

Mountain Views

FALL 2025



STCWE
LAND TRUST

Dear friends,

I was asked recently why I raise money for conservation.

There are, of course, practical answers. Conservation helps prevent floods, fights climate change, and supports local economies. We have budgets to meet and ambitious projects to fund. But that's the "what," not the "why."

Why do we, as humans, feel so deeply compelled to protect nature?

For many of us, it's less about tangible returns or quantifiable results and more about a feeling—the way nature floods our senses and feeds our souls. As a colleague said,

"I do this work because I love the way the light reflects off the mountain in the early morning. I do this work because I love the way the forest smells after it rains."

I'm constantly in awe of nature. How a newborn fawn just knows how to run. How a sparrow just knows how to sing. How a maple seed, no larger than a raindrop, just knows how to unfurl into a towering tree.

This sense of awe is a reminder that we are all part of something much larger—something that touches on meaning and wonder.

The simple act of protecting a piece of land connects us to the world around us. It affirms and recognizes the intrinsic value of the world around us, of allowing nature to do what it innately knows how to do. It preserves not only acres, but awe.

Your support makes all the difference in ensuring that this wild, beautiful, and fragile world endures.

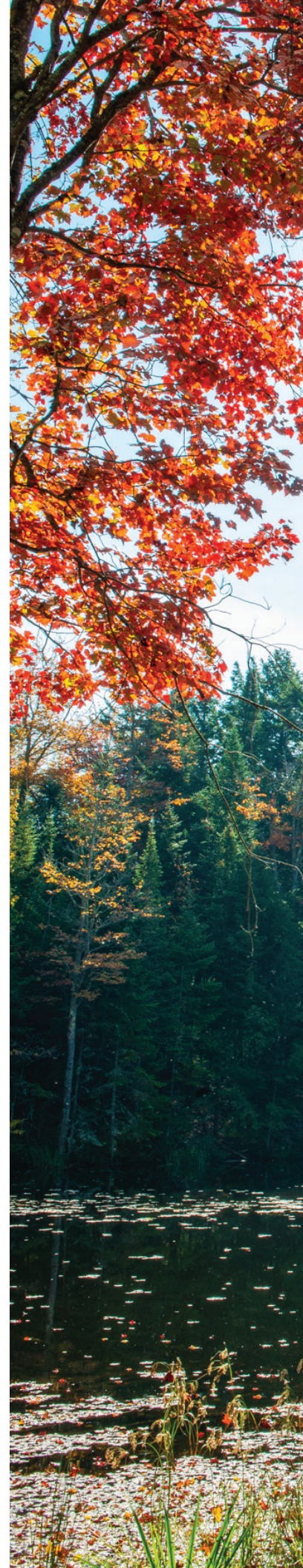


See you out there,

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

Cover photo: Tom Rogers





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connect
to something
more

Conserving the Farms that Feed Us



Conserving the Farms that Feed Us

On CSA pick up day, Long Winter Farm's dirt driveway off Nebraska Valley Road becomes a hub of community activity. Annie and Andrew Paradee, owners of the farm, chat with their neighbors and make arrangements for their son to sit with a friend on the bus for his first day of kindergarten. CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) members pause at the blackboard outside the farm stand to share what they'll be making with their produce that week. Three-year old Elliot rides his bike enthusiastically through a mud puddle, a smile of pure delight on his face.

Long Winter Farm is one-of-a-kind in the Stowe area—a small, family-owned, diversified farm that provides fresh, organic produce and small amounts of pasture-raised meat to local customers. Annie estimates that 30 percent of their CSA members live on Nebraska Valley Road.

"A big part of what drives us is producing food for the immediate community in a sustainable way," said Annie.

Next Generation Farming

This farm was the dream for Annie and Andrew, who met while serving in the Peace Corp. "We wanted to integrate our work with our life," said Annie. "Andrew grew up dairy farming in Vermont; our roots are here."

Finding affordable farmland in the Stowe area, however, proved challenging. Opportunity knocked when their neighbor, Christine Kaiser, decided to retire from farming and approached the Paradees about purchasing her land.



Long Winter Farm, a small diversified farm in Stowe, grows organic produce and raises cows, pigs, and chickens.

“

A big part of what drives us is producing food for the immediate community in a sustainable way.”

—Annie

Determined to make the sale affordable and ensure the farm's future, Christine partnered with Stowe Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust to put 49-acres into conservation easement, thereby removing development rights and ensuring the land would remain in agricultural use forever.

“That's what allowed us to move forward,” said Annie. “We are immensely grateful for Christine's resolve to keep her family's farm in agricultural use and by the partnership with Stowe Land Trust that allowed us to purchase this land. **We are determined to do right by everyone who has contributed to its conservation.**”

Nearly ten years later, Long Winter Farm is thriving. “It's the perfect spot for a small diversified farm,” said Annie. They cultivate three acres on which they grow over 40 varieties of crops, and graze the cows, pigs, and chickens in the adjacent pasture. Behind the bright blue doors of their greenhouses lie neat rows of squash, salad greens, carrots, onions, and garlic. The farm stand, which is open to the public on weekends, is filled to overflowing with the season's bounty.

A Sustainable Future

Knowing that the land will remain in permanent agricultural use also helps the Paradee's plan, providing them with the stability and confidence to invest in long-term soil health and growth. This past summer, Andrew planted edible fruit trees to expand the farm's offerings in future years and provide forage for livestock and wildlife.

“We intend to be here for a long time running a dynamic and sustainable business and to ensure the property is ready for an abundant future,” says Annie.



Oliver and Elliot help with the fall harvest.

Stowe Runners Take to the Trails

Becky McGovern and the Stowe High School Cross-Country team have run just about every trail in Stowe. They've run up the Pinnacle and back down again. They've done sprint drills at North Hollow Berry Farm, picking one berry at a time to fill their buckets. They've mapped out routes to private homes where they stack wood for donations. They've trained for meets at Strawberry Hill and the von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort.

It's no wonder the team performs well at the State Championships each fall—it's a town made for trail running. Plus, Becky uses those berries collected during sprint drills to make blueberry pies for the team, which undoubtedly provides the runners with a competitive edge.

"It's a great sport," says Becky, an avid runner. "Unlike skiing or mountain biking, you don't need expensive equipment—just a decent pair of sneakers. It's important to me that young people of all means have an opportunity to be mountain athletes. We're fortunate in Stowe to have extensive trails that are open to everyone."

Among those publicly accessible lands are trail systems at Cady Hill, Adams Camp, Kirchner Woods, Pinnacle Meadow, Strawberry Hill Farm, Sunset Rock, and Wiessner Woods—all Stowe Land Trust conserved properties.

"I enjoy running cross-country because I love being out in nature and on the trails," says varsity runner, Charlie Zimmerman. "I know most of the trails by heart, and I always look forward to running Pinnacle at the start of the season."



Interested in joining a trail run?

Join Stowe Trailheads for weekly "social-pace" runs. The routes are posted on Instagram **@stowetrailheads**. All are welcome!

"You're just totally immersed in nature, breathing in the fresh air and camaraderie, taking in the views. There's nothing like it."

—Lauren Wardwell



Giving Back, Building Community

For Torsten Bergersen, volunteering to help steward Kirchner Woods where he walks his dog most days, is not only a way to give back, but also an intentional effort to engage in the Stowe community.

A student at the University of Vermont when Covid-19 sent young people home to learn, Torsten and his girlfriend decided to shelter-in-place at his family's home in Stowe Hollow. Before long, Stowe began to feel less like a temporary refuge and more like home.

"Gradually, we realized we wanted to stay," said Torsten, who now works full-time as a software engineer and is married with a baby. "Stowe can be a difficult place to meet people, especially with so many people living here part-time. Volunteering with the fire department and Stowe Land Trust was a way for me to meet people who live here and get to know the community."

“ I love being in the woods. I love helping out. Kirchner is a place I'm happy to contribute to because it has contributed so much to me.”

—Torsten Bergersen, volunteer land steward

Becoming a volunteer land steward for Kirchner Woods was a natural fit for Torsten, who walks the trails with his dog most days anyway. He thinks of himself as the “boots on the ground,” helping Stowe Land Trust staff monitor the property on a regular basis.

"I might do a little trail clearing, but if I see a big tree down or a bridge that needs work, I'll contact the land trust," he said. He also shares feedback from others he sees on the trails. "Having that line of communication is important."

"If you spend a lot of time in a particular part of the woods, you start to feel an affinity or connection to it," he said. "Kirchner isn't flashy, there are no views. But I love watching the seasons change there and I've met a lot of local dog walkers on the trails."

Volunteer land stewards are the eyes and ears of the Stowe Land Trust. We could not do our work without them! Interested?

Visit stowelandtrust.org/support/volunteer or email carolyn@stowelandtrust.org.



"My grandparents purchased land in Moscow to preserve the view and wildness of the area. They never wanted it to be developed. It's meaningful to see the DuMont name on the DuMont Meadow sign and realize that our family started this when we donated the land, and now it's here for everyone forever."

—Malia DuMont

Thank You!

The sun came out. The band started playing. And you showed up by the hundreds. Thanks to you, the Party in the Meadow was exactly what we hoped it would be—a beautiful celebration of our incredible land and community. You are Stowe Land Trust.

When you show up, we can accomplish so much together!



von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort

Ways to Give

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please keep in mind that there are many ways to meaningfully support Stowe Land Trust.

Donate: Make a one-time or recurring donation.

Join a Giving Circle: Everyday Land Supporter (\$365), Pinnacle Society (\$1,000), Mansfield Circle (\$25,000).

Gifts of Real Estate: A direct and lasting way to make a difference.

Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds: A tax-advantaged way to give – turn appreciated assets into lasting impact.

Donor Advised Funds: Receive an immediate tax benefit and provide sustained support over time.

Legacy Gifts: Ensures your values live on through meaningful conservation.

Your support helps keep the Stowe area wild, beautiful, and accessible for generations to come.

Please consider making a gift today at stowelandtrust.org

or contact
alex@stowelandtrust.org
to learn more.

