A Year of Challenges, Opportunities, & Initiatives

Dear SVT Members,

Wow— you did it again! In the past year, because of your time, energy, and financial support, SVT had a big impact in favor of conservation. You helped protect 150 acres of land for agriculture and for nature. Through your stewardship staff and volunteers, you maintained and improved 40 miles of foot trails in our reservations, designed trails for the new Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary, and set up service opportunities for seven Eagle Scout candidates and 450 other volunteers. You hosted 80 events to learn about and enjoy our natural resources. You helped build a community garden in an urban neighborhood in South Framingham. And, you kept SVT in sound financial health. Thank you!

In addition to you excellent members and SVT’s experienced professional staff, our effectiveness last year benefited from a secret weapon. Two young adult AmeriCorps service members advanced our cause, giving a great boost to important aspects of stewardship and land protection. Through their efforts, we were able to make a marked increase in community outreach and education, and also complete descriptive baseline documentation on ten properties—a necessary starting-point for future comparison.

A few years ago, our national service organization, the Land Trust Alliance, established a program to accredit land trusts that could attain rigorous standards in their procedures for land transactions, property management, record-keeping, and governance. This year, SVT took major preparatory steps down the road leading to formal application in the spring of 2012. We decided to make the necessary investment because we believe that the day will come when funders, communities, land donors, and conservation-savvy members will expect land trusts with professional staffs to be accredited.

We’ve occupied Wolbach Farm for seven years now. This beautiful location provides an attractive environment for volunteers, staff, and visitors. The nature trail will soon be extended to a higher level on Goodmans Hill, to the top of the field at Fairbank Farm, offering a fine view of the Boston skyline. To date, Wolbach maintenance has been reasonably affordable thanks to the efficiency of caretaker Chris Wilson, the efforts of star volunteer Brad Conant, and the groups of students who help pull the grounds together each spring. Under the leadership of Laura Mattei, the Wolbach Facilities Committee has been working out the best plan for replacing the ramp at the back of the barn and thinking ahead to the sad but seemingly inevitable removal of the outmoded and deteriorating greenhouse. It’s a classic design—perhaps you know someone who would like to adopt it?
We often hear statements like, “Why do you keep yourselves such a secret? I’ve lived in town for decades and have never heard of you.” We are trying to raise our profile. You might have noticed our Earth Day signs displayed last spring by about a hundred members. If you would like one for next year, please let us know. We’re exploring the potential of internet social media for communication with the rising generation. We offer free email subscriptions to two weekly publications: *Outdoors This Week*, a listing of events and outings sponsored by various organizations that might be of interest to our members, and *Nature Sightings*, an electronic send of the week’s submissions to that page of our website, which gives us a glimpse of the beautiful, elusive creatures that live among us.

You can help people become aware of us. SVT has about 3,000 members, which is a lot of households—but we’d rather have 4,000. Would you consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who shares your value of conservation? We’ll make it affordable—you can take advantage of our $25 introductory rate. Just contact our Director of Membership, Michael Sanders, at (978) 443-5588 x111.

Another way to help increase public awareness of SVT is by inviting Ron to speak to your organization. This year, he added a new slide lecture to his repertoire. It’s called “Massachusetts’s Land and Wildlife: The History of Our Landscape.” He also offers slide presentations about our local wildlife. All of his talks highlight the importance of SVT’s conservation work and are free of charge.

Most members seem satisfied with the amount of information they receive about SVT in this modest annual report and in our newsletter, *The Wren*. But if you’re curious to dig deeper, we would be happy to provide more details, such as our five-year strategic plan and report on our progress, our audited financial statements, or more information about SVT’s application for accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. Any of these are available on request to our Office Manager, Nancy Hallen, x110.

Thank you for your membership in Sudbury Valley Trustees. We exist because you care, and we’re thriving because a lot of us are working hard together with a shared purpose.

Sincerely yours,

Ron McAdow, Executive Director

Colin Anderson, President
We are grateful for the generosity of our 3,000 members, foundations, business sponsors, and in-kind contributors who have supported SVT’s conservation efforts highlighted in this report. Listed below are individuals, foundations, and businesses who contributed to our Annual Fund between between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

Due to space limitations, we are only able to list donors of $250 and above. We wish to extend sincere thanks to all of our contributors.
AmeriCorps service members Thai Ha-Ngoc and Erin Snook were valuable contributors to the SVT team in fiscal year 2011.

Barbara Jordan & Bob Pemberton
Mr. Stephen R. Kahn and
Ms. Janet A. Pendleton
Thomas and Cynthia Kazior
Christopher and Susan Klem
Mr. Richard Lawrence and
Ms. Patrice McCabe
John and Kathleen Lehmann
Jennifer and Fred Leichter
Mary and Bob Lentz
Madeline Leone and
John Mastrobattista
Christopher and Joan Lynch
Lisa Rose and Richard Mandel
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Mr. and Mrs. David Richardson
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Russell’s Garden Center
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Village Bank
Mr. Norval Leon Wardle
Mr. Peter T. Wheeler and
Ms. Elizabeth H. Munro
Maurice and Diane Williams
Mr. Hugh W. Chandler and
Ms. Katherine H. Wreean

Contributions of $250-$499
Anonymous (20)
Robert and Rita Anderson
Back Row Design
John and Josephine Baggett
Annette and Paul Balistrani
Ms. Francesca Bang and
Dr. Gerald Gleich
Robert and Shirley Barnes
Douglas and Lisa Barth
Marshall and Nikki Bartlett
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Bruce Black and Mary Brogan
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Mike and Alison Bonney
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Mr. Dennis Briefe
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Cambridge Trust
Company
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Mr. Jeffrey D. Carter and
Ms. Caryn L. Johnson
Jim Catterton and Lois Wasoff
Lynne Cavanaugh and
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Ms. Nancy Heselton
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Bob Farrington and Mary Faulkner
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Martin and Barbara Feldzon
Mr. Frederick Findlay
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Christine Wisniewski
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Mr. Chris Hamilos
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Mr. Peter Hamlin and Ms. Lee Mason
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David and Jaye Moore
Mr. Martin Moran
Roszi Moser and Matthew Ginty
Lana and Kevin Murphy
Susan Mygatt
Ogden and Judith Nackoney
Nathan and Sally Newbury
Mr. Gary Norris

SVT increased its social media presence this year, including its new electronic newsletter Nature Sightings.
Among the land protection projects completed in fiscal 2011, Sweetwilliam Farm conserved nearly 100 acres, which provided a link to over 2,000 acres of contiguous conservation land.

We have tried to make these lists accurate for fiscal year 2011. We apologize for any errors or omissions and hope that you will notify us of them.
SVT FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenues 2011 2010 2009
Contributions and Grants 574,561 611,445 1,380,593
Membership 374,487 334,945 336,642
Land Transactions
Investment Income (Loss) 1,073,221 696,248 (725,455)
 Unrealized Loss on Trade Land (363,300)
Other Income 92,836 99,233 85,500
Total Revenues 1,751,805 1,741,861 1,127,029

Expenses
Land Acquisition 92,225 500 1,104,930
Other Land/River Protection 279,377 286,223 267,822
Stewardship 257,144 239,508 232,484
Education/Advocacy 70,624 89,122 65,533
Development/ Membership 219,163 187,835 245,931
Administration 163,686 147,979 165,737
Total Expenses 1,082,219 951,167 2,082,200

Transfer of Mass Land Trust Assets

Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets 669,586 790,694 (955,171)

Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

TREASURER’S REPORT

SVT’s financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. Thanks to continued strong financial support from our members and friends, the organization finished 2011 in good financial health.

The Financial Highlights consolidate results from the three major and distinct areas—operations, land transactions, and portfolio investment results. The following table breaks out and explains each area separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Highlights Components</th>
<th>$ amount in 000s</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Increase/(decrease) in Net Assets</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>791</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Surplus/(deficit) from Operations</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Land Transaction Activities</td>
<td>(129)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Investment Income plus gains/(losses)</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Other: Bequests</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Operations—This category includes total donations and revenue minus salaries, utilities, insurance, stewardship, administration, education and cost of fundraising. In fiscal 2011 there was an operating surplus of $88 thousand. This was primarily the result of strong financial support combined with managing expenses to a less than planned level. In most years, SVT has just a small operating surplus.

2) Land transaction activities—This area includes funds raised in each year to preserve land, minus total cost of surveys, legal expense, land protection personnel costs and SVT’s share of purchase cost of land parcels or conservation restrictions. This number will be very large in years when SVT is raising funds for a large land transaction, or it can be a significant deficit in years when the funds are paid out to complete a large transaction.

3) Investment income plus changes in value—This area includes primarily investment income and change in value of SVT portfolio investments.

4) Bequests—In 2011, one bequest, totaling $40 thousand, was received and will be used for long-term land protection.

SVT will continue to manage its resources, along with member and supporter contributions, frugally and responsibly, while pursuing its mission to preserve and take care of land.

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Sonja Strong
Donna Watkins
Chris Wisniewski

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Lauren Kaplan
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William Fafuri
Dan Foster
Audrey Garcia
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