



News & Views

FranklinLandTrust.org

SUSTAINABILITY STARTS HERE

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New Partnership Protects MA Woodlands, Supports Landowners

The Franklin Land Trust and the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute (MWI) signed a memo of agreement July 30, in which FLT will partner with MWI on programs and services that reflect their shared goals in the area of forest stewardship.

The idea for the partnership was developed when MWI Director Emily Boss was hired as FLT's new Land Protection Specialist. According to FLT Executive Director Rich Hubbard, rather than leave behind an organization doing exemplary work, Emily brought with her the opportunity to develop a valuable relationship. **"When we hired Emily, the planets aligned," Hubbard said. "FLT prides itself on being an organization that not only conserves land, but puts a high priority on supporting landowners who continue to own, manage and make a living from their land. This partnership will help make that possible."**

The Massachusetts Woodlands Institute is a non-profit organization that: (1) helps landowners and the general public maintain the rural environment; (2) promotes conservation and enhancement of forests, farms and businesses in the rural environment; and (3) fosters community and business development.

The Institute conducts research on forest use, wildlife enhancement and marketing of forest products; offers educational programs to landowners, rural businesses and the general public; develops and implements standards for sustainable forestry practices; and assists in certifying that landowners and businesses meet such standards.



Rich Hubbard & Emily Boss with MWI President Arthur Eve

Concerns about the environment and global warming, along with growth in the green building industry have resulted in an increased interest in FSC-certified forest products, and one important project of MWI is providing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody (CoC) certification to business partners of the Community Wood Partners (a certification group managed by MWI), and developing a Community Forestry Database for use by woodland owners and land stewardship organizations.

FSC certification monitors and verifies the path taken by raw materials from the forest to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, manufacturing and distribution. Certification is the benchmark in environmental sustainability and social responsibility for forest management practices.

Continued on page 7



- Nearly two-thirds of our state (3.1 million acres) is forested
- Some towns have more than 90% of forested land
- Most of this land is privately owned
- 212,000 private landowners own 79% of the woodlands

The goal of the FLT/MWI partnership is to help landowners learn more about their wooded land, enrich their appreciation and enhance their ability to protect and steward the land for the long term.

Franklin Land Trust

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DESIGN Seth Gregory Design

Meet Jan Carr

Jan Carr of Heath is the most recent addition to the FLT Board of Directors.

I was born in St. Louis, grew up outside of Boston, attended art schools, graduated from Northeastern, free-lanced as a graphic artist in my own business, Legal Graphics, working primarily with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston. Cal, my husband, and I stumbled upon Heath in 1999, and it was love at first sight. I serve on many town committees, keep busy with gardening and with our two dogs.



My commitment to conservation started at an early age, after the town where I lived was "discovered," resulting in the metamorphosis of my once favorite childhood haunts: from forests and fields to houses and lots. I lived on the cusp of unmindful development again, fifteen years ago, but this time in Asheville, North Carolina, where I lived for six years.

Having witnessed firsthand what can happen overnight, with no going back, I am thankful for any chance to help conserve our open lands and preserve our agricultural tradition.

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

The fact that you are reading this latest issue of “News & Views” means there is a good chance that you are a member and have made an annual donation to the Franklin Land Trust—you appreciate the importance of FLT’s efforts to conserve the farms, woodlands, wetlands, rivers, back roads and scenic vistas that are the reason you have chosen to live in this beautiful corner of the planet. **Conserving a property, however, is only the first step in FLT’s work.**



FLT also holds Conservation Restrictions (CR) on 118 properties, and we own five properties which we manage for their natural resource values and for public enjoyment. By accepting these interests, FLT has assumed an affirmative obligation, in perpetuity, to steward these conserved lands. We must ensure, through documenting the condition of each property at the time it is conserved and through annual field inspections, that they are being managed under the terms of the CR and that the natural resources that made them worthy of conservation are protected.

Your annual support is extremely important to us given the fact that it fuels our yearly land conservation work. However, **I hope you agree that the long-term stewardship and defense of conserved land is just as important.** After all, it is the only way that you can be certain that your children and grandchildren will continue to enjoy the benefits of FLT’s efforts.

One of the best ways you can help ensure that FLT has the financial resources and capacity necessary to support our important stewardship work, in perpetuity, is by becoming a member of our “Legacy Leaders” and including FLT in your will or other estate plans. Please consider making a lasting gift to FLT—there’s no better time to protect our future.

Richard K. Hubbard

What is Planned Giving?

by Liz Sillin

You care about FLT, but it may be hard to afford the kind of gift you would like to make when facing all the uncertainties in your life right now. If you decide today that you want to make a gift to FLT sometime in the future, you are engaging in “planned giving.”

Think about making a gift to FLT in your will, naming FLT as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or naming FLT as beneficiary of an IRA. Or, you might want to retain some land for your own use for life, and name FLT in the deed to hold it upon your death. Planning now for gifts to be made later can mean charitable deductions on your income tax or estate tax returns, in addition to giving you the satisfaction of helping your favorite charity without stretching your budget.

There are many tools available to help you: check out the planned giving section on our website for further information, or consult with your financial, legal or tax advisor. <http://www.franklinlandtrust.org/planned.html>

Attorney Liz Sillin is a member of the FLT Board of Directors and a Partner at Bulkley Richardson.

WHY I SUPPORT FLT

By Bill Obear

My involvement with the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) goes back many years. From my perspective the land conservation successes of the Franklin Land Trust have created a domino effect, with more and more landowners beginning to explore conservation options. Many of these landowners earn their livelihoods from their land and realize that their working landscapes will be vital for future generations.

Why is land stewardship so important? Simply put it’s the lifeblood of the future. Conserving land and using it wisely is the precursor for a sustainable planet. Since its inception the Franklin Land Trust has been a leader in the land conservation movement. From its humble beginnings in 1987 to the milestone of 25,000 + acres preserved in 2012, FLT has consistently achieved its goals and exceeded the expectations of many of its members. I’m proud to be involved with this hard working organization.



Photo: Camden Moriarty

Bill Obear is the owner of Bear Path Farm in Whately, recognized throughout the Pioneer Valley as a dedicated producer of high quality, organic compost for residential, agricultural and commercial applications.

Project Updates

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



Governor Deval Patrick, EEA Secretary Richard Sullivan, Rich Hubbard, Alain Peteroy and Kestrel Trust's Kristin DeBoer celebrate the completion of the Brushy Mountain project. Many friends and neighbors also came out to join in the dedication of the forest.

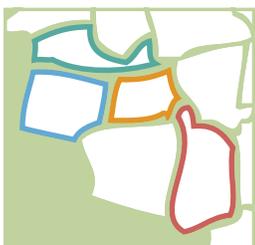
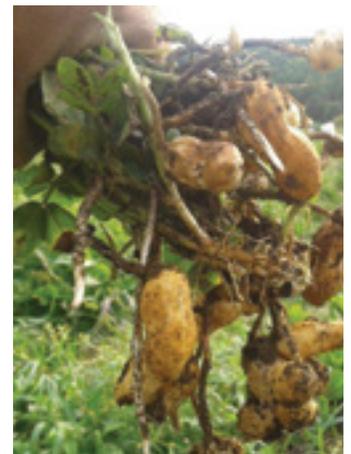
Brushy Mountain

Conservationists, state officials and outdoor enthusiasts celebrate the completion of the Brushy Mountain project, the largest Conservation Restriction on private land in the Commonwealth's history. The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG), with the support of Kestrel Land Trust and Franklin Land Trust, purchased a CR on 3,486 acres on and around Brushy Mountain from W. D. Cowls, Inc. The result of four years of planning, the conserved forest is now named the Paul C. Jones Working Forest in honor of Cowls' recently deceased eighth generation family leader.



Guyette Farm Community Garden

The Guyette Farm Community Garden group, headed up by Bi-sek Hsiao, allocated 15 plots to people in the community this season. Bi-sek reports that it's been a delight to watch different gardening styles shape the land and have the plants emerge and grow through the season. Hopefully, we will get a fence up this fall to keep out some of the critters that have been snacking on the harvest.



The FLT Land staff is busy working on several projects in the towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Conway and Hawley.

Details to come in our next newsletter

CORRECTION

In our last newsletter we reported that FLT helped Frank "Bud" Foster conserve 50 acres in Bernardston that has now been transferred to the MA Dept. of Fish & Game. The correct amount is 78 acres.

The Stewardship Corner

BY WILL ANDERSON



Last summer, while I was working along side a Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crew on FLT's trail system at the Guyette Farm, I struck up a conversation with Sam, one of the crew members. I recognized a hard worker and the quiet leadership of this individual. As the day wore on I asked Sam what he was thinking of doing after his time at SCA was up. He said he would like to work for AmeriCorps to get more experience in

land conservation and earn money towards furthering his education. I encouraged him to apply for our AmeriCorps MassLIFT land steward position.

Sam's calm demeanor was immediately noticed when he arrived for his first day of work as the FLT office was uprooted from Hurricane Irene's flooding. Since then a year has gone by and Sam has proven to be an exemplary example of what an AmeriCorps volunteer should be. He has helped this insti-

tution with its substantial stewardship responsibilities in the field while improving our organization and electronic filing in the office.

Sam's AmeriCorps MassLIFT tenure has come to an end but he has agreed to stay on for one more year as a full-time land steward before heading off for his Masters degree. (This was made possible by a challenge grant from a private foundation.) Sam's staying on will give continuity to the Stewardship office and he will be able to help train his AmeriCorps MassLIFT replacement, Josh Morse (you can learn more about Josh in this newsletter). Josh will be gathering and training volunteer monitors during his time here and I look forward to meeting our growing stewardship responsibilities with both of these very capable conservationists.

I speak for all of the FLT staff, as well as land owners who have crossed paths with Sam, that we are very grateful for his service this past year and we look forward to his continued work in the coming year. Thanks, Sam.

LAND TAX CREDIT UPDATE

Landowners who are interested in conserving their land through a gift or bargain sale to the Franklin Land Trust may be eligible for a tax credit under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' "Conservation Land Tax Credit".

Funds are limited and the credit is first come, first served. According to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, applications that come in from this point through the end of 2012 will be evaluated for CLTC eligibility and the applicants will be notified of that eligibility determination, placed on the 2012 waiting list and contacted if funds become available. If no funding becomes available by November 16, 2012, they will be asked to move their application and the closing on their donation to calendar 2013. Their place in "line" will be preserved and they will receive funding for the tax credit in 2013.

- ▶ Please also note that you must apply to the tax credit program before you actually donate the land or sign a conservation restriction.
- ▶ If you are submitting a new application please be sure to use the latest version located at:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/land-use-habitats/land-conservation/massachusetts-conservation-tax-credit-program.html>
- ▶ We urge you to consult with a tax advisor and go to the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition for more information:
<http://www.massland.org/regulations-and-application-mass-land-conservation-tax-credit>
- ▶ Or call Alain Peteroy or Emily Boss here at FLT

WELCOME JOSH MORSE!



During this next year Josh Morse will serve as a Land Steward through the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT). MassLift is a statewide AmeriCorps program which engages AmeriCorps members in service with local and regional land trusts to meet critical community needs for land protection. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.



Josh with a juvenile osprey removed from the nest for banding.

Josh's interest in stewardship stems from his early experiences of fishing, hiking, birding, and volunteering in the wild places of western Massachusetts. As a student at Oberlin College, Josh built on this background by pursuing a degree in biology and environmental studies, working on conservation projects dealing with re-introduced lake trout, invasive crayfish, and large birds of prey. Although Josh plans to pursue an advanced degree in biology, he is eager to gain a year of real-world experience working with FLT. "At Oberlin, I built a strong background in the research-related aspects of conservation" Josh notes, "but before continuing my training as a biologist, it is important to me to learn how conservation science is translated into concrete policy and practice on a community scale." We are looking forward to having him with us this year.

Events Update

From wild edibles to geology, it's been a great year of 25th Anniversary events, and more is still to come. See the back cover for upcoming events, and don't forget to check FLT's web site for details: www.franklinlandtrust.org

D2R2 Rolls On!

D2R2 continues to generate rave reviews and draw riders from every part of the country and abroad. This year we once again had over 900 riders participating.

A huge thank you to everyone-sponsors, hosts and volunteers-who helped make this fundraising event a big success. We couldn't do it without you! Last but not least, we offer our gratitude to D2R2's creator and guiding light, Sandy Whittlesey.

One of this year's riders sent a letter of appreciation to Sandy that she allowed us to share. It exemplifies exactly what we hope the event will do: show folks just how special our area is—and how important conservation is to keeping it that way. Here's an excerpt:

Sandy,

I can't thank you enough - in general for organizing this incredible event year after year and in particular for calmly helping me out at the start with a creative fix and then offering words of encouragement along the way. I also plan to thank the Franklin Land Trust - I know they deserve credit for a lot of what happens on this magical day.

This ride, more than my first marathon, more than any triathlon, made me feel connected to the land and to the strength I can draw from it.

I hope other riders felt some of that. I know from chatting and hearing conversations along the way that everyone was in awe of the magnificent beauty we enjoy out here. What an incredible gift you have given us. Thank you.

Lauren Cunniffe



Photo: Signature Cycles

Riders take a cooling break at the covered bridge in Guilford, VT



Photo: Signature Cycles

Sandy Whittlesey chats with riders at the lunch site

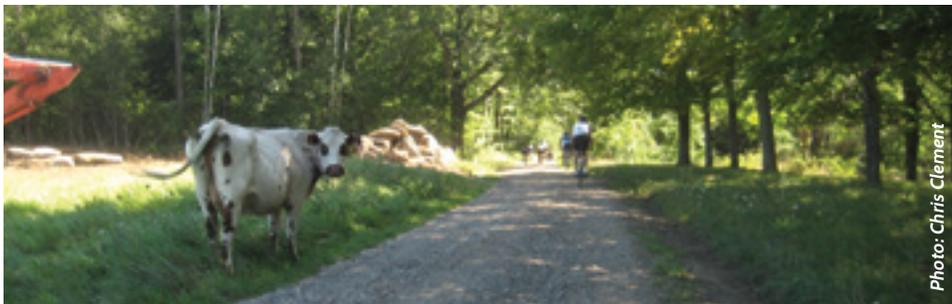
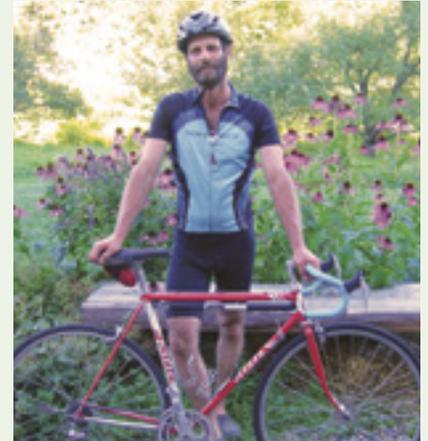


Photo: Chris Clement

Got Land?

EVERY MILE COUNTS



David Fisher of Natural Roots solicited sponsors for his ride, inviting the farm's CSA members and friends to pledge a modest amount per mile. To date, he's raised over \$700 in pledges, with more still coming in. We thank David and his sponsors for their generosity and encourage any riders who are inspired to follow his example to get in touch with us for details.

DRINK TO THE LAND!



Photo: Signature Cycles

FLT's Preservation Ale from Berkshire Brewing Company is back! Ask for it at your favorite beer purveyor. Remember, it's only here for a limited time—get yours soon!

D2R2 THANKS YOU

The sponsors and hosts who make this event possible:

Yankee Candle Village, Chandler's Restaurant, Destination Cycling, Zoar Outdoor, Cliff Bar, The Recorder, Fit to Ride, RK Miles, Berkshire Brewing Company, The Black Sheep, Deerfield Academy, Historic Deerfield, Apex Orchards, Pioneer Gardens, Bement School, Eaglebrook School, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association

The towns and emergency support services in MA and Vermont that stand ready to support the D2R2 riders year after year

Our loyal and generous site hosts:

Jaap Molenaar & Arjen Vriend of Pioneer Gardens, Janet Clark & Nort Salz, Christine Baronas & Glenn Ridler of Little Big House Gallery, Tim Smith & Apex Orchards, Amy & David Krane, Addison & Adelaide Minott, Max Eckstein and Wayne Meeks & Judith Colton

Last, but not least, our dedicated and friendly volunteers include:

Leslie Cooper, Alex Bralow, Alex Telepciak, Andrea Leibson, Ashley Sabourin, Ben Barnhart, Bert Sawicki, Bob Solosko, Bob Underhill, Carol Gritz, Catarina Nogueira, Ceil Antes, Charles Cohn, Christine Baronas, Chris Lowe, Cindy Fisher, Corinne Dugas, Dana Ruppert, Dave Alvord, Jared Alvord, Dottie Niemiec, Dusty King, Eli Dwight, George Critides, Ginny Talbot, Glen Ayers, Hanna Thurber, Jean Krogh, Jim Bonham, Jocelyn Forbush, Joe Sabourin, Joni Sessions, Joyce Gorman, Julia Hubbard, Karen Soucie, Katherine MacColl, Liz Sillin, Lloyd Crawford, Lyn Underhill, Marion London, Hannah, Robin & Ella, Pat Allen, Mark Allen, Mary Kenley Clark, Mary Praus, Matt Sabourin, Maureen Flaherty, Merricka Breuer, Monica Johnson, Nancy Albertson, Norm LaFleur, Paul Cooper, Peg Keller, Phil Pless, Richard Hebert, Richard Hebert II, Rob Luck, Sam Talbot, Sarah Coe, Scott Shurlow, Shane Chase, Steve Power, Susan Congor, Tim Coleman, Tim Parker, Tom Luck, Ursula Posl, Vicki Dwight, Walter Goodridge, Xue Sun, Caleb Alvord, Jocelyn Walsh, Jonah Cornwell and David Lamb

"New Partnership Protects MA Woodlands, Supports Landowners" Continued from page 1

Purchasing FSC Chain-of-Custody certification individually is too expensive for most of the small forest-based businesses in western Massachusetts, especially during the current economic downturn. **With this new partnership, FLT and MWI seek to create a regional network of interconnected forest-related business enterprises through which FSC-certified forest products move from harvesting through production, marketing and consumption in Massachusetts.**

The Institute will work with FLT to continue providing support and leadership for forest landowners and local wood businesses. MWI will share equipment and resources with FLT including computers, GPS units and a server, which will enhance FLT's technical capabilities. The two organizations will also seek funding to provide workshops on grants available for landowners to manage their land, responsible forestry practices and wildlife and outdoor educational opportunities for the community.

Woodlands are an integral part of the scenic beauty of our landscape. They also provide important public benefits: clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and wood products. Forests provide a home to many of the 176 species of animals and 256 species of plants that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern by the state National Heritage Program. We look forward to building on the strong work MWI has done to protect Massachusetts forests, and the health and beauty of our communities.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of two remarkable women with a special connection to FLT: Evelyn Guyette and Mary "Mitzi" Torras. Both had a strong commitment to conserving the farms, forests and working landscapes in our community. Their vision has a lasting impact and they will be missed



EVELYN GUYETTE died August 2, 2012 at home, a little under two months shy of her 102nd birthday. After her husband Harry passed away in 2007, Evelyn generously donated 107 acres of their farmland in Plainfield to FLT. She continued to live across the street, and kept a watchful eye on the property, which now includes a community garden, walking trails and serves as a site for FLT's public programs and events.

FLT Land Steward Will Anderson got to know Evelyn well on his frequent trips to work on the property, and recounts how she always made sure that he "made it out of the woods safely" at the end of the day. He affectionately describes her as the epitome of Yankee thrift, dry humor and straight talk. "Every day I went to work at Guyette I was reminded that—in a small way—we were continuing the hard work of Evelyn, her husband, brother-in-law and father-in-law."



MITZI TORRAS passed away August 22, in Charleston, South Carolina. Mitzi and her husband resided in Shelburne for many years, and after rearing her children, Mrs. Torras received her bachelor's degree summa cum laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and later her master's degree in German language and literature from the same institution.

Mitzi was a passionate advocate for land conservation and a founding member of FLT. She also was the driving force behind the Farm & Garden Tour, a signature FLT event for over 20 years. An enthusiastic champion of FLT's work, she established the Mitzi Robertson Torras Founders Fund in 2006, an endowment in support of FLT's operational expenses.



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FLT NEWS & VIEWS | FALL 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER



Fall Festival

Saturday, October 20, 12-7pm
Guyette Farm, Gloyd Street, Plainfield, MA

FREE activities for all ages throughout the day:
guided walks, scavenger hunt, games, pumpkin
painting, hayrides and an evening bonfire.

Scarecrow Making Workshop 12-4pm

Hayman creator and Plainfield artist Michael Melle is famous for his playful hay and stick sculptures. Materials provided, limited to 20 scarecrows (families and groups are welcome to form a single team and create one scarecrow together). \$50 materials fee per team. Check out Michael's work at www.scarecrowgarden.com

Funded by a grant from the Ashfield, Cummington and Plainfield Cultural Councils.

NOVEMBER



A Sense of Place

with David Brule, John Currie, Bill Danielson & Wally Swist

Thursday, November 8, 7-9pm
Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA

Celebrate the land, history and life of our local towns. Join these talented authors and performers in an evening of songs, stories, and poetry Inspired by the natural world, past and present. FREE.

DECEMBER



Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 9, 2-4pm
Arts Block Cafe
Federal Street, Greenfield, MA

Join your friends and neighbors at this afternoon holiday celebration, with special guest speaker and entertainment. Wine & beer tastings and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Call to reserve your seat!

PRE-REGISTER!

Contact Linda Alvord
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(413) 625-9151 x108