

SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

SILT

A stylized green plant with thin, curved leaves and a network of white roots extending downwards. The plant is positioned behind the 'SILT' text and the tagline, with its roots appearing to grow from the ground below the text.

PROTECTING LAND TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD

2016 IMPACT REPORT

A smaller version of the stylized green plant with thin, curved leaves and a network of white roots, positioned at the bottom center of the page.



DEEP ROOTS MAKE FOR HEALTHY GROWTH

A plant's roots keep it upright and firm by feeding it water and nutrients. SILT's second year was about growing strong roots. It started with creating systems to keep us in better touch with you and the many people who contact us every week. We also developed our document storage system and established a strong committee structure, deepening our leadership and capacity to get work done.



Then those roots began to spread. In December, nearly 40 volunteers, including 7 new board members, laid out our plans for 2017. Committees developed their goals and meet regularly to grow SILT Finance, Friend Raising, Policy, Board Development and Land Acquisition work. The new SILT Farmers Committee spent the winter developing criteria for vetting farmers for SILT land.

Then we put on some growth. With Katharine Butler's generous gift in the bank (see next page), we hired Sheila Knoploh-Odole — a SILT founder who is also an attorney with a Master's Degree in Planning. We lured Sheila away from her law practice with a ¾ time position this year, and she is working hard to quickly expand SILT's base of support.

This report is all about you. I invite you to enjoy reading what a group of people can accomplish together with a healthy mix of time, energy and money.

Sincerely,
Suzan Erem
President, SILT Board of Directors
March, 2017



Sheila wants to meet leaders in your community you think would be interested the important work SILT is doing.
sheila@silt.org 515.278.0550.



Dear Iowa,

A few years ago I had the good fortune to hear Suzan Erem speak at a Slow Money conference. She told the story of how she and her husband Paul Durrenberger had recently moved back to Iowa and had taken a huge leap of faith by supporting a young farmer who could not afford land. That experience helped show them the enormity of the problems facing the state. They quickly realized buying one farm for one young farmer was not the way to solve those problems, so they rolled up their sleeves and started SILT.



I was so impressed that I later called Suzan from the East Coast and offered to donate \$10,000 from my savings if she could raise \$10,000 to match it. She put the challenge to the people who attended SILT's founding retreat and they did it! And since then I have contributed more — both in time and money — to this very important organization.

As a passionate environmentalist, I decided this was a good place to join the fight.

Could the Corn Belt become a place where critters and people lived healthily on deep, rich soil once again? Was there room on Iowa's landscape to grow fresh food like lettuce, strawberries and chestnuts? Could the vast Midwest grow poultry, beef and pork in the open, letting animals fertilize the ground as they go? Would the rest of us be willing to pay for food grown in ways that heal our environment? Could we do something to help our young aspiring farmers get on the land? **SILT is Iowa's answer and the answer is yes.**

Iowa is so lucky to have people like the leaders who organized SILT. The work is huge. The need is now. And even though it has captured the imagination and energy of out-of-staters like me, it is also up to Iowans to realize the gift and possibilities that SILT offers and to commit yourselves with time, with significant donations, and by taking advantage of the wonderful opportunity to protect your farmland forever by protecting it with SILT.

I look forward to meeting more of you the next time I visit Iowa!

Katharine Butler

(Editor's note: Katharine donated \$100,000 to SILT after meeting farmers and landowners who described how important we are to them. Let's show her that Iowa believes in SILT as much as she does!)

IMPACT 1

Protecting More Land

When conservationists in Clayton County invited SILT to join a presentation on land protection, Steve Beaumont of Garber learned how his beautiful prairie and trees could support a young farmer too. In just a matter of months, he was handing SILT the deed to his 22 acres.

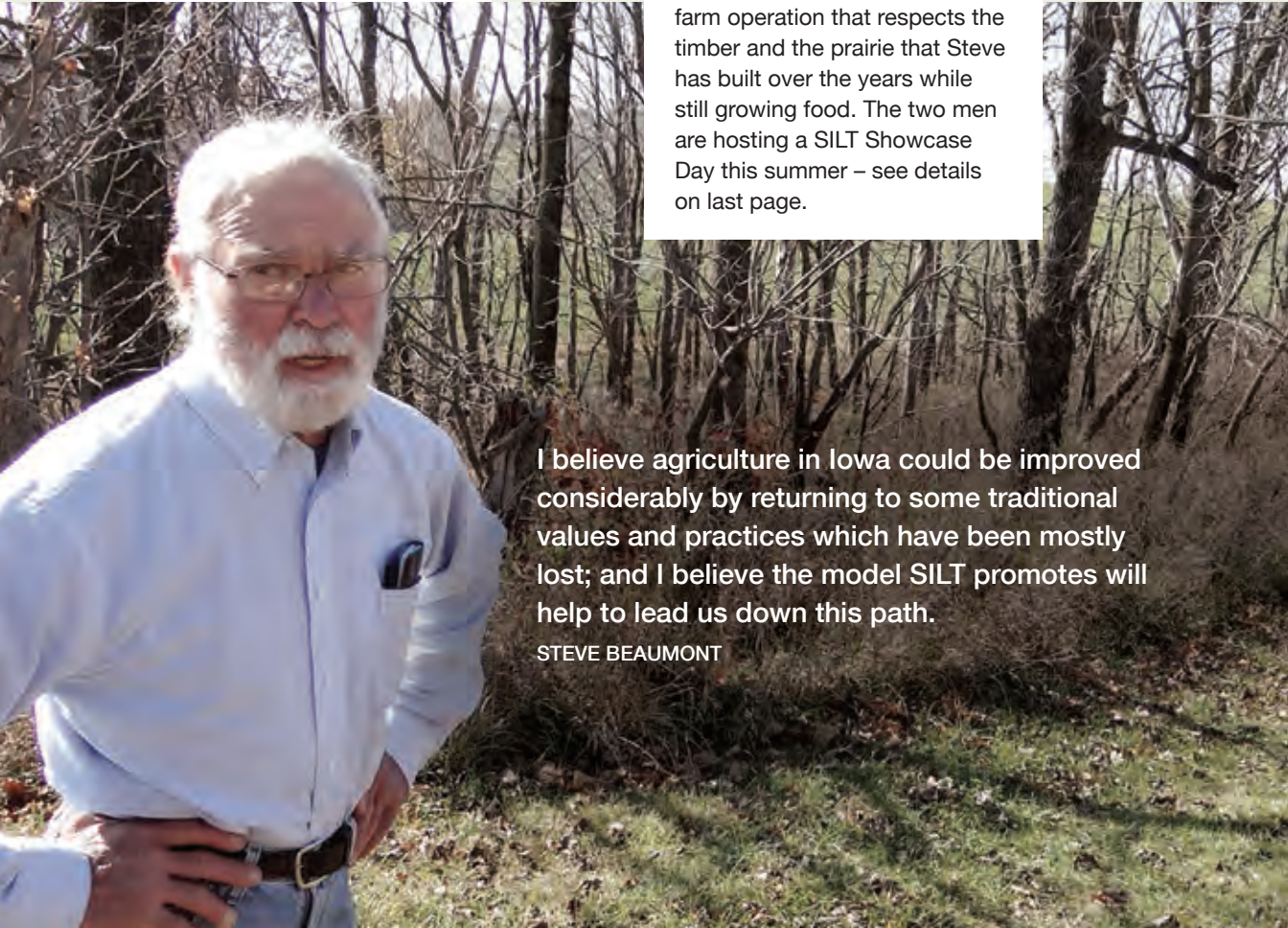
Steve, a retired carpenter near Elkader, donated his house and land with a reserve life estate, meaning he'll live there and control the property as long as he likes. We are very grateful to get to know Steve and for his gift.

IMPACT 2

Finding a Home for a Young Farmer

Steve was eager to see what a SILT farm would look like on his property, so we put the word out and Will Lorentzen surfaced. Will had been working at a Cedar County farm for years and was ready to strike out on his own.

Will and his wife Adrian White hauled hundreds of shiitake logs to Steve's timber over the winter, then moved into an apartment in town. Farmer and land donor have regular suppers together and are planning for spring. Will is developing a sustainable farm operation that respects the timber and the prairie that Steve has built over the years while still growing food. The two men are hosting a SILT Showcase Day this summer – see details on last page.



I believe agriculture in Iowa could be improved considerably by returning to some traditional values and practices which have been mostly lost; and I believe the model SILT promotes will help to lead us down this path.

STEVE BEAUMONT

IMPACT 3

Informing (and Feeding) Curious Landowners

In 2016, SILT debuted a Showcase Series that gave landowners near Decorah, Honey Creek, Corydon and West Branch free access to experts to answer their questions about land and easement donations.

Showcase Days included a farm tour, lunch and presentations by an attorney and an appraiser. Hosts candidly shared the challenges and joys of considering a donation of their land or an easement to SILT.

Volunteers cleaned garages and sheds, hauled picnic tables, cooked great meals and cleared trails. Our legal and appraiser partners traveled sometimes 7 hours round-trip to explain legal options and the appraisal process. And our guests recognized all this hard work. **Nearly 130 landowners** attended the series. **More than a dozen landowners** began or continued conversations with SILT about protecting their farms. The evaluations were unanimously positive.

Older landowners are looking for options for their land. SILT Showcases provide legal and appraisal information about how to leave a legacy of healthy food farming to Iowa. 2017 dates/locations are listed on the last page of this report.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Practical Farmers of Iowa
Appraiser Dan Dvorak
Attorney David Bright
Attorney Ed Cox
Attorney Kyle Marcum
Watson & Ryan Law Firm
Iowa Appraisal and Research Corp.
Winneshiek Energy District
Oneota Food Co-op
Iowa State Extension
Windridge Implements
Decorah Bank and Trust
Hy-Vee (Council Bluffs)
New Pioneer Food Co-op
Hickory Hills Land and Livestock
Lipes Family Farm
Rolling Acres Farm
Rose Haven Farm
Draco Hill Farm
Cedar County Conservation
Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District
Pottawattamie County Conservation
Goodfellow Printing
Women Food and Agriculture Network



IMPACT 4

Breaking Bread, Making Friends

Nearly 120 people gathered at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden Dec. 1 to celebrate SILT’s second year and Steve Beaumont’s donation of his land in Clayton County. Attendance jumped more than 25 percent from our first dinner. In what is becoming a tradition, older SILT supporters purchased tickets for more than 2 dozen young farmers and sustainable ag students to attend. Members of the SILT Farmer Committee checked in guests and sold raffle tickets throughout the night.

“That really was an incredible group of people! Some of Iowa’s best — from every generation. Super inspiring.” Carolyn Scherf

“I go to a lot of these dinners, and this one was so professional, so inspiring. The energy in the room was fantastic!” Renata Sack

RAFFLE PRIZES AND WINNERS

FARMER-FOR-A-DAY STAY
Donated by Denise O’Brien,
won by Cornelia Flora

TABLE 128 DINNER FOR TWO
Donated by Chef Lynn Pritchard,
won by David Gobberdiel

50/50 RAFFLE
Won by Bob Ferguson who donated his
50 percent of the pot back to SILT

SAVE THE DATE!
SILT Annual Dinner is Thursday,
November 16, 2017.

IMPACT 5

Putting a Face on Young Farmers

In the closing days of 2016, we sent out a series of short profiles of new farmers looking for SILT farms. Yes, we hoped for the many donations we received, but were also moved by the connection SILT members made with these farmers.

“Feel free to put Ben in touch with me if he would consider land in Appanoose county.... not his ideal location. But, who knows?”

“I had no idea there were young farmers right here in our area who needed land.”

Stay up with SILT news!

If you haven’t received an email from us lately, please sign up on the homepage at silt.org and whitelist info@silt.org in your email program.



YOUNG FARMER UPDATES:

Ben has decided to leave his native Iowa and settle in Wisconsin. Kayla and Landon are still looking for a permanent situation in Decorah. Shanti has secured a 3-year lease, but Megan and Mike’s families are still looking for land in the Iowa City area.

Do you know landowners interested in protecting their farms and making them affordable for farmers like these? Connect us at info@silt.org

IMPACT 6

Reaching Thousands with the SILT Story

SILT and its leaders were featured in major articles in the

Green Money Journal

MOSES Organic Broadcaster

Acres USA

Slow Money Journal

Omaha World-Herald (featured front page)

Council Bluffs Non Pareil

Des Moines Register

A number of book chapters and a national podcast are scheduled for 2017.

People to People

SILT volunteers spoke to more than 30 groups in 2016 and met with a dozen key state legislators from both parties to put SILT's mission on their radar.

A half dozen volunteers tabled at the three-day Hawkeye Farm Show in Cedar Falls in the Spring, and others tabled and presented at Women Food and Ag Network conference in Nebraska in the Fall. SILT's president appeared with Niman Ranch's Paul Willis and Leopold Center's Matt Liebman at a press conference in Des Moines sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists. SILT spoke at Decorah's Up Up Film Festival and Seed Savers Exchange annual campout, the Sierra Club, the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, at a statewide meeting of planning officials in Cedar Rapids, Fairfield's FairFest, Rotary Club meetings and many other gatherings.

Want to hear SILT's program at your favorite conference or see it in the pages of your favorite publication? Contact them and suggest SILT! It's a low-cost, effective way of spreading the word.



FUTURE IMPACT

Coming in 2017

SILT Showcase Series –

Educating Iowans about their land protection options.

- **June 21**, Rolling Acres Farm, Atlantic
- **July 12**, Oak Savanna Mushroom Farm, Garber
- **August 13**, Abbe Hills Farm, Mt. Vernon
- **September 20**, Red Fern Farm, Wapello

SILT members invited!

Can't make it but want to help? Expenses include promotion, lunch, signage and a portable PA system. Donate at silt.org or contact us at info@silt.org or (515) 278-0550.

NEW in 2017!

SILT Receptions and Movie Screenings –

Connect SILT with your friends and neighbors in the comfort of your own home. You provide a living room full of friends, family and neighbors, throw in some refreshments and we'll do the rest.

SILT Corporate Partners Program –

Designed especially for companies of any size to enjoy great perks plus co-branding with an innovative, conservation-minded, local foods and beginning farmer organization. Do you know a business you think would be interested? Connect us!



THE PEOPLE MAKING IT HAPPEN

SILT 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diverse, passionate, committed

- Suzan Erem – President, West Branch
- Melvyn Houser – Vice President, Council Bluffs
- Kate Mendenhall – Vice President, Okoboji
- Kathy Dice – Treasurer, Wapello
- Paul Durrenberger, West Branch
- Julie Falcon, Independence
- Jeff Jensen, Fenton
- Anne Johnson, Des Moines
- Kayla Koether, Decorah
- Gina McAndrews, Ames
- George Oamek, Honey Creek
- Denise O'Brien, Atlantic
- Cindy Reed, Solon
- David Swenson, Ames
- Stuart Valentine, Fairfield

SILT ADVISERS

- Laura Belin – Windsor Heights
- Joe Bolkcom – Iowa City
- Dorrance Brezina – Des Moines
- Penny Brown Huber – Ames
- Larry Cleverley – Mingo
- Kamyar Enshayan – Cedar Falls
- Cornelia Flora – Ames
- Jan Flora – Ames
- Kurt Friese – Iowa City
- LaVon Griffieon – Grimes
- Jason Grimm – Williamsburg
- Bob Hartwig – Des Moines
- John Ikerd – Fairfield
- Paul Johnson – Decorah
- Bobby Kaufmann – Wilton
- Jeff Kaufmann – Wilton
- Fred Kirschenmann – Ames
- Erv Klaas – Ames
- Lucie Laurian – Iowa City
- Jean Lloyd Jones – Iowa City
- Mary Ellen Miller – Corydon
- David Osterberg – Mt. Vernon
- Joe Pietruszynski – Des Moines
- Dick Schwab – Solon
- Harn Soper – Emmetsburg
- Mary Swander – Ames
- Francis Thicke – Fairfield
- Michele Traver – Cedar Rapids
- Tom Wahl – Wapello
- Paul Willis – Thornton



Please renew your SILT membership, invite friends and family and watch your support grow SILT. New opportunities for monthly or one-time donations now available online. Use the enclosed envelope or go to silt.org/donate.

Thank you SILT Members!

\$100,000

Donald C. Brace Foundation, Katharine Butler Trustee

\$5,000+

Christiano Family Fund
Elizabeth Kirchner
Judd and Erika Lawler
Jean Lloyd Jones
Clif Bar Family Foundation

\$1,000+

Cindy Reed and Steve Lamer
Theodosia Ferguson
Mark Goldschmidt and Michelle Zack in Memory of Walter Goldschmidt
United Natural Foods Helping Hands Committee
Cornelia and Jan Flora
Maurice Family Foundation
Anonymous

\$500+

Paul Durrenberger and Suzan Erem
Sheila Knoploh-Odole
Carl Schweser
Eric Hoiem
Tim Kruse and Carol Spaulding
Lorna Caulkins
Rachel Garst

\$100+

Grinnell College
Watson & Ryan PLC
Mary Ellen Miller
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Brad Tison
Stuart Valentine
Jeff Young
David and Linda Gobberdiel
Jean Lave
Kari and Charles Bienert
Lisa Bean
Dan Dvorak
Gordan and Dianne Eiesland
Sam Stivers
Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation
Bob Ferguson
Lorado and Arllys Adelmann

JL Anderson
Tom Carsner
Susan Frye
Joel and Joy Hirschberg
Charles Isenhardt
Garry Klein
Sandra Latch
Nicholaus Ohde
Iowa Environmental Council
Jennie Creighton
Aaron and Nicole Lehman
Eugene Knoploh
Renata Sack
Margaret Whiting
Mary Hays
Jeff Jensen
Practical Farmers of Iowa
John and Mollie Aronowitz
Jill Baeth
Wendy Brown
Mike Carberry
Carol Clark
Tim Daley
Sharon Donovan
Carolyn Dyer
Steve Falck
Lora Fraracci
MJ Hatfield
Anne Johnson
Frances Johnson
Fred Kirschenmann
Erv Klaas
Beth Langhorst
Lucie Laurian
Jana Linderman
Krista and John Lindholm
Lyle Luzum
Gina McAndrews
Kate Mendenhall
Jessie Nichols
Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris
Anita O'Gara
George Oamek
Table 128
Gitam and Jimmy Ryan
John Steinberg and Andrea Kremer
Bill Stowe
Marlene Sullivan
David Swenson
Tony Thompson
Donna and Bill Warhover

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tom and Sue Wind
Christi and Brad Young
Jeff Hall
Boone County Organics

Up to \$100

Alexandra Gruskos
Nancy Forrest
Matt Liebman
Helen Miller
Amber Mohr
Joe Bolkcom
Mary Lynn Grant
Rebecca Lutkenhaus
Connie Mathes
Stacy Maurer
Shelby Pritchard
Carol Rogers
Mary Swander
Lori Waters
Bill and Dottie Zales
Matthew Lindberg-Work
Guang Han
Dave Balster
Garry Chick
Graham McGaffin
Joe Otto
Erika Rodbell
Rod Sullivan
Lucena Morse
Ruth Graf
David Johnson
Selden Spencer
Patty Dowsett
Maureen Daley

SILT strives for the most accurate representation of your gift. Please contact us with any changes or additions and we'll be sure to correct our records.



SILT INCOME 2016



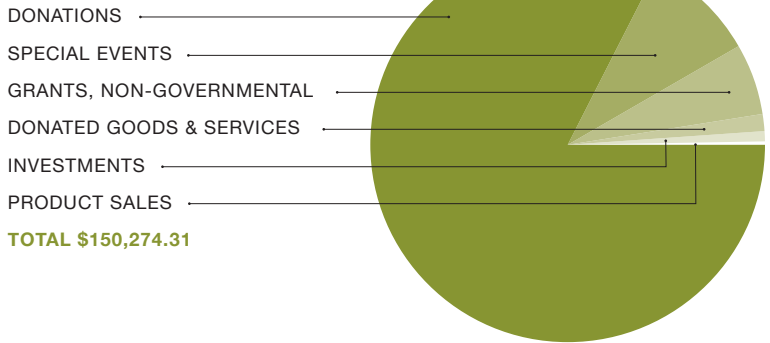
THE REAL COST OF DOING BUSINESS: Estimated Cost of Land Acquisition (per farm)

Documenting the land:
\$750 – \$1,000

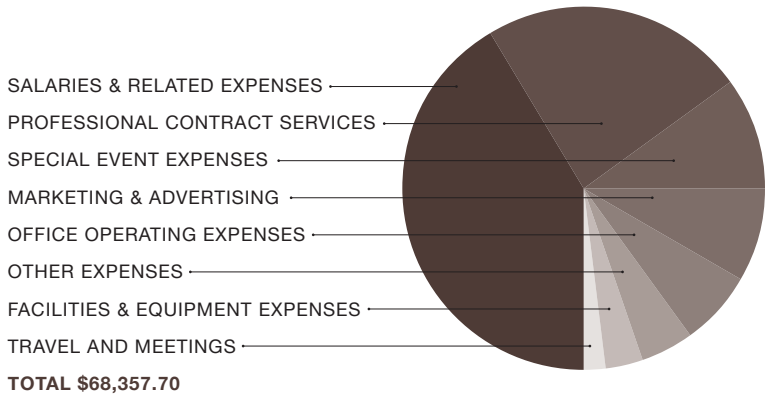
Landowner consulting:
\$1,000 – \$1,200

Legal review and closing:
\$1,500

Marketing farm and vetting farmers:
\$850 – \$1,000



SILT EXPENSES 2016





Iowa landowners are stepping up to donate their family farms, acreages and homes. But each SILT land transaction involves expenses. We will be more efficient and effective when we directly employ staff trained to generate and complete these transactions.

When we work together to cover the costs of receiving these great gifts, we help land donors leave a legacy of sustainable food production and provide affordable access to land to young farmers.



THE DIFFERENCE SILT MAKES

Steph Hughes could have inherited her family's 170 acres and home near Decorah. Instead, she says this:

"Our parents are trying to figure out how to pass farms to the next generation, who, like me, isn't necessarily interested in farming. But, we all know there are young farmers who are only held back due to land prices being a nearly impossible hurdle.

And, like me, these people want to eat. Preferably healthy, local, sustainable food which nourishes our bodies while providing an income and life for a new generation of families who will care for the land the same way our families did for the last several generations. We don't want to see decades of work be undone by seeing the land swallowed up by mega corporations, sold to the highest bidder. My family is working on donating our farm to this organization and I couldn't be happier that someone had the foresight to create such a trust."

Your ongoing financial support helps us meet the needs of every family that calls us to protect the family farm. Your moral support keeps our volunteers motivated to make a positive, lasting difference for Iowa.

Thank you.



3315 70th St.
Urbandale IA 50322

Kindness, Generosity and Hope Inside!

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust
515.278.0550
silt.org

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