

Mountain Views

News from Stowe Land Trust

Fall/Winter 2017

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Hikers take in Stowe's slice of the New England landscape from Stowe Pinnacle. © Richard Levine



A VISION FOR NEW ENGLAND *Wildlands and Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities*

By Caitrin Maloney, Executive Director

In the grand scheme of things, the land trust movement is young. Barring a couple notable exceptions, it got its start in the late 1970s. By 1980, more than 400 local and regional land trusts existed, most located in the Northeast. Vermont Land Trust was founded in 1977, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board began in 1987. Stowe Land Trust was also founded in 1987, and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The 1990s brought on a ground swell of support for conservation, and the pace of land protection efforts in New England increased by five-fold. Today, there are more than 389 accredited land trusts in the United States and more than 56 million acres have been conserved across the country. In New England, 9.8 million acres of farms and forests have been protected.

The land trust movement grew out of increasing concern for our

natural resources and recognition that without intervention, farms and forests could be destroyed at an alarming rate to make room for houses. Looking back on our history, the New England landscape was largely deforested in colonial times to allow for extensive agriculture. The flow of inexpensive grain from the Midwest incentivized the concentration of farm operations on a smaller number of acres, allowing for a tremendous expansion of forests across New England's abandoned farm fields over the next 150 years.

Fast forward to 2017 – and a new report released by the Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative¹ documents a reversal of this trend in reforestation. Over the last 20 years we have actually lost 1% of the forest cover in New England, at a rate averaging 24,000 acres a year. Forests in Vermont mirror this trend, showing a 1.9% loss in cover since 2012². Further, the rate of farm and forestland

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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.

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Join our email list by visiting
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STOWE LAND TRUST

Letter from the Executive Director



Greetings,

As I write this letter, and reflect on the past year, I can't help but to smile. Our 30th Anniversary Celebration at Strawberry Hill Farm was a smashing success, with nearly 300 people in attendance. We celebrated with both new friends and with folks that have been involved since the beginning. Our continued success depends on this type of community support - where old friends welcome new friends, and we share in the benefits of conservation together. Our future was also in

attendance that afternoon, with more than 70 kids enjoying hay rides, wood fired pizza and frog hunting with our Summer Naturalist (I promise – no animals were harmed in the process!). It's plain to see that we have a bright future.

The Stowe community doesn't just show up to party – there are many dedicated volunteers involved in our work year round. For example, in 2017 volunteers planted 100 native trees at DuMont Meadow and removed hundreds of invasive plants in Cady Hill Forest. Twenty-three people participated as Land Stewards, checking up on conserved properties, completing trail maintenance and other tasks as needed. We have a board of directors consisting of 22 dedicated community members. All told, more than 300 people volunteered with us in 2017, and nearly 700 individuals and businesses provided financial support.

Thank you for celebrating with us, for showing up for the hard work, and for supporting our work with your hearts, minds and dollars.

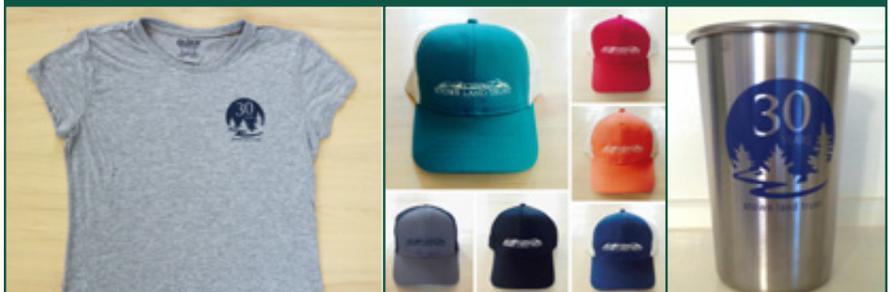
With gratitude,

Caitrin Maloney

P.S. In case you haven't yet heard the news: **we moved to a beautiful new office in July!** Come visit us at 6 Sunset St in Stowe Village next to Black Cap Coffee anytime; we'd love to see you.

Limited Edition 30th Anniversary Tees and Cups for Sale

Available while supplies last along with other SLT gear. Stop by our office at 6 Sunset St in Stowe or give us a call at (802) 253-7221 to order.



A Vision for New England continued

loss is accelerating; if this pace continues conservative estimates show we stand to lose another 1.2 million acres of farm and forestland to development over the next 50 years.

This time around the stakes are higher. The forest loss we are experiencing today is “hard deforestation,” meaning that forests are being developed into homes, roads and parking lots, rather than farm fields. The reforestation that happened after colonial times was relatively quick and occurred with minimal intervention - many unused fields simply grew up into trees. Hard deforestation is much more difficult to reverse, affording us both a challenge and an opportunity at this particular moment in history.

A Time to Act: Setting a bold vision for the future

In 2010 the Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative (W&W) was formed in recognition of this second period of deforestation in New England, whereby suburban and exurban sprawl is chipping away at both forestland and farmland. W&W created a bold, ambitious vision for the future of New England, intending to set us on a different, more sustainable path. In 2017, the vision was broadened from a focus on wildlands and woodlands to include farmland and urban and rural communities. The New England landscape is a diverse fabric, and the pieces are interdependent. Broadening the vision to include these other key aspects makes sense, and completes the picture.

The W&W vision in a nutshell: retain and permanently protect at least 70 percent of the landscape (30 million acres) in forestland, and another 7 percent (2.8 million acres) in farmland by 2060.

This is roughly three times the amount of land already protected. Furthermore, the authors suggest that given the rate that land is being lost to development, the pace of land conservation must be tripled in order to meet this ambitious goal.

How can this vision be accomplished?

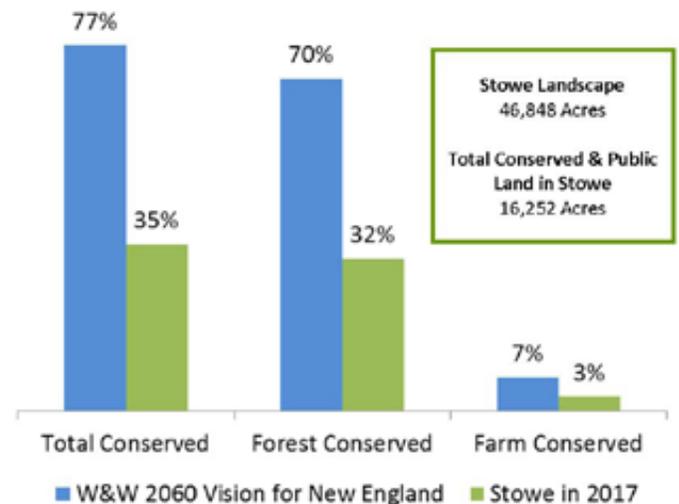
The W&W plan lays out the strategy in broad strokes. Since more than 80% of New England’s forests are privately owned, achieving the W&W vision will require conserving private forests using a combination of tools. Conservation work must also coincide with efforts to reduce sprawl and plan for more compact, energy efficient and livable urban, suburban and small town areas. The authors recognize that there are many committed people across New England already working to conserve our natural heritage and working landscapes, and hope this vision will further inspire their efforts.

The single greatest challenge to reaching this goal is funding for the purchase of land and easements. Even at a conservative \$1,000 per acre in total cost, achieving the W&W conservation goal would require an investment of about \$23 billion over the next five decades. For context, this is equivalent to approximately 10% of what the New England states will spend to manage state highways over the same period.

Stowe Land Trust: Doing Our Part

While SLT has not formally adopted the W&W vision, many of our strategies align with their recommendations:

- **Create a Strategic Conservation Plan:** SLT’s 2015 plan sets priorities for Stowe with a focus on forests, farms and recreation. Available online at www.stowelandtrust.org/strategic-conservation-plan/
- **Form Regional Conservation Partnerships:** SLT is a member of the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Coalition, a partnership of 13 local, regional and state groups working to protect a critical wildlife corridor.
- **Increase Public Funding:** SLT is a member of Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition, a statewide group that advocates for continued funding for housing and conservation in VT.
- **Leverage Private Funds:** SLT leverages private dollars to match state and federal funding for conservation. Our most recent land protection project matched private to state funding more than 10:1.
- **Promote Sustainable Management:** SLT connects landowners with resources for sound management and demonstrates best management practices on our fee-owned lands.



SLT does not have a target for how much land should be protected in our area. However, a comparison with the W&W vision and the percent of farm and forestland protected in Stowe today illustrates the opportunity and need to continue conservation efforts in our community.

¹Wildlands and Woodlands (W&W) is a regional vision working to conserve New England’s natural heritage and to craft a sustainable future. W&W is overseen by the Highstead organization, in partnership with the Harvard Forest, Harvard University. More info at <http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/>

²USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis, Northern Research Station, 2016.

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Planned Gifts & Bequests

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David Wilkens and Molly Pindell
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(Are you considering a planned gift? Contact us to let us know.)

In Honor of Peter Blain & Nina Barker's Marriage

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John Moorhead
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In Honor of Lily Grace Bishop Brownstein

David Brownstein and Kristyna Bishop

In Honor of Mr. Casey's 1st & 2nd Grade Class

Joe, Sarah & Francesca Nocito

In Honor of Rich Kenney

Patricia O'Connor

In Honor of Steven Mayhall

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Phillip and Sandra Burnaman

In Memory of Thomas J. Amidon, Esq.

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In Memory of Eileen Bassler

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In Memory of Clifford Johnson

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Raymond and Sengdao Bergmann

In Memory of Myles & Mary Peck

Raymond and Sengdao Bergmann

In Memoriam

Thomas J. Amidon, Esq. 🏠
Scott Brooks 🌿

Matching Gifts

AIG Matching Grants Program
Chevron Humankind
FM Global Foundation
IBM Corporation
Ketron Financial, LLC
Keurig Green Mountain
Pepsico Foundation
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Event Donations

Gray Matter Marketing Craft Brew Race
Stowe Cider Jam for the Land
Stowe Elementary School Talent Show

In Kind Gifts

Alario Tech
The Alchemist Stowe
Chess Brownell
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Cork Wine Bar & Market of Stowe
Dave Couch Signs
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Green Mountain Inn
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Stowe Bee Bakery & Café
Stowe Bowl
Stowe Cider
Stowe Ice Cream
Tom Rogers
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Trapp Family Lodge
West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park
Woodbelly Pizza
Yankee Home Solutions

Grants

Cox Trust
Bowie and Helen Duncan Land Trust Alliance
Oakland Foundation
Patagonia
Town of Stowe
Vail Resorts

Program Partners

Apple Tree Learning Center
Friends of the Winooski River
Green Mountain Club
Lamoille County Hikes with Tykes
Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission
Laraway School
Learning Ladder
Market Garden School
Mountain River School
Mountain Village School
Mud City Adventures
National Life Group
Rugged Adventures

Stowe Bible Camp
Stowe Conservation Commission
Stowe Elementary School
Stowe Farmers Market
Stowe High School
Stowe Mountain Adventure Camp
Stowe Parks and Recreation
Stowe Trails Partnership
The Nature Conservancy
Trapp Family Lodge
Vail Resorts
Vermont Land Trust
VT Department of Fish & Wildlife
VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Waterbury Conservation Commission

This list includes all donations made between October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017. If we have missed or incorrectly listed your name please let us know!

🌿 = 5+ Year Donors
🏠 = 10+ Year Donors
🏠 = 15+ Year Donors
🏠 = 20+ Year Donors

Special thanks to Vail Resorts CEO, Rob Katz, and his wife, Elana Amsterdam, for their \$100,000 gift to support getting kids outdoors and into nature, and to help us protect more land for the benefit of all!

18th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament

The 18th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament held on August 4, 2017 was a great success, raising \$20,000 for Stowe Land Trust. Thank you to our sponsors and all who attended -- your support makes our work possible! With the help of over fifty local businesses and individuals who provided everything from gift certificates and golf balls to 5 - star dinners and gift baskets, we had a great time.

The Stowe Land Trust Invitational Golf Tournament, held every year in August at the West Hill Golf Course in Stowe, is hosted by Lee and Alice Spencer. The golf tournament gives our members a unique opportunity to play on a spectacular private golf course while helping Stowe Land Trust protect Stowe's natural beauty.

The West Hill Golf Course is a picturesque and challenging nine hole, 3,255-yard, par 36 course nestled in the hills of Stowe. At the Calcutta Social, teams are auctioned off during an entertaining evening at the Commodores Inn. The following day, the tournament is played in a scramble format and is followed by an awards ceremony and cocktail reception at the clubhouse.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

1st Place Team - Tim Sargent (captain), John Merrill, Jim Hodge and Laura Badger.

2nd Place Team - John Biondolillo (captain), William Reedy, Bill Hunt and Fran McCune.

3rd Place Team - Art Ciullo (captain), Skip Roskam, Robi Hodge and Israel Brooks.



1st Place Team (left to right): Laura Badger, Jim Hodge, John Merrill and Tim Sargent.

Thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their support of the 18th Annual Golf Tournament!

Hosts

Lee and Alice Spencer

Gold Sponsors

Bunny and Peter Merrill
Nicholas Skinner

Silver Sponsors

Compass Construction
Hugh Durden

Bronze Sponsors

Hillel and Mitzi Becker
Harry and Carol Bonyun
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Arthur and Constance Page
Michael Roche - Vermont Arborists
Sam and Beverly Scofield
Philip and Roberta Scott
James and Rebecca Tunick

Individual Donors

Alan and Caryn Kovacs
Richard and Lindy McMahon
Antonio and Teri Pyle
Sam and Jinny Sammis
Tom and Ellen Werts

Business Donors

Special thanks to The Stowehof for donating an extensive spread of delicious food for the cocktail party.

AJ's Ski and Sports
Bear Pond Books
The Bench
The Body Lounge
Caledonia Spirits
Commodities Natural Market
Commodores Inn
Cork Wine Bar & Market of Stowe
The Country Store on Main
Darn Tough
Doc Ponds
Donna Petit Sports
Massage
Edson Hill
Elmore Mountain Farm
Ferro Jewelers
From Maria's Garden
Green Envy
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Hannaford
Harrison's Restaurant
Hobble Inn
Idletyme Brewing Company
In Company
Lamoille Valley Ford
Laughing Moon
Chocolates
Mac's Market
Maxi's Restaurant

Michael's on the Hill
The Pizza Joint
Plate
Saucha
Shaw's General Store
Stowe Hardware
Stowe Mountain Resort
Stowe Soaring
Sun & Ski Inn /Stowe Bowl
Sushi Yoshi
The Swimming Hole
Umiak Outdoor Outfitters
von Trapp Brewing
Von Barga's Jewelry

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John Merrill
Jack Patten
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Lee Spencer
Kitty Coppock
Mike Haynes
Jeff Kauffman & Family & Friends
Ron Philo
Ross Scatchard
Susan Spera
Sherry Wilson

THANK YOU!

Make a Lasting Gift: Join the Legacy Society

Five generations of my family are intrinsically connected to Stowe. My dad, Merton Pike, was a founding member of Stowe Land Trust and my mom, Ora, was there for him so he could participate. I decided to include SLT in my estate plan as a way to show gratitude for my parents' contributions and as a salute to everyone who has played any role in SLT's development, progress, and perpetuation. I hope this gift will encourage continuing support for SLT's valuable conservation efforts.

– Lucene Pike

To learn more about SLT's Legacy Society, visit www.stowelandtrust.org/support/legacygiving or contact Caitrin Maloney at (802) 253-7221.

Summer Naturalist 2017: It's a Wrap

AmeriCorps member, **Sarah Bailey**, and naturalist, **Krista Battles**, pulled off another fun-filled season of outdoor exploration and stewardship projects with nearly 600 local youth and community members through SLT's **Summer Naturalist Program**. We're so pleased to have completed 5 years of engaging the current and next generation of conservationists through this great program. See you next year!



SLT Naturalist, Krista Battles, introduces another generation of Stowe Elementary School 4th Graders to the Moravian Cabin at the Mill Trail as part of their Stowe History unit in September.

Employee & Youth Groups Get Work Done for SLT



Stowe Mountain Adventure campers did trail work, built benches, and checked property boundaries at Mill Trail and Wiessner Woods.

SLT has always had an amazing base of community volunteers. Recently, we've gotten an extra boost from corporate and youth groups looking for a way to give back. This year, **National Life Group** employees planted over 500 trees at DuMont Meadow in May; **Stowe Mountain Adventure Camp** youth took on stewardship projects each Monday through the summer; as part of **Vail Resort's Epic Promise Volunteer Week** in September, Stowe Mountain Resort employees and their families helped pull invasive barberry plants and improve trails at Cady Hill Forest; and **Stowe Bible Camp** was named SLT's **2017 Volunteer of the Year** for providing nearly a decade of service to SLT each June. If you are involved in a local company or youth group that wants to have fun doing active volunteer work outside, give us a call – we'd love to work with you.



Volunteers from National Life Group planted 550 native trees and shrubs at DuMont Meadow in May.

You Made SLT's 30th Celebration a Success



On September 9th, more than 280 people gathered at **Strawberry Hill Farm** to celebrate 30 years of local land conservation. Following SLT's annual meeting, guest speaker, **Roger Hill** gave a presentation on climate and extreme weather, and the implications for conservation, water quality and recreation. Outings and activities included **mushroom foraging, hayrides, forest and nature walks and a mountain bike ride**, followed by delicious food and a cash bar by **Woodbelly Pizza** and live tunes by local band **Burn Permit**. Many thanks to our amazing hosts, sponsors, volunteers, and to everyone who came for making this an unforgettable celebration! Here's to the next 30 years!

DuMont Meadow Restoration Complete



Learn more about this multi-year effort to restore DuMont Meadow by checking out the informational signs along Alex's Trail.

DuMont Meadow has about 1400 fewer invasive bush honeysuckle plants and 550 more native trees and plants than it did two years ago. The meadow's been brushhogged and the area along the Little River is being allowed to grow back up into a floodplain forest. All this work to restore the wildlife habitats and native ecosystems on this special property was done without the use of herbicides thanks to support from the **Oakland Foundation, the Davis Conservation Foundation, Intervale Conservation Nursery, AJ's Ski & Sports and Patagonia**, and dozens of volunteers.

SLT Board of Directors: Welcome & Farewell

Two new board members, Beth Bradford & Amy Stewart, were elected by Stowe Land Trust's membership at the 30th Annual Meeting on September 9th.

Beth Bradford

Beth grew up in Stowe and has always appreciated the physical and aesthetic beauty of this town. She and her husband, Bart, raised three children here and over the years, they have taken advantage of the endless outdoor opportunities Stowe has to offer. Beth is a teacher at Stowe Elementary School where she has worked for nearly 20 years. She enjoys instilling a love for the outdoors in her students, and looks forward to working with Stowe Land Trust to protect the places she loves, so that they can be enjoyed in the future.

Amy Stewart

Amy moved to Stowe in 2010, happily leaving behind the stresses of eight years of urban life in Los Angeles and Paris to seek refuge in Stowe's mountains, forests, dirt roads, incredible trails, and clean air. You'll often see Amy on the run, whether on Perry Hill or Adams Camp trails, competing around New England for the Green Mountain Athletic Association or chasing her 4-year-old son around the Mill Trail or Wiessner Woods.



Beth Bradford (left photo) and Amy Stewart (middle in right photo).

In addition to having volunteered for SLT as an advocate for conservation funding at the Vermont State House and planting trees along the Little River, Amy also serves on the parent board at Apple Tree Learning Center. Amy works for Green Mountain Coffee and looks forward to serving as a steward and strategist for Stowe's conservation efforts as an SLT Director.



Dave and SLT Executive Director, Caitrin Maloney.

Dave Hosmer

After nearly a decade of dedicated service, we bid a fond farewell to board member Dave Hosmer. Thank you for all you have done for Stowe Land Trust and we wish you well in all your future endeavors!

Donor-Advised Funds

By Dave Wilkens



In the last few years Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) have made quite a splash on the non-profit landscape. Although they have been available to individuals for 25 years, they have only recently been seriously adopted as a tool in the financial planning and giving toolbox. When used correctly, DAFs are an efficient way to organize one's charitable giving and planning, yearly

tax planning, and estate planning. They are seen as a low cost alternative to Private Foundations, which have only been available to those with sufficient funds and patience to jump through the necessary administrative and financial hoops.

DAFs allow you to take an immediate charitable tax deduction when you make an irrevocable donation to the fund. This works because the fund holders, such as Fidelity and Vanguard, have created charitable arms to their companies which allow them to accept donations. Once the money is in the fund, you manage the investment of the dollars through low cost pools and recommend charities to receive donations. This provides greater flexibility in how and to whom you give. Before the DAF, on a yearly basis, you might have scrambled to increase your deductions and lower your tax liabilities. With the DAF this is less of a problem. You take the deductions you need immediately and plan your giving more strategically.

What are the downsides? For one, unlike private foundations, there are no required minimum distributions. This requires you to manage the DAF and ensure the dollars end up going to the non-profits for which they are targeted. This can be bad for non-profits since they are possibly receiving fewer total dollars due to the middleman status of these funds.

What else should you know? For those with traditional IRAs, you can specify the DAF as a beneficiary of your required minimum distributions. Second, DAFs fall outside of your will and require you to be explicit to the fund holder about your succession plans for those funds. Otherwise, the financial institution assumes control of your DAF upon your death and adds it to its own charitable coffers. Third, like private foundations, DAFs cannot honor the legally binding pledges of individuals. Fourth, DAFs provide a means to manage highly appreciated assets.

The Stowe Land Trust happily accepts funds from DAFs. In recent months we have added a widget called DAFDirect on our giving webpage (<https://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/join-donate/>) which has streamlined the process of giving via DAFs. If you require more information, you should consult a financial advisor or go directly to the source at Fidelity, Vanguard, Charles Schwab, or T. Rowe Price.



What's Going On? SLT Outings and Events

For full descriptions and registration information for our outings and events visit: www.stowelandtrust.org.

Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Community Walk

Saturday, October 21st, 9-11am

End of Barnes Hill Road, Stowe

Take a walk with biologists through a core part of one of the five most important wildlife crossings in Vermont. Sponsored by the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Partnership.

Game of Logging Chainsaw Safety Training – Level I

Friday, November 17th, 8am-4pm

Sage Farm Goat Dairy

Professional hands-on instruction in tree felling provided by Northeast Woodland Training Inc. \$170/participant. Limited to 10 participants.

Fall Family Hike for Love

Sunday, November 19th, 10am

Kirchner Woods

Don't let stick season get you down; get outside with SLT on a kid-friendly hike that celebrates love of land, community, and each other. \$5/child or free for SLT members. Not yet a member? Join today!

Wildlife on the Move: How We Can Protect Critical Links & Corridors

Wednesday, December, 6th, 7-8:30pm

Green Mountain Club Visitor Center

Learn more about the new Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Partnership and hear inspiring stories from Cold Hollow to Canada from manager and Bird Diva, Bridget Butler. Part of the Shutesville Wildlife Series.

Taylor Lodge Snowshoe

Saturday, February 17th, 9-11am

Nebraska Notch

Strap on your snowshoes and join us for a moderate hike from Lake Mansfield to Taylor Lodge on the Long Trail.

Family Sugaring

Sunday, March 18th, 2pm

Location TBA

Come celebrate and learn about maple sugaring from some of Stowe's own sugarmakers. Sugarhouse tour, sap gathering, and samples for all ages!

For more information about an outing or event call 802-253-7221 or email info@stowelandtrust.org.



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