



## News from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

### March 2017

#### **Something for everyone in State Wildlife Action Plans**

State Wildlife Action Plan coordinators from 12 Northeast states took time out of a three-day meeting in Amherst, Mass., to introduce U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to updated plans outlining strategies for protecting the most vulnerable species, including looking for new opportunities to collaborate with a little help from regional-scale data supported by the North Atlantic LCC.

[Learn more](#)

#### **Maine leads effort to streamline aquatic conservation with regional database**

Partners in Maine are using a stream temperature database developed by the U.S. Geological Survey with support from the North Atlantic LCC as a central repository for data, and a way to identify opportunities to collaborate around shared aquatic priorities.

[Learn more](#)

#### **New community forest encompasses 160 acres of “core area” in Massachusetts**

The Kestrel Land Trust and the Town of Pelham Conservation Commission have partnered to acquire a 161-acre parcel of land in Pelham, Mass., that will serve as a valuable natural asset for both people and wildlife in the community, and beyond. The Buffam Brook Community Forest lies within a high priority terrestrial “core area” in the *Connect the Connecticut* landscape conservation design.

[Learn more](#)

#### **Sands of time: Learn about new resources that help visualize changes to beach and tidal habitat**

View a streaming recording of the March *Science Seminar* presentation in which Tracy Monegan Rice described her project to inventory sandy beach and tidal inlet habitats within the U.S. Atlantic Coast breeding range of piping plover from Maine to North Carolina using imagery from Google Earth, Google Maps, state agencies, municipalities, and private organizations. Find the link to the recording under “Additional Resources” on the Beach and Tidal Habitat Inventories product page.

[Learn more](#)

### **Other News of Note**

#### **Fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats found in Texas (TPWD News)**

For the first time, the fungus that causes deadly white-nose syndrome in hibernating bats has been detected in Texas. It is also the first time it's been found in cave myotis and Townsend's big-eared bats. This discovery is significant because it occurs where the ranges of eastern, southern, and western bat species intersect.

[Learn more](#)

#### **Seeing birds can help people de-stress (The Wildlife Society)**

A new paper in *BioScience* shows a link between the opportunity to see birds outside and mental health. Researchers from the University of Exeter and the British Trust for Ornithology measured the population and species diversity of birds at morning and lunchtime in a variety of neighborhoods in three towns in

southern England. Testing five different nature characteristics in the neighborhoods, they found afternoon bird abundance was positively correlated with less depression, anxiety and stress.

[Learn more](#)

### **Up to \$1.5 million available from New England Forests and Rivers Fund for 2017 (NFWF)**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the New England Forests and Rivers Fund. The Fund, which was launched in 2015 with seed funding from Eversource as part of its Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife program, is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers throughout New England.

[Learn more](#)

### **Upcoming Workshops, Meetings, Presentations, and Webinars**

#### **April 6, 2:00 p.m. (EST) -- Webinar: Solar with Monarch Habitat: a Win-Win in the Land of Milkweed and Honey**

Representatives from the solar industry will discuss the science and safety of photovoltaic solar and the growing trend of planting pollinator habitat under and around ground-mounted solar panels. In 2016 alone, nearly 2,500 acres of solar sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin were seeded with millions of native flowers and grasses including black-eyed susans, side-oats grama, purple prairie clover, butterfly milkweed, and calico aster. The webinar is open to anyone, but pre-registration is required.

[Learn more](#)

#### **April 9 -- Workshop: Mapping Shared Resource Priorities, Norfolk, Va.**

As this year's Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Norfolk, Va., the North Atlantic LCC will present a workshop on using collaborative science to identify conservation priorities. The workshop is free but registration is required. BYO laptop.

[Learn more](#)

#### **April 12 -- North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee meeting, Norfolk, Va.**

The spring 2017 Steering Committee meeting will take place at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott directly following the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference. Please RSVP to North Atlantic LCC Communications Coordinator Bridget Macdonald: [bridget\\_macdonald@fws.gov](mailto:bridget_macdonald@fws.gov)

[Learn more](#)

#### **April 12, 12:00 p.m. (EST) -- Webinar: Revealing the Role of Local Stakeholders in Landscape Conservation Design: A Social Science Inquiry**

Dr. Daniel Decker and doctoral candidate Catherine Doyle-Capitman of the Human Dimensions Research Unit at Cornell University are conducting research to understand the role of local stakeholders in landscape conservation design, and how social data can be used to increase the efficacy and utilization of these efforts for conservation. As part of this research, Doyle-Capitman observed several meetings for the development of the *Connect the Connecticut* landscape conservation design, and conducted interviews with core team members.

[Learn more](#)

#### **April 12, 3:30 p.m. (EST) -- Webinar: Drought in the Northeast and Implications for Ecosystems**

In May, 2016, a group of 26 climate and ecological experts explored what ecological drought would look like in the northeastern United States. This was part of a series of meetings at each of the nation's eight Climate Science Centers (CSCs) aimed at collating our existing knowledge of the ecological impacts,

resistance, and recovery from drought. The eight CSCs provide a fantastic opportunity to compare the ecological effects of drought, related research activities, and management options at different regions, spatial scales, and biomes.

[Learn more](#)

**May 15 - 17 -- Northeast Climate Science Center Regional Science Meeting, Amherst, Mass.**

The Northeast Climate Science Center will gather scientists and partners to reflect on our collaborative work to incorporate climate science in the management of natural and cultural resources in the Northeast and Midwest and determine future directions and needs for our region.

[Learn more](#)

**Submission deadline for the next edition of North Atlantic LCC News: Friday April 21, 2017**

**Please email submissions to: [bridget\\_macdonald@fws.gov](mailto:bridget_macdonald@fws.gov)**

**For more information about the North Atlantic LCC: [www.northatlanticlcc.org](http://www.northatlanticlcc.org)**