

Membership Form

Membership Categories

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Supporting	\$50
Business	\$75
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	Lebanon	Sanford/Springvale
Carl Davis, President 636-1714 carldavis@metrocast.net	Dora Spedding 457-1244 dorajs@cyberwc.net	Sid Emery 324-5065
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Alfred Carlson 490-1646 abcarlson@roadrunner.com	Madge Baker, Secretary 324-9553 bakwil@metrocast.net	
Fred Frodyma, 459-5040 frodyma@me.com	Charles Gruber 636-1875 cgruber@metrocast.net	
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Website: www.3rlt.org

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Memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

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

Three Rivers Land Trust
PO Box 906
Acton, Maine 04001-0906



HORIZONS

www.3rlt.org

2011 Winter Newsletter

FOCUSING ON THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

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

Walnut Hill, State Identified Focus Area, Acquired



Photos of the state endangered Blanding's turtle and northern black racer, from the IF&W website.

This past December, 3RLT finalized acquisition of 88 acres in Shapleigh, including approximately 1,100 feet of road frontage along Walnut Hill Road. As previously reported in the *Horizons* newsletter (Winter 2010), the property is within the Walnut Hill Focus Area, included in Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan as a state conservation priority. 3RLT is pleased to be a part of fulfilling its own mission while at the same time supporting broader resource agency goals.

The bulk of the funding for this project has been provided by a grant from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program. This program aims to offset unavoidable impacts on protected natural resources, such as from permitted highway projects, by funding the restoration or preservation of similar resources. Fees are collected by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and transferred to The Nature Conservancy for managing the grants for projects that can offset impacts. 2010 was the first year of these grant awards, and 3RLT was one of 11 public and non-profit groups to receive an award statewide.

Three elements have made the Walnut Hill property stand out as a priority for conservation. First, the property includes high quality and rare habitats that house uncommon species in need of protection. Both the Blanding's turtle (*Emys blandingii*) and northern black racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*), listed as State Endangered species, are known to occur on the property, and there are areas

likely to contain the ebony bog haunter dragonfly (*William Sonia fletcheri*), a State Species of Concern, as well. The property contains approximately 11 acres of forested and scrub-shrub wetland habitat adjacent to headwaters of the Mousam River, as well as multiple high value vernal pool habitats.

Second, these 88 contiguous acres are within an approximately 6,000-acre area that is relatively unfragmented. Many species of animals rely on undisturbed habitat for breeding and foraging, and such large swaths of forest without substantial development is more and more difficult to find in York County. 3RLT's new acquisition is now the first permanently conserved property in this important region.

The third element was the very real and pressing threat of development. The previous owner had completed engineering plans for subdividing the road frontage into housing lots. The degree to which all lots could have made it through the entire planning process is uncertain; however, now the risk has been avoided.

An additional element of this project that has made the process particularly rewarding for 3RLT is the coordination and partnering involved. Both the Shapleigh and Alfred Conservation Commissions as well as the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 3RLT to work together and with willing land owners in preserving undeveloped lands in the Walnut Hill Focus Area. Our

Three Rivers Land Trust Receives Grant

August 24 the trust was awarded a \$10,000 pilot development grant called the "Ram Island Conservation Fund Land Trust Capacity Building Program". The grant administered by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust came from the Maine Community Foundation and will enable 3RLT to hire professional consultants to work on fund raising, marketing, and conservation land acquisition. Four Consultants were interviewed from nine applicants. The final decision is to hire Rust Communications Group from York Harbor.

The areas of concern will include gaining advice and experience with fundraising, marketing, and land acquisition. Up to this point the Land Trust has been an all-volunteer organization. As the number of our conservation easements increases, so must our capacity to fulfill our obligations to our easement donors, Land Trust members, and the community. This grant from the Maine Community Foundation will provide professional assistance towards achieving our goals.

Three Rivers land Trust was formed in 2000. Our mission is "To preserve and protect forever such valued natural resources as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, agricultural lands, woodlands, historic sites, scenic places and wildlife habitat in the inland communities of York County, Maine."

The Land Trust will work with large and small landowners in the towns of Acton, Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford, Springvale, and Shapleigh to help them preserve their open lands. If you have questions about protection of open space, contact Carl Davis at 636-1714.

Continued on Page 5

Three Rivers Land Trust



Greetings and Thanks to Recent New Members:

New Members are Welcomed:

Batchelder Brothers Insurance
Susan Collins
Peter and Elaine Beck
Stephen Cookson, Sr
Village Green LLC
Larissa Crockett and Ethan Current
Rev. John H. Cole
Steven and Mimi Daitz
Heidi and Fred Daly
Phillip and Regina Gannon
Rebecca Garney
William and Monica Grabin
Robert and Christine Hull
Dolly Hutchins
Sandy Kendal
Carol Legere
Kathy and Brian MacLean
David Angela and Gavin Maloney
Dave Mankus
Paul and Deborah Marquis
Lloyd Mason and Jean Proach
Deborah Mayo
Brendan and Susan Meehan
Lauren Meek
Wesley and Carol Morin
Eleanor Moulton
Karl Nelson
Patti Parrott
Shawn and Rebecca Perry-Hall
Jordan H. Pike
Marcel Polak
John and Martha Price
Margaret and Brian Pride
Carol Legere
Carol Benoit Reynolds
Judy and Lionel Sevigny
Thomas and Huntley Skinner
Sherman Start
Cynthia B. Swaney
Alden G. Thayer
Amy Titcomb and Fred Greenhalgh
Beth VanGorden

Common Ground: Successful Collaborations

Three Rivers Land Trust holds several easements in partnership with towns in our region. The first collaboration occurred at the 2004 Acton Town Meeting when the voters accepted title to the Mary Grant property with a conservation easement to be held by the Trust. Mary Grant had originally bequeathed the property, to be preserved in its natural state, to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. This organization contacted Three Rivers Land Trust because the property was not in the mid-coast region. Both Land Trusts, along with Mary's lawyer, and the Acton Selectmen agreed that the best way to meet Mary's wishes would be to transfer the title of the property to the Town of Acton with a conservation easement held by Three Rivers.

This was a new form of partnership for the Town to undertake. There was much debate in public hearings, right up until the time of the vote in 2004, as to the wisdom of the project. Questions were raised concerning "taking land off the tax rolls" and the notion of "the Town being in the real estate business." These concerns were addressed effectively for the majority of the voters when the point was made initially that it was in keeping with Mary's will that the property remain undeveloped. Also, the location of the thirteen-acre parcel (which is within easy walking distance of a proposed village center concept recommended in the Comprehensive Plan for that neighborhood) was sensible long-range planning. The sense of the generosity and intelligence of Mary's gift, and the Town's willingness to accept it, has been increasing since then.

In January of 2005, the Mary Grant Committee was appointed by the Selectmen to transform the property into a Town Park, later to be named the Mary Grant Nature Preserve. As this committee has grown, it has shown remarkable enthusiasm and ability in reaching its goal. Today, the Preserve is a model for volunteer effort. Funds have been raised, along with donations of services and materials, by many citizens and local businesses.

This generosity has made possible the creation of walking trails with benches and a picnic area. The initial work of Americorps volunteers and Carl Davis with his Maplestone School students

provided great help at the onset of the project. In the future, the Committee hopes to provide potable water, a vault privy, expanded trails and the possible transformation of the barn/garage into a Nature Learning Center.

The next collaborative project occurred in May of 2005, when the Trust signed a conservation easement protecting a thirty-four acre Town owned parcel on Stone Road in Alfred. The property had formerly been forested land owned by the Lavalley family of Sanford. It was conveyed to a developer in the late 1990's, who later created a major subdivision on part of the original seventy-one acre parcel.

With foresight, Alfred voters had supported a cluster development ordinance for major subdivisions, so the developer was obliged to set aside a portion of the property as open space. The developer offered the property to the Town of Alfred, which voted to accept it in March of 2004 with the details to be worked out by the Selectmen.

Prior to the final acceptance, the Alfred Conservation Commission raised the idea of placing a conservation easement on the property. The Selectmen and the developer were open to the idea, and the Trust was able to negotiate a conservation easement with the developer with input from the Selectmen. The property, with the easement attached, was conveyed to the Town. The parcel features over a thousand feet of undisturbed shorefront on the middle branch of the Mousam River. The Shaker Woods Reserve Committee, appointed by Alfred Selectmen, has worked hard to create and maintain walking trails there. The enthusiasm of those involved has been contagious. The parcel conserves a wonderful bit of riverfront and is deserving of more community support.

The third project was approved at the Shapleigh Town Meeting in March 2008. The voters overwhelmingly approved the donation of a conservation easement on the 485 acres of the Town Forest, including the Town Beach. Forty-six years prior, at the Town Meeting in 1962, the same property, formerly known as the Town Farm, was approved to come under the management of an elected Town Forest Committee. The proceeds from the sustainable management of the forest were to be earmarked for further land acquisition to

Common Ground: Successful Collaborations – Continued from page 2

enhance the Forest holdings. To date, these purchases have been adjacent parcels, but wisely, that was not made a requirement. Also, an annual \$1000 scholarship was set up on behalf of Shapleigh students planning to pursue careers in forestry or agriculture. Over time, these practices have built support for land conservation as a sensible part of long-range land use planning in Shapleigh.

Preceding the 2008 Town Meeting, the Town Forest Trustees went to the selectmen to ask for consideration of an easement to be put in place to protect the Town Forest and Beach from future development.

Some of the outstanding reasons for the soundness of this proposal are stated in the easement document as follows:

- The Town Forest will always provide a renewable resource which generates income for the Town in addition to offering a variety of recreation opportunities;
- The Town Forest, located in the watersheds of both major lakes in the Town, will always assist in protecting water quality in these heavily used and exceedingly valuable watersheds;

- The Town Forest will always abut Maine's Vernon Walker Wildlife Refuge, a conservation area of 3,950 acres in Shapleigh and Newfield, thus keeping open a large block of land for wildlife habitat and public recreation;
- The Town Beach will always be open to the Townspeople.

Some of the easement provisions are of interest as well. No development is to be permitted on the property with the exception of structures for municipal water extraction. (The parcel sits over a large aquifer.) Water usage is to be limited to Shapleigh and Acton. Commercial water extraction is prohibited. Gravel extraction is for Town use only. It was readily accepted at Town Meeting because of the common sense of the easement language in achieving a balance between conservation and the maintenance of a working landscape.

It seems evident in these three different Town/Land Trust agreements that the initial support and acceptance was, in part, due to the role that land conservation has played in the town's past. In places where sound land management has occurred, the good sense of land conservation is evident

in the quality of work of our friends and neighbors who own and maintain the orchards, fields, farms and forests in a thoughtful, caring way.

Our future work ought to build upon the goodwill generated by these existing agreements.

It's worth noting that Three Rivers was in its infancy, as an all-volunteer organization, when these three town projects were proposed and supported by the various Town Meetings involved. Members of the Land Trust were no strangers to this process as they spoke, neighbor to neighbor, at the meetings preceding the successful conclusion of these proposals. It is inspiring to see what we can accomplish when we have faith in one another, and stay engaged in our community.

Special Thanks to

Bruce Norton for field mowing at Shaker Woods. Allison Williams, volunteer monitor Shaker Woods. Carl Davis and the Maple Stone School Students John Cook, Fred Holt, Joanna Sylvester, Fred Frodyma, Joyce Wood, Rich Boucher, George Dugovic, Ray Drown and Pat Smith for maintenance on the Shaker Woods Trail summer 2010. Heidi & Ned Daly, Ray Drown, Rich Boucher and Bill Bullard helping with a joint table/display at the Alfred Festival Day with the Conservation Commission.

Roger Monthey, US Forest Service, speaker on Edible Plants. Rich Boucher, Bill Bullard, Fred Frodyma, Bill Hutchins who helped prepare for and set up for the Edible Plant Talk/Walk.

The Walnut Hill project: In addition to those thanked in past for this project, we would like to recognize the help we received from Keith Fletcher of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust in navigating negotiations, from the law offices of Ferguson & Johnson of Springvale in closing the purchase, and from Fred Holt, our Treasurer.

John & Merrilee Perkins for hosting a wonderful celebration at their mousam lake home on August 19th in celebration of the Trust's tenth anniversary.

Important Tax Benefits Renewed through 2011

(adapted from The Land Trust Alliance)

Congress just renewed the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations. As soon as President Obama signs H.R. 4853, the incentive will be in effect through December 21st 2011 and be retroactive until January 1, 2010. We'd like to say a big thank you to each and every person who made a phone call, visited their member of Congress, financially supported our work, or otherwise played their part at the local, state, or national level. Your hard work made renewal of the incentive possible and has laid the groundwork for bipartisan legislation to make it permanent.

Some details of what was extended.

The incentive, which now applies to donations in 2010 and 2011:

- Raising of the income tax deduction a donor can take for the easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50%.
- Extension of the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions from 6 to 16 years.
- If the landowner qualifies as a farmer or rancher, he could deduct up to 100% of his income - and pay no federal income tax for ten years.

These tax benefits are the most sweeping changes to conservation tax law in two decades, and offer an unprecedented opportunity to conserve wild places and working landscapes that are such an integral part of Maine's quality of life. The provisions allow modest income landowners to deduct much more than they could previously, bringing fairness to the tax code.

Voluntary conservation agreements, or conservation easements, have been a popular tool in Maine for decades, allowing families to conserve the land they love for public benefit, while keeping the land in private ownership. To learn more about these or other conservation options, please contact us or visit our website at www.3lrit.org. For more detail on the tax incentives for landowners, please visit the Land Trust Alliance website at www.lta.org.

MAINE Landowner Liability Explained

From The Androscoggin Land Trust and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program of the National Parks Service, and The Maine Coast Heritage Trust

The information in this brochure applies to individuals, businesses, non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental entities that own, manage, lease, occupy or hold easements on land. 1981

"While nothing's perfect, if you are a landowner or share a landowner's perspective on things, I bring you glad tidings."

Speaker at Maine Public Access Liability conference, September 1995

If someone comes onto my land and gets hurt, am I liable?

No, except in rare circumstances. Maine has a strong law to protect landowners, known as the "landowner liability" law (or the "recreational use" statute), Title 14, M.R.S.A. Section 159-A.

If someone uses your land or passes through your land for outdoor recreation or harvesting, you assume no responsibility and incur no liability for injuries to that person or that person's property. You are protected whether or not you give permission to use your land.

If you allow volunteers to maintain or improve your land for recreation or harvesting, you are also protected from liability for injuries to them.

What does the law mean by "outdoor recreation" and "harvesting"?

Outdoor recreational activities include: hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, sight-seeing, operating snow-traveling and all-terrain vehicles, skiing, hang-gliding, dog sledding, equine activities, boating, sailing, canoeing, rafting, biking, picnicking, swimming and other similar outdoor activities. Recreational activity also includes environmental education and research.

Harvesting includes harvesting of forest, field and marine products such as boughs, fiddleheads, and clams. You are protected even if the person using your land is harvesting the products for sale.

Of course, the law does not protect an employer from liability for injuries suffered by workers in agriculture or forestry, nor does it protect the owner who charges users for the right to harvest, such as "U-pick" operations.

Is the legal protection the same if I post my land "No Trespassing"?

Yes. As a practical matter, your legal protection is the same whether or not the land is posted.

Is it still possible for me to get sued in spite of the landowner liability law?

Yes, but it is very unlikely for two reasons: (1) a person who brings suit and loses because of the landowner liability law must pay the landowner's legal fees and court costs, and (2) the law protects landowners so clearly that there is little opportunity for the injured person to win. In fact, there has not been a single reported successful case against a landowner where the Maine landowner liability law applied.

Does my homeowner's or farmer's insurance provide me with protection from claims?

Your homeowner's or farmer's liability insurance gives you important protection. The insurance company has two responsibilities under most policies. The company has the duty to pay for the costs of defending any lawsuits brought or threatened against you (the "duty to defend"). In addition, if you are found liable in a lawsuit, the insurer has the duty in most circumstances to pay the damages assessed against you (the "duty to indemnify").

Although each insurance policy has specific coverage and dollar amount limits, most personal injury actions against landowners will fall squarely within the coverage provided by most home and farm liability policies. For all practical purposes, these policies assure landowners of a paid defense of any claims made against them and assure that judgments against them will be satisfied up to the dollar amount of the policy limit.

Be sure to check with your carrier regarding your specific coverage.

Are there situations in which the landowner liability law does not protect me from liability?

Yes, The landowner liability law does not provide protection if a person is injured because of the landowner's "malicious" failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition. "Malicious" does not mean that you must have a conscious dislike for the person. Malicious intent may be inferred when the landowner has knowledge of a highly dangerous situation, usually man-made, that would have been simple to remedy or warn against and the landowner failed to do so, knowing that people would be likely to be hurt.

Am I still covered by the landowner liability law if I charge a fee to use my land?

Maybe. In general, landowners running commercial recreation or harvesting operations on their land are not protected. For example, commercial campgrounds or ski areas cannot expect to be protected by the law.

But landowners do not automatically lose their protection if they charge fees. The landowner liability law applies to landowners who charge fees for entry as long as the land is not used mainly for commercial recreation or as long as they payment is not for exclusive use, such as club membership or rental for an event or campsite.

A Word of Practical Advice

Use common sense. Try to avoid creating or allowing clearly dangerous situations. For example, if you wish to block a road by hanging a chain, it would be a good idea to flag the chain or take some other action to make it easily visible.

Also, the best advice regarding fees is not to charge them. Otherwise, you may have to prove that the land is not used primarily for commercial recreation and that the user did not gain any exclusive right to use the land.

A Thank You Note

Nov. 10, 2010

Carl Davis
Three Rivers Land Trust
PO Box 906
Acton, ME 04001

Dear Carl,

Thanks directly to your generosity, we enjoyed a wonderful victory on November 2nd when voters approved the Land for Maine's Future bond, 59% - 41%. Together, we turned early resistance into a resounding victory. In a time of fiscal conservatism and hard choices, we made the case for prudent and timely investment in Maine's natural resources.

It was encouraging to see so many Maine voters cast their ballots in favor of land conservation and protecting our natural resource based economy. In fact, with some 300,000 yes votes, Question 3 received the most votes of any issue or candidate on the statewide ballot.

The \$9.75 million conservation bond will be put to work to protect Maine's most precious places, to help support working forests, waterfronts and farms, to improve the State's much loved parks and historic sites, and to help local citizens to retain the character of their towns.

This success would not have been possible without your support. On behalf of the Citizens to Save Maine's Heritage Campaign, thank you for your ongoing commitment to conservation and for your generous donation to the Campaign.

Best wishes,

Thomas Ireland
Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Wolfe Tone
The Trust for Public Land

Barbara Trafton
The Nature Conservancy

Citizens to Save Maine's Heritage 1 Bowdoin Mill Island Suite 201, Topsham, ME 04086

Steering Committee: Appalachian Mountain Club, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Island Institute, Maine Audubon, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Natural Resources Council of Maine, The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy.

This brochure was prepared by the Androscoggin Land Trust with assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service; the trial group at Skelton, Taintor & Abbott, P.A.; Maine Coast Heritage Trust; and many other individuals. The publication was funded through the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (Symms Act).

The information contained in this brochure is only a summary. Please consult a lawyer for more detailed information and advice specific to your situation. You may also contact the landowner relations coordinator in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife who works with landowners and land users on issues of access (207) 287-8091.

Fall-Winter Nature Notes from Pat Smith (Annaclette) of Alfred

This time of year is an excellent time to see red fruits in the woods. Most people are familiar with the bright red berries seen on shrubs wherever there's an area wet enough. They are mostly Winterberries -Ilex verticillata and/or its less common cousin Ilex laevigata. These had quite small white flowers last spring in the leaf axils.

There are also lots of red berries underfoot in the woods. Partridgeberries (Mitchella repens) and Wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens) are ripening now. The red berries of wintergreen will be even larger and less dry in the spring after over-wintering. The partridge berries are edible but they are small, mostly seeds and have little flesh with a mild taste.

One nickname for partridge berry is "two eyes". This comes from having two blossom ends on the fruits. The two blossoms they produced last spring were joined together at their base and they form a single fruit in the fall. Both the wintergreen and partridgeberries persist through the winter. So, with their evergreen leaves and red fruits, they present us with the holiday season's colors of red and green.



Wintergreen - Gaultheria procumbens
Photo by Annaclette

Partridgeberry Mitchella repens
Photo by Annaclette

Winterberry-Ilex verticillata
Photo by Annaclette

Three Rivers Land Trust Book Corner

Need something to read? Browse through the titles in the “Three Rivers Collection” at the Springvale Library. Those interested in natural history might check out any books by David Carroll, and artist and author who lives in Warren, New Hampshire. Swamp Walkers Journal is an excellent introduction to wetland ecology with Carroll as a thoughtful guide.

For an overview of land conservation nationally, consider Eric T. Feryfogle’s book The Land We Share. He clarifies the issues concerning property ownership and rights, and discusses possible solutions to longstanding land-use conflicts. If you need a winter elixir, try Mary Oliver’s work in Thirst. If you are wandering over to Goodall Library, the book Twentieth Century New England Land Conservation, ed. by Charles H. W. Foster. This work considers land conservation in New England from a historical perspective. The various essays reveal how land conservation has developed in New England. There is thoughtful discussion on how our regions land use patterns have evolved.

Also from Goodall Library look for Ben Hewitt’s The Town that Food Saved. Mr. Hewitt’s story of how the town of Hardwick, Vermont is emerging as an agrarian hub of activity is of relevance to our own agricultural community’s growth.

SHAKER Woods Talk/Walk Edible Plants (featuring Mushrooms)



Photo by Fred Frodyma Oct 23, 2010

It was a clear and sunny morning (yes, a bit chilly- call it brisk) on October 23rd 2010. About twenty people gathered at the Alfred Town Hall to hear Roger Monthey of the U.S. Forest Service talk about the identity of many mushrooms some of which he likes to eat. Roger brought his beautiful photos of locally found mushrooms as well as posters, handouts, his favorite field guides, and actual samples for us to examine.

Roger and Pat had made a preliminary walk of Shaker Woods on the 20th. Roger had gathered a few fresh samples to identify and included photos of those in his presentation. He explained that positive identification often requires a spore print be taken. This is done by taking the cap off the mushroom and

placing it gill side down on a sheet of paper (usually overnight). The spores will drop onto the paper. The spore’s color is an important identifying characteristic of many mushrooms.

After Roger’s talk, we met down at the Shaker Woods Reserve Property and walked down the trail looking for more mushrooms and identifying some of the plants. Roger will be sending us a list of those he was able to identify. These will be added to our plant list in the Shaker Woods’ files.

We want to thank Roger for giving so generously of his time and sharing his knowledge and expert identification techniques. We all agreed we needed to do this a little earlier in the season as the leaves on the ground in the fall make it

harder to spot the mushrooms. Still we did find quite a few, learned a lot about them, and everyone enjoyed the lovely fall walk in the woods.

Mushrooms we saw included these groups: Boletus, Lactarius, Russula, Cortinarius, and Polypores. Also, we found a specimen of Grayling (Cantharellula umbonata) which makes a new addition to Roger’s collection of photos.



Photo by Fred Frodyma
Shaker Woods October 23, 2010
Roger Monthey-on Mushrooms

Walnut Hill, continued from pg 1

increased collaboration with these and other organizations is helping us grow and prepare for future projects.

3RLT will manage the property primarily for wildlife habitat use, but will allow appropriate recreation and will explore options for another party to hold a conservation easement as added security. The locally known Breakneck Hill Trail passes through the property, and it is anticipated that people will continue to enjoy walks and snowmobiling through its woods. In the future, we may also coordinate with educational and research groups to take advantage of learning opportunities afforded by the special habitats.

Stay tuned for further updates and events related to this exciting new chapter in 3RLT’s growth! Of course, with the added responsibility comes additional work required of our all-volunteer organization, including trail maintenance and stewardship reports. If you would like to help with the management of this property, through volunteer work or donation, please contact Martha DoByns or another Board member listed on the back of this newsletter.



Old bridge within Walnut Hill property acquired by 3RLT in December.

The Three Rivers Land Trust was founded in 2000 and serves the towns of ACTON, ALFRED, LEBANON, SANFORD / SPRINGVALE and 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. It’s Mission is “To preserve and protect forever such valued natural resources as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, agricultural lands, woodlands, historic sites, scenic places and wildlife habitat, in the inland municipalities of York County, Maine.” 3RLT has successfully completed 10 easements that protect over 1,575 acres. Currently there are several more easements in the works for at least 450 more acres. For more information visit the web site www.3rlt.org or call 324-3733.

Annual Meeting Set

Mark your Calendars
You are invited to
3RLT's Annual Meeting
February 9
(snow date 2/23/11)
6:00 PM
at the Springvale Library.

Special Guest Speaker will be
LaMarr Clannon, Maine NEMO
(Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Coordinator.

Her topic will be
“Small Town Growth in Maine”
How it happens without folks noticing,
what it does to green spaces and water
resources, and ways to engage a town in
protecting their rural resources.

Volunteers needed!

We are looking for volunteers.
We could use help monitoring
properties, maintaining and
building trails, writing press
releases, planning events,
working on outreach,
fundraising, etc. Contact us at
www.3rlt.org or 636-3582.

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

Oakhill Alpaca Ranch
Shapleigh 793-3414

The Noon Family
Sheep Farm
Springvale 324-3733

McDougal Orchards LLC
Springvale 324-5054

Wolf Pine Farm CSA
Alfred 324-2357

Berry Best Farm
Lebanon 457-1435

Applegate Deer Farm
Shapleigh 793-8677

Ridley's Farm Store
Shapleigh 636-1068

Lavigne Strawberry Farm
Sanford 324-5497

Rivard's Blueberry Farm
Springvale 324-5566

Carpenter's Christmas
Tree Farm
Springvale 324-6869

Annette's Gardens,
Perennials
Springvale 324-0331

Springvale Nurseries
Springvale 490-5543

Kelly Orchard Inc
Acton 636-1752

Notre Dame Institute
Alfred 324-6612

Shapleigh Knoll Farm
Shapleigh 247-6948

Shain's Farm Stand
Sanford 324-1567

Blueberry Hill Farm
Acton 457-1151

Sanford Farmers Market
Gowen Park
Saturday 8-12:00

Two Toad Farm
252-1103
www.twotoadfarm.com