

# Case Studies in Conservation: NRC 597C

(spring 10. spire # 57410 3 Credits)

Tu Th 4 – 5:15

Holdsworth 305

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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/participation, take-home mid-term exam, project)
2. for one credit by enrolling in FOREST 596 – independent study (requirements include attendance at weekly seminar presentations, and prepare one 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.

Consult the weekly seminar schedule to see the kinds of speakers and organizations that will be participating. Projects consist of one web-based case study to be posted on <http://www.masswoods.net/index.php/future/cases> and used in a service-learning context as outreach materials for private woodland owners.

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## Spring 2010 seminar schedule

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

January 26	Wayne Feiden. Director of Planning and Development, City of Northampton <i>Land protection through zoning, municipal acquisition, easement, and limited development</i>
February 2	Brandon Kibbe. Land protection specialist, Mass Wildlife. <i>Land protection from the perspective of a state conservation agency</i>
February 9	Marty Klein. Board member, Passcommuck Land Trust <i>Land protection by an all-volunteer, local land trust</i>
February 23	Leigh Youngblood. Executive Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. <i>Regional land trust land protection example(s).</i>
March 2	Jay Closser. Real estate appraiser, Landvest. <i>Developing the appraisal value of an easement</i>
March 9	Cynthia Henshaw. Executive Director, East Quabbin Land Trust <i>Regional land trust land protection example(s).</i>
March 23	Bob Wilber. Director of Land Protection, Massachusetts Audubon Society <i>Land protection by a statewide conservation organization</i>
March 30	Chris Pryor. Forest Stewardship Coordinator, New England Forestry Foundation. <i>The importance of monitoring easements.</i>
April 6	Sonya LeClair. Community Forest Programs Coordinator, New England Forestry Foundation. <i>Working with volunteers to facilitate conservation.</i>
April 13	Laura Herbert and Rob Fletcher. Erving Open Space Committee <i>Local campaign for land acquisition and subsequent action</i>
April 20	Keith Ross. Senior Advisor, Landvest. <i>Aggregation of land protection projects: reducing cost, time, and energy, and stimulating interest.</i>
April 27	Wendy Sweetser. Director. Highlands Community Initiative. The Trustees of Reservations. <i>Community Preservation Act (CPA) as a conservation tool.</i>
May 4	Kristin DeBoer. Executive Director, Kestrel Trust. <i>Regional land trust land protection example(s).</i>