

# Mountain Views

SUMMER 2026



STOWE  
LAND TRUST

Dear friends,

**Summer is here.**

Families are back on the Rec Path, riding bikes and skipping stones in the river. The snowbirds have returned to their summer porches. Bears are moving through the woods again, and up on Mansfield a hiker just stopped on a ridge, took in the view, and remembered why they keep coming back.

That's the thing about Stowe. The year-rounders, the families who open up their house every May, the visitors discovering this valley for the first time — we're all here for the same reason. Like the warblers returning from the tropics, like the bears foraging deep in the forest, we're here because home isn't always an address — sometimes it's a feeling.

The trails. The ridgelines. The starry night sky. The swimming holes cold enough to make you gasp. The summer corn grown just down the road. These are the things that make this place what it is.

So this summer, get out there. Bring someone who's never seen the view from the top. Let the kids get muddy. Stay out past dinner. These are shared landscapes, meant to be experienced and cared for together.



See you out there,

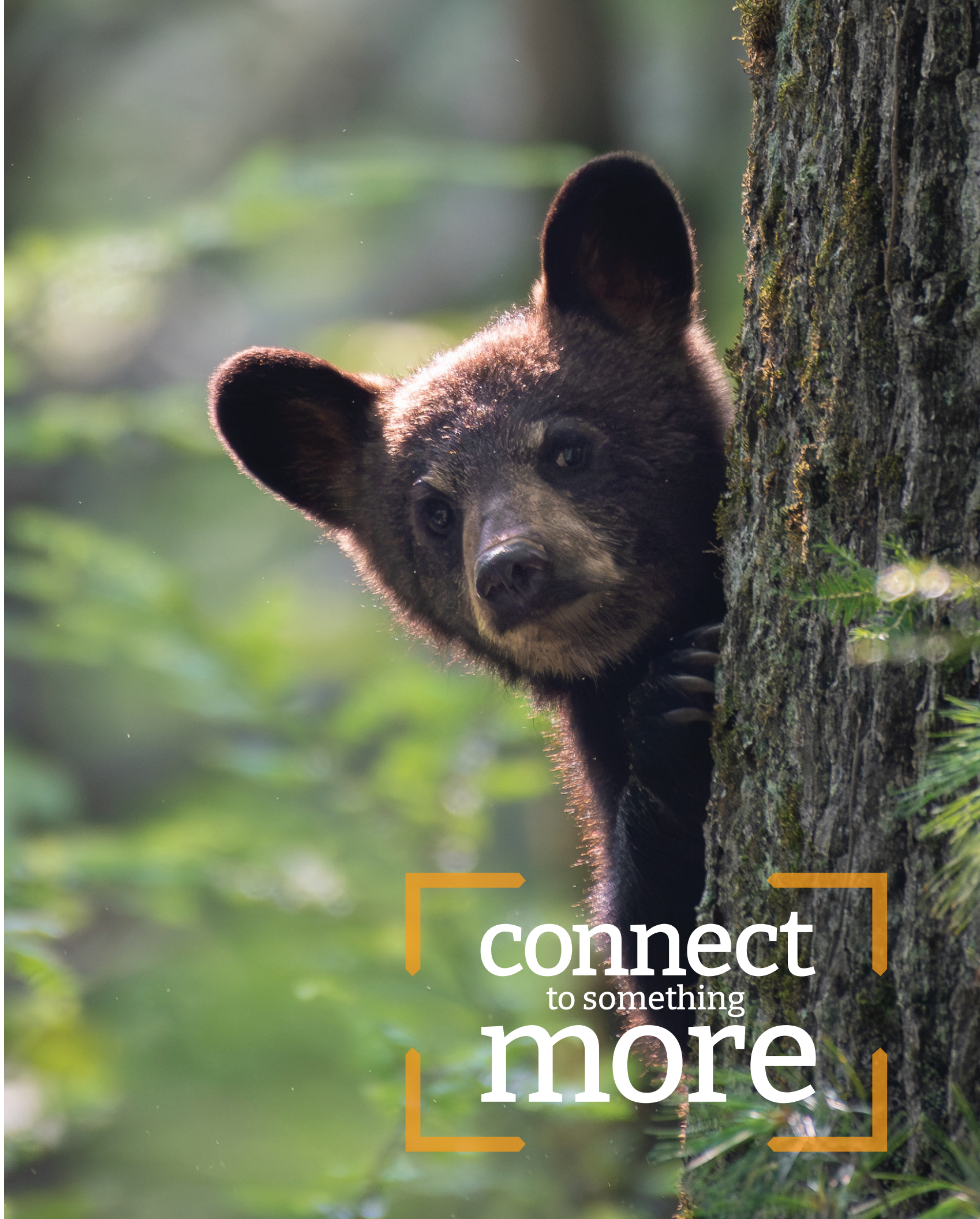
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rogers".

Tom Rogers  
Executive Director,  
Stowe Land Trust

Thank you to the talented photographers who contributed their work to this newsletter:

Cover photo: Jamie Edwards, iamlostandfound.com

Black bear cub (right), ruby-throated hummingbird (page 9), black bear yearling (page 9), and black-throated blue warbler (page 9): Emanuel Soza-Foias, esozafoiasphotography.com



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# A Home with a View



Somewhere along the way, people made the decision to protect that land, to keep it open for everyone to enjoy. It's not something we take for granted."

—Emily Bradbury

## Twenty-five years ago my husband and I bought our home in Stowe Hollow –

taking a leap of faith and most of our savings to anchor our lives in this valley. It wasn't the dated carpeting or the windowless kitchen that sold us on the house; it was the breathtaking view and the promise of building a life in a mountain community. The views of Mansfield are majestic, but it's the Worcesters that speak to my soul – the sun rising behind the Pinnacle, the wild and peaceful expanse of untouched forest, the echo of coyotes yipping and howling, the pink-orange glow of the mountains as the sun sets across the valley.

When we learned there was a campaign underway to protect Pinnacle Meadow from development, we made our first gift to Stowe Land Trust.

For 9,053 days I've woken up at the foot of those same mountains. I could never have foreseen that we'd still be in this house all these years later. That we would go from newlyweds, to parents, to empty-nesters in this very home. That over the years, we would hike Pinnacle Meadow hundreds of times, or that the little boys we carried to the summit in backpacks would later bring their friends home from college to hike that same trail.

From the Pinnacle summit, I've celebrated friends' birthdays, toasting with champagne and cupcakes. I've left my house in the dark to watch the sunrise from the rocky outcrop at the top. I hiked up Pinnacle Meadow the day I learned my grandmother died, tears on my face. The words I would speak at her funeral came into my mind with such clarity, it felt like they came from the sky above. Once, part way down the trail, my husband and I watched



an owl swoop soundlessly down and land on a pine bow. Motionless, she looked quietly at us as we looked quietly at her. Then she turned her owl head and was gone.

When they were old enough, we showed our boys our names on the Pinnacle Meadow plaque. To them—and to so many others – the Pinnacle trails were an extension of their backyard, something that had just always been. It felt important to show them that somewhere along the way, people made the decision to protect that land, to keep it open for everyone to enjoy. It's not something we take for granted.



Who knows what the next 25 years will bring? Maybe I'll bring my grandkids to Pinnacle Meadow someday. Or maybe we'll move on, and the next family to call this house their home will start the cycle all over again. Either way, I love knowing that the experiences we've treasured outside our back door will be here for whoever comes next.



Emily Bradbury is a communications consultant working with Stowe Land Trust. She and her husband, David, are members of the Every Day Land Supporter Giving Circle.



## A Trail for Everyone: Enhancing Access at the Mill Trail

**As Phil Branton walked hand-in-hand with his young son beneath the quiet hemlocks, he watched the boy's eyes light up when they looked down at the cascading brook at the Mill Trail. For his then five-year-old, the Mill Trail was the ideal adventure, with gentle terrain, wide paths, and rewarding views.**

A frequent visitor of the Mill Trail, Phil has experienced its ebbs and flows over the years. He recounts discovering a dilapidated "Bingham Falls for sale" sign, witnessing the historic Moravian Cabin's renovations in the 2010s, and encountering washed out sections of the trail inflicted by Hurricane Irene.

In recent years, heavy rains, erosion, and aging culverts have made the Mill Trail a prime candidate for trail repairs. Instead of taking a simple maintenance approach, Stowe Land Trust is upgrading the main trail and the trail that leads to the property's historic cabin into a universally accessible trail that can better accommodate families with young children and those that require canes, crutches, or a steadying hand.

Your support of Stowe Land Trust not only helps conserve places like the Mill Trail but also expands trail access today and for future generations. This summer, we will make the remaining universal access upgrades to the Mill Trail main trail and cabin side trail, including new bridges with flush decking, re-graveled surfaces, and gentler trail grades.

These upgrades do more than maintain a well-loved trail. They mean visitors won't have to turn back early due to steep conditions, that grandparents can easily walk alongside their grandchildren, and parents can more easily push their strollers down the path.

"At one point in our lives, we may experience an injury or require extra stability," says Phil. "These upgrades preserve the trail's natural beauty, while creating a space for each of us to experience the woods."

Thanks to grants and generous community members, we have already secured \$75,000, but we still have \$25,000 to go. Will you help us complete these upgrades so that more people have a place to enjoy nature?

To donate:  
[stowelandtrust.org/donate](http://stowelandtrust.org/donate)

## Home for the Summer!

Stowe's seasonal residents aren't the only ones who migrate north for the warm months. In fact, we humans are among dozens of species who shed our winter coats and seek out summer in this valley!



### Moose

*These gentle giants move to lower elevations in the summer to feast on aquatic plants in our ponds and wetlands, fueling up for the long winter ahead. If you're lucky, you might spot them at dawn wading through still water, unbothered and magnificent.*



### Black Bear

*Bears emerge from their winter dens hungry and ready to make the most of summer's abundance. They spend the season roaming widely - turning over logs, raiding berry patches, and raising their cubs born during hibernation.*



### Ruby-throated Hummingbird

*These tiny dynamos make an astonishing journey from Central America to Vermont each spring, arriving just as the first wildflowers bloom. They'll spend the summer zipping between flowers and backyard feeders before heading south again in early fall.*



### Weasels

*The short-tailed weasel — known as an ermine in winter — trades its snowy white coat for brown each summer, blending seamlessly into the forest floor. Small but ferocious, they're tireless hunters who keep the meadow vole population in check all season long.*



### Warblers

*The valley is summer home to favorites like the Yellow Warbler, the Common Yellowthroat, and the Black-throated Blue Warbler, who nest here before making their long journey south. They're easy to overlook, but once you start spotting them, you'll find the treetops suddenly full of life.*

# STOWE LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 284 • Stowe, Vermont 05672



## Party in the Meadow

von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort

**8.16.26**

Join us for a celebration of land  
and community!



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for upcoming volunteer  
opportunities, guided hikes,  
and summer events!