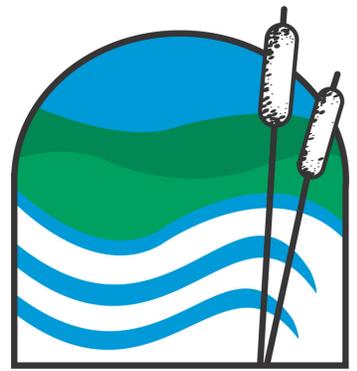


# Five Rivers Conservation Trust

Helping to protect open space in central New Hampshire

Fall 2014 Newsletter



## Message from the Board Chair

By Margaret Watkins



It's no coincidence that Five Rivers Conservation Trust made positive headlines and had sup-

portive editorials in this summer's *Concord Monitor*. Nor is it dumb luck that we now have a full-time executive director, are pursuing national accreditation, received an exceptional 2-year capacity-building grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, and continue to attract high-value conservation projects.

No. These are signs of a vibrant organization rooted in people – in YOU, our members and supporters. Contributions from our Conservation Leaders, who've made \$1,500/year commitments for three years, together with the Charitable Foundation grant, made the decision to hire a full-time director relatively easy, and financially responsible.

Five Rivers' vibrancy also reflects on its Trustees, who over the years have brought a truly remarkable array of skills and expertise to the organization and laid a solid foundation on which we continue to

*Message, cont. page 2*

## Food and Farms

By Beth McGuinn

The harvest is in, and it was bountiful in the Five Rivers region. Our farmers worked hard to provide quality local fruits, vegetables, and other foods. If you are a Market Basket shopper, perhaps your family benefited even more from our fields and farms this summer.

Five Rivers knows the benefit of local foods, and we have helped conserve some of our region's iconic farms – Dimond Hill on the Hopkinton-Concord town line where the sweetness drips from each corn cob, and you can

purchase everything from beets to zucchini; Carter Hill Orchard in Concord where apples and peaches hang heavy on the trees, and apple cider is pressed from a blend of tasty apples; Bohanan Farm where the Robertsons produce Contoocook Creamery milk, bottled in glass and distributed to local stores; and two Stickney Hill Farms where rolling fields produce hay for cattle, cows, and horses.

More farm projects are in progress, including a third farm easement in Concord's Stickney Hill agricultural district. This project is funded through LCHIP, an Agricultural Land Easement Grant, the Russell Foundation and the City of Concord.

Although typically expensive and complicated, farm projects are an organizational priority. Good farmland in New Hampshire is rare. Flat,



*Apple picking at Carter Hill Orchards.  
Photo credit: Julia Freeman-Wolpert*

*Food, cont. page 4*

**Message** *continued from page 1*

build. The multi-year accreditation process would be far more daunting without that foundation.



*Photo credit: Paul Lepesqueur*

Our new Executive Director, Beth McGuinn, is no stranger to our region or our work. She has worked in the land conservation field for nearly 20 years, for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests where she served in land stewardship, volunteer management and education capacities, and for Ausbon Sargent Land Preserva-

tion Trust, where she brought more than 5,000 acres into conservation. Beth also brings leadership skills from her volunteer work, and I speak for the entire board in saying we are thrilled to have her with us.

*Margaret Watkins is Five Rivers Board Chairman. She brings leadership skills from many years in the conservation field, including past roles as Board Chairperson and Executive Director of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, our neighboring Land Trust.* ■



## Five Rivers Conservation Trust

Five Rivers is a nonprofit land trust with a mission to preserve and protect important open space lands for present and future generations. We work in sixteen towns<sup>1</sup> at the confluence of five New Hampshire rivers<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Five Rivers' towns are Belmont, Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Gilmanton, Henniker, Hillsboro, Hopkinton, Loudon, Pembroke, Salisbury, Warner and Webster.

<sup>2</sup>The Five Rivers are the Blackwater, Contoocook, Merrimack, Soucook and Warner Rivers.

Margaret Watkins, Dunbarton, **Chair**  
Tim Britain, Hopkinton, **Vice Chair**  
Rob Knight, Hopkinton, **Treasurer**  
Mike Walls, Concord, **Secretary**

Robyn Cotton, Concord	Michael Lehman, Concord
Michael Lenehan, Concord	Kit Morgan, Concord
Robert A. Pearce, Hopkinton	Susan C. Roman, Webster
Mike Shearin, Dunbarton	Molly Sperduto, Canterbury
Ken Stern, Canterbury	

**Staff**

Beth McGuinn, **Executive Director**  
Julie Pifer, **Office Administrator**

**Five Rivers Conservation Trust**

31 Warren Street, Concord, NH | (603) 225-7225 | [www.5rct.org](http://www.5rct.org)

## The Faces of Five Rivers

By Jim Martin, Hopkinton, NH



*Jim Martin with his wife Amy and children Paige and Patrick at Gould Hill Farm.*

I have to admit, when asked to write this article, I didn't feel quite worthy. After all, I only recently became a new member and volunteer. But I have been aware of Five Rivers' positive impact on the region for some time.

One of my first experiences with a Five Rivers easement property was last year, when my children and I had the opportunity to hike the Marjory Swope trail in Concord. On our hike we discovered dozens of different types of mushrooms and fungi in what seemed like every color. When I downloaded my photos from the hike, I'd surprisingly snapped over 100 pictures of just mushrooms. And in fact, one of them won third prize in Five Rivers' 25th anniversary photo contest.

Growing up in the North Country in the town of Lancaster gave me an appreciation for our state's natural beauty. My grandparents and uncle operated dairy farms. I still recall selling corn from my grandparents' porch by the baker's dozen. To me there's just something about a farm. The fact that Five Rivers is successfully conserving family farms for future generations to enjoy is something that I will make time for and support financially. ■



*Indian Pipe*  
*Photo credit: Jim Martin*



## Join Us... West End Farm Trail Hike



Photo credit: Talia Sperduto

3rd Annual West End Farm Trail hike on **Sunday, November 2nd at noon.**

Visit farms, hike trails and learn about raptors.

Event hosted by Five Rivers Conservation Trust, NH Audubon, and the Concord Conservation Commission. Please RSVP so we can plan shuttles, refreshments and provide more details. Contact Julie Pifer at [jpifer@5rct.org](mailto:jpifer@5rct.org) or (603) 225-7225.



Photo credit: Talia Sperduto

Keep up-to-date with events on our Facebook page.

[facebook.com/FiveRiversNH](https://facebook.com/FiveRiversNH)



## Volunteering is Valuable!

Volunteers report that their lives are enriched by the people they meet and the new skills they learn as a volunteer. Volunteering has even helped some folks advance their careers. Experts recommend the benefits of volunteering for our well being!

Thank you to Bob Cotton, Ted Diers and Ruth Smith, who volunteered at our recent paddle trip greeting participants, hauling boats, floating down the river, preparing food and having fun.

You're invited to become a Five Rivers volunteer, too. If you have an hour or more, we can help you gain some of the benefits of volunteering.

Please contact Beth or Julie at (603) 225-7225, [jpifer@5rct.org](mailto:jpifer@5rct.org) or [bmcguinn@5rct.org](mailto:bmcguinn@5rct.org) to let us know you'd like to help. Here are some current opportunities:

- Event & field trip organizing
- Internet research
- Office work
- Photography
- Local food preparation
- Poster distribution
- Writing/proof reading
- Handy work
- Fundraising
- Info booth staffing



# Welcome, New Board Members



We welcome our new board members: Mike Shearin of Dunbarton and Kit Morgan and Mike Lenehan of Concord. They bring legal, financial and conservation experience and passion for hiking, farming and outdoor activities. For more background on these new volunteers, see our web site [www.5rct.org](http://www.5rct.org). ■

## Wish List

Help make our wishes come true! Donate one of the items below or donate the funds to purchase an item! Contact Beth at (603) 225-7225 or [bmcguinn@5rct.org](mailto:bmcguinn@5rct.org).

- A sharp, functioning paper cutter (\$75)
- A mapping GPS unit (i.e., Garmin 60 series) (\$400)
- New volunteers (see article on page 3)

## Food *continued from page 1*

open, and less rocky, farmland is often the easiest land to develop, but farm conservation makes land more affordable for a young farmer. And of course, local farms grow local produce – those fragile, sun ripened raspberries and fresh picked apples.

If you're a Five Rivers supporter, you can take credit for helping Five Rivers protect farmland. Thank You!

*Beth is Five Rivers' new Executive Director. She has a passion for good food, local ingredients, and productive farmland. ■*

# CONCORD MONITOR

“Easements, if unmonitored, tend to be ignored or infringed upon by abutters. That won't happen with land overseen by Five Rivers.”

*Concord Monitor Editorial 7/9/14*

“... when we get caught up in yard work, housework, life, etc., it's Five Rivers that draws us back to the land, to Marjorie Swope Park,....”

*Amy Manzelli in "My Turn" 7/17/14*

## Join Us!

Your membership in Five Rivers Conservation Trust will help us increase our land conservation efforts, protecting more local farms which make our region such a great place to live!

Memberships of \$150 or more include incentives from one of our local partners: Red River Theatre, Dimond Hill or the Concord Food Coop.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Friend    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Steward     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Protector | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 Conservator |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this form and mail it with your check to: Five Rivers, 31 Warren St., Concord, NH 03301 or join online at [5rct.org](http://5rct.org).



Five Rivers Conservation Trust  
31 Warren Street  
Concord, NH 03301

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CONCORD, NH  
PERMIT 1694

OR CURRENT RESIDENT