



Currents

Membership Newsletter

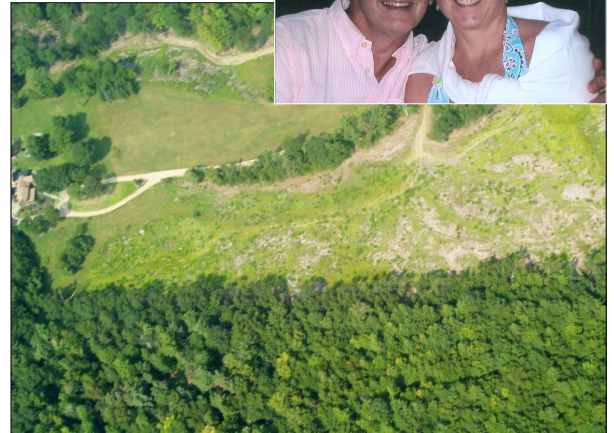
FALL 2009

Celebrating 20 Years of Connecting Generations to
Nature Through Land Conservation: 1989-2009

107 Acres in Farmington Placed in Conservation

New Easement Helps Maintain Wildlife Corridor and Protect Water Supply.

This October, **Art and Gale LeClair** of Farmington granted a conservation easement on 107 acres of their property on Sheepboro Road, named Woodland Hills Tree Farm. Its protection is special as it is part of a long-term goal to maintain a wildlife corridor and greenway linking the Rochester Reservoir land with Blue Job State Forest and associated protected land to the north. This will assure wildlife continued access to a huge area of undisturbed woodland where they thrive. NH Fish and Game ranks most of the wildlife habitat on the LeClair land among the highest valued in the state. The conservation of this property also helps protect the City of Rochester's critical water supply in Farmington.



"This project was exceptionally complex. It involved the collaboration of two towns, two state agencies and a federal agency," said Anna Boudreau, Executive Director of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy which orchestrated the completion of this project. "The LeClairs deserve extra credit for their patience and understanding."

The LeClairs have spent the past two decades committed to making the forest on their property as beautiful and productive as possible. When the ice storm hit in 1998, Art LeClair thought all they worked for was lost. The task of salvaging timber and cleaning up the mess seemed insurmountable. Thanks to help from UNH Cooperative Extension, federal funds available through the Stewardship Incentive Program and devotion of hard work, LeClair was able to recover from the storm.

The critical funding for this conservation project was provided by the City of Rochester, the Town of Farmington, New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services Water Supply Protection Program and New Hampshire Fish and Game, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This easement, which will protect the land from development, will allow the LeClairs to continue to own and manage their property and offer its natural resources for public access, education and enjoyment.

Eagle Scout Candidate Plans Project on the Franklin Preserve in Rollinsford, NH

Focus of Project Will Enhance the Public's Access and Enjoyment.

The first conservation easement ever held by the Conservancy was granted in 1989 by Walter and Mabel Franklin, farmers who owned extensive property in Dover and Rollinsford. This 47-acre parcel, which straddles the Dover and Rollinsford town boundary, has extensive frontage on the Salmon Falls River. In 1993, the Franklins generously bequeathed the property to the Conservancy for the scenic enjoyment of the general public. Thanks to the work of an Eagle Scout candidate, visitors to the Franklin Preserve will soon find it easier to access and enjoy the property.

(continued on page 3)

Board of Directors

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 Steve Dibble, Rochester, Secretary
 Nancy Carmer, Rollinsford
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2nd Annual Celebration of Conservation at Three Rivers Farm

Special Presentation of 2009 Ashton Hallett Conservation Award

Almost 100 people joined the Conservancy on September 26th at Three Rivers Farm in Dover to celebrate the Conservancy's continued progress in successful land protection. Thanks to the generosity of our members, guests and sponsors, **the evening raised over \$13,000**. All proceeds benefit the Conservancy's mission to protect the natural resources, beauty and character of lands in greater Strafford County.

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation by Jon Greenberg of NHPR and SRC Board Director, Nancy Carmer, of this year's **Ashton Hallett Conservation Award to lifelong Dover resident Kevin McEneaney** in recognition of his eighteen years of land conservation leadership.

McEneaney, owner of McEneaney Survey Associates, has volunteered on the Conservancy's Board of Directors since 1990, including serving as the Board's President since 2000. He has helped the SRC work with willing landowners and community partners in greater Strafford County to conserve over 2,800 acres of land, including Tuttle Farm, the Ayer's easement in Dover and the LeClair easement in Farm-



Jon Greenberg and Anna Boudreau sharing Kevin McEneaney's surprise award presentation.

ington. Recently, great progress has been made on the 235 acre Stonehouse Pond project in Barrington with hopes to complete in 2010. Nancy Carmer noted, "Kevin's unwavering participation over so many years is proof of his strong commitment and dedication to the mission of land conservation. He has provided superb leadership, creative guidance and a diligence and willingness to give above and beyond expectations. These qualities have been instrumental in making the Conservancy as productive as it is today." In his acceptance, the surprised **McEneaney thanked the organization's dedicated members and cited the importance of its work to "conserve land and other natural resources right here in people's backyards. Jobs are created here. All the contributions stay right here and aren't diverted elsewhere."** McEneaney's wife, Dee, children, Kyle and Kati and brother, Jim attended the event. Also in attendance were several members of the Hallett family including Ashton Hallett's widow, Hensey.

Ashton Hallett, along with other conservation-minded citizens, founded the Conservancy as a non-profit land trust in 1989. In 1999, Hallett and family members placed a conservation easement on a portion of land at Three Rivers Farm, the Hallett family homestead, to ensure that the parcel would remain undeveloped forever. The easement, held by the SRC, protects extensive shoreline along the Cochecho and Salmon Falls Rivers and is an important bald eagle nesting site.

Host Dan Philbrick, owner of Three Rivers Farm, helped sponsor this year's celebration along with Bondgarden Farm of Eliot, Maine; Centrix Bank; Dennis Ciotti; the Hallett Family; Kittery Trading Post; Redhook Ale Brewery; Paula and Sam Reid; Summit Land Development; Tri City Dodge/Subaru; Ben Thayer and Linda McGivern; Trittech Engineering and Edwinna and Andre Vanderzanden.

**Thank you, Katie!**

The Conservancy was very fortunate to receive the services this past summer of college intern, **Katie Drapcho**, of Greenland, NH. Katie, a senior at La Salle University in Philadelphia,

worked for the SRC as a result of being awarded a James A. Finnegan Public Service Fellowship. She created our Photobucket and Facebook websites and took time researching grants for us to apply for. Thank you, Katie, for your help and time spent on these and other projects. We appreciated it!

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

(continued from front page)



Luke Wiley, a senior at Coe Brown Northwood Academy, joined the Scouting program in First Grade 12 years ago. Working his way up through Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, he is now an Eagle Scout Candidate from Troop 23 out of Strafford. To reach Eagle, Luke will enhance visitors' experience on the Franklin Preserve.

Luke learned about the need for work on the Franklin Preserve through his Scoutmaster, Mike Burns, and SRC Board Director, Nancy Lambert. **"I immediately jumped on this opportunity. I love the outdoors and would rather take a project in the woods over one in the city."**

After walking the property with Nancy Lambert, SRC Land Agent John Wallace and SRC President Kevin McEneaney, Luke began preparing a project proposal. Once his proposal passes through the Troop Eagle Board and the District level of the Boy Scouts, the work on the Preserve can begin.

The project is going to focus on four different aspects of improving the trails and access to the Preserve. First, teams of volunteers will clear trails of branches, limbs and anything hazardous to users of the trails. Then the trails will be marked and a detailed map will be created. Two granite benches, inscribed with the names of Walter and Mabel Franklin, will be placed facing each other at scenic points along the river's edge. The trail map and biographical information about the Franklins will be posted on a kiosk.

To reach Eagle, the Boy Scouts require that the project be completed before reaching their 18th birthday. Luke will turn 18 in July, 2010 and is asking for any and all support and help. Volunteering work time, donating building materials and even supplying food for energy would help Luke meet his deadline.

If you are interested in helping Luke with his project on the Franklin Preserve, then please contact the SRC office at (603) 516-0772 or at info@straffordriversconservancy.org. Luke thanks you!



View of the Salmon Falls River from the Franklin Preserve.

Welcome To Our New Members

Michael P. Blackman

Bruce R. Bragdon

Donna G. Ciotti

Philip and Dora Clarkson

Julieann Coleman

Alan and Robin Davis

Kasara Gage

David H. and Kimberly J. Gibson

Chris M. and Bryan E. Goodwin

David S. Grieve and Linda Hornyak-Grieve

Raymond N. and Jacqueline D. Guillemette

Ms. Quinton Hallett

Karen F. Houde

Nancy A. Hubbe

Marc Jacobs

Stuart R. Kahl

James McEneaney

Anthony McManus

Michael and Sheila Mone

Donald J. and Karen W. Norris

Joe and Michelle Register

Lois Rodenhuis

Paul Lacourse and Charlotte Scott

Donna Swanson

David A. and Marcia A. Wilson

*Thank you for
your support!*

Season's Greetings

This year consider sending holiday cards that support local conservation. The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is offering a holiday card featuring a winter photo of the Gangwer Conservation Land (Roselawn Farm) in Durham and Madbury. The cards are 6" x 4.25".



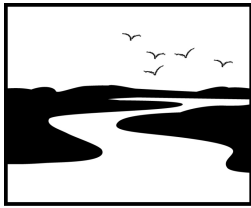
They are printed on glossy card stock with high quality envelopes. **The cards are \$15 for a set of 20.**

To order, please visit us online or call (603) 516-0772

Become a fan!

Strafford Rivers Conservancy is now on FACEBOOK!

facebook.com/StraffordRiversConservancy



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy

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Annual Meeting Edition 2009

Since 1989, Protecting the Natural Resources, Beauty and Character of Lands in Greater Strafford County.

Winter Upcoming Events

SNOWSHOE/SKI-REMICK EASEMENT

Saturday, January 9, 2010. 10:00 am-12:00 pm

(snow date: Sunday, January 10, 1-3 pm)

Wakefield

Join us for a winter snowshoe/ski (or walk depending on snow conditions) on 117 acres of varied habitat that includes a beautiful beaver pond, forests, and fields. This property, protected by a conservation easement granted by Darayl Remick in 2007, abuts other conservation land creating 236 acres of contiguous conservation land and valuable wildlife habitat. The walk is co-sponsored by the SRC and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways.

MEMBER PARTY

Saturday, February 6, 2010. 1:00-4:00 pm

(snow date: Sunday, February 7, 1-4 pm)

Vanderzanden Farm in Rochester

To thank members of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, we invite you to join us for a guided winter walk/snowshoe on the Vanderzanden Farm in Rochester. Following the walk, the Vanderzandens will host a wine and cheese reception in their home. Registration is free and the party is open to members only.

For registration and directions please contact the Strafford Rivers Conservancy at (603) 516-0772, e-mail info@strafforddriversconservancy.org or register online www.strafforddriversconservancy.org.

STRAFFORD RIVERS CONSERVANCY

Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009

The Squamscott Room, Holloway Commons

University of New Hampshire, Durham

6:00 Social Hour: Cash bar and Hors D'oeuvres

6:30 Welcome and Brief Business Meeting

7:00 **Guest speaker:** W. Jeffrey Bolster, UNH Associate Professor of History and Editor of "Cross-Grained and Wily Waters: A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region", will present a talk about the colorful history and intricate ecology of the region which is one of the longest-settled and most enchanting estuaries in the Northeast.

7:30 Dinner Buffet Followed by Dessert Table and Coffee

Registration/Dinner is \$35 per person

To register, visit us online or complete the form below and send with your check to: Strafford Rivers Conservancy, PO Box 623, Dover, NH 03821

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Number Attending _____ Amt Enclosed _____ See you there!