



The Heat is On!

Have the temperature and humidity felt uncomfortably higher than normal this summer? According to scientists, the past two months were the hottest on record. While we can retreat to the comforts of air conditioning, this isn't possible for hundreds of plant and animal species that call our preserves home--many of which are acutely sensitive to even the smallest changes in normal temperature. At Steep Rock, we are witnessing the devastating impacts of a rapidly changing climate and creating a multi-level action response to reduce threats. With a donation to Steep Rock, you are partnering in our efforts to employ natural climate solutions in our preserves; actions that include restoring river and streambanks to reduce

flooding, releasing predatory beetles to defend our beloved hemlocks from invasive species, creating cold-water refuges in the Shepaug River to protect brook trout, drafting preserve management plans to guide our efforts, and constructing trails using sustainable methods that enhance the visitor experience while protecting the ecology of our preserves. Know that your investment in Steep Rock matters and helps us protect what you love, regardless the weather conditions. See you on our trails!

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Meet our 2024 Interns

Steep Rock Association's ten-week paid internship program immerses students in all aspects of our organizational operations. This summer's interns made a significant difference in our community, gained real-world skills in land conservation, sustainable agriculture, and nonprofit management, and had a lot of fun in the process. Special thanks to the Washington Scholarship Fund, Jessica Elzea Kogel Conservation Fund, Valerie Friedman, and the Bijoor family for sponsoring our 2024 program. Meet this year's fantastic interns. [>more](#)



Deno Macricostas (left) and SRA Executive Director, Brian Hagenbuch

The Man Behind Macricostas Preserve

Congratulations to Constantine “Deno” Macricostas—the heart and soul behind Macricostas Preserve—on the release of his autobiography, “Deno: The Journey Is Its Own Reward.” This book takes us on an epic adventure from Deno’s humble beginnings in Nazi-occupied Greece to his remarkable achievements as the founder of Photronics, a leader in the semiconductor industry. But it doesn’t stop there. His story is sprinkled with personal tales that make us laugh, think, and be inspired to give back. Grab your copy at the [The Hickory Stick Bookshop](#) or Steep Rock office. Every page you turn supports our land trust.

Judea Garden Open Garden, August 17

Judea Garden has been growing vegetables for our neighbors in need for 16 seasons. "Open Garden" is an annual, end-of-summer tradition where we welcome visitors, volunteers, and friends to explore the beautiful garden, enjoy light refreshments, and meet our dedicated interns as they share their summer projects. This year, our interns will present on the

benefits of nettle and dandelion, and how to attract beneficial insects to the garden. [>more](#)

StoryWalk at Macricostas Preserve

Looking for a fun outdoor activity for children? This community collaboration between Steep Rock Association, [Gunn Memorial Library](#), and [Washington Supply](#) offers a fun and educational outdoor activity for families. Pages from nature-focused children books are posted on display boards along a short, designated trail. This season's book is "**Summer Song**" by Kevin Henkes. Books are changed seasonally so be sure to visit often. [>more](#)

Upcoming Events

Thanks to our donors, we're able to offer all of these events at no cost!

- **Aug. 14 - [Summer Saunters](#)** - Bronson Fields Pollinator Meadow
- **Aug. 17 - [River Ramblers Hike with PRWC](#)** - Hillside Farm
- **Aug. 17 - [Monthly Trail Work Party](#)** - Location TBD, Ages 16+
- **Aug. 17 - [Judea Garden Open Garden](#)** - Macricostas Preserve
- **Aug. 19 - [Full Moon Hike](#)** - Macricostas Preserve

Save the date! Our [Annual Community Picnic](#) is Sat., Sept. 7th!

Join Steep Rock's Legacy Society

Everyone needs a will, whether you're 18 or 80. There's no better time than August's **National Make a Will Month** to extend your impact by including conservation in your will or long-term financial plans.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

