



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST









**FIVE RIVERS**  
CONSERVATION TRUST

# ANNUAL REPORT

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photo by Aaron Baker



# MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends of Five Rivers Conservation Trust,

With this report, we give great thanks to the volunteers and supporters who have sustained us during our last two fiscal years—a period marked by change, challenges, growth, and hope.

We've grown to three full-time staff, and our work is further made possible by 60 extraordinary volunteers serving as Trustees, committee members, and conserved property monitors.

Our recent conservation successes include permanently conserving Canterbury's fifth-generation dairy, Sloping Acres Farm, the result of tireless commitment from the Glines family, community members, and the Canterbury Conservation Commission. We welcomed Ken and Susan Koerber of Dunbarton into the Five Rivers family with the conservation of their 131-acre Koerber Family Forest, which presents wonderful opportunities for outdoor education with the neighboring Dunbarton Elementary School.

Following the passings of Warner-based farmer Larry Pletcher and his wife Carol, we are continuing our work to conserve the Vegetable Ranch with their daughter, Jennifer Pletcher. In this report, you will read a beautiful article from Jenn honoring their memory.

Five Rivers now holds conservation easements on 80 properties, totaling 4,974 acres, and owns three properties, totaling another 573 acres. Among these conserved lands are extraordinary trails, working lands, and significant natural and cultural resources.

As we pass the 5,500-acre mark, we are charting the course for Five Rivers' future. This fall, the Board of Trustees is launching an update of our strategic plan and creating our first-ever conservation plan. We look forward to building new connections to one another and the purpose that inspires us while engaging with supporters, community members, and partners throughout the process.

Knowing that you are among the thousands of voices for land and water conservation in the 17 communities that we serve gives us great optimism about our future. Thank you for being part of the Five Rivers community.

Maura & Liz



# WHO WE ARE

Five Rivers Conservation Trust has been conserving land in New Hampshire's Capital Region for 34 years to sustain the ecological, social, and community benefits that nature provides. We work with local landowners and municipalities to protect important open spaces, working lands, scenic areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, cultural features, and waterways throughout 17 communities. As a nationally accredited land trust, Five Rivers is committed to exercising sound ethics and thoughtful stewardship in all endeavors.

## FIVE RIVERS STAFF

**Liz Short**, *Executive Director*  
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**Jeff Evans**, *Director of Conservation*  
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**Lily Evans**, *Development and Communications Coordinator*  
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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- 
- Sound Finances
  - Ethical Conduct
  - Responsible Governance
  - Lasting Stewardship
- 





# NEWLY CONSERVED LAND

## THE KOERBER FAMILY FOREST: WINDOW TO THE PAST, DOORWAY TO THE FUTURE

By David Tirrell-Wysocki

Ken Koerber pauses frequently as he walks through the forest behind the family farm he and his wife, Susan, have nurtured for more than a half century. He gazes at towering oak trees, marvels at huge boulders and small rocks left behind by glaciers, and listens to birds and running streams. He also ponders the toil of farmers who once cleared the forest and built stone walls that mark the fields and pastures of long ago.

Ken and Susan see the 131-acre forest as a tribute to past generations who walked its trails, used its resources, and preserved it to provide sustenance and solitude for their family. Now they have ensured that future generations will have the same opportunities.

The Koerbbers conserved their forest through Five Rivers in November 2021—protecting three headwater streams, wildlife habitat, and walking trails near the center of Dunbarton. The land joins a block of approximately 650 conserved acres nearby and has potential to provide outdoor education for the neighboring Dunbarton Elementary School in the future.

They raised three children in the 1786 farmhouse, growing their own food and learning from the land. Susan enjoys growing healthy, organic food right outside her door. “Every night in the summer, I walk around the garden with a basket and say, ‘Hmmm what shall we eat today,’” said Susan, a retired educator who founded Concord’s Woodside School in 1978.

Ken’s view of the land underwent a long evolution from initially envisioning houses along a ridge with scenic views to now imagining how nice it would be to erect a small observation tower on the same ridge, offering the views to all.

“Over the years, I started realizing building houses might be a good economic picture, but it wasn’t a good ecological one and it wasn’t a good social one,” remembers Ken, a retired electrical and systems engineer. At their home, they now own and operate Chanticleer Gardens, producing organically grown cut flowers for local florists and retailers. In addition to enjoying the forest, Ken and Susan hope future



generations will use the farmland portion of their property to continue producing food and helping others learn about farming.

Walking through the forest, Ken stops at his special spot—where a rushing stream crosses a wide path that doubles as a cross-country trail in the winter. “The picture doesn’t change except that the water is continually moving,” he said. “I could spend a half hour here just watching and listening and thinking and meditating. I love it, other people will love it—that’s really my motivation for wanting to share this.”

*Conservation of the Koerber Family Forest culminated a multi-year effort to fundraise the cost of a conservation easement after the Koerbbers’ initial offer to donate half of the value. The project was made possible by the following funding partners: New Hampshire’s Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the Dunbarton Conservation Commission, the Merrimack Conservation Partnership, New Hampshire’s “Moose Plate” Conservation Grant Program, the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Grant, and the generosity of many private donors.*

## NEWLY CONSERVED WYMAN FARM IN LOUDON

By Ken Stern

Jim Polley grew up on the fields of Wyman Farm in Loudon. His mother, Judith Wyman Merrow, was the sixth generation of their family to own the property since the original King’s grant in 1780. The fields have outstanding farmland soils, which have been rid of rocks over years of cultivation. Farming has taken place here in various forms for centuries.

“When I was growing up,” Jim reminisced, “we had horses, took care of an occasional calf to keep the pastures well mowed, and a garden which provided us with fresh vegetables. The fields have been hayed for as long as I can remember.” Previous generations raised cows, chickens, sheep, turkeys, and more. Jim’s third great-grandfather’s diary stated that he supplied Shaker Village with oats.

Judy ran a bed and breakfast out of the 1790s farmhouse as her ancestors had in the late 1800s. Complete with hand-hewn beams, the house and barn speak volumes about the property’s history, accompanied by sweeping views across the fields to distant hills in the south. This 50-acre property has over 4,500 feet of undeveloped scenic frontage on three different town roads. About 10 acres of the property is in fields, and the remainder is forests of red oak, hemlock, and pine, plus a forested wetland in the center of the property.

“There has always been abundant wildlife here, from turkeys and foxes to bobcats and bears,” Jim recalled. It’s

a combination of habitat types that makes the property a haven for wildlife. The nearby “hunting swamp,” which is partially conserved by the Town of Loudon, affirms the historic abundance of wildlife in the area.

Conservation runs deep in the family: having been a cultivated value handed down to Jim, it was Judy’s wish that the farm be conserved. Bidding a final farewell to the land is certainly bittersweet, though Jim’s family is hopeful that the next owners will continue the tradition of farming the land as they so diligently have. After Judy’s passing in early January 2022, conserving Wyman Farm was a natural way for Jim to honor his family’s longtime stewardship for the land and ensure its integrity is upheld in perpetuity.



Jim Polley and his wife Cynthia Barron



# NEWLY CONSERVED LAND

## CONSERVING SLOPING ACRES FARM IN CANTERBURY

By Sarah McCraw Crow

The Glines family has farmed their scenic, hilly acres, known as Sloping Acres Farm, in northeast Canterbury for almost 200 years where they raise dairy and beef cattle, plus corn and hay for feed.

The town's Conservation Commission worked closely with Five Rivers over several years and helped provide funding for legal and long-term stewardship costs. The farm's conservation easement was finalized in January 2022, meaning this small farm is protected forever.

"The Canterbury community has a long history of conservation and interest in agriculture," says Sarah Thorne, a Five Rivers board member who shepherded the easement project. "From the beginning, Canterbury's Conservation Commission expressed a lot of support for this project."

With the easement in place, brothers Peter and Eric Glines, the fifth generation of Canterbury Glines farmers, can continue to raise their cattle, provide milk wholesale to Hood in Concord, and sell their sustainably raised beef directly to customers and through the Canterbury Country Store.

"Conserving prime agricultural soils and working farms are high priorities for the town," adds Canterbury Conservation Commission Chair, Ken Stern. "The pandemic has reminded us just how critical it is to have local food sources, and the Glines easement protects a property that has been farmed for generations."



L to R: Peter, Eric, and George Glines

## THANK YOU SLOPING ACRES FARM SUPPORTERS

*Supporters making first-time gifts to Five Rivers Conservation Trust are recognized in italics.*

Sylvia Bates and Tom Masland  
Steve and Sue Booth  
*Matthew and Stephanie Bowser*  
Brookford Farm  
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Rich and Jessie Tichko  
*Barbie Tilton*  
*Frank Tupper*  
Mary Witschonke  
*Rebecca Yohe*





# LAND STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in the land trust community is the work to carry out our responsibilities for long-term care of the land after a property has been conserved. When Five Rivers becomes the holder of a conservation easement or takes ownership of a property, we make a forever commitment to ensure the land remains protected and its uses follow agreed limitations.

Our stewardship work includes periodic tasks like approving a professional forestry management plan before a landowner conducts a harvest or meeting with new landowners when a property changes hands to ensure they understand the provisions and constraints of a given easement. We must also annually monitor all conserved properties, documenting changes to the condition of the land and identifying any issues or concerns. Not only is stewardship our legal and ethical obligation, it's also a great opportunity to get to know landowners and their stories. Five Rivers is responsible for stewarding 83 conserved properties, and this work takes many hands, especially those of our stewardship volunteers!

## CONVERSATION WITH A STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER

During the past year, many individuals played crucial roles in carrying Five Rivers through a staff transition to guarantee our ongoing conservation projects progressed, and our easement stewardship responsibilities were met.

Pete Helm is one of the people who stepped up when Five Rivers needed help. In addition to his full-time role as Stewardship Director at Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Pete also monitors several conserved properties as a Five Rivers volunteer. Last year, he took on increased monitoring duties and helped process our stewardship reports at the end of the year. Five Rivers' Director of Conservation, Jeff Evans, had a few questions for him:

**Jeff:** What can you tell readers about your background in conservation work?

**Pete:** I've been fortunate enough to have made a career out of doing conservation and stewardship work. I started monitoring conservation easements for the State of NH back in the early 1990s when stewardship was a relatively new concept for many land trusts. I've been doing that work full-time ever since, with a seven-year stint in the

Upper Valley and now in the Lakes Region for the last eight years. I'm not worn out yet!

**Jeff:** How did you first get involved with Five Rivers?

**Pete:** I served on the board of the Concord Conservation Trust during its transition to Five Rivers and expansion of the service area to neighboring towns. I think this was back in the early 2000s. I helped pull some projects together, worked on baseline documentation, and just generally tried to help move the conservation dial a little bit. I moved out of the area for several years but was sure to get involved again when I returned!

**Jeff:** What do you see as Five Rivers' greatest assets?

**Pete:** I see 5RCT as a catalyst for conservation in the Concord area and the surrounding towns. I think Five Rivers is uniquely positioned to provide the expertise, knowledge, and creativity to help individuals and communities permanently conserve lands that are special. Forests, farms, trails, and wetlands all contribute to making this a great place to live. Five Rivers makes it happen!

**Jeff:** It's incredible that after spending all day working for Squam Lakes Conservation Society, you then go and volunteer at Five Rivers! What motivates you?

**Pete:** It's always nice to have an excuse to walk in the woods, especially in places you wouldn't normally go! You never know what you may find! And, farms are always interesting, too! You get to meet and chat with landowners and folks who work the land. I always come home with new ideas! So, if any of your readers like to explore, or like scavenger hunts, I would suggest they sign up to be a monitor. It's a great "giving back" activity for kids, too! It's fun and it's a great group of people to meet when we all get together!





# LOOKING BACK: CONSERVING BOHANAN FARM

## FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST + BOHANAN FARM = CONTOOCO

By Jamie Robertson

In 2008, Bohanan Farm was faced with a financial crisis. My wife, Heather, and I began purchasing her family's dairy farm from her parents in the 18 months prior, and as with the rest of the world, the bottom fell out of the dairy industry with the burst of the housing market. Wholesale milk prices had retreated to lows not seen in decades, while fuel and grain were at all-time highs. Our family had spent the last 15 years retooling and growing the then-fourth-generation farm to support Heather and I's growing family while providing for Heather's parents Glenn and Adele's nearing retirement.

As a young couple taking over the family business, our equity was tied up in expansion investments that hadn't yet returned enough to pay down debt and fund the generational transfer. The business needed to either find capital or liquidate. As we assessed our options, some things became crystal clear: we wanted to remain dairy farmers, and the land would have to provide the capital. Although cutting off and selling one or two house lots could have provided the necessary capital—we wouldn't need to develop the entire farm—that wasn't something that appealed to us. Everyone in our family agreed that the land never be developed for anything other than agriculture and forestry, and that it remains open to the public regardless of what happened with the business.

The family's goal was accomplished by putting a conservation easement on our farm with help from the Town of Hopkinton and Five Rivers Conservation Trust. This meant selling the property's development rights to the Town of Hopkinton so no future owner could develop the land. Our family would retain ownership of the land. Five Rivers committed to hold and enforce the easement in perpetuity, and our family was paid for giving up the development potential.

Five Rivers partnered with the town and our family to organize fundraising, spearhead the writing of our easement, coordinate survey and deed preparations, and get an accurate and fair appraisal. The project came to fruition with the largest town meeting in Hopkinton's history and a landslide decision placing a conservation



easement on Bohanan Farm. This protects 414 acres of prime farmland and forest soils on three rivers in the Capital Region, but that's not the end of the story...

The funds from the easement sale stabilized the farm business, but we still had to adapt to meet the challenges of today's agricultural realities. The dairy industry continues to change, which made it difficult for Bohanan



# FARM IN CONTOOCCOOK

## COOK CREAMERY

Farm to support the fifth generation that wanted to return and run the farm. We wanted to continue to make our livelihood with cows but didn't have the land to grow our herd enough to provide a good living for all family members if we continued the wholesale business model we used for the last hundred years.

After much soul-searching and research, we decided to market our milk ourselves and created Contoocook Creamery at Bohanan Farm. We started by having our milk processed off-farm at another dairy processing plant while we built the market for Contoocook Creamery milk.

Eight years into building our brand with over 120 retail outlets, we made our own processing plant on-site and now market 100% of our farm's milk within a two-hour radius.

None of this would have been possible if we had not partnered with Five Rivers Conservation Trust almost 15 years ago to preserve 414 contiguous acres on the banks of the Warner, Contoocook, and Blackwater rivers. Not only is this vital land in conservation and available to hike, bike, hunt, and paddle, but it also provides over 17,000 eight-ounce servings of milk daily delivered across central and southern NH. Feed raised, cows milked, milk processed, milk delivered, and milk consumed, all within a two-hour radius of our farm.

This is a land conservation story we love to tell.

*About the Author: Jamie Robertson, along with his wife Heather Bohanan Robertson and sons Bram, Nate, and Si, owns and operates the Bohanan Farm and Contoocook Creamery in Contoocook, NH. Jamie has served on the Board of Trustees of Five Rivers Conservation Trust since December 2020.*





# LOOKING AHEAD: CONSERVING WARNER'S

We're approaching the finish line after three years of work toward conserving Warner's Vegetable Ranch, founded by the late Larry Pletcher. With the Vegetable Ranch conservation project nearing fruition, Five Rivers asked Jennifer Pletcher, Larry's daughter who now owns and operates the farm, to share some words about her father and what makes the land special:

## LARRY PLETCHER'S LIFE AND LEGACY

By Jennifer Pletcher

My dad outwardly was a stern man, who at 6'2" and dark hair could communicate volumes with a mere glance. He was shaped by a conservative family in the turmoil of the 60s while growing up in the shadow of his mother's illness and his only brother's death. His mind thrived around issues of social justice during his undergraduate studies at Princeton University and would have pursued a career as a philosopher if he had his choice.

Larry's only option for a career, according to his remaining family, was to be a lawyer or a doctor. He decided during his graduate studies at UCLA that his philosophical mind could be happy as a lawyer, during which time he also met my mother, Carol, and became a board-certified lawyer specializing in taxes and property deeds. After he and my mom married, they relocated to New Hampshire, leaving the "pretty pink houses" dotting California's suburbs for the appealing legal landscape and natural beauty in the east.

Despite working at a successful firm, Larry wasn't happy in a pressured environment and soon switched to working in private practice. I was young at the time and have more memories of his pet cows than his time in private practice! When an opportunity to work for the State of NH as a Marital Master arose, he took it. Colleagues recounted my dad always being interested in his decisions' long-term effect. Around this time, he was simultaneously taking the same thought process in his personal life—he stopped smoking, lost weight, and invested time in the garden. After retiring from practicing law, my dad created an organic farming business, and so the Vegetable Ranch was born.



Larry's philosophical bend towards environmental action and the social impacts of everyday decisions is and always will be at the core of the Vegetable Ranch. It was his advocacy for maximizing the long-term benefit to people now and in the future that led him to pursue a conservation easement with Five Rivers. My father created a space where his organic practices and conservation-mindedness could live on, and it is with these values the farm continues today in his physical absence, but always with his spirit.

*About the Author: Jennifer Pletcher is the daughter of Larry and Carol Pletcher. Larry passed away on May 12, 2021, and Carol on January 19, 2022. Jenn has continued to work with Five Rivers to conserve the family's land in Warner—118 acres of ecologically important farmland and forest—while working full-time at Concord Hospital, raising her two children, and managing the Vegetable Ranch organic farm business.*





## THANK YOU VEGETABLE RANCH SUPPORTERS

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*Liz Durfee Hengen*

**In Honor of Beth McGuinn**  
*Oge and Pam Young*

**In Memory of Robert D. Siff**  
*Dorothea Siff*

*In addition to the community supporters listed, this project is made possible by grant funding from NH Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, the Thomas W. Haas Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, the NH State Conservation Commission Moose Plate Conservation Grant Program, the Davis Conservation Foundation, the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership, and the NH Farm Future Fund.*



# 2021 – 2022 EVENTS

If you've attended or seen photos of Five Rivers' gatherings, you know that our Events Committee members love what they do — and that they do it well! While social distancing was commonplace amid the pandemic, they found new opportunities to safely connect our community across technology and fresh air.

In February 2021, we partnered with Gibson's Bookstore in Concord and MainStreet BookEnds of Warner to present a virtual talk from New Hampshire-based naturalist and author, Sy Montgomery, who shared wisdom from her book, "How to be A Good Creature." Later in the year, our Annual Celebration brought over 110 friends of Five Rivers together at Canterbury Shaker Village. We enjoyed music from folk duo Green Heron, apples and warm cider from Carter Hill Orchard, guided trail walks, and catching up with dear friends on a crisp fall afternoon.

New Hampshire's snowstorms and slushy winter weather can't deter our passionate volunteers! This March, members Five Rivers' Events and Land Protection and Stewardship Committees strapped on their snowshoes to lead a brave group on a trek through the Janeway Conservation Area in Webster. After snow melted into mud and trees sprouted new leaves, Events volunteers shifted to preparing for another installment of Evening Yoga at Dimond Hill Farm in Concord, only to be met with downpours and thunderstorms. Have no fear — this beginner-friendly event is rescheduled for **September 21st at 5:30 pm**.

As a lean organization, our volunteer network is at the heart of Five Rivers' work. We feel grateful for the time our many volunteers contribute to helping steward and support conserved properties across Central NH. We got a rare chance to bring many of our conservation property monitors together for a farm-style chicken barbecue this July at Bohanan Farm. It was a lively evening of catching up, chowing down, and getting to know fellow monitors.



## JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> FOR OUR 2022 ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

This year, the gathering is being held at Sanborn Mills Farm in Loudon, a historic landscape where traditional crafting and farming techniques meet modern sustainability practices. The Events Committee has worked diligently to plan this afternoon of fun for all, which will feature updates from Five Rivers, live music by Celtic fiddler Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, tours throughout the pristine grounds, and more! **Register at [5rct.org](https://5rct.org).**



# NEW & NOTEWORTHY

## BLUE MOON BERRY FARM, WARNER

This past April, Five Rivers was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the NH Farm Future Fund as a contribution toward conserving Blue Moon Berry Farm in Warner. Owners Jan Gugliotti and Barb Dieckman have operated the pick-your-own blueberry farm for over 20 years. Approaching retirement, they turned to Five Rivers for help ensuring the farm's continued operation in the future.

Half of the grant assistance from the NH Farm Future Fund will be used for business succession planning as they prepare to transfer the farm to their daughters, and half will be put toward purchasing a conservation easement to permanently protect their 109 acres of forest and agricultural land.

This is an important step toward conserving Blue Moon Berry Farm, but we aren't there yet! Five Rivers applied to the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to fund a large portion of the conservation easement purchase. Paired with significant contributions from the Warner Conservation Commission, the NH Farm Future Fund grant, Jan and Barb's generous donation of a portion of the easement value, and contributions from individual donors, a successful LCHIP grant proposal will bring us into the home stretch of fundraising!



## ARMSTRONG FAMILY FOREST ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY

The Armstrong Family Forest, donated by the Armstrong family in December 2019, is 24 acres of forestland in Concord. Five Rivers manages the natural area where the public can participate in education and low-impact recreation. The first action we took in our long-term stewardship responsibilities for the land was hiring conservationist Chris Kane to conduct an ecological inventory, which identifies flora, fauna, natural habitats, and cultural features.

After observing the Armstrong Forest from April 2021 through March 2022, Chris identified glacial deposits including erratic boulders, a wide variety of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, 13 mammal species and 19 species of birds!

This April, Chris led Five Rivers staff, trustees, and members of the Armstrong family through a tour of the forest and shared his findings. Tom Armstrong Jr. and Anne Armstrong Cram were excited to experience the biodiversity their family conserved. After the walk, Tom Jr. mentioned, "I'm so thrilled to have been a part of this, and my father is very excited to have been able to share this property with all of you in the community!"

Having an ecological inventory report helps inform our management of the property going forward—where to site potential trails and identify the many features we may highlight for education. Five Rivers was fortunate to hire Chris, and we thank him for the special efforts he put into the project!





# MEET FIVE RIVERS' STAFF

By David Tirrell-Wysocki

When Five Rivers' Executive Director Liz Short visited her college town of Ithaca, NY, this summer, she saw a simple slogan on the remnants of a dam that summarized for her why land and water conservation are so important. It read: "No Planet B." The slogan is a shortened version of the title of the book "There is No Planet B," which examines the world's environmental and economic challenges and offers some ideas on how to address them.

At Five Rivers, Liz leads a new staff, passionate board members, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, conservation-minded property owners, and community supporters to translate the universal importance of conservation to the 17 communities they serve. "I think land conservation and caring for the land is our moral responsibility," said Liz, who became Executive Director in December 2020, after serving as a Five Rivers Trustee.

Lily Evans joined Five Rivers in a new position of Development and Communications Coordinator late last year and Jeff Evans (no relation) became Director of Conservation in February, also after serving as a Trustee. Jeff brings more than two decades of scientific experience with nature and conservation to help evaluate and prioritize conservation projects. Lily tells the stories of why conservation is crucial, and Liz taps her organizational skills and environmental background to tie everything together.

Over the years, Five Rivers transitioned from a volunteer-driven organization to having a part-time director, then a full-time director, two full-time employees, then two-and-a-half full-time positions, and now three full-time staff. Liz, who lives in Concord, earned her BA in Biology from Cornell University and an MBA and MS in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan. In college, she studied rainforest ecology, marine ecology, and aboriginal studies while spending time in Australia, combining environmental work with the human aspect of those who stewarded the land for thousands of years.

"The Indigenous peoples' view of the land is not as a commodity or for providing to humans," she said. "It is an identity, a home for more than just humans, a source of healing and knowledge. So, looking through the lenses



of the Western science view and indigenous ecological knowledge view can help us think differently about conservation."

Jeff's research on the biology and management of invasive species and agricultural weeds gives him a valuable perspective on the conservation challenges and opportunities on Five Rivers' conserved lands. He earned his Ph.D. in Entomology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Michigan State University and completed fellowships at Dartmouth College and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Illinois. His interest in conservation was sparked in high school, when he became concerned about the state of the world and started looking for ways he could be helpful, including joining an environmental group.

"There is a whole world of science that I understand very well," he said. "Conceiving a project, getting it funded, executing it, writing and reporting, then promoting the work to try to get the next project going." An important step is speaking with property owners and others about



places that are special to them. “It really makes me happy to be able to talk to people about the things and places they value and what they think and hope for the future,” said Jeff, who lives in Concord.

Lily is a New Hampshire native with a lifelong love of the state’s natural beauty and a passion for words. In 2021, she earned her BS in Professional Writing from Champlain College in Burlington, VT, with a specialization in Editing and Publishing and a minor in Public Relations. “I was fortunate to spend my childhood exploring the thick forest behind my house and being engaged in all that our area has to offer, literally from day one,” she said. “I was hiking Mt. Cardigan before I could tie my shoes.”

As she grew up, she realized she lived in a unique place. “That common marketing line about being an hour from the mountains, an hour from the coast, and an hour from the city—it’s true,” she said. “How many places are like that?”

Liz, Jeff, and Lily are at Five Rivers as more people move to central New Hampshire, stretching the Boston metro area farther north. It’s a challenge with the opportunity to help communities make room for newcomers, while preserving forestland, farms, and waterways that make the area attractive.

“When the Earth is warmed up and drought and fire and other environmental catastrophes are impacting other areas, I think that New Hampshire is one of the places that is relatively resilient,” Jeff said. “We are likely to see a lot of migration into the state and that’s going to put a lot of development pressure on this area.”

To Liz, that means Five Rivers can help find thoughtful ways to balance housing needs and conservation: “Our mission is land conservation, but doing it in the context of having some awareness of other critical human needs is going to help Five Rivers really focus in on those natural areas and places that are most critical and be more strategic about our land conservation with the limited resources we have,” she said.

For Lily, that means telling why that balance is important, and hopefully attracting more support for Five Rivers’ conservation mission: “We always say we need to conserve these places. Well, why? What will happen if we don’t save a farm or an undeveloped parcel of land next to a highway,” she asks.

Think back to the river gorge in Ithaca: “No Planet B.”





# 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUE

3/31/2022

Gifts Without Donor Restrictions	\$181,573
Gifts With Donor Restrictions	134,244
Federal Pandemic Relief	73,483
Other Income	21,735
Grants	21,500
Investment Income	8,941
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>441,476</b>

## EXPENSES

Programs	
Conservation	223,374
Stewardship	61,457
Outreach	14,037
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>298,868</b>

Fundraising	48,591
Administration	24,761
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>372,220</b>

Capacity Building Grant for FY23	80,000
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<b>Total Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$149,256</b>
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Reviewed financials for fiscal year ending March 31, 2022

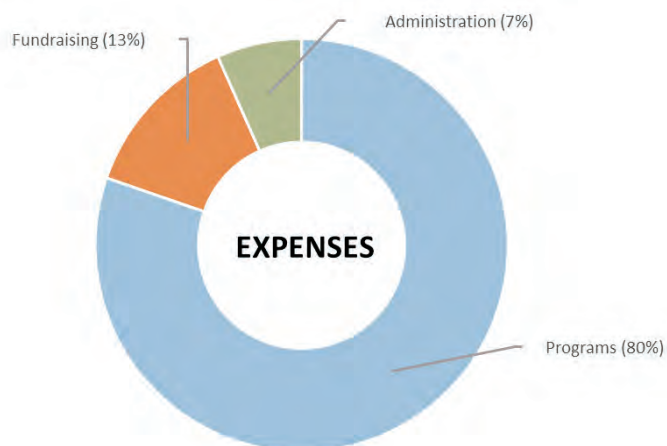
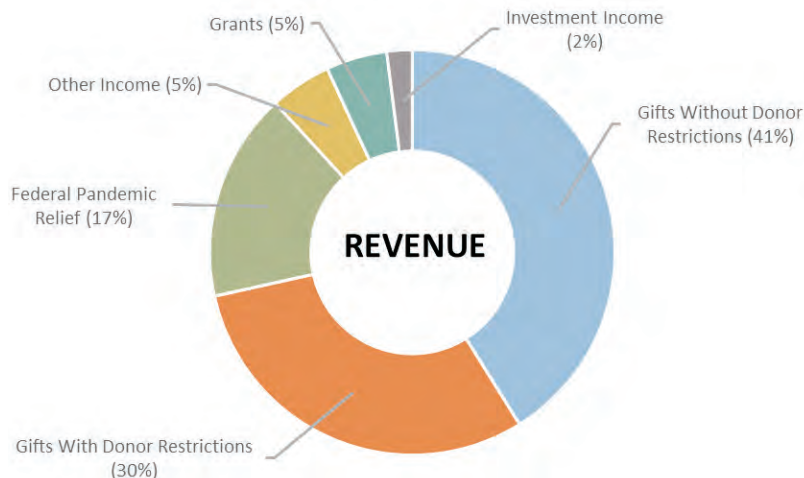
## FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Gifts from individuals and businesses continued as the major source of unrestricted operating support in fiscal year 2022. Further, restricted gifts from institutional funders, municipalities, and individuals helped to accomplish specific conservation projects. Thank you!

Five Rivers received Federal pandemic relief in the form of Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness and Employee Retention Credits.

An anonymous grant received in March 2022 will fund an update of our strategic plan, creation of our first-ever conservation priorities plan and other exciting work in fiscal year 2023.

Thanks to our diverse base of support and sound use of resources, Five Rivers Conservation Trust is well positioned to grow our land conservation impact and strengthen community engagement.





# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

With years of steady growth, Five Rivers has transformed from our origins as an all-volunteer organization to our present state as a professional land trust with three full-time staff. While this has allowed us to take on more complicated projects, we still rely heavily on a corps of dedicated volunteers who bring together skill sets as diverse as their own backgrounds. From our Board of Trustees to the committee members overseeing fundraising, finance, events, land transactions, and stewardship, our work is dependent on the generosity of our volunteers with their time.

## CONSERVED PROPERTY MONITORS

Gary Ambelas	Patrick Hackley	Bethann McCarthy	David Ross
Mike Barwell	Jay Haines	Jared Nylund	Eric Sargent
Barbara Beers	Chris Hallowell	Anne Onion	Alice Saunders
Tracey Boisvert	Richard Head	Tim Pifer	Joe Schmidl
Tim Britain	Karinne Heise	Sarah Pillsbury	Mike Shearin
Lee Carbonneau	Pete Helm	Chris Powles	Lori Sommer
Eliza Conde	Mike Hvizda	Greg Ralich	Ken Stern
Rich Cook	Chris Kane	Marsha Rich	Ned Therrien
Bob Cotton	Rob Knight	Sarah Riordan	Sarah Thorne
Laura Deming	Marlie Lambert	Stephen Roberts	Margaret Watkins
John Dickey	Mike Lenehan	Mike Robinette	
Tim Fleury	Greg Mannesto	Muriel Robinette	

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you to these committed professionals for bringing their passion for conservation and diverse skills to our Board of Trustees during our past two fiscal years:

Maura Adams	Mike Hvizda
Kathy Barnes	Cathy Menard
Danielle Barrick	Beth Moore
Steve Blackmer	Jamie Robertson
Tracey Boisvert	Mike Shearin
Rich Cook	Liz Short
Bob Cotton	Sarah Thorne
Jeffrey Evans	Katy Ward
Jeanne Herrick	

### THANK YOU BOB COTTON!

We express deep gratitude to Bob Cotton for his six years on the Five Rivers board, in which he served as an exemplary Secretary and member of our Finance and Events committees. Bob’s wise counsel, deep knowledge, and generous commitment of energy and expertise have made the organization stronger. We wish Bob all the best as he continues his new role serving on the Concord School Board. Our community is lucky to have him.

As we said goodbye to Bob, we welcomed four new Trustees to Five Rivers’ board in June 2022: Kelly Buchanan, Brad Cilley, Tim Fleury, and Mike Lynch.

## COMMITTEE & OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Aaron Baker	Rich Cook	Lucia Kittredge	Michael Shearin
Kathy Barnes	Michele Cota	Rob Knight	Ken Stern
Tracey Boisvert	Sarah McCraw Crow	Steve Murray	Betsy Swan
David Breen	Kathy Everest	Greg Mannesto	David Tirrell-Wysocki
Alex Campbell	Laurie Farmer	Sarah Palermo	Debbie Wyman
Grace Cohen	Tim Fleury	Liza Poinier	Pam Young
Zib Corell	Dick Ford	Mark Sargent	



# THANK YOU FIVE RIVERS SUPPORTERS!

We honor our community of support for contributions made during our last two fiscal years from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022.

## CONSERVATION LEADERS SOCIETY

Conservation Leaders Society (CLS) members provide strong, sustaining support for local land conservation by giving \$1,500 or more annually towards operating support. Thank you to our Five Rivers Conservation Leaders whose gifts in fiscal year 2021 or 2022 allow us to grow and meet future challenges!

### *Anonymous*

Maura and Brian Adams

Kathy Barnes and Phil

Wallingford

Sylvia Bates and Tom Masland

Colin and Paula Cabot

Dennis Card and Maureen

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Rick Murphy and Beth Moore

Judy Nelson

Joan O'Meara-Winant

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John F. Swope

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### **In Memory of Hayden Fae**

**Capowski Johnson**

James Johnson

### **In Honor of Beth McGuinn**

Amanda and Tom Osmer

## SPONSORSHIPS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

A growing number of businesses are supporters of Five Rivers Conservation Trust. We gratefully welcome the support of companies that recognize how New Hampshire's special landscape plays an essential role in maintaining healthy communities.

603 Solar

AARP NH

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## GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Thank you to these institutions whose gifts help fuel our operations and fund conservation projects.

### *Anonymous*

Davis Conservation Foundation

Merrimack Conservation Partnership

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Anonymous

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Thomas W. Haas Fund

New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

New Hampshire Farm Future Fund

New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

New Hampshire State Conservation Commission "Moose Plate"

Conservation Grant Program

Morgan Stanley Foundation



# ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTERS

Gifts to our annual fund help us cultivate new projects, steward conserved properties, and engage the community in conservation. Thank you to the hundreds of individuals who are members of our growing Five Rivers community. *Supporters who made their first gifts towards operating support in either fiscal year 2021 or 2022 are recognized in italics.*

## \$500-\$1,500 ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

Tom and Karen Berry  
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## In Honor of Sarah Thorne

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**In Honor of Cathy Mayne**  
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 Grace Cohen  
 Juliana Eades  
 Jeanne Herrick and Pete Helm  
 Sarah and Harry Kinter  
 Emily Preston  
 The Solso Family  
 Deborah Stanley  
 David and Sarah Tirrell-Wysocki

**In Honor of Beth Moore**  
 Carol and Jeff Schapira

**In Honor of Abby Osmer**  
 Amanda and Tom Osmer

**In Memory of Dorothy Pierce**  
 Brian Pierce

**In Memory of Frederic R. Pilch**  
 Nancy A. Pilch

**In Memory of Larry Pletcher**  
 Pam and Stephen Trostorff

**In Honor of Shakti**  
 CherylAnne Williams

**In Honor of Liz Short**  
 Ashley Short

**In Honor of Jim Stone**  
 Bink and Karen Chase

**In Memory of Erik Wheeler**  
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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Five Rivers Conservation Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to preserve and protect open space lands for future generations. We work in 17 towns at the confluence of five New Hampshire rivers.

## TOWNS WE SERVE

Belmont, Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Gilmanton, Hillsborough, Henniker, Hopkinton, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke, Salisbury, Warner, Webster

## THE RIVERS

The Merrimack, Contoocook, Blackwater, Warner, and Soucook Rivers converge in an area of river bottom farmland and rolling hills that defines our service area.

