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Photo: Haley Bates

“I Had No Idea”

During a recent conversation, a preserve neighbor complimented Steep Rock on the condition of our trails. They told me they watched our staff and volunteers construct a new trail system and were amazed at the amount of time, energy, resources, detailed work, and decision-making that went into one small section ([check out video](#)). Simply stated, they said, “**Brian, I had no idea!**” So, if you enjoy hiking our trails, marveling at our views, appreciating the beauty of Judea Garden, or taking pleasure witnessing our impressive flora and fauna, I’ll tell you our secret weapon—**Volunteers!** Whether they help us in work parties, as trail managers, Judea Gardeners, citizen scientists, candid photographers, committee members, or even on those tedious office tasks, Steep Rock’s volunteers, interns, and supporters are the heart and soul of our success. And it shows (see **2021 Interns and Notes from the Field** below). We love our volunteers, and their enthusiasm and passion for protecting and maintaining this beautiful land inspires our staff daily. So, if you’d like to “**get an idea**” and experience the behind the scenes work we

do, volunteer! In addition to our regular opportunities (see **Upcoming Events**), we're also looking for volunteers to help update our website monthly and expand our social media presence. Click [here](#) to learn how to volunteer. And don't forget to take our **Trivia Challenge**. See you on our trails!



Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Featured Highlights



2021 Interns

Steep Rock's eight-week paid internship program immerses students in all aspects of our organizational operations, helping them to learn about a variety of conservation, environmental, agricultural, and nonprofit career paths—as well as build leadership skills. At the same time, Steep Rock's interns offer valuable support that helps our land trust meet important goals.

[>Meet our 2021 Interns](#)



Judea Garden's Trivia Challenge

Test your knowledge about our very own Judea Garden with this month's Trivia Challenge. Be the one who gets the most correct answers by August 20 and win your very own native pollinator (started from seed at Judea Garden)...Joe Pye Weed seedling! Winner to be announced at [Open Garden](#) on August 21 [>more](#)



Notes from the Field

A firmly held tenet of our management approach is that the public's enjoyment of the preserves derives directly from the natural character and diversity of flora and fauna found within them. Lucky for you, mid-summer is a terrific time to experience the full spectrum of the natural world that we work so hard to promote and protect. For starters, we recommend pursuing a diverse bunch of "B"s bustling and blooming across the preserves this month. See what they are and how to make a day of it. [>more](#)

Upcoming Events!



Judea Garden's Open Garden: August 21

Join Steep Rock Association's Judea Garden for its annual Open Garden at Macricostas Preserve honoring Super Volunteer Team- Anne Martin & Mike Pribila. Visitors, volunteers, and friends are welcome to explore the beautiful garden, enjoy refreshments and learn from our interns about pollinators in your garden and best garden tools and their care. [>more](#)



Trail Work Party: August 21

In July, we created a new trail at Johnson Preserve by removing a section of stone wall ([check out the video!](#)). This month, we'll be spending the morning making repairs and improvements to Meeker Trail in Macricostas Preserve. To learn more or join us, [click here.](#)



Weed & Wine Wednesdays

Enjoy an evening with fellow gardeners weeding the vegetables in Judea Garden, then enjoy a glass of wine on us! Judea Garden, The Giving Garden, grows and distributes organically grown produce to our neighbors in need. [>more](#)

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Steep Rock Association

PO Box 279, Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794

860-868-9131 • info@steeprocksassoc.org



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