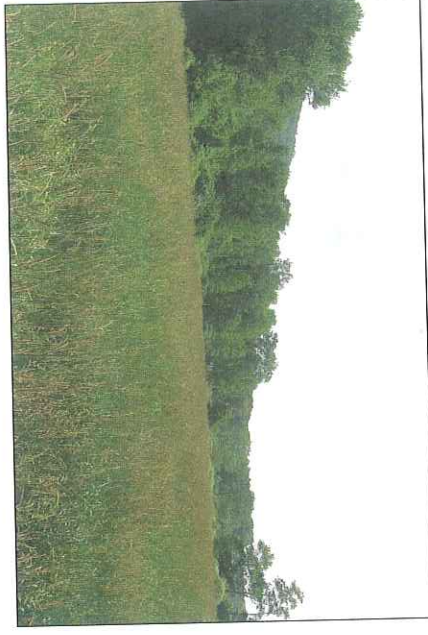


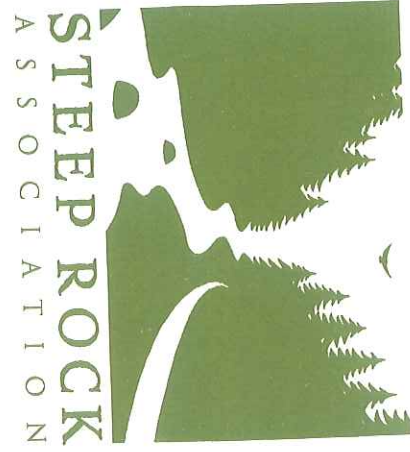
Steep Rock Association
P. O. Box 279
Washington Depot, CT 06794

View across Meeker Swamp



- Hikers, Snowshoers and your dogs: Please respect ski tracks by keeping to the other side of the trail.
- Cross-Country Skiers: Please set tracks on one side of the trail only.
- Winter Trail Rules

MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE



- Dogs must be under owners control.
- Do not litter. Please carry out what you carry in.
- No camping
- Fires are not permitted.
- No bikes
- No alcoholic beverages
- No hunting
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

The 55 acre agricultural field is leased to a local farmer. Please stay on mowed perimeter trail.

Please note: there are no sanitary facilities or waste barrels in the reservation.

The Macricostas Preserve offers tranquility and beauty for people and varied habitats for wildlife. Please respect it as a setting for passive recreation, reflection, and peace. Help us protect the natural beauty and integrity of the reservation by not removing or destroying plants or wildlife.

MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE RULES

HISTORY

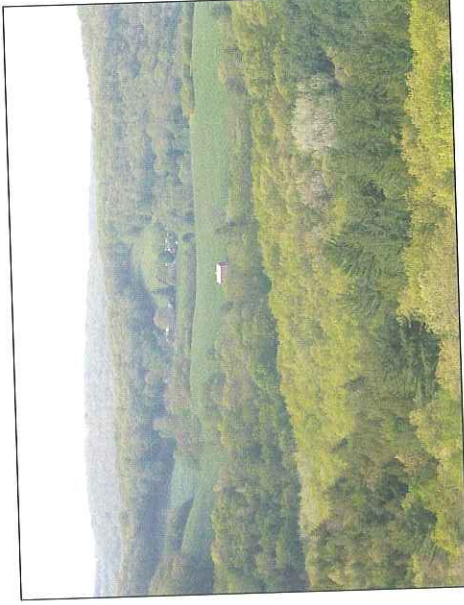
In the Spring of 1889, just as he was about to break ground on his own country house in Washington, Connecticut, the architect Ehrick Rossiter discovered that the wooded hillsides in his dramatic view to the west were slated for clear cutting. For him, there was only one thing to do. Using the money intended for the house's construction, he bought the threatened land from the timber company and saved forever the hundred acres that now form the heart of the Steep Rock Reservation. During his 36 years of ownership, Rossiter built carriage roads and small river crossings, and invited his friends and fellow townspeople to enjoy the wild beauty of this section of the Shepaug River Valley.

In 1925 Rossiter donated the land, which included the Steep Rock overlook, to a group of trustees, thus ensuring its preservation. Four years later the trustees purchased the area known as the Clamshell, and in doing so preserved the view from Steep Rock. With little of the



Aerial view of Steep Rock clamshell.

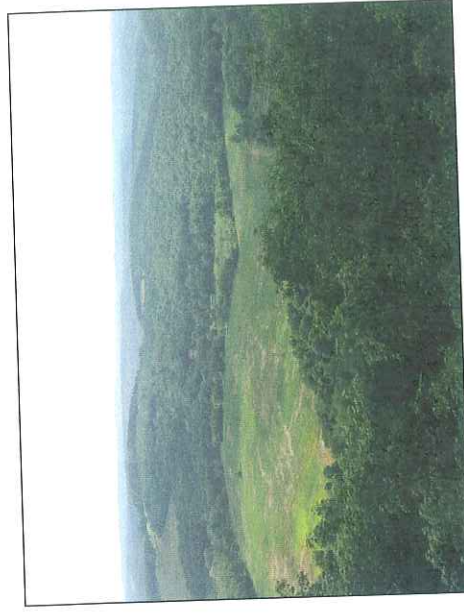
fanfare that sometimes surrounds such efforts today, these ten individuals quietly established a public land trust long before the idea of land protection became common. Since then, many landowners have given additional tracts to the Steep Rock Association.



View from Hidden Valley pinnacle.

Today the reservations are an extraordinary natural resource valued for their wild beauty, seclusion, and recreational and educational opportunities. Steep Rock's holdings now comprise over 2,426 owned and 2,348 eased acres, most of which lie along the glacially carved, rock-strewn Shepaug River. Except for a brief interruption in Washington Depot, the reservations extend almost the full length of the township and include three main sections:

- Steep Rock, 974 acres just southwest of Washington Depot;
- Hidden Valley, 650 acres just northeast of the Depot, and the
- Macricostas Preserve (or Meeker Swamp), 370 acres north of the junction of routes 47 and 202.



View across Macricostas Preserve.

SUPPORTING STEEP ROCK

One of the oldest land trusts in Connecticut, the Steep Rock Association is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of trustees. To maintain over 36 miles of trails, manage three large reservations and monitor dozens of conservation easements, we are entirely dependent on individual contributors and a modest endowment. If you would like to contribute and become a member, please send a check, payable to Steep Rock Association, Inc. to:

Steep Rock Association
P. O. Box 279
Washington Depot, CT 06794

For more information, visit our website at www.steeprockassoc.org or call the office at 860-868-9131.

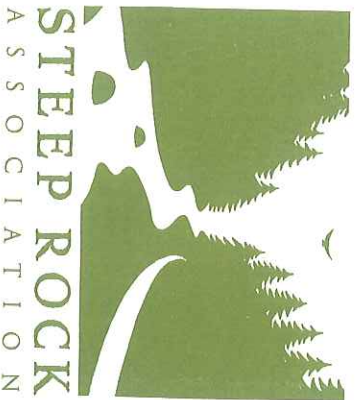
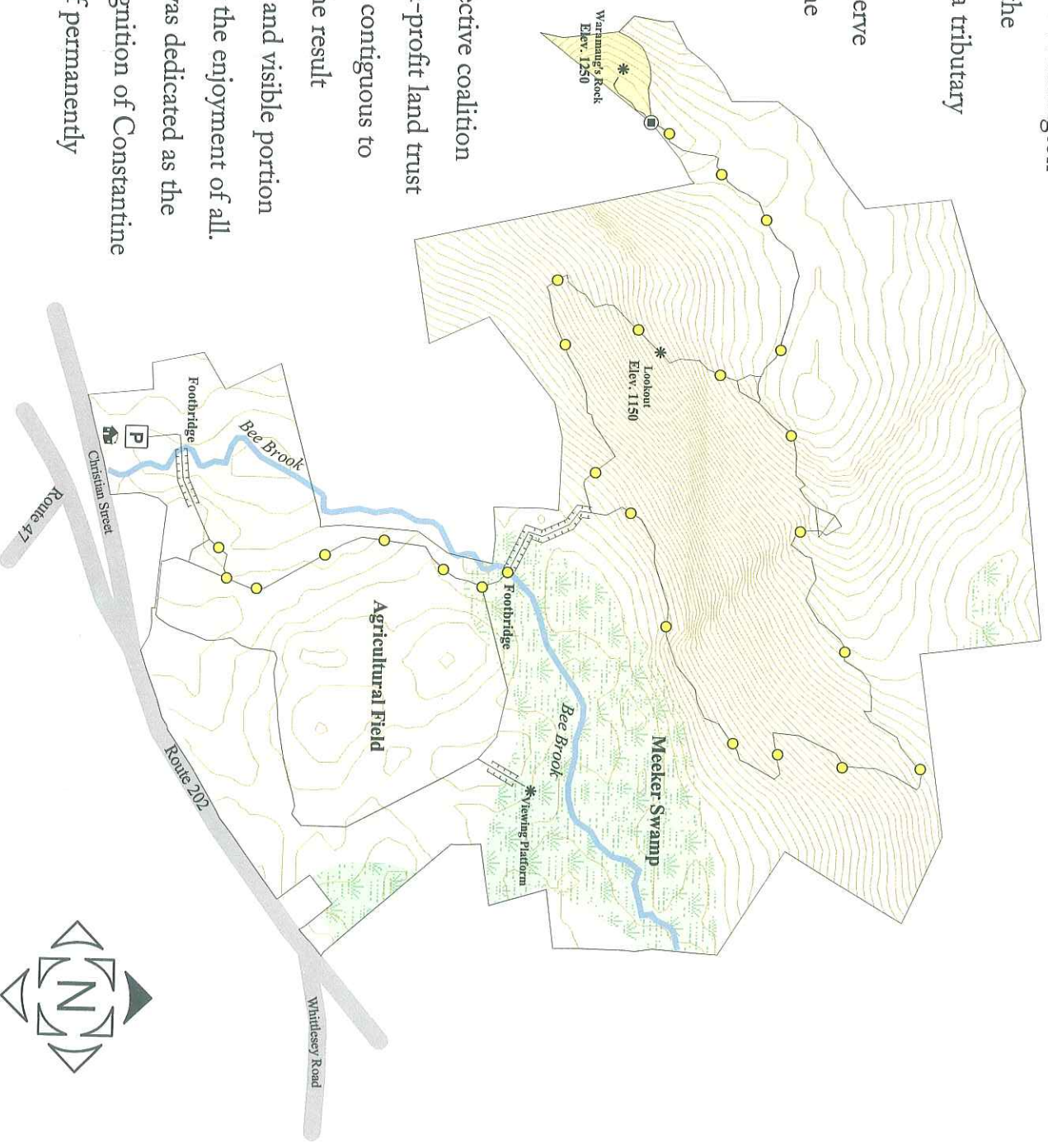
MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE

STEEP ROCK ASSOCIATION

The 368 acre Macricostas Preserve, commonly known as “Meeker Swamp” is composed of a rocky ridgeline above farmland and precious wetlands. While it fosters an unusual diversity of flora and fauna, its natural beauty is perhaps its greatest asset to all who pass by. Just north of the junction of routes 47 and 202, this highly visible land one of the largest aquifers in Washington and wetlands which form the headwaters of Bee Brook, a tributary of the Shepaug River.

This wonderful preserve has been saved thanks to the Connecticut DEP’s Open Space Grant Program, a grant from the taxpayers of the Town of Washington, and private funds raised by the Steep Rock Association. This effective coalition of the State, Town, and non-profit land trust purchased a 238 acre parcel, contiguous to other protected holdings. The result is the preservation of a large and visible portion of the Town’s wilderness for the enjoyment of all. On July 14, 2001 this land was dedicated as the Macricostas Preserve in recognition of Constantine “Dino” Macricostas’ vision of permanently protecting this land.

The Meeker Trail (Yellow Blazes) begins behind the red house at 124 Christian Street, crosses Bee Brook, then follows an edge of the agricultural field to a boardwalk. The boardwalk leads you through Meeker Swamp to the base of the loop trail. Both directions of the loop trail offer a moderately strenuous climb to the ridge above. A section of the Meeker Trail leads to Waramaug’s Rock, the pinnacle overlooking Lake Waramaug. Steep Rock holds a Public Access Easement on this private property, which allows the public to share this magnificent view. In the fall of 2006, a viewing platform, funded by the Village Improvement Society, was built at the edge of the open water of Meeker Swamp at the north end of the agricultural field.



For safe and respectful recreation, please follow the rules printed on the other side of this map.

