## Annual Report

#### Dear SVT members and friends,

We are thrilled to report that SVT enjoyed another successful year of conservation in Fiscal 2022.

In collaboration with landowners, local land trusts, and public officials, we protected another 152 acres in the region, and we assisted in the protection of an additional 28 acres of agricultural land. Spanning farms, forests, meadows, and wetlands, these lands are essential to the health of our communities: They yield fresh produce, offer trails for recreation, protect habitat for wildlife, and buffer various impacts of climate change.

We also worked with volunteers and partners to maintain our hiking trails and clear invasive plants from conservation lands. As part of our continuing efforts to become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization, we sponsored our second annual Juneteenth Commemorative Walk at Memorial Forest in Sudbury.

The pages in this report illustrate a few of our highlights from Fiscal 2022. As always, our success was made possible by you, the SVT members, volunteers, and partners who support local conservation. Because of your generosity, future generations will enjoy the same natural areas and healthy lands we enjoy today. Thank you.

Karin Paquin, President Lisa Vernegaard, Executive Director



As our list of conserved lands grows, so do our responsibilities. Every year, we visit all of the properties we own and all of the conservation restrictions (CRs) under our care to ensure their ecological values are being maintained.



#### 35 Nature Programs

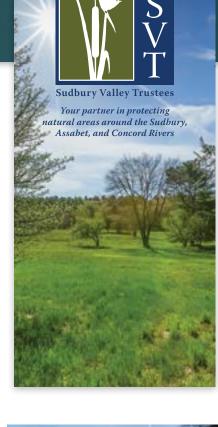
In a year when COVID-19 continued to cast a shadow over our lives, SVT offered more than 35 programs to connect people with nature. In addition to hosting in-person events such as wildflower walks and owl programs, we also offered webinars about monarch butterflies, invasive species management, wildlife cameras, and more.

#### **152 Acres Protected**

In concert with numerous partners, SVT directly helped to conserve 152 acres in Fiscal 2022. The list of properties we own outright now includes the Hutch-Emino property in Marlborough (which we added to our adjacent Grist Mill Pond Conservation Area) and the Crawford Street Woodland in Northborough.

We also co-hold an agricultural preservation restriction (APR) on Stonefield Farm in Acton, and we hold or co-hold CRs on the Howard Street Land in Northborough, the Halloran Land in Southborough, and Browns' Woods in Littleton.

As a bonus, we assisted the Town of Holliston in acquiring an APR on the 28-acre Thistle Dew Farm.



Healthy Land,

**Strong Communities** 







#### **54 Preserve Stewards**

SVT relies on our dedicated stewardship volunteers who perform maintenance on our trails and also lend a hand with larger projects.

In Fiscal 2022, we installed a set of steps at Smith Conservation Land in Littleton. We also joined with the Berlin Conservation Commission to build a bridge and remove an old culvert to naturalize a stream at the Forty Caves Conservation Area. And at our Lyons-Cutler property in Sudbury, we built several boardwalks to improve the footing and prevent erosion.

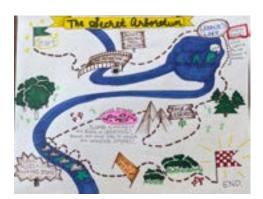


#### **Scout Projects**

SVT and Scouts make a great combination. Boy and Girl Scouts often help to maintain our properties, and we provide opportunities for Scouts looking for an Eagle or Silver Project. In Fiscal 2022, Scouts built bridges and boardwalks on our trails, installed photo stands to encourage citizen scientists to track environmental changes on our lands, and built and installed bat boxes at our Wolbach Farm headquarters in Sudbury.

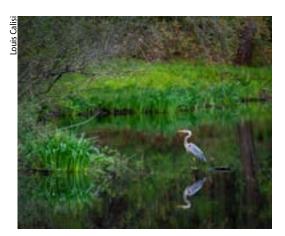
#### **10 Pollinator Gardens**

With SVT as the coordinating organization, members of the Metrowest Conservation Alliance (MCA) collaborate to share the best practices for land management. In Fiscal 2022, the MCA's Native Pollinator Initiative created or expanded 10 public demonstration gardens that include the native plants and other habitat features needed by the most-at-risk native bees.



#### **Engaging Youth**

As a way to inspire future conservationists, SVT often engages area youth in our work. In Fiscal 2022, we collaborated with a group of advisors—all under the age of 10!—to develop a child-friendly exploration map of the Acton Arboretum.



#### 30 New Photographers

In Fall 2021, we launched a Volunteer Photo Task Force, whose members visit our properties to capture nature's beauty in every season. Thanks to their artistic vision, we now have a collection of stunning images that illustrate the importance of conservation. Plus, we also enjoy the support of dozens of other members and friends who generously contribute images to the Nature Sightings page of our website.

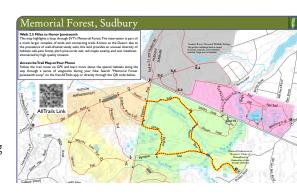


#### **More Weed Warriors**

Since 2020, SVT has trained dozens of volunteer Weed Warriors to fight invasive plants on our properties. In Fiscal 2022, we expanded the program by transferring its management to CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area), a collaboration of conservation groups that combat invasive species in Metrowest. Thanks to CISMA's efforts, 10 partner organizations are now training Weed Warriors to battle invasives throughout the region.

### Commemorating Juneteenth

For the second consecutive year, SVT worked with the Sudbury for Racial and Social Justice group to commemorate Juneteenth National Independence Day. Our 2.5-mile self-guided tour of Memorial Forest symbolized the two-and-a-half long years it took to notify enslaved people in Texas that they were free.



# Preserve Assabet River Bluff YES on Articles 25 & 26 Sunday, May 1

Annual Town Meeting

#### **6 Votes for Conservation**

Through yard signs, mailings, e-mails, and letters to the editor, SVT provides support to local conservation initiatives. In Fiscal 2022, we encouraged voters in Berlin, Boxborough, Concord, Harvard, Upton, and Wayland to support the use of Community Preservation Act funds to conserve open space in their towns. All six projects passed during Town Meeting votes.

#### **Our Mission**

Sudbury Valley Trustees works to protect natural areas and farmland for wildlife and people in the 36 communities that surround the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers.

#### **About Us**

Working in collaboration with landowners, local conservation commissions, and government agencies, SVT pursues its mission through land acquisition, stewardship, advocacy, and education.

Founded: 1953

**SVT-Owned Properties:** 

93 in 19 communities;

2.434 acres

**SVT Conservation Restrictions:** 

97 in 23 communities;

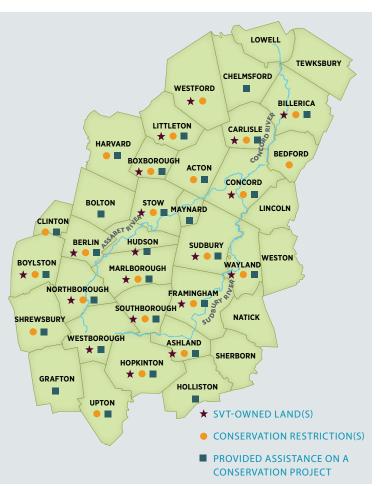
3.311 acres

Miles of Trails: 65+





Sudbury Valley Trustees, 18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 978-443-5588 • svt@svtweb.org • www.svtweb.org



#### **Board of Directors**

Fiscal 2022

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VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Bakstran, Berlin

TREASURER

Lisa Schimmel, Wayland

CLERK

Peter Martin, Northborough

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Colin Anderson, Sudbury Sherrill Cline, Sudbury

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**Bruce Osterling**, Bedford Richard Perkins, Stow

Greg D. Peterson, Carlisle

#### Staff Fiscal 2022

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Dana Baxter, Development Associate Grace Fauver,

Director of Development & Community Engagement

#### Meredith Houghton,

Land Protection Specialist

**Jane Maloney,** Land Steward

Laura Mattei, Director of Stewardship

Kristin O'Brien,

Conservation Restriction Manager

#### Brandon Parker,

Property Maintenance Manager

#### Debbie Pullen.

Membership & Programs Manager

#### Deborah Sargent,

Communications Manager

#### Anthony Serra,

Land Protection Associate

#### Dan Stimson,

Assistant Director of Stewardship

#### Michelle Soares Vanslette,

Director of Finance & Administration

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

**Dominic Portelli** 

Lily Zanta

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN

Jason Fairchild, Truesdale Group

#### Committee Members Fiscal 2022

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Sam Hawkey John Mastrobattista\* Brett Peruzzi

Laura Spear

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Steven Correia Neela de Zoysa

Kelly Ewart

Sean Fair

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Debbie Pullen Lisa Vernegaard

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#### **Land Protection**

Sherrill Cline Ruth Kennedy Sudduth Brian Levey Andrew Magee\* Peter Martin David Moore Dick Perkins Greg D. Peterson Morgan Wilson

#### Stewardship

Whitney Beals Amber Carr Rebecca Cutting Bill Fadden Richard T.T. Forman Michele Grzenda\* Beth Gula Tom McGowan Karin Paquin

#### **Wolbach Facilities**

Mike Penko

**Brian Clew** Richard Dinjian **Bob May Bruce Osterling** Jim Shelhamer William Sterling\*

\*Committee Chair

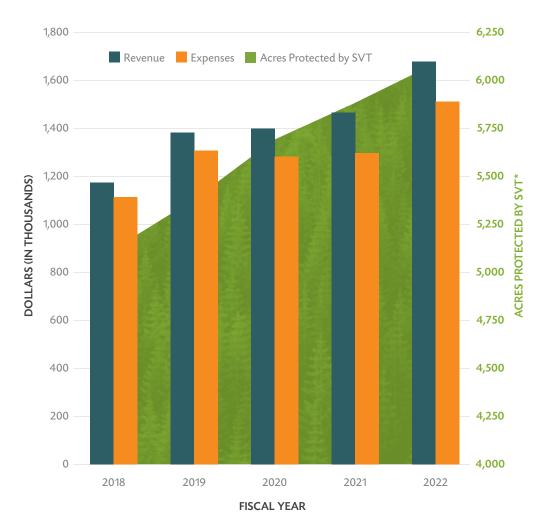
#### **Financial Overview: Fiscal 2022**

SVT enjoyed another strong financial year in Fiscal 2022, which ran from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

As always, we received generous financial support from SVT members, who provided 68% of our operating revenue through membership dues and through donations to fundraising events. Individuals, foundations, and other organizations also contributed over \$800,000 directly to land protection projects, helping SVT and our partners fund efforts to conserve more than 360 acres of land. In addition, SVT was fortunate to be named the beneficiary of two exceptionally large gifts in Fiscal 2022. Two long-time members each bequeathed approximately \$2 million to SVT; one gift was donorrestricted for land protection, and the other was placed in a fund that will provide SVT with a perpetual source of operating revenue. With these extraordinary gifts, each donor left a legacy that will benefit our natural areas for decades to come.

The SVT staff together with our Board of Directors and Finance Committee carefully manage our funds to keep the organization in exceptional financial health and allow us to accelerate our pace of land protection and stewardship. As illustrated in the chart below, revenue has consistently exceeded expenses in recent years, while the number of acres we have protected climbs ever upward. We remain in an excellent position for this trend to continue.

#### Revenue, Expenses, and Acres Protected



<sup>\*</sup>Acres Protected = Number of acres in SVT-owned lands and SVT-held conservation restrictions

#### Statement of Activity

(in thousands of dollars)

#### Revenue

| Member Support               | \$1,013 |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Grants and Corporate Support | \$119   |
| Fundraising Events, net      | \$123   |
| Endowment Draw               | \$288   |
| Program and Other Revenue    | \$136   |
| Total Revenue                | \$1,679 |
| Expenses                     |         |
| Personnel                    | \$1,088 |
| Non-Personnel                | \$424   |
| Total Expenses               | \$1,512 |
| Net Operating Surplus        | \$167   |

#### Statement of **Financial Position**

(in thousands of dollars)

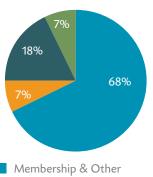
#### Assets

| Current Assets       | \$5,173  |
|----------------------|----------|
| Investments          | \$13,034 |
| Land                 | \$11,019 |
| Building & Equipment | \$1,058  |
| Total Assets         | \$30,284 |

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

| Current & Long-Term Liabilities          | \$153    |
|--|----------|
| Undesignated Net Assets (including land) | \$11,735 |
| Board-Designated Net Assets              | \$8,494  |
| Donor-Restricted Net Assets              | \$7,533  |
| Permanently Restricted Net<br>Assets     | \$2,369  |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets         | \$30,284 |

#### **Operating Revenue**



Individual Support

Grants & Corporate Support

**Endowment Draw** 

Program & Other Revenue

## Our Donors

We are grateful for the generosity of our more than 2,500 members, foundations, business sponsors, and in-kind contributors. Listed below are those who made contributions between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Due to space limitations, we are only able to list donors of \$250 and above. We extend sincere thanks to all of our contributors.

#### **Annual Fund**

#### \$25,000 and Up

Anonymous (3) George Gols Robert Kamen and Trudi Veldman Steve and Judy Kaye Madeline Leone and John Mastrobattista Litowitz Foundation

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

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#### \$2,500 and Up

Beals & Thomas, Inc. Casner & Edwards Middlesex Savings Bank The Village Bank

#### \$1,000 to \$2,499

Beacon Poine Advisors Bowditch & Dewey, L.L.P. Capital Formation Group, Inc. drm Design-Build, Inc. Epsilon Associates, Inc. Longfellow Health Clubs

#### **Project Support &**

#### **Designated Donations**

Donations made to a land protection or stewardship project or designated for a specific purpose.

#### \$25,000 and Up

Anonymous (3) **Bafflin Foundation** Cile and Bill Hicks

Gordon and Marjorie Osborne Foundation

Highland Partners Charitable Foundation

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous (2) Fields Pond Foundation Lookout Foundation William P. Wharton Trust

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous (2) John Aney and Jessica Simons Molly and John Beard Eric Brockett and Rosario Delgado-Lecaroz Christa and Jeffrey Collins Tom and Cathy Dodd Timothy Fredette Linda Gay and Thomas Coz Andrew Magee Merrimack Conservation Partnership Anthony and Jemie Miceli John Michael Penko

Bill and Karen Sample Joan and John Sebastian William Sherman Kevin and Tamara Toto David and Patti Tron Matthew Weibe and Lauren Mack

#### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Anonymous David and Susan Clark James and Carol Gallagher Irina Klimanskaya William and Agnita Knott Littleton Conservation Trust Jeff Pollak Bill and Ruth Shelley

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Richard and Jean Leif

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Cynthia and John Robertson

Katherine Robertson

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Lyell Slade and Robert Van Dyck

Lisa Vernegaard

Rebecca Wetzel

Timothy Wheeler

Karen Yeowell and Mark O'Connell

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Paul and Annette Bakstran

Kenneth Descoteaux and Leslie

DeSimone Julie Fannon

Frederick and Madeleine Findlay Richard and Barbara Forman

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Frank Johnson

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Amy and Eric Ludlam

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Evan Soderstrom

Pamela and Bruce Tattersall

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Preston Turner

Jane and Edmund Walsh

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Carolyn McQueen

John and Lynne McQueeney

Tye and Amelia McQuilkin Joel Moskowitz and Janet Buchwald Donna Quist Blanchard

Henry Roman and Courtney Coile Marc Sevigny and Mark Mikitarian Abby and Jason Shepard John Smith and Denise Roskamp

Henry Szczepanek

Kenneth Raye

#### **Matching Gifts**

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Autodesk Foundation
Avago Technologies U.S. Inc
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Dell Employee Engagement Fund

Facebook General Electric Foundation Intercontinental Exchange National Grid Company

Network For Good

Qualcomm Matching Gift Program Red Hat

Takeda

Tufts Health Plan Foundation

Unum Insurance

Walmart Foundation

Wells Fargo

#### Pro Bono/In-Kind Gifts

#### \$250 and up

Beverage & Diamond DGT Associates Eliason Law Office, LLC Ideation Media Boss

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#### Gifts in Memoriam

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Jeannette Davis
Charlie Foell
Marylynn Gentry
George Gols
Phil Gordon
Paul Hawryluk
Linda Lewandowski
Tyler Longland
Louis Marenghi

Tyler Longland Louis Marenghi Michael Robinson Barry Shemin

John Steward Edith M. Stokey

J. Frederic Sway Christine Thayer

Stephen V. Winthrop

#### Life Members

Chosen by the Board of Directors in acknowledgment of extraordinary contributions to SVT's work.

Anonymous (6)
Bruce and Marian Anderson
Colin and Melody Anderson
Robert and Rita Anderson
Mary Antes
Frederick and Janet Ballou
Molly and John Beard

Anita and Josh Bekenstein

Billie Bentzen Carla Bentzen

Torsten Bentzen Forrest Berkley and Marcie Tyre William and Priscilla Catlin

Brian and Alison Clew

J. Christopher and Keena Clifford Gary Countryman

Stuart and Dana Davies

Brett Devine

Carol Devine McInnes

Mary Donald

Michael and Barbara Eisenson

Beverly Emmons Keith Emmons Scott Emmons

Bruce Fletcher & Jean McCord

George and Carol Gay

Allen Glick

Marian and William Harman George and Diantha Harrington

Candace Herene Cile and Bill Hicks

Dorothy and G. Michael Hostage

Andi and Chris Jenny

Robert Kamen and Trudi Veldman

Ruth Kennedy Sudduth

Judy King

Marilyn Kucharski

William and Michele Landes

Madeline Leone and John Mastrobattista

Susan Litowitz

Longfellow's Wayside Inn

Edward Marram and Karen Carpenter

Richard and Sara Mayo
Charles McColough

Edward McTighe
David and Jaye Moore

William Rawstron Angelo Rocco Gregory Rocco

Nancy Shepherd Evelyn Small David Solomon Jonathan Stearns Gretchen and Jeffrey Stoddard Howard and Fredi Stevenson Jean Claude and Carole Sureau M. Jane Williamson

Fran and Debra Zarette

#### **Living Water Society**

Members and friends who have included SVT in their estate plans

Anonymous (4) Diana Abrashkin

Colin and Melody Anderson Donald Burn and Nancy Burke

Laurel Carpenter Carol Case

Sherri Cline and Thomas McGowan Laura Diamond and Carolyn McDonald

Richard and Lorraine Dinjian

Carol Englender

Betty Foley George and Carol Gay

Laurence Grossman and Rita Gibes Grossman

Cile and Bill Hicks

Donald Hindley Andi and Chris Jenny

Vera Jodrey

Richard and Louise Johnson Ruth Kennedy Sudduth

Susan Lanza Sally Linden

Judith Markland and William Saunders Ronald McAdow and Betsy Stokey

Charles McColough Deirdre Menoyo Jill Moonheron Libba Moore

Charles and Lois Morgan
Philip and Donna Schaefer
Howard and Fredi Stevenson

Elizabeth Tepper
Lisa Vernegaard
Joy Viola
M. Jane Williamson

## Our Volunteers

SVT relies on the support of more than 200 volunteers each year, both on our properties and in our offices. Many of the volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and Committees (listed elsewhere in this report) also help out in countless other ways. In addition to our Board and Committee members, the following volunteers also provided at least 20 hours of service in Fiscal 2022. We are grateful to them and to all our volunteers for their commitment to conservation.

Ken Appel Ginny Lemmerman Louis Calisi Andy Limeri Daniel Clawson David Liu **Brad Conant** Amy Loveless Judith Eneguess James Makuc Chris Errington Erin Martin Susan Frommer Margo McMahon Walker Fryling Harry Newell Wayne Hall Charles Noll Dany Pelletier Ruth Ladd Joan Pinkul Laura Lane

Craig Smith
Ashwath Sridhar
Rob St. Germain
Kelsey Thompson
Stephen Tobin
Michele Trucksis
Joe Tyrrell
William Whitney
Stephen Williamson
Cindy Winer
Nancy Wright

We apologize for any errors or omissions and hope you will notify us of them.