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Inside Back Cover

Land Donors

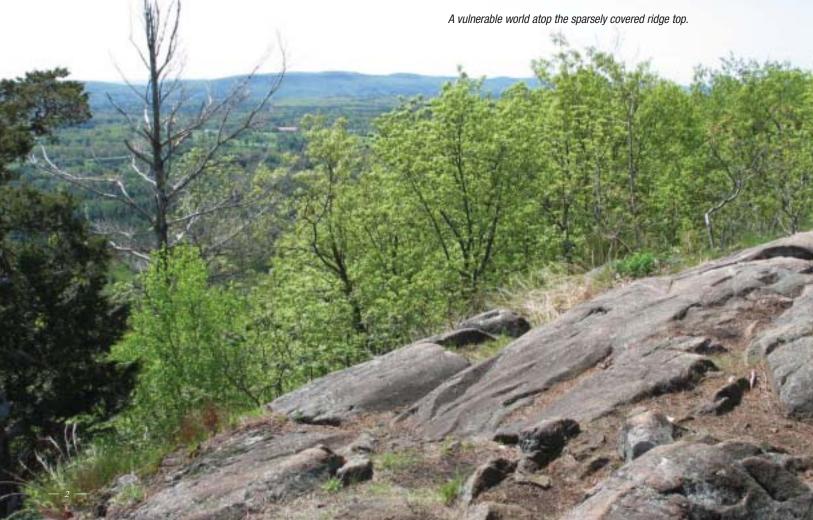
Board of Trustees

Mission Statement





нотоя: Dick



For most of the past 30 years, the Simsbury Land Trust has focused on protecting ridges, wetland and field habitats. It has given priority to land parcels that by themselves, or combined with adjacent land, contribute to a meaningful habitat or scenic vista. Including the Tuller fields and Arnold ridge transactions that were completed in 2005, the SLT has helped secure the protection of 25 parcels of land totaling 665 acres. The value of these lands is the contribution that each makes to the town's overall natural environment. Their value is measured by how they relate to adjacent land, to past and future uses, and to corridors of habitat and scenic vistas that in some places stretch beyond town lines.

Several land parcels under current discussion are particularly important because in each case, their loss would either severely encroach upon or fully partition an important existing corridor of protected land. These are important efforts that will take significant time, effort and money. In each case, we are not likely to have a second chance.

Land protection is a two step process. Without the essential first step of acquiring the land or easement, there can be no permanent protection. But an equally important second step is the ongoing work to maintain, enhance and in some cases, restore the natural features for which we are acquiring each site. This second step requires an equal amount of time, effort, understanding and skill.

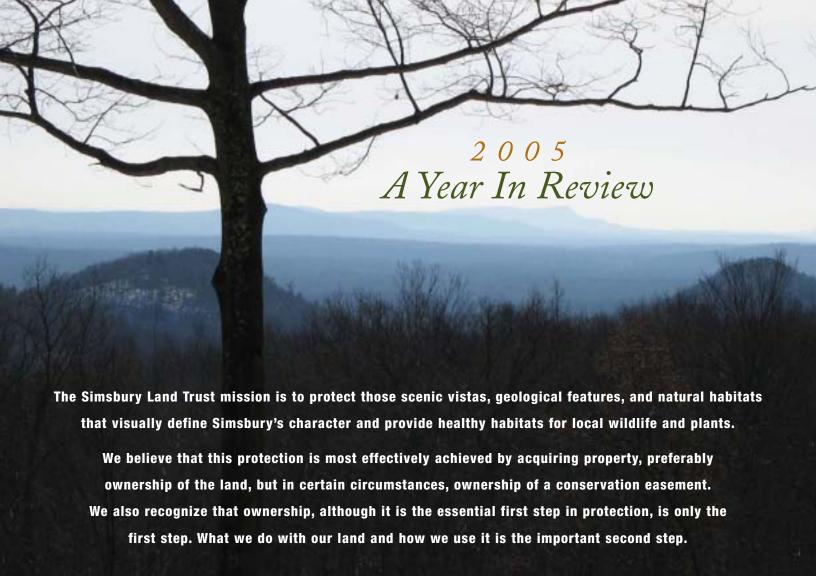
During 2005, Don and Sally Rieger, Bill Howard, Arch Edgar, Ted Almy, Anupam Tantri, Karen Brand, Steve Osborn and several dozen volunteers enhanced trails with bridges, benches, narrative signs, and removal of substantial storm debris. They began efforts to control invasive plants, train land stewards, and maintain boundaries. They established forms and procedures to monitor and maintain our conservation easements enabling the first annual landowner meeting, property inspection and easement review at Rosedale Farms.

None of this or other important work would occur without the many volunteers, the in-kind product, the 775 membership donations, the annual support and the campaign gifts, and of course, all of those who over the years donated their land. On behalf of the Simsbury Land Trust and the community, I want to thank each and every one of you for another step forward!

Dick Davis

President

Till Lavis





River frontage at Rosedale Farms.

Acquisition

We are currently operating under a 10-year campaign to protect approximately 1,000 acres of additional land. Our focus is on several scenic and natural corridors that include the town's primary ridges and wetlands, as well as on scattered farm fields and natural meadows. Within these corridors, we give weight to parcels that will connect an otherwise partitioned area, expand or complete a partial habitat, or improve the buffer around a protected area.

To this end in 2005, SLT formally closed on two of its most important acquisitions: the first a conservation easement on 168 acres of Tulmeadow Farm (the Tuller fields north and south of Farms Village Road) and second a conservation easement on the 65-acre Arnold Property (adjacent to and south of Onion Mountain along the town line with Canton).





Protected peaks of the Hedgehog (I) and Sugarloaf (r) from West Mountain.



STEWARDSHIP

Permanent protection of conservation land requires not only acquisition, but reasonable ongoing steps to ensure that the features for which the land was acquired are maintained, enhanced, and in some cases restored. This part of land protection requires that we take the following steps on an ongoing basis. Over time, these steps can require as much time, effort, and money as the actual acquisition.



Planning

Each property or corridor of properties needs a multiyear plan to provide guidance, long-term continuity, and a means of measuring achievement. These plans include legal description of the property, statement of purpose for which the land was donated or purchased, baseline inventory of natural features and condition, any actions needed to restore, maintain, or enhance its condition, and a schedule of action steps. We began efforts to establish these in a more consistent and thorough manner in 2005. These plans are currently in various stages of completion. The Stewardship Committee is compiling these revised plans and recommending them to the Trustees for approval.



Kip Kolesinskas, NRCS Soils Scientist, explains soil types during a hike at Tulmeadow Farm. Funding from the NRCS helped the SLT protect Tulmeadow and Rosedale Farms.

Scientific Research

SLT believes that these stewardship plans should be based on as thorough an understanding of each parcel as is reasonably possible and that this need for learning will be an ongoing responsibility. Over the past year SLT made the decision to more thoroughly study two areas that include land it owns. Professional botanists have been engaged to study the Case/Wegner fields and wetlands off Terry's Plain Road as well as the SLT land within the ridge corridor from Westledge to Firetown Roads.

Recreational and Educational Use

Within the context of scientific research and present and historical use patterns, stewardship plans will include guidelines for using each property. Recommendations may range from limited use to easily accessible foot paths. In part, the long-term protection of a particular area will depend on the broader community understanding of its natural value and what is needed to maintain the characteristics that create that value. This understanding will never occur unless people get out and experience the land. SLT offers on a regular basis guided walks led by knowledgeable speakers, narrative signs or written material for self-guided

adventures, and other activities focused on building community commitment to conserving the land.

walks, research field trips, photography excursions, bike tours in selected locations, evening snowshoe



Bill Howard and friends examine a stream at the base of a talus slope.

Drew Veltrop and friend learn more about native amphibians.



Restoration and Physical Maintenance

This covers a wide range of important activity. Sometimes we acquire land that has potential for adding diversity to an established conservation area. A good example is our restoration and maintenance of an open meadow as part of an extensive wetland area on the land donated by Preston Case. In areas that provide particularly good examples of natural features, SLT provides access trails, sometimes requiring bridges and narrative signs. These have been installed at the Bog, at the Ketchin Quarry and at Rosedale Farms. Trails must be carefully sited to minimize damage to the natural features we are trying to protect. This work has occurred along the ridge where SLT has also erected two bridges to provide safer access and to help prevent erosion along stream beds. Where study suggests that action might be effective in controlling invasive species, such as along

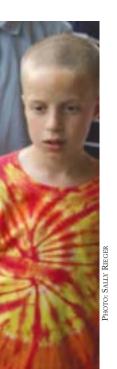


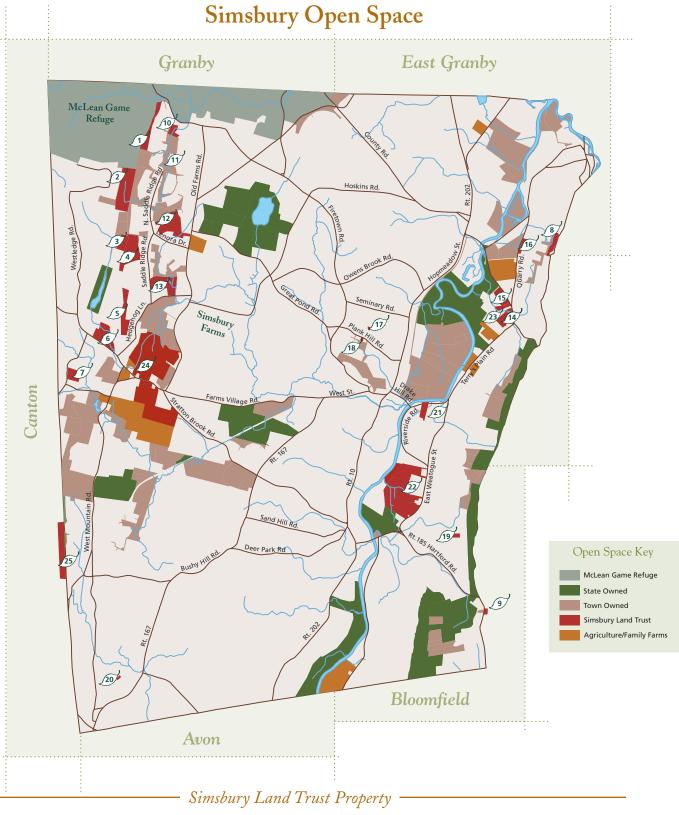
A birds eye view of the Case property between Terry's Plain Road and Joe Hall Farm in the distance.

the ridge, SLT is considering the use of supervised volunteers to remove them. SLT has supported efforts by the Farmington River Watershed Association and Rosedale Farms to restore wildflower buffers around several farm ponds to enhance water quality and create more habitat for butterflies and birds. It has also participated in the selective introduction of beetles by the CT Extension Service in an attempt to control the spread of purple loosestrife. Finally, existing trails need continual maintenance to repair erosion, clean up storm debris, and remove litter as the trail areas draw increased use.

Maintenance of Property Lines and Conservation Agreements

We have all read recent news articles on purposeful or unintentional encroachment on conservation land. Such encroachments take the form of establishing unauthorized paths or roadways, cutting trees or brush, expanding neighboring lawns, and dumping debris. These can be prevented by installing visible boundary markers, by initiating regular communication with adjacent landowners, and by monitoring boundaries. During the past year, SLT began the considerable task of verifying all of its boundaries. Once this is complete, we will solicit the help of neighbors to ensure that the boundaries are appropriately marked and to reintroduce them to SLT. During 2005, the Stewardship Committee also drafted its first Conservation Easement Annual Inspection Form and completed its first annual inspection of Rosedale Farms. A similar inspection form and initial inspection of the easements acquired over the past year will be completed in 2006.





- 1. Cannon
- Cathles
- 3. Friedman
- 4. Hendrick
- 5. Hedgehog
- 6. Westledge
- 7. Walker

 - 8. James
 - 9. Cutler
 - 10. Leaska 11. Cannon
 - 12. Bog
 - 13. Knapp

- 14. Case
- 15. Wegner
- 16. Ketchin Quarry
- 17. Carlson
- 18. Bergman
- 19. Fletcher
- 20. Rose/Krasnoger
- 21. Salster
- 22. Rosedale Farms
- 23. Landerman
- 24. Tulmeadow Farm
- 25. Arnold

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - 2005

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

	Janua	January 1 – December 31, 2005			
	CAMPAIGN	OPERATIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL FY 2004	
Revenues					
Campaign Donations	\$ 458,240		\$ 458,240	\$ 997,341	
Grants	1,095,000		1,095,000	1,267,500	
Land Donations				185,000	
Annual Appeal Income		\$13,621	13,621		
Membership Dues		\$76,526	76,526	76,070	
Miscellaneous Income	3	746	749	1,842	
Total Revenues	1,553,243	90,893	1,644,136	2,527,753	
Expenses					
Administrative	27,065	17,914	44,979	60,957	
Salaries and Benefits	27,345	9,242	36,587	35,908	
Membership		26,706	26,706	24,681	
Acquisition Expenses	32,946		32,946	15,967	
Stewardship	5,964	7,910	13,874	3,992	
Depreciation		2,585	2,585	3,936	
Total Expenses	93,320	64,357	157,677	145,441	
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	\$1,459,923	\$26,536	\$1,486,459	\$2,382,312	

Balance Sheet

	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 191,457	\$ 687,857
Accounts Receivable		1,440
Pledges Receivable – Net	65,101	284,004
Prepaid Expenses		26,372
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	256,558	999,673
FIXED ASSETS		
Land	6,131,937	3,896,498
Office Equipment – Net	2,868	5,452
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	6,134,805	3,901,950
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,391,363	\$4,901,623
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 4,849	\$ 1,568
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,849	1,568
FUND BALANCE		
Beginning Fund Balance	4,900,055	2,517,743
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	1,486,459	2,382,312
ENDING FUND BALANCE	6,386,514	4,900,055
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$6,391,363	\$4,901,623



A walk through the forest on West Mountain.

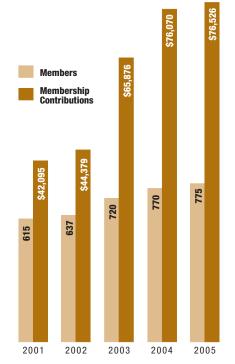
DONOR RECOGNITION

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 2005.



This hard working crew built the bridge at Rosedale Farms over a fall weekend.

We are pleased to report that this was yet another record year for Simsbury Land Trust membership with 775 households making an annual contribution during 2005.



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Star \$1,000 and above

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Don Tuller and friends celebrate the protection of 168 acres of Tulmeadow Farm.

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The SLT would like to thank the following individuals, families, businesses and organizations that contributed gifts to The Campaign for Simsbury. (Total gifts over the life of the campaign, including pledges.)

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: "Cathles View in Snow", taken by Rick Warters, was a First Place winner in the Landscape Category for the 2005 Photography Contest. "The effect of the wind on this hillcrest snow helps us understand why this cedar reaches to the east."

BACK COVER PHOTO: Hunter Neal

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The Simsbury Land Trust seeks to accomplish its mission through:

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