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Three Rivers Land Trust

and mail them to:

11 Oak St., Suite 8, Alfred, ME 04002 Phone: 207-324-3733

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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**



Established 2000

HORIZONS

www.3rlt.org

2015 Spring Newsletter

FOCUSING ON THE CONSERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) • 11 Oak Street, Suite 8 • Alfred, Maine 04002

GREAT MAINE OUTDOOR WEEKEND AT Hobb's FARM

With the days getting longer and the temperatures slightly warmer, March 1 was a perfect day to head outside and embrace the positive side of Maine winters – beautiful days with deep snow for playing in! Nearly 40 Mainers bundled up to enjoy the Three River's property at Hobb's Farm in Acton, as part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend celebration (postponed from the originally scheduled event two weeks prior, due to severe weather). There was snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife tracking, and lots of chatter and hot-cider-sipping by the campfire. Amid laughter, teasing, and stepping around the wildly-playing dogs, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants whose ages spanned 7 decades. If you missed it, don't worry – the property is open to the public year round, so come check it out!

The 170-acre property was donated to Three Rivers by Christine Arnold in 2011. It is comprised of fields and forests, a Revolutionary War cemetery, and a picturesque pond; abutting the parcel is a large wetland complex of high conservation value, known as the South Acton Swamps. Nils and Patty Peterson lease the fields for haying, and are also working to combat the invasive species that conquered the fields in the years it



was not managed. A sustainable forestry project is underway in part of the forest, courtesy of the students at the local MapleStone School.

In addition, the extensive woodland now houses a growing trail network, thanks to the hard work of board members, volunteers, and missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). LDS youth worked weekly through much of 2014 cutting and clearing the trails, which now wind in a 2-mile loop, including a wetland overlook and the "Ent Loop", a meandering path through some massive pines that beg to be climbed, and call to mind the fantastic tree-like giants of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

The five-year plan for this property includes more trails, an outhouse, and a picnic spot. Board member Larissa Crockett says that Hobb's Farm "represents the very best of what a land trust can accomplish - partnership with a local farmer, scenic views, historical monuments, and trails and open space to be enjoyed throughout the year by the community." We are so happy to see the many ways this property is being utilized and enjoyed by the community, and we invite you to become a part of it... 677 Foxes Ridge Road in Acton, 0.4 miles northwest of County Road, open year round!

-Amy Titcomb

DISPATCH FROM THE MAPLESTONE SCHOOL

The MapleStone School (maplestone.org) in Acton is a non-profit special purpose school providing innovative approaches to education to assist students who require an alternative learning environment. They have been experiencing logging first hand at the Hobb's Farm.

The Forestry group at MapleStone is very excited about a logging project we have been working on this year, called the Stump to the Mill project. On this project, MapleStone students are involved in every aspect of the job, learning the industry of logging. The Forestry class is very excited and thankful to be working with Carl Davis and Three Rivers Land Trust

who put this educational project into motion. So far, the class has met with a professional forester, who recommended specific tree removal. The removed trees will be brought to mill while the other trees will be left with more sunlight to improve tree health and growth. The class has begun to use logging skills such as tractor management, chainsaw use and teamwork skills. In the month of January, we felled 30 trees and cut them into logs for the mill. There is a lot more work to be done and we are very excited about it. We are very appreciative of the Three Rivers Land Trust and Carl Davis for this opportunity.



Three Rivers Land Trust
11 Oak St., Suite 8
Alfred, ME 04002



PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

2014 was another memorable year for the land trust. Probably our most dramatic change was in the increased frequency of public activities. Starting out as First Friday Forays, we invited friends and members to visit a different one of our easement properties each month. It became evident that working folks were missing out and would appreciate Saturday outings, so we moved to Second Saturday Saunters. These have been hosted by various directors and attended by all ages of enthusiastic hikers. Do watch the website and our emails, and come out to join us!

Our land protection efforts have enjoyed success with thanks to a grant from The Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP). We hope to close in March on 24.26 acres in Alfred, adjacent to the Sousa Family Preserve, that includes 4.06 acres of forested fresh water wetland, .92 acres

of shrub-shrub freshwater wetland, 2 acres of vernal pool, 700 feet of stream, and 19.28 acres of upland buffer, a perfect Blandings Turtle habitat, and an opportunity to develop a couple of parking spaces off the road for visitors to the Preserve. This parcel will provide the trailhead and dryer access to the Sousa Preserve.

Recently the Directors met to accept a slew of policies as we move closer to our formal application this year for Accreditation. This is a huge effort that requires careful attention in aligning our policies and procedures with ten standards that have been developed by The Land Trust Accreditation Commission (lta.org). This will achieve external verification that Three Rivers Land Trust is meeting national quality standards to increase public awareness of, and confidence in, our land trust and land conservation for the future.

Thanks go to all of the terrific Directors,

our development Director, Ruth Gutman, and all of our supporters. Without your support, the boat would not float!

-Jean Noon, President

Jean Noon



UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 13th, 6:00 PM, downstairs at 21 Bradeen Street, Springvale: Please join us for a discussion with some of our local makers of beer, mead, cider, and wine, with a tasting afterward. All are welcome. A brief business meeting will be held before the presentation, beginning at 5:30 PM.

Open Farm Day, Sunday, July 26th, Springvale: The farm-to-farm trail walk we joined in on last year in conjunction with Sanford Trails was a resounding success, so don't miss out on this innovative experience of walking cross-country to visit some of our local famers and growers. The Trust will be hosting a breakfast to start off the day.

Our condolences go out to the friends and families of H.R. Neuville, an accomplished artist and husband of our board member Kathy, and Sidney Emery, a founding member of the trust with a lifelong interest in forest conservation, who both passed this year. They will be greatly missed.

QUIET PLACES MAPS

Need a handy guide to local recreation and trails? You can purchase maps at our events and many local businesses, including:

Acton Trading Post, Acton
Apache Campground, Sanford
Bike & Ski Generation, Sanford
Boonies Inc, Shapleigh
Gile's Family Farm, Alfred
Keepin' It Local, Shapleigh
Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford
One Earth, Shapleigh
Parker Boathouse, Shapleigh
Springvale Hardware Co., Inc., Springvale
Springvale Library, Springvale
Wilbur G. Shaw Hardware, Sanford



THE HUTCHINS FOREST

A property in Shapleigh the Land Trust recently protected with a conservation easement is the 125-acre Hutchins Forest. Pat and Bill Hutchins bought the parcel from Bert Stanley in the 50s. They wanted to live and raise their family in Shapleigh in part because Bill's antecedents had been early Shapleigh homesteaders on the Hooper Road. That homestead passed out of the family a number of years before, and Bill did not think it had the quantity and quality of land he wanted, but Bert Stanley's land did.

What attracted the Hutchins to this land was its suitability for forest management. The parcel's soils are appropriate for growing harvestable timber, and the forest is readily accessible from town maintained roads.

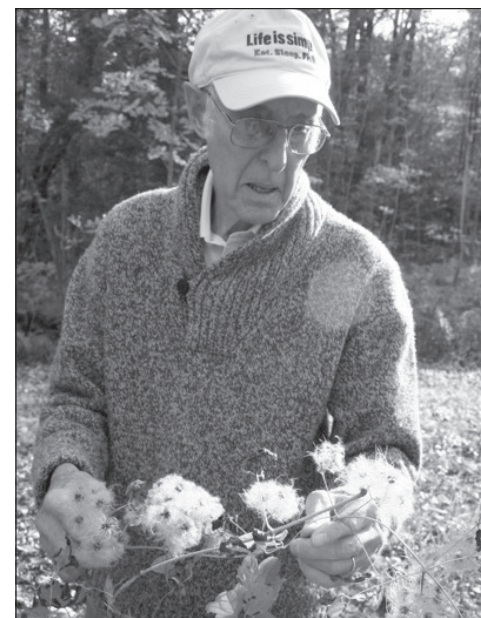
At the outset, Bill began planting White Pine, Norway Spruce, and a variety of shrubs to attract wildlife. As Bill became familiar with the forest he found numerous hard maple trees and before long he

began making and selling maple syrup. Nevertheless, his principal goal was to manage the forest for profitable timber production without destroying wildlife habitat. To that end, the Hutchins had their woodlot Green Certified by the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System.

The parcel includes part of one large wetland in the Pump Box Brook watershed. The conservation easement, by limiting future fragmentation of the parcel, will help protect the brook's water quality, the largest watershed feeding Mousam Lake.

The Land Trust is very grateful to Bill and Pat Hutchins and their family for ensuring that this parcel will continue to produce valuable timber, protect wildlife habitat, and conserve water quality. Theirs is a very generous and foresighted gift to our town.

-Madge Baker



THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 ANNUAL DINNER SPONSORS:

**Jewelers' Outlet of Sanford
Kennebunk Savings
Sanford Institution for Savings
Gile's Family Farm
Shaker Pond Ice Cream
McDougal Orchards
Springvale Nurseries
Twin Maples Farm**

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK OUR NEW MEMBERS:

**Anonymous
Joe & Sue Barbarino
Jane & Mark Bastey
Craig & Dawn Daigle
Estes Lake Association
Michael Frodyma
Nathan Gallant & Family
Scott W. Gerry
Carolyn Mark
Daniel & Ella Richardson
Mindy Roseman & Vin Liota
Jan & Ron Sacco
John Sharood
David & Sue Small
Richard Stevens
Martha Strohl
Thomas Zotti**

**AND THE FOLLOWING:
Maine Community Foundation,
Land Trust Alliance
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Davis Foundation
1772 Foundation**

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?

There are many reasons our members choose to support Three Rivers Land Trust. Some are interested in conserving land for environmental reasons – undeveloped land helps preserve our clean air and water. Some are concerned about wildlife habitat – they enjoy bird watching or want to know that our endangered species find a place to thrive. For some it's about maintaining a way of life – hunting, fishing, forestry, farming, and the related pursuits of bee keeping, maple sugaring – all require that open spaces and farms

continue to exist.

There is another reason, though, and it has to do with the Japanese concept of *shinrin-yoku*, or the Norwegian alternative of *friluftsliv*. These translate, respectively, to “forest-bathing” and “free air life”. What they mean is that the human spirit requires time in nature in order to recharge, to reduce stress, and to keep us from illness. This isn't about exercising; it's simply about being outdoors, away from human activity, sharing time with nature, quietly alone, or with your family.

Apart from all the good reasons listed above to be a land trust member, this is the least specific, and probably most important, to my way of thinking. The land we own is always open to the public, and this ensures that all families in our communities have access to forest bathing and free air life, whatever their circumstances. Everyone deserves a big backyard: So become a member for your own benefit, and become a member to benefit others in your community. Let's make sure we all have a chance to enjoy the bounty nature can bring us, for generations to come.

-Ruth Gutman

**Three Rivers
Land Trust**



*Would you be interested
in serving as a board
member or volunteering?
Please get in touch!*