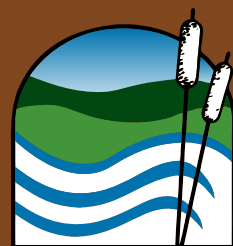




Ransmeier Woods, Hopkinton by Michael Murphy

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Five Rivers
Conservation
Trust

www.5rct.org

Strong Partnerships Mean the Success of Five Rivers

As Five Rivers concludes its 25th year, I am especially thankful for the many partnerships that make the organization successful. Consider our easement donors. They have preserved their land for the future. Their commitment is both philosophically and financially significant.

To maintain our partnership with these easement donors, we count on every one of our members and contributors. Each dollar matters. Every visit to a protected property, our website, or our Facebook page strengthens our organization. The long-term financial commitments made by our Conservation Leaders signify a deep partnership bond. We continue to be grateful for the support provided by our partnership with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and its donors.

We recognize the strong partnerships Five Rivers has with town officials and conservation commissions. In the past year, Five Rivers deepened its connections to several communities, including Concord, Dunbarton, Henniker, and Webster. The Twigg project provided an opportunity to work with George and Anna Mae Twigg, the Town of Gilmanton, and a new partner, The Gilmanton Land Trust (which includes some long-time friends). The four parcels formerly owned by the Twiggs would not be in trust without the strong ties between these partners.

Jane Presby at Dimond Hill Farm, the Robertson family at Bohanan Farm, and Robert Larocque at Carter Hill Orchard continue to partner with Five Rivers to protect land, provide local food, host community events, and welcome people on their property.

We have other partners whose contributions are less obvious, but without which Five Rivers would not flourish. I continue to value the strong commitment our trustees, former trustees, and volunteers have to Five Rivers. Through their leadership, effort and dedication, Five Rivers has reached its twenty-fifth anniversary and has a strong vision for the next twenty-five years. I deeply appreciate the dedication of these individuals as I leave the board after six productive years. Thanks to all of the partners who share in the success of Five Rivers.

*-Melinda Gehris
Chairperson*



A Fond Farewell to Melinda

Heartfelt thanks to Melinda for her tremendous efforts, leadership, vision, and sustained hard work over the past 6 years. Melinda has changed the face of Five Rivers, making us more recognizable in the community through wonderful celebratory events on our properties, new relationships with our constituents, and frequent conservation efforts. During her two years as Chair, Five Rivers added 18 conservation easements which increased our protected properties by 41%. Melinda will be sorely missed on the Board, but we know we'll see her on the trails, and she intends to remain actively involved with Five Rivers' project to achieve accreditation!

- Board of Trustees, 2013

Five Rivers 25th Anniversary, a Celebration of Partnerships

Jay Haines, Executive Director's Report



The theme of the Five Rivers Annual Report is the importance of partnerships. Melinda Gehris speaks to this in her comments, and so do I.

When deciding how to celebrate 25 years of land conservation and stewardship protection, the trustees identified three objectives. First, hold events that provide opportunities for as many individuals and families as possible to access easement properties open to public recreation. Second, for each event, partner with an organization, business, or individual that had shared in the success of Five Rivers' conservation activities. Finally, design each event to be self-supporting, allowing our membership revenues to continue to support the Five Rivers mission.

Thanks to all of you, we were successful in meeting all three objectives. Here is a review of our events, and thank you to the partners and sponsors that made each celebration successful and whom are identified with each event.

Our 2013 Annual Gathering was held at the New Hampshire Audubon McLane Center, catered by The Works Café, and sponsored by Ransmeier & Spellman PC. Over 60 members, friends, and guests, joined our new trustees and the officers for the coming year and recognized those trustees stepping down. After guests learned about the seven new easements acquired in 2012, we were entertained by Mary Holland, a naturalist, author, and blogger from Vermont. Mary delighted the audience with her presentation on a year in the life of nature.

The Anniversary Photo Contest was sponsored by Grappone Toyota/Scion and Rowland Studios. Participants submitted over 40 photographs in four categories. Local celebrities, Liza Poinier of InTown Concord, Peter St. James of WTPL 107.7 radio, and Keith Testa of the Concord Monitor chose the winning photographs. The winners were exhibited at the Grappone Toyota/Scion dealership and The Works Café, and are now at the Red River Theatre Gallery. You can also view them on the Five Rivers Web-site (www.5rct.org). Thank you to Grappone Toyota/Scion, S&W Sports, Hess Gehris Solutions, Red River Theatres, and Hannaford Super Markets for donations to the prize bags received by the contest winners.

Our Spring Bird-watching Nature Walks provided an opportunity to partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Carter Hill Orchard. Held on consecutive sunny days, several dozen bird enthusiasts enjoyed walking on two Five Rivers' easement properties in Hopkinton: Bohanan Farm, and Ransmeier Woods. We saw and heard a number of birds and enjoyed some early spring wildflowers blooming along the trail.



In July, we partnered with Merrimack County Savings Bank, QuickWater Canoe & Kayak, and The Concord Coop Market to **Paddle on the Merrimack River**. Several dozen kayak and canoe enthusiasts took a leisurely trip down the Merrimack River, under warm cloudless skies, to QuickWater's facility at the Hannah Dustin "take-out" for a light snack and conversation.

On August 24th, we celebrated at Meetinghouse Pond in Gilmanton with a great “Thank You” party for **Twigg Easements Donors and Partners** hosted by the Gilmanton Land Trust, complete with outstanding food and music and a tour of the flax retting site on the property. Meetinghouse Pond is one of four parcels protected by a conservation easement with Five Rivers. George and Anna Mae Twigg were recognized for their generosity and foresight in donating the conservation easements. Five Rivers was proud to be recognized as the easement holder and a contributor to the project.



Five Rivers joined in the inaugural **Hopkinton Village Greenway Hike** hosted by the Hopkinton Conservation Commission and the Hopkinton Open Space Committee. Hikers celebrated the official opening of this 4.5 mi. loop trail circling the village of Hopkinton. Five Rivers hosted a refreshment tent, providing snacks to scores of participants taking advantage of this wonderful new trail.

On September 27th, Ken and Ilene Stern hosted an informal **Conservation Leaders Society Gathering** at their beautiful Canterbury home. The gathering provided the trustees an opportunity to express our appreciation to these individuals who have significantly invested in the mission of Five Rivers, and to more personally share with them what their commitment has allowed Five Rivers to accomplish. The event was underwritten through two generous anonymous donations.



The West End Farm Trail Hike in November was held in conjunction with New Hampshire Audubon, the Concord Conservation Commission, and Carter Hill Orchard. More than 70 hikers set out on a clear, crisp fall morning. One group walked with Phil Brown of NH Audubon, stopping to learn about interesting plants and animals. At Dimond Hill Farm, we enjoyed fresh cider and warm doughnuts from Carter Hill Orchard. Walkers arrived at Carter Hill Orchard to see one of Audubon's live teaching raptors. Special thanks to Grappone Toyota/Scion for providing a van to transport

hikers back to their vehicles.

Our Third Annual Moonlit Walk was hosted at Carter Hill Orchard and in partnership with the Shepherd McAuliffe Discovery Center and the Concord Conservation Commission, included a pre-walk presentation by Ryan Mahoney, Education Coordinator for the Discovery Center. Ryan captivated young and old with facts and myths about the moon. On cue, the orange full moon rose above distant trees and shone through the windows, casting a glow throughout the room and eliciting loud cheers and applause. Although the walk was a bit anticlimactic as clouds blew in and obscured the moon's glow, the cocoa and cookies afterward made it all worthwhile.



Tim and Jane Britain hosted a **Trustees Reception** at their home in Hopkinton. This informal gathering allowed past and present trustees to hear about the future and enjoy each others' company.

Please join us for our final event, the **2014 Annual Gathering**, on May 22 at Red River Theatres. More information on the event can be found, in this report, on page 11 and on the Five Rivers website, www.5rct.org.

Our Members, Enjoying Five Rivers Properties

Harold and Betsy Janeway, Webster



Betsy Janeway

Harold and I are enthusiastic Five Rivers' members because we believe in conserving open land and river corridors for wildlife and for people too. We live above the Blackwater River, where we swim, kayak, and, when the ice is safe, ski. Its banks show a rich record of animal tracks in winter. In spring, silver maples hum with bees and songs of birds. In summer, the river is a life-saver in heat waves, and in fall it is spectacular.

Rivers are wonderful! They require our interest, devotion, and care. Five Rivers works hard to protect river corridors and water purity, and we give them a hearty vote of thanks for their work. We hope you will join Five Rivers.

Marilyn Buffinga, Concord

Marilyn Buffinga, known around the Concord area as "Buffy" lives an active life. She is a personal trainer at Jeremy's Boot Camp and works with individuals learning to ski. When she is not working with clients, she prefers to be outdoors.

An avid skier, Buffy enjoys the trails at Carter Hill. There is varied terrain for Nordic skiers, including a large hill where she can raise her heart rate. In summer, Buffy enjoys the trails at Swope Park and Carter Hill. She also runs and hikes on the West End Farm trail. Buffy goes to these areas as often as possible.

With Five Rivers properties located throughout Concord, she doesn't have to travel far to get a good workout! Buffy says, "I have been impressed with the work that Five Rivers has done to make these areas available for the community. It is awesome that these locations will be protected without the risk of huge housing developments being built."



Buffy Cross Country Skiing



Therrien Canterbury - Otter Pond

Conservation Projects for 2013

We completed nine land protection projects, protecting nearly 500 acres in 6 towns! We conserved valuable farm land, a variety of water resources, and a broad diversity of wildlife habitat while ensuring perpetual public access to some outstanding recreational opportunities. Here is a brief summary of this year's conservation easements.

Twigg properties, 85 acres in total, Gilmanton. Multiple partners combined efforts to conserve these iconic landscapes and productive farm lands in Gilmanton. The four tracts were protected through the dedication and financial support of the owner, George Twigg and his wife Anna Mae, Gilmanton Land Trust (GLT), the Town of Gilmanton, USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), NH Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP), and NH Moose Plate. GLT also spearheaded a major local fundraising effort, garnering the support of hundreds of individuals (see pages 10 and 11 for a complete listing).



- Frisky Hill Views, 15 acres. Stretching along NH Route 107 atop Frisky Hill, this property commands views across productive hay fields, a small pond, and the valleys, hills and mountains beyond. The property is now owned by the Town.
- Route 107 Fields, 21 acres. This easement consists of two adjacent tracts valued primarily for their fertile fields. A long stretch of road frontage offers views across the fields to Loon Pond and the rolling landscape beyond. The property also protects water quality in Loon Pond and a small section of undeveloped shoreline.
- Meetinghouse Pond, 41 acres. This parcel has it all: scenic road frontage, a large hay field, frontage on Meetinghouse Pond, a sugar bush, wetlands, trails, and a flax retting pond, which is a rare remnant of our agricultural heritage. The property is now owned by the Town.
- Loon Pond Road, 8 acres. This smallest of the tracts is a well managed hay field. It provides scenic road frontage and pedestrian access to an old Osgoodite Cemetery.

Therrien Conservation Easement, Ames Road Forest, 118 acres, Canterbury. Ned and Jean Therrien have been managing this property as a Tree Farm for over 30 years. Tree Farm is a voluntary program to promote sound forest management which, in combination with the sustainable harvest of wood products, fosters protection of water resources, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. In recognition of their exemplary accomplishment of these goals, they were recognized as NH Tree Farmers of the Year for 2013. Ned and Jean's stewardship, combined with the outstanding natural features on the property, resulted in Five Rivers receiving a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund to cover most of the costs of this project.



Butterworth Conservation Easement, 16 acres, Concord. Hope Butterworth is one of our most dedicated supporters. She has donated two easements to Five Rivers. This easement was essential to our efforts to conserve three adjacent agricultural properties in the historic Stickney Hill agricultural district of Concord, including the Maplewood Farm. The property is primarily fields which are managed by a local dairy farmer.



Farley Conservation Easement, 256 acres, Dunbarton. This property, which has been farmed for well over 200 years, will forever remain open space thanks to its current owner, Anne Farley, who recently donated a conservation easement to Five Rivers. During her 36-year tenure, Anne has raised sheep, goats, chickens, and horses on the property to which she and her husband Earl retired. Although Anne no longer has chickens, a bobcat visits the farm regularly in search of remembered prey. She has carded, spun, dyed and knitted the wool from her sheep into many fine items, cherished by those who now wear a piece of our agricultural heritage. The property includes scenic road frontage, fields, forest and a large section of wetland along Bela Brook, which is a conservation priority for Dunbarton.



Town of Henniker, Eisner Contoocook River Access, 11 acres, Henniker. This project permanently protects a critical access point to the Contoocook River long used by white water paddlers. American Whitewater acquired the property, donated the easement to Five Rivers, and then donated the fee ownership to the Town of Henniker. Merrimack Valley Paddlers and the Henniker Conservation Commission were also project partners. The property has long frontage on one of the most scenic sections of river, provides a put in above the Freight Train Rapids, and is used by fisherman and boaters through much of the year. It also supports flood plain forest and pocket wetlands and provides scenic road frontage.



Phelps Conservation Easement, 12 acres, Webster. Geraldine Phelps donated an easement on her property in recognition of its scenic and wildlife values. This is the third piece of land conserved by her extended family, which also conserved the adjacent Mock Forest. The property includes scenic frontage on NH Route 127 as it winds its way to the village, as well as along Pearson Hill Road. This is Five Rivers' first conservation easement in Webster.



In addition to the projects described above, Five Rivers accepted two conservation easement executory interests from the Turkey River Basin Trust. Throughout our history, Five Rivers has been a key partner with the Turkey River Basin Trust. The Turkey River Trustees determined that stewardship by Five Rivers made the most sense for these properties over the long term. The City of Concord holds the primary easement interest in both properties.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Five Rivers continues to have a strong balance sheet, including \$375,955 dedicated to defending the conservation easements we hold. In the past year, operating funds (unrestricted retained earnings) increased by \$20,505 to \$88,119. The large increase in the organization's operating funds is thanks to the strong support of the membership, particularly through the Conservation Leaders Society. This support has put Five Rivers in a position to manage and protect our growing number of conservation properties (up 20% in 2013, to 61 properties), and prepare for future conservation projects. *-Rob Knight, Treasurer*

Five Rivers Conservation Trust Balance Sheet - March 31, 2014

ASSETS	2014	2013	LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2014	2013
Current Assets			Liabilities		
Checking/Savings	86,294	80,669	Current Liabilities	3,905	2,223
Vanguard Funds (restricted)	426,972	308,594	Total Liabilities	3,905	2,223
Other Current Assets	9,669	4,357			
Total Current Assets	522,935	393,620	Equity		
Fixed Assets			Sweatt Property	260,800	260,800
Office Equipment	0	575	Restricted funds	430,911	324,358
Sweatt Property	260,800	260,800	Unrestricted (retained earnings)	88,119	67,614
Total Fixed Assets	260,800	261,375	Total Equity	779,830	652,772
			TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY:	783,735	654,995
TOTAL ASSETS:	783,735	654,995			

Five Rivers Conservation Trust Protected Properties

PROPERTY	TOWN	ACRES
Tioga	Belmont	188
Hallinan	Bow	166
Blackmer	Canterbury	15
Briggs	Canterbury	66
Emerson	Canterbury	63
Nelson	Canterbury	15
Therrien	Canterbury	117
Backwoods	Concord	28
Bass	Concord	18
Bois de Brodeur	Concord	33
Carter Hill Orchard	Concord	155
Clark	Concord	15
Dimond Hill Farm	Concord	109
Foss	Concord	14
Fournier	Concord	34
Hardy #1	Concord	11
Hardy #2	Concord	16
Lang	Concord	10
Maplewood Farm	Concord	78
Reno	Concord	21
Sewalls Falls	Concord	3
Swope	Concord	77
Triacca	Concord	24
Turkey River Basin	Concord	1
Turkey River Basin	Concord	1
Winant	Concord	80
Zanes-Butterworth	Concord	16
Burack-Cathcart	Dunbarton	67
Farley	Dunbarton	256
Baldwin	Gilmanton	100
Christie #2	Gilmanton	20
Christie #1	Gilmanton	14
Perkins Farm	Gilmanton	15
Robinette	Gilmanton	30
Howe-Thorne	Gilmanton	25
Twigg #1	Gilmanton	15
Twigg #2	Gilmanton	8
Twigg #3	Gilmanton	41
Twigg #4	Gilmanton	21
Chase Brook	Henniker	62
Eisner	Henniker	11
Watmann Conservation Area	Henniker	75
Coffin	Hillsborough	50
Smith	Hillsborough	67
Thomas	Hillsborough	113
Bermuda/Harris Wood	Hopkinton	111
Bohanan Farm	Hopkinton	413
Butterworth	Hopkinton	24
Carson	Hopkinton	35
Ransmeier	Hopkinton	68
Rice	Hopkinton	210
Rollins	Hopkinton	47
Sweatt	Hopkinton	73
Bronnenberg	Loudon	79
Bumfagon Brook - Town of Loudon	Loudon	50
Holt Pond	Loudon	91
Sleeper Property	Loudon	92
Hillman	Pembroke	46
Lake	Salisbury	19
Schmidl - Owens	Salisbury	139
Phelps	Webster	12

TOTAL PROPERTIES = 61

TOTAL ACRES = 3,873

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Five Rivers Conservation Trust ANNUAL GATHERING

Please join other members and the Board of Trustees for the 2014 Annual Gathering. Talk with friends, meet the newly-elected Trustees, and hear about Five Rivers' accomplishments over the past year.

Then enjoy our Feature Presentation –



Mountain Lions: A Special Program by Bill Betty

Red River Theatres

May 22, 2014

5:30-8:00pm Light refreshments

Free Admission – limited seating

Reservations required

Members get priority until May 15th.

Please RSVP to jpifer@5rct.org by May 15th.

See our website www.5rct.org for more information.

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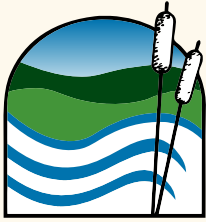
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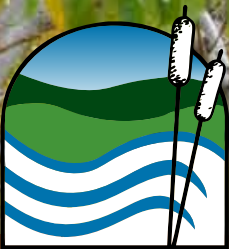


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