

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 carldavis@metrocast.net Tom Cashin 636-3582 tomcashin@psouth.net Dick Neal 636-3205 ran@metrocast.net Alfred Al Carlson 490-1646 abcarlson@roadrunner.net Pat Smith 490-1771 mail@annaclette.net Fred Holt, Treasurer alfhtreasurer@roadrunner.com	North Berwick Martha DoByns, V.P. 636-3834 mdobyns@hotmail.com Shapleigh Madge Baker, Secretary 324-9553 bakwil@metrocast.net 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

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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
FOCUSING ON THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE
Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) • Post Office Box 906 • Acton, Maine 04001-0906

www.3rlt.org

2010 Winter Newsletter

Noon Family Sheep Farm Finally Protected!



On December 16, 2009 the final closing of the sale of the development rights of this 70 acre Springvale Farm was achieved. This easement was purchased from the Noons as part of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resource’s Farmland Protection Program. Maine’s Department of Agriculture purchased the easement with funding from the Land for Maine’s Future Program (LMF) and the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). The purpose of the easement is to forever conserve the agricultural and forestry productivity (including prime and important agricultural soils, agricultural viability, and natural resource values), open space, scenic values, and all other natural resource values of the Protected Property for present and future generations.

The easement has been donated to Three Rivers Land Trust by the Maine Department of Agriculture, and Three Rivers Land Trust will assume all stewardship and enforcement responsibilities for the parties to the easement purchase agreement. As part of the settlement the Noons have made a calculated donation to the trust's stewardship fund.

The Protected Property consists of all the forested and agricultural lands. The forest is managed as productive woodland. The agricultural lands are used currently as

pasture and hayland for sheep. The easement does not permit public access to the Protected Property. It does permit the addition of one farmstand along Sunset Road or Blanchard Road.

Farming is an essential component of the rural quality of life. Farming is vital to providing fresh quality locally raised products to local residents. These days, when developments have taken over much of the region, it is difficult to find enough open farmland in close proximity to be able to farm profitably. The Noons also hay an additional 30 acres on two neighbor's farms in the Deering Farm Belt. They are proud to know that their fields and woods will remain open space forever, to be enjoyed by passers by.

"We started learning about land preservation over twenty years ago, and always have felt strongly that we would like to protect our property. We would like to thank all the people in the trust who helped us realize our dream, especially Carl Davis, President and Madge Baker, Secretary. The process has been quite difficult, it takes hard decision making and sacrifice. Thank you citizens of Maine and the United States who provided the funds through Land for Maine's Future Fund, and The USDA Farm and Ranch Protection Program. These are important programs and need everyone's support as they come up to be voted on again next year." - Jean Noon

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 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 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.

Focus on Walnut Hill

Three Rivers Land Trust was just awarded one of the first round grants from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program. We are working to purchase a property in the Walnut Hill Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance. This is a 2,260 acre region that includes properties in Alfred, Sanford, and Shapleigh, Maine, and that has been included in Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan as a state conservation priority. As well it is contiguous approximately 4,000 acres of unfragmented forest, fields and wetlands. It is truly a significant unfragmented block in York County. The dollar amount of the grant is in negotiation with the State, the Land Trust, and the owner of the property.



**REMINDER:
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
ARE DUE!**

**In an effort to keep things
simple we try to have
memberships run with the
Calendar year.**

Please renew ASAP.

Berry Best Farm Easement



The decision to create a conservation easement for our farm was influenced by events in the past. Both of us developed our personal land ethic somewhat differently. Christine grew up on our farm and worked closely with her parents helping in the poultry barn, working with the Standardbred horses which the family raised and raced, and learning how to manage blueberries and peaches. John was raised in suburban Connecticut and through Scouting formed an early interest in the natural world, doing lots of camping, fishing and trapping. We met each other in college where Christine began her degree work in Animal Science.

John found his niche in the field of forestry.

Summer forestry jobs in Idaho led us to eventually move to the Pacific Northwest where John worked with the U.S. Forest Service in the Oregon Cascades. We lived with our young family surrounded by magnificent forests and prime agricultural land, especially when we were stationed in the Hood River Valley. Our family recreation consisted of lots of time spent camping, picnicking and hiking in the high country.

In 1967 an opportunity arose allowing us to return to New England, specifically New Hampshire, where John obtained a position teaching forestry at UNH. This move enabled us to help Christine's folks at the farm on a part-time basis. John began his practical farming education working side by side with his father-in-law Herbert. Both Herb and Natalie (Christine's mom) worked full-time on the farm and generously shared their knowledge and experience with us. While raising our family over in Strafford, New Hampshire we also kept a family cow, some beef, pigs, turkeys, chickens, a saddle horse, and even a goat. Along with tending a large garden we learned how to become quite independent.

In 1997 we moved to the farm in Lebanon and built our home. We are grateful to be living here at the farm, immersed in the cycle of the seasons and in the daily challenges of keeping the cropland and woodlot productive. The early arrival of woodcock in the blueberry fields; the coming of bobolinks looking to nest in the hayfield; and the wintertime howling of coyotes in the woods reminds us how closely we live with the natural world which surrounds us at the farm.

Over the recent decades we've watched the accelerated development of what was once good farmland. The loss and fragmentation of so much farmland has concerned us deeply. Christine's parents have both passed on but they left us a legacy of land stewardship that we plan to continue. Both of us realize that all who have the privilege of owning a farm are really just transient caretakers. Our responsibility is to ensure that the next generation, or the generations following will have the same opportunity to live close to the land. This is the essence of why we have decided to donate our development rights to Three Rivers Land Trust. Chris & John Bozak

Land Trust Receives 12 Acres of N. Lebanon Land From Adele Franson

On September 22, 2009, **Three Rivers Land Trust** (www.3rlt.org) was the recipient of a parcel of land located on Prospect Hill Road in North Lebanon, directly south of and behind the Prospect Hill Cemetery on the shoreline of the Salmon Falls River.

The gift process dates back to June 11, 2007, when the Land Trust was contacted by the owner Ms Adele Franson. Ms Franson, a resident of Florida, had recently inherited the 12-acre woodlot located off Prospect Hill Road in Lebanon from her mother, Marie Haselton. It had been owned by the Haselton/Tanner/Kendall family for several generations. Since Ms Franson never visits the property any more, she felt she would like to keep it in its unspoiled character. It was at this time she contacted Three Rivers Land Trust to say she would like to donate it if they would agree to protect it and keep it as open space. "The land, I'm told, was bought as a gift to my grandmother Marie Kendall and her husband Algen Kendall by Waldo Tanner a son by a previous marriage. My grandmother and grandfather had bought their home in the 1920's and the land was bought in the 1930's. My aunt Adele Tanner willed this property to my brother

Kenneth Haselton, who willed it to my mother and I. The land is dear to me. I haven't seen all of it, going there only to help my brother clear the brush. I know it's in good hands, which is a gift to all who appreciated it." -Adele Franson

When Land Trust members went to visit the property they found a small gem. Because it is located out of the way, it has never attracted much attention and only a few people know it exists. Those who know about it enjoy the walk through the woods for the scenery and to fish. There are no marked trails or evidence of anything except foot traffic. Land Trust directors quickly agreed that the Trust should accept the gift.

Three Rivers Land Trust held an acceptance celebration and opening to show the residents of Lebanon and others this special gift on December 12, 2009. We have decided to call the property **The Salmon Falls Reserve**. Plans are underway to improve the trails for hiking.

The Land Trust will be adding a trail from the Prospect Hill Road access to the existing trail along the river. We will be looking for volunteers to work on this project in late spring. Most of this land is mature forest that

has not been cut for many years. The trail work will be relatively easy although there are some steep slopes to traverse. If you are interested in helping on this project contact Carl Davis at 636-1714.

Lebanon is a special community and an area where we would like to have a greater presence. We invite residents to join the Trust and share with us our goals of preserving open space in this portion of York County. As we presently have no members from Lebanon on our Board, we would extend a special invitation for interested residents to visit one of our meetings which are held at the Springvale Library Conference Room on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:45pm.

FEBRUARY 10 6:30 Downstairs at the Springvale Library ANNUAL MEETING TO FEATURE GUEST SPEAKER MELISSA BRANDT ON THE ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE. Also the meeting will feature Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports on 2010, and election of board members for the coming year(s). The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

Three Rivers Land Trust



We'd like to thank:

To **McDougal Orchards** for hosting the Auction. **Genest Concrete, Charles Gruber, McDougal Orchards, Charles Nickerson, Esq. Anita and Virgil Pitstick, Ronald Phillips Prevoir, Springvale Hardware** for sponsoring the Auction.

Robert Ferguson for legal help with the Salmon Falls Reserve, **Dora Spedding** for agreeing to monitor the Salmon Falls Reserve.

Ellen Tarbox for creating the 2010 3RLT Calendar.

Shaw's Hardware, One Earth Natural Foods, Ridley's Farm for selling the calendars

The Walnut Hill Project: **Martha DoByns** Vice President for leading; **Marcel Polak**, Maine Association of Conservation Commissions for work; **Fred Frodyama** Alfred Conservation Commission for support at the Public Meeting on Walnut Hill Project; **Steve Walker** from Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife for support on Walnut Hill Project.

Madge Baker for multitudes of legal work that is vital to the Land Trust on all of the projects.

For work and support on the Noon Project: **Stephanie Gilbert** Farmland Protection Specialist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; **Carl Davis** for seeing the Noon Project through; **Hope Hilton** MDAFRR; **Tim Glidden** MDAFRR; **LouAnna C Perkins** Maine Farmland Trust; **Donna Johnson** of Ferguson & Johnson.

2010 Marks Ten Years of Land Trust Success and Ten Easements

Ten years ago during a busy period of land development in south-western York County, some local residents were becoming increasingly concerned about the loss of viable farm, forest and wetland to commercial and residential development.

Inflated land values and market pressures were causing farms and orchards to convert to house lots and working forests to be put on the auction block, sold and liquidated.

There was an increasing imbalance between the hopes of many land owners to maintain "rural Landscapes"(and the way of life that made it possible) and growing ambitions of some land developers to reshape the landscape primarily to maximize their profit, and to meet the needs of an "emerging household market" For example, during the decade of 1970s Acton's population grew by 76% and the eighties saw 66% additional growth according to the US Census Bureau.

Any discussion of sustainable growth mindful of the necessity to conserve our rural resources: Prime farm and forest soils; lakes; rivers; streams; and wetlands, with their respective wildlife habitats intact was too often ignored by ambitious developers. Short term goals of "housing needs" and jobs in the construction industry were said to trump the long-term "impracticable" goals of land and water conservation in the region.

Natives and newcomers alike were concerned and appalled at the growing sprawl of poorly planned residential development, with its inherent disregard for the fabric of a community and its natural resources. They realized a remedy was needed beyond the wringing of hands in discouragement and disbelief.

Following the early guidance and encouragement of Paul Schumacher of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and Tin Smith from Great Works Regional Land Trust, a small group of local citizens convened in early 1999 to meet monthly and more to discuss their concerns and to come up with some solutions. These initial residents were from Acton, Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford/Springvale, and Shapleigh. These individuals were and are actively involved in land conservation, land use planning as volunteers and professionals. Discussions covered the value of the landscape environmentally, for wildlife, recreation, water quality, views, quality of life, and the working landscape of farms and forests locally and regionally.

What was needed was a vehicle that was

locally based, sensitive to the concerns of individual landowners and supportive of the values held by the community concurring the landscape we all call "home". After much discussion and research we agreed to form a regional land trust to serve central-west interior York County, a region that did not have a land trust at the time. This was the birth of the Three Rivers Land Trust which has proven itself as an effective way to address the needs of local landowners and communities in assistance in devising conservation agreements or easements which secure the hopes and dreams of those who care for the land at present and wish to protect it for the future. Tom Cashin

Thanks to this group of founders and the new directors and the great support of many members we have grown and evolved for ten years to the present. We will be celebrating this benchmark of progress with several special events this year.

Our annual meeting will be held downstairs at the Springvale Library February 10, 2010. At this meeting we will review our year, have an informative presentation on the Longhorn Beetle, elect our directors and share refreshments with all who attend.

April 26 we will celebrate earth day with a gathering of all our easement holders. Keep tuned for further details. Further events are in the planning stages and we would appreciate any suggestions.

We are humbled by your faith in our ability to fulfill our mission and a little in awe of the progress we have been able to achieve with your help.

Over 1600 acres have been preserved to date. We are very proud of this achievement, but the task continues. We continue to need your help and the help of your neighbors. We need to increase our membership in order to increase our capacity and hopefully hire some support staff to work on several important farm preservation projects. Or we need to find volunteers willing to commit to the efforts this work requires. Please come forward if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, from walking and/or maintaining trails to working on signage, to managing events, to working on mailings, to finding more members amongst your friends, to baking cookies. Come to any meeting, second Wednesday of the month 6:45 downstairs at the Springvale Library.

Visit our web site: www.3rlt.org

Thanks again for your support and we hope to see you soon.

IN 2009 THE LAND TRUST RECEIVED A \$5,000.00 GRANT FROM THE BAKER FOUNDATION AND A \$3,157.00 GRANT FROM MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) received a \$5,000 grant from the Baker Foundation to apply toward the land trust's 450 acres of farmland project. This grant will be used to help several local farms obtain easements to protect their lands from development and protect 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.

**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

Bernier's Egg Farm
Sanford 324-5608

Springvale Nurseries
Springvale 490-5543

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

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