

Sample Annual Monitoring Letter to Volunteer Stewards

June 1, 2012

Dear Steve & Cindy,

Here at the Stowe Land Trust office we are gearing up for an exciting stewardship season. Restoration of the Mill Trail Cabin is underway and we are in the process of hiring a summer naturalist to run environmental education programs, trail workdays and nature walks at Mill Trail and other conserved properties. Having celebrated Wiessner Woods 20th anniversary last year we will soon have an updated trail map and new signs. We also partnered with the VT Youth Conservation Corps and the Catamount Trail Association to do some needed trail maintenance on the Hardwood Ridge Trail and the Sugar House Loop.

As volunteer stewards, you know more than anyone how important it is to maintain high quality trails and offer the community connections to their natural surroundings. Each time you visit a conserved property you see the benefits that protecting that piece of land continues to bring to the community. Each year, your visits to conserved land also help SLT achieve its goal of ensuring the long term integrity of its conserved lands by building relationships with landowners, documenting changes in the property and its ownership, and discovering any problems on the property. With the variety of issues that come up on a given property, I am confident that SLT will be prepared because of the diligence with which you perform your annual monitoring visits.

Enclosed are updated Monitoring Report Forms for your use this season. Recent Land Trust Accreditation Commission guidance has established certain requirements in monitoring report forms for accredited land trusts. I would like to treat this year as a pilot year for the updated form, so I encourage your feedback and questions.

Thank you for volunteering as the steward for the _____ property. [Landowner] has been contacted to let them know you will be contacting them about the annual monitoring visit.

I sincerely thank you for your help protecting conserved lands in the Stowe area. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Washburn
Assistant Director

P.S. I hope to see you at the map and compass workshop on June 15th!