



Currents

Newsletter of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy

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

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.

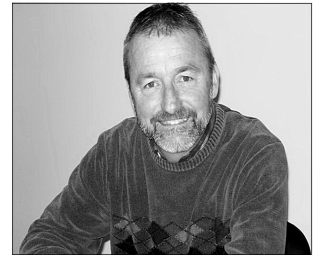
Founded in 1989

Winter 2008



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have much good news to share with you in this initial newsletter of 2008. An exciting accomplishment is we have surpassed the 2000 acre milestone in easements now held in conservation; *a total of 2,238 acres to be exact!* In the Lands Committee report on page 2 you can read about the most recent properties added to our easement inventory. If you prefer to do more than read about the easements, then you can explore some of these special lands by participating in a guided hike on the Richardson Pond property in Barrington this month (see schedule of events on page 4). Be sure to call in to register for this and other interesting tours that we hope to present in the coming months.



We are excited to welcome Nancy Lambert as a new member of the Board of Directors. Some of you may recognize Nancy through her work at the UNH Cooperative Extension where she taught courses on geographic information systems (GIS). In the short time she has been on the Board she has established a membership committee, held a GIS mapping workshop, organized conservation programs for interested members and volunteered to Chair the Board Member Recruitment Task Force. Welcome Nancy!

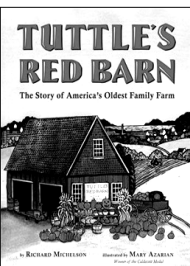
As we welcome Nancy we are sad to say goodbye to Board member Bill Humm, who has decided it's time he stepped down. Bill joined the Board in 2003 and has been a tremendous asset in our collaborations with the Town of Lee where he lives. He has also been active on the SRC Lands Committee and in assisting the Board in policy development. We are truly grateful for his service to the organization. We wish him the best in his future endeavors and we will miss him.

In other news, because members like you are vital to helping us accomplish the work that we do, the SRC Board, staff and volunteers have taken on the challenge of each recruiting five new members within the next six months. Since presented with this daunting challenge this past November we've already recruited 31 new members, putting us well on our way toward our goal of 100 new members in 2008! On page 3 Nancy Lambert shares her musings with you on our challenge and on how you too can help us reach our goal.

Last but not least, there has been a debate at the Board level about the name of our organization. We have had much feedback from the community that the name, Strafford Rivers Conservancy, is confusing and does not articulate the breadth of the work that we do. We were unaware of our "name problem", yet spurred on by member and citizen comments we have been bantering about some alternative monikers. We value your input and ask that you please read the related article on page 3 and let us know your thoughts and suggestions on this topic.

That's it from the President's desk. Next time I write I hope that the three foot snow pile in my front yard is nothing but a memory! Until then, be well.

Kevin McEneaney, President



Connecting with the Community

The SRC Joins in the Celebration of Dover Reads: "Pages For All Ages". For their 6th year annual celebration of supporting literacy in the Dover community, Dover Reads, sponsored by the Community Involvement Committee, has chosen Tuttle's Red Barn, The Story of America's Oldest Family Farm by Richard Michelson as its community read.

This year's choice is particularly exciting not only in the fact that the historic 120 acre Tuttle Farm in Dover carries the distinction of being the oldest family run farm and one of the oldest ongoing family businesses in America, but also that it has been preserved and protected *forever* from future development in a conservation easement facilitated by the SRC. Realizing this wonderful opportunity to reach out and communicate with the Dover community, the SRC is planning to share with families its participation in the land preservation of the Tuttle Farm as well as in other conservation projects which protect valuable historic, cultural and environmentally sensitive scenic vistas throughout our region.

(Continued on page 2)



A celebration was held at the Barrington Town Hall for newly closed upon conservation easements. Pictured from left to right are John Wallace; SRC Land Agent, Christine and Vladimir "Chuk" Borodavchuk; landowners, Carolyn Goodwill; grantor of the Richardson Pond easement, and Anna Boudreau; Executive Director of the SRC.



Lands Committee at Work in the Field By John Wallace, Land Agent

There was an *intense* flurry of activity in December 2007, resulting in conservation easements being placed on no fewer than *five* new properties that involve the SRC as easement holder. Two parcels in Barrington, one in Rochester, and two in Wakefield are now permanently protected from development.

The Barrington projects are the Borodavchuk property (98 acres) along Rte. 125 and the Goodwill/Richardson Pond property (156 acres) which is visible from Rte. 9 near Barrington's Town Hall. Both easements are loaded with excellent wildlife habitat. The Goodwill property is open to the public to enjoy recreational opportunities in fishing, boating and hiking.



A view of the beaver pond now protected on the 117 acre Remick property in Wakefield.

In Rochester the Conservancy took on the position of backup easement holder on the Towne property; a 156 acre parcel on Estes Road. Matt and Karen Towne generously donated the full value of this easement, which has been, and will continue to be, used by the Boy Scouts for camping. The Strafford County Conservation District is the primary easement holder.

With funding from the town of Wakefield, we closed on the 117 acre Remick property on Witchtrot Road. It abuts the Herberich property, owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, thus, a total of 236 acres of contiguous land is available for deer, moose, bear, etc. to wander in. The property contains a spectacular beaver pond.



Pastoral scene found on a 27 acre easement donated by Nancy Spencer-Smith in Wakefield.

Also in Wakefield, Nancy Spencer-Smith generously donated an easement on two properties that are across from each other on Gage Hill Road. Together, they total 27 acres of field and forest and abut a conserved 108 acre town-owned parcel. For both Wakefield projects we collaborated with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, which did much of the preparatory work to make these easements possible.

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 Steve Dibble, Rochester, Secretary

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Anna Boudreau, Executive Director
 John Wallace, Land Agent

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Barbara Rushmore: *Currents* Editor
 David Price: Special Projects Technician
 Matt Polzin: Easement Monitor
 Carl Paulsen: Membership Committee

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All told, we completed a record-breaking seven projects in 2007, comprising a total of 504 acres of newly protected land! While we continue to bask in these celebrations, it's back to the grindstone. Two projects which we had hoped to close on in 2007, one in Durham/Madbury and one in Brookfield, are still waiting for the final pieces to fall into place. And, of course, we have many other projects on our agenda, in nearly every town in the region, that are somewhere along in the conservation process. Let's hope for yet another record year in 2008!



Nancy Lambert

SRC Welcomes New Board Member

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Lambert, a Durham resident and NH native, joined the Board of the SRC in 2007 after being appointed Chairperson of the SRC's new Membership Committee. She worked for many years as a Natural Resources Specialist for the Univer-

sity of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and developed their geospatial technology education program. She serves on the Durham Land Protection Working Group.

Nancy holds master's degrees in Natural Resources and Organizational Management. When not obsessing over how to increase the SRC's membership, she enjoys outdoor activities, cooking and mangling the French language. The SRC Board and staff warmly welcome Nancy to the team!

Community (Continued from page 1)

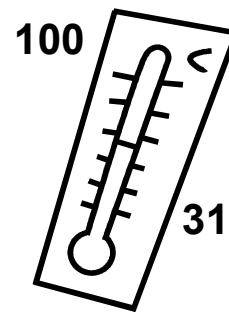
With growing concern over encroaching development resulting in loss of wildlife habitat, wetlands, open space and agricultural soils, the Tuttle family chose to be good stewards of their land by securing its protection for future generations to come. Their action can influence the action of other landowners and communities to conserve their lands and make a lasting impact on the quality of life in the Granite state.

The final celebration for Dover Reads will be at the Dover Middle School on March 27 at 6:30 pm. *Everyone is welcome to attend.*



Musings from the Membership Desk: Desperately Seeking Normalcy By Nancy Lambert

My life used to be normal. I used to take pleasure from the simple things in life: family, friends, good food...you know, I was like regular people. And then Anna Boudreau, the SRC Executive Director, asked me to chair the SRC's new Membership Committee. The Membership Committee, if nothing else, is an ambitious and enthusiastic bunch. Kevin McEneaney, the SRC President extraordinaire, began our first meeting by suggesting we increase the SRC's membership by 500 new members in the coming year. Carl Paulsen, who is the sanest member of the Committee when he is not moonlighting as the Program and Policy Director of the NH Rivers Council, wisely wrestled him down to 100 new members. Anna, being more energetic and enthusiastic than your average person, seemed to think this was our goal for the first month. Calmer minds prevailed, and we agreed that 100 new members would be our one-year goal. No one told us what this seemingly reasonable goal would do to our lives.



We passionately pursue new members because members are the life-blood of this organization. The financial support provided by members pays for the resources we need to educate landowners and communities, acquire conservation funding, complete complex real estate transactions, collect natural resource information for each property and monitor easements into perpetuity. With more member support we can conserve more land; it's as simple as that. Two months and 31 new members later, we are increasingly showing symptoms of "extreme competitiveness". I frantically scheme to catch up to Kevin and his escalating recruitment successes. Anna accuses Kevin of stealing her prospects. Kevin gets the shakes if he doesn't have a SRC solicitation envelope within reach. We want to resume normal lives again, and only you can save us.

Recognizing we have a problem, the SRC Membership Committee is asking for help from higher powers, namely the SRC's Board and our membership (that's you). Can you help us reach our goal by recruiting just one new member? Surely you have a friend, neighbor, family member or co-worker who loves beautiful landscapes, clean water, wildlife and local farms? You'll be doing them a favor by showing them how they too can help protect our open space. In addition to increasing the SRC's capacity to protect land, your efforts will bring sanity back to our lives. Please help.

A solicitation envelope has been included for you in this newsletter. Being a good conservationist, you wouldn't want to waste it. Being a frugal New Englander, you'd hate to have to put your own check into it. Solve this moral dilemma by sharing it with a friend. Your life will never be the same.

Surgeon General's Warning: New membership recruitment may be addictive. You may find that you can't stop after just one.

Nancy Lambert

What's in a Name?

To better reflect the full range of our expanded mission and to describe what it is we do, the SRC Board of Directors is considering changing the name of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy.

The SRC was founded in 1989 by a group of volunteers who were concerned about the rapid pace of development in the region that was leading to the degradation of land along the county's rivers. Our mission has since broadened to protect *all* significant water resources (including wetlands and groundwater), and also forests, wildlife habitat, scenic areas and the county's agricultural heritage. Herein lies the problem. We have learned that people do not understand the scope of our efforts and are not even aware that we are a land trust working to protect and conserve the natural resources and special places in their own communities. This concern has become more evident as we continue the many conversations we have had with people across the county during our new member campaign. In response, we are discussing the possibility of the name change and will strive to expand our marketing efforts to increase our profile in the region.

Your opinion matters to us! We realize that changing our name will take some adjustment and getting used to. However, we believe a new name could more accurately represent our focus and give us better recognition for what we do. Some possibilities are: Strafford Rivers and Land Conservancy, Strafford Regional Land Trust and Strafford Land Conservancy. So, put those thinking caps on and call or e-mail us with your suggestions. We appreciate your input.

A Special Welcome To Our New Members!

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Ronald Allard | Helen K. Reid |
| David K. Bamford | Mr. & Mrs. Dana Rines |
| James R. Cody & Sandra Vivolo-Cody | Walter & Emma L. Rous |
| Douglas Dede | Sharon & Thomas Salmon |
| Pamela C. Failing | D. Jackson Savage |
| Aletheia M. Fischer | Karen Savramis |
| Daniel G. Gabriel | John A. & Linda B. Schier |
| William E. Garrison & Alexandra Roberts | Robert & Roberta Steele |
| Mark J. Geppert | William & Susan Tanquay |
| Denise L. Hart & Michael M. Moroukian | Delise West |
| Mr. & Mrs. Luke Hydock | Robert & Mary Woodward |
| Carol Lambert | |
| William & Susan Looker | |
| Megan Morrell & Marc Cartier | |
| Byard W. Mosher, IV | |
| Robert Moynihan | |
| Alexander G. Nossiff | |
| Christopher & Katherine Parker | |
| Carl H. Paulsen & Margaret F. Kerr | |
| Nancy K. Quinlan | |

**Thank you for your support
and for being part of
protecting and conserving
special places in and around
Strafford County.**

***"To protect your rivers,
protect your mountains"***

—Emperor Yu of China, 1600 BC





The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

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

STRAFFORD RIVERS CONSERVANCY WINTER-SPRING 2008 EVENTS

February 23, Saturday from 9:00-11:00 am—Walk the Richardson Pond Easement in Barrington. Join naturalists Dick Weyrick, Bob Eckert and Kai Staplefeldt for a walk on the Richardson Pond Easement which Carolyn Goodwill granted to the SRC just prior to the purchase of the property (for public use) by the Town of Barrington. This walk is co-sponsored by the SRC and the Barrington Conservation Commission. Depending on snow conditions, participants may want to bring snowshoes. (snow date: February 24, Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm) *Registration is free and all are welcome.*

March 3, Monday from 7:00-8:15 pm—Sustainability and Spirituality discussion at the Dover Public Library, Trustees Room, with Dr. John Carroll, UNH Professor of Natural Sciences and SRC member. Dr. Carroll is the author/editor of several books on this topic including Ecology and Religion: Scientists Speak and The Greening of Faith: God, the Environment. *Registration is free and all are welcome.*

April 12, Saturday from 9:00-11:00 am—Wildlife Habitat Workshop in Rollinsford. Learn how to identify and enhance wildlife habitat with Malin Clyde, Coordinator of UNH Cooperative Extension's wildlife volunteer program and SRC member. Participants will visit the Aikman property which is protected by easements held by the SRC. *The workshop is free for members and \$5 for non-members.*

May 19, Monday from 7:00-8:30 pm—Global Climate Change and Land Conservation discussion at the Dover Public Library with Dr. Barry Rock, a botanist at UNH's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space who specializes in the remote sensing of vegetation, will discuss the role of land conservation in the strategy to combat global warming. Dr. Rock is highly regarded for his ability to make science interesting and understandable to the general public. This program is co-sponsored by the SRC, Great Works Regional Land Trust and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. *Registration is free and all are welcome.*

For registration and directions for all events please contact the Strafford Rivers Conservancy at (603) 516-0772 or e-mail info@straffordriversconservancy.org