

A non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of open space and natural resources in the communities of South Central Massachusetts.

GRANTS RECEIVED FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS STAFF - URGENT CAMPAIGN TO RAISE MATCHING FUNDS UNDERWAY -

Metacomet has received two grants toward the cost of hiring a part-time conservation projects specialist to complete several pending projects by the end of this year. We must match these generous grants in order to have the funds needed to get these projects moving! **Please help us raise these funds by the end of June!**

The first grant of \$7,500 has been donated by **The James Lee and Annanette Harper Family Foundation** as a challenge to help kick off our fundraising for this important position. The Harper Family Foundation is based in Texas and this is its first grant to conservation in our region. We are extremely grateful to Carol and Lee Harper of Franklin for their vision of a future Franklin which will retain its farms, forests, and trails.

The second grant, from **Brian and Anne Mazar of Mendon**, will provide part of what we need for the staff position with additional funds to cover land planning services for an ongoing project in Mendon. We have been working with the owners of Maple Farm, a signature landscape farm on North Street, since 2005. The Mazar's donation will provide funds to allow the land trust to continue to work with Keith Ross on a preservation plan for Maple Farm. Many thanks to the Mazars for their steadfast support of Metacomet and other conservation organizations.

We must now raise the remaining \$13,000 needed for our project position. We need your help to raise \$13,000 in donations from area businesses, professional practices in the land development industry, and financial institutions.

As you, our faithful members know, many of the 350 acres of open space and 162 acres of private conservation lands saved by MLT were preserved when our land trust had professional staff; we are currently a volunteer organization and rely upon the many talents of our Board of Directors and volunteers.

Our region continues to feel the pressure of both commercial and residential development due to our desirable location midway between the cities of Boston, Providence and Worcester. This year, we want to complete several conservation projects in the immediate area. These projects are beyond the capacity of our volunteer board, as they involve large properties and complicated financial partnerships, but will result in the permanent protection of hundreds of acres of farmland and woodland.

Part of the urgency is due to a temporary federal income tax incentive for gifts of private conservation restrictions. Landowners, and in particular farmers and ranchers, have a narrow window of time in which to complete permanent conservation arrangements to take advantage of the increased federal tax donation. *Metacomet clearly needs to have professional staff to bolster our capacity to respond to these interested and willing conservation donors.*

While this year is critical for land conservation nationwide, our local area particularly needs the capacity to complete these deals in 2007, as the opportunity may not come again for landowners who are approaching retirement age. Going forward, we will of course need to sustain this staff position in order to respond to future projects.

Metacomet is in a unique position to help assure that our environment can be preserved for the future. You, our members and donors, will be key to our success. Please continue your support for land conservation efforts as one way to express your love of the farms and open spaces of New England.

Here's how you can help!

1. **Send us the names** of local attorneys, bank officers, or the owners of retail businesses that appreciate the quality of life in your community. Please indicate the level of corporate donation you feel each business could afford: \$100 or \$1,000. Better yet, take a moment to talk about the land trust with the business owner yourself and ask if we may approach them for a donation to support conservation!

Email the names and addresses of businesses you believe could make a contribution to metacometlandtrust@verizon.net or call our toll free telephone line: 888-298-7284.

2. If you work for a corporation that makes **matching charitable donations** for its employees - or which has a corporate foundation - please ask your employer or your employee fund to match your personal gift to the land trust. Our Federal Tax ID is: 04-3020897 and our mailing address is on the return address.

3. Please **increase your personal giving** this year with an extra donation toward our project staff fund. If you can afford to make a larger gift this year, please send your donation to our mailing address and earmark your check for "project staff."

4. **Host a trail walk, garden party, or other type of small event in your town** or in your neighborhood to benefit the land trust. We can provide a speaker, a slide program, and handouts for your guests.

Thank you for helping in whatever way you can!

Your Board of Directors,

Cliff Matthews, President
Lisa Mosczynski, Secretary
Andy Backman, Blackstone
Dianne Demarais, Wrentham
Anne Matthews, Bellingham
Mike Penko, Upton

Tom Bik, Vice President
Susan Speers, Treasurer
Nick Bik, Blackstone
Barry Lariviere, Bellingham
Pat Nedoroscik, Sutton
Larry Rettman, Franklin



MLT Launches Educational Programs and Materials Fund

Metacomet has created a fund with the goal of raising **\$5,000.00** to achieve our objectives in the areas of open space, natural resources, and affordable housing.

This fund will be used solely for ongoing educational programs and materials for property owners within the Blackstone Valley and Norfolk County. Separate from the annual operating budget, the Educational Programs and Materials Fund would allow the trust to hold informational meetings for property owners with large tracts of land where the various options available to them for land preservation could be explained, conduct workshops on habitat and forest protection, and invite informative and innovative speakers in all areas of land conservation and affordable housing. These funds will allow the trust to expand our library of books and resources that could be used by property owners. A gift of any amount is gratefully appreciated.

From our initial request for donations, the following businesses responded. These generous gifts ranged from \$ 100.00 to \$ 1000.00. Please show your appreciation by visiting these local establishments.

C & S Retail Lumber, Millbury

D. J. Salmon Lawn & Landscape, Uxbridge

**Dana Gravison & Wendy Holst Gravison,
Dana Gravison Inc. Sutton**

**Gary & Judi Vaillancourt, Vaillancourt Folk Art,
Sutton**

Many Thanks to everyone who joined or renewed since our last newsletter:

**Bill & Joyce Marland
Lori Jean Fafard
Maura & Joseph Barbato, Jr.
Susan Plume
Russ Cohen
Barry Lariviere
Steven Greenwald
Karen Webber & John Sheehan
Erik Anderberg
Donna Brown
Ann & John Hanscom
Rep. Jennifer Callahan
Dianne Demarais & Tom Nardone
Lisa Moczynski
Tom & Donna Bik
PGC Associates
Jeanne & Peter Kohutanycz
Ed Shea
Dick Lindstrom & Alyse Aubin
Nick and Margo Bik
Virginia Wheelock
Mary Anne Squillace
Tony & Gail Dick
Russell P. Hook
John M. Penko**

Leon Moczynski honored for 37 years of service to the Douglas Conservation Commission

On April 26th, the Douglas Conservation Commission dedicated a beautiful 44-acre property on Mumford Road to one of its founding members, Leon Moczynski. The Douglas Commission was established in 1970 and Leon has served faithfully ever since. The Commission chose to honor Leon in recognition of his public service and his stewardship of our environment.

The new property, opposite #82 Mumford Road, includes a section of Reservoir Brook and diverse and thriving habitats.

Leon, his wife Shirley, and daughter Lisa have been members of Metacomet for many years.

Stewardship Project Begins

MLT Announces New Partnership with Members and Volunteers

Metacomet Land Trust is pleased to announce a new **Stewardship Project** that will begin this summer. As part of the trust's requirement when property is acquired either through ownership or a conservation restriction, members of the trust must periodically walk the land to personally view the property. This viewing allows us to ensure that no one is improperly infringing on the land through such uses as building or dumping and also allows us to observe first hand what is happening on the land — new habitat or dangers to habitat, active vernal pools or streams drying up, healthy vegetation or invasive species.

While a few of our properties have active friends and members looking out for the land, others do not. We're renewing our regular stewardship partnership and ask members and volunteers to participate. Please join us on a stewardship walk and enable the trust to have a permanent record of the visit through written notes and photographs.

The first partnership will occur in Sutton where two high school students from the Whitinsville Christian School in Northbridge MA will become our first official "stewards of the land". As part of their school curriculum these students are expected to perform community service that will help to ensure the health and well being of the area in which they live. Paige Salmon and Patrick Salmon, children of D.J. and Laurie Salmon, will walk **three Sutton parcels** and make written observations on the condition of the land and the flora and fauna that they observed and will also document their visit through photos.

Cliff Matthews, President of the Metacomet Land Trust, hopes that this first stewardship walk will lead to similar walks in all of the land trust communities. "It is important to bring our members and volunteers into the workings of the land trust so that they may see first hand how crucial it is to care for the land that has been entrusted to us."

Paige and Patrick will be working on this project with Board of Director members Cliff Matthews of Bellingham, Lisa Moczynski of Douglas, and Pat Nedoroscik of Sutton (who is also their "Gramma").

If you would like more details about the stewardship walk project, please contact the land trust at 1- 888-298-7284 or via email at MetacometLandTrust@verizon.net and someone will get back to you. A list of MLT parcels is included below. Please let us know which parcel/parcels you would like to walk and your availability.

LAND TRUST PROPERTIES:

Franklin: Franklin Woods, Bridle Path; wetlands off Dawn Marie Circle; Lady Bug Trail off Coronation Drive

Blackstone: the woodlands of the Daniels Farm, Mendon Street (130 acres)

Sutton: 5 parcels including: land on Putnam Hill Road; 120 acres off Chase Road north of the Boria Farm; Central Turnpike; and Manchaug Road.

Conserved Property owned by others which MLT must visit periodically to monitor: Bellingham, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, and Wrentham.

Take care of the Earth and she will take care of you!

To join or renew your membership in the land trust, please fill in below.

_____ Seniors/Students (\$10)

_____ General Members (\$11-49)

_____ Friends (\$50-99)

_____ Corporate or Land Sponsor (\$100+)

To make a gift to the Land Projects Staff Campaign,
please enter the amount of your donation below:

_____ Apply my gift to the Staff Campaign

NAME(S): _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

IF YOU CAN PROVIDE THE NAMES AND MAILING ADDRESS OF ANY SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS OWNERS,
PLEASE FILL IN BELOW AND MAIL TO THE LAND TRUST.

NAME(S): _____

BUSINESS OR FIRM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MAY WE USE YOUR NAME AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN M.L.T. AS A REFERENCE? Yes No



Did you know.....?

Metacomet's logo, shown above in the original artwork, was chosen to represent the three parts of our organizational mission:

**Affordable Housing.... Environmental Education.....
and the Protection of Natural Resources**

METACOMET LAND TRUST, INC.
P.O. BOX 231
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**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PERMIT NO. 46
FRANKLIN,
MASSACHUSETTS**



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TO REACH THE LAND TRUST

Toll Free Telephone:
1-888-298-7284

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Website: www.MetacomelandTrust.org
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