Supporting $50
Memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Name___________________________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________
Town__________________________________ State______________ Zip___________________

Thank you for your continued support.

The handsome local trail maps now for sale in more than 30 stores are the product of 18 months of work. Land Trust members Carl Davis and Tess Burke first teamed up with Lee Burnett of the Sanford Trail Development Committee after learning that their separate proposals for recreation maps had each failed to obtain funding by Partners for Healthier Communities, a program run by Goodall Hospital. Carl and Tess had an idea for a canoe/kayak map, and Lee had an idea for a trail map. Undeterred by initial rejection, the group joined forces and got more ambitious.

Future editions of the map are planned. Please send your suggestions for improvements to Carl at 636-1714. We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations who are selling the map:

- Acton Trading Post
- Sanford-Springvale Chamber of Commerce
- Crum’s Cycles
- Sanford-Springvale Chamber of Commerce
- Falls Agway
- J’s of Sanford
- Springvale Nurseries
- Flour House Bakery
- Springvale Library
- Jeff Daigle Dental Office
- Giles Family Farm
- Conant Realty
- Shapleigh Corner Store
- Boonies
- Oak Hill Alpaca
- Emery Mills Market
- Summer Memories Natural Foods

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

HORIZONS

The committee responsible for the care and maintenance of the Mary Grant Nature Preserve is in its second phase of activity this summer. The small barn is getting a paint job, and the remaining objects in the barn which weren’t snapped up in last year’s auction are being cleaned up. There are plans in the making for a sign and roadside fence to brighten up the front of the property, and discussion has begun on the planning of trails.

All this work is made possible by committee volunteers and generous donations from townspeople. Recently, the committee received a remarkable anonymous donation of $1000 to help with the project.

The current members of the Mary Grant Committee are: Richard Neal (chair), Andy Brazier, Carl Davis, Yoli Gallagher, Dick Johnson, Barbara Seckar, Frank Verock, Jim Wilson, and Lorraine Yeaton. Thank you all for continuing to help make Acton a more beautiful place to live.

Contributions to the efforts of the committee are greatly appreciated. Please send any donations to: Mary Grant Fund, c/o Town of Acton, Selectman’s Office P.O. Box 540 Acton, ME 04001.

Alfred
The Shaker Woods Reserve Committee appointed by the Alfred Selectmen has begun work on a walking trail into the Shaker Woods site on the edge of Hay Brook/Middle Branch River. Work has been progressing slowly and the committee could use more volunteers to help promote the area as a tourist destination.

Thank you for your continued support.
What is a Conservation Easement?

The conservation easement is a legal document that guides future land uses as ownership changes, protecting a property’s key features by limiting the use of the land.

Protection of buildings adds challenging oversight responsibilities for a land trust. Some land trusts shy away from the complexities involved with the preservation of buildings. Our land trust tries to respond to the wishes of owners of historic farm properties. In this case, we are turning to Maine Preservation for assistance. They will help us to draft appropriate language in the easement document pertaining to the buildings. This provides assurance to the landowners that their goals for the care of their buildings will be met under the stewardship of the Land Trust.

Shapleigh

Although we call it a “Turtle Preserve” on Upper Goose pond, now owned by the Town of Shapleigh with stewardship responsibilities in the hands of the Town’s Conservation Commission and the Three Rivers Land Trust, it is also a wonderful birding spot. In the spring, you can see a marvelous array of migrating shore and water birds, including wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and buffleheads.

Many birds pass through the area during the year, and others make their nests there. Black and white warblers and yellow-rumped are the likely residents. You can also hear thrushes singing, and watch swallows cavorting over the water. A kayak trail into Upper Goose is on our new trail map, and the walking trail will be added when the map is reprinted. If you want directions, call Madge Baker (324-2520), Charles Gruber (636-1875), or Bill Buchhins (636-2737).

Our discussions continue with Shapleigh landowners who want to conserve their properties for future generations. These owners will tell you again and again how much joy their field and forest lands have given them over the years, and how fervently they want future generations to experience that same joy. There is a great awareness among the community that a conservation easement is one of the best means available to safeguard the landscape.

Three Rivers Land Trust Auction

The Three Rivers Land Trust is planning its second annual Silent Auction to be held on Saturday, August 12, at McDougal Orchards on Hanson Ridge Rd. in Springvale from 6 to 8 pm. The McDougal Farm, which is hosting the auction, is protected by a conservation easement made possible by the Land for Maine’s Future Fund. Many items have been donated by local businesses and individuals, including artwork, pottery, at least one mountain bike, handyman hours, a gourmet dinner for 4, half a cord of wood, and much more. There will be a $5 entry fee to cover the cost of refreshments. The event will also feature live music and a desert social, which will include pies, cakes, coffee, cream, and all sorts of other goodies.

For those not familiar with a Silent Auction, all the items will be displayed with a card next to them. Anyone who wishes to bid on that item writes their bid on the card (usually there is a minimum bid and minimum increase for the next bid). You can return to items you have bid on previously and bid higher, if you wish.

When bidding closes, the person with the highest bid wins the item. Please come for an evening of fun and support the Three Rivers Land Trust!

Auction highlights:

- Fall’s Agway (Sanford)
- Flour House Bakery
- Gile’s Family Farm
- Kittery Trading Post
- Jewelry’s Outlet (Sanford)
- McDougal Heating
- McDougal Orchards
- Memory Gardens
- Miller Ford, Inc.
- Oakhill Alpaca Ranch
- Renaissance Greeting Cards
- Ridley Farm Store
- Springvale Hardware
- Springvale 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!

Book Corner - Springvale Library

Elizabeth Kolbert, Field Notes from a Catastrophe of Man, Nature, and Climate Change, 2006

One commentator calls this book a Silent Spring for our time. In short, it needs to be read and acted upon by public and private leaders around the globe.

Kolbert is a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine. She is an investigative journalist who can weave astounding information into a very readable, succinct narrative. She does this by taking the reader to places we might not otherwise visit, like Greenland, Iceland, and Alaska, to hear from research scientists what they are observing.

Interpersed amidst these accounts are historical investigations. If you have read Jared Diamond’s Collapse, 2004, you will find yourself in familiar surroundings as she reviews the current thinking about the collapse of earlier civilizations around the world.

Her statistics are chilling. For example: “What the Vostok record (an ice core from Antarctica) shows is that the planet is already nearly as warm as it has been at any point in the last 420,000 years. A possible consequence of even a four- or five-degree temperature rise on the low end of projections for the end of this century is that the world will enter a completely new climate regime, one with which modern humans have no prior experience.” As for carbon dioxide levels, they are already above the highest concentrations recorded in ice cores around 325,000 years ago.

Kolbert also interviews people who understand these statistics and are trying to do something about them. One interviewee told her that if the US and China can control carbon dioxide emissions, the increase in greenhouse gas emissions can be halted. Others told her about cities like Burlington, Vermont, and Seattle, Washington, that are acting locally to curtail emissions in response to grassroots pressure. In the Netherlands folks are looking forward to living in floating houses.

The book makes it very clear the only way out of this predicament is to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and that is only going to happen with committed public and private leadership in the developed and developing countries of the world.

Remember to check our website at www.3rlt.org

Summer Statement

Yesterday I was helping my tractor mechanic as he diagnosed and fixed an electrical problem on my John Deere 10-10. Suddenly he stopped and exclaimed that he could never live in a city. There was a cattail in a nearby tree that was singing its heart out with such a clear and lovely tone that we were both transfixed and could only pause and enjoy. There was something about the quietness of the quiet that had his voice. It was an incredible moment. It was one of those moments that are like snapshots and memorable.

As I reflect upon the land trust and our efforts, this moment comes to mind as a symbol of what our true mission is. If we can provide for others to enjoy as lovely and comparable a snapshot in the future as the essence of nature, we have done well.

One of the most important ingredients of a successful organization is its members. I must say that it is a pleasure to serve on a board of such interesting, enjoyable and dedicated people. Thank you to all our friends and supporters.

Jean Noon, President