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Photo: Peary Stafford

With Gratitude

On a recent Steep Rock sponsored hike, a group of supporters stumbled upon not one, but two, large bear approaching them on the trail. After the hike, they shared with me a wide range of how they felt—anxiety, fear, panic, gratitude—Yes, one hiker was grateful for the experience, and knowing that bears continue to roam Washington and the Litchfield Hills. Like our hiker, we are grateful to you as well. With your help, Steep Rock Association has protected over 5,400 acres of healthy wildlife habitat in perpetuity. From butterflies to bobcats and turtles to our majestic trees, you helped us make an impact.

This summer, we've been constructing new trails, repairing existing ones, and surveying nesting wildlife. We are acquiring over 250 acres of critical ecological habitat and recreational lands and Judea Garden is having a bountiful year providing organic vegetables to neighbors in need. And the big news—we will soon be relocating our headquarters to property adjacent to Macricostas Preserve and Judea Garden, which will allow us to greatly expand our conservation education programs and community outreach. Our work is essential work--and we couldn't do it without you. As we close our fiscal year this month, please support Steep Rock's conservation and outreach efforts by donating to our annual campaign today. We are grateful for your support.

Oh, everyone returned safely from the hike with great stories to tell their friends.

See you on our trails!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Hagenbuch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Featured Highlights



Round up for Steep Rock!

Giving back has never been easier! During September, [New Morning Market](#) makes it easier than ever to support Steep Rock through their **Round Up for A Cause** program. Simply shop and you'll be given the chance to round up your transaction to the nearest dollar amount at check out. New Morning Market will also match donations up to \$500. [>more](#)



Preserving an Agricultural Legacy

Because of you, Johnson Farm--our fourth preserve open to the public--will continue to support local farming families, and at the same time, connect all of us to the agricultural heritage that defines Washington. Find out what SRA Trails Manager Mike Giapponi and his small army of volunteers have worked tirelessly on all summer at [Johnson Farm](#) and what that means for you. [>more](#)



Returns on your Conservation Investment

Stewardship of our lands and waters for biological diversity, ecological integrity, and passive recreation is a complex endeavor. Planning and permitting, consultation and coordination, equipment and resources are just some of the pieces necessary to effectively implement conservation projects. We engage in scientific studies and habitat enhancements to make informed decisions on how to best steward our lands. [>more](#)



Open Garden 2021

Not even Hurricane Henri bearing down on Connecticut could keep us from showing off Judea Garden on August 21. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, recipients, volunteers, supporters, and guests gathered to celebrate the Giving Garden's 13th season growing vegetables for our neighbors in need. This was just one way to say thank you to the many volunteers and supporters who make this amazing project possible. [>more](#)

Upcoming Events!



Annual Community Picnic: September 11

You are invited to Steep Rock Association's Annual Community Picnic! Hike on over for some tasty food, visit with neighbors, and enjoy the fun and games! September 11, 2021 from 12 pm-2 pm [>RSVP now](#)



Tunnel Rd. Connector Hike: September 25

If you're looking to explore some of western Connecticut's most beautiful country with two land trust staff who intimately know the land, this hike is for you. Join SRA and [Roxbury Land Trust](#) on September 25, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for a 4-mile inter-town hike along Tunnel Road. For details or to register [>click here](#)