

A LETTER FROM RED WING FARM

***NOTE:** We reprint this letter from Marjorie and Bea from our winter newsletter of 2008 in memory of Marjorie Lord Blood who passed away this past spring. We feel privileged to have been a small part of Marjorie's life. The Trust will always be grateful for the donation of the conservation easement on the Farm by Marjorie and Bea. We are proud to fulfill our role as stewards of the Agreement.*

Our farm, Red Wing Farm, has been in our family for several generations and for over two hundred years, as noted by the National Bicentennial sign on the front of our barn. We, Bea and Marjorie, both grew up here and went to local schools. I, Marjorie, have lived here most of my life, and I, Bea, returned to my home place when I retired after working many years in the Boston area.

We have enjoyed living on the farm; hiking on old wood roads; snowshoeing a half mile up into the woods with our cat following us, where we would see a deer yard; seeing a little spotted fawn with its mother; maybe sighting an occasional moose or pileated woodpecker. It has become not uncommon to see flocks of turkeys roaming the fields as well as taking advantage of the bird feeders, and to see tom turkeys all puffed up with fanned-out tails come springtime. We are also seeing mysterious, unidentifiable tracks in the snow, maybe raccoon, maybe fox, possibly bear or moose. Our land connects with a large 450-acre piece under a conservation easement, so the animals have free run for several miles. We feel that encourages the wildlife.

We have enjoyed gardening, bird feeding, and bird watching, especially the woodcock with its unique courting habit in the springtime. Come dusk he spirals upward and circles the circumference of our thirty-acre field in hopes of attracting his prospective mate. He flies full circle and then lands exactly at the point he started from, making his buzzy mating call as he descends.

Another wildlife treat that we have found exciting is the "piebald" deer who grazes in our field along with other deer,



seemingly unaware that he is so odd looking with his black and white patches, nor do his companions appear to notice that he is quite spectacular. They all munch together complacently.

These activities have made this place home to us, and when we thought about it as we got older we sometimes wondered what would happen to this place, the home of our ancestors.

Our father, Walter Lord, came close to mortgaging the place in 1939, which was next thing to a death-knell in those days, when he lost thousands of young chickens on range in Connecticut during the 1938 hurricane. He had run up a big grain bill on credit with the intention of paying it off when the chickens matured. With the loss of the chickens his only sizable asset was his property and the timber on it, which he sold. He was about to mortgage the land when a family member offered him a loan. He accepted the loan and spent many years thereafter paying it back. This was a close call, but the farm was saved.

Stephen Lord, Walter's father, worked with physical limitations all his life, suffering with sciatica from a bullet wound he received in his leg during the Civil War. He managed to keep the farm going, become a house painter, and raise a family even though he lost his wife at a young age.

John Lord, Stephen's father, was raised an orphan, and managed to buy piecemeal the parcels of land making up this from his brother-in-law. He also bought the homestead of Daniel Downs, the original settler of the farm in the 1780's. He paid him a sum of money and agreed to take care of him and

his wife for the rest of their days. John Lord married four times, having the misfortune of losing three of his wives.

Another early grandfather whose family suffered loss was Stephen Downs, Daniel's son. He died at the young age of thirty-six, leaving a wife and seven children. Three of the children were sisters who became John Lord's wives, thereby making the Lord-Downs family connection. At the time of Stephen's death he owned all the parcels of land that make up the farm today, and John Lord was able to acquire them later.

As we reflected on these family histories, and the trials and tribulations that the grandfathers endured, we felt a certain obligation and responsibility to keep the farm intact; we didn't want to see it go the way of so many old farms today. Our appreciation for the perseverance and persistence of our forefathers led us to search for a way that would secure the future.

We learned about Three Rivers Land Trust from a newspaper item and contacted them about a conservation easement. We wrote many letters back and forth, mostly with Madge Baker, asking many questions -- would this be agreeable? would that be permissible? We received lots of help and encouragement along the way from both Madge Baker and Carl Davis. They made us many visits until we finally came to an agreement about all the ifs, ands, and buts over a period of more than four years. We now feel that our home's destiny is secure, and we thank Three Rivers Land Trust for their part in it.

Marjorie Lord Blood and Beatrice Lord
January 12, 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Land Lovers:

So our full blown Summer is finally here. It has been an amazing year so far for the Land Trust. With the help of the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, we have successfully procured all of the funds we need to match the recently awarded USDA Farm and Ranch Protection Program grant for the purchase of the easement on the 99 acre Rivard Farm at 110 Blanchard Rd in Springvale. Three grants, one from the 1772 Foundation, one from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation and the last from the Fields Pond Foundation will allow the completion of this important farm's protection. If you have never been to the farm for pick-your-own blueberries and raspberries, be sure to go this year. <http://www.rivardfarm.com>. Also look for their other fruits and vegetables at the Sanford and Springvale Farmers Markets.

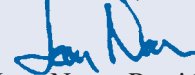
At the Annual meeting in May, the attending members elected four new directors. These four bring new energy and enthusiasm and have already taken on important responsibilities. Amy Titcomb has volunteered to act as secretary, and actually started earlier in the year when our former great secretary Heidi Woolover Daly moved to a farm in New York State. Helen Naylor has been a great help on the assessment team that is working to ready the land trust for certification with the national Land Trust Alliance. Paula Frodyma has volunteered to assist in developing this Newsletter each quarter. Larissa Crocket has joined us as an enthusiastic events booster and is helping Lee organize our float at the Alfred Town Festival parade. It is wonderful to have such new talent.

Forest Works! has continued to build its name and positive reputation as it nears the end of its initial funding.

We are hopeful that new grant applications will extend this important effort to engage more wood lot owners in sustainable forest management practices and eventually be able to protect larger tracts of contiguous forest. It has been terrific to collaborate with Francis Small Heritage Trust on this project and we look forward toward continued collaboration.

These are just a few of our activities and developments. As always, we welcome anyone who is interested in helping to support our mission and join us to make a contribution of talent, time or dollars. We would really like to reach 200 members! You can help by asking your friends.

Best Wishes,



Jean Noon, President

(207)324-3733 noon@metrocast.net

“ATTACKED!”



You never know what you might see or experience in the woods!

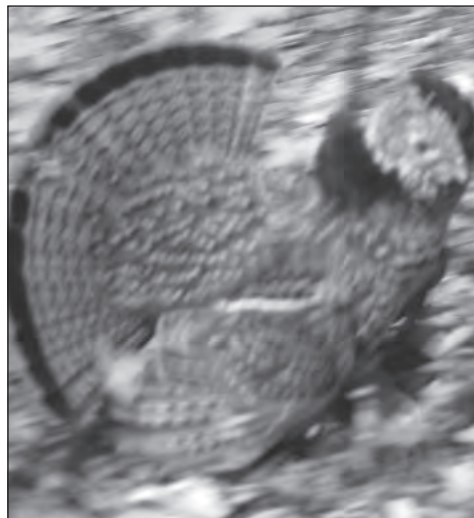
On June 9th, I was out walking at the Walnut Hill #1 property of the Three Rivers Land Trust. It was a beautiful sunny day following two days of rainy weather. I had recently injured my knee so I was walking along quite slowly and quietly. I had my camera out and hanging from the strap around my neck as I had seen some dragonflies and was trying to get some photos to help with identification. As I walked around a gentle turn in the path, a screaming force burst from the woods just in front and to my right. This rampaging vision froze me in my tracks as it hustled across my path and behind some shrubs to my left. It continued to “scream” and flutter to get

my attention. As I lifted my camera and pulled the cap off, a few more flutters behind the sweet ferns and another dash across in front of me back into the woods. I snapped photos as quickly as I could, not the best shots, but I’m used to photo’ing wild flowers that just sit there.

So what was this vision in scare tactics?..... see photos... a Ruffed Grouse.

I suspect there was a nest nearby or else I just startled her. She sure startled me!

by Pat Smith, Alfred



WHY SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LAND TRUST

Local land trusts, unlike municipalities, have only one purpose: to hold land and easement in perpetuity for conservation purposes. Municipal governments are not in the business of land conservation. State agencies and statewide land trusts cannot meet the need for land conservation in every community in the state.

Land trusts preserve land and water resources for public access, public recreation, forest production, agriculture, and wildlife habitat. Open space requires less services than development.

THE CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE'S GEORGE L. JACOBSON DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 3-RIVERS LAND TRUST 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2013 annual meeting of 3 Rivers Land Trust was treated to a highly informative and well-delivered talk by George L. Jacobson, Maine's State Climatologist. The topic – the Climate Changes in Maine.

Citing Governor Balducci's 2007 request of the University of Maine and its Climate Change Institute to lead an analysis of the effects of climate change in Maine during the 21st century, Jacobson carefully walked us through a series of graphic slides and data which considered past climate change, recent evidence of accelerated rates of change, and the implications of continued climate change in Maine resulting from additional greenhouse gas buildup in the atmosphere.

He spoke of the last million years as a time of advancing and receding ice sheets creating distinct changes in the landscape. Maine was still completely covered by ice as recently as 15,000 years ago. Yet, in just 4000 years, the ice was gone and most of our current forest tree species were present. Currently, he explained that studies show the rate of warming in Maine has been increasing. Today, all three of Maine's climate divisions are warmer than they were 30 years ago. Since 1970, the northeastern US has experienced 0.45 F average temperature increase per decade, and the surface

temperature of Maine's coastal waters has increased by almost 2 F.

Intergrated with the changes in the physical climate are simultaneous changes in the chemistry of the atmosphere. And what goes up must come down! Atmospheric chemicals eventually fall back to Earth, incorporated in dust, rain, and snow, and wash into rivers and lakes. Air pollution becomes water pollution.

All people in attendance were focused on Jacobson's thought-provoking explanations of what we might anticipate in Maine in the future. He pointed out it is important to discern the direction and range of likely changes in temperature and precipitation, and the relative variations among Maine's climate zones. Although many states have a wide variety of environments few have anything approaching Maine's range of climates in close proximity. Maine's unique diversity of climates means that change will not be uniform across the state. Jacobson projected that studies show Maine is trending toward warmer conditions with more precipitation in all four seasons. A warmer and wetter future will affect the seasons as we know them, with more winter precipitation in the form of rain and a continued shift in the timing of hydrological events, such as spring runoff. Climate change is not simply the physical changes in temperature and

precipitation. It occurs within a complex realm of environmental interactions, often with unpredictable results, he warned. Climate change includes, for example, the direct "fertilizing" effects of rising atmospheric CO2 and nitrogen deposition on forests and crops, making them grow faster. Tree species are altered. Where spruce trees grew, now maples grow. The spruce will migrate north as the climate warms or will become extinct over time. Overall wood availability and the timing of forest operations will change. We can expect an increase in those species – plant and/or animal that spread easily, adapt to a variety of conditions and reproduce rapidly. All characteristics of weedy or invasive species!

The challenges are great for the state of Maine, but, to date, Maine has been a leader in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The 2007 report calls for a 'climate adaption plan for Maine' – which would first assess the vulnerability of natural and built systems, as well as the costs and benefits of action versus inaction. An adaption plan would evaluate local adaptive capacity – is current policy or infrastructure ignoring, combating, or promoting change?

We need to pay attention to the issues of climate change and support sensible solutions to the problem.

THANK YOU!

Our very special thanks to the following foundations which have awarded us grant monies so that we may continue our conservation efforts:

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
Fields Pond Foundation
1772 Foundation
Davis Conservation Foundation
Maine Community Foundation

A very special thank you also to individuals who have made considerable donations towards the reprint of our trail map:

Mark Patterson (Patco Construction)
Marc Greenberg (Marc Motors)
H.A. Mapes
Genest Concrete

Also, our thanks to the following for their support and donations to Three Rivers Land Trust organization:

Katherine J. Baker Charitable Trust
Great East Lake Improvement Association
Marc Motors
Joffre & Rita Daigle
Genest Concrete
Donna Jacobsen
Mark Patterson, Patco Construction
Mapes Oil

DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL FARMERS?

Berry Best Farm:

A long, cool and often wet spring delayed the planting of the family garden but not the development of our blueberry and peach crops. Our single hive of honeybees and a variety of native pollinators have fulfilled their role and we've had an excellent set of fruit. One concern has been the lack of native bumblebees this year; hopefully these excellent insects will be back in greater numbers next spring.

Pruning the orchard and high bush berries in early spring was followed by thinning out the peaches, which yields larger quality fruit. Early blueberries will be ready to pick in mid-July and peaches later about mid-August. The first day of summer was the start of our hay season. We put 600 bales of first cutting into the barn and have at least another 1,000 to go when the weather cooperates.

Our days are filled with the many chores that need to be completed before opening day arrives. Mowing twice weekly, controlling invasive plants, fixing fences, replacing signage, planning a new brochure and updating our website all need to be done before we welcome our faithful customers.

This year we'll again participate in Maine's Open Farm Day to be held on Sunday, July 21st. This coming season will be our family's 55th year of operation. You can reach us at: christine@berrybestfarm.com.

Mark your calendar, bring your family and share in our farm's bounty!

Jones Farm:

The Ridley Farm in Shapleigh is actually comprised of two geographically separated entities: their farm on Nason Road and the Jones Farm on Goding Road in Lebanon. The Jones Farm was given to Roger and Karen by its prior owner, Wilbur Jones. Wilbur lived on his family farm for his entire life. He was never married and had no children. Wilbur wanted, somehow, to keep the historic farm intact. He formed a friendship with Roger Ridley over a number of years. Wilbur believed that if he left the farm to Roger and Karen, it would continue to be farmed.

But there was a string attached to his gift. Roger and Karen had to place a conservation easement on the Jones Farm to ensure its longevity as a single entity. Roger, Karen, and Three Rivers Land Trust signed an easement in 2003. They have maintained a successful partnership since by cultivating their personal connections. Because of this partnership, Roger meets annually with Three Rivers LT members at the Jones Farm.

Roger's enthusiasm for what Wilbur achieved as a farmer, and for what Wilbur left to the Ridleys, is infectious. For example, Roger likes to show off how Wilbur expanded the hay field by taking out stone walls, a project Roger finished for Wilbur and himself. The field now stretches from the house almost as far as one can see.

The Ridleys raise several vegetables at the Jones Farm that they sell at their Farm Store in Shapleigh. Sweet corn and tomatoes are some of the favorites. The tomatoes have been grown in a long hoop house the Ridleys put up at the Jones Farm.

The Jones Farm's prize building is the barn. When we visited recently, the cellar was filled with cows. Above the cows' heads is a ceiling that Roger keeps reinforcing in order to safely store massive round hay bales. Roger is committed to keeping the historic barn maintained for his use, and the use of his successors.

On that same visit we had a great look inside the empty, round, wooden silo. It is made of cypress boards, shipped from Florida in the 40s or 50s. Although it is currently empty, Roger is hoping to have the silo filled next winter with corn silage.

FARMER LIST

**Buy Local & Support
Local Growers to keep
farm lands viable!**

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Springvale 324-0331

Applegate Deer Farm
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Berry Best Farm
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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

NEW MEMBERS SINCE 2013 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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Paul and Donna Frodyma

Bettie and Ellen Harris-Howard

Helen Naylor

Mark Patterson (Patco Construction)

H.A. Mapes

Genest Concrete Works, Inc.

Marc Greenberg (Marc Motors)

HUNTING FOR “TREASURE” IN TREASURED PLACES



Do you enjoy the outdoors and like to explore? Do you want exercise but find going for a walk boring? Do you like hi-tech gadgets? Do you relish mysteries and solving puzzles? Do you fancy maps and statistics? Would you like a little adventure? Then the hobby-sport of geocaching is just what you are craving!

Humorously dubbed “hunting for Tupperware in the woods”, geocaching combines GPS technology with exploring terra firma and finding ‘caches’ stocked with a log book and trinkets for trading that have been hidden by other geocachers. Here’s how you play: Obtain a handheld GPS or download the phone ap, then go to the www.geocaching.com website on your computer. Choose a nickname (much like the CB handle of old) and sign up as a ‘regular member’ for free or a premium member for a small yearly fee. Premium members have access to more caches and additional perks from the Groundspeak organization whose volunteers handle the geocaching website.

Once you’ve signed up, type in the town and state where you live or where you want to hunt, and you’ll get a list of caches nearby. You’ll be amazed at how many there are! Click on one to get a description and map. It’ll tell you the size of the cache, its general difficulty and terrain rating along with other details the geo-hider wants you to know. Cache sizes range from miniscule magnetic buttons to cammoed pill bottles to ammo cans to multi-gallon buckets, plus anything in between that is waterproof, relatively unbreakable and can be closed tightly to keep out moisture. Difficulty and terrain are rated on a one to five scale with 1/1 being the easiest to find, wheelchair accessible and most likely urban. A 5/5 rating is very deviously hidden and involves a long strenuous hike perhaps with rock

climbing, kayaking, etc. in the wilderness. The vast majority of caches fall in the 1.5 to 2.5 difficulty and terrain ratings and use classic hiding places including rock wall cavities, downed trees, crotches of multi-trunk trees and hung in branches.

My favorite way to decide where to hunt is to click on a cache in the area I wish to explore; then I enlarge the map on the mid-right side of the cache page. This will show you all the caches in the area. Many caches are hidden in groups or series and that’s where 3RLT comes into play. A great place to try this activity is the Shaker Woods Reserve, Alfred, ME where five caches were placed this spring. When you find a cache, sign and date the enclosed log book; swap swag if you wish; close and rehide; then head out for your next ‘treasure’.

Once you return home, go to the caches you found (or tried, but didn’t find) on the geocaching website and log your find. This will let the hider know that you’ve discovered his/her cache and will share your adventure with potential cachers, as well. To get a feel for the kinds of logs folks write, here are the links for the two caches featured in the photos: GC4AAPN (Shaker Woods Reserve P & G) and GC37YRF (It’s A Bear). (On the geocaching website, type in the GC code, including the GC, in the white box on the left; typing in the name won’t work.)

Now that I hope you’ve been tantalized to try geocaching...load some geocaches into your hi-tech gadget, scour your junk drawers for trading trinkets, lace up the hiking shoes, remember the sunscreen and bug spray, bring some writing implements for signing the log, rev up your sense of adventure and head out to find caches hidden in earth’s treasured natural places.

by Dollie Hutchins, Sanford

3RLT was 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 or call 324-3733.

COMING SOON:

A **FORESTWORKS!**

Destinations Map connecting you to the woods of western York County. The on-line map will identify outdoor places to visit as well as local woods-related businesses.

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:

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