



# Friends of Five Rivers 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# Beauty & Brilliance of Five Rivers...



photo by  
Lorraine Pena Boyd



photo by  
Laurie Keefe



photo by  
Laurie Keefe



photo by Lorraine Pena Boyd



photo by Robert Bickford



photo by Robert Bickford

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# Board of Directors

## A Year of Exciting Activities and Opportunities

Friends of Five Rivers experienced a full and exciting year in 2023, following our 50th anniversary in 2022.

Our education programs, the main focus of Friends of Five Rivers, were bursting at the seams. From our popular Guided School Program field groups, to the Maples program, our Talk & Trek programs, and our Beautiful Day and Summer Nature Week programming, we reached and introduced nature to hundreds of participants from age two to adults.

As for our activities and events, we had another very successful annual Fall Festival in September, and a new inaugural event, “Friends Celebrating Friends” at Glennpeter Jeweler’s Glenmont location in November, sprinkled with our fall and winter birdseed fundraisers, and Creative Nature Expressions art and photography exhibits.

Our Friends of Five Rivers Gift Shop income increased thanks to Volunteer of the Year, Laurie Keefe, and her team. Credit card sales via Square and Delmar Farmers Market sales contributed to this success of increased merchandise sales.

Friends Board members participated in several tabling events to help raise more awareness of our organization and mission, and we also became more actively involved with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. We love meeting our “Friends” at events!

We had four wonderful Naturalist interns, sponsored by the Friends, and many new Greeter volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers, especially Guided School Program instructors. Volunteering with us is a great way to get involved with our organization as we offer flexibility to meet your schedule.

Friends of Five Rivers also offered new ways for people to donate, with the introduction of our “Forever Friends” Memorial Pole plaques, and the ongoing opportunity to add a leaf to our Giving Tree. We also received a generous donation to upgrade and enhance the Goose Pond Road teaching site.

We are now looking to the future with a renewed focus on developing our endowment fund for long-term financial sustainability. We are also prioritizing our membership retention and growth. All this will ultimately benefit our mission of environmental education for young children, students, and adults.

*“We are now looking to the future with a renewed focus on developing our endowment fund for long-term financial sustainability. We are also prioritizing our membership retention and growth. All this will ultimately benefit our mission of environmental education for young children, students, and adults.”*



*Andrea cutting the Volunteer Appreciation cake.*

Paulette Doudoukjian, who was promoted to Executive Director in July 2023, will work with Board members to advance these initiatives. If you are interested in learning how you can assist by serving on a committee or even becoming a Board member, we welcome you!

Thank you for your ongoing support of Friends of Five Rivers and our mission of Environmental Education.

Sincerely,

**Andrea Ricard**  
Board President

# 2023 Events & Activities Highlights...



New giving opportunities, art and photography exhibits, a family-fun Fall Festival, and a new offsite fundraising event helped Friends of Five Rivers in raising awareness and operating funds.

From the left, the Giving Tree leaves filling in; the inaugural Friends Celebrating Friends Auction & Appetizer event; Forever Friends Memorial Poles; Ollie the Otter at the Fall Festival; and one of our talented young artists with her nature-themed masterpiece.



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# Executive Director

## Ending 2023 with Positive Growth for the Future

Friends of Five Rivers experienced growth in numerous areas over the past several months. The achievements of 2023 can be attributed to a number of things, however, my words in the spring appeal from earlier in the year summarizes the key components to this success:

*The gems of this invaluable treasure known as Five Rivers are the individuals, past and present, who sparkle with enthusiasm to maintain the 450 serene acres with its naturally carved trails amid forests and fields, thriving ponds, and exquisite wildlife... and the dedicated passion to educate young and old on the beauty of nature and all it can teach us.*

*I marvel at the wisdom of Nan Payne, who has dedicated 40 plus years of her life to this place, first working for the DEC, then later for Friends of Five Rivers, bringing the wonder of nature to children through family programming. I am inspired by the dedication of Nancy Conway, who had a successful career as a bright engineer for GE, then a school teacher... but ultimately chose to meld her two passions by becoming the long-standing Director of Educational Programs, leading the widely-popular Guided School Programs for children, and adult outdoor education programs. I respect the knowledgeable staff at Five Rivers, who uphold the standards of the DEC daily to keep this land a true environmental education resource, and the talented maintenance crew, who love and care for Five Rivers like it was their own backyard. Additionally, I am grateful for the countless volunteers who give generously of their time to assist Friends of Five Rivers.*

It is indeed all those people mentioned who deserve a great deal of thanks for Friends of Five Rivers seeing growth this past year. In addition, the committed members of the Board of Directors and various committees pushed forward projects and programs to increase operating revenue all for the purpose of supporting our education programs. Our Giving Tree, unveiled in the fall of 2022, continued to grow with leaves. The "Forever Friends" Memorial Poles were installed offering plaques for people to remember their loved ones at Five Rivers. The popular birdseed sale was expanded to be held bi-annually. The family-friendly Fall Festival drew more than 2,000 people, and finally, the inaugural "Friends Celebrating Friends" appetizer & auction event was very well received. We were also awarded several mini-grants to support our various projects, and received a generous contribution from the William Haaf family (pictured below) to help upgrade the Goose Pond Road Teaching site, making it both ADA accessible and generally more comfortable for students to access the pond for their scientific explorations. In addition, 2023 saw many other very kind donations from numerous supporters, with whom we are most grateful.

Our goal for 2024 is to expand the awareness of who we are and what we do... we are a small but mighty organization making impressive strides for environmental education and land preservation. We were recently awarded a Parks & Trails New York grant that will help us in achieving this goal of greater outreach. Please consider joining our efforts through your membership.

Sincerely,



**Paulette Doudoukjian**  
Executive Director



# Educational Adventures...



photo by Nancy Conway



photo by Nancy Conway



photo by Denise Hackert-Stoner



photo by Nancy Conway



photo by Nancy Conway

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# Educational Programs

## Devoted Guides - Hopeful Future

Anticipation is an emotion that stems from hope. It is an expected emotion when trying something for the first time. Why then is there such palpable anticipation in the Guided School Program (GSP) prep room before each lesson? Why do instructors who have taught lessons for years still brim with anticipation? Because GSP instructors' hope for children and the environment is endless. They know sharing memorable experiences with children in nature is the key to beginning a lifelong connection with the environment.

In 2023, GSP instructors led 2,695 students and 810 adult chaperones to field, forest, stream, and pond habitats for meaningful lessons. Many of the children were on their first field trip and were full of their own anticipation. With their instructor's guidance, children pondered plant and animal life while using hand lenses. They observed and sketched unknown species. They lifted sap bucket lids and squealed with delight as their eyes caught droplets leaving the spile and splashing into the reservoir. Some moved from fear to curiosity to a tentative appreciation after sweep netting for insects in the field. Most engaged with nature in a memorable way because a GSP instructor had hope and acted upon it.



*GSP Volunteer Instructors preparing to head afield.*

Friends is indebted to the volunteer instructors who give their time, talents, and skills to the Guided School Program. Their anticipation of sharing memorable experiences in nature with children brings success to the program and, hopefully, to the conservation efforts of future generations.

Be well, Friends.

Sincerely,

**Nancy A. Conway**

*Director of Educational Programs*

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*Tell me and I will forget.  
Show me and I may remember.  
Involve me and I will understand.*

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### 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Guided School Program has recovered from low pandemic participation levels. Fall 2023 saw an increase of 225% in visitation over Fall 2022, placing the program at pre-Covid numbers. A total of 217 field groups containing 2,695 students and 810 chaperones headed out with GSP guides in 2023.

Numerous, greatly needed long-term projects came to completion this year. The updated Pond Life booklet was printed on waterproof paper thanks to an anonymous donor's gift. A learning-friendly teaching site was constructed at Goose Pond thanks to a donor's memorial gift. A GSP Welcome Video was created thanks to the tech savvy Friends of Five Rivers and Student Conservation Association interns. Each of the three projects enhanced the students' Five Rivers experience by allowing them to engage more fully in their study of nature!

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# Educational Programs

## Education Report Continued

The excess of honey from onsite hives led to the creation of a sold-out Honey Tasting program for individuals and families. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

*“The program was very informational, and all questions were answered in detail. The hands-on presentation was exceptional.”*

*I most enjoyed “the discussion of honey bee biology and getting to open the honey comb. Interesting and fun!”*

A total of 199 people took part in additional Friends’ programming offered throughout the year. These programs included Membership Walks on the new Fisher Trail, Talk and Trek Continuing Education Series, Snow Snakes, Introduction to Honey Bees, and Sugar Mapling at Home.

### **PROGRAM FEEDBACK: The Proof Is In The Pudding**

*“Thank you for having us to Five Rivers! My favorite part of this field trip was probably (it’s hard to choose because I liked all of the parts) to explore the pond and get some plants from it. I also liked when we gathered in the circle before we went to the pond. I had lots of fun at Five Rivers and can’t wait to go there again with my family. Thank you again!”*

- 4th Grade Student, Mixed Stream Life and World of Pond Lesson

*“The students really enjoyed exploring the nature trails and discovering signs of wildlife. The instructor was able to support all their questions. The lesson was a perfect balance between exploring and hands-on with explanation. The length of time was also very appropriate for the age group.”*

- 3rd Grade Teacher, Animal Signs Lesson

*“This was an amazing field trip. I had a group of students with special needs and the instructors were positive, encouraging, and patient. The lesson was perfect for ALL!”*

-3rd Grade Teacher, Stream Life Lesson

*“My students were very engaged and loved the lesson. I think they would have stayed all day if they could have. It was great that they were encouraged to ask questions and share what they noticed.”*

- 1st Grade Teacher, Here Comes Winter Lesson

*“The instructor was fabulous! The students loved identifying critters/plants using the pond booklet and sketching. The concept of biodiversity will be something I will add to my instruction.”*

- 5th Grade Teacher, GSP World of Pond Lesson

*The “kids learned so much! Collecting animals in the stream was a favorite activity...They love to get their hands on science!”*

- 3rd Grade Teacher, Stream Life Lesson

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024 - MORE VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS NEEDED**

There is an urgent need for GSP instructors. This upcoming year will be dedicated to supporting the journey of those interested in becoming volunteer instructors. Through additional recruitment, training, and observation of lessons, Friends hopes to increase the instructor corps by 10. If you or someone you know enjoys the outdoors and would like to share your enthusiasm with children, please consider attending the “Introduction to Guiding” meeting on Monday, February 26th from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact Friends Education Director, Nancy Conway, at [education@friendsoffiverivers.org](mailto:education@friendsoffiverivers.org) to find out more.



THANK YOU



Dear Nancy,

Thank you very much for being my instructor at five rivers. My favorite part was when we held the turtle. I also liked it when we saw the beaver marks in the tree. I think you are helpfull. From Carly.

# Children & Family Exploration...



Dear 'Nancys,'

There are really no words to describe the joy, knowledge, growth, friendship, kindness,



and appreciation for nature you both (and your delightful teammates) have given to [my grandchildren]. The results and benefits of all your loving efforts are reflected in their after-program smiles and their accounts of their experiences

to Mom and Dad more than anything said here."

- excerpt from a letter written by Bill Collins



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# Beautiful Day Family Programming

## Laying a Foundation for Nature Appreciation

Our 2023 numbers reflect an increase of families attending our family programs. All programs were full with waiting lists. In fact, this year, we are excited to announce that due to the popularity, we are adding a fourth week to our summer program. These programs for toddlers and youth lay the foundation for nature appreciation and respect for the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this recap.

Sincerely,



**Nancy Payne**

*Environmental Educator and Beautiful Day Program Coordinator*

### JANUARY BEAUTIFUL DAY

10 families: 12 adults & 13 children

36 adults + 39 children = 75 participants

*The first line of numbers reflect the families that registered for each program. The second line reflects the total number of people we served over the multiple days of each program.*

### FEBRUARY BEAUTIFUL DAY

10 families: 12 adults & 13 children

36 adults + 39 children = 75 participants

### NOVEMBER BEAUTIFUL DAY

10 families: 11 adults & 11 children

33 adults + 33 children = 66 participants

*The first line of numbers reflect the families that registered for each program. The second line reflects the total number of people we served over the multiple days of each program.*

### DECEMBER BEAUTIFUL DAY

10 families: 12 adults & 11 children

36 adults + 66 children = 102 participants

### SUMMER NATURE WEEKS

The goal of the Summer Nature Weeks program is to offer a nature based, interactive, cooperative experience for children ages 2 through 8 and their caregiving adult. Each day begins with the reading of a story from nature. Hands-on activities compliment the theme of the story and include exploration, discovery, games, and crafts.

Three - 5 day sessions (Monday through Friday)

Totals in 2023: 315 adults; 300 children = 615 participants

# of families	# of adults	# of children	Geographical Distribution	Attendees 1st time	Children/age Median
45	63	60	17 cities	26	3

- The geographical distribution over the years has held steady.
- This year's high number of 1st time attendees reflects the fact that many children aged out of the program in 2022.
- Over the years, the median age of the children has dropped. This is attributed to parents sharing the news that we accommodate families with young children in an engaging way.

## Five Rivers Adventure Buddies!



From East Coast to West Coast, and even the other side of the globe, with a few tropical island waterfalls and a Taylor Swift concert along the way, our Friends of Five Rivers owl and beaver were well traveled in 2023. This is a new #5RADventuresCollection started through the Gift Shop in 2023 and quickly became popular. Purchase your owl or beaver buddy to accompany you on your vacations near or far. A small educational journal is given with each purchase.



## Gift Shop Sales Boom



From the Delmar Farmer's Markets to the Five Rivers Fall Festival, and our every day sales in the Visitor Center, this past year's Gift Shop sales exceeded all expectations for a record-breaking gain. All proceeds from the Gift Shop sales benefit Friends of Five Rivers programming.



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# Friends' Gift Shop

## Gift Shop Sales Exceed Expectations as Sustainable Merchandise Fills Inventory

This past year, Friends of Five Rivers established the following goals for the Gift Shop:

- Offer a variety of items related to Five Rivers and the environment for sale as a service to our visitors
- Provide outreach to the Community by participating in events.
- Support environmental education by offering merchandise that supports programming and increases environmental awareness.
- Financially support the environmental education programs provided by Friends and DEC.

I am pleased to share that we reached all of our goals, achieving another highly successful year for the Friends of Five Rivers Gift Shop. The Gift Shop offered a wide variety of merchandise, including eco-friendly items such as upcycled items from local crafters.



*Andrea Ricard, left, awards Laurie Keefe, right, the Friends Volunteer of the Year honor for her outstanding and dedicated efforts to increase the Gift Shop capacity.*

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The Gift Shop team participated in the Fall Festival and attended 10 Delmar Farmer's Markets. These events and markets offer the opportunity to talk to our many existing Friends about programming, the trails, and all the amazing nature observed at Five Rivers. It's an opportunity to make new Friends and share the many great things about Five Rivers and all that it has to offer. Information is provided on memberships, programming, trails, hours of operation, etc. Believe it or not, there are people that don't know about Five Rivers!

At the Gift Shop, educational items and books for all ages are sold. This includes pocket guides, field guides, bug boxes, pond nets, eco-friendly items, and merchandise made with photos of the flora and fauna that can be found at Five Rivers. With the proceeds from all sales, the Gift Shop supports Friends and DEC's educational programming.

Increased promotion of Friends of Five Rivers merchandise through social media and participation at the Delmar Farmer's Market continues to raise awareness of our Gift Shop. Friends also purchased a Square terminal this year, so we can now accept credit card payment for all sales both at the Center and at Markets. Through expanded marketing initiatives, the ability to accept credit cards for all sales, and increased efforts of volunteers, the Gift Shop sales increased substantially in 2023!

Moving forward we hope to expand our eco-friendly offerings and increase our outreach to the community. When visiting Five Rivers, stop in the Visitor Center to view the educational displays, visit Argo our resident barred owl or browse the merchandise at the Gift Shop. We offer a variety of gifts for every age and occasion.

Submitted by,

**Laurie Keefe**  
Gift Shop Coordinator

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# Financial Report

## 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Remained Stable

The Friends' Financial Reports, including the IRS 2022 Return (Form 990) and the NYS Annual Financial Report for Charitable Organizations (CHAR500), are being prepared by an independent accountant, and will be available to the public when completed. The following is a draft summary of the Friends' financial performance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, based on the preliminary figures provided by the accountant.

### OVERALL PICTURE

Operational revenue increased and spending increased compared to the previous fiscal year, however expenses outpaced revenues by \$13,868. Overall, total revenue as will be reported in the IRS 990 increased from \$180,365 to \$208,249, while total spending increased from \$178,683 to \$222,117.

### BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING REVENUE

The largest sources of operating revenue came from government grants of \$90,611 (44%). It was followed by non-government grants and contributions (including fundraising) of \$66,065 (32%), membership dues of \$21,646 (10%), program fees of \$22,975 (11%) and gift shop sales and other ancillary sources of \$6,952 (3%).

### BREAKDOWN OF SPENDING

Program expenses of \$145,659 accounting for nearly 66% of total spending, was the largest area of spending and a \$30,270 increase from the prior year. Fundraising expenses at 20% accounted for the second largest area of spending at \$43,519, a minor increase over the \$43,191 (24%) spent on fund raising in the previous year. Management and administration of \$32,939 accounted for the remaining spending at nearly 15%.

### END OF YEAR ACCOUNT BALANCES

Cash account balances on June 30, 2023, totaled \$194,908 compared to \$199,417 at the beginning of the year. Of the total assets, \$185,354 was restricted to a specific purpose either by the donor or by Board action and \$89,939 was unrestricted. Total net assets for the year decreased to \$275,293 from \$279,948 in the prior year.

Submitted by,



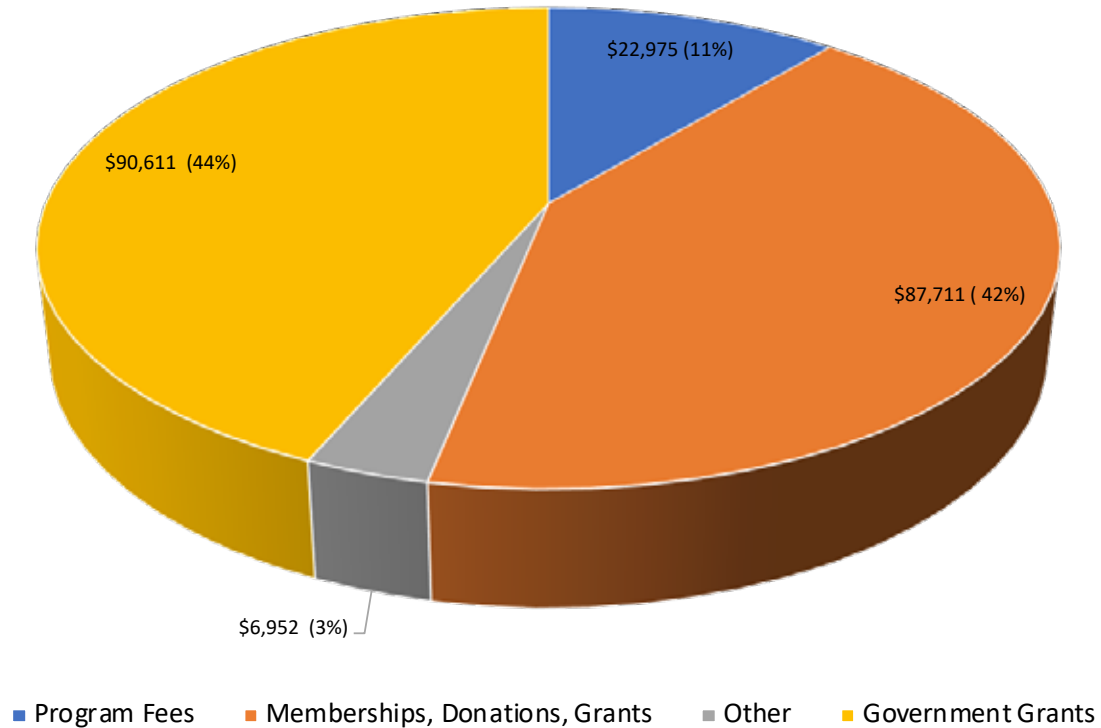
**Randy Coburn**  
*Finance Committee Chair*



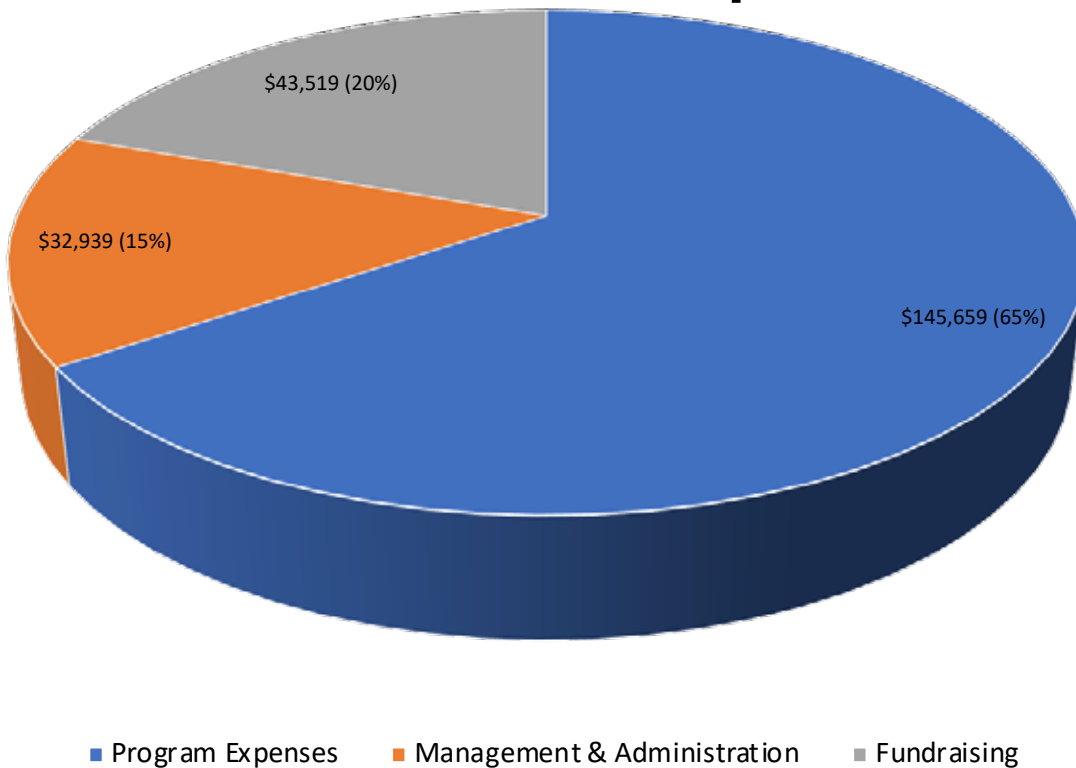
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# Financial Report

## Breakdown of Revenue



## Breakdown of Expenses



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# Sponsors, Grants, and Special Donations

## Community Support Appreciated

*We thank the following local businesses who supported Friends of Five Rivers with monetary or in-kind contributions for our 2023 events & activities. We also acknowledge, with appreciation, special grants.*

### EVENT SPONSORS

- Bausback & McGarry Family Dental Care
- Bethlehem Lions Club
- Corner Gateway Printing & Shopping
- Dr. Judith Van Woert
- Dr. Todd Shatynski, The Bone & Joint Center
- Glennpeter Jewelers - The Diamond Centre
- Marshall & Sterling Insurance
- Naviasky Law Firm, PLL
- Pioneer Savings Bank
- The Animal Hospital, Slingerlands
- The Book House, Stuyvesant Plaza

### GRANTS

- Bender Scientific Fund
- Dean M. Graham Foundation
- Give Lively Foundation, Inc.
- Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.
- Kong Company, LLC
- Stewarts Foundation
- Target Corporation
- Tourism Grant

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RAFFLES & AUCTION ITEMS

- Arts Stars! Children's Studio
- Adriano's Pizza
- Bacchus Wood-Fired Pizza
- Bountiful Bread
- Brea Barthal
- Buenau's Opticians, Inc.
- Chili's, Delmar
- Choices Hair Salon
- Dandelion Collaborative
- Delmar Farmer's Market Vendors
- Delmar Wine & Liquor
- Dory Ellen's Delightful Pies
- Dr. Miguel A. Corona
- Dwight Cheu
- FoCo Taco, Delmar
- Emack & Bolios
- Fifth Corner, Delmar
- Frank Smith Signs
- G. Wilikers Toys and Games at Stuyvesant plaza
- Glennpeter Jewelers, Glenmont
- Guildlerand Music Academy
- Gregory's Barbershop
- Hannaford, Voorheesville
- Hewitt's Garden Center
- Hilltown Jewelers
- Hoffman's Development Corp.
- I Love Books, Delmar
- Jai Yoga
- Jonah Doudoukjian
- Landmark Spectrum 7 Theaters
- Laurie Keefe
- Lorraine Boyd
- Marty Bannan
- Merriman & Pfister Marketplace
- Mitch Abolafia

- My Place & Company
- Nancy Conway
- Nancy Payne
- New Scotland Spirits
- Nine Pin Cider Works
- NYSDEC Division of Communication
- Normanside Country Club
- G. Wilikers Toys & Games
- Palace Theater
- Paulette Doudoukjian
- Phillip's Hardware
- Price Chopper Golub Foundation
- Proctors of Schenectady
- Rooted + Rind
- Sams Club, Latham
- Shalimar
- Silver Parrot
- Skin Solutions, Slingerlands
- Susan's Cooking School - Susan Sady
- Sweet Eats Vegan Bakery
- Steiner's Sports
- Target, Albany
- The Arts Center of the Capital Region
- The Pottery Place
- The Real McCoy Beer Co
- The Book House of Stuyvesant
- Troy City Music Hall
- Uptown Wine & Spirits
- Vendor Square, Delmar
- Viking Woodworks
- Warbler Brewery
- Wine & Spirits of Slingerlands
- Wini Eisan





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# Legacy & Endowment Giving

## Building Our Endowment Provides Stability

We are all faced with choices about how to spend our annual income for both immediate needs (the checking account) versus how much to set aside for future spending (the savings account). Annual gifts are akin to making deposits into our checking account. Donations from our supporters average about \$75 per year each, and collectively, are critically important to sustaining our programs. However, contributions to the Endowment Fund (our savings account) would provide a gift in perpetuity.

A major benefit of an Endowment Fund is that it provides stability. It is a reliable source of money, which can be accurately estimated and incorporated into each year's annual budget plan with certainty. This is a great advantage for program planning because the bulk of our funds come from various grants, which are competitive, restricted in use, variable in amounts and duration, and expire.

The Friends of Five Rivers' Endowment Fund was created in 1995 and is managed by the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region. Their goal is to earn 7-8% annually through conservatively managed investments, and the earnings (minus fees) are re-invested back into our Endowment Fund. Each year, four percent of the total amount in the Endowment Fund is dispersed back to Friends to help meet our annual budgetary requirements for programs.

Currently, our Endowment Fund yields a small annual grant. But it still provides a track record on how powerful a gift to an endowment fund can be. Back in 1995, our Endowment Fund was created with \$5,250 and since then, it has not received any subsequent donations. Yet, each year, as the principal grows, so do its annual grants to Five Rivers. By 2023, the initial investment of \$5,250 has doubled to approximately \$10,700, and this amount generated \$424 to support our annual budget. In sum, the Endowment Fund has provided total gifts over its life in excess of its initial investment. As of year end 2023, an initial investment of \$5,250 has returned to Five Rivers a total of \$6,592.

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*"An endowment gift provides long-term sustainability for Friends of Five Rivers to help us maintain numerous educational programs and activities."*

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As the principal grows, so would the annual grant to Five Rivers from the Endowment Fund. For example, an Endowment Fund of \$50,000 would yield an annual grant of \$2,000, an amount which would be significant. In short, an endowment gift provides long-term sustainability for Friends of Five Rivers to help us maintain numerous educational programs and activities. In 2024, the Board members of Friends will be developing strategies to grow our Endowment Fund to a level which will yield a more substantial amount of money per year commensurate with current needs.

But why wait for us? Donations to the Friends of Five Rivers Endowment Fund can be made at anytime directly to Friends or to the Community Foundation, which manages our Fund. By so doing, you will be joining our Legacy Circle of Friends. For more information, please contact Paulette at 518-475-0295 or the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region at 518 446-9638 and designate your gift to Friends of Five Rivers.

Other types of legacy gifts include retirement accounts, stocks and bonds, a bequest within your will, beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy, charitable trust, and more. We also have onsite capital projects that you may contribute towards to help advance our environmental education mission.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Carole Nemore**  
*Board Member*

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# Friends of Five Rivers Contributors

*Below are the names of those individuals and organizations who generously gave to Friends of Five Rivers in 2023. Thank you for your ongoing support through membership and/or tax-deductible contributions!*

## - A -

Abolafia, Mitch  
Adams, Jill  
Adlerman, Catherine  
Agneta, Carlo  
Akey, Mary Anne  
Albright, Skip & Betty  
Andersen, Deborah & David  
Anderson, Dale  
Applegate, Mary  
Architzel, Reba  
Armentano, Patricia & Anthony  
Arthur, Frances  
Asal, Barbara & Victor  
Athens Community Garden Club  
Avitabile, Judith  
Axelrod, Mindy

## - B -

Bader, Richard  
Bailey, Thomas  
Baker, Ilse  
Baker, Lisa  
Ball, Susan  
Ballou, Don & Rhonda  
Bangert-Drowns, Robert & Diana  
Bannan, Marty & Dena  
Bardwell, Mary Elen  
Barone-Wisnewski, Carolyn  
Barry, Carolyn  
Barsa, Maria  
Barthel, Brea  
Bausback, Debra  
Beams, Erica  
Bedian, Linda  
Beebe Johnson Family, Barb & Debra  
Beiter, Richard & Carolyn  
Beiter, Scott  
Benzing, Paul and Pam McIntosh  
Benware, Anne  
Berger, Terri  
Berlin, Cyndee  
Berry, Dan & Mary  
Berte, Christine

Bethlehem Garden Club  
Bierman, Laura  
Birkhead, Gus & Susan  
Birkhead, Louise  
Bishop, Susan  
Blassman, Susan  
Blumkin, David & Julie  
Bogoslofsky, Maida  
Boska, Robert  
Bossung, John (Estate of Claire Bossung)  
Brand, Jessica & Alex  
Bridger, Eric  
Brooks, Josie  
Browne, Marilyn & Brian  
Bryden, Kathleen  
Buckey, Richard  
Buist, Paul  
Burns, Marion  
Butt, Carol

## - C -

Cable, Susan  
Cagino, Paul & Maureen  
Calabrese Family  
Camp, Sharon  
Capozzola, John  
Carlson, Ingrid  
Carlson, Marsha  
Carlstead, Cynthia  
Carp, Jonathan and Deborah Stayman  
Carreker, Blue and Barbara  
Carreras, Mary  
Carson, John & Debra  
Cavanaugh, Catherine  
Cheu, Dwight  
Coburn, Randal & Athena  
Coffey, Daniel  
Cohn, Jessica  
Colello, Pamela  
Collins, Rich & Melanie  
Collins, William  
Comley, Mary  
Compton, Nicole  
Conine, William & Judy

Conklin, Gabrielle  
Conley, Sarah  
Conroy, Jack and Kris  
Copleand, Arthur and Marie  
Corbett, Lawrence  
Corcione, Sarah  
Corona, Miguel  
Correia, Nicole  
Cotch, Mark  
Craner, Steve and Connie  
Crisafulli, Donna and Rick Kuhnman  
Cromer, Susan  
Cronin, Anne & Mike  
Cunningham, Tom & Sue

## - D -

D'Attilio, Mike & Ann  
Davis, Claudette  
Dawson-Romero, Deborah  
DeCamp, Patricia & Christopher  
Delaney, Robert & Elizabeth  
Delehanty, Wendy & John  
Delfs, Linda  
DelGiacco, Steve & Mary Kay  
Devane, Brian  
Deyoe, Erik & Kristine  
Deyss, Larry & Christine  
Diacetis, Albert & Michelle  
Diamond, Daniel  
Dickinson, Sherry  
Dietzel, Christopher  
Donahue, Erin  
Donnaruma, Stephanie  
Doran-Hite, Nancy  
Doudoukjian, Paulette  
Dryer, Katrina  
Dubin, Kathie  
Dunnington, Barbara

## - E -

Eames, Barbara & Fred  
Eckardt, Chris  
Eckhaus, Barbara & Larry  
Edwardson, Chris & Cindy

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## - E -

Eisan, Wini  
Ellery, Ann  
Elliott, Mara  
Elliott, Rebecca  
Erling, Anne and Dominic Colafati  
Eson, Jud & Nancy

## - F -

Fancher, Marilyn & Norman  
Farney, Keitha  
Farrell, Joseph and Linda  
Ferrari, Cindy  
Ferraro, Carole  
Ferrera, Peter  
Ferrill, David  
Fetissoff, Kathleen  
Field, Bradley  
Finkle, Linda  
Finnegan, Jeannie & Berry  
Fitzgerald, Edward  
Fogarty, RoseAnne and Perry Smith  
Fontanella, Janice  
Fordham, Joan  
Franke, Fran & Steve  
Fults, Carole

## - G -

Galka, Rachel  
Gall, Kenneth & Debbie  
Gallegher, Emily  
Garfinkel, Miles & Evelyn  
Garrigan-Piela, Alex  
Garrison, Laura  
Garry, Rose Ann & James  
Gastelum, Gabriela  
Gavin, Don  
Gaynor Muth Family  
Gaynor, Patricia  
Gebhardt, Thomas  
Gehrer, Robert & Teresa  
George, Roby  
Gettman, Bill

## - G -

Gibeau, Anik  
Gleason, Mary  
Gold, Gary and Nancy Pierson  
Goldberg, Joni  
Goldstein, Rema  
Gonyear, Judith & Paul  
Goody, Nancy  
Gordis, Felice  
Granato, Elaine  
Grant, Michael  
Greenman, Robert  
Gregg, Barbara  
Gregorio, Eugenia  
Griffin, John & Mary  
Griffin, Lois  
Grill, Chris  
Grosshandler, Fran  
Guile, Cynthia  
Guilzon, Cheryl

## - H -

Haaf, William  
Hahn Zollo Family  
Hallenbeck, Olive & Ken  
Hallenbeck, Tom  
Hancox, Steven  
Hanley, Kathleen  
Hanson, Jayne  
Harrigan, Nancy  
Harrison, Ann  
Hartman Poggi, Sherry  
Hastings, Kaila & Patrick  
Hausner-Sypek, Dorota  
Hayes, Virginia  
Healthcare Association of NYS  
Heinzen, Nancy and Greg Strizich  
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Hendler, Charles  
Hennings, Herbert  
Henrikson, Craig & Karin  
Herbert, William  
Hermann, Marcia  
Herr, Jason and Beth

## - H -

Hessberg, Albert & Cynthia  
Hinman, Anthony  
Hodge, Ken & Nancy  
Hogan, Matthew & Karen  
Holt, Mike  
Horan, Nancy  
Horton, Caroline  
Howell, Robert and Pamela  
Hrachian, Barbara  
Hughes Weber, Jayne  
Hurley, Barb & Mike  
Huta, Jean

## - I -

Inderhees, Margaret

## - J -

Jack, Gina & Kevin  
Jackson, Carol "Kitt"  
Jackson, Mary Louise and Eric  
Janeczko, George and Kimberley  
Jerabek, Eric  
Johnson, Cynthia  
Jonientz, Carolyn  
Jordan, Wendy and Frank Murray  
Judd, Mary  
Judge, Harry and Cheryl

## - K -

Kaltenborn, Marilyn and Stan  
Kamenir, Steven  
Kendarjian, Lenna  
Kane, Patricia  
Kane-Lekakis Family  
Kanuck, Ellen  
Karabin, Tuula  
Katz, Elizabeth  
Katzman, Lela  
Kaufman, Ronald and Anna  
Kaufman-White, Karen  
Keefe, Laurie  
Kehoe, Paul & Judith

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Keib-SanLorenzo, Noel  
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Kennedy-Ragule, Maureen  
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Kiernan, Beth  
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Kinnaird, Mary  
Koban, Susan  
Koch Pfeiffer Family  
Koplik, Elaine  
Kornstein, Michael  
Korycinski, Kathleen  
Koval, Mary Lyn  
Kravolic, Susan  
Krech, Lili  
Krischer, David  
Kuzia, Betsey  
Kvam, David & Diane  
Kwiatkowski, Dan and Judy

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Langer, Richard & Rebecca  
Lapinski, Ann  
Laraway, Scott  
Larkin, Robert & Judy  
Lategano, Rosemary  
Lawitz, Alan  
Lawrence, John  
Lehman, Stuart & Ruth Ann  
Lenhardt, Lynne  
Levitte, Jeffrey  
Lewis, Annette  
Lewis, Dan and Jan Fleischner  
Liebschutz, David  
Liebschutz, Rebecca  
Lind, Anne  
Lind, Ellen & Gary  
Linden, Mark & Mary  
Lott, Catherine  
Lott, Judith  
Loy-Santelli, Tom and Lydia

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Luther, Rose-Ellen  
Lyden, Martin and Lynda

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Malone, Claire  
Maloney, Jayne  
Mansfield, Kyoshii & Juliana  
Markham, Maryann  
Martin, Steve & Joan  
Martin, Tim & Karin  
Martin, Jonathan & Alexis  
Mason, Keith  
Mason, Suzanne & Mike  
Matsen, Celena  
Maurer, Meg  
Mayer, Edward  
McCarthy, Brian & Diana  
McCarthy, Kevin & Luanne  
McDermott, Jim & Lori  
McGinn, Paul & Jacqueline  
McGowan, John  
McNamara, Patricia  
McNulty, Aimee  
McTernan, Melissa  
Mead-Wittman, Marianne  
Meade, Teresa  
Medvesky, Mike & Mary  
Mehlum, Gary and Mary Fellows  
Meixner, Donna & Peter  
Mendel, Ben & Ruth  
Mertz, Linda & Paul  
Mertz, Ursula  
Messina, Ellen  
Messina, Janet & Sam  
Metcalf, Peter  
Meyer, Robert & Marcia

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Michaels, Rachel  
Miles, Edward  
Miller, Heather  
Miller, John & Maureen  
Miller, Nancy  
Mirabelli, Eugene & Margaret  
Moehringer, Vince & Maggie  
Mogul, Gail  
Molino, Bruce & Denise  
Moon, Deborah  
Moriarity, Mimi & Dan  
Morin, Michael  
Morosoff, Mia  
Morosoff Pemrick, Ellen  
Morrell, Jennifer  
Mossman, Carol  
Mosso, Joe  
Mower, James & Barbara  
Munro, Dave and Eileen Hoffman  
Murij, Roman and Alexis  
Murray, Maureen

## - N -

Naughton, J. Michael  
Naviasky, Larry  
Neal, Angela and Jeff  
Neil, Linda  
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Nemore, Carole  
Newell, David & Angie  
Newell, Jonathan & Sigrin  
Newfrock, Joni & Michael  
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Nickles, Betty & John  
Nicolay, Carolyn  
Nipps, Kenneth  
Nucci, Adalgisa  
Nugent, Daniel and Marilyn  
Nussbaum, Richard and Barbara

## - O -

O'Donnell, Jean  
Okoniewski, Joe  
Otis, Pam and John O'Leary

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Palmer, Barbara  
Palmer, Rachel  
Pandya-Vaughan, Varada  
Pane, Diana  
Parker, Burnetta  
Parsons, James  
Parsons, Kevin  
Pastena, Marjorie  
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Peek, Kenneth  
Pemrick, Ellen  
Perini, Nancy  
Perrotte, Maureen & Jay  
Petiet, Beverly & John  
Pettie, Charles  
Pezzolla, Susan  
Pickette, Leonard and Rita Van Ryn  
Piece, Tim & Ellen  
Pierson, Eric  
Pierson, Nancy  
Plank, David & Susan  
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Ploussard, Kim  
Pludrzynski, Andrew  
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Kenneth A. Speanburg  
Prendergast, Mary Ann  
Prinzo, Reid  
Purcell, Marianne

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Quirk, Jim & Jenny

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Rapoli, Agnes  
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Read, Jim and Roberta  
Read, Sarah  
Reed, Robert & Laura

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Renna, Patricia  
Rhodes, Lynn & David  
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Richardson, George & Gail  
Richardson, Joan  
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Riedel, Charles  
Rielly, Charles & Melinda  
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Robbins Family  
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Rosenbaum, Jennifer  
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Rutenber, Nancy  
Rutkowski, Tom and Mary Beth  
Rutnik, Daniel

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Sady, Susan  
Sagar, Gaye  
Salway, Yasmin  
Samson, Linda  
Sanders, Gary & Jane  
Sandison, Michael  
Santulli, Madeline  
Sarachan, George & Joyce  
Sasso, Julie  
Schade, Christine  
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Scherer, Harvey & Happy  
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Schneider, Monika & Erasmus  
Schneider, Gwene

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Scott, Keith  
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Seagle, Dodie  
Seinberg, Saul  
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Sherin, Jim & Rose  
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Sherman, John & Peggy  
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Shoop, Emily  
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Silk, Yusuf & Christine  
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Simmons, Kathryn  
Slattery, Paulette  
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Slingerland, Frank & Sarah  
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Smith, Bonnie  
Smith, Carolyn  
Smith, Elizabeth  
Smith, Lee and Deanna  
Smith, Nancy  
Smolinsky, John and Ellie Prakken  
Snyder, Robert & Anne  
Sobiecki, John & Cynthia  
Sokoler, Debbie & Rick  
Soleau, Jeffrey & Louisa  
Sorensen, Ingrid

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## - S -

Spooner, Eric and Maria  
Stanford, Mary Louise  
Steadman, Hank & Carolyn  
Stoner, Scott and Denise Hackert-Stoner  
Storms, Katherine  
Stratton, Michael  
Strickler, Frank & Liz  
Stromginger, Norman & Adele  
Stutzman Family  
Sundram, Clarence and Theresa F. Rodrigues  
Suozzo, James  
Svenson, Dick & Cathy

## - T -

Taft, Pam & Edwin  
Temple Stern, Sally  
Teunmim, Phil & Martha  
Thompson, Bruce  
Thompson, Craig  
Thompson, Janice

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Tisbest Philanthropy  
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Tomson, Ingegerd  
Tozer, Roland  
Traver, William & Virginia  
Trimble, Melanie  
Turi, Barbara & Tony  
Twardzik, Janet  
Tynan, James

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Unright, Brenda  
Usher, Zachary

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Vancans, Norine  
Velvis, Marietta & Harmanus  
Vener, Judith  
Verga, Claudia

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Vertigan, Richard  
Villa, Maria

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Wagner, Paul  
Warner, Heidi  
Weber, Mary Ellen  
White, Carol  
Wilken, Donald  
Wilson, Margaret  
Wing, Paul  
Witherspoon, Kathy  
Wolfgang, Bill

## - Y -

Youngblood, Charles & Concetta

## - Z -

Zwink, Elizabeth  
Zwink, Sandra

**Friends of Five Rivers**

**IF YOU...**

- ✓ Enjoy walking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing the 10 miles of trails and numerous connecting trails at Five Rivers.
- ✓ Appreciate trails that are accessible to people with limited mobility throughout the protected green space at Five Rivers, including the new Fisher Trail.
- ✓ Support environmental education for children and adults.
- ✓ Believe in the value of internships for prospective naturalists and nature educators.
- ✓ Want to be part of the collective voice of nature supporters and advocates.

**JOIN FRIENDS!**

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

Facebook Instagram LinkedIn

**Love Five Rivers?**  
Consider joining Friends of Five Rivers to help support Environmental Education... and future nature-loving generations

Scan to Learn about Membership

# Five Rivers Wildlife...

photo by  
Laurie Keefe



photo by  
Laurie Keefe



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# Friends of Friends...

We thank our partners who helped us make 2023 a memorable and successful year for all who came to visit and explore Five Rivers



DEC Staff above; CDTA Nature Bus top right; the Five Rivers Maintenance Crew to the immediate right.



Bethlehem Town Park Trunk or Treat event to the top left; our birdseed pick-up volunteers immediately above; and Frank Smith and Steve Messinger, immediate left, assisted with the Memorial Poles to the immediate left.



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# Board of Directors and Staff

## Board of Directors

Andrea Ricard – *President*  
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Stephanie Maes – *Secretary*  
Melanie Shatynski – *Treasurer*  
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Carole Nemore – *Director*  
Andrew Pludrzynski – *Director*  
Mary Louise Stanford – *Director*  
Michael Stratton – *Director*  
Dan Berry – *Ex Officio*

## 2023 Friends Staff, Interns & Coordinators

Paulette Doudoukjian – *Executive Director*  
Nancy Conway – *Director of Education*  
Nancy Payne – *Beautiful Day Coordinator*  
Abbigael Drake – *Assistant to Education Department*  
Caitlin Briell – *Naturalist Intern*  
Shelby Green – *Naturalist Intern*  
Ashley Mancroni – *Naturalist Intern*  
Gabrielle Sawyer – *Naturalist Intern*  
Laurie Keefe – *Gift Shop Coordinator*  
Ingrid Carlson – *Volunteer Coordinator*

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# Volunteers Key to Our Effectiveness

*We are who we are because of our amazingly dedicated volunteers... too many to name but each and everyone very much appreciated.*

**Greeter Volunteers**

**Guided School Program Instructor Volunteers**

**Special Event Volunteers**

**Administrative Assistant Volunteer**

**Bluebirds, Monarch Butterflies, and Bats Monitors**





photo by Laurie Keefe

## **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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