



SHARON LAND TRUST

2025

**SHARON
LAND TRUST
ANNUAL
REPORT**



DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year has been one of growth and momentum for the Sharon Land Trust—growth in the number of acres we protect, in our reach, and in the way our community shows up for our environment. I remain deeply grateful to our members, volunteers, Board, and partners who make this work possible.

In 2025, we renewed our accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, reaffirming our commitment to the highest standards of conservation, stewardship, and nonprofit management. Accreditation is extremely rigorous; fewer than half of the 1200+ land trusts nationwide are accredited, placing us among those that have earned—and maintained—this distinction.

We also continued to invest in the next generation of conservationists, engaging young people in meaningful ways with hands-on experiences and support. Through paid seasonal work, college scholarships, volunteer opportunities, and family-friendly programs, we are helping local youth to gain a deeper understanding of conservation. These efforts nurture the future of stewardship and strengthen our shared mission.

OUR MISSION

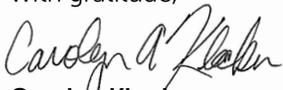
The Sharon Land Trust is dedicated to stewarding our lands and protecting those of special scenic, ecological, or agricultural value. The Land Trust protects more than 4,780 acres, including 11 preserves that are open to the public and offer some of the best hiking trails in Connecticut. Our work ensures that these lands—and others like them—are protected forever.

Mary Moore Preserve. Photo by Bill Wakeley.

This year also marked an important milestone for the organization with the launch of our first-ever Cider Press Party, a beautiful (and fun!) fall fundraiser. The success of the evening reflected something larger than a single event—it demonstrated the strength and enthusiasm of a community ready to support the Land Trust. Alongside events like this, supporters continue to give in many forms: through membership, volunteering, legacy gifts, and year-round generosity. There are truly many ways to be a part of this work, and each one is so important.

As conservation opportunities rise, so does our responsibility to meet them. With your help, the Sharon Land Trust is well-positioned to continue protecting the spectacular natural environment that defines our community. I invite you to read on to learn more about our 2025 accomplishments and plans for 2026 and beyond. Thank you for being a part of this shared effort. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

With gratitude,



Carolyn Klocker
Executive Director

RECAP OF 2025: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

2025 was marked by conservation achievements and important investments in our capacity to steward the land for the long term. Just a few accomplishments we achieved together include:

A NEW KIND OF EASEMENT

We completed our first Forever Wild conservation easement, an important milestone further protecting more than 710 acres on Sharon Mountain. These lands were generously donated by the shareholders of the Jackson Peck Land Company, who stewarded the property for nearly a century. While much of the land was already protected, the Forever Wild easement strengthens those protections, ensuring the land remains undeveloped and wild. Completed in partnership with the Northeast Wilderness Trust, this easement honors the conservation legacy of the Jackson Peck shareholders while safeguarding an important landscape for wildlife and the community.

PRESERVING WORKING FARMLAND

Protecting agricultural land remains an important part of our mission, and we preserved an additional 114 acres through conservation easements. These easements ensure that productive farmland remains available for agriculture, while keeping land in private ownership. As property values rise and development pressure intensifies, permanently conserving farmland helps sustain local food production and safeguard the working landscapes that have shaped our area for generations.



4,782
acres protected



11
public preserves,
available to all



D'Alton Preserve. Photo by Tim Hunter.

EXPANDING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

In 2025, we expanded our community programming, connecting with more than 270 participants at events. A major highlight was our first-ever Community Day at our Twin Oaks Preserve, which brought people of all ages together for live music, guided walks, and hands-on activities. Through these gatherings and other programs—from hikes to ecology seminars to a history of local indigenous peoples—we continued to create new opportunities to connect with Sharon's natural environment.

STRENGTHENING STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

Caring for conserved land requires consistent, hands-on stewardship. In 2025, we strengthened our capacity to do this work by bringing our Stewardship Director, Tim Hunter, on full-time. This means we can more effectively care for trails, preserves, and conservation easements. During the year, we expanded our invasive species management work to additional preserves, continued our robust volunteer programs, improved existing public trails, and began work on a new trail—we'll have more announcements about that soon!



27
miles of trails



389
acres of
farmland preserved

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR GOALS FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

As we look ahead, the Sharon Land Trust remains committed to protecting the lands that define our community while strengthening our ability to steward them well. Our focus in 2026 and beyond will include:

PRESERVING LAND FOREVER

Protecting land remains at the heart of the Sharon Land Trust's mission. We will continue partnering with private landowners to conserve land through easements, with a particular focus on working farmland and pursuing additional Forever Wild easements. We are also moving forward with the protection of additional forested land on Red Mountain that will connect existing preserves and strengthen a broader network of conserved land. Collaboration with landowners and conservation partners will remain central to this work.

ENHANCING HABITATS AND STEWARDSHIP

Protecting land is only the first step. Thoughtful stewardship, supported by our volunteers, ensures these spaces remain healthy, resilient, and whole. In the years ahead, we will continue our invasive species management program, with a focus on restoring areas with native, pollinator-friendly plantings and habitat enhancements that support birds and other wildlife. We also plan to complete the trail project begun in 2025 and start work on two additional trails—including a field loop at our Hamlin Preserve.



60
active volunteers who
contributed more than...



1,200
...hours of work



Twin Oaks Preserve. Photo by Sophie Lake-Ginôuves.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

A connected community is essential to lasting conservation. We will continue to offer programs that educate and invite people to experience the natural world firsthand, from guided hikes to presentations by experts. We also plan to deepen partnerships with local commissions and nonprofits, expanding our reach and strengthening shared stewardship across the community.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION

As our conserved lands continue to grow, so too must our capacity to care for them. Making our Land Steward position year-round will strengthen our ability to manage trails, habitats, and easements, protecting the long-term value of these areas. We will also continue to focus on growing and diversifying funding to support increased capacity needs and ensure the Land Trust is financially prepared to act swiftly when conservation opportunities arise.



270
people at our
community events



46
children/youth
took part in our
programming

Sharon Land Trust



JOIN US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

From winter workshops to fall hikes, each season brings new opportunities to explore our preserves, learn something new, and connect with nature. We've started planning...



Winter

workshops to learn more about the plants that shape our local landscape, plus opportunities to view birds that stay with us through the colder months.



Summer

gatherings focused on connection and fun, including our second annual Community Day with activities for all ages.



Spring

hikes that celebrate seasonal change, from vernal pools and wildflowers.



Fall

celebrations featuring our festive fundraiser and guided hikes through some of the region's most beautiful autumn scenery.

For details, updates, and registration information, sign up for our e-newsletter at sharonlandtrust.org/#newsletter-signup and follow us on social media.

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our incredible Stewardship volunteers! Whether maintaining trails, tackling invasive species, monitoring easements, or sharing your expertise, your dedication keeps our lands thriving. We couldn't do this work without you.

Johnathan Agnew
Michelle Alfandari
Steven Aresty
Martin Baltus
Heather Beler
Tom Blagden
John Brett
Tara Carson
Paul Combe
Sandy Dimperio
Jill Drew
Duncan Edwards
James Fox
Jake Fricker
Heather Gibbons
Patrick Goupit
Titi Halle
Nancy Hengen
Josie Hines

Bruce James
Mike Kelly
Lynn Kercher
Sallie Ketcham
Becki King
Kathy Kulig
Amy Lake
Rick Lepowsky
Roger Liddell
Brooke Loening
Cybele Loening
Christian MacDonald
Holly MacDonald
Dante MacDonald
Damon MacDonald
Steve Malley
Edmund Mander
David Mankin
Marie Marshall

Nick Moore
Fritz Mueller
Michael Nolan
John Panzer
Scott Reinhard
Allen Reiser
Greg Reiss
Doug Rick
Marel Rogers
Ben Romo
Gail Rothschild
Michele Stahovec
Rich Stalzer
Alex Toppan
Dave Wheeler
Kat Zdan
Tom Zetterstrom
Robin Zitter

IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR OF

In Memory of Jan Dudek

Michael Dudek

In Memory of Jessie

Nanette & Horst Fuellenkemper

In Memory of Robert I. Goldman

Robert I. Goldman Foundation

In Memory of Bruce K. Macfarlane

Joan Macfarlane

In Memory of James Thornton Metz

Kathleen Metz

In Memory of Judith Poehler

Jane Poehler

In Memory of Melinda Sweet

Anonymous
Robert & Candice Barker
Beth & Karl Beinkampen
Sarah Combs
Joe & Lindsay Duggan
Mindy Ignarri
Catherine MacKinnon
Karen Mitchell

Paley's Farm Market

Susannah Prout

Mark Shearer

In Memory of Michael Tesoro, MD

Maureen Tesoro

In Honor of Alejandro Bass

Jane Liddell Bass

In Honor of Joyce Stansell-Wong

Stanley Wong



IN MEMORY OF MELINDA SWEET

Melinda Moore Sweet devoted decades of service to the Sharon Land Trust, first as a trusted advisor in the 1990s and then as a Board member from 2006 to 2024. Her legal expertise, leadership, and passion for conservation helped protect hundreds of acres of land and strengthen our organization. Her legacy lives on through the example of integrity, vision, and joy she set for all of us.

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

With deep gratitude, we thank our outgoing Board members Jill Drew and Robert "Skip" Mattoon. Jill was instrumental in strengthening the Land Trust's communications and deepening community connections through outreach and stewardship. Skip played a key role in strengthening governance, while also contributing to communications and stewardship that helped guide the organization's long-term work.

OUR MEMBERS

The Sharon Land Trust's work is made possible by our members — individuals, families, and organizations who support land conservation, trail stewardship, and habitat restoration through their generosity. Every donation, no matter the amount, makes a difference. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to protecting the landscapes that make our community special.

Thank you for being a part of this important work.

SEEDLING (\$1 to \$99)

Anonymous
Carol Ascher & Robert Pittenger
Norman & Aita Askinazi
Michelle Booth
Rocco Botto
Tara Cafiero
Peter & Cynthia Carberry
Donn Castonguay
Michael Clemente
William Cord
Judith Crouch
Liane Montesa & Herb Dershowitz
Liz & Tim Dowling
Michael Dudek
Laurie & C. Dary Dunham
Elizabeth Gall
William Godsman
Johanna & Bruce Haan
Marilyn Gross & Kim Hausner
Bob & Sandy Haiko
Shelley Hotchkiss
Frank & Linda Hufner
Mindy Ignarri
Susan Irwin
Sally Kaplan
Lynn Kearcher & Carl Chaiet
Carolyn Klocker & Mike Nolan
Stan & Ina Lane
William & Susan Lynn
Gregory Mesniaeff
Susan Cummings & James Metro
Wanda Moeller
Diane Monroe
Linda K. Neiberg & Alfred G. Lippincott
James Norton
Joyce O'Brien & James LoPiccolo
Lizbeth Piel
Jennifer Smith
Margaret & Stephen Szalewicz
Lucia Brown Thompson
Tom & Nancy Trowbridge
Bill Voldstad
Valerie von Volz
William Whelan
Holly Kempner & Warren White
Ann Marie & Harry White
Tom Zetterstrom

RED CEDAR (\$100 to \$499)

Sharon Garden Club
Janet Accardo
Susan & John Allen
Harriet Spencer & Martin Baltus
Skip & Judy Barber
Robert & Candice Barker
Spencer Barksdale
The Beinkampens
Daniel Belin & Kate Ganz
Bonnie Bellow
Nancy & Stephen Bennett
Shereen & Steve Berger
Peter & Christine Birnbaum
Lynn & Tom Blagden
Dr. Andrew Blitzer
Susan & Craig Brenard
Julian Brod
Jenny & Barry Brown
Carmen & J.J. Brown
Elizabeth Bruder & Kenneth Frydman
The Buchanan Family
Mark Bunnell & Julie Trager
Gabriele Caroti & Alice McKown
Whitney & Timothy Carr
Claudia Carson & Tom Jeziorny
Francesca Casciaro
Anne Christensen
Sarah Combs
Paley's Farm Market
Kenneth Daniel & Domanie Guerrero
Maureen & Patrick Dore
Ann Doyle & Mike Schmitt
Thomas & Elizabeth Dubbs
Roger Elwood & Candice Tuthill
Dennis, Kim & Livia Fallon
Robin Fasano
Sylvia Ferst
Fern & Stewart Fisher
Kate Flynn
Melanie & Jordan Fowler
Kathy & Jake Fricker
Nanette & Horst Fuellenkemper
Stephen Furnstahl & Gail Rothschild
Anne & Alain Goldrach
Carol Gourley
Carol & Andrew Greenberg
Harold Gurnee
Gretchen Hachmeister & Randy Orzano
Betsy Hall
Cathleen Halloran
Carol Hawran
John & Paree Hecht

Nancy Hengen & Henry Monaghan
Anne Hepner
Kim Zwick & Kevin Hill
Siegrun & Rolf Hohlfeld
Dr Katherine Holden & Dr Josh Jaffe
Warren Holman
Timothy & Christina Hunter
Danielle Jennings & Bo Wallen
Kristin Johnson
John Jolly
Jeff Joyce
Becki King
Julia & Jeffrey Kivitz
Klemm Real Estate, Inc.
Karin Kringen & Sean Patrick Crnkovich
Steven Krog & Nancy Bryan
Kathleen & Robert Kulig
John Kureck & Cliff Chase
David Kurish
Michael Kuslansky
Raymond Learsy
Steven Lefkowitz
Carol Leven & Nick Moran
Steven & Elysa Levy
Jane Liddell Bass
Roger & Claude Lourie
Joe & Lindsay Duggan
Joan Macfarlane
Catherine MacKinnon
Susan C. Maloney
Alison Masick
Alicia Metz
Laura P. Midgley
Marshall & Gail Miller
Deedy & Ken Mishler
Karen Mitchell
Oliver Morris
Belinda & Eric Morrow
Uma Muthuchidambaram & John Vlahoplus
John J. O'Connell, Jr.
Mary & Philip Oppenheimer
Franz Paasche & Alison Pavia
Nicholas Pentecost
Shirley & John Perotti
Sophia Purdy & Mark Peters
Jane Poehler
Corky Pollan
Bridget Potter
Susannah Prout
Henry & Anne Putzel
Carol & Larry Rand
Brooke & Richard Rapaport
Jeremy & Greg Rassen

Douglas Rick
Karen Rios
Tanya & Mickey Riva
Jeff Rosenblum & Jena Marchione
Victoria & Dennis Ross
Geraldine & Chris Rubin
Stephen Sechrist & James Silvia
Mark Shearer
Claude Shostal
Catherine Shyer
Laurie Slotnick
Emily Soell
Joyce Stansell-Wong & Stanley Wong
John Stimpson
Beverly Sullivan
Thomas Taylor & Laura Ramsey
Eileen Tedesco
Maureen Tesoro
Becky & Scott Thornton
Vickie Tillman & Joan Lewis
Gregory Todd
Rebecca Trahan
Leigh & Jonathan Tunick
Dawn Upshaw & Nicole Divall
Susan & Steven Vantongeren
Arete Warren
Debra & Ron Wechsler
Sarah & Ted Weihman
Barbara & Marc Weiss
Stephen Wermiel & Rhonda Schwartz
Karin & James Wexler
Dave Wheeler
Lillian Woodworth
The Woolston Family
Michael Zients
Robin Zitter & Mike Nadeau

SUGAR MAPLE (\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous
Shaida Alhla & William Eisenbeis
Chris Armero & Jennie Baird
Lisa & Tim Bazemore
Nancy & Robert Bird
Daniel & Cameron Blanchard Suratt
Robert Blumberg & Kate Farrell
Susan & Donald Brant
John Brett & Jane Strong
Teresa & Norman Buchan
James Chapin
Sofia & Jacques Chappuis
Vicky Charles & Joseph Frydl
A. Martin Clark & Eva Byrnes
Terry & Joel Cohen
Richard Lepowsky & Alessandra D'Imperio
Francesca & Michael Donner
Jill & Derek Drew
Tino & Susan Galluzzo
Kurt Gilman & Paul Phillips
Shanna & Andrew Goldstone
Ann Goodbody
Caroline Herrick & Ted Sands
Iron Bank
Bucky Keady & James Larkin
Sallie Ketcham
David & Lisa Keyko
Katy Kinsolving & Joshua Ginsberg

Dana Kraus & Richard Baumann
Eve LaRoche & Ryan Kavanaugh
Rachel Loeb & Zachary,
Solomon & Walter Block
Mason Lord
Joanna Mackenzie & Anthony Antonucci
Peggy & Oscar Martinez
Joel & Terry Meisel
Kathleen Metz
Alec Machiels & Sarah Bennison
Deborah & David Moore
Pamela Moulton & Bruce James
Margaret & Fritz Mueller
New Images Landscaping, LLC
Edward Nunes
Lorraine & John Oler
Suzanne & David Oliver
Stephanie & Noah Perlman
Laurel Pinson & Joel Weber
Barrie & Barrett Prinz
Benjamin Romo
Paul C Rooney Jr
Howard Rosenfeld & Sheryl Leach
James & Katherine Shepherd
Isabel Sloane & Drew Robbins
Amy Smith
Jon Stevenson
Kate Stiassni
Marianne & Joseph Stineman
Alex & Mary Anne Toppan
Michael Trapp
Elizabeth Webb & Craig Bradley
Kay & Tim Yates

CHESTNUT OAK (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Michelle Alfandari & Thomas Goldenberg
Julie & Bob Bailey
William O. & Carole P. Bailey Family Foundation
Richard J. Berry & Lucy A. Commoner
Emma Carron & John Sedlacek
Kathleen & Robert Clarke
Timothy & Suzanne Clement
Christopher & Annette Clow
Shari Fallek & Stephen Coats
Sarah Curtis & John Petrini
Frederick Deknatel & Emily McGoldrick
Deborah Donovan & Kenneth Page
Veronica Downs-White & William Wakeley
Lorna & Daniel Edmundson
Duncan & Sarah Edwards
Elyse Harney Real Estate
Harriet Fried
Jennifer Fuhr
Kathleen Fuhr
Jessica Ganjamie
DUGAZON
Kim & Jeff Greenberg
Carrie Guillory & Ken Wallach
Helen Haje
Alicia Hammarskjold
Jessica & Matthew Harris
Anne & Bill Holm
Gail Kahn
Bob & Jane Keiter
Maura & Michael Kelly
Alexander & Jacqueline Kenney

Kathleen Killian & John Allison
Amy & James Leahy
Lee & Fritz Link
Laurie Lisle & Robert Kipniss
Carol & Michael Lynch
Claudia & Steve Malley
Edmund & Leila Mander
Pamela Wilson & George Mason
Carolyn & Robert Mattoon
Susan Hassler & Robert Maxwell
Barbara Meili
Lynden B. Miller
Leslie & Nicholas Moore
Deborah Donovan & Kenneth Page
Lucy Allen & John Rhodes
Christopher Roberts & Nancy Zannini
Mary Robertson
Lucinda & Brian Ross
Jodi Scheurenbrand & Michael Smith
Paul Sekhri & Mark Duvall Gude
James Speyer & Audrey Lavin
Casey & Charlotte Sunderland
James Turk
Walter P. Turkiewicz Fund

RED OAK (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

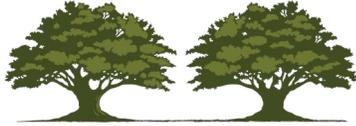
Maureen Bailie & Tom Kruger
Rachael Combe & Orlando Krauss
Leona Chloe El Hadj & Michael El Hadj
Christina & Alex Evans
Barney & Julia Hallingby
Elizabeth & Ian John
Karen Joyce & Scott Dillman
Patrick Kearney & Andrew Heyward
Bill Melnick & Stephen Haproff
Millbrook Garden Club
Patricia Rowell & Ron Becker
Peter & Kaija Braus
Suzanne Purdy & Boris Vuchic
Deborah Van Eck
Emily Nelson & Carrick Mollenkamp

WHITE OAK (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Steven Aresty
Jennifer & Derek Dillon
Ciara Marley & Andrew Gerlach
Phillips Hathaway
Amy Reiss & Gary Jacobs
Nina Kjellson & Sanford Zweifach
Holly & Christian MacDonald
Pamela & Gifford Miller
Grassland Dessert Café
Allen Reiser & Nora Jordan
Meredith & Conley Rollins

CHINKAPIN OAK (\$10,000 +)

Anonymous (4)
Purdy & Joshua Eaton
Jane & Richard Kresch
Florence & Roger Liddell
Brooke & Cybele Loening
Low Road Foundation
David Marshall
Carol & William Oliver



SHARON LAND TRUST

Sharon Land Trust 860.364.5137
PO Box 1027 info@sharonlandtrust.org
Sharon, CT 06069 sharonlandtrust.org



@SharonLandTrust



@SharonLandTrust

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Dillon
President

Roger Liddell
Vice President

Purdy Eaton
Secretary

Allen Reiser
Treasurer

Jill Drew
Robert "Skip" Mattoon
Christian MacDonald
Bill Melnick
Carrick Mollenkamp
Doug Rick
Meredith Rollins

STAFF

Carolyn Klocker
Executive Director

Tim Hunter
Stewardship Director

Harry White
Conservation Director

Sophie Lake-Ginouves
Assistant Land Steward

2025 Summer
Stewardship Assistant
Theo Knauss

SHOP SHARON LAND TRUST MERCHANDISE

Take a piece of the Land Trust home!
Our merchandise is available
online and in our office, with
proceeds helping to fund land
protection, stewardship, and
community programs.

