Simsbury Land Trust

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NATURALLY
CONNECTED

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ON THE COVER

Like a jigsaw puzzle, our properties are all connected and stronger — locally, regionally and nationally — when the pieces work together to make the whole.

Photo by Danielle D'Ermo
Photo illustration by John Johnson

SLT's Newest Property Diane Dreux Smith Preserve

We are pleased to report that Diane Dreux Smith has donated a parcel of land off Westledge Road. This 15-acre parcel is above the Simsbury Reservoir and The Master's School property. More information to come in the next issue of Landlines.

Thank you Diane!

Change, adaptability and connections

have been the bywords for the past year. It has been a year for learning new things and doing things differently to meet new challenges.

Last year's drought was followed by this summer's downpours. Unfortunately, a badly-timed, record-breaking deluge in mid-August led to the flooding in Lucy Brook, requiring expensive repairs to our newly-constructed, almost finished parking lot at Tanager Hill. Many, many thanks to Trails Committee volunteer Bob Palmer who brought his project management expertise to this challenging project and coordinated with the Town of Simsbury's Department of Public Works who quickly removed the log jam along the stream before the arrival of Tropical Storm Henri. Fortunately, changes in our budgeting process a few years ago put assets in our Stewardship Fund that will allow us to cover these repairs. These emergency repairs highlight the importance of this fund.

This year we strengthened the Stewardship Committee — now with two sub-committees and co-chairs — Property and Trails Committee and Habitat Committee to involve more volunteers in the tasks of overseeing and maintaining our various preserves. Many thanks to Tom Crawford and his group of Property and Trails Committee volunteers who have been meeting monthly over the past year to assign select stewardship duties and who diligently tackle issues on the properties. This hard-working group keeps the trails clear of fallen trees, installs water bars to reduce water erosion, oversees the mowing of trails and numerous other tasks that improve the hiking experience for our visitors.

Thanks also to Fred Feibel and the new Habitat Committee who are formulating long-term maintenance and management policies for Simsbury Land Trust properties. This group is exploring our mowing practices to benefit grassland birds and pollinators, suggesting invasive plant management strategies as well as improvements to edge habitats.

This year SLT reached out to other local land trusts to collaborate on educational programs for our members and the public so as to offer a wider variety of programs to a larger audience. Our reconstituted Education and Family Hikes Committees are offering a variety of new opportunities for the public. Many thanks to Camilla Thompson and Michele Knierim for chairing these groups.

Some of you may have noticed changes along the 60 Westledge Trail. Eversource has been working with the SLT to coordinate the replacement of two of their transmission towers. Temporary closure of sections of this trail will result in improvements along this trail and partial funding of our new trail head signage that will be installed later this year.

Over the past year, several long-time board members have stepped down from the board, most recently T.J. Donohue. I want to thank T.J. for his efforts on behalf of the SLT, including his thoughtful contributions to board discussions over the past 24 years. T.J. has generously shared his legal expertise, resolved numerous property issues, and helped to close on numerous property acquisitions. This year T.J. was instrumental in facilitating the generous donation by Diane Dreux Smith of a 15-acre property off Westledge Road. Watch for more information on this gift in the upcoming Landlines issue.

This year was a record year for Simsbury Land Trust membership as many took to our trails when little else was open. We welcome our new members and value our sustaining members who recognize the value our open spaces provide. We welcome your participation on our committees, special projects and events — please reach out to Amy Zeiner at the SLT office if you are interested in helping out. Many hands make light work and further strengthens our organization!

Here's hoping we rise to the challenges of the next year as we have done so well together this year.

Margery Winters

Connecting the Puzzle Pieces

Margery Winters, SLT President

"In nature we never see anything isolated, but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it." – Goethe

During the pandemic lockdown, did you, or your family, find yourself passing the time by working on a jigsaw puzzle? You probably started with the border pieces and then tackled a certain section that had a distinctive color or pattern. As this section came together, it may have been unconnected to the rest of the puzzle, and you were uncertain exactly where it fit. And then there was that moment of satisfaction when you found the puzzle piece that locked the section into its proper place, flimsily at first, and then more securely as more pieces were found and added. Finally, the picture started to come together as a stronger, interlocking whole.

We can think of each property in town as a piece of the landscape puzzle we know as Simsbury. Simsbury Land Trust properties are much like those sections of the puzzle that have distinctive characteristics that set them apart from the other properties within our town's borders. But to truly preserve these areas, their ecological connections to other preserved properties need to be reinforced.

Just as each puzzle piece contributes to resolving the picture, each of our private properties has a role to play. And like family game night, everyone can participate in solving the puzzle.

Strengthening the connections does not necessarily mean purchasing more land. In some areas, there is no additional land to purchase. Instead, we need to look at how we are managing each piece of the ecological puzzle outside these preserved areas. Just as each puzzle piece contributes to resolving the picture, each of our private properties has a role to play. And like family game night, everyone can participate in solving the puzzle.

We all have priorities in managing our lawns and gardens: beauty, recreation, ease of maintenance. And we are constrained by our property lines. Rarely, however, do we think about the ecological value of our yards. So, take a moment to consider how your property fits in Simsbury's landscape puzzle and how well your property ecologically supports and connects to other wild areas. What wild areas are you near and what wildlife do they support? What ecological services do these animals provide? Do any of these animals need to travel through your yard to reach these areas? Can they migrate

safely through your yard? And where does water go when it drains off your property? Does it contain fertilizers or pesticides? Does your yard contain native plants that help support the local wildlife or are they non-native species that are not part of the local food chain?

Once you see your property as a piece in the overall puzzle, zoom out. Simsbury is a piece of larger puzzles. Our town is but one of 33 towns in the Farmington River watershed. The water that you use to irrigate your lawn this summer may cause a local stream or pond to dry up more frequently, impacting the local aquatic wildlife. Excess fertilizer washing off your lawn drains to the Farmington River, eventually contributing to the 'dead zone' caused by overfertilization in the western end of Long Island Sound.

Seeds from the Norway maple in your yard blow into nearby woods, grow and shade out spring wildflowers, eventually outcompeting native trees that help feed local songbirds. Positively, the pollinator garden in your yard helps small pollinators successfully make their way across town to other pollinator gardens and meadows, helping to create berries, seeds and nuts for other wildlife. The seeds from the native shrub you plant may be deposited miles away in the droppings of birds, helping to increase the diversity of native plants in our local woodlands. Planting an oak tree in your yard will dramatically increase the number of nesting songbirds in your yard, increasing local songbird populations.

Zooming out even further, we are but one of the 169 towns in Connecticut, our state is but one of 50, and the US but one of three countries in North America. The warblers that are stopping to feed this fall in the Simsbury Land Trust's Tanager Hill woods on their way to their winter grounds in Mexico spent their summers in the boreal forests of northern Canada. Next spring, the offspring of monarch butterflies that migrated from Connecticut to Mexico for the winter will need milkweed plants from Texas to New England to continue this cycle.

SLT members recognize the value of our wild areas and the many benefits they provide. But our wild areas cannot function and remain healthy independent of what is happening in the rest of the landscape, within our town, and beyond our borders. Looking at our own property from an ecological perspective does not mean our yards won't be beautiful, easy to maintain and enjoyable but it may mean doing things differently. It means making more informed and better ecological landscape choices on all of our properties. Like a jigsaw puzzle, our properties are all connected and stronger — locally, regionally and nationally — when the pieces work together to make the whole.

How to Connect Your Puzzle Piece

There are numerous simple steps that can be taken by each property owner to strengthen their contribution to the ecological puzzle.

- Remove invasive plants such as burning bush, barberry, oriental bittersweet, or Norway maple that will escape into the nearby wildlands.
- Replace non-native plants with beautiful native shrubs and trees.
- Reduce the size of your lawn area.
- Create a native plant pollinator garden or meadow.
- Reduce irrigation and the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Work with your neighbors to create or expand wild areas in the back of your properties that will connect neighborhoods to wild areas beyond.

For more information on how to improve your property's ecological connections, visit or contact:

- Simsbury Pollinator Pathway (simsburypollinatorpath.org)
- Farmington River Watershed Association (frwa.org)
- Roaring Brook Nature Center (roaringbrook.org)

Birding 101

Doug Beach, SLT Member

Northern Cardinal (female)

Cedar Waxwing

Baltimore Oriole

Birding is a captivating hobby, one that may be pursued on many levels. Some people are content to casually look for birds in their yard or in a nearby park. Others are more serious, spending several hours per week in pursuit of their quarry. The most passionate observers spend countless hours in the field, searching for as many species as possible in a day, a year, or a lifetime. Some even travel across the United States and around the world to look for birds. Regardless of where you are on the spectrum, your goal should be to achieve maximum enjoyment from your birding experience.

Learning to identify birds is challenging and in many ways is similar to studying a foreign language. Starting with the basics, novice birders form a rudimentary "vocabulary" from which to expand their knowledge. If they know, for example, that the primary colors of a male Baltimore Oriole are orange and black, they will take notice when they see a male Orchard Oriole, which is similar in structure but is chestnut and black in color. If they know that the face, chest, and belly of a White-breasted Nuthatch are white, they will likewise take notice when they encounter a less common Red-breasted Nuthatch, with its white eyebrow, black eye line, and buff or rust-colored breast. By observing and internalizing these differences, the beginners expand their "birding vocabulary."

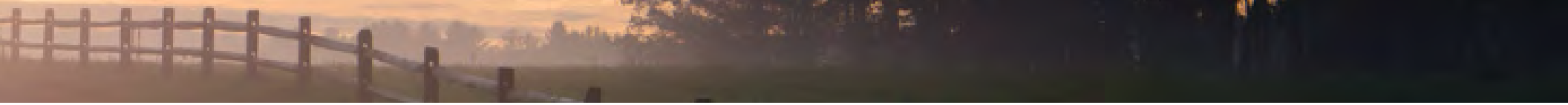
Birding may seem daunting to a novice because there is so much to learn. As with any complex undertaking, it helps to break the concept of "birding" into basic components. Here are four such components that all experienced birders consider:

- The SPECIES that may be typically found in a given area
- Their FIELD MARKS, MANNERISMS, and VOCALIZATIONS
- Their preferred HABITATS
- The TIMING of their arrivals and departures; either as seasonal residents, or as biannual migrants that are passing through

Understanding these fundamentals not only allows the observer to find birds more quickly, but also to identify species more efficiently and with greater accuracy.

Here are some steps that a beginner can take to make birding enjoyable:

- Purchase a copy of the latest edition of one of the following books: *The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America; National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America*, or *Peterson's Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America.*
- Obtain a good pair of binoculars.
- Learn to identify 25 of the most common birds in Hartford County.
- Find a knowledgeable mentor.



Begin by studying your field guide and memorizing the prominent field marks of the following 25 species, most of which can be seen almost year-round in our area. Several are known to almost everyone but should be examined carefully nonetheless:

American Crow
American Goldfinch
American Robin
Bald Eagle
Black-capped Chickadee
Blue Jay
Canada Goose
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Bluebird
European Starling
Great Blue Heron
House Finch
House Sparrow
Mallard
Mourning Dove
Northern Cardinal
Northern Mockingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon (common city pigeon)
Song Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse
Turkey Vulture
White-breasted Nuthatch
Wild Turkey

You are now ready to venture into the field to search for each of these birds. Once you have found them, pay close attention to their most prominent features as well as their mannerisms and vocalizations. Observe, for example, the shape of a robin's bill. Notice that female cardinals have a different coloration than the males. Understand that Turkey Vultures soar for much longer distances and hold their wings differently than do Red-tailed Hawks. Recognize the characteristics of these twenty-five species, and you will have created the foundation of your "birding vocabulary."

One day you will see a bird that reminds you of a female Northern Cardinal but is somehow different. Make note of the disparities that you see: the shape of its bill, the thinner black mask through its eyes, and the yellow tip on its tail. Look through your field guide and realize that you found a Cedar Waxwing. Your birding "vocabulary" is now expanding!

Becoming an accomplished birder takes years of practice but is certainly worth the effort. Continue studying your field guide, keep practicing outdoors, and try to find an experienced mentor, all of which will pay huge dividends.

Over 200 species of birds have been documented in Simsbury, and every one of them is waiting to be discovered by you!

For more information about birding and birding activities in Hartford County, contact Hartford Audubon Society at www.HartfordAudubon.org or info@hartfordaudubon.org.

If You Plant It, They Will Come: Gardening to Attract Birds

Zellene Sandler, SLT Member

The conservationist John Muir wrote that all life is connected. This is certainly true of our gardens, yards and the places we preserve. You can enhance your lot to encourage birds and other wildlife to thrive by providing food, water and shelter. If you plant it, they will come: the plants, the insects, the seeds, the fruit, and the birds; all connected in the web of life.

Doug Tallamy, noted author and proponent of planting native trees, shrubs and plants spoke about the importance of encouraging everyone, even those with only a small area, to plant at least one native plant. Even a few pots of bee balm or anise hyssop can provide this connectivity between neighborhood gardens and ultimately, our larger preserves.

What can you do to enhance your plot for birds? Plant native species to attract native insects. Provide a water source. Plant a native evergreen shrub or tree to provide shelter. Ensure that native food sources are available throughout the seasons. Don't use chemicals that kill insects and ultimately birds.

Birds need the protein from seeds and insects to survive, but during nesting season, caterpillars are necessary to feed the nestlings. Planting native trees and shrubs provides food for caterpillars. When temperatures drop, many birds switch to berries for nutrition. The robins who foraged for worms are now consuming fruits left on winterberry shrubs and native viburnums. Each year, flocks of hungry Cedar Waxwings come and strip my juniper tree of berries, usually in one day.

Many sources are available online and in print to provide information about creating bird gardens. Doug Tallamy's books, *Bringing Nature Home,* and *Nature's Best Hope* are my personal favorites. The Connecticut Audubon Society has some excellent reference material on their website, www.audubon.org. Even local garden centers are embracing native plants in their inventory as demand grows. The word is out: if you plant it, the birds will come!

Hiking with Families

Michele Knierim, SLT Family Hikes

It goes without saying that this past year has not been without its challenges. As a parent of two small children, I know first-hand that navigating a pandemic with kids can be especially challenging. While it can be easy to dwell on these new difficulties, one positive thing that I noticed right from the beginning of the pandemic is that more and more people were skipping the usual indoor activities and hitting the trails!

Here in Simsbury, we are lucky to be surrounded by so many beautiful trails, many of which are perfectly suited for a family hike. Choosing the right trail or incorporating activities to help keep kids engaged can be a daunting task. Earlier this year we launched a family hiking page on the SLT website to provide updates on planned and self-guided hikes, family activities, printables, and DIY options! In addition, we also developed a SLT 6-Hike Children's Challenge to encourage families and kids to hit the trails and challenge themselves to complete six hikes.

Whether you are an experienced hiker looking for ways to share this hobby with your children, or new to hiking and looking for ideas, there is no better time to start than now! Spending time with your family hiking is a great way to bond and build memories, and will also help your kids learn about all that nature has to offer and build lifelong healthy habits. If you don't know where to begin, start by picking a short hike for your first trip. There are maps available on the SLT website so you can get familiar with the area in advance. (You can download a children's hiking and activities book or contact the office for a hard copy.) Give yourself plenty of time and be flexible — take time to let the kids explore and try to point out interesting things to look at as you go. Don't forget snacks and water! Be sure to carry out anything you bring in and don't leave trash behind!

Some great hikes right here in Simsbury that are great for kids to explore include:

SLT Trails

- The Bog
- Rosedale Farms
- Tulmeadow Farm & Woodlot
- Wagner Woods
- Glover

Local Trails

- Talcott Mountain Trail
- Great Pond State Forest
- McLean Game Refuge
- Belden Forest

For a full list of trails and additional activities please visit our family hiking page on the SLT website **https://simsburylandtrust.org/slt/about-family-youth-hiking/.**

If you are interested in helping to plan family hikes and programs, please contact the SLT office.

Join the 6-Hike Children's Challenge!

The rules for the SLT 6-Hike Children's Challenge are simple.

- Sign up for the 6-Hike Children's 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!
- Keep track of your hikes — date and location. Any distance hike or walk counts toward your 6-hike goal. SLT-sponsored hikes, regardless of the location, also count toward the challenge.
- When you are finished, complete the SLT 6-Hike Children's Challenge Completion Form on our website and your child will 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.

Reconnecting Members with Nature

Katie French, SLT Trustee

Do you remember the first time you experienced the magic of nature?

For many of us, this is a moment you'll never forget — and shapes you for the rest of your life. We all know that being outside can improve our overall sense of well-being. Surrounding ourselves with nature and living, breathing plants, birds and animals can decrease our stress levels and instill a much-needed sense of calm, especially in these uncertain times.

We have seen this to be true with an increased membership level and increased use and enjoyment of our properties. We would love for you and your family to visit a SLT conservation area in the coming weeks! Take in the beautiful views and vistas, watch for birds and signs of wildlife, and soak up the healing power of nature. SLT and our dedicated volunteers maintain safe, well-marked trails that are open for you to visit year-round.

We are actively working to reconnect people with nature in our community. SLT helps create preserves, trails, greenways and community farms that expand people's access to nature. Our protected farms and properties provide a wildlife corridor for all living things that connect to other communities and migratory routes. These corridors are critical for the conservation of wildlife, starting in your backyard and connecting habitats so that wildlife can move between areas.

SLT offers programs that strengthen the bonds between people and nature, such as outings, nature walks, educational programs and volunteer activities. Reconnecting people and nature is essential to land conservation — because people will only act to protect nature if they learn to love and value it.

Membership conributions are our primary source of funding, allowing us to keep pace with our community's conservation needs. Together we can protect land, restore habitat for wildlife, and connect people to nature in this beautiful town for generations to come.

Time to renew your membership for 2022

Please take a few minutes to renew your membership with the enclosed envelope today, or renew online at www.simsburylandtrust.org.

Caring for Our Properties and Trails

Tom Crawford, SLT Trustee

Simsbury Land Trust has always strived to follow its mission to protect and provide healthy habitats as well as providing public access to our preserves. Stewardship is a big part of implementing this strategy.

With this in mind, we restructured the Stewardship Committee in January. There are now two Stewardship Chairs — Tom Crawford and Fred Feibel — with my group focusing on property and trail maintenance and the other focusing on habitat and conservation. Our Property Monitors who oversee each property and report on any changes remain a vital component of our strategy. Many monitors contribute significant efforts to their assigned properties and are also part of the two new committees.

The Property and Trails Committee (similar to a task force) manages the 36 separate SLT properties consisting of 1,100 acres and 14 miles of trials. These properties contain over 35 man-made structures (bridges, walkways, observation decks, benches, and kiosks) as well as many bird houses. The trails are a big part of what we focus on, keeping them clear of fallen trees, free of hazards when possible, and mowed during the warmer months. Our foremost thought is protecting the land while balancing that with public access. The goal is to not create a park-like scene, but rather to create an environment that people can comfortably walk through to enjoy nature.

To date we have completed over 90 separate tasks, many of them focused on cutting and removing fallen trees on the trails. You may notice when hiking that our strategy on tree cutting is to clear a wide enough path for hikers to walk through but keep the remaining tree off the path for plants and animals to use. This falls directly in line with our goal of a healthy habitat and to not try and create a park-like atmosphere. "Leaner" trees are more difficult. When necessary for the safety of hikers we take them down, but otherwise we let nature do its thing. When not cutting fallen trees, we are maintaining trails, benches, kiosks, bridges, signs, and parking areas. Some of the more notable accomplishments are the replacement of the informational signs at Rosedale Farms, rerouting a section of the West Mountain Red Trail to avoid a consistent muddy area, replacing and fixing bird houses, brush hogging the fields, checking and marking boundaries, blazing trails and maintaining parking areas. All these tasks have been accomplished with a core group of volunteers that are committed to our stewardship responsibilities with the help of our monitors and work day volunteers. For the mowing of the paths, we have hired Tim Ryan of Valley Landscaping LLC. Tim has been mowing our trails for many years and has also now taken on the many trails at Tanager Hill.

SLT is grateful for the generous donation of time and talent from all of our members who help care for our properties as well as our Property and Trails Committee — Bob Palmer, Brett Sloan, Bob Shea, Joe Treacy, Katie Piccirillo, Mel Wolpert, Justin Gullotta, David Kozak, and Jim Miller. Special thanks to Chip Ward, who has extensive experience in marking boundaries and has been engaged in helping to mark and clarify all SLT boundaries. Chip's work has been helpful in clarifying encroachments and identifying SLT properties with signage.

SLT would also like to thank the growing number of "next generation" stewards, including Olivia Birney, Patti Kellogg, Drew Anastasio, Lucas Pepe, Patrick Sheridan and Cara Hodgson, who have assisted on several projects this year including clearing of invasive species, trail monitoring, sign post installation, decking repairs, and trail relocation efforts. Finally, I would also like to thank our all of our Property Monitors and volunteers who watch over, maintain, and protect our properties.

If you are interested in helping the SLT with trail and stewardship work, please contact Amy Zeiner at amyzeiner@aol.com.

How You Can Support the SLT in Perpetuity

Ted Almy, SLT Trustee

Over ten years ago, the Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the HFPG was launched. Named in honor of SLT Past President Dick Davis' multi-decade vision, leadership, and service, the endowment was established primarily to provide a permanent source of funding for property stewardship activities. Thanks to generous donations, the endowment fund is currently valued at approximately $314,000.

Simsbury Land Trust's endowment monies are held and expertly managed by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG). Did you know that HFPG is the oldest and largest community foundation in Connecticut and one of the oldest and most successful community foundation organizations in the country? And, the HFPG currently has over $1.125 billion in assets under management.

At current asset levels, the SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund provides over $11,500 in annual income, one-third of our current stewardship budget. Examples of stewardship expenses would include payment for professional tree work from storm damage, eradication and control of invasive plants, trail building and maintenance, signage and education. Considering this year's summer flooding and storm damage, we are likely to spend every dollar of our stewardship budget and more in 2021.

Experience and stewardship spending trends would indicate that SLT will need average annual endowment income in the $25,000-$30,000 range in order to be truly self-funded. This in turn would suggest a minimum future endowment fund level need of $500,000.

Please consider supporting the Simsbury Land Trust and help us reach our endowment funding goals by donating cash, appreciated stock, IRA RMD monies, and other appraisable assets (such as vehicles, land, artwork, jewelry) to the SLT Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. **Donations to the endowment must be made directly through the HFPG.**

Donations to the Simsbury Land Trust Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund should be made payable to:

HFPG Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund.

Mail the checks to:

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Simsbury Land Trust Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund
10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Statements of Activities

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2020

	2021			2020		
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS						
Revenues:						
Membership Contributions	$131,057		$131,057	$120,835		$120,835
Contribution Income – Restricted *		$7,675	7,675		$13,197	13,197
Investment Income	24,595	10,512	35,107	22,470	32,021	54,491
Other Revenue	6,000		6,000	500		500
Total Revenues	161,652	18,187	179,839	143,805	45,218	189,023
Expenses:						
Administrative	36,828		36,828	43,372		43,372
Salaries and Benefits	40,481		40,481	40,492		40,492
Membership	21,476		21,476	24,967		24,967
Stewardship	9,401		9,401	13,860		13,860
Total Expenses	108,186		108,186	122,691		122,691
Revenues Over Expenses	53,466	18,187	71,653	21,114	45,218	66,332
Other change in unrestricted assets:						
Unrestricted assets used for land improvements	(15,801)	15,801	0			
Unrealized gain on short term investments	23,565		23,565	5,651		5,651
Total other changes in unrestricted net assets	7,764	15,801	23,565	5,651		5,651
Change in net assets	61,230	33,988	95,218	26,765	45,218	71,983
Net assets, beginning of year	454,416	14,908,058	15,362,474	427,651	14,862,840	15,290,491
Net assets, end of year	$515,646	$14,942,046	$15,457,692	$454,416	$14,908,058	$15,362,474

* 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, 2021 and June 30, 2020

	June 30 2021	June 30 2020
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	$150,226	$127,871
Short-term Investments	365,420	328,973
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	515,646	456,844
OTHER ASSETS		
Investments Held by Others	314,055	295,868
Land	14,627,991	14,612,190
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	14,942,046	14,908,058
Total Assets	$15,457,692	$15,364,902
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue - Annual Dinner		$2,428
Total Current Liabilities	$0	$2,428
Fund Balance		
Unrestricted	515,646	454,416
Restricted – Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund	314,055	295,868
Temporarily Restricted	14,627,991	14,612,190
Total Fund Balance	15,457,692	15,362,474
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$15,457,692	$15,364,902

We want to thank the community for its generous support this past year. This was a record year for number of members! None of the Simsbury Land Trust's accomplishments would have been possible without our membership and our many remarkable volunteers and donors.

❖ 5 Year Donor
❖❖ 10 Year Donor

Star

Eversource Energy
Professional Drywall Construction, Inc.
Voya Foundation ❖❖
The Werth Family Foundation ❖❖

Almy Family ❖❖
Karen Brand and Ed Cox ❖❖
Michael and Lynn Callahan ❖❖
Dom and Dorie Cinti
Joyce Donahue ❖❖
Peter and Lisa Fagan ❖❖
Frederick and Hannah Feibel ❖❖
Ted and Kathy Fleming ❖❖
Bill and Becky Goss ❖
Diana Haghighat and
Gerardo Gutierrez ❖❖
Wayne and Elinor Hoffman
Dale and Janet Knecht ❖❖
Nick Mason ❖❖
John and Jacqui McCormick ❖❖
Tom and Sandy McGee ❖
Mary Mitchell ❖
Mel and Karen Ollestad
Stephen and Kaitlyn Roth
Judy and John Schaefer ❖❖
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T.J. Donohue Retires from SLT Board

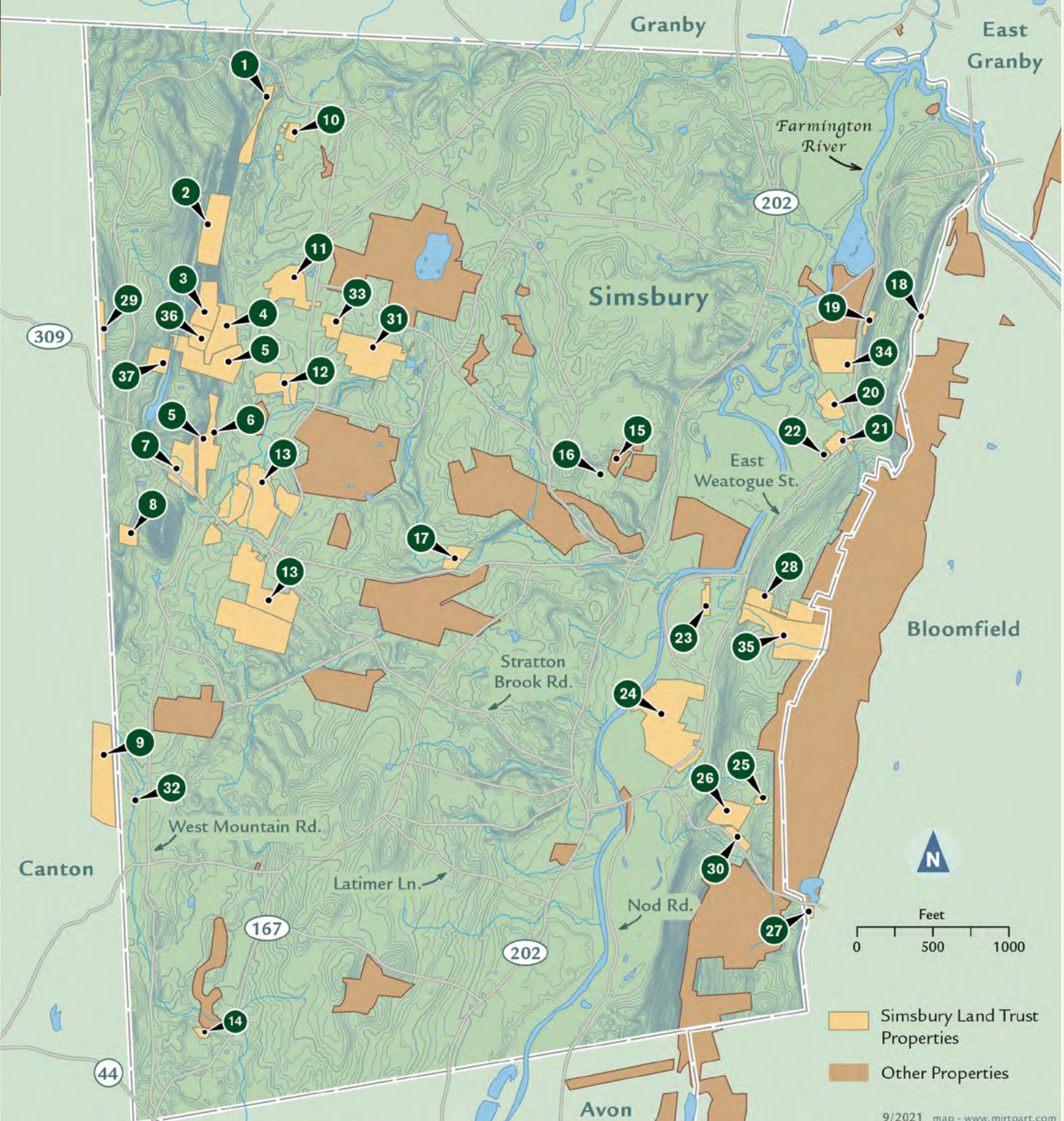
Dick Davis, SLT Past President

During the past 24 years, the Simsbury Land Trust benefited greatly having T.J. Donohue as a valued member of our board. His practical understanding of real estate transactions, his network of contacts, and his insider's view of Town politics have been a significant help to the organization.

T.J.'s numerous significant contributions to our acquisition efforts include:

- Locating the owner of the 40-acre Bog and helping us structure the purchase of discounted Town and State tax notes secured by the Bog.
- Successfully completing the purchase of a highly desirable property within a 45-day deadline. We accepted a gift of stock to cover the purchase price, completed an environmental inspection, and accepted the transfer of title for the land and building at 60 Westledge, all within the allocated time.
- Coordinating with a major land use consultant to donate its services in negotiating the value of the SLT's first agricultural conservation easement.
- Helping to negotiate and manage the phase purchase of the Tulmeadow Farm conservation easements.

T.J. took an active interest in the manner in which we handled SLT affairs, in how we expressed our mission, and in how we were being perceived by other segments of the community. He was quicker than most in offering constructive advice, most of which, at least as I recall, we followed. T.J. was an important member of the Simsbury Land Trust during an important time in its history. He made a significant difference then and will be missed going forward.



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
37. Diane Dreux Smith

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Simsbury Land Trust promotes high-rise housing — if you're a kestrel that is!

As part of the SLT's commitment to preserving wildlife habitat, we recently installed a kestrel nest box on the Wegner Preserve. A significant issue impacting the kestrel is habitat decline. Their preferred habitat is an open meadow and low grassland, but the reduction of agriculture, the regrowth of forests and overall development have diminished habitat and suitable nesting cavities. In 2015 the kestrel was moved to the Species of Special Concern list.

In 1977, Art Gingert began tirelessly working on the kestrels' behalf. He began building nest boxes, identifying suitable habitat and mounting them for the kestrels to breed. This program, called the American Kestrel Nest Box Program, began with only seven nest boxes at the Miles Wildlife Audubon Sanctuary. Today, there are more than 86 nest boxes in 26 towns in Connecticut. Not only are the boxes installed but they are closely monitored and studied, with banding and documentation done for research purposes.

Art and his son Dan (pictured) provided invaluable support to the SLT in assisting and guiding us with this effort, and we are hopeful we will host our first kestrel family next year.