#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2013**

### From Lemons to Lemonade

FLT'S UNANTICIPATED RELOCATION from our rented office space in Buckland, as a result of flooding from Hurricane Irene, forced us to evaluate not only our tenuous housing situation, but the overall long-term sustainability of FLT. Therefore, when we were offered an option to purchase, at a very reasonable price, a wonderful building at 5 Mechanic Street in Shelburne Falls from a friend of the Land Trust, we jumped at the opportunity and launched a \$1 million capital campaign to not only raise the necessary funds to purchase and renovate the building, but to grow our Mary Robertson Torras Founders Fund, FLT's endowment.

As a result of the generosity of over 160 donors to date, 27 years after our founding, FLT finally has a permanent home. However, while we now own and have moved into 5 Mechanic Street, the capital campaign continues. The capital campaign was never just about the purchase and renovation of 5 Mechanic Street, it was also about ensuring that FLT has the financial resources to continue our important work in perpetuity.

### **LAND CONSERVATION**

## Another Impressive Year

THE DEMAND FOR FLT's land conservation services continued at a robust pace in 2013. With the closing of 15 more projects, we were able to conserve another 1,325 acres of critical farmland and woodland. In 12 of these projects FLT either "pre-acquired" or assisted with the acquisition of land or restrictions that were ultimately granted to the state. However, two projects: Pease in Buckland and Klemyk in Sunderland resulted in Conservation Restrictions that will be held and stewarded by FLT, and one project: Hale in Buckland added a beautiful mountain top to FLT's portfolio of conservation areas that we own and manage.

#### **NEW INITIATIVES**

### Partnerships and Opportunities

FISCAL YEAR 2013 found FLT entering into a strategic partnership "Memorandum of Understanding" with the MA Woodlands Institute (MWI), a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable forest management and resource-based community economic development in Massachusetts. This partnership was fostered by the addition of Emily Boss, MWI's Executive Director, to our staff and a realization that the two organization's share very similar goals when it comes to conserving and managing this region's land-based resources and promoting their long-term health and sustainability.

The first fruit of our partnership with MWI were harvested when the MWI, in cooperation with FLT, received a 4-year contract from the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) to administer the Forest Stewardship Program and a new Bird Habitat Assessment Program. Both programs provide cost-share assistance to landowners to hire consulting foresters to inventory and create a plan for their land, which will include wildlife habitat, recreational trails, and timber management.

FLT is also serving as a subcontractor on two other grant programs through DCR's Working Forest Initiative. We are working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) on a regional study to explore a new type of "national forest" designation in western Franklin County and northern Berkshire County, and with UMass Extension to provide estate planning outreach and education to landowners in western Massachusetts.

Finally, FLT continues to be an active participant in the MA-VT Woodlands Partnership, a group of conservation organizations and public agencies collaborating across state lines. The MA-VT Woodlands Partnership is one of several inter-state and inter-organizational groups working to pursue implementation of the "Wildlands and Woodlands" vision by accelerating the pace of conservation in priority landscapes. The Partnership is a recipient of US Forest Service funds.



# TOWN-BY-TOWN SUMMARY 1987-2013 Includes all assisted and FLT held projects

_	#	A D
Town	# of Projects	Acres Protected
Ashfield	40	2,795
Ashfield/Buckland	1	215
Bernardston	3	259
Bernardston/Leyden	1	133
Buckland	9	508
Charlemont	18	1,005
Charlemont/Heath	1	440
Colrain	17	2,326
Colrain/Shelburne	2	107
Conway	22	1,760
Conway/Ashfield	1	160
Conway/Buckland	1	124
Deerfield	55	2,073
Erving	7	35
Gill	6	438
Greenfield	9	449
Greenfield/Bernardston	1	128
Hadley	5	301
Hatfield	1	22
Hawley	13	1,320
Heath	21	1,788
Leverett	4	3,863
Leyden	13	1,188
Monroe	1	48
Montague	9	517
Montague/Wendell	1	100
Northfield	5	364
Plainfield	5	575
Rowe	1	15
Shelburne	17	1,580
Southampton	1	108
Sunderland	20	558
Wendell	3	87
Wendell/New Salem	2	66
Westfield	1	27
Whately	21	1,200
Totals	338	26,682
101413	- 550	20,002





