

Mountain Views

News from Stowe Land Trust

Spring/Summer 2017

In This Issue

30 years!

Annual Report

Outings Calendar



Walking on the Quiet Path at Mayo Farm. © Richard Levine

Stowe Land Trust, Celebrating 30 Years

SLT is gathering your stories in celebration of our 30th anniversary. These are a couple of those we've collected so far and we have posted more on our website.. We know that many of you have your own stories of how SLT has made a difference in your life. Please share them with us by visiting www.stowelandtrust.org or contacting us at info@stowelandtrust.org or (802) 253-7221.

The Push to Get Started

Merton Pike, now 96, is a retired farmer and a Stowe Land Trust founding & Emeritus Director. When Merton's parents moved to Stowe in the 1920s, there were about 200 farmers in town. According to Merton, "If a person had a couple of dairy cows in those days, they were considered a farmer." The Pikes started out farming and sugaring 200 acres along Route 100 where the family farm still is today. By the time Merton was six, he was charged with taking a horse and cart to deliver the

farm's milk to the creamery over a mile away on the Mountain Road. "I felt pretty big," recalled, Merton.

By the 1980s, things had changed in Stowe. Farmland was being developed at a rapid rate and many residents were getting worried about the loss of open space. John McVickar – a local lawyer – had been inspired by attending several Land Trust Alliance national meetings and started gathering concerned citizens together to discuss what could be done. "John asked me to join in those meetings because of me being the chair of the Conservation Commission at the time and a farmer. So I went because of my interest in saving farmland," said Merton. "The Mayo Farm wasn't being farmed anymore and we were concerned that it was going to be sold and developed, so that was the main reason that John tried to get a land trust going – to prevent that from happening."

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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

From the Board Chair



Dear Members and Friends,

It's with great pleasure that I present the latest news from your Stowe Land Trust. We share a love of what makes this place unique. Whether it's the scenic open vistas, the landscape of farm and forest, or the many recreational opportunities, the abundance and variety of this area's natural world draws us together in appreciation for all that is Stowe.

For thirty years you've supported our work to conserve critical community spaces.

Completing 32 projects and conserving nearly 3,500 acres of land in 30 years could not have been possible without You, our board members, our valued staff, our dedicated volunteers and our many statewide partners.

The big picture view has us continuing our work to conserve the natural resources of the community. For properties already in our portfolio, we have a forever commitment to maintain these lands and waterways. We'll do this together as we always have, and your ongoing support is central to our success. In this newsletter you'll read stories of history past and some thoughts on where we're going. What are your thoughts? What's important to you? As we approach the warmer months, we invite you to get out on the land with us and share your perspective. Collectively we're stronger and, in working towards shared goals, we'll create an even healthier, more vibrant community in which to live, work and play.

In appreciation,

Chess Brownell
Chair, Board of Directors

Thanks to all of our board members, past and present.

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Stowe Land Trust, Celebrating 30 Years – continued



“The Mayo Farm wasn’t being farmed anymore and we were concerned that it was going to be sold and developed, so that was the main reason that John McVickar tried to get a land trust going – to prevent that from happening.”

- Merton Pike

According to Merton, it was John’s leadership and perseverance that ultimately led to the formation of Stowe Land Trust and the successful conservation of Mayo Farm – Stowe Land Trust’s first project. “He kept pushing for it and finally he got enough people behind him that he got it started. But for a while there it was kind of a one-man-show.”

That first project was just the beginning. John, Merton, and many others have and continue to lend their vision, leadership, and hard work in support of protecting important and productive lands for our community through SLT. In reflection, Merton believes, “The Stowe community is quite anxious to support SLT. It wouldn’t have gotten so big and have done so many things in the past 30 years if people didn’t support it. I think Stowe Land Trust is here to stay.”

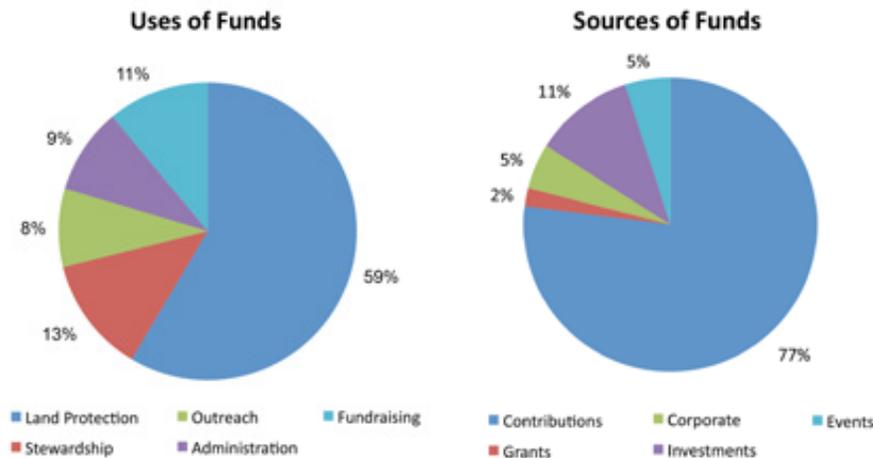
How Fortunate We All Are

Meg Kauffman and her husband decided to relocate to Stowe from the Boston area in 2003 because they had grown weary of long commutes and interminable lines of traffic. They wanted a simpler, more relaxed lifestyle in a quintessential New England town, without limiting their children’s academic and recreational opportunities. Once they moved into their home in Stowe Village, Meg quickly discovered the wooded trails and scenic vistas of Sunset Rock at the end of her street. Walking her dog there became a regular routine that she couldn’t imagine living without.

A local real estate agent and community volunteer, Meg joined the Stowe Land Trust Board in 2013. One of her first tasks was to

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To Our Supporters:

Stowe Land Trust has conserved nearly 3,500 acres of land in Stowe, Waterbury and Morrisville since 1987--protecting spectacular viewsheds, extensive trail networks, and the working farms and forests that are Vermont’s heritage. This important work has been sustained primarily by the generous support of individual donors. Thank you for your support!

SLT’s financial records are reviewed annually by Grippin Donlan Pinkham, CPA. A complete copy of the annual financial review may be obtained by request.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

For the Year ended September 30, 2016

Assets	
Cash & Other Assets	\$170,427
Investments	\$686,760
Building & Land Improvements	\$93,578
Land	\$2,125,040
Total Assets	<u>\$3,075,805</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$6,852
Accrued expenses	\$7,802
Total Liabilities	<u>\$14,654</u>
Net Assets	
Beginning Net Assets	
Unrestricted & Board Designated	\$598,963
Temporarily Restricted	\$290,648
Permanently Restricted	\$2,171,540
Net Income	\$17,161
Total Net Assets	<u>\$3,061,151</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$3,075,805</u>

Stowe Land Trust, Celebrating 30 Years – continued



Meg began to realize how much she and others in the community took Sunset Rock for granted and how fortunate we all are that it is conserved.

Meg Kauffman

land had been purchased by SLT in 1999. Instead of hosting public trails, the community natural area could have become a private enclave of homes, drives, and yards all closed off to visitors. Instead of being the beautiful backdrop to Stowe Village, Sunset Rock's hillside could have been riddled with houses. Meg began to realize how much she and others in the community took Sunset Rock for granted and how fortunate we all are that it is conserved.

Picturing a Bright Future Ahead

What do the youngest members of our community hope Stowe will be like when they are grown up? "A beautiful place with lots of nature that's not a big city and still a small town," said 8-year-old Lainey Lonetto. Now imagine that we have achieved that vision and are looking at the snapshots below from a field trip to one of Stowe's farms with Lainey's kids in the spring of 2047.

prepare a short presentation on a conserved property and she picked one of her favorites: Sunset Rock. As she read through old files and news clippings, Meg learned that a previous owner had proposed a 23-home development for the property and that other plans for development had been in the works up until the

Imagine a field trip 30 years from now...



And we're off! Walking the nature path from school to farm.



Stopped on a bridge over the Little River to watch swallows snapping up insects on the wing. Amazing flyers!



Views of Mt. Mansfield were incredible.



Heading to the park for a picnic lunch.



Made it to the farm! Helped to feed the baby goats and harvest early greens. Got a tour of the modern wood heat district plant too. So cool to see where some of our school's food and energy come from!



Time to bike back to school. We love the Rec Path.

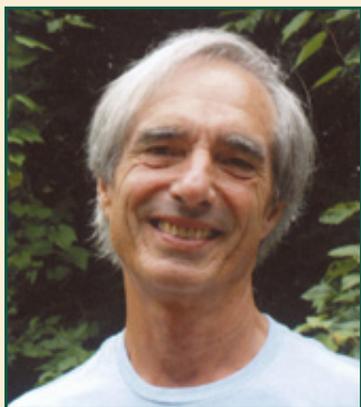


Look what we found near the wildlife corridor underpass! Children were so excited to share stories of wildlife they have seen recently.



What a great day in Stowe!
Spring 2047

Make a Lasting Gift: Join the Legacy Society



Charles Tryon

Why I give - a story from one of our Legacy Society members:

In 1976, I got laid off from my job in Connecticut. I loved skiing, so I came up to Stowe to stay with a friend, bought a pass, and skied all winter. Then one thing led to another and I stuck around. Stowe has changed a lot in the 40 years I've lived here. I'm sentimental and don't like change, so I really appreciate that Stowe Land Trust preserves open land and farmland in town. That's why I decided to make a planned gift to Stowe Land Trust. Also, when it came to making my estate plan, I don't have any children, and I realized that none of my fourteen nieces and nephews would get much if I divided up my estate between them. So I decided that leaving my house to Stowe Land Trust in my will would be a better way to leave a legacy and to do a good thing for my community. - Charles Tryon

See more stories and read about our new Legacy Society online:

www.stowelandtrust.org/support/legacygiving/

You're Invited to Stowe Land Trust's 18th Annual Golf Tournament & Summer Cocktail Party

Festivities begin at the Commodores Inn the night before the tournament. Guests and golfers enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while getting a sneak peek at the team pairings. You have a chance to win big in the Calcutta by betting on your favorite team! On tournament day, the course is played in an 18-hole scramble format with four person teams selected by the SLT Golf Committee. Complimentary cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win great prizes in the raffle are just some of the great reasons to attend this event.

Thursday, August 3, 2017

Calcutta Social

Commodores Inn

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Friday, August 4, 2017

18th Annual Golf Tournament

West Hill Golf Course

Registration 11 am | Shotgun Start at Noon

Cocktail Party to follow 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Play the private West Hill Golf Course - a stunning 9-hole course with sweeping views of the Little River valley - hosted by Lee and Alice Spencer. Space in the tournament fills up fast - so call or send in your registration today! For more information contact Metzi at 802-253-7221 or metzi@stowelandtrust.org.



SLT Updates

Welcome, Sarah!



© Lew Coty

SLT would like to welcome Sarah as our new **AmeriCorps Stewardship and Outreach Assistant** through the summer of 2017. Sarah grew up swimming in the Great Lakes of Michigan and soon after graduating high school began seeking new adventures far from her hometown. She spent the past few years working on and leading backcountry trail crews out West and recently found her way to the Northeast. Sarah now lives in Montpelier, Vermont where she studies herbalism at the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism. She looks forward to spreading awareness of the natural world and engaging with those in the community through Stowe Land Trust's Summer Naturalist program. Sarah will also be coordinating volunteers, assisting with outreach and events, and helping with monitoring and maintaining conserved lands.

Students Return to Wiessner Woods

In January, Don McDowell's **AP Environmental Science class from Stowe High School** returned to Wiessner Woods for the second time. Students worked with SLT to continue a **long term study of the forest** by collecting data on the growth and overall health of the local forest ecosystem. According to Don, the project helps foster "an appreciation for forests and an understanding of forestry, which is an important aspect of the class curriculum." Both SLT and Don hope the project will continue well into the future.



Stowe High School student, Mackenzie Matckie, identifies and measures a white pine at Wiessner Woods as part of a long-term forest study.

We're Wild for Pollinators!



SLT has joined **Vermont's Wild for Pollinators Initiative** by pledging to maintain 7 acres of pollinator habitat at **DuMont Meadow** by brushhogging the meadows every 2-3 years and not using herbicides on the site. You can join us in being Wild for Pollinators by creating habitat on your own property. Visit www.kidsgardening.org/wild-for-pollinators-program/ to learn more.



We used a small excavator to pull over 100 mature, invasive bush honeysuckle shrubs at DuMont Meadow last November. We avoided using pesticides that can harm beneficial bees and other pollinators.

Conservation Groups Team up for Critical Wildlife Corridor Work



The Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor, located in Waterbury and Stowe, is a vital connection between two vast, forested stretches of wildlife habitat located along Vermont's Mt. Mansfield spine of the northern Green Mountains and the Worcester Range. Several conservation organizations have teamed up with local and statewide government entities to look for ways to protect and enhance this critical resource and its associated benefits to

wildlife and people regionally. Project partners include:

- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
- Green Mountain Byway Steering Committee
- Lamoille County Planning Commission
- Stowe Conservation Commission
- Stowe Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Vermont Agency of Transportation
- Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- Vermont Land Trust
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Waterbury Conservation Commission

Stay tuned for more information about this effort coming soon.

Save the Date! Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Community Celebration

Strawberry Hill Farm Saturday, September 9th. See you there!

Stay tuned for details.

©Atkinson Forage



Bottles, Tees & Hats!

Celebrate SLT's 30th year with a performance tech shirt featuring the anniversary logo on the front and SLT logo on the back. 100% polyester jersey knit with AquaFX™ wicking and Freshcare™ antimicrobial properties. Available in men's, women's and youth sizes. Classic baseball hats, water bottles and eco-trucker caps available too! Stop by our office at 699 South Main St in Stowe or give us a call at (802) 253-7221 to order.



- Adult Anniversary Tee \$20
- Youth Anniversary Tee \$15
- 24 oz Flip Top Water Bottle \$20
- Eco Trucker Cap \$20
- Classic Baseball Cap \$20





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What's Going On? SLT Outings and Events

Stowe Mountain Bike Club Spring Trail Work Day & Cookout
Saturday, May 13th, 9-2 PM.

More info at www.stowemountainbike.com

Wild Tea Foraging Walk

Saturday, May 13th, 3-5 PM at DuMont Meadow

Come have a taste of our wild and wonderful 'weeds'

Craft Brew Race and Festival

Saturday, May 20th, 12-4 PM at Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa

Volunteers needed! Run or walk in this relaxed 5k with a craft brew fest at the finish line (21+)

National Trails Work Day

Saturday, June 3th, 9-1 PM at Wiessner Woods

Gloves, tools, and snacks provided, but bring a bag lunch

VT Atlas of Life Workshop

Thursday, June 8th, 7-8:30 PM at The Green Mountain Club

Part of the Shutesville Wildlife Series. Led by Kent McFarland from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Bird Walk

Saturday, June 10th 7:30-9:30 AM at Waterbury Waterworks

Look and listen for spring arrivals with the Waterbury Conservation Commission

Family Fairy House Building

Saturday, July 15th 10-12 PM

Experience the magic of fairies and construct inviting dwellings for them to live

Plant Pressing and Book Making

Saturday, August 19th 10-2 PM at Mill Trail Cabin

Craft your very own journal to keep plant pressings safe and record your explorations of the natural world

Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Community Celebration

Saturday, September 9th 3-6 PM at Strawberry Hill Farm

Save the date. Stay tuned for details

For full descriptions and registration information for our outings, events and more visit: www.stowelandtrust.com,
call 802-253-7221 or email info@stowelandtrust.org.

