

Mountain Views

News from Stowe Land Trust

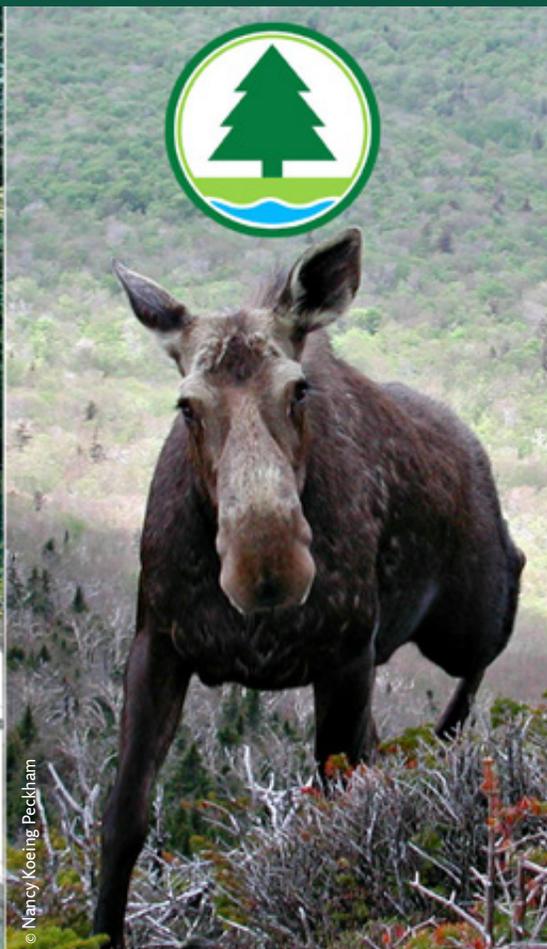
Fall/Winter 2018

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Cooling Off by the West Branch of the Little River, Moose on the Move, Cady Hill Forest Reopened After October 2017 Windstorm

BIG STORMS & HEAT WAVES:

How Conservation is Part of Being Prepared for Stowe's Changing Climate

By Kristen Sharpless, Executive Director

In the grand scheme of things, dealing with unpredictable weather is nothing new for farmers; wet seasons, droughts, and floods have always come with working the land. But some Stowe farmers are noticing and responding to shifts in weather patterns. At Long Winter Farm – conserved by SLT and the Vermont Land Trust in 2016 – farmers, Annie and Andrew Paradee, have invested in high tunnels to protect their crops from wind damage caused by more severe storms, as well as frost damage. The conservation easements on the Paradees' farm and others in Stowe give a lot of flexibility for investing in adaptive infrastructure to cope with a changing climate. For Stowe farmer, Ryan Percy – whose family dairy operation includes the SLT-conserved Bouchard Farm – dealing with rising annual and high temperatures like this

summer's record-breaking heat wave could look like adding sprinkler systems to the farm's open-air barns: a common strategy used in hotter parts of the country to help cattle avoid heat stress and maintain milk production.

Hotter summers stress people out too, and we all need places to cool off. Stowe's rivers, swimming holes, and mountain tops are some of the best places to find relief during a heat wave. With the uptick in the popularity of outdoor recreation among both visitors and residents, it's more important than ever that we protect natural spaces where people can cool down and unwind. Conserved lands and trails also need careful planning and sustained funding to meet the growing demands of a recreating public while also maintaining the high-quality of natural resources and visitors' experiences

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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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STOWE LAND TRUST

Letter from the Executive Director



It's been a year since the late-October windstorm whipped through the Stowe area, leaving many of us without power for days and large jumbles of downed trees piled across our roads and yards. The storm made an impact – not just on the landscape and our properties, but also on our mindsets. We know that, on average, storms in Vermont as well as across the region and globe are becoming both more frequent and severe. Given this trend, it's good to be prepared.

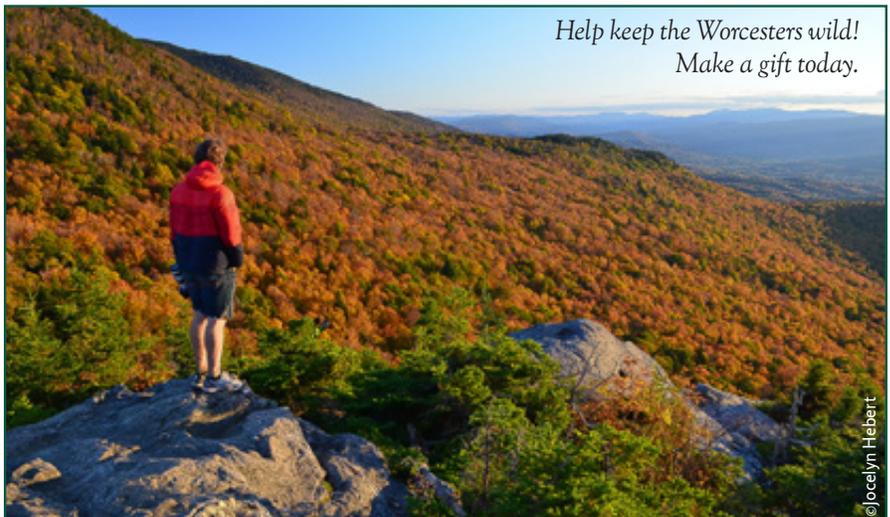
After the windstorm, my husband and I bought a generator and took down hazard trees around our home. At Cady Hill Forest, SLT helped to create a plan for storm clean up and trail rebuilding as well as improving the overall health and vigor of Cady Hill's trees so that when the next storm hits, the forest has a better chance of withstanding high winds without severe damage.

As we mark the anniversary of the windstorm and celebrate the successful reopening of Cady Hill's trails (better than ever, according to many!), now is a good time to take a look at the variety of ways in which the changing climate is affecting Stowe and the region and share what else SLT is doing – with your support and partnership – to help our community respond and prepare.

With gratitude,

Kristen Sharpless

P.S. Join SLT and the Trust for Public Land in helping to keep the Worcesters wild by supporting our latest land protection project: Hunger Mountain Headwaters. Learn more at www.stowelandtrust.org/projects/. Make a donation online by visiting our website or mail us a check today. We only have 2% of the \$4.5 million project costs left to raise and **we need your help!**



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Big Storms & Heat Waves continued

over time. At the SLT-conserved Bingham Falls, we are helping Smugglers Notch State Park create a plan for addressing safety and resource degradation concerns associated with the falls' increased popularity so that generations to come can enjoy the natural beauty and cooling effects of the site.

Shorter and warmer winters with less predictable snow cover have had a noticeable impact on Stowe's outdoor recreation scene. How many of you have used microspikes more than snowshoes over the past few years? Taken advantage of a resort's uphill policy when snow cover in the backcountry is thin? Or traded in your skis for a fat bike? In Stowe and elsewhere in Vermont, we are seeing a more diverse mix of winter and year-round recreation opportunities in response to a changing climate – adaptations which bring new possibilities and challenges.

Warmer temperatures and shorter winters are also creating more favorable conditions for the spread of new pests, parasites and other species that affect our Vermont wildlife and ecosystems. Non-native invasive plants, like Japanese barberry and bush honeysuckle, can get a leg up in these conditions and quickly take over forests, river banks, and roadsides. At SLT, we've prioritized dedicating resources to assessing and controlling invasive plants on conserved lands like DuMont Meadow and Cady Hill Forest, as well as monitoring for new arrivals so they can be detected and eradicated early.

Ticks are a parasite favored by warming conditions that are increasingly common in Stowe. Negative implications for human health are serious, as are those for other species like moose, whose Vermont population has been stressed by high winter tick loads. Ticks are likely here to stay, but species like moose could be on their way out as their ranges shift northward.

When updating SLT's Strategic Conservation Plan in 2015, we adopted the "conserve the stage" framework developed by the Nature Conservancy when planning for how to maintain biodiversity in our area over the long-term: individual species and plant communities may come and go, but as long as the full range of physical environments from mountain tops to river bottoms are kept intact and interconnected, we should be able to maintain the high-quality habitats needed to support a diverse array of plants and animals and the natural systems on which we depend.

This approach is referred to as "Conservation Design," which has been adopted by the State of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources when identifying, assessing, and prioritizing

landscape and habitat features essential for the ecological health of our state. SLT has integrated Vermont Conservation Design data into our conservation planning, which has underlined the importance of large forest blocks like the Worcester Range and connectivity blocks and wildlife road crossings like those in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor.

Knowing that these areas are important not just for the Stowe community, but also for Vermont and the northeast, has motivated SLT to take conservation action at a landscape scale.

For the first time, we are partnering with the Trust for Public Land to protect 2000 acres of critical forestland along the Worcester Range – most of which lies outside of Stowe's town boundary, but which is essential for protecting the wild, remote character of the 45,000-acre Worcester Range that we love, as well as the value it provides for wildlife, water quality protection, working forests and recreation access. The 109 acres of forest located in Stowe that are part of the Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project are also part of the 10,000-acre Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor, which provides the only ecological connection between the Worcester Range and Mount Mansfield. SLT is working with the Vermont Land Trust, Nature Conservancy and other partners to ensure that this critical connector stays open and safe for wildlife traveling between these forested mountains over a season, lifetime, or generation.

Learn More

Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project:
www.stowelandtrust.org/projects/

Vermont Conservation Design online mapping tool, Biofinder: anr.vermont.gov/maps/biofinder

SLT's Strategic Conservation Plan:
www.stowelandtrust.org/strategic-conservation-plan/

Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Partnership:
stayingconnectedinitiative.org/shutesville/

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Vermont Invasives. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and UVM Extension. vtinvasives.org

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative. VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC

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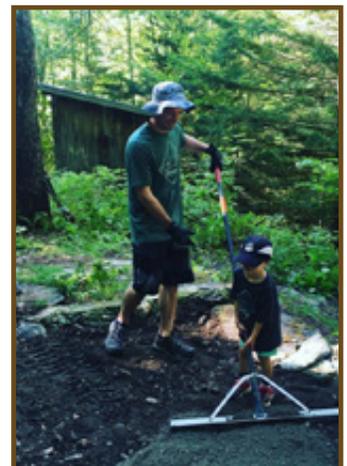
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 Tom and Lorrie Motylinski ♣
 Ron and Lynn Paparella ♣
 Kathleen and Bert Peterson ♣
 Robert and Anne Shapiro
 Matthew Sikora
 Carolyn and Louis Torre ♣
 John and Jeannette Van Blarcom ♣
 Terry Whelan ♣
 Amy and John Wykoff
 John and Judy Zinn ♣

Planned Gifts & Bequests

Charlie and Gibby Berry
 Chess Brownell
 Paul Chebator and Mer Zovko
 Gunnel Clarke & John De Villars
 Kitty Coppock
 Richard Levine and Catherine Drake
 David and Julie Gladstone
 Christine Lengvari
 John and Millie Merrill
 Tessa Milnes
 Joseph and Darsey Moon
 Rick Owen
 Lucene M. Pike
 Charles Tryon
 David Wilkens and Molly Pindell
 Roger and Jill Witten
(Are you considering a planned gift? Contact us to let us know.)



Our Donors - *continued*

In Honor of Metzi Anderson

Tom and Ebeth Scatchard

In Honor of Peter and Nina Blain

Nicholas Barker

In Honor of Joanne Cieri

Colleagues of Joanne Cieri

In Honor of Isabel Dreker

Randy Stern

In Honor of Jack Kiernan

Annie and Larry Ballin

In Honor of the Martin Family

Dana Martin

In Honor of Callie Gates Slocum

Elizabeth Steele

In Honor of Lee and Alice Spencer

Alan and Caryn Kovacs

In Honor of Alex and Sam Tolstoi

Mark and Chris Tolstoi

In Honor of Chris Weaver

Paige Weaver

In Memory of E. Nash

Jane and Duncan Brown

In Memory of Mr. Samphong Ngov

Raymond and Sengdao Bergmann

In Memory of Stephen Peck

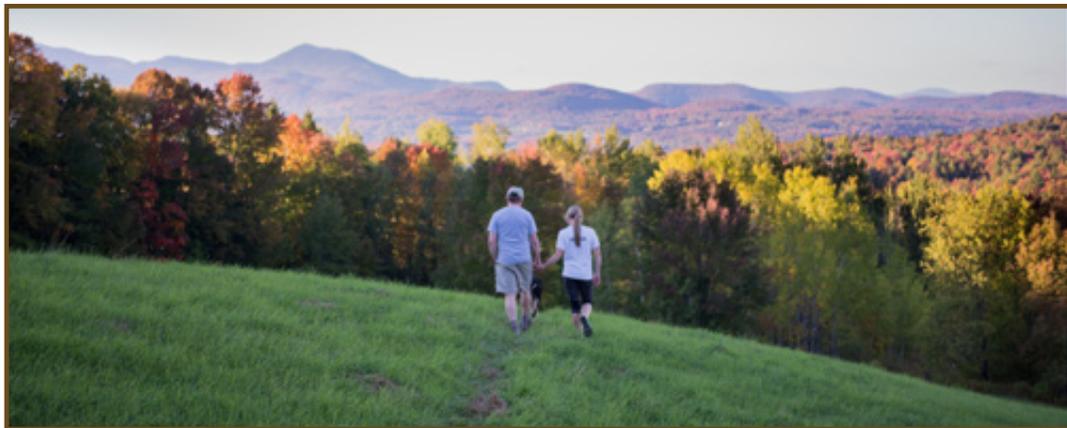
Raymond and Sengdao Bergmann

In Memory of Merton Pike

Kitty Coppock
Steve and Robin Pierson
Paula and Richard Reynolds

In Memory of Laurence & Doris Stancliff and Ivan & Happylyona Maxham

Ron and Judy Stancliff



In Memoriam

Anthony Czaja
Phyllis Fleming ✨
Jennifer Geissler ✨
Robert Hartt
Frank Helker
Franklin Kellogg 📷
Edwin Lang, Jr. ✨
Merton Pike 📷
Gene Posnick 📷
Honore Walsh
Ann H. Williams

Event Donations

Gray Matter Marketing Craft Brew
Race & Vermont 10 Miler
Stowe Bowl Giving Night
Stowe Cider Jam for the Land
Sushi Yoshi Give Back Month
Topnotch Resort & Spa Day of
Donations

Grants

Canadian Friends of Stowe Land
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Land Trust Alliance
Natural Resources Conservation
Service
Outdoor Gear Exchange
Patagonia
Spruce Peak Realty
Town of Stowe
Vermont Housing & Conservation
Board

Hotel Partners

Topnotch Resort & Spa
Trapp Family Lodge
The Stowehef

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Cold Hollow Cider Mill
Dave Couch Signs
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Green Mountain Inn
Jesse Goldfine
Richard Levine
Lucy Nersesian
Power Shift
Tom Rogers
Stowe Ice Cream
Trapp Family Lodge
West Branch Gallery & Sculpture
Park
Yankee Home Solutions

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Aetna Foundation
AIG Matching Grants Program
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Pepsico Foundation
Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck
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Program Partners

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Friends of the Winooski River
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Kwitken
Lamoille County Hikes with Tykes
Market Garden School
Mud City Adventures
National Life Group
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 Intervale Conservation
Nursery
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Trapp Family Lodge
Stowe Mountain Resort
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, 2017-September 30, 2018. If we have missed or incorrectly listed your name, please let us know!



19th Annual Golf Tournament Raises \$38,000 for Conservation!

The 19th Annual Golf Tournament held on August 2, 2018 was a great success, raising \$38,000 for Stowe Land Trust. Thank you to our sponsors and all who attended -- your support makes our work possible!

Congratulations to this year's winners!

1st Place Team - Sebastian Sweatman (captain), Julie Douglas, Patrick Keene, and Griff Sexton.

2nd Place Team - Tim Sargent (captain), Bill Hunt, John Straub, and Susan Vicinelli.

3rd Place Team - John Polakowski (captain), Charla Davis, John Easton, and Pall Spera.



1st Place Team (L to R): Sebastian Sweatman (captain), Julie Douglas, Griff Sexton, and Patrick Keene.

Make a Lasting Gift: Join the Legacy Society



One of the first things I did after moving to Stowe twenty years ago was become a member of Stowe Land Trust. I have derived countless hours of pleasure from walking, hiking, and snowshoeing on the trails conserved and maintained by SLT. Because I believe in SLT's mission and want future generations to have the same recreational opportunities that I have enjoyed, I chose to make a bequest to SLT in my will. I am proud to be part of SLT's Legacy Society and even more proud to be part of a community with such a strong commitment to conservation.
– Tessa Milnes

To learn more about the Legacy Society, please visit www.stowelandtrust.org/support/legacygiving or contact Kristen Sharpless at (802) 253-7221.

Thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their support of the 19th Annual Golf Tournament!

Hosts

Lee and Alice
Spencer

Gold Sponsors

Hugh Durden

Silver Sponsors

Basil Dobbin and
Jena Wood
Richard and Susan
Hart
Michael and Cherry
Richards
Michael Roche -
Vermont Arborists
O. Griffith and
Barbara Sexton

Bronze Sponsors

Friend of Stowe Land
Trust
Julian Harrison
Jack and Caroline
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Philip and Roberta
Scott
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Steel – Steel
Construction

Individual Supporters

Hillel and Mitzi
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Lowenstein
Michele Pressman
and Deborah Levy
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Michael's on the Hill
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Saucha
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Stowe Bee Bakery
Stowe Hardware
Stowe Mountain
Lodge
Stowe Soaring
Stowe Wine &
Cheese
Sun & Ski Inn - Stowe
Bowl
Sushi Yoshi
The Bench
The Body Lounge
The Butchery

The Country Store on
Main
The Stowehof
The Swimming Hole
Tom Knows Salsa
Turtle Fur
Umiak Outdoor
Outfitters
Von Bargaen's Jewelry
von Trapp Brewing
Well Heeled
Wild Thyme Catering
Yellow Turtle

Committee Members & Volunteers

John Douglas, Chair
Chess Brownell
Art Ciullo
Trowbridge Elliman
Walter Frame
Meg Kauffman
John Merrill
Alice Dana Spencer
Lee Spencer
David Bennett
Kitty Coppock
Park Crist
Catherine Drake
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Nathan Kessler
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Millie Merrill
Nick Mitchell
Bruce Nourjian
Debbie Pucillo
Ben Salvas
Jesse Schloff
Alex Tilgner
George Townsend
Tom Werts
Sherry Wilson

THANK YOU!

Naturalist Program Completes 6th Season

AmeriCorps member, **Elisabeth Fenn**, recently wrapped up a fun season of outdoor education programs and volunteer work days. She delivered 37 programs to **545 participants**, led **6 volunteer work days** with **86 volunteers**, and stewarded over **1,000 acres of conserved land!** Many thanks to all of our partners and program participants, we can't wait for next year!



Summer Naturalist, Elisabeth Fenn, hunts for animal homes in the school yard with Stowe Elementary School students.

Art Marks the Trail at Sunset Rock

In the spring of 2018, Stowe Land Trust partnered with **4th graders at Stowe Elementary School** to create the beautiful trail markers guiding the way up Sunset Rock. The kids were tasked with painting a plant or an animal that visitors might find on the trail. The plaques serve as both a guide to show hikers the path, and a fun way to learn about the environment around us.



One of the new trail markers guiding the way up to Sunset Rock.

2018 Volunteers of the Year



Kristen Sharpless presents Rick and Sally Watts with a gift at SLT's Annual Meeting & Celebration.

Stowe Land Trust recognized **Rick and Sally Watts** for their 10+ years of service as diligent and active Land Stewards at the 31st Annual Meeting & Celebration on September 22nd. Combined with Sally's special assistance on SLT's Stewardship Committee, they continue to make outstanding contributions to SLT's mission and work. We couldn't care for our conserved lands without you - thank you! Are you interested in becoming a volunteer Land Steward? Please email us to inquire about which properties need Stewards at info@stowelandtrust.org.

Farewell Blacksmith Shop – Hello Mill Trail Picnic Area

Thanks to a local deconstruction team and a grant from **Outdoor Gear Exchange**, what used to be the site of the old Blacksmith Shop at the Mill Trail is now home to a naturalized picnic area. On September 15th a team of volunteers participating in **Vail Resort's annual Epic Promise Day** installed three picnic tables atop the old foundation. The team also improved the trail down to the West Branch of the Little River, providing safe access to the water. Thanks to our partners and volunteers for helping complete the project!



Volunteers from Vail Resort's Epic Promise Day making improvements at the Mill Trail.

Welcome Back, Elisabeth!

Stowe Land Trust is pleased to welcome **Elisabeth Fenn** back to SLT in her new role as **Conservation Program Coordinator**. Elisabeth spent this summer serving as SLT's Stewardship and Outreach Assistant, a position through the VHCB AmeriCorps program. This gave her the opportunity to get to know the Land Trust and connect with community members through educational outdoor programming, tabling at events, and coordinating volunteer projects. Elisabeth is excited to bring this experience - along with a background in trail maintenance, volunteer coordination and outreach from her time working at the Green Mountain Club and a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Vermont - to the Conservation Program Coordinator position. Elisabeth will be coordinating easement stewardship, volunteer work, and education programming. She will also assist with outreach and organizing SLT events. Be sure to say "hello" if you see Elisabeth on the trail, in the office, or around town!



Elisabeth Fenn

SLT Board of Directors: Welcome & Farewell



Former SLT board chair, Chess Brownell (left), and Anna Black (right).

Welcome, Anna

New board member, **Anna Black**, was elected by Stowe Land Trust's membership at the 31st Annual Meeting & Celebration held on Saturday, September 22nd at the Moscow Recreation Field in Stowe.

Anna grew up in Stowe and moved away for ten years to attend college and law school in Florida. She is licensed to practice law in Florida and Vermont. She moved back to Stowe in April 2017 to join Gale & McAllister PLLC, a small law firm focusing primarily in real estate law. Anna also serves on the board of Stowe Rotary and loves engaging with the community, giving back and getting outdoors as much as possible. She looks forward to serving on the board of Stowe Land Trust to help conserve and protect the incredible natural beauty that surrounds us and makes Stowe such a phenomenal place to live.



Farewell, Roger

After 9 year of service on the Stowe Land Trust Board of Directors, we bid a fond farewell to **Roger Witten**. Roger has provided countless hours of sage legal advice and valuable input and guidance on SLT's Lands Committee. Thank you for everything you have done for Stowe Land Trust and we wish you well in all your future endeavors, Roger!

Roger Witten waves farewell at Stowe Land Trust's Annual Meeting & Celebration.

Have an Impact Every Season of the Year: Make a Recurring Gift to SLT

"I chose to become a monthly contributor to Stowe Land Trust because I am a firm believer that we borrow the land from our children. Preserving the land is important. Stowe is a magical place and I love it here. I want Stowe to be preserved for generations to come, so the least I can do is support the Land Trust."

- Ana Echenique, SLT recurring donor

SLT's recurring donor program is a great way to increase your impact on land protection and stewardship in your community. To become a recurring donor, please select your preferred donation frequency from the drop down menu in our online donation form at <https://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/join-donate/>.



What's Going On? SLT Outings and Events

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

Walks with Kristen

Select Fridays, 3-4pm

Get inside access to the happenings at SLT while getting outside with SLT executive director, Kristen Sharpless. All are welcome. No RSVP required.

Sunset Rock - November 16th

Valcour Bog on Snowshoes - January 24th

Vernal Pool at Page Forest - April 19th

Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Community Walk

Location and time TBD

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

Vermont 10 Miler

Sunday, November 4th, 8am-1pm

Run this fun race to support SLT, or volunteer to help day of. Visit our website to find out how to register!

Fall Family Hike

Saturday, November 17th, 10am-12pm

Wiessner Woods - Park at the Stowehof

Join us for a gentle kid-friendly walk at Wiessner Woods. Meet at the Stowehof and stay for cider pressing and tasty fall treats after the walk! Rain or shine. Space is limited - preregistration required.

Mill Trail Snowshoe

Saturday, February 16th, 1-3pm

Mill Trail, Notchbrook Rd

Strap on your snowshoes and join us for an exploration of the Mill Trail's layered history ending with a warm drink by the fire at the cabin. All ages welcome!

Family Sugaring

Sunday, March 17th, 2pm

Sage Farm & Percy Farm, Weeks Hill Rd

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



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