SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Dedicated to Preserving the Natural Beauty of Our Community
MISSION STATEMENT
The Simsbury Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect scenic vistas, geological features and farmland that visually define Simsbury’s character and provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants. Our goal is to consistently craft, support and implement creative land conservation solutions for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Simsbury Land Trust seeks to accomplish its mission through:

**Acquisitions:** Soliciting and accepting gifts of land and interests in land from individuals and businesses.

**Partnerships:** Partnering with individuals, organizations, and governmental entities to accomplish our goals.

**Advocacy:** Participating in public policy dialogue at the local and state levels, in public and private forums.

**Stewardship:** Managing and using acquired properties in a manner consistent with our mission.

**Legacy Building:** Soliciting donations from individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses.

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Land Donors
Board of Trustees
Letter from the President

This year the Simsbury Land Trust made progress on three important land protection projects. These include an option to purchase a permanent conservation easement on the remainder of Tulmeadow, 20 acres consisting of the triangle and adjacent pasture, and the 73 acre woodlot. We also exercised an option to acquire 80 acres of land along the ridge from The Master’s School. Over the course of the year, we obtained a large part of the funds necessary to complete these purchases. We were awarded a $625,000 grant from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and a $181,000 grant from the CT-DEP. In addition, individuals from the community contributed or pledged $590,000 that will be applied to these projects. A large part of our 2007 effort will be to raise the remaining funds needed to complete The Master’s School ridge and the Tulmeadow triangle and pasture.

2006 was also a busy year of stewardship effort and that too will continue into the coming months. The traprock ridge, of which The Master’s School is such an important part, is home to a variety of rare state-listed species. We commissioned a professional botanist, Bill Moorhead, to survey the plant and wildlife along this ridge over a six month period from May to October, and to recommend actions to better manage this unusual environment. We were successful in obtaining a multi-year grant from the State administered Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program to better manage the fields and wetlands at the Case and Wegner sites. And we worked on key portions of an expanded trail network.

Amidst the many other things that occupied us this year we also paused to take note that 2006 was the 30th anniversary of the Simsbury Land Trust. We have dedicated the primary part of this 2006 Annual Report to a brief overview of the land trust’s efforts over the last 30 years.

At this point we would like you to sit back and remember the 1970s here in Simsbury.

With population growth in the late 1950s and 60s, the Town had outgrown its roads, its library and its town hall. People recognized the need for change and the 1970s was a time of intense thought, discussion and differences of opinion. Among the ideas from that time that helped to shape the Town was the recognition that in the rush to meet these needs, we needed to protect our natural setting. Jackson Eno credits John Ellsworth with “saving Simsbury’s ridge lines from development” and Charles Schnier’s donation of the Pinchot Sycamore was a signature first step in protecting Simsbury’s riverfront. The lengthy public discussion a few years later surrounding the development of The Hartford resulted in an example for the future of how major developments can be both functional and sensitive to their surroundings.

Within this context, Barbara Rust, John Ellsworth, Peggy Shanks, John O’Neil, Martha Austin, Pat Wegner, Jackson Eno, Karen Clarke, Carol Stevens and other key people established the Simsbury Land Conservation Trust in 1976.

We hope you enjoy the brief historical overview in the following pages and we thank you once again for all you do to enable us to continue this work.

Dick Davis
President
## Financial Highlights – 2006

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CAMPAIGN</th>
<th>OPERATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL 2006</th>
<th>TOTAL 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign Donations</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>9,600</td>
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<td>Gain on Sale of Real Property</td>
<td>18,506</td>
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<td>Annual Appeal Income</td>
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<td>9,395</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>1,124</td>
<td>749</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td>$110,765</td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
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<td>19,373</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Acquisition Expenses</td>
<td>6,848</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>8,931</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>75,489</td>
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<td><strong>Excess of Revenues Over Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>$ 35,276</td>
<td>$339,013</td>
<td>$1,486,459</td>
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### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31, 2006</th>
<th>December 31, 2005</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable – Net</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment – Net</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>6,134,805</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$6,726,659</td>
<td>$6,391,363</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Liabilities</td>
<td>$1,132</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Fund Balance</td>
<td>6,386,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess of Revenues over Expenses</td>
<td>339,013</td>
<td>1,486,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>6,725,527</td>
<td>6,386,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$6,726,659</td>
<td>$6,391,363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The Simsbury Land Trust has set out several times to review its archives, interview its past trustees and others, and organize the material in an interesting manner. Each time, a major transaction or other important activity has interrupted. This is one of those undertakings that we always feel can wait for tomorrow. However, it is important and it cannot be put off forever. Our memories fail, people move on, and there is less and less of interest to fill in between the lines. The 30th anniversary of the Simsbury Land Trust is a good time to assemble the first chapter.

Why Keep Track of History?

An organization’s history serves a number of purposes.

- It provides a philosophical and operational framework, reminding us of why the organization was established, what its purpose was, and how it has set about accomplishing its purpose.
- It provides guidance for future accomplishment, showing us what has worked and what has not worked.
- It provides a context for measuring performance.
- It provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of key individuals.
- It can sharpen an organization’s public identity, sparking interest and recognition.

And it is fun to see where we have been and how far we have come.
This history

is not a complete story but a beginning chapter.
Those of us who have had the good fortune to be
associated with the Simsbury Land Trust over the past
30 years have experienced one of those uncommon
intersections where mission, hard work, and
opportunity almost perfectly complement one another.
What the Simsbury community has
achieved through the SLT to date has
strengthened the organizational
foundation and confirmed the effort,
improving the chance for future success.

Protecting additional land, increasing
the community’s awareness and understanding of the
local environment, and managing these natural
resources in a more knowledgeable and professional
manner are remaining needs and continuing goals.
What we hope we are achieving is a townwide
landscape with unique beauty and environmental
health, emotionally satisfying and intellectually
stimulating, that stands a better chance today of still
being here for generations to come.
In 1975 a group of individuals led by Barbara Rust, Peggy Shanks and John Ellsworth saw the need for a local land trust to complement growing efforts by the Town to protect its natural environment for future generations. This group included Pat Wegner, Jackson Eno, Carol Stevens, John O’Neal, Lina Wagner, Martha Austin, Waddy Fyler, Al Schuyler and a dozen others.

**Fields & Farms**

Simsbury’s fields and farms provide habitats for a whole range of birds, flowers, and other wildlife that depend on grass and brush environments, and they contribute disproportionately to the scenery in town. We enjoy looking at fields, and fields enable us to see beyond. Without periodic wildfire and uninterrupted beaver activity, fields are not a natural phenomenon and therefore need active management to continue to exist. An effective and efficient way to accomplish this is to see that the farms continue to exist.

1975

Incorporation of the Simsbury Land Conservation Trust (SLCT).

Peggy Shanks elected first president.

70 charter members
Founders worked with town and state officials, experts in land use, and existing environmental groups to develop organizational structure, procedures and focus.

Spent significant energy in exploring several issues including restoration of Folly Farm, its potential future uses and permanent protection of its natural resources.

SLCT acquires its first property, a 10 acre wetland donation from George Leaska.

Marge Alspaugh creates the first edition of “Landlines”, the SLCT newsletter. Marge remained editor of the newsletter until she retired from the board in 1985.

John Cannon donates the first portion of 25 acres on the West Ridge.

Simsbury’s first conservation officer, Natalie George, speaks to SLCT members on “The Sense of Simsbury.”

Issues included disposition of Westledge School land, the Ox Bow at Horseshoe Cove and the State’s newly formed Farmland Preservation Committee.

Margaret C. (Peggy) Shanks
Founding Member

Peggy Shanks chaired the Steering Committee that established the Simsbury Land Trust in 1974 and 1975, served as the new land trust’s first president from 1976 to 1979, and was a trustee from 1976 to 1979, and again from 1990 to 1996. Peggy describes the task of getting the Simsbury Land Trust up and running as “a gathering of like-minded people working to give Simsbury and its residents another tool for land preservation.” The early focus was on creating an organizational structure, building membership, acquiring the first properties and formulating plans for future acquisitions. She added, “I do not think of involvement as broken into parts or key issues. Those were the ‘whole enchilada’ years.”
People often talk of a recognizable sense of place, a particular character, when they speak of Simsbury. Much of what they mean by this derives from a number of geological features highlighted by a grand river valley tucked between two dramatic ridges.

Traprock ridges exist in New England in a very limited area, primarily along the southern Connecticut River Valley. Simsbury has more of these volcanic outcroppings within its boundaries than nearly any other town in Massachusetts or Connecticut. They create an unusual variety of distinct habitats and, as a result, support a disproportionate number of state-listed uncommon, rare, or endangered plants and animals. They also provide exceptional hiking opportunities, enhanced by several miles of trails the Simsbury Land Trust maintains.

The magnificent West Mountain in the northwest corner of town represents the oldest exposed bedrock in Simsbury. This rock formation can be readily viewed in the road cuts along Route 309 leading to North Canton.

Metacomet Ridge serves as Simsbury’s eastern border and is notable not only for its imposing presence but also for its unique geology and ecology. The extensive Metacomet Trail runs the length of the ridge; Penwood and Talcott Mountain state parks are situated there. The panoramic Tower Trail is doubtless the most heavily hiked trail in the valley.

The western edge of the ridge is fractured and heavy with rock debris called talus. Along with the effects of west-to-east weather patterns, this has created specialized microenvironments. The windswept and exposed summit is another environment not seen elsewhere in Simsbury. In the spring, depressions along the ridge fill with water, forming the numerous vernal pools that are vital for the survival of local toads, frogs, salamanders, and turtles. In the fall hawks and other birds of prey ride the thermals and follow the ridge during their migrations.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Began examining the open space corridor along the Farmington River.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Several Ethel Walker parcels are available. Town acquires the site at the corner of Stratton Brook and Bushy Hill.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Several sites were offered to the SLCT, considered and declined.</strong></td>
<td><strong>SLCT considers development of a West Ridge Trail and planning was begun on several portions.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two more West Ridge donations, 10 acres from the Friedman family, 50 acres from the Hendrick family.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Town and SLCT examine the impact of a proposed North Saddle Ridge extension on the ridge and wetlands.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Land trust considers more active management of several parcels.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Town and land trust begin an inventory of large undeveloped tracts of land and begin contacting new property owners.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Portions of the West Ridge trail are begun.

SLCT begins work to create The Simsbury Walkbook.
Carlsons donate a kettle pond.

Paul Knierim  
SLT Board of Trustees 1991–2005

As a trustee from 1991 to 2005, Paul served as a key player in increasing the organization’s capacity to undertake larger, more complex transactions and programs. “As time passes, the opportunities to protect Simsbury’s key remaining natural features as well as lesser parcels with aesthetic impact are fewer and fewer,” says Paul. “The Simsbury Land Trust needs to continue to be on the lookout for these opportunities, diligent in pursuing them and creative in making them happen.”

1987
Portions of the West Ridge trail are begun.

1989
SLCT begins work to create The Simsbury Walkbook.  
Carlsons donate a kettle pond.

1990
Farmington River Watershed Association begins work on a Wild & Scenic designation. 
SLCT identifies corridor value of the wetlands and a pine stand at the north end of Ethel Walker property between town and state parcels, discusses with town.

1991
193 members

Trustees approach landowners along the Farmington River for interest in contributing to a linear park.

First publication of The Simsbury Walkbook.
Wetlands

Wetlands are among our most important types of open space, providing the essential functions of water retention and purification. They also harbor the largest amount and variety of life of any habitat in Simsbury. As would be expected in a river valley bounded by ridges, wetlands can be found in every part of town, from the floodplain itself to vernal or seasonal pools and seasonal streams high in the hills. However, they have become partitioned over the years as residential development has spread into private nooks and crannies and into more marginally developable areas. As wetlands are divided into smaller and more isolated parcels, migration patterns are altered, wildlife with minimum range requirements disappear, and the life that remains lives under additional stress from nearby chemicals, family pets, and changes in water levels.

Simsbury boasts several types of wetlands, defined primarily by the distinctive plants and animals each supports. Among these are the river and its tributary streams, year-round ponds, red maple or brush swamps, bogs, wet meadows, and vernal ponds. The loss of any one of these wetland types would diminish the rich variety of plants, insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals that share this part of the earth with us.

1992
SLCT donates $1,200 to Roaring Brook Nature Center to continue its program in Simsbury schools.
SLCT awarded The Nature Conservancy’s Land Trust Service Bureau Progress Award.
Gerti James donates 9 acres on Metacom Ridge to SLCT.

1993
Study group led by Steve Noble recommends a multi-use trail through seven towns along the old rail bed.
Scenic Road designation is approved for E. Weatogue, Terry’s Plain, Ferry Lane and Goodrich Roads.
Pat Wegner donates the 15 acre Traineband Field on Terry’s Plain Road to SLCT.

1994
SLCT produces the second edition of The Simsbury Walkbook.
Ensign-Bickford Realty Corp donates the Ketchin Quarry to SLCT.
Ilva Bergman donates a wetland site.
Pat Wegner donates the 15 acre Traineband Field on Terry’s Plain Road.

1995
SLCT representative on Iron Horse Study Committee.
Rose/Krasnoger families donate a wetland site.
Cathles family donates 49 acre ridge property.
233 members
Dr. John and Doris Cannon  
SLT Land Donors and Life Members

The Cannons were one of the earliest landowners to recognize the value of gifting land to the Simsbury Land Trust. In the late 1970s Dr. Cannon developed a portion of his Firetown Road property, but donated approximately 23 acres of it to the Simsbury Land Trust. Looking back on that decision, Dr. Cannon says, “Not only were Doris and I able to protect the more environmentally important parts of the property, but we hoped that the early gift would help the land trust get up and running and provide an example for others.” Twenty seven years later, he is still contributing to the Simsbury Land Trust as an honorary co-chair of its current acquisition campaign and is a strong advocate of using more land trust sites for educational purposes.
SLCT receives a gift of common stock to be used to purchase 22 acres west of The Hedgehog.
SLCT sponsors a Farmland Protection Forum.
Town purchases Stoddard Reservoir with State grant.
Town buys development rights to 16 acres at Flamig Farm.
630 members

SLCT commissions a feasibility study for a major campaign.
Land trust hires first Executive Director and rents office space.
Bog Walk is constructed.
SLCT changed name to Simsbury Land Trust (SLT) and a new logo adopted.
Town buys site on Iron Horse Boulevard for summer concerts and recreation.

10 Year Campaign for Simsbury announced with a goal of protecting specific properties totaling 1,000 additional acres.
Farmington River Watershed Association administers seven town biodiversity study.
Helen and Marion Walker leave an 8 acre ledge to SLT.

SLT receives its first public grant, $740,000 from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for a conservation easement on Rosedale Farms.
Madeline Salster donates 5 acres to SLT on the Farmington River.

One of the most important factors in creating our sense of place is the visual landscape. Simsbury is fortunate to have a number of notable physical features. To a degree the community has been successful in maintaining well distributed panoramas where development is scattered, hidden or non-existent. There is a contentment and hopefulness that comes with living within a natural setting that we do not experience in a manmade world surrounding isolated parks, no matter how spectacular those parks might be.

Continuous natural corridors or greenbelts are much more valuable than individual, isolated parcels. They support a wider variety of species because of greater size, a greater likelihood of mixed habitats, better buffers from incompatible use, and generally more interesting hiking and educational opportunities.
SLT acquires a conservation easement from 109 acre Rosedale Farms with funds from federal, state, town and individual sources.

Subject to a life estate, Preston Case gifts his residence to advance the SLT mission.

Simsbury and Canton Land Trusts acquire the 67 acre Arnold site next to Onion Mountain.

SLT accepts a $325,000 bequest, its largest monetary gift ever, from the estate of the late Marie Dugan.

SLT purchases a 167 acre easement from Tulmeadow Farm.

Landermans donate a 2 acre easement to SLT adjacent to Case land.

Town acquires rights to the remaining 22 acres at Flamig Farm.

775 members

This short history of the Simsbury Land Trust was produced with financial support from SKY Investment Group.

Congratulations and thanks to the Simsbury Land Trust for 30 years of dedicated effort preserving the natural beauty of our community!

SKY Investment Group LLC
One Financial Plaza, Suite 2010
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 761-9700
www.skyig.com

Bob Bingham
Carol Bingham
Peggy Witherell Hubbard
Bill Newman
Claire Paré
Donor Recognition

The Simsbury Land Trust’s Board of Trustees and staff gratefully acknowledge the support we receive from our members and friends, which enables us to continue our land protection efforts and membership program. The following individuals, families, businesses and other organizations contributed gifts in the year 2006.

2006 was a record year for Simsbury Land Trust membership with 887 households making an annual contribution.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Anathan
Mrs. Louis Antonelli
Martha Austin
Mr. and Mrs. Raman Ayer
Howard Beach
Laura Bellmay
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bennett
Priscilla Berghelon
Iivo L. Bergman
Joe Bosworth
Mr. and Mrs. John Buckey
John and Doris Cannon
Jon and Patricia Carlson
Mr. and Mrs. Cole
Marguerite M. Cox
Mr. and Mrs. William Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis
Dick and Carol Davis
Carl and Nancy Eisenmann
Mrs. John E. Ellsworth
Claudette Engvall
Evie David Eustis
Lee Ann Eustis
Leslie Pomeroy Eustis
Karen Cutter Fine and Alan Fine
Stephen Fish
Sean and Candace Fitzpatrick
Philip Fletcher
Sue Fletcher
Herman and Letty Fontayne
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Friedman
Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Galen
Camille Garrity
Michael Girard
Camille M. G. Sullivan
Theodore Tansi
Marilyn Tyszka
William Tyszka
Mr. Ted Vogt
Helene Wade
John Wadhams
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wagner
W. Wyatt and Daphne Walker
Arthur Wegner
Melela Wegner
Patricia Wegner
Richard and Barbara Whitehead
Mary and Judy Nelson
Peter Nelson
Steve and Cris Noble
Nancy A. Humphreys and Jo Nol
John and Carol O’Neil
Dr. and Mrs. Edmund Olson
Peter Olson
Marty Owen
Ramone and Claire Padron, Jr.
John and Beverly Payne
Mr. and Mrs. Terrance Potrowicz
Bruce and Diane Powell
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Prager
Roger and Ruth Ann Preston
David Rew
Mrs. Gloria Rose
Alex Rudewicz
Madeleine Salster
Dr. Bernice Schaefer
Al and Lydia Schoenbrunn
Mr. Alfred Schuyler
Mrs. Muriel Schuyler
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Shanks
Mrs. Margaret Hinds
Douglas B. Hunter
Ms. Geri James
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Johnson
Frank Krausinger
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold L. Lamson
Mark and Debbie Leach
George Leaika
Thomas and Melissa Lechak
Debbie Leonard
Dr. Richard Lessow
George Logemann
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGill
Mary McGrath
Anita and Wolfried Mielert
Charles Miller
Noel and Mary Ann Moran
Mark and Judy Nelson
Even and Elizabeth Woollacott
Frederick Worcester
In-Kind Donors
Axinn, Veltrup & Harkrider
Connecticut Party Rentals
CP3
Farmington River Watershed Authority
Fitzgerald’s Foods
Flavig Farm
Hunter Neal Photography, LLC
Imagine It Framed
John Johnson Art Direction and Design
Killian & Donohue
Lucas and Company
Dwight Marries
PC Swat
Perfect Vision and Sound
Roderick, LLC
Rosedale Farms
Sage River Graphics
Signs Plus
Starbucks
Steven Stang
Tulmeadow Farm
Westminster School
Annual Appeal
Peter and Susan Adamowicz
Bob and Joan Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Anathan
Norm and Joan Armour
George and Jill Baldwin
Bernice Ball
Janice Bell
John and Lisa Bernal
Brian and Tania Bleucher
Catherine Gallo and Jeffrey Blumenthal
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bozeman
Carolyn Casey
Richard and Dorothy Ciaffi
Virginia and Pierce Clayberger
Tom Cockerill
Rick and Jane Costello
Danny and Alda Dodd
Anthony L. Drapelick
Janet Newell Fisk
Michael Fiammini
David and Denise Fletcher
James P. and Marianne Flynn
Carrie and Paul Fraipont
David and Carol Gabraith
William and Barbara Gardner
Barbara and Jack Giles
Jeff and Gina Lynn
Bill and Becky Goss
Patricia Hammer
Dorothy Harris
William and Helena Harrison
Rick Hartman
Tricia and Josh Hazelwood
Robert and Barbara Heagney
Jim and Lisa Heauner
Fred and Dawn Heinz
Barbara and Buzz Holmes
Tim Hopkins
Gilbert Klein
Dale and Janet Knecht
Fred Kral
Richard and Ellen Lawrence
Mark and Debbie Leach
Tom and Lynn Leon
Paul and Kathy Lettieri
John Lilliquist
Nancy MacDonald and Matthew Townsend
Ben and Jacqui Maddy
Louis and Jane Mangano
Mary McGrath
Paul and Karen McKenna
Mrs. Anne Millham
Peter and Birch Milliken
John S. Mobley
Gary Moeller
Carmen J. Monaco
Jim and Diana Moody
Holly and Shaun Murphy
Valerie and Kevin North
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Norton
The Oleasz Family
Richard and Denise Order
Gregory Ott and Deborah Nash Ott
Ramon and Claire Padron, Jr.
Jamie and Mary Kay Pappas
Hunter Peacock
Jan and Allen Petersen
Susan and Louis Ricciuti
Mr. and Mrs. William Rice
Ken and Pamela Richardson
John and Liz Roper
Sara and Sam Roundy
Michael and Tamra Ryan
Marcia S. Sanderson
The Schenk Family
Natalie and Elliot Schulman
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Simsbury Land Trust
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