



3.5-acre brush fire in Steep Rock Preserve: March 2021

## Enduring Extremes

First some scary news: In mid-August, extreme storms struck our area dumping anywhere from 2-12" of rain in a short period of time, causing significant flooding and property damage in neighboring towns. In the past two months, however, we've received a mere 1 inch or so of rain. This fall, over 100 fires have been documented across Connecticut and the Governor has declared a state of emergency. With no foreseeable rainfall in sight, we are considered at the Extreme Risk Level for fires and the "normal" fall fire season, which typically lasts from leaf drop (early October)

through first snowfall, is being amplified by rapidly changing climatic conditions. The good news? Thanks to your contributions and gifts to Steep Rock, staff have implemented several actions that reduce the potential risks to our preserves, trails, and community while enhancing the climate resiliency of our properties. And we appreciate your care and vigilance in these dangerous drought conditions. Let's hope we get some significant soaking precipitation and seasonal temperatures soon.

See you on our Trails,

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

---

## **Early Successional Habitat Management**

A primary initiative of Steep Rock's land management is to protect and enhance biodiversity - the variety of habitats and species supported by our nature preserves. While many habitats are either self-sustaining or allowed to naturally change over time, early successional habitats like grasslands, meadows, pastures, and shrublands require regular disturbance to maintain their condition and unique ecological value. Learn more about this important area of stewardship and watch a video of our recent work at Hillside Farm in West Mountain Preserve. [>more](#)

## **Seniors Program: Steeped in Steep Rock**

Join us on Friday, November 15, 2024 at Steep Rock House (116 Christian St., New Preston, CT) for "Steeped in Steep Rock Coffee Hour." Participants can join us for coffee, tea, and lunch while experiencing an inside look at Steep Rock Association's conservation efforts and an exciting review of this year's Seniors programs. Seniors in Steep Rock is a collaborative program with the Washington Senior Center and is generously supported by a grant from the [Connecticut Community Foundation's](#) "Pathways for Older Adults" program. [>more](#)

---

## **Don't miss the last Trail Work Party of 2024!**

It's been a fun and productive year with our Trail Work Parties, which meet on the 3rd Saturday every month from April through November. We invite

you to join us to dig in and get your hands dirty on Saturday, November 16 for the final work party this year! [>more](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

**Thanks to our donors  
we're able to offer these events at no cost to  
participants!**

- Nov 15. - [Senior Series: Steeped in Steep Rock](#)
  - Nov 16 - [Trail Work Party](#)
  - Dec. 13 - [Holiday in the Depot](#)
  - Dec. 15 - [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#)
  - Dec. 19 - [Winter Firepit Celebration](#)
- 

Donate

### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*

\*{{Organization Address}}\*

\*{{Organization Phone}}\*

\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

