

ANNUAL REPORT

2013



SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES

Conservation, Collaboration and
Community since 1953

SVT Conservation Highlights: Scenic Landscapes, Improving Habitats, and Outreach to Families

Dear SVT Members,



June 2013 not only concluded SVT's fiscal year but also brought us to the end of a five-year strategic plan. Membership, volunteers, partners, and staff have all been hard at work, and it shows in the results. We are happy to share some of the highlights with all of you who have contributed to these achievements.

SVT proudly can announce that we are now one of 230 accredited land trusts.

Over a two year period, with all hands on deck, we prepared documentation and policies to meet the required Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices. Through these standards and practices, SVT continues to achieve high quality and enduring land conservation.

Another milestone was SVT's 60th anniversary! When the need for a land trust was envisioned in 1953, the driving concern was the rapid and unplanned development of the post-WWII boom years. Around the Sudbury River, there were thoughts of filling in abutting marshlands for development, or perhaps diverting the river itself as a water supply for Boston. Citizens responded because no other organization in the region could meet the need. State and federal government, as well as statewide land trusts, focused on large-scale projects and localities could not yet purchase open space for conservation. SVT, one of the first land trusts in the country and a model for many to follow, chose to focus on local open space and wildlife habitat close to home. This vision has changed little over the intervening years, and thousands of sensitive and scenic acres are the result—not only those lands bearing an SVT sign but also thousands of additional acres, where SVT has lent its expertise and flexibility to protect land that was subsequently held by local, state, or federal entities.

For a third year, SVT continued its partnership with thirteen other Massachusetts land conservation agencies in the AmeriCorps MassLIFT program. Two fulltime AmeriCorps members assisted with stewardship and land protection outreach, greatly increasing capacity and visibility. These young volunteers bring great energy and ideas to the organization, as well as share their mission-related enthusiasm within our varying communities. What a bonus they provide!

In land protection, as we wrapped up the five-year strategic plan, it was thrilling to look back at what has been accomplished during this time. In Fiscal Year 2013 alone, 361.6 acres of high-quality habitat and farmland were protected. Of this total, 21 acres are now owned by SVT and managed as two new reservations: Wrack Meadow Woods in Boylston and the Elliott Concord River Preserve in Carlisle; the other 341 acres are protected by conservation restriction, including Pantry Brook Farm in Sudbury. Long a priority for SVT and the town of Sudbury, this property is a testament to the supportive partnership we enjoy with the town and the Sudbury Foundation, and the wonderful relationship built over years with landowners and stewards Dick and Carole Wolfe.

The total acres protected over the last five years came to an impressive 1,219.4—far exceeding our strategic plan goal of 900 acres; but, this success is not measured in acres alone. To make sure we are working proactively and protecting the highest quality acres, we aimed to have 80% of our protected acres in areas identified for high biodiversity or connectedness with already protected lands. Designated as “flagship” properties, these lands may be outside priority areas but are important for their size, or for scenic, historical, or cultural reasons.

(continued on inside flap)

OUR MISSION:

Sudbury Valley Trustees is a regional land trust that conserves land and protects wildlife habitat in the Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury river basin for the benefit of present and future generations.

ABOUT US:

Founded in 1953, Sudbury Valley Trustees is supported today by a membership of approximately 3,100 individuals, families and corporations throughout 36 different communities in the Concord, Assabet and Sudbury river basin. Working in close collaboration with landowners, businesses, local conservation commissions and government agencies, SVT pursues its land protection goals through land acquisition and stewardship, advocacy, and education.

The organization currently owns, through gift and purchase, more than 2,190 acres in seventeen communities. In addition, it holds conservation restrictions on more than 1980 acres and has been instrumental in preserving several thousand acres now protected by public agencies. SVT is responsible for the protection and care of 148 properties, which include wetlands, sensitive habitats, trails, open spaces, and major sanctuaries.

SVT Conservation Highlights *(continued from the cover)*



In the effort to fulfill the mission of protecting wildlife habitat, we embarked upon several significant habitat restoration and management efforts: most notably, the restoration of pitch pine-scrub oak barrens at the Desert Natural Area in Sudbury and Marlborough. This project is in partnership with the city of Marlborough and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Preparation work was completed in anticipation of a prescribed fire on 14 acres, with the ultimate goal of restoring up to 80 acres. This project will provide habitat for declining species of plants and wildlife, including whip-poor-will, prairie warbler, brown thrasher, barrens buckmoth and frosted elfin.

We are expanding work on field restoration and invasive plant control at the Greenways Conservation Area in Wayland thanks to funding from the National Fish & Wildlife

Foundation and from the NYANZA mitigation fund. The field margins serve as important habitat to American woodcock and the field interiors are important to American bobolink and a variety of butterflies.

It was another great year for stewardship volunteerism, beginning with a \$15,000 program grant from REI. Hundreds of volunteers contribute thousands of hours of service. Beth Gula, our AmeriCorps MassLIFT Land Steward, galvanized many volunteers throughout the year. During National Volunteer Service week in April, she coordinated 157 volunteers in eleven service projects, including trail work, invasive species control, and sprucing up visitor access areas.

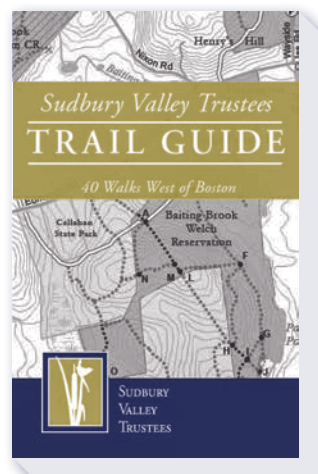
SVT's membership remains steady with just over 3,100 households supporting its work. While we continue to cultivate and thank our long-standing members, we have put a strong emphasis on membership growth of young families. A 2013 Halloween event attracted close to 100 families to Wolbach Farm to participate in a day of festivities. A similar family event, called Riverfest Farm Fest, was held in June, with a focus on local farms. A recent program that we would like to see grow is the spring Trail-a-Thon. This 10K trail walk at Memorial Forest is a good way for walkers to get out and show support, helping to raise funds while increasing membership and awareness of SVT.

We are especially proud of our 60th anniversary publication, which was worked on extensively throughout the fiscal year and was completed early in fiscal 2014. The final product – entitled *Sudbury Valley Trustees Trail Guide: 40 Walks West of Boston* is certainly receiving great praise, and we are thankful to everyone who worked hard to make this publication a reality.

Please do venture out, guide in hand, and appreciate how your support has helped enrich the scenic, recreational and habitat value of this wonderful region west of Boston!

Sincerely yours,

Colin Anderson, President



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Jason Fairchild, Designer

*Current for Fiscal Year 2013:
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013



**SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES**

Sudbury Valley Trustees

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Tel: 978/443-5588 • Fax: 978/443-2333
E-mail: svt@svtweb.org • www.svtweb.org

A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Revenues

	2013	2012	2011
Contributions and Grants	1,191,744	710,560	574,561
Membership	373,082	370,996	374,487
Land Transactions			
Investment Income (Loss)	680,525	41,795	1,033,044
Unrealized Loss on Trade Land			(363,300)
Other Income	139,825	135,128	133,013
Total Revenues	2,385,176	1,258,479	1,751,805

Expenses

Land Acquisition	456,900		92,225
Other Land/River Protection	244,730	272,040	279,377
Stewardship	292,785	291,591	257,144
Education/Advocacy	101,672	76,033	70,624
Development/ Membership	202,177	217,323	219,163
Administration	168,208	186,560	163,686
Total Expenses	1,466,472	1,043,547	1,082,219

Transfer of Project Donations to Partner Land Trusts (62,500)

Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	856,204	214,932	669,586
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Net Assets

Operating	454,633	268,713	303,941
Board Designated	2,402,163	2,099,962	2,104,013
Temporarily Restricted	4,577,923	4,220,077	4,027,350
Walkup, Stewardship and Other	1,229,383	1,233,939	1,208,779
Wolbach Property	921,810	907,017	870,693
Total Net Assets	9,585,912	8,729,708	8,514,776

Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

SVT's financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. The organization finished 2013 in good financial health, thanks to continued strong financial support from our friends and members.

The Financial Highlights consolidate results from the major, distinct areas, including operations, land transactions, portfolio investments, bequests and other. The following table breaks out and explains each area separately.

Financial Highlights Components \$ in thousands	2013	2012
Net Assets as of June 30	\$9,586	\$8,729
Aggregate increase/(decrease) in net assets	857	215
1) Surplus/(deficit) from Operations	33	17
2) Land transaction activities	-94	104
3) Investment income plus gains/(losses)	680	42
4) Bequests	153	0
5) Other	85	52

1) Operations—This category includes total donations and revenue minus salaries, utilities, insurance, stewardship, administration, education and cost of fundraising. In fiscal 2013 there was an operating surplus of \$33 thousand, primarily the result of careful expense control.

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 large in years when SVT is raising funds for a large land transaction, or it can be a large 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—These are funds left to SVT through donor's will, sometimes restricted for specific purpose, sometimes left up to Board decision.

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.



OUR DONORS

2013

We are grateful for the generosity of our 3,100 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 July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

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.



A scenic river view from Carlisle's Elliott Concord River Preserve

Contributions of \$10,000 and up

Anonymous (3)
Donna and Art Appel
Josh and Anita Bekenstein
Mr. Forrest Berkley and Ms. Marcie Tyre
Cile and Bill Hicks
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Contributions of \$2,500-\$4,999

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Intel employees lend a hand removing invasives at SVT's Cedar Swamp Reservation in Westborough.



Scouts from Sudbury's Venture Crew assist AmeriCorps member Beth Gula at Wayland's Greenways Reservation.

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William and Michele Landes
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Ms. Elizabeth H. Munro

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SVT's 2nd Earth Day Trail-a-Thon provides a fun day for a good cause.



Pantry Brook Farm: A long cherished Sudbury landscape

Saving Stories

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Richard and Cathy Wright
David and Angela Yildiz
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The Living Water Society

The Living Water Society is an honorary group of members and friends who have included SVT in their estate plans.

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Stephen Winthrop and
M. Jane Williamson
Fran and Debra Zarette

In Memorium

Fuad Abboud
Elizabeth deLucia
Howard B. Shapiro
Edith M. Stokey
Wilfred and Mildred Turenne

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Mr. Morgan Palmer
\$5,000-\$9,999
Anonymous (1)
Rein and Nancy Beeuwkes
Philip Zamore & Catherine Colinaux
\$1,000-\$4,999
Anonymous (3)
Donna and Art Appel
John and Tessa Hedley-Whyte
Robert S. McKittrick
Alan and Christine Mertz

Vivian Vitale and Robert R. Brown, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce K. Willard

\$250-\$999

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David and Susan Clark
Ms. Elizabeth C. Donaldson
Mr. Dave Earl
Mr. Alan Emmet
Deborah and Frederick Farrand
Terry and Judy Hadley
Ms. Nina Kornstein
Paul McCarthy
Mr. Michael Penko
Edmund J. Walsh and Jane M. Walsh

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Massachusetts Service Alliance
National Park Service
Recreational Equipment Inc.
Sudbury Foundation

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Virginia Braconier
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Harvard Community Gifts
Hewlett Packard Charitable Giving Program
HP Company Foundation
International Business Machines
Merck Partnership for Giving
Pfizer Inc.
The Prudential Foundation
Saint-Gobain Corporation
State Street Matching Gift Program
Travelers Community Connections
Verizon Foundation
Waters Corporation

Sudbury Valley Trustees Receives Land Trust Alliance Accreditation



In February 2013, Sudbury Valley Trustees was excited to learn that it had been awarded land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. This award recognizes SVT as one of only 201 land trusts from across the country that have received accreditation since the program began in the fall of 2008.