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Website: www.3rlt.org

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

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Three Rivers
Land Trust



HORIZONS

www.3rlt.org

2012 Fall Newsletter

FOCUSING ON THE CONSERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) • Post Office Box 906 • Acton, Maine 04001-0906

News from Hobbs Farm in Acton



The Three Rivers Land Trust has leased 35+/- acres of field land at the Land Trust owned Hobbs Farm to Nils Pearson of Maplestone Farms in Acton. Over the period of the five year lease, Nils proposes to improve the 15+/- acres that have patches of invasive species; mutliflora rose,

Asian bittersweet and juniper. Other native shrubs and trees that have encroached on the fields are to be removed along with larger rocks that are in the way of field work. Nils and his crew have been using a bulldozer with a root rake to remove this debris. He mentioned the scarcity of small rocks as a sign that extensive cultivation has occurred in these areas in the past.

Recently, Nils has been working with his excavator around the old barn site. There are many large rocks in this area that he thinks are pieces of the old foundation. He plans to reuse these in the boundary walls of the surrounding area. Once the debris and rocks are removed, Nils proposes to bring in a large bog harrow to cut the sod and roots.

These fields will then be leveled out and reseeded with various cover crops to ready them for a productive hay crop in the coming years.

It’s good to see these fields being brought back to working farmland. It feels good to be part of an organization like Three Rivers that’s involved in this conservation work in our community. Our thanks go out to the community members who have been supporting our efforts especially our directors; Jean Noon, Carl Davis and Glenn Wildes who have taken a leadership role on this project. We hope the Laskey and Hobbs families would be happy with this restoration work on their former homestead.

Photo courtesy of Glenn and Betty Wildes

The Rivard Farm: Community Support Needed for LMF Bond Vote 11/6/12

The Rivard Farm LLC is a popular well-known farm and family in the community of Sanford/Springvale. If preserved it will increase the awareness and benefits of farmland protection and ease the transition of the farm to a younger generation. Farmlands that provide locally-grown fruits, vegetables and meat marketed directly to the consumer are a high priority for Three Rivers Land Trust land protection program.



From left to right is Roland, Annette, Doris, Irene, Diane, Linda and Gerard

Photo courtesy of the Rivard Family

protected properties are working forests, benefitting the local economy. The easements also include a component for trails, wildlife and environmental education of local communities.

Protecting the future of Rivard Farm matters because it is a popular family farm in a 3RLT focus area, producing high quality food in a very attractive, healthy environment, easily accessible to a large population.

A Message from the Rivard family:

Rivard Farm has been a contributing element to the agricultural character of the Sanford-Springvale area for over 85 years. Rivard Farm is one of the oldest pick-your-own operations in the region, and is frequently

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Acton, Maine 04001-0906

PO Box 906

Three Rivers Land Trust



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visited by local and regional visitors of all ages during the berry season. It is for this very reason that the children of Gerard Rivard have made it both their short and long term goal to preserve the farm’s 99 acres with a conservation easement through the Land for Maine’s Future program. While partnering with Land for Maine’s Future will ensure that the rural farming character of the neighborhood remains intact, it will also help expand the network of conservation lands, including farm lands, in York County, and most importantly, maintain a quality local food source within the community.

In November please remember to vote to support the Land for Maine’s Future Funding (LMF)!

Our immediate objective is to use the grant funds to assist in the necessary costs of completing the conservation easement. With this assistance, the funds will significantly help the farm maintain its financial stability while offering opportunities to invest in profitable farm expansion ideas. The family’s long-term goals include using our commitment, knowledge, and experience to develop a farm business plan that will help ensure that the farm’s sustainability remains intact. Not only will this project support our community and the network of farmers located within the region, it will also strengthen the Three Rivers Land Trust’s ability to manage additional agricultural lands in their focus area.

Short-term goals identified by Rivard Farm include expanding the variety of fresh fruit and vegetables offered to our on-farm customers and at local farmers markets. With the potential for crop and market expansions, Rivard Farm represents a perfect example of how diversity can be a key factor in maintaining a farm’s sustainability. In addition to increasing the number of pick your own berry varieties, new ideas are being explored, including season extension with the use of hoop houses, building a farm stand, marketing fruit and vegetables at local farmers’ markets, and evaluating our potential to sell our products to local restaurants. All these ideas continue to evolve as we incorporate lessons learned and new ideas obtained through networking and workshops. The family’s success in implementing these ideas will be very important in ensuring the continued longevity of the farm, and provide the ability to continue networking with other farmers who share a similar goal of providing healthy, local food options for our community.

The Rivard Farm property is significant, both locally and regionally, as the long-term pick-your-own operation has contributed to the health and character of the local community. Many loyal customers visit Rivard Farm from mid-July through early September to pick berries every year, and the experience is a source of enjoyment for families and people of all ages. The Rivard Farm also supports satellite farm stands by offering volume

picking for those vendors to retail at their own stands, and berries are also offered at local farmers markets. The farm is a popular tourist attraction for residents of Maine and out-of-state tourists. The Mousam Way Trail abuts the southern property line, and Gerard has offered fishing privileges at his 2-acre irrigation pond on a case-by-case basis.

Gerard had the help of his 8 children to assist in the farming duties from the 1950’s through 1989, when the youngest child left the farm to pursue other interests. Since that time Gerard has been running the farm with the help of his wife Theresa, and at age 85 and 87 they are finally considering retirement. Through the interests of his children, Rivard Farm recently received a grant to write a business plan for the farm from the Maine Department of Agriculture.

The Rivard Farm is first in line for funding when LMF funds are released. The Farm contains prime farmland soils of statewide and local significance. It also contains a high value wetland for wading birds, rare reptiles and dragonflies. Across the road is another farm with 70 acres already protected by easement with LMF and Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program funding. Within about one half mile there is an additional 100 acre protected “Hall Environmental Reserve”. Two miles away is situated the 284 acre McDougal Orchards LMF/FRPP protected Farm in the Deering Farm Belt.

The Deering Farm Belt is an area of about 2000 acres of mostly remaining working farmland with prime farmland soils. This region is recognized by the towns of Sanford and Shapleigh to have local agricultural significance. The center of Sanford/Springvale (pop.~22,000) is less than 3 miles away.

This farm is also in the Salmon Falls Watershed with springs and streams that feed into the Little River that feeds into the Salmon Falls River and the Piscataqua Estuary. For more info see www.prep.unh.edu.

Three Rivers Land Trust scores each property it accepts for an easement with a “Prioritization Worksheet”. The Rivard Farm received the highest score of any of the properties considered to date.

As a volunteer Land Trust we sincerely hope you will support the protection of this Farm so it can be maintained and passed to the next generation. This is an important project for the sake of the greater community, local food, clean air and water, agricultural viability, wildlife, and the recreational opportunity it provides.

The Importance of Membership

A larger membership shows community support which helps with acquiring grant funding and raising our visibility throughout our region. Additional financial support will eventually allow us to hire staff. With paid staff we will be able to expand our work and conserve additional precious acres for future generations to enjoy.

With additional resources we will be able to conserve more properties like the Hobbs Farm in Acton and the Salmon Falls Preserve in North Lebanon. We will be able to continue work on projects like Forest Works! – the York County Working Forest Protection Project that aims to converse privately owned wooded land in a ten town region in Northwestern York County. We will be able to continue to conserve these open spaces and preserve the unique landscape of our region.

Your membership is essential to our success and we cherish and are thankful for your support. If you have not already, we hope you will join or renew your membership today.

Finally, we also hope you will tell your friends and family about Three Rivers Land Trust. Tell them why the organization is so important to you and encourage them join as well.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Volunteers & Thank Yous

Thanks to...	Day Parade.
Melissa Brandt for coordinating the owl presentation at our Annual Meeting.	Nathan Gallant of the Shapleigh Conservation Committee for all his good work clearing the trails at the Shapleigh Town Forest.
Madge Baker and Pat Smith for organizing a number of walks at the Walnut Hill Property.	Fred Frodyma for all his work and involvement getting us started with the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative. Fred also helped us secure a technology grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for a computer and a scanner.
The Rivard Family and Glenn Wildes for their hospitality and help at Open Farm Day at Rivard’s.	Madge Baker for taking up the task of straightening out our records in anticipation of us starting the land trust accreditation process.
For their help at Alfred Festival Days: Fred Frodyma, Pat Smith, Al Carlson, Alfred Conservation Commission, Heidi Woolever Daly and our Float Participants and Organizers: Lee Burnett, Heidi Woolever Daly, Fred Frodyma, Carl Davis, Chad and Nick Liston, Dora Spedding, Glenn Wildes, Kathleen Neuville, Kelcy and Read McNamara, and Chris, Rob and Colm Hull.	Madge Baker, Al Carlson, Tom Cashin, Heidi Woolever Daly, Carl Davis, Pat Hutchins and Bill Hutchins for their help at the 3RLT Display at the Acton Fair.
Charles Gruber, Madge Baker and everyone who helped at the 3RLT Display at the Shapleigh Community	Jean Noon for all her work as Board President of Three Rivers Land Trust.

**Three Rivers
Land Trust**



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.”*

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.



photo courtesy of Chris and John Bozak

Potluck Announcement

The annual Three Rivers Land Trust dinner will be a potluck affair Friday, September 28 at Berry Best Farm, the farm of Chris and John Bozak, Colburn Drive off of Center Road, Lebanon, beginning at 5 pm. It will be preceded by a walk at 4pm to visit the working forest and the “pick your own” farm. The Land Trust has held an easement on their farm for several years. John is a member of the Board of Directors. It is a wonderful place to visit. All are welcome.

Sunset Cruise

Last year Jane and Dan Archambeault donated to our fundraising auction a sunset cruise on Mousam Lake. Board member, John Bozak, and his wife, Chris, won the cruise. The sunset cooperated. Three Rivers is very grateful to all of them for their contribution to our Trust.

New Members Since Last Newsletter

Lee & Gail Burnett
Robin Cobb
Thomas Collins
Richard & Nancy Carter
Joffre & Rita Daigle
Pastor Joe Everett
Mike Gaito
Sandra and Roy Hutchinson
Daniel Krainin & Amy Woolever
Chad Liston

N. Grace Lowenberg
Gavin Maloney/Late Light Farm
Mary Lou McDonnell
Kelcy & Read McNamara
Merilee Mapes Perkins & John Perkins
Kim Shutsky
Stanley & Arlene Smith
Edward & Amy Wertheim

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

Annette’s Gardens, Perennials
Springvale 324-0331

Applegate Deer Farm
Shapleigh 793-8677

Berry Best Farm
Lebanon 457-1435

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

Sanford Farmers’ Market

Have you noticed how bustling the Sanford Farmers’ Market has become?

Since moving to Central Park in the downtown this year, the number of vendors has doubled to a dozen or more and foot traffic has increased noticeably. Discounts are available for seniors with Senior Share cards and for low-income residents with EBT cards.

It’s great to see support for local farms growing. Farming is a challenge, especially in southern Maine.

Folks at the market are very aware of the strong link between local agriculture and land conservation, as

I discovered from talking to several of them. Putting a conservation easement on a property can make land made permanently available to farming while lowering the cost to farmers.

“Preserving local farmland is very high on our list of goals,” said Mary Beth Stocking, who brings a gorgeous bounty of produce to the market. She and her partner Jordan Pike run Two Toad Farm on leased acreage in Lebanon. “The price of land is a big obstacle to new farmers getting into it,” she said. “People can’t really afford land as a farm anymore.”



Three Rivers Land Trust folks can take pride in playing a part in sustaining local agriculture. The trust holds conservation easements on the Berry Best Farm in Lebanon, where John and Chris Bozak grow peaches and blueberries, and the Jones Farm in Lebanon, where Roger and Karen Ridley pasture cows and grow tomatoes and corn. Two other local farms have conservation easements in place: McDougal Orchard in Springvale, where Jack and Ellen McAdam grow apples and other fruit, and Noon Family Sheep Farm in Springvale, where Jean and Bill Noon raise sheep.

We can all do more by shopping at farmers’ markets. In addition to Sanford, there’s the Newfield Farmers’ Market at 19th Century Willowbrook Village and the North Berwick Farmers’ Market at the North Berwick Town Hall Parking lot.

“Coming to the farmers’ market helps land conservation because it creates a community around food,” explains Heidi Woolever Daly. She and her husband Ned raise Sheep in Alfred. “This is an agricultural region historically. People want to see it continue. When people come to the farmers’ market they are participating in part of the solution, keeping land in a productive state.”

Photo courtesy of Madge Baker

ForestWorks! Update

The Forest Works! project is up and running. Outreach coordinator Lee Burnett has been educating landowners and town officials about the benefits of keeping woods as working forest. Both a brochure and a website (www.forestworksme.org.) have been produced. Presentations have been made in Waterboro, Newfield, Alfred and Acton. A series of classes will be taught through RSU 57 adult ed this fall. In addition, Burnett and others have worked with owners of large properties in Lebanon, Newfield and Alfred who are interested in creating legacies with their woodland. All this

focused activity has impressed the Forest Legacy Committee in Augusta, which is poised to amend its boundaries and make forests in our region eligible for federal Forest Legacy funding, which would be a tremendous boost. A decision is pending.

Thanks to the Forest Work! Steering Committee members: Joe Anderson, York County Soil and Water Conservation District, Greg Caporossi, Trust for Public Lands, LaMarr Clannon, Maine NEMO, Keith Fletcher, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Fred Frodyma, Alfred Conservation

Commission, Bill Hutchins, Shapleigh Conservation Commission, Roger Monthey, US Forest Service, Jean Noon, 3RLT, Hilary Wallis, Francis Small Heritage Trust, Everett Towle, Alex Mas, The Nature Conservancy. Thanks also to: Terry Walters of Hollis, Donald Mansius, Maine Forest Service, Ken Canfield, Maine Forest Service, Steve Walker, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Judy Camuso, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the project consultants: Lee Burnett, Marcel Polak, Maine Association of Conservation Commissions and Mike Gaito.