



WINTER 2023 Landlines

SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

Since 1976

Working with Bluebirds

Doug Beach, SLT Member

Last spring, members of the Simsbury Land Trust, with invaluable assistance from longtime bluebird enthusiast Art Gingert, installed 16 nesting boxes at various land trust properties. Additionally, four boxes, donated by SLT, were installed at the town-owned Meadowood property off of Hoskins Road.

The Eastern Bluebird is a species that historically relied on tree cavities for nesting sites. Due to competition from invasive House Sparrows and European Starlings, the population of the bluebirds took a nosedive in the middle of the twentieth century. Thanks to intervention by bird lovers, the numbers rebounded significantly. Eastern Bluebirds continue to rely on their human advocates to provide nest boxes that supplement the naturally occurring tree cavities.

Locating bluebird boxes requires some forethought. For example, the Tree Swallow has nesting requirements similar to those of the bluebird, and competition between the two is inevitable. The solution is easy: put two nesting boxes side-by-side, approximately 20 feet apart, and let the swallows and bluebirds coexist as neighbors. Other considerations include the bluebirds' penchant for open areas that are away from wooded edges, not only to minimize competition from mice and forest-loving birds, but also to reduce the chance of predation by black bears.

The first year results of SLT's bluebird project are gratifying. Eight broods of Eastern Bluebirds, and three broods of Tree Swallows successfully fledged from the total of 20 nest boxes that were installed at Wagner Woods, Tanager Hill, Wegner, Case, Glover and Meadowood.

New boxes will be installed at suitable SLT properties this coming spring. SLT member Randy Dalton will continue with an ongoing experiment, using repellants against bear predation of the nest boxes. The preliminary results of Randy's work are encouraging. We will keep you posted as his efforts continue.



How to Be Good Trail Stewards and Neighbors

Bob Palmer, SLT Vice President

Simsbury Land Trust protects a wide variety of important parcels of open space in Simsbury that are open to the public for their enjoyment, and all of our properties have neighbors. From time-to-time issues come up and we would like to provide a little guidance for trail users and for our neighbors.

WELCOME HIKERS!

Our trails are open to the public, and we rely on everyone following the rules put in place for each preserve. While our primary purpose is protecting and conserving open space, we encourage the public to enjoy our trails. Each preserve has its own special features, some requiring different rules than others. Most of the trails have guidelines posted on the trail kiosk signs.

- Please hike only on established and marked trails. Creating or utilizing unauthorized trails causes damage to conservation areas.
- Leave no trace — remove all litter. Consider removing litter left behind by others.
- Dogs must be under control at all times. Please clean up after your pet. (Note — a few of our preserves require dogs on leash or don't allow dogs at all during nesting season.)
- No hunting.
- No bicycles or motorized vehicles (including e-bikes).
- No campfires or camping.
- Properties are open dawn to dusk.
- Please report any unsafe trail or property conditions to the SLT office.

(continued on page 2)



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Good Trail Stewards and Neighbors

(continued from page 1)

Our properties are maintained by our tremendous network of volunteer trail stewards. They spend hundreds of hours each year caring for all of our parcels. Please respect their hard work and make the trails enjoyable for everyone by following the guidelines.

HI NEIGHBOR!

Being a neighbor to a Simsbury Land Trust property has tremendous and obvious benefits and we rely heavily on our neighbors to assist us in managing our properties through their observation and reporting of trail and property conditions, or behaviors adversely affecting the property or bothersome to our property visitors. Neighbors are encouraged to contact the SLT office if they have any questions or concerns. We do our best to address these concerns promptly.

One of the more significant neighbor issues we encounter is encroachment. SLT periodically inspects the boundary lines of all its properties and the boundaries are, in most cases, well-marked with paint, placards and/or property pins. Occasionally, we find that a neighbor has expanded their lawn area by mowing, placing a fence or some other type of improvement, or is dumping yard and tree debris onto the adjacent SLT property. In most cases, the neighbor is unaware of the exact boundary line and the problem is easily resolved. If you are a neighbor and not certain where the boundary line is, please contact the SLT office as we have several knowledgeable volunteers who can assist you in determining the location.

SLT does not permit adjoining property owners to establish and maintain private trail access points as it potentially misdirects the public and it contradicts our conservation and stewardship goals. Please utilize the established trail heads to access SLT properties.

Unhealthy/dead trees located on the boundaries of SLT properties may pose a threat to adjacent properties. Neighbors who are concerned about the health of a tree located on SLT property should contact the SLT office so that we can evaluate the tree and determine a course of action.

Working together, we can maintain the important conservation features of Simsbury Land Trust preserves and trails while keeping them open to the public. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance!



ATTENTION HIKERS!

Many of our trails are located in neighborhoods, often situated next to or adjacent to homes. Trails can run behind people's backyard or next to their homes. Please be courteous when parking, taking care not to block driveways or access to homes. Also, remember voices and noises carry, so please only use trails during daylight hours and avoid disturbing neighbors.

Thank you!

Be A Good Neighbor

*If nothing moves in your landscape but a lawnmower,
it is time to think of designing a natural yard.*

— Rochelle Whiteman

When the leaves fall do you see bird nests in your trees and shrubs? Do you see pollinators nectaring in your flowerbeds? Do flocks of migrating birds stop by to feast on seed and berries in your yard before flying south in the fall? If not, it is time to add some life to your yard by putting out the welcome mat for our wild neighbors.

PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

To bring life to your garden, add native plants to your landscape. Native plants feed our local wildlife. To help you make the right plant selection, the University of Connecticut has published a *Connecticut Native Plant & Sustainable Landscaping Guide* that can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/46dz44tp>.

- Our local nurseries are carrying more and more native plants, especially **American Beauties**, a line of native plants grown in Connecticut. Nursery staff can offer advice and help you source the plants you need.
- Consider a trip to a nursery specializing in native plants:
 - > **Earth Tone** in Woodbury
 - > **Urbanscapes Native Plant Nursery** in New Haven
 - > **Native LLC** in Fairfield
 - > or Native Plant Trust's **Nasami Farm** in Whately, MA.
- Purchase plants this spring from the **North Central Conservation District's** annual plant sale and help fund their conservation programs. <https://conservect.org/northcentral/plant-seed-sale/>

THIRST COMES FIRST

Bird baths are not just for birds. Many wild animals and insects benefit from having ready access to clean water, especially during periods of drought and in the winter. The sound of running or dripping water is a magnet to most wildlife so consider adding a bubbler or fountain to your bird bath or water feature and a heater for the winter. And remember to empty the bird bath every three days to prevent mosquitos.

LEAVE THE LEAVES

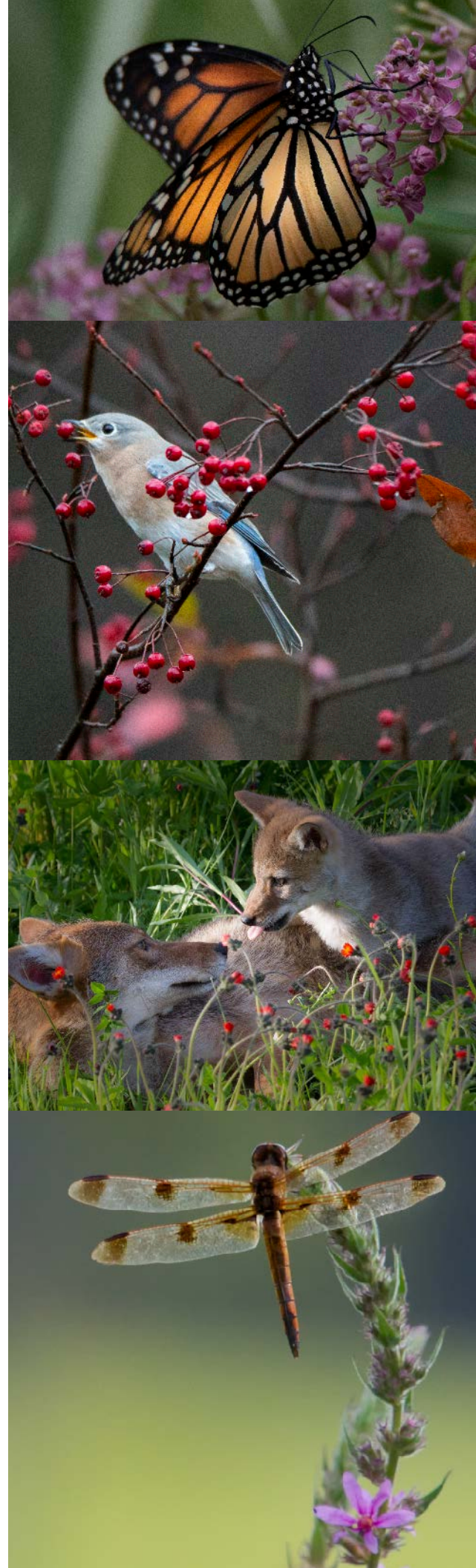
Mow fall leaves and rake them into flower beds, under shrubs or trees or, if you can, leave the leaves where they are. These leaves feed the insects (or detritivores) that decompose the leaves, turning them into soil enriching humus. These insects provide a horizontal bird feeder for ground feeding birds such as thrush and flickers.

DEAD WOOD

Winter and spring storms often result in the downing of trees or tree limbs. Rather than hauling it away, consider incorporating these materials into your garden beds. The decomposing wood hosts a multitude of insects and fungi that provide food and/or shelter to numerous birds, mammals, and amphibians.

TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!

Outdoor lighting has negative effects on many creatures, including amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants. New LED lighting, while using less electricity, is often in a blue spectrum that is most disruptive to wildlife. Use only fully shielded, dark sky friendly fixtures for all outdoor lighting so lights shine down, not up. Use only the right amount of light needed. Install timers and dimmer switches and turn off lights when not in use. Use motion sensors on security lighting. Use only lighting with a warmer color temperature (3000K and below). For more information on the impact of artificial lights on wildlife visit www.darksky.org.



Simsbury's Soggy Areas

Margery Winters, SLT President

You have accidentally wandered off trail and found yourself squelching through a wet and muddy area and you wonder where you are? Are you in a marsh, a swamp, a vernal pool, a wet meadow, a bog? Enquiring minds want to know.

Why so many different names and what exactly makes an area of wet land a wetland? A wetland is an ecosystem that is flooded or saturated by water, either permanently (for years or decades) or seasonally (for weeks or months). As a result of this ongoing seasonal or permanent flooding, oxygen-free (anoxic) soil conditions develop. These oxygen-poor soils have a somewhat unpleasant rotten egg smell. These wetland soils also look completely different than upland soils and Connecticut officially delineates wetlands based on specific wetland soil characteristics. Among the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems, wetlands are home to a wide range of plant and animal species. Only certain plants are adapted to grow in wetland soils and wetlands are classified based on their dominant plants as well as on their water source.

Here is a handy guide to help you identify which wetland your boot may be stuck in (it can get a little confusing as wetlands may transition spatially from one wetland type to another, making them especially difficult to classify — so good luck!):

If you are surrounded by trees and shrubs, you are in a **SWAMP**. Swamps are fed primarily by surface water drainage (streams) and are dominated by woody vegetation that can survive the very wet soils during the growing season and in standing water much of the year.

- *Part of SLT's Owen-Mortimer Preserve trail passes through a wooded swamp and the Knapp Preserve red maple swamp can be viewed off Hedgehog Road.*

Look down. Do you see tussocks of grass, skunk cabbage, cattails and other non-woody vegetation? If the ground does not bounce as you walk, you are in a **MARSH**. This type of wetland can be periodically saturated, flooded, or ponded with shallow water and characterized by non-woody plants (but no peat moss) that can grow in wet soil conditions. Marshes typically receive most of their water from streams as well as from floodwater, surface runoff, and ground water.

- *Penwood State Park has a boardwalk through a marsh along the white marked trail around Lake Louise.*

Have you hiked through this wildflower-filled meadow before but now your boot is stuck? You are in a **WET MEADOW**.

For most of the year wet meadows do not have standing water, though a high water table allows the soils in these poorly drained areas to remain saturated. A variety of water-loving grasses, sedges, rushes, and wetland wildflowers thrive in the highly fertile soil of wet meadows.

- *Wet meadows can be observed at the SLT's Glover, Tanager Hill and Case Preserves.*

If it is late winter, early spring, are you standing in a shallow pond? Do you hear the peeping or quacking? Do you see blobs of jelly-like eggs or small black tadpoles in the water? If it is summer or fall do you notice that the leaves in this depression are stained black? You are in a **VERNAL POOL**. These temporary wetlands fill with snowmelt and rainfall from winter to spring and may be completely dry for most of the summer and fall. As they are dry for part of the year, vernal pools do not support fish, making them an ideal breeding area for certain species of frogs whose mating calls can be heard on the first warm days of spring.

- *Vernal pools can be found on the Tanager Hill, Owen-Mortimer, and Wagner Woods Preserves.*



Although common in northern North England and Canada, bogs are far less common in Connecticut, and the SLT Bog Preserve is the only sizeable bog habitat in Simsbury. The southernmost sphagnum-heath bog in New England is the Beckley Bog, a sphagnum-heath-black spruce bog located near Norfolk in Litchfield County. Its peat moss is measured to be over 51 feet deep. It was declared a National Natural Landmark in May 1977. Other Connecticut bogs may be found in Salisbury, Bethany, Litchfield, and Chester.



Does the ground feel spongy? Do you bounce as you walk? Hopefully you are walking on, and haven't fallen through, the floating mat of spongy sphagnum / peat deposits known as a **BOG**. (Please note, however, how special it is to be stuck in a bog as it is the rarest of wetlands in Connecticut.) These moss wetlands are characterized by a unique assemblage of plants that can grow in their nutrient-poor, acidic waters. They are fed by precipitation and runoff and are usually found in glaciated areas of the northern United States.

- *A short hike along a glacial esker off North Saddle Ridge will take you to SLT's Bog Preserve and the elevated boardwalk that stretches out over the bog.*

Once your boot is unstuck, turn around and head to higher, firmer ground, happy with your new intimate knowledge of wetlands.



Trish Hazelwood: Twenty Years of Skilled Financial Oversight for SLT

How fortunate for us that 20 years ago Trish Hazelwood joined the staff of the Simsbury Land Trust! A certified public accountant with a B.S. in Accounting from LeMoyne College and a Masters in Finance from Long Island University, Trish brought her considerable skills and training to her position overseeing the daily financial operations of the SLT, the annual audit, and State reports. Simsbury Land Trust has benefited from her financial and budgetary oversight and guidance during a period in which SLT's assets increased from \$1.8 million to \$15.5 million.

She also manages the numerous financial and reporting obligations associated with the fundraising for, and the acquisition of, the SLT properties acquired during her tenure. In addition, Trish helps oversee SLT's membership, taking great care in making sure that each of our donors and members are properly thanked and recognized in the SLT Annual Report. Not a small task!

As with all small nonprofits, Trish has also assisted with any other duties that come her way, from fundraising and event planning to getting food, setting up tables and chairs and helping host SLT's many events.

What started as a small part-time job while her two children were in school has turned into a 20-year career helping preserve open space in Simsbury. Her dedication to the Simsbury Land Trust as well as her ready smile has made the 20 years fly by. Thank you, Trish!



Inside SLT's Efforts to Battle Invasive Plants

Merlin Ennis, Invasive Management Coordinator

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Tanager Hill is one of SLT's premier preserves. The 75-acre property has a network of trails that wind through fields, forests, and wetlands. It has beautiful views of the Metacomet Ridge and a ravine which Lucy Brook has carved through the brownstone bedrock, a natural hidden gem. I highly encourage you to take an afternoon to explore all that it has to offer.

As you walk along the trails you may catch a glimpse of deer, bobcats, bears, and other wildlife as they pass through, as well as lush vegetation on either side of the trails. Unfortunately, much of this vegetation consists of non-native invasive plants. In fact, out of all of SLT's properties, Tanager Hill has the highest density of invasive plants. These include Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, mugwort, autumn olive, and oriental bittersweet. These species outcompete native shrubs and tree seedlings, which hinders forest regeneration, lowers biodiversity, lowers the quality of habitat and food for insects and animals, and harms the current and future health of the forest. Japanese barberry even poses public health risks since it harbors high populations of ticks that can spread Lyme disease.

There are many reasons invasives now cover our landscape. Some were brought here for their ornamental beauty and simply escaped from backyards into the wild. Other invasives were brought to the United States through purposeful, well-intentioned action. For example, multiflora rose was promoted by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as a "living fence" for animal pastures, a good solution for erosion control, and food and habitat for native animals. Regardless of how they got here, invasives have established themselves in our landscapes. Unfortunately, an invasive-free Connecticut, or even Simsbury, is practically impossible. Seeds will continue to spread; however, there are steps that can be taken to improve the situation.

SLT recently began its largest invasive management project to date. A 6-acre area of Tanager Hill that was severely overgrown with Japanese barberry and multiflora rose thickets was selected for the invasive removal project. The first phase began in October 2022. We hired a contractor to use a forestry mulcher, a skid steer with an 8-foot rotating drum with teeth, to grind up the majority of the invasives, while taking care to avoid the few native plants and trees. The plant's energy stored in the roots will allow them to resprout in the spring, but this phase created access to the 6-acre area for planting acorns, hickory nuts, and spreading native wildflower and grass seeds. The second phase of the project will take place this summer. Any resprouted invasives will be spot treated with herbicide to fully kill the plant. Continued monitoring of the site will stop any plants from recolonizing in the future.

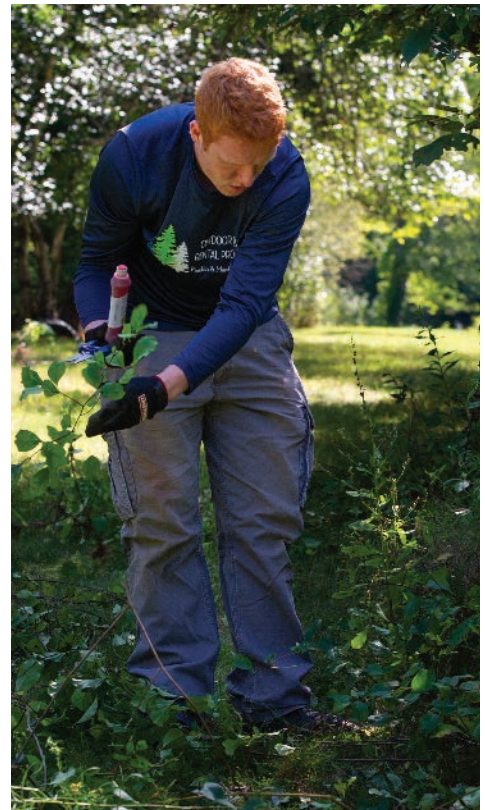
These species outcompete native shrubs and tree seedlings, which hinders forest regeneration, lowers biodiversity, lowers the quality of habitat and food for insects and animals, and harms the current and future health of the forest.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

One of the best ways that you can help SLT and the native ecosystems in Simsbury is to remove any invasive plants that are growing on your own property and replace them with natives. Seeds produced by these ornamental plants are carried by birds and other animals, the wind, and humans out of our backyards and into the forest where they spread unchecked. By removing invasives from your yard the seed sources will be reduced, decreasing the chances that they might spread to conservation areas.

You may be wondering: What invasives are in my yard? How do I identify them? What is the best way to remove invasives on a small scale? The good news is one of the best tools for identifying invasives is probably in your pocket right now. There are many apps that only require a picture to identify a plant. I would recommend Seek by iNaturalist. Simply snap a picture of a plant and the app will show you what is or isn't native. Removal is a bit trickier. Some plants require different action than others and you should research what is best for each plant or hire a landscaper who is knowledgeable on the subject. For most plants, removing or killing all of the root system is key. This can be done by hand pulling plants, using a mattock or shovel to dig plants out. If you are comfortable using herbicide, cut the stem and apply a small amount of herbicide to the stump to ensure the plant does not resprout. Make sure that plants are left to dry out on an elevated surface. Do not dispose of invasive plants in your compost or elsewhere on your property where they can resprout. Instead, place plant material in plastic bags and allow to rot in sunny location for several weeks before disposing of them in the trash.

While organizations like SLT work to remove invasives on a large scale, individuals can make powerful impacts to improve our native ecosystems for the future through many smaller actions.



Before



After

Before and after of the area that was forestry mulched in October 2022. The light green vegetation in the understory of the before picture is predominantly multiflora rose and Japanese barberry, both extremely invasive shrubs.

For even more extensive resources on invasive plants Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group's (CIPWG) website (https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/) offers great resources for identification and removal methods. If you have any questions email merlinennis12@gmail.com.

Common invasives in Connecticut:

- Japanese barberry
- Multiflora rose
- Winged euonymus
- Oriental bittersweet
- Autumn olive
- Mugwort
- Garlic mustard
- Japanese stilt grass
- Japanese knot weed
- Tree of heaven



The forestry mulcher that was used to top kill the invasives on SLT's Tanager Hill property.



Love hiking? SLT is looking for a few volunteers to help lead hikes! Contact the office for more information.

Hiking with Simsbury Land Trust

Michele Knierim and Katie Lauder, SLT Board



Recently more research has emerged supporting two things: exercise is good for us and being outside in nature is good for us. What better way to address these two things than to go for a hike! How lucky we are to live in a town that has preserved land, a variety of ecosystems and well-maintained hiking trails.

Volunteers do an amazing job of maintaining miles of trails on SLT land. These volunteers build bridges, clear trees, remove invasive plants, reroute unsafe trails, clean up trash and report damages.

SLT offers group led hikes in Simsbury and surrounding towns. This year, the SLT has a goal of offering more hikes to more people. The goal of this is simply to allow people to use our trails safely, choose an activity that is healthy for their body, and increase awareness of the SLT's presence and mission.

SLT also has a goal of fostering the love of the outdoors in the next generation. Through a partnership with the Simsbury Public Library, the SLT has been able to collaborate on activities and increase awareness of all the events and trails the we offer. Over the past three years the SLT has also offered a 12-hike challenge which results in a prize if completed. In addition, we have a 6-hike challenge for children, with a free baseball cap for completing the challenge. Many families have completed the challenge together. To help with the process, there is a kids hike and activity guide available on our website. If you would like a hard copy, please email azeiner@simsburylandtrust.org to get your copy. The Simsbury Walkbook and our new maps are also available for download.

Simsbury Land Trust has several excellent hike leaders who volunteer their time to scout out, plan and lead hikes, but we are always looking for more hike leaders. If you are interested in becoming a hike leader, please contact the office. If you are interested in joining a group hike, check out our website, sign up to be on the email list and follow us on social media. We hope to see you on the trails



Upcoming Hikes and Programs — sign up for our email newsletter for up-to-date information on scheduled events. Sign up on our website <http://www.simsburylandtrust.org>

Planned Giving

Ted Almy, SLT Board

One of the greatest ways you can help protect Simsbury's scenic vistas, farmlands and native habitats is to support the Simsbury Land Trust's work through a planned gift.

There are many ways to include a generous future gift to the Simsbury Land Trust in your plans, each with unique benefits to you, the donor. Planned gifts are so named because they are thoughtfully planned as part of the donor's overall financial and estate planning. You will want to consult with your financial and legal advisors when making a planned gift, as the Simsbury Land Trust is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory services.

Wills and Trusts

The most frequently used planned giving instruments are wills and trusts. Through a will or trust, you may specify the assets you would like to leave the Simsbury Land Trust by creating a bequest. Then, after your lifetime, your estate can take a charitable deduction for the full amount of your bequest. Simsbury Land Trust accepts almost any kind of asset through a bequest, including cash, securities, real estate, or retirement plans.

Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs)

A CRT is an irrevocable trust that allows you to make a deferred charitable gift and receive an income tax deduction in the year in which the trust is established. A CRT actually provides for and maintains two sets of beneficiaries. The first set are the income beneficiaries (you and, if married, a spouse). Income beneficiaries receive a set percentage of income for the life of the trust. The second set of beneficiaries is the non-profit you name. They receive the principal of the trust when the trust terminates, typically when the income beneficiaries pass away.

Retirement Funds

Whether you participate in an employer 401(k)/403(B) or an individual retirement account (IRA), you may find you've accumulated retirement savings beyond your needs for comfortable support of yourself and heirs.

Retirement funds may be subject to two forms of taxation. Generally, the undistributed balance of qualified retirement plans is fully includable in your gross estate for estate tax purposes. Since the funds in retirement accounts usually represent deferred compensation that has not been subject to income tax, giving the accounts to individual heirs also exposes this money to income taxes. Your retirement dollars can be seriously depleted by this double taxation. When the Simsbury Land Trust or the Richard Davis Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is named as the beneficiary, you can avoid both forms of these taxes.

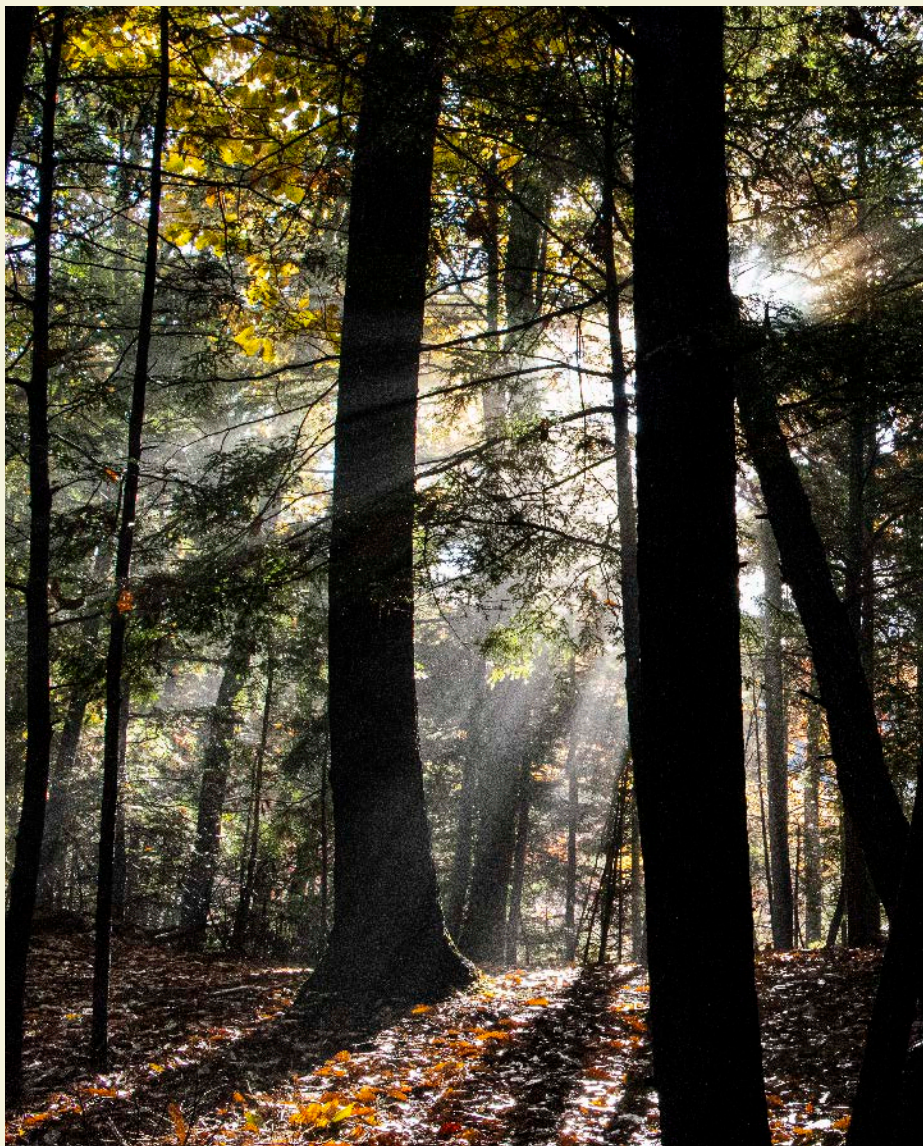
Life Insurance Policies

Consider gifting a life insurance policy to the SLT. If you no longer need all the life insurance coverage you purchased years ago, you might think about it as an asset you could give to the Simsbury Land Trust. This is an easy way to make a large gift with little cost and several benefits to yourself.

- Save taxes this year if you transfer ownership of a policy that has a cash surrender value.
- If you continue to pay the premiums, those payments are deductible as charitable gifts.
- Remove the value of the life insurance from your taxable estate.

For More Information

See if one of these tax-deductible planned gifts is right for you. To learn more about how you can make a lasting investment in Simsbury please contact your tax advisor or financial planner.



It's membership renewal time!

Katie French, SLT Board

SLT members are our lifeline. Every acre of land we protect and every trail we build is due to the generosity of our members. Simsbury Land Trust relies on member support to save open space, care for our properties and connect people to the outdoors. The result? Beautiful areas filled with open space, teeming with native plants and animals, and strong communities with countless opportunities to spend time in nature.

Your membership support today will save precious land for tomorrow. Become a member today!

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

The Walkbook

Simsbury Land Trust has over 25 miles of trails for you to hike and explore. Trails range from 1/4 mile to several miles, flat to hilly terrain. Visit our website to download your free copy today. New members receive a copy of The Walkbook when joining.

Updated trail maps

Most of the SLT properties in The Walkbook have been mapped using the Avenza map app to make your hiking experience more enjoyable. See where you are in real time using the app or print a hard copy of the updated map from our website.

Dirty Boots Kids Club

The Dirty Boots Kids Club Trail Maps and Activity Guide is great for kids ages 3–10. Trail maps, coloring, fun facts and more — available free of charge. Visit our website to download your free copy today, or contact azeiner@simsburylandtrust.org to request your copy.

Guided Hikes

SLT offers more than 12 guided hikes a year, most in Simsbury, some in the surrounding communities. Our monthly hiking club offers hikes for those looking to hike with the same group of people on a more regular basis. We offer hikes for families as well as those for more advanced hikers. Sign up on our website to receive notifications of hikes and activities.

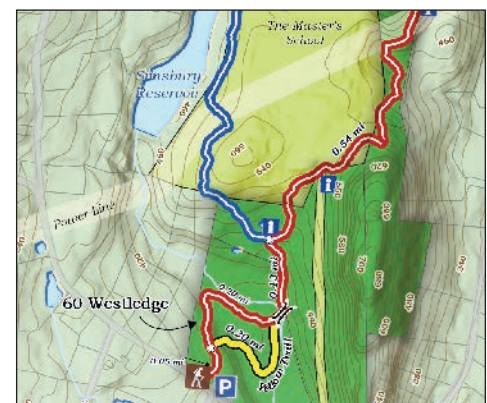
Lectures and Programs

Our education programs provide an opportunity for interested individuals to watch documentary films and discuss with experts, or listen to a talk from an area speaker of interest. We recently added book talks and discussions to our list of activities. These are free of charge and usually take place in the Simsbury Public Library.

We need your support. Please consider joining or renewing today.

Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at www.simsburylandtrust.org.

Thank you!



Join us for our Annual Membership Dinner!

We are happy to bring back our annual dinner. Join us for an evening of music, fun, food, friends and a little education about wildlife from Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse of UConn.

Thursday, April 13, 2023 • 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. • The Simsbury Inn

Wildlife Out Your Window: the story of how bobcats, cottontails, and mallards live in your exurban neighborhood.

Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse is an Associate Professor at UConn in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and is the director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center. Tracy and her students study where wild animals live, how they travel through habitats, and why some wildlife population increase while others are extirpated or reduced to low abundance levels in forests that are intermixed with urban development. Here in Connecticut, neighborhoods are home to both people and wild animals. You may be surprised to learn when and where these species thrive in urbanized landscapes. <https://tracyrittenhouse.weebly.com/>

**Cost for hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, coffee, and entertainment:
\$70 SLT Members / \$75 Non-members**

NOTE: Cash bar

6:00 p.m. — Reception

Garden crudite with dips
Continental cheese display
Chef's choice hand passed hors d'oeuvres

7:00 p.m. — Plated Dinner Service

Fresh berries & spinach salad – baby spinach, candied pecans, feta,
seasonal berries with honey poppy vinaigrette
Warm rolls with butter

Choice of one:

- > Parmesan crusted chicken with roasted baby potatoes and julienne vegetables
- > Risotto with mushrooms, asparagus and roasted tomatoes

Rustic apple tarte with house made whipped cream

Coffee, tea or decaf coffee

8:00 p.m.— Wildlife Out Your Window presentation



SKY 
INVESTMENT GROUP

Speaker and musician sponsored
by SKY Investment Group

Yes, I (we) would like to attend the Annual Membership Dinner.

Name _____

Tables of 8 can be reserved in advance. Names of those attending with you:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$70.00 members / \$75.00 non-members

Amount enclosed: _____

Dinner selection: ☐ Chicken ☐ Risotto

R.S.V.P. by March 27

Mail check to Simsbury Land Trust • P.O. Box 634 • Simsbury, CT 06070

Or sign up online at our website <http://www.simsburylandtrust.org>.



Preserving Simsbury Open Space Since 1976

SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 634 | Simsbury, CT 06070

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 158

Take the SLT 12-Hike Challenge!

Time to get outside and explore the many places to hike in Simsbury. 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!
- Take 12 of the hikes found in the The Walkbook or any SLT-sponsored hikes.
- Keep track of your hikes — date and location.
- 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.

SLT 6-Hike Children's Challenge

Don't forget the kids!

Visit our website to sign up for the 6-Hike Challenge. Free kids size baseball cap for those completing the challenge. This is a great way to get the whole family outside.

To get a free copy of the Dirty Boots Kids Club activity book scan the QR code at right or visit our website today!

