



## The Gary Clayton Fund for Innovation in Conservation and Climate Action

*Advancing creative solutions to conservation challenges  
and creating new ways to protect our natural world.*

### Few people celebrate over 30 years in one organization.

And, even fewer can look back on a career marked with distinguished leadership and proven success. Gary Clayton stands out as a leader who has spent his career ensuring conservation achievements through a unique combination of expertise, determination, leadership, and humility. A hallmark of his tenure has been investing in innovation and new ideas that move the organization forward while staying laser-focused on our core mission and values.

In his first 25 years with Mass Audubon, Gary served with distinction as Vice President for Conservation Programs. Overseeing two-thirds of Mass Audubon's staff, he inspired the remarkable growth in our educational and camp programs, expanded the wildlife sanctuary system to over 100 properties, and enhanced our statewide leadership in science and advocacy.



Gary Clayton's tenure as President of Mass Audubon (2015-2020) is distinguished by many significant accomplishments, notably:

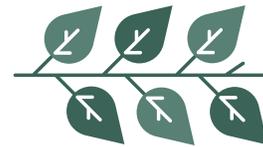
- ◆ Creating **major additions to our wildlife sanctuary system**, including the multimillion-dollar campaign to acquire Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Plymouth, as well as other major additions in Princeton, Wareham, and Wendell.
- ◆ Facilitating the remarkable **donation of Brewster's Woods in Concord** - the single largest gift in Mass Audubon's history.
- ◆ Building **increased financial support** by expanding membership to 135,000 members, growing annual giving by 45%, and raising over \$20 million for facilities, land protection, and special initiatives.
- ◆ **Growing nature heroes of every age** including at our Nature Preschools, now in five locations, and through internship programs with UMass Boston, Terracorps, and the Posse Foundation that create opportunities for a diverse group of young adults to pursue meaningful careers in the environmental and nonprofit sector.
- ◆ Developing and implementing a **comprehensive climate action strategy** with 10,000 acres of Mass Audubon forested lands serving as dedicated carbon offsets, plus facilitating the passage of the state's Climate Adaptation Management legislation - the first in the nation.



To honor his career and contributions to Mass Audubon, we are inspired to create the **Gary Clayton Fund for Innovation in Conservation and Climate Action**. This fund will allow Mass Audubon to build on the values that have defined Gary's extraordinary thirty-one-year career here.

- ◆ Encouraging novel and impactful efforts to extraordinary challenges facing our natural environment.
- ◆ Providing even more places where people can enjoy, learn about, and be inspired by nature.
- ◆ Advancing our advocacy agenda with bold legislative positions often in partnership with government leaders and others.

- ◆ Buoying our capacity for research and increasing the stature of our conservation science leadership.
- ◆ Seeking new opportunities to invite and engage more people to our work - especially those reflecting the rich cultural diversity of our state.



**Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$750,000 to support cutting-edge efforts in conservation and climate action, helping ensure that the organization stays responsive and relevant with the requisite support for exciting opportunities developed by our professional staff.**

- ◆ \$250,000 for an endowment, the proceeds of which will support the Clayton Award, to be presented at least biennially to staff so they can pursue innovative efforts in conservation and climate action.
- ◆ \$500,000+ for current use dollars to help immediately jump start near term initiatives, including elements of the 2019 Climate Action Plan such as:
  - Train 150 Mass Audubon members to serve as climate change policy advocates at the Massachusetts State House and on Capitol Hill.
  - Conserve at least 1,000 acres of land per year that offer high climate change mitigation and adaptation value across Massachusetts.
  - Bring a Mass Audubon Youth Climate Summit to every staffed wildlife sanctuary each year.
  - Drive voter registration and engagement in the 2020 and 2022 primary and general elections and help connect the importance of voting as a key climate change action.
  - Develop a plan to achieve carbon neutrality across the organization before 2050.



Establishing the Gary Clayton Fund for Innovation in Conservation and Climate Action will not only honor Gary for his remarkable successes but will create much-needed capacity for some of our most important initiatives. In his honor, we will continue to strengthen our organization as Gary has done throughout his admirable career.

We welcome your support for this effort!

**For more information,  
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