





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently, while taking a step back and recognizing how multi-faceted the Simsbury Land Trust has become, I had the thought "this is not your parent's land trust." We have so much more activity going on now than we did over 40 years ago, "back in the day." It may have been your parents in 1976 that had the vision to create an organization dedicated to conserving and protecting open space in Simsbury. Your family may have played a key role in obtaining the over 1,100 acres we now protect. We are now able to move forward on the foundation those before us have built. Now it is time for the children and grandchildren of those who founded the SLT and the new Simsbury residents to step up and continue to build on that foundation.

Currently we are operating on more fronts than ever. We have detailed conservation plans for all of our major properties and crews on all of them working on beautiful trails and crucial conservation projects. Our recently revised Simsbury Land Trust Walkbook would be the envy of any organization. Membership in the SLT over the last two years has been

at an all-time high. With each year our programming becomes increasingly broadbased and exciting. We have a popular monthly hiking club and regular walks and discussions open to everyone. Currently we are presenting our largest project to date, a series of talks, films and hikes based on climate change. It is a comprehensive and mind-opening look into how things we do at a land trust and even at the backyard level can help to sequester carbon and increase biological diversity. One of the points that comes out repeatedly in the climate change



discussion is the incredible amount of carbon that can be sequestered in our forests and the soils of our farms and fields. This past year we added 14 acres of forest in the newly donated Michael Donlin Property on West Mountain. (We are very grateful to Gail Pease and Deborah Reynolds for donating this parcel to the SLT. Additional information about this important parcel is detailed on page 6.)

All of this productivity does not happen by accident. While we are still fortunate to have some of those very same members and volunteers who helped start the Simsbury Land Trust over 40 years ago, we need a constant stream of new volunteers and donors to continue to move forward. We are looking to the next generation to help us in the future. Joining as a member is the first step. Please consider taking the next step and volunteering on a committee, as a property steward, or as a board member. I promise you the rewards will be well worth it!

Hope to see you soon,

Ind Coll

Fred Feibel

Protecting Land with Climate Change in Mind

Susan Van Kleef, SLT Trustee

"Drought Advisory Continues For Connecticut"

"Huge Number Of Dead, Dying Trees In Connecticut
At Increased Risk Of Falling Due To
Years Of Drought, Insects"

"Record-Breaking Summer Of High Heat And Rain"

The headlines above were printed in the Hartford Courant during the past three years. Here in Connecticut, in a short few years, we have experienced fluctuations between drought and deluge. It would be no surprise to anyone living in Connecticut this past summer that "during the month of August the average temperature was 75.9 degrees, 4.0 degrees above normal, and the precipitation total was 9.10 inches, 5.17 inches above normal."

Here, in our cozy corner of New England, signs of climate change are everywhere.

Driven by humans releasing CO2 into the atmosphere, average temperatures in New England have risen 2°F in the summer and 4°F in the winter since 1895 when temperatures started to be recorded. Most of this change has occurred since 1970. This increase in temperature is happening faster than in other historical periods of climate change. Warmer temperatures change long-term climate patterns and affect natural weather phenomena from the timing and amount of precipitation

to storm and wind intensity. Our beautiful open spaces that have evolved during a period of time with more stable climate patterns are changing too. These changes challenge organizations with preservation goals, but preserving open space is not just about addressing ecological integrity. Open space also plays a critical role in addressing the causes and effects of climate change too.

We experience climate change through our weather, but weather is different than climate. Weather is short term fluctuations in atmospheric conditions over a short period of time. The effect of weather on our daily pursuits is obvious so "March's Third Nor'easter Could Drop 13 Inches Of Snow Into Tuesday"

"Lyme Disease Tick Numbers Now At Record Highs"

"River Flooding Causing Problems In Bristol, Farmington, Other Towns"

we give it a lot of attention. Climate is the average weather in a particular region over a long time period, usually 30 or 40 years, so changes creep up on us slowly. No one weather event can definitively be attributed to climate change but the weather whiplash we have experienced in recent years is consistent with computer model predictions of how climate change would affect weather in the New England

region. The models predicted more frequent and more intense heat waves, a likelihood of longer periods of drought, and an increase in the frequency of both heavy rain and snow episodes. Extreme flooding, nor'easters, heat waves, and drought have all occurred in Simsbury in recent years indicating that we are living in the world of climate change now.

We see climate change in more than just the daily weather. The timing of the start of seasons is changing too. Plants and animals are signaled by temperature change and the amounts of sunlight, stream flow, and snow pack throughout their seasonal cycles. Warmer temperatures arriving

earlier each spring, and lasting later in the fall, disrupt the cycles causing a domino effect of changes through intricate ecological relationships that have been established during the long period of stable climate. Plants might bloom earlier and out be of synch with their pollinators. Migrating birds might arrive before a food source is available or get overwhelmed by a late season snow storm. Earlier snow melt will shift the timing of spring flows and affect aquatic and wetland species. In 1862, Henry David Thoreau wrote that red maples may have already been changing for a week on September 25th.² Now fall leaf change doesn't start until October.

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their pollinators.

The complex structure of forests may be disrupted by climate change too. Tree species leaf-out on different schedules which drives the timing of leaf-out in smaller understory plants. Altered leaf-out dates will affect understory plants. Some invasive plant species manage to invade because they leaf-out earlier than other understory species, so they may have an advantage if the yearly leaf-out schedule changes. The species composition of forests is predicted to change as species that are unable to survive in changing habitats are replaced by species that are able to survive. It is predicted that there will be a decrease in the diversity of tree species which, in turn, will affect plant and animals dependent on the trees. Forests pests such as the hemlock wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer have a better chance of surviving as temperatures increase.

Climate change is global, but impacts are experienced in relation to the unique characteristics of local communities. Part of the mission of the Simsbury Land Trust is to "provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants" and "to consistently craft, support and implement creative land conservation solutions for the benefit of present and future generations." The land that we are dedicated to conserving as it changes in the face of climate change also holds the potential to be part of the solution. Forests, wetlands, and grasslands have

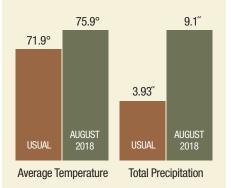
unique qualities that can contribute to adapting to the changing climate and to reducing carbon in the atmosphere.

Forests retain water to slow flooding caused by the increase in precipitation caused by climate change. Precipitation is held in the leaf canopy and in organic debris on the ground. Forest soils allow water to filter through to the ground water slowly. This is in contrast to water running across a paved surface

at a high rate into a stream or river which then overruns its banks. Wetland soils provide the same storage and filtering capacity. It is impossible to quantify if SLT properties have kept a basement dry but there is no doubt that the more land conserved, the lower the flood risk.

The main driver of climate change is the CO2 humans have released into the environment since the start of the industrial revolution. Forests store CO2 through the process of photosynthesis. Leaves capture sunlight and use the energy to convert the carbon in CO2 into plant tissues. The carbon ends up in leaves, wood, leaf litter, and soil and is removed from the atmosphere. Soil stores the largest percentage of carbon in a forest, but it can be released if soil





is disturbed. It is estimated that with appropriate strategies, forests, grasslands, and wetlands can store vast amounts of carbon and be very valuable in addressing climate change.³

The Simsbury Land Trust is joining with other land trusts to make stewardship and management decisions through the lens of climate change. To some, it may seem that our properties can't possibly have an impact in solving the challenge of climate change, but our local effort will be joined with this much

larger effort. It is a natural way forward and clearly aligns with our mission to have our properties benefit both present and future generations.

Sources

- Record-Breaking Summer Of High Heat And Rain http://www.courant.com/weather/hc-weather-0902-story.html
- How a Changing Climate Is Shaping a Leaf Peeper's Paradise https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/03/science/climate-change-leaves.html
- 3. The Nature Conservancy https://global.nature.org/initiatives/natural-climate-solutions/ natures-make-or-break-potential-for-climate-change

Working on Trails and Trees

Sally Rieger, SLT Trustee

Trails:

Simsbury Land Trust hopes you will visit and enjoy our properties, so we've planned our trails and paths to take advantage of good views and interesting aspects of the landscape. At the same time, we aim to hold on to the conservation values for which the land was protected. Because our trails and paths provide the access to our properties, volunteers do a lot of work to keep them readily passible and as safe as possible. Trimming intruding briars and branches along the trails is always part of fall workdays and, when necessary, trees that fall onto the trails have to be removed, or the trail may need to be rerouted around the obstacle. For big logs, rerouting the trail is often the best option.

For paths in grassy areas, we use professionals to mow. If you walk at Tanager Hill, Wagner Woods field, Glover (at the corner of Route 185 and Princess Lane) or the Case Meadow, you will find that the paths through the fields and meadows are wide enough to keep you out of the tall grass that the ticks prefer.

TRAIL NOTES:

Please stay on SLT-marked trails and paths when you visit our properties. Our trails are sited to provide safe walking routes that avoid damage to sensitive ecological features and to minimize soil erosion. Mown paths through grassy areas provide pedestrian access without excessive exposure to ticks. Be sure to stick to the trails and paths.

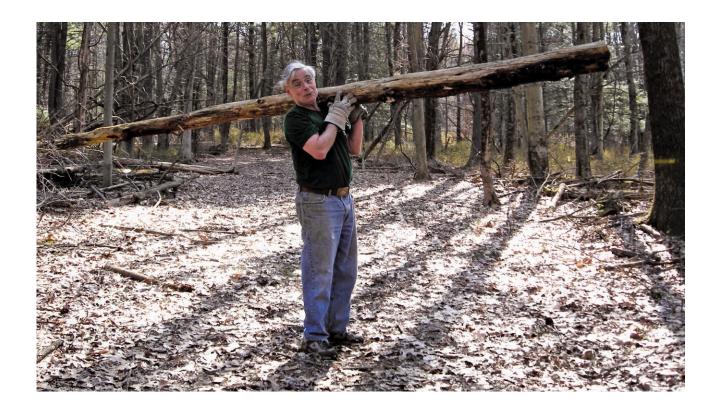


Trees:

We love them because they are beautiful, they provide shade and food and nesting places for birds and animals. (Food for people too! If you can crack the nuts from the shagbark hickory, you will find yourself with some very delicious pecan-like nutmeats.) Also, while they are alive, the trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air, reducing the impact of global climate change.

But trees can be dangerous. They tip over and land in places we wish they didn't. Branches break off and fall. Simsbury Land Trust does its best to remove potentially dangerous trees and over-hanging branches from along our





trails. When a property steward or a walker reports what may be a dangerous tree, the SLT checks out the situation and sees that it is taken care of. For example, on the trail between Owen-Mortimer and Tanager Hill, Oriental bittersweet vines and the wind created a number of leaning dead cedars, potential "widow-makers", to use a graphic colloquial term to describe them. The property steward reported the problem. We used a local arborist to clear up the hazard promptly.

You can't always tell if a particular tree is a dangerous. An oak with a trunk diameter of about two feet broke off and fell across the blue trail at Wagner Woods. Fortunately, it did not cause any injuries. It looked sound on the outside, and had a crown of green leaves, but was hollowed out by ant tunnels where it snapped.

Two recent articles in the Hartford Courant have commented on the number of dead and damaged trees in Connecticut. Two summers of drought, invasive insects like the emerald ash borer, diseases and Oriental bittersweet. a vine that eventually will kill a tree by wrapping around it too tightly, have taken their toll. A letter in the Hartford Courant from the Cheshire Land Trust commented on the difficulty of keeping up with the work all the dead trees have created along their trails. SLT has the same issues.

A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT TREES:

Given the number of dead trees in Connecticut's woodlands, it is smart to stay out of the woods on windy days when trees and branches are most likely to fall. Also, because of the amount of rain we've had, the soil is soft, which makes it more likely than usual that even a healthy tree will tip over in the wind.



We like people to enjoy the Simsbury Land Trust's woods. It is encouraging to see that the trails and paths are well used. We hope you will visit to walk and hike, to watch birds and wildlife, to take photographs*, to paint, or to snowshoe or cross-country ski in season. Or come to Wagner Woods or Tanager Hill to just sit on a bench and take in the peace and quiet. Be smart, be safe, and be respectful of the land.

Remember your membership contributions fund the trail and tree work. Please consider renewing or joining the Simsbury Land Trust for 2019.

^{*} We are in need of volunteer photographers to help us with photos for our publications and website.

The new Michael Donlin Parcel closes a gap of protected open space on the West Mountain ridge.

Michael Donlin Property — SLT Received Donation of 14-Acre Parcel

Don Rieger, SLT Stewardship

Simsbury Land Trust is very grateful to have received a wonderful gift: 14 forested acres on the West Mountain ridge. The parcel was the one gap in the mosaic of town

and land trust protected open space between The Master's School and the McLean Game Refuge. It is on a hillside, sloping from near the ridgeline on the east to near the bottom of the valley on the west. It lies between the West Mountain red trail along the ridge and the blue trail in the valley.

As you walk north on the blue trail, approaching the talus slope, you might see an old stone wall on the right of the trail, rising at a diagonal and retaining the remnants of an ancient

road. That is the southwestern corner of the parcel. The slope on the west side of the parcel features hemlock, red and chestnut oak, beech and some white birch and sugar maple. Climbing to the plateau, the understory begins to show

considerable mountain laurel and beech. Oaks predominate in the canopy, along with some beech and tulip poplar. There are some attractive rock outcroppings along the east side of

the property.

The property is mapped by the state as supporting endangered, threatened and special concern species. We have found no litter on the property, and no evidence of recent use or abuse. There are no trails on the property, and our thought is to leave it that way, available on an informal and unstructured basis to the occasional off-trail walker who might happen by.

The land was generously donated by two sisters, Gail Pease and Deborah

Reynolds. They received it from the estate of their father, Kenneth Sparrell, and they have asked that the SLT name the parcel the Michael Donlin Property in honor of their late nephew Michael "Mike" F. Donlin.



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property, and our thought

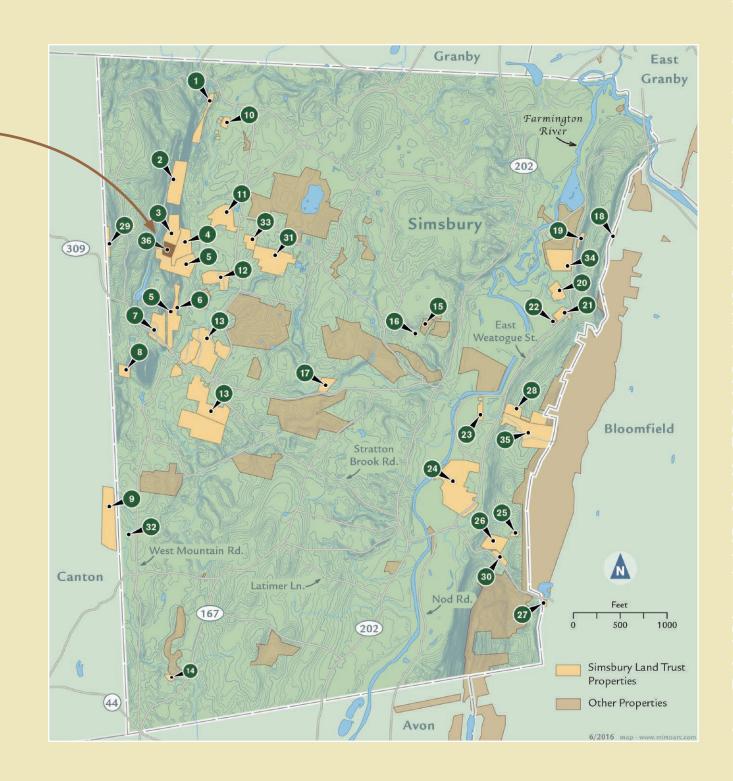
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available on an informal

and unstructured basis to the

occasional off-trail walker

who might happen by.



Simsbury Land Trust Properties

- 1. Cannon 2. Cathles 3. Friedman 4. Hendrick 5. The Master's School
- 6. Fonteyne 7. 60 Westledge
- 8. Walker
- 9. Arnold

- 10. Leaska 11. Bog 12. Knapp
- 13. Tulmeadow Farm
- 14. Rose/Krasnoger
- 15. Carlson 16. Bergman
- 17. Welden 18. James

- 19. Ketchin Quarry
- 20. Wegner
- 21. Case
- 22. Landerman
- 23. Salster
- 24. Rosedale Farms
- 25. Fletcher 26. Holcomb
- 27. Cutler

- 28. Owen-Mortimer
- 29. Landerman #2
- 30. Glover
- 31. Wagner Woods
- 32. Macke
- 33. George Hall Farm
- 34. George Hall/Pharos Farm
- 35. Tanager Hill
- 36. Michael Donlin

There's More to Mushrooms Than Meets the Eye

Margery Winters, SLT Vice President

Anyone who ventured outside this summer was certain to notice them — big ones, tiny ones, white, bright yellow, orange, red, pink and purple ones. Absent during last year's drought conditions, this year's summer rain brought them out and they were everywhere. It was the summer of the mushroom.

Mushrooms are the fleshy, spore-producing fruiting bodies of fungi, similar to apples on an apple tree. They are the part of the fungi that we notice, the above ground spectacles that appear as if by magic overnight in our lawns and forests. Mushrooms get all the attention. Some have names such as Death Cap and Avenging Angel that warn of their toxicity. Others, like white truffles,

They are the primary

recyclers of wood in our

forests and form some

of the largest living

organisms on Earth.

are sought for their amazing flavor and command prices of almost \$200 per ounce.

The majority of fungi are hidden from sight. You can catch a glimpse of them when you turn over a decaying log. The fuzzy, stringy white, orange, or black, thin net-like structures, called mycelium,

found there are the main body of a fungus. They extend inside decaying logs, or in some cases within living trees, and form a mat throughout the top few inches of the soil layer.





They are the primary recyclers of wood in our forests and form some of the largest living organisms on Earth.

Surprisingly, 600 million years ago animals shared a common ancestry with fungi. Fungi cell chains evolved to secrete acid enzymes externally into their environment to digest their food — animals evolved to obtain those nutrients

by surrounding their food in cellular sacs. Many fungi form symbiotic relationships with plants. These mycorrhizal fungi (myco = mushroom, rhizal = related to roots) grow in and around plant roots. In exchange for plant sugars, mycorrhizal fungi give plants water, dissolved minerals, and nutrients from decomposed organic matter. The mycorrhizal network increases

the effective root network of plants by 10 to 100 times. There are a lot of them — if placed end to end the fungal cell in a cubic inch of soil would stretch eight miles. And there are millions of types of fungi — six times more species of fungi than plant species. Of all fungi, only 10 percent produce mushrooms and scientists have identified only 10 percent of these mushrooms. There is much we do not know but much that we are learning about fungi.

These fungal nets in our soils hold soil together, reducing erosion, while increasing water retention in soils. They filter out water-borne pathogens and are able to digest and detoxify wastes products such as oil and heavy metals. Scientists are investigating various fungi as sources of new medicines for their antibiotic, antiviral, anticancer and even antifungal properties. Agricultural research is investigating the benefits of the symbiotic relationship between mycorrhiza and crops which would allow the reduction of water, fertilizer, and pesticide use while increasing crop yields and improving soil structure. And of course, several types of mushrooms are delicious!

There is so much to learn about this enigmatic life form that works unseen and unheralded on the landscape.

To learn more about fungi, read "Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World" by Paul Stamets.



Ways and Means of Support

Ted Almy, SLT Trustee

We can't do it without you . . . so much of our land preservation, advocacy and outreach programs over the last 40 years have been funded by private individuals like yourself.

Becoming a member and renewing your annual membership remains one of the most important ways you can show your support and provide the day-to-day funding we need to educate and take care of the properties we've been entrusted to protect and preserve. Many of you have also generously donated above and beyond your annual membership contributions with gifts of cash, appreciated stock ...even a personal residence — and we thank you for your support!

There are other ways to consider supporting the Simsbury Land Trust:

- Increase your gift through your corporate matching program.
 Many employers have charitable matching foundations, which will, in many cases, double your personal contribution to SLT. Please contact your employer's human resources department to obtain a copy of their matching gift form, fill out the employee portion and forward it to us we'll do the rest!
- 2. Donate using a qualified distribution from your IRA. If you are 70 ½ or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. This additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket and reduce your eligibility for medical credits and other deductions. Under the recent tax reform, the IRS made permanent the provision which allows you to satisfy your annual required minimum distribution requirement (up to \$100,000 yearly) with a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a qualified charity like the Simsbury Land Trust. The qualified charitable distribution amount can be excluded from your taxable income.

3. Designate the SLT as a beneficiary of IRAs, annuities and life insurance policies.

Retirement accounts, annuities and life insurance policies increasingly have become the resource of choice for individuals who no longer have the original need to provide for family members and wish to benefit organizations, such as the SLT, at death. Donors can designate specific dollar amounts or fractional percentages to charitable organizations like the Simsbury Land Trust and the SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving by filling out a new beneficiary designation form provided by your IRA custodian and insurance company. This non-probate arrangement ensures both an estate tax charitable deduction and avoidance of income tax on amounts distributed to the SLT and other charities.

4. Include the SLT In your estate plans.

A bequest to SLT translates your commitment to protect the Simsbury Land Trust into a lasting legacy. If you are considering a gift to the SLT as part of your estate plan, you can add a simple provision to your will or trust documents, such as: "I give (specific amount, percentage or residue) to Simsbury Land Trust Inc., (tax ID# 06-09585-73), having its principal offices at 10A Phelps Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070, for its general purposes." Or, we can work with you and your estate attorney to craft a more customized bequest including the option of directing your legacy gift to the SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

For more information on donating to the Simsbury Land Trust, to receive assistance donating to the SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, customizing a large or planned gift, or to notify us that you have done so, please contact us at 860-651-8773 or amyzeiner@aol.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Highlights

Statements of Activities

For the Years Ended June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2017

		2018				20	17	
		TEMPORARILY	PERMANENTLY			TEMPORARILY	PERMANENTLY	
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS								
Revenues:								
Membership Contributions	\$105,100			\$105,100	\$107,738			\$107,738
Contribution Income —								
Restricted *			\$15,056	15,056			\$17,810	17,810
Land Donations		\$8,467		8,467				
Grants	25,000			25,000	25,000			25,000
Land Acquisition Contributions	750			750	750			750
Annual Dinner — Net	659			659	2,265			2,265
Miscellaneous Income	17,394		25,626	43,020	10,249		7,201	17,450
Total Revenues	148,903	8,467	40,682	198,052	146,002		25,011	171,013
Expenses:								
Administrative	34,677			34,677	38,202			38,202
Salaries and Benefits	33,930			33,930	37,764			37,764
Membership	18,691			18,691	34,391			34,391
Stewardship	17,527			17,527	16,902			16,902
Total Expenses	104,825			104,825	127,259			127,259
Revenues Over Expenses	44,078	8,467	40,682	93,227	18,743		25,011	43,754
Other change in unrestricted assets:								
Unrealized (loss)/gain on								
short term investments	(4,710)			(4,710)	(1,491)			(1,491)
Change in net assets	39,368	8,467	40,682	88,517	17,252		25,011	42,263
Net assets, beginning of year	313,685	14,603,722	212,654	15,130,061	296,433	14,603,722	187,643	15,087,798
Net assets, end of year	\$353,053	\$14,612,189	\$253,336	\$15,218,578	\$313,685	\$14,603,722	\$212,654	\$15,130,061

^{*} Restricted Contribution Income is funds donated to the Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund held at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Balance Sheet

Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2017

	June 30 2018	June 30 2017
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash – Unrestricted	\$349,797	\$310,678
 Donor Restricted 	30	953
Prepaid Expenses	3,227	2,054
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	353,054	313,685
OTHER ASSETS		
Investments Held by Others	253,335	212,654
Land	14,612,189	14,603,722
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	14,865,524	14,816,376
Total Assets	\$15,218,578	\$15,130,061
Fund Balance		
Unrestricted	\$353,054	\$313,685
Restricted – Richard A. Davis		
Endowment Fund	253,335	212,654
Temporarily Restricted	14,612,189	14,603,722
Fund Balance	\$15,218,578	\$15,130,061





Membership Donations

We want to thank the community for its generous support this past year. None of the Simsbury Land Trust's accomplishments in 2018 would have been possible without our membership and our many remarkable volunteers and donors.

5 Year Donor10 Year Donor

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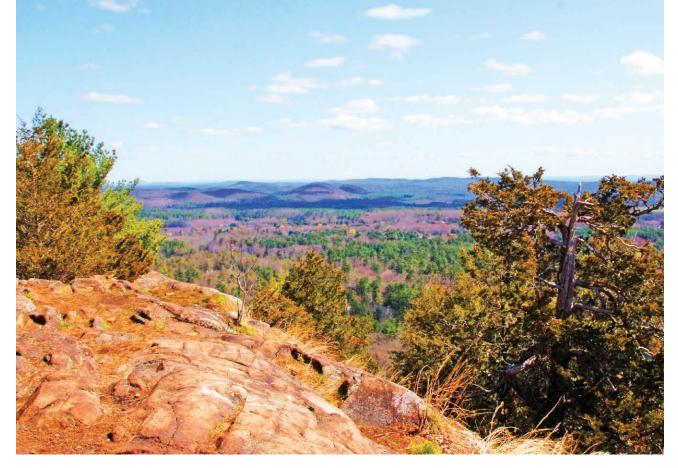
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- Cool documentary films and discussion programs
- Fun stewardship projects including, but not limited to the following:
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Donations of hundreds of volunteer hours and over 750 membership contributions annually help us accomplish these things.

You like the country feel of Simsbury? Simsbury Land Trust has permanently protected over 1,100 acres of important open space. These properties not only provide wildlife corridors but include miles of trails for passive recreation.

We need your help to continue!

Annual membership donations really make the difference in the Simsbury Land Trust's ability to impact the quality of life we all enjoy in Simsbury. Remember membership contributions can be made in any amount, the levels noted on the envelope and the website are just guidelines for your donation. Any individual member can donate at the family member, or higher. You can even write in an amount — donations are important at any level!

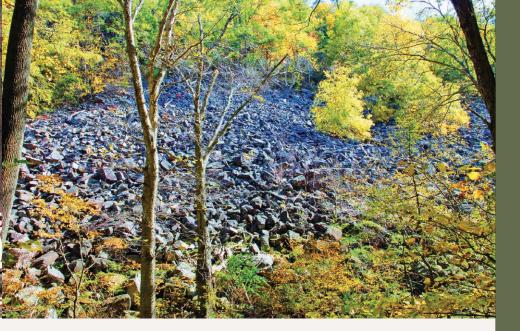
Even with all that has been accomplished, there is much that remains to be done! We hope that you will join us this year. Thanks to those of you who are members for your past support and continuing interest.

Not a current member? What are you waiting for? By joining you help support all Simsbury Land Trust efforts, JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!!!

Note: SLT memberships are based on the calendar year. Now is the time to renew for 2019!

Follow us and like us on FaceBook!

Instagram and Tweet if you are on a Simsbury Land Trust Property don't forget to add #SLTRocks!



IN MEMORIAM

Joan Allen 1958 – 2018

Simsbury Land Trust sadly reports the unexpected passing of long time board member Joan Allen. Joan was a member of the Simsbury Land Trust's Board of Trustees from 1998 to her unexpected death in 2018. A kind and gentle person, she was a long-time contributor to the outreach and education efforts of the Simsbury Land



Trust and always willing to lend a hand anywhere she was needed.

A scientist, Joan gave several presentations to the Board on conservation-related topics, making the information accessible to nonscientists. She also volunteered her knowledge and public speaking skills to present SLT talks to the public at the Simsbury Public Library on conservation issues such as invasive insects endangering Connecticut's trees.

When it was time for the Simsbury Land Trust to find films that were educational, entertaining and suitable for the SLT's Green Scenes programs, Joan could be counted on for her thoughtful suggestions and input. Most recently, Joan had planned a program for September called "Forest Bathing", a way of helping people to learn about and enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of being outdoors.

Joan participated in planning Dirty Boots Kids Club programs for young children. She could find a way to add a creative, engaging twist to any topic and brought enthusiasm, humor, and a smile to every Dirty Boots program. It was obvious that Joan gained great joy from introducing natural history topics to children.

Joan will be missed by the Simsbury Land Trust Board for her smiling, unassuming manner, her goodwill and kindness toward everyone, and the contributions she made to the SLT community. 2017-2018 Board of Trustees

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We are honored to reproduce several photographs from the late James Allen Ray, 1945–2017, which he produced for the Simsbury Land Trust Walkbook.





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Our stewards know the value of the work they do to maintain the properties we protect. We could sure use your help! Call 860-651-8773 or email Amy at amyzeiner@aol.com to learn more about volunteering.



"Along with the excellent schools, one of the main reasons we decided to move to Simsbury was because of the access to so many great trail systems. Hiking and trail running play a large role in our family and we felt that becoming a trail steward was our opportunity to help preserve the trails for everyone to enjoy."

(left) Andy and Amy Browers, Wagner Woods Stewards

"I moved to Simsbury five years ago in no small part because of the wonderful amount of open space and hiking trails the town has to offer. I do not take for granted what a luxury it is to live in a town like Simsbury that values conserving land and nature, protecting our natural resources, and also making them available for citizens to use. I enjoy using the trails for hiking and running in the warmer months, snowshoeing and cross country skiing in the winter, and watching the seasons change along the way."

(right) Katie Lauder, West Mountain Trails Steward and Hike Leader

