MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Categories

☐ $1000 and above “The Glenn and Betty Wildes Circle”
☐ $500 Conservator ☐ $50 Sponsor
☐ $250 Guardian ☐ $30 Supporter
☐ $100 Steward ☐ $20 Member

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Please make checks payable to: Three Rivers Land Trust and mail them to:

P.O. Box 295, Alfred, ME 04002

Join or Renew online today at 3rlt.org/BecomeAMember.cfm info@3rlt.org / www.3rlt.org

Memberships and contributions are tax deductible. ☐ Yes! Please add me to 3RLT’s email list

Name______________________________________________________________________________

Address____________________________________________________________________________

Town______________________________________ State______________ Zip___________________

Phone______________________________________ Email___________________________________

Join or Renew Today. We need your help. Thank you for your support.

Board of Directors:

Action
Tom Cashin 636-3582 tcucad9@gmail.com
Cary Davis 636-3700 petercud@icloud.com
Bill Williams 226-1800 wile2000@tymalt.net

Alfred
Paul Fishman, VP 475-8140 Ffjdfnj@icloud.com
Amy Titcomb, Secretary 272-4097 amyt@midmaine.com

Lebanon
John Beak 457-1435 dscllake@icloud.com
George Main timbermaine@gmail.com
North Berwick
Marla Dodion mydodion@hotmail.com

Shapleigh
Mattie Baker, Clerk 324-1055 bakwv@me.com

Membership: Ruth Gutman 3rtoriverslandtrust@icloud.com

Final Thought:

Yes! Please add me to 3RLT’s email list

---

Three Rivers Land Trust

Winter Great Maine Outdoor Weekend was a great success! This annual event is often plagued by snow storms or frigid temperatures, but the sunny and mild weather brought together over 40 people on February 17 to enjoy the trails at Charles Grubers’ property in Shapleigh. Charles, a longtime board member of the trust, left his property to us when he passed away in 2016, and we have been discussing the best way to honor his legacy. We enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies in the beautifully restored barn, and enjoyed the trails through the woods and along the Mousam River. An additional bonus to the day was a visit from Scott Lindsay, Regional Wildlife Biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Scott talked to the group about the many animal tracks one can find in our area, how to identify them, and then led us on a walk through the woods for a great afternoon of tracking. Thank you, Scott, and all who joined us – it was a really wonderful day!

---

LEBANON SUMMER CAMP KIDS

LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE PLANTS

Three Rivers Land Trust, the Lebanon Conservation Commission, and Melissa Brandt, District Manager at York County Soil and Water Conservation District, joined forces to teach summer camp kids in Lebanon about invasive plant species. Pictured here, Three Rivers board member Amy Titcomb leads a group in some hands-on exploration. This is our fourth year working with the summer camp, and we look forward to teaching them more about their natural world again this summer.
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

PRESIDENT’S REFLECTIONS

It was with a great sense of accomplishment and gratitude that Three Rivers finalized protection of Goat Hill and the Romac Orchard in 2017.

Goat Hill is one of those truly spectacular places that take your breath away. Thank you, town of Acton, Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), 1772 Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Maine Conservation Corps, 3RLT, MFT and Acton orchardists and volunteers, sponsors, and grant providers for being such great partners! Special thanks go to Carl Davis for his amazing volunteer time commitment to this project, and to Lee Burnett and Jerry Bley, our consultants, for their most valuable knowledge, advice, and negotiation skills.

When the former owners of Romac Orchards decided to sell, many of the local residents worried that the property, with its expansive views, would be subdivided for residential development. Goat Hill is one of the highest elevations in Acton, and offers stunning vistas of nearby lakes, the Presidential Range and Mt. Washington to the west, and the ocean to the east. 3RLT, MFT and Acton worked together to ensure that the property would remain in agriculture and become an important scenic site for everyone to enjoy. The protection of the orchard parcel was dependent on the town, in collaboration with Three Rivers Land Trust, acquiring the summit of Goat Hill.

The eastern part of the orchard, purchased by a father and son who have worked at Romac and other Acton orchards over the years, was open again for its first season of picking last fall, and the western portion will be managed to produce apples for an existing hard cider operation (www.farfromthestee creekr.com in Salem, MA – check them out!). Both farm parcels are now protected by conservation easements, which will ensure this productive land remains available for farming and forestry in the future. The two easements involved the purchase of the development rights on the farmland and was funded by Three Rivers, MFT, and the 1772 Foundation. This purchase made the farmland affordable for the farmers.

The successful purchase of the scenic summit parcel of 25 acres, now a town park, was made possible in large part by the town of Acton (pop. 6,000) passing its first-ever bond issue for conservation, and contributing $25,000 from earnings of the town forest. Many generous donations from local and seasonal residents supported the land trust’s contribution.

In addition, Acton received a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to assist with the purchase and construction of a parking area and the beginning of a universally accessible trail to the hilltop. The Maine Conservation Corps and volunteers helped remove about ¼ mile of overgrown trail to the top of Goat Hill in October. A 10-spot parking lot was also constructed. It’s a ¾ of a mile up H Road from the old trail entrance, which are now owned by the orchard.

In order to finish the trail and make it ADA-compliant for universal access, we have applied for several grants. We hope much of the work will be provided “in kind” by the MapleStone School in Acton. This non-profit school engages at-risk youth in York County in experiential learning and life skills. Through a grant, the students will be working on a wider network of trails on Three Rivers properties in Acton, Shapleigh, and other towns.

We will need to raise an additional $30,000 to complete the trail. ADA compliance comes at a worthwhile price! We will keep you informed on the progress of the Goat Hill trail.

-Jean Noon, President

HANSEN POND - A NEW CONSERVATION PROJECT

This 270-acre parcel in Acton sits in the middle of several thousand acres of unbroken forest – a complex of wetlands, eskers and prime white pine timberlands. The jewel of the property is Hansen Pond, a shallow 30-acre pond accessible by paddling several miles upstream on the Little Ossipee River. A Maine Natural Areas Program ecologist spent one day on the property and documented abundant birds as well as evidence of white tailed deer, moose, bear, musk turtle, raccoon, beaver, coyote, wood frog, pickerel frog, and green frog. “Overall, wildlife tracks, trails, beds, and markings were abundant across this property. Frogs of several species were particularly numerous,” according to the ecologist’s report. We look forward to sharing more about this property with you soon!

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your memberships for 2018! I feel such a great sense of joy and purpose when the replies to our year end appeals start flooding in, because this is the first indication that Three Rivers is going to have another great year. If you haven’t yet sent in your renewal for the year, I hope this newsletter will remind you to do so now. Every member counts – whether you can contribute $20 or $100 a year, it makes a difference. The grants we apply for to help fund our land conservation projects often require matching grants or a demonstration of community support, and membership is how we achieve both of these things.

I hope you will join us for some events this year. On May 9 we will hold our annual meeting. A brief business meeting will be followed by a discussion of next steps for our regional conservation plan. Many of you joined us on that snowy night in February 2016 to discuss what is most important to you when it comes to land conservation and your vision for our future, and we hope you will join us again to see where we are two years later. We hope that members of our local conservation commissions, planning boards,select boards, and legislators will also join us.

Sunday, July 22 is Open Farm Day. Once again we will be serving a locally-sourced and homemade breakfast to kick off the Springvale Farm Walk. We are so thrilled to be a part of this amazing day and we hope you will join us. Breakfast starts at 8 AM at McDougall Ormac Orchards and goes until 9:30.

Other events are still in the planning stages, so please join us on Facebook or our e-news list to stay in the loop!

-Ruth Gutman

We appreciate our members, volunteers, sponsors, and grant funders! Thank you for helping us grow our membership – the backbone of our organization.

NEW MEMBERS & DONORS:
Ernie & Susi Alviso
David I Anderson
Jennifer Craig
Anna Desmond and Fred McLeod
Harland Eastman
Eric Ganeles & Marla Platt
Gail Geisenhainer
Jess Greer
Gus Hedden
Dale & Karin Johnson
Joyce Krahling
Susan Lajoie
Thomas Ledue
Kathleen MacLean
Patricia and Charles McIntire
Karen McManus
Barbara Minges
Alayna Morin and Steven Marchessault
Janice Murray
Laurel Muse
Mark & Kathy Parenti
Gerry Pattison and Greg Byrer
Marcy & Jon Polletta
Daniel Puopolo
Garet & Glenn Richardson
Bill & Marji Kilgus
Stephen White
Square Pond Improvement Association

BUSINESS SPONSOR:
ReVision Energy

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

HANSAN POND - A NEW CONSERVATION PROJECT

by conservation easements, which will ensure this productive land remains available for farming and forestry in the future. The two easements involved the purchase of the development rights on the farmland and was funded by Three Rivers, MFT, and the 1772 Foundation. This purchase made the farmland affordable for the farmers. The successful purchase of the scenic summit parcel of 25 acres, now a town park, was made possible in large part by the town of Acton (pop. 6,000) passing its first-ever bond issue for conservation, and contributing $25,000 from earnings of the town forest. Many generous donations from local and seasonal residents supported the land trust’s contribution.

In addition, Acton received a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to assist with the purchase and construction of a parking area and the beginning of a universally accessible trail to the hilltop. The Maine Conservation Corps and volunteers helped remove about ¼ mile of overgrown trail to the top of Goat Hill in October. A 10-spot parking lot was also constructed. It’s a ¾ of a mile up H Road from the old trail entrance, which are now owned by the orchard.

In order to finish the trail and make it ADA-compliant for universal access, we have applied for several grants. We hope much of the work will be provided “in kind” by the MapleStone School in Acton. This non-profit school engages at-risk youth in York County in experiential learning and life skills. Through a grant, the students will be working on a wider network of trails on Three Rivers properties in Acton, Shapleigh, and other towns.

We will need to raise an additional $30,000 to complete the trail. ADA compliance comes at a worthwhile price! We will keep you informed on the progress of the Goat Hill trail.

-Jean Noon, President

HANSEN POND - A NEW CONSERVATION PROJECT

This 270-acre parcel in Acton sits in the middle of several thousand acres of unbroken forest – a complex of wetlands, eskers and prime white pine timberlands. The jewel of the property is Hansen Pond, a shallow 30-acre pond accessible by paddling several miles upstream on the Little Ossipee River. A Maine Natural Areas Program ecologist spent one day on the property and documented abundant birds as well as evidence of white tailed deer, moose, bear, musk turtle, raccoon, beaver, coyote, wood frog, pickerel frog, and green frog. “Overall, wildlife tracks, trails, beds, and markings were abundant across this property. Frogs of several species were particularly numerous,” according to the ecologist’s report. We look forward to sharing more about this property with you soon!

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your memberships for 2018! I feel such a great sense of joy and purpose when the replies to our year end appeals start flooding in, because this is the first indication that Three Rivers is going to have another great year. If you haven’t yet sent in your renewal for the year, I hope this newsletter will remind you to do so now. Every member counts – whether you can contribute $20 or $100 a year, it makes a difference. The grants we apply for to help fund our land conservation projects often require matching grants or a demonstration of community support, and membership is how we achieve both of these things.

I hope you will join us for some events this year. On May 9 we will hold our annual meeting. A brief business meeting will be followed by a discussion of next steps for our regional conservation plan. Many of you joined us on that snowy night in February 2016 to discuss what is most important to you when it comes to land conservation and your vision for our future, and we hope you will join us again to see where we are two years later. We hope that members of our local conservation commissions, planning boards,select boards, and legislators will also join us.

Sunday, July 22 is Open Farm Day. Once again we will be serving a locally-sourced and homemade breakfast to kick off the Springvale Farm Walk. We are so thrilled to be a part of this amazing day and we hope you will join us. Breakfast starts at 8 AM at McDougall Ormac Orchards and goes until 9:30.

Other events are still in the planning stages, so please join us on Facebook or our e-news list to stay in the loop!

-Ruth Gutman

We appreciate our members, volunteers, sponsors, and grant funders! Thank you for helping us
grow our membership – the backbone of our organization.

NEW MEMBERS & DONORS:
Ernie & Susi Alviso
David I Anderson
Jennifer Craig
Anna Desmond and Fred McLeod
Harland Eastman
Eric Ganeles & Marla Platt
Gail Geisenhainer
Jess Greer
Gus Hedden
Dale & Karin Johnson
Joyce Krahling
Susan Lajoie
Thomas Ledue
Kathleen MacLean
Patricia and Charles McIntire
Karen McManus
Barbara Minges
Alayna Morin and Steven Marchessault
Janice Murray
Laurel Muse
Mark & Kathy Parenti
Gerry Pattison and Greg Byrer
Marcy & Jon Polletta
Daniel Puopolo
Garet & Glenn Richardson
Bill & Marji Kilgus
Stephen White
Square Pond Improvement Association

BUSINESS SPONSOR:
ReVision Energy
The main threats to turtles include people moving too fast, crossing the road, and being hit by cars. Turtles are generally slow-moving animals that are not in a hurry. They can sense when it’s not safe to cross the road and will wait until it is. If a turtle is crossing the road, it’s because she (and it is most often an egg-laden female) has a destination in mind, one that has served her ancestors well, since long before humans built roads interrupting turtle pathways. She’s armed with a strong homing instinct — not well understood by scientists — that gives her a sense of direction superior to that of birds. Some turtles will travel many miles to return to the road again?! Turtles are in fact trying to get somewhere, not just out for a casual stroll.

It is illegal to take a turtle for a pet or to remove the tail – carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container. Do NOT pick them up by the tail – carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container. Don’t take turtles home or move them to another area — it is illegal and bad for them!

**Land Trusts and Property Taxes**

Both the Maine legislature and the Governor have recently shown interest in whether land trusts pay property taxes. We want our members to know that Three Rivers Land Trust makes payments on all the properties we own, often in the form of a PILOT, or payment in lieu of taxes. Property conserved with a conservation easement remains in private hands, and the owner pays the assessed value on the parcel just as any landowner would do. Our Governor states that land trusts do not pay taxes, and fails to give land trusts credit for their contributions to the economy and quality of life in Maine. He estimates the land trust assets are valued at more than $330 million in property taxes. In fact, the $18 billion and $330 million figures he references include all tax exempt real estate in Maine (land and buildings) owned by the Federal Government, the State of Maine, municipalities, quasi-municipal organizations, churches, and other nonprofits. The land trust community estimates the land trust assets are valued at less than 1% of that total.

Just as we value the land we protect, we value the communities where we live and want them to thrive. Three Rivers Land Trust is a tax-exempt organization, but we pay property taxes or make a payment “in lieu of” taxes on all our properties. We have always done this.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about how your land trust benefits our communities!

- Madge Baker

**Why does the Turtle Cross the Road?**

Well to get to the other side of course! So many animal-lovers have gotten frustrated asking this question... we move turtles to ponds, away from the road, to locations that seem much better to our eyes — why do they keep returning and crossing the road again?!! Turtles are in fact trying to get somewhere, not just out for a casual stroll. If a turtle is crossing the road, it’s because she (and it is most often an egg-laden female) has a destination in mind, one that has served her ancestors well, since long before humans built roads interrupting turtle pathways. She’s armed with a strong homing instinct — not well understood by scientists — that gives her a sense of direction superior to that of birds. Some turtles will travel many miles to return to the road again?! Turtles are in fact trying to get somewhere, not just out for a casual stroll.

It is illegal to take a turtle for a pet or to remove the tail – carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container. Do NOT pick them up by the tail – carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container. Don’t take turtles home or move them to another area — it is illegal and bad for them!

**Turtle Fast Facts**

Help us Cross the Road!

- Safely pull over and move turtles in the direction they are heading
- All turtles can bite and have sharp claws, especially snapping turtles
- Do NOT pick them up by the tail – carry them by the rear of the shell or in a container
- Don’t take turtles home or move them to another area — it is illegal and bad for them!

**Acknowledgments**

Special thanks goes to Brian Valle for all his volunteer electrical work, and to neighbor Ned Daly for lawn maintenance at our office.

We’d also like to thank everyone who helped out at our Open Farm Day breakfast last year. We could not pull this event off without the contributions of our board members, our member-volunteers, the farmers who donated or discounted produce, and in particular, Ellen Tarbox of Night Owl Bakery for all her planning, organizing, cooking, and alas, dishwashing. Thank you all!