



# Currents

Protecting The Natural Resources, Beauty And Character Of Lands In The Strafford County Area

Founded in 1989

Fall 2005

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## The SRC Board of Directors

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Anna Boudreau, Executive Director-Dover

Barbara Rushmore, Currents Editor-Dover

Susan Arnold, Advisor-Strafford

*" To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wilderness we fear is the pause within our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. "*

Terry Tempest Williams- Naturalist, Writer, Environmental Activist... 1955-



## President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy,

It's hard to believe that within three days of writing this newsletter we will be turning the clocks back one hour as the winter solstice approaches. It seems as if it were yesterday we issued the spring SRC newsletter. Since that time, several exciting SRC events have occurred.

On June 5th, The SRC sponsored the tenth Great Cocheco Boat Race. This year the weather cooperated and 74 racers in 53 boats enjoyed a beautiful trip from the Route 101 Bridge on the Salmon Falls River to the Cocheco River footbridge in Dover. The race is a significant fundraising event for The SRC as well as a perfect opportunity to raise awareness of the marvelous tidal river that courses through Strafford County and that embodies a very rich cultural and natural history in southeast New Hampshire. As in years past, the credit for the success of the event goes to the racers, the volunteers, the City of Dover, Town of South Berwick, corporate sponsors including BayRing Communications, Waste Management of NH and Kittery Trading Post and supporters; The Kane Company, River Bend Variety and Life is Good.

On another mission, the Board contracted with Metaphorical, Inc., of Kittery to develop The SRC website [www.strafforddriversconservancy.org](http://www.strafforddriversconservancy.org) The site continues to be a work in progress, albeit an important portal to our members and to those interested in learning about the organization. Look for our "new and improved" site over the next few months.

The SRC Lands Committee worked overtime this summer responding to easement inquiries and making field visits to potential easement sites throughout the county. The Town of Barrington presented several opportunities to partner with The SRC in land preservation efforts including the New Bow Lake Subdivision adjacent to Nippo Brook and the Isinglass River and the Coachman Estates development which is a plan with land preservation proposed to satisfy wetland mitigation for a residential subdivision. In September The SRC agreed to consider an easement on the Henderson parcel in Rochester (see related article) as part of a mitigation condition for expansion of the retail store. These requests are characteristic of development in this part of the state as well as the unique policy and enforcement challenges they present for land trusts. Each proposal must be carefully considered for individual terms, overall conservation value, and long term monitoring ease.

A recent article in the Sunday *Foster's Daily Democrat* highlighted the current juxtaposition between land conservation and economic growth in the state. The article states that while New Hampshire leads New England in the percentage of land conserved (>25%), almost half of the 1.56 million acres conserved is in the White Mountain National Forest. It proffers that the keys to preserving the rural character of southern New Hampshire and Maine is controlled growth initiatives, innovative funding and collaboration with regional land protection organizations. Some say that a goal of preserving 25% of a town's land area is critical to controlling and enhancing economic development, implying that there is an important symbiotic relationship between land preservation and long-term prosperity.

## President's Letter

(cont'd from pg. 1)

In this vein, The SRC Lands Committee has collectively been working with the City of Dover, the Dover Conservation Commission, the Dover Open Lands Committee and the Tuttle Family to preserve the Tuttle Family Farmstead; the oldest family farm in the United States. (see related article) On October 21, 2005 landowner William Penn Tuttle, III signed a purchase and sale agreement stating his intent to grant a conservation easement on the property to The SRC. While the conservation easement deed removes the development rights, Tuttle will continue to maintain private ownership of the property. There is still much heavy lifting and fundraising to complete this transaction, but this is an example of the collaboration required to preserve a significant and highly developable parcel in Strafford County. It will also enhance local quality of life, a key component of the area's economic vitality. The SRC is proud to be a participant in this very significant transaction.

As you read this letter I hope you will be inspired to participate in The SRC activities. We always welcome your thoughts on initiatives, potential easements, fundraising, soliciting new members and volunteering. I invite you to join us at our annual meeting and dinner to be held on Thursday, December 1, 2005, 6:30pm at Blue Latitudes, Central Avenue, Dover.

As always, thank you for your continued support! Without it, we could not do the important land preservation work that we do. If you have ideas or would like us to contact potential new members (either corporate or individuals), please contact our Executive Director, Anna Boudreau at 603 557-7561 or via email at [annaboudreau@comcast.net](mailto:annaboudreau@comcast.net). And finally, special thanks to Barbara Rushmore and Anna Boudreau for their work on this newsletter.

**Kevin McEneaney**, President of The SRC



### INTRODUCING NEW VOLUNTEER STAFF

The SRC welcomes three new members to the volunteer staff: Barbara Rushmore, Aimee Colbath and David Price.

**Barbara**, a 1974 Bachelor of Science graduate from UNH, is a former teacher and business owner in Dover as well as a resident since 1980. She has two grown children, Tyler and Carolyn Child. A SRC member for several years, she began working as the *Currents* newsletter Editor with the 2005 spring edition.

**Aimee**, a 2004 Bachelor of Arts graduate from Colgate University, is the daughter of Marcia Colbath who is Vice Chair of the Dover Open Lands Committee and Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. Having strong concerns for preserving our local nature, wetlands and farm fields, she will be contributing a wealth of knowledge and skills through her studies in biology and education and her experiences in research, grant writing and teaching.

**David**, a 1996 Bachelor of Science graduate from UNH, is employed by the NH Department of Environmental Services as a Compliance Investigator. He volunteers for the Dover Open Lands Committee and is now helping The SRC with grant applications for the Tuttle Farm Conservation Easement and other conservation projects.

It is great to have new energy and enthusiasm working in the organization. Thank you all for your tremendous help!!



## The Lands Committee Updates

By John Wallace

The mission of The SRC Lands Committee, which is comprised of both board members and volunteer staff, is to "select, acquire, and manage lands for the protection of natural resources in the Strafford County area".

The SRC is involved in the protection of 26 properties comprising some 858 acres in Barrington, Dover, Durham, Farmington, Lee, Milton, Rochester and Rollinsford. Most of these parcels are protected via a conservation easement. The SRC also owns one parcel along the Salmon Falls River in Rollinsford. The Lands Committee is actively working on specific projects in Barrington, Dover, Durham, Farmington and Rochester. In breaking news, the exciting initiative to protect the Tuttle Farm was negotiated. A full article on this special event can be found on page 3.

The two most recently protected lands are the Henderson and Current properties. The Henderson property, which is an 18-acre parcel off of Rte. 11 in Rochester, is part of a 165-acre property that the City of Rochester bought to use as mitigation for other projects in town that involve the filling of wetlands. The state often requires that lands be protected to compensate for development that affects wetlands. This easement will establish a "beachhead" of about 2900 feet along the Cocheco River that is presently largely unprotected. The Mary Current conservation easement protects a 20-acre horse farm on Mason Rd. in Milton (see photo). Mrs. Current wanted her land protected from development forever and graciously donated the development rights thus leaving her legacy intact. In addition, the Current parcel is near to other conservation lands and therefore part of an even greater area for wildlife habitat. These two properties are illustrative of the sorts of land protection opportunities that come before the conservancy.

Of great importance in working to protect new lands for conservation, the Lands Committee must see that the existing conservation easements are correctly managed. There is an ongoing (and growing!) need to accurately map and to monitor these properties regularly to make sure that the conditions of the easements are being observed. This is usually an enjoyable outing, offering a chance to take a walk through some of the nicest lands and habitat that Strafford County has to offer. If you think you might like to help out with easement monitoring, contact the conservancy at 557-7561, or via email at [annaboudreau@comcast.net](mailto:annaboudreau@comcast.net).



Barn and Pasture on the Mary Current Conservation Easement

*"Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain."*

Henry David Thoreau

# The Tuttle Farm Plans Protection With A Conservation Easement

By Aimee Colbath

**The SRC is thrilled to announce** that after years of contemplating the conservation of the Tuttle Family Farmstead, land-owner William Penn Tuttle III is presently working with The SRC Lands Committee and the City of Dover Open Lands Committee to conserve the historic Tuttle Farm. Anna Boudreau, Executive Director of The SRC states, "Mr. Tuttle's decision to place 171.1 acres of his family's property on Dover Point Road under a conservation easement will ensure the permanent protection of this beautiful and historic property and the natural resources it contains." Conservation easements allow landowners to voluntarily and permanently conserve their properties and to maintain ownership of the land; another important goal for the Tuttle family.

As the oldest family-owned farm in the United States, the Tuttle Farmstead has a long and celebrated history. The farm's history is tied to the early colonial history of Dover and the Seacoast region. William Penn Tuttle III is the 11<sup>th</sup> generation Tuttle to work these fields, carrying on a tradition of family farming that has existed for more than 300 years. The farm lies sandwiched between the tidal waters of the Bellamy and Piscataqua Rivers. The land contains wetlands and streams and prime agricultural soils. With the Tuttle Farmstead under conservation easement, citizens and visitors to Dover can continue to enjoy the scenic landscape of the fertile fields the Tuttle Family has worked and preserved since 1633. "I am excited to finally be working towards preserving the farm" said Tuttle, "It has long been a goal of mine and I am happy to be working with the folks from The Conservancy and the Open Lands Committee volunteers."

The City of Dover's matching portion for the conservation easement of the Tuttle Farmstead is \$1.5 million. An expenditure from the Dover Conservation Fund to conserve the property must be approved by the Dover City Council. Additional funding may come from matching grants, collaborating with other public and private conservation organizations and from a community based fund raising campaign spearheaded by The SRC to meet a funding goal of \$3,305,000. "We have a lot of work ahead of us" shared an enthusiastic Boudreau, who is serving as the Project Manager, "but we are thrilled to be working on this exciting project."

"The Tuttle farm is historic and rich in natural resources," Dover Planning Director, Steven Stancel states. "Conserving this land will guarantee that it will continue to represent what's best about Dover – scenic beauty, commerce and natural resources conjoining to help make a livable community."

The City of Dover Open Lands Committee is an advisory group that was established by the Dover City Council to promote open space protection as outlined in the city's 2000 Master Plan. The committee works to protect undeveloped lands that possess significant conservation features, including drinking water supply resources, farm and forestlands, critical wildlife habitat, and historic and scenic areas. For more information about the Open Lands Committee, contact the Dover Planning Department at 603-516-6008, or email [openlands@ci.dover.nh.us](mailto:openlands@ci.dover.nh.us).



An Aerial View Of The Tuttle Family Farmstead On Dover Point

### SAVE THIS DATE !!

All interested citizens are invited to speak in favor of preserving the Tuttle Farm during the citizen's forum at the Dover City Council Meeting on Wednesday, **December 14th at 7:00pm**. On that evening a request will be made to the City Council to approve an expenditure from the conservation fund towards the Tuttle Farm conservation easement.



## Membership.

Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership in The Strafford Rivers Conservancy. Your contributions and support help us to succeed in our land protection initiatives throughout Strafford County. We invite your participation in all membership activities.

- Supporter \$35       Contributor \$60       Sustainer \$100       Steward \$150       Partner \$250
- Sponsor \$500       Conservator \$1,000       Benefactor \$2,500       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy and return it with this form to P.O. Box 623, Dover, NH 03821. Your gift is tax deductible. For additional information, please call (603) 557-7561. Thank You!!

## The Newsletter of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Founded in 1989, The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, beauty and character of the land throughout Strafford County. The conservancy's mission is accomplished through education, advocacy and the acquisition of development rights of environmentally significant land to ensure that it remains undeveloped forever.

*For further information about land protection options for landowners call (603) 557-7561 or send your letters to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, P.O. Box 623, Dover, NH 03820.*

### THANK YOU To Our Members And Donors For Your Support...

New members from January 2005-July 2005:

Susan L. Arnold  
Phil & Carolyn Auger  
Vladimir & Christine Borodavchuk  
Russell & Francis Browne  
Francis Cassidy  
Gail P. Chase  
Dr. Daniel & Shanta Dawson  
Loretta Flynn  
Joseph P. Ford  
Francis Hall  
Brian Hart  
Rita Hibscheweiler  
John Hinsman  
Suzanne Huard  
Chris Jacobs  
Robert Larochele  
Betty Lathrop

Lee Conservation Commission  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Longo  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton McKenney  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Monahan  
Charlie Moreno  
Robert Munger & Jill Nooney  
Norway Plains Associates, Inc  
Wesley A. Pierce & Phyllis  
Smith-Pierce  
Janice P. Sanborn  
Jim Smith & Lenore Ekwurtzel  
Jim & Ann Schulz  
Patti Sewall  
Neil & Kerry Smith  
Donald & Sylvia Whittum  
June Williams  
Cynthia Wyatt



## The Strafford Rivers Conservancy Annual Meeting

Please join the Board of Directors and The SRC staff for our annual meeting to be held at

**Blue Latitudes Bar and Grill**

431 Central Avenue, Dover

Thursday, December 1st, 2005

6:30 pm

There will be a short business meeting followed by a social evening of camaraderie and fine cuisine. Blue Latitudes is located off the courtyard and on the first floor of the Cocheco Mill. *For menu details, please RSVP to Anna Boudreau at (603) 557-7561 or [annaboudreau@comcast.net](mailto:annaboudreau@comcast.net)*

### Now Available:

#### The Dollars and Sense of Saving Special Places Presentation

This is a lively new presentation that examines the effects of growth, the benefits of open space, the economics of land use and funding sources available to support land conservation projects for New Hampshire communities. It is a joint project of UNH Cooperative Extension's Community Conservation Assistance Program and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest's Center for Land Conservation Assistance.

**For more details contact Sharon Hughes at UNH Cooperative Extension, 862-1029 or [Sharon.Hughes@unh.edu](mailto:Sharon.Hughes@unh.edu)**



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

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