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

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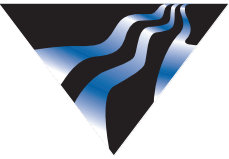
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Three Rivers  
Land Trust



Established 2000

HORIZONS

[www.3rlt.org](http://www.3rlt.org)

2017 Spring Newsletter

Building stronger, healthier communities through land conservation

Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) • P.O. Box 295 • Alfred, Maine 04002

SAVE GOAT HILL

The breathtaking view from Goat Hill in Acton features spectacular views of the surrounding lakes and farmland, and in the distance the snowy peak of Mount Washington (on a clear day!); Three Rivers Land Trust has set out to protect this view, and this special place, for future generations. In 2016, we embarked on our most ambitious conservation project – and largest fundraising campaign to date – to save Goat Hill and Romac Orchard. The project’s goal is to protect the hilltop for public recreation, and the rest of the orchard for farming and forestry.

The moderate climb up Goat Hill culminates at a hilltop picnic spot under cathedral pines, with unique views of the region. Thanks to the generosity of Gordon Waterman, owner of Romac Orchard, this area has long been accessible to hikers and cross-country skiers. But with Gordon’s retirement and sale of the orchard, the future of the hilltop is in peril. Three Rivers, in partnership with the Town of Acton, aims to permanently protect this landscape, and public access to it, by making the 25-acres on and surrounding the hill into a town park, open for all to



Goat Hill Picnic

enjoy for many generations to come!

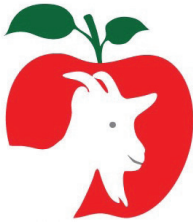
In tandem with the project to save Goat Hill, Three Rivers partnered with Maine Farmland Trust to also protect the remaining 240 acres of orchard and forest. This parcel will be sold to a farmer with a conservation easement, which will prohibit housing development except for farm-related structures, and preserve the fields, forest and soil for farming and sustainable forestry only.

Currently, Three Rivers is still awaiting word on the status of a \$118,000 grant request to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Award of the grant will bring us to within \$20,000 of completing the fundraising. The project has already

garnered strong community support with funds raised from the Town of Acton, local foundations, lake associations, and – most importantly – generous individuals throughout our community.

Thank you to all who have participated. We are so inspired by the outpouring of donations, and excited to wrap up this capital campaign! For more information about the project or to join the effort with your own contribution, please visit our website at [www.3rlt.org](http://www.3rlt.org), or call Ruth Gutman at (207) 370-4191.

- Lee Burnett  
(Forest Works!)



THREE RIVERS GIFTED A NEW OFFICE

For the past three years, Three Rivers has been using office space at the Beehive building in Alfred. Through the generosity of owner Rick Menelly, we have had the use of this facility, including utilities, free of charge. We thank Rick for this opportunity.

In October, long-time land trust member Donna Jacobsen, of Alfred, donated the house at 235 Swetts Bridge Road, along with two acres of land, for the land trust to use as its permanent office. Because of its proximity to the Littlefield River, we have decided to call it “The River House.” In addition to the house itself, Mrs. Jacobsen donated stewardship funds to help the land trust with routine bills and upkeep. We are extremely grateful for Mrs. Jacobsen’s generosity to us.

After some renovations this winter, we plan to move into our new space this summer. The house was built in the 1970s, and some of the utilities, such as the furnace and hot water heater, may need to be replaced with more efficient units. The trust will be seeking grant funding and donations to offset the cost of these items.

Now that we are an accredited land trust, it’s even more important for us to have a permanent place to store our records and hold our meetings. With the additional two acres of land, the trust will be able to host events and activities on the property. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for updates in the coming months.

-Fred Frodyma, Vice President



New Office – Jacobsen Closing  
(pictured, Fred Frodyma, Bob Jacobsen, Donna Jacobsen, Jean Noon, Fred Holt)

Three Rivers Land Trust  
P.O. Box 295  
Alfred, ME 04002







Charles Gruber and Bill Noon

As I ponder our land trust's evolution over the last year I am really quite impressed. Here are some highlights:

- Achieved accreditation with The Land Trust Alliance (LTA.org) with help from the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative;
- Accepted and closed on our new roots, *The River House* in Alfred, a most generous gift from member Donna Jacobsen;
- Launched our first capital campaign for the Goat Hill/Romac Orchard project;
- Increased our membership;
- Held several outdoor family events that are growing in attendance and popularity on our protected properties including two Great Maine Outdoor Weekends at Hobbs Farm, our annual meeting in May, a locally sourced breakfast to kick off the Springvale Farm Walk, and a potluck picnic at Goat Hill in October;
- Completed stewardship visits and reports on all fifteen of our easements and holdings.

So today I am especially thankful to all of the board members, volunteers, and Ruth Gutman, our development director, for the many hours and contributions that have brought all of this to pass.

On a sadder note: we said goodbye to Charles Gruber (12/14/16). Charles was a member of the Trust's Board of Directors since the Trust's inception in 2000. Charles knew what was important for our success: Good personal relationships with the people who

## PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

wanted the land trust to steward their property; the need for reaching out to find new members and supporters; the importance of a solid bottom line; and his vote to spend when

the land trust needed expertise along the way, or to accept responsibility for exceptional property even if it would end up costing the land trust hard-earned dollars.

In Shapleigh he was our principal easement monitor. He enthusiastically and faithfully oversaw the Trust's monitoring responsibilities in Shapleigh year after year. He knew all the landowners and maintained relationships with them throughout the years. He recruited at least one other person to accompany him on his monitoring walks; he wrote up each annual monitoring report for the Trust's permanent files; he took photographs of property conditions if he found a reason to add photographic documentation to the Trust files; and he made sure to record any changes that occurred on the property since the

easement was last visited. He truly enjoyed his stewardship responsibilities and took pride in what the land trust has accomplished in its first 16 years.

We will miss Charlie and all the volunteer time and thought he gave to the trust. We miss him as an enthusiastic friend with whom we had warm personal relationships. We will miss his humor, attention to detail, and wisdom.

Happy New Year,  
*Jean Noon*  
-Jean Noon, President



## OBITUARIES

### Charles Gruber 12/14/16

See president's letter above.

### Harvey Weiss 10/17/16

On October 17, Three Rivers lost another of its founding members, Harvey Weiss. Harvey was recruited in 2000 to serve as the land trust's first volunteer treasurer and bookkeeper. He stayed until he had instituted a professionally accepted system for keeping the nonprofit's financial records, and the land trust had found a replacement volunteer. He then moved on to help many other nonprofits that could benefit from his expertise and support, including the Sanford Farmers' Market. For the rest of his life, he and his wife, Shirley, remained enthusiastic members with whom we looked forward to exchanging cheerful greetings at our meetings and fundraisers.

### Ron Burke 5/24/16

Our friend and supporter Ron Burke died on May 24. In an artistic career that spanned more than six decades, Ron was both a studio potter and educator. In 1973 he and his family moved to Shapleigh where he built his studio in the former dairy barn attached to his home. Ron estimated that he made by hand and sold more than 34,000 clay objects, mostly stoneware vessels, but also sculptures and bath and kitchen accessories. His work has been featured in museum, gallery and studio exhibitions across North America.

Liberal in his political beliefs, Ron was active in the Democratic party and supported social justice causes. He crafted bowls for the York County Shelter for a multi-year project supporting the organization's annual volunteer appreciation dinner.

Those who knew Ron remember him for his joyful smile and welcoming spirit.

## TREE IDENTIFICATION IN WINTER

In a growing stand of trees, most of the drama goes on above our heads. There is constant interaction among the trees, as each competes for a piece of canopy space. Looking at the crowns of forest trees, you can read the story of how the forest is developing. But in the summer when the leaves are out, if you look up all that you'll see is a mass of green. Winter is the time to go out in the woods and see what's really going on.

Of course, seeing the trees without the leaves presents another problem: How do you tell what kind of tree you are looking at? Evergreens are no problem, of course, because they look the same at any time of year. Some kinds of deciduous trees are easy too – it's hard to mistake a paper birch for anything else. But other types can be hard to identify when all you are looking at is a tall grey trunk with branches high overhead. Recently I was out on a walk with some friends, helping find sugar maples for them to tap. We did a lot of standing, heads tilted back, trying to tell red and sugar maples apart. There was even one ash tree that would have had a tap in it if we hadn't taken a second, closer look.

There are three markers to look at it when trying to identify trees in the winter: the bark, the buds, and the branches. First, look at the bark of a tree. This is the easiest to see but also the least definitive of tree characteristics. Certain trees do have very distinctive bark that makes identification easy: the paper birch and the ash are good examples. But others are not so easy. Different species of maple are difficult to tell apart by their bark, and young black birch and black cherry can be very confusing. Use the bark as your initial screening in identifying forest trees, picking out the obvious ones before looking at other characteristics to figure out the harder trees.

Buds are one of the most useful features for identifying trees. By looking at their shape, size, color and arrangement on the branch, you can usually make a positive identification of a tree. Buds are the best way to tell

sugar maples apart from red maples, for instance. A full discussion of identifying northeastern trees from their buds would be too long to print here, but the Maine Forest Service publication, "Forest Trees of Maine," is an excellent resource for this (especially the newer edition with photographs instead of drawings).

In a full-grown forest it can be hard to find a bud close enough to the ground to examine. Rather than trying to identify an eighth-inch bud fifty feet above your head, you can look at the tree's branching pattern instead. All trees display either opposite or alternate branching. In opposite branching, smaller branches appear off of a larger one in pairs, one on either side. In alternate branching, as you might expect, branches appear individually, first on one side of the large branch, then on the other. By learning which trees display opposite or alternate branching you can often narrow down the possibilities of what a tree might be. A less cut-and-dry piece of evidence is what botanists sometimes call "branch architecture." These are simply the distinctive patterns of growth that different trees display. It's hard to describe exactly, but with practice, for example, you can learn to distinguish the upright, thinner branching of a maple from the more twisted and thicker pattern of an ash.

While it might lead to a little head scratching, identifying trees in the winter will help you develop your naturalist skills. And if you do find one you're just not sure of, make a guess, remember it, and come back in the summer to look at the leaves and see if you were right!

-Nal Tero



Tree identification

## THREE RIVERS LAND TRUST RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

After a great deal of work by our all-volunteer board of directors, Three Rivers Land Trust was granted accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance in August 2016. Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation, signifying its confidence that Three Rivers Land Trust's lands will be protected forever.

"It is exciting to recognize Three Rivers Land Trust with this distinction," said Tammara Van Ryn, executive director of the Commission. "Accredited land trusts stand together, united behind strong ethical standards ensuring the places people love will be conserved forever. This network of land trusts has demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership and lasting stewardship of conservation land."

Almost 15 million acres of farms, forests and natural areas vital to healthy communities – an area about the size of the state of West Virginia – are permanently conserved by accredited land trusts. Accredited land trusts have protected five times more land; are five times more likely to monitor 100% of their easements each year; are five times more likely to have a baseline documentation for each easement; and have significantly more money to defend and steward their holdings.



Achieving accreditation is a huge milestone in Three Rivers Land Trust's achievements. The rigorous accreditation process, a three-year challenge for the board, has helped us implement standards and practices that ensure uniform and fair procedures for our land transactions and record keeping. Three Rivers is a member of the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative and its help was critical in pulling this data together.

We join more than 350 accredited land trusts across the nation, which demonstrate their commitment to professional excellence through accreditation, helping to maintain the public's trust in their work.

- Fred Frodyma, Vice President



We appreciate our members, volunteers, sponsors, and grant funders! Thank you for helping us grow our membership – the backbone of our organization.

### NEW MEMBERS & DONORS:

Ed Alberts  
Edward Anthony  
Jay Arbelo  
Steven Beckwith  
Robert Cheever  
John & Lisa Cook  
Nancy and William Deans  
Geoff Del Sesto and Sherry Culver  
Darrell DeTour and Angela Martin  
Douglas & Charlene Dyson  
Barbara Felong  
Doug and Jane Ferguson  
John Flood and Patricia Perkins  
William & Mary Gannon  
Kirt and Maureen Gillum  
Brandon Guzman  
Rachel Haft and Jeff Brown  
Renee Hembrough and Kent Haake  
Michael Hodge  
Ken Karnofsky  
Janice Keefe and Paula Edmonds  
Lane Kistler  
Malathi & Steve Kistler  
Margaret Kleinrock  
Debbie & Scott Lansberry  
Jennifer and Jason Lansberry  
Greg & Michelle Lawrence  
David & Beth Lynch  
Nancy Maloney  
William & Nancy Marshall  
Jeanne & Arthur McEvoy  
Elise & Mark Miller  
Earl Morrison  
Thomas and Debra Otis  
Martha Pennell  
Dana Peterson  
Roger and Claudette Poor  
Sharyn & Wayne Reetz  
Bill & Donna Rosenkrans  
William & Regina Sherman  
Margaret Sitarz  
Joe Barbarino  
Bill Stone and Carolyn Mark  
Ernest and Candace Sutcliffe  
Susan Tamulaitis and Pamela Kosinkski  
Joel Tessier  
The Morton Foundation  
Wilson Lake Association

## 2017 CALENDAR – SAVE THE DATES!

Join us on Facebook or visit our website for other events throughout the year.

Annual Meeting – Wednesday, May 10th  
Open Farm Day – Sunday, July 23rd  
3rd Annual Kite Festival – September TBD  
Members & Friends Gathering – October TBD

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It's hard to believe this will be my fourth year working for Three Rivers Land Trust, and I'm really proud of how far we have come! In 2016 we reached 202 members, a new record for us. This is due in part to the wonderful outpouring of support we've received from our new connections with the members of our local lake associations. The Goat Hill/Romac Orchard project has been a big leap forward for the land trust in lots of ways. We'd like to especially thank the **town of Acton and its selectmen**, **Wilson Lake Association** for its generous donation, and **Square Pond Association** and **Great East Lake Improvement Association** for their ongoing support.

Thanks also goes to the following:  
**McDougal Orchards** in Springvale for once again letting us host our farm walk breakfast in their barn; **Harris Farm** for letting us purchase their delicious milk and cream at wholesale prices for the breakfast; and to long time member and former board

member **Dora Spedding**, who after many years of stewarding the Salmon Falls Reserve in Lebanon is stepping aside; **ReVision Energy** for helping with the electrical issues at our new office; and **Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program** for its contributions to the **Albert J. Sousa Family Preserve**.

In addition to our hardworking board of directors, there are many other volunteers who have baked, cooked, and helped out at our events. Thank you for your dedication and for making us a better organization! Board Member **Larissa Crockett** of Acton has stepped down to undertake her new job in Scarborough as assistant town manager. Larissa was the driving force behind our participation in Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, and a wonderful steward to the Hobbs Farm in Acton. She and her family contributed so much to the land trust and they will all be greatly missed.

-Ruth Gutman

### 2ND ANNUAL KITE DAY

Three Rivers held its second annual kite-flying event at Hobbs Farm in Acton at the end of September in honor of Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. We had over 70 attendees, including a few adults who had never flown a kite before, and many children. We offered a lunch of chili, baked beans, cornbread, and desserts. Our friends at South Portland's Nor'Easters Kite Club joined us again this year bringing a variety of kites and helping our attendees get their kites in the air.

New life was breathed into the event by a wonderful and unexpected donation from Mrs. Phyllis Schneider of Gray, ME, whose husband Clayton was an enthusiastic kite collector. Upon his passing, Mrs. Schneider and her daughter, Pam Pinkoski, were looking for somewhere to donate his extensive collection. They got in touch with the trust through Nor'Easter's Kite Club, and we were thrilled to be able to accept the collection. Now, instead of three kites to share, we have more than we could possibly get in the air at one time, and some

to give away, as well. There are some really interesting kites that we will need to learn how to "pilot," as well as many suitable for everyday flying. Members Philip (a kite flyer himself) and Elizabeth Yakubec were kind enough to take the time to help us begin sorting through the collection.

Thanks to everyone who joined us on that beautiful fall day – we look forward to our 3rd annual event in 2017!

-Ruth Gutman



Dory & Marlin, Photo by Ralph Reed



## TRADITIONAL SKILLS AT HOBBS FARM

In October, Three Rivers hosted a traditional skills event at Hobbs Farm in Acton. The event was one of many throughout the month sponsored by Forest Works for a new initiative called "Take to the Woods October." From standing timber to final product, attendees learned how to get trees from the forest and turn them into useful materials. Demonstrations by skilled local craftspeople included horse logging

by Greg Mitchell of Acton, portable sawmilling by George Main of Lebanon, hand hewing by Ben Kaufhold of Lee, NH, draw knife techniques by Carl Davis of Acton, and post and beam construction by Shawn Perry of Lebanon. If you are interested in more information about the presenters please send an email to George Main at [timbermaine@gmail.com](mailto:timbermaine@gmail.com).

- George Main

Photos by Kate Wilcox



### 3RD ANNUAL SPRINGVALE FARM WALK

More than 200 people turned out for the third annual Springvale Farm Walk on Sunday, July 24. The walk was one of many events held throughout the state to celebrate the Maine Department of Agriculture's Open Farm Day. In Springvale, walkers had the opportunity to visit ten small family farms all within approximately three miles of each other.

The stretch of Springvale that runs from McDougal Orchards on Hanson Ridge Road to Rivard Farm on Blanchard Road and veers off to Sunset Road is commonly referred to as the Springvale Farm Belt.

The day began with a fundraising breakfast hosted by Three Rivers Land Trust at McDougal Orchards. Fueled by, strata and French toast made from locally sourced ingredients, walkers set forth through fields on Hanson Ridge Road visiting farms along the way.

At Our Farm, at the corner of Hanson Ridge Road and Oak Street, farmers Laura Young and Aron Gonsalvez met walkers

and sold produce from a farm stand placed in the field where the vegetables were grown.

Jack and Ellen McAdam, owners of McDougal Orchards, reported that the turn out for breakfast was far better than last year when rain deterred many. The McAdams have been hosting Open Farms Days for years. According to Jack McAdam, before the Farm Walk, they could hope to see 20-30 people in the six hours they were open for Open Farm Day. Since the walk began, they see that same number in one hour.

At the other end of the farm trail, Jean Noon, our president, was introducing an enthusiastic toddler to her sheep at the Noon Family Sheep Farm. She said that the Farm Walk is "important because it gets people out to see where their food and fiber comes from."

Walkers weren't alone in enjoying the Farm Walk. Steve Mallon of Springvale,



Hugo Crockett-Current

and a member of the Sanford Trails Committee, patrolled Hanson Ridge by bicycle directing and encouraging walkers.

After the event, Lee Burnett of Sanford Trails reported that attendance was "way better than expected," but he didn't have an exact head count. He suspects that turn out could have been just shy of 300 participants. As late as three o'clock in the afternoon walkers were still out enjoying the day.

"I'm happy (with the event)," Burnett said, "It was a hot day and people could've decided to go to the beach instead."

-Chris Hull