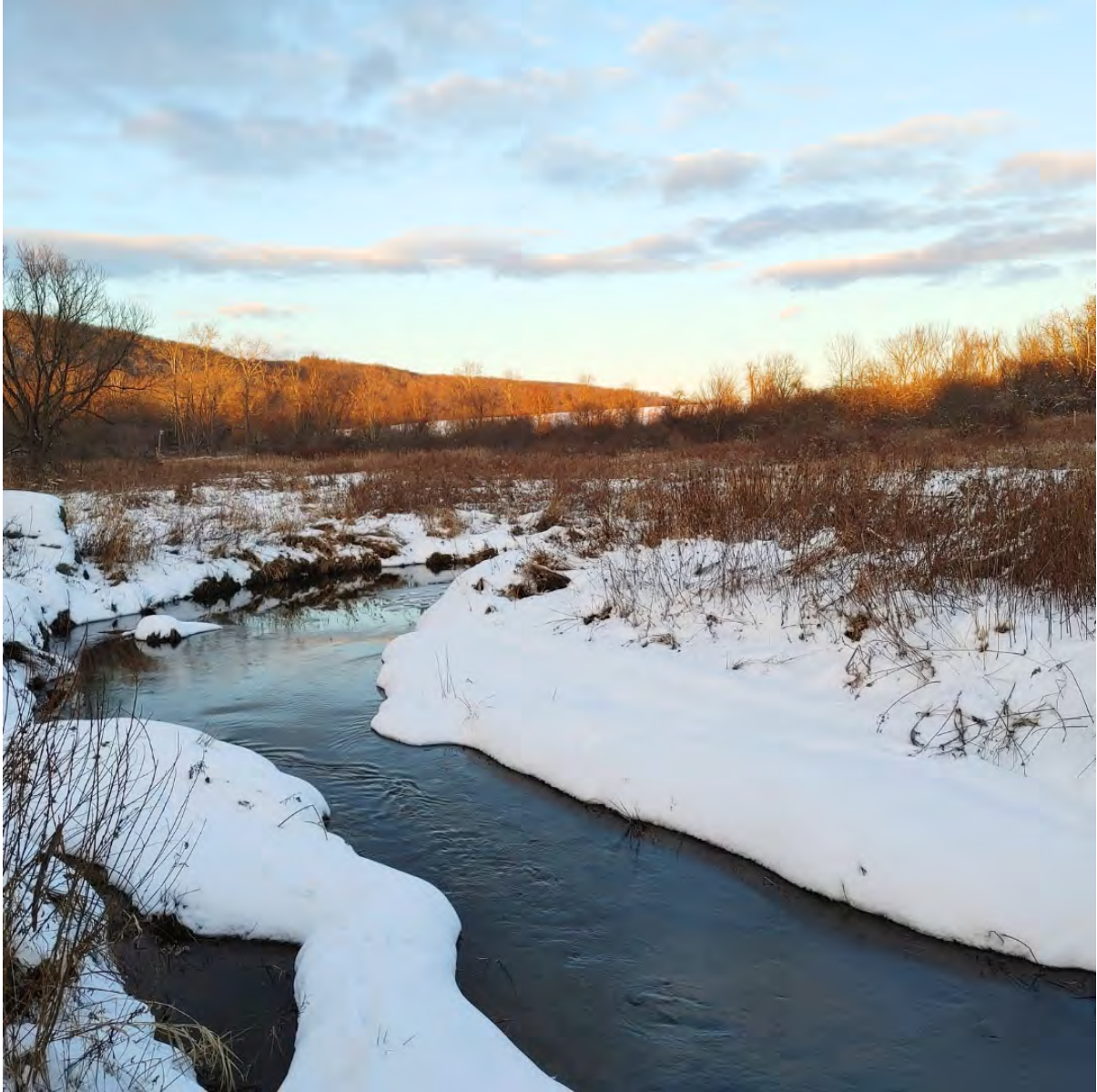




**STEEP ROCK**  
ASSOCIATION

---



### **2024: It Only Gets Better**

After an incredibly memorable and successful [2023](#), Steep Rock is not resting on our laurels. We're getting ready for a great year protecting what you love in Washington and the Litchfield Hills. In addition to launching our inaugural "[Winter Speaker Series](#)" this month, look for both new programs



and old favorites in 2024. We're working hard on acquiring lands very worthy of conservation protection and designing new trails in the Hidden Valley Expansion parcels we purchased last year. The [Judea Garden](#) team is already scanning seed catalogues and we have a terrific team planning activities for our centennial celebration in 2025. We've also [added key staff](#) to help make all this happen. So, lace up your boots, download our free trail maps via [Avenza Maps app](#), check out our [Events page](#), and sign up to [volunteer](#) for us. With you on our team, our work only gets better! See you on our trails...

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

---

## Featured Highlights





## SRA Launches Virtual Winter Speaker Series

Steep Rock Association is hosting a virtual Winter Speaker Series and invites the public to learn about local wildlife issues, land conservation, sustainable gardening, and the importance of pollinators. Each program aims to inspire participants about the wonders of the natural world and educate them on the importance of local conservation. Our first program, "[Connecticut's Black Bears: Our Neighbors in the Wild](#)" is on Thursday, January 18th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Paul Colburn, Master Wildlife Conservationist, will raise awareness about bear populations, why human encounters with these majestic creatures are becoming more frequent, and how coexistence with bears is crucial [\[more\]](#)

---



**A Small Property with Big Conservation Value Protected**

We are delighted to announce that an 8-acre parcel has been permanently protected thanks to the attentiveness and generosity of Peter Canoni. Nestled amongst a congregation of 130 acres preserved by SRA in the northeast corner of Washington, this healthy and surprisingly diverse woodland significantly contributes to the conservation of wildlife and water quality. A huge thanks and gratitude to Peter for permanently protecting the land he loves in Washington.

---

## SRA Welcomes New Team Members

SRA was proud to welcome two new members to our team in 2023. **Dan Sherman** brings his expertise and enthusiasm for field work to his role as **Land Steward**, responsible for maintaining existing trails and other stewardship efforts. **Christine Adams** joined SRA in December as our **Development Coordinator**, where she brings her passion for local history, preservation, and conservation work to support our fundraising, marketing, and communications efforts. Get to know Dan, Christine, and the rest of the SRA team working to protect what you love. [\[more\]](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

- **Jan. 15- Martin Luther King Day - [Washington Gives](#)**  
Join us on Martin Luther King Day for a day on, not off! In partnership with the town of Washington, [The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens](#) invites you to learn about ways you can volunteer with and support local nonprofit organizations to make a difference in our community.
- **Jan. 18 - Virtual Winter Speaker Series - [Connecticut's Black Bears: Our Neighbors in the Wild](#)**  
With bear populations and encounters with humans increasing, wildlife expert Paul Colburn will join us to provide a history of black bears in Connecticut, an overview of their habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and current research efforts. Paul will also provide practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our black bear population.
- **Jan. 20 - Kid's Event - [Wild Flower Seed Starting](#)**  
Join Rory Larson, SRA Director of Conservation, for this children's event at [The Gunn Memorial Library](#). Make a simple wildflower seed starting



jug to raise your seedlings over the winter for spring planting. This program is best suited for ages 5 years or older and limited to 25 kids.



## Steep Rock Preserve: Tunnel Road Bridge Closed Until Further Notice

The Town of Washington is replacing Tunnel Road Bridge over the Shepaug River. 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 are prohibited until the bridge has reopened.**

### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*

\*{{Organization Address}}\*

\*{{Organization Phone}}\*

\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

