

# Friends of Five Rivers

# Annual Report

July 2021 through December 2022



photo by Dr. Miguel A. Corona



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# Five Rivers in Photos

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*"Leave the road, take the trails." ~ Pythagoras*



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*Photo contributors:  
Denise Hackert-Stoner,  
Tim O'Toole, Scott Stoner,  
Liz Ricci, Liz Wagner,  
Kyoshii, Laurie Keefe,  
Jaimy George*

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# Board of Directors

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*"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home." ~ Gary Snyder*

## Friends Welcome You Home to Five Rivers

We were so happy to be back in full swing at Five Rivers, after the Visitor Center reopened to the public in June 2021. After an extremely trying time for all during the difficult pandemic, Friends of Five Rivers chose the theme of "Connection through Nature" to carry us through 2022 as it reminded the public of the importance of connecting through nature to heal and bring us back together as a thriving community. It was wonderful to also connect with so many of you in-person throughout the past year. The 2022 year was indeed a great one for our Friends group.

Friends' volunteer Greeters returned. Guided School program instructors returned and training resumed. We thanked our volunteers at an outdoor evening event, with food, bonfire, and shared entertainment.

A new Development Director started in December 2021. Paulette worked with a very active Development Committee implementing new events and activities that were carried out for our 50th Anniversary year. Our website has seen many improvements and additions. Our Gift Shop has been revamped and outreach has been increased. We also added a bookkeeper starting in Fall 2021. Additionally, our scholarship program widened in Spring 2022, as we granted two high school students scholarships to pursue their education. We then hired a new part-time educator in late summer 2022, and finally, our Board had some face-to-face meetings and brought in some fresh faces to serve.

While our Education programs for youth and adults were adapted during the pandemic, they came back to full capacity in Spring 2022. Students and adults enthusiastically returned in-person for educational programs as instructors renewed their commitments to guiding school groups in science-based curricula.

Friends of Five Rivers celebrated 50 years in partnership with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Many of our members and friends came to the event in June 2022 to celebrate with us, as we began a year of showcasing this partnership. There was record attendance at the 2022 Fall Festival.

Our members, who continue to support our programs, make what we do possible. It is important to continue to tell who we are, what we do, and how much that support is needed.



*Board members Larry Naviasky, Andrew Pludrzynski, and Andrea Ricard*

We are looking to the future, moving forward, happy to have new enthusiastic Board members with a variety of talents to help guide the way. AND, we are very grateful to our members and volunteers for YOUR support. Welcome home to Five Rivers!

Sincerely,  
**- Andrea Ricard**  
*Board President*



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# Financial Report

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*"To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles." ~ Mary Davis*

## 2021-2022 Fiscal Year: Stable Financial Picture

The Friends' Financial Reports, including the IRS 2020 Return (Form 990) and the NYS Annual Financial Report for Charitable Organizations (CHAR500), prepared by an independent accountant, are available to the public. The following is a summary of the Friends' financial performance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

### OVERALL PICTURE

Operational revenue decreased and spending increased compared to the previous fiscal year but revenue still outpaced expenses by \$1,682. Overall, total revenue as reported in the IRS 990 decreased from the prior year by \$359 to \$180,365, while total spending increased by \$16,705 to \$178,683.

### BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING REVENUE

The largest sources of operating revenue came from government grants of \$83,373 (46%). It was followed by non-government grants and contributions (including fundraising) of \$59,401 (33%), membership dues of \$16,127 (9%), program fees of \$16,084 (9%) and gift shop sales and other ancillary sources of \$5,380 (3%).

### BREAKDOWN OF SPENDING

Program expenses of \$115,389 accounting for 65% of total spending, was the largest area of spending and a \$14,711 increase from the prior year. Fundraising expenses at 24% accounted for the second largest area of spending at \$43,191, an increase over the \$34,899 (21%) spent on fund raising in the previous year. Management and administration of \$20,103 accounted for the remaining spending at 11%.

### END OF YEAR ACCOUNT BALANCES

Cash account balances on June 30, 2022, totaled \$199,417 compared to \$215,816 at the beginning of the year. Of the total assets, \$107,588 was restricted to a specific purpose either by the donor or by Board action and \$172,360 was unrestricted. Total net assets for the year decreased to \$279,948 from \$280,444 in the prior year.



Submitted by,  
**- Randy Coburn**  
*Finance Committee Chair*

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*Friends Board members, Five Rivers Staff, and DEC officials celebrate 50 years!*

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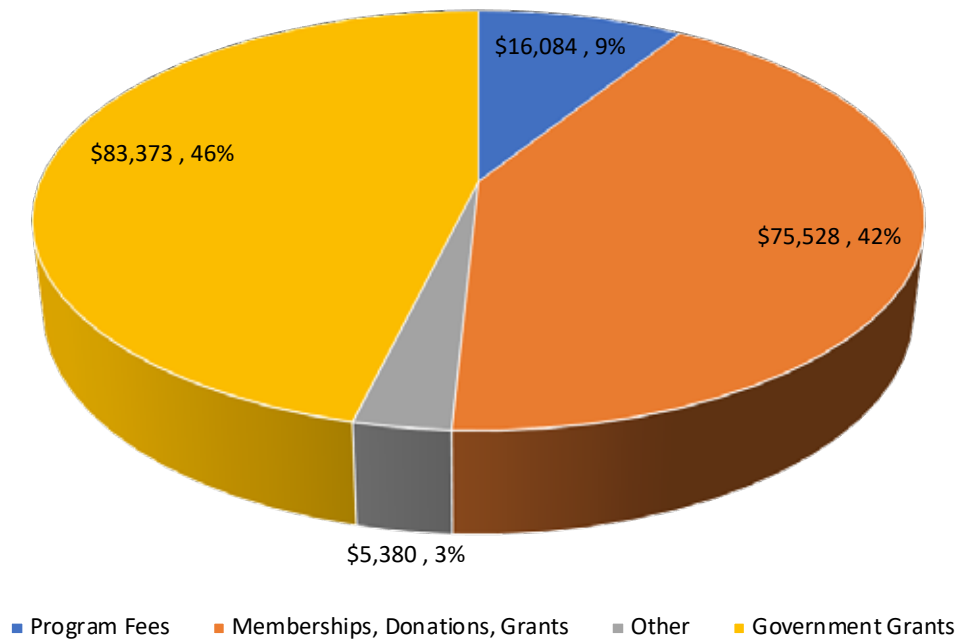
# Financial Report

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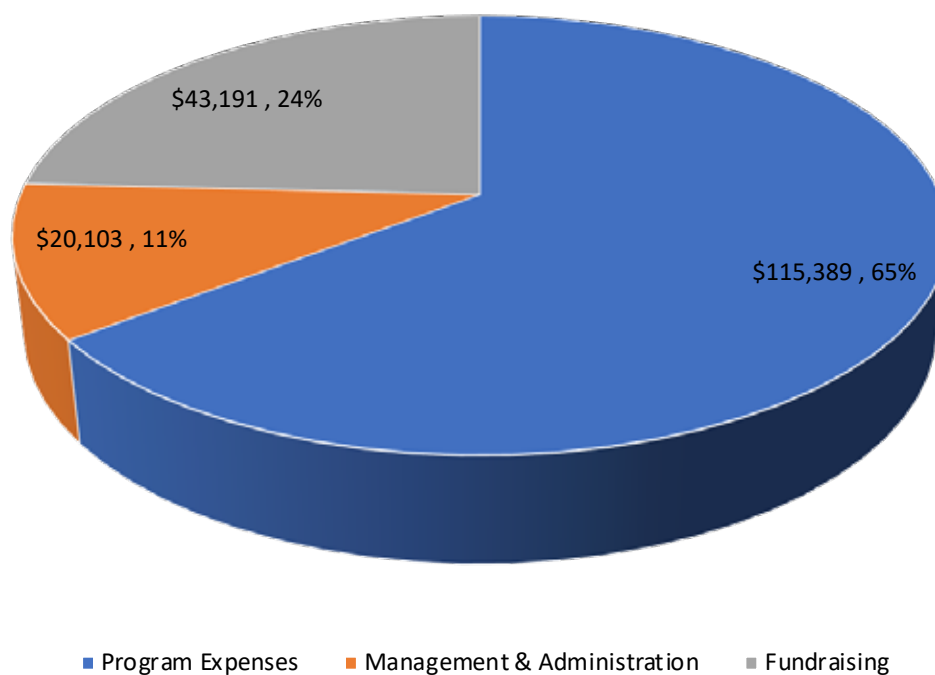
*"Time spent amongst the trees is never wasted time." ~ Katrina Mayer*

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## Breakdown of Revenue



## Breakdown of Expenses



# Environmental Education Photo Fun!

*"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." ~ Albert Einstein*



*Photos by Nancy Conway, described left to right starting from the top: GSP Volunteers; Snow Snake Creation & Racing; little jackets of learning students in our GSP building; snow snakes and award; Five Rivers Director, Gina Jack, with former director Craig Thompson, and Friends Educational Programs Director, Nancy Conway; Fall Festival Insect Safari Fun; Pollen Basket.*



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# Educational Programs

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*"Environment is no one's property to destroy; it's everyone's responsibility to protect." ~ Mohith Agadi*

## Guided School Programs Back in Full Glory

The 2021-22 school year started off slowly with only three schools bravely touching their toes back into field trip waters. Like bees to the blossom, students took to the stream, fields, and ponds. Their need for the outdoors and a care-free childhood was almost too much to contain. And we adults let out the collective breath we had been holding for nearly two years, grateful for Five Rivers and the simple normalcy of being together.

Winter, however, brought fear back into the picture. A spike in illness locally resulted in only a few schools visiting for Marvelous Maples and Advanced Maples. By spring the spike had subsided, and buses were arriving daily. In a span of six weeks, 275 students participated in Birds lessons, 263 in Stream Life lessons, 222 in Animal Signs lessons, and 231 in World of Pond lessons. If not for the constant use of hand sanitizer, it might have felt as if the pandemic had never occurred. But it had. And remembering keeps our sense of gratitude alive.

Friends is grateful to the brave teachers who scheduled visits for their 1,441 students in 2021-22. We are grateful for our talented volunteer instructors who worked harder than ever to channel students' enthusiasm into learning opportunities in the field. And we are grateful to have Friends like you who saw us through the storm, believing environmental education and the development of tomorrow's stewards are worth contributing to.

Be well Friends.

Sincerely,

**- Nancy A. Conway**

*Director of Educational Programs*

### 2021-2022 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Friends offered Guided School Program (GSP) lessons for the first time since March 2020. A total of 219 adult chaperones accompanied the 1,441 students who visited for a wide range of lessons. Volunteer instructors, DEC staff and Friends educators celebrated being back "in business"!

The pandemic offered Friends time to fulfill special programming requests from community groups. Such programs were developed and provided to Bethlehem Seniors, MVP Health Care Providers, Community Care Givers, and U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). Time was also used to recognize Friends volunteers and members with free guided nature walks. A total of 117 people took part in these special programs and walks.

Friends continued to offer additional programming for individuals and families. Programs such as Talk and Trek, Snow Snakes, Introduction to Honey Bees, and Mapling at Home were delivered in small group settings. A total of 79 adults and children took part in these programs.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The future looks bright! During Fall 2022, 307 students accompanied by 99 adult chaperones took part in Guided School Programs, a 33% increase over Fall 2021. This trend increases to 37% when including the 1,885 students scheduled to visit for Maples and Spring programs this year.

Additional programming is projected to outpace last year as well. Talk and Trek, Introduction to Honey Bees, and Snow Snakes were attended by 22 people this fall, and 45 people have registered for programs occurring this winter. And Spring 2023 programming has not even been released yet!

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# Educational Programs

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*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." ~ Frank Lloyd Wright*

## Educational Programming Update continued

In October, Friends accepted an invitation to participate in an outreach program for the Science Teachers Association of New York. At this event, four former Five Rivers interns visited our table and told us how their time at Five Rivers inspired them to pursue a master's degree in education. All four are now local science teachers, and children need them now more than ever!

### **FRIENDS NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS... to fulfill all the school requests for programming**

If you or someone you know enjoys the outdoors and would like to share your enthusiasm with children, please contact Friends' Educational Programming Director, Nancy Conway at her new email address, [education@FriendsofFiveRivers.org](mailto:education@FriendsofFiveRivers.org). If you are not interested in becoming an instructor, we still would like to see YOU. Register for a program today!

### **PROGRAM FEEDBACK**

*"I learned about this program on Facebook and signed up with my son in mind, but I learned so much!" The part I liked best was "the audience participation - for the kids and adults. There were lots of learning aids!" ~ Participant, Introduction to Honey Bees Caregiver and Child*

*The "hands-on activities were spot on! The students relate so well with this type of learning. The use of partners and small groups was so valuable for my students." ~ 2nd Grade Teacher, GSP Birds Lesson*

*The instructor's "classes are so interesting, engaging, and stimulating. Talk and Trek always renews my awe and appreciation for our natural world." ~ Participant, Talk and Trek 3-week series*

*"The children LOVED exploring in the stream. It was hands-on and incredibly engaging for all of the students. The students used their stream sheets as references when they completed their field trip reflections." ~ 3rd Grade Teacher, GSP Stream Life Lesson*

*"Our students were so inspired and excited to learn more about nature!" The students connected most with "thinking about leaves as kitchens. When we got back, the students added leaves to our dramatic play kitchen." ~ Preschool Teacher, GSP Marvelous Maples Lesson*

*"Thank you for the beautiful experience you created for my son last week. He has proudly displayed his silver medal beside his snow snake on the highest shelf in his room where he showcases his most special treasures. You made his day, and you made my week."*

*~ Parent, 2nd Annual Snow Snake Event*



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*Family fun games on a beautiful Fall Festival day. Photo by Nancy Conway.*



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# Beautiful Day Family Programming

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*"In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous." ~ Aristotle*

## Family Fun Programs Turn Beautiful!

When the Family Fun Summer Programs were created in the 1980s, the name emphasized the fact that family members would work together. The name was used for all programs that targeted families.

In 2010, the program coordinator transferred from DEC educator to Friends educator, and continued the Family Fun title; as did the Center for their programs. Both entities had a different format. By 2021, Friends realized the confusion this was causing and changed our programs to a different title.

At the beginning of each of the Friends family programs, the participants greet the day by observing our surroundings and declaring it to be 'A Beautiful Day'. We had our new program title!

Below are the participation numbers from July 2021 through the end of December 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this recap.

Sincerely,

~ Nancy Payne

*Environmental Educator and Beautiful Day Program Coordinator*

### SUMMER BEAUTIFUL DAY - July /August 2021

In 2021, with Covid restrictions being cut back, we increased families per naturalist from three to four.

The Summer Program ran for three weeks, Monday through Friday (two weeks in July and one week in August). We added Mondays as a day to create their journals so that journal making would not detract from the environmental activities that started on Tuesdays. This worked out very well, especially when we added an animal focused Obstacle Course to be enjoyed after Journal making was done. Lots of fun! Each family attended for one week.

- Participants: 26 families, including 37 adults and 44 children.

### FALL BEAUTIFUL DAY - September through December 2021

With Covid restrictions lifting and schools coming back for Guided School Program (GSP) lessons, Beautiful Day was cut back to November and December, so the program coordinator could teach for GSP in September and October.

The program went back to an indoor and outdoor format and ran 90 minutes each day (1hr in 2020). Each family attended one day/week for three weeks.

- November participants: 8 families, including 9 adults and 11 children.
- December participants: 9 families, including 10 adults and 11 children.



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# Beautiful Day Family Programming

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*"We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." ~ Native American proverb*

## Beautiful Day Family Programming Report continued



### WINTER BEAUTIFUL DAY - January/February 2022

With schools returning for Maple Sugaring classes, March Beautiful Day was dropped so the coordinator could teach for GSP. Each family attended one day/week for three weeks.

- January participants: 10 families, including 11 adults and 13 children.
- February participants: 12 families, including 13 adults and 13 children.

### SPRING BEAUTIFUL DAY - April/May 2022

Since there were open days that had been reserved for school programming, it was decided to put in two single day Beautiful Day programs for preschoolers. Each program had a Tuesday and Wednesday session. Each family attended one day.

- April participants: 9 families, including 9 adults and 11 children.
- May participants: 7 families, including 7 adults and 7 children.

### SUMMER BEAUTIFUL DAY - July/August 2022

Although we kept the families to Naturalist ratio at four to one, our numbers were higher than last year.

We reached full capacity each week, and even had a waiting list; first time since pre-Covid. There were more younger children. Parents were clearly more comfortable that Covid was no longer the threat it had been. The Naturalists did have masks if adults indicated they wanted us to wear them. We did not allow the sharing of materials and continued to use hand sanitizer liberally. We still sanitized anything the children touched, at the end of the day.

We kept the five days a week schedule and the Obstacle Course on Mondays after Journal making. The program ran for three weeks and each family attended for one week.

- Participants: 36 families, including 47 adults and 53 children.

### WINTER BEAUTIFUL DAY - November/December 2022

We felt comfortable increasing the family to Naturalist ratio to five to one. Both months were short of capacity. Each family attended one day/week for three weeks

- November participants: 7 families, including 8 adults and 11 children.
- December participants: 9 families, including 11 adults and 11 children.



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# Friends' Gift Shop

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*"Existence is a priceless gift and the beauties of nature are the priceless gifts of the existence!" ~ Mehmet Murat ildan*

## Bookstore Transitions to Gift Shop for Wider Appeal with More Merchandise



"Friends' Bookstore" is now referred to as "Friends' Gift Shop" since many other items besides books are available. Last year, we offered a variety of new items including shirts and mugs commemorating our 50th anniversary, photo cards, holiday ornaments, stuffed owls, candles, colored pencils – a little something for everyone! Photo cards, ornaments, magnets, key chains, and pins were made using photographs taken by local photographers of the wildlife and landscapes found at Five Rivers. These items were a big hit since customers felt like they were able to take a little piece of Five Rivers home with them.

In addition to enhancing the Friends' Gift Shop located within the Center, Friends expanded public awareness of our Center and of the items sold in the Gift Shop by setting up a table at the Delmar Farmers Market held on Saturdays from May to December. This resulted in increased Gift Shop sales, but more importantly resulted in increased public awareness of Friends' mission, programs, events, membership, and volunteer opportunities. Educational materials were brought from the Center (e.g., beaver skull, snake skins) and made available to curious visitors who stopped by our table. This provided an educational experience for families and proved to be a big hit with both children and adults!



Promotion of Five Rivers merchandise through social media and participation at the Delmar Farmers Market helped raise awareness of our Gift Shop. These efforts helped create demand for our merchandise. For example, people started calling the Center to ask that items be placed on hold and visited the Center specifically to purchase promoted items. We have even received calls from vendors inquiring if we were interested in selling their merchandise. Through expanded marketing initiatives and increased efforts of volunteers, the Gift Shop sales increased again in 2022! As always, the proceeds continue to support our environmental education programs.

The Friends' Gift Shop now offers credit card payment on a limited basis. This was initiated at the Fall Festival and was very popular! It is now offered at other special events held at the Center, as well as at the Delmar Farmers Market.

When visiting Five Rivers, it's well worth the time to go into the Center to view the educational displays, visit Argo our resident barred owl, or browse the merchandise at the Gift Shop. We offer apparel, books, unique gifts and educational materials. The Center is staffed by volunteer greeters who will be happy to help and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

**- Laurie Keefe**  
Gift Shop Coordinator

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# Membership Matters

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*"The Earth is what we all have in common." ~ Wendell Berry*

## Green Initiative for Member Renewals Gains Momentum

Membership is the core of our organization and YOU ARE THE FRIENDS of Five Rivers.



This past year, we aimed to reduce paper mailings in order to better align with our environmental mission. We worked diligently with our database management company and set up auto renewal reminders. However, we ran into a programming glitch. With this programming issue being fixed later in 2022, online membership renewals have been well-received and come in nearly daily. We currently stand at 304 members, which is up from last year at this time. Thank you to all who understand why we have

transitioned to electronic renewal notices.

In addition, our Membership Committee has been reinvigorated! We are considering new ways to attract and retain members, including increasing our member benefits.

We invite those of you who are not yet members to consider joining Friends of Five Rivers. As a member, you would be part of the collective voice of a community that recognizes the importance of this local-area environmental treasure and its contributions to our quality of life. The strength of that voice is critical to an organization that relies on membership, volunteers, donations, and grants to support its mission.

A blue rectangular box with a white border. Inside, the word "MEMBERSHIP" is in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "Matters" is in a white, cursive script font. There are white horizontal lines on either side of "Matters".

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# Volunteers

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*"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." ~ Audrey Hepburn*

## We Are Our Volunteers!

Like most small non-profit groups, we depend on volunteers for many facets of our operations. From friendly smiles greeting you at the Visitor Center welcome desk and Gift Shop, to special event volunteers, and of course our education volunteer instructors, we could not function without these many dedicated individuals. **From July 1021 to the end of December 2022, our Greeters logged nearly 1,800 hours of volunteer time.** These hours are not including the Guided School Program Instructors time and all our special event and activity volunteer hours.



We are always in need of additional and enthusiastic volunteers. The best part about volunteering for Friends is that we are flexible to YOUR schedule. Please contact Friends' Volunteer Coordinator (who is a volunteer herself), Ingrid Carlson at [volunteers@friendsoffiverivers.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsoffiverivers.org). Be a part of Friends' volunteer family. Any amount of time you can give will be appreciated! Plus, it is proven that volunteering is good for your health!





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# Legacy & Endowment Giving

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*"Every Mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing." ~ Barry Findlay in Kilimanjaro and Beyond (2011)*

## Leave a Lasting Legacy Gift... or Become an Endowment Supporter

Membership within the Legacy Society provides the opportunity to support environmental education for generations to come.

Your legacy gift to Friends of Five Rivers is part of your long-term plan for personal assets. Some gifts that may be received are retirement accounts, stocks and bonds, a bequest within your will, beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy, charitable trust, and more.

Your gift provides long-term sustainability for Friends of Five Rivers and its numerous educational programs and activities. You may also elect to support the "Friends' Endowment Fund" or choose to designate your gift for a particular program or for general operating support.

To make your legacy gift, Friends suggest you contact your financial advisor or attorney on options that best fit your estate planning. Then reach out to Friends of Five Rivers to hear how your gift will make a significant impact. We would then like to recognize you as a Legacy Society member, where you will receive special recognition, as well as exclusive updates and invitations to private events. However, we will respect all requests for anonymity.

Endowment opportunities are available through the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region to allow your funds to perpetuate.

To discuss this or Legacy giving, please contact Friends' Development Director at (518) 475-0295 or by email to [Development@FriendsofFiveRivers.org](mailto:Development@FriendsofFiveRivers.org).

Friends of Five Rivers is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt public charity. Tax ID: 23-7309978.

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## Community and Business Support Appreciation

*We thank the following local businesses who supported Friends of Five Rivers with monetary or in-kind contributions for our 2022 events & activities.*

- Adriano's Pizza
- Bausback & McGarry Family Dental Care
- Bethlehem Lions Club
- Buenau's Opticians
- Chili's, Glenmont
- Corner Gateway Printing & Shopping
- Delmar Farmer's Market Vendors
- Emack & Bolios
- Hannaford, Voorheesville
- Hannaford, Delmar
- Hewitts
- Kleinke's Farm
- Mad Dog Bicycles, Delmar
- Marshall & Sterling Insurance
- McCarrolls The Village Butcher
- Merriman & Pfister's Marketplace, Delmar
- My Place & Company, Delmar
- MVP Health Care
- Phillips Hardware, Altamont
- Pioneer Savings Bank
- Rooted + Rind
- Steiners Sports, Glenmont
- Stewarts Foundation
- Ta-Da! in Stuyvesant Plaza
- Target Corporation
- The Perfect Blend Cafe & Bakery, Delmar





# Development & Communications

*"The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved."*

~ Richard Rogers

## Connection through Nature Carried Us Through 50th Anniversary Year

This past year was an exciting one as we opened our doors again to events and activities, just in time for our 50th Anniversary year.

The theme that carried us throughout the 2021 into the 2022 anniversary year was "Connection through Nature." It was being in the space and presence of nature that helped many people through the long, difficult pandemic, thus the theme that culminated 50 years was most appropriate. Great enthusiasm ushered back our traditional and new programs, events, and activities at Five Rivers.

In addition to assisting the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation staff at Five Rivers with "I Love My Parks Day" in May, and the "Get Outdoors and Get Together Day" in June, we also organized our own very successful "Creative Nature Expressions" artistic exhibits around photography, quilting/needlework, poetry, mixed media, and children's art. The monthly exhibits were accompanied with an educational component or showcase. We held August Art days with two local professional artists. Then in September, the 2022 Fall Festival was a record-breaking success held over the course of six hours on the grounds of our beautiful facility. Friends of Five Rivers played a vital role in organizing this community event alongside our Five Rivers staff and interns. It was an amazing team effort! We rounded out the year of in-person activities with our Fall Birdseed Sale and then our annual Volunteer Appreciation event.



The Development & Communications Committee also rose to the challenge of finding creative giving opportunities for people to contribute while leaving their mark at Five Rivers within the parameters of the Department of Environmental Conservation. A "Giving Tree" was installed in the vestibule between the Five Rivers Visitor Center and the Guided School Program building. Painted by local artist, Carol Coogan, this beautiful tree will hold up to 200 plus wooden leaves of various sizes that may be purchased in honor of a friend or family member for a variety of occasions. The committee is working to launch more giving opportunities in the near future, including an in-memoriam project to honor loved ones lost.

We also worked to elevate the overall awareness of Friends of Five Rivers in the community by participating in tabling events, and increasing our social media presence.

As we move forward into another 50 years of providing support to environmental education and land preservation, we thank you for YOUR ongoing support, understanding, enthusiasm, and encouragement.

# Connection through Nature

50 Years of Outdoor Education & Stewardship  
in Support of Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Friends of Five Rivers  
Celebrating 50 years!

[www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org)

Five Rivers Forward,  
- Paulette Doudoukjian  
Development Director

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# Friends of Five Rivers Contributors

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*Below are the names of those individuals and organizations who have generously given to Friends of Five Rivers from July 2021 through December 2022. Thank you for your ongoing support.*

## - A -

Adams, Jill  
Adlerman, Catherine  
Agneta, Catherine  
Albright, Skip and Betty  
Allaud, Aimee  
Amato, Christopher  
Andersen, Deborah and David  
Anderson, Dale  
Anderson, Ellen  
Anderson, Charlotte  
Andonie, Elizabeth  
Applegate, Mary  
Asal, Barbara  
Avitabile, Judith  
Axelrod, Mindy  
Ayles, Walter

## - B -

Bailey, Thomas  
Baker, Ilse  
Baker, Karin  
Ball, Susan  
Ballou, Don and Rhonda  
Bangert-Drowns, Robert and Diana  
Barone-Wisniewski, Carolyn  
Barry, Carolyn  
Barthel, Brea  
Bausback, Debra  
Bave, Barbara  
Baxter, Kathleen  
Bayliss, Lisa  
Beams, Erica  
Beebe Johnson Family, Barb and Debra  
Beiter, Richard and Carolyn  
Bendorf, Karl and Patricia Lacey  
Benware, Anne  
Benzing, Paul and Pam McIntosh  
Berger, Ron  
Berger, Terri  
Berger, Wendy  
Berline, Cyndee  
Berne-Knox-Westerlo Jr/Sr High School  
Berry, Dan and Mary  
Berte, Christine  
Bethlehem Central High School  
- Environmental Club  
Bethlehem Central High School Class of 1960  
Bethlehem Democratic Committee  
Bethlehem Garden Club  
Bethlehem Lions Club

Betz, Joseph and Dolores  
Blake Family  
Bingham, Ken and Karen  
Bird, Cliff  
Birkhead, Guthrie and Susan  
Birkhead, Louise  
Bishop, Susan  
Blaisdell, Gordon  
Blassman, Susan  
Blick, Kristin  
Blose, Gary  
Blumberg, Barbara  
Blumkin, David and Julie  
Bogoslofsky, Maida  
Bonanno, Judy  
Bordick, Felicia  
Botta, Jim and Gail  
Brand, Jessica and Alex  
Brazis-Eberle  
Bryden, Kathleen  
Buckey, Richard  
Bucklin, Patricia  
Buist, Paul  
Bunch, Marjorie  
Burgess, Mike and Kate  
Burns, Marion  
Burns, Robert  
Butt, Carol

## - C -

Capozzola, John  
Carlson, Ingrid  
Carlstead, Cindy  
Carp, Jonathan  
Carreker, Blue and Barbara  
Carreras, Mary  
Carroll, Casey  
Carson, John and Debra  
Carver, Brett  
Chaskey, Erin  
Cheever, Sommer, Dean and Holly  
Chojnacki, Mike  
Christenson, Gary and Susan Cook  
Clark, Constance  
Cleary, Kevin  
Cliff, Bill  
Coburn, Randal and Athena  
Coffey, Daniel  
Cohn, Jessica  
Collins, William  
Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc.

Comley, Mary  
Community Foundation  
for the Greater Capital Region  
Conine, William and Judy  
Connelly, Denise  
Conroy, Jack and Kris  
Conway, Nancy  
Conway, Robert G.  
Copleand, Arthur and Marie  
Corcione, Sarah  
Conelius, Lewis and Elaine  
Correia, Nicole  
Cotch, Mark  
Craner, Steve and Connie  
Crisafulli, Donna and Rick Kuhnman  
Crisafulli, Denise  
Cronin, Anne and Mike  
Culpo, Joseph and Mary  
Cunningham, Tom and Sue

## - D -

Darrow Peterson, Marilyn  
Davis, James and Doris  
de Paz, Albert and Joan  
Dean, Clare  
Dean M. Graham Foundation  
DeCamp, Christopher and Patricia  
Delehanty, Wendy and John  
Delfs, Linda  
Delmar Animal Hospital  
Delmar Presbyterian Church  
DePace, Michelle  
DeSantis, Eugene  
Devore, Jack and Barbara  
Deyoe, Erik and Kristine  
Deyss, Larry and Christine  
Diamond, Daniel  
Dickinson, Sherry  
Dietzel, Christopher  
Dolan, Donna  
Donahue, Erin  
Donnaruma, Stephanie  
Doody, Carole and Tom  
Dore, Mark  
Doudoukjian, Paulette  
Douglas, Judy  
Drapeau, Norma and Ann  
Drinkwine, Gary  
Dryden, Kersten  
Dunnington, Barbara  
Dwyer, Kevin and Brenda



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# Friends of Five Rivers Contributors

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*Below are the names of those individuals and organizations who have generously given to Friends of Five Rivers from July 2021 through December 2022. Thank you for your ongoing support.*

## - E -

Eames, Barbara and Fred  
Eckardt, Chris  
Eckhaus, Barbara and Larry  
Edwardson, Chris and Cindy  
Eisan, wini  
Elfedlt, Edwin and Kathleen  
Elliott, Becky and MaryLou Murrock  
Erich, Fred  
Eson, Jud and Nancy

## - F -

Farone, Stacie  
Farnam, Helen  
Farrell, Joseph and Linda  
Farrell, Margaret  
Fasullo, Michael  
Felsen, Kristen  
Fenton, Anastasia  
Ferraro, Carole  
Ferrera, Peter  
Ferrill, Stephanie  
Fetisoff, Kathleen  
Fidelity Charitable  
Field, Bradley  
Finkle, Linda  
Fogarty, RoseAnne and Perry Smith  
Fontaine, Teresa  
Fordham, Joan  
Foss, Ned and Margaret Inderhees  
Franke, Fran and Steve  
Franze, Grace  
Friedman, Ronald  
Fuchs, Beth

## - G -

Gage, Matthew  
Gall, Kenneth and Debbie  
Gallegher, Emily  
Gangemi, Christine and Richard  
Garcia, Ivo and Robin  
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Petiet, Beverly and John  
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Storms, Katherine  
Stratton, Michael

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Sweeney, Timothy  
Szelest, David and Margo

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Thompson, Craig  
Tom, Yovine  
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Tomson, Inga  
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Trimble, Melanie  
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Tweedie, Carolyn and Ronald  
Tynan, James and Judith

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United Way of the Greater Capital District

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Vancans, Norine and Juri  
Vanstone & Demers  
Vecchione, Karen  
Verga, Claudia  
Vertefeuille, Matthew  
Vertigan, Richard  
Villa, Maria  
Volk, Larry and Gail

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White, Carol  
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Wildove, Dona  
Wilken, Donald  
Williamson, John  
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Witting, Theodore  
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Wood, Katherine  
Wright, FE

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Youmans, Samuel  
Young, Ed and Dottie  
Youngblood, Charles and Concetta

## - Z -

Zucker, Joyce  
Zwink, Elizabeth  
Zwink, Sandra



*The Friends of Five Rivers "Giving Tree," which adorns the vestibule of the Visitor Center leading to the Guided School Program building, will allow for a perpetual gift-giving opportunity. Leaf size options are shown to the right.*





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# Board of Directors and Staff

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*"Into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul." ~ John Muir, naturalist, author and general environmental guardian*

---

## Immediate Past & Present Board of Directors

Randal Coburn – *Immediate Past President*  
Andrea Ricard – *Interim President*  
Cyndee Berlin – *Vice President*  
Reid Prinzo – *Treasurer (Nov-June)*  
Dan Berry – *Ex-Officio Treasurer (July)*  
Stephanie Maes – *Secretary*  
Miles Garfinkel – *Director*  
Robert Greenman – *Past Director*  
Stephanie Maes – *Director*  
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Kathryn Simpson – *Director*  
Mary Louise Stanford – *Director*  
Michael Stratton – *Director*



---

*Nancy Payne (above) and  
Nancy Conway (right)  
head our Friends'  
Education Department.*

---

*To the left, Board members,  
Miles Garfinkel, Carole  
Nemore, Mary Louise  
Stanford, Andrea Ricard,  
and Cyndee Berlin, along  
with Paulette Doudoukjian,  
take a walk along a Five  
Rivers trail.*

---

## 2021-22 Friends Staff

Nancy Conway – *Educational Programs Director*  
Nancy Payne – *Beautiful Day Coordinator*  
Abbigail Drake – *Assistant to Education Department*  
Gabrielle Sawyer – *Naturalist Intern*  
Anna Schell – *Naturalist Intern*  
Paulette Doudoukjian – *Development Director*



*“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” ~ Rachel Carson*



## **FRIENDS OF FIVE RIVERS**

*Supporting Environmental Education*

56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054

Phone: 518-475-0295

[www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org)



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