

Mountain Views

Quarterly Newsletter of Stowe Land Trust

Summer 2012



On Wednesday, May 30th Stowe Land Trust closed on the purchase of the 258 acre Cady Hill Forest and transferred ownership to the Town of Stowe. Stowe Land Trust's staff and board would like to offer our most sincere thanks to the Stowe community for its role in the successful completion of the Cady Hill Forest conservation project.

Beginning with the town's vote in March to allocate \$288,000 of the local option tax, and ending with community contributions totaling \$450,000, Stowe's support was critical to completing the \$1,560,000 project. The business community rallied like never before, with many businesses contributing in their own unique way, each one making a meaningful difference in the project's success.

Members of the Selectboard and town officials are also to be commended for their constant support and willingness to take ownership of such a significant property in the heart of the community. Cady Hill For-

est is now a community owned centerpiece of Stowe recreation and natural beauty thanks to their foresight and leadership.

SLT was fortunate to have had many great partners, including the Stowe Mountain Bike Club, who galvanized the community behind

the vision of the Vermont Ride Center and the future of mountain biking related tourism in Stowe. Other partners such as the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Open Space Institute brought significant funding and technical expertise to a project that was as exciting as it was complex. A very special thanks is reserved for the landowners, Kim Cabral and Herb Hillman and his family, without whom private land conservation simply can't happen. Their interest in working with SLT and their patience throughout the duration of the effort is commendable.

Finally, we are so grateful to each and every individual and business that made the decision to support this project financially. Your individual donations are truly what enabled Cady Hill Forest to be conserved forever - creating a legacy for the future of Stowe.

THE BREAKDOWN...

654 donations
from 26 states and 3 countries

Full-time residents - 301
Second homeowners - 163
Visitors to Stowe - 190

Stowe Land Trust members - 384
Non-Stowe Land Trust members - 270

Contributions from SLT members
accounted for 25% of the total project cost
which leveraged the remaining 75%!

Thank you!



From the Executive Director and Board Chair



Cliff Johnson



Alan Thorndike

Board of Directors

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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

Website Gets New Look

Recent visitors to stowelandtrust.org will have noticed some big changes in the look and feel of the website. Right away you'll notice more photos of our conserved land and that more of the important information we want to share is available right on our homepage.

In 2011 Stowe Land Trust received a grant from the Norcross Foundation to cover the cost of a major upgrade to the website. We recognized that our website is a really important way for us to share information about the organization as well as connect people with the fascinating stories behind the conserved land in our community. The grant allowed us to work with Ecopixel, a Burlington-based web development company, to take a look at ways to increase functionality and improve the way people interact with Stowe Land Trust online.

One of our favorite new features is the categorization of conserved lands by value - farm and forest land, recreation, and scenic views. Now visitors to our site can quickly find conserved lands they are interested in. Visit stowelandtrust.org to take a look!

We did it! There's no better way to celebrate our 25th anniversary than to complete such a wonderful community-oriented conservation project. The protection of Cady Hill Forest was a monumental effort, but thanks to tremendous support from our friends and partners, it's conserved forever. Thank you!

As the dust settles for SLT and the Town of Stowe picks up the baton, we're excited about the next chapter. As we go to press, the Town is preparing to construct a parking area on Mountain Road - across from Springer-Miller Systems - that will provide permanent access to the trail network. The Town has also hired local trail-builder Hardy Avery to construct a new access trail and will soon be installing signs to help orient visitors. Check out the map and photos on page 4 & 5 to learn more about the Town's plans for the property.

Summer is heating up, but we're not slowing down - our summer outings, annual golf tournament on August 9th, and a schedule full of stewardship activities will keep us busy. We're also excited to welcome John Elder, professor of literature at Middlebury College to help celebrate our 25th anniversary. Trapp Family Lodge will host the event on November 4th - we hope you will join us!

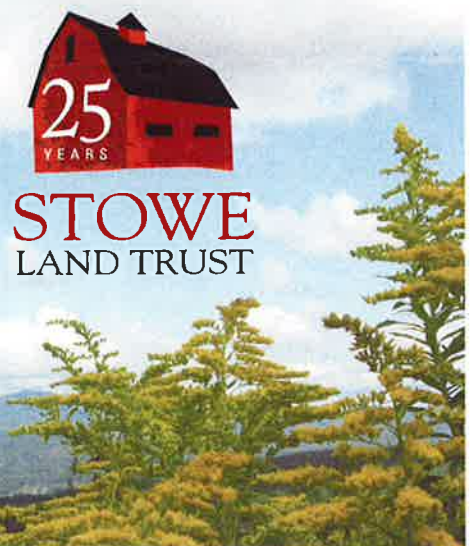
Save the Date!

25th Annual Meeting Celebration
Sunday, November 4, 2012
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Trapp Family Lodge

SLT's 25th annual meeting will feature guest speaker, John Elder, Middlebury professor of literature and environmental studies and author of several books including *Reading the Mountains of Home*.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in celebrating our 25th anniversary.

A detailed invitation to follow.



13th Annual Golf Tournament Summer Cocktail Party and Calcutta Social

Stowe Land Trust's Annual Invitational Golf Tournament is not only our most successful fundraiser, it is the most fun!

Festivities begin at the Commodores Inn the night before the tournament. Guests and golfers will 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. Past year's winnings have amounted to over \$4,000! Last year's Hen of the Wood gift certificate door prize is back this year. You must be present to win.

The Calcutta Social is \$25 per person for those not registered to play in the tournament. Attendance at the summer cocktail party following the tournament is included in this fee.

On tournament day, the course will be played in an 18 hole scramble format, with four person teams selected by the SLT Golf Committee. The entry fee is \$175 per golfer. For those of you who haven't participated in SLT's golf tournament, this is your opportunity to play the private West Hill Golf Course - a stunning 9 hole course with sweeping views of the Little River valley.



Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Calcutta Social 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Commodores Inn

Thursday, August 9, 2012
West Hill Golf Course
Tournament Registration 11 am
Shotgun Start at Noon
Annual Summer Cocktail Party
to follow 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join SLT at the annual summer cocktail party following the tournament for an awards ceremony and raffle drawing where you have a chance to win prizes from a number of local businesses and restaurants. The cocktail party is only \$25 per person if you are not registered to play in the tournament.

This event helps support Stowe Land Trust's mission to conserve our community's natural beauty. We look forward to seeing you on the links!

Space in the tournament fills up fast. Call or send in your registration today!

For more information contact Stowe Land Trust at 802.253.7221 or, becca@stowelandtrust.org.



Topnotch Supports Conservation with New "Tread Softly" Package

Late last fall Stowe Land Trust (SLT) announced the launch of the Forever Stowe Partnership with Topnotch Resort and Spa. The Partnership allows guests to participate in conservation efforts during their visit by simply staying at Topnotch. This program provides visitors with an easy way to give back to Stowe so it will always remain a special place to visit.

The new Tread Softly Package is a natural extension of the Forever Stowe Partnership. The two-day getaway further engages guests in local conservation while enjoying the beauty of the Stowe area.

Given Topnotch Resort and Spa's commitment to introducing guests to the beauty of Stowe, the partnership with Stowe Land Trust is an exquisite fit. "Visitors want to feel like a part of Stowe when they are here," says Heather Furman, SLT's Executive Director.

"The Tread Softly Package represents a fun and unique way for them to feel involved and to appreciate land conservation."

The Tread Softly Package includes:

- 2 nights accommodation in a deluxe room
- A welcoming local cheese plate
- 3 hour naturalist led group trail hike
- Gift of the renowned coffee-table book, *Stowe: Classic New England, The History of Stowe, the Mountain, the Village and the People that Made it Famous*
- A \$35 donation in your name(s) to SLT
- An eco-friendly SLT shopping tote and complimentary shuttle service to and from the quaint village of Stowe
- Complimentary valet parking

The package is available May 18-September 9, 2012 based on availability. For more information about the Tread Softly Package, visit Topnotch Resort and Spa online at: <http://www.topnotchresort.com/packages/tread-softly> or call (800) 451-8686.

For more about the Forever Stowe Partnership, visit: <http://www.stowelandtrust.org/support/foreverstowe/>

"Visitors want to feel
like a part of Stowe when they are here."

"Our Forest"

SLT member Tom Hubbs got it just right on a visit to Cady Hill Forest shortly after it was conserved. "We thought we would take a walk in our forest today," he said when seen enjoying a snack at the picnic spot.

This IS the community's forest now that the property is owned by the Town of Stowe. Through a partnership with Stowe Land Trust and the Stowe Mountain Bike Club, the property will be managed for multi-use recreation,

wildlife habitat, timber production and scenic open space.

Currently, the Stowe Conservation Commission is using an interim management plan to guide short term activities taking place on the property including construction of a parking area, kiosk, connector trail, as well as signage and mapping. Copies of the interim management plan and this map are available at <http://www.townofstowevt.org/>



The existing 11 mile trail network never had guaranteed public access. The Town hired a contractor to build a parking area off Mountain Road in mid-July for permanent access.



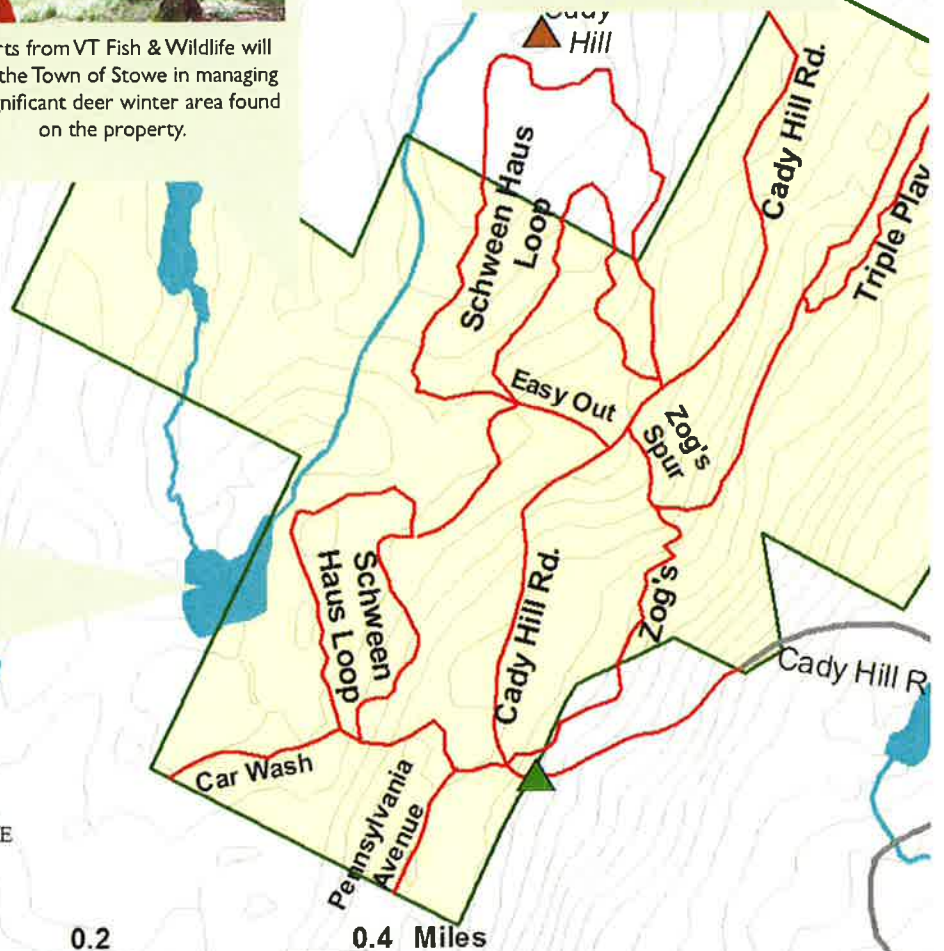
Before the ink was dry on the deed, Sustainable Trailworks was hired to construct an access trail from the proposed parking area to the existing trail network.

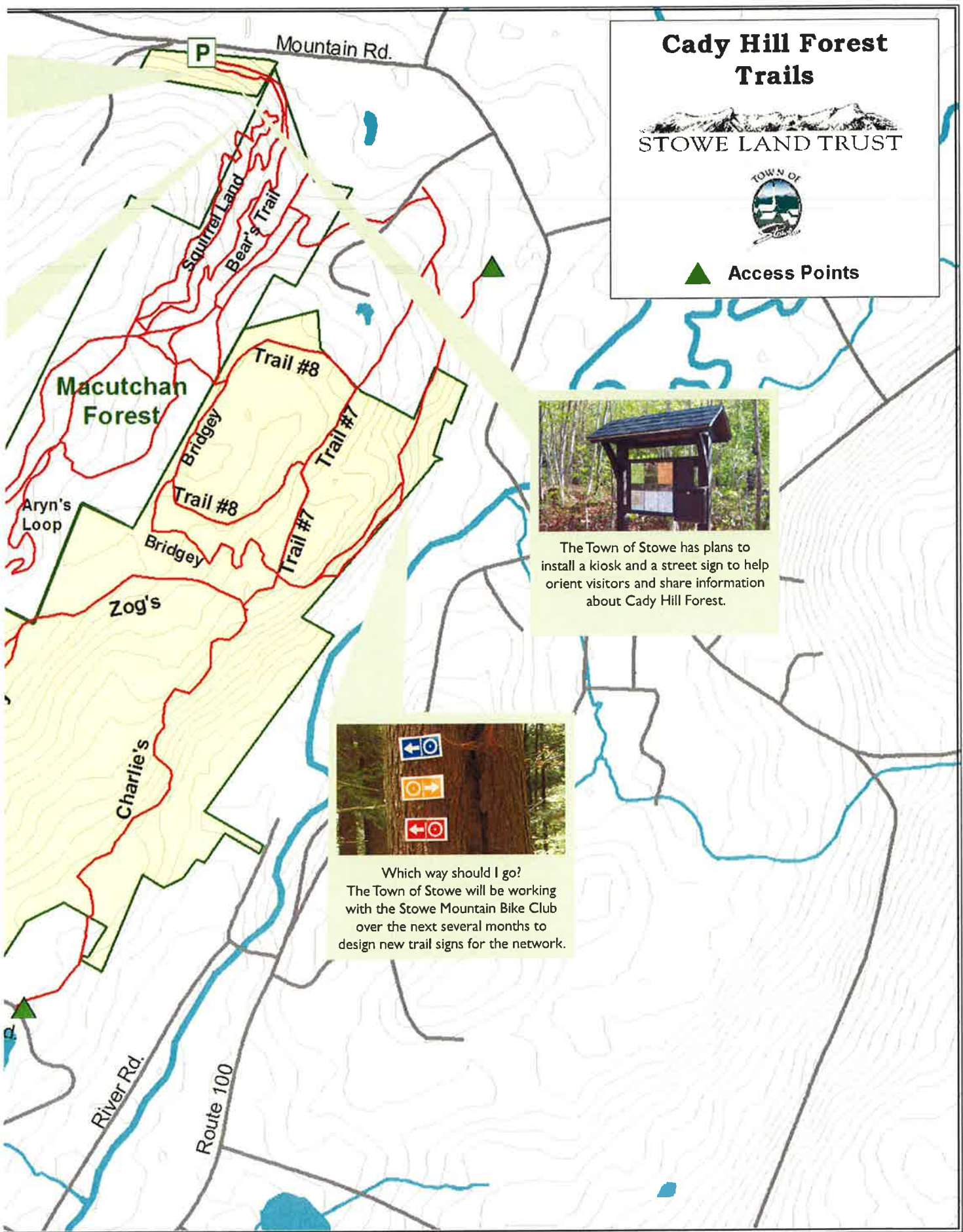


Experts from VT Fish & Wildlife will assist the Town of Stowe in managing the significant deer winter area found on the property.



Wetlands on the property total 23 acres and serve several important functions including providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality and reducing flood events.





Cady Hill Forest Trails

STOWE LAND TRUST



 Access Points



The Town of Stowe has plans to install a kiosk and a street sign to help orient visitors and share information about Cady Hill Forest.



Which way should I go?
 The Town of Stowe will be working with the Stowe Mountain Bike Club over the next several months to design new trail signs for the network.



The campaign to protect Cady Hill Forest is an ideal demonstration of the impact Pinnacle Society members have on Stowe Land Trust's ability to pursue important conservation projects. Because of Pinnacle Society members like you, SLT had the stability it needed to focus the necessary resources of the organization to complete such an ambitious project.

Your direct support of the Cady Hill Forest conservation project was also paramount to its permanent protection. Pinnacle Society members donated more than \$175,000 providing significant leveraging power with the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and private foundations. Overall, members of the Pinnacle Society contributed 11% of the total cost to purchase and create 258 acres of community-owned land in the heart of Stowe Village.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to conservation and your confidence in Stowe Land Trust's ability to complete this legacy project!



© Alden Pellet

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
- Julie and Kevin Buchanan
- The Burt Family
- The Chingos Foundation
- Kitty and Allan Coppock
- Denise Burt Cushwa
- Rick and Lynn Davis
- Eric and Vivian Denardo
- Graham Dower and Shelia Cheston
- Trowbridge and Claudia Elliman
- Tom and Mary Evslin
- Mark and Liza Ferguson
- Gerry and Terry Griffin
- David Harding and Jan Nyquist
- Jeff Herrmann and Sarah Brothers
- Christopher Hill and Susan Flicop
- Richard and Clea James

- The James E. Robison Foundation
- 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
- Mill Foundation
- Melissa and David Norton
- Dan and Cookie Owen
- John and Caroline Patten
- John and Adrienne Peacock
- Michael and Deborah Pucillo
- Linda Sallop and Michael Fenlon
- 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
- Robert and Sandra Taylor
- 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

Investing in Stowe's Natural Legacy

Since 1987, Stowe Land Trust has been dedicated to the conservation of scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest land for the benefit of the greater Stowe community, strengthening connections between people and the land. Our goal is to ensure that the Stowe area will be a strong and vibrant community, where the natural landscape plays a central role in the economy, where development respects historic traditions and natural resources, and where there are accessible open spaces and abundant, healthy natural lands and wildlife habitats.

If you share this vision, you can make the conservation of Stowe's exceptionally scenic landscape and rich ecological resources a vital part of your own legacy by making a planned gift to Stowe Land Trust.

Whether it is remembering Stowe Land Trust in your Will, setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity, or other type of planned gift, this is a great way to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the unique character of Stowe. It is also an important way for you to maximize the financial rewards of your philanthropy. These gifts are structured to help you realize the full range of the tax and income incentives provided by law to encourage your charitable giving.

For more information, contact Stowe Land Trust Executive Director, Heather Furman at heather@stowelandtrust.org or 802.253.7221, or contact your financial advisor.

Mayo Farm

PLAN UPDATE



It began as a whisper and grew to a rallying cry "Corn, not cars! Preserve Stowe and the Mayo Farm." Threats of development at Mayo Farm in the mid-80's sent Stowe and the fledgling Stowe Land Trust on a path they haven't wavered from for the last 25 years. There was talk of condominiums, a golf course, and other rumors about potential development on the 235 acre property. But, the community wouldn't stand for the loss of so much prime agricultural land and open space so close to downtown.

The first of many partnerships between Stowe Land Trust and the Town of Stowe led to the purchase of Mayo Farm by the Town. According to the current management plan, a number of local organizations, interest groups and advocates proposed various uses for the property. In order to adequately address the variety of demands and avoid conflicts, the Town decided to develop a long range management plan for Mayo Farm. Its purpose was to provide a framework for protecting the conservation values while at the same time allowing a variety of activities to take place on the property.

Management Priorities

The management plan identifies a set of priorities for the management of Mayo Farm. The

priorities are as follows:

- Preserve open green space
- Preserve scenic and other aesthetic resource values
- Conserve soil productivity
- Conserve wildlife habitat
- Provide for public open space
- Protect the ecological processes that sustain the above natural resource values
- Maintain the function and appearance of the Farm's working landscape
- Improve natural vegetation
- Preserve the historic Wade Meadow and Parker barns
- Provide opportunities for agricultural uses, events, team sport uses, dispersed recreational uses and other municipal uses.

Land Use Zones

The conservation easement, later granted to Stowe Land Trust, established Land Use Zones as an additional means of managing the various uses taking place at Mayo Farm. Specific uses are permitted in each zone as a way to minimize conflicts. Some uses are allowed on the entire property.

The five zones consist of:

- Agriculture Zone
- Ballfield Recreation Zone
- Community Events Zone
- Cemetery Expansion Zone
- Municipal Purposes Zone

The management plan calls for an annual review facilitated by the Conservation Commission in order to regularly engage the community in management of this valuable resource. Any community member is allowed to propose amendments to the plan. Anyone interested is encouraged to submit their thoughts in writing to the Director of Planning. Copies of the conservation easement and management plan are available at <http://www.townof-stowevt.org/documents/forms/index.html>.

How do I get involved?

Submit your comments on the management plan to the Director of Planning by August 6, 2012.

Attend the public hearing on September 5, 2012 to learn about proposed amendments to the plan.

SUMMER OUTINGS & EVENTS

Learn more about conserved lands or just have a great time with friends and family at SLT's summer outings. For more information call 802.253.7221 or email: info@stowelandtrust.org.

Stowe Vistas - For Love of the Land

VT Fine Art Gallery Art Show Reception: July 7, 5:00 -7:00 pm
 VT Fine Art Gallery is partnering with SLT for its summer art show. A portion of proceeds from the show will be donated to SLT in honor of the 25th anniversary of conserving land in the Stowe area. Visit vermontfineartgallery.com for details.

Stowe Pinnacle Hike

Saturday, July 14, 2012
 Pinnacle Meadow Parking Lot 9 am - Noon
 The striking views and refreshing breeze on top of Stowe Pinnacle make this a great summer hike. Round trip distance is 2 miles. Be sure to bring water, a snack and sturdy footwear.

Berry Picking at DuMont

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
 DuMont Property 6-7:00 pm
 Berry picking is the quintessential New England summer activity. Bring a bucket or eat what you pick! DuMont is accessed through Stowe's Stump Dump. Contact SLT for directions.

Fall Foliage Walk

Saturday, September 15, 2012
 Cady Hill Forest 9 - 11 am
 Take a walk at Cady Hill Forest using the newly constructed access trail. Be sure to bring water, a snack and sturdy footwear.

Celebrate 25 years of local land conservation...



A must-have for any SLT enthusiast, this 100% cotton twill cap has an adjustable fabric closure with brass buckle and hideaway grommet. Available in Khaki, featuring our 25th anniversary logo. **\$18**

Who doesn't have a bunch of stuff to tote around? This organic cotton tote featuring our 25th anniversary logo is the perfect solution. 21" w x 16 1/4" h x 7" d. Natural with black straps. **\$20**



The perfect companion for any outdoor adventure, this 27 oz. Klean Kanteen with SLT "Conserving land for our community" logo will ensure your thirst is quenched. Loop or flat cap available. **\$20**

To purchase a piece of limited edition merchandise, contact us: 802.253.7221 or info@stowelandtrust.org. Or stop by our office at 699 South Main St in the Lower Village of Stowe.

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

www.stowelandtrust.org

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