



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Five Rivers
Conservation
Trust

www.5rct.org

The Faces of Five Rivers – John Swope

— Interviewed by Connie Rosemont

John Swope is known to many of us as a generous and ardent supporter of civic life. Recently, he extended his generosity to help create a woodland park in the heart of Concord, modeled after the near-by Winant Park, also within the city limits. His gift of 77 acres of land sits just off Long Pond Road and will be managed through 5RCT.

We interviewed John, to find out what makes someone decide to give a gift like this. Because he is modest and humble, it was hard to get him to say as much as we wanted, but here is what he had to say:

Q: How did you come to the decision to donate the land?

A: Initially, my wife (Marjory Swope) and I had wanted to develop the land – it has spectacular views and we talked to a friend about modest development. When that friend died, we let the idea go. At some point, we began to think of putting trails through the woods; out of that discussion grew the notion of donating the land to the City of Concord. Finally, I decided to stop thinking about it and do something.

Q: How did you decide to work with 5 Rivers Conservation Trust?

A: I first sounded out the City about creating a park with Marjory's name on it. She was on the Conservation Commission for 25 years and Chair for most of that time. The City was very enthusiastic. I therefore donated the land to the City. However, to make sure that the land and my family's wishes would be carefully stewarded, I gave the easement to 5 Rivers

Conservation Trust. The reason to go with 5 Rivers Conservation Trust is that they'll be a third party to make sure the City is keeping up its end of the bargain. I've known Jay for years and I knew they had recently done Winant Park.

Q: You gave the gift of your land to create this park. You then have given an additional monetary gift to set up parking, signage, trails, etc. Why did you go this route instead of asking the City to find the resources?

A: At the end of the day, it takes money to make sure the Park will be what I and others want it to be. Therefore, I am giving the funds to make sure that it is properly established and therefore easier to maintain into the future.

Q: How do you talk about this land?

A: It's a nice piece of land and this is the best use for it. It is in the center of the City, it connects with a lot of other conservation property and is a very good nexus. With adjacent privately conserved land, land from St. Paul's School and city-held properties, you can hike an entire day in the woods in the center of our state capital. A lot of people give money and gifts and I'm no different. I'm not sentimental. They are some very nice woods. A low-impact park would be a wonderful way to keep it there for all of us.

Thank you John Swope!

Please join us the afternoon of Friday, June 29th for the dedication of Marjory Swope Park. Check our website for details.



Looking forward, indeed!

Last year we shared with you, our members and friends, the research and planning undertaken that pointed the way to Five Rivers' future. In 2011 we began the process of implementing those initiatives. Sarah Pillsbury reports on a very successful start, including: four new easement holdings; a successful Fallfest; fundraising for easement projects; and a strong financial condition at our year end.

"We are on the train and it has left the station." With a strong year just completed, our members will be pleased to know that in the coming year(s) we will continue to demonstrate Five Rivers' value and importance as the "local land trust" to individual land owners, farming families, and municipal conservation organizations. Our property easement projects will continue at the current fast pace. We are in a time when the ownership of private land is in transition within families, and municipal conservation entities are especially sensitive to maintaining important lands of open space, natural habitats, and heritage, that strongly define their communities.

In the coming year, Five Rivers expects to close on seven new easement projects, one consisting of three separate parcels. This represents unprecedented growth, the largest for any single year in our twenty-four year

history. It will give Five Rivers 50 easements and over 3,300 acres in conservation protection. In addition, with last year's gift by the Swope Family for the creation of the Marjory Swope Park, Five Rivers, along with the City of Concord, will oversee the linking of hiking/walking trails over a multiple of private, and City of Concord conserved properties that will make for more than just a good day's hike!

The challenge associated with our success comes from the important fundraising support needed for: funding the closing costs of easements; the purchase of easements; and the necessary growth in operating expenses that come from increased property stewardship and maintenance. Based on the ESC membership development study completed in 2011, we are confident that the community that has traditionally placed high value in the preservation of open space, natural wildlife habitats, and local farming enterprises that produce foods for local markets, will continue their generous sustaining of the work of Five Rivers.

For that, the Trustees and I are most grateful. Thank you!

Jay Haines,
Executive Director

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President's Message from Sarah Pillsbury

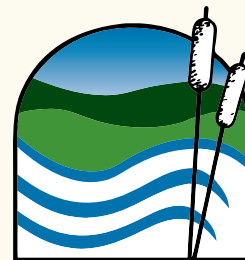
In the last year, Five Rivers has made great progress toward our two primary strategic goals: protecting farmland and helping the communities we serve with their conservation priorities.

The first conservation project completed since our last annual report was protection of the Hillman Farm in Pembroke, a project which married both strategic goals and resulted in the first successful conservation project in Pembroke in decades. It was such a pleasure helping the conservation commission tenaciously work towards protecting an identified jewel, in this case a working farm with 1400+ feet of frontage on the Suncook River. Five Rivers involvement as the easement holder, also led to an outreach event in December in Pembroke, similar to one held in Chichester a month earlier, where Five Rivers met with large land owners to explain land conservation and answer questions in an informal setting. Both were enjoyable opportunities to meet our goal by helping member communities reach theirs.

The Hillman Project was the first in a slew of successes this year with acquiring Farm and Ranch Land Protection Funds (50% matching grant) for conservation easements held by Five Rivers on prime farmland. Last year it was the Bohanan farm. This year funding went to Hillman and has been secured for three other great projects which you may have seen in the news.

- The Triaca Property, abutting and farmed by Dimond Hill in Concord
- Maplewood Farm on Stickney Hill in Concord; and
- A number of parcels in Gilmanton, one containing the Town's best view

Successful completion of all three projects hinges on successful fundraising and, of course, the hard work of volunteers and our member communities.



Two projects, a wildlife haven in Hillsborough (the Coffin Property) and a large, diverse property in Salisbury (the Schmidl-Owen Property), received transaction funding from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership, a public/private effort to protect the Monadnock Highlands of western New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts. The Coffin project received additional funding from the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust and The Russell Foundation, both of which partnered with us in this effort.

We were also pleased to complete the easements on two projects, long in the works, with the Town of Hopkinton (Rice and Rollins).

It's also my great pleasure to acknowledge the creation of the Marjory Swope Park in Concord at the end of 2011 (see interview on page 2). Marjory was an ardent conservationist. The land and easement was donated, in her honor, by her husband John Swope. It is a remarkable place in itself. However, in addition Five Rivers has been working with abutting property owners to secure trail easements to connect the Swope Park trails with other Five Rivers conservation properties – Carter Hill Orchard and Dimond Hill Farm. Go to our new website (www.5rct.org) to see the great recreational access this project helped to make possible.

In addition to protecting land, it's important to note Five Rivers has also made good progress in reaching our organizational goals. Fun events like Fallfest in September and our moon-lit, winter adventure in Winant Park, combined with using more electronic media has helped us connect with our members and raise awareness about the organization.

In closing, it has been a privilege and honor to work with such a hardworking and dedicated Board and Executive Director over the course of this year. We can't do it alone, though. With all our success, the contributions of our members are more important than ever to ensure there are forever farms and fields and forests in this part of New Hampshire that we all mutually treasure.

Thanks.

Five Rivers Conservation Trust 2012 Budget

	2012
Operating Income	Budget
Memberships	\$33,750
Donations	\$31,000
Grants	\$6,000
Other	\$6,179
Total Operating Income	\$76,929
Operating Expenses	
Insurance	\$5,740
Merchandise	\$200
Office	\$9,805
Payroll	\$45,640
Membership Communication	\$5,900
Professional	\$4,000
Travel & Training	\$3,050
Real Estate Taxes	\$420
Total Op. Expenses	\$74,755
Net Op. Income	\$2,174
Event Income	\$0
Event Expenses	\$0
Net Event Income	\$0
Conservation Income	
Transaction Fees/Support	\$3,500
Stewardship Fund Contributions	\$27,500
Other Restricted Fund Contributions	\$0
Fund Dividends, interest, gains	\$0
Total Conservation Income	\$31,000
Conservation Expenses	\$6,629
Net Conservation Income	\$24,371
Total Net Income	\$26,545

Five Rivers Conservation Trust Easements

PROPERTY	TOWN	ACRES	YEAR
Hallinan	Bow	166	2007
Blackmer	Canterbury	15	2007
Briggs	Canterbury	65.8	2004
Emerson	Canterbury	63	2003
Nelson	Canterbury	15	2009
Backwoods	Concord	28	2003
Bass	Concord	18	1996
Bois de Brodeur	Concord	33	1990
Carter Hill Orchard	Concord	155	2001
Clark	Concord	15	1993
Dimond Hill Farm	Concord	109.1	2006
Foss	Concord	14	2005
Fournier	Concord	34	2010
Hardy #1	Concord	11	1996
Hardy #2	Concord	16	2002
Lang	Concord	10	1991
Reno	Concord	21	1993
Sewalls Falls	Concord	3	1992
Swope	Concord	77.25	2011
Winant	Concord	80	2009
Burack-Cathcart	Dunbarton	67	2000
Baldwin	Gilmanton	100	2006
Christie #1	Gilmanton	13.71	2007
Christie #2	Gilmanton	20	2009
Howe-Thorne	Gilmanton	25	2007
Perkins Farm	Gilmanton	15	2009
Robinette	Gilmanton	30	2008
Chase Brook	Henniker	62	2008
Olivia Smith	Hillsborough	67	2007
Bermuda/Harris Wood	Hopkinton	111	2006
Bohanan Farm	Hopkinton	413	2010
Butterworth	Hopkinton	24	2005
Carson	Hopkinton	35	2006
Ransmeier	Hopkinton	68	2006
Rice	Hopkinton	210	2011
Rollins	Hopkinton	46.7	2011
Sweatt	Hopkinton	73	2003
Bronnenberg	Loudon	79	2004
Bumfagon Brook -Town of Loudon	Loudon	50	2004
Holt Pond	Loudon	91	2007
Sleeper	Loudon	92	2007
Hillman	Pembroke	46.3	2011
Lake	Salisbury	19	2004

TOTAL PROPERTIES = 2,707

Thank you to our Donors!

On the following pages, we have listed our donors during our expanded fiscal year January 1, 2011 through March 21, 2012. The pages include our individual and business members, our easement donors and those who donated separately to Fallfest 2011. Our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors!

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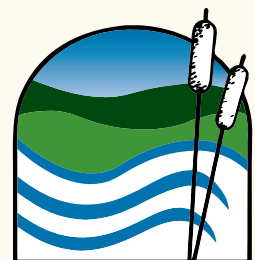
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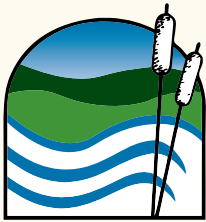
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