

## Membership Renewal Form

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$15
Supporting	\$50
Business	\$75
Other	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to:  
**Three Rivers Land Trust**  
 and mail them to:  
**PO Box 906, Acton, ME 04001.**

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Printed by:  Lincoln Press Corp.

 Printed on Recycled Paper.

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*Thank you for your continued support.*

Three Rivers Land Trust  
 PO Box 906  
 Acton, Maine 04001-0906



# HORIZONS

2007 Summer Newsletter  
**FOCUSING ON THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE**  
 Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) • Post Office Box 906 • Acton, Maine 04001-0906

## Shaker Woods Reserve Trail Nearing Completion



In January of this year, Trust members Carl Davis and Pat Smith walked with journalist Lee Burnett down through the Shaker Woods Reserve Parcel, off Stone Rd. in Alfred, to show Lee the proposed trail to the shoreline.

Lee's enthusiasm for the project gave rise to a successful application with AmeriCorps (a national youth service program) for assistance with several conservation projects in the Sanford area, including the Shaker Woods trail. In May, the Alfred Shaker Woods Reserve Committee met with Ron Woodward of Gallo Construction to lay out a small parking area.

Carroll Lord of Alfred volunteered his time and materials to complete the parking areas in July. Work on the construction of a boardwalk across a small wetland in the narrow trail corridor was started by teacher Carl Davis and his students from Maplestone

School in Acton. The AmeriCorps crew completed the boardwalk and moved forward through difficult terrain along a thorny section of an old logging road. Carl spoke of how it was inspiring to work with the group of AmeriCorps volunteers. They are committed to completing the task at hand and doing it well. The Three Rivers Land Trust wishes to thank Lee Burnett, Pat Smith, Carl Davis, the Maplestone School students, Carroll Lord, Scott and Kelly Pelchat, the AmeriCorps crew, Ron Woodward, Mike Gallo, and the Alfred Shaker Woods Committee (Joyce and Rodney Wood, Joanna Sylvester, Amy Sprague, Tom Harmes, and Pat Smith) for a job well done.

## Membership Notice

To all our old and new Trust members: we encourage you to stay

informed and involved by renewing your membership with the Three Rivers Land Trust. With your past support, we currently hold conservation easements on five parcels, totaling over 700 acres. These easements help our communities maintain a responsible rate of growth while conserving key areas in the landscape. Your membership dues are an integral part of our operating fund. They also help when we apply for grants, which often require matching funds. Grant foundations look at membership numbers as an important indication of community support. Members are a source of information, personal contacts, volunteer help, strategic thinking, and operational funding. With your support, we have become more active and, as a result, more effective in our communities of Acton, Shapleigh, Sanford/Springvale, Alfred, and Lebanon.

The Membership Committee is in the process of reviewing our membership list. Shortly, we will be sending out letters to all members who are behind in their dues. Members that are more than one year late may be reinstated by paying the current year's dues. With the new Bylaws, renewals will be due as of January 1 of each calendar year. Membership will be terminated after one year of unpaid dues. We need your help and support in conserving the landscape we love. The air, water, and soil; the farms, fields, and forests; and the wildlife and fisheries that they support are not self-sustaining. We have to work together to protect and maintain the health of the natural world around us. Thank you for caring.

**Please use the form  
 on the back of this newsletter and  
 Renew Your Membership Today!**

## Notes from the President

As a land trust we are at a crossroads. On the one hand we can continue to take on projects that come to us with sufficient funding for stewardship, or we can increase our capacity and financial base to enable strategic protection of critical areas. We would like to gain capacity, confidence, and financial strategies to carry out our mission:

To preserve and protect forever such valued natural resources as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, agricultural lands, woodlands, historic sites, scenic places and wildlife habitat, in the inland municipalities of York County, Maine.

Early in the life of the Three Rivers Land Trust we had a wonderful opportunity to work with Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission to generate a set of maps of our region. These maps are available at Springvale Library for viewing. They show a series of important attributes such as wetland delineations, surviving large unfragmented habitat with significant wildlife value, Maine Natural Areas Program Focus areas, 3RLT locally significant focus areas, rare and endangered wildlife areas, etc. The purpose of these maps is to provide us with a tool to approach land preservation in a strategic and educated manner. We have not yet had the opportunity to use this information in a particularly effective manner.

Our challenge at this point is to increase our membership base. This means we need to reach the public. We need to increase our membership at all levels. Our Trust is small and we have giant aspirations. We take heart in the successes of the Great Works Land Trust, our sister Trust to the south as we continue to work in the hopes of growing toward their level of success.

Please join us in any capacity, as a volunteer, as a member if you are not, as an advocate to your friends, as an attendee to our Silent Auction Sept. 15. There are opportunities that range from trail building, to writing press releases, to helping with mailings. Come to one of our public meetings (on the second Wednesday of every month, 6:45 pm at Springvale Library) or outings. Help us spread the word and protect some of the rural character that makes our region so beautiful.

I recently picked this quote from the Great East Lake Newsletter:

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*

*Jean Noon*

## Book Corner: Two Farms: Essays on Maine Country Life

If you are a fan of Henry Beston you will surely like Janet Galle's Two Farms: Essays on a Maine Country Life. If you do not know Beston but like good nature writing and crave some cheerful reading, then I recommend taking these essays to bed with you. In addition to getting to know Galle, you will become acquainted with her family, their various farm animals/pets, the plants, neighbors and wildlife she lives with, and her take on Maine's seasons.

Her essays were originally written between 1981 and 1998 for a column in the Times Record. In these essays she conveys why land trusts like ours are endeavoring to prevent development of some unfragmented farmland in Maine, and what an amazing source of joy nature can be.

You can find this book in the Three Rivers collection at Springvale Library. Look for other interesting titles under the collection heading. Happy reading!

A special thank you to Three Rivers Land Trust board member Sid Emery of Springvale, whose ready smile and wit lift our spirits and whose generous contributions in times of need have made our task attainable. Thank you Sid!

## Landscape in Transition

At our June meeting, the land trust members spent a sobering evening with Farmland Preservation consultants, Attorney Bonnie Lounsbury and dairy farmer Adrian Wadsworth. Between the two they did not leave any visible escape from a grim reality: the future of farming in Maine is in major trouble.

Bonnie, a lawyer with years of experience in strategic problem-solving, provided in her thoughtful, well-organized, and forward-looking remarks all that we needed to hear about the statistical analyses at hand. A huge generational transfer of farmland is about to happen in Maine. Making the scene that much more challenging is the fact that most of these farmers own only some of the land they farm; the rest is in the hands of private landowners who until now have felt no need to sell their holdings for development. Since many of the active farmers are close in age and nearing retirement, when they go an awful lot of very useful knowledge about the land actually being farmed will go with them.

She had some good news. There are more young people who want to farm than farms available to them. Trying to address this situation is the State Farm Link program. It is designed to match young people who want to farm with older

farmers who are nearing retirement age but do not want to sell out, or with non-farmer landowners, including non-profits and land trusts, who want their land kept open for agricultural production.

Adrian, unlike Bonnie, has spent very little of his adult life talking to non-farmers. Speaking as an active participant in Maine Farmland Trust, Adrian described what that organization has decided to attempt. MFT, with the help of local and regional land trusts, will attempt to assure the preservation of 100,000 acres of Maine farmland in the next 5 years. Given the woefully inadequate funding available to achieve this goal, the core of the effort will first involve Maine Farmland Trust purchasing the farmland. Then, a conservation easement will be drafted to conserve in the future that land which is found to be most valuable for food production. Finally, the land would be sold to a farm apprentice at what should be a lower price than was possible prior to the adoption of the easement. An effort on the scale contemplated would require a revolving loan fund to help when projects need more time for completion, and run into extra expenses. Funding would also be needed to make up the difference between the initial purchase price and the sale price.

Like all land transactions, farmland

purchases and sales can get complicated. Bonnie talked in some detail about the need to be very sure of what are the goals of removing development rights: is it to save cropland, water resources, a critical mass of farmers in the area, aesthetic values, or historical structures? It is also crucial to consider how the farm can be economically viable into the future. Should rights to generate energy, including the right to cover visible acreage with solar panels or windmills, be part of the package? Is there provision for migrant labor? Has access to a good road network really been taken into account?

These transactions can also be very complex from a tax perspective. After all, it does not make any sense for farmers to sell their farms only to see the sale price get eaten up with capital gains taxes. All the details need to be understood and addressed properly, keeping in mind the overarching purpose of conserving agriculture in Maine.

We left the meeting knowing that farmland preservation in Maine is a daunting challenge, but one which we can do something about little by little. It will mean not only working with farmers, but also with all our friends and neighbors. We need to encourage everyone to buy locally if we are to succeed in this endeavor.

## Annual Auction set for September 15th

This year, the Auction committee of the Trust has spent even more time and energy making preparations for a late summer event you shouldn't miss. We've moved the date a month later to enable more folks to share the afternoon and early evening with us on September 15th from 2 to 7 pm at McDougal's Farm on Hanson's Ridge Rd. in Sanford.

Enjoy with us some of the latest work of local artists participating in an art show on site. Listen to the tunes provided by the renowned Wicked Good Bluegrass Band.



Savor the taste of fresh local foods by purchasing a light supper supplied by the York County Farmer's Network, a community of farmers and others dedicated to the support and promotion of

local agriculture. Information on this vibrant new organization will be available for all those with an interest in local farms and the food that they produce. Come and join us and get in touch with some interesting neighbors working to make our community a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family. The kids can enjoy the sights and sounds, have an early Halloween treat from our resident make-up artist, and go on a hayride through the fields. You can browse through the items on display in our silent auction and participate later in the regular auction of some special items. Any auction donations are welcome, please call Carl Davis at 636-1714. We'll meet you there!

## Buy Local & Support Local Growers to keep farm lands viable!

Oakhill Alpaca Ranch, Shapleigh 793-3414

The Noon Family Sheep Farm, Springvale 324-3733

McDougal Orchards LLC, Springvale 324-5054

Wolf Pine Farm CSA, Alfred 324-2357

Berry Best Farm, Lebanon 457-1435

Applegate Deer Farm, Shapleigh 793-8677

Ridley's Farm Store, Shapleigh 636-1068

Lavigne Strawberry Farm, Sanford 324-5497

Rivard's Blueberry Farm Springvale, 324-5566

Carpenter's Christmas Tree Farm, Springvale 324-6869

Annette's Gardens, Perennials, Springvale, 324-0331

Bernier's Egg Farm, Sanford 324-5608

Springvale Nurseries, Springvale, 490-5543

Kelly Orchard Inc, Acton 636-1752

Notre Dame Institute, Alfred 324-6612

Shapleigh Knoll Farm, Shapleigh 247-6948

Shain's Farm Stand, Sanford 324-1567

Blueberry Hill Farm, Acton 457-1151

Sanford Farmers Market Fridays 8-12:00 SIS parking lot Rt. 109

Springvale Farmers Market Wed & Sat. Rite-Aid 8-12:00