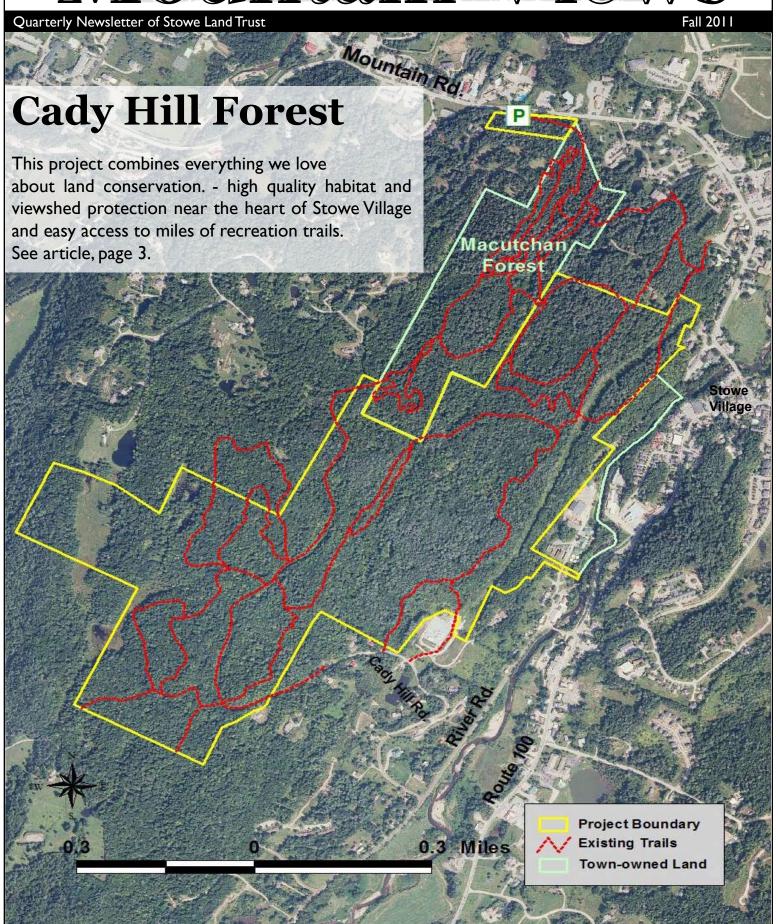
Mountain Views



I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more. - John Burroughs



From the Executive Director and Board Chair





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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.

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

t's been an exciting summer at Stowe Land Trust. With a project like Cady Hill Forest in the works, it's hard not to be energized by the role that land conservation plays in our community. Providing opportunities for people to get out and enjoy our natural world is truly satisfying, and we've been busier than ever accomplishing just that!

With the popularity of our Mill Trail property on Notchbrook Road, we were able to secure state funds to improve the trail to Bingham Falls. I encourage you to take a walk out there to see the tremendous improvements! The Mill Trail property is a special place, and we have grand plans for the restoration of the Moravian Cabin (page 11). Once used as tourist accommodations during the birth of Stowe's ski industry, the restored cabin will allow access to the outdoors in much the same way it did in the 1930's. We hope that you will help SLT keep the remarkable story of the Cabin alive.

Our community of volunteers continues to thrive. As a result, we've been able to provide more monthly outings for our members, hold another successful Golf Invitational, and launch an innovative partnership with Topnotch Resort (page 10). Beginning this Fall, hotel guests will be





For the latest updates, photos, videos and random musings of Stowe Land Trust staff, follow us on facebook or twitter.

WANT AN EASY WAY TO HELP STOWE LAND TRUST REACH OUT TO MORE PEOPLE?

Recycle this newsletter by passing it along to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to become a member.

encouraged to participate in SLT's conservation and stewardship of the land through a \$1 nightly donation per room, supplemented with an additional \$1 nightly donation by the hotel. We couldn't be more pleased by Topnotch's commitment to conservation and the partnership it has forged that will help our region's tourism economy while at the same time preserving our community's quality of life

With the release of this newsletter, we are also wrapping up our 2011 membership year. A sincere thank you to all the individuals, businesses and foundations that make our work possible.

We have so much to celebrate this year, and I hope you will join is at our Annual Meeting at Topnotch Resort on October 23rd. Come see live birds in a presentation by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), hear all about the Cady Hill Forest project, get an update on our successes of this past year and our plans for our 25th Anniversary. We look forward to seeing you there!

Autumn is Hunting Season in Vermont

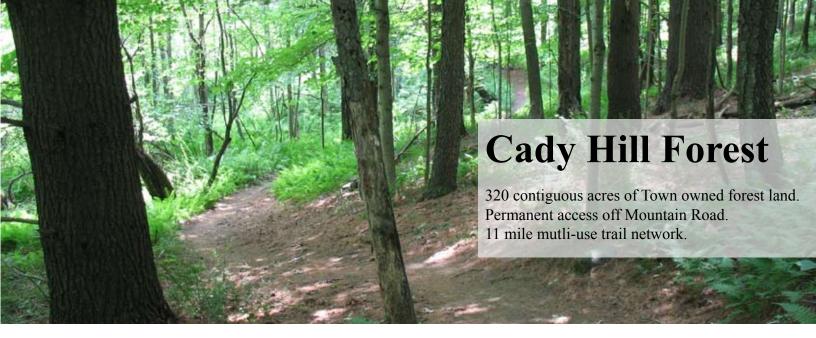
Youth Deer Weekend November 5-6

Deer Rifle Season November 12-27

There are certain precautions that should be taken in order to ensure a safe outing. Remember, you and your pets should wear blaze orange.

For a complete list of Vermont hunting and trapping seasons, see www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Mountain Views Page 2



s a Stowe Land Trust member, you help us achieve many things. One of the most exciting is that you give us the opportunity to put together new conservation projects that enhance our community. That's exactly what we are thrilled to announce to you today – our newest effort - to conserve Cady Hill Forest!

Location

This project combines everything we love about land conservation – high quality habitat and viewshed protection near the heart of Stowe Village and easy access to miles of recreation trails. This project will conserve nearly 260 acres adjacent to the existing town forest, creating a contiguous community-owned resource of over 320 acres!

Perhaps you are familiar with the incredible network of trails on the Cady Hill lands and the adjacent town-owned Macutchan Forest (see map). Known to some as the "town loops", the 11 miles of trail were built over many years and include carriage roads for walkers, snowshoers, skiers and beginner mountain bikers, as well as exciting single track that is great for intermediate mountain biking, trail running and hiking.

Despite local popularity, access to this trail network is limited and far from secure. Informal access from neighboring properties is available to 'those in the know' but these locations do not support parking and could be closed at any time. Further, much of the Cady Hill Forest lands are permitted by Act 250 for intensive development and if developed, public access would never be guaranteed.

Partnerships

With this project, SLT and the Town are working together to provide easy, secure access from the Mountain Road. In fact, SLT and the Town have obtained a Development Review Board permit for a parking area to be built once the land is owned by the Town. We are also working with a number of partners including the VT Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), the Stowe Mountain Bike Club (SMBC), and of course our members – without whom this project would not be possible.

Management

Once in Town ownership, Cady Hill Forest will be managed jointly for multi-use recreation by the Town and SLT, with significant assistance from SMBC. Because of the vast network of existing single track trails, and close proximity to the Village, Cady Hill Forest is well positioned to be an anchor for access and a critical linkage to the Vermont Ride Center – an initiative of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA) aimed at developing a cohesive trail network that stretches from Sterling Forest to Little River State Park, in Waterbury.

Vermont Ride Center

The Vermont Ride Center project was conceived to significantly enhance recreational tourism which has been part of the fabric of the greater Stowe community for nearly 100 years. The Ride Center has been endorsed by a broad range of partners including the Town of Stowe, the Stowe Area Association, and the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. VMBA and SMBC are playing a vital role in managing the Ride Center, bringing their technical expertise to build and maintain sus-

tainable, multi-use trails. We are encouraged that the Stowe business community sees the enormous potential the Ride Center has to support area businesses. They have endorsed the permanent protection of the Cady Hill Forest as the next logical step in this initiative.

Timeline

In July and August, SLT worked with two separate landowners to have the properties appraised and was fortunate to sign purchase and sale contracts for less than the appraised values. In order to complete the purchase, SLT will raise over \$1.5 million from a variety of sources, including the State, the Town, Foundations and private donors. SLT will purchase Cady Hill Forest at a closing scheduled for the summer of 2012, and will immediately donate the land to the Town of Stowe. Like other projects with the Town, SLT will retain a conservation easement that will permanently protect the land from development, provide public access, and allow forest management activities that meet the goals of habitat protection.

So, the 'cat is out of the bag' on this project, but we still have some big hurdles ahead of us. We must secure an Act 250 permit, lineup the necessary funding and ensure the conservation easement meets the needs of our community. As the project comes together, we look forward to sharing the details with you.

Recreation and land conservation continue to work hand in hand to play a major role in the health and vitality of our community. Thank you for being a member of SLT and supporting the protection of places like Cady Hill Forest.

Mountain Views Page 3

12th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament

This was an exceptional year for the Golf Tournament with record-setting scores on this challenging course and a record-breaking \$31,000 raised to support Stowe Land Trust's work to conserve the places we love.

With the help of over fifty local businesses and individuals who provided everything from gift certificates and golf balls to 5 - star dinners and hand bags, we had a great time. The support of this event is a testament to the importance our community places on farm land, forests and access to trails.

Many thanks to our sponsors and all who attended. Be sure to thank the individuals and businesses who supported this fun and sucessful event. We look forward to you joining us next year for another tournament with fine weather and fun memories!



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Congratulations to this year's tournament winners!

First Place: Per Larsen, Pall Spera, Julie Douglas, Rick Carrick Second Place: Lee Spencer, Jane Wick, Millie Merrill (Tim Sargent not pictured) Third Place: Bud Farquharson, Ann Marie Vespa, Bill Boyce, John Surovek

Local Business Lends a Hand... And a Chainsaw

f a tree falls in the woods and nobody's around to hear it, does it make a noise? Well, I don't know about that, but if a tree falls in the woods and it makes one of our trails impassable then we're sure to hear some noise about it!

As a result of heavy rains earlier this year, two trees were uprooted and came down on the trail that brings you to the Mill Trail Cabin. One of the trees was a large (can't wrap your arms all the way around it) poplar that demanded you do the limbo to pass. The other toppled over and was hung up between two trees. Usually we'll call a volunteer to help out with downed trees, but these trees, being as large and awkwardly placed as they were, required professional attention.

The first company we called was Stowe Tree Experts. We knew they had the skills to help. After hearing about the project, Michael Roche, owner of Stowe Tree Experts and longtime supporter of SLT, agreed to do the work free of charge. His 3-person crew was able to clear the trail in less than an hour. They removed the large poplar from the trail and moved its remnants out of an old cellar hole, and took down the hung up tree while taking care not to damage the other surrounding trees.

Please show your appreciation for our supporter's generosity by giving them your business.

Thank you Stowe Tree Experts!



Stowe Tree Experts Crew (I to r): Paul Green, Jamie Hoffman, Luke Heller.

Non-Native Invasive Species at Kirchner Woods Propared by Abby Okonewski and Malissa Parti of the Land Stewardship Program for Stowe Land Trust Summer 2011

he good news is Kirchner Woods has been impacted very little by invasive species. Now we just have to figure out how to keep it that way. There is a lot of data that needs to be collected in order to develop a plan for long term management of conserved land. This summer, Stowe Land Trust enlisted the help of several UVM graduate and undergraduate students to conduct

UVM Students Study Natural Resources on Conserved Lands

inventories and assessments on two SLT owned properties.

Non-native invasive species and wildlife habitat inventories, two key components to understanding and managing a forest, were completed for Kirchner Woods in July. The research conducted by the interns will be incorporated into an existing management plan for Kirchner Woods and will inform future management activities outlined in the plan.

Interns spent two days documenting their observations and another two days compiling a report of their findings. 10 observation points were used for the wildlife habitat assessment to record bird observations, browse/scat/tracks, vegetation cover and canopy closure, course woody debris, snags, tip-ups and food sources. For the non-native invasive inventory, students collected information about invasive plant species, distribution, maturity and landscape type. Locations of individual plants and plant populations

were recorded with a Garmin GPS unit.

Field Naturalist graduate student, Bryarly McEachern spent a week conducting a Rapid Ecological Assessment of the 31 acre Mill Trail property for her final exam.

Everything from bedrock geology to non-native invasive species identification was documented in the report submitted to SLT in July. The regional context of the property's location was described in detail followed by a detailed explanation of stand cover type, history, health and habitat for 10 different natural community types. The report concludes with a series of management considerations highlighting the key points of the report as they relate to SLT's management goals. Information contained in this report will be a tremendous asset as SLT works to develop a comprehensive management plan for this property. If you are interested in learning more about these reports, contact Becca Washburn at becca@stowelandtrust. org or 802.253.7221.

Mountain Views Page 5



Stowe Land Trust's success in conserving our community's rural and natural landscapes is due to the inspiration of our founders, the dedication of board members, staff and volunteers, and the financial contributions of our supporters. We gratefully acknowledges those who contributed between November 2010 - October 2011.



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

Thanks for Growing With Us!



Over the past 24 years, SLT has grown from a few ambitious individuals volunteering their time, to a team of professional staff with 28 properties to care for, new projects on the horizon and a full suite of outings and events. As time has marched on, accomplishing our work has become more expensive - eighteen years ago

when the Meadow Trail at Wiessner Woods was first built, a bridge cost \$200; crossing the same small stream now costs \$1,000.

That's why this past year we asked many of our longtime supporters to "grow with us" and consider increasing the amount of their annual membership gift - and we received an overwhelming response!

Because of their increased commitment we were able to raise 8,000 more dollars, allowing us to bring you outings like the Joe's Pond Nature Hike & Paddle and Pinnacle Meadow Foliage Hike. We also improved a section of the Mill Trail to Bingham Falls and installed signs at Kirchner Woods.

If you're looking for an easy way to make a difference for SLT this year, please consider increasing your annual membership gift. Thank you!



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Mountain Views

SLT Partners with Topnotch Resort to Help Conserve Stowe's Open Spaces

Spa, a premier hotel owned by MetWest Ventures, LLC, are working together on an innovative partnership to conserve our community's natural and cultural landscapes. This partnership is unprecedented for both organizations and demonstrates the value of integrating conservation action and corporate philanthropy.

"We believe Topnotch is setting a terrific precedent by being the first resort in the greater Stowe region to partner in this way with a conservation organization," said Heather Furman, Executive Director of Stowe Land Trust. "We are so grateful to Topnotch for launching this exciting partnership and to their guests for their contribution to our conservation work in the community. We couldn't be more pleased by Topnotch's commitment to conservation and the partnership it has forged that will help our region's tourism economy while at the same time preserving our community's quality of life," said Furman.

The innovative partnership encourages hotel guests to participate in conservation and

stewardship of the land through a \$1 nightly donation per room, supplemented with an additional \$1 nightly donation by the hotel, which goes to the Stowe Land Trust. Guests can have the fee removed if they choose.

"This program is a symbol of our long-term commitment to Stowe, the community and the local environment. On behalf of all the staff at Topnotch Resort & Spa, we're very proud to be working with Stowe Land Trust to support conservation and economic growth in the area" said Jamie Yarrow, President of MetWest Terra Hospitality.

Stowe's spectacular scenery, unique recreational resources, working farms and magnificent mountains are part of what makes this town truly unique. The beautiful landscape is one of the reasons many people visit and return to Stowe. For nearly 25 years, Stowe Land Trust has been working with willing landowners to protect important natural and cultural resources that contribute to the health and vitality of the community.

About Topnotch Resort

Topnotch Resort and Spa is a premier New England destination offering endless recreational pursuits in a luxurious atmosphere. Located on 120 acres near the village of Stowe, the resort offers 68 guest rooms and suites dressed in a European Country Manor style, with contemporary amenities and views of the Green Mountains. Topnotch also has a selection of 23 luxurious two- and three-bedroom resort homes.

Norma's Restaurant serves contemporary cuisine in a casual setting, with an inviting open kitchen. The Topnotch Spa covers 35,000 square feet, including 30 treatment rooms in which to experience more than 120 treatments and services. For sports and leisure, the resort features a premier Tennis Center with indoor and outdoor courts, cross-country and downhill skiing, a state-of-the-art Fitness Center, an indoor pool with a cascading massage waterfall, a whirlpool/Jacuzzi, and two mountain-view outdoor pools - one of which is heated year-round.

Located at the foot of Mount Mansfield, Topnotch is a premier destination for all seasons. Pets are welcome in select guest rooms and suites at the resort. Topnotch Resort and Spa is part of MetWest Terra Hospitality and is a member of Preferred Boutique and Preferred Pride. http://www.topnotchresort.com.



Mountain Views

Mill Trail:

Reconnecting Recreation and History

n the late 1920's, at the height of construction of the Long Trail and the first ski trails in Ranch Valley, the accomodations that would become known as the Smugglers' Notch Attic and Barn were beginning to take shape. Advertised as a tourist retreat with rooms for rent, dog kenneling and a medical and surgical center, the Mill Trail property and the corresponding historic complex was a destination for visitors to the area at that time.

The Mill Trail Cabin is a 1 1/2 story Moravian style log cabin built on a hillside affording a commanding view of Mt. Mansfield. Meticulously constructed with exceptional hand crafted detail, the cabin exhibits integrity of design and workmanship. From the Mill Trail Cabin, guests had access to carraige roads and logging trails that brought them to places like Bingham Falls, Ranch Valley and the Spruce Peak area.

Today the Cabin and the surrounding landscape has lost none of its charm. Mill Trail is visited regularly by hikers, fisherman, dog walkers, trail runners and people looking to take at dip at Bingham Falls. For several decades after Dr. Lichtenthaeler's death the property served as a retreat for a local family before it was conserved by SLT in 2003. Since that time, SLT has been committed to keeping the Cabin's remarkable story alive. To best preserve the building and its history, SLT will enhance public use and enjoyment of the Cabin and its surroundings for the benefit of residents and visitors to the

Stowe area. With recreation continuing to play a major role in the local economy and quality of life in Stowe, restoration of the Mill Trail Cabin will allow access to the outdoors in much the same way it did in the 1930's.

Because of the tremendous value this property holds for the community, SLT is working on several initiatives to improve access and the visitor's experience.

With support from the VT Recreation Trails Grant Program, Oakland Foundation, Fields Pond

Foundation and individual donors, SLT hired Timber & Stone, a professional trail crew, to restore the trail to Bingham Falls. Work began in late August and is expected to be complete by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox. Students from the Laraway School in Johnson will be working with the trail crew to construct a 35 foot bridge on the trail where a large stream drains into the Notch Brook from the hillside above. If you haven't already made it out to see the improvements - pick a sunny day and head out to Mill Trail for a walk - you won't be disappointed! Once completed, the trail will offer a safe and enjoyable alternative to the Route 108 access to Bingham Falls. Our goal with this project is to encourage access to nature to families and individuals that might otherwise miss opportunities to connect with their natural surroundings.

For serveral years, SLT has been developing a

plan to restore the Mill Trail Cabin so it is safe for more frequent day use and limited overnight use. Since 2010 when Cushman Design



Timber & Stone trail crew at the bridge site on the Mill Trail.

Group was hired to help us assess our vision for public use, SLT has made major strides toward accomplishing our goal for public access and historic preservation of the Cabin.

In 2012, SLT will begin a restoration effort to stabilize the Cabin and make minor improvements to the kitchen and bath. The Cabin will accommodate the local community for events such as retreats, picnics, reunions and indoor/ outdoor classroom activities. Children and families who stay overnight will experience the pure sounds and smells of nature, removed from modern life - a crackling fire, a babbling brook, the lull of crickets through an open window. The Cabin's proximity to the Long Trail, Stowe Mountain Resort and natural areas such as Bingham Falls make this a great "base camp" for accessing the many recreational opportunities Stowe has to offer.

With recommendations for upgrades, a historic preservationist's expertise, and accurate cost estimates for the recommended work -

> SLT sought and received a \$67,500 grant to support the effort to restore the Mill Trail Cabin. The entire project is expected to cost \$123,500. In addition to private contributions and a few pending foundation requests, SLT has submitted a \$20,000 grant application to the VT Division for Historic Preservation to cover the cost restore the Mill Trail Cabin.

> > Your help is needed today! Help SLT raise the additional \$56,000 needed to leverage these grant funds and complete this project! Your financial support will be put directly toward this restoration effort and will allow the Mill Trail Cabin to once again play a role in the cultural fabric of Stowe.

> > If you are interested in learning more about this project please visit our website (stowelandtrust. org), send us an email (info@ stowelandtrust.org) or call our office (802.253.7221). We would be happy to share more details with you.

SLT's 24th Annual Meeting & Fun Fall Outings



24th Annual Meeting CelebrationSunday, October 23, 2011
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Topnotch Resort and Spa

Stowe Land Trust invites you to join us to celebrate 24 years of land conservation with a presentation on birds of prey by the VT Institute of Natural Science. Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

RSVP to info@stowelandtrust.org or call 802.253.7221.

Receive a 20% discount on dinner at Norma's Restaurant on Sunday, 10/23. Call 253-8585 to make a reservation.

Fly Fishing for Brown Trout

Saturday, October 15, 2011 7:00 - 9:00 am DuMont property

Fly fish for brown trout in the Little River with professional guide Jan Axtell. Rods and flies can be provided but you are welcome to bring your own equipment. Please wear footwear appropriate for wading or standing on the river bank. To RSVP and get directions send an email to info@ stowelandtrust.org or call 802.253.7221.





Want to be the first to know about our hikes, rides and other fun outings?

Join our email list by visiting www.stowelandtrust.org

We won't overwhelm you with messages and we never rent, sell, or loan your information to anyone.

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