



River Bug Hunting at the Steep Rock Family Summer Kick-Off, 2024

Escape The Heat!

Summer in Steep Rock preserves is vibrant and alive. Check out our [Summer Guide](#) recommendations—escape the heat on trails winding through cool coniferous forests, chill out in the Steep Rock tunnel, [camp](#) under the stars, or float down the Shepaug River in inner tubes with your BFFs! Our preserves—Steep Rock, Hidden Valley, Macricostas, and West Mountain—offer a refreshing scenic backdrop for your next adventure. But that’s not all! Enjoy a magical evening of immersion in music, dance, art, and nature enveloped within the beauty of the Spring Hill Arts Gathering at a special **benefit concert** for Steep Rock. Bring the kids to the launch of the [Passport to the Trails](#) program and our [Summer Family Kick-Off](#) event. Get some exercise while undertaking our [100 Miles in 100 Days Centennial Hiking Challenge](#), running through July 9th. Summer is also busy season for our staff--[volunteer](#) to help us grow food for residents in need, repair and build trails, or join our team of community scientists surveying pollinators and collecting vital data on our biological diversity. We have just what you’re looking for this summer—Join us!

See you on our Trails...

Passport to the Trails Launch on June 1

Join us as we launch our brand-new **Passport to the Trails** Program—designed by students from Shepaug Middle School and Henry Abbott Technical High School! Be among the first to receive a Steep Rock Passport Booklet. Explore the trails, collect impressions at designated stations, and work your way toward earning a special prize when your booklet is complete! This program encourages youth and families to get outdoors, learn about nature, and engage with the incredible trail systems throughout Steep Rock's preserves. [>more](#)

A Fragile Species, a Fighting Chance

At Hidden Valley Preserve, volunteers are working to protect one of Connecticut's last known colonies of the rare *West Virginia White* butterfly. Its survival is threatened by garlic mustard, an invasive plant that misleads the butterfly into laying eggs on leaves that kill its young. Jim Dugan from the [Connecticut Butterfly Association](#) shares this unfolding conservation effort in a moving short video. [\[Watch the Video\]](#)

The Farmers Next Door: Split Rock Farm

Giff and Marie Broderick pursued a dream: transforming 34 overgrown acres in Washington, CT—already under Steep Rock's conservation easement—into a sustainably managed farm. With fields and a barn but no home or farmstand, they've spent a decade growing asparagus, berries, tomatoes and hay. [>Meet Your Neighbors at Split Rock Farm](#)

Team-building Volunteer Opportunities

Is your organization looking for a team building volunteer opportunity? SRA offers a meaningful way to give back—through hands-on conservation work that strengthens teams and reflects a genuine commitment to helping the community. [>Learn more](#)

Upcoming Events

Thank you donors and sponsors for making our hikes and programs free!

- 6/1 - [Judea Garden Summer Planting Day](#)
- 6/1 - [Passport to the Trails Launch](#)

- 6/7 - [CT Trails Day - Stone Wall Loop at Hidden Valley](#)
- 6/8 - [Rossiter's Riverside Retreat Walk](#)
- 6/17 - [Spring Saunters: Hidden Valley Preserve](#)
- 6/18 - [Summer Solstice Firepit Celebration](#)
- 6/21 - [Trail Work Party](#)
- 6/28 - [Family Summer Kick-Off Event](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

7/13 - A special Centennial Concert to benefit Steep Rock Association, presented by [Washington Friends of Music](#), hosted at [Spring Hill Arts Gathering](#).

Our Contact Information

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

