



October 2023 Newsletter



Fall is For Fun!

With the stormy summer behind us and daylight getting shorter, it's time to get outside, hit the trails, and enjoy the bounties of fall. Autumn in the Litchfield Hills is a quintessential New England experience that engages all the senses--from the crimson and gold hillsides to the tantalizing tastes and alluring aromas of a recent harvest to the sounds of migrating waterfowl and rustling leaves to the nip of a frosty evening and warmth of a cozy firepit. At Steep Rock, we're offering an October packed with special experiences—from sauntering through rustic landscapes, to taking on the 3 Peaks in 3 Weeks Challenge, to celebrating the Hidden Valley acquisitions, to carving pumpkins at the Harvest Festival, and to restoring trails and preparing Judea Garden for its winter rest. Do you have an event you'd like to see added to Steep Rock's future fall programming? Share your thoughts with us!

See you at our events!

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Featured Highlights



Trail Reopens with Stunning Upgrades Thanks To You

Exciting news—our historic Rivers Edge Loop (Goat Trail) in Steep Rock Preserve is restored and ready for exploration! With expert craftsmanship from Tahawus Trails LLC, the trail is now safer, more sustainable, and visually stunning. Curious how we transformed 13 critical points along the path? Discover the journey and the amazing changes. [\[more\]](#)


Beckoning Bats

October is Bat Appreciation Month. Connecticut's nine different bat species are simply amazing creatures that play the important role of keeping insect populations in check. Unfortunately, they face a number of threats. This summer, Van Sinderen Conservation Interns Ben Armas and Grace Zona investigated habitat preferences; specifically, what bats require to successfully rear young. Their efforts resulted in the installation of a bat house in Macricostas Preserve where we hope to see mothers and pups residing in its warm, narrow chambers during summer months. Our thanks to the Barr Family and Washington Primary School students for building the perfect accommodation and collaborating for bat conservation. [\[more\]](#)

Upcoming Events

- October 1-22 - Steep Rock's [3 Peaks in 3 Weeks Challenge](#)
- October 8 - [Washington Harvest Festival](#)

- October 11- [Fall Saunters](#): Johnson Farm Preserve
- October 18 - [Fall Saunters](#): Hillside Farm Preserve
- October 20 & 21 - [Hidden Valley](#) Expansion Celebration
- October 21 & 22 - [Judea Garden Fall Clean Up](#)
- October 21 - [Trail Work Party](#)
- Nov. 4 & 5 - [Nature Preserve Monitoring Blitz](#)









TWO DATES
ONE GREAT CAUSE


HIDDEN VALLEY EXPANSION

CELEBRATING 206 ACRES PROTECTED!
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE EXPANDED HIDDEN VALLEY
PRESERVE BY 25%! JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THIS WIN!

Friday, 10/20, 1pm:
Opening Ceremony & Hike

Saturday, 10/21, 9am:
Hike to Cook Parcel



Steep Rock Preserve: Tunnel Road Bridge Closed in 2023

The Town of Washington is replacing Tunnel Road Bridge over the Shepaug River. The bridge will be closed until November. There is **no parking or access to Steep Rock Preserve coming from River Road or Lower Church Hill Road**. The only vehicle access is Spring Hill Road off Route 199/Roxbury Road. **Horse trailers prohibited and SR1, SR2 campsites closed for the 2023 season.**

Our Contact Information
 Steep Rock Association
 PO Box 279
 Washington Depot, CT 06794-0279
 860-868-9131
<http://www.SteepRockAssoc.org>

