



# HORIZONS

www.3rlt.org

2013 Winter Newsletter

## FOCUSING ON THE CONSERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) • Post Office Box 906 • Acton, Maine 04001-0906

### Shaker Woods, Alfred

The Shaker Woods hiking trail, located off Stone Road in Alfred, gives walkers the opportunity to travel through a variety of natural community types in a relatively short distance. Alternately, paddling out the Hay Brook inlet allows you to join up with the Middle Branch of the wild and scenic Mousam River. Both options are accessible from a small parking area just south of the intersection of Swetts Bridge and Stone Road (behind the York County Sheriff's office in Route 4).

To take a hike, proceed past the trailhead through an area of shrub layer growth, with some tall red pines rising above the canopy like cousins from the

west coast. The trail will soon turn right and skirt along a more open area that closely follows the property line of the preserve.

You will pass through a small pine plantation, where you will see white pines in formation like soldiers lined up for muster. Then follow the trail across a wetland section of carefully designed low walkways. Through this section, there is a mix of white pine, hemlock, birch, and a vibrant shrub layer. Vireos may call overhead. Grouse may fly up from underfoot.

Continue through the transitional forest edge until you come to an older growth hemlock-dominated forest. Ahead is the Mousam River. Before you get there, you will come upon a sign indicating a loop trail that you can take in either direction. The loop trail parallels the river, where the forest canopy grows more diverse, with increased numbers of white pine, oak and birch. Looking out over the water, there are no signs of civilization, but you may see evidence of beavers, an otter swimming sleekly



along, an owl perched high or a turtle basking on a log. A few benches along the way provide a quiet spot for contemplation or a trailside snack.

The loop takes about 20 minutes to cover at a moderate pace. Once completed you will be heading back out the way you came in, as the trail is a so-called "lollipop" shape. Sometimes, the benefits of covering the same area twice are that you are able to notice more fully the sights and sounds that are more subtle, and that you might have missed on the way in. This is a special property that showcases the ample bio-diversity of southern Maine.



### Conservation Easement Tax Incentive Renewal

Reprinted from the Land Trust Alliance – [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)

The enhanced tax incentive for conservation easements was renewed for 2012 and 2013 in the bill passed to avert the 'fiscal cliff.' A big "Thank you!" to each of you who worked so hard in 2012 to convey the importance of land conservation to your political leaders.

More good news: the charitable deduction is left largely intact for now, but with limits for higher-income donors.

We're past the fiscal cliff, but it's not over! Congress still has many decisions ahead, as this legislation sets up new budget and tax battles for later this

year. Land trust leaders persisted this year through many ups and downs, and that same mix of optimism, focus and grit will be called upon in 2013 as we champion our land conservation work to build economically vibrant communities that are healthy places to live, work and play.

Below is a brief overview of the legislation's effect on land conservation, with links to our web pages that we will keep updated.

Enhanced Easement Incentive – A renewal for 2012 and 2013 will help land trusts work with farmers, ranchers and other modest-income landowners

to increase the pace of conservation by about a third. We will share updated materials for spreading the news to potential easement donors in a few days.

Charitable Deduction – Because of your help, the charitable deduction remains largely intact. The bill does, however, bring back the "Pease Amendment," which gradually reduces the value of itemized deductions against income exceeding \$250,000. Lawmakers heard loud and clear from nonprofits that capping or cutting the charitable deduction did not make sense. We expect deductions to be on the chopping block again as Congress *continued on pg 3*

## Field Work with Assistance from Maplestone School

During the spring of 2011, Three Rivers Land Trust acquired property at Hobbs Farm in Acton. Nils Pearson, of MapleStone Farm, approached 3RLT in order to facilitate the restoration of the fields on the property. The primary goal was to improve production of the existing hayfields.

In the fall of 2012, with the assistance of Pearson, MapleStone School students began the first steps in restoring the hayfields. The fields were infested with invasive European Bittersweet and



Rosa Rugosa; the existing farm pond needed restoration. The students began by clearing the trees around the pond and continued with the ongoing effort to minimize the invasive species. Other parts of the field were cleared and the slash was chipped.

While the students were clearing, they discovered old metal parts of tractors, trailers, oil cans and barrels. Some of the metal pieces that were found revealed history of the farm. There were pieces of a two-stage water pump which used to feed water from the pond to the barn, along with pieces of a windmill.

As it happened, an opportunity arose for the students to participate in selling hand-made products for a holiday fair in November. As ideas flowed to create pieces from each group at MapleStone, some of the metal that was found at the Hobbs Farm began to take on a new form with the help of the Mechanics class. The students' pieces became unique creations as they were welded together



into creatures, robots, and functional art. Their original works were well received at the holiday fair which inspired the students to a new level of involvement.

MapleStone is a non-profit special purpose school located in Acton. The school would like to expand on their fundraising opportunities. Anyone who has old pieces of metal or any operational (or non-operational) tools that they would like to donate to the school can contact Deb Mayo at (207) 477-2829. Please visit their website at [www.maplestone.org](http://www.maplestone.org) and see a "Wish List" for other donation ideas.

## Message from the President 12/31/12

Today as I write this message on the last day of 2012, I can't get over the amazement I feel for how much we have accomplished during 2012. Thanks to the dedication of the talented Board of Directors, we currently have more land owners interested in conserving their land than ever before in our history. While we did not actually close on any easements this year, the groundwork has been laid and we are optimistically moving forward toward closing at least 4 separate property easements during 2013.

We are grateful for the **US Forest Service** grant that has funded **Forest Works!** This funding enabled the membership progress accomplished by Mike Gaito of Spencer Group. We will miss Mike who has moved back to Burlington, Vermont.

We are grateful for Lee Burnet's skill as the **Forest Works!** project manager. Lee has made many new contacts, given several presentations, taught Adult Ed courses, and written grants. Marcel Polak's (Executive Director, **Maine Association of Conservation Commissions**) thoughtful contributions as project overseer and collaborator

are much appreciated. Due to the collaboration of the Alfred Conservation Commission, along with Lee and Marcel, we are moving toward closing on a property in the Walnut Hill Focus area. We have been awarded a grant from the **Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP)** to help with the purchase of this property. Watch for the announcement!

We are grateful for the \$20,000 grant received from the **1772 Foundation**. This grant is providing funds to complete the Rivard Farm easement in 2013.

We are grateful for the **Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative** and the help that their director, Jessica Burton, has given us in writing grants for the Rivard Farm easement. They have also served as our resource for information and support. We thank our vice president Fred Frodyma for encouraging us to become members of this group and serving as our liaison with the SMCC. [southernmaineconservation.org/](http://southernmaineconservation.org/)

We are grateful for the **Norcross Wildlife Foundation Inc.** grant of \$2400 that has allowed us to invest in a

computer, printer, and other equipment.

We are grateful for **The Maine Community Foundation** grant that will allow us, along with **Francis Small Heritage Trust**, to continue with part-time paid staff to grow our membership.

We are grateful for the second grant we have just received for the important Rivard Farm easement purchase. The **Fields Pond Foundation** has awarded \$10,000 toward this project. This is a strong beginning toward the \$187,050 we expect the project to require. Several other grant applications have been submitted and are in progress. Any individual contributions are welcome! The Rivard Farm is an important pick-your-own berry farm of 99 acres in the Deering farm belt of Sanford/Springvale and Shapleigh.

Finally, we are grateful to **ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS** for their support expressed in dollars, "Likes" on Facebook, encouragement and volunteered skills.

Cheers,  
Jean Noon



## Collaborating for Better Conservation

*We've observed the organizations that belong to the Maine Land Trust Network, a program coordinated here at Maine Coast Heritage Trust, for decades. Land trusts that are somewhere on the collaboration continuum often seem to have greater success than land trusts that stay in their silo. Whether coordinating on which trust should approach the landowner of an important property, holding joint events, sharing staff, or doing conservation projects together, groups that reach out to work with their neighbors instead of staying in their silo often achieve great results."*

---Warren Whitney  
Maine Land Trust Network

Across the country, land trusts are reaching out to partners to be more effective. We see different geographic areas collaborating for regional conservation projects and joint fundraising, or land trusts forging relationships with non-conservation organizations to reach new audiences and build allegiances.

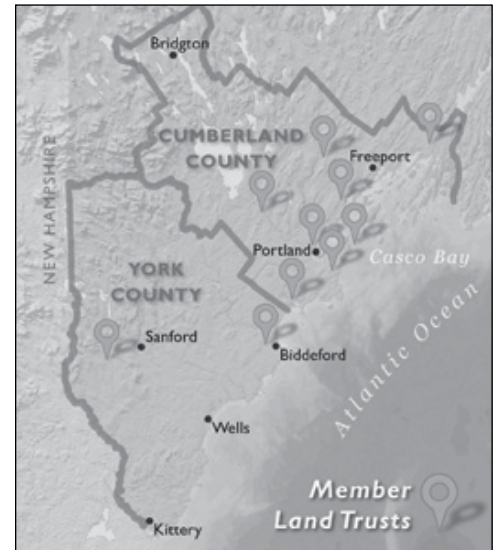


**Fall member training on invasive plant species identification and management.**

Three Rivers Land Trust believes in the power of Collaboration and as such is involved in two successful Collaborations. ForestWorks! is a strategy for keeping the woods of western York County, Maine forever available for their ecological, economic and recreational values; 3RLT partners with a number of organizations to bring success to this initiative.

The Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative (SMCC) is the second collaborative initiative that 3RLT is involved in, and in this case was a founding member. This innovative and new organization is coming at conservation from the ground up: giving land trusts the administrative help they need to support the land protection they practice.

The Southern Maine



Conservation Collaborative is a non profit co-operative service center working to assist conservation organizations in York and Cumberland Counties to acquire, manage and steward land in their communities by providing professional support services and networking opportunities. SMCC provides the capacity for each member organization to achieve their mission more effectively and efficiently as the result of shared staff, joint programming and collaborative planning. SMCC launched its Pilot Year on January 3, 2012 after a year of planning with land trusts from all over the region, and in our first year we have worked hard to build relationships, collect data, respond to needs and build the foundation for sustainability.

The Basic Membership and Networking Benefit program is provided to each member as the result of their membership fee. These benefits include networking, project collaboration, member trainings, discounted rates with partnering service providers and increased marketing and communications.

The Fee for Service program provides members access to SMCC staff support. These projects take two forms. Distinct hourly services wherein individual tasks are provided by SMCC to a member who needs help within larger projects. These are defined by SMCC and the member at the time of project planning. Defined service packages bundle distinct service tasks for a flat fee which is customized according to the land trust's needs and upon project planning with SMCC.

Through this partnership, 3RLT is

*continued on pg 5*

### Conservation Easement continued from page 2

tackles budget reform in March.

**Estate Tax Incentives** – The Estate Tax retains its current \$5 million unified credit, indexed for inflation, but the top rate rises to 40%. We are happy to report that the geographic limitations on estate conservation incentives are permanently repealed.

**Farm Bill Easement Programs** – The 2008 Farm Bill is extended for a year, through September 30, but that's no help for the easement programs, which had already been renewed (FRPP) or remain expired (GRP & WRP). Congress must now renegotiate the new Farm Bill, having lost \$500 million from the funding "baseline" for easement programs over the next decade. We will once again work with land trust leaders

to engage the agriculture committees as they craft this legislation.

**Conservation Funding**—Sequestration, which promised automatic 8.2% across-the-board cuts, is now delayed until March 1. That deadline, along with the debt ceiling and the expiring continuing resolution, will drive the next round of negotiations, with President Obama insisting on revenue raisers and Republicans seeking spending cuts. That means conservation funding and the charitable deduction could again be at risk.

As we get ready for a busy year ahead, let's take a moment to celebrate this victory and thank our members of Congress for investing in land conservation.

## May 8th Annual Meeting to Feature Leading Climate Scientist

We're pleased to be hosting Prof. George L. Jacobson, of U. of Maine, Orono, at our annual meeting on May 8, 2013. (The time and place will be posted closer to the date.) His topic will be "Climate Variability and Maine's Natural Systems – Past and Future." There will be some focus on our area in particular. Following is his biographical information:

**George L. Jacobson is Professor Emeritus of Biology, Ecology, and Climate Change** at the University of Maine. Since his arrival in Maine in 1979, Dr. Jacobson has been a member of the Climate Change Institute, and he was Director of the Institute for nearly a decade. He currently has the honor of serving as the **Maine State Climatologist**.

His research has focused on long-term climate variability and specifically on forest responses to climate changes during the past 60,000 years. His projects have included sites in North America, South America, and Europe. During the 1990s he chaired the Scientific Advisory Panel for the NOAA Paleoclimate Program, and

for the past five years he has chaired a similar Scientific Advisory Panel for the European Science Foundation, the scientific arm of the European Union. In addition, he recently served as an advisor to the Finnish Academy of Sciences in their development of a paleoclimate research program.

Professor Jacobson joined the faculty of the University of Maine in 1979 after three years working in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C., first as a Congressional Science Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and then as a staff scientist for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. He was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, and earned a B.A. in 1968 from Carleton College, and a Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of Minnesota. From 1968-1970 he served as a medical specialist in the United States Army.

We hope you'll mark the date on your calendar. This will be an opportunity to learn more about an issue that affects all of us. Students and teachers are especially welcome to attend. Admission is free.

## Calling all Neighborly Woodland Owners

# FORESTWORKS!™

Bring us your ideas and we'll feed you a delicious meal.

Forest Works! is seeking volunteers with a love of the woods willing to spread the word about one of their favorite activities.

A kick off meeting is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday March 20 at Willowbrook 19th Century Village in Newfield.

Forest Works! is the working forest conservation initiative started by Three Rivers and a dozen other organizations. The groups agree that actively managed forest lands are an essential part of our communities - socially, economically and environmentally. The meeting will be an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and help develop a local neighbor-to-neighbor program. The way neighbor-to-neighbor programs have worked elsewhere is this: Volunteers receive training in basic forestry practices,

wildlife attraction techniques, landowner assistance programs, and conservation tools. Throughout the year, these people provide guidance and referral assistance to neighbors who request it. Volunteers are not expected to provide actual forestry instruction. We'd like to know how you think this could work in our area.

If you are interested, please come. Forest Works! is inviting the participation of all kinds of citizens. We are looking for landowners and also for active community members who love the woods – men and women of different ages and backgrounds. Although residents of any town are welcome, we are focused on the towns of Parsonsfield, Cornish, Limington, Limerick, Newfield, Acton, Shapleigh, Lebanon, Sanford, and Alfred.

For more information, contact Lee Burnett 324-1596.

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

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

**Applegate Deer Farm**  
Shapleigh 793-8677

**Berry Best Farm**  
Lebanon 457-1435

**Black Kettle Farm**  
Lyman 499-1093

**Blueberry Hill Farm**  
Acton 457-1151

**Carpenter's Christmas Tree Farm**  
Springvale 324-6869

**Gile's Family Farm**  
Alfred 324-2944

**Kelly Orchard Inc**  
Acton 636-1752

**Late Light Farm**  
Acton 477-2946

**Lavigne Strawberry Farm**  
Sanford 324-5497

**McDougal Orchards LLC**  
Springvale 324-5054

**Notre Dame Institute**  
Alfred 324-6612

**Oakhill Alpaca Ranch**  
Shapleigh 793-3414

**Ridley's Farm Store**  
Shapleigh 636-1068

**Rivard's Blueberry Farm**  
Springvale 324-5566

**Sanford Farmers Market**  
Central Park  
Saturday 8-12:00

**Shapleigh Knoll Farm**  
Shapleigh 247-6948

**Springvale Nurseries**  
Sanford 490-5543

**The Noon Family Sheep Farm**  
Springvale 324-3733

**Two Toad Farm**  
252-1103  
www.twotoadfarm.com

**Wolf Pine Farm CSA**  
Alfred 324-2357

**Woolever Farm**  
Alfred 459-5011

## Volunteers & Thank Yous

Thanks to...

Thanks to Pat Smith for removing invasive plants on Walnut Hill.

Thanks as well to Jean Noon, for her leadership as trust chair.

Thanks to Mike Gaito for efficiently helping us to increase our membership and visibility in the community.

Thanks to Paula Frodyma for picking up the reins of the newsletter and the membership database.

Thanks to Marie Cashin for putting up with Tom.

A huge thanks to Heidi Woolever Daly for her enthusiasm and time volunteered to get the job done.

## Growing

There's a song about a cotton farmer down south and a boll weevil, and the boll weevil says to the farmer, "I'm just lookin' for a home....". Well, our trust is also looking for a home. For the past ten years we have been meeting and operating out of the Springvale Library and our records and files are spread out in various board members garages and basements. We are working towards accreditation and as such need to become more cohesive. Land trusts in more wealthy communities such as Kennebunkport have their own buildings.

Three Rivers has a limited budget and we have been considering some options

for consolidation. We need a space to hold meetings as well as some small space for an office and storage for our files and data. Our needs are not great and we would be willing to work with possible landlords for ways to make our space affordable.

A few spaces have been looked at, and the land trust hopes to make a final determination before the summer months.

Three Rivers is a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization and donations are always tax exempt.

If you or anyone you know has knowledge of possible locations please give us a call.

## New Members Since September 2012 Newsletter

Frederick & Barbara Boyle  
Marjorie Davis  
Ryan Full  
Genest Concrete Works, Inc  
Gile's Family Farm  
Margit Lassen  
Elizabeth & Kenneth Marass

David & Eleanor Moulton  
Gerard & Elizabeth Nulton  
Charles & Sheila Sargent  
Harvey Wallingford  
Anthony Wayne  
Cynthia Wyatt

## Collaborating continued from page 3

offered the opportunity to learn from others, share important lessons learned, save time and energy and reach a larger number of people. All of this leads to durable community based land protection.

SMCC is an innovative and collaborative response to the great need for increased capacity articulated by the many land trusts in this region. As land trusts work to protect and steward the essential places around us, the community impact of collaboration is clear: stronger organizations provide better conservation. The legacy of this work is the protected land at the core of the quality of life in Maine. Collaboration is the path, but the ultimate

goal is ethical practice and sustainable conservation. 3RLT is well equipped to accomplish its goals!



*Summer member event at Broadturn Farm in Scarborough showcasing a successful land trust and farmer relationship*

Founded in 2000 and serves the towns of **Acton, Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford/Springvale, Shapleigh**. Covering an area of 215.4 square miles, or about 137,856 acres, this area is the last region of York County to establish an organization that is committed to providing assistance to citizens interested in preserving their property and holding and maintaining easements forever.

Its Mission is *"To maintain, support and enhance the working landscape of farms and forest and such valued natural resources as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, historic sites, scenic places, and wildlife habitat, in the inland municipalities of York County, Maine, by acquiring property in fee and conservation easements, and by garnering community support."*

3RLT has successfully conserved over 1,800 acres which includes easements from 10 landowners. Currently, there are several more easements in the works.

For more information visit the web site [www.3rlt.org](http://www.3rlt.org) or call 324-3733.



# Membership Form

## Membership Categories

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Supporting	\$50
Business	\$100
Guardian	\$250
Conservator	\$500
Other	\$_____

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

Please make checks payable to:

**Three Rivers Land Trust**

and mail them to:

**PO Box 906, Acton, ME 04001.**

### Board of Directors:

#### Acton

Carl Davis 636-3709  
carldavis@metrocast.net

Tom Cashin 636-3582  
riecash@gmail.com

#### Alfred

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Bill Hutchins 636-2737

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

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