



Five Rivers
Conservation
Trust

www.5rct.org

Five Rivers Review

MARCH 2007

2006... a look back

The past year proved to be a remarkable one for Five Rivers Conservation Trust. 2006 witnessed the largest single-year growth in protected lands in the organization's history. Four hundred and twenty seven acres of diverse landscapes on five distinct properties were permanently protected through conservation easements. These properties included the 112-acre Dimond Hill Farm in Concord, the 105-acre Baldwin Farm in Gilmanton, and three special town-owned forests, fields, and wetlands (totaling over 200 acres) in Hopkinton.

2006 also saw strong growth in several other organizational ways. Notably, Five Rivers' stewardship fund expanded greatly. This fund plays a pivotal role in our nonprofit land trust's ability to meet its long-term monitoring and stewardship responsibilities for the properties it is entrusted to protect. Also, the number of our members, along with membership donations, swelled considerably. Nearly 70 families and individuals and over a dozen local businesses became new members, demonstrating their support for conserving our region's natural heritage. Our membership now comes from folks who live in twenty New Hampshire towns and cities, and even several other states across the U.S.

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Gilmanton Property Protected

Fields and Forestland Will Remain for Future Generations

Due to the generosity and vision of a Gilmanton family, a special 105-acre property in this rural community has now been preserved through a conservation easement donated to Five Rivers Conservation Trust.

The owners of this attractive farm and forest landscape, Peter and Carolyn Baldwin, made the decision to forego the potential for its future development in



Graced by fields, forests, farm buildings, and many fond memories, the Baldwin property has been in the family's ownership for over five decades.

order to protect it permanently. The conservation easement that the Baldwins conveyed to Five Rivers Conservation Trust ensures that the property will forever stay undeveloped, while it also allows them to maintain farming and timber harvesting activities. The Baldwins will continue to reside on their cherished land, and whenever it gets passed on to others, the property will remain as it is, a perpetual open space asset for future generations.

Located on Pancake Hill Road, the property has been enjoyed by the Baldwin family for over half a century. It consists of extensive fields and farmlands graced by a distinctive wooden barn, as well as a diverse mix of mature softwoods and hardwoods. In addition to stately maples, the forest includes an immense ash tree that has a base diameter of over five feet. The property is also noted for its views of distant countryside and for its undulating topography, punctuated by a steep-sloped escarpment. A clear brook tumbles its way across a forest landscape frequented by deer, grouse, and other native wildlife.

Continued on next page

Gilmanton Property

– Continued

In expressing her family's love for their land, as well as their vision for further protection of this special corner of New Hampshire's countryside,



This past fall, Carolyn and Peter Baldwin of Gilmanton permanently protected their beloved land through establishing a conservation easement, translating their deep commitment to environmental stewardship into a lasting legacy.

Carolyn Baldwin commented, "Four generations of the Baldwin family have lived on Pancake Hill. We hope that neighboring property owners will join us to preserve the area's forests and wildlife habitat as well as the recreational possibilities we have all enjoyed."

The gracious and far-sighted actions taken by the Baldwins represent a significant conservation step, one that holds great promise for future land

protection in the area. Five Rivers Conservation Trust is honored to be playing a key role in ensuring the long-term stewardship of this wonderful landscape.

Five Rivers Conservation Trust

Serving the towns of...

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

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NEW TRUSTEE PROFILE

Jared Nylund was elected to Five Rivers Conservation Trust's Board of Trustees in 2006. He learned about Five Rivers the previous year when the Town of Hopkinton called a special town meeting regarding the Town's proposed acquisition of properties upon which Five Rivers now holds conservation easements. Jared is an attorney with the Concord law firm of Ransmeier & Spellman, and in his free time he loves to ski, hike, bike, and spend time with his new son. He has a real passion for the outdoors and looks forward to continue doing his part to help Five Rivers conserve it. Jared lives in Hopkinton with his wife Jessica and their son Jackson.



Director's Corner

One morning this winter while driving through my home village of Contoocook, I spied a bald eagle circling slowly above the Contoocook River and nearby treetops. Against a clear blue sky, it was a thrilling sight. Though such birds, symbols of our nation, have made a remarkable comeback in recent years, I had never before sighted one above my own town. The eagle elevated my spirits, and I found myself soaring with it in that silent winter sky as it glided along its way to parts unknown.

Aware of the efforts of many organizations and individuals over the years to protect our environment, I couldn't help but think that moments like this, though fleeting, help make all those efforts worthwhile. This is what it's all about, I thought. Just seeing such a magnificent, once-rare bird, with its glistening white head and tail feathers, over my own village represented a slice of success for those whose energies are devoted to environmental protection. Cleaning up a river here, and conserving a special forest or wetland there – all are steps

critical to maintaining pieces of the rich fabric of our natural heritage. And it's satisfying to know that Five Rivers Conservation Trust is playing a role in that environmental protection process.

Focused on New Hampshire's capital region, Five Rivers is doing its part, in ways big and small, to permanently protect a variety of open spaces, including precious wildlife habitat. From riverfront shoreland along the Contoocook River to waterfowl-rich wetlands, to special fields and forests, Five Rivers is dedicated to setting aside the precious landscapes so needed for our region's environmental health.

As we move forward with a number of important land conservation projects across central New Hampshire, we welcome the increasing interest in our organization. And we appreciate the commitment of our members and others to maintaining a world where eagles can still soar overhead, carrying spirits on high. **Chuck Knox** – Executive Director

Membership Support Plays a Vital Role in Five Rivers' Conservation Successes

Since Five Rivers' previous newsletter last fall, a number of individuals, families, and businesses have become new members of Five Rivers Conservation Trust. Similarly, many membership renewals have also been received.

We extend our appreciation for the support from the following new and renewing members:

New Members:

Eric and Cheryl Anderson
Matthew and Pimsiree Bryant
and family
William Chapman
Molly and Neil Costaldo
Stephanie D'Agostino and
Laura Ernst
Pam and Jerry Drypolcher
Donna Dunlop and Andrew Spahr
Robert Fife
Jennifer Frizzell and
Donald Crandlemire
Charles and Patricia Gerhan
William Grennon & Kimberly Kirkland
John and Martha Hastings
George Helwig and Nadine Salley
Mildred Holmes
Donald Lane
Matthew Lavey
Sandra Martin
Tara McCarthy
Mary McGowan
Christopher and Andrea Nielson
John and Marcia Regan
Tudor Richards
Bruce and Cindy Salsbury
The Schofield Family
Russell and Natalia Strong

Kurt Swenson
Tom Walton
David and June Young
James Zeppieri

Renewing Members:

Sylvia Bates and Thomas Masland
Charles and Lisa Bauer
Hunt and Lucy Breed
Steve Blackmer and Kelly Short
Steven Camerino and Marsha Rich
David and Rebecca Cawley
Frederick and Kerry Chormann
Edward Damon
Peter Delfausse
George and Janet DeVito
Mary Ann and Philip Donovan
Lynn Durand and
Jane Sullivan-Durand
Audrey Dwyer
Nathan Faulkner and Julia Burdick
Frederick and Patrice Ficken
Susan and Peter Gagnon
Sarah Gallagher
Peter Gauthier and Esther Cowles
Bruce Gilday and Jamie Bulen
Stan Hallinan
Chris Hallowell & Cynthia Morrison
John Hamilton & Krista Helmboldt

Judith Hampe
Charles and Sara Head
Peter and Dorothy Helm
Steve and Liz Hengen
Al and Era Holmes
Jennifer and Mark Hopkins
David Howe and Helen Costello
Andre and Barbara Hurtgen
Harold and Betsy Janeway
William Judd
Christopher Kane
John Kanter and Lori Sommer
Cleve Kapala and Lucia Kittredge
Leon Kenison
Robert and Audrey Knight
Heidi and Mark Knipe
Edward Kyle
Bradford and Ann McLane Kuster
Shawn LaFrance
Michael Lehman and Jan McClure
Charles and Natalie Lepore
Bernard and Patricia Lucey
Bethann McCarthy
Jed and Katie Merrow
Sylvia Miskoe
Howard Moffett
Bob and Gena Cohen Moses
Derek and Patricia Owen
James Owers and Leslie Ludtke

Stephanie Parkinson
Rick and Jessica Pollak
James and Jane Raymond
Nancy Rendall
The Rexford Family
Mark and Cynthia Rouvalis
Arpiar Saunders
Lawrence Scammon
Stella Scheckter
Laura Scott
Brad and Anne Smith and family
Susanne Smith Meyer
Hilary Thomson
Robert Thomson and Lucy Hodder
Michele Tremblay
Donald and Susan Ware
Margaret Watkins
Robert and Binney Wells
Charles and Maura Willing
George and Marily Wilson
Steven Winnett and Laura Knoy
Douglas and Pamela Woodward
Oglesby and Pamela Young
Mark and Susan Zankel

Business Members:

Blue Moon Environmental, Inc.
Bow Mills Bank and Trust
Ransmeier & Spellman, PC

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) regularly publishes "GreenWorks – Ideas for a Cleaner Environment." The following is a reprint of GreenWorks' informative article on conservation easements, one of the main ways for property owners to permanently protect their land and water resources.

Conservation Easements: A Way to Save Land and Water

With New Hampshire's population growing by 15,000 each year, the land around us is under increasing pressure from development. Our open space provides scenic, recreational, historical, and ecological value, and it helps protect our drinking water supplies as well. About 60 percent of our state's population relies on ground water sources for drinking water, while the remaining 40 percent relies on surface water sources through public drinking water supplies. It's critical to protect the land around these water supplies, and one way of doing that is through conservation easements.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner (the grantor) and a conservation organization or agency (the grantee). The landowner still owns the land and typically continues to live on the land and conduct the same practices, like farming and timbering. However, the development rights to the land are transferred to the grantee who agrees to hold and not use those rights. Land under an easement can be sold, but the conservation easement applies to all future owners as well. In New Hampshire, hundreds of landowners, including farmers, forestland owners, and



Conservation easements are held by Five Rivers Conservation Trust on more than twenty properties in the capital region, including the Clark Property along the Contoocook River in Concord.

rural residents, have donated or sold easements on their land for recreation or conservation purposes. This not only helps protect open space, but it can also provide tax benefits to the landowner.

Public agencies, such as town conservation commissions, county conservation districts, and the N.H. Fish and Game Department hold easements. Private, non-profit groups, such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, New Hampshire Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, and local and regional land trusts (like Five Rivers Conservation Trust) are also duly-authorized to receive and enforce conservation easements. If you or someone you know is interested in a conservation easement for their property, now is the time to act.

2006... a look back – Continued

It was also a year in which Five Rivers reached out to the public in new ways. An informative and attractive web site was created, www.5rct.org, a new brochure on our conservation mission was published, new T-shirts went on sale along with our Five Rivers hats, and presentations, coupled with a new Five Rivers display board, helped spread the word about land protection.

Further, our organization was honored to receive grant money from a number of foundations and agencies. Grant money spent in 2006, some of which was carryover funding, came from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, the Cricket Foundation, the U.S. Dept.

of Agriculture, the N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services, and several generous private family foundations. These much-appreciated contributions have helped our organization flourish.

In short, the past year laid further groundwork for our organization, a nonprofit that began in 1988 as Concord Conservation Trust and which was renamed as Five Rivers Conservation Trust in 2001 when it expanded to accommodate the growing conservation needs of the greater Concord region. Those of us at Five Rivers now look forward to building upon past successes in pursuing the Trust's important land conservation mission across central New Hampshire.

A number of special landscapes were permanently protected through Five Rivers conservation easements in 2006, including Concord's Dimond Hill Farm, shown below.



Please mail to: Five Rivers Conservation Trust
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301
If you have questions, please contact us at
603-225-7225 or by email at director@5rct.org

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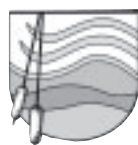
- Friend \$100
- Family \$50 Steward \$1,000
- Individual \$25 Benefactor \$500
- Student \$15 Protector \$250

Your membership in Five Rivers Conservation Trust will help us respond to the increasing number of worthwhile land protection projects in the region. Join us on our quest to preserve more of the places that make our area such a great place to live.

Join Us!

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