



## November 2023 Newsletter



Ribbon Cutting at the Hidden Valley Expansion Opening

### **Grit, Grace, and Gratitude**

Acquiring land for conservation purposes is a time-consuming, complex process requiring a tremendous amount of patience, determination, negotiation, fundraising savvy, legal work, surveys, appraisals, meetings, and the hard work of many people. In a word, conservation takes a lot of grit. The result is that we are graced with lands we love that are protected forever so generations can enjoy and connect with the natural world.

Lands teeming with biodiversity, prized for their scenic views, important in their capacity to protect water quality, exceptional as a recreational venue, and critical to both the human and natural condition. Earlier this year, Steep Rock added 206 acres to our Hidden Valley Preserve. On October 20th, we expressed our gratitude to the many, many people whose **grit** was rewarded with **grace** in conserving these incredible lands—from state and federal agencies to elected officials to private foundations to more than 110 individual donors to the SRA Board, staff, and volunteers. A huge



debt of **gratitude** and congratulations to all involved in this effort. For more about the HVX acquisitions, click [here](#).

See you on our hike to Hidden Valley's new [Cook Parcel](#) on Nov. 11!

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

## Featured Highlights



### **Johnson Farm Eagle Scout Project Completed**

Congratulations to Ty Maluda of Troop 65 for completing his Eagle Scout project and making an impactful contribution to Steep Rock's conservation mission. Ty established a nest box trail to support cavity-nesting birds, particularly eastern bluebirds and tree swallows, at our [Johnson Farm Preserve](#). These boxes supplement natural cavities in trees as nest sites, which are often scarce. The availability of this required resource is a determinant factor on the welfare of their populations. Soundly built and erected in quality open habitat, Ty's boxes offer coveted accommodations

for breeding pairs of these beautiful, native birds for years to come. Check them out on your next visit and be sure to return in spring.

## Judea Garden Wraps Up 15th Season

This season, the amazing Interns and Volunteers of [Judea Garden](#) grew, harvested, and distributed 3,567 pounds of organic vegetables to our neighbors in Washington, Warren, New Milford, and Litchfield. That included 775 pounds of tomatoes, 451 pounds of greens, 299 pounds of squash, 239 pounds of root vegetables, and 90 pounds of garlic! And a special thank you to all who helped us celebrate our 15th growing and giving season. Here's to continued bountiful harvests in the future!

## We Are Hiring!

Steep Rock is hiring for a Part Time Development Coordinator. This role is integral to advancing the fundraising capacity of SRA primarily through donation processing, meticulous record-keeping, database administration, and outreach. The candidate should be detail oriented, organized, have excellent communication skills, and be able to work both independently and collaboratively. This position reports to the Development Director. Interested? [\[more\]](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 11 - [Hike to the Cook Parcel](#) at Hidden Valley
- Nov. 18 - [Trail Work Party](#)
- Nov. 25 - [Shop Local](#) at J. McLaughlin and Support Steep Rock
- Dec. 8 - [Holiday in the Depot](#)
- Dec. 17- [Christmas Bird Count](#)
- Dec. 21 - [Winter Solstice Firepit Celebration](#)



J. McLAUGHLIN

**SHOP LOCAL, SUPPORT LOCAL**  
Join us for refreshments and fashion at J. McLaughlin in Washington Depot on November 25 from 12pm-4pm. 15% of all purchases this day will be donated to Steep Rock.



### Steep Rock Preserve: Tunnel Road Bridge Closed in 2023

The Town of Washington is replacing Tunnel Road Bridge over the Shepaug River. We anticipate the bridge opening in December. 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

- \*{{Organization Name}}\*
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- \*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

