



Currents

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

Founded in 1989

Fall 2006



President's Letter

Greetings Members and Friends of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy,

What a spectacular foliage season we have enjoyed in Southern New Hampshire this year. I hope that you found time to get outdoors to experience the splendor that brings many visitors to this area. It is precisely this splendor that we are collectively endeavoring to preserve for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

In this newsletter you will read about many exciting projects in which The Strafford Rivers Conservancy (The SRC) is involved. Most of these efforts involve collaboration with state agencies, municipalities and other conservation partners. Examples include the Tuttle Farm easement, the Forest Ridge property in Barrington and the 65 acre Panish easement atop Teneriffe Mountain in Milton and northern Strafford County where we are working with Moose Mountain Greenways to preserve valuable resources.

One initiative in which The SRC played a minor role, but that has the potential to preserve critical resources for future generations is the the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds project. Spearheaded by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program, this regional land protection partnership identifies 75 conservation sites north of Seabrook and south of Wakefield that have high value as wildlife habitat, floodplains and clean water supplies but are threatened by development and road construction. These areas, described in the report "The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds," are the places that you and I drive by every day or live near and treasure.

When thinking about the importance of working collectively to accomplish our regional conservation goals, I am reminded of a quote by Adlai Stevenson in which he states, "I have been told that one of the reasons the astronomers of the world cooperate is the fact that there is no one nation from which the entire sphere of the sky can be seen." In land conservation and particularly in watersheds I think the same is true. There is rarely one place where one can view the entire watershed, so it is critical that we all cooperate in preserving the areas that function to keep the entire watershed healthy and vital. With a staggering average of 2,230 acres of open space per year in NH converted from undeveloped to developed land, we must continue to develop strategic partnerships to preserve lands with high resource value.

We shall continue to work cooperatively to balance development and preservation of open space in the region. We appreciate your continued support to assure that The SRC is a player in accomplishing the goals laid out in the Land Conservation Plan within Strafford County.

I hope you will consider joining us for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00pm at The Governor's Inn, Rochester, NH.

Sincerely,

Kevin McEneaney, President of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy



The 2006 Great Cocheco Boat Race was a well attended success with 55 participants, ranging in age from 10 to 76! Ten classes of boats competed this year with the largest one being the Recreational Kayak with 9 men and 12 women. Pictured here from left to right are **Allison Percival**, Volunteer Boat Race Coordinator, **Rob Williams** of **BayRing Communications** presenting a \$1000 donation to the boat race and **Kevin McEneaney**, The SRC Board President. **Thank you BayRing!** Congratulations to all who participated. First place race times can be read on page 2.



New Boundary Markers on SRC Conservation Easements

The SRC is very pleased to announce that naturalist, artist and writer, David M. Carroll, author and illustrator of three widely acclaimed natural histories [The Year of the Turtle](#), [Trout Reflections](#), and [Swampwalker's Journal](#) as well as his 2004 autobiography, [Self Portrait with Turtles](#), has granted The SRC permission to use the spotted turtle image shown on their SRC boundary markers. In a recent letter to The SRC David

wrote, "I am pleased and honored to have my artworks considered in this regard and wish you continued success in protecting natural landscapes and wild ecologies."

David, an active lecturer and turtles/wetlands preservation advocate, is a graduate of the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts and Tufts University. He was awarded honorary degrees from the University of New Hampshire and New England College. His artwork has earned him awards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the International Society of Arboriculture. He was the recipient of an Environmental Merit Award from the Environmental Protection Agency and the John Burroughs Medal

for Literature; the highest award for nature writing. In 2006, David was the proud recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self direction. David was one of 25 people who received a \$500,000. grant this year for "helping people of all ages see the beauty, history and value in swamps, bogs, kettle ponds and rivers." David and his wife, Laurette, live in Warner, NH.



David M. Carroll

Phase II of the Conservation of the Historic Tuttle Farm is Completed!

The Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC) has successfully closed on Phase II of a conservation easement on the historic Tuttle Family Farm in Dover. With funds redirected from the Nature Conservancy, a second 26-acre parcel owned by William Penn Tuttle III has been permanently conserved. This brings The SRC and Dover Open Lands Committee one step closer to conserving the entire 120-acre property on Dover Point Road. On February 23, 2006 the City of Dover purchased the development rights for 26.03 acres of Tuttle farmland. The conservation easement will enable the Tuttle family to retain private ownership of their land and to continue farming it while acting on the family's desire to ensure that the Farm remains undeveloped in the future.

The Tuttle Farm has the distinction of being the oldest family owned farm and one of the oldest ongoing family businesses in America. The land possesses many important natural resource features. The farm lies between the tidal waters of the Bellamy and Piscataqua Rivers with 1,000 feet of frontage along Little John's Creek and 1,200 feet of frontage along Varney Brook. Natural resources which will be protected under conservation easement include tidal and non-tidal wetlands, streams, and prime agricultural soils. The conservation easement will also protect one of the land's more visible resources, the impressive scenic vistas of the property from Dover Point Road. The scenic vistas of the Tuttle Farm are a hallmark of Dover, and a source of appreciation for residents and visitors to the city as they travel on Dover Point Road toward downtown Dover.

Phase III involves the conservation of remaining 68 acres via the conservation easement. The SRC has been working closely with the Dover Open Lands Committee to achieve this goal. In December 2005 the Dover City Council voted to approve an expenditure from the municipal bond for open space to conserve Tuttle Farm and to help leverage funds from other sources. One key source of funding may come from the State Department of Transportation (DOT). Kevin McEaney, President of The SRC board of directors explained, "We are working closely with the folks at the DOT to coordinate the funding of Phase III of this project. They have been very supportive and we are pleased to be working with them."

2006 Boat Race First Place Finish Times



| | | | |
|---|---------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Single Male Rowing Shell | 0:37:10 | 148 | Mark Faithful |
| Racing Kayak, Male | 0:38:24 | 164 | Greg Lowell |
| Racing Kayak, Female | 0:44:02 | 178 | Susan Berman |
| Recreational Kayak, Male | 0:42:24 | 158 | Douglas Sylvester |
| Recreational Kayak, Female | 0:53:48 | 174 | Kimberly Spencer |
| C-1, Male | 0:37:19 | 168 | Steve Wyman |
| C-1, Female | 0:52:05 | 177 | Susan Amaral |
| C-2 | 0:33:32 | 166 | Christina Wilson & Marc Lessard |
| Canoe-2 People Age 15 & Over | 0:52:03 | 159 | Kevin Lapoint & Michael Lapoint |
| Canoe-Family-Adults w/ Kids Under 15 | 1:05:05 | 180 | John Halstead & Jeremy Halstead |
| Tandem Kayak | 0:49:44 | 163 | Rick Dunton & Kathy Dunton |



Progress Updates From The Lands Committee

John Wallace



A lovely forested wetlands panoramic view on the **Forest Ridge** property in Barrington

In what was a very busy summer for the Lands Committee, several projects came to fruition and **over 230 new acres of land** are now permanently protected via conservation easements to the conservancy.

The SRC has for the first time taken an easement outside of Strafford County in the Barbour property, a 115-acre parcel in Wakefield. This forested haven, open to the public, has more than 1,000 feet of frontage on Union Meadows, a 283-acre wetland associated with the Branch River. The Branch River is the most pristine segment of the upper Piscataqua and Great Bay watersheds. This project was undertaken in association with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, an organization with whom we expect to partner more in the future as our gaze turns towards the large tracts of valuable conservation land that lie in northern Strafford and southern Carroll Counties.

The SRC Board of Directors

- Kevin McEaney, Dover, *President*
- Steve Dibble, Rochester, *Secretary*
- Sam Reid, Dover, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Carmer, Rollinsford
- Bill Humm, Lee
- Dennis Meadows, Durham
- Kitty Miller, Lee
- Andre Vanderzanden, M.D., Rochester
- John Wallace, Barrington
- Susan Arnold, Strafford, *Board Advisor*
- Anna Boudreau, Dover, *Executive Director*

The SRC Volunteer Staff

- David Price, Dover, *Special Projects Tech*
- Barbara Rushmore, Dover, *Currents Editor*

Another completed project is the Forest Ridge property in Barrington. This project came about as a result of a conservation (cluster) housing development, in which a developer is permitted to place houses on lots that are smaller than is normally allowed. The houses must be grouped together (which cuts down on the amount of road to be built), and a large portion of the property must be preserved as conservation land – in this case a full 93 acres! The protected area contains very valuable wildlife habitat, including a small pond and associated wetlands and a great deal of forested land (see photo above). It also represents a major advance into the protection of the largest undeveloped area in Barrington.

Phase 2 of the protection of the Tuttle Farm was also completed in the last few months, conserving another 26 acres of this historically and ecologically valuable land. (See article above)

Finally, nearing completion is the protection of about 65 acres of land atop Teneriffe Mountain in Milton. This spectacular property, which contains forests, wetlands, and a blueberry farm, provides panoramic views ranging from Mt. Washington to the north to Portsmouth to the south, and to the east it looms over Milton Three Ponds. The owner, Steven Panish, is generously donating this easement and will allow public access for passive recreation. An additional part of the blueberry farm will be protected in 2007 with aid from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. (See article on page three)

"Land trusts are in the business not just of conserving lands, but of conserving the human values that those lands embody" ...William Cronon, Environmental Historian and Author



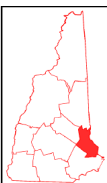
Teneriffe Mountain Summit May Remain Pristine

John Nolan and Anna Boudreau

On a crisp Sunday in October, in glorious fall sunshine, The SRC sponsored a hike, led by landowner Steve Panish, through the blueberry fields and along the wooded trails that lace his property. The 12 strong party also visited the 1,105 foot Teneriffe Mountain top, which commands a panoramic view of the Washington Valley, Acton Ridge and Milton Three Ponds, Mount Agamenticus, Portsmouth, the Blue Hills and the Moose Mountains. All in all, Panish owns 105 acres, and lives in an environmentally friendly house, powered by solar panels and heated by wood and propane. Of this acreage, it is proposed that 10.44 acres of mainly blueberry fields will be conserved by a combined effort from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), the Town of Milton and The SRC. Although the Natural Resources Conservation Service (through the FRPP) will be providing \$97,500 toward the project, they require a 50 percent match. Panish wishes to "donate" that value so that The SRC would not have to raise any funds, but the federal government requires that at least 50 percent of the match be made in cash, so a fundraising campaign will be launched soon. The Town of Milton already approved funding \$25,000 of the match, so now The SRC will have to raise about \$26,000 more. Of Panish's remaining acreage, 25 acres will be held out until a future time, four acres around his house will remain unaffected by easements, and 65.56 acres is currently in the process of being protected with a conservation easement granted to The SRC. Anyone wishing further information on the Teneriffe Mountain Conservation Project, or who is interested in donating to the fund can contact Anna Boudreau at 603.557-7561 or annaboudreau@comcast.net.



360 degree views from the top of **Teneriffe Mountain, Milton** are excellent in all directions as seen on a recent hike with landowner **Steve Panish** celebrating a weekend of hikes throughout New Hampshire's coastal watersheds and exploring conservation successes and the challenges ahead.



Land Protection Efforts Throughout Strafford County New Hampshire

A Profile of the City of Rochester

In the 19th century Rochester saw to the preservation of Hanson Pines, a tract bordering the Cocheco River. The City has since acquired a number of lands for the purpose of protecting future water supplies, however, acquisition of lands for conservation purposes has been a more recent phenomenon.

In October, 2002 the Rochester Conservation Commission (RCC) offered a workshop for large landowners throughout the City to educate these landowners about the various entities available that would enable them to keep their lands as they had conceived as good stewards; still live on it, sell it or pass the land onto their heirs instead of selling it for development. Out of this workshop a steady stream of landowners have indicated an interest in preserving their land. Jeff Winders has been active visiting these landowners, distributing literature and answering their questions. As people wanted to conserve land for different reasons, the RCC realized the need to develop a criteria to access each request and how it related to City priorities.

The RCC is gratified this year with the completion of the preservation of the Edith Teague/Holley property, Jenness Farm, bordering Dover and Rochester on Pickering road. Of 192 acres, 187 acres were proposed for conservation. While the Commission contributed to surveying costs, cooperation with The SRC and the Commission Funds helped to make this project possible.

Currently, the RCC is nearing completion of a preservation easement on 64 acres of the Gagne/Nadeau Farm on Rochester Hill. Abundant in wildlife, this tract, half woods with a managed forest and half fields of completely prime soil, will remain a working farm in the middle of the City. Funding by the Commission, FRPP (Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program) and LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) are all contributing to the success of this valuable protection.

Last year the RCC and The SRC were instrumental in helping the City to acquire a partial easement on the Henderson Farm as wetlands mitigation by Wal-Mart. Once wholly protected, this tract has potential for enjoying recreational activities and reestablishing colonies of endangered species.

Chair Rose Marie Rogers who has been active in developing a mission statement, establishing conservation goals namely the protection of the extensive aquifer under the center of the City and in driving these efforts forward attributes recent successes to cooperation between the City Council and its support of Commission Funds, the Planning Department, staff and volunteers. In January 2007, Vice Chair Mark Toussaint will become Chair bringing expertise in conservation issues and in job experience as Grants Manager for the State Department of Energy.



Clip this coupon or visit www.staffordriversconservancy.org & click "Make a Gift Now!" & click [Donate/JustGive.org](http://www.justgive.org)

YES! I/We support the Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC) in conserving and protecting Strafford County's natural resources! Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.*

- ___ Benefactor \$2,50 ___ Sponsor \$500 ___ Steward \$150 ___ Contributor \$60
- ___ Conservator \$1000 ___ Partner \$250 ___ Sustainer \$100 ___ Supporter \$35

* This gift qualifies for a matching gift program. **(Enclosed is my gift form)**. A gift of \$35 or more provides you with all the benefits of membership for the coming year. You may _____, may not _____ use my name in publications acknowledging SRC support.

Name (s) _____ E-mail _____

Street/PO Box _____ City/Town _____

Please send me information on: ___ conserving my property/___ planned giving options State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

Please make your check payable to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy and send it with this coupon to P.O. Box 623, Dover, NH 03821. Your gift is tax deductible. For additional information, please call (603) 516-0772 or visit www.staffordriversconservancy.org. **Thank you for your contribution!**



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

P.O. Box 623

Dover, NH 03821-0623

603 / 516-0772

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DOVER, NH
PERMIT NO. 28

www.straffordriversconservancy.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Newsletter of The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Founded in 1989, The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit 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) 516-0772 or send your letters to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy, P.O. Box 623, Dover, NH 03821.



THE STRAFFORD RIVERS CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING

**Please join The SRC Board of Directors and
Staff for our Annual Meeting at**

The Governor's Inn in The Rolland Estate

78 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

Wednesday, December 13th, 2006

Social Hour at 6:00pm ~ Meeting at 6:30pm followed by dinner

Cost for a 3-course meal is \$35 per person.

For any questions please contact **Anna Boudreau at
603.516-0772 or The Gov's Inn at 603.332.0107**



----- Please return form by November 27th -----

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (checks payable to The Strafford Rivers Conservancy.) Please mail to **The SRC, PO BOX 623, DOVER, NH 03821-0623**

INSIDE VIEW

- Greetings From The President Of The SRC
- New Spotted Turtle SRC Boundary Markers
- Phase II Of The Tuttle Farm Is Completed!
- Progress Updates From The Lands Committee
- Tenerife Mountain Conservation Project
- Conservation Profile Of The City Of Rochester
- Annual Dinner Invitation


**Be a Part of
Protecting
and
Conserving
the
Lands in
and
around
Strafford
County**
 See Gift
Coupon Inside