



Currents

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

Founded in 1989

Spring 2005

INSIDE VIEW

- President's Letter
- New Leadership
- Outgoing & Incoming Board Members
- Conservation Easement Protects Browne Farm
- Conservation Easement Protects Flag Hill Winery
- 10th Annual Great Cochecho Boat Race
- Members, Donors & New Members

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Outgoing And Incoming Board Members

New board members who joined us in 2004 and 2005 include **Dennis Meadows** of Durham, **William Humm** of Lee, **John Wallace** of Barrington and **Sam Reid** of Dover. Each of these individuals brings important skill sets to the organization as well as representation from greater Strafford County.

Outgoing board members include **George Bailey** of Rochester, **Art Corte** of Dover and **Robin Aikman** of Rollinsford. These were charter members of The SRC whose volunteer hours total in the thousands and whose contributions defined the early success and direction of the conservancy. A special thank you to them for their many years of service. **Robin** is continuing on to serve on the Lands Committee. And lastly, a special thank you to **Barbara Rushmore** for assisting as Editor of the newsletter.



President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy,

With spring bulbs blooming, migratory birds returning and our rivers and streams rushing, it's time to bid adieu to another New England winter. Renewal is evident everywhere including at The Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC). As you read of all the exciting activities underway at The SRC, I am sure you will share my enthusiasm for where this organization is headed.

"Welcome!" to all of our new members recently joining The SRC. To our long standing members who have faithfully supported the work of The SRC over the past sixteen years we extend special appreciation for your continued commitment.

Accomplishments by the Board of Directors include: completion and implementation of a strategic plan, development of a new fundraising initiative, community outreach, membership development through a mailing to key areas of Strafford County and corporate contacts, and the adoption of land protection policies

and procedures. While this work is time consuming and often tedious, I believe it has positioned the organization to tackle the land protection opportunities that will continue to grow in southern New Hampshire and Strafford County. Many of these opportunities will result from the regional municipal support of funding to purchase land and conservation easements in their respective communities.

As the economy improves and the regional population expands, we know that The SRC can play an important role in balancing growth with land conservation and stewardship thus maintaining the regional character of Strafford County. With your continued support we can and will have an impact. We will make a conscious effort to work with other land trusts and communities to take advantage of every feasible opportunity to preserve key parcels of land such as the recent joint effort between the Rockingham Land Trust and The Strafford Rivers Conservancy to keep the Flag Hill Winery property in open space (see article page 2).

New Board members, staff and

volunteers are helping us to meet our goals. This year, The SRC contracted with Anna Boudreau to serve as our new Executive Director. Anna brings a high level of professional capacity to the job as well as excellent experience working with the Dover Open Lands Committee (see article). Anna has been leading community outreach efforts by meeting with several of our conservation partners in the region including municipal conservation commissions and land trusts. I am confident that with Anna's expertise, The SRC's visibility will be elevated and our membership and accomplishments will continue to grow.

I hope this provides good insight into the exciting renewal at The SRC and will inspire you to participate. We welcome your thoughts on initiatives, on potential easements, on soliciting new members and in volunteering. Thank you for your support. Hope to see you at The Great Cochecho Boat Race on Saturday, June 4th!

Kevin McEaney, President

New Leadership... Anna Boudreau has been named the new Executive Director of The SRC. She has been involved in many successful conservation initiatives and educational events throughout Strafford County, particularly in the Dover community. In 2002, Boudreau shared the Gulf of Maine Institute Visionary Award with fellow members of the Dover Outreach & Education Committee, the Conservation Commission and the Planning Department for co-coordinating the "Growing Greener" Workshop series which raised awareness about land conservation and 'Smart Growth' initiatives. By facilitating and negotiating the conservation easements, she helped lead the Dover Open Lands Committee into a period of expanded activity which began with the permanent protection of the Strafford County Farm and has led to many other land protection projects. Boudreau served a number of years on the UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE)

Strafford County Advisory Council and has actively volunteered for two UNHCE programs; the NH Community Tree Stewards and the Coverts Project (advocates for wildlife habitat conservation). After serving as Vice Chair of the UNH CE State Advisory Council for 2 years, Boudreau was recently appointed Chair of the State Advisory Council. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Development at UNH in 2004 where she received the UNH Community Leader of the Year Award. She has been living in Dover since 1989 with her husband, Dana and their two young daughters, Maria and Julia.



Conservation Easement Protects Russell and Frances Browne's Farm

The next time you drive down Blackwater Road in Dover and travel over a small bridge that crosses Blackwater Creek, notice the house on your left set back away from the road near woods that wrap protectively along the brook. Though nothing looks different on this landscape of open fields and forested property owned by Russell and Frances Browne, something has significantly changed.

Working with the Dover Open Lands Committee, an advisory group established by The Dover City Council to promote open space protection, and The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, Russell and Frances Browne have granted a conservation easement deed on their land which was officially signed and recorded at the County Registry of Deeds on January 4, 2005. Russell beamed after he and Frances signed the conservation easement document knowing it guarantees that their wish to keep the land undeveloped forever will be upheld.

Anna Boudreau, Open Lands Committee volunteer and new Executive Director of The SRC, facilitated this project. In discussing the substance of the conservation easement, she explained, "the Brownes will not see a change in the way they live on and use their land. The property remains in their owner-

ship with the only significant difference being that the development rights have been legally removed from the property via the conservation easement deed, thus ensuring that it will remain in its natural state forever and be retained in private ownership."

The Browne property is exceptional in its value to the Dover community now and for generations to come. The easement parcel sits within the groundwater protection area of a future public water supply for the city of Dover. The land contains approximately one quarter mile of riparian buffer along Blackwater Brook where drainage, downstream of the site, contains occurrences of rare and endangered species listed in the NH Natural Heritage Inventory. Trails on the property allow for educational tours on wildlife habitat and forest management. Russell Browne, who taught at Dover High School, brought his agricultural students to the property to learn about the inner workings of a farm. He also has invited astronomy students out to view the nighttime sky in the absence of ambient light.

With the dedicated work of volunteer organizations like the Dover Open Lands Committee and The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, landowners are able to learn of a more rewarding alternative to development. More and more private landowners are making the noble



decision that Russell and Frances Browne made to conserve the wild places of our communities for generations to come.

For more information about the Dover Open Lands Committee, call the Dover Planning Department at 603 516-6008 or e-mail, openlands@ci.dover.nh.us



Kevin McEneaney and Russell Browne



Donors Meet Challenge: Flag Hill Winery Protected...

Members of the Rockingham Land Trust and area residents responded enthusiastically to the matching gift challenge from the Otto Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, donating more than \$27,000 to match the Fund's \$25,000 leadership gift to the Campaign for Flag Hill Winery. Thank you to the more than 350 individual donors who made gifts of all levels to support the protection of this wonderful property. Your gift made the difference!

Because of this outpouring of generosity, the Rockingham Land Trust acquired the conservation easement on the 106.5 acre Flag Hill Winery and Distillery on July 14. The conservation easement was acquired for the price of \$600,000. This was a bargain sale, as the final appraised value of the easement was \$700,000. Landowners Frank and Linda Reinhold generously donated the \$100,000 value, stretching limited conservation funds further. This project was a truly collaborative initiative that could not have succeeded without the involvement of each partner and with flexible landowners like Frank and Linda," commented Brian Hart, Executive Director of the Rockingham Land Trust.

Project partners included **The Strafford Rivers Conservancy**, who joined the Trust in the private fundraising campaign that raised the needed \$50,000+ to complete the project. Other partners included Lamprey River Advisory Committee, NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), US Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, the Town of Lee, and the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation.

To learn more about Flag Hill Winery, call 659-2949 or visit: www.flaghillenterprises.com

Brian Hart
Executive Director Rockingham Land Trust
8 Center Street, Fl. 2
Exeter, NH 03833
P: 603/ 778-6088

As The Strafford Rivers Conservancy continues to grow to meet the conservation needs of Strafford County, we hope to accomplish more land protection by:

- Increasing collaboration with other land trusts and conservation organizations working throughout Strafford County and the state of New Hampshire;
- Attracting new members and donors to support local land preservation, and
- Proactively conserving Strafford County's most important lands, open spaces and natural resources.

THE 10TH ANNUAL GREAT COCHECHO BOAT RACE



Grab your boat and paddle and join The SRC as they celebrate their 10th Annual Great Cochecho Boat Race to be held on Saturday, June 4, 2005.

Race time is scheduled to start at **11:00 a.m.** The course is a three and a half mile stretch of the Salmon Falls and Cochecho Rivers starting on the Salmon Falls at the Route 101 Bridge in South Berwick, Maine, then turning north on the Cochecho River where racers paddle with the incoming tide to the finish at the covered bridge located in Henry Law Park in Dover, New Hampshire. Racers are invited to participate in a variety of categories including race and recreational canoes, kayaks, and rowing shells. ALL ages and abilities are welcome! Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the pavilion on River Street (off Henry Law Avenue) in Dover, NH. Registration fees are \$15 per person / \$30 per 4-member family. Parking is encouraged at the River Street location in Dover. A shuttle service between the registration area and the Route 101 Bridge will be available.

Racers can look forward to reprogrammed timing software for better accuracy of race times at the finish. Raffle tickets will be on sale for chances to win a canoe or a kayak donated by Kittery Trading Post.

For more information about participating in the Great Cochecho Boat Race or to learn how you can help support land conservation, contact us at (603) 557-7561 or in writing at The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, P.O. Box 623, Dover, New Hampshire 03821. You can also visit our website at www.strafforddriversconservancy.org for boat race details, a registration form and a map of the race course for pre-registration.

Whether you are "Going For The Gold" or just out for a fun ride, this is a nice opportunity to paddle with others and enjoy the scenic stretches along the Salmon Falls and the Cochecho Rivers.

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

Kristen & Todd Adelman
 Robin Aikman
 George (Don) Bailey
 Michelle Beauchamp
 Cynthia & Peter Belowski
 Peter Bixby & Jessica Bolker
 Anna & Dana Boudreau
 Betsy Burton
 Paul Butler
 Nancy & Dewitt Carmer
 Jeff Casebeer
 Francis Cassidy
 Pete Chadwick
 M.R. Childs
 Malin & Will Clyde
 Clyde R. Coolidge
 Dr. Cynthia & Dr. David Cooper
 Arthur & Ann Corte
 Elizabeth R. Creelman
 Sam Crowley
 Mary Current
 Shirley Curtis
 Jack & Kay Davis
 Steve Dibble
 Robert Eckert & Kai Stapelfeldt
 Joyce El Kouarti
 Jane Cooper Fall
 Joan K. Ferguson
 Barbara M. Flynn & Carl D. Starr
 Jean Foley
 Teresa Foley
 Nancy Franz

David & Sara J. Funk
 Larry Gardner
 Alice G. Grover
 Pat & Clyde Haas
 Helene M. Hallett
 Michael Hallett
 Berly & James Harper
 Tim Hladky
 Elisha & Robert Huggins Family
 Bill Humm
 Lauren Jacoby
 Sandra & Jim Jalbert
 Roy Josselyn
 Victor & Ruth S. McElheny
 Rachel & Sarge Legard
 Camilla Lockwood
 Ellen W. & George M. Lovejoy
 Susan & William R. Lowe
 Bob & Laurie Lynch
 Ruth W. Martling
 Kevin McEneaney
 Linda McGivern & Ben Thayer
 Dennis Meadows
 Radford & Irma Messenger
 Kitty Miller
 Art Mitchell
 Paula Mueller
 Ed Mullen
 John D. & Diane M. Myles
 Pat Newhall
 Kurt Olson
 Jonathan Ordway & Ling Wong
 Gordon L. & Carolyn E. Page

Pamela Parkinson
 Donald Pecora
 Steve Pruyn
 Sally & Robert Puth
 Lucy & Charles Putnam
 John & Connie Rokoshe
 Roland & Cindy Regnier
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 William J. Sammis
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 Beverly Shadley & Carina Self
 Linda & Skip Small
 Anne O. & Bruce W. Smith
 The Staines Family
 Doug Steele
 Gordon Sylvester
 Ed & Winifred Taylor
 Rick & Diane Thayer
 Lucy Tuttle
 Edwinna & Andre Vanderzanden
 Charles Vorosmarty
 John C. Wallace & Lessa A. Brill
 Mr. & Mrs. John W. Warren
 Dick & Vohnny Weyrick
 Richard White
 Anne C. Whitney
 Kristin Wiese-Adelman
 Dave Wilson
 Philip Zaeder & Sylvia Thayer
 Thayer and Eva Zaeder



Bellamy River : Wintering Swan and Canada Geese

Abraham Burtman Charity Trust
 Barrington Conservation Commission
 BayRing Communications
 Mittlehozer & Dibble
 Care Pharmacy
 Civilworks, Inc
 Cochecho River Watershed Association
 Durham Conservation Commission
 Farmington Conservation Commission
 Federal Savings Bank
 Frisbie Memorial Hospital
 Kane Company
 Kittery Trading Post
 Lee Conservation Commission
 Liberty Mutual
 Life is good.
 Madbury Conservation Commission
 McEneaney Survey Associates, Inc
 Middleton Conservation Commission
 Milton Conservation Commission
 New Durham Conservation Commission
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation,
Piscataqua Region
 Oyster River Watershed Association
 Red's Shoe Barn
 Somersworth Conservation Commission
 The Siemon Company
 Waste Management of New Hampshire
 Winnepesaukee Kayak

Special Welcome To Our New Members!

Phil & Carolyn Auger
 Vladimir & Christine Borodavchuk
 Loretta Flynn
 Joseph P. Ford
 Francis Hall
 Brian Hart
 Rita Hibscheiler
 John Hinsman

Suzanne Hurd
 Chris Jacobs
 Robert Larochele
 Betty Lathrop
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Longo
 Mr. & Mrs. Clayton McKenney
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Monahan
 Charlie Moreno

Wesley A. Pierce & Phyliss Smith-Pierce
 Janice P. Sanborn
 Jim & Ann Schulz
 Patti Sewall
 Jim Smith & Lenore Ekwurtzel
 Neil & Kerry Smith
 Donald & Sylvia Whittum
 June Williams
 Norway Plains Associates

" In Every Walk With Nature One Receives Far More Than One Seeks" - John Muir, Founder Of The Sierra Club

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.

A Workshop Series For Landowners

About 84 percent of the state's land is forested and 70 percent of it is owned by private individuals, 84,000 of whom own at least one acre of forest. If you own a piece of woodland and want to learn how to take better care of it, UNH Cooperative Extension and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) are co-sponsoring a series of three Saturday workshops to help you. Come to one, two or all three of them.



For more information call (603) 862-1028 or go to: <http://ceinfo.unh.edu/News/CareForW.htm>



The SRC Board of Directors

Nancy Carmer – Rollinsford
 Steve Dibble – Rochester, Secretary
 Bill Humm - Lee
 Kevin McEaney - Dover, President
 Dennis Meadows - Durham
 Kitty Miller - Lee
 Sam Reid - Dover
 Beverly Shadley - Dover, Vice President
 John Wallace - Barrington

Anna Boudreau - *Executive Director*
 Barbara Rushmore - *Currents Editor*



Membership.

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$2500 | |

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____

Zip _____

Your tax-deductible gift may be paid by check payable to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, P.O. Box 623, Dover, NH 03821. For additional information please call (603) 557-7561. THANK YOU!!



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

P.O. Box 623

Dover, NH 03821

603 557-7561

Since 1989, protecting the natural resources, beauty and character of lands in the Strafford County area.