Simsbury Land Trust 2019 Annual Report



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### STAFF

Amy Zeiner, Executive Director Patricia Hazelwood, Director, Finance and Membership

### Editor: Amy Zeiner

Design: John Johnson Art Direction and Design

*Thanks to our photographers:* Lisa Knicos, Sarah Langdon, Diana Moody, Gail Pease, Don Rieger, Sally Rieger, Robert Shea, Susan Van Kleef

## Thank you Stewards!

SLT has over 1100 acres and we would not be able to care for them properly if it was not for our wonderful property stewards. Stewards monitor a certain parcel of land, submitting a report at least two times a year. If they are interested they also take care of some of the smaller – and on occasion larger – maintenance issues on the trails. Picking up small limbs and cleaning debris off trails, reporting and at times removing larger items left on the trail and other things as needed. Some stewards help monitor easements on some of the farm properties. All jobs, big and small, are important and very much appreciated by the Simsbury Land Trust. Don and Sally Rieger Tom Crawford Pat and Don Uhl Mel Wolpert Teresa Bludeau Susan Van Kleef Lori Stethers Dick Clark Joe Springman Joan Skelly Jim Miller Bob Shea Andy Brower Paula and Rick Robinson Diana Moody Camilla Thompson Joe Treacy Biff Zoephel Jerry Jarrett Katle Lauder Lori Fernand Bob Palmer Brett Sloan Scott Barnett Mary Baier Marlene Snecinski Michelle Knierim Jerry Berube Steve Osborn

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I like to say that one does not need to visit a nature center to see 'nature', that everyone has a nature center in one's own yard. As an instructor at Roaring Brook Nature Center for over twenty years, I see more wildlife in my own yard than I do while leading groups of excited (and noisy!) children along the trails. Nature does not recognize property boundaries and does not know that it should be restricted to our increasingly isolated designated areas of preserved open space. Your yard is also a vital part of the ecological puzzle. My question to you is, how is your 'nature center' doing?

With your financial support and the efforts of our tireless volunteer land stewards, the Simsbury Land Trust has secured and maintains over 1,100 acres of open space in part to preserve our town's sense of place a well as to support healthy ecosystem. The Town of Simsbury likewise has preserved other areas and, currently a laudable 30% of the town is in such protection. But, the corollary means that the majority of the land, 70%, is not. This 70% surrounds and in many ways can isolate our preserved areas. How we manage the majority of our land has a profound impact on the health of our wild areas. With proper management, however, the 70% can serve





as vital habitat stepping stones, reconnecting and strengthening our wild areas. Every yard counts. And that is where we will be seeking your support. As we work on our 1,100 acres, we are looking for your help on your property. Here are some of our proposals.

Over the next few years the Simsbury Land Trust will be exploring ways to encourage Simsbury's various landowners in developing these stepping stones to our local open spaces through the planting of native plants. We will be teaming up with other land use groups in Simsbury and adjacent towns to develop pathways for our pollinators (more on this on page XX). We will be hosting educational programs to learn about gardening practices that increase the biological diversity and ecological usefulness of our yards and promote the removal of invasive non-native plants from public and private properties to help prevent the spread of these plants to Simsbury's wild areas. As always, we will be leading hikes through our properties and other local trails to showcase the value of our wild areas. And of course, whenever possible, the Simsbury Land Trust will be purchasing properties that increase the connections to our existing properties. There is much to do and a role for everyone.

I am looking forward to my term as President of the SLT, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our education programs or hikes this year!

Margery Winters

## Pollinator Pathway Project Comes to Simsbury

Margery Winters, SLT President

This fall the Simsbury Land Trust is helping to initiate Simsbury's participation in the Pollinator Pathway Project. Started two years ago in Wilton, CT, the Pollinator Pathway Project has since mushroomed to include an ever growing list of over 75 towns in CT and NY.

The Pollinator Pathway project is organized by volunteers from town

conservation organizations working together to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a series of continuous corridors. The need for these corridors is urgent as pollinator populations are in sharp decline because of pesticide use and loss of habitat. Bee populations, both native and honey bees, have seen sharp declines. A recent and concerning German study shows a 75% decline in all flying insects in the last 25 years.

The goal is for this project is to ecologically reconnect our preserved wild areas, such as the SLT properties, by planting pollinator-friendly native plants and by avoiding the use of pesticides and lawn chemicals on our publically- and privately-owned properties. As Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware entomologist, argues so effectively in his

book Bringing Nature Home, with proper management, our own yards as well as can become habitat stepping stones to our otherwise increasingly isolated parks and preserves. Most native bees have a range of about half a mile and these corridors are vital for their preservation.

The Pollinator Pathway was initiated by Donna Merrill who was working as part of the Hudson-to- Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H) and was tasked with creating a community land stewardship project in Wilton. She was inspired after learning about a woman in Oslo, Norway who



created a "Bee Highway" through her city. The Oslo project in turn was inspired by the work of the original founder of the Pollinator Pathway, Sarah Bergmann, in Seattle. Merrill offered neighbors between South Salem, NY and Ridgefield, CT free native dogwood trees, funded by H2H, to help create connected pollinator habitat. With the success of that task, Merrill convened a

meeting of a group of conservation organizations in Wilton and proposed doing something similar in Wilton. From this meeting emerged the Pollinator Pathway as it exists today in the North East: a townbased organization run by volunteers from each town's conservation organizations that encourage both citizens and municipalities to plant native pollinatorfriendly plants and reaches out to home, public, and private land owners to help providing safe habitat way-stations for pollinators.

More information on the project will be forthcoming in the months ahead. To learn more about the project, visit www.pollinator-pathway.org. If you are interested in taking part in this exciting project, please contact the Simsbury Land Trust office.



## Stewardship in Action - Pollinator Field at Wagner Woods

Sally Rieger, SLT Board

This year, the Simsbury Land Trust began work on a project to convert one and three-quarter acres of the hay field at the Wagner Woods Property to a meadow of pollinator-friendly plants. It is one of several sites, including Glover and Tanager Hill, at which we foster plants that support bees, butterflies, and other species of insects, some of which are important as food for birds and other wildlife.

The Tuller family (Tulmeadow Farm) has traditionally mown the Wagner Woods field for hay, but was agreeable to the new use of a small area of it. Because the SLT owns the property, the land will remain undeveloped, so the rest of the field will continue to be available for haying.

In the Wagner field we planted a wide variety of wildflower seeds (24 different species) and native grasses along with a cover crop of winter rye. The cover crop should help protect the site from erosion and from undesired windblown seeds while the wildflowers get established. Although grasses and sedges do not provide high quality food for bees and butterflies, they "are larval host plants for some butterflies and also provide nesting and overwintering sites for some bumble bees and

other insects." (http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/ uploads/2013/12/EstablishingPollinatorMeadows. pdf)

If we are successful, the meadow should be in full bloom in two years. Of course, there can be no promises when dealing with Mother Nature. Seeding was done with a Connecticut DEEP slit seeder that planted the wildflower seeds and the rye seeds at different depths in narrow slits in the soil. We thus avoided tilling up all the soil and exposing it to



Connecticut DEEP's Peter Picone explains the pollinator project to Hayes and Finn Rieger.

Seeding was done with a Connecticut DEEP slit seeder that planted the wildflower seeds and the rye seeds at different depths in narrow slits in the soil. We thus avoided tilling up all the soil and exposing it to erosion and to the emergence of weed seeds that might be below the surface. erosion and to the emergence of weed seeds that might be below the surface. It would be helpful to be able to water the site, but we do not have that capacity. Instead, we must depend on rainfall.

We are grateful to Buzz and Don Tuller for their help with this project and to Kevin Lamy of the DEEP who operated the equipment. Peter Picone of the DEEP brought this opportunity to our attention

and guided us through the project. His counsel to SLT Stewardship over the years has been invaluable.

(Editor's Note: See related Pollinator Pathway article. We will have a series of talks and other programs that will provide additional information for establishing a pollinator garden in your backyard.)

# Get outside and get dirty with the Dirty Boots Kids Club!

(m) []))

Catching frogs, looking up close at bugs — dead and live ones — making butter out of cream and eating it, tracking animals in the snow and learning how to make tracks, grinding corn and running through the

corn maze. It doesn't get any better than that! These are some of the past activities for the Dirty Boots Kids Club, and we are trying to bring back the program.

Getting our children — or grandchildren — out into nature is an important job for parents and grandparents, and it is an important part

of the Simsbury Land Trust's job as well. We spend our time, money and effort preserving parcels of land and building trails to benefit future generations. The Dirty Boots Kids Club grew out of this desire to get more children (and their parents or grandparents) out on our trails. Several years ago we had a very active group, but the children aged out of the program as the demands of organized athletics and school grew. We are hoping to get a new group of children to participate again

this year. We have had a few successful family hikes over the past few months and hope to add more.

> Children can participate in the program free of charge (if a parent or grandparent is a member). Teaching your children the joys of the outdoors is a gift

for a lifetime. Please consider signing your children or grandchildren up for the Dirty Boots Kids Club today!

(To sign up for Dirty Boots Kids Club contact Amy Zeiner at amyzeiner@aol.com.)



# Simsbury Land Trust 12-Hike Challenge

Take a hike in Simsbury and join the SLT 12-Hike Challenge!

Spring is here, a perfect time to get out on the trails. Our community is full of beautiful trails and paths, with scenic vistas, forest views and lovely open fields. There are over 28 trails in the Simsbury Walkbook, ranging from very easy, short and flat to several miles with tougher terrain. So many places to explore right in your own backyard!

The rules for the SLT 12-Hike Challenge are simple.

- Sign up for the 12-Hike Challenge on our website. (www.simsburylandtrust.org)
- Join if you are not already a member memberships range from \$40 and up, but any amount is welcome. Membership is not required but strongly encouraged as membership donations fund our trail work and walkbook!
- Take at least 12 of the hikes found in the Simsbury Walkbook or SLT-sponsored hikes between May 1, 2019 and May 1, 2020.
- Keep track of your hikes date and location. Any distance hike or walk counts toward your 12-hike goal. SLT-sponsored hikes, regardless of the location, also count toward the challenge.
- When you are finished complete the SLT 12-Hike Challenge Completion Form on our website and you'll get a free SLT baseball cap!
- Please respect the trail rules, stay on the marked trail, take out any trash you bring in (bonus if you bring out any trash you may find on the trails), and be courteous of our neighbors when you park for your hike.

## Join the fun!

Please post pictures of your hikes on the Simsbury Land Trust FaceBook page or our Instagram page. #SLT12hikechallenge #hikesimsbury #simsburylandtrust

Need a copy of the Simsbury Walkbook?

The Simsbury Walkbook can n ow be found on our website. Want a hard copy? Any questions? Contact our office at 860-651-8773 or amyzeiner@aol.com.







## SLT Celebrates Fred Feibel

Margery Winters, SLT President

As Fred Feibel steps down as President of the Simsbury Land Trust, a position he has held since 2014, it is time to thank him for his leadership during a period of extraordinary accomplishments. As John Quincy Adams said "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." And indeed the Simsbury Land Trust Board, volunteers and supporters have been inspired to do just that.

We have become more. The last five years have been a time of growth for the SLT. Since 2014 the Simsbury Land Trust properties have grown to 1,100 acres. Acquisitions during this period included the preservation of George Hall Farm, the addition of the Michael Donlin property, and the crowning jewel purchase of the Tanager Hill property at the base of Talcott Mountain. This period also marked record high membership to the SLT, and the development of a strategic plan to identify long-term goals and processes to accomplish them. One of these goals was the establishment of the Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund to help ensure the long-term financial health of the Simsbury Land Trust. This fund is now making significant contributions to the operating accounts and is contributing to the financial stability of the organization.

We have learned more and done more. The past few years have also seen the development of numerous education programs for our members, saw the revision and republication of the Simsbury Land Trust Walk Book, the creation of the Dirty Boots Club for children and their parents, the very successful Green



Scenes Film Series, and the Hikers Club. Our vibrant Stewardship Committee not only maintains the hiking trails throughout the properties, but builds bridges, restores degraded habitats degraded with invasive plants with native plantings.

We are dreaming more. Future property acquisitions that will link our existing properties with other open space areas are being contemplated. We are exploring partnerships with other organizations, both public and private, to become a part of the Pollinator Pathways Project (see page XX to learn more) to improve our local and regional habitats in an effort to defragment our landscapes. And we are exploring new technologies that will improve our communication with and provide the programs and experiences for our members and attract new members.

The Simsbury Land Trust has grown and thrived during Fred's terms as President and the SLT Board and members thank him for his years of dedicated leadership and hard work.



# Did you know?

### Ted Almy, SLT Trustee

For more than 40 years the Simsbury Land Trust has received support from generous members, ranging from donation of property to annual membership contributions and planned gifts from estates and trusts.

Recently, we've experienced an increasing donation trend in the form of gifts of appreciated stock and donations of cash from qualified individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

Donation of securities is a familiar, longstanding gifting method that can offer significant tax advantages to the donor. All gifts of stock receive a full-market value tax deduction and avoid all capital gains taxes. Stock gifts will be credited to the supporter based on the high/low average selling price on the day of transfer.

Cash donations of qualified IRA distributions is a relatively new, less familiar method of charitable giving. Here's how it works. If you are 70 1/2 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your taxdeferred 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 2018 tax reform, the IRS made permanent the provision which allows you to satisfy your annual required minimum distribution (up to \$100,000 yearly) with a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a qualified charity like the Simsbury Land Trust. As long as the qualified charitable distribution amount comes directly from the IRA to the charity, it can be excluded from your taxable income. For donors over the age of 70 1/2 with charitable intent and a desire to support the SLT, there may not be a simpler, more tax-efficient way to give than directly from your IRA.

## THE LEGACY SOCIETY — SUPPORT THE SLT THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving offers a wide range of gift options for people who care about protecting Simsbury's rural landscapes. Because of the variety of tax benefits that are designed to encourage charitable giving, planned giving may enable you to give a more significant gift than might have otherwise been possible, while at the same time allowing you to receive a range of potential financial benefits.

The egacy Society

If you would like information about The Legacy Society and planned giving options, or if you would like to make a gift to the Simsbury Land Trust, please call the office at 651-8773 or visit our website, www.simsburylandtrust.org. You should also consult your financial or tax advisor about which

options may be most beneficial for you.

### **SLT ENDOWMENT FUND**

Protecting the property starts with the purchase, but taking care of the property is our responsibility forever. As the number of acres we protect increases so does the amount of time and money necessary to care for it. So far the care of this property has largely been done with our volunteer stewards.

But what about tomorrow? How do we insure that the SLT is able to steward the property for the long term?

We can do this by building our endowment. The Simsbury Land Trust Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving provides income for current needs and most importantly, a permanent source of support for the future needs of the organization. Many of you have already generously contributed to our appeals over the past 15 years, helping us raise the money needed to preserve 1110 acres of open space, and for that we thank you.

Today we are asking you to consider helping us continue to build our endowment.

Permanent protection of this open space is our continuing responsibility. I know most of you feel about this as we do, that we all must do our part to ensure that these beautiful spaces are taken care of for generations to come.

\* Please note that all donations to the Simsbury Land Trust Endowment Fund MUST be made payable directly to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund. They also have an online giving option on their website, www.hfpg.org.

# **Financial Highlights**

### **Statements of Activities**

For the Years Ended June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018

		WITHOUT DON RESTRICTION			WITHOUT DONOF RESTRICTIONS	2018 WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
	IANGES IN						
UN	IRESTRICTED NET ASSETS						
Re	evenues:						
	Membership Contributions	\$111,284		\$111,284	\$105,100		\$105,100
	Bequests	\$33,298		\$33,298			
	Contribution Income – Restricted *		30,640	\$30,640		15,056	\$15,056
	Grants				25,000		\$25,000
	Land Acquisition and						
	Other Contributions	785		\$785	755	8,467	\$9,222
	Annual Dinner – Net	1,475		\$1,475	659		\$659
	Investment Income	25,074	-33,325	-\$8,251	17,389	25,626	\$43,015
	Total Revenues	171,916	-2,685	169,231	148,903	49,149	198,052
Expenses:							
	- Administrative	33,316		\$33,316	34,677		\$34,677
	Salaries and Benefits	33,355		\$33,355	33,930		\$33,930
	Membership	25,255		\$25,255	18,691		\$18,691
	Stewardship	15,120		\$15,120	17,527		\$17,5272
	Total Expenses	107,046		107,046	104,825		104,825
Re	evenues Over Expenses	64,870	-2,685	62,185	44,078	49,149	93,227
Other change in unrestricted assets:							
	Unrealized (loss)/gain on						
	short term investments	9,728		\$9,728	(4,710)		-\$4,710
	Change in net assets	74,598	-2,685	71,913	39,368	49,149	88,517
	Net assets, beginning of year	353,053	14,865,525	\$15,218,578	313,685	14,816,376	\$15,130,061
	Net assets, end of year	\$427,651	\$14,862,840	\$15,290,491	\$353,053	\$14,865,525	\$15,218,578

\* 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	June 30
	2019	2018
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash – Unrestricted	\$421,505	\$349,797
<ul> <li>Donor Restricted</li> </ul>	780	30
Prepaid Expenses	5,367	3,227
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	427,652	353,054
OTHER ASSETS		
Investments Held by Others	250,650	253,335
Land	14,612,189	14,612,189
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	14,862,839	14,865,524
Total Assets	\$15,290,491	\$15,218,578
Fund Balance		
Unrestricted	\$427,652	\$353,054
Restricted – Richard A. Davis		
Endowment Fund	250,650	253,335
Temporarily Restricted	14,612,189	14,612,189
Fund Balance	\$15,290,491	\$15,218,578



## **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.

#### Star

Disney Worldwide Services, Inc. Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company \*\* Oak Foundation \*\* \* Terry's Plain Homeowners Association \* United Technologies \*\* \* Voya Foundation \*\* The Werth Family Foundation \*\*

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Karen Brand and Ed Cox \*\* \* Michael and Lynn Callahan \*\* Dave and Lori Carlson \* John and Joyce Donahue \*\* Michele Dyson Robert and Linda Ellis \*\* \* Frederick and Hannah Feibel \*\* Ted and Kathy Fleming \*\* Barbara and Bill Gardner Bill and Becky Goss \* Carolyn Johnson Dale and Janet Knecht \*\* Nick Mason \*\* John and Jacqui McCormick \*\* Tom and Sandy McGee \*\* \* Mary Mitchell \* Jane Porterfield and Gerald Pastor Judy and John Schaefer \*\* \* Russell Shaw Jr. and Joyce Driscoll \* Joseph and Mary Jane Springman \*\* \* Paul and Camilla Thompson \* Rick and Kristi Warters \*\*

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- 5 Year Donor
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- Contemporation Endowment Fund Donor

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## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL?

We asked some of our members which trail is their favorite and why. Several of their responses appear in the following membership list.

Marion Gilmore \*\* Charity Folk \*\* Ed and Sherri Goldberg Bill and Vivian Gombert \*\* Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Green \* Sarah Greer and Brandon Barrett Barbara R. Grey Dagny and Harrison Griswold John and Elizabeth Gunn Hillary Handin and Matthieu Joublin Tricia and Josh Hazelwood \*\* \* Jim and Lisa Heavner \*\* Ping and Sarah Hsieh \* Kevin Hutt John R. Johnson, Jr. \*\* Shannon Leary Knall Nick Kreczko Lorrie and Doug Lescarbeau \* Ellen and Mark Lescher \*\* James and Lvnn Lewis \* Marie and Eric Lim Patti and Fred Lorenzen \*\* Edward and Kelly Lyman \* The Ken Mason Family \*\* Paul and Karen McKenna Keith and Carol McLean-Shinaman Mitchell Family Mohrman Family \* Mike and Jennifer Mooney Doug and Bobbi Morehouse \* Eric Mortensen Paul Murphy \*\* Gregory Nelson Dottie and Max O'Meara \*\* 📽 Susan and Jon Olson Polly and Steve Parker \*\* Ronald and Barbara Patterson Linda and Barry Pearson \*\* John and Kathleen Perkins Stephen Philbrick The Post Family The Preskenis Family \*\* Karaugh and Tim Prugar Drs. Mary Randall and Larry Neureither Tom and Kim Richards The Rose Family Rebecca and Peter Rosenthal The Rowe Family **Rutledge Family** Patricia Scanlon \*\* Natalie and Elliot Schulman \*\* Mark and leke Scully \* Michael and Susan Shuffman Carl Soderberg Taylor Somerville Roger and Barbara Spear \* Robin and Chris Stine

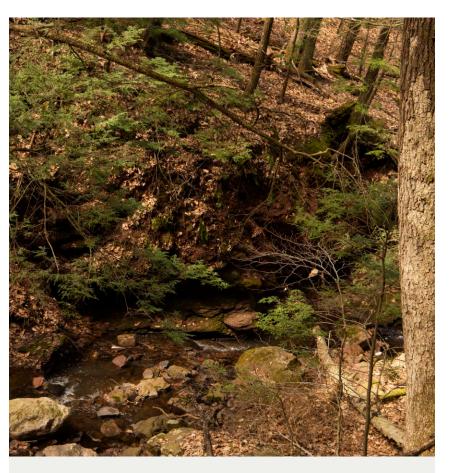
Noubar and Meri Stone Marge Storrs \*\* Pat and Dianne Sullivan Anupam and Varsha Tantri \*\* Robert and Marjorie Taylor \*\* John and Liz Thayer \* Richard and Elizabeth Thomas \* Darcy Topper The Treacy Family \*\* Josef and Kumi Treggor Don, Carol and Emily Tuller \*\* Rebecca Picoult Fred and Janet von Pechmann Fred and Amy Wergeles \* Pat and John Wiles \*\* Wollmar Family Mary and John Wright \* Edward and Carol Wrobel

#### Family

Gardeners of Simsbury \*\*

Kevin and Marsha Adams \*\* Roger C. and Nancy S. Adams \*\* Phoebe and P.K. Allen Glenn and Mary-Lyn Alonzo \* Anonymous \* Antonio Family Lewis F. Banci and Frank G. Domanic \* Scott and Kris Barnett Debra Barberi and Jay Barrett, Jr. Joseph and Alice Barry \*\* Mike and Diane Barry Steve and Robin Bartholomew \*\* Shirley and Douglas Beach \* Beebe Family Andy and Jane Berling

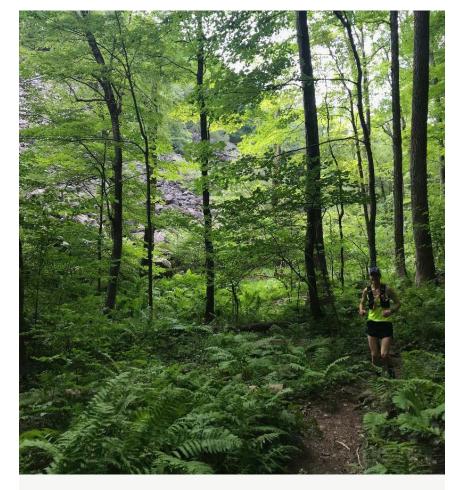
David and Rita Birittieri Marguerite Boslaugh and David Guadliana \*\* Sandra and Robert Bourke \*\* Mark and Patty Bozeman \*\* Sue Brachwitz and Mark Silverman \*\* Kevin and Caryn Brady Carolyn Brand and Richard Clark \*\* John Brandon Braun Family **Braunlich Family** Tony and Ann Brockelman \* Nancy Bugbee \*\* Susan M. Bullock \*\* Lucille and Bill Burke John and Sara Burrows \* Steve and Susan Byer \*



Tanager Hill is my favorite, I hike there once a week with my dog. I like it because you can hike a few minutes and feel worlds away. It is cathartic after a rough week of work! After an hour and a half hike, even in humid weather, I am recharged and ready for life's challenges.

~ MARY BAIER, SLT EASEMENT MONITOR

Jean and Steven Canter Sal and Caterina Carbone Lou and Linda Carissimi \*\* Michael and Rita Carr \*\* Heather and Sean Carroll Matthew Chait Bob and Amy Charron Angela and Jim Church \*\* Dom and Dorie Cinti Tom and Rosemary Clarke \*\* Patricia Ann Clifford \* Marie and Henry Coons \* Dr. and Mrs. Todd Cooperman \*\* Marjorie Correll Mark and Patricia Coslett Wayne Coste and Gail Adams Beth and Rick Costello Greg and Lynn Crane \*\* Arline Croce \* Robert and Deborah Cushman Danielle D'Ermo Ronald and Lorraine Daigle \*\* Mark and Moira Dailey \* Scott and Anne Daniels \*\* Nancy and Craig Dennen \* Cindi Heslop Dietlin \* \* Bill and Pat Dryden Dennis and Linda Duff Arch and Pauline Edgar Anne Erickson Euting Family Sam Fabian and Family Sam Fabian and Family Brian and Jenn Fair Richard and Marianne Feifer Christopher and Heather Feinsinger Sandee Fleet Christine and James T. Fleming Steve and Claudia Franklin Rosemary Fusco Sandra Girardin and Nick Meszaros

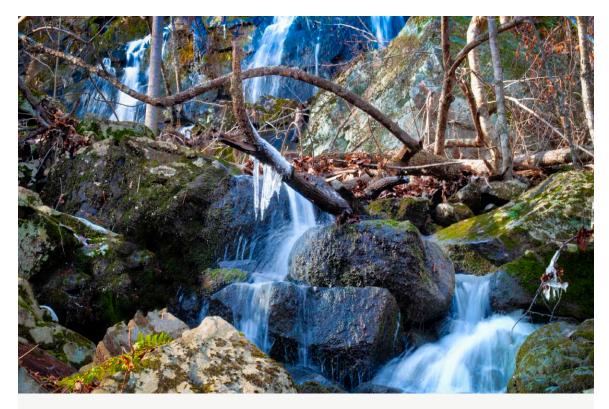


In my opinion the best trails in Simsbury are the West Mountain trails. They offer a spectacular view just as the Heublein tower hike does but it is a better kept secret and not nearly as crowded as Heublein! Not to mention this trail has waterfalls in the spring, loads of wildlife and amazing geological history. I love to do this this hike throughout the year but my favorite time is early spring when the forest is starting to change and river starts to flow.

~ KATIE LAUDER, SLT BOARD AND HIKE LEADER

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My favorite SLT trail is the Cathles Property at the end of North Saddle Ridge Drive. My family has lived in the neighborhood for decades and has many happy memories of hiking up the ridge to enjoy the beautiful view. It is lovely in every season.

~ TRISH HAZELWOOD, SLT STAFF

Will Latin Karin Lefranc Paul and Kathy Lettieri \*\* Brendon and Kelly Lewis \*\* Sandy and Tom Lipscomb Judith Loewi and Robert Gibt

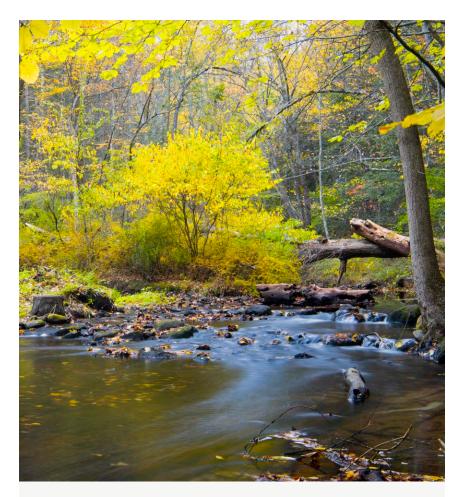
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I enjoy hiking at Wagner Woods. It is very close to home and is an easy trail for all ages, and is a great place to bring young children. The property is beautiful to walk on during all seasons and it has wooded areas, fields and even a stream. Great property for bird watching.

~ AMY ZEINER, SLT STAFF

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My favorite trail is the Tulmeadow farm and woodlot trail. Love the vistas from the fields, especially in the fall followed closely by winter after a fresh snow fall.

~ TED ALMY, SLT BOARD MEMBER

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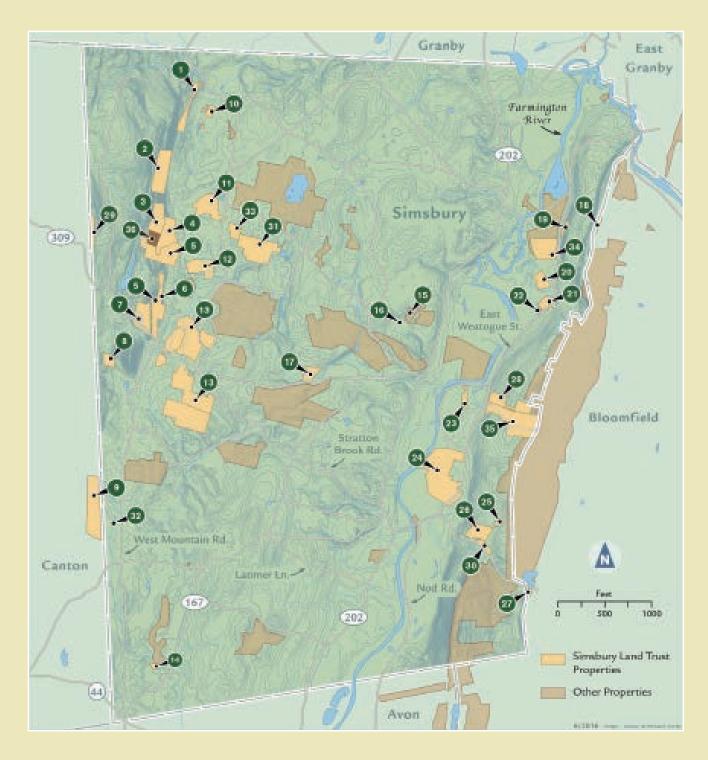
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I think the Bog Walkway is unique and offers lovely bird watching opportunities! It feels like you've stepped into another world! Occurring primarily in the Northeastern U.S. and throughout Canada and Alaska, these distinctive landscapes support uncommon plant life, providing incredible habitat for some rare or endangered species.

~ KATIE FRENCH, SLT BOARD MEMBER



## **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
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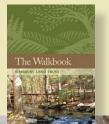


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## Give the gift of the outdoors!

This holiday season consider giving the gift of outdoors to family and friends. A gift membership to the Simsbury Land Trust is

a wonderful holiday gift for any age and includes a copy of the Simsbury Walkbook! Please contact the SLT office if you would like more information.



# Time to Renew Your Membership!

## WHAT IS A SIMSBURY LAND TRUST MEMBER?

Like many other non-profit organizations, Simsbury Land Trust donors are considered members. Membership is based on the calendar year. Membership donations to the SLT provide most of our annual operating expenses, providing funding for hikes, programs, newsletters and other publications, stewardship and maintenance of our properties among other things.

What do you get as a member? Tangible benefits include a copy of the SLT Walkbook, a car window decal and mailings related to events and programs, such as our annual report, Landlines (our annual newsletter), calendar of events and a discounted fee at our annual membership dinner.

Intangible benefits are many — pride in helping support and care for over 1,100 acres of beautiful open space in Simsbury, the satisfaction that comes with improving the environment and the recreation opportunities in town, and being part of a group that cares about open space preservation and education in Simsbury.

Annual membership donations range from \$40 to \$1,000 and more. Membership donations made after October 1 are counted to the following calendar year.

More than 700 families support the Simsbury Land Trust each year. We hope you consider joining or renewing today.