

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$1000 and above
- “The Glenn and Betty Wildes Circle”*
- ☐ \$500 Conservator
- ☐ \$250 Guardian
- ☐ \$100 Steward
- ☐ \$50 Sponsor
- ☐ \$30 Supporter
- ☐ \$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 Phone: 207-324-3733

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.

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Three Rivers
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HORIZONS

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2016 Spring Newsletter

FOCUSING ON THE CONSERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) • P.O. Box 295 • Alfred, Maine 04002

THREE RIVERS HOSTS CONSERVATION PLANNING MEETING

The Three Rivers Land Trust received plenty of suggestions and advice at a recent conservation planning meeting and we are grateful to all who participated.

About 40 people joined land trust board members at the Town Club in Sanford in early February for a facilitated meeting to develop a conservation plan for the region. Francis Small Heritage Trust in northern York County is following a similar path. The Jesse B. Cox Foundation is funding both efforts as part of a strategy to increase the pace of conservation throughout New England.

Participants marked up maps, voiced concerns and broke into groups for discussions on common topics. The collective feedback ranged from the visionary to the practical. Many people emphasized the land trust’s traditional role in conserving undeveloped land so it is always available for rural uses, recreation, water quality protection, and wildlife. Others suggested new roles for the trust – such as developing an education program, a regional trail network and model forests;



Who says kites are for summer? Children play at Hobbs Farm for Great Maine Outdoor Weekend in February

and collaborating with towns and other land trusts.

The written notes from the meeting are being compiled for distribution to participants who will be invited to future work sessions. Looking ahead, Three Rivers and Francis Small will eventually share their meeting results and work

together to develop a common plan to guide both organizations. Both boards will also receive fundraising training, also funded through the Jesse B. Cox Foundation, which will help to facilitate plan implementation.

-Lee Burnett, Forest Works!

LAND CONSERVATION UPDATE

Our conservation highlight of 2015 was the purchase of a 21-acre parcel abutting the Sousa Family Preserve, near Gebung Road in Alfred. The Sousa Preserve is a 200-acre landlocked wooded parcel acquired in 2014 with funding from MNRCP (Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program); this large tract contains old trees (including a tupelo tree estimated to be 300 years old!), vernal pools, and a healthy population of endangered Blanding’s turtles.

The new 21-acre parcel, called “Sousa B,” was also purchased with funds from MNRCP. For woods-loving humans, it will provide parking along Wilderness Acres Drive and access to the Sousa Preserve; for Blanding’s turtles and other wildlife, it will provide a buffer to the Sousa Preserve habitat, and hopefully encourage more turtle activity on the

parcel. Blanding’s turtles travel great distances – sometimes as far as 1.5 miles – to use a wide variety of habitat types throughout their lives. We are working with MDIF&W (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) to try to provide for all their habitat needs and enough space that they are not tempted to leave the safety of the woods and cross roads – the most dangerous act in the life of an adult turtle.

After acquiring the “Sousa B” tract, we applied for and were awarded another MNRCP grant to conduct wetland restoration and habitat enhancement on the property, set to begin in the spring of 2016. MNRCP uses state and federal mitigation funds to award competitive grants for projects that protect and restore natural resources across the state.

-Amy Titcomb, Secretary



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P.O. Box 295
Alfred, ME 04002



PRESIDENT’S REFLECTIONS

It is hard to believe that 2016 is already here. Three Rivers Land Trust is now in its 16th year, and we have come an incredibly long way, thanks to our all-volunteer board and the members and friends who make our work possible. Among our achievements in 2015 was the successful conservation of 21 acres in the Alfred Walnut Hill Focus Area, adjacent to the Sousa Family Preserve, which will provide improvements to the important Blanding’s turtle habitat and future parking/trailhead access. In acreage, we’ve now protected approximately 2210 acres of public and private land through easements and own about 490 acres. However, our success in terms of wildlife habitat, scenic views, and protection of natural resources such as farmland, forests, and watersheds is immeasurable. Elsewhere in the newsletter you can read about our efforts to become an

accredited land trust, as well as our recent conservation planning meeting, in which community members joined together to tell us what matters most when it comes to land conservation, and how we can improve as an organization. Looking ahead into 2016, one of our most important goals is increasing membership through better collaboration with other groups in our communities, and reaching a wider audience through fun, family-oriented outings. (See the calendar for 2016 events.) We also plan to continue our focus on the joys of local food. Last year our “Open Farm Day Breakfast” and our “Members and Friends Dinner” both featured as many locally-grown and Maine sourced ingredients as possible. Thank you for your interest in the land trust, and your support. If you are not yet a member, we hope you will become one, and if you are, please encourage

a friend to sign up. Our work cannot continue without a strong partnership with everyone in our communities. Happy 2016!

-Jean Noon, President



BLANDING’S TURTLES AT SOUSA FAMILY PRESERVE

Last summer, board members Madge Baker (below) and Amy Titcomb received permits to assist MDIF&W biologist Derek Yorks in a survey of Blanding’s turtles on the Sousa Preserve and in other parts of the Walnut Hill region. We were excited to trap and mark numerous turtles, male and female, young and old, proving that there is indeed a thriving population in the area. In fact, the Walnut Hill region is considered one of the best Blanding’s turtle habitats in the northeast! We will continue our work to protect these beautiful and ancient creatures.



GOAT HILL TO NORTH SHAPLEIGH POND

Three Rivers has been working on a new project in Acton. One of the parcels is 243-acre Goat Hill, which was part of Romac Orchards on H Road. We have asked the town of Acton to appropriate \$100,000.00 dollars toward the purchase of 25 acres, which includes the top of the hill with 360-degree views including the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and the surrounding lakes region. This parcel would include a conservation easement with 3RLT and public access forever. The trust will need to raise an additional 75,000.00 toward the purchase of the top of the hill. We are currently looking for farmers to actively farm the remaining 218 acres

of Goat Hill, which would also have conservation easements in place. Maine Farmland Trust would be involved in this part of the project by purchasing the development rights. We have shown the property to several prospective buyers, and continue to get more inquiries. The entire Goat Hill to North Shapleigh Pond project includes 2,000 acres, with 4 miles of undeveloped water frontage and 1,850 acres of working forest land. All of these parcels are a work in progress and we look forward to conserving some of this valuable land for the future. -Carl Davis

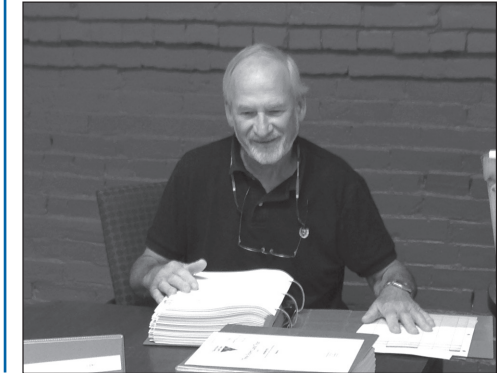
OBITUARY

We continue to mourn the loss of Bill Noon, Maine State Representative and husband of our president, Jean. In addition to being a hard-working organic farmer and a talented builder and craftsman, Bill was also a founding member of Three Rivers, and a great friend to land conservation. Both his personal and political support made a difference to the trust, and we thank all of you who made a donation in his memory.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that our application for accreditation has been submitted to the Land Trust Alliance for approval. In order to receive the certificate of accreditation, the land trust has to demonstrate compliance with 88 Standards and Practices, and the effort produced a massive amount of data. Why did we go through all this effort? We want to assure all our members and supporters that our conservation work meets the strictest standards. The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction among the more than 1,700 land trusts across the United States. Being accredited helps our land trust prove to landowners, funders and other supporters that we are trustworthy, and a good investment. Independent accreditation provides third-party assurance of quality, and publicly recognizes our land trust’s ability to protect important natural places and working lands forever. Applying for accreditation allowed us the opportunity to review and implement policies and procedures that help streamline operations and lead to more effective land

conservation. Applying for accreditation fosters continuous improvement and enables our organization to confirm that we are following national standards and meeting current requirements. Land trust accreditation is a powerful tool to strengthen land trust operations, foster public trust, and ensure the permanence of land conservation. We completed the final step of accreditation earlier this year and hope to hear that we have achieved accreditation some time this summer. -Fred Frodyma, Vice President



CALENDAR – SAVE THE DATES!

- Join us on Facebook, check our website, and add your name to our e-news list to stay informed about events, for directions, and time and location changes or updates.
- Second Saturday Saunters (informal walks suitable for most ages) are planned for the following dates this year:
- May 14 - Vernal Pools at Sousa Preserve, Alfred
 - June 11 - Williams Property, Shapleigh
 - July 20 - (rain date 7/21) canoe and kayak paddle for young people on Great East Lake, hosted by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways. Please plan to sign up in advance - more details coming soon.
 - September 10 - Salmon Falls Reserve and Gully Oven, Lebanon
 - October 8 - Shapleigh Town Forest
 - November 12 - Goose Pond Turtle Preserve, Shapleigh
- Other Events:
- Annual Meeting: Wednesday, May 11
- Three Rivers Land Trust is hosting a photo exhibit, “Feeding Maine,” in conjunction with Goodall Library in Sanford. The photos, created in partnership by Good Shepherd Food Bank and Maine Farmland Trust, is one of many grassroots projects designed to help increase access to fresh, local foods. There will be a short, half-hour business meeting beginning at 5 PM to which members are encouraged to come, followed by speakers and refreshments. Free and open to the public.
- Open Farm Day: Sunday, July 24 Join us for a hearty, local farm breakfast in advance of the Sanford Trails farm walk.
- Kite Day at Hobbs Farm for Great Maine Outdoor Weekend: Sunday, September 18

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

NEW DONORS

- Whitney Baker
- Deb Bedard
- Kim Caron
- Martha & Chris Chessie
- Charles & Dorothy Crespi
- James Cummings
- Markus Diebolt
- Katherine Drenski
- Daniel Fokine
- Grace & Mark Jacobs
- Ruth Johnson
- Bill Kilgus
- John & Debbie Klimas
- Al Lindquist
- Ann MacEachern
- Judi Reis
- Marilyn & Robert Secrest
- John Sharood
- Robert & Mary Ann Sousa
- Bridget Sprague
- Linda Thomas & Robert Meagher

VOLUNTEERS

- Mark Beauchesne
- Vicky Bugado
- Ethan, Sofia, Nadia, and Hugo
- Current
- Anna Desmond
- Nathan Gallant
- David Mann

EVENT SPONSORS

- Bee Pride, Lebanon
- Carpe Diem Coffee, No. Berwick
- Gneiss Brewing, Limerick
- Harris Farms Dairy, Dayton
- McDougal Orchards, Springvale
- Nor’Easters Kite Club, So. Portland
- Prospect Hill Winery, Lebanon
- Sanford Institute for Savings
- Sanford Jewelers’ Outlet
- The Brew Shop, Shapleigh
- Tibbetts Family Farm, Lyman
- Twin Maples Farm, Acton
- Unitarian Universalist Church, Sanford
- Wolf Pine Farm, Alfred

GRANTS

- Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program