

FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST

Local Land Trust for the Greater Capital Region of New Hampshire

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Photo by Beth McGuinn

Moonrise Over the Hayfield – the Albin-Hart Farm

By Rob Knight and Beth McGuinn

Where is the best place to watch the moonrise? Frances Hart would tell you it is from the porch of her house in Hopkinton. She's enjoyed watching the moon rise over her 18 acre hayfield for over 60 years.

Albin Hart Farm Facts

- 27.5 acres in Hopkinton, conserved in September, 2018
- Conservation Easement donated by Frances M. Hart
- Prime agricultural soils
- Fields ranked among the best wildlife habitat in the biological region
- Adjacent to the Hopkinton Everett flood control area
- 324 feet of frontage on Kast Hill Road

Now, Fran has conserved the field she cherishes — it will never be developed and will always remain available for hay production or other agricultural uses. Fran will continue to own the property, and manage it for conservation purposes, including agriculture. Five Rivers will monitor the property annually to ensure that all uses are conservation oriented, and will be available to Fran and all future owners when there are questions about how the land may be used. If there are unacceptable uses in the future, Five Rivers will be ready to take action.

Fran is only the third owner of this field in over 100 years. Massachusetts Governor Frank Allen raised Guernsey cows here from 1915 until 1950. Fran's parents, Harold and Christine Albin, bought the farm, attracted to the magnificent field and its acres of prime agri-

cultural soils. Harold was retiring from the U.S. Department of Agricultural and he knew good farmland. Fran (Albin) Hart has owned the farm since 1975, and her conservation ethic will keep this field undeveloped in the future.

Farmers raising livestock today know how hard it can be to buy hay locally. Fields like this one make it possible to produce local milk products and meat. Agricultural fields also add to the rural character of the greater capital region by increasing the diversity of our landscape and improving our quality of life with a beautiful vistas and a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Thank you Fran for protecting the field you love, so that future owners can raise crops, and watch the moonrise over the field. ■



E-News and Events

Are you receiving Five Rivers' event announcements and news in your email box? If not, check the Clutter folder on your computer. If you are not getting email, you can sign up at <https://5rct.org/join-our-email-list/>. For the quickest news, like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FiveRiversNH/>. ■

Fiver Rivers Film Festival

Join Five Rivers Conservation Trust on February 19th for our second annual Film Festival! We're collecting a series of short, fun films that feature activities like those taking place on Five Rivers' conserved properties. Stay tuned for more details. ■



Second Tioga Marsh Property Conserved in Belmont

By Ken Stern

This past July, Five Rivers Conservation Trust conserved 77 acres on Tioga Marsh in Belmont, a significant parcel of conservation land between Silver Lake, the Winnepesaukee River, and Northfield, and officially called the Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area. Because this newly conserved area abuts another 178-acre property on Tioga Marsh (conserved by Five Rivers in 2006), the resulting 255 acres permanently preserves a large swath of marsh and flood-plain forest that ranks among the most significant wildlife habitats in the state.

Protecting Tioga Marsh has been a high priority for conservationists, says Lori Sommer, coordinator for the ARM Fund Program for NH Department of Environmental Services, and a former Five Rivers trustee. "An intricate network of streams supports a diverse marsh that transitions to a forested wetland, with the entire area possessing great potential as breeding habitat for amphibians," Sommer says. The Belmont community "is blessed with this hidden gem of a property with beautiful wetlands, standing water, and water-based recreation opportunities," she adds.

The wetlands of Tioga Marsh are home to a diverse population of birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. Among the birds, green herons, prairie warblers, common yellowthroats, catbirds, least flycatchers, phoebes, and kingbirds breed in the marsh, and in winter, gulls and waterfowl

Tioga Marsh 2 Facts

- 77 acres in Belmont, conserved in July 2018
- Conservation Easement donated by the Town of Belmont
- 2700 feet of frontage on the Winnepesaukee River
- 1850 feet of frontage on the Tioga River
- A portion of the Tioga marsh, ranked as among the best wildlife habitats in NH
- Open to the public for low-impact recreation
- Adjacent to the Five Rivers-conserved 188 acre Tioga Marsh 1 property.

find refuge here. In addition to providing habitat for wildlife, the marsh serves a critical role in ensuring clean water and mitigating flood flows in the area.

The Belmont Conservation Commission (BCC) purchased the Tioga Marsh 2 property from the Sanborn Family Trust, descendants of longtime owners of the property, and the BCC donated a conservation easement to Five Rivers. To cover the costs of the property and the conservation easement, the BCC used monies from the town's Conservation Fund, as well as grant funding from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), NH Department of Environmental Services' Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program (ARM), and a State Conservation Committee Conservation Grant (Moose Plate). Ken Stern and Amanda Stone served as project managers for Five Rivers.



FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST
Local Land Trust for the Greater Capital Region of New Hampshire

Five Rivers is a member-supported nonprofit land trust with a mission to preserve and protect important open space lands for present and future generations. We work in seventeen towns at the confluence of five New Hampshire rivers.

Five Rivers' Service Area: Belmont, Boscaawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Gilmanston, Henniker, Hillsboro, Hopkinton, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke, Salisbury, Warner and Webster.

The Five Rivers are the Blackwater, Contoocook, Merrimack, Soucook and Warner Rivers.

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Five Rivers Conservation Trust

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Photo courtesy Town of Belmont.

Executive Director's Message

By Beth McGuinn, Executive Director



Photo by Kathy Healy

What is the best way to celebrate 30 years? Having a cake at the Annual Gathering was fun. Featuring longtime members is another way. Receiving gifts of \$3, \$30, \$300, or \$3,000 is a great way to celebrate. We have checked all those boxes in 2018.

Now, Five Rivers is poised to take the most important step to celebrate our anniversary. We

are hiring our first Land Conservation Specialist who will dedicate time to increasing the pace of conservation, focusing efforts on the land most in need of conservation, and improving the care of the properties we have conserved over three decades. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate! See more

about this exciting step in the Conservation Staff Update on Page 4.

As we move into our 31st year, we have many conservation projects in the works. Two dairy farm fields, nearly a mile of river frontage, a special fishing hole, and more. I can't wait to tell you the details in future newsletters.

Our conservation efforts are not possible without you, our supporters, our volunteer project managers and easement monitors, office volunteers, committee and Board members. You are the foundation that has sustained Five Rivers Conservation Trust for 30 years. Thank you for all you do to improve our quality of life by conserving local land! Here's to the next 30 years. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Beth".

Year-End Contributions

Are you planning a year-end gift to help Five Rivers grow? You may want to check with your financial advisor to see if a contribution of appreciated stock would be advantageous or if directing your required (for those 70 ½ and older) IRA distribution to Five Rivers is possible. No matter how you give or how much you give, your support allows Five Rivers the privilege of working with landowners like Fran Hart and the Town of Belmont to ensure that special places remain undeveloped in the future. ■

Meet Our New Board Members

In June this year we welcomed two new board members. We're very excited about the expertise they bring and the enthusiasm they've already shown for the work that we do.

Bonnie Christie, Hopkinton



Bonnie lives in Hopkinton where she is active in municipal government and enjoys hiking, skiing and quiet time in the woods.

She served as Conservation Coordinator in the AMC Headquarters in Boston, where she represented the AMC on the National Clean Air Coalition, the Wilderness Manage-

ment Task Force, and the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee. She has served on town conservation commissions in MA and VT.

Jeanne Herrick, Concord



Jeanne grew up in southern New Hampshire. For more than 20 years, she has enjoyed the open space and natural resources that the capitol region offers – savoring locally grown food, hiking trails through the woods and in the mountains, biking country roads, and swimming and kayaking in lakes and rivers.

Jeanne previously served on the board of Red River Theatres and currently serves as legal counsel to the Community College System of New Hampshire. ■

Support Five Rivers Today!

Five Rivers supporters make local land conservation possible. Please help us grow! With your membership, quality of life in the Greater Capital Area can be even better!

- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250
☐ \$500 ☐ Other: \$ _____
☐ I'd like to support the Land Conservation Specialist position with a 3 year commitment to donate \$ _____ per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please clip this form and mail it with your check:

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Conservation Staff Update

Imagine being able to increase the pace of conservation in the greater capital region. Imagine conserving the most important farms, forests, habitats, recreational lands, water resources, and landscapes. That is just what Five Rivers aims to do by hiring our first, full-time land conservation specialist. If all goes as planned, we'll have someone on the ground in the New Year!

Thanks to local donors, two grants and Five Rivers' financial planning, we have nearly all the funding needed to add this new staff member. With a professional conservation staff member on board, we will be more active in our communities, identify where the most important lands for conservation, and improve our easement monitoring and stewardship. After three years, we expect Five Rivers will be able to fund this position as part of our regular budget.

If you would like to help us fund the final 5% of the Conservation Staff campaign with an additional contribution, please return the support form above or contact Executive Director Beth McGuinn at 225-7225 or beth@5rct.org.

Wish us luck in finding the right person to bring into Five Rivers' conservation community. We will keep you posted on our progress by email posts and on Facebook. ■

Join Five Rivers for a Unique Opportunity!

BOHANAN FARM EXPLORATION

**Sunday, November 4, from 1-3 pm
Contoocook**



Photo courtesy Contoocook Creamery

- Tour Contoocook Creamery's new milk processing facility
- Learn about managing forest resources
- Get to know the natural world

**Thanks to our
Event Sponsor!**



**Space is limited - Register by
November 2nd at 4pm**

Register at www.5rct.org/events

Suggested donation: \$5. at event

Refreshments provided