



# Currents

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

## Newsletter of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy

The Conservancy's mission is accomplished through education, advocacy and the acquisition of development rights of significant land to ensure that it remains undeveloped forever.

Founded in 1989

Fall 2008



## 67 Acres Conserved in Brookfield Lands Conservation News By John Wallace

"Do You Remember,  
...running barefoot through the woods with your sibling, to pick fresh berries?  
...getting up before the sun and leaving the city to make the drive to the river to try and catch dinner?  
...the smell of pine seeping through the night air?" *(Courtesy of Land Trust Alliance)*

These are the reasons we conserve land, so that each of you - and many generations after you - can have memories of the special places where wild and natural lands spoke to us and changed our lives. The brilliant autumn hues that recently blanketed the region were breathtaking reminders of how special this area is and how lucky we are to live and work in the seacoast.

As the last newsletter was going to press we received exciting news that the Conservancy closed on a second conservation easement in Brookfield granted by owners, Tom and Dulcie Lavender. The protected property comprises **67 acres of forest, fields and wetlands** bounded by Pike Brook, a tributary of the Branch River. Tom and Dulcie generously donated the easement and also purchased the recently protected Lavender/Albee parcel which we described in our last newsletter. This most recent conservation easement results in creating a protected corridor of nearly **200 contiguous acres** of quite varied wildlife habitats. The Lavenders keep chickens and ducks at their place, and grow plenty of pumpkins. Many thanks to Tom and Dulcie for their generosity and impressive commitment to conservation.

Since completing the four new easements that we announced in our summer newsletter, the Lands Committee is currently working on eight active conservation projects, including the spectacular 250-acre Stonehouse Pond property in Barrington (see below), and several projects in Dover, Farmington, Somersworth and Wakefield. In addition we have no less than 15 projects that are under consideration in one form or another, waiting for our undivided attention. We hope to be able to move forward on some of them in the coming months.

Your continued support allows us to work with more landowners and partner with a number of communities so they may reach their land conservation goals. In addition, your dollars provide the necessary support required to remain diligent stewards and monitor all our easements on an annual basis, keep baseline documentation reports on file for every easement property and continue to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to folks in every community. Thank you and don't forget to get out there and enjoy the natural lands that surround you.

## Working to Preserve Stonehouse Pond

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is working with the Town of Barrington and Strafford Rivers Conservancy to complete the **Stonehouse Pond Conservation Project** – a collaborative effort to protect **250 forested acres** surrounding Stonehouse Pond in Barrington. This stunning property features a mix of woodlands, wetlands and open waters that have been recognized as a conservation priority in the NH Wildlife Action Plan, the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds and Barrington's natural resource inventory. The jewel of the subject property is Stonehouse Pond itself, surrounded by trees and towering cliffs; one of the last remaining undeveloped Great Ponds in southeastern New Hampshire. The pond is a regional fly fishing hotspot that attracts anglers from miles around seeking its solitude, beauty and abundant stocks of brook trout.



Stonehouse Pond: One of the last remaining undeveloped Great Ponds in southeastern NH.

Despite many efforts over the past 15 years to conserve Stonehouse Pond, until recently the property remained at risk of residential subdivision and development. However, the conservation minded landowners have reached an agreement with TPL who hopes to purchase the property for \$810,000. in order to conserve the land. Now, the project partners must raise the funds necessary to acquire the property and ensure the permanent protection of this iconic landscape. TPL is collaborating with the Conservancy to seek funding from a variety of granting organizations as well as the Town of Barrington and beyond. For more information about Stonehouse Pond, please contact Gregg Caporossi at (603) 833-0082 or Anna Boudreau at (603) 516-0772.

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## A Message from the President

Greetings to members and friends of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy,

The stunning palette of fall foliage this year was certainly inspiring to those of us who visited woodlots and farms in the region to consider land conservation opportunities. Land conservation efforts continue at a steady pace and the number of inquiries remains high which is a testament to the number of willing landowners who love their land and want to see it protected.

Many of you had the opportunity to experience local beauty at our successful fundraiser at the Three Rivers Farm on October 4<sup>th</sup> where we raised over \$18,000. (see below) In addition the Conservancy was awarded a \$12,000 capacity building grant by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-*Piscataqua* Region. Both of these monies are important components that enable our staff to work on development and increasing land conservation projects.

The Conservancy's reputation as a leader in Strafford County for land conservation continues to grow as evidenced through our number of easement activities and growth in membership. We will continue to be pro-active and further raise our profile through our outreach events by educating public and land-owner awareness that they have the option of seeing that which they love most preserved for posterity. And we are looking to you, our members, to help "spread the word" about the positive environmental and fiscal impacts of long term land conservation. Thank you for your support.

In looking ahead, **please join us at our annual meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at The Governor's Inn in Rochester, NH** for an evening of good food, good company and an opportunity to reflect on the Conservancy's success over the past year. (invite on pg.4) Hope to see you there.

Happy Holidays!

**Kevin McEaney, President**

## Celebration of Conservation: A Success!

"Good company and good discourse are the very sinews of virtue" according to Izaak Walton. Add to those virtues good food and music, a beautiful home and a reason to celebrate, and you have the makings of a joyous and memorable event. On October 4<sup>th</sup> over 130 people gathered at the Three Rivers Farm in Dover to celebrate the past, present and future land protection successes of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, which recently passed a conservation milestone with 2,500 acres under protection. Thanks to the generosity of our members, **the evening raised \$18,000 for the Conservancy!** These funds will be used to support our ongoing land protection efforts throughout the county.



Kevin McEaney presenting the 2008 Ashton Hallett Award to Robin Aikman

A highlight of the evening included the presentation of the 2008 Ashton Hallett Award to Robin Aikman of Rollinsford, NH for her significant contribution to land conservation in the region. (see article pg.3) This award was established in 2008 to honor the conservation legacy of **Ashton Hallett**, a founder of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, who led, inspired, encouraged and motivated others to protect the natural environment. Many of the early accomplishments of the Conservancy can be attributed to Ashton and his gift for helping others realize the importance of perpetual land preservation.



The Three Rivers Farm, located at the confluence of the Cochecho, Piscataqua and Salmon Falls Rivers, was the family home of Ash Hallett. This historical 1901 Colonial Revival home is currently owned by Jen and Dan Philbrick who generously hosted the event. The Conservancy holds a conservation easement on part of the property that protects extensive shoreline as well as an eagle nesting site.

A BIG thank you to our hosts, Jen and Dan Philbrick, and our generous sponsors: Bondgarden Farm, Dennis Ciotti, Kittery Trading Post, Label Tech, McEaney Survey Associates, Philbrick's Sports, Paula and Sam Reid, Red Hook Ale Brewery, Summit Land Development, Sumner Printing, Waste Management of NH and Wentworth by the Sea. Thanks also to our entertainers Poco Amare, pianist Bob Kroepel and Kelley's Row Catering Co. LLC and to all volunteers who gave hours of labor, creativity and inspiration. *Again, a special thank you goes out to you, our members, whose support helped make this special evening a success!*



Michael Hallett

## Inspired to Conserve Farmland in Rollinsford

In 1983, after decades of feeling increased pressure to develop open space in Strafford County, Robin Aikman took steps to permanently preserve her land in Rollinsford, NH. She credits lifelong friend and conservationist, Ashton Hallett, for teaching her about land conservation easements and convincing her to preserve her extraordinary property. "He was the reason why I did it!" states Robin. Between 1983 and 2005, **Robin has protected over 400 acres of her property** including a mile of waterfront along the Salmon Falls River in Rollinsford. Robin's connection to this land goes back to 1929 when her father purchased the property and worked it as a dairy farm called Brookford Farm. Over time she quietly acquired additional land and practiced good land stewardship by using environmentally-friendly and progressive farming practices. Today, the farm continues to operate as an organic dairy farm through a lease. This land is important not only for its sustainable agriculture but also for its value as unfragmented land with diverse fields, forests and wetlands which support deer, coyotes, fox, turkeys, osprey and eagles.



Robin Aikman

Robin is active in regional land conservation. She serves on the Board of Supervisors for the Strafford Conservation District, the Lands Committee for the Strafford Rivers Conservancy and the Rollinsford Conservation Commission. For her significant contribution and commitment to land conservation in the region, Robin was awarded the **2008 Ashton Hallett Award** by the Strafford Rivers Conservancy in October. Her environmental consciousness and land preservation efforts have continued the legacy of Ashton Hallett and will be treasured by future generations.

## NH Charitable Foundation Awards Grant to the Conservancy

In August, the **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation – Piscataqua Region** awarded the Strafford Rivers Conservancy a **\$12,000 grant** to implement a development program, update conservation easement files and conserve additional land. "We are extremely pleased that the Charitable Foundation chose to support our efforts. This is a terrific opportunity for us to build an even stronger organization that has more capacity to conserve land" explained Anna Boudreau, the Conservancy's Executive Director.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation has been improving the quality of life in NH communities since 1962. It builds and manages a collection of charitable funds, totaling more than \$400 million, created by individuals, families and corporations. The Foundation is also a nonpartisan voice, frequently playing the role of convener and catalyst on a broad spectrum of issues that affect our state. In 2006, the Foundation awarded \$30 million in grants and scholarships. Based in Concord, the Foundation roots itself in communities across the state through seven regions including the Lakes, Manchester, Monadnock, Nashua, North Country, Piscataqua and Upper Valley. For more information, visit [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) or call (603) 225-6641.

## A Special Welcome To Our New Members. Thank you for your support!

Christopher & Britta Ayer  
 Dan & Jackie Ayer  
 Lyn Backe  
 James P. Barrett  
 Edward & Eileen Bleier  
 John & Jodi Bloom  
 Christina Bortz & Michael DiPietro  
 Pat Brady  
 Lynda Brushett  
 Montgomery Childs  
 Dennis Ciotti  
 Phil & Dora Clarkson  
 Marcia Colbath  
 Julieann Coleman  
 Coot Farm Corporation  
 Matt & Finola Cox  
 Alan & Robin Davis  
 John Dawson  
 Gary & Deborah Densen  
 Ray & Marie Donner  
 Sean Fitzgerald  
 John & Patty Flynn  
 Dean & Charlene Fournier  
 Steve Frolicking & Joanna Wicklein

Melissa Glidden  
 Carolyn Goodwill  
 Bryan & Chris Goodwin  
 Elizabeth Hallet & David Kittredge  
 Michael Hallet & Melinda Friedman  
 Carol & Lucius Hallett  
 Kristen Hallett  
 Harold & Sharon Ham  
 Phyllis D. Hayward  
 Michael & Paula Herlihy  
 Edward & Barbara Hopkins  
 John Hopkins  
 Robert & Barbara Houston  
 Bill & Nancy Hunt  
 Roderick Hutton  
 Marc Jacobs  
 Lee Jahnke & Rosemary Zurawel  
 Mark & Suzanne Jones  
 Jill D. Jones  
 Mike Joyal  
 Chad & Sheila Kageliery  
 Jack Kareckas  
 Susan & Stephen Kaspari  
 Phil Kendrick & Simone Masse  
 Kittery Trading Post

John & Cornelia Kittredge  
 Pat Brady, Label Tech Inc.  
 Pam & Mike Leduc  
 Suzy Loder  
 Christine Magruder  
 Bob Mairs  
 Karen Mairs  
 Thomas Masland & Sylvia Bates  
 Luke & Robin Merrow  
 Hannelore & Eberhard Moebius  
 Lorraine Morong  
 Dennis & Meg Munson  
 Joseph & Catherine Nadeau  
 Michael Nazemetz & Ann Hussey  
 Pat Newhall  
 Kevin Niland  
 Karen & Donald Norris  
 Gerry & Kelly O'Connell  
 John & Jane O'Connor  
 Peter & Cathy Okhuysen  
 Christopher & Katherine Parker  
 Patrick & Judy Parks

Barbara Pinto Maurer  
 Carl Paulsen & Meg Kerr  
 Mark Pendergast & Karen Savramis  
 Dan & Jen Philbrick  
 Tim O'Neil, Red Hook Brewery  
 Ed & Sheila Reilly  
 Frank & Donna Richardson  
 Craig & Pam Seaver  
 Frederick Short  
 Skip & Cathy Small  
 Henry Smith  
 Pete & Pat Sorenson  
 Robert & Robin Stowell  
 Summit Land Development  
 Charles & Deborah Tatham  
 Tim & Diane Tregea  
 Lucy Tuttle  
 Gregg & Vicki Walker  
 Barry & Kathy Williams  
 Roger Williams  
 Virginia Williamson  
 Dwayne & Linda Wrightsman




## The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

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## Fall 2008

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

### Walk/Snowshoe on Newly Protected Lavender Property

Brookfield and Wakefield

**Saturday, January 24, 10:00 am-12:00 pm**

(snow date: January 25, 1:00-3:00 pm)

**Join us** for a winter walk (or snowshoe depending on conditions) on 200 acres of varied habitat that includes a reclaimed gravel pit, forests, fields and wetlands. Matt Chagnon, UNH Professor of Forest Technology, will lead the walk and discuss the property's natural resource features. This property, owned by Tom and Dulcie Lavender, was recently protected by two conservation easements.

Registration is free for members and \$5.00 for non-members. For registration and directions please contact the Strafford Rivers Conservancy at (603) 516-0772, e-mail [info@straffordriversconservancy.org](mailto:info@straffordriversconservancy.org) or register online [www.straffordriversconservancy.org](http://www.straffordriversconservancy.org).

*To learn more about the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, please visit our website at [www.straffordriversconservancy.org](http://www.straffordriversconservancy.org)*

## STRAFFORD RIVERS CONSERVANCY

### Annual Dinner Meeting

**Thursday, December 4th, 2008**

The Governor's Inn

78 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

5:30 Social hour: Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres

6:15 Welcome and brief business meeting

6:30 Sarah Smith, UNH Cooperative Extension Forest Industry Specialist, will present "**They Sawed Up a Storm**", a slideshow about a group of New Hampshire women who in 1942 operated a sawmill on the shores of Turkey Pond, Concord, NH.

7:30 Dinner followed by dessert table and coffee

**Registration/Dinner is \$40 per person**

To register please send form below with your check to:  
Strafford Rivers Conservancy, PO Box 623, Dover, NH 03821

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ **THANK YOU!**