

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Forest Futures Technical Steering Committee

Committee Chair - Lisa Vernegaard is the Conservation Group Chief of Staff and Director of Planning and Stewardship at The Trustees of Reservations. She has been with the Trustees since 1992. In her current role she oversees the preparation and coordinated implementation of strategic plans, regional work plans, and property management plans; facilitates collaboration, coordination, and communication across the organization's mission-based divisions; directs The Trustees' resource protection team; leverages resource protection efforts to advance a wide array of strategic initiatives, including engagement, volunteerism, diversity, fundraising, and advocacy; and serves as a representative and leader for The Trustees in developing and advancing innovative approaches to a variety of stewardship challenges. Previously she was director of Planning and Stewardship and Director of Planning and Ecology. In those positions she led planning efforts, develop policies and guidelines and led the effort to develop a strategic plan for The Trustees working with the Board, staff and community to develop a compelling vision for the future of the organization. She has experience with a wide variety of ecological issues including rare and endangered species management, habitat restoration, ecosystem dynamics and fire ecology. She holds a Masters in Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry, has worked for the City of Baltimore and, in the 1980's, the Metropolitan District Commission.

Members

Mathew R. Burne is Conservation Director at the Walden Woods Project has expertise in wildlife conservation, with a particular focus on vernal pool habitats and the diversity of wildlife that depend upon these small forest pools. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in Environmental Science, for which he focused on wetland ecology. He received a Master of Science, also from UMass Amherst, in Fish and Wildlife Conservation with thesis research focused on the biodiversity of vernal pools. He spent ten years with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program as their Vernal Pool Ecologist and as an assistant environmental reviewer, evaluating impacts to rare wetlands wildlife habitat for Wetlands Protection Act, MEPA, and MESA permits. He also co-founded the Vernal Pool Association, a non-profit educational organization focused on promoting the study, appreciation, and protection of vernal pools conducting workshops throughout Massachusetts and the New England region, and the materials developed are used widely in the region and have reached a national audience. In addition, he manages a social network of vernal pool enthusiasts with over 500 members from throughout the United States and Canada.

Heather Clish has worked at the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) for eight years, the first six as the Director of Trails and Riverways Stewardship and now with responsibility for AMC's Conservation Policy program and Trails and Recreation Management Program. In addition to trail building and maintenance, the programs she oversees include trail corridor monitoring, user education, trail protection, on-site management of user impacts, and the promotion of policies that ensure high-quality recreational experiences. She led the development of AMC's Recreation Management Plan for the Katahdin Ironworks property, a 37,000-acre tract in the Maine Woods. She collaborated with foresters on the

Forest Management Plan as it relates to recreation goals. She continues to lead the work to develop and manage recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, skiing, snowmobiling, pond and river access, as well as camping opportunities. This work includes working closely with AMC's foresters to protect recreational aesthetics when forestry operations are in the vicinity trails and other recreational focal points. She is familiar with tools and concepts such as the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum and Limits of Acceptable Change.

Kathleen E. Connolly, Esq. is counsel at the firm of Murtha Cullina, LLP. Her practice is in the areas of land use and environmental law, with an emphasis on conservation, land trusts, farming and forestry, in addition to general zoning permitting. She represents the Farm Bureau, the Department of Agricultural Resources, and many farmers and foresters throughout the Commonwealth. Prior to joining Murtha Cullina, she was a principal with the firm of Kopelman and Paige, practicing municipal law for almost 16 years. In that capacity, she represented conservation commissions throughout the Commonwealth. She currently serves as special counsel to conservation commissions, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. She was recently elected an Officer of MACC. She is a coauthor and co-editor of the MACC revised Handbook for conservation commissions. In 2007-2008 she served on the Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, together with Irene Del Bono of EEA, and several other attorneys who worked on revising the EEA Model Conservation Restriction. She has conducted seminars and workshops of legal issues related to conservation. Prior to becoming an attorney, she was Director of Education and Outreach for the New England Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Public Affairs Division.

Andy Finton, for the past 9 years, has served as the Director of Conservation Science for the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). His responsibilities include overseeing the application of current scientific information to define and assess conservation goals and threats, and implement conservation strategies to preserve globally significant species and ecosystems. In this role, he has worked extensively with state agency staff on a variety of forest protection and management issues and projects. He also has significant experience in assessing and prioritizing forest land protection and management strategies across the northeast and Massachusetts, and in collaborating with academic partners to inform planning and implementation, including among others: serving as Project Manager for the Massachusetts "Biomap: Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts"; collaborating with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to conduct a statewide connectivity assessment to inform land protection and restoration priorities; developing a network of 70 forest practitioners from across The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Region to share best practices. Throughout his career, he has applied The Nature Conservancy's objective, science-based approach to identify priorities that serve as a basis for decision making and seeking common ground among diverse stakeholders. He brings TNC's global, national, and regional perspectives to the assessment of DCR forest values and uses.

Dr. William Moomaw is both Professor of International Environmental Policy and Director of Fletcher's [Center for International Environment & Resource Policy](#) (CIERP). In addition to his work 'on-the-ground' at Tufts, Professor Moomaw traveled to Nanjing, China in October to present *Cascading*

Costs: An Economic Nitrogen Cycle to academics, government officials and scientists participating in the 3rd International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) Conference. Professor Moomaw also continues to serve as an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and is currently writing on the topic of 'Renewable Energy and climate Change' for next IPCC report. Along with his climate change work in the international arena, Moomaw comes full circle and returns to local action through his work as founder of [Tufts Climate Initiative](#) (TCI) to become perhaps the first university to have a climate mitigation policy. Through TCI, Tufts became "the first university to join the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)[®], a greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading pilot program for emission sources and offset projects. Tufts joins other members who are making voluntary, but binding commitment to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by four percent below the average of their 1998-2001 baseline by 2006, the last year of the pilot program".

Keith Ross, for the past three years, part of Keith's work has been with the authors of the Harvard Forest publication *Wildlands and Woodlands, A Vision for the Forests of Massachusetts* working on pilot projects to advance that vision's goal of protecting 1.5 mil acres in Massachusetts. Since 2003 he has been *Senior Advisor* in the Real Estate Consulting Group of LandVest, providing conservation advisory services for non-profits, land trusts, foundations, and private families in the US. From 1994 through 2003 he was *Director of Land Protection, Vice President* – New England Forestry Foundation, where he built and directed Land Conservation program in New England protecting over 1.2 million acres of working forest lands through gifts and purchase. Pioneered landscape conservation through Hull/Peck project in southern New England (50 parcels, 8,400 acres) and the Pingree Forest Partnership in northern Maine (762,192 acres). Responsible for fundraising over \$45 million in 9 years to protect land and fund staff. He was *Founder, Executive Director* – Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust from 1986 to 1994. Wrote & published booklet Conservation and Land Use Planning with Massachusetts' Chapter 61 Laws . His prior work includes *Land Protection Specialist* – Massachusetts Audubon Society Lincoln, Massachusetts 1987-94 (Halftime position); *President, Chief Forester* – Atlantic Forestry, 1979 to 1990; and as Assistant County Forester for DEM 1978, and as a logger, sawmill worker, surveyor.

Bruce Spencer was born, raised, and educated in Massachusetts. His family owned forest which I started to manage at an early age for firewood and timber. The forests, especially those surrounding the city of New Bedford's water supply, were his favorite places. He attended UMass in Amherst and received a BS and MS in Forest Management and Watershed Management, respectively. In 1965 while completing master's work at UMass, he was offered a job, as watershed forester, for the MDC at Quabbin Reservation. Initially he was the only forester, but over time the forestry staff was increased to 8 for all four watersheds under the care and control of MDC. This became his life's work for the next 41 years, until his retirement in 2006. The main emphasis of his work was the development of a watershed protection forest through the commercial application of silviculture. Over a 1000 timber sales were completed during his tenure. Through conferences and travel with the Society of American Foresters and the Forest Guild he has studied forest issues in New England and across the northern United States. He has traveled extensively in Europe studying forest management. He has been a member of the Massachusetts Forestry Committee and participated with the current changes to Chapter 132, specifically a subcommittee to rewrite the silvicultural guide lines. He is an active member with the Massachusetts Association of Professional Foresters and the Massachusetts Wood Producers Association. Since retirement he has continued his interest in forest issues with the Forest Guild, as a

consultant, and with volunteer work with various non-profits. He has been managing a jointly owned 150 acre woodlot, on which he recently gifted a conservation restriction to the Franklin Land Trust. Because he does his own logging, he holds a license to harvest forest products as well as a license to practice forestry in the Commonwealth.

Thomas Stevens teaches at the graduate and undergraduate level at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Resource Economics. Over the past five years he has focused primarily on the use and development of [non-market valuation techniques](#) such as contingent valuation and conjoint analyses. He uses these methods to estimate the economic value of several wildlife species, ecosystem management of forests, wetlands, and recreation on public lands. He is particularly interested in studying the sensitivity of value estimates to the type of methodology used and implications for decision making and natural resource damage assessments. His outreach activities include work with several federal and state agencies including the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA. He is a member of the Science Peer Review Committee for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and a member of a regional research project (W-133) "Benefits and Costs Transfer In Natural Resource Planning". He has written numerous papers, articles, monographs and book chapters.

Charles Thompson holds an MS in Forestry and has a diverse employment experience in professional forestry, including [academia](#) (taught timber harvesting, silviculture, forest management at the university level, conducted research on environmental impacts of logging); [field forestry](#) (for both industrial and non-industrial landowners); [state agency](#) (evaluation/promotion of forest products economic development opportunities); [non-profit organization](#) (Exec. Director, New England Forestry Foundation); [timberland investment sector](#) (oversight of operations, inventory, silviculture on 2.3 million acres in 17 states, 5 US forest regions and most forest types; staff specialist on forest policy). He is a co-author of the book *Working with your Woodland* which is used in courses at most northeastern universities offering forestry courses; former president of Massachusetts Forestry Association; initiator of first Massachusetts Forest Forum (early 1990s); board of directors, Center for Northern Woodlands Education (*Northern Woodlands* magazine); experience with FSC, SFI, and AFF forest certification standards and programs; currently serve on Operating Committee, Renewable Energy, and Climate Change work groups of National Alliance of Forest Owners. His areas of expertise include: silviculture, timber harvesting (systems, impacts, economics, best management practices); forest management planning on both small and large forests; third party certification systems; federal and state regulation of forest management; ecosystem/ non-traditional markets for forests (including conservation easements, windpower, wetland mitigation banking, renewable energy).

Joseph Zorzin has been a forester in western Massachusetts for 36 years working in every type of forest in the region. His clients include a Guild Model Forest (the only one in this Massachusetts).