

Mountain Views

SPRING 2025



STCWE
LAND TRUST

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

—Aldo Leopold

I've always loved this quote which was written more than 75 years ago by American writer, scientist, and conservationist, Aldo Leopold. As a student of wildlife biology many years ago, Leopold's writing stirred my thinking and affirmed what I felt as a young man—we are part of nature, not the owners of it.

Just under a year into my tenure as executive director, the quote has taken on new meaning. It's the word “community” that really stands out for me today.

I'm not sure how Leopold would apply his famous land ethic to the global conservation challenges of today, particularly climate change. But I think he would tell us to start by caring for the woods and waters in our own communities.

We are a powerful force as a community, especially when we see the land around us as an essential part of who we are and who we want to be. I felt that power when you rallied to support protecting the Adams Camp Connector. I heard it at Stowe 2050 meetings when values including open land, world-class trails, and nature emerged as priority considerations for our next town plan. I see it out on the trails everyday as friends stop to say “hello” to each other while reveling in nature.

Community is at the heart of everything we do. That community includes the bees and the bears, the hemlocks and the maples, the fresh mountain springs and the deep clear lakes, the mountain tops and the grassy fields, and every person who lives in, visits, or feels connected to the Stowe area.

As spring emerges around us, bringing with it the warmth of the sun, the early crocus, and buds of bright green on the trees, I hope you'll join me in celebrating this incredible community to which we belong.



See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rogers". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Rogers
Executive Director





connect to something more

STOWE LAND TRUST

Board of Directors

Beth Bradford
Amy Farley, *Secretary*
Marc Felgar
Sarah Kalil
Micheline Lemay
Jason McLean, *Treasurer*
Brooke Mitchell
Roger Murphy
Ryan Percy
Kerry Sedutto
Jason Slocum, *Vice Chair*
Amy Stewart, *Chair*

Emeritus Directors

Charles Berry
Chess Brownell
Catherine Drake
Walter Frame
Sam Gaines
Walt Looney
John Merrill
David Wilkens

Town of Stowe Representative

Sarah McShane,
Planning & Zoning Director

Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust Representative

Clifford Borden

Staff

Metzi Anderson
*Director of Operations
and Finance*
Nicole Corriveau
*VHCB AmeriCorps Lands
& Trails Steward*
Bob Fahey
Program & Office Assistant
Alex Kauffman
Development Manager
Matt Kelly
Director of Land Protection
Carolyn Loeb
Stewardship Director
Tom Rogers
Executive Director

PO Box 284
Stowe, VT 05672
(802) 253-7221
stowelandtrust.org
info@stowelandtrust.org



@stowelandtrust

A photograph of two women in winter clothing standing in a snowy forest. One woman is wearing a white quilted jacket and a tan beanie, while the other is wearing a green jacket and an orange beanie. A chainsaw lies on the snow between them. The background shows a dense forest of bare trees.

From Celebration to Stewardship: Our Commitment to Conserved Land

The funds have been raised. The ribbon has been cut. The land is conserved. Now what? In many ways, conserving a piece of land is a little like a marriage. There is a lot of excitement leading up to the “big day.” We celebrate together, raise a toast to a successful match, and then...

And then the commitment begins.

When we sign the conservation papers, Stowe Land Trust vows to protect that piece of land forever. With the addition of the Adams Camp Connector this year, our stewardship staff is currently responsible for 40 conserved parcels and more than 4,600 acres of land in Stowe, Waterbury, and Morristown.

There are generally two types of conserved properties: those owned and maintained by Stowe Land Trust (six properties totaling over 400 acres, all of which are open to the public), and those that remain under private, state, or municipal ownership where we partner with the property’s current landowners to steward the protected land.



Stowe Land Trust partnered with Stowe Trails Partnership in 2024 to widen the bridges and tread on the lower trails at Kirchner Woods to make them accessible to adaptive bikers and easier to navigate for a wider variety of walkers.

In the same way a good marriage takes work, caring for a piece of land requires communication, care, dedication, and patience.

► **Communication.** The first step after a piece of land is conserved (or when conserved land is sold to a new owner) is to meet with the landowners to explain the conservation easement and answer questions about what they can and cannot do on the land. Depending on their goals, we then connect them with wildlife experts, foresters, and conservation partners who can provide further expertise specific to those goals.

► **Care.** At least once a year, we walk each conserved property to make sure the commitments we made to protect it are being upheld. Often, this leads to organizing a volunteer day to control invasive species or help maintain trails. For properties owned by Stowe Land Trust, such as Kirchner Woods and Wiessner Woods, we spend time most weeks fixing trail tread, replacing bridges, clearing downed trees, restocking poop bags for dog walkers, or adding maps to our trailhead kiosks.

► **Dedication.** Protecting land in order to “enhance quality of life for all connected to the Stowe area” as our mission states means we’re always looking for ways to improve connectivity, access, and climate resilience. In 2024, we partnered with Stowe Trails Partnership to widen the bridges and tread on the lower trails at Kirchner Woods to make them accessible to adaptive bikers and easier to navigate for a wider variety of walkers. In the coming years, we’ll be working with our partners to plan and build a new multi-use, three-season trail and a winter trail on the new Adams Camp Connector conservation easement; closing out erosion-prone old logging roads in Shutesville Ledges; conducting an ecological inventory in Wiessner Woods; and adding strategic woody additions to improve flood resilience in streams.

► **Patience.** Unlike a marriage between two people, Stowe Land Trust can’t “divorce” a piece of land. Our commitment to that land is forever, which means we think about what the land needs today and how to protect it for generations to come. Each Stowe Land Trust owned property has its own long-range management plan that guides stewardship to ensure that our children’s children—and their children—enjoy the benefits of nature many decades from now.

What’s Next for Adams Camp Connector?

- We are working on design plans for both a three-season hiking and mountain biking trail and a winter ski and snowshoe trail with input from our partners at Stowe Trails Partnership, Catamount Trail, and Stowe Nordic, and in consultation with the property’s landowner.
- Next, we’ll need permits which could take some time as they may need to go through the Act 250 and various state processes. Don’t worry if you don’t see much happening out there right away; we’re working on it in the office!
- Once we are ready to break ground, Stowe Trails Partnership will be overseeing the day-to-day construction work and management of the three-season trail and the Catamount Trail Association will be overseeing day-to-day construction work and management of the winter trail.



Stay tuned!

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and sign up to receive our monthly e-news at stowelandtrust.org.



For Bill Davis, Conservation is Good Business

Born in Morrisville and raised in Cabot, Bill Davis has considered Vermont home for more than 75 years. Although he and his wife, Charla, have a home in Florida, they continue to spend a significant amount of time in Vermont cycling, hiking, golfing, and spending time with friends and family.

Deeply connected to the Stowe area through family history and business investments, Bill and Charla support Stowe Land Trust because they see protecting the environment, recreational opportunities, and the agricultural landscape as essential to what makes Vermont unique.

"Vermont is, and always will be, a special place," said Bill. "A big part of that is the environment and our business community depends on that. Stowe Land Trust plays a huge role in maintaining that balance between vibrant business and protecting the environment. It's why so many people come to Stowe."

As Pinnacle Society members of Stowe Land Trust, Bill and Charla support the organization's mission, as well as specific fundraising campaigns. In 2024, they made a \$50,000 challenge gift to inspire others to give to the Adams Camp Connector, which Bill says "hits the heart of what's important to me."

"We loved the idea of protecting a trail system from downtown Stowe to the highest peak in the state, Mt. Mansfield," said Bill. "My family has had sugaring operations for four generations. I like knowing that the maples on that property will continue to be available for sugaring." The former CEO of Cabot Creamery, a farmer-owned cooperative, Bill credits the Stowe Land Trust with helping to protect what little agricultural land remains in the Stowe area. "It's so important to protect our farms and agricultural land," he said.

“

Everywhere we turn, we see parts of Stowe that have been preserved and know they will be that way forever. Our kids and grandkids who all live in or near Stowe will be able to enjoy the same landscape that has been so important to us.



The Songbirds of Shutesville

Have you heard the song of a warbler yet this spring? Or perhaps a Wood Thrush? As the earth begins to thaw here in Northern Vermont and the days grow longer, our forests fill with songbirds returning to raise their young. Among them, Wood Thrush, Canada Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

These forest birds are building their nests around Vermont, including in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor. Considered “species of greatest conservation need” by the State of Vermont, these forest birds are better able to nest in the forest interior where they are protected from predatory house cats and window collisions among other threats. It’s also where they readily find the insects, invertebrates, and fruits essential to their diet.

“While birds are not as limited in movements by roads as other wildlife species are, maintaining forest connectivity remains vitally important to maintaining healthy populations,” said Steve Hagenbuch, a conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont and co-chair of the Waterbury Land Initiative. The Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor is a priority area for the National Audubon Society because of its importance as a core breeding habitat along the Atlantic Flyway which spans from Maine to Florida.

To learn more: vt.audubon.org

Wild for Warblers



The willow thickets between fields at Mayo Farm are alive with the bright yellow colors and cheery songs of yellow warblers starting in May.

Tennessee warblers migrate through Vermont from the tropics to the boreal forests, stopping briefly at sites like the Burnham Farm to feed and rest along the way.



Chestnut-sided warblers patrol the bushes alongside DuMont Meadow in Moscow. Their chestnut-colored stripe serves as a ‘badge’ of dominance, much like a bull moose’s antlers.

Adams Camp Connector Conserved!

Because of you, we have successfully conserved the Adams Camp Connector, permanently protecting forestland, trail, and wildlife connectivity from the top of Mt. Mansfield to the Village of Stowe.

This was a true community effort. You showed up, gave generously, and together we have protected another gem that will enhance quality of life for all connected to the Stowe area for generations to come.

Special thanks to our partners:

- Stowe Trails Partnership - for bringing out the recreation community and working together to connect and expand Stowe's world-class trail system.
- Stowe Nordic and the Catamount Trail Association - for working with us to plan winter use.
- Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department - for helping to shape our planning in a way that minimizes the impact of a new trail on wildlife.
- Vermont Housing & Conservation Board - for the seed money that made this project possible.
- Talta Lodge, Topnotch Resort, Strawberry Hill Farm, the Alchemist, and Von Trapp Brewing Bierhall - for hosting events with us.



Let's Connect Stowe
**ADAMS CAMP
CONNECTOR**

Thank you, donors and members!

Whether you gave \$100 or \$100,000, your contribution helped to protect this important piece of land. Thank you! With over 200 individual donations, there are too many names to list, but you can see the full list on our website.

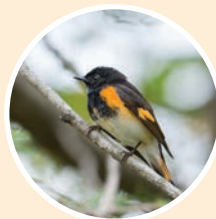


To view the full list of Adams Camp Connector donors.

SPRING EVENTS

MAY 10 *Spring Bird Walk*

Join Stowe Land Trust's Tom Rogers for a free guided bird walk with an expert naturalist. Open to all ages and abilities, you'll learn to identify a variety of local birds while enjoying a gentle walk in the Stowe area. Bring your mom for a special start to Mother's Day weekend!



JUNE 14 *Cady Hill Ride & Ramble*

Kick off mountain bike season with Stowe Land Trust and Stowe Trails Partnership! We'll be at Cady Hill for a fun day of riding and community. Hikers welcome!

