



FRANKLIN LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413/625-9152
www.franklinlandtrust.org

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events!

November 28, 2008
Moonlight Magic

June 27 – 28, 2009
21st Annual Farm and Garden Tour

August 15, 2009
5th Annual Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee and Farm Festival

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FRANKLIN LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please clip and mail this form to: Franklin Land Trust, P.O. Box 450, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Donation Amount \$5000 \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

FLT will not share information about its members with any other organization.

Please also include a donation of \$ _____ to the *Mary Robinson Torras Foundation Fund*. This Fund ensures the sustained success of the Franklin Land Trust, by providing long-term operating support, as did founding Board Member, Mitzi Torras.

Please also include a donation of \$ _____ to the *Mark Zenick Land Preservation Fund*. This Fund supports the land protection efforts of the Franklin Land Trust in creative ways, honoring founding Executive Director, Mark Zenick.

- A check is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
- Please charge my credit card a total of \$ _____
 MasterCard Visa Card Number _____ Exp. date _____
- I would prefer to donate monthly payments of \$ _____
- I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me. I wish to donate land
- I would like information about planned giving. I wish to have a conversation about protecting my property.
- I wish to donate stock. Other _____

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FRANKLIN LAND TRUST

Franklin Land Trust NEWS

PROTECTING FARMS, FORESTS, AND A WAY OF LIFE

Farm with a future *Guyette gift opens land to public*

Everyone wanted a piece of it to build a house on, recalls Evelyn Guyette.

The 107-acre Plainfield farm, which the Guyette family purchased in 1932, would make lovely house-lots, with its rolling meadows, stone walls and woods. But before her husband, Harry, died in 2007, he said he wanted the farm to go “somewhere they couldn’t build on it.” And Evelyn made sure of it.

Last spring, Evelyn Guyette gifted the farm to the Franklin Land Trust in honor of Harry. Evelyn, now 98, will continue to live in the house she still owns across the street from the farm. The property will also be protected from development under a conservation restriction held by Hilltown Land Trust. Meanwhile, FLT will work to restore the 1800s barn and establish a trail system for the public to enjoy.

“The love for this beautiful farm and generosity that Evelyn has shown by making this wonderful gift is inspiring,” said FLT Executive Director Rich Hubbard. “Evelyn is a remarkable person who has left all of us a wonderful legacy.”

Living off the land

Harry Guyette farmed the land with horses, until he got his first tractor in 1948.

“And I’ll never forget... He said he could always take a tractor and put it where he wanted it and it would stay there,” recalls Evelyn. “And he could put the horses there and when he came back with what he was after, they’d be home.”

The Guyettes grew just about every vegetable in three large gardens on the farm. Evelyn had a job delivering mail on a route



Evelyn Guyette at the Guyette Farm Dedication



operation with 40 cows. But when health regulations began to require that dairy farms be more industrialized, they stopped milking and only had beef cattle. Harry sold the cows about 10 years ago.

Though it was a lot of work, Evelyn said she enjoyed gardening. “I’d love to do it over again. That’s all in my life I’d like to do again is get out in the garden.”

The Guyette farm supports a lot of wildlife. The stream has good fishing down by the culvert on Gloyd Road. One day, Evelyn remembers, she caught 30 fish. “And I’ll tell you right now,” she said, “We had fish, fish, fish, fish!”

The decision to conserve

Once Evelyn decided that she wanted the land protected, she determined that one organization was not enough. The Franklin Land Trust would own the property, she decided, while Hilltown Land Trust would hold a conservation restriction on it.

FLT held a dedication ceremony Oct. 4 to celebrate the gift of the property with the local community. Next, it plans to begin a survey to establish the precise boundaries of the property, create a network of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and other activities, and continue to lease the fields for farming. In the future, FLT hopes to install a kiosk with information about the property’s history.

Evelyn remarked recently, “I hope I can look down and know what they do with it eventually.”

THIS ARTICLE INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH EVELYN GUYETTE CONDUCTED BY CAROLINE RAISLER, WHO INTERNEED WITH HILLTOWN LAND TRUST.

Photo: Alex Atwater

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Franklin Land Trust newsletter twice a year
- Member News & Information monthly email
- Advanced notice and invitation to special events
- Invitation to Annual Members' Picnic
- Free workshops and protected property hikes
- The knowledge that your membership helps to protect the farms, forests, and other natural resources significant to the environmental quality, economy, and rural character of our region

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN?

Please go to the membership form on the back cover and make the commitment to permanently protect the working landscapes and rural, scenic character of western Massachusetts for years to come.

Future generations will thank you.

The Franklin Land Trust is a nonprofit, charitable organization as qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-exempt to the extent permitted by law.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Please visit franklinlandtrust.org for full details on the gifts associated with each membership level.

When you give, you receive something in return!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New territory, new challenge

After an incredibly productive 18 years of protecting farmland and other open space resources in Deerfield, the Deerfield Land Trust voted earlier this year to un-incorporate and merge with the Franklin Land Trust. For a variety of reasons, the business of operating a land trust has become much more complicated and expensive, while at the same time the complexity and costs associated with protecting land continue to increase. These converging forces ultimately lead to the merger in an attempt to save precious resources and maximize their use on protecting land in Deerfield.

Having worked with DLT for close to its entire existence, both when I worked for the state protecting farmland and as DLT's executive director, I experienced a range of emotions when the DLT Board finally voted to approve the merger. Over those years I had developed a deep respect for the organization and its board members. I, therefore, felt a sense of sadness that a wonderful era had come to an end. At the same time, I am excited by the opportunity that the merger has created for FLT to apply its full land protection capacity to protecting land in Deerfield.

I recently had occasion to fly from Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., to visit my daughter in Chicago. As the plane began its ascent and headed north before turning toward the Midwest, I was able to track the glimmering Connecticut River as it snakes its way north through Massachusetts to New Hampshire and Vermont. Peering down from the ever increasing altitude, two distinct landmarks allowed me to identify the Town of Deerfield; Mount Sugarloaf and the Pocumtuck Ridge. I was then able to pick out the Deerfield River as it makes its way through Stillwater and across the South Meadows and North Meadows, the villages of South Deerfield and Old Deerfield, and the ribbon of farmland along River Road.

As Deerfield rapidly faded from view, I was struck by how narrow and defined the valley floor is in Deerfield when placed in the context of greater New England. When on the ground in Deerfield, one is in awe of the wide-open beauty of the farmland along the Deerfield River and Connecticut River and the distant views that it affords. However, when viewed against a backdrop of the vast hills and woodlands of New England, Deerfield's farmland shrinks in magnitude.

You might think that when viewed in this context the importance of protecting this relatively small slice of the world might also shrink in significance. However, this experience had just the opposite effect on me. It served to drive home the importance and urgency of FLT's work; how critical every acre of protected land is to the scenic, rural character of Deerfield, and how tenuous Deerfield agriculture is given the relatively small number of acres of farmland it has available for its use.

Unlike other parts of this country, we here in western Massachusetts do not have the luxury of having hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland at our disposal. We, therefore, must act now to protect what relatively little we have.

Rich Hubbard

Founded in 1987, the Franklin Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of the farm and forest land, and the rural character, of western Massachusetts. The Land Trust helps farmers and other landowners protect their land from unwanted development. The Land Trust does not seek to own land itself, but instead encourages private stewardship. Contributions to the Trust are tax deductible.

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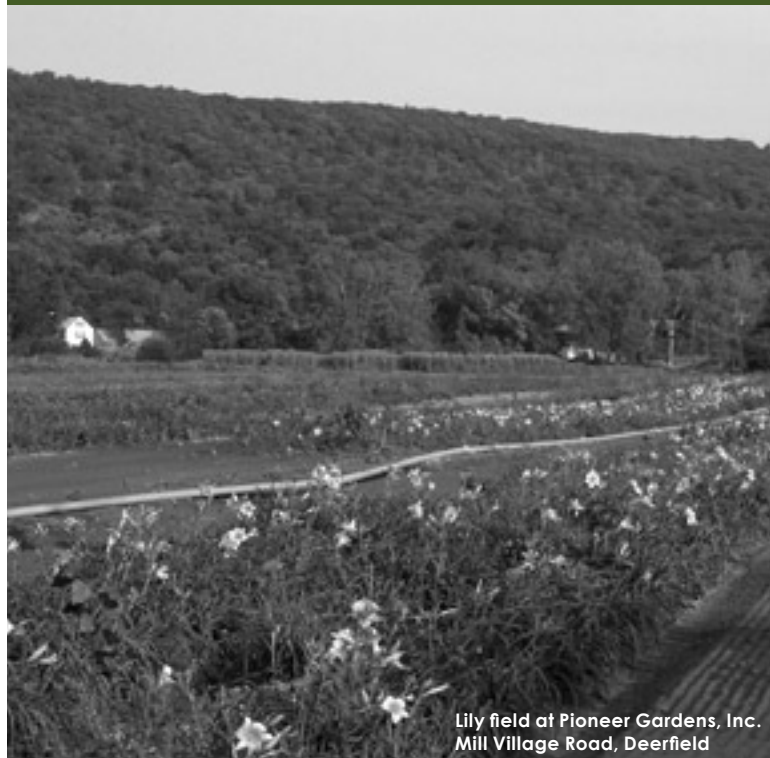
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WHY I SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST



Lily field at Pioneer Gardens, Inc. Mill Village Road, Deerfield

By Jaap Molenaar

It started in the Netherlands, where my family has been farming vegetable and bulb crops since the 1870s.

Located in the town of Santpoort, about 15 miles west of Amsterdam, farming was the main occupation until the 1950s. When I grew up the town still had approximately 25 dairy farmers and the same number of bulb farmers. I left Santpoort in 1988, after finishing my horticultural education, curious to see the world, but also because the homestead did not have any agricultural land available nearby to expand the farm. Most of the land was being developed for the growth of suburban Amsterdam. Since 1988 most farmers have had their land taken by eminent domain for development and now the town has 8,000 more houses.

Land trusts are not existent in most European countries, as the federal and state governments are much more involved in "urban" planning/smart development than in the U.S., and decide what destination land will have (commercial, residential, agricultural etc.).

In 1992, I started a nursery, Pioneer Gardens, in Deerfield, with college friend and sales colleague Arjen Vriend, specializing in perennial plants for the wholesale market in North America.

In the following years the nursery expanded and we found ourselves renting land from 7 landlords. We grow 40 acres of crops and 40 acres of cover crops to re-nourish the soil. This and also the use of compost makes it hard to rely on only rented fields.

When we started to look for land to purchase, building lot prices made most of the land unaffordable (\$60,000 per acre of building lot versus agricultural value of \$2,000 to \$7,000 per acre). Luckily we found landowners who had or were going to have an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on their land. We now own 80 acres of APR-protected crop land, thereby securing our land base.

Land trusts are among the things making it possible for the next generation of farmers to continue to farm. With fuel prices rising, transportation costs for the average food item traveling 1,200 miles increasing, not to mention the environmental impact of big agricultural business, food safety and supply continuity, we need to secure our local farmland from uncontrolled sprawl for future generations.

The U.S. loses about three million acres of land each year. We farm 300 million acres of cropland and 500 million acres of grassland (much of it not very productive). Do the math and you see that with a population growth of 1 percent per year and diminishing farmland, our food supply will be in trouble if we do not protect our farm land!

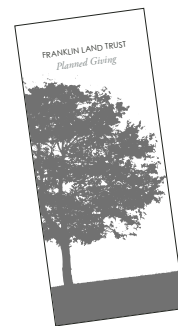
PHOTOS OF JAAP MOLENAAR'S FARM, AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS BUSINESS, ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.PIONEERGARDENS.COM

WORKSHOP

ON THE LAND – FOCUS ON FORESTRY

Conway, Saturday October 25: 1 – 3 pm

This workshop will be held in Conway on FLT-protected land that has recently undergone active forest management activities. Through informal discussion and a casual walk through the property, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about forest management and opportunities available to landowners to help them better manage and steward their land. Along with the landowner's perspective, several resource professionals will be on hand to offer their perspective and field questions about forest management and land protection. Please call the Franklin Land Trust office at 413-625-9152 to register for the workshop. Free to all!



Estate Planning

To help members make planned gifts, we have created a new Planned Giving brochure with information about our Legacy Society, and the ways your charitable gifts can help FLT conserve our precious landscape for years to come. For more details, call our office at 413-625-9152.



PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2008 FRANKLIN LAND TRUST HAD PROTECTED OVER 17,000 ACRES OF LAND IN 20 TOWNS. THE FOLLOWING CHART LISTS THE OVER 22,000 ACRES OF LAND THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TO PROTECT.

TOWN	PROJECT	ACRES
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Ashfield	19	1,780
Bernardston	10	996
Buckland	12	766
Charlemont	19	2,509
Colrain	20	2,115
Conway	17	1,147
Cummington	1	90
Deerfield	22	1,281
Erving	1	25
Gill	4	280
Greenfield	8	504
Hawley	13	2,135
Heath	15	1,780
Leverett	1	3,400
Leyden	13	1,246
Montague	7	187
Northfield	4	102
Rowe	4	135
Shelburne	6	1,295
Sunderland	5	199
Wendell	2	63
Whately	13	409
	216	22,444
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY		
Hadley	1	228
Plainfield	2	177
Southampton	3	228
	6	633
HAMPDEN COUNTY		
Tolland	1	60
	1	60
WORCESTER COUNTY		
Sturbridge	1	17
	1	17
TOTALS	224	22,873

Deerfield merger brings new challenges, new resources

Now that Franklin Land Trust and Deerfield Land Trust have joined forces, FLT staff expects to increase the pace of land protection and farmland preservation in Deerfield.



View of Mount Sugarloaf in Deerfield, taken from a field in Whately

When they merged last spring, the two groups already had a close relationship, with FLT providing administrative support and technical expertise to DLT.

“By eliminating duplication of administrative costs and time, we can reinvest those valuable resources back into protecting more land in Deerfield,” notes FLT Executive Director Rich Hubbard.

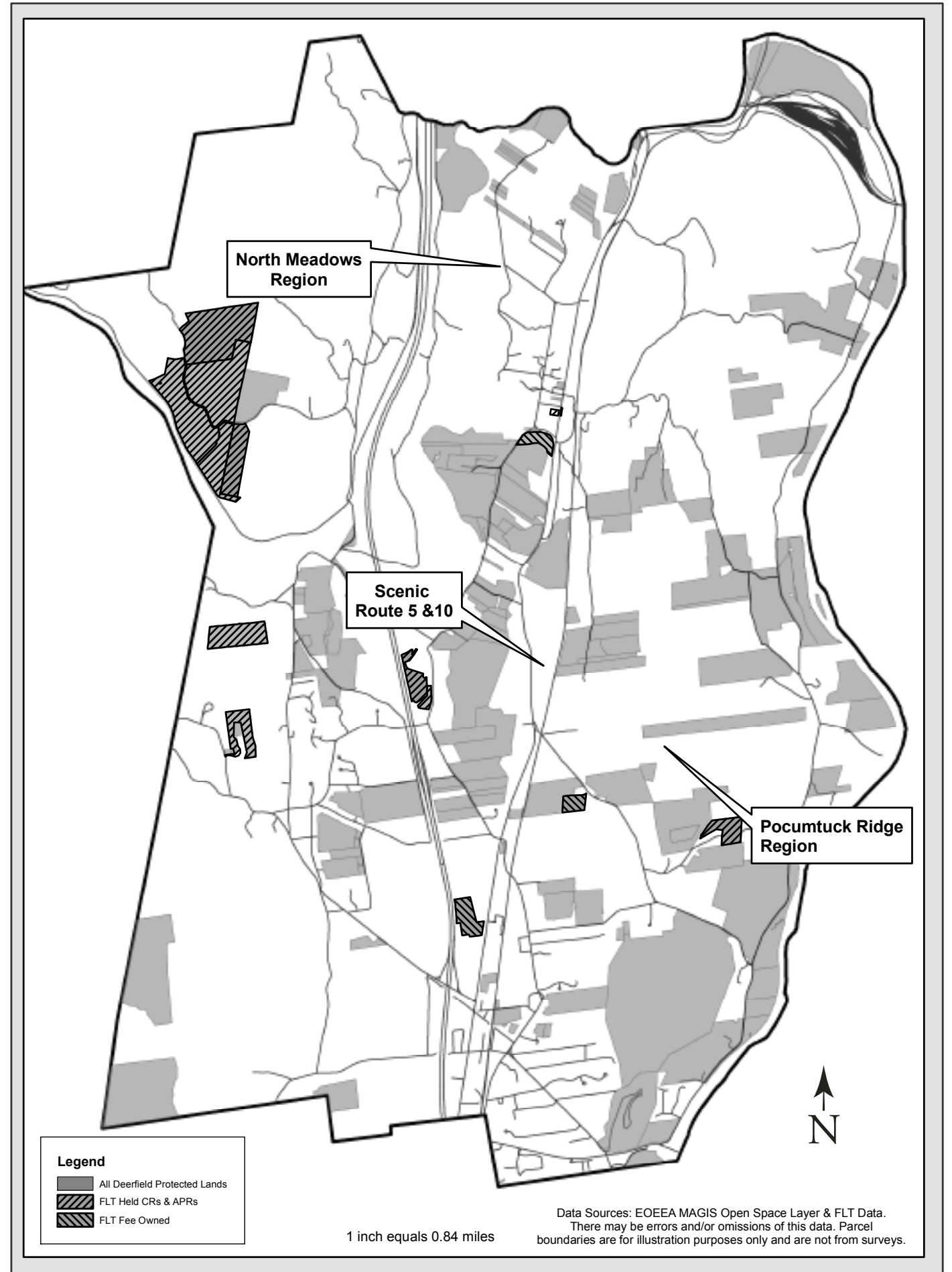
DLT formed in 1990. It helped protect about 2,500 acres of land. The group had no paid staff of its own; it received administrative support from FLT since its early days. FLT has 9 full-time and part-time employees.

With the merger, FLT took on the responsibility of monitoring and stewardship for 12 conservation restrictions, totaling approximately 548 acres. Land protection funds raised by DLT over the years will continue to be dedicated to protecting land in Deerfield.

“As DLT and FLT enter this exciting period in our relationship, the continued support of our donors and funding partners is extremely important,” said Alan Swedlund, who served as board president for DLT and is now an FLT board member. “The challenge of protecting farmland and other critical open space resources here in Deerfield has grown as land values have increased. FLT’s future success in protecting those resources is directly linked to the financial support of Deerfield’s residents.”

Focus areas
FLT will approach land protection in Deerfield based on the goals established by DLT. Among the areas of special concern—highlighted in the map shown here—are the North Meadows area, prized for its rich agricultural lands and historic and scenic qualities; the Pocumtuck Ridge, which is valued as recreation land and for its historic significance to Native Americans; and the Routes 5 and 10 corridor, as the community strives to balance economic viability with scenic and agricultural preservation.

FLT will actively assist Deerfield farmers in obtaining Agricultural Preservation Restrictions to secure the future of local farming. We are currently working with more than a dozen farmers and landowners in Deerfield.





The Stewardship Corner

Somewhere Between a Drill Hole and a Gun Barrel

By Will Sloan Anderson

TAKES MUG SHOT

This past Christmas, after the presents were distributed to the boys, we piled into the car and started out over the river and through the woods to the grandparents. As we drove past one of FLT's protected properties I almost drove off the road. There in a field in the early morning sunshine, covered with the light dusting of snow that had come with Santa the night before, was an excavator, dozer and cellar hole.

This past spring, with a hint of summer in the air, I almost drove off the road again as I observed a gravel drive crossing yet another one of FLT's protected property's hayfields.

Other than pointing out the need to update my car insurance, both of these incidents have some commonalities -- including happy endings.

First, both of these properties are owned by people who are not the original grantors of the conservation restriction held by FLT. Although they are aware that FLT has an interest in their property, they were not the owners who helped to write the restriction and may not be fully aware of the intent of the restriction or the reserved and restricted rights.

Second, neither owner contacted FLT about what their intentions were. Although this notification is not always spelled out in our restrictions, such notification is helpful.

In the case of the first property, the owners were building a new sugarhouse. This is an allowed agricultural use in the restriction and I look forward to having sugar on snow there next spring.

The second property was a little less straight forward. A neighbor had asked this landowner if they could put down a temporary gravel drive across the restricted field to support cement trucks that needed to get to the back of the neighbor's property. Although I can sympathize with the neighbor, I am not sure this would be allowed under the restriction, because the temporary drive was not seen as agriculturally necessary.

However, the neighbor agreed to pay for the cost of removing the gravel after its use, and for the contractor to use the gravel to re-grade an access road on the protected property that had deteriorated over the years. The road was the only way to an isolated, very valuable agricultural resource in the form of a kame terrace along the Deerfield River, which the owner of the protected land used for corn. This seemed like a creative solution to a natural resource management issue. The temporary road was removed, the field was reseeded, the access road repaired, the corn was chopped and the neighbor was happy.

Franklin Land Trust works hard to protect working landscapes. In fact most of our restrictions are written to allow for agricultural and forestry development and use. However, the details of these rights vary.

In the above cases we were lucky that the outcomes worked out for FLT, the landowner and the protected resource. If you are an owner of a FLT-protected property, feel free to call me and I'll go over your restriction with you. At the very least, this communication will bring about some clarity, and will help keep me driving off the road again.

2 join FLT Board

The FLT Board of Directors has two new members following the merger with Deerfield Land Trust: Jaap Molenaar and Alan Swedlund.



Jaap Molenaar

PROFESSION: Co-owner of a wholesale perennial nursery. I am responsible for labor and production planning, crop health, equipment maintenance and purchasing, long term business planning.

INTERESTS, HOBBIES: Road biking and hiking (I try to hike once a year in the Alps). Also, sheep, vegetable gardening, collecting horse-drawn equipment, environmental issues, national politics, history.

BACKGROUND: Being a farmer made me aware of the DLT very early on. I became a board member of the DLT several years ago. (See Molenaar's column, Page 3.)



Alan Swedlund

PROFESSION: Professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

INTERESTS, HOBBIES: Puttering with old tractors, the restoration of his grandfather's 1935 Ford pickup, traveling in New England and elsewhere, and cooking with the wonderful produce that comes from this Valley.

BACKGROUND: Alan and his wife, M.A., have lived in Deerfield for the past 34 years. Alan was raised in the farming and ranching country of eastern Colorado, where his interests in agriculture and open-space preservation began. The family farm on his mother's side is still family-owned, and has been designated a Centennial Farm by the State of Colorado, having been in continuous operation for over 100 years.

Alan's professional interests focus on the history of population and health, and he has recently completed a book centered in Franklin County titled "Shadows in the Valley: A cultural history of illness, death and loss in New England, 1840-1916." It is scheduled to appear in 2009 from the University of Massachusetts Press. Alan and his wife have two married daughters, one on Cape Cod and the other in Bend, Oregon.



Events keep FLT busy

They had holes to play at the Golf Tournament. There were gardens to see (and signs to put up) at the Farm and Garden Tour.

Then came the Members Picnic, the Dirt Road Randonnee and Deerfield Farm and Music Festival, and finally, the "Art in the Afternoon" benefit auction.

A parade of events kept FLT's members, volunteers, board and staff on their toes all summer. Except for the picnic, the events are designed to raise money, build membership and increase public awareness of our land protection work. Our summer events netted nearly \$30,000.

Rugged cycling, rambling hayrides

The Dirt Road Randonnee, or D2R2, is always a busy weekend for FLT. This year's ride, held Aug. 23, was extra busy. We had a record number of riders (315 or so), about half of whom took on the most challenging course: 117 miles of scenic, steep back roads in Franklin County and southern Vermont.

FLT also took on the Deerfield Farm and Music Festival, formerly run by Deerfield Land Trust. We moved the festival to coincide with the bike ride, which meant more planning, but added a new dimension to the bike ride. The two events were based just south of Old Deerfield.

One exciting highlight is that this year's D2R2 was selected by Rapha, a cycling apparel company, as one of the "epic rides" in the U.S. Rapha covered and photographed the ride, and is writing it up for its Web site and a forthcoming book on cycling.

Art Auction

This year's "Art in the Afternoon" auction included 180 pieces—a spectacular array that included paintings, porcelain vessels, glass, jewelry, sculpture and more.

The crowd enjoyed a wine-tasting by the Shelburne Falls Wine Merchant, hors d'oeuvres catered by Gloriosa and Co. of Ashfield, and a live auction led by the skillful and entertaining auctioneer Carol Bolduc, who inspired generous bids for the land trust.

Volunteers honored

The annual Members Picnic, held in late July at Skyline Farm in Heath, drew 125 guests, who feasted on delectable potluck dishes, toured the many inviting gardens, and enjoyed music by The Illiterati.

FLT honored 16 volunteers and friends, all of whom have demonstrated exceptional, dedicated service over the years: Dianne Grinnell, Nina Coler, Bob Taylor, Terry Lee, Sandy Whittlesey, Caleb Kissling, Jim Wallace and Robin Logan, Phil and JoAnne Sherburne, Brian DeVriese, Ruth Bellows, Jayne Dane, Rich DiMatteo, Hale and Lorraine Johnson. FLT thanks Michael Coe and his daughter, Sarah Coe, for making their beautiful property available for the members' picnic.

\$18,500 left to go in challenge grant countdown!

Franklin Land Trust is in the final month of an extraordinary three-year challenge grant from a private, New York-based foundation that recognizes the importance and effectiveness of FLT's land protection work. That foundation has challenged us to increase our fundraising and will match dollar for dollar donations that carry us over last year's giving levels. If we succeed by November 15, we will receive the final payment toward this exciting grant—\$180,000 over three years!

Any donation between now and November 15 qualifies as a match. We need \$18,500 more to meet the challenge!

This challenge grant will allow us to build our capacity to protect farmland and other open space in western Massachusetts.

In its first 20 years, FLT protected just over 17,000 acres—about 18 square miles—of field, forest and open space in and around Franklin County. Currently the land trust has more than 22,000 acres worth of new projects in the pipeline just waiting to be completed; the potential for 22,000 more acres of permanently protected land in western Massachusetts!

With each of these projects, new and old, FLT has an obligation to monitor into perpetuity any property on which we hold a restriction. To date that totals 90 properties that must be visited annually to ensure compliance.

In addition, although the Franklin Land Trust has always served as administrator for the former Deerfield Land Trust (DLT), the land trust has now absorbed 22 completed Deerfield projects, as a result of the merger, over a dozen of which need annual monitoring and to have their baseline documentation reports prepared.

Although these challenges are not insurmountable, they must be faced this year and in the years to come. **Your support is always appreciated, but your donation before November 15 will let us be twice as effective in our land protection efforts.**