History of the Guyette Farm

The history of Guyette Farm stretches across centuries and nations. The property was originally owned by the Gloyd family, descendants of one of the royal tribes of Wales. Their ancestors served the King of England during the Norman invasion of 1066 and their descendants first came to America while serving in the English army during the French and Indian War.

John Gloyd, born in 1653, married a daughter of one of the early settlers of Salem, MA. His son, Joseph Gloyd, purchased and built a house and barn on the Plainfield property in 1788, after serving in the Revolutionary War.

During the late 1930s, Joseph Gloyd's grandson sold the property to Arthur Guyette, who farmed with the help of his sons, Harry and Merrill. At various points under Guyette ownership, the land was used for dairy and beef farming, vegetable gardening and fruit production.

On April 22, 2008, Evelyn Guyette gifted this 107-acre farm to the Franklin Land Trust to honor Harry, her late husband.

Ecological Highlights

Visitors will enjoy Meadow Brook and its wetlands, cool hemlock-white pine forests, northern hardwoods, and early successional fields and hay fields hosting a variety of wildlife species.

FLT Management Goals & Current Projects

A 10-year stewardship and forest management plan guides the Franklin Land Trust’s timber and wildlife habitat projects. FLT oversees late-season mowing and field management for wildlife habitat improvement. The main trail loop complete and further expansion is ongoing.

Funding Sources

FLT received support from the Fields Pond Foundation, US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and private donations.

Partners in Conservation

The Student Conservation Association of MA and the MA Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Trail Description

FLT has installed green trail markers and interpretive signage along all designated trails to guide and educate visitors to the farm.

Rules & Regulations

In order to protect this conservation area’s agricultural, recreational, ecological and historical areas we ask visitors to respect the rules outlined below:

- Hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are allowed.
- Photography, nature study, and painting are encouraged.
- Hunting and fishing are allowed during times and seasons as regulated by the Department of Fish and Game. Please visit www.mass.gov/dfwel/licensing for the most current information on seasons and licensing.
- No overnight camping or fires allowed. The Farm is open from dawn to dusk.
- No motorized vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.
- Please stay out of agricultural fields and fenced areas containing livestock or crops.
- Please do not walk your dog on the Farm.

Directions

From points north:
Heading south on Interstate-91, take exit 25 (Rte 116 S towards Conway, South Deerfield). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Rte 116 North towards Conway. Follow Rte. 116 through Conway and Ashfield, then turn left onto Rte. 112/Rt. 116. Take a right onto Rte. 116 North, approx. 4 miles and then turn left onto Pleasant St. Pleasant St. turns into Gloyd St. and continue until Gloyd meets South Central St.

From points south:
Heading north on Interstate-91, take exit 24. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Rte 10 & S. Take a left onto Rte. 116 North towards Conway. Follow Rte. 116 through Conway and Ashfield, then turn left onto Rte. 112/Rt. 116. Take a right onto Rte. 116 North (Spruce Corner Rd.) and turn left onto Pleasant St. Pleasant St. turns into Gloyd St. and continue until Gloyd meets South Central St.