

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES

Conservation, Collaboration and
Community since 1953

Conservation in Action: *The Year in Review*



Dear SVT Members,

Thanks to the generous support of 3,000 members and volunteers, SVT made great progress in our three areas of focus during fiscal year 2014: saving land, caring for natural areas, and connecting people to nature. Here are some of the highlights:

SAVING LAND

Since 1953, SVT has been working to protect natural areas for wildlife and people. Our FY14 highlights reflect the many land protection strategies that SVT employs, from assisting communities with local efforts to organizing efforts that protect landscape-scale tracts of land that cross town boundaries.

- SVT protected 84 acres of land in three projects in Northborough, Acton, and Wayland, representing a variety of habitat types and land uses. Among these successes was the culmination of a multi-decade effort to permanently protect the 22.6-acre Lincoln Road Fields, a rare, rural landscape in the heart of suburban Wayland. This property adds to hundreds of acres of land already protected by SVT, the Towns of Weston and Lincoln, and Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Sanctuary.
- With a \$1.47 million Landscape Partnership grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, we initiated the ambitious Tri-Town Landscape Partnership Project, an effort to protect over 500 acres in a 9-square-mile area that augments existing conservation land. When completed, the project will link to a corridor of protected land that extends west past the Wachusett Reservoir into north-central Massachusetts. Together with our partners in Berlin, Boylston, and Northborough, we are working to preserve some of the very best of the area's wildlife habitat, working farms, and recreational trails in and around the Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area.
- As a participant in a working group convened by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, SVT helped to assess the health of agriculture in 13 Massachusetts towns (12 of which are in the SVT region) that are susceptible to encroaching development.



Raj Das

CARING FOR NATURAL AREAS

SVT's job does not end once a parcel of land has been protected. We actively work to steward these lands, ensuring that the values that originally inspired protection are cared for in perpetuity. FY14 highlights include:

- Thanks in great part to a grant from REI, as well as the hard work of over 300 volunteers, we carried out a myriad of projects to maintain and enhance our 55-mile network of trails and to improve access to our properties. Projects included the opening of our new Elliot Concord River Preserve in Carlisle, which included the installation of a parking lot, kiosk, trails, and canoe landing.
- As part of our ongoing effort to meet the standards set by the National Land Trust Alliance, we trained a team of 16 volunteers to locate and mark property boundaries. Thanks to their tenacity and willingness to beat their way through briar thickets, wade through wetlands, and scramble over stone walls, the volunteers marked boundaries on 11 properties during the year.
- We completed a prescribed burn on 14 acres at Memorial Forest/Desert Natural Area, a cooperative project with the City of Marlborough, Mass Wildlife, and the U.S. Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. This is the first step in restoring habitat for several declining species of birds, butterflies, and insects,

(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 3,000 individuals, families, and businesses throughout 36 different communities in the Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury river basin. Working in close collaboration with landowners, 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 2,200 acres in 17 communities. In addition, it holds conservation restrictions on more than 2,000 acres and has been instrumental in preserving several thousand acres now protected by public agencies. Altogether, SVT is responsible for the protection and care of nearly 4,300 acres on 151 properties, which include wetlands, sensitive habitats, and a 55-mile trail network.

Conservation in Action: *The Year in Review* (continued from the cover)

including whip-poor-will, frosted elfin, and barrens tiger beetle.

- We continued to make progress on the effort to restore 16 acres of field habitat at Greenways Conservation Area in Wayland. The project is improving habitat for American bobolink, American woodcock, and a diversity of butterflies.
- Recognizing that successful management of natural areas requires a regional approach, SVT staff led two cooperative, region-wide efforts. Director of Stewardship Laura Mattei served as Chair of the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, a consortium of 40 organizations that work to implement invasive species control projects. SVT staff also coordinated the West Suburban Conservation Council, a consortium of 44 organizations that work on a range of stewardship and land protection issues and projects.



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

SVT recognizes that we must engage a greater number of people to care and act for natural areas, and we work to provide a diversity of opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about our region's open spaces and wildlife. During FY14, SVT:

- Published *Sudbury Valley Trustees Trail Guide: 40 Walks West of Boston*. Enthusiastically received, the guide has provided people with the opportunity to explore many conservation lands within a short distance from their homes.
- Hosted over 50 outings and lectures throughout our region, highlighted by a 10K Trail-a-Thon on trails in northwest Framingham. Coinciding with National Trails Day, the Trail-a-Thon attracted more than 100 people who also enjoyed live music, delicious food, and family-friendly games.
- Enlisted and celebrated the help of more than 150 volunteers who provided valuable support for our mission.
- Danced and dined with more than 250 people at the Annual Benefit Gala, SVT's flagship fundraising event that provides people a fun way to support our regional conservation work. More than a third of the attendees joined the party for the first time, and more than 100 business and individuals contributed items to the silent auction.
- Welcomed over 150 new members and continued a long-time relationship with many loyal members: 40 of our members have been supporting SVT for over 50 years; 750 have been supporting SVT for over 25 years!
- Partnered with Mass Audubon to host its "Drumlin Camp" summer day camp for children under age 10 at SVT's Wolbach Farm and also held several other family-friendly events, including our annual Pumpkin Patch Halloween event. Together, these programs helped young people connect to the outdoors and learn about nature.
- Delivered quality content to 1,500 subscribers who receive our two weekly e-news publications: *Outdoors This Week* and *Nature Sightings*. *Outdoors This Week* provides a great overview of conservation and recreation events offered by SVT and 35 other organizations. Thanks to volunteer photographers, subscribers to *Nature Sightings* receive stunning pictures of local wildlife. The newsletter also links to the popular *Nature Sightings* page on our website, which now contains photos of over 450 species.



Without the support of our members, volunteers, and partners, none of this would have been possible. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Colin Anderson, President

Lisa Vernegaard, Executive Director

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Deborah Sargent, Editor
Jason Fairchild, Designer



SUDBURY
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TRUSTEES

Sudbury Valley Trustees

18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
Tel: 978/443-5588 • Fax: 978/443-2333
E-mail: svt@svtweb.org • www.svtweb.org

A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE
LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

	2014	2013	2012
Revenues			
Contributions and Grants	748,539	1,191,744	710,560
Membership	406,861	373,082	370,996
Investment Income	1,077,621	680,525	41,795
Other Income	150,439	139,825	135,128
Total Revenues	2,383,460	2,385,176	1,258,479
Expenses			
Land Acquisition	1,000	456,900	0
Other Land/River Protection	354,159	244,730	272,040
Stewardship	308,401	292,785	291,591
Education/Advocacy	111,730	101,672	76,033
Development/Membership	193,371	202,177	217,323
Administration	187,058	168,208	186,560
Total Expenses	1,155,719	1,466,472	1,043,547
Transfer of Project Donations to Partner Land Trusts	0	(62,500)	0
Increase in Net Assets	1,227,741	856,204	214,932
Net Assets			
Operating	357,038	454,633	268,713
Board Designated	2,623,727	2,402,163	2,099,962
Temporarily Restricted	5,462,977	4,577,923	4,220,077
Walkup, Stewardship, and Other	1,480,848	1,229,383	1,233,939
Wolbach Property	889,063	921,810	907,017
Total Net Assets	10,813,653	9,585,912	8,729,708

Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SVT's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The organization finished fiscal 2014 in good financial health, thanks to continued strong financial support from our friends and members.

The Financial Highlights report consolidates results from the major, distinct areas, including operations, land transactions, portfolio investments, bequests, and other. The table at right breaks out each area separately:

Financial Highlights Components	\$ in thousands	
	2014	2013
Net Assets as of June 30	\$10,814	\$9,586
Aggregate increase in net assets	1,228	857
1) Surplus from operations	5	33
2) Land protection and stewardship	180	(94)
3) Investment income plus changes in value	1078	680
4) Bequests	0	153
5) Other	(35)	85

1) Operations—This category includes total donations and revenue net of salaries, utilities, insurance, stewardship, administration, education, and cost of fundraising. In fiscal 2014 there was an operating surplus of \$5 thousand, primarily the result of careful expense control.

2) Land protection and stewardship—This category includes funds raised to preserve and steward land, less project costs such as surveys, legal expense, land protection and stewardship personnel costs, and SVT's share of the purchase cost of land parcels or conservation restrictions. This number will be greater in years when SVT is raising funds for a large land transaction, or the number can be a deficit in years when the funds are expended to complete a large transaction.

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

4) Bequests—These are funds that have been directed to SVT via the provision of a donor's will, sometimes restricted for a specific purpose and sometimes left to the discretion of the Board.

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



Bruce Osterling, Treasurer

For Fiscal 2014

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*Committee Chair

OUR DONORS

2014

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, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

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.

RejDas



Lincoln Road Fields, Wayland

Contributions of \$10,000 and up

Anonymous (4)
Cile and Bill Hicks
Robert Kamen & Trudi Veldman
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 Mr. Charles C. Woodard and
 Ms. Lisa Eggleston
 Theodore York
 Stephen and Anne Ziobrowski

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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 Diana Abrashkin
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 Ms. Nancy Burke and
 Mr. Donald Burn
 Carol H. Case
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 Dr. Carol Englander
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 Fran and Debra Zarette

In Memoriam

Parker Coddington
 Stuart Crane
 Phyllis Johnson
 Rosalind Kingsbury
 Margaret Lidback
 Alan Mix

Allen Morgan
 Dorothy E. Norwood
 Fred and Millie Turenne
 Sally Venerable
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\$5,000-\$9,999
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\$250-\$999
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 International Business Machines
 Macy's Foundation
 Merck Partnership for Giving
 Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
 National Grid
 Pfizer Inc.
 The Prudential Foundation
 SanDisk Corporation
 State Street Matching Gift Program
 United Way Of Rhode Island
 Verizon Foundation
 Waters Corporation