

Case Studies in Conservation: NRC 575

(spring 2013. spire # 14194 3 Credits) Tu Th 4 – 5:15

Holdsworth 305

David Kittredge dbk@eco.umass.edu



Landscapes dominated by private ownerships have pressing conservation needs. Stakes are high in many places as conservation options are lost due to land conversion and development. Massachusetts Audubon estimates that the Commonwealth loses as much as 40 acres of open space to development on a daily basis. One strategy is for the state or federal government to buy land in fee, and this has been done successfully, resulting in the creation of the White Mountain National Forest, various wildlife refuges, national seashores, and state and national parks. **Alternatively, there are many examples of conservation and land protection in a parcelized or fragmented landscape dominated by private ownership which are not the result of federal or state fee simple acquisition.** In many cases, towns, non-governmental organizations, partnerships, and individuals respond to need and act at a smaller spatial and financial scale but with significant conservation results. Indeed, these groups and individuals can often act with greater speed and local credibility than larger public entities.

This course will meet twice weekly and review case studies in conservation, with a focus on locally initiated, small-scale success stories, described by outside speakers in seminars on Tuesdays. Thursday class is devoted to discussion.

There are **three ways to take this course:**

1. for three credits (requirements include attendance/weekly speaker summaries, take-home mid-term exam, professional practicum experience project)
2. for one credit by enrolling in NRC 596 – independent study (requirements include attendance at weekly seminar presentations, and professional practicum experience project)
3. for zero credit by simply coming to weekly seminars to learn about success stories in conservation. *Don't sign up or enroll, **just drop in.*** Seminars are open to the public. **Each Seminar has been evaluated for Forester Continuing Education licensing, and is worth 1 credit. Certificates will be distributed to those who attend.**

Directions to Holdsworth Hall on the UMass Amherst campus are here:

<http://eco.umass.edu/about-us/visiting-eco/>

and the schedule for upcoming seminars is also on our Department website:

<http://eco.umass.edu/>

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Spring 2013 seminar schedule

Seminars meet Tuesdays from 4 – 5:15 pm, in Holdsworth Hall 305

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| January 29 | Ben Wright. Land Conservation Specialist, Kestrel Trust. <i>Regional land trust land protection example(s).</i> |
| February 5 | Tom Lautzenheiser. Board member, Pascommuck Land Trust. <i>Local land protection and outreach examples of an all-volunteer land trust</i> |
| February 12 | Bob Wilber. Director of Land Protection, Massachusetts Audubon Society <i>Land protection by a statewide conservation organization</i> |
| February 26 | Wayne Feiden. Director of Planning and Development, City of Northampton <i>Land protection through zoning, municipal acquisition, easement, and limited development</i> |
| March 5 | Emily Boss. Land Protection Specialist, Franklin Land Trust <i>Regional land trust land protection examples with a focus on agriculture.</i> |
| March 12 | Katie Blake. MassConn partnership <i>Conservation at a regional scale through organizational partnerships</i> |
| March 26 | Sam Lovejoy. Land protection specialist, Mass Wildlife. <i>Land protection from the perspective of a state conservation agency</i> |
| April 2 | Keith Ross. Senior Advisor, Landvest. <i>The role and process of appraisals in land protection.</i> |
| April 9 | Jay Rasku, North Quabbin Regional Landscape Coordinator, <i>and</i> Sarah Wells, Land Conservation Associate . Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. <i>Community involvement and conservation outreach.</i> |
| April 16 | Andrew Bentley, CR Stewardship Assistant, <i>and</i> Sally Naser, CR Monitoring Specialist, The Trustees of Reservations. <i>Defense of conservation restrictions.</i> |
| April 23 | Sonya LeClair. Programs Coordinator. New England Forestry Foundation. <i>The importance and power of working with volunteers to advance conservation at the local level.</i> |
| April 30 | Joanne McGee. Open Space Committee, Northfield. <i>Brush Mountain Project and the evolution of a Town Forest.</i> |

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