



The Reich Memorial Bridge in Hidden Valley Preserve, Photo credit: Laurie Thomas

Love and Legacy

February is a month dedicated to love— the kind that moves us, inspires us, and shapes the future. As we celebrate Steep Rock Association's Centennial in 2025, we reflect on the people and places that define our history. This month, we honor Major Stephen Reich, a local hero whose dedication to his community and country continues to inspire. His family's passion, commitment, and unwavering belief in giving back remind us what love in action truly looks like. The bridge that bears his name in Hidden

Valley Preserve (above photo) stands as a connection to our past and a tribute to a lasting legacy. Watch the tribute ([link](#)).

See you on our Trails,
Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

We Love Our Hikers - And You Love Steep Rock!

[Litchfield Magazine](#)'s 2025 Reader's Choice Awards are out, and we're thrilled that two of Steep Rock Association's preserves are among your favorite hiking spots! Steep Rock Preserve took first place, while Hidden Valley Preserve secured third. Additionally, Steep Rock Association placed second in the Wildlife Sanctuary category. Check out the full list of winners [here](#)!

Tell Us What You Love Most About Steep Rock Association and Our Preserves!

We love capturing the stories and photos of your experiences in our preserves. Want to share them with us? Simply reply to this email with your stories and pictures!

Show Your Love for Steep Rock's 100th Anniversary!

We're celebrating 100 years of conservation, and you can be a part of it! Check out our [Centennial Merch Store](#) and stay tuned for special ways to support and celebrate with us!

Love Nature? Join Our Summer Internship Program!

Steep Rock Association's paid summer internship program offers college and high school students a hands-on experience in all aspects of our operations. Interns make a real impact in our community while gaining valuable skills in land conservation, trail stewardship, and sustainable agriculture—all while having fun in the process! Our interns play a vital role in helping Steep Rock achieve its mission, contributing meaningful support that drives our land trust's important goals. [\[more\]](#)

Centennial Virtual Speaker Series

- **2/20** - [Shepaug Railroad: A Historic Era](#) with Peter Vermilyea
- **3/20** - [100 Years of Conservation](#) with Edwin Matthews
- **4/15** - [Archaeological History of the Washington Area](#) with Craig Nelson

Thanks to our generous sponsors for making Steep Rock's Centennial events possible. Please support these businesses that share our commitment to protecting nature.

Upcoming Events-Registration Opens Soon!

- **3/19** - [Volunteer Info Session and Volunteer Appreciation Firepit Celebration](#)
- **4/5** - [Isaac Camp House Opening & Centennial Kickoff](#)

We hope you've been enjoying our newsletters! If you want even more Steep Rock in your life, **follow us on your favorite social media platforms** to make sure you never miss any event and preserve updates.

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