

2015 Tudor Richard Award

*As presented by Larry Sunderland at the
New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting,
September 12, 2015.*

New Hampshire Audubon's Tudor Richards Award is presented each year to someone who best exemplifies Tudor's love and knowledge of the outdoors, and who works tirelessly and effectively for conservation in the state. The 2015 award goes to Jane Dohery.

Like Tudor Richards, Jane Dohery has incorporated her love for the environment into many facets of her life and freely shares that love with others. She is both quiet and forceful.

Very importantly, Jane understands that it takes more than politicians to re-direct environmental decision-making for a more sustainable future and that the environmental community cannot speak only to the choir. To that end, she has for many years been a strong environmental activist in her church and in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, where she has encouraged and helped give voice to other environmentalists within the church. Jane was an early member and often chair of the Environmental Responsibility Committee of the state diocese where she was always willing to provide support or guidance as a mentor and colleague.

As a representative of that committee Jane attended hearings in the state house and Washington DC, where she was often a "lone voice in the wilderness" – but she was undeterred. At state meetings of the diocese, she set up tables with information on various issues and advocated that local churches incorporate environmental programs. She also chaired the New England Province 1 Diocesan Environmental Committee. As a Sunday School teacher and member of the seniors' group at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Goffstown, she has conveyed her understandings of what it is to be a good steward of this earth. When St. Matthew's built its new parish, Jane was consulted extensively about ways to make the building environmentally friendly and energy efficient. According to her rector, the Reverend William Exner, Jane has "heavily influenced" others because she has been so consistent and persistent over a long time.

Those traits came through when she was appointed to the Public Utility Commission's Working Group. Jane's role on the Working Group, which met for five years, was to represent the public. Sitting around the table with her were utility representatives and businessmen. From Jane's perspective as an environment advocate, she was opening doors with entirely new communities of people, which was exactly what she'd intended to do.



*Jane Dohery (left) receiving the
2015 Tudor Richards Award from
Larry Sunderland.*

Photo by Terri Donsker.

As a member of NH Audubon’s Environmental Policy Committee, Jane is similarly committed and impressive. At committee meetings and when testifying before legislative committees for NH Audubon or as a private citizen, her comments are generally brief but raise the most salient, sometimes unique points that otherwise wouldn’t be made. She approaches issues by thoroughly researching a topic before taking action on it. She is particularly well versed in energy and climate change and has travelled to Washington DC to advocate for stronger federal action.

Jane’s love of all things in nature and the environment is reflected in still other ways. She began volunteering for NH Audubon on Osprey weekend in the late 1980s. She has continued to do bird surveys, including Harrier Day, Winter Eagle surveys, and a floodplain forest bird survey. She has done bird surveys for other organizations as well, including The Nature Conservancy’s Hackett Hill preserve in Manchester. For the past 17 years she has served each week as a Volunteer Naturalist at the McLane Center, answering questions about birds and natural history topics via phone and email.

In short, whether indoors or outdoors, in the halls of government or within the walls of a church, with young people and seniors, Jane has dedicated herself to fostering a better understanding of wildlife and the environment and bringing about needed environmental policy change.

It is with great pleasure that New Hampshire Audubon presents the 2015 Tudor Richards Award to Jane Doherty.

