

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Saturday, May 20
1 – 4 PM
Wolf Pine Farm
259 Mouse Lane, Alfred**

Join us for a brief business meeting followed by a presentation by Amy Sprague and Tom Harms of Wolf Pine Farm, a 50-acre farm set along the Mousam River. Amy and Tom will show us around the farm where they grow about three acres of organic mixed vegetables. They will talk about their fall-and-winter vegetable Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share model, the ongoing transition to no-till farming methods, their meat shares, and the project in Waldo County where they are working to reclaim farmland and start new farms for beginning farmers.

We plan to walk about a 1/3 of a mile to enjoy the farm views and gather by the river for the meeting. If you need

assistance or a ride down, please let us know. The presentation will be followed by a potluck social hour.

In case of rain, the event will be held at McDougal Orchards in Springvale. Please let Ruth know if you plan to attend so that we can keep you informed about any change of plans or venue (ruth@3rlt.org or 207.370.4191).

How Members Can Vote

Board elections and bylaws amendment voting will be held online and in person. Please visit our website and click on the Report & Bylaws menu to view current bylaws and proposed amendments. The online ballot will be available by Wednesday, May 3 and will close at 5 PM on Sunday, May 21.



Amy Sprague and Tom Harms, Farmers at Wolf Pine Farm in Alfred



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



Established 2000

HORIZONS

2023 Spring Newsletter

Building stronger, healthier communities through land conservation

Three Rivers Land Trust • P.O. Box 295 • Alfred, Maine 04002 • www.3rlt.org

GOAT HILL TRAIL – JOIN US JUNE 3 FOR A GRAND OPENING!

Enock Glidden, a speaker, advocate, and adventurer who has been spurring the creation of more accessible spaces across Maine, will join us at the summit of Goat Hill to celebrate the official opening of the trail. Enock helped us tremendously last fall with a trail assessment that included traveling to the top and touring the accessible picnic area. He gave us valuable information and recommendations. While Enock was able to climb the trail in a manual wheelchair, Goat Hill might be a challenging route for some visitors as it rises 151 feet in less than a mile. However, the trail's compacted gravel surface and moderate grades will allow most folks to give the trail a try with their preferred equipment. Once benches and signage are installed this spring, the trail will be open to the broadest



Heading back down



Cheri Dunning, Enock Glidden, and Carl Davis at the summit

range of visitors possible for this rugged slice of Maine. We look forward to seeing you at Enock's presentation and encourage you to visit the trail this summer. Call or email us for more information, to volunteer, or to donate to this unique community resource. Contact ruth@3rlt.org or call Cheri at (207) 358-9695.

Trail Opening Details

**Saturday, June 3rd
1205 H Road, Acton**

Enock's presentation at the trail summit will begin at 2 PM. Take the time you need to ascend the trail 0.7-mile trail. Land trust staff and board will be available at the parking area and trailhead to welcome you and answer questions.

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

Please visit the event calendar on our website for more details or let us know you'd like to be notified when more information is available. Dates are subject to change.

May TBD
Volunteer Educators Training at Sanford Community Forest

May 6, 9am-12pm weather permitting
Vernal Pool Tour - This event will take place about 3 weeks after "Big Night"

May 20
Annual Meeting at Wolf Pine Farm, Alfred

May TBD
Spring Bird Walk

June 3
Goat Hill Trail Grand Opening with Enock Glidden

June 15
Sanford Community Forest Community Meeting at McDougal Orchards

July 23
Springvale Farm Walk

August 26
Woods Ramble at Sousa Family Preserve in Alfred

September 16
Kite Day at Romac Orchards and Goat Hill

October 9
Forest Feast Volunteer Thank You

IN MEMORY OF ELLEN TARBOX DAVIS

There is so much I would like to say about Ellen. She was kind and thoughtful, funny and talented. She was the genius behind our Farm Breakfast menu — I couldn't have gotten that celebration of local food off the ground without her guidance and hard work. She often contributed cookies to our events and her molasses cookies were a great favorite of mine. Ellen was always willing to share her time and expertise when I asked for help, and she painted my office at the River House; it brings me joy every time I sit at my desk. She is greatly and dearly missed by all of us at the land trust.

-Ruth Gutman



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Categories

- \$1000 and above
"The Glenn and Betty Wildes Circle"
- \$500 Conservator \$50 Sponsor
 \$250 Guardian \$25 Member
 \$100 Steward
- New Member Renewal

Please make checks payable to:
Three Rivers Land Trust
P.O. Box 295, Alfred, ME 04002

Join or renew online today at <http://www.3rlt.org/become-a-member/> info@3rlt.org / www.3rlt.org
Memberships and contributions are tax deductible. Yes! Please add me to 3RLT's email list

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please join or renew today. Thank you for your support.

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Volunteers paint the boards for the story walk at Ricker Field



Volunteer Rebecca Dixon helps finish the accessible picnic tables at Goat Hill



Food and fun at Forest Feast, an Annual Thank You Event for Volunteers



Carl Davis, Debra Chase, Pete Davis, and Keith Davis spreading mulch hay at the Goat Hill Summit

Thanks to the intensive efforts of many volunteers, donors, grant programs, professionals, and the Town of Acton, the Goat Hill Trail now boasts an accessible pathway and summit picnic area. Over the last year, Three Rivers undertook the modifications needed to bring this winding 0.7-mile trail into compliance with Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Guidelines (FSORAG), an accessibility standard for outdoor trails.

The FSORAG standard requirements are best suited to the rugged landscape that exists at Goat Hill. The steep incline combined with the rocky ledge made it challenging to create the gentler grades and switchbacks necessary to meet the standards, but Mike Cooper of Caribou Recreation Development, a well-known and experienced trail builder, was able to re-work the landscape until the path from parking area to the loop at the summit was within the required grades. We thank Mike and project manager Carl Davis for their persistence, experience, and ingenuity that got us past significant hurdles.

We accomplished this last phase of heavy construction with a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, matching funds from our membership, and generous grants from Partners Bank and

Kennebunk Savings Bank Foundation. We were also assisted by many volunteers — over 75 volunteer hours were contributed in 2022!

We are now focused on the last steps needed to open the trail in June:

- Install permanent signs and kiosks at the trailhead and summit.
- Place cedar benches along the trail.
- Add wheel-stops and accessible vehicle signage to the parking area.
- Bring back the accessible porta-potty for the season.
- Work on any other last minute or post-winter maintenance or repairs.

At present, we are seeking to raise another \$20,000 to cover these trail costs. To ensure the trail continues to meet FSORAG standards, any funding in excess of that number will go into a maintenance fund.

Volunteer Educators Needed

Do you like working with kids outdoors? Are you excited about sharing the wonders of nature with local students? Three Rivers Land Trust is partnering with Maine Audubon to lead an outdoor education program for Sanford 5th graders in May at the Sanford Community Forest. We will hold a volunteer training in May at the Forest. No prior experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for helping to educate the next generation of land stewards. We welcome you to join us!

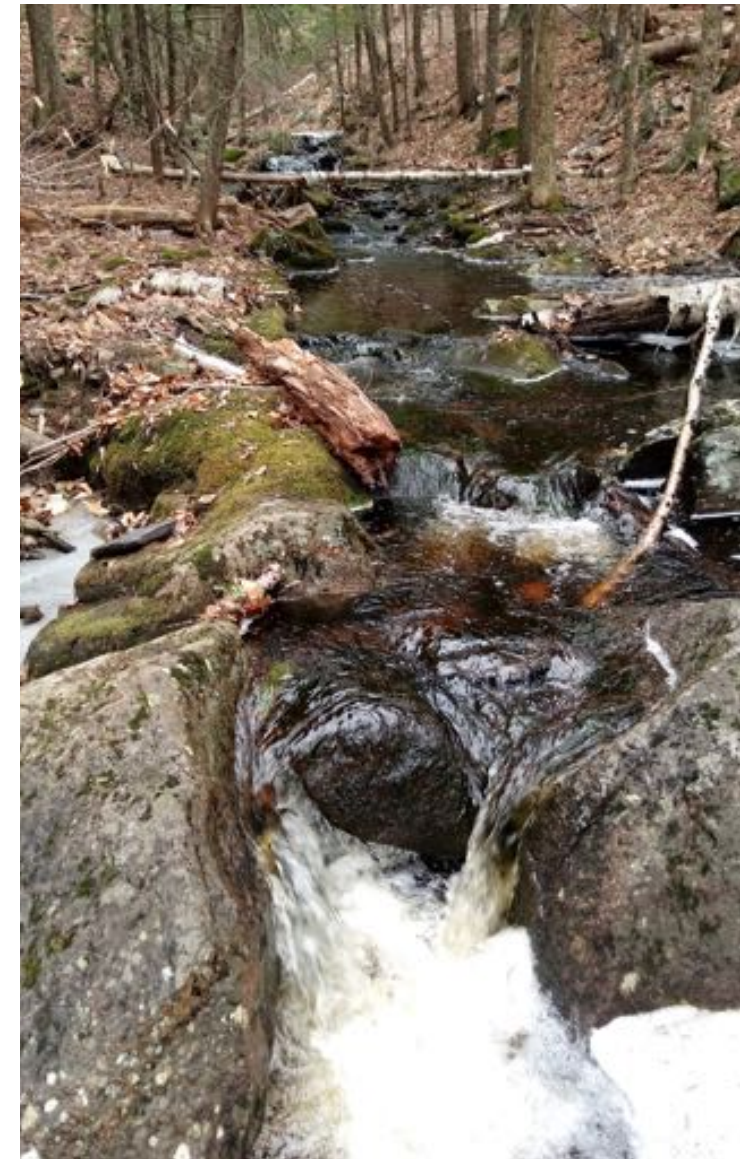
Please contact ruth@3rlt.org or 207.370.4191 to sign up.

The “Community” in Sanford Community Forest

**Wednesday, June 14, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
McDougal Orchards, Springvale**

All are welcome to join us for a conversation and community planning meeting about the Sanford Community Forest. The Community Forest comprises 550 acres of forests and wetlands in western Sanford, with the trailhead located on Oak Street (Route 11A). The large undeveloped area is less than three miles from downtown Sanford and connects to the Rail Trail and other conserved lands. Three Rivers Land Trust would like to see the Forest become a resource for and a benefit to the city of Sanford.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Forest yet, or you would like to see it again before the meeting, please join is on Tuesday, June 6 at 4 PM or Sunday, June 11 at 1 PM for a walk. We will meet at the trailhead on Oak Street, which is across the street from house number 432.



This year is the first of the two-year session of the 131st Maine Legislature. As the session gets underway, the Land Trust board of directors may be asked to show support for one or more bills that relate to our work and our mission. An example would be a proposed Maine Trails Bond for statewide trail acquisition and maintenance; we may consider supporting it because our recreation trails, especially for Sanford Community Forest, will need funding,

The Land Trust board may also be asked to express public support for bills proposed by Maine’s Wabanaki Alliance, a coalition of Maine’s Indigenous Tribes formed in 2020 to further the rights of the Tribes. The Alliance has introduced, with the sponsorship of individual legislators, several bills and one Constitutional amendment. Their highest priority is a bill to amend the Maine Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (MLCSA). The Wabanaki signed this Act without understanding it is the most restrictive tribal-state jurisdictional framework in the US. The Wabanaki have tried to get it amended without success. About five years ago a Maine Indian Tribal State

Commission recommended amendments to the 1980 Act; these became the basis of the Tribal Sovereignty bills that have been introduced. In the last session a majority of the Maine Legislature passed a tribal sovereignty bill, but the Governor would not sign it. They are trying again this year.

To assist the Wabanaki in securing more rights under federal law, Congressman Golden introduced HR 6707, a bill that would make all new federal tribal legislation apply to the Maine Tribes, and the House of Representatives passed it. The bill awaits Senate action and, so far, lacks the support of both of Maine’s Senators as well as the Governor.

You might ask why the land trust board is paying attention to legislation to support sovereign legal status for the Wabanaki in our state. Please read below for one board member’s perspective.

-Madge Baker

MY VIEW

The Maine Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 was a noble start toward a useful agreement but was framed in 1980s thinking and based on viewpoints that were common 50 years ago. A lot has changed in half a century. Rude and disrespectful place names and sports teams’ monikers have been largely replaced. It has been law for over twenty years that the history of the Wabanaki people, including their treatment under colonizers, be taught in our schools. Racism, across the nation, is being called out as unacceptable. There is a new focus on people who have been intentionally marginalized. It is past time to update the 1980 document to aid the Wabanaki to move forward.

A major reason it is important for land trusts and other environmental protection entities to pay attention is that the language in some legal documents curtails or prohibits traditional Wabanaki uses of natural resources for gathering

medicinal plants, harvesting plants and animals for food, and accessing important sites for ceremonial activities. These are activities that require freedom of movement. As the Wabanaki people regard the respectful treatment of Earth as a sacred responsibility, I believe they should be supported as partners in protecting land and waters from exploitation. There is a wealth of knowledge to be garnered from people who have spent generations making honorable harvests for sustenance, not personal financial wealth. If our aim is to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy the wonders of nature, we could not hope to find a better example of a nurturing relationship than the one that exists between nature and The First People. We should support that relationship.

-Ann MacEachern



Rock Tripe at Sousa Family Preserve



Discovering wood frogs at Sousa Family Preserve

VOLUNTEERS = AWESOME TRAILS!

Our volunteers did amazing work last year! We have a full schedule planned for this year that will encompass our traditional “Second Saturday” volunteer days and some other volunteer opportunities that will take place on an “as needed” basis – some on weekday afternoons as requested. This year, we will be revisiting and finishing some of last year’s projects, tackling invasive plants species, and starting to dig into the needs of the Sanford Community Forest.

To join our volunteer group, you can sign up through our website (look under the “Donate & Support” menu), send an email to cheri@3rlt.org, or call (207) 358-9695. We also have a growing Facebook group where we post events and updates. In addition to our group events, we are always looking for volunteer preserve stewards or easement monitors.

Volunteers are key to our trail-building and maintenance efforts at Three Rivers – we sincerely appreciate everyone who lends a hand, and we look forward to seeing you on the trails!

All Second Saturday volunteer events are from 9 am to noon.

April 30 – Arbor Day – Trail work at Gruber Forest (Shapleigh)

May TBD - Watch for pop-up volunteer events at the Goat Hill Trail (Acton)

May 13 – Second Saturday – Trail work at Hansen Pond Preserve (Acton)

June 10 – Second Saturday – Hobbs Farm cleanup and Trailblazing

June - July TBD – Trail trimming crew needed with string trimmers at multiple trails

July 8 – Second Saturday – Sanford Community Forest trail trimming

Aug 12 – Second Saturday – Trail clearing and blazing at Pump Box Brook Preserve (Shapleigh)

Sept 9 – Second Saturday – Stop the Spread of Stiltgrass at Sanford Community Forest

Oct 9 – Forest Feast – Join us for our annual afternoon volunteer thank you celebration

Oct 14 – Second Saturday – Trail improvements at Sanford Community Forest

Nov 12 – 1 to 4 PM – We’ll meet on Sunday due to hunting season and make this our last workday of the year for whatever needs to be done before it snows!