



News & Views

FranklinLandTrust.org

SUSTAINABILITY STARTS HERE

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Lillian, Anneke and Kristian Whitsett

Why We Support FLT

We moved to western Massachusetts (back home for Lillian) because there is a scale and sense of community that is unique. The combination of small towns that have succeeded in retaining their character despite modernization, and a rural landscape complete with open spaces and working farms make this area ideal. We know that FLT works hard to make this a reality. We have supported

other land conservation non-profits in the past, but feel especially drawn to the Franklin Land Trust for two reasons.

First, it is a local organization. It is incredibly satisfying to see an organization we support doing worthwhile work right in our backyard. We know where our contribution is going. We can see the results. Our farmer friends benefit. We benefit.

Evidence of the Franklin Land Trust is present in our daily lives. Kristian appreciates FLT while running on the Mahican Trail or occasionally bicycling to work from Shelburne Falls to Greenfield. Lillian sees evidence of conservation while admiring the views when driving to work in Heath, stopping by Hager's Farm Stand, or walking to the farmer's market in Shelburne. We have been lucky enough to attend FLT's Farm and Garden tour, and have participated in the D2R2 and Berkshire Highlands Pentathlon.

Our 1-year old daughter is just beginning to appreciate the value of public access to wildlife habitats. Just recently she discovered the joy of stream exploration. We feel lucky to live in an area where this is all possible.

Second, we strongly agree with FLT's approach to land conservation. We understand the importance of land protection, but are even more passionate about stewardship and providing families and individuals with the tools needed to successfully work with the land. The Franklin Land Trust maintains a unique balance between land protection and stewardship.

Though Lillian has always called West County 'home', we have only lived here as a family for the past four years. We already feel a deep sense of 'place', and are honored to be able to share the land and our experiences with our young daughter. We encourage others, and especially young families, to invest in this unique locale by supporting FLT. We are grateful to the hard-working staff and local landowners for making this area so special.

Happy Summer!
Kristian, Lillian & Anneke Whitsett

25 FOR 25

June 30, the end of our fiscal year, is just around the corner & we still need to raise \$120,000 to meet our fundraising goal for 2012.

A large percentage of the funds we raise comes from you—our loyal members and supporters. Every time you read about one of our projects or pass by one of our conserved properties you can feel good about what your donation has made possible. Together, FLT, local landowners and FLT members have protected some of our most cherished landscapes in western Massachusetts.

Help us celebrate 25 years and 25,000 acres—in honor of our anniversary, please consider giving an extra \$25, or increasing your donation by 25%.

Use the enclosed envelope, make a donation on-line or call us, but please,

DO IT TODAY!

Franklin Land Trust

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(413) 625-9151 Executive Director
(413) 625-9152 Member Services
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DESIGN Seth Gregory Design

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1987 the Loomis farm in Ashfield was about to go the route of many New England dairy farms when Harry Dodson, Steve Judge and Mark Zenick got together and teamed up with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to save the land by putting it under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction. They went on to create an organization dedicated to saving the rural landscapes that so define our community. The rest is history: for 25 years FLT has worked diligently to conserve land throughout the region.



In 2012, as we travel over familiar routes around the county— the freshly mowed field in the summer and that same field covered by snow in the winter crisscrossed by animal tracks—we don't always know or see the efforts and costs incurred in ensuring that the views we enjoy don't disappear. **But in these challenging economic times it's difficult to balance the needs of landowners and our commitment to conservation on the one hand, while prudently ensuring the economic viability of FLT.**

At the same time that we celebrate FLT's 25th birthday much remains to be done, including a wish list of projects that would build on past successes and create even larger conserved areas, addressing the issue of a permanent home for the organization, and building an endowment capable of offsetting a portion of FLT's funding pressures.

FLT is fortunate to have a dedicated staff, board and core of volunteers as well as an enlightened membership without whose generosity FLT and our community would be a much different place. We hope you will join us in ensuring that the next 25 years brings the right kind of change to the places we cherish.

Charlie Cohn

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP

The Franklin Land Trust works with landowners who seek to protect the farms, forests, and other natural resources significant to the environmental quality, economy and rural character of our region.

Special benefits for all members

- >Biannual newsletter
- >Monthly e-news
- >Advance notice and FREE or discounted admission to events
- >Invitation to our annual Members Picnic
- >FREE or discounted workshops and protected property hikes
- >The knowledge that your membership helps protect those special places in western Massachusetts that we all love!

BECOME A LEGACY LEADER

Legacy Leaders are a group of special people who make a lifelong commitment to FLT by including us in their estate plans. They understand the importance of land conservation and want to do something that will make a real, lasting difference in our region.

When you make a planned gift to the Franklin Land Trust you can rest assured that the vistas we cherish, the farms that sustain us and the woods and waterways vital to our ecosystem remain protected.

Planned gifts allow you to make a significant gift to the Franklin Land Trust, and may offer you current income or allow you to retain the asset for personal use during your life. A number of planned giving options are available, including Bequests, Annuities, and Trusts. All of these options offer tax benefits, some immediate, and some deferred.

Contact Mary Lynn Sabourin for more information: (413) 625-9151 or mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Who would have thought back in 1987, when Franklin Land Trust was launched in response to concerns about development of the Loomis Farm in Ashfield, that 25 years later we would be approaching the conservation of 25,000 acres?



As we celebrate and take pride in our past accomplishments, we also have our sights on the future. **After all, the Franklin Land Trust is in the business of permanence. All of our efforts to conserve western Massachusetts' critical farmland, forest land and natural resources are with an eye towards perpetuity.** Conserving a property is only the first step in FLT's work. When we accept ownership of land or a Conservation Restriction (CR), we assume a responsibility to steward and defend that land or CR forever.

Perpetuity is a long time, but we take this obligation seriously! In addition, a great deal of work remains to be done to ensure that the farms and woodlands that define the scenic, rural character of western Massachusetts, and which feed us, give us clean water and air, and add so much to our economy and quality of life continue to exist.

This is where your continued generous support comes in. **Without you, none of our accomplishments would have been possible, and without you our important work can't continue.** So, the next time you sit down to make a contribution to FLT, relish all that we have accomplished together over the past 25 years, and look forward with excitement to the opportunity to continue to work together to keep our region green and beautiful.

Richard K. Hubbard

For forty years we have lived in, and loved, what we feel is a beautiful part of Conway. With each year we have enjoyed the passing of the seasons – the fresh new growth of spring, the lushness of summer, the color of fall, and the stark beauty of winter – and we have come to know the plant and animal wildlife with which we share this space.

It has been a long-term goal of ours to join some of our neighbors in preserving our family lands for the generations to come.

The Franklin Land Trust, whose work we've admired for years, could not have been more helpful to us in accomplishing this goal.

We very much appreciate the patience, good humor, and enormous amount of work that goes into each of their land conservation projects. The landscape of Franklin County (and beyond) has benefited greatly from their efforts, and we are pleased to be a part of that picture.

Joanne and Roger Clapp, Conway



Ann Borton

It's with sadness that we mark the passing of Ann Borton, 75, of Conway. Ann and her husband, Tony, moved to an old dairy farm in Conway in 1964, converted it to an Arabian horse farm and named it Taman Farm.

Ann and Tony have been good friends to FLT and important stewards of the land. They placed a Conservation Restriction on their land which they donated to the town of Conway and FLT, and they worked with other landowners to preserve over 1,000 acres in town. Ann died peacefully at home April 11, with family and her much-loved German Shepherds at her side. She will be greatly missed.



Historic Poland Gate, bordering the Clapp family land



A beaver pond on the Clapp family land

More to Celebrate

RECENT FLT PROJECTS



Questions about how you can conserve land in your neighborhood? Call and speak with one of our land staff at (413) 625-9151.

KEY



WILDLIFE HABITAT



WOODLANDS



WATER RESOURCE



FARMLAND



CONSERVATION BLOCK



RECREATIONAL ACCESS



SCENIC VALUE



HISTORIC SITE

Map of Franklin County

Bernardston



FLT helped Frank “Bud” Foster conserve 80 acres that has now been transferred to the MA Dept. of Fish & Game. This project **adds to a large block of Fish & Game land** that provides important wildlife habitat and is open to the public for recreational use.

Shelburne



Becky Ashenden and John Marcy donated a CR on 15 acres and FLT purchased the CR on an additional 129 acres of land through local fundraising efforts. The open and forested land has frontage on Dragon Brook, abuts conserved land, and is especially important as **habitat to a wide variety of migratory birds, including tanagers, buntings, chats and bobolinks.**

Hawley



FLT received a gift CR on approximately 29 acres of farm and woodland on Plainfield Road by Hugh Schoelzel. The property also contains **six idyllic ponds** and abuts the Dubuque Memorial Forest, adding to the state forest’s extensive wildlife habitat.

Ashfield



FLT received a gift CR on approximately 104 acres of farm and woodland from Christine Jerome. A farm in earlier centuries, its fields continue to be hayed by a local farmer. A pond on the property provides habitat for birds, beaver, otter and invertebrates. Olie Thorp donated a CR on 115 acres of land that contains woodland, field and water resources that are characterized as **Priority Habitat of Rare Species.**

These parcels **add to a substantial area of privately and publicly conserved land,** including the Loomis Farm, FLT’s first APR project; 360 acres conserved by Cal and Joan Clark through two donated CRs to FLT; the Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area, the Conway State Forest and The Trustees of Reservations’ Bullitt Farm and Chapel Brook Conservation Area.

Conway



The Clapp family worked with FLT on two projects that resulted in donated CRs on 177 acres. This beautiful area includes road frontage in the historic Poland Gate district and adds to a crucial wildlife corridor that connects with the Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area protected by the MA Dept. of Fish & Game, and an additional 400+ acres of land conserved by FLT.



The Gould family farm in Charlemont



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: Charlemont

Keeping the Family in Family Farming

FLT is pleased to have assisted with the conservation of a 40-acre, second generation farm located along the Mohawk Trail in Charlemont. A former dairy operation owned by the Gould family, this beautiful property is currently farmed for hay and pasture.

This project is an excellent example of how important the work of FLT is to families trying to negotiate the difficult process around generational transfers. Following the death of Albert Gould, the land was inherited by his six children, who wanted to keep the land in agriculture, but weren’t sure how to manage the transfer so that it would be affordable and fair to all of the siblings.

FLT helped the family access funds from the MA Department of Transportation’s Scenic Byways program. We then negotiated the sale and protection of the land so that Albert’s heirs were able to settle his estate and still keep the land in the family. Richard Gould, one of the heirs who currently works the land, will purchase the protected farm, and the property will remain a farm in perpetuity.

Gill & Northfield



FLT assisted Richard French and Emily Samuels with conservation of a total of 50 acres in the two towns. The land includes frontage on the CT river as well as scenic road frontage, woodland, farmland, a brook and associated **wetlands, including fens, which are critical to water quality.** The property also contains significant wildlife habitat, providing breeding and feeding areas suitable for grouse, turkey, migratory songbirds, waterfowl, great blue heron, moose, deer, coyote, turtles, fish, and amphibians. The town of Northfield will hold one CR purchased with Scenic Byway funds. The town of Gill will hold the other donated CR. In both cases, FLT will help the towns with stewardship responsibilities on the land.

Leverett & Shutesbury



In partnership with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Franklin Land Trust, Kestrel Land Trust, and North Amherst-based W.D. Cowsls, Inc. conserved 3,486 acres of working forest land. The CR acquired by the DFG and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) from W.D. Cowsls is **the largest on a contiguous block of privately owned land in Massachusetts’ history.** The Conservation Restriction conserves wildlife habitat, guarantees public recreational access, and promotes sustainable forestry in perpetuity.

Erving



The Carroll family helped conserve one of the most beautiful and iconic vistas in Franklin County—**11 acres at the eastern entrance to the French King Bridge.** The project was funded through the state Scenic Byways program, and the land will ultimately be transferred to the MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, who already own three “corners” of the bridge, ensuring the continued protection of this landmark.

I'd like you to know what a pleasure it's been to work with Rich and Emily and Will and the other friendly faces in your office.

Your staff exhibits a rare blend of professionalism and warmth. Emily gracefully walked me through the (to me) torturous application processes; I'd have given up on the CLTC [Conservation Land Tax Credit] if I hadn't had her patient guidance.

And I loved it every time I saw Will trundle up my driveway. I hope he's the one who'll come by each year to monitor things here.

I can't really describe how good it feels to know that this place I love so dearly will be protected in perpetuity. Many, many thanks.

Christine Jerome, Ashfield



The Stewardship Corner

BY WILL ANDERSON

From Sam Talbot, FLT's current AmeriCorps MassLIFT Member:

The midpoint of my 11½-month term with FLT coincides with the onset of spring in Franklin County. Over the fall and winter, my AmeriCorps service has immersed me in the many responsibilities of a Land Steward. I have completed several baseline and annual monitoring reports on FLT held Conservation and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (CRs & APRs), often with the help of Will Anderson. While conducting field work for these reports, I have been able to explore some of the scenic properties that western Mass has to offer, as well as speak with the landowners that manage and enjoy these valuable resources.

I am continuing my service term with the goal of reaching out to towns in Franklin County in order to illustrate the stewardship responsibilities that accompany town-held CRs and APRs. This includes partnering with Meghan Cornwall, the AmeriCorps Land Steward for Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, to host workshops for the Conservation Committees of our bordering towns. Also, to assist in the considerable job of annual monitoring of restrictions, I will be organizing our volunteer monitors. As the year progresses, I am looking forward to starting new projects as I complete my AmeriCorps term with the Mass Land Initiative for Tomorrow and FLT.



Sam Talbot
AmeriCorps
MassLIFT Member



GRANTS UPDATE

The 1772 Foundation

\$20,000 grant earmarked for our Farmland Enhancement Revolving Fund, this award could leverage as many as 1,000 acres of protected farmland.

Pew Charitable Trusts

A 20% match to all donations to FLT's new Stewardship Fund. The fund will underwrite costs associated with monitoring and management of FLT-conserved properties in the Deerfield River Watershed in Franklin County.

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

\$5,000 from the CFWM Franklin Fund to help underwrite the costs of producing and promoting a year-long schedule of public programs in celebration of our 25th anniversary.

Local Cultural Councils

Support for our 25th anniversary community programs. We received grants from the Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Gill, Plainfield, Rowe, Shelburne and Whately Cultural Councils, local grantmaking agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

AmeriCorps MassLIFT

Franklin Land Trust has again joined with partners around the state in the third year of the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT), a statewide AmeriCorps program funded in part by a \$260,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. MassLIFT is a collaboration of regional conservation groups designed to meet Massachusetts' needs for land protection, including starting new conservation projects, stewardship of protected lands, outreach to the community, and service learning opportunities to engage young people in conservation.

FLT will soon host a new full-time AmeriCorps member in the 2013 MassLIFT program—a Land Steward—who will serve from September 2012 through August 2013. The new AmeriCorps Land Steward will head up our volunteer monitoring program, recruiting and training volunteers to monitor and steward protected lands. The Steward will also reach out to local Conservation Commissions, create trail maps and other materials for public use of conservation lands, and assist the FLT Land Steward with other stewardship tasks.

Sam Talbot, our current MassLIFT Steward, has been a great asset to FLT—see his article in the Stewardship Corner on what he's been up to in 2012.

So Far...So Great!

From fuzzy chicks to the future of farmland, we're almost mid-way through our 25th Anniversary year of events—and so far, we've had great crowds, great programs and great fun! Thanks to all of our presenters, hosts, and co-sponsors for helping to make this a memorable year. See our web site for a complete schedule of 25th Anniversary events.

Due to popular demand,
we've added a **SECOND DAY!**

WILD & SCENIC GEOLOGY BUS TO BOAT TOUR with Professor Richard Little

Sat or Sun, July 21 or 22, 9am–3pm

The day includes a slide presentation at GCC by renowned geologist Richard Little, hands-on exploration of local sites, lunch by Locavore Catering at Barton's Cove then a guided cruise on the Connecticut River aboard the Quinnetukut II.

\$30/pp and \$25/FLT & PVI members and residents of Gill & Bernardston. Limited to 44 participants. Continuing Forestry Education Credit available: 5 credits (Category 1). **Pre-registration required.**

Contact Linda Alvord: lavord@franklinlandtrust.org or (413) 625-9151.

Co-sponsored by Pioneer Valley Institute & Gill and Bernardston Cultural Councils



Breaking ground with oxen at the Guyette Farm Community Garden in Plainfield



Kids play during the Community Garden Groudbreaking at Guyette Farm in Plainfield



Exploring the vernal pools at Betty Maitland Memorial Forest in Heath



Welcoming chicks during the Spring Young Uns' Farm Day at York Farm in Shelburne



UPCOMING EVENTS

WILD EDIBLES WALK with Russ Cohen
Thursday, June 14, 6–8pm
French/Samuels Homestead, Gill
(contact FLT for directions)

**THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS
STONE BUILDERS OF NEW ENGLAND**
with Jim Vieira
Thursday, July 12, 7–9pm
Mohawk Trail Regional HS, Buckland

KNOW THE NATIVES w/ Nancy Goodman
Saturday, July 14, 10am–3pm
Nasami Farm, 128 North Street, Whately

**WILD & SCENIC GEOLOGY
BUS TO BOAT TOUR**
with Professor Richard Little
Sat or Sun, July 21 or 22, 9am–3pm
Greenfield Community College

**D2R2 –DEERFIELD DIRT
ROAD RANDONNÉE**
Saturday, August 18, 5am–10pm
Mill Village Road, Deerfield

LOCAVORE HARVEST DINNER
Friday, September 21, 6–9pm
Eden Pond Farm, Bernardston

APPLE PICKING & CIDER DAY
Saturday, September 22, 10am–2pm
Apex Orchards, Peckville Rd, Shelburne

**FRANKLIN LAND TRUST DAY
AT MIKE'S MAZE**
Sunday, September 23, 10am–4pm
23 South Main Street, Sunderland

FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 20, 12–7pm
Guyette Farm, Gloyd Street, Plainfield

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, December 9, 2–4pm
Arts Block Cafe, Federal St, Greenfield

PRE-REGISTER!

Contact Linda Alvord
lavord@franklinlandtrust.org
(413) 625-9151 x108



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lalvord@franklinlandtrust.org

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FLT NEWS & VIEWS | SPRING 2012

Just how much is 25,000 acres?



39

39
SQUARE
MILES

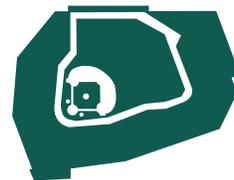


THE ENTIRE
QUABBIN
RESERVOIR

500



500
BOSTON
COMMONS



2,777

2,777
FENWAY
PARKS

2



NEARLY TWICE
THE SIZE OF
MANHATTAN