

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Protecting and nurturing South Hero's land and the people who live, play, love, and grow on it

Stories Inside

Growth in the Garden

A Partnership to
Protect Lake
Champlain

Forest Restoration
in the Face of a
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OUR VISION

January 31, 2024

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Partners,

In the midst of the cold, dark days of winter, I am struck by memories of the last year.

I remember a morning exploring the shoreline of Lake Champlain with an enthusiastic group of kayakers, made possible through partnership with Northeast Disabled Athletic Association and North Branch Nature Center. These paddlers were reconnecting with the natural world with help from adaptive equipment, and their intense joy being on the water was a privilege to witness.

I remember an afternoon rambling over hills and through forests, discussing a possible conservation project with a landowner. I love seeing the land through the eyes of the people who care for it—they know all the secret corners, recall all the changes over time, and love every inch. To take the next step of permanent protection through a conservation easement is such a beautiful commitment to the land and our community.

I remember an evening spent pouring over maps of South Hero, hearing stories of all of the places that community members like you most love in our town. The Community Values Mapping we did with the Conservation Commission will help guide the projects and programs we undertake for years to come, as we focus on the things that matter most to you.

At South Hero Land Trust, we work to protect the land we live, play, love, and grow on; to nourish human connections with the land; and to build a culture of stewardship and care for the land in our Island community. Days like these—when I see our work in action and connect with community members like you on the land—are highlights of my year.

Thank you for making these projects and programs possible in our community.

With deep gratitude and warmest wishes,



Emily Alger
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Matt Bartle

Bob Buermann

Bob Chutter

Natalie Kendrach

Kelsey O'Connor

Lisa Pendolino

Reina Warren

Staff

Emily Alger

Executive Director

Guy Maguire

Director of Programs

Jenna O'Donnell

Director of Engagement



South Hero Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the farmland, woodland, natural and recreational areas, and open spaces which give South Hero its distinctive quality of life

OUR IMPACT

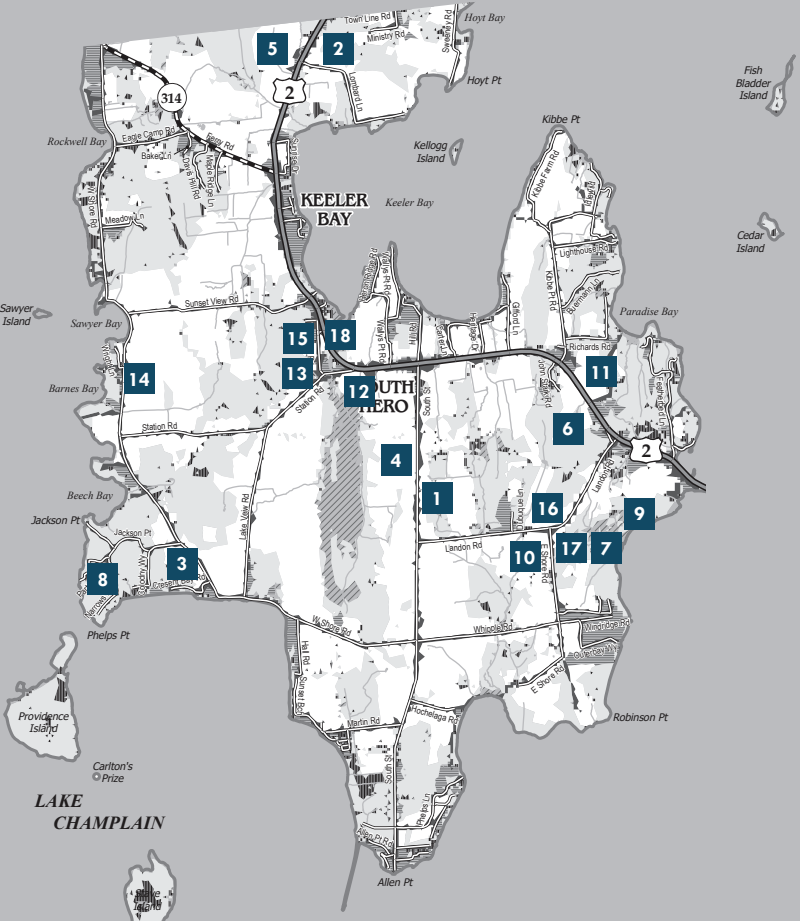
FOOD FORESTS & GREENHOUSES: GROWTH IN THE GARDEN

Students planted a “Food Forest” in the Learning Garden at Folsom School in the spring. They tested the soil, researched plant species, created a design, and planted dwarf apple trees, berry bushes, and grape vines. Later in the fall, we added a greenhouse to the garden, which will expand educational opportunities and help us grow more culturally-relevant food in the Learning and Gleaning Gardens.



CONSERVED LANDS & TRAILS

- 1. Allenholm Farm (1997)
- 2. Munson Property (1998 & 2001)
- 3. Crescent Bay Farm (1999)
- 4. Hackett’s Orchard (1999)
- 5. Maxham Farm (1999)
- 6. Wright Property (1999)
- 7. Round Pond Natural Area (2001)
- 8. Jackson Point (2002)
- 9. Apple Island Wetland (2003)
- 10. Pigasus Meats (2003)
- 11. Buermann Hill (2006)
- 12. Islandacres Farm (2008)
- 13. Lakeside Jersey Farm (2008)
- 14. Health Hero Farm (2014)
- 15. Tracy Woods (2018)
- 16. Landon Community Trail
- 17. Round Pond Trails
- 18. Tracy Woods Community Trail



A PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Keeler Bay is an important part of life in South Hero, but faces significant water quality challenges. South Hero Land Trust has been working with Keeler Bay residents and the Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District to develop a solution-oriented plan that will empower local landowners to make a difference. Six high-impact projects were identified in the 2023 Action Plan, and we’ll be moving the first couple forward in 2024.

OUR IMPACT

FOREST RESTORATION IN THE FACE OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

Our forests are facing a crisis that could change the face of the Islands landscape. Ash trees, the predominant species in Grand Isle County forests, have begun to die from a rapidly spreading emerald ash borer infestation. In combination with climate change and increased browse pressure from deer, we could see up to 60% of trees in our forests disappear in the next few decades.

In response, South Hero Land Trust started an ambitious ecological forest management demonstration project at the South Hero Recreation Park. Staff and volunteers have been removing invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle, and planting climate-forward trees that fill a similar ecological role as Ash. These trees will help maintain healthy forest diversity, and make it possible to re-plant Ash trees in the future, when resistant varieties can be cultivated. In 2023 we planted over 400 trees and shrubs in the Recreation Park, and with your help more will be planted in coming years.



Volunteer work party on Earth Day



Folsom students planting cedar trees during SHLT's Spring Nature Club

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Trails & Natural Areas

- 194 volunteers
- 602 volunteer hours
- 444 trees planted
- 5+ acres stewarded
- 8+ miles of trails

OUR IMPACT

EDUCATING NATURALISTS OF THE NEXT GENERATION



"Farmers and Foragers" summer campers, working on leaf tracings

South Hero Land Trust fosters learning about farms, food, and the natural world for community members of all ages. We have a close partnership with Folsom School, where we provide in-class activities, after-school clubs, and a summer camp program. In 2023 we expanded our summer camp program (which we provide to families at no cost) to include three full day week-long camps, making the program accessible to more families. Kids explored local farms, gardens, and forests during our two "Farmers & Foragers" camps, and biked across South Hero during our "South Hero Explorers" camp.

We also launched a new series specifically for families with young children, encouraging kids and their grownups to explore the outdoors in all kinds of creative ways. Our first gathering in October brought 34 kids and grown-ups to Tracy Woods to watch the full moon rise and experience the sights and sounds of nature in the evening.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Nature-Based Education

220+ local students

146 hours of youth programming

56 hikes and workshops

827 program participants

97 hours of community programming



First Hike hikers celebrate the New Year at Round Pond State Park

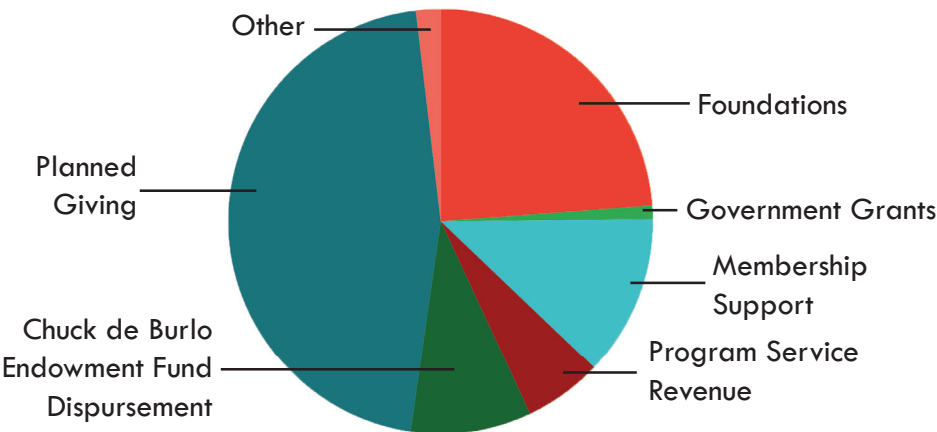
OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Agilent Technologies, Emily Alger and Aaron Miller, Douglas & Sheila Smith Allen, Allenholm Farm, Althoff Family, Hui & William Andrews, Mary Andrews, Nancy Andrews, Arbor Farm Market, Shira & Joey Arnold, Katina Asbell, Ms. Beverly Austin, Wendy & Kahren Aydinyan, Paula Bagger & James Vradelis, Dr. Violet Baker, Scott & Kate Baldwin, Baltimore Community Foundation, Tom & Lori Banning, Beth Barovick & David Saltzman, Janis & Charles Barquist, Matt & Kristen Bartle, James & Janine Bellinghri, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Christian & Cheryl Bergeron, Richard Bingham, William & Shirley Bingham, Bittersweet Bakery, Ellen Blanchard, Katharine Blanchard & Daniel Cox, Marianne Blanchard, Block Foundation, Blue Heron Farm, Robert & Elaine Boissevain, Stephen & Alexandra Bower, James & Karen Boyken, Ember Boyle, Michelle Brady, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brainard, William & Ellen Brainard, James Brightwell & Marcia Zweerink, Jennifer & Russell Brown, Marcia Brown, Skip & Barbara Brown, Karen Browning & Wayne Tyrrell, Carrie & Tim Bryan, Bob & Ann Buermann, Jennifer Bunker & Ken Kowalewitz, Janet Burdewik, Vin & Lucie Burke, Cordelia Burpee, Jeffrey & Melissa Burroughs, Jamie Bussier, Stanley & Marilyn Butcavage, Robert Cain & Jill Sikora-Cain, Joan E Callison, Emily & Roderic Camp, Canamak Farms, Dave & Barbara Capen, Joe & Diane Catania, Josh Chaikin, Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network, Champlain Islands Candy Lab, Champlain Islands Farmers' Market, Victoria Chase & Martha Nimmer, Bob Chutter & Karin Ames, Susan Coburn, Hobbs Conboy Family, Sylvia Corbin, Brian Costello, Crescent Bay Farm, Nancy Crowley, Mr. & Mrs. John J. Cryan, Penny Cunningham, Robert & Martha Cushman, CYA Solutions, Louis & Maureen Danielczyk, Heather Darby & Ron Hermann, Jeffrey Davis & Tammy Scheu, Rick Davis, Dr. C. Russell de Burlo, Todd de Burlo Family, Elisabeth Deimling, William Deming & Margaret Adams, Jean DeSimone, DonnaSue Bakes+Cooks, The Honorable & Mrs. John Dooley, William & Ellen Dorsch, Trish & Jim Doyle, Jack & Ruth Drake, Julie Dunigan & Kevin Abnet, Dunkleys Gymnastics, Gordon & Penny Echenberg, Emily Ellis, Nancy Elwess, Peter & Lisa Espenshade, Joe & Manon Farnham, Charles Ferree & Linden Marno Ferree, Bob Fireovid & Joan Falcao, Linda Fishell, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Flaherty, Laurie Fleming & Tom Wilson, Robert Foley, Folsom Education & Community Center, Food Connects, Joseph & Cathy Frank, Nancy Frantz & Joe Sochin, Karen Freeman, Carl Frenning & Linda Seavey, Ms. Marian E. Fritz, Rochelle Gardner, Robert & Joy Gess, Suzanne Gillis & Jan Doerler, Chris & Sarah Gordon, Grand Isle Pasta, Grand Isle County Mentoring Program, Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District, Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Pam Gude, Karen Gulch Lea, Devin & Amanda Hackett, Hackett's Orchard, Ron & Celia Hackett, Dorothy J Halligan, Happy Bird Poultry, Lisa Harrington, Constance M. Haupt, Healthy Roots Collaborative, Jonathan Heaton, Barbara Heilman, Ms. Erica Heilman, Mark & Melissa Heim, Naomi Heindel, Patrick, Mary Catherine, and Genevieve Helman, Kristin Hendricks, Colleen Hickey, Christopher & Rebecca Higgins, Jessica Higgins, Susan & Chuck Hill, Jim Hoag, Dave & Gwen Hobbs, George & Judith Hoffer, Martina Hofmann, Margaret Holden & Doug Hyde, Jim Holzschuh & Ellen Thompson, G. Scott & Melissa Hood, Mark & Gail Horne, Housing Partnership Network, Stephen & Kathy Howe, Susan Hoyt, Chuck Hulse & Molly Rideout, Arthur Huse, IBM Foundation, Janice & Michael Interlandi, Island Physical Therapy, Islandacres Farm, Irene Jacobsen, Owen & Wendy Jenkins, Mitzi Johnson, Peter Johnson, Ray & Lola Johnson, Chris & Duke Kasprisin, Jared Katz & Jennifer Jewiss, Tony Kay and Amy Kittiver, Keeler Bay Variety, Cynthia & Todd Kelley, Lee Kelmsley, Natalie Kendrach & Mitchell Rutkowski, Bill & Charlotte Kennedy, Mark Kennedy & Cathy Rude, Jonathan & Judith Keyes, Naomi King & Hobart Tracy, Kim & Linda Kinney, Raymond & Peggy Kirk, Marty & Doug Kiser, Megan Kouns, Joe and Gale Kreutz, Li Kudrnac, Darwin & Barbara Kuhlmann, Dr. Arthur Kunin, Laurie Kutner, Holly & Michael LaFontaine, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Economic Development Corporation, Lake Champlain Land Trust, Land Trust Alliance, Dave & Julie Lane, Nick & Cara Lane, Snow Farm Winery, Molly Langan, Gregory & Diana Langston, Ann Laughlin, Joan Laundon, Carlene & Carla Lawrence, Dean Lea & Debra Gibbs, Mark & Sarah Leonard, Darlene & Mike Leonard-Maguire, M. David Levin, Liversedge-Henderson Family, Local Motion, Lee Lockwood, Amber Logan, Julia Lynam, Christine Mack, Mary Madden, Perky & Don Maddocks, Guy Maguire & Danielle Moore, Ms. Florence Mapes, Tim Maxham, Brok & Kim Rae McFerron, Ruth & Daniel McGowan, Don & Susan Miller, Katharine Montstream & Al Dworshak, Richard Monterosso & Mary Andrews, Cheryl Moore, Richard Morey, Christopher Morris, Linda Morris, McLure/Muehlke Family, Kathy and James Murray, The Mushroom Forager, Mr. Steve Myers, Nase Family, Mr. Alex Nason, Mark Naud & Lisa Pendolino, Hans Nedde, Roy Newton, Mary Niebling & David Spence, North Branch Nature Center, Northeast Disabled Athletic Association, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Oakland Foundation, Phelan & Kelsey O'Connor, Craig and Irene Odell, Cheryl O'Donnell, Jim & Stephanie O'Rourke, Erika Osorio, Outdoor Gear Exchange, Edwin & Brenda Owre, Marion Palermo, Aprille Soons Palmer, Sharon Palmer & Cliff Perkall, Nancy Patch, Douglas & Gretchen Patterson, Steve & Marylyn Pauley, Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Perlmutter,

Chad & Julie Pidgeon, Winston & Mary Pidgeon, Pigasus Meats, Mr. & Mrs. David Pillsbury, Melody Pinkston, Brenda Pitmon & Mark Keller, Ben Pomykala & Susan Edwards, Jane & Bob Pomykala, Pomykala Farm, Meg Pond & Jim Rader, Dan & Rickey Poor, Mary Powell & Mark Brooks, Carolyn Prasch, Katie & Eben Pratt, Jamie & Sooze Preston, Mary Pringle, Mary Prosnitz, Putnam Foundation, Douglas Rae & D. Ellen Shuman, Ranges Malloy Family, Naomi Rao & Alan Lefkowitz, Kim Ravdin, Robert Reagan, Bob & Sandra Reese, Philip & Cyndi Reynolds, Helen & Theodore Riehle, Cheryl & John Roberts, Robinson Hardware, Steve & Kelly Robinson, Terry & Gerry Robinson, Callista & Derek Rodriguez, Ryan Rose, William & Judith Rowe, Beth Royer, Jan & Patrick Russell, Gloria Ruvalcaba, Chip & OJ Sahler, Sandy Bottom Farm, Elizabeth Sangster, Barbara Saunders, Savage Gardens, Caitlin Scarborough, Peter & Laurie Schultz Heim, Philip Scott, Donnasue & Michael Shaw, Lori Shaw & Ann Rodenrys, Mike & Cathy Sheffield, Roderic & Martha Sherman, Shore Acres, John Skutel, David Smail, William & Carolyn Sobering, Melinda Sokoloff, South Burlington High School, South Hero Congregational Church, South Hero Conservation Commission, South Hero Recreation Commission, George Spear, Carol & Steve Stata, Rika & Will Stevenson, Brad & Marcy Summers, Pamela Surprenant, Rob & Kathleen Swanson, Miriam Swartz, Charles L. Taylor III, Charles & Joan Tetzlaff, Cathy Tipper, Wilson Treftz, Roland & Carol Tremble, Zach Tripp & Kate Demong, Ruth & Ulrich Troesch, Ms. Evelyn Trono, Ms. Gail Troutman, Susan Turnquest, Two Heroes Brewery, Michael Upton, Alisha Utter, Marc & Jessica Valin, Kathy & Steve Vandevord, Molly Varner, Peter Velasquez, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Vermont Garden Network, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Larry & Deborah Viens, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, VT-FEED, Cindy Walcott & Michael Alger, Mary-Jo Warren, Will & Reina Warren, Jonathan & Alice Wells, Michael & Alejandra Wells, Don Wilder, Ashley Williams & Leo Wermer, Tom & Ellen Williams, Windham Foundation, Dolf & Mary Jane Wirsing, Worthen Library, Ted Yeates & Sherry Daniels, Barbara & Nevin Zablotsky, Peter & Rosemary Zamore, Anonymous (7)

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

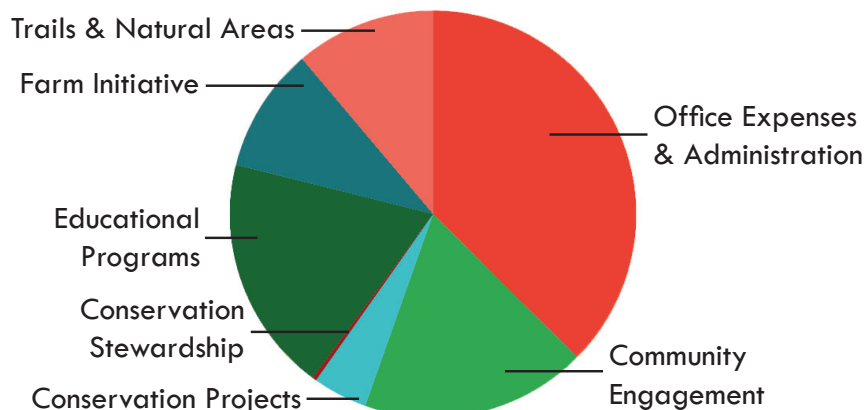
WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



Foundations	\$51,900
Government Grants	\$2,272
Membership Support	\$26,831
Program Service Revenue	\$12,975
Endowment Disbursement	\$20,000
Planned Giving	\$100,000
Other	\$4,095
Total Income	\$218,073

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

Office Expenses & Administration	\$84,844
Community Engagement	\$40,770
Conservation Projects	\$9,879
Conservation Project Stewardship	\$727
Educational Programs	\$42,671
Farm Initiative	\$22,526
Trails & Natural Areas	\$25,320
Total Expenses	\$226,637



The gap between income and expenses was covered by a planned withdrawal from our Reserve Fund.