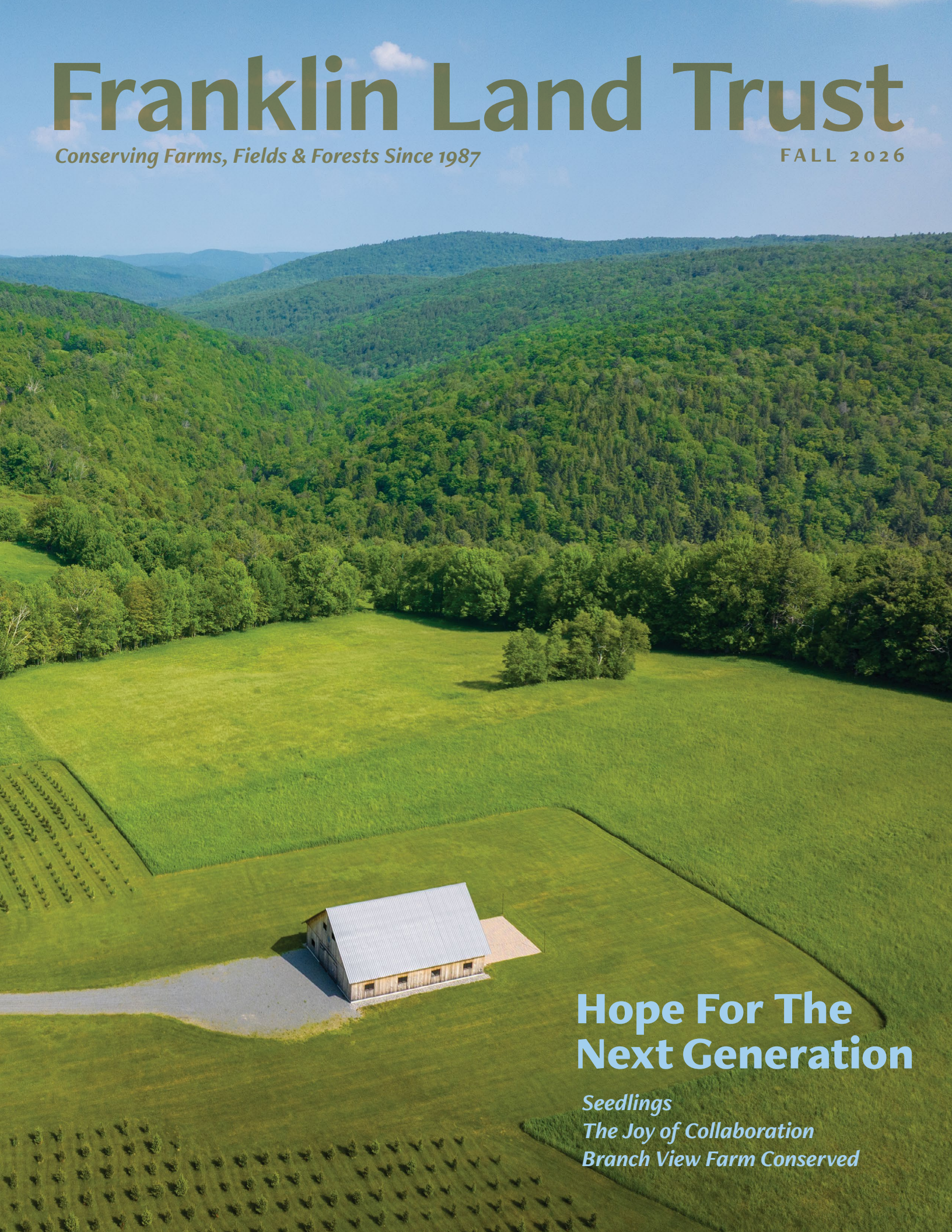
Franklin Land Trust

Conserving Farms, Fields & Forests Since 1987

FALL 2026



Hope For The Next Generation

Seedlings
The Joy of Collaboration
Branch View Farm Conserved

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ON THE COVER:
BRANCH VIEW FARM
PHOTO BY DOUG MASON

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: A YEAR IN REVIEW



Mary Lynn Sabourin

This year we adjusted our fundraising strategy as federal and state funding changes destabilized the flow of grant resources. Through grassroots efforts (including Give Back to the Land Day, Giving Tuesday, and our D2R2 ride) we exceeded our previous fundraising records.

Our events and outreach programming expanded. In addition to our signature fundraising events, we worked to connect the next generation with the land, bringing school groups out into the field through guided hikes and hands-on nature programs as part of a grant from the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA to work with schools. This included an invasive species identification and removal program with Mohawk Regional School, where 74 seventh and eighth graders completed in-class lessons on invasive ecology before spending a day pulling invasives at the Mohawk Trail Conservation Area; a forest walk and sawmill demonstration at Hall Tavern Farm in Charlemont for Hawlemont Regional School's HAY program, where 5th and 6th graders watched a tree felling and sawmill operation and talked with foresters about careers in the woods; and the launch of new landowner "Woodlots" peer-learning groups, modeled on Vermont's Cold Hollow to Canada initiative, which brought together family forest owners in South Deerfield and Charlemont to share knowledge on land stewardship and stream restoration.

Our stewardship staff had another accomplished year caring for the land we have already protected. Beyond the day-to-day work of monitoring our properties, maintaining boundaries, and keeping trails and access points open to the public, the team's accomplishments this year included training new monitors, invasive removal/control, shrubland habitat management at our Guyette and Crowningshield properties, stream and groundwater flow monitoring with the Division of Ecological Restoration at the Edge Hill Conservation Area, and the creation and monitoring of permanent plots at our Tunnel Station Conservation Area.

This was also a landmark year for new land protection. In Heath, we completed the purchase of the former Branch View Farm on West Branch Road, 47 acres of farmland, forest, and river corridor that had belonged to Heidi and Kelly Griswold. The property directly abuts our pre-existing Crowningshield Conservation Area and has been integrated into it, bringing the total acreage of the Conservation Area up to 306 acres. This new parcel clicks into place as part of a much larger block of land we and our partners have already protected, sitting just south of the 1,800 acre H.O. Cook State Forest. It also carries a third of a mile of frontage along Burrington Brook, a Coldwater Fisheries Resource likely home to native brook trout. ***You can read more about Branch View Farm on page 9.***

Down the road in Charlemont, another conservation story reached its conclusion this summer after more than two years of steady work. Dorothy "Penny" DeGeorges and her late husband, Paul, bought their land off Route 2 back in 1966. They sold the house in 1984 but held onto the land itself, keeping it in hay production ever since. Penny has been a friend of the land trust for a long time, and when she came into our office wanting to see it protected for good, our Land Conservation Specialist Liam Cregan was glad to help her get there. The resulting Conservation Restriction (CR) covers 38.8 acres of productive forest and farmland, including a six-acre hayfield still cut by Hall Tavern Farm, and slopes that drain into Mill Brook, a

Coldwater Fisheries that eventually reaches the Deerfield River. The land also shelters a vascular plant species of special concern found in only a handful of places statewide. Because a CR keeps land in private hands, the DeGeorges property remains on Charlemont's tax rolls exactly as it always has, but it can never be developed, a promise that will pass down to Penny's son and, someday, to his own children. This project was made possible through The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Resilient and Connected Appalachians grant, along with an anonymous donor who covered the cost of the boundary survey.



DeGeorges CR

In Ashfield, longtime resident Olie Thorp closed a CR on June 3rd, protecting roughly 13 of the 15 acres he owns on Bird Hill Road, land with deep roots in his own family's history and the town's. An unnamed tributary to Poland Brook running through the property has been designated a Coldwater Fisheries Resource, and portions of the land have been identified as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape. Stone foundations from a homestead once kept by the Bilger family still sit there. This project adds to Ashfield's conservation landscape while conserving wildlife habitat, water resources, and a connection to the town's history, and we are so grateful to Olie for ensuring this special property will remain protected in perpetuity. His land now sits alongside other conserved parcels, including a 115 acre CR completed by Thorp in 2011.

In Charlemont and Heath, we worked with Elizabeth Behl and Steven Amter to conserve roughly 33 acres of forest and farmland that straddle the town line along South Heath Road and South Road. Elizabeth's late parents purchased the property in the 1960s, and she inherited it in the late 1990s before placing it in a family trust with her husband, Steven; the two, both hydrogeologists based in Washington, D.C., still spend much of their summers at a small cottage on the land, looking out over the Deerfield River valley. BioMap3 identifies the entire property as Critical Natural Landscape, and it holds a mix of Prime 1, 2, and 3 forest soils, forested wetlands, and three streams that feed Hartwell Brook, a Coldwater Fisheries Resource. The land also directly abuts a 95-acre property already protected by an FLT Conservation Restriction, adding another piece to that conserved block. We received a Resilient and Connected Appalachians grant from TNC to help cover survey and closing costs.

The Heath purchase ties directly into Crowningshield and the H.O. Cook State Forest. The DeGeorges CR in Charlemont protects a tributary flowing into the Deerfield River watershed, which connects so many of our properties. The Ashfield project strengthens a corridor already anchored by state wildlife land and nearby conservation reservations. And the Behl-Amter CR, straddling the Charlemont-Heath town line, buffers an existing FLT-held CR while protecting land identified as Critical Natural Landscape. This is what we mean when we talk about coalescing conserved parcels into blocks and corridors.

Taken together, our conservation efforts this year added just over 1,500 acres to a landscape that already includes over 37,000 acres of land protected by FLT across the region.

With warmest regards,

Mary Lynn Sabourin



Meet the Next Generation of Conservationists

BY WILL SLOAN ANDERSON

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH WORKING AT FLT FOR two decades. Over that time, I have had amazing help from an expanding group of young workers. Be it employees, paid or unpaid interns, Student Conservation Association members, AmeriCorps or volunteers, many have gone on to make their mark in the field of conservation or related fields.

Now that I have advanced over my 60th birthday I have noticed that my life can be divided into neat 20-year intervals. The first was spent discovering my surroundings. I grew up in a small town along the Charles River, southwest of Boston. In my youth the area still had significant orchard, vegetable and livestock operations I worked on, and old pastures and forests to wander in. It was this experience that led to my pursuit of schooling in Forestry and Agriculture which led to my second twenty years working in those fields followed by my tenure at FLT.

Along the way I have raised my boys in the Hilltowns and although they have not pursued careers in conservation, they have a sense of pride and appreciation for this rural area. They often reflect on growing up haying, splitting wood, or reading on top of round bales as our herd of Murray Greys fed and chewed their cuds around them on a cool fall day.

Now many of their contemporaries are graduating from college. I have enjoyed trying to help some of them understand what a career in conservation looks like and have enjoyed giving them tours of our work and hearing their perspectives. I have hired some over the years and some have volunteered on important projects and studies. I have come to realize how blessed this area is to have such a reserve of young people that are smart and curious about the natural world, its management, and conservation.

The conservation and management of the landscape that surrounds us sometimes seems overwhelming; climate change, development, invasives, pests and pathogens often challenge my efforts. However, when I talk with these young people, I often feel hopeful. They have a keen understanding of the challenges ahead, but they bring a fresh perspective that this old forester needs. They have an understanding of technology that this luddite needs hand holding to understand, but they respect knowledge that only comes from experience. It is the dialogue between these two worlds (to use an old herdsman term, that brings about intellectual "hybrid vigor") that often gives rise to innovative management solutions to conservation challenges.

In these individuals I recognize my first two decades of wonder and pursuit of a profession in resource management and conservation. I am happy that my last 20 years have been buoyed by my interactions with them. If the individuals opposite are an indication of the generations coming along, here in the Hilltowns, we should feel hopeful for the future of our region.

In the pages that follow, I'd like to introduce you to a few of these young people. Each has their own path to this work, some grew up right here in the Hilltowns, others found their way here through school, family, or simple chance, but all of them share that same curiosity and care for this landscape that has kept me hopeful these past twenty years. I hope that as you read their stories, you'll come away feeling as encouraged about the future of conservation in our region as I do.



Alex Wahlstrom

Alex Wahlstrom is our very own land steward, coordinating outdoor volunteer activities, monitoring the organization's conservation restrictions, and assisting in the management of our conserved lands. Having grown up on a small family farm in Northfield, MA, Alex is a lifelong and multigenerational local. His passion for the natural sciences was ignited through farming and hiking experiences. This ultimately led him to pursue a degree in Environmental Science from UMass Amherst. Alex's fascination with nature spans diverse interests, but he is particularly fond of ornithology. He has enjoyed exploring the many properties conserved by FLT and observing the diverse bird species that depend on the protected land. Alex has shown great enthusiasm working with our network of volunteers, landowners, and community members who share a deep connection to this beautiful region and its conservation.



Amelia Bergquist

Amelia Bergquist is a recent graduate from UMass Amherst with a degree in Natural Resources and Conservation, and is the newest addition to the stewardship team at the Franklin Land Trust. She began as an intern in 2023, focusing mainly on outreach and education but eventually found her place as a Land Steward. Growing up in Shelburne and Worthington fostered a love and appreciation for the rural working landscapes around her. She is passionate about the ecological importance of land in western Massachusetts and the place it has in statewide environmental and social wellbeing. Amelia is excited to continue her work in stewardship, where she assists with the management of FLT's conservation areas and conservation restrictions, invasive removal efforts, and the Lands For H.O.P.E program.



Sam James Watt

Sam James Watt grew up in Acton, MA before moving to downtown Toronto, Canada with his family for a decade. After going through primary and secondary education, and finishing his third year at Queen's University, he took a gap year in 2024-2025 to move with his family down to Shelburne to become the new owners and stewards of the old family farm: Foxbard Farm. During that year, Sam fell in love with both the working lifestyle and the connections that exist within rural communities. He worked with FLT, Foxbard Farm, and a variety of other locations within Franklin County. These experiences cemented his love for filling days with hard, dirty work, and made him realize just how much he is willing to do to conserve and heal the land beneath our feet. He returned to school for his senior year, and graduated this past spring of 2026 with a degree in Environmental Studies. Sam is now living and working on the farm, as well as taking on a stewardship roll within FLT. He revels in any job well done, and is on a mission to support a thriving Franklin County, both its natural splendor and integral communities, through the Land Trust and Foxbard Farm.



Kaylin Sumner

Kaylin Sumner is studying wildlife science at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Her love for nature stems from growing up in Heath, where she spent most of her time outdoors. Some of her favorite outdoor activities include hiking, fishing, and hunting. She believes that conservation agencies, such as the Franklin Land Trust, are incredibly important to ensure that everyone can continue enjoying nature and spending time outdoors. She started working with the Franklin Land Trust during her senior year at Mohawk Trail Regional High School and continued working with them again this past summer on land monitoring and establishing permanent plots on a few of our fee lands. Permanent plots are fixed clearly marked areas of land for scientists and resource professionals to return to repeatedly over many years as they study long-term environmental changes.

Continued...



Erika Looman

Erika Looman was raised in Shelburne and has always gravitated towards time spent hiking, biking, and cross country skiing around rural open spaces. Growing up at Kenburn Orchards, a property protected by the Franklin Land Trust in 2024, Erika's first taste of land stewardship was when she was 14 and got her first job pulling invasives and pruning blueberry bushes and christmas trees around the farm. She went on to study Geology at St. Lawrence University and graduated with her B.S. in 2024. Her interest in conservation and environmental work is rooted in a deep desire to understand the how and why behind her favorite trails and scenic landscapes. Erika interned at Franklin Land Trust in 2024 and is now the Outdoor Program Coordinator at Eaglebrook School in Deerfield. In her current position, she enjoys introducing middle school students from around the world to the outdoor spaces that make our backyard so valuable, all while making lifelong memories hiking along the Pocumtuck Ridge, biking at Thunder Mountain, or rafting down the Deerfield River.



Aidan DeLorenzo

Aidan DeLorenzo is a recent graduate from Middlebury College with a degree in Geography, and he is about to start a year-long term doing conservation work in Iowa with an AmeriCorps program. He grew up in Shelburne Falls, down the street from the Franklin Land Trust, where he developed a passion for conservation and learning about natural ecosystems starting from a young age. A main influence in developing this interest was participating in youth wilderness education programs through Wolftree. As he moved into high school and college, he also found a love for outdoor recreation; he did many backpacking and mountain biking trips, and he worked as a whitewater kayak guide and a rock-climbing guide during his time at Middlebury. Now that he has graduated, he hopes to start a career in environmental planning/consulting: working to better integrate human life with the natural environment. Aidan DeLorenzo will be offering his GIS skills to some upcoming Franklin Land Trust projects.



Harper Walker-West

Harper Walker-West grew up in Shelburne Falls. After high school he lived in Nebraska on a bison refuge and then Colombia. This all led him to study forestry and hydrology in Wisconsin and then in Southern Illinois — a lovely place contrary to what New Englanders might be predisposed to think. During his summers he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Northern California and then later the Department of Conservation and Recreation in Massachusetts. Since graduation this May, he has been working for a small land trust in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and very much enjoying it. Although he has developed a deep love for all the places he has lived, he has come to realize that there is no place like home, and feels very fortunate to have been born in such a wonderful area. Through the jobs he worked it became clear that working in conservation was the only thing that made sense. His work in natural resources in different places helped him realize that no other region was as important to him to protect as Western Mass which is why he is headed back this winter.

For him, FLT's commitment to doing this is what makes the organization vital. Particularly their dedication to preserve the unique working character of the region, with its fields, forests, and farms rather than lock the land up in a glass case. FLT's Director of Land Stewardship Will Sloan Anderson has provided Harper with mentorship conversations and resources as Harper has been learning more about conservation in his home region.

Seedlings

BY BECCA SMITH



Four Rivers Students at Edge Hill Conservation Area

Our work, of course, revolves around protecting and stewarding land for the future – for forever. And in addition to coordinating conservation restrictions and carrying out sustainable land management practices, part of our responsibility in protecting our shared landscape in perpetuity is to foster the same pride, appreciation, and curiosity for the natural world that inspired these young people to take up the same task in their conservation careers.

Over the past year, FLT and MWI have been able to deepen local students' connection to working forests, farms, and wild spaces in Franklin County by leading field experiences, service workdays, and in-class instruction with multiple schools and age groups.

- 5th and 6th graders from Hawlemont Elementary visited Hall Tavern Farm for a forest walk and sawmill demonstration, on 400 acres of land protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction with FLT in 2013.
- 6th-12th graders from the Academy at Charlemont came to Guyette Farm, conserved by FLT in 2008, to help prepare the beds at Raspberry Hill Community Garden for spring planting.
- 7th and 8th graders from Mohawk Trail Regional School spent several days in the classroom learning about invasive species ecology and plant identification techniques before working to remove invasives at Mohawk Trail Conservation Area (MTCA).
- 8th Graders from Four Rivers Charter School also spent an invasive species service day at MTCA, conserved by FLT in 1992 and one of our most-visited conservation areas.
- K-6th graders from Gill Elementary visited Blake Memorial Forest, conserved by FLT in 2009 and gifted to the Town of Gill, for an aquatic habitat exploration day sampling macroinvertebrates and observing beaver activity.

Our evolving vision is to build a recurring, replicable outdoor education program that regional schools can rely on year-after-year. FLT and MWI are continuing to develop this new program, Seedlings, to cultivate regional youth's understanding and appreciation of our local landscape by giving them these experiences. In turn, they give us hope.

"You teach me, I forget. You show me, I remember. You involve me, I understand."

— E.O. Wilson

The Joys of Collaboration

BY LIAM CREGAN



Liam Cegan of FLT and Audobon's Aaron Nelson

CONSERVATION SUCCESS IS NEVER ACHIEVED in a bubble. One of the best parts of my job protecting land is its collaborative nature. Through cooperation that stems from taking the time to get to know our neighbors – landowners and other land conservation experts – we see more land conserved with less effort. This year, numerous relationships founded on a shared devotion to the forests, farmland, and water resources of Franklin County came to fruition as over 1,000 acres of conserved land. While Franklin Land Trust did not end up taking a legal interest in these lands, we provided vital assistance.

In 2023, members of the Deerfield Open Space Committee approached us for assistance with protecting five parcels of land owned by the town. We assisted them in determining that one of these parcels of land, the 36-acre Birchwood Nature Refuge on the Pocumtuck Ridge, was already protected, and we assisted them in establishing a framework for protecting the remainder of these parcels through town meeting votes. As of the writing of this article, four of the five parcels (90 acres) have received permanent protection through town meeting votes, with the remaining parcel (61 acres) expected to receive the same in Spring 2027. This relationship also led to larger conversations about protecting the Pocumtuck Ridge, significant for its biodiversity, recreation, and indigenous cultural heritage. From these conversations, Nick Rossi, Land Protection Specialist at the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) spun off into working with the Rogers family to purchase 262 acres of land within this landscape last September.

In 2023-2024, we participated in a large outreach effort to forest landowners in the western Connecticut River watershed coordinated by Kestrel Land Trust. Through this process, I formed relationships with four contiguous landowners on Stone Mountain in Colrain and Heath, nearly adjacent to Crowningshield Conservation Area, interested in selling their forestland for conservation. Mass Audubon agreed to acquire these 465 acres utilizing their newly minted Catalyst Fund on behalf of the Department of Fish & Game (DFG), and Dave Rothstein at Mass Audubon worked with each landowner to purchase the parcels. This spring, DFG purchased the land from Mass Audubon. Over the next 9 months, we will continue collaborating with DFG, DCR, the Trustees of Reservations, Mass Audubon, and Kestrel Land Trust to protect an additional 700+ acres in this landscape thanks to a Landscape Partnership Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) which was awarded this summer.

In 2024, Dave Rothstein reached out to me about an opportunity to assist the Town of Rowe in conserving 182 acres of forest under threat of development. Dave assembled a team of willing partners that included the Rowe Open Space and Recreation Committee and Franklin Land Trust. I assisted the Town of Rowe in applying for two grants, one from EEA and one from the Open Space Institute (OSI), which contributed $227,500 toward the $305,000 purchase price. Tragically, Dave passed away during this process. In the wake of the shock of losing Dave, his colleague, Aaron Nelson, who grew up in Ashfield and attended Mohawk Regional School, carried the project to the finish line, working with EEA, OSI, and Rowe's legal counsel to ensure that the Town purchased the land by EEA's June 30th deadline. The land is now open to the public for recreation, nature appreciation, and hunting. The Town has dedicated the property to Dave Rothstein's memory, energy, and initiative.

With these examples, it becomes clear that through cooperation, and despite hardship and loss, individuals and organizations can open doors that would not exist without the support of others. Like a well-tended orchard, if we keep nurturing these relationships with patience and consistency, we will reap more with less effort. This year was an especially fruitful one.

OUR YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to ReVision Energy and Firefly Bicycles for their support as year-round sponsors. Their generosity helps make this newsletter possible, and we're grateful for their commitment to our mission and community.

Branch View Farm Added to Crowningshield Conservation Area

FRANKLIN LAND TRUST HAS ADDED 47 ACRES OF THE former Branch View Farm on West Branch Road in Heath to its existing Crowningshield Conservation Area, expanding this protected landscape to over 300 acres. The purchase, completed in mid-May from owners Heidi and Kelly Griswold, was a natural fit: the new parcel directly borders Crowningshield on its east and south sides, and sits just south of the 1,800-acre H.O. Cook State Forest.

The property brings valuable ecological assets to the conservation area, including a third of a mile of Burrington Brook, a Coldwater Fisheries Resource likely home to native brook trout, along with 18 acres of prime farmland soils and 19 acres identified by the state as critical habitat supporting climate resilience and connectivity that flows into the North River, all part of the Deerfield River watershed.

Now folded into the Crowningshield Conservation Area Forest Stewardship Plan, the land is open to the public for hiking, fishing, hunting and trapping.

Over the course of several months, FLT lined up support from the Bafflin Foundation, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Mass Audubon's 30x30 Catalyst Fund, an Anonymous Foundation, and a number of individual donors. More than 18 of the 47 acres hold prime agricultural soils. Fourteen acres remain an active hayfield that a local farmer will keep cutting, and the whole property is now open to the public for hiking, hunting, fishing, and trapping. A recently built barn on site will soon host workshops and community events as part of our Lands for H.O.P.E. initiative.



'Tis the Season — Christmas Tree Sale! December 5th

Kick off the holidays with us! Franklin Land Trust will be hosting a Christmas Tree Sale at Branch View Barn, 12 W Branch Rd, Heath, MA, on December 5th. Bring the family, pick out the perfect tree, and celebrate the season while supporting the conservation of the farms, fields, and forests you love.

Northfield Farm Conserved by Goodwin Family

BY SEBASTIAN LAMONTAGNE



ON JUNE 24, 2026, FRANKLIN LAND TRUST FINALIZED a conservation restriction (CR) on the Goodwin family's 20-acre farm along Glen Rd in Northfield Village, protecting a property that has been in the family since the 1920s and in existence, in one form or another, since Northfield's first settlement in the 1600s.

For Daniel Goodwin and his wife Cynthia Goodwin, who donated the CR, the project carried out a wish Daniel's mother held for the land before she passed.

"My mother discussed conserving the property before she passed away, but the administrative process was beyond her at the time," Daniel says. "After I assumed ownership, I thought about the status of the property. I knew she loved the property and would not have wanted it subdivided; she had turned down many opportunities to do so. I came to the only logical conclusion that conservation was my only option. My brother Tim has farmed the property for the last 25 years."

Daniel and his brother Timothy grew up on the land. Timothy has spent most of his life close to home, aside from a stint as a drafted soldier in Vietnam, and now lives on the family farm. Daniel's own path took him much farther afield, including a career as a state police officer in Alaska and as a Federal Air Marshal, before his attention turned back to Northfield.

"Our family has been in Northfield since 1926," Daniel says. "My mother purchased the property in 1945 from Bill Dale as a small working farm. The property has been in existence since the first settlement of Northfield in the 1600s. The property lines became permanent for third settlement. Over the centuries, the property has been nibbled away and now stands at 20 acres. The property is historic and stands at the edge of Mill Brook, when in colonial times it provided the water power for various mills up and down the brook."

Northfield is the only Massachusetts town bordering both Vermont and New Hampshire, straddling the Connecticut River along the state line to its north. Colonists first tried settling the area, then called Squakheag, in 1673, but French and Native forces destroyed the settlement twice before it took hold for good in 1713, near the end of Queen Anne's War. The town was incorporated in 1723, though attacks persisted until the French and Indian War ended in 1763.

Today Northfield is known for the Northfield Mount Hermon School, formed in 1971 by merging two schools founded by Dwight L. Moody: Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies (1879) and Mount Hermon School for Boys (1881). The town is also home to the Northfield Mountain pumped storage hydroelectric facility, which includes a four-season recreation area run by the power company.

The protected land includes 14.5 acres of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, most of it already in agricultural use. The upper portion has long been actively farmed, while Timothy has kept the lower portion open for a quarter century. The property also abuts Mill Brook and lies close to the Connecticut River, whose riparian corridor is home to rare species documented by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and it sits within one of Northfield's most significant agricultural districts.

Daniel credits FLT Land Protection Specialist Liam Cregan with carrying the project forward through a process.

"I searched for land trusts and settled on the Franklin Land Trust. I am glad that I did. From the beginning I was led through the process by Liam Cregan. He was knowledgeable and willing to take the time to assist me through the myriad of administrative aspects of creating the Conservation Restriction. The process is long, over two years in my case, but the Franklin Land Trust was there for me at every step of the way."

"Liam guided me through the appraisal process and interfaced with the surveyor, which in my case was difficult as the property may not have been fully surveyed since it was created in the 1600's," Daniel says. "The surveyor I chose [Eric Feindel of Green River Survey] was excellent. He told me that the last survey or partial survey was done around 1814. The appraiser, the surveyor, and the attorney went above and beyond what was expected."

With the CR complete, Daniel's next step is navigating the Massachusetts Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program, a process he expects could bring the project's full timeline to nearly four years.

"My next big hurdle is navigating the tax credits," he says. "The Land Trust supplied me with the information I needed to locate a knowledgeable attorney and accountant that was experienced in this rather esoteric field."

Daniel also points to the work Liam did with the town, presenting the case for conservation directly to Northfield's Conservation Commission and Selectboard.

"One of the most important parts of the process was Liam Cregan's interfacing with the Land Trust Board and the Town of Northfield," Daniel says. "He gave presentations to both the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen, answering questions as to why this property was important to conserve."

Looking back on the process, Daniel doesn't hesitate to recommend it to other landowners.

"If anyone is considering a conservation restriction for their land, I unreservedly recommend Franklin Land Trust to assist them through the process and to administer their Conservation Restriction into the future."

Franklin Land Trust is grateful to Daniel and Timothy Goodwin for their partnership through this project and for entrusting FLT with permanently protecting a farm that has been part of their family, and part of Northfield, for generations.



Thank You to Our D2R2 Riders & Volunteers

BY BECCA SMITH

Once again, D2R2 has come and gone! What a great year it was, with over 1630 riders, from 27 states and from as far away as the UK and Norway, out enjoying this beautiful region that we are lucky enough to call home.

We can't thank you enough for helping make this event possible! D2R2 literally would not happen without the dedication of all the people like you who take the time out of their busy schedules to help us.

D2R2 is our largest fundraiser of the year, and anchors Franklin Land Trust's mission to conserve land in western Massachusetts. One of the best parts about this event is that the riders experience, firsthand, the special places and beautiful landscapes we have worked so hard to conserve over the years. We hope you share our excitement in showing off our region, which is made so special by its stunning places and views as well as the amazing people who live here.

As always, thank you to our volunteers for their help and to our riders for their support of the Franklin Land Trust!

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GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2026

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, your family, and your future. Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that helps our communities locally. On Giving Tuesday and all year round, your support for the conservation work of Franklin Land Trust provides a tangible and critical benefit to the local landscape, for your family and for your community.

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