



Franklin Land Trust

Conserving Farms, Fields & Forests Since 1987

FALL 2022

Full Circle: Celebrating 35 Years of Conservation

*From Deerfield to NYC: Cutting Edge Agriculture
Woodland Wonders*

*We Are Here to Help You Through the Alphabet Soup
Something Fishy is Going on Here*



FRANKLIN LAND TRUST

5 Mechanic Street
PO Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
(413) 625-9151
FranklinLandTrust.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Miller, *Ashfield*
President

Thomas Luck, *Leyden*
Vice President

Jaap Molenaar, *Deerfield*
Treasurer

Lloyd Crawford, *Hawley*
Clerk

Jan Carr, *Heath*

Nina Coler, *Ashfield*

Ruah Donnelly, *Conway*

Paul Cooper, *Hawley*

STAFF

Mary Lynn Sabourin, CFRE
Interim Executive Director

Alain Peteroy
Director of Land Conservation

Emily Boss
*Community Conservation
Program Manager*

William Sloan Anderson
Head Land Steward

Linda Alvord
Administrative Assistant

Marlene Hebert
Bookkeeper

Sebastian LaMontagne
Outreach & Development Associate

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Franklin Land Trust celebrates its 35th anniversary we are looking back and remembering lessons learned, as well as looking ahead and planning how best to situate ourselves for the future.

My personal journey with the Land Trust began twenty years ago and has provided me with the opportunity to connect with so many incredible mentors from the land trust community, board members, co-workers, and past executive directors. I credit FLT's first Executive Director, Mark Zenick with welcoming me into the organization's fold, for laying the groundwork and understanding of the mission, for my early lessons in nonprofit finance and compliance, but also for bringing humanity, the arts, creativity, and a deep love and passion for this work that remains ingrained in me to this day.

I also credit his successor, Rich Hubbard for growing and building this organization into the successful vehicle for conservation that it has become, forging partnerships and advocating across the Commonwealth in order to strengthen the programs and purpose of our work. For his conservation expertise and his unwavering belief in our mission. This rural landscape would not be the same if it weren't for the deep commitment and dedication of these two early leaders.

As we prepare ourselves for what the years ahead will bring, FLT is coming full circle and reinvesting in the foundations on which it was built, to serve the region by preserving the inter-reliant network of forest, farm and village that is integral to its character.

To be resilient in the face of dizzying change, FLT must be versatile in pursuit of its mission. I am intent on ensuring that FLT is prepared to respond to the diversity of threats that face our community, from climate change to invasive pests. Our partnership with the Mass Woodlands Institute (MWI) is a vital step towards achieving this goal. MWI's focus on climate resiliency and its ability to connect landowners with educational resources makes it the ideal vehicle through which to provide information.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary I have looked back at the themes and writings of those before me and find that their messages are as consistent as they are timely. Conservation is about preserving spaces of possibility. Spaces where we can slow down and observe our place in the ecological community that surrounds and sustains us.

We conserve land so that it can be utilized for agriculture, recreation, research, sustainable forestry and wildlife management. These are sources of renewable value and long-term economic uplift. Rather than attempting to build walls between humans and nature, conservation has the capacity to reintegrate them and show the porousness of both.

At a time when many organizations are having to adjust their missions to match the challenges of the time we live in, Franklin Land Trust has been well situated to meet these challenges since its inception. We've always known that conservation isn't just about preserving wildlands, it's about preserving our community as well.

Thank you all for your support and belief in our mission these past 35 years. We hope you will journey with us as we meet the challenges ahead.

With warm regards,

Mary Lynn Sabourin,
Interim Executive Director



Mary Lynn Sabourin



Something Fishy Is Going On Here

By Sebastian LaMontagne

In 2021, Bill and Jane Obear put a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 41 acres of Bear Path Farm, their land in Whately, MA. This autumn, it's easy to appreciate the green fields of their farm, the tall trees turning gold, and the delicious peaches and apples from their orchard.

But hiding in the winding streams crossing the property are secrets of natural selection. Protection here is not only a win for the environment—it also supports advances in scientific knowledge.

Since 1997 researchers from the USGS Conte Fish Research Laboratory have been closely studying Brook Trout from four tributaries of the Mill River that flow into the Connecticut River. One of these tributaries, Ground Brook, flows through the Obear property into West Brook which empties into the Mill River.

Data indicates substantial movement between three of the four tributaries which are a critical spawning habitat for Brook Trout. But a five-foot waterfall separates Ground Brook where it flows into West Brook. As a result, the fish in Ground Brook have had very little exchange with those in West Brook. And the exchange is one way. Fish from Ground Brook sometimes emigrate to West Brook over the waterfall, however the reverse is, of course, impossible.

As a result, the isolated Brook Trout have been separated from the rest of the watershed for approximately 900 years. The combination of a small population, isolation and a unique environment in Ground Brook sets the stage for genetic divergence from the rest of the West Brook. Some of the divergence can come from small population size alone (random loss of variation called genetic drift) and some can come from natural selection. With small populations, some gene variants (known as alleles) randomly disappear completely and thereby reduce genetic variation.

These trout are behaving in ways distinct from their

distant relatives in West Brook. Researchers have found evidence of higher early juvenile survival and strong selection against larger body size, meaning that the trout in Ground Brook mature younger, grow slower, and have a shorter life span than the open system trout in West Brook. The difference between the two populations suggests that the isolated fish may be evolving to suit conditions in their small, one-way stream.

Isolated populations like these have a higher risk for extinction because they have a diminished genetic reservoir to respond to new conditions. Having closely adapted to their current environment they may not have the variation necessary to adapt to new ones. Any major change in their environment could wipe them out.

Thanks to Franklin Land Trust's conservation of the Obear's land, this sensitive goldmine of genetic specificity will be protected forever from human development.

The survival of these trout may be even more crucial than we currently realize. When organisms from two distinct genetically isolated populations are introduced to one another's habitats, it can result in significant increases in population genetic diversity, a practice known as translocation. As more of the world's freshwater streams and rivers are cut off from one another by human development and trout become increasingly isolated, the fish in Ground Brook may turn out to be a key resource for the genetic rescue of other isolated populations.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Biomap2 shows that the Obear's parcel provides Core Habitat For Species of Conservation Concern. In addition to practicing agriculture, Bill and Jane manage the fields and forests for wildlife habitat and timber.

"This place is a stroke of luck" says Bill Obear "the way the glaciers have carved small fertile plains with steep sides that encourage rich habitat for farmland, quality hardwoods, numerous feathered and furred animals, as well as Brook Trout surviving hundreds of years in an isolated cold-water stream. However, my wife Jane and I don't think that luck helped us preserve 41 acres of our land in perpetuity. The leadership and assistance that the Franklin Land Trust provided over three years of discussions, meetings, application preparations and follow through, led to our successful Conservation Restriction completed at the end of 2021. This is down to the successful application of lots of hard work by a remarkable conservation organization."

*To watch a video about the trout, please visit
franklinlandtrust.org/news/trout*

More Powerful Than An SUV

By Sebastian LaMontagne

In Ashfield on Spruce Corner Road is a quiet piece of land crossed by the winding Swift River. In the summer of 2001, a group of Ashfield Residents led by Nancy Hoff and Laura Bassett, the proprietors of Ashfield Hardware, approached the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) to voice their concern about the sale of these 151 acres on Spruce Corner and Willis Howes roads, owned at that time by the descendants of Willis Howes himself. The property was priced then at over \$100,000 and included 4,500 feet of developable road frontage zoned for up to 20 house lots.

A land speculation company had begun looking into buying the property, but the Howes family preferred it to be conserved. The property consists largely of forest and floodplain and holds significant conservation value due to its 30 acres of sugar bush, vital to the operation of a local maple syrup producer, as well as its reputation as a prime location for hiking, mountain biking and skiing. The Swift River runs through the parcel, which is situated on the border of a large undeveloped area home to many types of wildlife.

“We need to conserve this land for the sake of moose, bobcat, deer, lady slippers, dragonflies, beavers, peepers, old stone foundations, beauty, sanity, sanctuary, space to breathe and play, and to know that we are still alive and connected to Mother Earth,” Nancy Hoff and Laura Bassett explained in a joint statement provided to FLT.

The development of the property would have come at a high price for Ashfield’s municipal government as well, which would have had to conduct extensive repairs to the nearly abandoned roadway, work estimated to cost the town at least \$100,000.

Seeing that the townspeople had mustered significant grassroots support, FLT purchased a 90-day option on the property and then began to raise funds to purchase it outright. Many generous local donors came forward and their enthusiasm and display of broad public support inspired the Department of Environmen-



Swift River Looking North

tal Management and the private Norcross Foundation to join the campaign. With the help of donors, DEM (later renamed DCR) purchased a Conservation Restriction and the Norcross Foundation took on ownership of the property.

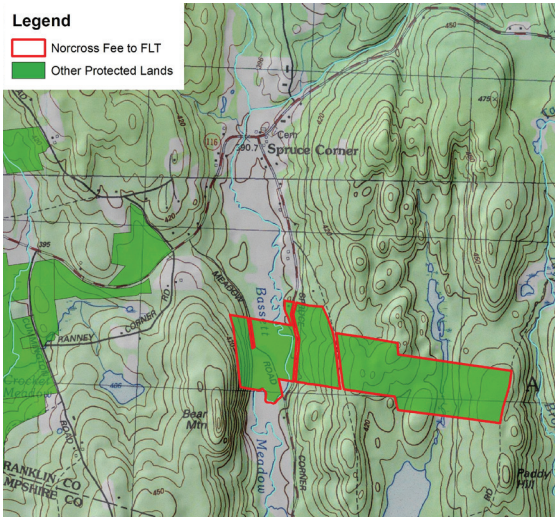
Pleased with the results of the conservation effort, Nancy Hoff and Laura Bassett effused that “FLT is more powerful than an SUV.”

For many years this story was closed. But recently FLT was contacted about accepting the gift of the Howes land from the Norcross Foundation. We can cautiously estimate that by the time you read this, the land will have been transferred to FLT.

Nancy and Laura have greeted the news with enthusiasm: “It’s wonderful to see this land come full circle into the hands of local management and we’d like to thank the Norcross Foundation for making this possible.”

The Franklin Land Trust has been invested in the Howes property since Ashfield residents first came to us in 2001 and we are excited at the possibility of taking over management of this land. Ashfield has been part of our story since FLT’s beginnings, when our offices were situated on Main Street, and we are delighted to continue forging new ties there!

We believe that this beautiful piece of land holds great potential. Our plans are in their early stages, but we intend to draw up a new management plan, assess the area for public access, and eventually provide a small parking area for visitors, an educational kiosk, and trail markers.



We Are Here To Help You Through The Alphabet Soup

By Will Sloan Anderson

Being a land steward means being a little bit of everything: ecologist, forester, farmer, with an understanding of law, psychology and finance. I’ve picked up a lot along the way, but this job has also forced me to embrace humility. When I run up against the limitations of my knowledge, I take a step back and call in an expert second opinion.

In a world of ever increasing, granular specialization knowing when to reach out and seek advice is important. Every passing year as new niche disciplines develop, it’s easy to find myself in the position of not knowing what I don’t know.

It had never even occurred to me, for instance, that there were bat cave contractors that built custom gates to protect hibernaculums, but now I’m aware of two, one in Texas and one in Pennsylvania.

I know trackers, botanists, geomorphologists, entomologists, ornithologists and limnologists. More ologists than I can count. There is also the alphabet soup of acronyms for federal, state and private organizations who have education materials and grant opportunities that can help the land owner. NRCS, DCR, RGS, TU.

To someone who hasn’t heard these acronyms in context a few times, they can just blend together like a high speed recitation of the alphabet: “ABCDEFGH!” It can all be a bit much. Who can blame people for glazing over when they hear this stuff.

What I’ve learned is that clear and jargon free communication is key to success. When you’re steeped in hieroglyphics all the time it’s easy to forget that not everyone got a peek at the Rosetta stone.

Talking to landowners is one of the most satisfying parts of my job. When I get asked a question, I try not to

leap right into an extended explanation. It’s better to follow up with a few questions that get at the heart of the landowner’s intent.

Through a discussion about their property, we can ferret out an overall goal that is appropriate for the parcel, its resources and land use history, and the limitations of the Conservation Restriction that we hold on it.

One major difficulty I run into is conveying to the landowner how to discuss with a resource professional or contractor what it is that they want. Sometimes there are tradeoffs regarding land management and because not everyone speaks about it in the same way, those tradeoffs can be hard to suss out at the beginning.

Communication is key to success. Always ask follow up questions. Get into the nitty gritty. Admit when you don’t understand something and ask for clarification.

I make myself available to landowners to help them navigate through some of these processes. Sometimes that means putting landowners who are considering embarking on a particular kind of project in touch with another landowner who has already done the same kind of thing.

When I can, I try to get everyone around the table together. The landowner, land manager and representative of whichever generous acronym is providing funding. Its easiest to make sure everyone is on the same page this way.

I can usually sense when a landowner is feeling a little lost in the flood of information and can wind the conversation back to review specifics and give space for the landowner to air their thoughts. This is when I usually say there are no stupid questions. In this age of specialization and niche expertise, it’s impossible to know everything. As a land steward navigating the ever more complex world of conservation, I run into new and surprising information all the time and that means I have to ask stupid questions. I’ve made a living out of it.

If you have some questions to ask about land management, please feel free to contact me. If I can’t answer your question, we can revel in our ignorance together and I will find someone who knows and can answer it for us both.

From Deerfield To NYC: Cutting Edge Agriculture

By Sebastian LaMontagne



Jaap Molenaar grew up in coastal Holland on the outskirts of Haarlem, a small city in close proximity to Amsterdam. There his family has owned a vegetable and flower farm since the 1880s.

After graduating from an agriculture college, Molenaar became a traveling salesperson before eventually deciding to go into the family trade by starting a plant nursery of his own with a college friend, Arjen Vriend.

As Pioneer Gardens grew, its operations required more acreage. Unfortunately, farmland is also ideal land for housing development. When farms collapse, or farmers retire and decide to sell, wealthy developers often line up to outbid each other for ownership of the property. This makes it nearly impossible for new farmers to raise enough financial capital to acquire the land they need to start a business.

Molenaar was able to overcome this problem because of local Deerfield landowners who'd placed their farms under a state-held APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) facilitated by the Franklin Land Trust. The APR program protects farmland from becoming subject to development, and also keeps it affordable for new farmers.

Since it was founded Pioneer Gardens has grown beyond what Molenaar could initially have predicted. "We

started this in 1992," says Molenaar "We had about an acre of production [in Deerfield]. And now we have 80 acres. We didn't even have a greenhouse back then, now we have about two acres of greenhouses. I employ between 35 and 40 people full time now."

As the success of Pioneer Gardens has grown, Molenaar's ambitions have shifted towards the longevity of his business. He has hired a young team with the intention of fostering a new generation of farmers. And Pioneer Gardens has begun to extend its business model into emerging technologies.

While traveling in Germany in the late 90s and early 2000s, Molenaar noticed that Germans were experimenting with rooftop gardening. Sensing that the idea held promise, he explored the possibility of doing something similar in the United States but early indications were that the concept was still too far ahead of its time.

There were no local mandates encouraging live roofs, very little interest from architects and engineers, and hardly any available expertise in regards to design and implementation. So Molenaar put the idea on the back burner, although he never forgot it entirely. About a year ago his patient interest paid off. Pioneer Gardens was given the opportunity to work with an international com-

pany called Live roof and become an exclusive franchise holder for the Northeast.

The increased interest in live roofs is further stimulated as the result of local mandates. As part of New York City's Climate Mobilization Act, all new buildings that go up are required to include either a roof garden, solar panels, or some combination of the two. Cambridge, Massachusetts has implemented a similar rule.

"There's a couple reasons for it" says Molenaar "The first is that rooftop gardens are able to hold a certain amount of water so it's not just pouring off the roof when it rains. It's almost like a sponge that holds the water and then slowly lets it go. And the plants drink some of it as well. So it helps to mitigate storm water runoff related flood risks which also overburden sewer systems. The second benefit is that it has a cooling effect in city microclimates and insulates buildings helping them to become energy neutral. Third but not least is the creating of natural habitat."

In the past rooftop gardens have been a difficult and slow undertaking. All the ingredients for the creation of substratum had to be brought up to the roof, where the garden was constructed from scratch. This method required ten weeks or more of rooftop attention by a horticulturalist.

Molenaar's approach is far more streamlined. The gardens are grown at the plant nursery in Deerfield inside easily transportable panels that are then carried by truck to their eventual home.

"We basically do the planting upfront, with established plans for how we are going to get it up on the roof" Molenaar explains. "It can be two inches of soil, six inches, eight inches, depending on the needs of the architects, engineers and building owners and the intended use of that space. People are making these gardens either a recreational space so they can have parties or get together, or they are just creating it as a green space purely for the purposes of absorbing the water and creating habitat. Believe it or not, invisible from the street, there's hundreds of acres of rooftops being installed every year. This is not just a little bit here or there, it's going up everywhere."

The system Molenaar and his team are using involves one foot by two foot trays, which interlock. The system simplifies the process of creating a roof garden by creating what is essentially a pre-planted roof kit, designed with ease of installment in mind.

"Most of the architects, the engineers, as well as the contractors, aren't gardeners. So they can design a plan for a rooftop garden, but they can't do the planting and all of that. It's another skill that they would have to learn. They're already busy enough making a building! So we take

that worry out of it for them. It's like how a general contractor will buy a heating unit that is ready to be installed. The contractor doesn't want to have to make the components of the heater and build the thing himself. He just buys the concept."

"Now let's say your client wants, for example, a particular kind of garden. Some alliums, some grasses, some coneflowers or native plants and they want walking paths. We lay it out exactly like it will look on the roof. We lay it out on the farm, already in that dimension, all precisely measured, and with the patterns of paths in it. And then we number every single tray, so we know where they go. Once it's up on the roof, they lay the panels out" says Molenaar "They know that in the southeast corner, we put tray one. And we know where to put tray two, and three, and four, and five. And these trays interlock, so the whole pattern can be slotted into place."

Molenaar says that normally the gardens include a mixture of at least six or eight different species, so that they can bloom at different times and handle different temperatures.

Molenaar says most of the roofs don't require complex water systems. "There's succulents on there that can handle the drought" says Molenaar "They can withstand dry periods. And we plan for that."

Within the trays are an artificially constructed substratum, a mixture of gravels and mulches. "If it's just dirt, it wouldn't absorb as much water as we want" says Molenaar, "You want it to be able to drain but also to absorb and you want it to last. Bark breaks down. So you start with six or eight inches and you end up, five or ten or twenty years later, with four inches. So it has to be holding the same kind of soil pattern over a very long time with minimal intervention, and we've designed them with that in mind."

Molenaar's formerly tiny plant nursery, which started on just one acre, is now one of the biggest horticultural farms in the region and a franchise holder for cutting edge new technology. With its enthusiastic team of young managers and employees, Pioneer Gardens is embracing change and ensuring its longevity as it blazes a path for the future of New England agriculture.

The Franklin Land Trust is deeply invested in the preservation of farmland. Here at FLT we believe that local agriculture is key to the economic future of Western Massachusetts and that young farmers should get the chance to enter the business. The FLT facilitated, state-held APR on the land farmed by Pioneer Gardens is a case study in the protection of farmland and its economic benefit for the local community.



Woodland Wonders

By Emily Boss

Woodlands cover 60 percent of Massachusetts and in Franklin County forests are the backbone of our landscape. We are reminded of this every autumn, when the green hills are painted anew in shades of red and gold.

Year round, trees give us clean air, clean water and cooling shade. They provide the wildlife around us with the shelter and food they need to thrive.

These forests are what the Massachusetts Woodland Institute (MWI) was created to protect. MWI is a non-profit subsidiary of Franklin Land Trust (FLT) housed in FLT's offices in Shelburne Falls, MA. It connects its parent organization with people in the community who are responsible for the long-term management of the landscape: families, farms, rural businesses and recreational or other interest groups.

Farmers have been stewarding the land for generations and we want to help them continue to do what they do best by offering assistance as they apply for grants, connecting them with new programs, and putting them in touch with other farmers that share common interest so that they can learn from one another.

Family farms represent a time when traditional skills and knowledge were passed down from generation to generation. Today that knowledge is often concentrated in the hands of specialists. At MWI we believe that it is vital to keep traditional skills alive so that they are not swept away by the tide of increasingly niche specialization.

With our Western Mass Wood website we have been able to provide people with a resource for finding wood that has been harvested locally. By supporting and strengthening local tree farms, craftspeople and woodworkers, we also heighten the ability of our local economy to resist large, extractive corporations and instead invest in local businesses.

Conserving forested land is also a key step in helping

our area respond to climate change. By keeping forests healthy, providing robust habitat for wildlife put under pressure, and ensuring our forests continue to store and sequester carbon, a critical greenhouse gas. We aim to equip land stewards with up-to-date scientific information and proven methods with which to respond to the pressures of development, pests, pathogens and changing climate conditions so that they can continue to protect the forests that we treasure.

One way we do this is by connecting land stewards with resources through our partnerships with other environmental organizations such as MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR), Mass Audubon Society (MAS), and the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), among others.

Since 2014, MWI has helped administer the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Stewardship Program's Working Forest Initiative (WFI). This program provides cost share funding to woodland owners for long-term planning for their woods and as well as educational opportunities for landowners who want to learn more about responsible stewardship.

Landowners with ten (10) or more forested acres create a Stewardship Forest Management Plan with a licensed forester. Towns, family, schools, clubs and other non-profits can take part. Cost share funds help offset the cost of making the management plan.

Landowners learn steps they can take to increase biodiversity and help their woods stay resilient in the face of climate change. The forester alerts them to forest health threats from invasive plants, insects and diseases. Around 200 landowners enroll annually, planning for about 20,000 acres all together.

Over the years the program has expanded to focus on forest bird habitat with Foresters for the Birds. We are also involved in an exciting new pilot program: Climate Resilient Forestry. As part of this program, foresters in Massachusetts are being trained to learn how they can assess woods for vulnerability to climate change impacts.



Climate Change & Our Woods

With higher temperatures, change in rainfall, warmer winters and increased threat of extreme storms and droughts, trees are more vulnerable to insect pests and diseases or pathogens. Warmer winters may make hemlock forests fall prey to Hemlock woolly adelgid.

The economy of forest, farm and village is vital to the character of rural Massachusetts and preserving that economy has been a cornerstone of FLT's mission since its inception. For 35 years we have been endeavoring to do just that. During that time, the needs of landowners have diversified as they face more challenges to keeping their land healthy than ever before, including climate change and invasive pests. MWI helps the land trust respond to these changing conditions by putting more tools in the hands of landowners. The partnership between MWI and FLT is a marker of our commitment to evolving with the needs of the landowners we serve.

Resources

Franklin Land Trust and Massachusetts Woodlands Institute partner in a variety of programs focused on forests, wildlife habitat and climate change. Learn more about them and visit their sites to see how you may take part:

Forest Stewardship Program

We partner with MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Service Foresters to provide information on private forest management, as well as cost share for eligible landowners to create 10-year forest management plans.

mass.gov/service-details/forest-stewardship-program

Foresters for the Birds

We partner with MA DCR and Mass Audubon to train foresters to tailor forest management plans to enhance forest conditions for birds declining due to loss of habitat.

mass.gov/guides/foresters-for-the-birds-assessing-your-woods-for-bird-habitat

Climate Resilient Forestry

We partner with MA DCR, Mass Audubon, New England Forestry Foundation, Northern Woodlands, and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science to work together to translate climate science findings into recommendations and resources for foresters, towns and private forest landowners. This is currently a pilot program.

mass.gov/guides/climate-forestry



We Have A Challenge For You!

Once a working dairy farm and now a picturesque golfing location, the Edge Hill Golf Course in Ashfield, Massachusetts is also a thriving habitat for wildlife. Turtles lay their eggs in the sandy areas of the golf course during the warmest months of the year and the hatchlings take their first steps on its verdant grass as summer fades into fall. Edge Hill acts as a safe harbor for migratory birds and townspeople frequently report seeing deer grazing there on misty early mornings

The Lorber Family has offered us a generous challenge gift of \$25,000 on the condition that we can match their offering. This would go a long way to getting us over the finish line, allowing us to conserve Edge Hill forever.

"We chose to support their campaign to preserve and protect the open land in Ashfield that is currently the Edge Hill Golf Course because without our commitment, along with the support of many others, another open space will surely vanish beneath the bulldozer's blade. And once that is done, the land is gone forever."

– Bryan Lorber

You can help us to match the Lorbers' gift and save Edge Hill by donating at franklinlandtrust.org/donate

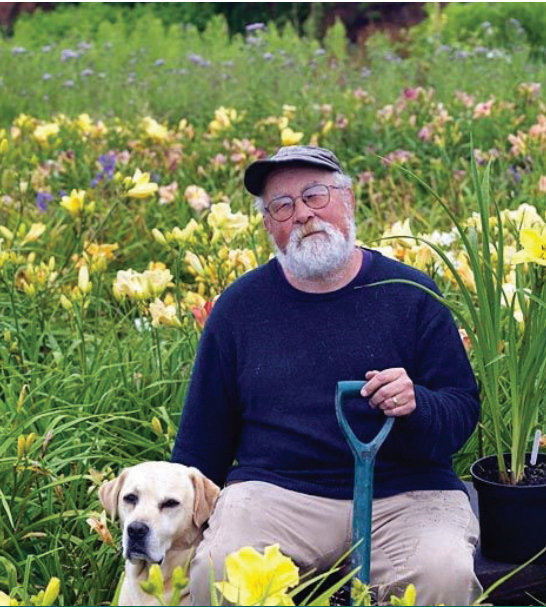
The Franklin Land Trust Turns 35

By Mark Zenick

Thirty-five years ago, when the Loomis Farm in Ashfield with its hundreds of acres of farmland and long stretches of easily developable road frontage came onto the real estate market, Harry Dodson rallied together a group of local farmers and concerned residents to try to keep the Loomis Farm from being chopped up into strips of building lots. The Franklin Land Trust was born, a small grant was secured, and I was hired to lead the charge to preserve the Loomis Farm.

Working with the new state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, FLT was able to permanently protect the Loomis Farm from development and began a grassroots campaign to lift the local land conservation consciousness about the need to save productive farmland, lush woodland, and abundant natural resources shaping the quality of life in Franklin County. The invigorating challenges facing FLT helped galvanize a determined sense in the local rural communities that the sublime natural beauty of the hills and valleys was too precious to be surrendered to the whims of human development. Successful projects begat more requests to save vulnerable lands too valuable to the character of the county's landscapes, to the quality of shared rural life to be lost to the bulldozers. Through the generous and loyal support of local citizens, the Franklin Land Trust grew in its effectiveness as a champion of land conservation.

Though now living 3,000 miles away from the natural splendor of Franklin County, I remain well nourished by the green and glorious abundance of farm and forest land there where I was privileged to work for FLT from its beginning for so many years. My indelible memories of places and people will forever endure as stalwart blessings. May the Franklin Land Trust long flourish by saving and celebrating the living landscapes too priceless to ever be allowed to disappear.



Mark Zenick, FLT Executive Director
1987-2004

**Come celebrate our
35 years in photos!**

franklinlandtrust.org/news/memories

Why I Support FLT: Harry Dodson

“Ensuring that local food sources thrive near major metropolitan areas across the country is critical. US agricultural and land use policies have concentrated the majority of its food production in vulnerable areas far removed from many areas of the country. I support FLT because they are working with other farm advocates such as the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to ensure that our region can continue producing fresh, locally sourced food that will feed us in the event of climate or transportation disruptions. FLT’s work in preserving farm, forest and environmentally sensitive lands is helping to preserve the health and beauty of our working and natural countryside.”

Harry Dodson is one of founders of the Franklin Land Trust, the former President of the Board, and has been a supporter of the Franklin Land Trust since its very beginnings.

SAVE THE DATES

Land Management Workshop

November 12, 2022 | Time TBD | Ashfield, MA

On November 12th join Head Land Steward Will Sloan Anderson and landowner Rich Pantermehl at Rich’s property in Ashfield. Rich has been managing his family’s property for forest products and wildlife habitats for decades. He also purchased an abutting parcel, on which FLT holds a CR. In addition, Rich has worked with FLT, as a contractor, on a number of projects, from field reclamation to fisheries habitat. We will look at some of the work he has done on his property with an eye toward field, shrubland, and young forest habitats. Rich will also show his heating system for his house; a Finnish-made wood chip boiler. This system represents some of the most recent technology in efficient, clean, residential, wood heat technology that uses low-quality wood, which is often the byproduct of habitat management and timber stand improvement.

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/flt-land>



35th Anniversary Celebration & Hike

December 3, 2022 | 10am-12pm | Ashfield, MA

Join us for a 35th anniversary celebration and hike on one of our earliest conservation projects. This privately held land, which has never been open to the public, features stunning wildlife habitat, wetlands and a working sugarbush. Join landowner and FLT Board President Barbara Miller and FLT’s Head Land Steward, Will Sloan Anderson, for a hike and conversation about wildlife management, habitat and conservation. Our hike will be followed by refreshments, sandwiches and a celebratory 35th anniversary cake!

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/flt-anniversary>

Wildlife Winter Survival Workshop

January 7, 2023 | Time TBD | Guyette Farm, Plainfield, MA

A hike led by Dr. John McDonald has been set for January 7th on Guyette Farm in Plainfield. Guyette is a patchwork of shrubland habitat, grasslands, young forests, as well as old growth trees, all bisected by Meadow Brook. John will be drawing on his extensive knowledge and years of study to explain how species contend with winter in these habitats. Hot cider and cookies will be provided. Make sure to bundle up for this one!

Dr. John McDonald is a wildlife biologist and Professor in the Environmental Science Department at Westfield State University. John has 3 decades of experience working on wildlife research and management in northeastern forests, on species including black bears, deer, and moose. John previously worked for MassWildlife as the state deer biologist and for the US Fish & Wildlife Service as a wildlife research specialist administering millions of dollars of grant funds to state fish and wildlife agencies in the Northeast. He is a Past-President and Fellow of The Wildlife Society, the largest international organization of wildlife biologists and managers.

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/flt-winter>





Franklin Land Trust
5 Mechanic Street
P.O. Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA
01370

NONPROFIT
PERMIT NO. 503
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

**Your support matters.
Thank YOU for making
a difference!**

Read More Online

Q FranklinLandTrust.org

f @ fitrust

t @flandtrust

GIVING TUESDAY



Save The Date: Giving Tuesday is November 29th!

With your support, conserved land can provide locally sourced food, clean water and fresh air. It can be a healthy home for wildlife, and a place of wonder and exploration for you. You can make a difference for the land, for your family and for your future.

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that helps our communities locally. #GivingTuesday transcends borders and ideologies, to bring the entire world together in the spirit of generosity and giving.

On #GivingTuesday and all year round, your support for the conservation work of the Franklin Land Trust provides a tangible and critical benefit to the local landscape, for your family and for your community.

Visit franklinlandtrust.org/givingtuesday

Or send your contribution to
Franklin Land Trust, P.O. Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370