



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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"The good Earth—we could have saved it, but we were too damn cheap and lazy."

-- Kurt Vonnegut, American Author (1922-2007)--

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Action Alert

1) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

There is a radical effort to repeal the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) and **we need your help to stop it in its tracks!** See *MLTC's [Action Alert](#) for more information.*

MLTC News

2) MLTC WELCOMES CHUCK KNOX AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is pleased to announce the hiring of Chuck Knox as its first executive director. Chuck arrives with a strong resume in land conservation and environmental protection, including serving as executive director of the Five Rivers Conservation Trust in New Hampshire and the Androscoggin River Watershed Council. Chuck also served as Director of Public Affairs and Outreach for New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, where he was the agency spokesperson and coordinated all communication on environmental matters.

Chuck will attend the MLTC Steering Committee meeting this Friday, May 11th in Sudbury. Please join us in welcoming Chuck to MLTC and the Massachusetts land conservation community!

3) REMINDER – MAY 11TH MLTC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA

Friday, May 11, 2012

10 am - 2 pm

[Directions](#) to Assabet NWR

All Massachusetts Land Trusts, MLTC Member organizations and Friends are encouraged to send a representative and participate in the Mass. Land Trust Coalition Steering Committee Meeting. All state and Federal agency personnel active in Massachusetts land protection are cordially invited, as well.

Special topic: Please join us for a discussion of the Mass Land Conservation Tax Credit. Applications for the tax credit are accepted on a "rolling" basis for donating land or a conservation restriction, or entering into a bargain sale. Understanding the application process and selection criteria, and assisting your landowners to get their applications in early is important.

Please rsvp by e-mail to Kathy (kmcgrath@massland.org) if you plan to attend.

4) SMALL LAND TRUST SURVEY – PLEASE PARTICIPATE

The Mass Land Trust Coalition is seeking the help of all small land trusts in Massachusetts. We would like to know what you need to do your work most effectively, what challenges you are facing, and how we can help you to succeed. MLTC, in collaboration with the Land Trust Alliance, is conducting an evaluation of available services and how they do, or do not, meet the needs of volunteer land trusts (defined as land trusts with up to one staff person).

A survey conducted by Conservation Impact of Denver, Colorado will be sent directly to you by email from Cindy Willard (cindy@conservationimpact.com). **Conservation Impact will keep your responses anonymous and confidential – data supplied to the Mass Land Trust Coalition and the Land Trust Alliance will not contain the individuals and organizations associated with responses.**

We hope you will participate in this survey. Although we appreciate how many demands your work makes on your time, we believe the results of this survey and evaluation will be of great benefit to all. Thank you!

News

5) MASSINC RELEASES ASSESSMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

--From *ELM Bulletin*

MassINC released "Rising to the Challenge: Assessing the Massachusetts Response to Climate Change." The report provides a primer on the climate problem and assesses the state's progress in implementing the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 - by answering three key questions: Is the state on track to meet its targets? Is the state successful in the key realms of energy efficiency, electricity generation, transportation and land use, and adaptation? Is the state playing a leadership role?

"...although Massachusetts has implemented many effective and indeed nation-leading programs, there is a real likelihood that the state will fall short... To ensure Massachusetts hits the target it is legally bound to achieve, the state must accelerate its effort."

The authors remind us that a 25% greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction below 1990 levels by 2020 is doable. The Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 is based on solid analysis and details an array of appropriate, actions capable of getting us to the target in the next eight years.

Read the full report [here](#).

6) STUDY REVEALS MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

--From *ELM Bulletin*

George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication (4C) released *Public Support for Climate & Energy Policies* in March 2012 as part of its "The Climate Change in the American Mind" Series.

The study contains very encouraging polling data indicating significant majorities of Americans are supportive of climate action, investments in clean/renewable energy, and recognize the connections between a healthy environment and a healthy economy. Of particular note:

- 72 percent of Americans think that global warming should be a very high (12%), high (28%), or medium (32%) priority for the president and Congress. Among registered voters, 84 percent of Democrats, 68 percent of Independents, and 52 percent of Republicans think global warming should be a priority.

- 92 percent of Americans think that developing sources of clean energy should be a very high (31%), high (38%), or medium (23%) priority for the president and Congress. Among registered voters, 96 percent of Democrats and Independents, and 84 percent of Republicans think clean energy should be a priority.

- **83 percent of Americans think that protecting the environment either improves economic growth and provides new jobs (58%) or has no effect on economic growth or jobs (25%).** Only 17 percent think it reduces economic growth and costs jobs. **When there is a conflict between the two, however, 62 percent of Americans say it is more important to protect the environment, even if it reduces economic growth, while 38 percent say economic growth is more important, even if it leads to environmental problems.**

Go [here](#) to read the report. For more information about 4C's Climate Series go [here](#).

Conferences

7) SUSTAINABLE TRAILS FOR ALL CONFERENCE

With Trail Accessibility Guidelines

June 19-20, 2012, or

October 10-11, 2012

Crotched Mountain Foundation

1 Verney Drive

Greenfield, New Hampshire

With the upcoming release of the Federal Trail Accessibility Guidelines, communities and land trusts need to know how to sustainably build hiking trails that provide access for everyone. This important conference will help you understand the guidelines and will provide an overview of the techniques and hands-on skills needed to build sustainable hiking trails that provide enjoyment for all. Whether you work with an existing trail or are contemplating a new trail, this conference is for you!

This 2 day, in-depth, field-oriented conference will provide you with information on the proposed Federal Trail Accessibility Guidelines (soon to be released), assessment for trail accessibility, and planning and constructing trails which meet these new guidelines. This conference is the first in the nation where the proposed federal guidelines will be presented in their near final format.

Sponsored by: Peter S. Jensen & Associates, LLC and Crotched Mountain Foundation

More information and registration form available [here](#)

Workshops

8) BOSTON NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP SERIES – VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT 101

May 17, 2012

Boston, MA

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Price: \$110

Volunteers are the backbone of many nonprofits, yet many organizations find managing volunteers to be one of the most challenging aspects of nonprofit life. The key to a successful volunteer management program is the way that you execute the three R's – recruiting, retaining and recognizing volunteers.

This session will explore some examples of successful volunteer programs, and address the following topics:

- Why people volunteer
- New ways to recruit, manage and place high quality volunteers
- Revitalizing a volunteer program that has become stale
- Ensuring collaboration between volunteers and staff
- Effective ways to recognize your volunteers

More information available [here](#)

Events

9) BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN WEEKEND REGISTRATION OPEN!

June 1-3

BOW Weekend Workshop

Chimney Corners YMCA Camp, Becket

A host of outdoor skills aimed at educating the novice adult women will be offered, including: shooting firearms, bows and arrows, pin fishing, fly fishing, nature photography, edible plants, kayaking, campfire cooking and many more opportunities! Ask for the Outdoorswoman weekend event as a holiday, birthday, Mother's Day, or women's get-away weekend! Gift certificates are available by calling Sue Fritze at (508) 389-6329. Scholarships are also available. Registration materials at [here](#).

Resources

10) GO BOTANY WEBSITE LAUNCHED BY NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

First came *Flora Novae Angliae*, the definitive manual for the identification of native and naturalized vascular plants of New England. Now comes the website with thousands of full-color images and illustrations for teaching and learning botany. New England Wild Flower Society has now launched the first stage of *Go Botany*, the Society's exciting, new open source website that teaches botany and plant identification, is now online. Imagine a field guide at your fingertips that can help you learn about the native and naturalized plants of New England! Maybe you're a land trust owner or manager and want to know just what is growing on your property. Whether you're a botanical beginner or an expert with this free *Go Botany* web tool, you can now identify 1,200 of the most common native and naturalized plants of New England. But there is much more to come.

We are building a suite of many learning tools. Our flexible, user-friendly interactive key will enable you to identify species based on whichever portions of the plant – leaves, flowers, winter buds, bark, etc. – you are able to observe at any given time of the year. Using truly innovative technology, this dynamic key asks you the questions about your plant that most efficiently help you hone in on your species, based on the questions you have already answered. Our *Simple Key* will help you identify 1,200 of the more common New England plants. If you prefer to use a more traditional dichotomous key, later in 2012 *Go Botany* will feature an innovative, clickable key that is easier to navigate than a conventional field guide – no more flipping pages! Also coming in 2012, is the *Full Key*, which covers more than 3,500 plant species, including subspecies and varieties. We are also developing an online, collaborative portal called *PlantShare*, where you can join a community of plant enthusiasts and create and share checklists and photographs of species you have seen. Have a question? Here's your chance to ask a botanist. Our research botanist and assistants will be available to answer all your questions.

Go Botany is fun and friendly. Jargon is kept to a minimum, but all botanical terms are linked to a pop-up glossary. Drawings illustrate all the characteristics in the key. Once you identify your plant, you can see a wealth of information about it, including gorgeous color photographs, maps of its geographic range, diagnostic characteristics, and memorable facts. The *Go Botany* design is optimized for both desktop and tablet computers, so you can use it anywhere you have a web connection.

Ready? Set? Go to: <http://www.newenglandwild.org/gobotany>
And a short video tutorial is available [here](#).

11) NEW FROM TECHSOUP!

[New to TechSoup: Back Up Data with npVault](#)

Protect your organization's systems and servers against disaster by backing up your critical data online with npVault cloud storage from npCloud. This offer (admin fee: \$24) lets your nonprofit or library access discounted rates from npVault and includes a one-hour consultation with npCloud. The team will work with you to determine which of your files needs to be backed up. And they will configure, manage, and monitor your backups for you.

[Refurbished Windows 7 Desktop Computers](#)

TechSoup's latest stock of refurbished desktops has Norton AntiVirus 2012, Windows 7, and Microsoft Office 2007 already installed.

[Now Available: SQL Server 2012](#)

Manage the databases related to your organization's website and internal applications with this all-in-one server solution from Microsoft. SQL Server 2012 (admin fee: \$215 – \$825) helps your organization manage its information and analysis, including tracking donations and compiling data from multiple sources. Available versions of SQL Server 2012 include Standard Edition, Business Intelligence Edition, and Enterprise Edition.

Jobs

12) MASSLIFT SERVICE POSITIONS

The *Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT)* AmeriCorps program is seeking land conservation enthusiasts to apply for our 2012 service positions. This program, initiated and managed by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, is a collaborative effort of regional conservation groups to meet critical community needs for land and watershed protection, stewardship of protected lands, conservation outreach and education, and service learning that engages young people in conservation.

Twenty AmeriCorps members serve MassLIFT each year. Our members serve in one of four positions: land steward, regional conservationist, service learning coordinator, or community outreach coordinator. These full-time positions come with living allowances, health insurance, and the potential to earn education awards. The 2012 program runs from September 11, 2012 to August 23, 2013.

The following regional land trusts and conservation organizations will be hosting MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members in our 2012 program: Buzzards Bay Coalition, East Quabbin Land Trust, Essex County Greenbelt Association, Franklin Land Trust, Groundwork Lawrence, Hilltown Land Trust, Kestrel Land Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and Wildlands Trust. Appalachian Mountain Club-Berkshires and Greenagers will share the assistance of a Service Learning Coordinator; and the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Millers River Watershed Council will share the services of a Community Outreach Coordinator.

Member Application specifics, position descriptions, and information about MassLIFT-AmeriCorps and the organizations hosting 2012 members can be found on the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust website: www.mountgrace.org/masslift-ameri-corps. **The application deadline is June 14, 2012.** Additional applications will be accepted and reviewed on an as needed basis.

For further information, contact Dee Robbins, MassLIFT-AmeriCorps Program Manager, robbins@mountgrace.org. No phone calls please.

13) CONSERVATION PROGRAMS ASSISTANT – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, BOSTON, MA

The Nature Conservancy (Boston, MA) is recruiting for a part-time Conservation Programs Assistant to provide ongoing logistical and administrative support for the Conservation Programs staff (Land Protection, Science, GIS, Stewardship, Marine, Freshwater and Govt. Relations) within the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. S/he is responsible for managing conservation data, developing project packages, responding to landowner inquiries, maintaining manual and database project records, coordinating periodic monitoring of lands and assisting in the creation of GIS maps using ArcGIS. To apply, please visit www.nature.org/careers and search for Job #40029.

14) AQUATIC ECOLOGIST – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, BOSTON, MA

The Nature Conservancy (Boston, MA) is recruiting for an Aquatic Ecologist to provide technical and scientific support to implement aquatic conservation and restoration strategies throughout Massachusetts and the Eastern US. This position works with program staff to integrate aquatic priorities into project goals and multi-year protection, restoration, and public policy strategies at multiple scales. The Aquatic Ecologist will apply his/her experience and training in river ecosystems to represent the Conservancy as a technical leader on multi-disciplinary/multi-partner project teams. The Aquatic Ecologist may work on regional working teams developing both freshwater and integrated freshwater/terrestrial/marine initiatives. To apply, please visit www.nature.org/careers and search for Job #40032.

15) FUNDRAISING MANAGER - HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST, SOUTH HARWICH, MA

The Fundraising Manager is responsible for managing the overall fundraising development program at the nonprofit Harwich Conservation Trust, a leading land trust on Cape Cod. The goals of this position are stewarding and expanding a loyal base of high-end fund donors in order to increase annual fund revenue and major gifts, coordinating foundation grant proposals with the Exec. Dir., managing the donor cultivation aspects of fundraising events, managing recruitment of new memberships, managing donor communications, and executing occasional capital and special project campaigns.

More information available [here](#)

16) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – MASSACHUSETTS FOREST ALLIANCE

The Massachusetts Forest Alliance with headquarters in Marlborough, Massachusetts is seeking to fill a full-time position for Executive Director. The Alliance is a newly formed, non-profit organization with 750 members whose goal is to consolidate landowners and the forest based community in support of the Massachusetts forests.

Duties: The Executive Director will be responsible for the ongoing operations of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance including member recruitment, fund raising, development and administration of education programs and advocacy for the interests of the members.

Qualifications: The skills and personality to effectively communicate with the public and at legislative and agency levels; the ability to facilitate policy development within the organization; a passion for land management and forest conservation; computer proficiency and the ability to develop and implement budgets and work plans; an ability to work independently with a minimum of supervision and the comfort to work in the office, in the field and on the road. The ability to fund raise is essential.

Send inquiries, cover letter and resume to massforestalliance@gmail.com

17) BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HUNGRY HORSE, MT

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Executive Director is a full time salaried position with a 40 hour work week. Some travel and weekend availability is required; use of your personal vehicle will be necessary with mileage reimbursement at the standard government rate. This position is based at the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation office located in Hungry Horse, MT at the USFS Hungry Horse Ranger Station. This position reports to the president of the Board of Directors. Deadline: May 18th.

More information available [here](#)

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