



# News & Views

FranklinLandTrust.org

SUSTAINABILITY STARTS HERE

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## DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS!

Believe it or not, June 30 isn't that far away. As we look ahead to the end of our fiscal year, FLT is offering you a special opportunity to help us meet our annual appeal goal—three generous donors have stepped forward with a challenge: they will match every gift you make to FLT up to \$25,000

### UNTIL JUNE 30

Even if you've already made a donation this year, please consider another gift, so we can take advantage of this challenge. If you haven't yet made a gift, become a member, make a difference, and double your money!

**MAKE YOUR GIFT BY PHONE, ON-LINE OR BY MAIL, BUT PLEASE, DO IT TODAY!**

Questions?

Call FLT at (413) 625-9151



## HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAVE A FARM?

Tractors at rest outside one of the barns at Gould Farm in Charlemont

*Over the years FLT has used many different strategies to keep farmland from being lost, but the key words for us remain affordability, availability, and perpetuity, and the resource we've turned to time and time again is the APR Program.*

One of the most exciting aspects about our local farm economy is its diversity: in other parts of the country thousands of acres can be devoted to a single crop, but in the Pioneer Valley farms and farm-related businesses are constantly evolving, finding new ways to thrive in our ever-changing economy. There is also a great variety in the way farms operate and what they produce: wholesalers, farmers markets, "value-added" CSAs, PYO and vegetable stands, large and small, are prominent throughout the region, and their products include everything from strawberries to goat cheese to perennials.

*Continued on page 4*

The Franklin Land Trust plays a major role in conserving farmland in Massachusetts, facilitating the largest number of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) in the state. FLT's work to conserve farmland is based upon the principle that farmer-owned, permanently protected farmland is the foundation of a healthy, sustainable food system, and that the farms of the region are a unique and critical resource.

## Franklin Land Trust

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# New Director of Community Outreach



In her new role with FLT, Wendy Sweetser Ferris will help build awareness and support for the conservation work of FLT, and offer opportunities for landowners to learn more about how land conservation can help achieve their goals. Wendy's position is funded through grants from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and the US Forest Service.

For the past ten years, Wendy worked for The Trustees of Reservations as the Director of the Highland Communities Initiative, a program dedicated to building community capacity for conservation and community preservation in the 38 towns west of the Connecticut River Valley.

Through HCI, Wendy worked with community leaders, volunteers, and landowners to proactively protect the rural character of small towns. "One of my favorite aspects of my work with HCI was helping people learn more about their options for protecting what's important to them and navigating what can be an overwhelming process. I look forward to continuing that supportive role with FLT," said Wendy.

Wendy received her Master's Degree in Regional Planning from UMass-Amherst where she focused on community preservation issues in rural Massachusetts. She recently moved to Shelburne Falls with her husband John and son Oliver, and will be spending as much time as possible exploring the trails and streams of Franklin County.

## 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 Franklin Land Trust one of their main giving priorities, often including us in their estate plans. Our Legacy Leaders understand that the important work of land conservation will make a real and lasting difference in our region for future generations.

When you make a Legacy Gift to the Franklin Land Trust you are helping assure that we will be here for the long haul, continuing to protect the vistas we cherish, the farms that sustain us and the woods and waterways vital to our ecosystem.

Legacy Gifts can come in many different forms: an outright gift of assets such as real estate, securities, retirement funds or life insurance policies; a gift of assets in such a way that income will flow back to you for the rest of your life; or a gift of a home or farm that will allow you to continue to use the property for as long as you wish. All of these forms of giving offer tax benefits of various sorts.

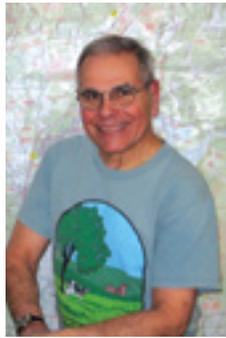
**Contact Mary Lynn Sabourin**  
(413) 625-9151 or [mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*We bid a fond farewell and offer our thanks to former board President Charlie Cohn, and board members Michael Abbate, Bob Dane, and Tim Smith. We are grateful for all of their contributions to the success of our organization. Please read on for a message from our new President, Paul Cooper.*

**My family came to Hawley for the first time in 1976, at first renting during the summer at Singing Brook Farm.** We felt that this little unspoiled corner of Massachusetts was the closest we are likely to come to paradise in this lifetime—rural lifestyle, gentle people, pure air and water, rolling hills, forests, fields, and farms. We bought our home in Hawley 1981 and have been spending most of our time here since I retired as Professor of Neurosurgery at NYU Medical Center in 2007. Our house in Hawley is an 18th century cape on 23 acres of woods and fields where we raise chickens and sheep and tend a large vegetable garden.

I joined the board of the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) in 2007 and before assuming the office of President this year I served for



several years as Treasurer of the organization. I think it would be fair to say that there is no single non-profit or charitable organization that affects the quality of life in this part of Massachusetts more than the FLT. One cannot hike, bicycle, cross country ski, or drive without passing the nearly forty square miles of farms, fields, and forest that FLT has helped conserve.

It is all the more remarkable that this has been done with a staff of fewer than ten people and a very tight budget. While we receive a small amount of foundation money, the vast bulk of our support comes from contributions from our members. As President I am committed to increasing this support so that we may continue our work and accelerate land conservation in the next few years. We have a unique opportunity: the land we preserve now will remain undeveloped and protected from encroaching urbanization forever, as well as a source of livelihood for generations of farmers to come.

*Paul Cooper*

## WHY WE SUPPORT FLT

Lloyd & Suzanne Crawford  
Owners of Stump Sprouts Cross-Country Ski Center

**Suzanne and I have run Stump Sprouts Cross Country Ski Area and Guest Lodge now for 35 years. The Franklin Land Trust has done a great deal to preserve the mix of wild beauty and working farmsteads that surround us here in Franklin County. We know that these assets are what bring guests back to us year after year, providing our livelihood.** On a daily basis, our guests express gratitude for simple things that are not available to them at home: dark night skies, rows and rows of receding ridgelines unfettered by obtrusive development, quiet spaces outdoors for reflection, contemplation—or simply as a backdrop for spending good times with family or friends. FLT's efforts enhance the quality of life here and increase the vibrancy of our community, and thus the ability of small businesses that depend on visitors from outside the area to thrive.

While we are both still going strong at age 60, we know that the day will come when we will need to turn the reins over to someone else. Looking forward, we imagine our situation is like what many landowners and farmers face: our children, ages 25 and 30, both have full and busy lives in other parts of the country. While they wouldn't like to see the place sold off, they are also not currently in a position to take over the operation.

We'd like to set things up to allow for continued low-impact, people-powered sports and recreation as it happens here now. One option we've been exploring with FLT is to place the portion of our 400 acres currently devoted to our trail system and forestry under a Conservation Restriction. A

CR on the land would protect those areas from being developed and removing the option of development makes the land less expensive for prospective buyers. This means that if we ever need to sell the business, it will make transfer of the lodging portion of the business more affordable for future operators. The insight and expertise of the staff at FLT has been very useful for us in helping formulate a vision for the future of Stump Sprouts that reflects our needs, values and respect for the land.



## We had a great turnout for the Full Moon Getaway at Stump Sprouts!

Many thanks to Lloyd and Sue Crawford of Stump Sprouts, Uncle Hal's CrabGrass Band, NEMBA, Harold Green, Ashfield Trails, and HilltownFamilies.org.

# How Many Ways Can You Save a Farm?

## EXPLORING APR OPTIONS FOR LOCAL FARMS

*Continued from page 1*

**That farming is alive and well in our area is no accident. In many parts of the country, small farms, especially, are disappearing at an alarming rate.** But in our region the foresight and dedication of local farmers and conservationists, along with support from the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, has created an environment in which small farms are still viable. According to the latest farm census, more than 80% of Massachusetts farms are family-owned, and 95% fit the category of “small farms,” sales below \$250,000. Despite our small size however, Massachusetts ranks 9th nationally in total value of direct sales, following states such as California, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Washington.

This dedication to small-scale farming is at the core of FLT’s mission. In fact, back in Ashfield where we started in 1987, FLT used to be called Franklin Land Trust Farm Promotion Association, and the project that started us off was the conservation of the Loomis Farm.

## WHAT IS AN APR?

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program is a state program that purchases the development rights from willing farmers and other owners of “prime” and “state important” agricultural land. Administered by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources, the program offers to pay farmland owners the difference between the “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which prohibits any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

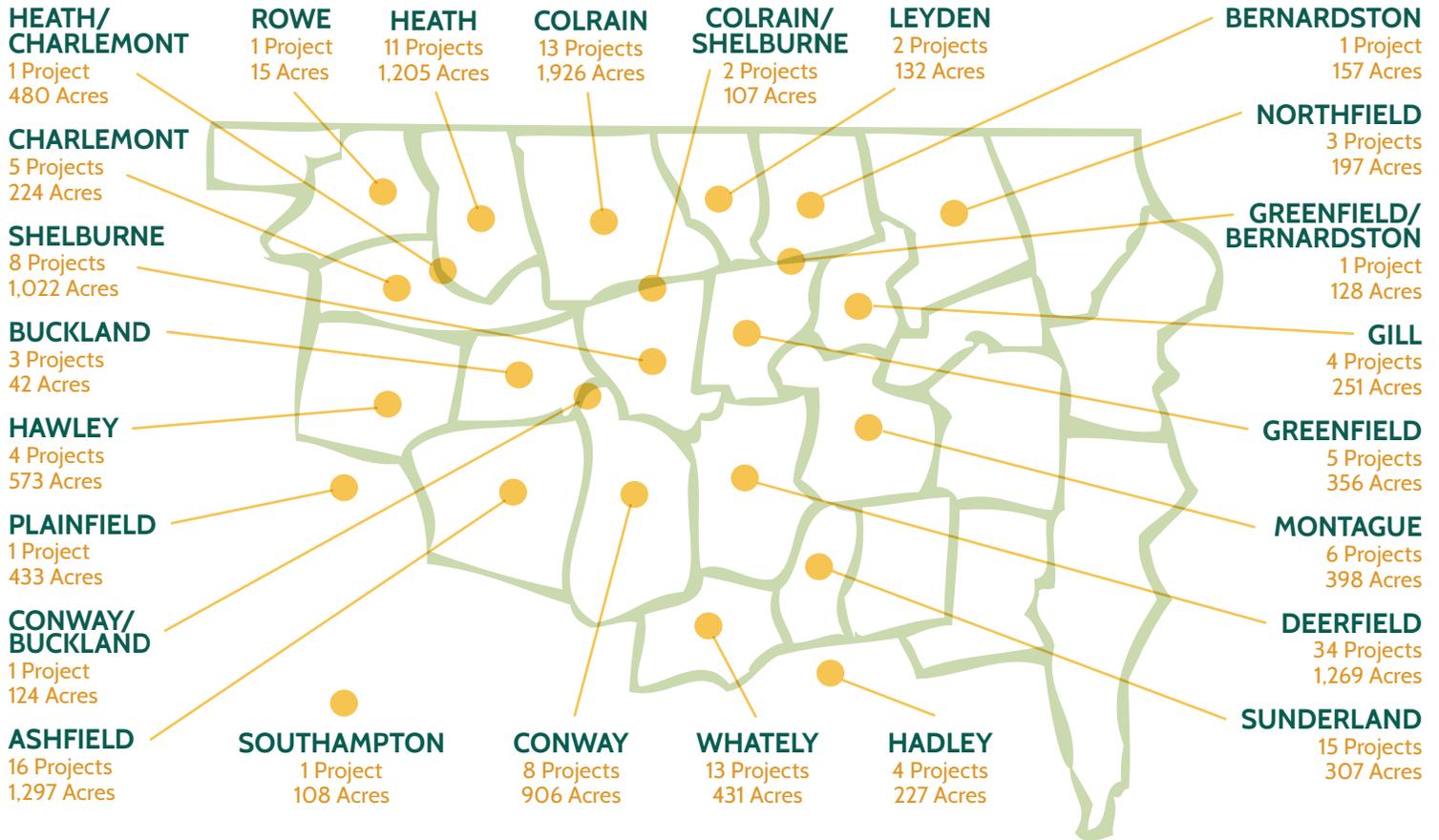
Though Massachusetts is extremely fortunate to have funding for its APR program to pay farmers for the development rights on their prime farmland, most farms contain a range of soils and land types that may not qualify for APR funding. In these cases, FLT often plays a vital role as a matchmaker for a landowner or farmer, connecting them to several different funding sources, and helping them to apply for and navigate the tax credits and incentives that may be available to supplement the APR funds.

Some of our other early conservation projects include Mohawk Orchards in Shelburne; Donovan Farm in Hawley (a pioneering organic farm); the Scott Farm in Hawley, which is one of the oldest continuously operated family farms in the state; the Shearer Farm in Colrain; and many parcels of prime agricultural land in the CT River Valley. The fact that these farms are still farmer-owned and thriving is a source of great pride to us, and immeasurable benefit to our community. Just as important, because so many farms have been conserved means that even if they are sold and transferred to a new generation of farmers, they will remain farms—forever.

Farmers and other landowners typically turn to the APR Program when faced with complex decisions about the future of their land. In our experience, those difficult choices usually involve three main scenarios:

- 1. GENERATIONAL TRANSFER**  
Landowners are trying to plan a generational transfer, decide how to manage or divide their estate after a parent has passed, and in some cases, how to transfer their farm to a family member.
- 2. KEEPING FARMLAND AFFORDABLE**  
A landowner needs to sell their land, but would like it to remain in agricultural use and offer it at a price that’s affordable to another farmer.
- 3. EXPANSION & DIVERSIFICATION**  
A farmer needs to extract equity from their land; often, the money is put back into the operation, and used to diversify, expand or upgrade infrastructure.

*APR projects include farms of all types and sizes. Read on for some examples of local farms and farmers that have been through the conservation process.*



## generational transfer

### HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAVE A FARM?

#### ALICE ELDRIDGE

Conway

Sometimes the APR Program is used to ensure that a landowner's vision for their land is carried out after they've passed on. This was the case with Alice Eldridge of Conway. Alice worked with FLT to design a strategy in which she could continue living in her house, while making sure her land would be conserved as farmland forever. FLT purchased her 58 acres of farmland, along with her farmhouse set on 2 acres, and Alice retained a Life Estate in her house. FLT borrowed part of the purchase amount from The Conservation Fund and also raised additional funds through local fundraising.

Alice was paid a set amount annually, plus interest on the purchase price, for a period of five years. According to Alice's wishes, FLT then sold the APR on the farmland to MDAR and sold the conserved land to a local farmer. Alice released her life estate in 2005, when she moved into a nursing home. The farmland continues to be owned by that farmer, who uses it to grow feed corn for his dairy.

#### GOULD FARM

Charlemont

The 40-acre Gould Farm along Route 2 in Charlemont is another excellent example of how important the APR Program 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 the APR Program as well as funds from the MA Department of Transportation Scenic Byways program. FLT then negotiated the sale and protection of the land so that the heirs were able to split the value of the land while still keeping it in active agriculture, and in the family. Richard Gould, one of the heirs who currently works the land, has purchased the protected farm. The APR on this property has not only conserved a farm, but also an important part of the scenic landscape along the historic Mohawk Trail and the Deerfield River.

# keeping farmland affordable



*Dave leads a strawberry hunt in the Enterprise hoop house*



*Dave and Enterprise field crew leader, Barrington, take a break from the harvest*



*Red maples show their fall colors at the Amherst Nurseries fields in Charlemont*

## ENTERPRISE FARM

### Whately

One of the complaints you often hear from new farmers is that good farmland is hard to find, and even harder to afford. It's true that land—all land—in Massachusetts is expensive. One of the most important benefits of the APR Program is that it helps keep farmland affordable. This was the case for Dave Jackson, of Enterprise Farm in Whately.

As Dave puts it, he was a “transplant” to the area, looking to start a farm, but the land he wanted was about to be sold as house lots and out of his price range. Luckily, since Dave had already bought the house on the property, the owner was willing to negotiate with him, and ultimately agreed to sell the land at its agricultural value through the APR Program, rather than its development value. According to Dave, this made all the difference, and Enterprise is now a thriving operation; they offer year-round CSA options (including a Boston-area share), and sell their certified-organic produce at local food co-ops, and at farmers' markets.

Dave said that to him the most important thing about conserving farmland is that it has benefits above and beyond providing food to the community. As he says, “The APR Program helps farmers, but it also maintains wildlife habitat, our natural landscape and the rural character of our community—that's good for everybody!”

[www.enterprisefarmcsa.com](http://www.enterprisefarmcsa.com)

## AMHERST NURSERIES

### Amherst, Charlemont, Sunderland

Each day, as he plants tiny saplings, or tends maturing crops, or harvests trees for his nursery, John Kinchla of Amherst Nurseries is living his dream. In 1999, he visited a large property in Charlemont with 50 acres of tillable land that was perfect – except for the price tag. But his knowledgeable real estate agent brought Franklin Land Trust into the discussion.

Eventually, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation agreed to buy the bulk of the parcel, 400 acres of forested land; the state purchased an APR on the remaining 50 acres, and John was able to purchase that land at a reduced price.

Over the next several years John was able to buy several more pieces of protected farmland in Sunderland, Amherst and Charlemont. Now, in the fields behind Amherst Nurseries, rows of young crabapple, dogwood and hawthorne trees flourish, their leaves and blooms bright against the distant, dusky hills of the Mount Holyoke Range. In Charlemont, there are 50 acres planted with trees, shrubs and pumpkins. In Sunderland, a piece of low-lying farmland is planted with potatoes and corn.

“For somebody who's starting in our generation, it is cost prohibitive to buy land,” said John, who was 26 when he started his business. “For me, the APR Program's been ideal,” said John. “There would have been no other way to do it.”

[www.amherstnurseries.com](http://www.amherstnurseries.com)



Photo: Rainbow Harvest Farms

The Rainbow Harvest family at the Greenfield Farmers Market



Photo: Rainbow Harvest Farms



Photo: Rainbow Harvest Farms

The farm fields on Adams Road, and a bounty of tomatoes

## RAINBOW HARVEST FARMS

Greenfield

Rainbow Harvest Farms in Greenfield is a unique example of a small organic farm in the midst of a densely residential neighborhood. The project is also slightly unusual in that the land was originally gifted to FLT under a Conservation Restriction, not an APR. The CR, however, allowed FLT to sell the 9.3 acres on Adams Road to a young farmer for \$15,000, a very affordable price. Rainbow Harvest now grows fruit, vegetables and berries as well as culinary and medicinal herbs, and sells at the Greenfield Farmers Market and to local restaurants and stores. They will soon be moving their vegetable operation to the new Greenfield Community Farm.

[www.rainbowharvestfarms.com](http://www.rainbowharvestfarms.com)

## UPCOMING EVENT

### FLT Day at Amherst Nurseries

Saturday, June 8, 9am-4pm  
199 Belchertown Rd, Amherst, MA

Stock up on trees and shrubs & support local land conservation! 10% of all sales will benefit FLT.

Questions? Call Amherst Nurseries, (413) 549-8873

“From application to closing, there are points where FLT staff enhance communications, provide municipal support, and may bridge the 1 1/2 -2 year wait for state and federal funding to come through. This partnership is particularly effective because the land trust, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program are joint participants in discussions addressing new ways to respond to the rapidly changing nature of farmland ownership and tenure in our region. A majority of APRs recorded each year are located west of the Quabbin Reservoir, and FLT has played a particularly consistent role on behalf of the farmers and towns in Franklin County and the Connecticut and Deerfield River valleys.”

– Rick Chandler, Regional Planner for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

## expansion & diversification

HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAVE A FARM?



*The Williams Farm Sugarhouse on Routes 5 & 10 in Deerfield*



*Gathering sap for the spring boil*

“Private donors and foundations can play a vital role in the conservation of key agricultural resources, particularly in as iconic and strategically located an area as the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. We have found the team at the Franklin Land Trust to be extraordinarily dedicated, competent, and effective in protecting the conservation and agricultural values of this region, and have been proud to support their efforts.”

– Thomas Curren, Project Director, Northeast Land Trust Consortium of the Pew Charitable Trusts

### WILLIAMS FARM Deerfield

The Williams family in Deerfield used the APR Program on several parcels of land to assist with the growth and expansion of their farm and maple operation in Deerfield. The original Williams sugarhouse was one of thirteen located on Mount Toby in Sunderland, MA. In his diary, Milton Hubbard Williams wrote: “March 6 1853 commenced sugaring. March 25 1853 traded sugar for coat and pants in Amherst.”

160 years later, the Williams family now grows crops on 300 acres, as well as running their maple operation, sugarhouse and farm store. They use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and have a crop rotation agreement with neighboring farms such as Savage Farms and Patterson Farm. They sell produce locally in Franklin County at Savages Market, Foster’s Supermarket, Big Y, and Food City as well as many roadside farm stands.

[www.williamsfarmsugarhouse.com](http://www.williamsfarmsugarhouse.com)

## WANT TO KNOW MORE



These are only a few examples of the many ways farmers and other landowners can conserve their land. Call us if you’d like to learn more about your options. If you’d like to learn more about the APR Program, or any other programs offered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, call us, or go to their web site, at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/land-use-habitats/land-conservation/agricultural-grants-and-loans.html>.

# The Stewardship Corner

*This month's column comes to us from Joshua Morse, FLT's MassLIFT AmeriCorps Land Steward.*

**When I began serving with the Franklin Land Trust this past fall, the Stewardship Department was experiencing something of a renaissance.** Thanks to the efforts of two prior MassLIFT/AmeriCorps volunteers, FLT had gained traction on the monitoring and baseline fieldwork associated with its ever-increasing number of protected properties. Support from the MassLIFT program may not last forever, though, and FLT recognized the need for a long-term approach to keep up with its expanding stewardship responsibilities. So, in my first few days with the land trust we hatched an ambitious plan: the establishment of a volunteer monitoring program.

Six months have passed since FLT began actively pursuing this goal, and the successes that our volunteer program has seen within that short time are impressive. Our community demonstrated a hearty interest in helping FLT meet its stewardship obligations, as evidenced by the strong attendance at a town hall-style general interest meeting we held on the first of November.

Just four weeks later, 22 conservation-minded landowners who liked what they learned at that meeting completed a basic stewardship skills training at FLT's Guyette Farm property in Plainfield. As the winter progressed, the volunteer stewards gathered for additional workshops on topics including winter tree identification and orienteering, to keep their skills sharp in preparation for the program's first field season this spring.



*Volunteer Land Stewards participate in a training at our Guyette Farm property in Plainfield*

With such a strong foundation laid for the program, I am looking forward to seeing our first cohort of volunteer stewards in action. Spring is just around the corner, and FLT staff members are working hard to identify conservation land where the monitoring efforts of our volunteers are most needed.

FLT is already responsible for stewarding approximately 120 properties, more than 7,000 acres of conserved land. As the amount of conservation land in the region expands, the need for community engagement in the challenge of taking care of that land will also grow. I am proud to see FLT's volunteer stewards stepping up to meet this need, and proud to be helping to expand a system that will ensure that it continues to be met.

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

A \$5,000 grant from the CFWM will enable FLT to embark on a much-anticipated project: a total redesign and reimagining of our web site. We are very excited about the possibilities our new site will offer, including interactive features that will enable community members, FLT members and volunteers to learn about, explore and engage in the many aspects of conservation and FLT's work.

### The 1772 Foundation

The 1772 Foundation has provided Franklin Land Trust with a \$20,000 grant in support of our Internal Revolving Farmland Fund. To date, this generous grant has allowed us to take advantage of the opportunity to protect three local farms, totaling approximately 600 acres. \$17,000 used for APR pre-acquisition and associated costs will revolve back into the fund by the end of June 2013 and be immediately available to help other farmers. The additional \$3,000 will go back into the fund in early 2014.

### Valley Gives

The enormous generosity of our donors was in evidence once again when FLT ended up in the number three spot for the most money raised by a "large organization" in the Valley Gives philanthropic initiative on December 12. Hundreds of organizations throughout Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties participated in the first year of this online-based charity event organized by the Community Foundation of Western MA.

Over the course of a single day, the Valley Gives drive brought in a total of nearly \$975,000 from more than 6,600 individuals who donated to a wide variety of nonprofit organizations in western Massachusetts. The Franklin Land Trust received \$29,567 in donations, plus an additional \$5000 awarded from Valley Gives for landing in third place. Thank you to all who supported FLT and the other worthy organizations in our community.

# Recent Land Projects

## It's official!

With the closing of three land projects at the end of 2012, FLT has crossed the 25,000 acre mark! We begin 2013 and our 26<sup>th</sup> year with more than 26,000 acres of land conserved through 323 projects.

### Winston Healy Trust, Hall Tavern Farm

#### CHARLEMONT & COLRAIN

Franklin Land Trust has pre-acquired an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) from the Winston Healy Trust, which owns over 500 acres of field and woodland on the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) in Charlemont and Colrain. This land, with its fields and working woodlands of the Hall Tavern farm and sawmill operation, is one of the oldest tree farms in Massachusetts.

The APR enables the Healy Trust to continue working their land and to preserve its natural beauty, which is enjoyed by nearby residents, as well visitors to the area and travelers on the Mohawk Trail. Public access for hiking will also be allowed on a portion of the land abutting the Catamount State Forest in Colrain.

The Healy family is working with FLT, the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), the US Department of Natural Resource and Conservation Services (USDA NRCS) and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). The pre-acquisition of the restriction by FLT has been made possible by a loan from The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting conservation efforts.

Acquisition of the APR has been approved and will be reimbursed by MDAR's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, USDA NRCS' Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and EOEEA's Landscape Partnership Grant Program, a state program focused on preserving large blocks of the natural landscape in Massachusetts. The Healy project will be complete when FLT transfers the restriction to MDAR in 2013. MDAR will then hold the APR in perpetuity, and FLT's role in facilitating the project is complete.

### Ted & Claire Pease

#### BUCKLAND

FLT was gifted a 52-acre Conservation Restriction by Ted & Claire Pease. Ted's father bought two eight-acre parcels of land in 1926. Ted and Claire bought a 36-acre parcel lot in 1968, purchased the land from Ted's father in 1970 and have now conserved the entire property. Originally a farm, the land is being managed for wildlife and timber, and includes old stone walls, cellar holes and a former road that is now a snowmobile trail.



*One of the many old stone walls on the Hale property*

### Stephen & Lynn Hale

#### BUCKLAND

The last project of 2012 was the culmination of three years of work by FLT and the Hale family of Buckland. In partnership with the Selectboard and Conservation Commission, the Hales have gifted a Conservation Restriction to the Town of Buckland on their 92-acre family property. They then gifted the protected land to FLT. FLT received a grant from the William P. Wharton Trust to support the expenses associated with the transaction.

In accordance with the Hale's wishes, the land will be open for public enjoyment. We are looking forward to sharing plans for the property, working on trails and managing the woodlot. FLT has scheduled a community gathering to get the word out about the project, seek volunteers to help with stewardship and answer questions about public use and future plans. *See Upcoming Events for details.*

**"We are excited about FLT's plans for the woods—keeping trails open, marking boundaries, enhancing wildlife habitat, managing the forest, removing invasive species, protecting the wetlands and streams and possible educational programs. We heartily appreciate all the leg work you've done to help make this happen."**

*-Stephen Hale*

# Upcoming Events

APRIL

## Woods Forum

Wednesday, April 17, 7pm  
Warfield House, Charlemont, MA  
FREE and open to all

If part or all of your land is woods, come to this forum to share your questions and experiences with other landowners, foresters, and the FLT staff. This informal discussion will be a chance to get advice and recommendations on forest management, invasive pests and plants, land conservation, property tax programs, and anything else that's on your mind regarding your woods.

*Refreshments served. Please call ahead to reserve your seat—Wendy Sweetser Ferris at Franklin Land Trust, (413) 625-9151 or email [wferris@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:wferris@franklinlandtrust.org).*

MAY

## Hale Family Forest Open House

Thursday May 9, 7-8pm  
Buckland Historical Museum, Upper Street,  
Buckland, MA

Join FLT staff to hear more about our plans for the 92-acre gift of land in Buckland from the Hale Family.

*See the article under Recent Land Projects for details about the Hale project.*



*The wildflower Herb Robert growing up through the leaf litter on the forest floor at the Hale property*

## MEMBERS PICNIC

Keep an eye out for your invitation to our annual Members Picnic.  
Date and location TBA.

AUGUST

## D2R2 Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnée

Saturday, August 24  
180K, 150K, 115K, 100K or 40 Mile Green River Tour

Enjoy the most beautiful, fun, traffic-free, unique, and overall best ride you've ever imagined! Support land conservation and celebrate the region's historic carriage roads, gorgeous scenery, vibrant farming community, and fascinating history!

**REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!**

Go to: <https://www.bikereg.com/Net/17739>

NEW THIS YEAR

## Go-the-Extra-Mile Team

We are asking D2R2 riders to consider asking family and friends to pledge per mile (or per ride) to benefit land conservation.

For each \$20 in pledges a rider receives he/she will have one ticket entered into a drawing for a custom designed bike frame by Independent Fabrication.

Riders can NOT purchase tickets for the raffle—only riders who secure pledges are entered into this exclusive raffle. In addition, any rider who receives \$500 or more in pledges will receive a free Go-the-Extra-Mile Team D2R2 bike jersey designed by Craft Sports.

*Sign up for the Go-the-Extra-Mile Team when you receive your D2R2 registration confirmation from Bikereg.com.*  
**QUESTIONS? Call us at (413) 625-9151.**



## D2R2 Needs You!

Volunteer for D2R2 and have a great time, plus a free meal, a pint of BBC Preservation Ale, the glass it comes in and a full year of FLT membership!

**Call us at (413) 625-9151 or sign up online:**  
<http://www.volunteersignup.org/9RAXX>

## BECOME A D2R2 SPONSOR!

Join Cabot, Cliff, Coca-Cola, Destination Cycling & Independent Fabrication—reach thousands of active and engaged FLT supporters.

**Contact Mary Lynn Sabourin: (413) 625-9151x103**  
[mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org)



Franklin Land Trust  
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**Monthly E-News**

Text PRESERVATION to 22828 or contact Linda Alvord to sign up for our monthly e-news or make changes to your contact information: (413) 625-9151 [lalvord@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:lalvord@franklinlandtrust.org)

 **Find us on Facebook**

FLT NEWS & VIEWS | SPRING 2013

**We're Not 25 Anymore...**

*We wrapped up our 25th anniversary celebration with six community programs this fall and winter.*

**THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE OUR FALL & WINTER 2012 EVENTS POSSIBLE**

*American Farmland Trust; Apex Orchards in Shelburne; ArtsBlock Café in Greenfield; Berkshire Brewing Company of Deerfield; BFK Designs; Rema Boscov; David Brule; Community Foundation of Western MA Franklin Fund; Creative Beading; Cris Coffin and Roland Kinsman; Nina Anderson Coler; Sandy Denis; Flo Rosenstock; John Currie, Bill Danielson & Wally Swist; HilltownFamilies.org; Michael Melle; Mike's Maze in Sunderland; Mo's Fudge; Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association; Kate Scarborough; the Student Conservation Corps; Sam Talbot; West End Pub; Laurie Wheeler; and the Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Gill, Plainfield, Rowe, Shelburne & Whately Cultural Councils*

**...here's to the next 25 years of conservation in our community!**

*It was a great day for all ages at our first annual fall festival at Guyette Farm in Plainfield*

