

## A Busy Time For Land Stewardship

Stewardship work has increased for staff and volunteers over the last few months throughout most of our preserves. Several severe weather events have brought down trees and branches on trails and edges of our farm fields. Many thanks to those who have helped with the clearing. All of our trails are now open and accessible, our pathways are mowed, and our farmers have worked along with volunteers to clear the fields.

One of our more unique stewardship projects was initiated and led by Kevin Nobrega, a boy scout with Troop 1607, who did his Eagle Project in the fen at Phillips Farm. During four workdays in August, Kevin and his helpers removed over 3,000 invasive Norway Maple trees in the 6-acre wetland area. The fen is a unique natural feature that has been written about by naturalists who recognize that few fens still exist. Unlike a bog, a fen is a peat-forming wetland that receives nutrients from mineralized ground water. There is a boardwalk and an observation platform at the fen so that guests can see this ecological feature up close. Thanks to Kevin for spearheading this important work.



*Scouts removing invasive trees from the fen.*

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## Fall Hiking Is At Its Peak

**The Perfect Time Is Now!**

The colors are bright this fall, the weather has been ideal and our trails and preserves are open for all to enjoy. We hosted a guided hike at our new Phillips Farm 5K course

last week and will be leading another hike in November. Our hiking challenge is underway and we hope many of you are participating and will let us know of your accomplishments in November. See details of the challenge and our next guided hike below.



*Hikers along our new 5K course at Phillips and Lovdal Farm Preserves*

**Hike at Koons Preserve- Saturday, November 7th at 1:30 PM. Park on Spruce Brook Road across the street from the entrance (trail head) to the Preserve. Distance is approximately 1.5 miles. All wooded trails with some steep hills.**

*The Koons Preserve is a 40-acre parcel named in honor of Walter and Harriet Koons, who had long admired the property and assisted in its acquisition. The primary scenic feature is the rocky ravine and the numerous waterfalls that are formed when Spruce Brook drops 170 feet as it flows through the property.*

If you would like to complete the hiking challenge independently, hike at least once per month (September, October, November) at three SLT Preserves of your choice. Once your hikes are complete, send a note to: [jstuart@southburylandtrust.org](mailto:jstuart@southburylandtrust.org). Badges will be sent via mail.



## HIKE MORE • WORRY LESS

### *Fall Hiking Series*

Join us for a series of socially distanced hikes this fall or hit the trails on your own. Let the natural world restore, refresh and amaze you...

**The Challenge:**

- 3 hikes
- 3 preserves
- 3 months

Complete the challenge and earn this "badge", a vinyl sticker for your laptop, water bottle or car window!



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## Eagle Scout Presentation

The Eagle Court of Honor for Andrew Vela with Troop 162 was held on October 4th at Ballantine Park. Andrew is pictured here presenting a framed collage of pictures to Regina Badura, our Director of Stewardship. Andrew completed his Eagle Project in 2019 at Platt Farm.



*Andrew Vela and Regina Badura*

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## **Annual Membership Drive**

Members will be receiving a letter in the mail soon regarding our annual membership drive. We hope many of you will consider joining again this year. Since we are not part of town government, we depend on our members' annual dues to continue our important work of preserving Southbury's natural resources. We are also offering a 2021 "This Land Is Your Land" calendar which highlights our preserves and offers interesting facts about each of them. You can request a calendar with an extra \$10 membership donation. Those who donate at the stewardship level (\$125) or above will receive the calendar for no additional charge.

## *"This Land Is Your Land" Wall Calendar*

*A selection of images from our 2021 calendar*



**How To Order**  
*The SLT is offering an 8 1/2 x 11 inch calendar with scenic photos and interesting facts about our preserves. To purchase a calendar, please add \$10 to your membership dues. For those who contribute at the stewardship level (\$125) or above, you will receive a calendar for free. Calendars will be mailed before the end of the year.*



*Enjoy scenes from SLT Preserves in our 2021 Calendar*

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