

Currents

Conserving land for people, wildlife, clean water, and the future

FORR Acquires 17 Acres in the Royal River Estuary

Last December, the Friends of the Royal River (FORR) acquired 17 acres in the Royal River Estuary. Thanks to Yarmouth residents Ann Donaghy and Nancy Gunzelmann's generous gift of land, FORR will manage the salt-water marsh property as a wildlife preserve. The marsh is a well known natural feature to anyone familiar with the Royal River Estuary. It is part of a large coastal wetland complex that defines the northern bank of the Royal River just upstream of the Town's new Bayview Estuary Preserve. The U.S Fish & Wildlife Service lists this area as high value habitat for a wide variety of birds and animals.

"We were eager to work with the Friends of the Royal River to make this project a reality. It is really an extension of the Town's visionary purchase of the nearby Bayview Estuary Preserve," remarked Ann Donaghy.

This acquisition fits with FORR's goal of conserving key riparian habitats throughout the region. FORR is extremely grateful to Ann and Nancy for their part in conserving a key portion of the estuary.



Marsh acquisition under a blanket of snow from the March 8th storm, as seen from a Bayview Estuary Preserve trail.

FORR Completes Royal River Region Conservation Plan

With financial assistance from the Maine Community Foundation and the Davis Conservation Foundation, FORR has completed a conservation plan for the Royal River region that will focus our land conservation work along watercourses and on large, unroaded tracts over the next five years. The Plan shows projected development trends that will steadily erode the region's natural systems and restrict access to open land. The Royal River Region Conservation Plan includes strategies to protect water quality and wildlife habitat and create recreational opportunities. We hope to build on existing trail systems, creating links and new sections on undeveloped riparian areas and protected uplands. Our vision of an infrastructure of conservation lands, serving both people and wildlife, we believe, is well-aligned with goals of our communities. Working with the towns, landowners and with many other partners will be vital to the success of this effort. For more information, please contact Henry Nichols at 847-9399.

In This Issue

- New estuary acquisition
- Regional Conservation Plan
- Public access
- Bayview Preserve gems
- Calendar
- Volunteers needed
- List of Supporters
- New Trustee
- Youth Conservation Corps
- Contact your Legislators

President's Column



Friends of the Royal River has come a long way in the past three years. As an organization, we've expanded our focus from water quality to land conservation—a huge leap! We believe this work is critical to balance the relentless development pressure and to maintain intact landscapes for generations of people and wildlife in the region. And now, in a continuing effort to work with the communities in our region, we are making plans to merge with the North Yarmouth and New Gloucester land trusts. Consolidation is more difficult than one might think: someone has to figure

out how each community will have a voice in the larger organization, account for and document existing easements, and make certain that previous conservation efforts can be responsibly cared for. All of these tasks consume time and energy. Merging means taking responsibility for an additional 12 easements and one preserve without the benefit of stewardship funds. As we move in this direction, we're breaking new ground, and we hope you'll join us in shouldering our new responsibilities and enjoying these local conservation lands. We all need to be stewards of this region. Give us a call, and come paddle with us! —Jane Arbuckle

Friends of the Royal River Board of Trustees

Jane Arbuckle, President

Tom Armstrong, Vice President

Charlie Emmons, Treasurer

David Platt, Secretary

Sharon McHold

Bill Hancock

Gordy Scannell

Gro Flatebo

Henry Nichols,
Executive Director

LAND BOND ALERT



Please contact your local legislators and urge them to support **LD 800**, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF), sponsored by Sen. Mary Andrews (R-York).

Previous LMF bond funds have benefited this region (recently, the Bayview Estuary Preserve Project) and the entire state enormously. But the program no longer has funds and last year the Maine Legislature failed to forward a proposed bond package to voters. This \$75 million bond would be allocated to worthy projects over a four year period.

Access to State funds for local conservation projects is critical if we are to continue to protect some of our region's valued lands. LMF funds allow us to leverage federal and foundation funds to stretch the effect of local dollars. This past fall we missed the opportunity to protect valuable shorefront property because LMF funds were not available. Friends of the Royal River is co-hosting a information session with area legislators on April 28th at the Yarmouth Town Hall from 6-9PM. Please come and let them know this is important.

For more information on the land bond go to www.mainelandbond.org

CURRENT VIEW by David Platt

Public Access

The questions are as old as conservation itself: **How much protection is enough?** And at what point are we in danger of "loving a place to death"? Land trusts such as Friends of the Royal River face them every time they take on a project.

Landowners who grant conservation easements usually aren't required to let the public onto their protected properties, and many don't. Shielding a tract from development can be a sufficient public benefit. Still, a land trust must always consider whether enhancing public access – to Casco Bay, the Royal River or a tributary in the Friends' case – can be as important as simply warding off development. As a charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in this region, FORR must take the whole community's needs into account.

Some cases are simple: our Groves Farm and Bayview Estuary easements cover properties that are now publicly owned, making public access a given. But in other instances landowners are

understandably skittish about inviting the public to "tramp through their back yards." As an organization we must respect this desire for privacy where it's appropriate.

Demand for public access to waterways and open land is certain to grow in the years to come, if only because it is a Maine birthright that has already been seriously eroded by development. Helping to provide access through carefully conceived projects that are sensitive to landowners' needs as well as those of the public is an important role for land trusts, including Friends of the Royal River.



Skiing at Pineland.

Discovering Richness at the Bayview Estuary Preserve

Yarmouth resident and Smith College senior Nora Beem, spent a portion of her 2004 summer studying flora and fauna at the town's new preserve and developing an outstanding management report. Here is some of what she found.



Freshwater Pond at the Bayview Estuary Preserve

Having spent two months last summer walking and surveying Bayview Estuary Preserve, I was struck by the remarkable biodiversity found in our own backyard. Through solo visits and those aided by several local naturalists and a member of the US Fish and Wildlife Service I was able to compile a list of over 120 species present on the site.

The property contains a wealth of habitats ranging from open meadows and several woodlots to a freshwater pond and a significant salt marsh. The freshwater pond on the eastern border of the property was created in 1976, when the then-owners dammed a creek, creating permanent waterfowl habitat.

The pond is now home to black ducks, double breasted cormorants, snowy egrets, and painted turtles—just to name a few. Approximately ten of the thirty-five acres that make up the Preserve are salt marsh, creating an important ecological nursery ground

for many aquatic organisms. The marsh is relatively pristine, with only a small patch of the invasive reed, Phragmites. Otherwise, all of the native salt marsh species one would expect to find are present.

US Fish and Wildlife Service assessments determined that of the 91 species of concern located within the Gulf of Maine watershed, 41 have particularly high habitat value within the Bayview Estuary Preserve. Most of the cited species were



Trustees Jane Arbuckle and Sharon McHold identifying plants at the Bayview Estuary Preserve.

birds, including 13 migratory shorebirds and waterbirds, such as the snowy egret, little blue heron, and tri-colored heron. Other wildlife noted on site ranged from expected small mammals like the chipmunk and red squirrel to otters and woodchucks.

I am pleased as a Yarmouth resident that the Friends of the Royal River and the Trust for Public Land in cooperation with the Town of Yarmouth had the foresight to set aside this impressive parcel of land for

Royal River Youth Conservation Corps:



After a heavy rain-storm last summer, YCC worker Mary Cloutier shows off the sediment trap she helped build.

Our Second Year

The Friends of the Royal River and its partners (Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Casco Bay Estuary Project, Sabbathday Lake Association, the towns of New Gloucester, North Yarmouth, Pownal and Yarmouth, US EPA and Maine DEP) are bringing back the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps for a second season. For seven weeks this summer, area high school students will fix non point source pollution problem areas throughout the watershed by building low tech erosion control systems, landscaping, and planting trees. For students who like to get their hands dirty and work hard outdoors, this is a wonderful opportunity to help clean up our streams. If you are interested, please contact Betty Williams at the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District at 856-2777 or betty-williams@me.nacdn.net.

conservation and passive recreation. I hope that my draft management plan will help form a baseline of ecological data as Yarmouth re-embraces the river that once defined it. —Nora Beem

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL RIVER

gratefully acknowledges support from all the following individuals and organizations since January 1, 2004.

Jody & Don Abbott
Kathy Abernathy & Colin Pope
Pamela & David Adams
Nirupama Aggarwal
& Frank Robbins
Tim & Aileen Agnew
Mary & Alvin Ahlers
Edward E. Ainsworth
Mike & Ginger Albert
Pamela & John Ames
Richard & Patricia Anderson
Deb & Ted Andrews
Jane Arbuckle
Tom & Liz Armstrong, Jr
Tom & Rachel Armstrong
Adrian & Ellen Asherman
Helen & Joseph Attura
Christopher Ayres
& Elizabeth Swain
Mrs. James R. Babb
Steve Bachelder
& Deborah Strachan
Gary & Kathleen Bahlkow
Lee & Ursula Baier
Lyn Baird & Bill Seretta
Posey & Brian Barlow
Liese & Herb Barnes
Steve Barr & Martha Leggatt
Ellen & John Barry
Fred & Linda Beck
Edgar & Carolyn Beem
Art Bell & Robin Hodgskin
Judith & David Berghuis
Cindy Berliner & Conan Deady
Charlie Bernacchio
& Catherine Hannon
Patti & Brian Bicknell
Randy & Nancy Billmeier
Gil Birney & Edie Hizard
Patricia & David H. Bischoff
Bob & Judith Bishop
John & Sandra Boland
Brita & Roberto Bonечи
Paul Boots & Kathryn Gabrielson
Jim & Sarah Bowie
Bill & Nikki Boyd
Donna & Jim Boyles
Mike Boyson & Nancy Grant
Sue & Alan Bradstreet
Jim & Julia Brady
Adele Brainard & John Abbot
Ed Brainard & Florence Lusk
Amy & Norm Brenner
Jeff & Charlene Briggs
Lysle Brinker
Hyde & Mead Brownell
Winty & John Bryan
Deb & Dan Burke
Kevin & Mary Burns
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Andrew & Lindsey Cadot
Sam & Ellen Cady
Chuck & Mary Callanan
Mathew Cardente
Charlotte & Tim Carnes
Mary & Fred Carr
Dr. Merrie Cartwright
Casco Bay Estuary Project
Jeanne Chadbourne
Gilda S. Chambers
Peter & Liza Chandler
Steve & Natalie Chandler
Pat Chanterelle & Jim Carter
Matt & Gabrielle Chappell
Chapman Foundation
William & Priscilla Chester
Sue & Dean Cilley

Gail & Peter Cinelli
Michelle Clarke
Tyler Clements & Lily King
Judith & Andrew Coburn
Judy & William Colby-George
Anne Coleman & Trish Friant
Craig & Kris Coleman
Faith & Roger Comstock
Peter & Andrea Cooper
Gordon & Ruth Corbett
Maddy Corson
Priscilla & James Cox
Daniel Coyne
Bill Curtsinger
Elizabeth & Norris Dale
Anna & Robert Deutsch
Nancy & Terry Dewan
Terrance J. DeWan & Associates
Sherry & Craig Dietrich
Kathryn Dion & David Kennedy
Ann Donaghy
& Nancy Gunzelmann
Don & Abby Douglas
Margaret & Tom Downing
Mitch & Cheeky Draper
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Dressel
Harold Dudley
Charitable Foundation
Scott Dunham
Martha & Mark Dunlap
Durham Conservation
Commission
David & Maria Edwards
Dan & Lauren Emery
Margie & Charlie Emmons
Mary Lynn & Paul G. Engel
Amos & Marjorie Eno
Jerri & John Erickson
Lynne & Jay Espy
John & Noreen Evans
Rebecca & Jimmy Everts
Factor Design, Inc.
Lisa Fahay & Peter Troast
Rosemary Fecteau
Irving & Donna Felker
Andy & Sarah Fillmore
Larry Fischman
Pam Fisher
Gro Flatebo & Kent Wommack
Liz & Dave Fleury
Anonymous
Lee Foster
Steve & Trish Fournier
Michael & Julie Fralich
Polly & Fred Frawley
Jane S. Gabrielson
Anonymous
Matthew & Judith Gardner
Charles Gauvin & Gina Sawin
Charlie & Theresa Gendron
Harvey & Suzanne Gerry
Ed & Joyce Gervais
John Gleason
& Katrina VanDusen
Bill Goddard
Thomas Godfrey
Donna & David Goldstein
Lisa & Leon Gorman
Susan Gosselin
Susan Granai & David Van Slyke
Dorothy & Donald Grossett
Peter & Pat Grunwald
Phil & Dixie Guiles
Anne & Gunnar Hagstrom
Gardiner Hall
Herb & Pat Hamel
Mrs. Virginia Hammond

Bill & Lindsay Hancock
Bob & Mary Leigh Hanson
Chalmers Hardenbergh
Calista Harder
Phoebe & Vaughn Hardesty
Robert & Eileen Harvey
Ellen Alderman & Bill Harwood
Mary Louise Haskell
Robert & Beth Hassett
Joan S. Hayden
Prue Heard
Cinny & Dick Henriques
Willard & Annette Hertz
Chris Heuss
Karen Hiban
Craig Higgins
Jim & Mary Highland
Sam & Kendra Hodder
Elizabeth & John Hodgkins
Paula & Dave Hodgkins
Holly Holbrook
Mary & Lew Holman
Alix Hopkins
Bob & Holly Houston
Bob Humphrey
Shawn & Amy Hunter
Benson Hyde
Candace Hyde & Jim Tukey
Caroline & Stephen C. Hyde
Bob Sessums & Sue Inches
Joe & Joy Ingalis
Anne & Dick Jackson
Chris & Pat Jackson
Michele Johns & Nick Desiderio
Will Johnston & Rosita Moore
Anne & Michael Jones
Don Kale
John Kauffmann
Buffy & Bruce Kay
Wendy & Bud Kellett
Betsy & John Kelly
Debbie & Bill Kelton
Cay & George Kendrick
Bruce Kenny
Scott & Meredith Kerr
Grace Degennaro & Gerry King
Bob Klotz
Nan & Bob Knecht
Carl & Jean Knight
Kathryn Kolb
Anne & Seth Kolkin
June LaCombe & Bill Ginn
Cordelia Lane & David DeLorme
George & Margaret W. Lawrence
Kathy & Jamie LeBlanc
Andy LeMaistre
Jean & Dick Leslie
Richard & Dale Lewis
George Libby
Tracy & Scott Libby
Leslie Livingston
Lisa & Paul Lorenz
Mrs. L.W. Lowell
Lower Falls Landiing
Dean & Michelle Lunt
Patricia MacLachlan
James & Elaine Mahoney
Maine Turnpike Authority
Nancy & Allen Malonne
Ellen & David Manson
Happy & Jim Marsh
Merrill Marsh & Gail Landry
Jim & Esther Marshall
Susan & Bill Martens
Becky & Josh Marvil
Karen Massey & Jeff Thaler
Chris & Steve McDuffie

Sharon McHold
Pat McIlwane
Nelson & Betsy Mead
Jennifer Melville & Alex Abbott
John & Antoinette Menario
Linc Merrill
Peter Milliken & Linzee Weld
Roger & Margot Milliken
Kathy Mills
Betsy Mitchell
Kent & Ann Mohnkern
Debby & Rick Molander
Bob & Lora-Lee Moncrieff
Jay & Sue Moody
Peter & Louisa Moore
Joan Mueller & Patrick Christian
Katie Murphy & Peter Lindsay
Lois & Ken Murphy
Elizabeth & Robert Nanovic
Chuck Harvey & Whitney Neville
Town of New Gloucester
Bill & Jan Nichols
Ellen & Jimmy Nichols
Liza Nichols & Bo Chesney
Nibs & Polly Nichols
Gloria & Todd Nicholson
Anne & Ben Niles
Rachel Nixon
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Caroline Norden
Town of North Yarmouth
Dr. Christiane Northrup
Patsy & David O'Brien
Chuck & Susan Oestreicher
Bunny & Harry Osgood
Denny & John Palmer
Esther & Paul Pappas
Sarah Pascarella
Albion & Susan Payson
Ben & Sandy Pearson
Susan & Grant Pennoyer
David & Heidi Perkins
Mr Winfield Perkins
Christine Phelps
Hugh & Norma Phelps
Bruce Phillips & Susan Erickson
Dan & Sarah Pierce
Liz & Charlie Poole
Andrea & Wayne Powell
PQ Corporation
David Puelle &
Elizabeth Heid Puelle
Larry & Jean Pugh
Peter & Deirdre Quesada
Sally & Jack Rand
Stephen & Cynthia Rideout
Field Rider & Susie Percy
Sam Ristich
Anna & Doug Robbins
Bruce B. Roberts & Susan Feiner
Colleen & Mark Robinson
Del Robinson
Michele Robitaille & Tom Caldwell
Thomas Roeber
Gerry & Joan Rolfe
Josh Royte & Leigh Baker
Patty & Cliff Ruprecht
Joan & Scott Samuelson
Margaret & Nord Samuelson
Cynthia & Phillips Sargent
Paul Sari & Laurie Perzley
Karen & John Saucier
Pamela & Len Sautler
Gordy & Amy Scannell
Ineke Schair
Denise Schlener
Curt & Nina Scribner

Mrs. Sandra Scully
Lynne Seeley & Peter Lee
Abbie Sewall & Peter Wiles
Dan Sexton
Neil Shankman
Anne D. Sheehan
Megan Shore & Pat Keliher
Jeff Shorey
Ed & Priscilla Simmons
Don Smith
Douglas & Debra Smith
Benjamin Soule
Margaret Soule
Bill & Valarie Sowles
John & Sylvia Sowles
Dorothy & Joseph F. Stan
Brewster & Judy Staples
John & Barbara Staples
Gary & Susan Starbuck
Jane & Eric Stauffer
Ralph & Suzanne Stevens
St. Mary's Garden Club
Ed Stowell
Alison Strelakovsky
Ann & David Swardlick
Rob & Leslie Taisey
Catherine Tarpy
Robert & Barbara Tellefsen
Thomas Brokerage
The Boston Foundation
Robert Thurlow
Robert & Lynn Thurrell
Fred Thurston
Joan Tilney
Lucie & Van Tingley
Laurie & Michael Totta
Philip A. Towle
Sharon Townshend & Fred Fauver
Barbara Trentacosta
Kim & Jeff True
Bet & Paul Turina
UBS, Matching Gifts Program
UnumProvident,
Matching Gifts Program
Tux Turkel & Amy Sinclair
Andrea & Jan Pieter van Voorst
van Beest
David Van Wie & Cheryl Bascomb
David & Diane Vickrey
Guy & Eleanor J. Vigue
Village Improvement
Society (Yarmouth)
Maryanne & Bob Vitalius
Gretchen & Gary Vogel
Kristina & Doug Vollmer
Joe & Terri Walden
Ellen & Nicholas Walsh
Virginia & John W. Walsh
Comelia Walworth & Mark McCain
Sally Ward
Benso & Hartley Webster
Lucy Wendell-Thorpe
Rosemary & Mike Whitney
Carl & Jan Wilcox
Peggy Wiles
Sarah Wiley
Holly & John Williams
Rick & Lisa Williams
Annie Williamson
Rob Wood & Gay Peterson
Thomas M. Wood
Deborah & Richard Woodbury
Merri & Charlie Woodworth
Willo & Tom Wright
Town of Yarmouth
Yarmouth Water District
Judith Ziegler & Evan Haynes

THANK YOU!!!

To outgoing Trustees, **Chris Ayres, Caroline Hyde and Gil Birney** for their years of thoughtful service and hard work for the Friends.

To **Hyde Brownell, Katie Murphy, Peter Milliken, Denny Palmer, Cay & George Kendrick, Betsy Kelly, Merrie Woodworth, Lew Holman, Linc Merrill and Lori Fowler** for their hours of exceptional volunteering.

Joan Tilney and Dick & Jean Leslie for hosting us in their homes as we gathered interest in the Bayview Estuary Preserve.

Gro Flatebo for her donation of a copy machine and to **Bo Chesney** for his donation of a scanner and loan of office furniture.

Liz Armstrong for our handsome logo and newsletter assistance.

Alix Hopkins for her counsel and newsletter assistance.

Ben Pearson and Kathy Mills for connecting us to new supporters.

Rupert Neily, aka "Vernal Pool," for his conservation musings at our 2005 Annual Meeting; to **Rosita Moore, Jenny & Dick Hodges, Eileen Peterson, June Lacombe, Rod Pervier, Caroline Hyde, Lois Strickland, Elisabeth Wursten and Brian Libby** for serenading us with river songs at the Annual Meeting.



Fresh snowshoe tracks on one of the many trails at the Chandler Brook Preserve in North Yarmouth.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 28 Forum with State Legislators in Yarmouth about Land for Maine's Future Bond

April 31 Riparian Corridor Survey by Canoe

May 14, 6AM Intervate Bird-Walk with expert Bill Hancock

Sept 17 FORR Preserves Trail Maintenance Day

Interested? Please contact us at 847-9399 or royal@maine.rr.com

FORR Welcomes New Board Member

At the Friends of the Royal River's Annual Meeting in January, members enthusiastically elected Yarmouth resident, **Charlie Emmons** to the Board of Trustees for a three year term. Charlie and his wife Margie, moved to Maine in 2002 to be nearer to their children and to set down roots in a place they love, northern New England. Charlie currently works for the Finance Authority of Maine after a distinguished career at the Bank of America in Baltimore. An avid outdoorsman, Charlie plans on getting to know the area in his new kayak. The Friends of the Royal River is pleased to welcome Charlie.

Volunteers Needed

Friends of the Royal River is looking for volunteers to help with the following tasks:

- ▶ Membership development
- ▶ Easement monitoring
- ▶ Trail building and maintenance
- ▶ Riparian and non-point source pollution surveys
- ▶ Database maintenance
- ▶ Periodic mailings
- ▶ Newsletter articles
- ▶ Event coordination
- ▶ Document filing
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Fund raising
- ▶ Press releases

*If you are interested in helping with any of these or serving on a standing committee, please contact **Henry Nichols, Executive Director,** at 847-9399 or royal@maine.rr.com*



Caroline Hyde introducing the Royal River Singers at the 2005 Annual Meeting in January



Membership Card

I would like to help conserve the Royal River region's special places.

Here is my contribution of:

- \$25 Nice to meet you
- \$50 Friend
- \$75 Good Friend
- \$100 Royal Friend
- Other
- My tax-deductible donation is enclosed (please make check payable to FORR)
- Please charge my credit card (circle):



Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

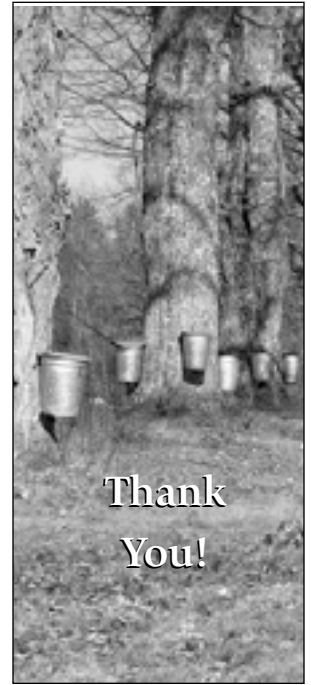
Telephone _____

E Mail _____

Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Name as it appears on card _____



If you are already a member, thank you. If you know someone who might be interested in supporting our work, please help them fill out, clip and mail the card above to the Friends of the Royal River, PO Box 90, Yarmouth, Maine 04096

We thank the sponsor of this issue of *Currents*:



**THOMAS
BROKERAGE**

Real Estate Sales Yarmouth, Maine



PO Box 90
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

