



*Photo: SRA crew cleaning up trails after a microburst storm in Hidden Valley Preserve*

## **Uncertainty and the Spirit of Community**

The rapidly shifting political landscape has put conservation programs that Steep Rock relies on at significant risk. Changes at the federal level—budget cuts, staff removals, and agency eliminations—are gutting programs we depend on for funding and technical expertise. The ramifications of these decisions, far from the Litchfield Hills, are very real here in Washington, Connecticut.

Steep Rock's partnerships—with federal and state agencies and our local community—have enabled us to protect the lands and waters that sustain us. Whether it's US Fish & Wildlife Service funding to conserve critical habitat or US Department of Agriculture support to protect prime agricultural soils and offer technical advice on land management—these resources matter. Their loss makes our work harder and jeopardizes our ability to acquire and protect land, create safe and accessible trails, and maintain habitats for the species that call our preserves home.

Given these very uncertain times, the most powerful thing we can do is stand together. We are grateful to and inspired by the Steep Rock

community. For 100 years, conservation at Steep Rock has been driven by folks like you—who treasure these landscapes, explore our trails, cherish our wildlife, and fight for their future.

This month, we're celebrating that spirit of community. If you've been looking for a way to make a difference, join us. Walk the trails. Lend a hand. On March 19th, gather with us at our **Spring Equinox Firepit and Volunteer Celebration** to connect, share stories, and strengthen the ties that hold us together. We've weathered storms and cleaned up debris before so no matter what comes, we'll keep protecting this land with you on our team.

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

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## Celebrating our Volunteers

Join us on March 19th as we celebrate our incredible volunteers with our Spring Equinox firepit gathering! Enjoy refreshments, great company, and a warm fire behind the Steep Rock Association House. Before the festivities, community members are invited to a brief info session at 5 PM to learn about exciting volunteer opportunities. We look forward to celebrating our volunteers and welcoming those interested in getting involved! [>more](#)

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## 100 Miles in 100 Days - Are You Up for a Challenge?

You love a challenge. You love the great outdoors. And maybe—just maybe—you love a little bragging rights. This is your chance! In honor of 100 years of conservation, we invite you to join Steep Rock's **Centennial Hiker's Challenge**. From April 1 – July 9, 2025, hit the trails, track your progress, and claim your spot among Steep Rock's most dedicated trailblazers. No race bib. No time clock. Just you, the trails, and 100 days to make it happen. Are you ready? [>more](#)

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## Join Our Team and Make an Impact

Steep Rock Association is hiring! If you're passionate about conservation and want to make a difference in our community, explore these opportunities:

### **Assistant Manager, Judea Garden**

Help grow and distribute fresh produce for local food banks, assist with garden operations, coordinate volunteers, and lead outreach efforts.

### **Development Officer**

Engage donors, manage our CRM, and support digital marketing efforts for

our Centennial major gifts initiative and annual fund.

**Mowing/Landscaping Request For Proposals (2025 Season)**

We're seeking proposals for mowing, weed whacking, and general landscaping contract at two locations.

**Camp House Host Volunteer** – Greet visitors at the Isaac Camp House Education Center & Museum, answer questions, and share information about Steep Rock Association.

**Event Volunteers** – Help with event planning, setup, registration, and cleanup. Volunteer for a shift and be part of our historic celebrations!

Join us in making a difference! [>more info](#)

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## Upcoming Events

**Thanks to our generous sponsors for making Steep Rock's Centennial Events possible.**



- 3/19 - [Volunteer Info Session and Volunteer Appreciation Firepit Celebration](#)
- 3/20 - [Washington CT: From Industrial Roots to Leadership in Land Conservation](#) with Edwin Matthews, A Centennial Event
- 4/1 - [Centennial Hiker's Challenge](#): 100 Miles in 100 Days begins!
- 4/5 - [Camp House Education Center & Museum Opening](#), A Centennial Event
- 4/12 - [Trail Manager Training](#)
- 4/12 - [Newcomer's Hike at Steep Rock Preserve](#)
- 4/13 - [Judea Garden Early Spring Planting Day](#)
- 4/15 - [Archaeological History of the Washington Area](#) with Craig Nelson, A Centennial Event
- 4/19 - [Trail Work Party](#)

### SAVE THE DATE!

**The 5th Annual Rossiter Run 5K at Steep Rock Preserve is  
Sunday, May 18!**

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### Our Contact Information

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