

# Mountain Views

Quarterly Newsletter of Stowe Land Trust

Spring 2012



## *Cady Hill Forest:* Stowe Votes Yes

Thanks to Stowe voters, the idea of a 320 acre town forest in the heart of Stowe is on the verge of becoming a reality. Thoughts of a forest abundant with wildlife and natural beauty, miles of trails dipping and winding through the forest drawing visitors to our community was all voters needed to support the Town of Stowe's Capital Budget which allocated \$288,000 of the local options tax to the purchase of Cady Hill Forest. The Town Meeting Day approval for the project was a strong commentary on the values held by our community, and your faith in our ability to complete this acquisition for the Town.

Your membership support has allowed us to spend the last 9 months working on behalf of our community to permanently conserve Cady Hill Forest.

Instead of 90 new houses scattered along the ridge above Route 100 as you enter the lower Village, there will remain a forested hillside. Rather than fragmented habitat and a lost trail network, there will remain a home for deer and woodland creatures, and recreational opportunities that attract visitors, support our economy and add to our quality of life.

Once purchased, Stowe Land Trust will donate Cady Hill Forest to the Town of Stowe to be merged with Macutchan Forest's popular

"town loops" trails. The resulting protected area will host over 11 miles of multi-use trails that are popular with hikers, trail runners, dog walkers, and mountain bikers.

Thanks to a generous state grant, private foundation support and voter-supported town funding, Stowe Land Trust has raised nearly \$1,100,000 specifically for the purchase of this spectacular forest. Now more than ever, we need you, our members, to help us successfully complete this project. Our goal is to raise \$450,000 by May 30, 2012, and every contribution counts!

### *The conservation of Cady Hill Forest*

*is within reach,*

*but only with your help.*

The conservation of Cady Hill Forest is within reach, but only with your help. Visit [www.cadyhillforest.com](http://www.cadyhillforest.com) to make an online

donation or send a check today, and help protect this incredible community resource forever.

Follow Stowe Land Trust's progress by becoming a fan of Cady Hill Forest's facebook page and visit [www.cadyhillforest.com](http://www.cadyhillforest.com) to find the story.





# From the Executive Director and Board Chair



*Heather Furman*



*Cliff Johnson*

## Board of Directors

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Nancy Krakower, Secretary  
David Norden, Treasurer  
Jan Axtell  
Billy Coster  
Annie Dwight  
Bob Fahey  
Mike Haynes  
David Hosmer  
Harry Hunt  
Tom Jackman  
Jed Lipsky  
Bunny Merrill  
Brian Mullin  
Elaine Nichols  
Mary Beth Quinn  
Bethany Sargent  
Roger Witten

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Charlie Berry  
Trowbridge Elliman  
John Merrill  
Merton Pike  
Gaetano Vicinelli

## Executive Director

Heather Furman

## Assistant Director

Rebecca Washburn

## Office Manager

Erin Bruhns

*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.*



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Join our email list by visiting  
[www.stowelandtrust.org](http://www.stowelandtrust.org)

The early arrival of spring inspires both celebration and concern. As the ephemerals tentatively peek through the leaves and peepers make their way to the ponds, we hope that a late season snowstorm isn't in the works. While the sun shines and the air is warm, take a moment to peruse our spring outings and events. There is sure to be something for everyone.

We are fortunate to have had such resounding support from the community at the March Town Meeting. The unequivocal vote to approve \$288,000 for the purchase of Cady Hill Forest gives us the momentum we need to see the project through to fruition. But we're not there yet. Please consider supporting this project with a generous contribution today. The permanent protection of Cady Hill Forest is within reach, but only with your help!

We are proud to present our 2011 Annual Report in this issue. We continue to rely heavily on membership support to fund our operations. Your membership is critical to allowing us to do the daily work of permanent land protection. In addition to the monumental effort that went



into the Cady Hill Forest land protection project in 2011, SLT restored trails, installed signs, and continued with planning and fundraising for the restoration of the Mill Trail property's Moravian Cabin. We've maintained important partnerships and developed some new ones too. Topnotch Resort became a major new supporter in 2011 through the Forever Stowe Partnership.

This spring also brings a moment of quiet reflection as we learned of the passing of Fred Chase, who in 2008, put some of his seemingly boundless energy into helping SLT conserve Maple Run. We also pay our respects to Muriel "Moo-Moo" Wiessner who passed away in November 2010. Twenty years ago, Mrs. Wiessner dedicated an 80 acre forest in memory of her husband. Today Wiessner Woods is Stowe Land Trust's most popular conservation area and a beloved refuge - the perfect place to visit on a cool spring morning.

## In Memory of Fred Chase



Photo: Executive Director, Heather Furman and Fred Chase pose for a photo at the closing for Maple Run.

A yellow and black stenciled Maple Run sign hangs proudly in the Stowe Land Trust office as a reminder of Fred Chase's commitment to conservation. The sign was a gift from Fred to celebrate the permanent protection of 25 acres of forest land in Sterling Valley that he cared for during his retirement years in Vermont.

Fred passed away on January 3, 2012. He was a dedicated volunteer - attending trail work days and regularly monitoring conserved lands on behalf of Stowe Land Trust. He was a great debator of all things environmental and was a friend to all who knew him.

Stowe Land Trust is honored to carry on his legacy through the protection and stewardship of lands like Maple Run.

# What's Going On?

## Stowe Land Trust Outings and Events Calendar

Join us to learn more about conserved lands, help save Cady Hill Forest or just to have a great time with friends and family. For more information about an outing feel free to call 802.253.7221 or email [info@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:info@stowelandtrust.org).



### Cady Hill Forest Woods Walk & Ride

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Cady Hill Forest 9-11 am

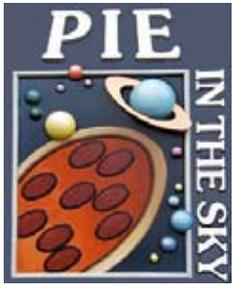
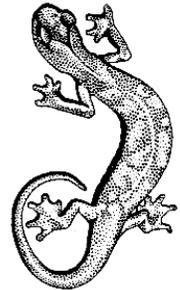
Take a walk at Cady Hill Forest with naturalist Jan Axtell and logger Jed Lipsky, both SLT board members. Learn about wildlife and how the forest can be managed to enhance habitat for animals that call Cady Hill their home. Or head out on one of the first group rides of the season. Rides for a variety of ability levels from intermediate to advanced will be available. Please meet in the parking area behind Iride on the Mountain Road.

### Spring Amphibian Walk for Pinnacle Society Members

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Cady Hill Road 9-Noon

The outing will be led by State Herpetologist Jim Andrews. You will learn about species identification, habitat and other interesting behavioral characteristics. Hikers should meet at the end of Cady Hill Road. Parking is limited. If you would like to carpool, meet at the SLT office on S. Main St. at 8:45 am. Be sure to wear muck boots or sturdy shoes and bring water. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 802.253.7221 or email [heather@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:heather@stowelandtrust.org).



### Pie in the Sky Benefit Bake

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Pie in the Sky - All Day!

Each year members of the community have an opportunity to gather together in support of land conservation over pizza. This year the event will raise money for the protection of Cady Hill Forest - a great trail network within walking distance of Pie in the Sky. So plan to head to Pie in the Sky for lunch, dinner, or both because 100% of pizza sales will be donated to Stowe Land Trust. There will also be an opportunity to make additional donations to help save Cady Hill Forest.

### Bird Walk

Saturday, May 19, 2012

Kirchner Woods 9-11 am

Celebrate the return of migratory birds to Vermont with naturalist and SLT board member Jan Axtell with a morning bird walk at Kirchner Woods. A few pairs of binoculars will be available but feel free to bring your own. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Meet in the trail head parking area off Taber Hill Road. This is a great outing for families.



### Nature Hike

Saturday, June 16, 2012

Joe's Pond 9-11 am

Explore the diverse ecosystem where water meets land at Joe's Pond with naturalist and board member Jan Axtell. Flowers, trees and shrubs will be green and the peepers will be active so bring your boots and plant ID guides for this fun spring event. Please park along the side of Stancliff Road near the Stowe Land Trust sign. This is a great outing for families.

### Stowe Vistas - For Love of the Land

Art Show Dates: July 1, 2012 - August 31, 2012

Reception: July 7, 2012 5-7 pm

VT Fine Art Gallery - Gale Farm Center

Vermont Fine Art Gallery is partnering with Stowe Land Trust for its summer art show. Featuring Vermont gallery artists Elisabeth Wooden, Bob Aiken & more, painting the many beautiful Stowe vistas. A portion of the proceeds from sales during the show will go to SLT in honor of their 25th anniversary of conserving land in the Stowe area. For more information visit: <http://vermontfineartgallery.com/>.

# 2011 Annual Report

## A Year in Review

### Land Protection

In 2011, SLT's land protection program was intensely focused on developing the Cady Hill Forest conservation project. Beginning in early February, staff began work on natural resource assessments, developing the best configuration for resource protection, and engaging the Town as a partner in the project. The spring and summer months were focused on appraisals, getting the land under contract, permitting for the new parking area, Act 250, and exploring funding opportunities. Before the end of the year, SLT was the recipient of \$450,000 in grants, and nearly \$200,000 in private gifts.

Other activities in the land protection program include:

- Partnered with the Waterbury Conservation Commission to raise awareness about the Route 100 wildlife corridor.
- Provided assistance to the Waterbury Conservation Commission on a possible land protection opportunity along Route 100.
- Provided assistance to landowners in Morrisville and Brownsville on various options for conservation.



Mill Trail undergoing repairs last fall.

### Stewardship

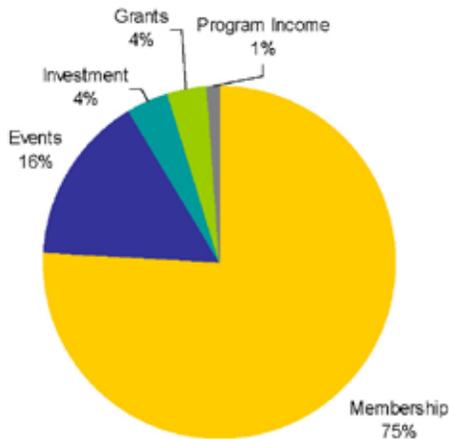
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- Completed significant trail improvements at Mill Trail, including a 35 foot pedestrian bridge.
  - Received a \$67,500 grant from the VT Housing Conservation Board to restore the historic Mill Trail Moravian Cabin.
  - Worked with a UVM graduate student to complete an ecological assessment of Mill Trail for an updated management plan.
  - Installed signs and trail markers at Kirchner Woods.
  - Worked with UVM interns to complete resource inventories at Kirchner Woods for an updated management plan.
  - SLT staff and volunteers completed and documented annual monitoring visits for all 28 properties conserved by SLT.
  - Dedicated 100's of staff hours to assist owners of conserved land with achieving their management objectives.

# Community

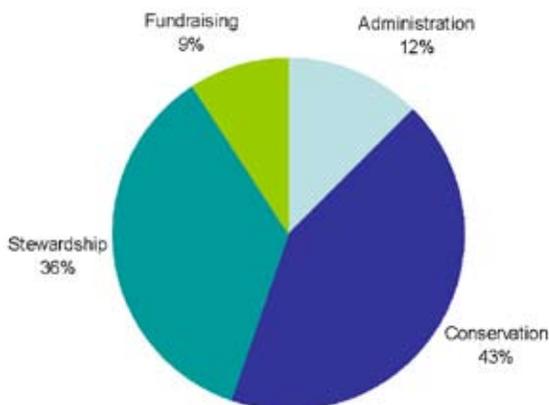
- Celebrated National Trails Day with a volunteer work day at Kirchner Woods.
- Hosted a nature hike and paddle, mountain bike ride, and a fall foliage hike to celebrate our conserved lands.
- Conducted trail work with numerous youth volunteer groups including the Laraway School, the Blessed Sacrament Bible Camp, and Grace Bible Church.
- Hosted a presentation and reception with the VT Community Foundation about charitable gift annuities.
- Held several successful events including the Stowe Land Jam, Pie in the Sky's Benefit Bake and the 12th Annual Golf Tournament.
- Announced the Forever Stowe Partnership with Topnotch Resort and Spa at our 24th Annual Meeting. <http://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/foreverstowe/>



## Operating Revenue - \$220,683



## Operating Expenses - \$220,429



# Membership & Finance

Membership continues to be the driving force behind our operations, contributing 75% to our annual operating income. The Pinnacle Society, launched in 2010 as a way to recognize members who are at the foundation of SLT's ability to achieve its mission, represented 59% of membership contributions in 2011.

It is very important to us that the community see the results of their support of this organization. We are rewarded with a steadily increasing membership with 63 new members in 2011 and 75% of our members renewing each year. 15% of members in 2011 were friends that joined again after missing a year or two. Welcome back!

Our planned giving program was established to ensure the long-term care and management of lands conserved by Stowe Land Trust. For many people, planned giving options offer the opportunity to make a more substantial gift than would be possible during one's lifetime. Three individuals contacted us in 2011 to let us know they had chosen one of SLT's planned giving options. To learn more, please visit our website at <http://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/planned-giving/>

### 2011 Restricted Accounts Summary

#### Income

Grants	\$ 2,500
Endowment	\$ 1,390
Investment	\$ 3,475
Land Protection	\$ 34,000
Stewardship	\$ 53,476
	<b>\$ 94,841</b>

#### Expense

Land Protection	\$ 32,050
Stewardship	\$ 51,494
	<b>\$ 83,544</b>



Pinnacle Society members and their guests are invited to join Stowe Land Trust on Saturday, April 28, 2012 for a spring amphibian walk with herpetologist Jim Andrews.

Jim will lead an outing at Cady Hill Forest from 9 am to noon introducing you to Vermont's native reptiles and amphibians in the extensive wetland complex located on the property. You will learn about species identification, habitat and other interesting behavioral characteristics. Look for your invitation in the mail this month.

If you are interested in becoming a Pinnacle Society member, please contact Executive Director, Heather Furman at 802.253.7221 or email [heather@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:heather@stowelandtrust.org).

**Stowe Land Trust wishes to recognize and thank the following 2012 Pinnacle Society members.**

Friends of Stowe Land Trust (2)  
Nancy and Bill Anderson  
Tim and Catherine Barns

Allan F. Beck  
Richard and Nancy Bennum  
Charlie and Gibby Berry  
Paul and Kathy Bosland  
Phil Branton and Ellen Lazarus  
Rick and Ann Bresnahan  
Jeff Herrmann and Sarah Brothers  
Julie and Kevin Buchanan  
The Burt Family  
Mill Foundation  
The Chingos Foundation  
Kitty and Allan Coppock  
Denise Burt Cushwa  
The James E. Robison Foundation  
Rick and Lynn Davis  
Eric and Vivian Denardo  
Graham Dower and Shelia Cheston  
Trowbridge and Claudia Elliman  
Tom and Mary Evslin  
Linda Sallop and Michael Fenlon  
Gerry and Terry Griffin  
David Harding and Jan Nyquist  
Christopher Hill and Susan Flicop  
Richard and Clea James

Cliff Johnson  
Frank and Marion Kellogg  
John and Diane Kemp  
Bonnie S. Knight  
Richard and Susan Leadem  
George Lengvari  
Joyce Nichols Lewis  
Jonathan and Brenda Lopatin  
Gilbert Lopes  
Clare Tweedy McMorris  
Bunny and Peter Merrill  
John and Millie Merrill  
Melissa and David Norton  
Dan and Cookie Owen  
John and Caroline Patten  
John and Adrienne Peacock  
Michael and Deborah Pucillo  
James and Ruth Santos  
Jeffrey Sharat and Constance Carrino  
Union Bank  
Nicholas A. Skinner  
Oliver and Gay Slesar  
Richard and Amy Sparks  
Lee and Alice Spencer  
Stires-Stark Family Foundation  
Brian and Sandy Stearns  
Tortimaki Foundation per request of Mr. and Mrs. Taussig  
Topnotch Resort and Spa  
Gaetano and Susan Vicinelli  
Richard and Sally Watts  
Prudence Webb  
David Wilkens and Molly Pindell  
Roger M. and Jill J. Witten

*Pinnacle Society members joining after April 1st will be recognized in the summer issue of Mountain Views.*

## Investing in Stowe's Natural Legacy

Stowe Land Trust turned 25 this year! Thanks to the dedication of supporters like you, we have been able to incrementally strengthen the organization over the years - enabling us to conserve the land you love. The challenges we face today remain similar to those we faced 25 years ago. With a new strategic plan in place, SLT is in a position to maximize the pace of land conservation, make the best use of our resources and truly make good on our promise of permanent land conservation.

Whether it is remembering SLT in your will, setting up a charitable gift annuity, or other type of planned gift, you can help assure our impact continues to grow in the decades ahead by including SLT in your estate planning.

### IRA Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity - or CGA - is a life income gift. When you establish a CGA, you support SLT with a cash or property gift, and in return, you receive a fixed income for life and an immediate income tax deduction. Some sample rates at various ages are available at <http://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/planned-giving/>.

For more information contact Heather Furman at 802.253.7221 or [heather@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:heather@stowelandtrust.org), or contact your financial advisor.

# Wiessner Woods

## 20th Anniversary

Sunlight slants through the trees and owls can be heard calling to one another above the background twitter of song birds and other forest noises. The trails at Wiessner Woods are easy to follow with decades of use leaving a well worn path as they wend their way through great stands of Hemlock.

Twenty years ago on December 30th, Muriel Wiessner (known fondly as Moo Moo) deeded the 80 acre forest to Stowe Land Trust. For Moo Moo the signing of the deed was the culmination of a dream shared with her husband Fritz, the renowned alpinist and ardent conservationist who passed away a few years before she donated Wiessner Woods in his memory. She made the donation to Stowe Land Trust because "it was local" and she "wanted someone who would care for the land they loved."

Wiessner Woods became Stowe Land Trust's second conservation project following the facilitation of the acquisition of Mayo Farm by the Town of Stowe. SLT's Board of Directors approached their newly conserved land with thoroughness and care so that it has grown to be one of Stowe's most popular conservation areas.

Shortly after acquiring the property, SLT's newly created Stewardship Committee set to work developing a parking area and signed

trail system. Committee members included Howard Carroll, Charlie Burnham, Johannes von Trapp, George Stearns, Gerry Kirchner and Greg Federspiel.

Moo Moo's passion for wildlife, particularly owls, made it easy to decide on a logo for the property. Graphics illustrator Lynne Jeffrey, generously donated her talent to create the owl image pictured here and featured prominently on signage and the brochure. Moo Moo and Fritz were actually the adopted parents to two Great Horned Owls: Miss Camelia and O'Higgins. This adventure is chronicled in the winter 1994 issue of Mountain Views. Visit: [www.stowelandtrust.org/newsevents/newsletters](http://www.stowelandtrust.org/newsevents/newsletters) to read the article.

During the months of September and October 1993, the first of three trails was constructed. The Meadow Trail was officially opened to the public during a dedication ceremony where Moo Moo unveiled a plaque memorializing the conserved parcel in honor of her late husband. The Hardwood Ridge Trail, formerly known as Dead Horse Alley, and the Sugarhouse Loop were constructed the following year.

Little has changed for visitors walking Wiessner Woods twenty years later. Fairy houses and the recently disintegrated Gnome Home have added to the magical quality of the woods.



New bridges, culverts and trail surfacing have made the trails more sustainable for the many hikers, skiers, dog walkers and families that regularly visit Wiessner Woods.

Moo Moo's sentiments about SLT being local and committed to caring for the land she and Fritz loved still resonate as we celebrate 25 years of land conservation in our community. Protecting the land we love is still at the core of SLT's mission. Wiessner Woods was among the first to mark the beginning of a quarter century conserving forests, farms, scenic views emblematic of Stowe and recreation trails that make this a wonderful place to live and visit. Whether you visit Wiessner Woods everyday or for an occasional ski, you know the trails are a treasure. Make a point to bring someone new there this year and introduce them to Fritz and Moo Moo's beloved land.



The scenic overlook on the Meadow Trail at Wiessner Woods

# Become a 2012 member!

With 2012 marking the 25th anniversary of Stowe Land Trust, we are looking ahead to renewing our commitment to the community in the next quarter century. At the heart of our vision is a vital organization, thriving as a community based institution and treasured resource that permanently protects the authenticity of Stowe for current visitors and residents, and future generations.



Your membership support will help secure our future as the leading conservation organization in this community. It will help us remain the vital, community based institution that we envision. It will allow us to continue to protect lands that are important to you and care for the lands we've already conserved.

We give a heartfelt thanks to those who have supported us for the last 25 years and we look forward to the next twenty-five!

Join online at [www.stowelandtrust.org](http://www.stowelandtrust.org).

Thank you!

*Celebrate 25 years of local land conservation with a fun piece of SLT merchandise!*



SKIDA hat available in the Nordic style with our 25th anniversary logo.

Nordic - \$28

Organic Cotton Canvas Tote - \$20 with 25th anniversary logo 21"x16.5"x7"



27 oz. Klean Kanteen - \$20 with SLT "Conserving land for our community" logo and a choice of the flat cap or loop cap.

Khaki Baseball Cap - \$18 One size fits all - featuring 25th anniversary logo.



Contact SLT if you would like to purchase limited edition merchandise by calling 802.253.7221, send us an email or stop by our office at 699 South Main Street.

VISIT STOWE LAND TRUST ONLINE FOR PROJECT UPDATES, AN EVENTS CALENDAR, OR TO MAKE A DONATION

[www.stowelandtrust.org](http://www.stowelandtrust.org)

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