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#### CONTENTS

- 1 Letter from the President
- 2 Thank You, Amy!
- 3 Welcome Amanda
- 4 Beetles Combat Woolly Adelgid
- 6 Stewardship
- 7 Conservation
- 8 Financial Highlights
- 9 Membership
- 10 A Few of Our Favorite Places

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Incoming Executive Director

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Many thanks to our photographers: Danielle D'Ermo, Katie Piccirillo, Bob Shea, Brett Sloan

# A Grateful and Fond Farewell!

It seems like yesterday that my dad helped me clean out the old hair salon above Dr. Hampton's office in Simsbury to make room for the new SLT office!

Starbucks is there now. My kids were in elementary school, and I was anxious, but excited, about returning to the workforce. I couldn't have picked a better job!

I've had the pleasure of working for the Simsbury Land Trust for 23 years. It has been the most rewarding and satisfying job, allowing me to meet and work with a diverse group of smart, hardworking and generous



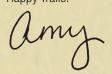
board members, volunteers and members. My job would not have been possible without their support. Working along with Dick Davis, Chuck Howard, Fred Feibel and Margery Winters as presidents made the work easy, with each bringing their own skills and focus to the work we did. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the support and friendship from my long-time (and now retired) co-worker Trish Hazelwood. We accomplished a lot as a team!

Our work made a difference, leaving over 1,100 acres of beautiful open spaces permanently protected. We added many preserves during the past 23 years, but I think our biggest accomplishment was protecting Rosedale Farms, Tulmeadow Farm and George Hall/Pharos Farms — our town wouldn't look the same without them.

While my work as an executive director is ending, you will still find me at SLT events and programs, and of course hiking on our trails. I am confident that I am leaving the SLT in good hands with Amanda Thompson and Liz Cushman now leading the way.

Thank you for your part, big or small, in making my job so professionally and personally rewarding.

Happy Trails!



## Letter from the President

In organizations as in life, there is nothing permanent except change. After 23 years, our dedicated Executive Director Amy Zeiner is retiring. She leaves SLT well-organized and thriving, ready for our new director, Amanda Thompson, to step right in and continue the tasks vital to the day-to-day operation of the SLT. We invite you to read our heartfelt thank you to Amy and our welcome to Amanda in this issue. Our Director of Finance and Membership, Liz Cushman, who joined the SLT in 2023, has brought her computer skills to bear and brought us into the world of online banking, streamlining our already excellent accounting practices.

Over the past few years SLT stepped back from the fast pace of property acquisitions, but once again we are actively

exploring an exciting opportunity to acquire additional property. Stay tuned for more news on that.

One thing that remains unchanged, however, is our dedication to the stewardship of our preserves. As a consequence of a very wet spring, the Trails Committee has been extraordinarily busy clearing an impressive number of fallen trees from trails as well as repairing aging

boardwalks and installing new signage. The Habitat Committee has been planting native shrubs and removing invasive plants

from our preserves to help reset the habitats to an ecologically healthier state. We wish to thank the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee for their financial support for invasive plant management on Tanager Hill and Owen-Mortimer preserves. We have had the assistance and financial support of the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club and local Eagle Scouts in developing new native plant areas near the Tanager Hill parking area. And our newly formed Invasive Plant Removal Group has been hard at work at the Wagner Woods, Tanager Hill, and Glover preserves and we would welcome additional volunteers to help with this ongoing task. By now each of you should have received our new SLT's Invasive Plant Guide Book, which we hope you will find useful



We continue to focus on those things that help SLT fulfill its mission to protect those areas that visually define Simsbury's sense of place, and which provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants.

in identifying and removing these plants from your own properties. As always, any invasives you remove from your yard makes it easier to control these harmful plants in our preserves (and vice versa).

Our Education and Recreation Committee has continued to offer our members and the public a wide variety of opportunities for us all to learn about and to appreciate the value of our preserves, our local ecosystem, and our

heritage. We have partnered with other groups such as Simsbury Pollinator Pathways, Simsbury Conservation Commission, and the Simsbury Open Space Committee to bring many of these programs to an even wider public audience.

In short, we continue to focus on those things that help the Simsbury Land Trust fulfill its mission to protect those areas that visually define Simsbury's sense of place, and which provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants. We can only do all this with the help of our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and members.

We thank you for your unchanging support!

Margery Winters

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## Thank You, Amy!

With her retirement this year from her position as SLT Executive Director, Amy Zeiner can look back on an outstanding series of accomplishments. When she was hired for this position 23 years ago, SLT was a small organization with

a very small operating budget.

Drawing upon her degree in marketing as well as her volunteer experience in other organizations in town, her creativity, good sense, boundless energy, people skills, and her sense of what the membership wanted and needed, Amy helped grow the Simsbury Land Trust and transform it into the thriving organization it is today.

During Amy's tenure, SLT experienced a nearly four-fold increase in its holdings from 270 acres to 1,100 acres, which include 25 miles of managed trails, and the number of properties doubled from 17 to 35 parcels. The capital campaigns for the

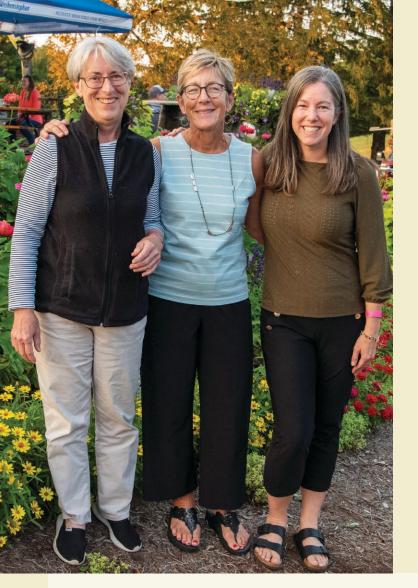
majority of these acquisitions involved numerous fundraising events, large and small, personal outreach, management of grants and numerous committees, donor relations, as well as the development of marketing materials. Amy has overseen the

editing and publishing of countless issues of SLT's Landlines and annual reports, as well as the editing and publishing (and republishing) of the much appreciated and used Simsbury Walkbook, the Dirty Boots Kids Club Activity Guide, and recently, the SLT Invasive Plant Guide Book. She initiated the development and then the revamping of SLT's website

as well as new kiosk signage for our major preserves. All of these communications bear the hallmarks of her creative ideas and high standards.

Amy was always on the lookout for new fundraising opportunities and marketing ideas. Two such examples were her popular Simburyopoly board game fundraiser and the popular Green Scenes film series. Amy has arranged countless events such as our annual dinners and business meetings, the President's Circle and stewardship/volunteer thank you events. She was an excellent communicator with membership mailings, personal notes to members and donors, numerous emails to board members, stewards, volunteers and the public to make sure all were on track. And we cannot forget the food — no one goes hungry at an SLT event or meeting that Amy organized. With her organizational skills, Amy made it all seem so effortless. And all of this she accomplished in 10–15 hours a week (officially that is!).

On behalf of the Board, our volunteers, and our members, I want to express our gratitude to Amy for her tremendous service to the SLT. We were extraordinarily fortunate as an organization that she chose to devote her energies and talents to the SLT. I am happy to report that Amy is not moving and taking away her wealth of knowledge and experience. She has promised to continue to offer her talents to SLT as she enjoys her retirement with her husband Larry, her two sons and daughters-in-law, and grandsons. Thank you, Amy, for everything you have done for us all at the SLT. You will be missed.



## Welcome Amanda!

As Amy was contemplating her upcoming retirement, she was keeping her eyes open for her possible replacement. She found the ideal candidate — Amanda Thompson — and the board concurred. A native of Minnesota, Amanda started to volunteer for her local land trust after moving to East Granby. Amanda has spent the last 15 years on the board of East Granby Land Trust organizing educational programs and outreach. She currently serves as the president of the newly formed Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy, which was the result of the merger of the East Granby, Bloomfield and West Hartford land trusts. When she is not doing land conservation work she also works with local Scout Troop 175 getting kids excited about camping and the outdoors. She also serves as a selectperson for East Granby.

Amanda brings a strong appreciation for the work done by land trusts, a knowledge of environmental issues, and the ability to lead volunteers. SLT is excited to have Amanda on our staff and we hope you will get to meet her soon at an upcoming event. We are sure you will be as impressed by Amanda as we are.

I have spent the last 15 years falling in love with the Farmington Valley through conservation work, camping, hiking, canoeing and biking. I had no idea when I moved here from Minnesota that I would have access to so much untouched open space. Seeing all the preserved land gave me a deep appreciation for the conservation efforts that have happened over many decades and I have a strong sense of duty to carry on those efforts. Simsbury Land Trust has done an outstanding job making conservation a priority and it is an honor to try to fill Amy's shoes. I am impressed by the commitment of the staff, the donors and the volunteers who work with the Simsbury Land Trust and I know I will rely on all of you to keep growing this great organization. I am thankful to the Board of Trustees for giving me the opportunity to help promote conservation in Simsbury and I look forward to getting to know everyone as I work with the committees, stewards and attend events. Please introduce yourselves when we meet and tell me about what work you do with SLT or why you are a member. I love hearing the many reasons people support conservation.

— Amanda Thompson, Incoming Executive Director



# Lady Beetles Released to Combat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

— Susan Van Kleef, SLT Board

Eastern hemlocks grow abundantly on many Simsbury Land Trust preserves and on other open space properties in and around town. Hemlocks often grow next to streams where they are a keystone species that provides valuable ecosystem services.

Dense foliage on hemlocks provides shade which cools stream water allowing the water to hold more oxygen. Oxygenated water increases the biodiversity of streams by increasing the number of species of insect larvae, which are food for fish and other animals. Dense foliage on hemlocks slows the rate of falling precipitation which prevents nutrient and sediment runoff into streams. Hemlock roots prevent soil erosion into streams.

Hemlocks are important sources of food and shelter for wildlife. Their seeds feed red squirrels, mice, voles and birds. New needle growth provides food for deer. Hemlock branches provide bird nesting sites while deer, turkey, grouse, rabbits, porcupines and other animals live in hemlock stands. During the summer hemlocks provide cooling and during the winter they provide shelter from wind.

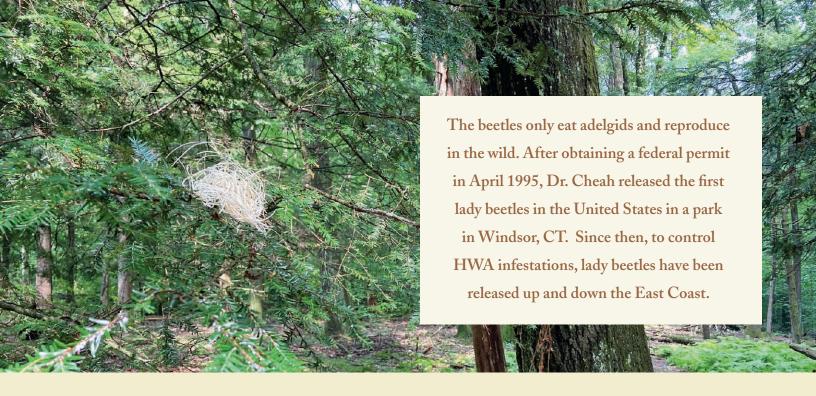
Large, slow-growing, long-living hemlocks mitigate climate



change by storing carbon in their wood, needles and surrounding soil through photosynthesis, keeping it out of the atmosphere where the carbon would absorb heat.

Unfortunately, a non-native, invasive insect, the aphid-like hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), threatens Eastern hemlocks. It is suspected that HWA were accidentally released near Richmond, Virginia in the early 20th century from imported Japanese hemlocks. By 1951, HWA were observed in the wild near Richmond. They are now found from Georgia to Canada and west to Michigan. HWA are easy to spot on the undersides of hemlock branches because they lay cottony, white egg sacs,





at the base of the needles. HWA infestations can also cause hemlock trees to appear grayish rather than a healthy deep green. When the HWA hatch, they suck carbohydrate-rich liquid from the needles, which weakens and slowly kills trees within four to 15 years. Weakened trees become susceptible to other pests, such as non-native elongate-hemlock scale, which can hasten their decline. Droughts, such as the three Connecticut experienced in 2016, 2020 and 2022, stress hemlocks and further hasten the decline of already weakened trees.

Climate change affects the spread of HWA. The spread of HWA north from Virginia was initially slowed by cold winter temperatures but now warming temperatures, caused by anthropogenic climate change, facilitate the northern spread of HWA. The occasional influx of sub-zero arctic air from a polar vortex, even for a few hours, may kill up to 90% of HWA and give hemlock trees a reprieve until the HWA population rebounds. Winter temperatures this low are now rare in Connecticut. More droughts are predicted as temperatures increase so hemlocks will be under increased stress from lack of water.

Fortunately, there are several methods for controlling the spread of HWA. Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap applications are effective for single or small groups of hemlocks but are impractical for large stands of hemlocks. Dr. Carole Cheah, from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has been studying the effect of HWA on Eastern hemlocks for over 25 years. She targets the HWA with a tiny, 2mm lady beetle, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, native to Japan. In Japan, HWA does not kill hemlocks because the lady beetles suppress population growth. The beetles only eat adelgids and reproduce in the

wild. After obtaining a federal permit in April 1995, Dr. Cheah released the first lady beetles in the United States in a park in Windsor, CT. Since then, to control HWA infestations, lady beetles have been released up and down the East Coast. Data collected by Dr. Cheah, from trees at original release sites, show trees that had heavy infestations of HWA survived and are still healthy today. The lady beetles are mass-bred by Tree-Savers, in Pennsylvania.

During the past two years, the SLT has released lady beetles on five SLT preserves where hemlocks are heavily infested by HWA. This effort has been part of a broader regional effort with several sources of funding from the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Simsbury Land Trust and generous discounts from Tree-Savers. Dr. Cheah identified sites with HWA-infested hemlocks. Dr. Cheah and volunteers released hundreds of lady beetles at the following SLT preserves: Tanager Hill, Wagner Woods, the Bog, Cathles and 60 Westledge. Lady beetles were also released at Stratton Brook State Park, Town Forest Park, Ethel Walker Woods, Darling Hills, Belden Forest, the McLean Game Refuge and Farmington River Park in Bloomfield.

Carole Cheah and SLT volunteers will monitor the health of our hemlocks by watching for new bright green healthy needles in the spring and early summer and healthy green needles higher up the trees. As you walk on Simsbury Land Trust preserves or in other Eastern forests, stop to feel the cool temperature provided by a hemlock grove and think about how the forest would change without these important long-living trees.

# Keeping Our Trails Safe and Beautiful

— Tom Crawford, SLT Board and Stewardship Chair

Our stewardship team has been hard at work this year, ensuring our trails remain clear and accessible, especially after many recent storms brought down large trees again this year. Thanks to the vigilant efforts of our 30+ stewards and community members, we receive timely updates on trail conditions and photos of fallen trees. A dedicated crew of ten volunteers then steps in to clear about 50-60 trees annually across our 25 miles of trails, saving SLT thousands in labor costs.

With generous support from membership donations, we provided chainsaw training, safety gear and maintenance supplies to these volunteers, ensuring their work is safe and effective. Our approach leaves part of the tree intact to create natural habitats, balancing trail access with environmental stewardship.

Beyond tree clearing, our team has also upgraded trail signage, kiosks, boardwalks and benches. Membership contributions provide the necessary funding, allowing us to invest in high quality materials, ensuring these improvements stand the test of time, providing a better experience for visitors and saving resources in the long run. We appreciate this financial support from our members.

My thanks to our dedicated volunteer stewards and preserve monitors for all their hard work!





# Enhancing the Biodiversity of our Preserves

— Fred Feibel, SLT Board and Conservation Chair

Simsbury Land Trust's conservation group had another busy year planning and executing projects, enhancing the biodiversity of our wonderful preserves. Most of our efforts have been directed toward invasive plant removal, with some planting, seeding and interesting side projects thrown in.

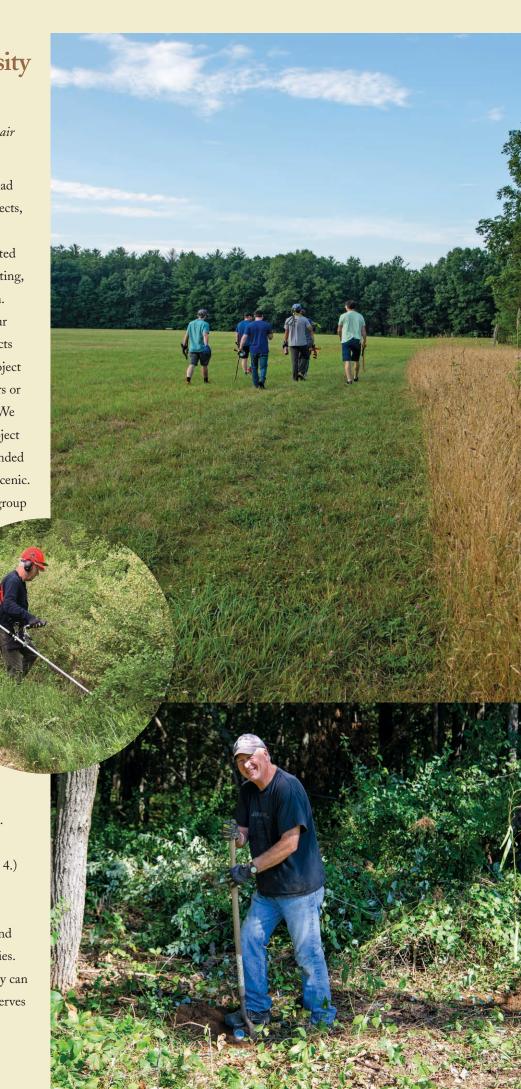
The amount of invasive work needed on our preserves can be daunting. We prioritize projects based on immediacy of threat, scope of the project and whether it can be undertaken by volunteers or is more appropriate as a professional project. We are currently completing a forest mulching project on Owen-Mortimer that has been partially funded by a grant from Farmington River Wild and Scenic. This year our newly formed invasive removal group

has worked on many projects, mainly at Tanager Hill and Wagner Woods.

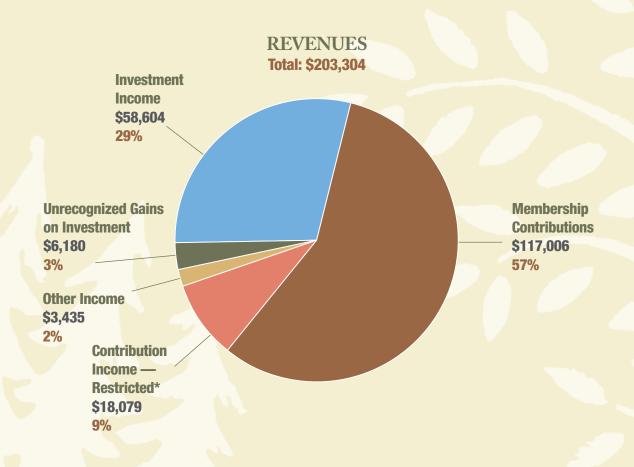
The field edges at Wagner Woods have been cleared to the point that we've been able to plant a variety of native shrubs. This group meets regularly, and new members are always welcome.

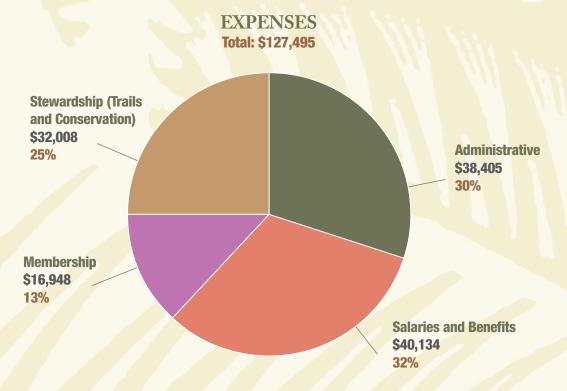
Perhaps our most
interesting project has been the
release of lady beetles that eat the
Hemlock Woolly Adelgids that have been
devastating hemlock trees across the northeast.
We are looking forward to seeing the results.
(See the related article on lady beetles on page 4.)

Recently we printed and mailed our own
Invasive Plant Guide Book to each Simsbury
household to aid homeowners in identifying and
removing invasive plants on their own properties.
We encourage everyone to volunteer when they can
to help us improve the biodiversity of our preserves
and battle invasives.



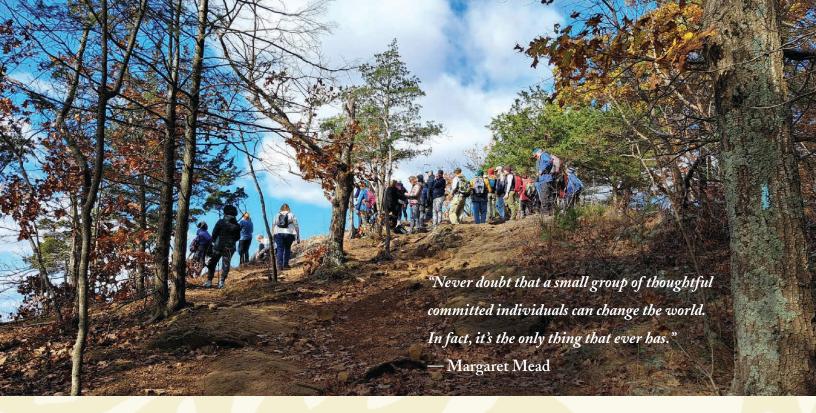
# 2024 Financial Highlights





<sup>\*</sup>Restricted contribution income is funds donated to The Richard A. Davis Endowment Fund held at The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Note: Full financial statements are available upon request.



# Membership

— Amanda Thompson, SLT Executive Director

Simsbury Land Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect scenic vistas, geological features and farmland that visually define Simsbury's character and provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants. Our goal is to consistently craft, support and implement creative land conservation solutions for the benefit of present and future generations.

# As a member, you have probably read the mission many times. So what does it actually mean?

- It means there are approximately 25 miles of trails to hike and 35 permanently protected preserves for you to enjoy.
- It means when climbing to the pinnacle on the eastern ridge
  of Simsbury, or hiking along the ridge of the West Mountain
  Trails, you can look out just below you and further across the
  valley at protected farmland, wetlands and forests.
- It means that when you walk fields on our preserved lands, like Tanager Hill and Wagner Woods, you might see an elusive bird like the Hooded Warbler or a more common one like an Indigo Bunting.
- It means you can continue to enjoy Eastern Hemlocks in the forest because of SLT's work to naturally combat pests that feed on hemlocks like the Woolly Adelgid.
- It means that we will continue to battle to control the invasive plants on our preserve, and educate the public about the value of native plants.

- It means that there is space in Simsbury for our wildlife to exist, which is fun for us to enjoy viewing but is also good for our environmental health and our mental health.
- It means that your membership is important and appreciated.

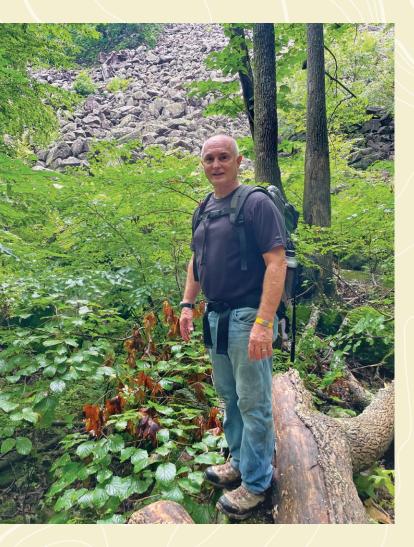
Simsbury Land Trust's work is for the benefit of everyone today and for the generations to come. Since 1976, we have been working to protect wildlife habitats and the beauty and rural character of our community. We need your help to invest in conservation and we hope you see that it is a worthy cause.

In addition to your membership, SLT welcomes your help as a volunteer. Consider working on an invasive species removal project, as a steward, leading a hike, or coordinating an educational program.

We rely on your membership donations to fund the work supporting our mission.

Please consider renewing today.

## A Few of Our Favorite Places



## A Little Bit of New Hampshire in West Simsbury

#### - Mel Wolpert, SLT Steward

One of my favorite places on the West Mountain Trails is the talus slope within and just south of the Cathles Preserve along the blue trail. Here you have an entire hillside of traprock boulders that have broken off the bedrock spine of West Mountain. Its size is humbling and reminiscent of landscapes I have seen much farther north in New England. In fact, my first thought was, "Am I in New Hampshire?" It didn't seem to belong in West Simsbury!

I like to think about the geologic processes that formed the ridge all those eons ago and the subsequent weathering and frost wedging that split such sturdy rock. I like to think about the animals that use this landscape for their dens and wonder how many porcupines, foxes or other mammals call this home. And I'm especially drawn to the trees and vegetation that have managed to get a toe hold in such a rocky place. I have seen a significant increase in the number of trees and shrubs colonizing this slope over the past 25 years or so and imagine that it may eventually fill up with soil and dead organic matter to become a forest landscape again.

#### **A Peaceful Place**

#### - Bob Shea, SLT Steward

Jim Ray walked down the road at Wagner Woods with me after he talked me into helping trim some trees in 2016. No one suspected he wouldn't be with us by 2018. This year walking down that road was like walking on a bed of crunchy lumps. The white pines



conspired together to make more pinecones than I have ever seen in a single year. Jim would have photographed it better than I can.

Wagner Woods is surrounded by our residential town, but feels isolated. After wandering down that road in the forest you come to a few acres of open space and a reminder that a working hay field is a sight to behold. Even though the Tuller family only cuts the hay once or twice a year, the fields are producing all year long. In the spring the grass seems to jump to shoulder height overnight. The bluebirds, swallows and other birds take advantage of the insects in the grass, and it's a joy to watch them soaring over the fields. Then it's a shock to see it cut short, even though it's still growing for the next season.

I usually stop at the benches dedicated to Roger Preston and Jim Ray. A little time outdoors in a peaceful place just feels right. Thanks for introducing me to the Simsbury Land Trust, Jim.



#### **A Showcase for the Seasons**

#### — Christine Fleming, SLT Steward

For a short hike on a Simsbury Land Trust preserve, make your way to The Bog in West Simsbury. I love the quiet walk along the esker. The tree canopies protect you from the hot sun, rain and even falling

snow. At the end of the esker you descend a little hill and find the wooden boardwalk and observation platform. The wooden walkway is my favorite part of the property. It curves and meanders as you walk to the end and find yourself a seat, surrounded by the bog. The platform is an idyllic place



to sit and admire the panoramic view of the ever changing bog. All seasons showcase the vibrant colors of the bog vegetation and the surrounding hills of West Mountain.





## **Fostering a Love for Nature**

#### - Michele Knierim, SLT Board

I first became involved with the Simsbury Land Trust as a steward on the Rosedale Farms trail. This trail offers a perfect blend of gentle hiking and stunning scenery, making it an ideal place to bring my two young children. They were always thrilled to explore the well-maintained path, eagerly looking for animal footprints along the way. As they got older, it became a favorite spot to bring friends, excited

to show them the bridge and the river and bees at the end of the trail. We also enjoy the sunflower maze and corn maze each year, which adds an extra layer of fun to our visits. One winter, my daughter got her first taste of stewardship by helping to repair the bridge, an experience that was both educational and rewarding for her.



Rosedale Farms was a wonderful introduction to the outdoors for our family. It sparked a growing interest in my children to explore more trails on SLT preserves, fostering a love for nature and stewardship that continues to flourish.

## **Magical Area on the West Ridge**

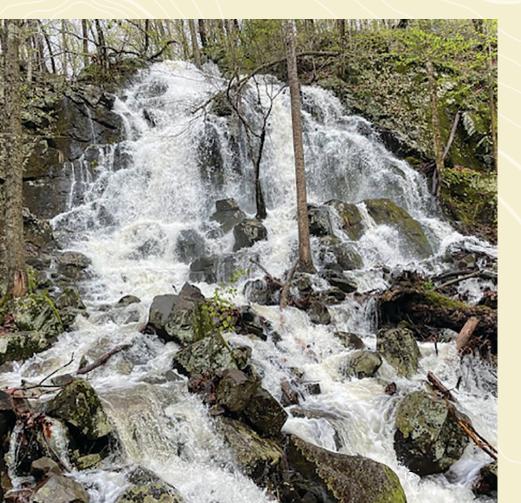
- Katie Piccirillo, SLT Board

The best things in life are often the ones that are the hardest to get. My favorite spot of all the SLT's land, and perhaps in all of Simsbury, is a magical area on the western side of the west ridge. It is not easy to get there, which of course makes it that much more appealing. To get here, you can sneak up the steep Cathles trail, use the white trail to cross over the river, and then head south onto the blue trail. The other way to access my favorite area, and my preferred method, is to begin in the 60 Westledge parking lot off Westledge Road, weave through the 60 Westledge trails until you reach a junction. Take the red trail north (about 2 miles), up and over the western ridge, down a steep portion of the red trail, to the white trail. You will be hot and tired at this point but relieved that the most strenuous portion of the hike is behind you. Then you will take the white trail across the river, and turn south onto the blue trail.

Then you are there. My favorite spot. The air turns cool, there might be lingering snow or ice depending on the season, there are almost certainly no other people there, and the visual is stunning. A steep ridge with large boulders and a smattering of young trees to the left. A less steep, less rocky ridge with more mature trees to the right. Several meandering streams riding down the rock formations to your right. A quiet, small stream on your left. And a well-marked path



that pierces straight through the valley. This portion of the blue trail involves a bit of fancy footwork and concentration which adds to the wonder of this location. While you make your way through this quarter mile stretch, you must stop frequently to absorb the views. Once you pass through this valley you have another couple of flat miles to go before you are back at the car. During this portion of the hike you will likely spend the time wondering how you got so lucky as to live in a portion of the world that has such amazing land and trails. My favorite Simsbury Land Trust place is not an easy one to access, but that makes it all the more special once you are there.





## **Visit the Falls After a Heavy Rain**

— Joe Treacy, SLT Steward

The falls on the Cathles trail is one of my favorite SLT places, particularly after a heavy rain. The trail is muddy and steep in some places, but the roar of the water and the mesmerizing pattern of the water is amazing. It is a great place to block out the rest of the world and enjoy.

## **A Landscape of Transitions**

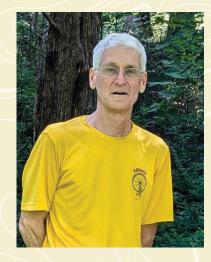
#### - Dave Kozak, SLT Steward

Located between the floodplain of the Farmington River valley and the steep traprock hillside of the western slope of the Metacomet Ridge, the 100-acre Tanager Hill and Owen-Mortimer preserves are a landscape of transition. Maybe that's why I was so drawn to this property. For me, transition provides an opportunity to perceive the world in new ways, often for the better. Although I regularly walk this property's nearly three miles of trails, if I stay alert I see what's previously gone unnoticed.

If you follow the purple trail to the Owen-Mortimer trail, almost immediately the forest changes from mixed hardwoods to pine and hemlock. Look closely at the forest floor. Here rotting Eastern red cedar logs indicate that stands of this species previously dominated the forest after it was cleared for pasture and charcoal production.



On the blue trail, the forest changes back to hardwoods. Walking this trail's elevated boardwalks provide an opportunity to explore a densely shaded forested wetland. Turning onto the powerline trail, I emerge from shaded wetland forest into brilliant sunlight provided by a powerline cut in the forest.



Crossing the bridge over Lucy Brook and following the trail, I am rewarded at its terminus by a bench next to a pond dug by the previous landowner that's slowly reverting to wetland. It's the perfect spot to pause, rest, and enjoy views of the pond, leaving the demands of the day behind.

As I return to the parking area, I reflect on how a 45-minute walk in nature has transformed thoughts of worry and concern to beauty and hope.

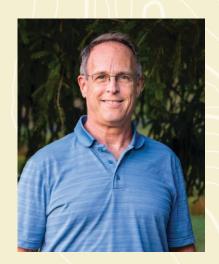
## **A Little Haven for Avian Magic**

#### - Chuck Brody, SLT Steward

Every Spring during the Audubon census, the Owen-Mortimer and Tanager Hill preserves are a rich and reliable source of color and melody from migratory songbirds. The walk up Owen-Mortimer on the north side brings the liquid piping of Wood Thrush, spiraling trill of Veery, and imperious contributions of the Hooded Warbler, Carolina Wren, and the property's namesake, the Scarlet Tanager. Meandering through Tanager Hill's wet meadow toward the power lines, or sitting at either of the strategically placed benches, I scan carefully trying to locate Blue Winged and Prairie Warblers

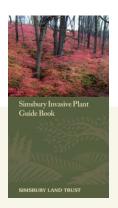
from their ventriloquist and insect-like buzzes.

Along the power line I'm rewarded with views of Indigo Bunting, and the signature "drink your teaea-ea" song of Towhees. In short, a little haven for avian magic lies along the slopes of the Metacomet Ridge.





P.O. Box 634 Simsbury, CT 06070 860-651-8773 www.simsburylandtrust.org Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Hartford, CT Permit No. 158



# New SLT Simsbury Invasive Plant Guide Book

We hope you use this booklet to assist in eradicating invasive plants from your own gardens, replacing them with native plants for the health and benefit of our local ecosystems.

These booklets were sent townwide. If you did not receive one and would like a copy, please contact Amanda at director@simsburylandtrust.org.

# Thank you for your support!

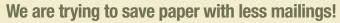
#### 2024 MEMBERSHIP LISTING

Your membership is important and we appreciate your financial support. As we did last year, we have published a complete listing of our 2024 members on the SLT website. Your membership donations provide the funds necessary to complete stewardship work like trail maintenance, sending invasive booklets, and staffing.



As you look through the pages and see your name you can also see the list of over 800 other neighbors and businesses who also support SLT conservation efforts in our community. Scan QR code above to see the list.

Thanks to your support the SLT is a strong and vibrant organization!



Please share or update your email. This will help us save money on printing and postage by transitioning into less mailings.

We're asking all members to add their current email address, even if you already receive our email newsletter by scanning the QR code at right. This will ensure you get the most up-to-date information on membership, our hikes, events and invasive removal days, including last minute changes or cancellations. Your privacy is important to us. Email addresses will be used for SLT communication purposes only.





