



## Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation

Saturday, February 1, 2025 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Upper Cape Technical High School

220 Sandwich Road, Bourne MA

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

Funding provided by The Island Foundation and Bilezikian Family Foundation

8:15 a.m.

**ARRIVAL:** FREE coffee, Danish, muffins (*thanks to the Tech students!*)

9:00 a.m.

**KICK-OFF:** welcome; *Mark Rasmussen, President, Buzzards Bay Coalition*  
*Mark Robinson, Exec. Dir., The Compact (TRIVIA!)*

9:15 – 10:00 a.m. **SESSION ONE (choose A or B workshop, each includes time for O&A)**

**WORKSHOP A.** How to Operate a Land Trust Responsibly: A Practical Approach to Standards and Practices  
Advancing Conservation Excellence has many pieces to it. It is about building sustainable land trusts, as well as compliant ones. Our speakers will walk us through the process of implementing a land conservation project to highlight the importance of Standards and Practices.  
*Robb Johnson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition*  
*Tom Evans, Board President, Harwich Conservation Trust*

**WORKSHOP B.** What Do We Do with This Building? Advancing Conservation Projects that Include Structures  
Many land protection opportunities in our area involve parcels with existing buildings and infrastructure. Join us for a discussion of how these complications can be leveraged to advance a land trust's mission.  
*John Chester, Real Estate Project Manager, Buzzards Bay Coalition*  
*Stephen O'Grady, Executive Director, Orleans Conservation Trust*

10:10-10:20 a.m. 10 min. break

10:20 – 11:15 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION with Chris Neill, Ph.D., Woodwell Climate Research Center**  
The Importance of Local Land Conservation for Promoting Biodiversity and Climate Resilience  
A disproportionate share of regional biodiversity occurs in patch habitats or hotspots of small areas that are widespread on municipal and land trust lands. Management and restoration of these patches plays a critical role in sustaining biodiversity and promoting resilience in the face of climate change. Chris, the Senior Scientist at Woodwell Climate Research Center, will discuss recent assessments of plant diversity across the region and report on restoration successes of wetland restoration in cranberry bogs and continuing challenges for the management of biodiversity-rich patch habitats.

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **SESSION TWO (choose A or B workshop, each includes time for O&A)**

**WORKSHOP A.** Engaging Young People in Our Programs: Lessons Learned by Doing  
How can we promote youth, teen, family, and young adult engagement with the environment? Explore successes and challenges in attracting younger demographics to your organization.  
*David Fryxell, Ph.D., Executive Director and Leeza Barstein, TerraCorps Member*  
*Dennis Conservation Land Trust*  
*Angie Weldon, Center Director, Buzzards Bay Coalition's Onset Bay Center*

**WORKSHOP B.** Managing Forests in the Face of Insect, Disease, and Climate Threats  
The forests we protect in Southeastern Massachusetts face an increasing number of threats. Options for managing forests owned by land trusts and municipalities will be discussed with emphasis will be on Southern Pine Beetle and Beech Leaf Disease. Panel discussion to follow.  
*Jim Rassman, Service Forester-Southeast Region, MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation*  
*Ross Moran, Executive Director, Westport Land Conservation Trust*  
*Kelly Barber, Director of Land Stewardship, Barnstable Land Trust*  
*Kristen Geagan, Director of Stewardship, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation*