

Mountain Views

News from Stowe Land Trust

Spring/Summer 2019

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© Steven Mermelstein

Brownsville Forest contains 750 acres of threatened woodland, and it is the last, large, undeveloped parcel of forestland to protect in the town of Stowe. **Stowe Land Trust must raise \$750,000 by July 2019** to purchase and protect Brownsville Forest. The plan is to add it to the adjacent C.C. Putnam State Forest, which will open the land to public access and preserve views to be enjoyed for generations to come. Land conservation has never been more essential to ensuring our community's health, and with your support, Stowe Land Trust can continue our work to conserve our environment and our shared values.

Threatened Woodland

Brownsville Forest was listed for sale in August 2018 for \$9.95 Million and is currently at risk for development. This parcel is part of the Worcester Range which is one of Vermont's most wild and least protected mountain ranges. The State of Vermont has designated the Worcester Range as a Highest Priority Area within the state and the region for maintaining biodiversity and an ecologically resilient landscape in the face of climate change. Protecting Brownsville Forest is a local conservation effort that will have a global impact.

Stowe Land Trust's success in this project means Brownsville Forest will be protected for the public and wildlife alike. The land contains critical forest, wetland and open habitat for local wildlife and until the property was posted several years ago, neighbors and community members long used and appreciated access to the land for hiking, hunting, mountain biking, cross country skiing and more. The undeveloped ridgeline of the Worcester Mountains is the eastern backdrop to the town of Stowe, and conserving Brownsville preserves the mountain views for which Stowe is known.

A Forest for the Future

Stowe Land Trust has a contract to purchase the property at the end of July 2019 once necessary funds have been raised. Upon acquisition, SLT plans to immediately transfer ownership to the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation who will manage and maintain the forest subject to a conservation easement held by Stowe Land Trust. Each conservation project is unique, and we work hard to pair the best steward of the land with each project. In this case, that steward is the State of Vermont. The Department of Forests,

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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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www.stowelandtrust.org
info@stowelandtrust.org

Join our email list by visiting
www.stowelandtrust.org




STOWE LAND TRUST

From the Board Chair



Hello,

What an exciting time for Stowe Land Trust and the Stowe community. Three important land conservation projects are underway and our team of dedicated staff continue to do amazing work to protect these lands for future generations to enjoy. Specifically, the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor, Hunger Mountain Headwaters (2,000 acres!), and most recently the 750-acre Brownsville Forest conservation project.

Since 1987, Stowe Land Trust has protected more than 3,500 acres of farm and forest land, and with the current projects we will significantly add to this 32-year mission of conserving scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest lands for the benefit of the greater Stowe community.

I am grateful to Kristen, Metzi and Elisabeth for their dedicated efforts in pursuit of this mission. We also welcome Grace, our VHCB AmeriCorps Summer Naturalist, who will be working in the community to engage and educate the next generation of land trust advocates.

The Brownsville Forest project is remarkable in that it will be the largest purchase - in both cost and acreage - for Stowe Land Trust. With over 90% of the funding secured for the \$5.75 million deal, we look forward to the community's participation as we plan to closeout this project in Summer 2019 and transfer the land to the State of Vermont as an addition to the C.C. Putnam Forest (13,000-acres) while Stowe Land Trust retains the conservation easement.

After enjoying a plentiful snow recreation season, I look forward to an active and healthy summer and fall to enjoy the lands we've all come to appreciate through Stowe Land Trust's commitment.

Sincerely,

Walter Frame
Chairman, Board of Directors

Get a Free Buff When You Donate to Brownsville Forest!

Support SLT's conservation efforts and display your commitment to safeguarding Brownsville Forest for the future! Donate \$100 or more to help protect Brownsville Forest before July 2019 and receive one of these limited-edition buffs. Available while supplies last. In-person pick-up only; no shipping.

To donate securely online, visit WWW.STOWELANDTRUST.ORG or stop by our office at 6 Sunset St in Stowe (next to Black Cap Coffee). Get yours today!



BROWNSVILLE FOREST

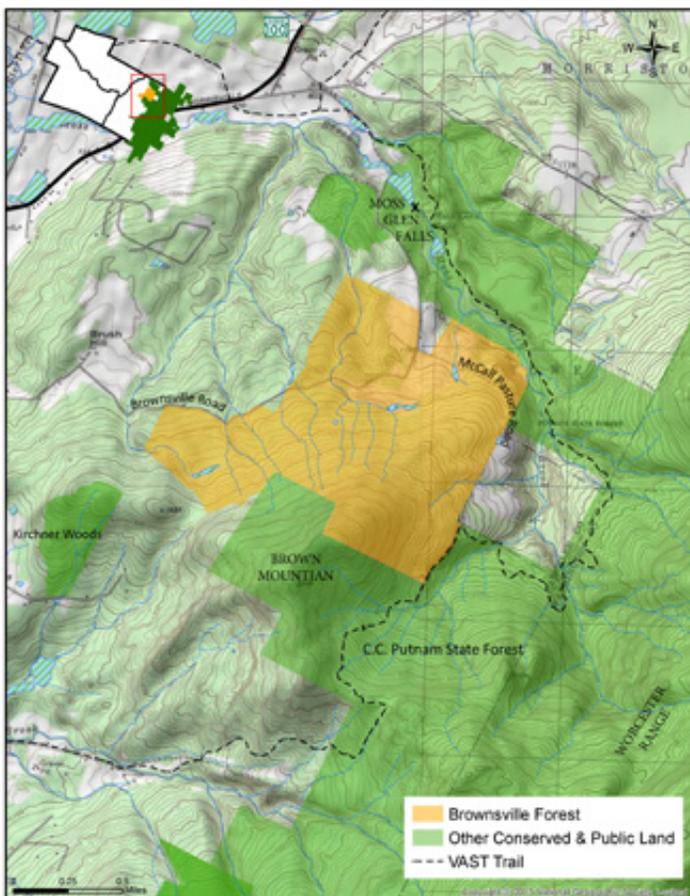
STOWE LAND TRUST

continued

Parks and Recreation will manage the parcel as a cohesive unit with the rest of C.C. Putnam State Forest, and the conservation easement held by SLT will ensure Brownsville remains undeveloped and protected, while simultaneously permitting public access for non-motorized recreation.

Keeping the Worcesters Wild

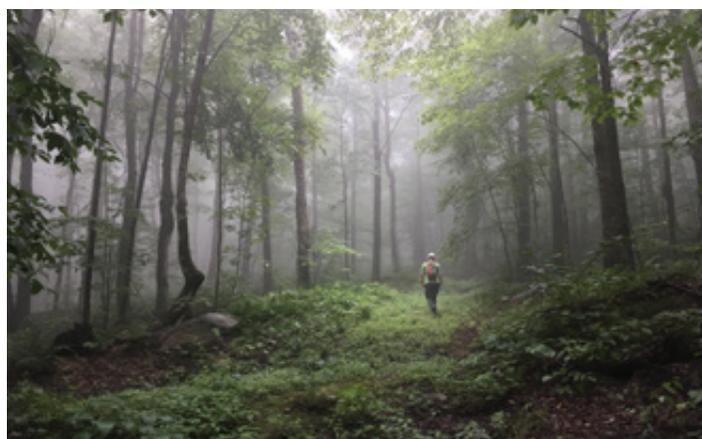
As part of the foothills of the vast and remote Worcester Range - which includes the popular hiking destinations of Hunger Mountain and Stowe Pinnacle - conserving Brownsville Forest fits within SLT's ongoing initiative to "Keep the Worcesters Wild." SLT's other current efforts under this initiative include the Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project which is being completed in partnership with the Trust for Public Land to protect 2,000 acres of forestland in Stowe, Middlesex, and Worcester, and the conservation of the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor: a collaborative effort between local, statewide, and regional conservation organizations, landowners, and the communities of Stowe and Waterbury to protect a critical wildlife corridor that connects the Worcesters to the northern Green Mountains. All together, these efforts will raise over \$10 million in order to protect almost 3,000 acres of critical habitat in and connected to the Worcesters: Vermont's most wild and least protected mountain range.



Ray Grimes as a boy in Brownsville

"I thought it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. Daffodils were in bloom all through the plum orchard. There was also an apple orchard and pear trees. Of all the places I have lived, this one has always been the one I liked the most and I still enjoy going back to the area."

Ray Grimes reflecting on growing up in Brownsville in his memoir *A Boy of the Great Depression*





Stowe Land Trust received a \$5 million anonymous donation toward the protection of Brownsville Forest through the Vermont Community Foundation earlier this year. Since then, thanks to the early support of 100 donors, we have made significant progress toward raising the remaining \$750,000.

Now, we need your to help to raise \$75,000 by July 2019.

In addition to raising the \$75,000, our goal for this community campaign is broad participation. If we can secure 750 donations, a group of land trust supporters have committed to donate an additional \$75,000 toward the effort, which will double the financial impact of each donation!

Whether it is \$1, \$100 or \$1000, all contributions are needed and important. Please donate today and contribute whatever you can to help Stowe Land Trust continue its work to conserve our environment and our community's shared values.

Thank you for your support!

The Brownsville Forest Fundraising Committee

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Chess Brownell – Co-chair | Walter Frame | Peggy Smith |
| Kristen Sharpless – Co-chair | Liz Lackey | Rich Smith |
| Metzi Anderson | John Merrill | Alan Thorndike |
| Drew Clymer | Darsey Moon | Laura Jones Walker |

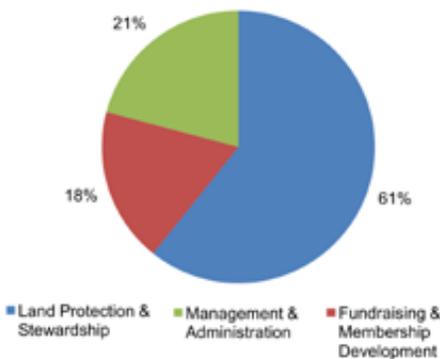


Donate today!

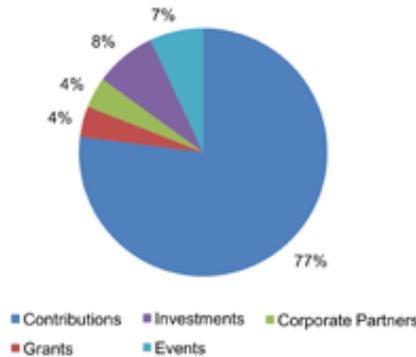
1. Donate online at stowelandtrust.org
2. Mail your check to P.O. Box 284, Stowe, VT
3. Stop by office at 6 Sunset Street in Stowe

Annual Report FY'18

Uses of Funds



Sources of Funds



Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended September 30, 2018

<u>Assets</u>	
Cash & Other Assets	\$493,979
Investments	\$966,490
Building & Land Improvements	\$99,965
Land	\$2,125,040
Total Assets	\$3,685,474
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Accounts payable	\$4,359
Accrued expenses	\$20,371
Total Liabilities	\$24,730
<u>Net Assets</u>	
Beginning Net Assets	
Unrestricted & Board Designated	\$901,902
Temporarily Restricted	\$587,302
Permanently Restricted	\$2,171,540
Total Net Assets	\$3,660,744
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,685,474

To Our Supporters:

Stowe Land Trust has conserved over 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.

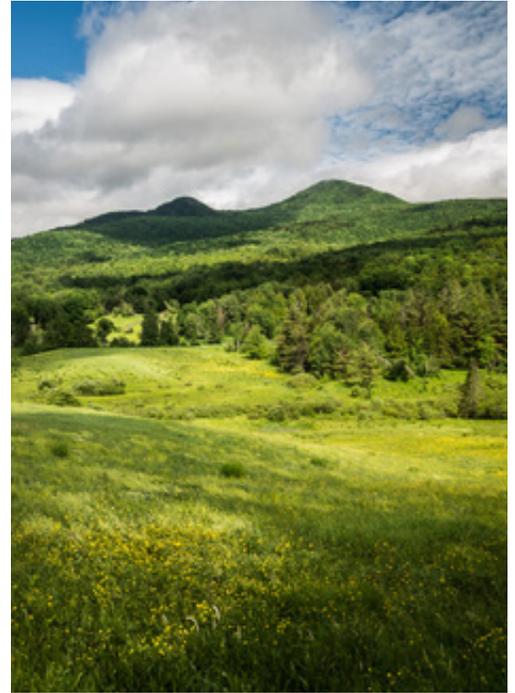
Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust: Join Today

Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust was founded in November 2017 to give Canadians who love Stowe the opportunity to make tax-deductible donations to support SLT's land protection and stewardship work. Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust had a very successful first year; 35 families contributed \$38,000 USD! In 2019, we are working hard to surpass those initial successes and grow membership and contributions.

The board of directors of Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust is led by chair, Clifford Borden. "We are now contributing to maintaining the environment and rural aspects of Stowe that we cherish. Through our donations and participation, we also have a voice at the community table that our tax dollars do not provide," said Clifford.

Thanks to all of our Canadian supporters for helping Stowe Land Trust carry out its mission to protect high-quality recreation, scenic views, a rural working landscape, and a local economy supported by the area's natural resources.

To learn more about Canadian Friends of Stowe Land Trust and how to make a contribution, please visit www.stowelandtrust.org/support/canadian-friends/ or contact Kristen Sharpless at 802-253-7221 or info@stowelandtrust.org.



You're Invited to Stowe Land Trust's 20th Annual Golf Tournament & Summer Cocktail Party

Celebrate the twentieth year of the Stowe Land Trust Golf Tournament! 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 quickly, so register today at www.stowelandtrust.org/events/ or contact Brooke Mitchell at 802-696-2251 or info@stowelandtrust.org.

Wednesday, July 31, 2019
Calcutta Social
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 1, 2019
20th Annual Golf Tournament
West Hill Golf Course
Registration 11 am | Shotgun Start at Noon

Summer Cocktail Party
West Hill Golf Course Clubhouse
5:30 - 7:30 pm



© Jesse Schloff

SLT Updates

Welcome, Grace!



Grace grew up in Greater China and moved to the United States after finishing high school. She graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, where she fostered an interest in conservation and education. From there she went on to serve with The Nature Conservancy as their Summer Field Assistant in Southern Vermont. After serving with VHC AmeriCorps in 2018, she was excited to pursue

further AmeriCorps opportunities and is pleased to be serving with Stowe Land Trust. In addition to SLT, Grace can be found at the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain as a Resource Room Volunteer for the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

As the **Summer Naturalist** this year, Grace will continue to serve with school and summer camp partners, corporate and youth volunteers, as well as hold monthly open house programs at the Mill Trail. We have received grant money for two special projects with the Summer Naturalist program this year. AJ's Ski & Sports and the **Patagonia Retailer Grant program** have awarded SLT \$2,000 to continue work removing invasive Japanese Barberry from Cady Hill Forest. **Vail's Epic Promise Grant** program has awarded SLT \$5,500 to fund our AmeriCorps position and create an educational pollinator garden and front porch display at SLT's office on Sunset Street. You can contact Grace at: naturalist@stowelandtrust.org

Housing and Conservation – an unlikely partnership?

Last year, Stowe Land Trust joined the Lamoille Regional Planning Commission and Lamoille Housing Partnership in commissioning a study of housing conditions and needs in Lamoille County. This deep dive into Lamoille's housing stock and housing need was unveiled at a **Housing Needs Summit** in January 2019. Housing and Conservation are two sectors that are more related than first meets the eye and as such, it is critical that we develop strategic and integrated approaches to meet community needs for both conservation and housing in ways that are complementary rather than at odds. Our rural landscape and the availability of high-quality housing are both critical to our community's economic vitality and quality of life. In planning for future land protection projects, Stowe Land Trust plans to consider another variable – housing. Are there areas in town that can be conserved for both their conservation value and their potential for affordable housing development?

Community Engagement in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor

Exciting news from the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Partnership! High Meadows Fund has awarded the partnership \$42,000 for outreach efforts to engage local landowners and community members in this important wildlife corridor project. The partnership aims to protect the link from the Green Mountains, across Route 100, to the Worcester Mountains, enabling wildlife to travel between the two. Stowe Land Trust is working with many partners on this effort, including The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Land Trust, the State of Vermont, and the Stowe and Waterbury Conservation Commissions. We hope you can join us for one of our upcoming SHWC community events this spring and summer.



Community members attended a Forestry Walk this winter in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor



A moose crossing Route 100 in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor, photo credit: Walt Looney

Kids Corner!

SLT WORD SEARCH!

C O N S E R V A T I O N Q E W
 R T L O P A Y C F R T B K T I
 M W I E S S N E R W O O D S L
 I D F E C S S Z X W Q V B N D
 L Q S T E W A R D S H I P M L
 L W N M S Z U I O T P S L D I
 T E F A E B T Q Y D S F T N F
 R H N A C A T A T I B A H Q E
 A I M W R F Q D L H P E I O J
 L E A A H M W B O H L A B N E
 L J D L D D E T T E I W Q A C
 P K R K F M S N M A K Y U T S
 D P A G E F O R E S T C A U E
 S Q B S E T Y T H G J V B R M
 I N V A S I V E S P E C I E S

WORD LIST

Mill Trail	Wiessner Woods
Nature	Conservation
Farm	Stewardship
Wildlife	Page Forest
Habitat	Invasive Species

For fungi to grow, you must give it as mushroom as possible.

What happens to a frog when it gets too many parking tickets?

It gets toad!



Our Donors - Corrections

**Canadian Friends of Stowe
 Land Trust**
 In Honor of Cliff Borden
 Dr. Arthur Felgar

Stowe Land Trust
 In Memory of George &
 Jenny Gustafson
 Raymond and Sengdao
 Bergmann

Make a Lasting Gift: Join the Legacy Society

We're part time property owners in Stowe and we plan to retire here at least part time. We're frequent visitors to Wiessner Woods, and we all – including our dogs - get great joy out of our time there. When it comes to supporting our favorite causes, we don't particularly care if our name is on some big building -- that's not important to us. What is important to us is that we help make a meaningful contribution toward protecting the beauty of the land and the culture around Vermont that we love. That's why we made Stowe Land Trust a beneficiary in our wills.

- David & Julie Gladstone

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



Legacy Society Members

Charlie and Gibby Berry
 Chess Brownell
 Paul Chebator and Mer Zovko
 Gunnel Clarke
 Kitty Coppock
 Catherine Drake and Richard
 Levine
 David and Julie Gladstone
 Christine Lengvari
 John and Millie Merrill
 Tessa Milnes
 Joe and Darsey Moon
 Richard Owen
 Lucene M. Pike
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What's Going On? SLT Outings and Events

Mill Trail Open House

Saturday May 25th, June 22nd, July 13th, August 24th & September 21st
10 AM – 2 PM at Mill Trail Property

Come learn about the history of the Mill Trail and participate in fun activities! These events are free and family friendly.

Brownsville Forest Bird Walk

Sunday, June 2nd 6:45 AM -- 9 AM at Brownsville Forest

Join Stowe Area Birders in discovering the birds at Brownsville Forest! Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring binoculars if you have them, beginners welcome!

Conserving Vermont's Forest Birds

Wednesday, June 5th 7 – 8 PM at Green Mountain Club Visitor Center
Spring Bird Walk Saturday, June 8th 7:30 – 9:30 AM
Waterworks Property, Waterworks Road, Stowe

Join us for an informative presentation on June 5th by Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch. There will also be a bird walk hosted by Waterbury Conservation Commission on June 8th. This is a fun and casual event for current and aspiring birders. Both events are co-hosted by the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor Partnership.

Family Fun Day

Saturday, June 8th 11 AM – 2 PM at Linthilhac Park

Join Stowe Parks and Recreation, Helen Day Art Center, and Stowe Land Trust as we celebrate Family Health and Fitness Day.

Family Faerie House Building

Saturday, July 13th 10 AM – 12 PM at Mill Trail Property

Enjoy a family friendly morning of play and exploration at the Mill Trail Cabin. We'll be constructing faerie homes out of found forest materials and allowing our imaginations to roam free!

Jam For the Land

Saturday, July 20th 12 – 8 PM at Stowe Cider

Let's all Jam for the Land! Celebrate with craft beer & cider, local food, great music, and more!

Checking on the Heifers with Ryan

Sunday, August 11th, 9:30 – 10:30 AM at Burnham Farm

Come meet the cows and learn about the Percy's dairy operation. Enjoy a beautiful walk around SLT's conserved farm in Stowe Hollow. *Register for this event on our website!

Stowe Land Trust Annual Celebration

Sunday, September 22nd

Stay tuned for more details!



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