



September Success!

It's been an incredibly busy September at Steep Rock. On September 30th, we were thrilled to move into our new permanent headquarters. Thanks to the generosity of three trustees, we were able to purchase the historic Camp-Lemmon House, a white farmhouse overlooking our Macricostas Preserve and

Judea Garden (116 Christian Street). Thanks to additional donor support, we renovated the farmhouse to serve as our offices and a community gathering location for SRA events, programs, and activities. Stay tuned for a grand opening announcement.

On September 21, Steep Rock acquired the 86-acre Hillside Farm South Preserve located on Nettleton Hollow Road. We also resumed hosting traditional events such as our annual community picnic (September 11) and Rossiter Circle Dinner (September 5). And thanks to your support, we completed another successful fiscal year in excellent financial condition.

And we're not resting just yet. As trees begin to turn their brilliant autumn hues, we invite you to sign up for our inaugural Rossiter Run 5k at Steep Rock Preserve (October 9), bring the kids to carve pumpkins at Washington's Harvest Festival (October 10), join us for the grand opening of Johnson Farm Preserve (October 15), or volunteer to help us monitor preserves (October 16-17), clean up Judea Garden (October 23-24), or learn about our beavers (November 6). We're busy having fun so we hope you'll join us. See you on our trails!



Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Featured Highlights



Hillside Farm Protected in Perpetuity

Steep Rock Association is excited to announce the recent acquisition of Hillside Farm, an 86-acre tract of critical wildlife habitat and prime agricultural land on the border of Washington and Woodbury. [>more](#)



A Steep Rock Tradition Returns

On a bright and beautiful September Saturday, we celebrated the return of our annual (and traditional) community picnic at Steep Rock Preserve. After adapting our picnic to a drive-by bag lunch pickup event last year, we welcomed the return of hot grills, ample fixings, cold beverages, and lots of hungry community members. Over 100 people gathered for a picture-perfect picnic served by Trustees, volunteers, and staff of Steep Rock. Thanks to everyone who attended and we look forward to serving you again next year. [>more](#)



StoryWalk®, New and Improved

Our StoryWalk® is ready for your family to embark on another reading adventure and welcome the Autumn season. Now with even more displays, the ½-mile trail offers children the perfect opportunity to learn about seasonal changes in nature while witnessing them firsthand. Our continued thanks go to [Gunn Memorial Junior Library](#) for providing a book each season. [>more](#)

Upcoming Events!



Rossiter's Run 5K

We are THRILLED to be hosting our 1st annual Rossiter Run 5K Race and Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, October 9th at 9:00 am in Steep Rock Preserve. This race is open to all levels of runners, with prizes given to the top male and female finishers in each age division and the overall male and female winners. [.>Register](https://www.steeprockassoc.org/5k)



Carve for Conservation 10/10

Bring your kids and join Steep Rock Association as well as the rest of the town of Washington for some fall themed fun at the **Harvest Festival** from 12-5pm on Sunday. We invite you to visit our booth and carve the animals that call Steep Rock home. The Festival will be at the Pavilion behind the Primary School.



Johnson Farm Preserve Grand Opening

You're invited to a conversation about CT's land conservation efforts and to celebrate the grand opening of Steep Rock's Johnson Farm Preserve on October 15 from 4:00-5:30pm. Sponsored by SteepRock, the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, CT Farmland Trust, and CT Land Conservation Council, this event is made possible in part by CT DEEP's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA). Guided hike to follow. [>register](#)



Preserve Monitoring Training Offered

Did you know that SRA has nearly 30 preserves scattered throughout town? The one thing they all have in common is that SRA walks their boundaries annually, monitoring for ecosystem health, signs of trespass, and presence of wildlife. Join us for a training and nature preserve monitoring blitz on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [>more](#) Photo: Katie atm3mediapro.com



Fall Clean Up at Judea Garden

It's time to put the Garden to bed. On Saturday, October 23 from 9:00 am - noon and Sunday, October 24 from noon - 3:00 pm we'll clean away plant debris, prep beds and plant seeds to greet us early next spring. [>more](#)



Bee Brook's Busy Beavers

Learn about the ecology of Macricostas Preserve's ecosystem engineer, the American beaver, on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00am – 10:30am [>more](#)

Photo: Ben Goldfarb

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