting their donors through an audit to find out.

Working on a pro bono basis, the law firm Miller & Chevalier recently completed a memo to help land trusts understand and comply with IRS substantiation rules. Read the Miller & Chevalier memo <<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/documents/Tax%20Alert%20Advice%20-%20Substantiating%20Donations%20of%20Conservation%20Easements.pdf>> and see our page on Substantiation Letters <<http://www.lta.org/substantiation>>.

Editorials & Op Eds

10) WIND SITE BILL MISSES THE POINT OF CONSERVATION

- From Boston Globe by Tad Ames, Executive Director, Berkshire Natural Resources Council --
January 20, 2010

WHILE THE Cape Wind-Nantucket Sound drama between US Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the Wampanoag Indians drew the wind-energy spotlight last week, a quieter play opened on Beacon Hill, where the Senate Ways and Means committee reported out its version of the Patrick administration's Wind Siting Reform Act.

Good news for a greener Massachusetts? Not entirely. Rather than a comprehensive set of siting standards for onshore wind farms, the bill assaults the integrity of the Commonwealth's environmental regulations and conservation legacy.

The Berkshire Natural Resources Council, a land conservation organization, recognizes that wind power, in the right places and at the right scale, is one potential component in a larger strategy to address climate change. But we deplore the bill's willingness to sacrifice generations of environmental progress to satisfy an agenda that is as political as it is scientific.

The bill punts on the central question: What constitutes an appropriate site? That is, how much environmental degradation is tolerable in the name of creating "green" power to run our 47-inch TVs?

Is appropriate siting all about a location's wind speed? What about the site's proximity to caves that support bats under pressure from white nose syndrome? Is a site's historic or economic context pertinent? What about state forests? Are those the first place we should look, or the very last?

Instead of grappling with these questions, the administration has pushed a "fast-tracking" bill based on the specious premise that developing wind power in Massachusetts is made too darn difficult by obstructionist local authorities and irresponsible NIMBYists exploiting regulations.

In fact, no wind project in the Berkshires has been denied a permit by local authorities. And at the state level, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has excused most, if not all, onshore wind projects from the task of preparing an environmental impact report.

The Berkshire poster children for fast-tracking - Hoosac Wind and Berkshire Wind - have been hamstrung not by regulations, but by self-inflicted wounds suffered after taking calculated shortcuts. Yes, their opponents have taken advantage of the openings, but ironically, had Energy and Environmental Affairs taken a stricter oversight role and required environmental impact reports, the agency almost certainly would have headed off the mistakes.

Wind development is essentially the industrialization of sensitive ecosystems. As graceful as they may look from afar, wind turbines stand on massive concrete blocks sunk deep into mountain ledge. To build these

machines, 18-wheelers climb up to and along remote ridgelines. Powerline cuts further fragment the surrounding forest. The projects must be held to high standards.

But the bill instead would let wind projects avoid laws like the Wetlands Protection or Endangered Species acts by getting a one-stop permit from the Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Supporters will point to the bill's mandate that the siting board develop "standards" for wind projects that are "at least as protective" as existing law. But in multiple instances the bill gives the siting board the power to waive or relax those standards.

Along with substituting malleable "standards" for time-tested law, the bill shuts the public out of meaningful participation in the process.

Once the siting board receives a complete application, it would hold one omnibus non-adjudicatory public hearing. The process would not establish a framework for judicial review. The only redress would be to the Supreme Judicial Court, and the range of parties with standing to appeal would be narrowed practically to invisibility.

The Patrick administration wants Massachusetts to be the nation's green leader. But we can't build our way out of global warming. By focusing on regulatory relief for developers, the wind energy bill endangers the Commonwealth's conservation legacy.

We're not in a strict either/or situation here. We must seek multiple solutions as we address climate change. But conservation - of land, water and carbon-sequestering forests, as well as energy - must be the first principle.

See this article at:

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2010/01/20/wind_site_bill_misses_the_point_of_conservation/?s_campaign=8315

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Hearings

11) DCR SEEKS COMMENT ON FOREST STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of DCR's Forest Futures Visioning Process, a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) has met over a period of ten months to arrive at a draft version of recommendations that they will make to DCR on forest stewardship. Both the TSC and DCR encourage interested stakeholders to review the recommendations and provide comment. The public comment period closes on February 22. The TSC draft recommendations are located on the DCR website at http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/tsc_draft_recommendations.htm

There are many areas where the TSC reached agreement about the future management of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's 308,000 acres in its State and Urban Parks system and in fostering stewardship of the private forests of the state. In several areas the Committee has either not yet reached full agreement or the TSC has heard from members of an Advisory Group of Stakeholders during deliberations that some of their members hold differing and/or opposing opinions.

There are a number of ways to provide input. These include by email, at public forums and through a simple online survey. Details for each are below.

Written Comment -Comments may be submitted via email to: MODRDCRFFVP@umb.edu.

Public Forums - Five public forums will be held across the state between February 4 and 11. Information on dates, times and locations are found at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/forestryfvpupcoming.htm> . At each of these forums there will be a brief overview of the recommendations, a short time for clarification questions followed by facilitated table discussions where people can discuss their concerns, suggestions, and/or support for the recommendations. The goal is to help advance the dialogue and understanding of the issues, the recommendations and to provide feedback to the Committee for its final deliberations. This format allows each person to participate and the facilitators will report out to the group as a whole at the end of the forum. All feedback received at the public forums will be captured by scribes and provided to the TSC. It will also be made available for viewing on the DCR Forest Futures Visioning Process website. You may also submit written comments at the meeting.

Survey - A simple online survey is available through a link at:

http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/tsc_draft_recommendations.htm

The survey asks about level of support for the vision and each recommendation and provides space for brief written comment.

After the comments are received and the results of the forums summarized, the Technical Steering Committee will review them and reconvene to develop its final recommendations which will be submitted to the Commissioner of DCR and the DCR Stewardship Council.

Events

12) FREE THIS SATURDAY! SE MASS. LAND TRUST CONVOCATION, BOURNE

Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation

Canal Club Facility, Trowbridge Rd off Bourne Bridge Rotary,
Quality Inn, Bourne

This Saturday, February 6, 2010

8:30 am to Noon

Please join your fellow conservation professionals, volunteers, and board members for a morning of topical workshops.

Come hear local and state experts about:

- recent MA property tax cases & how they might affect your land trust's property tax exemption status
- federal, state and private grant opportunities for land acquisition & habitat restoration
- the art of successfully negotiating a land transaction
- land management issues from land steward professionals and volunteers

Co-sponsored by Coalition for Buzzards Bay, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

To register, contact the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts at compact@cape.com

13) MASS. BIRDERS' MEETING, MARCH 6, WALTHAM

The State of Our Birds: Facing the Future Together

Saturday, March 6, 2010

The LaCava Center, Bentley University, Waltham, MA

A full day of workshops, speakers, wildlife updates, vendors, and more.

Lunch included! Co-sponsored by Mass Audubon and Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences.

In 2009, the Department of Interior produced *The State of the Birds*, a comprehensive synthesis describing the conservation status, threats, and recovery objectives for every major North American bird group. Since birds have long been litmus for environmental change, what's happening to birds could portend what the future holds for mankind. In this not-to-be-missed event, two leading environmental organizations examine how science, technology, and birds could offer the key to some of the greatest challenges facing our planet in the future.

For more information about the *Birders Meeting* and to register, visit this web site:

www.massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting

14) MACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FEB. 27, WORCESTER

The MACC Annual Environmental Conference is the largest regular environmental conference in New England. Over 1000 Conservation Commissioners, other local officials, state and federal environmental officials, consultants, attorneys and others enjoy a full day of activities. The Annual Environmental Conference includes an Opening Session with speakers; presentation of the MACC Environmental Service Awards, and the business session including the election of officers and directors. Over 40 workshop and training sessions are offered, all taught by recognized experts. There are over 40 exhibits and displays. State and federal agencies, and providers of environmental products and services find the Annual Environmental Conference to be a great opportunity to reach a large number of environmental activists. The 2010 MACC Annual Environmental Conference will be held on February 27th 2010 at the Hogan Campus Center, Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts

Go to: http://www.maccweb.org/edu_aec.html

15) FREE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS FROM MASS AUDUBON

Do you live in Greater Worcester or Southeastern Massachusetts? Are you concerned about the impacts of development on your community's open spaces? Mass Audubon's Shaping the Future of Your Community Outreach and Assistance Program is assisting municipalities in your region, and we invite you to submit a proposal for a **free** workshop, seminar or training session in your community. The Shaping the Future of Your Community program is designed to help local officials and citizens work together to proactively plan for appropriate land use and development. Following up on the success of last year's workshop series, we are planning 12 additional workshops throughout 2010. Upcoming workshops will target communities in the state's fastest growing regions-the Taunton, Ten Mile, Buzzards Bay, and Narragansett Bay watersheds in Southeastern Massachusetts, and the Blackstone River watershed in Central Massachusetts. The program goal is to give you the information and tools you need to work with others locally in guiding your community's future.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL: Proposals for workshops in 2010 will be accepted until 5 pm, Monday, March 1, 2010.

Proposals should be one page. Please include: Contact information (name, address, email, phone, and current community involvement of primary applicant) Description of need - what are the main challenges your community is facing in growth and development? - Overview of desired workshop content - Timeliness: Why do you need our help at this moment? - Goal: A short statement of your goals for the outcome of this program For more information about this opportunity or visit: www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture/outreach.php

16) N.E. WILD FLOWER SOCIETY FEBRUARY WORKSHOPS

New England Wild Flower Society has a fascinating selection of classes for adults and children scheduled in February of 2010. Adult Classes, Gardening, Horticulture, Field Trips at Garden in the Woods and Eastern MA Locations

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 5:45-7:45 p.m. Residential Landscape Design. Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Cambridge, MA. In this multi-session course appropriate for beginners, learn different aspects of the landscape design process with special emphasis on native plants in the residential landscape. Workshop sessions focus on design methods using site analysis techniques and schematic design tools. With consultation of the instructor, Karen Sebastian, work on a project of your own choosing. Interspersed with design work, lectures focus on plants and habitats, including information on plant choice and placement in the landscape. A list of required materials supplied at the first class. Fee: \$175 (Member) / \$210 (Nonmember). Cosponsored by New England Wild Flower Society and Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

Thursday, February 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Design an Edible Native Garden. Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. " There are over 20,000 species of edible plants in the world yet fewer than 20 species now provide over 90% of our Food." -Plants for a Future website. Most of our daily foods are non-native introductions produced in mass quantities using fertilizers and pesticides. So what are our native edibles and how can we utilize them in the garden? Have you ever eaten a pawpaw fruit or sautéed oyster mushrooms freshly picked from your garden for your evening's dinner? In this workshop, horticulturist Kristin DeSouza illustrates the design and installation process of the new edible native plant garden at Garden in the Woods. Kristin weaves together historical plant uses, design approaches, horticultural techniques, and culinary applications. A sampling of native plant edibles will be offered as well. Fee: \$25 (Member) / \$29 (Nonmember). Cosponsored by New England Wild Flower Society and MA Audubon Drumlin Farm. Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

Tuesdays, February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7-9:15 p.m. Residential Landscape Design. Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. In this multi-session course appropriate for beginners, Instructor Laura Eisener teaches various aspects of the landscape design process with special emphasis on native plants in the residential landscape. Workshop sessions focus on design methods using site analysis techniques and schematic design tools. With consultation of the instructor, work on a project of your own choosing. Interspersed with design work, lectures focus on plants and habitats, including information on plant choice and placement in the landscape. A list of required materials supplied at the first class. Fee: \$175 (Member) / \$210 (Nonmember). Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

Saturday, February 27, 2010, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Lichens in Winter. Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. Lichens are perennial and winter in New England is a great time to learn about them. Growing on tree trunks, logs, soil, and rocks, they are more easily spotted and studied because leafy vascular plants are dormant. This class includes hands-on work with lichen collections representing different growth forms and structures, with the aim of helping you learn to do field identifications of common lichen species. Instructor Elizabeth Kneiper explores some of the best internet resources to help you continue your lichen study. Come to class prepared to take a short walk in the winter Garden. Bring a 10x hand lens and a bag lunch. Fee: \$44 (Member) / \$52 (Nonmember). Cosponsored by New England Wild Flower Society and MA Audubon Drumlin Farm. Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303

Tuesday, February 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Winter Detectives. Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. *For Children in Grades K-2.* Instructor Bonnie Drexler helps us explore the wintry woods. What clues can we find about the animals and plants around us? Whose teeth chewed that branch, whose tracks lead up to that tree stump, which buds have a furry winter coat? Use all your senses to investigate life above, in, and under the snow. Inside the classroom after warm snacks, conduct experiments with snow and ice to learn more clues

about winter survival. Fee: \$12 (Member) / \$14 (Nonmember). Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

Thursday, February 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Animal Tracking. Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. *For Children in Grades 2-5.* Come to the Garden to learn some winter tracking skills as Instructor Bonnie Drexler helps us explore the winter woods. Can you tell the difference between a rabbit and a squirrel tracks? How do coyote tracks differ from fox tracks? Learn to identify other clues that animals leave behind as they hunt for food or escape their predators. Make a track finder to use and take home. Enjoy cocoa and treats after our exploration. Fee: \$12 (Member) / \$14 (Nonmember). Pre-registration is necessary, contact the registrar at 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

Call for Presentations

17) CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS - LTA RALLY 2010, HARTFORD CT

Are you an expert instructor on land conservation issues? Do you have a unique land trust experience you'd like to share? If so, we're looking for experts in conservation who are interested in serving as faculty for our Rally seminars and workshops! Submit a presentation proposal today for Rally 2010: The National Land Conservation Conference, being held on October 2-5, 2010, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

Proposals are due Feb 16, 2010. <http://www.lta.org/cfp>

Training

18) KEYSTONE PROJECT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR APRIL TRAINING

The Keystone Project (formerly Coverts) invests education and reference materials in important, keystone people, those in a position to influence forest conservation decisions. In return for the 3-day training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Keystone Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and advance forest conservation through a project of their choosing. This year's training will be held April 15th - 18th, 2010 at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applicants can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an involved community leader. This year we are particularly interested in applications from municipal officials.

Applications are due March 1, 2010. Learn more about the program and download an application at:

<http://masskeystone.net/trainings/index.html>

Grants

19) WESTERN MASS. LAND PROTECTION FUND RFPS

Western Massachusetts Land Protection Fund Matching Capital Grants Program
Request for Proposals

The Open Space Institute is pleased to announce a second Request for Proposals for capital grants through the Western Massachusetts Land Protection Fund.

The Fund supports large scale forest land conservation, with a focus on protecting wildlife habitat and also facilitating appropriate human use. This initiative, established with generous support from a private charitable foundation, provides grants for the purchase of land and permanent conservation restrictions. This matching capital grant program gives strong preference to projects that leverage additional philanthropic funding.

Projects will be reviewed by an advisory committee of experts from the conservation, scientific and political arenas that will recommend grants for approval to OSI's Board of Trustees.

Program information and grant criteria are all available at http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Places_WesternMass. Please note that grant applications are due to OSI by March 5, 2010. If, after reviewing the materials, you have questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Melville at jmelville@osiny.org

20) CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS 2ND ROUND NOW OPEN!!!

Application deadline: March 1, 2010, 3 pm

Subject to 815 CMR 2.00, the Conservation Partnership Program assists non-public, not-for-profit corporations in acquiring interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation purposes. Grants provide funding to assist non-public, not-for-profit corporations in acquiring interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation purposes.

The Act requires that all selected Applicants convey an appropriate perpetual conservation restriction, within the meaning of sections 31 and 32 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, to either the city or town in which the selected project is located, to be managed by either its conservation or recreation commission, or a state agency, or both. The Act also requires that all projects provide appropriate public access, as determined by the Secretary.

Application is available on Comm-Pass <http://www.comm-pass.com/> and will soon be available on the EEA website <<http://www.mass.gov/eea/dcs>> .

Contact: Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 or celia.riechel@state.ma.us

21) WILLIAM P. WHARTON TRUST PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS DUE MARCH 1

The William P. Wharton Trust, which is administered by the Trustees at the law firm of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP in Boston, Massachusetts, makes grants to organizations as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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.

Preliminary applications are due March 1, 2010.

For more information, see: <http://www.williampwhartontrust.org/>

Jobs

22) MANAGER OF LAND RECORDS

Manager of Land Records - to 110k

A well established investment firm is seeking someone to be their Manager of Land Records. As the Manager of Land Records you will maintain the land records database, establish procedures for recognition of transactions, record tabular data in the system, reconcile tax bills, and manage environmental surveys. Qualified candidates must have a Bachelors degree, 10+ years of related experience, knowledge of database applications, familiarity with title law, and the ability to manage large amounts of complex data. Submit your resume for immediate consideration. Contact:

Peter O'Connor, Principal

Kennison & Associates

617.478.2888

<<http://www.kennison.com/>>

23) PROJECT CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER, NEFF

New England Forestry Foundation, Wildlands and Woodlands Conservation Project: Western Massachusetts Aggregation

POSITION: Project Campaign Fund-raiser Part-time: 24 hours per week

The Project: The New England Forestry Foundation has partnered with seven land trusts to test a new concept for increasing the pace of conservation in Massachusetts. Following on the Harvard Forest 2005 report, *Wildlands and Woodlands, A Vision for the Forests of Massachusetts*, which calls for conserving 1.5 million acres of forest in Massachusetts, this pilot project has centered on finding new methods for land trusts to collaborate together to conserve forestland. The concept is to aggregate individual land trust projects into a larger collection to attract funding from sources that are not generally available to local and regional land trusts. Additionally, the aggregation reduces due diligence costs of the conservation transactions. Aggregation offers land trusts an alternative to seeking funding for one relatively small project at a time and as such accelerates the pace of conservation. In this Western Massachusetts Pilot Project the land trusts collectively have secured options to purchase conservation restrictions on 77 forested properties in western Massachusetts at a maximum of 75% of the appraised value on a total of 11,500 acres.

The Fund-raising Campaign: The successful candidate will oversee and coordinate a \$20 million fund-raising campaign to purchase the conservation restrictions, fund monitoring and enforcement costs and cover all due diligence and project staff costs. Nearly \$7 million already has been raised. A Leadership Committee consisting of professional fund-raising staff and volunteer Board members from the eight land trusts along with individuals from the region who have a strong interest in this new type of collaboration is being recruited. Funding for the project will be sought from a combination of foundations, private individuals, a limited number of business interests, and state and federal funding programs.

The Position: This is part-time, 24 hours a week position. The Project Fund-raiser will report to the NEFF Executive Director and will interface with each of the current Leadership Committee members. The Project Fund-raiser's primary mission is the financial success of the project. Office space is available, if necessary, at NEFF or a variety of locations from the project partners.

Responsibilities: Working in conjunction with the NEFF Executive Director, and other members of the project Leadership Committee the Project Fund-raiser will:

- Become familiar with existing plans and documents pertaining to the development of the fund-raising campaign, including the campaign timeline.
- Work closely with Leadership Committee and the NEFF Executive Director to determine the strategy of the campaign.
- Provide overall coordination for the project campaign and all of its aspects, including the campaign budget and financial reports.
- Support the Leadership Committee in keeping the campaign on track, meeting deadlines and achieving goals; also support the other project participants, coordinating as appropriate.
- Provide donor and grant research, analysis and stewardship.
- Work closely with the NEFF Executive Director and Leadership Committee to develop a prospect list, determine approaches to individual donors, especially regarding major gifts to the project campaign.
- Cultivate and write grants from foundation and government grant programs.
- Participate in solicitation visits if necessary

Skills/Experience Needed:

- Bachelor's degree; advanced degree and/or CFRE desired
- Proven success in leading a fund-raising campaign
- Proven success in major gifts solicitation
- Demonstrated familiarity with planned giving
- Willingness to develop and foster new strategies for land trusts working together on fund-raising
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Proven success with grant writing
- Effective problem solver and decision maker who enjoys challenge
- Ability to work in a team and also work independently
- Interest in protecting the environment is desired
- Salary to be determined

To Apply:

Send cover letter and resume to: New England Forestry Foundation,
PO Box 1346 Littleton, MA 01460, Attention: Penny Flynn or email to: pflynn@newenglandforestry.org.
Please put "Project Campaign Fund-raiser Search" in the subject line. If you have any questions please contact Keith Ross kross@landvest.com

Applications are due no later than 5:00 pm Thursday February 11, 2010.

24) TWO SEASONAL LAND STEWARDS, TNC NH

The Nature Conservancy is currently recruiting to fill two seasonal positions in NH.

Seasonal Land Steward, Southern, NH (Short-Term, Approximately 6 months) Newmarket, NH

The Nature Conservancy seeks a **Seasonal Land Steward (full-time)** to be responsible for stewardship and management support of the Conservancy's preserves and conservation easements in **Southern New Hampshire**. The position will primarily be based in the Conservancy's Great Bay Project office in Newmarket NH, but duties will include activities on preserves throughout southern NH

Seasonal Land Steward Northern NH (Short-Term, Approximately 6 Months) North Conway, NH
The Nature Conservancy seeks a **Seasonal Land Steward (full-time)** responsible for support of TNC's preserves/ conservation easements, approximately May to October in New Hampshire's Mt Washington Valley

Info & Application: Go to www.nature.org/careers, click on " how to apply" , then click on " view positions" and search using New Hampshire as the keyword. Please complete the online employment application and upload a cover letter and resume as requested by **February 19, 2010**

25) TWO SENIOR SCIENCE PROGRAM LEADERS, MANOMET CENTER

Position Openings

Would you like to work at the forefront of climate change adaptation? Or would you like to take the lead in ensuring that future energy policy and development is sustainable and environmentally sound? Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences has immediate openings for two talented and energetic Senior Program Leaders to join our team. As one of the nation's oldest independent environmental research centers, Manomet is developing innovative models for businesses, agencies, and communities to forge a new partnership with the planet. We convene stakeholders and help develop science-based, enduring solutions that work in the real world and improve conditions for wildlife, habitats and people.

Senior Program Leader, Climate Change and Energy

The Senior Program Leader for Climate Change and Energy will direct and grow a major new project on climate change adaptation with national implications. Working with stakeholders in four major rural landscape sectors and at two spatial scales, the Senior Program Leader will develop and implement strategies to build climate change resiliency into critical ecosystem services.

Senior Program Leader, Energy and the Environment

The Senior Program Leader for Energy and the Environment will direct a major new project focused on ensuring that future energy development in the Northeast will be environmentally sustainable and protective of ecological habitats and wildlife. The Senior Program Leader will also develop an Energy and Environment Program at Manomet that will provide national leadership in this important field, especially in relation to wind energy and the power grid.

Additional Information

Both positions report to the Director of the Climate Change and Energy Initiative. The positions are located at Manomet's headquarters on the bluffs overlooking beautiful Cape Cod Bay, in Plymouth, MA, 45 miles south of Boston. The positions are available immediately and applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as soon as possible. Manomet offers competitive salaries commensurate with experience and a comprehensive package of benefits. Manomet is an equal opportunity employer.

For the complete job descriptions, please visit www.manomet.org/about/employment/jobs

Miscellany



26) NEW "LAND & WATER" PLATE SUPPORTS LAND PROTECTION - ORDER TODAY!

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has been working with the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to establish a new "Land and Water Conservation" license plate program. The Trust's experience with license plate programs has demonstrated that this can be a stable and sustainable source of funding for land protection.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles requires that 3,000 plates be pre-ordered and held with checks sent in advance, before they will put this plate into production. Once the 3,000 checks are received, they will ship the plates to the vehicle owner. If the 3,000 plates are not sold in a year, they return the checks.

Please contact Bill Hinkley at MET for additional information about the plate or the program in general. He can be reached at 617.626.1177 or william.hinkley@state.ma.us

ORDER FORM & MORE INFO:

<http://www.masslandandwater.info/>

27) BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MASS. LAND TRUST COALITION!

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition relies on its network of Member Land Trusts and Friends of the Coalition for support. "Member" status is offered to "all non-profit, charitable organizations chartered to hold and/or convey land and/or interests in land for conservation purposes in Massachusetts". "Friend" status is offered to organizations, public entities, individuals and businesses that do not meet the requirements for membership but who wish to support and participate in the work of the Coalition.

Please join us and help support our efforts to encourage private, voluntary land protection and support sound public conservation policy. Please visit our membership page at: <http://massland.org/?q=member>

"The most radical thing we can do is introduce people to one another"

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