

Membership Form

Membership Categories

Individual\$15

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 Carl Davis, President 636-1714 tarda@psouth.net Tom Cashin 636-3582 tomcashin@psouth.net Marc Jeton, Treasurer 636-2863 mcjet1@metrocast.net Dick Neal 636-3205 ran@metrocast.net	Alfred Al Carlson 490-1646 abcarlson@roadrunner.net Pat Smith 490-1771 mail@annaclette.net Shapleigh Madge Baker, Secretary 324-9553 bakwil@metrocast.net Martha DoByns, V.P. 636-3834 mdobyns@hotmail.com Charles Gruber 636-1875 cgruber@metrocast.net Bill Hutchins 636-2737	Sanford/Springvale Sid Emery 324-5065 Jean Noon 324-3733 noon@metrocast.net Glenn Wildes 324-3698 gkwildes@gwi.net

Website: www.3rlt.org

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Thank you for your support.



HORIZONS

2009 Summer Newsletter

FOCUSING ON THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

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

A Note for Eleanor Loija

Eleanor Adams Loija and W. Edwin Loija purchased an old farm property in Shapleigh in 1967. According to Eleanor, they had been looking for a place for many years. By the time they were shown the farm by Donald Folsom, the 1947 fire had burned over some of the woodland, and the old farmhouse, they believe built in 1857, had been mostly destroyed by a structure fire. Nevertheless, they fell in love with the property and it became their permanent home in the early 70s. Ed gave their Farm the Finnish name Rauhamaa, meaning “peaceful land.”

The farm sits on top of a ridge on the Back Road in Shapleigh. Eleanor and Ed knew the value of the farm’s soil for agriculture and forestry. The obligation to maintain and conserve the fertile soil and abundant water resources of the farm was integral to their life. From the start, the Loijas made certain the fields would be maintained through use. They also nurtured a remarkable variety of fruit trees, berry bushes, and grape vines, as well as cultivating a large vegetable garden. Eleanor once estimated that the open land was close to 70 acres.

Their farm also encompassed well over 200 acres of wooded land after the Loijas purchased an adjacent parcel in 1971. The forest was managed sustainably with the help of professional foresters. The forest

provided them with firewood and marketable timber. It also was home to a much-loved assortment of animals and plants. When visiting, one would often hear of a recent sighting of a special bird or creature, and would be asked to come along for a walk or ski along a woods trail. The summer bobolinks knew the truth of the farm’s name, as their nesting area in the lower field was never cut before they had raised their young.

Eleanor was a member of Three Rivers from our beginning. The necessity for conservation of the land and its natural resources was second nature to her. When she was no longer able to attend our evening meetings, the organization elected her as an Honorary member of our Board of Trustees. In addition, she made an extraordinary gift to the Trust. It became the foundation of our Stewardship Fund, which supports our ability to uphold conservation easements in perpetuity. A few years prior to her death on July 17, 2009, she conveyed their beloved farm to the capable hands of Stephen Eastman, a fellow Three Rivers Land Trust member. Stephen has been a Shapleigh summer resident for many years with long-standing family ties to the community. He hopes to become a Shapleigh resident in the future by making the farm his homestead.

We will miss Eleanor, but our sadness is diminished by the knowledge that Stephen will continue the tradition of the “peaceful land.”

Important Conservation Tax Benefits Extended for Landowners

(reproduced and adapted from Maine Coast Heritage Trust)

Recent federal legislation temporarily extends tax benefits to Maine landowners considering voluntary land conservation agreements such as conservation easements.

In brief, federal law includes the following enhancements for landowners who grant a conservation easement before December 31, 2009:

- 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 5 to 15 years.
- Allowing qualifying farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to deduct up to 100% of their income each year.

Under the previous law, a landowner with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement valued at \$500,000 could take a \$15,000 deduction for the year of the donation (30% of AGI) and an additional five years - a total of \$90,000 in tax deductions.

The extended law allows that same landowner to deduct \$25,000 for the year of the donation (50% of AGI) and for an additional 15 years - a total of \$400,000 in deductions. 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.3rlt.org. For more detail on the tax incentives for landowners, please visit the Land Trust Alliance website at www.lta.org.

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

Annual Auction to Conserve Farm, Forest, and Field Lands

Three Rivers Land Trust is making preparations for its fifth annual auction to be held on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13. This event will be held at the McDougal’s Farm, on Hanson’s Ridge Road in Sanford.

This two-day event provides Three Rivers Land Trust with the resources to help fulfill our mission; “To preserve and protect forever such valued natural resources as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, agricultural lands, historic sites, scenic places, and wildlife habitat in the inland communities of York County, Maine.”

The auction will contain many items – old and new – many of which were donated by local businesses and area residents. Items will be sold by silent auction, and select items will have a “buy it now” price as well. You can find great bargains and at the same time help one of your local land trusts improve the quality of life in your community.

Enjoy with us some of the latest work by local artisans. Taste local foods supplied by the York County Farmers Network, a community of farmers and others dedicated to the support and promotion of local agriculture. There will also be a selection of desserts to put a finishing touch on your meal. Kids can enjoy face painting by a local make-up artist and a hayride through the fields and orchards.

The hours for the event are: Saturday, 1 – 5 pm, with food and dessert from 3 – 5, and Sunday, 11am – 3pm, with dessert served from 1 - 3 and music provided by the Southern Maine Pickers. There is a \$10 entry fee, good for both days, free admission for those under 18 years.

Please join us at McDougal Orchards for an exciting auction, great food and music, all in support of the landscape you care about. If you would like to donate any items to the auction, please call Carl Davis at 636-1714.

Shaker Woods Wildflower Walk



S. Norton (Falmouth), A. Knight (New Hampshire), Dick Bateman (W. Waterboro), Joyce Wood (Alfred).

On Saturday, June 6th, the Shaker Woods Reserve Committee and Three Rivers Land Trust sponsored a Wildflower Show and Walk in conjunction with National Trail Day. The Shaker Woods Reserve is owned by the Town of Alfred and protected by a conservation easement held by 3RLT. Pat Smith, liaison to the Shaker Woods Committee representing 3RLT, gave a slide show presenting wild flowers seen in our local area in the springtime. Richard (Dick) Bateman, a local Audubon Society member from Waterboro, volunteered to help with bird identification.

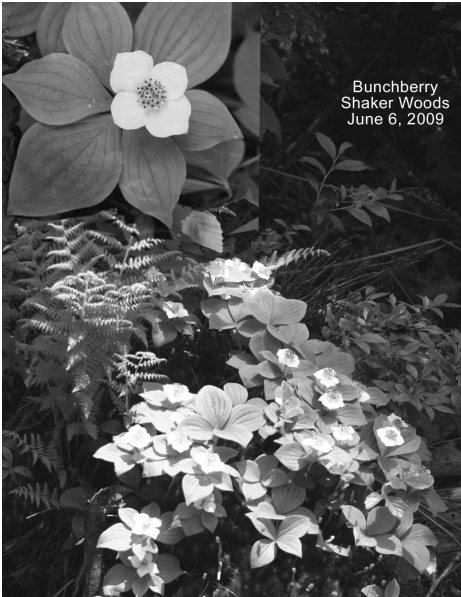
After the slide show at Town Hall, we carpooled to the trailhead and walked along the Shaker Woods Trail, making lots of stops to take photos and talk about the wildflowers. Dick told us that the loud call we were hearing was a Pileated Woodpecker, which we later glimpsed through the trees. We heard calls from warblers, chickadees and thrushes, though we didn't get to see them close up. Dick also heard the sound of the kingfishers near the river. We discovered the tracks of a very large moose who has been using our trail, tracks from some deer, and a dusty scrape that might have been made by birds having a dust bath. The boardwalk crosses a vernal pool where we spotted salamander and frog eggs.

Many of the flowers that were in the slide show were blooming, including the Canada Mayflower, Common Cinquefoil, Blackberries, and Dewberries. On the

water we saw Spatterdock, in the field, Goatsbeard. We saw the red fruit from last year on partridgeberry, with its two eyes. We saw flowers just opening on shrubs, Viburnum cassinoides (wild raisin); and on huckleberry and blueberry. These provide lots of fruits for various wildlife to eat.

We found both Lanceleaf violets and Macloskii violets; the white baneberry and sarsaparilla were in bud but not quite open. We saw the distinctive leaves of the native orchid Goodyera pubescens (which flowers in Aug.) and many leaves of Painted Trillium and Clintonia, but the flowers of those two had gone by. There was a single Pink Ladyslipper still flowering amid the leaves of many others.

The day was enjoyed by all who attended. Special thanks to Bruce Norton for mowing the path to the trail and around the parking lot. Thank you to Pat Smith and Dick Bateman for sharing their knowledge and love for nature!



Photos by Joyce Wood, modified by Annaclette

Summer plans for Shaker Woods include cleaning out dead brush and leaves from the “boat landing” and placing a sign there that will be visible from the water. There is a great knoll to the right of the landing for a lunch stop and access to the trail is nearby. We also hope to update markings on portions of the trail, making it a little easier to navigate.

If anyone has any questions about the trail or would like to become a member of the Shaker Woods Reserve Committee, please call Joyce Wood, Chairman, at 324-5872, or call Pat Smith at 490-1771.

Three Rivers Land Trust



A Thank You to our Volunteers

We’d like to thank:

Nathan Cortright, an Eagle Scout from Troop 320 in Shapleigh

For his work to organize the ongoing maintenance of the Shapleigh Town Forest Trails.

Zane Davis of Acton, Yoli and Eric Gallagher of Acton, Yoli’s father Jim Lefebure, and Shapleigh selectman Charlie Mullens

For their help on the Shapleigh Town Forest Work Day.

Margaret and Randy Kleinrock

For hosting our Garden Tea fundraiser in June to support of our stewardship fund.

Trust Successful with Two Grant Proposals

The Three Rivers Land Trust recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Baker Foundation to apply toward proposed easements on a total of 450 acres of farmland. This grant will be used to help several local farms obtain easements to protect their lands from development and preserve their soils for future agriculture.

The Maine Community Foundation grant of \$3,157.00 is from the York County Fund and will be used for a part time executive director of the land trust. For 25 years, the Maine Community Foundation has been partnering with donors and community groups to strengthen Maine through grants and scholarships. For more information, visit www.maineef.org or call 1-877-700-6800.

The Three Rivers Land Trust was founded in 2000 and serves the towns of Acton, Alfred, Sanford-Springvale, and Shapleigh. Covering an area of 215.4 square miles, or about 17,856 acres, this area is the last region of York County to establish an organization that is committed to providing assistance to citizens interested in conserving their property. 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.” 3RLT has successfully completed 8 easements that protect over 1,430 acres. Currently, we have several more easements in the works for at least 450 more acres.

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

Bernier’s Egg Farm
Sanford 324-5608

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