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# **News From the South Village Stewardship Board**



The South Village Stewardship Board works to protect, support, and enhance the South Village Common Lands, including the Open Space and the Farm.

## Coming Soon: Saturday Morning Yoga, South Village Green

South Village residents and former Yoga Roots Studio owners Heidi Kvasnak and Lynn Alpeter will lead yoga classes on the South Village Green, located near the main entrance on Allen Road East. These classes will take place on Saturday Mornings from 8-9 AM. All levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. Bring a yoga mat and beach towel, and arrive at 7:55 to get settled. Participation is by donation, to benefit the South Village Stewardship Fund. Classes will be held on:



- June 29
- July 13 & 27
- August 10 & 24

For more information, contact <u>Heidi Kvasnak</u>.

### Preserve Trails Now Marked with Blazes

The Stewardship Board Preserve Committee has blazed the trails in the 100-acre preserve

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Dorset Farms, and on the narrow section of road leading from Midland to Dorset Farms. There are also signs marking the boundaries at the northern end of the trails. Both blazed trails lead to the main trail that connects to the remainder of the trails in South Pointe and Hubbard Natural Area. There is also a marked loop trail to the east. Soon, round logo signs will mark the boundary of the South Village portion of the Preserve.



Along the trails it is a treat to see unusual habitat, evidence of restoration, and many plants and animals. You may observe newly planted native sedges, shrubs, and trees, many of which are fenced to prevent damage from deer. Trees have been felled to increase sun exposure for other trees that are most important to provide food or habitat for wildlife, accelerating the evolution of a more mature forest. Cut trees are left on the ground to provide habitat for amphibians and to decay. These "nurse" trees will help grow more trees, as well as fungi and microrhyzones to nourish the forest floor.

Need more direction? We hear you! In a later phase, the Stewardship Board plans to make way-finding support available as the project continues to build momentum. We hope that this project helps everyone feel more comfortable getting outside and enjoying the South Village Preserve in every season!

## Take Some Time to Relax in the Community Garden!

The South Village garden bed program started with gusto this spring. After the new fence and irrigation system were installed, it wasn't long before many gardeners began to dig in the dirt to plant their cherished seeds and starts. The area looks so inviting!

Many gardeners meet on Saturday mornings to connect, discuss issues and swap ideas. We are fortunate to have some talented gardeners among us who are a wealth of information.

Even if you don't have a garden bed, consider coming by to see what your



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swooping through on one of our precious Vermont summer mornings. Or grab something from the farm stand and have a snack or lunch a picnic table.

All of the beds were reserved early on. If you were unsure if you wanted to garden, or didn't get your application in on time, don't worry—the Stewardship Board plans to add more beds before next summer!

Interested in reserving a garden bed for the 2025 season? We will let you know when it is time to sign up in the late winter/early Spring enews (watch your inbox in February/early March 2025).

### Audubon Vermont Evaluates Preserve for Wildlife Habitat

Margaret Fowle of Audubon Vermont led a walk to evaluate a portion of the Preserve for

potential habitat for the golden winged warbler, a bird that is classified as "near threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. When an animal is near threatened, it is vulnerable to endangerment in the near future. The golden winged warbler is a species of interest as its numbers decline nationally.

Margaret concluded that the area in question would be suitable after some restoration and recommended that the Stewardship Board consider applying to the Natural Resource Conservation Service for possible funding.



Several members of the South Village Stewardship Board and community attended the walk and presentation, as well as Bob Hyams of Habitat Restoration/Riverscape Ecology, who works with the Stewardship Board to manage and restore the land in the Preserve. The group heard other birds of interest as well, and enjoyed seeing new plantings and checking on the established growth. It was gratifying to see native species taking hold in the restored area.

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# Did you know South Village has three Facebook pages?

<u>South Village Vermont</u> - An active resident-driven group featuring residents' news, photos and updates

<u>South Village Community (Arrowhead Group)</u> - Updates from our maintenance contractor, Arrowhead

South Village Real Estate - Posts about home closings within the community

#### The South Village Stewardship Board

The Stewardship Fund is governed by a Board composed of a maximum of nine individuals, elected by the residents of South Village. They are responsible for the strategic planning, budgeting, monitoring, and program development of the South Village Stewardship Board.

Current members of the Board include (in alphabetical order):

- John Bakewell, Member (johnbakewell@comcast.net)
- Paula Caron, Member (nikolla1954@gmail.com)
- Susan Darnell, Chair (susandarnell@comcast.net)
- Diana Haghighat, Member (haghighatdiana22@gmail.com)
- Heidi Kvasnak, Secretary (heidibarbarayoga@gmail.com)
- Ron Mogel, Member (ron@s2r1.org)
- Vicky Tebbetts, Member (vtebbetts@gmail.com)
- George Zipf, Treasurer (georgezipf@gmail.com)

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