

Mountain Views

Quarterly Newsletter of Stowe Land Trust

Summer 2010



Help Build a Bridge for All Seasons!

Ranch Valley Cruise...
Stowe Derby Trail...
The Burt Trail...

After: Designed by Harry J. Shepard P.E. Illustration by Harry Hunt A.I.A.

Situated in the historic Ranch Valley, the Ranch Brook meanders and sometimes rumbles through the landscape, crisscrossing popular recreation trails that have been in existence since downhill skiing was born. In 2006, Stowe Land Trust worked with Trapp Family Lodge and the Stowe community to conserve over 500 acres of this important recreational hub because of its rich history. Soon after the Adams Camp property was conserved, a key point of access was lost when the deteriorating Ranch Brook bridge was removed.

The bridge once connected the popular Ranch Valley Cruise ski trail to the Burt

Trail and played an important role in the Stowe Derby. Now, with the Adams Camp land conserved and permanently open to the public, a new generation of users are accessing this property for everything from hiking to back-country skiing and mountain biking.

This summer, Stowe Land Trust is rebuilding the bridge over Ranch Brook that will provide permanent access to the Adams Camp property.

New trails are being built on the Adams Camp property, thanks to funding from the Town of Stowe and the State of Vermont and due in large part to the efforts of the Stowe Mountain Bike Club. The bridge across Ranch Brook will provide a crucial point of entry to this new trail network and reconnect the x-c loop.

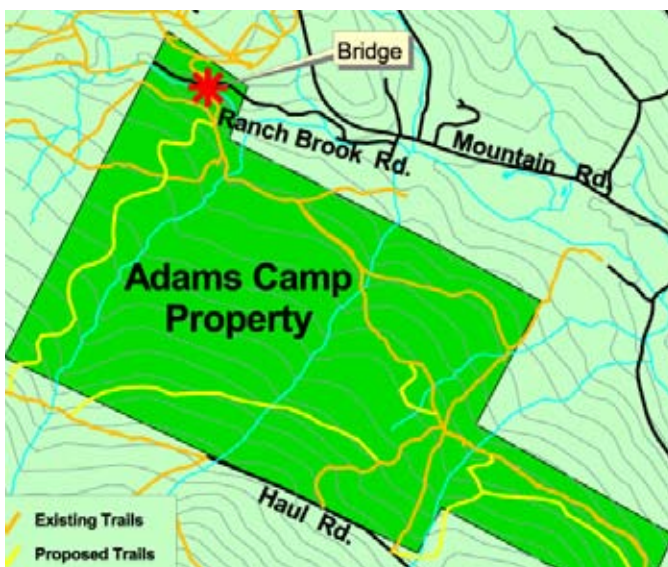
While SLT does not play a role in grooming the ski trails in winter, we hope this bridge will facilitate cooperation between all users to make this area a show-piece for the Stowe community.

SLT has designed a new, permanent bridge using 65 foot long recycled steel beams donated by the Town of Stowe; has obtained a local contractor; and has worked with the Town and State to get the project permitted and ready to go.

We need your support to build this bridge! With \$10,000 donated by Trapp Family Lodge, we are now asking you to help bridge the gap.

Please consider a generous gift to help SLT raise the remaining \$52,000 by August 29th! Thank you!

Before: Bridge site connects Ranch Valley Cruise with Burt Trail.



*"Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language."
-Aldo Leopold*



From the Executive Director and Board Chair



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Stowe Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation of scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest lands for the benefit of the greater Stowe community.

All contributions to Stowe Land Trust are tax deductible. Please become a member today.

This summer Stowe Land Trust's focus is trails and public access. Building new trails, maintaining old trails and enhancing the way we experience our amazing landscape – this is a big part of what we mean by “stewardship” – the ongoing commitment to protecting and managing our conserved lands.

We couldn't be more pleased about having the opportunity to replace the bridge at Ranch Brook to access the **Adams Camp** property. With new trails being built under the leadership of Trapp Family Lodge and the Stowe Mountain Bike Club, this property is poised to become more popular than ever.

An entire network of new trails was opened on June 26th, with the Grand Opening of **Kirchner Woods** in Stowe Hollow. More than 3 miles of new trail is available to the public for walking and biking. We hope you'll take time to visit Kirchner Woods and tell us what you think.

Wiessner Woods has been one of SLT's most popular properties for nearly 20 years. The well-loved property is getting some TLC this summer. The entrance trail and several chronic problem areas have been fixed – a little polish on our gem!

Cushman Design Group has recently finished a plan for the renovation of our **Mill Trail** property on Notchbrook Rd. While the trail is already a popular alternative access to **Bingham Falls** (conserved by SLT in 2001), the cabins provide an experience loaded with history. Read more on page 6.

To highlight even more trails, SLT has partnered with AbilityPLUS to bring the **Stowe Trail Race Series: Run for a Reason** to our community. These races will showcase some of the best trails in Stowe including the Town Loops trails, the Stowe x-c trails, and the famous Cabin Trail at Trapp Family Lodge. Fill out the enclosed registration form and join in the fun!

Thanks again for your support and enjoy your summer!

Looking for a new hike or bike ride?

SLT owns and manages a 47-acre piece of land in Moscow called the DuMont property. This year a new trail – Alex's Trail - was built by the Stowe Mountain Bike Club and provides an easy and relaxing 1.5 mile walk or bike loop through woods and meadow. Access to the trail is via the Town-owned stump dump at the end of Adams Mill Rd. Look for this sign.



WANT AN EASY WAY TO HELP STOWE LAND TRUST REACH OUT TO MORE PEOPLE?

Recycle this newsletter by passing it along to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to become a member.



For the latest updates, photos, videos and random musings of Stowe Land Trust staff, follow us on facebook or twitter.



The greatest benefit is knowing you've helped conserve some of the most spectacular places in Vermont.

The Pinnacle Society was launched just over eight months ago to recognize and thank those donors who form the foundation of our ability to conserve land and fulfill our stewardship obligations.

Fifty nine Charter members have currently joined the Pinnacle Society and the group continues to grow. Pinnacle Society members are invited to join us for a hike to Pinnacle Meadow on Saturday, August 21st at 10:30 am.

We will leave from the Pinnacle Meadow parking area as a group. For those looking for an even loftier view, a group will hike to the summit of Stowe Pinnacle, while others can stay at the Meadow and hear from a naturalist how meadow land serves as important habitat for wildlife in Stowe.

Please meet at the Pinnacle Meadow parking area at 10:30 am. Refreshments will be served in the Meadow.

Charter Members of the Pinnacle Society

Anonymous (1)
Nancy and Bill Anderson
Tim and Catherine Barns
Charlie and Gibby Berry
Paul and Kathy Bosland
Philip Branton and Ellen Lazarus
Rick and Ann Bresnahan
Donna and Jake Carpenter
The Chingos Foundation
Kitty and Allan Coppock
Darrell and Nancy Crate
Denise Burt Cushwa
David and Elizabeth Daigle
Peter and Deborah Dodson
Peter and Bari Dreissigacker
John and Julie Egenberg
Trowbridge and Claudia Elliman
Tom and Mary Evslin
Michael Fenlon and Linda Sallop
Vera M. Fitzgerald
Alan and Irka Golub
Gerry and Terry Griffin
Milton Heller, Jr.
Christopher Hill & Susan Flicop
Richard and Clea James
Abby Johnson & Chris McKown

Cliff Johnson
Stephen and Sally Kauser
Frank and Marion Kellogg
John and Diane Kemp
Bonnie Knight
Richard and Susan Leadem
Lefty and Joyce Nichols Lewis
Clare Tweedy McMorris
John and Millie Merrill
Peter and Bunny Merrill
Rob and Janice Norton
Melissa and David Norton
Jan Nyquist and David Harding
Dan and Margaret Owen
Jack and Caroline Patten
John and Adrienne Peacock
Gene Posnick
Michael and Deborah Pucillo
Gordon and Linda Ramsey
Nicholas A. Skinner
Oliver and Gay Slesar
Richard and Amy Sparks
Brian and Stephanie Spector
Lee and Alice Dana Spencer
Morgan and Sidney Stark
Union Bank

Gaetano and Susan Vicinelli
Richard and Sally Watts
In Memory of Donald R. Webb
David Wilkins and Molly Pindell
Roger and Jill Witten
Norris and Judy Wolff
Bracebridge and Yuriko Young Foundation

Charter members joining after July 1st will be recognized in the fall issue of Mountain Views.

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If you are interested in becoming a Charter member of the Pinnacle Society, please contact Executive Director, Heather Furman at 802.253.7221 or heather@stowelandtrust.org

Volunteer Opportunities!

Whether or not you are an SLT member, volunteering is a great way to get involved, obtain community service credits or dig a little deeper into what it takes to keep our land protected and available for public enjoyment. We are always looking for folks interested in lending a hand. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities and others, please contact us at 802.253.7221 or info@stowelandtrust.org.

Trail Handy Person

Occasionally we receive calls from hikers letting us know of a downed tree, damaged sign or broken bridge plank. We can't always get out right away to address the problem and would love to have someone to call on for assistance.

Envelope Stuffer

Not our more glamorous opportunity but crucially important none-the-less. Spend an hour or two at "command central" helping out with occasional mailings.

Event Volunteers

Stowe Land Trust is holding several exciting events this year and we are going to need some help pulling them off in style. If you want in on the action, the **Run for a Reason Stowe Trail Race Series** is taking place on July 11th, August 28th and September 11th and the **Barn Dance** in Sterling Valley is happening on Sunday, Sept. 19th. Contact us for details about volunteer opportunities.

Calling All Volunteer Groups!

In addition to our regular volunteer work days Stowe Land Trust has worked with numerous youth volunteer groups to do trail work this summer, including the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, the Stowe Bible Camp and the Laraway School. Get in touch with us if you would like to learn more about opportunities for youth or other community service groups by calling 802.253.7221 or email us at: info@stowelandtrust.org.



Thank you Stowe Bible Campers!

Have You Seen It?

When Derek Hallquist and Austin Pritchard of Green River Pictures (GRP) agreed to produce a short film for Stowe Land Trust, we had no idea the level of detail required to produce a good film. GRP prides itself on high quality images and films with short production times. To produce the SLT film together, we embarked on a year-long journey...

Having never created a film, SLT's staff found themselves in new, unfamiliar territory – in front of a camera and behind the scenes. The first step was to translate our vision into a script and choose the cast. We wanted to produce a general information film, introducing viewers to a few of SLT's properties and most prominent characters. Anyone who's had the opportunity to visit an SLT property over their lifetime can tell you that they each have something different to offer during the four seasons. Thus the four seasons became the theme for our film, and GRP agreed to work with us pro bono over the course of 2009.

Stowe Land Trust and Green River Pictures both believe that a stronger sense of community leads to a healthier environment and a stronger economy.



"[We] jumped at the chance to donate our services to an organization that not only helps the Stowe area, but also influences the decisions and lifestyles of all that travel there," say Derek and Austin of GRP. "[SLT] and [GRP] both believe that a stronger sense of community leads to a healthier environment and a stronger economy. Our collaboration was a great way for both of our companies to spread that message."

Filming began at Trapp Family Lodge for the winter segment. On a brisk, sunny day we shivered our way through an interview with Johannes von Trapp. Later, on a much warmer day, we met at the Lepine's farm to talk about their motivations for conserving land. During peak foliage, we gathered at Pinnacle Meadow to film John Merrill and Michael Snyder, former and current SLT Board members, to get their take on SLT's beginnings.

We were thrilled with GRP's flexibility to accommodate our vision and delighted with the end product. Our vision became a reality in their knowledgeable and experienced hands.

To view our film visit the following website: <http://www.stowelandtrust.org/aboutus/>

Benefit Bake Raises Dough for SLT!

For the 4th straight year, **Pie in the Sky's** Benefit Bake proved to be a success story for the community. Friends of Stowe Land Trust showed up in remarkable numbers to eat pizza in their show of support for land conservation!

SLT is truly fortunate to be able to partner with Skip and Susan Verchot, owners of **Pie in the Sky**. When asked why they choose to support Stowe Land Trust, they speak of their connection to the community and the natural landscape.

"Memories are part of the human landscape. If you were lucky enough to have a natural

landscape as your playground growing up, you'll understand why preservation is so important. Land is a big part of Vermont's culture - our farms, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife all make up the fabric of who we are. We want the future to hold our past. This is our small way of giving back for all that the land has meant to us."

By generously donating 100% of the entire day's pizza sales, this event raised over \$2,400. Skip and Susan deserve a huge thank you, along with their hard working staff. We are also tremendously grateful to all of you who contributed to a successful day for land conservation. Thanks!



11th Annual Golf Tournament and Calcutta Social

Stowe Land Trust's Annual Invitational Golf Tournament is not only our most successful fundraiser, it is the most fun!

Festivities begin at the Commodores Inn the night before the tournament. Guests and golfers will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while getting a sneak peek at the team pairings. You have a chance to win big in the Calcutta by betting on your favorite team. Last year's winnings amounted to over \$4,000!

The Calcutta Social is \$25 per person for those not registered to play in the tournament. Attendance at the reception following the tournament is included in this fee.

On tournament day, the course will be played in an 18 hole scramble format, with four person teams selected by the SLT Golf Committee. The entry fee is \$175 per golfer.

Free cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a demonstration by Spruce Peak golf pro, Ron Philo, are just some of the great reasons to attend this event.



Wednesday, August 4, 2010
Calcutta Social 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Commodores Inn

Thursday, August 5, 2010
West Hill Golf Course
Tournament Registration 11 am
Shotgun Start at Noon
Reception to follow 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join SLT at the reception following the tournament for an awards ceremony and raffle drawing where you have a chance to win prizes from a number of local businesses and restaurants. The reception is only \$25 per person if you are not registered to play in the tournament.

For those of you who haven't participated in SLT's golf tournament, this is your opportunity to play the private West Hill Golf Course - a stunning 9 hole course with sweeping views of the Little River valley. This event helps support Stowe Land Trust's mission to conserve our community's natural beauty. We look forward to seeing you on the links!

Space in the tournament fills up fast. Call or send in your registration today!

For more information contact Stowe Land Trust at 802.253.7221 or, becca@stowelandtrust.org.



Many Hands Make Light Work

Thank You Volunteers and Edelweiss!

On Saturday, June 5th, volunteers joined SLT staff and the trail crew from Timber & Stone for the annual work day to commemorate National Trails Day. For nearly two decades SLT supporters and trail users have been getting together in the spring to maintain the popular Wiessner Woods trail system.



This year the trails got a little extra TLC with the construction of a new bridge and a section of punchon as well as pruning at the trailhead. Volunteers were rewarded for their hard work with lunch donated by Edelweiss Mountain Deli.



Roads, Recreation & Leisure in the Progressive Era

Buzzing insects sing the soundtrack of a Vermont summer, as locals and tourists mingle, seeking relief from the heat and humidity at Bingham Falls. Not too many months earlier, the same eclectic mix of people likely shared the slopes of Mount Mansfield. Whether in summer or winter, people began coming to Vermont to enjoy the splendors of our landscape a long time ago. Well, not that long ago.

Development of Tourism in Vermont

The first decades of the 1900's marked the transformation of Vermont from a traditional working landscape centered around agriculture to an emerging tourism destination. Vermont's tourism economy grew markedly between the decades of the 1910's and 30's because of developments such as roadside beautification, construction of the Long Trail and the advent of downhill skiing. Increasingly, people were showing an interest in recreation and leisure activities as the middle class grew and people became weary of the effects of industrialization. During this time, the annual number of visitors traveling to Vermont hovered between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000.

By the 1910's and 20's, those who lived in upland regions throughout Vermont, particularly the Stowe/Smugglers' Notch region, were beginning to accommodate the evolving interest in

recreation and leisure as agriculture continued its rapid decline.

The Mill Trail area today, in stark contrast to surrounding resorts, offers a glimpse into the early days of recreation when activities were more directly tied to the traditional working landscape and recreation patterns of Vermonters.

The Mill Trail Camp Then

The Mill Trail Camp, situated in the shadow of Mt. Mansfield, a few short miles from the Long Trail and the Ranch Valley, where downhill skiing was born, was poised to take advantage of this new economy. In the late 1920's, at the height of trail building in Vermont, the Mill Trail Camp began taking shape as Dr. Marguerite Lictenthaeler (known as Doc) and her brother Frank, acquired large acreages of land in Stowe.

In 1925, while still a summer visitor, Doc purchased what is now called the Mill Trail property, owned by Stowe Land Trust. She converted the former blacksmith shop associated with Turner's Butter Tub and Sawmill which operated on the bank of Notch Brook in the late 1800's. Over the next five years, as a summer resident living out of the renovated blacksmith shop, she built a Moravian style log cabin fashioned after the first Moravian cabin built in her home state of Pennsylvania.

These two buildings marked the beginning of a complex that would extend to the intersection of Notch Brook and the Mountain Road near the old mill village of Stowe Forks. There, Doc acquired property where she and her brother began construction and conversion of several buildings that would comprise a tourist camp named the Smugglers' Notch Attic and Barn. The creation of this camp coincided with the maturation of recreational tourism in Vermont, capitalizing on improved vehicular access and the area's burgeoning ski culture.



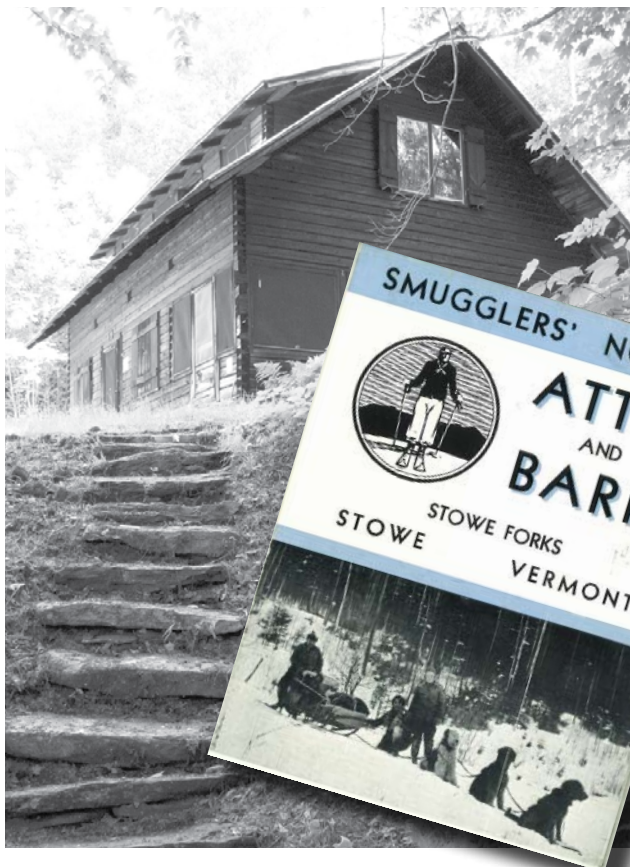
The Mill Trail Camp could be considered one of the first roadside inns in Vermont to provide commercial accommodations for the area's pioneering skiers.

Existing logging roads combined with promotional efforts such as winter carnivals throughout the 1920's had encouraged the developments in Ranch Valley which greatly increased the number of tourists in the Stowe region. This eventually led to the cutting of trails in the early 1930's that were financed by individual contributions, the newly created Mt. Mansfield Ski Club and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Agreeable accommodations at the time were few, thus the Lictenthaelers saw a definite commercial value in lodging the area's pioneering skiers.

Mill Trail - Present and Future

In 2003, with a generous donation provided by an anonymous donor, Stowe Land Trust purchased the Mill Trail property which includes the blacksmith shop and Moravian cabin. Since that time, SLT has been seeking ways to increase the cabin's availability to the public. It is important to keep the remarkable story of its involvement in the development of skiing in Stowe and the construction of the oldest Long distance hiking trail in the United States alive. Mary Jo Lewellyn, an historic preservation consultant hired to work with SLT on restoration of the cabin is quick to say, "the best way to preserve a building is to find a use for it." So, that is just what SLT is doing. Please share your thoughts or ideas about how individuals and groups might use the cabin with us. Call 802.253.7221 or email: becca@stowelandtrust.org.

Historic information about Vermont and Stowe was provided by research conducted by UVM historic preservation student Matthew Holtkamp in 2008 and 2009.



KIRCHNER WOODS

*Connecting people with
landscape and history.*

“There is something about seeing your family name printed on a sign” said Rita Kennedy at the recent Grand Opening Celebration for Kirchner Woods. Rita, one of Jerry’s sisters, and nearly a dozen more family members, including six nieces and nephews, were welcomed with fanfare by Stowe Land Trust friends and neighbors for the official opening of the new trail network at Kirchner Woods.

In April 2009, a critical donation from an anonymous donor allowed Stowe Land Trust to purchase and conserve Jerry Kirchner’s beloved 75 acre sugarbush from his family. This generous contribution also included resources for Stowe Land Trust to work with Preserve Landworks and Sustainable Trailworks to design and build a multi-use trail system showcasing some of the unique natural and cultural features on the property.

Saturday, June 26th was a culmination of this effort to enhance public access to a piece of land whose trails wend and weave a comforting story of life in Vermont. In honor of Jerry’s belief that working the land creates a deeper appreciation for the landscape, family and friends donned their work gloves and set to work putting the finishing touches on the new parking area and three mile trail network.

“It’s days like this, with members of the family and neighbors coming together to celebrate the legacy of Jerry and his sugarbush, that remind us why land conservation is so important” said Heather Furman, Executive Director of Stowe Land Trust as she folded up the last of the checkered tableclothes from the BBQ that followed the festivities.



Clockwise from top: Rita Kennedy and Sister Katie, two of Jerry’s sisters. Dan Owen and Joe Trudeau work the rock as Jim Owen levers and Bob Fahey supervises. Jerry’s family left to right: Bob, Michael, Jim, Nancy, Rick. front: Nora, Laura and Dan.



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2PM

OLD - TIME

BARB *Mark Your Calendars!*

DANCE    **NO. 1**
2010

LIVE BAND AND DANCE CALLER!

CHILI COOK OFF 5:30 PM
\$35 Entrance fee. \$100 Judge's Choice Award. \$100 People's Choice Award. \$10 Dinner Ticket

328 BULL MOOSE RIDGE • STERLING VALLEY • STOWE

Come One, Come All! Open to All Ages! \$10 Admittance - 5 and under free!

INFO: 802.253.7221 www.stowelandtrust.org

Kid's Activities * **Prizes** * **Music** * **Hay Ride** * **Cow Plop Contest**