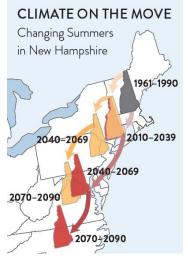


Local Conservation - Local Food

Five Rivers Annual Gathering and Special Presentation

Climate Change is real! Learn how it is impacting New England and our options for the future.



Presenter: Cameron Wake is a climate scientist at UNH focused on Climate Change's effects in New England.

Thursday, June 2, 2016 5:30-7:30 Tad's Place Havenwood Heritage Heights 149 East Side Drive, Concord

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beverages Five Rivers Update Climate Change Presentation

Seating is Limited – Reservation Required Reserve Your Seat at www.5rct.org Information: 225-7225; info@5rct.org



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 seventeen towns¹ at the confluence of five New Hampshire rivers².

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

²The Five Rivers are the Blackwater, Contoocook, Merrimack, Soucook and Warner Rivers.

> Tim Britain, Hopkinton, Chair Michael Lehman, Concord, Vice Chair Michael Shearin, Dunbarton, Treasurer Kit Morgan, Concord, Secretary

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Michele Roberge, Concord Amanda Stone, Gilmanton

Staff

Beth McGuinn, Executive Director Kerry Smith, Membership and Office Manager

Five Rivers Conservation Trust 31 Warren Street, Concord, NH | (603) 225-7225 | www.5rct.org

Focus on Farms

By Beth McGuinn, Executive Director



Executive Director, Beth McGuinn

The local food movement has put a spotlight on farms and farming in New Hampshire. Do you shop at your local farmers' market or neighborhood farmstand? Pick your own berries? Go out of your way to buy locally raised meat? Know your farmer by name? More and more people do, and that includes me!

Fresh, locally grown food

tastes better, and farms provide the iconic landscapes of open fields and forest edges that we all enjoy. Five Rivers continues its focus on farm conservation with the newly conserved Bean Hill Farm in Northfield and our efforts, with the Friends of Stone Farm, to raise the funds needed to conserve the historic Stone Farm in Dunbarton. You will learn more about these special farms in this Annual Report.

Conserving a farm with a conservation easement limits the development potential of the land, and ensures that the farm will be available for agriculture and forest management in the future. The farm remains privately owned and the owner may convey the property as s/he wishes, with the conservation restrictions in place. Easements reduce the value of a farm, making access to farmland more affordable for a future farmer to purchase. When Five Rivers conserves a farm or any property, we take on the responsibility for annual monitoring to make sure the easement terms are met, helping new owners understand the terms of the easement and taking action if activities on the farm are not in keeping with the easement.

Farmers are at the heart of the local food movement. Their perspectives on conservation and farming are important, so in this report's centerfold we've profiled three farmers who work Five Rivers-conserved (or soon to be conserved) fields.

If you'd like to explore a conserved farm, join us for our new fundraiser – a Tour and Taste at Carter Hill Orchard in August. This special evening will feature food made using a variety of local produce and opportunities to learn how apples and peaches are grown on this beloved Five Rivers-conserved orchard in Concord. And if you want to learn about the changes that are affecting farmers more than most, come to our Annual Gathering on June 2 to learn how climate changes are impacting New England and what

Farms, cont. page 3

Five Rivers – Moving Forward

By Tim Britain, Board Chair



As we complete our 2015-16
Fiscal Year, Five Rivers can
celebrate continuing growth to
meet the conservation needs
of our region. Our supporters
now number over 480. Our
strong-working Board of Trustees grew with the addition of
Mary Cowan Lundquist, Carolyn
Koegler Miller, Amanda Stone,

Michele Roberge and Sarah Pillsbury last year, bringing new energy and ideas.

Five years ago, our strategic plan identified two important paths for Five Rivers' future success: (1) hire a full-time Executive Director and (2) seek accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. We hired Beth McGuinn as our first full-time Executive Director in June 2014, with the assistance of a capacity-building grant of \$25,000/year for two years from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Although that grant expires this year, I am pleased to report that, thanks to the generosity of our members and contributors, and particularly our Conservation Leaders Society members, our fundraising efforts will enable us to sustain this position on our own next year. We are grateful to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for investing in our success as we grow to meet increasing needs in our region.

The Land Trust Accreditation Comission notified us in June 2015 that Five Rivers had been selected to submit an application for national accreditation in 2016. After months of intense work, we submitted our application in March. Now that is something to celebrate! In the process, we have combed through our records to document our organizational practices, and have updated financial, stewardship and easement policies. Submission of the application (which is three inches thick), is not the end of the story. Over the next ten months, we will answer additional questions, provide supplemental data and endure an intensive interview this summer. I am confident that I will be able to report the

Farms continued from page 2

choices we can make to address this tremendous challenge. Last year, Five Rivers packed in lots of activity including trail

openings, hikes, conservation work, monitoring conserved lands and working towards land trust accreditation. We can do all of this because YOU make it happen. Thanks to each of you who have made a financial contribution, volunteered or served on a committee or the board. You make all of our successes possible! If you are not yet a member or would like to volunteer, clip the Join Us corner from the back page and sign up, today.

Commission's approval of our application in 2017. Approval will signify that Five Rivers meets the highest conservation and management standards for land trusts, an achievement shared by only 19% of land trusts nationwide. Accreditation will allow us to more effectively achieve our mission. Although many have contributed to this effort, I especially want to recognize some special volunteers. Melinda Gehris, Margaret Watkins, Ken Stern and Mike Shearin deserve "above and beyond awards" for their work in preparing the application for accreditation. Thank you!

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will read about our successes and plans regarding our core mission – conserving special places. You will also read about landowners who share our belief that farms, forests, wetlands, ponds and scenic vistas must be preserved for future generations to enjoy. As a member, you are already familiar with Five Rivers' accomplishments and mission. Please spread the news and encourage your family, friends and colleagues to join our cause and continue our growth.

Farewell to Sarah Pillsbury



Each year, Five Rivers experiences the joy of welcoming new Board members balanced against saying farewell to other dedicated volunteers. Last year, Sarah Pillsbury rejoined the Board for one year to finish an incomplete term and chair our Governance Committee. Sarah is a Five Rivers veteran,

having previously served on the Board from 2007-2013, including one year as board chair and three as vice chair. We are grateful for Sarah's willingness to "fill the gap" and bid her farewell once again as she leaves the board.



mage credit: Beth Blo

Protecting a Piece of New Hampshire History – Stone Farm, Dunbarton

By Sarah Crow

If you walk the 200 acres of Stone Farm with Judy Stone, you'll not only take in wonderful views of hilly fields, ponds, and cellar holes, you'll also travel backwards through New Hampshire's farming history. Jim Stone, Judy's late husband, raised dairy cattle here for 50 years, continuing the work of his ancestors, who began farming along this road in 1780. Jim and Judy's daughter, Cindy Pinard, is this family's seventh generation to farm this quiet stretch of Dunbarton.

Judy and Jim met at a square dance - "I wasn't looking for a farmer, and I tried to set my girlfriend up with him," she says. Still, she married him - "and I think I did quite well," she says. The couple moved into the 1853 house that Jim's great-grandfather built.

Jim's father kept dairy cows for his milk delivery routes, and when Jim took over the farm in the 1950s, he focused on dairy farming too, but he modernized the place. In the 1960s, he built one of the first free-stall barns in New Hampshire. Jim sold his milking herd in 2006 - the end of dairy farming in Dunbarton.

Since then, the fields have been hayed

and woods responsibly logged, but the farm is quiet. The farm's outbuildings - icehouse, cow barn, well house, corn barn, sawdust shed – attest to past farming needs. And there are plenty of stone

walls. "Where you have stone walls, there were once sheep," Judy says.

But it is the farm's fields that make the biggest impression. Fields swoop downhill along Guinea Road, showing evidence of the farm's distant past. In one field are old apple trees, remnants of an orchard that was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.

Farther downhill, Stone Road, which once ran from Boston to Canada, divides two more fields. William Beard, Jim Stone's ancestor, cleared the land and built a log cabin in 1780, and then a more substantial Cape. Beard ran a

tavern and grew hops, and his daughter Mary married James Stone, who carried on with farming. This house burned in the 1920s, but the cellar hole's granite footprint remains. This field is named for Wesley, the last Beard son to live in the house.

Beyond Wesley's Field is Prescott Field, where a cellar hole marks another long-ago farmhouse. The field also boasts a different marker: About 10 years ago, Boston University's Department of Geography determined that this field is the geographic center of New England. A flagpole marks the spot.

When Judy walks these fields, she loves to tell her family's history. She's happy that conserving the farm will allow others to experience it as she does. "We always wanted the farm preserved," she says. When Jim died, in 2013, he was working with Dunbarton's Conservation Commission to clear trails for public use.

The properties north and south of Stone Farm have been conserved, which makes for 625 conserved acres. When the farm's easement is complete, Judy Stone will have preserved a piece of New Hampshire history.

Sarah is a professional writer and long time Five Rivers member from Canterbury.



image credit: Drew Groves

Stone Farm Facts

Size: 200+ acres to be conserved

Location: Guinea Road, Dunbarton

History: Farmed by the Stone family since the 1780s

In Process: Conservation easement will be purchased if

fundraising is successful

Conservation Values:

- Iconic New Hampshire farm, former dairy, now producing hay.
- Intact cellar holes and foundations of former barns and a tayern.
- Productive forestland.
- Streams flowing into two priority watersheds Bella Brook and Kimball Pond.
- Highly ranked wildlife habitat.
- Links other conserved lands to create a 625-acre conserved block.
- Includes the geographic center of New England.

Once conserved, Five Rivers will monitor the farm each year and work with Judy and future landowners to ensure that it is always managed to retain the conservation values.

Stone Farm Fundraising

The Stone Farm Conservation Campaign has been a great success – 91% of the goal has been achieved, thanks to the following funders:

- 72 local community donors.
- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).
- Dunbarton Conservation Commission.
- Russell Farm and Forest Conservation Foundation.
- Moose Plate Program of the State Conservation Committee.
- Merrimack Conservation Partnership.
- Davis Conservation Fund
- Local Land Conservation Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation
- Matching grant from Thomas W. Hass Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation will be awarded when we raise \$50,000 to match the grant.
- \$33,000 left to raise to complete the project.

To contribute, send a check to Five Rivers, 31 Warren St, Concord 03301. Call (603) 225-7225 to make a credit card donation, gift of stock or a tax deductible IRA distribution.

Treasurer's Report 2015-16

By Mike Shearin, Treasurer

The fiscal year ending March 2016 was a financial success for Five Rivers. The Board challenged itself to develop income sources to replace the two year \$25,000 grant generously provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to help support the new (in 2014) full-time Executive Director position. We exceeded this goal and ended the fiscal year with net operating income over \$30,000, a strong working capital balance and total assets at an all-time high. Achieving a balanced budget remains an important goal while we continue to focus on meeting the highest standards of conservation stewardship for the long-term. We're thankful to our faithful supporters and volunteers and a dedicated staff for making this an impressive fiscal year.

ASSETS	2015-16	2014-15
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings	166,400	130,612
Vanguard Funds (restricted)	469,933	450,910
Other Current Assets	4,746	4,413
Total Current Assets	641,079	585,935

TOTAL ASSETS:	901,879	846,735
Total Fixed Assets	260,800	260,800
Sweatt Property	260,800	260,800
Fixed Assets		

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2015-16	2014-15
Liabilities		
Current Libilities	7,883	8,176
Total Liabilities	7,883	8,176

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY:	901,879	846,735
Total Equity	893,996	838,559
Unrestricted (retained earnings)	146,176	116,242
Restricted Funds	487,020	461,516
Sweatt Property	260,800	260,800
Equity		



mage credit: Drew Gra

Who Farms Conse

Five Rivers and Farm Conservation

Five Rivers Conservation Trust recognizes that farmland is not just desirable for growing crops and raising livestock. It's very desirable for development.

That's why conserving farmland is a key part of Five Rivers' mission.

"Protecting farming and farmland is probably our highest priority," said Beth McGuinn, Five Rivers' Executive Director. "It's so rare and so threatened."

In central New Hampshire, Five Rivers has worked with property owners, the state, local governments and other organizations to protect 67 properties, totaling nearly 4,000 acres in 15 communities. One third of the properties are involved in farming. It's an important accomplishment at a time when many farms are going under and farmland is

being developed or "growing up" to trees.

Here, we introduce several of your farmer friends and neighbors who work on conserved property to raise everything from vegetables to flowers, cows to chickens or the hay needed to feed farm animals.

Former Associated Press writer Dave Tirrell-Wysocki is a free-lance writer and director of the Nackey Loeb School of Communications. He lives in Canterbury and shops regularly at Canterbury's community farmer's market.



Andy Carter, Stone Farm, Dunbarton

Farmer Andy Carter sees conserving farmland as an important balance between making a living with sustainable agriculture; managing water, soil and woodlands; and providing wildlife habitat.

"It's not take, take, take," he said.

Andy lives at his family's Chauncey Farm in New Boston, where he maintains a grass-fed beef herd and sells hay on conserved land that's been farmed since the 1740s. He works hayfields on the Stone Farm in Dunbarton, a 1780s farm, the subject of a Five Rivers Conservation Campaign.

Andy uses most of the Stone Farm hay for his beef herd. He plans to use all of it in the future as he enlarges the herd.

The Stone Farm's hay and the beef it feeds on Andy's farm fill an important need because of the demand locally for healthy beef. Further, conserving farmland fosters soil and water

management and wildlife habitat.

"I don't think people realize how wildlife benefits

from this, especially in southern New Hampshire, with the rate of housing development we've seen," he said.

Having grown up on a dairy farm in Canada before working internationally as a driller, Andy said he returned to farming because it's in his blood.

He returned to farming fulltime at the Chauncey Farm in 2010, where a drive through the area highlights another reason for conserving farmland.

"When my parents moved back here in '96, there were seven houses on the road," he said. "Now, there are 118."



rved Land? By David Terrill-Wysocki

Gilford

Gilmanton

Belmont

oudon

embroke

Hooksett

Chicheste

Allenstown

Manchester Auburn

Sanbornton

Tilton

Northfield

Canterbury

Dunbarton

Goffstown

Alicia and Ryan Smith, Hammer Down Farm, Gilmanton

For Alicia and Ryan Smith, buying a conserved tract of fertile fields along Route 107 in Gilmanton ensured the future of their farm.

The Smiths grow hay on the fields to feed cows and pigs on their nearby Hammer Down Farm, where they produce

Alton

Barnstea

Deerfield

Candia

Pittsfield

Epsom

meat and dairy products.

"There is unbelievable demand for locally grown pork and beef," Ryan said. "If I had ten cows go to butcher yesterday, I could sell every bit of meat tomorrow."

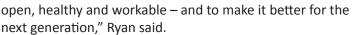
Ryan and Alicia believe their farm is an important link in providing local food in the Lakes Region.

"I see the demand growing and growing," Ryan said, so protecting the Route 107 fields from impending development and making them available to feed their growing herds was crucial. "Buying that property has secured our farm for generations to come."

Conserving the land also secured cherished views of Loon Pond and rolling landscape beyond. "Anyone who drives by there benefits from that," he said.

The Smiths recognize they carry a responsibility by farming on conserved land.

"The importance is to keep the land



For the Smiths, the next generation is their toddler son, Colton, and infant daughter, Chloe, whom they look forward to involving in the operation.

"It's a great way to raise a family," Alicia said. "We want them to know how to work hard on a farm and where their food comes from." ■



Jane Presby, Dimond Hill Farm, Concord

Conserving her beloved Dimond Hill Farm in Concord meant Jane Presby could continue a centuries'-old tradition with

some 21st century educa-

On beautiful hilltop property that's been farmed since the late 1700s, Jane produces and sells a shopping list of summer vegetables and sells Christmas trees and other local products. The farm also offers nutrition instruction, public trails and a peaceful setting for workshops and other events.

To Jane, conserving Dimond Hill Farm helps make sure local residents can eat fresh food. "The shorter distance you travel with food, the

fresher and the more healthy it is."

"Every neighborhood should have a farm," she said.

Dimond Hill also fits into the local food movement with education programs about how to make the best of locally grown products. To that end, Jane grows smaller items, including mini-heads of lettuce and cabbage, to help families avoid waste.

Jane was born and raised on the farm and returned to it after a 34-year teaching career. For her, farming on conserved land means she has no pressure to sell – pressure her father felt for decades.

"When the highways came through and the population was exploding, there were people coming out here looking to buy farms as future prospects for nice building property," she said.

Jane said she farms because it's in her soul.

"You know how nice it is to walk into the greenhouse full of thousands of tomatoes? You watch people eat them and it's like, 'Yeah. That's why I do this.'" ■



A Love of Trees, a Legacy of Farming: Bean Hill Farm, Northfield

By Sarah Crow

It was trees, in a way, that brought Eliza and John Conde to Bean Hill Farm in Northfield. In 1972, Eliza and John were newly married, and John had just taken the job of Merrimack County Forester. Bean Hill Farm's then-owners, Warren and Emily Joslin, happened to know the retiring county forester, Wilbur Thompson of Canterbury, and Warren decided that his farm should go to the new county forester. Eliza and John took Warren up on his offer, and then they took up the challenge of the farm: When they moved in, the farmhouse had no indoor plumbing or heat (four woodstoves got them through the winter).

Warren and Emily Joslin, who'd bought Bean Hill Farm in 1937, "made do," Eliza says. "Warren and Emily had a subsistence farm here. They had a cow, and Amos the Ox for haying. Warren moved the barn up from town, somehow pulling it behind his Model B truck." But Warren's real love was for his trees. "His woodlot was pretty much his life," Eliza says. When New Hampshire began recognizing tree farms, in 1950, Warren was quick to apply for that designation.

Like Warren, John Conde loved trees: As county forester, he got to know many of the woodlots of Merrimack County, often better than their owners did. John loved his own trees, too: He managed his woodlot and made maple syrup, starting with a few taps. Over the decades he grew his operation into a gravity-fed system and a sugar house with a commercial-size evaporator.

John and Eliza put decades' worth of labor into their farm. "It's never been a farm you can make a living on, it's too small, but we raised our own food when our sons were growing up," Eliza says. "We had pigs, chickens, a cow, turkeys." After the couple retired, they grew raspberries and blueberries for a pick-your-own farm.

In the past ten years or so, John and Eliza talked more often about making sure the farm stayed a farm, because with its stone walls, striking granite outcroppings, and rolling fields, and (just as important) half a mile of desirable road frontage, a developer could easily break the farm into smaller lots. And Northfield had grown dramatically, from just 1,700 residents in 1972 to almost 5,000 today. What's more, these acres have been farmed continuously for more than 260 years, making it one of the oldest farms in central New Hampshire. One of the region's earliest settlers, Josiah Miles, was deeded 320 acres here in 1750, in exchange for his work on the first town roads. (At that time, Northfield was still part of Canterbury.) Since then, many generations



have worked this farm's fields and woodlot, lived in the circa-1802 Cape, and taken in the views of distant Bean Hill.

"John and I just didn't know our time was so limited," Eliza says, referring to John's sudden passing last year. With his death, Eliza realized that she should act to conserve the farm, and she contacted Five Rivers about a conservation easement. The couple's two sons were settled out West,

and although they love Bean Hill Farm, neither wanted to take it on, Eliza adds.

"Five Rivers was easy to work with," she says, noting that Ken Stern helped meet her request for a December deadline. The new easement ensures that the two 45-acre pieces, one on each side of Bean Hill Road, will stay together as one parcel.

In the meantime, Eliza will continue to tend her berries and vegetables, hay the fields, and walk and ski the farm, winding through its trees and fields with her dog.

Bean Hill Farm Facts

Size: 89 acres

Location: Bean Hill Road, Northfield Conservation Values:

- Productive farm, currently producing hay, pick your own berries and maple syrup.
- Productive forest, currently producing firewood and lumber.
- Long scenic road frontage.
- Highly ranked wildlife habitat.

Eliza Conde donated the conservation easement on the property and will continue to own the land until she conveys it to a new owner. Five Rivers will monitor the farm each year and work with Eliza and future landowners to ensure that it is always managed to retain the conservation values.

Thank You – Volunteers

Five Rivers is a volunteer-driven organization. Great thanks to all who have given their time to make our work possible! If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for Five Rivers, please see the opportunities below and join us! If you were a volunteer and we missed listing your name, please let us know so we can correct the error!

vere a voianteen and
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Dave Ross
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Ruth Smith
Molly Sperduto
Betsy Swan
Hilary Thomson
Margaret Watkins

Event Hosts

Eliza Conde
Dimond Hill Farm
Havenwood Heritage
Heights
Mike and Patty Shearin
Paula Gilman

Volunteer Opportunities

Five Rivers is volunteer driven, and you can help. There are a wide variety of opportunities from baking to event planning, from graphic design to research. Please contact Beth at (603) 225-7225 to discuss how you can help support your local land trust.

Wish List

In the spirit of reusing and recycling, can you help us find these gently used items so we don't have to buy new? Thanks!

3" ring binders
Paper shredder
2 unit cordless phone set
First aid kits
Clean plastic bins with lids



2016 Events

Join us in 2016 to explore our conserved properties, enjoy locally grown food, hike on conserved land or learn about Climate Change in New England. Space is limited, Please register early at

www.5rct.org.

Annual Gathering

Thursday, June 2 (See Page 2)

Carter Hill Tour and Taste

Thursday, August 18

Fall Hike

Sunday, November 6 (tentative)



Thank You – Members and Supporters

Conservation Leaders Society

Our Conservation Leaders Society
Members (CLS) provide strong, sustaining support of our mission by pledging
3 annual donations of \$1500 or more.
Their generous support allows us to
grow and meet our future challenges.
Thank you to each of our conservation
leaders.

Conservation Society Members (\$1,500-\$6,000/year for 3 years)

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Thank you to all who have contributed financially to Five Rivers this year (April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016). If you contributed, but don't see your name here, kindly let us let us know so we can correct the error.

New Supporter ★ Membership & Annual Appeal ◆ Stone Farm Supporter

■ Pierce Project Supporter

Conservators (\$2,500 & over) Anthony Damato ♦ Andrew & Donna Dunn ♦

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