A Blanding’s Turtle Preserve in Shapleigh At Last!

The turtle preserve easement on Goose Pond in Shapleigh is now executed. It assures that thirty acres of woodland with more than 1,000 feet of frontage on Shapleigh’s Upper Goose beaver pond will remain a forever-wild preserve. It is to remain forever wild because it is suitable habitat for the elusive and endangered Blanding’s Turtle.

Like every easement story this one has its heroes and heroines. Three years ago the parcel seemed destined to become one more houselot in a new subdivision located around a peaceful, secluded beaver pond. But the Town’s Conservation Commission had taught the Planning Board to check unfailingly the state generated natural areas maps. These maps told the Planning Board and the landowner that the Blanding’s Turtle had been found there. Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Natural Areas biologists were brought into the discussions. They recommended the 30 acres be set aside. The Planning Board adopted their recommendation; our land trust agreed to be the enforcer as the easement holder; and the Town of Shapleigh voted to acquire the lot last March.

But there was still one formidable road-block: a badly eroded, unapproved ATV trail that not only degrades water entering Mousam Lake, but might also serve as a death warrant to a meandering turtle. Happily, the developer/owner, Northwoods Land Co. of Maine, through its agent, Craig Higgins, willingly took on the responsibility of closing the ATV trail.

Our sincere thanks to the townspeople of Shapleigh, Northwoods and Craig Higgins, the town Planning Board and Conservation Commission, and the state biologists.

Please use the form on the back of this newsletter to renew your membership.
Town News and Announcements

3rlt Auction Results
The 3rlt silent auction which was held at McDougal Orchards on Aug. 13 was a huge success, bringing in $2420 for our stewardship fund. We’d like to thank all the businesses who donated items:

- Acton Trading Post
- Fall’s Anewy (Sanford)
- Flour House Bakery
- Gile’s Family Farm
- Kittity Trading Post
- Jeweler’s Outlet (Sanford)
- McDougal Heating
- McDougal Orchards
- Memory Gardens
- Miller Ford, Inc.
- Oakhill Alpaca Ranch
- Renaissance Greeting Cards
- Ridley Farm Store
- Sprinvalle Nursery
- Tom’s of Maine
- Waterways, Inc.
- Wolf Pine Farm
- Waltersdorf Acres

as well as everyone else who donated items and everyone who came and made this auction such a great success!

Partnerships
In the nonprofit world an essential key to success lies in the company we keep. The 3RLT Board, recognizing this fact, set out to maintain relationships early on. One of the very first doors we knocked on belongs to the Springvale Library. The response we got was a wholehearted YES! Ever since the Library has been the repository of our ever-expanding collection of informational materials and thought-provoking books.

To give members an idea of what lurks in our collection we will be featuring one or two items when space in our newsletter permits. The catalog of the Trust can be found by entering ‘Three Rivers Collection’ into the Library’s computer catalog system. We currently have over 25 books in our collection. What follows is our first sampling.

Stephen J. Small, Esq. has written Books I-III on the topic Preserving Family Lands. Stephen Small is a nationally recognized expert on private land protection and the tax consequences of a wide variety of techniques for preserving family lands thanks to his books and talks.

The first book was published first in 1988 and was revised in 1998. He designed it to be very approachable by framing it in the form of questions about the tax implications of six distinct choices for preserving family lands.

Book II came out in 1997. It addresses what he can do with more advanced estate planning concepts for the landowner. He examines conservation easements, naturally. But he also looks at several kinds of trusts and corporations, as well as private foundations.

Book III came off the presses in 2002 after significant changes had been made to the tax laws. He stresses in Book III as much as in the previous books the need for family landowners to get professional tax advice to not income and estate tax numbers for their particular situation. The book also contains an extended discussion about conservation easements.

In summary, these books provide landowners with many key questions they need to ask professional advisors. If you want your own copy of one or more of these books we can help you get them, or you can contact Small at www.stevemail.com. And we and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, www.mcht.org, can try to help you find professional advice, or you can search the website www.private landowner network.org.

Three Rivers Land Trust Boardmembers Recognized as Agricultural Leaders
On Aug. 27 at the Acton Fair, Governor John Baldacci recognized five people for their outstanding contributions to agriculture in York County, including Sid Emery, Bill Hutchins, and Glenn Wildes.

Sid worked in the Soil Conservation Service for over 40 years, as well as building ponds and drainage systems, planting thousands of trees after the fire of 1947, developing the District Demonstration Forest, and currently serving as a boardmember of the York County Soil & Water Conservation District and of the Three Rivers Land Trust.

Bill has been a director of the Shapleigh Town Forest for 25 years, in addition to being chairman of the Shapleigh Shapleigh Conservation Commission and a boardmember of 3rlt. His woodlot in Shapleigh is managed for timber, firewood, maple syrup, and wildlife habitat. Glenn has been part of the Acton

The Turtle
For him all heavens over land are distant.
Slow
Dummmed frustrating
Dragging his honey belly over
Rocks
Down into
And up out of rubble pits
And slimy ditches
Through tangled grasses
And diabolically laced networks of bush stems
Which are only obstacles
And have no other meaning.

He is the prey of every passing chance
Dog
Child
Automobile
Crow
Hawk
Eagle.

Where in God’s name is he going
In moonday heat
Padding through dust
Sliding through rain.
Toward water?

Toward some cool pond
Deep
With sunwarmed rocks
And rotting stumps
From which
He can flick to safety
At the first sound of anything.
He views the world
Through black bead eyes warily
Enclosed within the shell
Of his turned out skeleton
He hides from crushing dangers.

Lurking
Around the warm pool
Of his hardware medlure.

-Verne Bovie

ừa lỗ của đất đai và cuối cùng, việc đầu tư vào hoạt động này cũng là một phần của sự phát triển bền vững của cộng đồng.