

Mountain Views

Quarterly Newsletter of Stowe Land Trust

Winter 2012



Cady Hill Forest: Strong Start for Fundraising

SLT has crossed the half-way point on fundraising for Cady Hill Forest. This is more than just exciting - it has positioned us for success! It is a great example of how your consistent membership support allowed us to invest the time needed to complete the early phases of this project and prepare for the town-wide campaign that will launch at the end of January.

In December, the project was awarded \$350,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board by unanimous vote. Only days later, the project received another \$100,000 from the Open Space Institute. These funds, coupled with the Town's commitment of \$288,000 and nearly \$30,000 in private contributions so far, have put us over the half way-mark!

We feel fortunate to have such broad community support for this project. Recent walks at Cady Hill Forest have introduced new people to the trails and the beautiful landscape. "I am so impressed, I am just so impressed," said one 80 year old who spryly hiked the two mile loop. "I never knew this existed and it's incredible!" In another enthusiastic endorsement, a long-time member wrote, "Do you real-

ize how many rides and runs I have taken over the years on those trails? As you can imagine, I think the project is fantastic." The accolades give us the confidence that our sensitivity to the needs and values of the people of Stowe will make this project a success. The diversity of funding sources reflects that broad appeal as well.

"Do you realize how many rides and runs I have taken over the years on those trails?"

As you can imagine, I think the project is fantastic."

Soon, we will begin reaching out to our members and the community to help us close the gap on our \$1.5M goal. We will seek support from family foundations, private donors and you, our members.

Your support will prevent the development of the pristine hillside above Palisades and River Road, it will protect the well-established trails, and it will further bolster Stowe's economic viability as a recreation-based tourist destination.

Want to know more about this project? Read on friends.



Each new year is a surprise to us. We find that we had virtually forgotten the note of each bird, and when we hear it again, it is remembered like a dream, reminding us of a previous state of existence...The voice of nature is always encouraging.

- Henry David Thoreau

Board of Directors

Cliff Johnson, Chair
Alan Thorndike, Vice Chair
Nancy Krakower, Secretary
David Norden, Treasurer
Jan Axtell
Billy Coster
Annie Dwight
Bob Fahey
Mike Haynes
David Hosmer
Harry Hunt
Tom Jackman
Jed Lipsky
Bunny Merrill
Brian Mullin
Elaine Nichols
Mary Beth Quinn
Bethany Sargent
Roger Witten

Directors Emeritus

Charlie Berry
Trowbridge Elliman
John Merrill
Merton Pike
Gaetano Vicinelli

Executive Director

Heather Furman

Assistant Director

Rebecca Washburn

Office Manager

Erin Bruhns



PO Box 284
Stowe, VT 05672
(802) 253-7221

(802) 253-2642 (fax)

www.stowelandtrust.org
info@stowelandtrust.org

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.

All contributions to Stowe Land Trust are tax deductible. Please become a member today.

From the Executive Director and Board Chair



Happy New Year! As we launch into 2012, we have so much to celebrate – vastly improved trails on our favorite conserved lands, terrific community engagement and a fabulous land protection project in the works. But perhaps the best reason we have for celebration is that 2012 marks the 25th Anniversary of Stowe Land Trust.

As we reflect on this milestone it's easy to point to the numbers: we've protected over 3,200 acres on 28 special properties. That alone is an achievement! But beyond the tangible, we hope that SLT has played a role in shaping the strong conservation ethic that exists in Stowe. That ethic is now what drives and supports us to continue our work.

So what better way to commemorate how far we've come than by working to conserve one of the marquee properties in town. Cady Hill Forest provides so much for our community – an amazing trail network, important wildlife habitat and scenic qualities that define Stowe's historic village setting. Once conserved, Cady Hill Forest will encompass 320 acres in the heart of the community.

Although the acquisition of Cady Hill Forest will be occupying the main stage in the coming months, we have many great projects planned for the year ahead. We will continue our work on improving the Mill Trail to Bingham Falls, and we'll begin the process of restoring the Moravian Cabin for public use. We have a fantastic



We're 25!

When we decided to develop a new logo to mark SLT's 25th year conserving land we turned to Sally Stetson of Stetson Design for her inspiration and creativity. She understood the importance of an image that would evoke the character of the organization SLT has become and reflect the rural heritage that makes up our sense of place here in Stowe.

The red barn, a signature of our landscape and present on many lands conserved by SLT, was developed by Sally to represent our 25th year. You will notice it on our website, print materials and you will even receive a limited edition sticker when you renew your membership for 2012. SLT is also selling merchandise with the 25th anniversary logo (see back cover).

Thank you Sally for your generous contributions to the project!



Cliff Johnson



Nancy Krakower

group of new board members (page 6) who assist us with these projects and we welcome them at such an exciting time!

Looking ahead to the next quarter-century, we haven't forgotten our roots. Michael Snyder, who is currently the Commissioner for the VT Department of Forests Parks and Recreation, helped guide the organization in its early days (page 6). Michael's legacy is part of SLT's deep commitment to all the many values of conserved land – habitat and forestry, water quality, healthy ecosystems as well as trails and recreation.

With your commitment, we will continue to carry this legacy forward into the next 25 years. This year we will conserve Cady Hill Forest – a monumental and fitting tribute to the people who have helped us get to this 25th anniversary milestone.

Winter Outings with Stowe Land Trust

Join us to get more familiar with conserved land or just to have a great time with friends!

Saturday, January 21

Cross Country Ski at Wiessner Woods
9:00 - 11:00 am
All are welcome

Saturday, February 18

Mill Trail Snowshoe
9:00 - 11:00 am
All are welcome



Saturday, March 17

Backcountry Ski in Ranch Valley
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
This outing is for experienced skiers and riders.

Please bring your own equipment for all outings. For more information or notice of cancellation please call SLT at 802.253.7221.



The Natural Heritage of Cady Hill Forest

This fall, as we walked through the woods in our brightest orange hats and vests, we were thinking about the role of White-tailed deer *Odocoileus virginianus* in the northern forest ecosystem in which we live.

White-tailed deer in Vermont live near the northern limit of their range in eastern North America. To cope with Vermont's severe climatic conditions, deer have developed a survival mechanism that relies on the use, access, and availability of winter habitat. These habitat areas are known as deer wintering areas, deer winter habitat or, more commonly, 'deer yards.' Deer winter habitat is defined as areas of mature or maturing softwood cover, with aspects tending toward the south, southeast, southwest, or even westerly and easterly facing slopes.

Just over 100 acres of Cady Hill Forest has been designated by the State of Vermont as deer wintering area. The easement that Stowe Land Trust (SLT) will ultimately hold on the land will provide protections for deer and their habitat. It will be up to the State's Act 250 process to determine exactly what the protections will be, but it is certain that parts of the property shouldn't be disturbed by human activities in winter.

Deer wintering areas vary in size from a few acres to over a hundred acres and provide essential relief to deer from winter conditions. These areas of softwood cover provide protection from deep snow, cold temperatures, and wind. They provide a dense canopy of softwood trees, a favorable slope and aspect (mentioned above), generally moderate elevation, and low levels of human disturbance in winter. The softwood species that compose

these areas are most commonly hemlock and white pine in the southern part of the state, and white cedar, spruce, and fir in the north.

Energy loss by deer inhabiting these sites is minimized, and survival is favored in deer wintering areas. Wintering areas do not change significantly between years and can be used by generations of deer over many decades if appropriate habitat conditions are maintained. Deer annually migrate, often several miles, from fall habitat to wintering areas. A single wintering area often serves deer from large areas of town and in some cases from surrounding towns as well.

Residential, commercial, or industrial development within or adjacent to a deer wintering area decreases the amount of winter habitat available to deer and has an effect on an area's deer population, eventually reducing the number of deer within the area. Without adequate winter habitat, northern populations of deer would be subject to extreme fluctuations due to heightened levels of winter mortality during moderate and severe winters.

Wildlife managers charged with the tricky task of managing deer herds must weigh biological and cultural considerations in determining target deer density. How many deer per acre would hunters like to see? Probably more than a healthy forested ecosystem can sustain. Deer are native animals, so their consumption of food and survival is part of the natural predator-prey dynamics of the forest system when their population size is appropriate. When deer wintering habitat is eliminated by development, it can have severe repercussions for the herd for generations.

Birds of Deer Wintering Habitat

A key component of deer wintering habitat are the conifer stands with dense canopies that catch the snow on their branches, thereby reducing the snow depth underneath. Deer also need adequate food resources nearby—that means low, woody vegetation.

If you snowshoe through a deer wintering area, you may observe chickadees, a red-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglets, and maybe even red or white-winged crossbills, as well as deer.

In the summer, the same stand of trees will make excellent breeding habitat for the brilliantly colored Blackburnian warbler. They live in similar habitat to black-throated green warblers, but the two closely related species are able to coexist because Blackburnian warblers forage and nest high in the canopy of coniferous trees. In fact, they are the only warbler to habitually nest above 12 meters in the coniferous forests of New England.

Habitat Conservation Goals

The VT Department of Fish and Wildlife has developed conservation goals to help landowners enhance State designated deer wintering habitat. They include:

1. Maintain and protect the functional integrity of deer wintering areas within the town or area of interest.
2. Increase the number of deer wintering area acres that are either under long-term stewardship or that are permanently conserved in the town or area of interest.

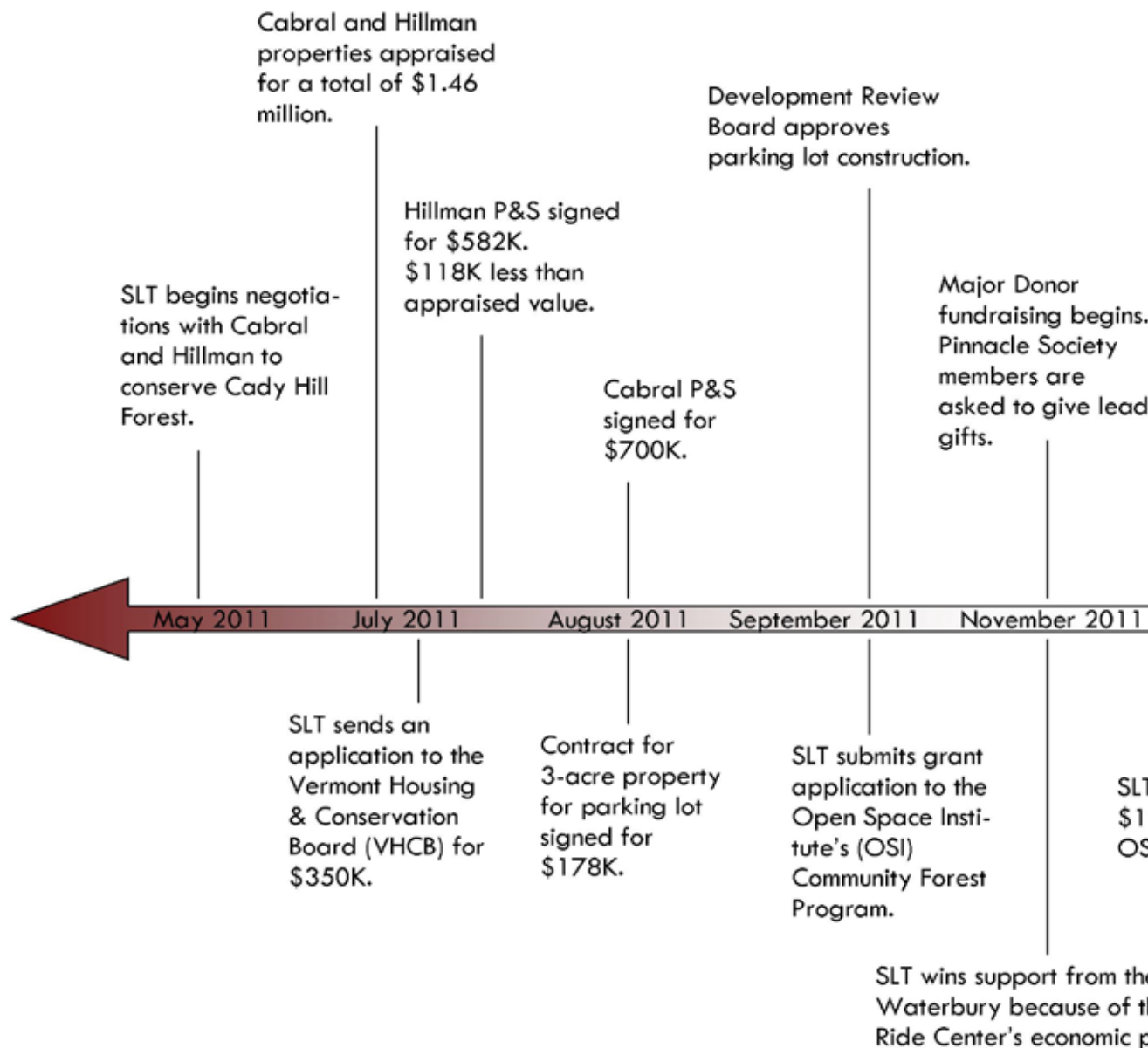
A management plan is being developed jointly by the Town of Stowe, SLT and the Stowe Mountain Bike Club to help promote healthy habitat in Cady Hill Forest. The Act 250 permitting process may recommend that the management plan include one or more of these goals to promote healthy habitat.

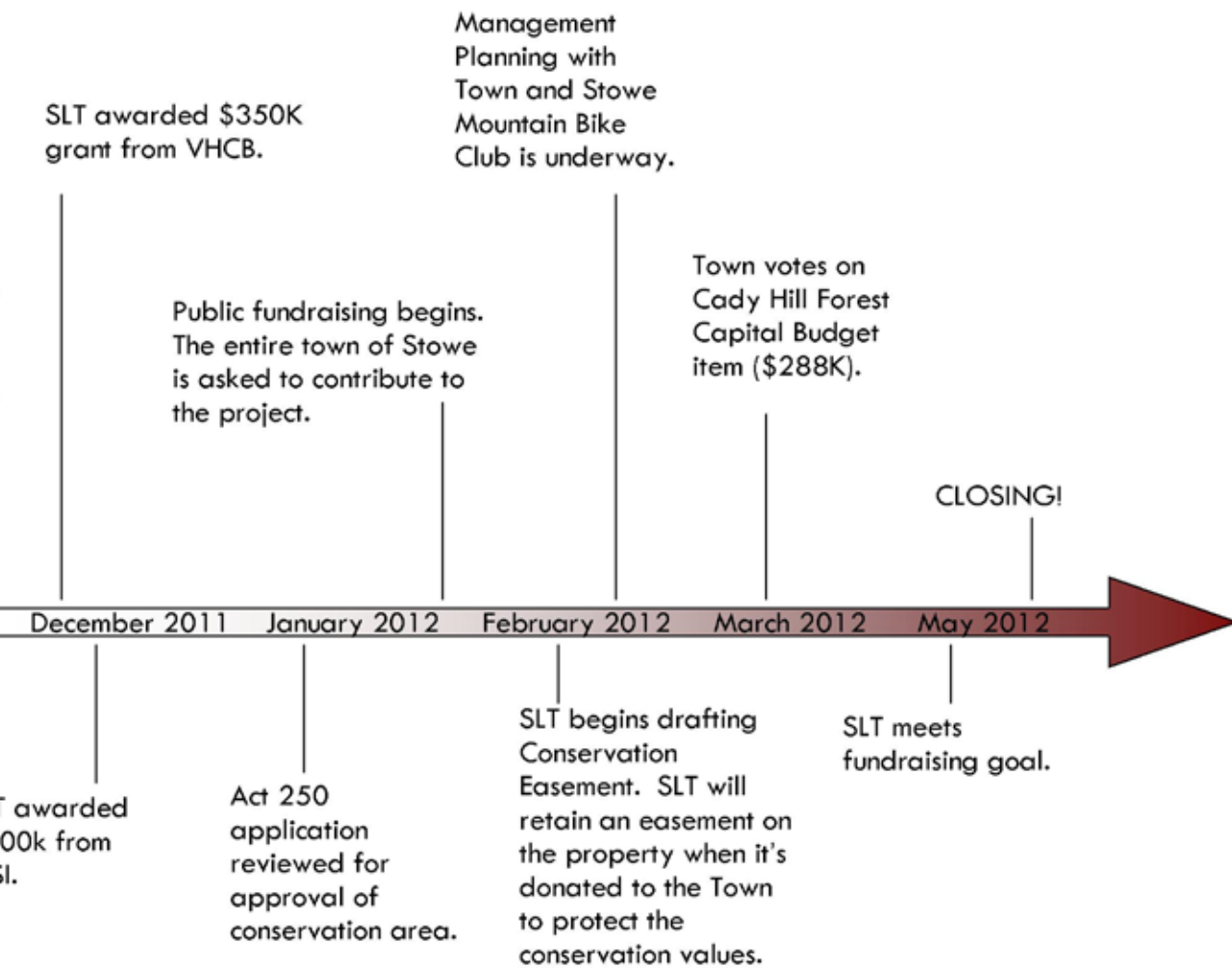
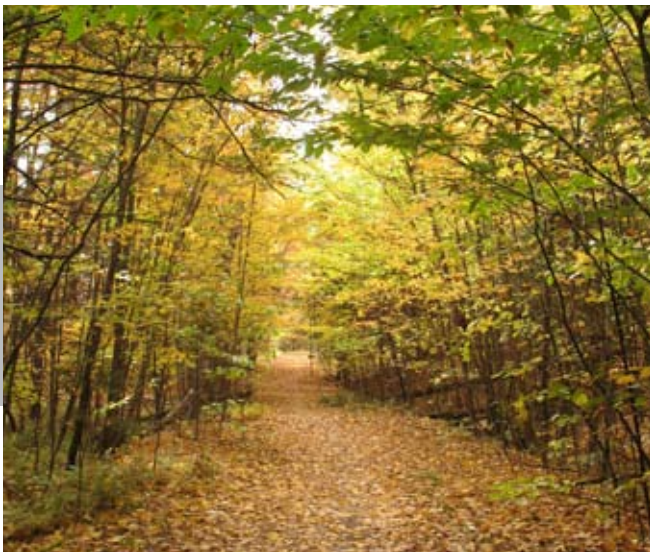
Additional information on the winter habitat requirements of deer can be found in *Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands, a Landowner's Guide*, which is available from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Sources for this article include the VT Fish & Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont.

Cady Hill Forest

TIMELINE





the Town of
the VT
potential.

Welcome New Board Members



Bob Fahey

It wasn't long after he and his wife Maryellen moved to Stowe in 2005 that they began visiting lands conserved by SLT. This soon led to regular participation in SLT's work days. Bob's willingness to volunteer during work days and even helping out in the office with mailings did not pass unnoticed by SLT. In addition to his commitment to protecting our environment and making it available for all to enjoy, he brings a background in management and finance that will be a valuable asset to SLT.



Jed Lipsky

For more than 40 years Jed has put his belief in the working forest to work as a professional logger. He has also spent a considerable amount of time in public service as a planning commissioner in Massachusetts and school board director in Stowe as well as several additional volunteer appointments in the Stowe community. Jed's experience and knowledge in land use planning, forestry and his common sense make him a great addition to SLT.



Mary Beth Quinn

As homeowner association manager at Stowe Mountain Lodge, Mary Beth is acutely aware of what makes Stowe such a special place. In addition she acts as a small business consultant assisting owners and managers in creating effective marketing and strategic business plans and how to realize the full potential of their staff through behavioral understanding and team building. Mary Beth's practical knowledge of organizational management and her understanding of the value of the Stowe experience will help SLT remain an institution in the Stowe community.



Bethany Sargent

With more than a decade of experience as a teacher and naturalist, Bethany brings an essential set of skills to SLT. She earned a Master of Science from UVM in 2005 and now works as Outreach & Communications Coordinator for the Rubenstein School at UVM. As a member of the Stowe Conservation Commission Bethany also represents a valuable voice from the municipal perspective. Recently married to Tim Sargent, Bethany is a welcome addition to the Stowe community and SLT.

The Forever Stowe Partnership

Last month, Stowe Land Trust and Topnotch Resort launched a partnership to help protect Stowe's awe-inspiring landscape and vibrant community.

The Forever Stowe Partnership allows Topnotch guests to participate in conservation efforts during their stay 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.



For more information about the Forever Stowe Partnership, please visit our website: stowelandtrust.org/support/foreverstowe or Topnotch's website at: topnotchresort.com/en/stowe-land-trust.php

SLT Bids Farewell to Several Outstanding Board Members

Stowe Land Trust has been fortunate to have had **Richard Hennessey, Barb Getty and Charlotte Brynn**, as members of our Board of Directors for the past several years. As an attorney, Richard brought a sharp mind and a tell-it like it is attitude to the board that was as refreshing as it was insightful. Barb's creative mind and Charlotte's non-profit experience helped us with new ways to reach our members, and make our events fun and successful.

We would also like to offer a very special thank you to one of our longest serving board members who is retiring from the Board this year. **Michael Snyder** is one of SLT's longest serving board members who has finally exhausted the term limits of our board. Michael joined the board in 1996 and for the past 15 years, he has been a tireless advocate for the "land" part of Stowe Land Trust. As a forester, Michael never failed to keep us focused on the

interests of wildlife, of the opportunities for good timber management and the benefits of a working landscape. Michael always rises to the challenge of helping SLT balance the many demands that we put on our land and his guidance has been invaluable to SLT's success.

Thank you, retiring Board Members, for your energy, commitment and guidance over the years.



STOWE
LAND TRUST
*Pinnacle
Society*

As we ring in the new year, Stowe Land Trust is preparing for another busy and fulfilling year - working to protect Cady Hill Forest, holding informative outings, maintaining high quality trails, and engaging our youth in the sense of volunteerism that's so strong in our community. Pinnacle Society members form the foundation of our operating fund leveraging critical dollars and support needed to accomplish these goals.

Stowe Land Trust is continuing to show its appreciation for the support of Pinnacle Society members by holding a number of fun and informative events this year intended to familiarize you with our newest conservation project, Cady Hill Forest.

Pinnacle Society members will be receiving invitations throughout the year to join outings with experts like State Herpetologist, Jim Andrews, as well as a summer celebration of conserved land.



The wetland complex in Cady Hill Forest provides important habitat for wildlife including amphibians like the red eft pictured below.



Pinnacle Society members joining after December 22nd will be recognized in the spring issue of Mountain Views.

Stowe Land Trust wishes to recognize and thank the following 2012 Pinnacle Society members.

Tim and Catherine Barns
Phil Branton and Ellen Lazarus
Rick and Ann Bresnahan
The Burt Family
Donna and Jake Carpenter
The Chingos Foundation
Kitty and Allan Coppock
Eric and Vivian Denardo
Gerry and Terry Griffin
David Harding and Jan Nyquist
Christopher Hill and Susan Flicop
Cliff Johnson
Frank and Marion Kellogg
Bonnie S. Knight
Joyce Nichols Lewis
Jonathan and Brenda Lopatin
Bunny and Peter Merrill
Michael and Deborah Pucillo
James and Ruth Santos
Union Bank
Oliver and Gay Slesar
Lee and Alice Spencer
Gaetano and Susan Vicinelli
Richard and Sally Watts
Roger M. and Jill J. Witten

We are grateful for your support!

Gaetano Vicinelli Becomes an Emeritus Director

Gaetano joined the Stowe Land Trust board in 2004 and from the moment he started asking questions it was clear he was going to be a tremendous asset to the organization. Gaetano has a pragmatic way of addressing issues that really matter, and brings clarity to any given conversation. Gaetano has a shrewd and generous financial mind and is willing to take risks in order to accomplish something great.

His leadership and vision as President was paramount to guiding SLT through the critical transition in 2008 to increase the size of the staff and enable the capacity of SLT to truly meet its obligations. Gaetano has been an instrument of a lot of positive change and maturity in Stowe Land Trust and we thank him for his commitment and guidance over the past 8 years.

2011 marks the end of Gaetano's term as a board member for Stowe Land Trust. In recognition for the tremendous dedication he has shown to SLT and our community, Gaetano was recently appointed emeritus director, an honorary position with SLT.

Thank you Gaetano!



Gaetano and his wife Susan with son-in-law Walter Magill and three grandchildren Suzie, Wally and Henry visit the Adams Camp bridge last Christmas.

Become a 2012 member!

At the beginning of 2011 we embarked on a journey that had us reflecting on the past twenty-five years and envisioning the next 25. At the heart of our vision is a vital organization, thriving as a community based institution and treasured resource that permanently protects the authenticity of Stowe for current visitors and residents, and future generations.



Your membership support will help secure our future as the leading conservation organization in this community. It will help us remain the vital, community based institution that we envision. It will allow us to continue to protect lands that are important to you and care for the lands we've already conserved.

We give a heartfelt thanks to those who have supported us for the last 25 years and we look forward to the next twenty-five!

Join online or send in the enclosed remittance envelope.

Thank you!

Celebrate 25 years of local land conservation with a fun piece of SLT merchandise!



SKIDA hat available in Nordic and fleece lined with 25th anniversary logo.

Nordic - \$28
Fleece Lined - \$35

Organic Cotton Canvas Tote - \$20
with 25th anniversary logo
21"x16.5"x7"



27 oz. Klean Kanteen - \$20
with SLT "Conserving land for our community" logo and a choice of the flat cap or loop cap.

Khaki Baseball Cap - \$18
One size fits all - featuring
25th anniversary logo.



Contact SLT if you would like to purchase limited edition merchandise by calling 802.253.7221, send us an email or stop by our office at 699 South Main Street.

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

www.stowelandtrust.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STOWE, VT
PERMIT NO. 30

STOWE LAND TRUST
PO Box 284
Stowe, VT 05672
(802) 253-7221
(802) 253-2642 (fax)
www.stowelandtrust.org