



SPRING 2026 Landlines

SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

Since 1976

Simsbury Pinchot Sycamore

*Bruce Powell, Simsbury Pinchot Caretaker
Camilla Thompson, SLT Board of Trustees*

Simsbury proudly claims the largest tree in Connecticut as its official town symbol. The Pinchot Sycamore, located in a small park near the intersection of Route 185 and Route 10, stands at a whopping 116.6 feet tall with a circumference of 30 feet around. It could be the oldest tree in Connecticut as well. Some scholars estimate its age between 200 and 300 years old. The tree is named after Gifford Pinchot who was born in Simsbury in 1865, and served as the nation's first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. He was an ardent environmentalist and preservationist.

Bruce Powell, the caretaker of the Pinchot Sycamore for 37 years, shares Pinchot's passion for forests and the environment. A native of West Hartford, he first remembers passing the sycamore en route to visit a Simsbury friend. When he graduated from high school, arboriculture as we know it today did not exist, but he knew he loved trees. As he says, without trees there is no shade and no oxygen. He eventually followed his passion, graduated from Forestry School, and started working for Butler Company in 1974.

In 1988 the Connecticut Department of Transportation rebuilt Route 185. Bruce was brought in to prune and care for the trees from Penwood Park to the Farmington River. One day, while having lunch under the Sycamore tree with his crew, Bruce asked who cared for the tree. According to the town, no one! They only dealt with it as needed. From this point on, Bruce became the self-designated caretaker of the Pinchot Sycamore.

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Celebrating 50 Years of the SLT — Staying True to Our Mission

Bob Palmer, President, Simsbury Land Trust

Simsbury Land Trust is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The idea for a land trust in Simsbury originated with the Town's Conservation Commission in 1975 as a vehicle for promoting the conservation and preservation of Simsbury's natural resources in cooperation with the Conservation Commission and other town agencies. An exploratory steering committee of about seven enthusiastic volunteer residents met several times in 1975 to begin the process to establish the Simsbury Land Conservation Trust, incorporated in 1976. For most of that year, the committee focused on establishing the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the organization. There was also work regarding policy development focusing on the composition of the Board of Trustees, membership, land donation and publicity for the new organization.

The first parcel obtained by SLT was in December of 1977. The Leaska Construction Corporation donated 9.7 acres of "marginal land" at the end of Tollgate Lane as part of its obligation to set aside a percentage of land for conservation purposes per the requirement of Town approval in building the subdivision. The land is what SLT classifies as an "unpublished property", in that it is not suitable for recreation as it is mostly a red maple swamp that feeds Bissell Brook but is important for conservation and preservation purposes.

Over the years, SLT has grown its membership and properties through various methods to protect over 1,100 acres in Simsbury. From the beginning, volunteers have been at the heart of SLT.

(continued on page 2)



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LANDLINES —
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Celebrating 50 Years *(continued from page 1)*

I recently had the chance to speak with former SLT Trustee Bill Cox about his time volunteering in the organization. Bill always had an interest in the outdoors, and he began volunteering with SLT in the late 1980s despite not having a lot of direct conservation experience. However, what Bill brought to the organization was a passion for the environment, Simsbury and business acumen. Bill enjoyed working with the other Trustees and said it felt like a club and they all brought different skills to the organization. Bill focused on working with businesses to raise funds for various events, land purchases and whatever else was needed. He witnessed the organization go from its humble grassroots beginning to a sophisticated and respected organization, mostly all done with volunteers.

Bill recalls that some of the challenges facing SLT were that most volunteers were older (they were always working to recruit younger folks) and coordinating with other similar organizations in the area. I chuckled when he mentioned these two items as we still face these challenges today with the average trustee age being about 65 and the complicated overlap with other similar organizations. Reflecting on his time, Bill says it provided a meaningful distraction from work. Bill continues to volunteer for SLT, as he is part of our Advisory Committee.

SLT has stayed true to its original charge from 50 years ago of protecting and conserving properties in Simsbury. The organization has evolved over the years but at its heart are the many volunteers and members over the years who have made amazing and significant contributions to protecting the scenic vistas, geological features and farmland that visually define Simsbury's character and provide healthy habitats for local wildlife and plants. We look forward to continuing this legacy for the next 50 years!

Pinchot Sycamore *(continued from page 1)*

Bruce's annual tree inspections include measuring the diameter of the trunk, the height of the tree and the spread of the tree's crown. Every spring SavATree donates an organic tree fertilizer to bolster the root system and promote good tree health. The measuring is done each fall. The trunk currently measures 110.8" in diameter and the circumference is 30'. This is an increase of .4" over one year. What does this tell us about its age? If it grew 1/2" a year in diameter, the tree would be 220 years old. If it grew 1/4" a year in diameter, it would be 440 years old!

Every two years the town of Simsbury brings in climbers from SavATree. Under Bruce's direction they prune branches and inspect its crown. On rare occasions cables are needed to stabilize branches. "U" shaped branch attachments to the trunk are generally stable. "V" shaped crotches are more vulnerable to breakage and sometimes need cables for support. Even healthy trees may have hollowed out areas in the trunk. One climber found an entire raccoon family nesting in such a spot, right in the Pinchot Sycamore!

The stewardship of trees is a responsibility and a privilege. Connecticut has a rich history of scientific research in forestry and preservation. Yale University, with the help of Gifford Pinchot and others, founded the first professional graduate school of Forestry. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is the oldest in the US. Simsbury Land Trust alone has 1,100 acres of permanently protected land. Connecticut has many preservationists and tree lovers. We are grateful that Bruce Powell is among them.





Blazing New Trails

Jonah Lipar, SLT Youth Conservation Corps Member

I first decided to pursue a connector trail between Onion Mountain Park and the Roaring Brook Nature Center on a hike up to the mountaintop in December of 2025. I knew previously that the summit trail, which was already blazed by the Canton Land Trust, reached a dead end, and the thought of a connector down the ridgeline had occurred to me before, and probably many others. However, I now realized that given the success of our SLT Youth Corps, this trail would be a realistic project to complete. I reached out to Mr. Philbrick, the Canton Land Conservation Trust President, in much the same way I reached out to Ms. Winters back in my freshman year when I began volunteering for Simsbury Land Trust. We quickly scheduled an initial walk with members of both CLCT and SLT.

The key connective property, Arnold Preserve, was purchased by CLCT in 2025 with the financial support of SLT. CLCT is the owner of this property, and SLT holds a conservation easement, making it a perfect trail partnership between the two land trusts. Though the ridgeline is partially under private ownership, Mr. Philbrick showed us a route on Arnold Preserve on the lower slopes, following old logging roads for much of the way and passing dozens of historical charcoal hearth pits. The mountain loomed to our right, and eventually, passing through a saddle in the hills, we came to the top of the CLCT's trail system across

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from Roaring Brook Nature Center. There was a beautiful sunset to the west, and we were all extremely pleased with the route.

A major part of my plan is involving more youth in the project, and in conservation in general. We later met with Mr. Bishop, Assistant Superintendent of Canton Schools, and he was very excited at this prospect. The effort is now underway at Canton High School to recruit students interested in leading a similar organization to our Youth Corps in the neighboring town. Simsbury High School students can also get involved by contacting me or SLT at director@simsburylandtrust.org. Stay tuned for updates on the project.

Overall, as I prepare to graduate and move on from Simsbury, this feels like a fitting end. I spent much of my time as a kid at Roaring Brook Nature Center, and the most meaningful part of my time with Simsbury Land Trust has been involving more kids and teens in our work, such as with our youth programs at Stratton Brook State Park. Making connections to a neighboring town and the nature center ensures the continuity of my efforts. As long as the next leaders from Simsbury, Canton and everywhere else step up, I am confident in the future that I want to see: for humanity to value our planet not for what it has for us to take, but for what it can teach us.

Initial trail exploration walk with SLT and CLCT volunteers. Left to Right, SLT Steward Chip Ward, CLCT President Steven Philbrick, SLT YCC members Jonah Lipar and Kailen Thompson and SLT Board Member Margery Winters.





Celebrating 50 Years of Protecting What Makes Simsbury Special

Amanda Thompson
Executive Director, Simsbury Land Trust

In 2026, **Simsbury Land Trust** celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Over the past five decades, our community has come together to conserve more than 1,100 acres of land that define Simsbury's landscape and character. As we enter this milestone year, we want to share who we are, how we do our work, and why land conservation continues to matter now more than ever.

How land conservation happens in Simsbury

Many of the properties protected by Simsbury Land Trust began with generous donations from local families. Over time, these 15- to 20-acre parcels came together to form larger, connected landscapes. One of the best examples is the West Mountain trail system. What hikers enjoy today is the result of many years of land donations, grants and community-funded purchases that slowly built a contiguous protected area.

There are still wooded parcels surrounding West Mountain that we hope to conserve in the future. Conservation is rarely a single moment. It is a long-term commitment built through relationships and shared vision.

Do we own all 1,100 acres we protect?

While Simsbury Land Trust has conserved over 1,100 acres, we do not own all of that land. About half is protected through conservation easements, including Rosedale Farm, Tulmeadow Farm, Hall Farm and Pharos Farm.

Early on, Simsbury Land Trust recognized the importance of preserving farmland, at a time when many land trusts focused only on forests and wetlands. Protecting working farms preserves local food production, maintains wildlife habitat and keeps open landscapes that define the town we love. Without these conserved farms, Simsbury would look very different today.

What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement allows land to remain privately owned while permanently restricting development. The value of the land if it were developed is compared to its value as farmland that cannot be built upon. Simsbury Land Trust pays the landowner the difference, allowing farmers to realize the development value of their land while ensuring it remains agricultural forever.

This approach gives families peace of mind knowing their land will stay a farm for generations to come, often preserving property that has been in a family for decades or longer.



Is all of Simsbury's land already protected?

There is still important work ahead. Just as with West Mountain and other forested areas, there are additional farms and smaller parcels that remain vulnerable. These pieces of land may seem modest on their own, but when protected, they create critical connections between larger conserved areas.

Connected land benefits people by expanding access to nature and trails and it benefits wildlife by allowing animals to move safely through a changing landscape shaped by development.

How does Simsbury Land Trust work with the community?

Simsbury Land Trust is an independent nonprofit organization, and its conserved properties are not owned or managed by the Town of Simsbury. We collaborate closely with the Town of Simsbury, state and federal agencies and neighboring conservation organizations, but our work depends on membership, donations, and community involvement.

Every conserved trail, field, and view you enjoy exists because people chose to support land conservation.



How can you help shape the next 50 years?

If you own land that has conservation potential, or know someone who does, we encourage you to reach out. Many of our conservation successes began with conversations that unfolded over years, sometimes even decades.

Some land is donated through wills, while other landowners choose to see their conservation legacy realized during their lifetime. Every path to conservation makes a difference.

Together, we can ensure that future generations will walk the same trails, explore the same fields and experience the same sense of pride and connection to Simsbury's open spaces that we enjoy today.



The Value of Preserving Our Farms

Susan Van Kleef and Tom Crawford, Simsbury Land Trust Board of Trustees

6 Working farms in Simsbury contribute to making our town a special place to live. Simsbury Land Trust holds conservation easements on 430 acres comprising three farms — Hall, Rosedale and Tulmeadow. The easements preserve the farms for farming and recreation. A conservation easement on farmland is a deed restriction that preserves the land for agricultural use, conservation value and passive recreation while excluding nonagricultural uses such as development. Under the conservation easement, farmers still own their land, farm their land and make decisions about the use of the land within the scope of the conservation easement. Simsbury Land Trust acquired the conservation easements on the three farms between 2000 and 2015 through federal and state grants as well as generous donations from the public.

Since Simsbury Land Trust holds the conservation easements, SLT is required to monitor the farms for compliance with the original agreements. Simsbury Land Trust monitors meet with the farmers every year, walk the properties, discuss changes to the land and gain insight into challenges faced by farmers. This process ensures that all farms adhere to the conditions set forth in the agreements. Reports are then submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NRCS) and Connecticut State agencies that contributed funding to preserve the properties.

The success of all three of these farms is the result of a multi-generational labor of love for farming and the land. Through the monitoring process, it is evident that maintaining an agricultural business is a challenge. Diversifying operations has contributed to the success of our farms. Farm stands, eggs, retail stores, ice cream production, vineyards, bakeries, entertainment venues and forestry all contribute to the

The value gained from preserving farms goes beyond the products produced and purchased. Farms provide habitat for maintaining biodiversity and water quality, contribute to a vibrant local economy, maintain rural landscapes and provide jobs.

continued viability of these farms.

Every year, more and more prime farmland disappears in New England. The value gained from preserving farms goes beyond the products produced and purchased. Farms provide habitat for maintaining biodiversity and water quality, contribute to a vibrant local economy, maintain rural landscapes and provide jobs.

Rosedale, Tulmeadow and Hall Farm all have Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. CSA members purchase a share of farm products in advance. The shares supply capital for spring planting. Members receive a box of farm products regularly throughout the farming season. Information about each CSA can be found on the farms' websites. Hall Farm is at the West Hartford Farmer's Market on Saturdays, June–November. Committing to stopping at a farm once a week during the growing season is a simple way to support these special businesses that are so important to making Simsbury a special place to live.



Where Have All the Meadows Gone?

Margery Winters, Simsbury Land Trust Board of Trustees

Scan through the location names in Simsbury and you will find many a reference to meadows: Old Meadow Plain, Great Meadow, Hazel Meadow, Meadow Brook, Hopmeadow and of course, Simsbury Meadows. To garner such recognition, meadows must have been an important aspect of our local landscape at some point, but what happened to all these meadows which currently make up only two percent of Connecticut's landscape?

If one could travel back in time to pre-colonial days, one would find that approximately nine percent of Connecticut was meadowland. Beavers were abundant and it is estimated that in Connecticut alone there may have been over 100,000 acres of beaver meadow, the lush meadows that grow in the basin of a former beaver pond. Wet meadows were created in areas that regularly flooded in the spring and Native Americans used fire to create open meadow areas for agriculture and hunting.

With the arrival of the European settlers, meadowland increased dramatically as forests were cleared for timber, grazing animals and crops. Native populations were displaced, and beavers were trapped and extirpated. Early colonists ditched, diked and diverted streams to prevent flooding of wet meadows. They replaced native plants with European forage and hay crops which were more nutritious for their livestock but less beneficial for native wildlife. By 1700, the meadows were no longer recognizable as native meadows. In the early 1800s, about 75 percent of the state had been converted to farmland and pastures that resembled European pastures and meadows.

Meadows declined drastically in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many Connecticut farms were abandoned as agriculture moved to the Midwest in the mid-1800s. The transition from horses to automobiles in the early 20th century rendered many hay fields unnecessary. Without grazing animals or regular mowing, old farm fields naturally reverted to shrubland and then forest. Connecticut, which was only 25% forested in 1825, is currently about 60% forested. Meadows have also been lost to widespread residential and commercial development.

Meadows provide unique habitat value and their loss impacts local wildlife diversity. Grasslands or meadow habitats of all sizes are used by a large number of plants, insects, birds and wildlife not found in our forested lands. They provide critical nesting and breeding grounds for numerous Connecticut bird species whose populations are in decline due to the loss of this increasingly rare habitat. Meadows dominated by native plants are also



vital for native pollinators. Such meadows provide nectar and pollen, shelter and nesting and overwintering sites for bees, butterflies and moths. These pollinators help ensure native plant reproduction and increase crop yields. The areas where meadows meet forest create what is known as edge habitat, or ecotone, a rich, ecologically diverse zone that offers food, shelter and nesting sites from both ecosystems. Healthy edge habitats can support more species than the deep forest or open meadow alone due to the wider variety of plants and cover.

While much meadow habitat has been lost, efforts are underway by various organizations including Simsbury Land Trust, to preserve and restore meadows across the state. Unlike forests, meadows require active management. Semi-annual mowing is required to prevent woody plants and invasive species (like multiflora rose or autumn olive) from taking over. Brush-hogging is occasionally needed where areas have been unmown for too long. Improvements to the forest/field edge habitats are also underway. Invasive plants are being removed and new native shrubs are being planted in these areas. Some existing meadow areas are being enhanced by planting additional native meadow species. Such activities take up a substantial amount of SLT's stewardship budget and volunteer labor and your membership is essential in supporting these efforts.

There is more that can be done to enhance these meadow habitats. Nine percent of Connecticut is now covered by lawn, more than is covered by farmland. A significant increase in meadowland can be achieved by converting a sunny portion of our lawns to native meadows that support our native pollinators and birds. Such transformations are underway at Simsbury Farms and other locations in town. Each new native plant meadow, large or small, can help reweave the meadow tapestry and ecological diversity that was present in earlier days.



Open Our Eyes, Ears and App

Chuck Brody, Simsbury Land Trust Steward

When crisp winter snow decays into the gray slush of spring, it is therapeutic to remember that each day brings more sun than the one before, and that in a few short months trees will start to green, and flower buds and songbirds will start to pop up across southern New England. Among the hallmarks of spring across Simsbury's mix of fields and forests are the flashes of color and distinctive songs of over a dozen different warblers arriving to breed or passing through en route to nesting sites in woods and wetlands from here to the Canadian Maritime provinces.

These small birds constantly move through the vegetation feeding on caterpillars and other small insects that emerge coincident with pollen from early flowering trees and shrubs. From early April through mid-May, chirpactors enjoy a bump in business treating the inevitable "birdwatcher's neck" that comes from craning to scan treetops pursuing a positive ID from a momentary pause in otherwise perpetual motion.

For the more rational outdoor enthusiast, the territorial and courtship songs of these birds yield a remarkable playlist of melodic arpeggios, buzzes, whistles and chirps. A curious listener can leverage the internet to unpack all the sounds swirling around them.

One option is to install a free smartphone app to crack the code and identify which species are in the vicinity. The most popular, and arguably the most robust and accessible app is Merlin, published and maintained by Cornell University. Their ornithology lab has been a leading authority and resource for decades, and that accumulated experience reflects in the functionality and usability of the app. The underlying database includes birds from all over the globe. The app was just as useful on a recent family trip to the Iberian Peninsula as it has been at home.

Once installed, and if granted location awareness, upon launch in "Discover" mode, Merlin builds a list of what it "hears" as one walks through open space. Users can click on a bird in the list for more details, and to replay the bird's specific song. The replay feature helps the listener learn — part of the fun becomes identifying the birds the next time and confirming with a glance down at the app.

Another possible use of the replay feature merits discussion. Users could play birdsong at volume to attract the attention of a species and perhaps bring

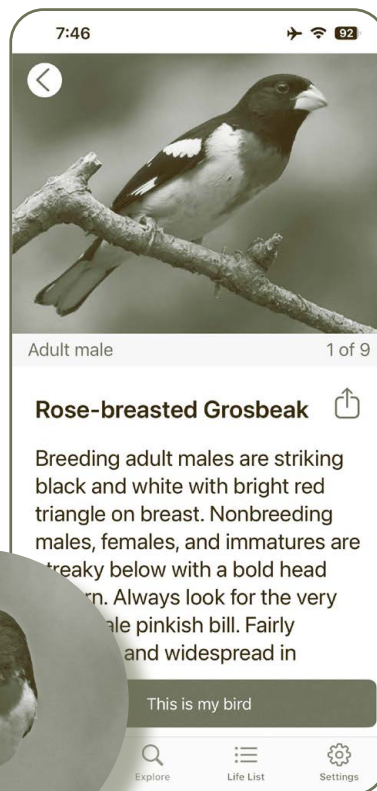


a bird, typically the male, into view. There is ongoing debate about this on a couple of levels. "Hardcore" list keepers argue whether that's a fair way to achieve a positive ID (PID); just having the app "find" the bird by song is almost universally judged inadequate. A second concern is whether playback disrupts the birds' innate behavior or otherwise disadvantages them. It's unlikely that a single human or phone significantly moves the needle in the midst of the natural ambient soundscape. However, during the nesting season the birds expend incredible energy feeding and caring for young, and

there's no justification to repeatedly play a given song in hopes of gaining a view of a brightly-colored specimen.

Where are the best places to explore? All Simsbury Land Trust properties provide productive habitats, and I have been rewarded with clusters of species along the multipurpose trail on Iron Horse Blvd., in the wetlands and woods on Town Forest Road, along the walkways in Stratton Brook State Park and along the river walk behind the Simsbury High School boathouse off Drake Hill Road. For overall consistency and diversity, the SLT Tanager Hill and Owen-Mortimer properties attract a high percentage of species.

So, add a different resolution for the new year: set aside a few mornings as the leaves begin to wash pale green across the landscape, and walk the woods and edges with open eyes and ears and perhaps an open app. Merlin might just reveal a little magic all around.





Pilfershire Cellar Hole Guided Hikes

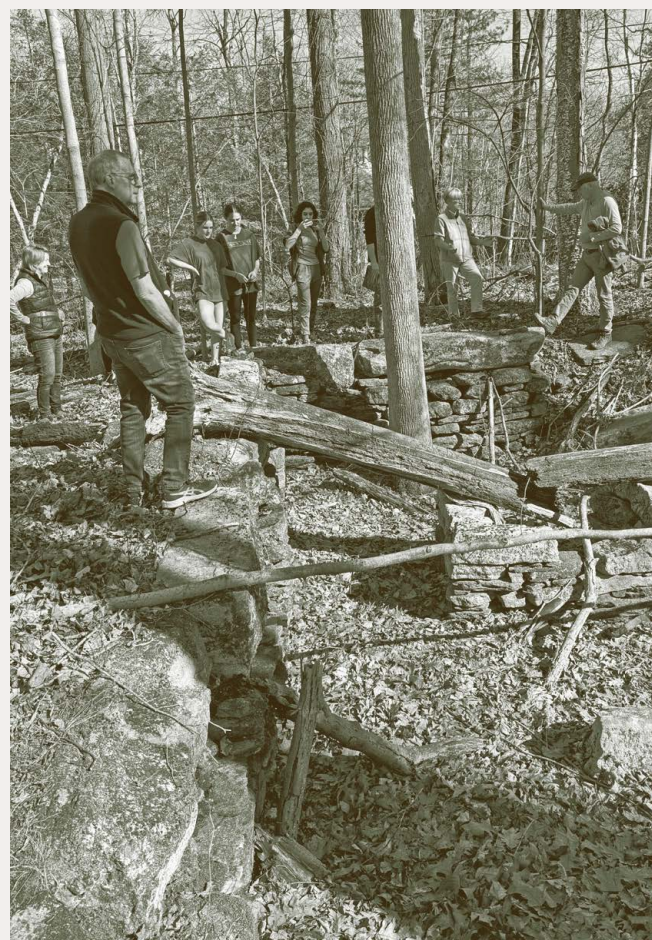
Tom Yanik, Simsbury Land Trust Member

Pilfershire of Simsbury was a mystery... until recently. Last fall, the Simsbury Historical Society sponsored a presentation "Pilfershire of Simsbury: Mysterious or Misunderstood," which was followed by Simsbury Land Trust guided Pilfershire walks. The interest in and response to these events were so favorable that SLT is scheduling four additional Pilfershire hikes this spring. Please register on the Simsbury Land Trust events page to attend.

- **Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:00 a.m.**
- **Saturday, May 2, 2026 10:00 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, May 6, 2026 10:00 a.m.**
- **Saturday, May 9, 2026 10:00 a.m.**

Pilfershire is an area of land in West Simsbury that extends north from Woodchuck Hill Road to the Granby border in McLean Game Refuge. This area, like most of West Mountain and Canton today, was first settled between around 1740-1800, following the twenty-year Simsbury meetinghouse debates. These colonists were farmers — hardy and resilient men and women. About fifty years after Canton became an independent town from Simsbury in 1806, Simsbury annexed back land on West Mountain that became known as Pilfershire.

On the Pilfershire guided hikes, you will visit several abandoned home sites and hear the stories of these families. Only stone cellar holes, stone mill foundations and stone walls remain as reminders. All these stones have stories to tell us about the farmers and farm living of our community's colonial past. We hope you join us to learn more about Pilfershire.



Experiencing the Trails Through New Senses

Amanda Thompson, Simsbury Land Trust Executive Director

In the fall of 2025, Simsbury Land Trust received a call from a hiking group planning a visit to New England. During their research, they discovered the abundance of trails in and around Simsbury and asked if our stewards might be willing to hike with them. We were delighted to say yes and to share some of the landscapes we know and love.

The group was **Ski for Light**, a national organization that supports visually or mobility-impaired people through skiing and other outdoor experiences. While skiing is their primary focus, this group of adventurers also enjoys hiking together and had begun planning trips beyond the winter season. Their hiking group included six blind or low-vision hikers and six sighted guides.

As our stewards led hikes through local preserves, they shared stories about the region's rivers, glacial history and the tectonic forces that shaped our ridgelines. Along the way, the experience became wonderfully hands-on and sensory, with opportunities to touch tree bark, feel leaves, smell mushrooms and listen closely to the sounds of the forest.

Just as meaningful was what our stewards learned from the group. The hikers' confidence, adaptability and joy in being outdoors challenged assumptions and expanded perspectives. It also sparked conversations about accessibility in our region. Did you know there is a Braille trail at Scantic River State Park in East Windsor, or a 2.5-mile ADA-accessible trail at Stratton Brook State Park right here in Simsbury?

Guiding these hikes encouraged our stewards to think about trails differently, not in terms of speed or reaching a vista, but through the full sensory experience of the walk. Roots, steps, changes in slope and trail width required thoughtful consideration. Pace slowed, awareness deepened, and the goal became connection rather than destination. Many hike leaders shared how rewarding it was to experience familiar trails in an entirely new way.

This week of hiking also prompted Simsbury Land Trust to reflect on accessibility beyond the trail. We are now making a more intentional effort to ensure our website is usable for people who rely on screen readers by adding alternative text to photos and improving the clarity and flow of our written content.

We encourage everyone to get out on the trails and enjoy the open spaces Simsbury and the surrounding towns have to offer. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of many supporters, these conserved lands are here for all of us, and sometimes all it takes is seeing them through a new lens to appreciate them fully.

If you would like to learn more about Ski for Light, visit New England Ski for Light at <https://nesfl.org/>



EARTH DAY TROUT RELEASE AT STRATTON BROOK

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 • 12:00 p.m.

Stratton Brook State Park
149 Farms Village Road, Simsbury

Celebrate Earth Day with the Simsbury Land Trust Youth Conservation Corps and DEEP Wildlife Biologist Matt Devine and his team as trout are released into Stratton Brook Pond. This annual release supports healthy freshwater ecosystems while providing high-quality, accessible recreational fishing opportunities for the community.

Please wear shoes and clothing that can get wet.

All are welcome. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**FILM SCREENING: EASTERN WHITE PINE**

Thursday, April 23, 2026 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Simsbury Public Library - Friends Room

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with a special screening of *Eastern White Pine*. Enjoy a reception featuring pine needle tea and light treats from 6:00-6:30 p.m., followed by the film from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Q&A will follow with filmmaker Ray Asselin and Dr. Susan Masino, Hartford County Coordinator for the Old Growth Forest Network.

The film explores the Eastern White Pine's central role in the founding of America, its logging history and its continued importance to wildlife and people today. Featuring Simsbury's own Belden Forest behind the library, you will learn why the Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) was once considered the most valuable tree in the world.

**ARBOR DAY TREE DEDICATION & BIG OLD BELDEN WALK**

Friday, April 24, 2026 • 3:00 p.m.

Simsbury Public Library

Celebrate Arbor Day and the Simsbury Land Trust's 50th Anniversary with a ceremonial tree planting in front of the Simsbury Public Library. Following the dedication, enjoy a guided walk in Belden Forest with Dr. Susan Masino, Hartford County Coordinator for the Old Growth Forest Network. The walk will include a scavenger hunt for those with a keen eye.

PILFERSHIRE SPRING HISTORICAL HIKES

273 Westledge Road, West Simsbury

Please register on the [Simsbury Land Trust Events page](#) for your preferred date.

Step back into the 1700s on a guided historical hike to Pilfershire, a former neighborhood once located in Simsbury. Guided by Pilfershire researcher Tom Yanik and Simsbury Land Trust Board Member Fred Feibel, you will walk former roads and explore remaining foundations and stone walls that tell the story of early settlement. See page 9 for more information.

Available Dates:

Wednesday, April 29 - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 2 - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 6 - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 9 - 10:00 a.m.



Preserving Simsbury Open Space Since 1976

P.O. Box 634 | Simsbury, CT 06070

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

As we celebrate 50 years of conservation, please renew your Simsbury Land Trust membership for 2026 and help continue the work of protecting the land we all cherish.



Join Us for Simsbury Land Trust’s 50th Anniversary Dinner Honoring Our Roots — 50 Years of Land Conservation

Celebrate a very special 50th anniversary on protected land that tells a story of stewardship, resilience, and community. You will not want to miss the Simsbury Land Trust’s 50th

Anniversary Dinner at the beautiful Rosedale Farm. An evening filled with live music, delicious food and drinks, good company, a silent auction and a special presentation by keynote speaker Marshall Epstein, Rosedale Farm owner.

In 2003, Simsbury Land Trust received a USDA grant to acquire a conservation easement on Rosedale Farm. This easement ensures that Rosedale Farm will stay farmland in perpetuity. SLT and Rosedale Farm work together to adhere to the USDA conservation agreement and it is with great enthusiasm that we hold our dinner on the farm and our community can hear from farmer Marshall Epstein about what it takes to maintain a farm in 2026 — and beyond.

Save the Date!
JUNE 4, 2026
5:30–8:30 p.m.
Rosedale Farm

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. – Cocktail reception with open bar and passed hors d’oeuvres
Silent auction open for bidding

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Dinner will be served in two unique serving stations including:

Barbeque Station: smoked chicken, brisket along with potato salad, corn bread and mixed green salad, featuring seasonal greens from Hall Farm

Mac and Cheese Station: Pulled pork, Cajun shrimp with roasted vegetables

7:15 p.m. – Welcome and Introduction, Honoring 50 Years of Conservation: Past President, Fred Feibel

7:30 p.m. – Keynote Speaker Marshall Epstein

Dessert: Tulmeadow Ice Cream and Rosedale Mixed Berry Pie with Coffee and Tea

Cost includes open bar cocktail reception, hors d’oeuvres, dinner, dessert and entertainment: \$100 per member / \$110 non-members

R.S.V.P. online by scanning QR code or visiting www.simsburylandtrust.org.

R.S.V.P. with payment by May 14th to Simsbury Land Trust, P.O. Box 634, Simsbury, CT 06070



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