



Currents

Membership Newsletter
FALL 2010

Thirty Seven Acres Protected in Milton by Keith Fletcher



Philip Zaeder and Sylvia Thayer

Thirty seven acres of scenic open fields and mature forests in Milton are protected thanks to a conservation easement granted by long-time Milton residents **Philip Zaeder and Sylvia Thayer**. The conservation agreement was completed after a year of effort by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) and the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. The easement was granted to Strafford Rivers Conservancy. The Town of Milton also contributed toward the transaction costs of this conservation project and will serve as the Executory easement holder.



Extensive stone walls, rebuilt by property owner, Philip Zaeder, almost completely define the property boundary.

The historic property, once owned by the Plummer family, was purchased by Phil and Sylvia in the early 1960s. One of the most impressive features of the property is its extensive stone walls, over a mile of them, rebuilt by Phil himself over several decades. They almost completely define the property boundary and connect to extensive interior walls forming numerous chambers and paddocks, remnants of a grazing past. The conserved lands surround an historic farm house built in the 1790s, which still retains its original façade and serves as the family residence. The conservation easement protects 760 feet of road frontage, almost half a mile of shoreline along an intermittent stream and a small pond.

Phil and Sylvia not only donated the conservation easement, but also made a generous contribution toward the project transaction costs. This includes a stewardship endowment donation that goes toward the perpetual monitoring responsibilities of the property by the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. When asked why they chose to conserve their property, Philip replied, "We sought a conservation easement because we are long-time believers in land conservation and wanted to preserve the fields and woods surrounding the old Plummer homestead. We were greatly assisted by staff at MMRG and the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, who encouraged our questions, were knowledgeable and resourceful as they moved through the various channels that had to be navigated throughout the process." Sylvia added, "We thank you with affection and admiration for all that you do on behalf of preserving our heritage."

Give a Gift That Never Ends—Leave a Legacy to Protect Land for Generations to Come

There are not many opportunities for making donations that will benefit future generations while at the same time saving taxes for your heirs. If you want to protect the places, lands and waters that you care about, then please consider making a bequest to the "Strafford Rivers Conservancy, Inc." A contribution can be made by including the Conservancy in your will or estate plan or by naming the SRC as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy. Another way to benefit the great work done by the Conservancy can be as simple as asking your friends and loved ones to send a donation in your memory to Strafford Rivers Conservancy in lieu of flowers. Please consult a qualified financial advisor or attorney before making a gift. If you or your adviser has any questions or if you'd like to designate your gift for a certain purpose, then please call us at (603) 516-0772. We would be happy to work with you.

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Land Aid Benefit Dance Party—Silent Auction and Raffle a Success



Guest vocalist, Maria Boudreau, belts out her rendition of “What I Like About You” with the band.

On June 11th the Strafford Rivers Conservancy held its 2nd annual LAND AID benefit dance party, underwritten by **BayRing Communications**, and **raised \$10,000 in charitable contributions** to help us continue our great work in land conservation.

Thank you to all who made this fun evening a success through our silent auction and raffle ticket sales and our sponsors: Ballards Restaurant, Dennis Ciotti, Red Carpet Flower Shop, Town & Campus, Tritech Engineering & Waste Management of N.H.



Guests had a great time dancing to the music of *Gazpacho*.

Franklin Preserve Service Project Completed

Improved Public Access to Conservation Land

“You have no idea – it’s like graduating kindergarten. The sense of accomplishment is great”, said 18-year old **Luke Wiley** upon completion of his service project at the Franklin Preserve, a 47 acre parcel straddling the Dover-Rollinsford line along the Salmon Falls River.



Luke and volunteers spent many months clearing, marking and mapping trails, building an information kiosk and installing two memorial stone benches in the preserve which is located on land donated to the Strafford Rivers Conservancy by Walter and Mabel Franklin. Despite the exhausting hours spent on planning and labor, Luke says the work was worth it because it will help maintain a bond between humans and nature.

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Meet Our New Land Agent



Strafford Rivers Conservancy is very excited to welcome **Sara Callaghan** as our new Land Agent. Sara will develop and manage our stewardship program, including visiting our easement properties and meeting with landowners.

Sara earned her Master’s in Natural Resources with a concentration in Wildlife from UNH. For 7 years she worked for The Forest Society as an Easement Steward. Her field research includes trapping and radio tracking Blandings turtles in the Great Bay area, amphibian and invertebrate sampling within wetland and stream communities throughout NH, bat mist netting and wading bird surveys in northern Maine, and researching the effects of disturbance on the red-backed salamander in the White Mountains.

Sara lives in Newmarket with her husband, Brian Hart, and their two great field dogs, Kai and Baxter.

Retiring Board Member

Serving on the Board since 2007, **Nancy Lambert** has retired from the SRC Board of Directors. Nancy’s work on the Board and the Development and Lands Committees will be greatly missed.



Among many contributions, she worked ambitiously and enthusiastically to attract new members to the Conservancy and to expand our educational outreach programs. The Board and staff of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy extends sincere thanks and appreciation to Nancy for the time and support she dedicated to the organization.

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Celebration of Conservation at Three Rivers Farm

2010 Presentation of Ashton Hallett Conservation Award

In celebration of our continued progress and success in land conservation, members and guests of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy gathered at the beautiful Three Rivers Farm on September 18th. The conversation was stimulating, the food delicious and the wine pairing tantalizing! **Thanks to the generosity of our members, guests and sponsors, the evening raised \$12,000** to benefit the Conservancy's mission to protect the natural resources, beauty and character of lands in greater Strafford County.



Andre' and Edwinna Vanderzanden received the 3rd Annual Ashton Hallett Conservation Award for their significant contributions to land conservation and many years of support for the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. Andre' recently retired from the Board of Directors after serving for 5 years. He and Edwinna live in Rochester on Prodigue Farm, 70 acres of which they put in an agriculture/forestry conservation easement. Over the years the Vanderzandens have shared their love for their land by hosting winter snowshoe walks and other events at their farm for members and guests of the Conservancy.

In 1989, Ashton Hallett, along with other conservation-minded citizens, founded the Conservancy as a non-profit land trust. In 1999, Hallett and family members granted 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.

Andre' and Edwinna Vanderzanden

The easement, held by the Conservancy, protects extensive shoreline along Fresh Creek, the Cochecho and Salmon Falls Rivers and contains an important bald eagle nesting site.

Hosted by Dan Philbrick, this special event was sponsored by Bondgarden Farm, Eliot Maine, Centrix Bank, Dennis Ciotti, The Hallett Family, Kittery Trading Post, McEaney Survey, Summit Land Development, Ben Thayer and Linda McGivern, Urban Tree Service, Andre' and Edwinna Vanderzanden, Waste Management of NH and Don Whittum Law Office. Thank you to all who contributed their time and much needed funds to this event so we are able to conserve more land in the region today and sustain our perpetual land conservation stewardship program into the future.

Franklin Preserve

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Luke's proud father, Keith Wiley, expressed it very well, "Thank you for giving my son the opportunity to serve the community and his fellow man."

Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children...let us turn to them and say, this you inherit: guard it well, for it is far more precious than money...and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.

- Ansel Adams



HOLIDAY CARDS



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is offering a holiday card featuring a winter photo of snow covered stone walls and forest taken on the newly conserved Zaeder-Thayer easement in Milton.



Cards are 6 x 4.25", blank on the inside for your own message and include envelopes.

The back contains information about the conservation easement and the Conservancy.

A set of twenty cards is \$15.

Please check the enclosed bright green **"Give Local"** holiday brochure for shipping/delivery costs and view other great holiday gift ideas that benefit local land conservation.



The Strafford Rivers Conservancy
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www.straffordriversconservancy.org



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Join us for a workshop on New England cottontail rabbits and learn about proposed habitat work in the region.

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

What's New in New England Cottontail Rabbit Habitat Management?

Saturday, November 13th, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover
(next to Dover Public Library)

Steve Fuller from NH Fish and Game and Emma Carcagno from UNH Cooperative Extension will lead this workshop where you will learn about wildlife habitat management plans by NH Fish and Game to create habitat for the New England cottontail rabbit, the techniques to enhance wildlife habitats and the species that benefit from these techniques. This workshop will begin indoors at the McConnell Center with a short presentation, then resume outside at the Martineau Tract, a NH Fish and Game property located in Dover where restoration work begins this winter. **The workshop is free, but registration is required.**

For directions and registration contact: Debbie Anderson at 862-1028 or debra.anderson@unh.edu.

For program information contact: Emma Carcagno at 862-2512 or emma.carcagno@unh.edu.

This workshop is sponsored by: NH Fish and Game Department, Wildlife Management Institute, UNH Cooperative Extension, Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Dover Open Lands Committee.

Visit us Saturday Dec. 11 during the Mill Holiday Open House!

One Washington Street, Mills Business and Cultural Center, Dover
Fri., Dec. 10th, 5:00-8:30 pm and Sat., Dec. 11th, 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Throughout the mills, shop the tables of more than 40 crafters, artists and vendors for great gifts ideas while enjoying music, refreshments and seeing the mills decorated for the holidays.

Festival of Trees, Saturday, 1-6pm. Vote your favorite from 20 specially decorated trees!

We will have SRC 2010 holiday cards, t-shirts and other "Give Local" holiday gift ideas available for sale. (See brochure.) Gifts will be pre-packaged and ready to give along with an SRC gift membership or may be purchased separately. Buy local this holiday season and give back to your community!

Please note that
our Annual
Dinner Meeting
has been moved to
March of each
year. See you in
March 2011!