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Membership Categories

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Thank you for your continued support.

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



HORIZONS

2005 Winter Newsletter
FOCUSING ON THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE
Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) • Post Office Box 906 • Acton, Maine 04001-0906

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 roadblock: a badly eroded, unapproved ATV trail that not only degrades water entering Mousam Lake, but might also serve 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.

Town News and Announcements

Acton:

Mary Grant Project Progressing Well

After a busy spring and summer of meetings, work days and fund raising activities, the Mary Grant Committee has completed phase 1 of its proposed work projects and has raised \$3800.00 towards its financial goal of \$6000.00. The committee would like to acknowledge and thank the following people, businesses and organizations for their help in developing the Mary Grant Property in Acton into a Town Park/Nature Preserve for all the residents and visitors to Acton to enjoy for generations to come, protected by an easement held by the Three Rivers Land Trust:

Funds received:

Three Rivers Land Trust	\$225.00
Tom Otis	225.00
Sanford Institution for Savings	500.00
Bank North TD	250.00
Kennebunk Savings Bank	500.00
Auction of Household Items	1377.55
Barbecue	215.10
Sale of stove & misc.	202.00
Misc. donations at Apple Festival	30.42
Joan Wood	25.00
Acton/Shapleigh Lions Club	250.00
Total received as of 11/07/05	\$3800.07

Services/In-kind Donations:

Gilles Lavigne donated 6 squares of roof shingles for repairing the garage roof. Hurd Lumber donated 500 board feet of hemlock lumber to repair the garage roof. The students at the Maplestone School provided the labor to repair the garage roof. Yeaton's Excavating donated the use of its heavy equipment and operator to demolish the house. Judie Hurd provided the material to fill in the cellar hole. The local Lions Club offered their services in

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Town News and Announcements Continued

labor and fund raising. Barbara Seckar donated \$29.95 of stationery supplies for a scrap book. Committee members and other local citizens have donated many hours of their time to work on this project.

We would like you to know that we truly appreciate your donations and contributions. We are still short of our financial goal. Anyone else interested in contributing to the effort may make a check out to the Town of Acton c/o Mary Grant Fund and forward it to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 540, Acton, ME 04001.

Shapleigh:

The Trust is working with four landowners in the Town. All four own property that has been important to them and their respective families for a number of years. With the demand for land to develop intensifying, these owners want to know that their farm and forested land will not turn into subdivisions after they are gone. Nevertheless, it is important for a landowner not to rush headlong into signing a conservation easement. Each property has its own special characteristics and history, so each easement must be crafted to recognize the uniqueness of the place. In addition, when the landowner is giving away valuable development rights to a nonprofit land trust, that landowner may want to apply for a tax deduction equal to the value of the donated rights. To get the deduction the value of the property without the easement must be compared with the value of the property restricted by the easement. Each of these projects is the fulfillment of a landowner's dream and will be handled with great care.

Lebanon:

We are assisting two families who want to find the 'right' way to preserve their heritage. Both properties encompass farm and forested land that has been husbanded for generations. The owners know that these properties will be subdivided in the blink of an eye if they do not limit future development with a conservation easement.

Meeting Notice:

3rlt Annual Meeting February 8 at 6:45 at the Springvale Library. Speaker:

Tom Bradbury, Executive Director of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust.

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 Agway (Sanford)

Flour House Bakery

Gile's Family Farm

Kittery Trading Post

Jeweler's Outlet (Sanford)

McDougal Heating

McDougal Orchards

Memory Gardens

Miller Ford, Inc.

Oakhill Alpaca Ranch

Renaissance Greeting Cards

Ridley Farm Store

Springvale Hardware

Sprinvale Nursery

Tom's of Maine

Waterways, Inc.

Wolf Pine Farm

Woltersdorf 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 make strategic friendships 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.

Book I 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 implica-

tions of six distinct choices for preserving family lands.

Book II came out in 1997. It addresses what he calls 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 run 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.stevesmall.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.privatelandownernetwork.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 the Three Rivers Land Trust.

Bill has been a director of the Shapleigh Town Forest for 25 years, in addition to being chairman of Yethe 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

Fair for 45 years. He has worked as an Extension Dairy Specialist, helping Maine dairy farmers implement new practices on their farms, been a judge at dairy shows throughout New England, and served on the boards of the New England Holstein Assn, the Mousam Way and Three Rivers land trusts, and the York County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Trust is fortunate to have these three men as part of our organization. Their great service to the agricultural community in York County is an example for all of us to follow.



The Turtle

For him all havens over land are distant.

Slow

Damned frustrating

Dragging his boney 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 noonday 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 hardshelled indifference.

-Verne Bovie