

Massachusetts Forest Update  
October 2016

**Still Time to Sign up for the Foresters Council Meeting & Workshop October 19th**

The Massachusetts Foresters Council will hold its fall meeting and programs on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 7 pm at the Mass Wildlife Field Headquarters in Westborough.

The program will include presentations on Big BAF double point sampling, Mass Wildlife's Young Forests Initiative, and a Northern long-eared bat update. There will also be updates on policy issues from MFA, forestry from DCR and habitat management from DFW. A catered supper will be provided.

Cost of the workshops is \$30 for MFA members, \$50 for non-members.

To register, send a check to: Mass Forest Alliance, Foresters Council Meeting, 249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752. Reservations can also be made by calling Annette Belanger at 617 455-9918 or emailing [Annette@massforestalliance.org](mailto:Annette@massforestalliance.org)

The deadline for reservations is October 17th.

These workshops have been approved for 3.75 Mass forester licensing credits in Category I, 1.0 CT CEUs, and 3.0 SAF credits in Category I

To learn more, see [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)

**Foresters for the Birds Now Available to Landowners Statewide**

Modeled on a successful program in Vermont, DCR's Foresters for the Birds Program provides landowners with information about bird habitat on their land, and recommendations about how to enhance it in conjunction with other forest management goals.

Originally available to landowners in 35 towns with Northern Hardwood forest habitats, the program has now been expanded to be available for landowners throughout Massachusetts.

To learn more, see [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)

**MassWildlife Announces \$300,000 Available in Habitat Management Grants**

MassWildlife will be awarding \$300,000 in grants to support private and municipal efforts to manage conservation lands for the benefit of wildlife. The goal of the MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program is to provide financial assistance to

private and municipal landowners of conserved lands to support active habitat management and expand public recreation on these lands.

The program also aims to improve habitat for game species, to manage habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (with special emphasis on State-Endangered and State-Threatened Species), and to expand public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife-associated activities on conserved lands.

To learn more, see [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)

### **Wood Producers Council Meeting in Northampton on November 10th**

The Massachusetts Wood Producers Council will hold its fall meeting and dinner at the Bluebonnet Restaurant in Northampton on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 8 pm.

The meeting will feature:

- a presentation from Averill Cook from Biomass Commodities about an English system to produce higher energy wood chips,
- a discussion by new DCR Utilization & Marketing Forester Sean Mahoney about the new Walden Pond Visitors Center and how to use DCR's new 728 Contract to increase state purchases of local wood products,
- and a discussion about the proposed Alternative Portfolio Standards' regulations governing eligibility for Renewable Energy Credits for different wood fuels.

There will also be an update on current legislative and policy topics.

Cost of the meeting and dinner is \$30 for MFA members, \$50 for non-members.

Continuing education credits will be available for foresters and timber harvesters.

To learn more, see [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)

### **State Announces New Program to Convert Larger Energy Users to Clean Heat**

The Baker-Polito Administration, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), announced in September the launch of a package of programs that will provide grants of up to \$250,000 to help businesses and other entities convert their large, commercial-scale heating and cooling systems to cleaner systems, including biomass or heat pumps. The new programs, which complement the rebates already available for single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums, will allow businesses, nonprofits, government entities and multi-family residential facilities across

the Commonwealth to be eligible for rebates up to \$250,000 for biomass heating and ground-source heat pump projects and \$225,000 for air-source pump projects.

To learn more, see [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)

**MFA Forest Update: Now accepting ads, both graphic and text based!**

**Upcoming in October & November**

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|-----------------|---|
| October 14 – 15 | <b>Tree Steward Training -- Petersham</b>                   |
| October 15      | <b>From Woods to Home tour -- Gill</b>                      |
|                 | <b>Moose in Massachusetts – Turners Falls</b>               |
|                 | <b>Farm Tractors in Forestry workshop – Bridgewater, NH</b> |
| October 19      | <b>Mass Foresters Council Meeting – Westborough</b>         |
| October 20      | <b>NH Biomass Boiler Operators Workshop – Plymouth, NH</b>  |
| October 22      | <b>Project Learning Tree Workshop – North Easton</b>        |
|                 | <b>Tree ID Using Bark – Northfield</b>                      |
| October 29      | <b>Managing Mass Forests Conference – Holyoke</b>           |
| November 9      | <b>Mass Tree Farm Committee meeting – Williamsburg</b>      |
| November 10     | <b>Mass Wood Producers Council meeting -- Northampton</b>   |

*For information about these events, and more, go to [www.massforestalliance.org](http://www.massforestalliance.org)*