

# Mountain Views

News from Stowe Land Trust

Fall/Winter 2013

In This Issue

New Directors

Cady Hill Forest

Outings Calendar



## Cady Hill Forest – Our Forest!

Leaves blanket the forest floor except for a narrow ribbon winding its way around large Hemlock trees, through groves of Beech and along moss covered ridges. A steady stream of riders, runners, dogs and people keep the falling leaves from settling on the popular

trails at Cady Hill Forest. With the help of the community and several prominent partners including the Town of Stowe, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and the Stowe Mountain Bike Club (SMBC), we were successful in acquiring the 258 acre property and transferring ownership to the Town in May of 2012. Since then, Cady Hill Forest has quickly become part of Stowe's identity and an icon of the community's recreational resources.

### Everything We Love About Land Conservation

From the very beginning, Cady Hill Forest had all of the components of a landmark conservation project. Located within walking distance of downtown, highly visible as a scenic backdrop to the historic Village and containing significant wildlife habitat and an extensive trail network; permanent protection of this property was

a priority for many. We had the added benefit of working with landowners who were interested in seeing the forest become a permanent community asset.

"This has been my main lunchtime run for the past 10 years and sometimes I still can't believe we succeeded in conserving the property," offers Tom Jackman, Stowe's Director of Planning, as he looks back on the effort. This project gelled at a time when Vermont was still reeling from Tropical Storm Irene and VHCB was under pressure to divert conservation funding to help communities in need. We, along with our partners and local legislators, felt that Cady Hill Forest was a great investment because it represented a collaborative effort by the community, and the pre-existing trail network would become a huge economic driver for the region.

### A Community Icon

"It has been amazing to watch the evolution of this property over the years," noted Leslie Gauff, a local rider and real estate broker. "I have long felt this property should and would become a tremendous recreational asset for the Town." It all started with a few quietly constructed trails that landowner Ray Cabral turned a blind eye toward. Eventually they became a local hot spot known for great riding.

*continued on page 3*

*While working on the trails at Cady Hill Forest, Brooke Scatchard, owner of Sinuosity said "the diversity and enthusiasm of the mountain bikers we saw enjoying the trails was the most rewarding part of the job for me."*



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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 Interim Director



The power of people working together is never more impressive to me than when we are working to protect a special part of our community. Looking back on SLT's history, everything we have been able to accomplish has been with the help and generosity of others. Each conservation project that we now consider essential to what makes Stowe so special was a collaborative effort.

Cady Hill Forest was no exception. The property's abundant and diverse conservation values meant the conservation project had a broad base of support. I recently looked back at a breakdown of financial support for Cady Hill Forest and I am still in awe of the 654 donations we received from 26 states and 3 different countries. Because of you, we were able to raise the final \$450,000 to permanently protect this treasure in two and a half months.

Even now, Cady Hill Forest continues to shine because the Town and the Stowe Mountain Bike Club are working together to transform the property into a community treasure.

This year the hallmarks of working together are evident in every corner of our work from the new trail signs at Wiessner Woods installed by volunteers, our terrific annual meeting celebration generously hosted by the Anderson family, even this newsletter, designed by our friend Lucy Nersesian.

As we reflect on the last year and look forward to 2014 and all of the fun and exciting projects we have planned we know we will succeed because we will be working together, with you, to make sure Stowe continues to be a special place for us all.

*Rebecca Washburn*

## Cool SLT Stuff

Stowe Land Trust gear makes great holiday gifts! Check out the latest merchandise and stock up on the old friends like our Nordic SKIDA hat and classic baseball hats.

[WWW.STOWELANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.STOWELANDTRUST.ORG)



# Cady Hill Forest - continued

The amount of work that has gone into the property is staggering considering it was only eighteen months ago that the Town took ownership. Before the ink was dry on the deed, a parking area and new connector trail were being constructed. New signage and way-finding maps quickly popped up all over the property. Following last year's development of a Master Plan for recreational use, SMBC and the Town partnered and hired Sustainable Trailworks and Sinuosity to design and build several new trails and reroutes to improve the flow, safety and sustainability of the trail network. The image at right is an updated trail map of Cady Hill Forest.

*"I have long felt this property should and would become a tremendous recreational asset for the Town."*

The recent improvements have created a feeling of inclusiveness, allowing new people and beginner riders to experience the awesome trail network. "It's been really satisfying seeing all of the happy smiling faces on riders, runners and hikers faces when I am out on the property," said Tom Jackman.

Hardy Avery, an avid rider and owner of Sustainable Trailworks, thought "it was great to see the outcome of everyone's efforts in conserving the property – people from every different walk of life are out there using it." He noted that while his crew was out working in Cady Hill Forest this summer they generally saw small groups or dog walkers in the early morning followed by a steady stream of out of town visitors walking through in couples or groups throughout the day (sprinkled with a few local lunchtime riders and runners). By the time word had spread that the trail work was nearly complete, "we would see droves of riders from five until dark, lapping the network."

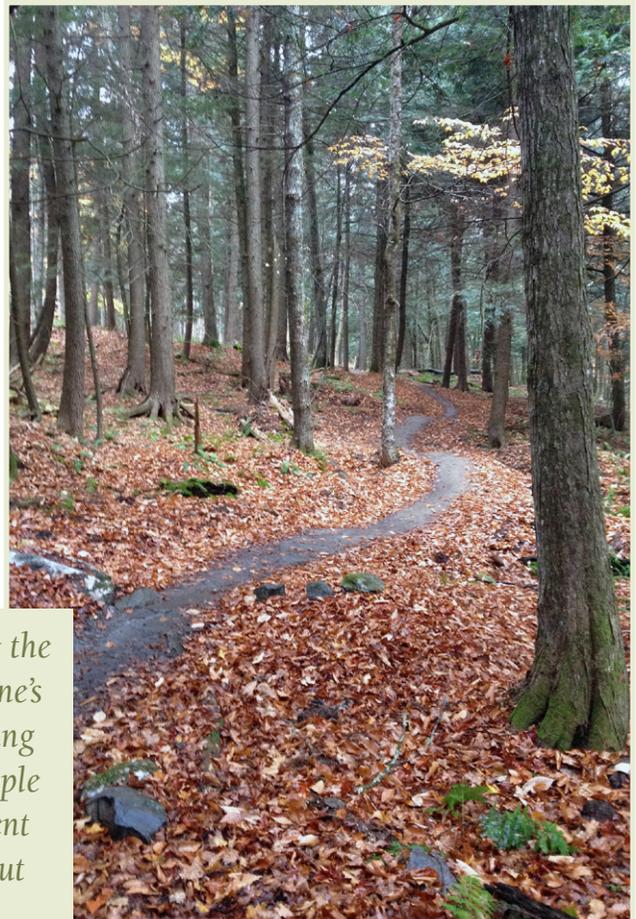
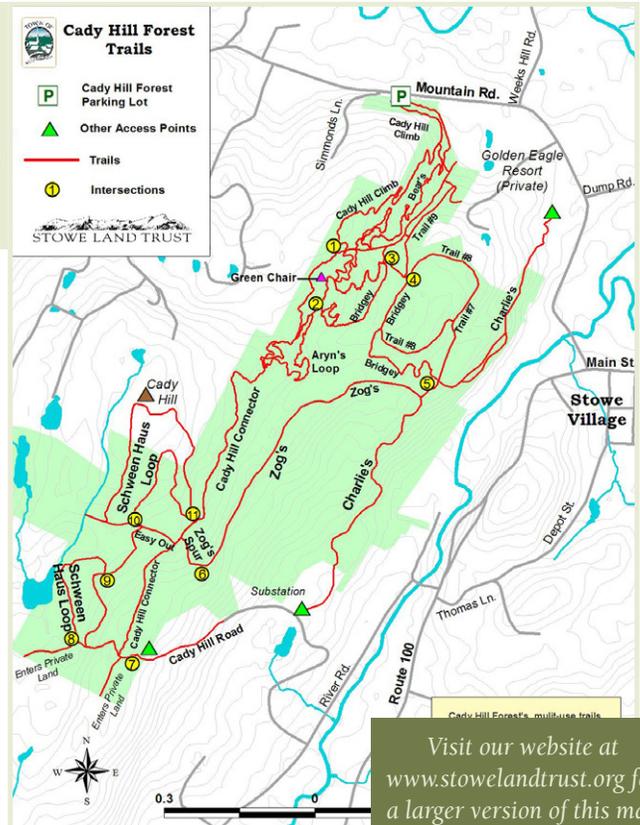
## What's Next?

The Town and SMBC have already made plans to continue with the next phase of trail work at Cady Hill Forest. Next season's work will include a large maintenance effort of existing trails, a new beginner connector trail and hopefully a directional downhill "flow trail".

Talking to SMBC Chair, Jay Provencher, it is easy to envision the Stowe area as a premier mountain biking destination. "We receive so many emails and phone calls each week from people that are planning a trip to the area and want to learn more about riding at Cady Hill Forest," noted Jay. SMBC and the Vermont Mountain Bike Association are working with the State and local partners to establish the Vermont Ride Center, an interconnected network of multi-use and mountain bike trails that will enhance recreational tourism in the area. "Cady Hill Forest is the crown jewel," said Jay as he described SMBC's vision for the Ride Center.

For us, Cady Hill Forest was an immensely rewarding project. We worked with so many talented and passionate people, and the end result was a community treasure. We feel so proud that together, we were able to protect this amazing resource in the heart of Stowe. We look forward to seeing the community's relationship with Cady Hill Forest continue to evolve as improvements carry on.

*"It was great to see the outcome of everyone's efforts in conserving the property – people from every different walk of life are out there using it."*



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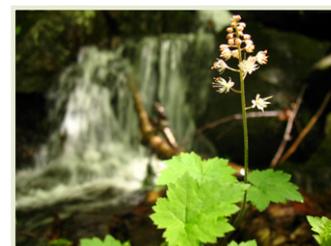
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Andrew and Jennifer Volansky  
Nell Walker  
Richard and Catherine Weinstein  
Terry Whelan  
William Widen

Derek and Randie Willand  
Stefan and Mary Windler  
Gillian Woolf  
Paul Yaphe  
Charles and Kristin Zimmermann  
John and Judy Zinn

### Planned Gifts & Bequests

Charlie and Gibby Berry  
Paul Chebator and Mer Zovko  
Kitty Coppock  
David A. and Julie A. Gladstone  
Christine Lengvari  
John and Millie Merrill  
Roger M. and Jill J. Witten  
(Are you considering a planned  
gift? Contact us to let us know.)

### In Memory of Richard Bergman

Raymond and Sengdao  
Bergmann

### In Memory of Allan Coppock

Charlie and Gibby Berry  
Chess Brownell  
Peter and Bari Dreissigacker  
Leslie Gauff and Bruce Bell  
Gregg and Leelee Goodson  
Stanley and Jane Haggett  
Barbara and Channing Headley  
Tom and Natalie Hubbs  
John and Millie Merrill  
Patricia Mertl  
Frank and Brenda Mills  
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Monsen  
Wade Morse  
William and Lisa Nelson  
Jeff and Karen Nicholson  
Paula and Rich Reynolds  
Thomas and Samantha Sequist  
Lee and Alice Spencer  
Alan and Ellen Thorndike  
Andrew Woolfter



### In Memory of Dr. Arthur Gillman

Jay Cantor  
Paul Crystal  
Phyllis Ehrlich  
Nancy Gladstone  
Lawrence Goodman  
Sharon Hargrove  
Mary and Arnie Harkavy  
George and Cindy Jackman  
Mindy Kirschner  
Howard and Jamie Klein  
Alex Liu  
John Murray  
Junius Powell  
Katharine Powell  
Ted and Betsy Rowe  
Eduardo Samame  
Connie Werbin

### In Memory of Linda Hausman

Henry Busetti and Dee Reeever  
Linda and Mike Dore  
Carolyn and Louis Torre  
Robert and Joanne Wordham

### Matching Gifts

Chevron Humankind  
FM Global Foundation  
IBM Corporation  
Pfizer Foundation  
Matching Gifts Program  
Richard and Susan Smith  
Family Foundation

### In Kind Gifts

Bear Pond Books  
Black Diamond BBQ  
Blue Donkey  
Cafe on Main  
Commodores Inn  
Community Consultants, Inc.  
Crop Bistro  
Darn Tough Socks  
Dave Couch Signs  
Decisions Decisions  
Ecopixel  
Edward Jones  
Elmore Mountain Farm  
Ferro Jewelers  
Fix PC

## Our Donors - continued

Foxfire Inn  
Frida's Taqueria and Grill  
From Maria's Garden  
Golden Eagle Resort  
Gracie's Restaurant  
Green Envy  
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters  
Green Mountain Inn  
Hannaford's  
Harrison's Restaurant  
Healthy Living  
Hen of the Wood  
Hunger Mountain Coop  
ICON Promotional Products  
John and Julie Douglas  
Laughing Moon Chocolates  
Maxi's Restaurant  
McCarthy's Restaurant

Michael's on the Hill  
Pie in the Sky  
Piecasso Pizzeria & Lounge  
Power Shift  
Sally Stetson Design  
Salon 4 Men  
Salon Salon  
Shaw's Supermarket  
Sovernet Communications  
Stowe Street Emporium  
Stoweflake Mountain  
Resort & Spa  
Styles  
Tabbatha Henry Ceramics  
The Bistro at Ten Acres Lodge  
The Body Lounge  
The Matterhorn  
Topnotch Resort and Spa

Trapp Family Lodge  
Umiak Outdoor Outfitters  
Well Heeled  
Wendy's Closet  
Yankee Home Solutions

### Program Partners

Blessed Sacrament Bible Camp  
Laraway School  
State of Vermont  
Stowe Conservation Commission  
Stowe Mountain Bike Club  
Stowe Nordic Outing Club  
Topnotch Resort & Spa  
Town of Stowe  
Trapp Family Lodge  
UVM Rubenstein School



Vermont Housing and  
Conservation Board  
Waterbury Conservation  
Commission

*If we have missed or incorrectly listed your name, we regret the error and are eager to make the correction.*

## The "Other" Adams Property

Not to be confused with the SLT conserved Adams Camp property, this 95 acre parcel is located next to Sterling Forest and is host to a beautiful section of the Catamount Trail.

Steve and Carol Adams donated a conservation easement to SLT and a trail easement to the Catamount Trail Association in 2003. The donation was dedicated to Steve's parents Rogers and Emily Adams, who he says would be pleased to know that something has been given back to the town that gave them so much.

### The People

The rich forest land which makes up the Adams property had been in the Adams family for generations. By the late 1800's, Walter M. Adams who built the old Partridge Inn as well as the hotel on top of Mt. Mansfield, had acquired several hundred acres in and around Robinson's Springs. He sold some of the land to Verner Reed and his son, Rogers Adams, who built what is today Edson Hill Manor. Other parcels were sold to Fritz and Muriel Wiessner, a portion of which today is Wiessner Woods.

### The Land

Now owned by Wayne Carey, the property abuts the Page Forest, Sterling Forest and the Stancliff property, conserved by Stowe Land Trust and Vermont Land Trust. The conservation easement includes a 10 acre homestead area where the Carey's home is located. The remaining 85 acres have been conserved to protect the forest's wildlife habitat, undevel-



oped character and recreational values for present and future generations.

The land slopes south offering brilliant sunshine and some views from the Catamount Trail in winter. The forest is primarily northern hardwood type with beech, red and sugar maples, poplar, black cherry, ash and yellow birch. Interspersed are stands of softwoods, including fir, hemlock and spruce. Signs of moose, black bear, snowshoe hare and fisher have been seen on the property along with a diversity of birds and amphibians.

### The Trail

The Catamount Trail runs east to west through the upper portion of the property joining up with the Sterling Forest trail network and Edson Hill Manor. This section of the Catamount Trail also serves as an important connection for the large network of trails within Sterling Forest, owned and managed by the Town of Stowe. Accessible via the Sterling Forest trail system, the Adams property is a great place to explore on a pair of skis or snowshoes. The sunshine

glittering off the snow and animal tracks criss-crossing the trail, will put a smile on your face and a little extra snap in your step or kick. For more information about the Adams property, or other conserved properties that are open to the public, visit: [www.stowelandtrust.org](http://www.stowelandtrust.org).



*Above: Moose track on the Catamount Trail.  
Left: View of Mt. Mansfield from the northern boundary of the conserved Adams property.*

# What's Going On? SLT Outings and Events

These events are free and open to the public! Please bring your own equipment for all outdoor outings. For more information or directions to any of these outings, check the News & Events page at [www.stowelandtrust.org](http://www.stowelandtrust.org), or feel free to call 802.253.7221 or email [info@stowelandtrust.org](mailto:info@stowelandtrust.org).

Photo by Susan C. Morse



## The Cougar Returns to the East

Akeley Memorial Building  
Thursday, December 12, 2013  
7 – 8:30 pm

Join Susan Morse for a magnificently illustrated introduction to cougar biology and ecology in the broad diversity of habitats where she has studied them, from Alberta to the Arizona/Mexico border. You will also learn about the latest confirmations of cougars in the east, including the recently documented suitability of a substantial amount of wild habitats from Manitoba to Louisiana and Maine to Georgia. This presentation is part of the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Series hosted by the Waterbury Conservation Commission with support from the Stowe Conservation Commission and Stowe Land Trust.



## Backcountry Ski in Ranch Valley

Saturday, February 15, 2014  
9 am – 2 pm

The first downhill ski trails in Stowe were cut in Ranch Valley in the 1930's. While the focus of downhill skiing has moved up Route 108, the Ranch Valley still offers great turns. Join us and your friends on a backcountry tour of the area. This outing is for experienced skiers and riders. Please meet at the beginning of Ranch Brook Road and be sure to bring your own equipment.



## Kirchner Woods Snowshoe

Saturday, March 15, 2014  
9 – 11 am

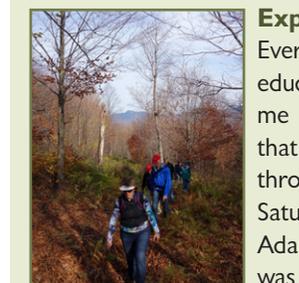
Join us for a snowshoe. The trails at Kirchner Woods meander through a forest of towering sugar maples that were once managed as a sugar bush by Jerry Kirchner. Evidence of the maple sugaring operation is still visible – with stacks of sap buckets and lids, an old sugar house and sap collection sites just off the trail. Please meet in the Kirchner Woods parking area and be sure to bring your own equipment.



## Mill Trail Snowshoe

Saturday, December 14, 2013  
9 – 11 am

Mill Trail is an enchanting place no matter the season but the sparkling winter snow and babbling Notch Brook make this a great winter hike. Join us on a snowshoe to Bingham Falls passing Helen Day and Doc Lichtenthaler's Cabin and several historic cellar holes. Please park in the pull off on Notchbrook Road and be sure to bring your own equipment.



## Exploring Stowe

Every SLT hike I've participated in has been educational and fun, and each event allows me to learn more about the properties that have been conserved and protected through SLT's hard work and dedication. Saturday's hike with Jan Axtell through Adams Camp to the Slayton Pasture Cabin was one of my favorites thus far; we had a great group of participants (including four dogs!) and I learned so much about the area. The history was really interesting - we learned all about the trailblazers who created the network of trails and who camped out in the cold to feed their love of skiing. When we reached the cabin, we had some snacks and talked about its history and how it is used today. All along, Jan pointed out flora and fauna that I now try to identify around our house; we even tasted winter buds from the birch tree (birch beer!). I am so grateful to both the Mountain and Trapp Family Lodge for working together to give us the opportunity to hike/bike/ski uninterrupted through all these preserved lands, and I look forward to learning more about all of SLT's conserved properties.

- Lucy Nersesian



## Wiessner Woods Ski Tour

Saturday, January 18, 2014  
9 – 11 am

Join us for a cross country tour of Wiessner Woods. Follow the Catamount Trail as it meanders through the Hemlock forest passing by the Gnome Home on the way to the Halvorsen's sugar house. Please meet in the Wiessner Woods parking area and be sure to bring your own equipment.

# New Directors Elected

Three new board members were elected by our membership at the 26th Annual Meeting celebration held on Sunday, October 6th. Aaron Black, Jesse Goldfine and Meg Kauffman will join nineteen existing board members responsible for governing the community conservation organization. Each year we have a limited number of openings available on our all volunteer board. New members are recruited based on an identified need within the organization. The diversity of the Board is meant to represent the broad perspectives of our community and strengthen our position as a community asset.



**Aaron Black** and his wife Kelley have been enjoying all that Stowe has to offer since moving here to become manager of Topnotch Resort and Spa. Born in Montreal, Aaron graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Prince Edward Island. He got into the hotel business in 1991 in Toronto as a front desk agent, and has worked in a variety of places including Maui, Palo Alto, St Louis, and now Stowe. Aaron met his wife Kelley while working together at the Four Seasons in Maui and married 10 years ago.

The Black 'team' is rounded out by Buddy, a 16lb, 13 year old Jack Russell Terrier. Aaron likes to spend his outdoor time in Stowe on his road bike. He was instrumental in championing the Forever Stowe Partnership established in 2011 to support Stowe Land Trust's land conservation work. Among his many skills, SLT will benefit from his marketing and managerial expertise as we work to build on our successes over the last 26 years.



**Jesse Goldfine** joined Barr & Associates in 2003 after practicing at Choate, Hall & Stewart, one of Boston's leading law firms. He graduated from Boston University School of Law, with honors, in 2001, and from Franklin and Marshall College in 1997.

While working in Boston, Jesse spent his weekends in Stowe and in 2003 decided to leave the hectic pace of city life and relocate to Vermont. He married his wife Tracy, a native Vermonter who grew up in Waitsfield, in 2008. He lives in Nebraska Valley with his wife, two children, and herd of animals. In his free time he enjoys skiing, mountain biking, hiking and other outdoor activities. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Stowe Mountain Bike Club. Jesse's legal expertise will be a tremendous asset to as we consider future land conservation projects in the community.



**Meg Kauffman** relocated to Stowe in 2003 with her husband and two young children. Meg is a realtor with Carlson Real Estate the Coldwell Banker affiliate in Stowe. She has been active in the community serving on the boards of the local cooperative nursery school and library. Prior to Stowe, Meg lived in the Boston area and Marin

County, California. She grew up in Skaneateles, New York and attended St. Lawrence University where she received her B.A. in Art History in 1996. Personally, Meg enjoys spending time with her family and friends, utilizing the abundance of outdoor activities in the area, and volunteering in the school system as well as a number of other community groups. Meg's knowledge of the community and involvement in the local school system will help us develop fun and engaging programs to connect people with conserved lands.



## Legal Counsel & Leaf Rakes

We have been fortunate to have had Lainie Nichols as a member of the Board of Directors for the last nine years. Lainie joined the Stowe Land Trust board in 2004 just as the organization was beginning a conversation with the von Trapp family about conservation of the Adams Camp property. As a local attorney with extensive real estate knowledge, Lainie immediately made herself invaluable by putting in countless hours of legal service. She also made sure to help out at every work day from replacing the Mill Trail Cabin roof to raking leaves at Wiessner Woods. Under her tenure and leadership as SLT's Chair in 2009 and 2010, we weathered the changes of a growing organization, and she stood at the helm as we added key properties to our conservation portfolio and undertook dozens of stewardship projects. This year marks the end of Lainie's term as a board member for Stowe Land Trust but we look forward to her continuing to provide us with legal counsel and an extra set of hands at our work days. Thank you Lainie!

## Wish List

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Hammers        | Drill bit set                  |
| Shovels        | Adjustable, rolling desk chair |
| Rock rakes     | Table cloths                   |
| Leaf rakes     | Collapsible table              |
| Cordless drill |                                |



Help Protect the Places You Love: Become a 2014 Member! Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your donation.

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