



## EASTCONN, Trust team up for mutual benefit

By *Andy Woodcock*,  
Volunteer Coordinator

Mix youthful energy with Joshua's Trust elbow grease and the results are spectacular.

Joshua's Trust volunteers worked with six young workers from EASTCONN through the heart of the summer, a work program funded by the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Board.

Guided by two staff members – Mona Gervais and Kevin Segar – high school students Joseph LaFortune, Jason Longway, Coby Praytor, Bryan Rentas, Alivia Lavoie and Tesla

Morin worked long days (from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., four days a week) starting July 11 and ending Aug. 18.

The crew transformed two properties, exposing the mill founda-



**The Summer Youth Employment Crew.**

tion, sluiceway and banks of the Fenton River at Mason's Mill and tending to the overgrowth at the Atwood Farm in Mansfield and clearing space for a garden at the contiguous Rollin Corner, a four-acre parcel.

They also battled invasive plants at Whetten Woods, Dunham Woods, Josias Byles, and Hubbard Sanctuary.

JT volunteers joined the fun and provided a mentor-by-example vibe – which really impressed the EastConn crew.

Special thanks go to Sue and Rob Beach, Careen Jennings, Bill Ingalls, Vern Beausoleil, Terry Wakeman, Julia Rogers, Carl Lindquist, Nord Yakoleff and Peggy Rux.

## Tales of two new trustees: Mike Curtis and Terry Wakeman

**Mike Curtis** epitomizes the qualities that many of our Trustees possess – interest in the out-of-doors and skills in the “indoors.”

Mike is a southern New Englander. He grew up in Waltham, Mass., graduated (several times, as he says) from UConn and “never left.”

He and his wife moved to Columbia a number of years ago, a town he appreciates for its nearby opportunities for hiking and birding.

Professionally, he is an engineering consultant. He spent the majority of his professional life at Fuss & O'Neill, and is now an independent consultant.

As an adolescent, he was passionate about birding, and he has now returned to that love. He has led several birding walks for the Trust, and has been known to plan his vacation time around birds.

Mike has close connections with the UConn engineering department, and is also a lecturer at

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**Terry Wakeman** is a familiar name to those of you who volunteer on our trails.

As a member of the Roving Stewardship Crew, this summer alone Terry has been working at Rankin, the Grist Mill, Friedman Forest (where he is a steward), Hastings (also a steward), and Mason's Mill.

His carpentry skills are also much in demand when trails need bridges, or when a spot needs a picnic table, as did Mason's Mill.

Terry grew up in Wisconsin, and as a Boy Scout and Eagle Scout spent a lot of time out-of-doors. He majored in forestry at Michigan State, and got a job as a firetower

guard out west – which he hated due to the isolation. So, he and his wife Mary (she is a retired veterinarian) came east to Ashford, where he had several different professions, many to do with water, including the Windham Regional Planning Agency and selling large industrial steam boiler equipment.

Terry is passionate about the



**Terry Wakeman finishing up a picnic table.**

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## Joshua's Trust

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Visit the Trust's Facebook page for news updates.



The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

# Learning from each other

Different generations have different skill sets, experiences, and sometimes distinct world views. When students interact with land trust veterans, each will benefit and learn from the other. I'm happy to report that Joshua's Trust is supporting a growing number of students from local high schools and colleges to exchange knowledge and ideas with seasoned volunteers while helping further our mission.

And it seems to be gaining traction!

There are three basic ways that students become involved besides general volunteering: Community service projects are often requirements for clubs, fraternities, or graduation, and increasingly these students participate in our work parties; internships, in which the student gets credit and experience for focused projects under the supervision of a mentor; and Federal Work-Study, a national financial aid program in which a student earns money doing specific work for their college or a non-profit like JT.

More than a year ago Mark Boyer, Director of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Connecticut, and Trust President Doug Hughes had a casual discussion about the possibility of student internships at the Trust. The potential was encouraging.

For example, graduate student Julia Rogers volunteered in February of this year and is working with Trustee Paul Pribula and our mapping team on several projects. Julia's enthusiasm and energy is inspiring and productive, and Paul says he is learning a lot from Julia, who is gaining experience and

knowledge as well.

This summer another UConn graduate student, Mary Buchanan, under the direction of Carol Atkinson-Palombo (the new Director of Environmental Studies) has met with several key volunteers to determine ways that students can contribute to the Trust through formal internships or the work-study program.

Mary has brought a fresh approach and rigor to this project, which ranks opportunities by priority and level of experience required. Projects such as working on property management plans and natural resource inventories, public relations, records review and mapping will give students real-world experience in a non-profit environment close to campus while helping the Trust improve the quality of what we do for the community.

Several foundational internships/work study opportunities will be posted at UConn for the fall semester. Interested students will submit an application and each student accepted into the program will be paired with a Trust volunteer who can orient and guide the student in their work.

Such relationships will help the students understand the world of land trusts and inspire the mature volunteers to learn new technology. Somehow, the interaction of youth with experience seems to spark ideas that neither would generate on their own.

And last but not least, our Trust will benefit from the work accomplished, the vibrancy of fresh ideas, and the creative energy of cross-generational cooperation.

— Karen

### TRUST NOTES



By Karen Zimmer  
Joshua's Trust President

## Calling all Joshua's Trust stewards!

The annual picnic will be held at Allanach-Wolf Preserve in Windham on Sept. 16, beginning at 9 a.m.

The event will begin with a chainsaw safety workshop, followed by basic first aid skills for trail volunteers at 11 a.m., and a picnic at noon.

Come for a day of learning and camaraderie with people who volunteer at the Joshua's Trust preserves.

Please RSVP to Ann Dunnack ([adunnack@charter.net](mailto:adunnack@charter.net)) so we know how many to plan for.



## In memory of a longtime Trust member and surveyor



C.. Roger Ferguson was a committed Joshua's Trust volunteer for many years.

A civil engineer, he served as Trust treasurer and, along with numerous survey services, prepared many of the maps in the original Joshua's Trust Walk Book.

He died seven years ago, but recently the extended members of the Ferguson family and a few friends successfully installed a "Final Point" memorial plaque in his honor at Coney Rock Preserve viewpoint in Mansfield.



**The final point marker at left identifies its location in Coney Rock Preserve**  
**Latitude N. 41° 47' 41.70"**  
**Longitude W 72° 12' 08.16"**

## Geocaching can be high-tech outdoor family adventure!

By Laurie Gypson

How would you like to go on a treasure hunt on Joshua's Trust properties?

The "treasure" in this case is a hidden *geocache*, which you can find using your smartphone!

*Geocaching* is an outdoor activity in which small containers are hidden on land accessible to the public. Participants use handheld devices equipped with GPS (Global Positioning System) to locate the containers. If you're familiar with letterboxing, this is similar in many ways.

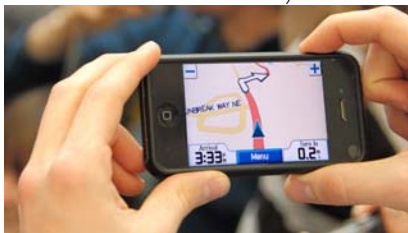
To try your hand at geocaching, all you need is a smartphone with GPS capabilities or a hand-held GPS device. You will also need to install one of the geocaching apps available for both Android and iPhones; many of these are free. As well, you should create a free account at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) (This will allow you to keep track of all the geocaches you find.)

With the app, you can bring up a map showing the location of nearby geocaches. The app will draw a line from your location to the geocache, and give the distance. The app will also show the degree of difficulty, the specific terrain, and the size of the container. Then it's just a matter of walking to the location, and

investigating likely hiding places.

There are over a dozen geocache types, each bringing its own twist to the game. Although many are straightforward and traditional containers, some geocaches require you to solve a puzzle, while others contain a rubber stamp and also serve as a letterbox.

The containers range in size from very small (say, a film canister) to something larger (like an ammo box or Tupperware container). Inside there is usually a logbook for you to record the



date and your geocaching name. Sometimes there are also small trinkets. The accepted protocol is if you take something from the cache, you must leave something as well.

In the Joshua's Trust towns, there are many geocaches. Joshua's Trust properties with geocaches include Knowlton Hill, Echo Woods, and Bradley-Buchanan Woods. Other

local spots containing geocaches include the Airline Rail Trail, the Hop River State Park Trail, and Goodwin Forest.

Geocaching is a fun family activity that can be enjoyed by young and old alike. It's another way to appreciate the beautiful outdoor resources we are so fortunate to have here in eastern Connecticut. And, if you want to learn more, come on our walk on Nov. 4 at Bradley-Buchanan Woods behind the Mansfield Public Library.

### Curtis an outdoor guy with indoor skills

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Trinity College – offering him opportunities to involve students in the Trust, one of our long-term goals.

Mike is particularly eager to work on development, as well as on anything that requires engineering expertise.

### You'll see Wakeman on the Joshua's Trust trails

*Continued from Page One*

Trust as he considers it the best option to protecting the diminishing open space. At the same time, he wants to make sure the Trust's properties are open and inviting in order to maintain the public's support.

# Fall is for walking outdoors — or talking about it

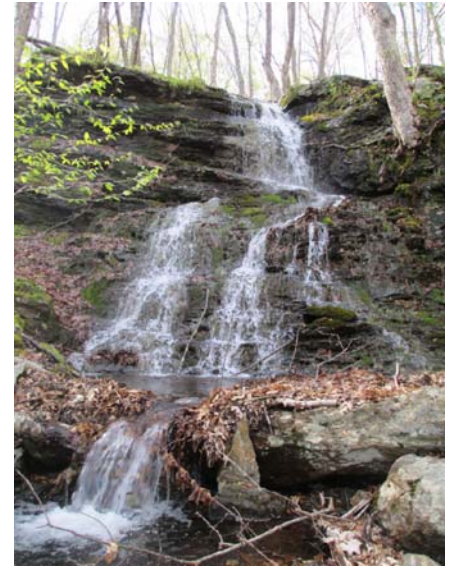
Looking for a new activity for the fall? For you? For the family? For the kids? For the dog?

Look no further than the many activities Joshua's Trust has planned in the next few months. Whether it's appreciating the outdoors, or a taking a more intellectual pursuit, we've got opportunities for you!

There are at least two walks each month geared toward different audiences each time. There is a book discussion on the environment, a walk to explore how we've used and misused our water resources, and an opportunity to make apple cider as it was done over 100 years ago.

And, don't forget, that the **Last Green Valley's Walktober** ([www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org)) now begins in late September and continues to mid-November.

So, no excuse – get your body and mind moving this fall! (Please note that we ask you to sign up in advance for some of the activities as there is a limit to the number of people that can be accommodated. Rain dates are listed in parentheses.)



**WALKS** (for a more complete description please go to our web site calendar):

**Sept. 9** (Oct. 21), 9:30 a.m. – Rankin Preserve (Ashford) – Come explore our newest trail with Terry Wakeman.

**Sept. 23** (Sept. 24), 10 a.m. – Knowlton Hill (Ashford) – Walk with Debra Hultgren as we look for plants with medicinal and nutrient properties. Sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org).

**Oct. 1** (Oct. 15), 9:30 a.m. – Hubbard Preserve (Chaplin) – Naturalist Deb Field leads a walk looking for autumnal signs. Sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org)

**Oct. 8**, 10:30 a.m. – Josias Byles (Ashford) – Marian Mathews leads her popular historic walk.

**Oct. 14** (Oct. 21), 10 a.m. – Löf (Mansfield) – Gary Griffin leads this short, easy walk especially for those who need a slower pace. Sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org).

**Oct. 21** (Oct. 22), 9:30 a.m. – Join Tom Worthley for a walk and talk about forest management. Meet at the red barn on Rte. 195 at the University of Connecticut.



**Oct. 29** (Nov. 5), 9:30 a.m. – Two Sisters (Chaplin) – Join Juan Sanchez and Deb Fields and explore wetlands and bogs. Sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org).

**Nov. 4**, 10 a.m. – Bradley-Buchanan (Mansfield) – Geocaching with Laurie Gypson for novices and others. Sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org).

**Nov. 18** (Nov. 19), 10 a.m. – Hemphill Woods (Hampton) – Explore the fall forest and learn how to identify trees without their leaves with Scott Matthies. Sign up [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org).

**Nov. 24**, 10 a.m. – Utley Preserve (Columbia) – Join Ann Dunnack on her popular walk to explore the historic and natural history.

## MORE TALK (less walk)

**Sept. 24**, 3 p.m. – Swan Lake at the University of Connecticut in conjunction with the Benton Museum – Join Robert Thorson to look at the use and abuse of our water resources. Gallery exhibit after. Sign up at [Ben-ton@uconn.edu](mailto:Ben-ton@uconn.edu)



**Sept. 28**, 6:30 p.m. – Book discussion with the author Prakash Kashwan, PhD – *Environmental Conservation and Social Justice* – co-sponsored with the Mansfield Library, Route 89 (aka Warrenville Road.)

**Oct. 1**, 3:30 p.m. – NSE Book Group inaugural meeting with Robert and Kristine Thorson. [kristhorson@yahoo.com](mailto:kristhorson@yahoo.com).

**Oct. 14**, 2 – 4 p.m. – Cider pressing at the Atwood Farm in Mansfield.

**Prakash Kashwan**

## The Beach family – Three generations of open space conservation

Talk to Sue Beach about invasives, and the name George will come up, and soon Rob Beach and then, Margaret.

They are all family, and they are all passionate about the Trust and its properties.

Margaret, known mainly as Maggie and her husband Nick moved to Mansfield about six years ago; and when George, who is now 5, came along, the grandparents followed from Manchester.

The family has always loved the out-of-doors – hiking in particular. Sue's family had property on Case Mountain in Manchester, and the family often spent time there, as well as in Vermont.

Philosophically, they follow the mantra that the “land is there to steward,” it is “not your property.” It can be privately owned, but it should have public access – much like is done in the European Nordic countries. They see the Trust in much the same way – stewarding the land for public enjoyment.

Sue is the creative side – the one who suggested the Trust begin letterboxing on our preserves. And she is responsible for the tablecloth with the critter you

see at community events.

Rob much prefers to be out-of-doors as a regional coordinator for stewards, and a member of the Roving Stewardship Committee.

Maggie's skills are more organizationally oriented – as a Trustee she has been key to developing activities for families, e.g. fairy gardens and scavenger hunts, as well as finding like-minded groups to work with. She strongly feels we need to engage our kids in the outdoors, and make it easy to do.

George enjoys it all. He is out there with his Grammy whacking away at invasives, and with his Mom walking on the trails discovering sticks and insects.

All appreciate the opportunities that Joshua's Trust offers for meeting and working with like-minded citizens, and most importantly, knowing that all are working towards conserving open space and getting everyone involved.

Come out and help Sue meet her goal of ridding Whetten Woods of invasives, or work with Rob on boundary searches and trail maintenance. Grab some loppers with George, or work with Maggie finding new ways to inspire our youngest to get outside.



Sue and Rob Beach.



George on one of his many stewardship outings with his folks.

## The Trust kicks off its first Nature, Science and Environment book club

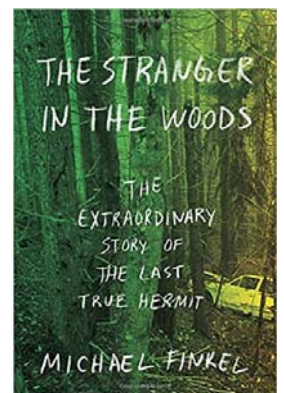
If your interest in nature extends to discovering how various authors write about it, and you would enjoy sharing your viewpoint with others, then come to the Trust's NSE (nature, science and the environment) Book Group, to be led by coordinators, Kristine and Robert Thorson.

They have chosen *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel (Knopf, 2017) for the first book – available at Amazon, Barnes and

Noble, and as an audio book.

The group will meet at the Atwood Farm on the first Sunday of each month, beginning Oct. 1, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

For subsequent meetings, the group will determine the book choice. This is the first time the Trust has formally sponsored such a group. In order to keep it manageable, we ask that you let the Thorsons know you are coming by emailing: [kristhorson@yahoo.com](mailto:kristhorson@yahoo.com).



## We have many goals, but need our membership's help to achieve them

As part of the on-going process of strategic planning begun in 2016, the Trustees have adopted seven goals to be accomplished over the next five years.

Because it is a fluid process, some goals will be reached sooner than others, and some may need modification during this time. All were identified during the two-day retreat held last November.

Each goal has a “champion” – a Trustee or volunteer who will ensure that as much as possible, the Trust staff, Trus-

tees, and the volunteers – implement the goals

The goals range from land conservation and setting priorities as to what we will protect and steward, to expanding our reach and influence among our constituents, to incorporating the realities of climate change into our planning, and increasing in our financial and other resources to meet our expanding needs.

As we pursue these goals, we hope that you will be inspired to actively join in – whether once or often.

# A good time to support conservation

Your membership in Joshua's Trust is valid for 12 months, so you choose the month you want to renew. If you haven't renewed yet this year, please take this opportunity to do so. As always, the Trust's continued success at protecting Connecticut open space depends on the support of its members. All contributions include membership and are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\$20 Friend; \$35 Supporter; \$100 Caretaker; \$250 Patron; \$500 Preservationist; \$1,000 Conservationist; \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other)

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