



Let the celebration begin!

The year was 1966, and the Connecticut General Assembly enacted two laws that pleased conservationists and preservationists all over the state.

Both measures were reactions to the development of housing, industry, and commerce that had burgeoned after many years of restricted money and materials during the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II (1941-1945).

The rampant growth resulted in the destruction of historic buildings and sites, seemingly without any consideration for the conservation and preservation of the state's natural and historic resources.

Fortunately, as Trust historian Rudy Favretti reported in the paragraphs above, like-minded individuals in Connecticut's so-called "Quiet Corner" also understood the pressures and potential for harmful side effects of development; and in 1966 they organized one of the first land trusts in the state: Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust.



Fifty years later, we have grown. Joshua's Trust, as it is now more commonly known, currently protects over 4,000 acres in 14 area towns, including properties we own outright and those we protect through conservation easements. Not long ago we added another historic property – the Atwood Farm in Mansfield.

To mark this significant anniversary, we are planning a year of celebration, with many different activities culminating in our gala annual dinner and award ceremony in October.

The festivities begin on April 23 with the publication of "50 Years of Trust," Favretti's full-length history of our organization.

The well-known author and former University of Connecticut professor will be on hand to chat with Trust members and sign copies of his book at the Eagleville Firehouse at the inter-

Continued on Page 3

Stewards –the Trust's backbone

Stewards – the overseers and curators of our Trust properties – are some of our most essential volunteers.

With proper stewardship, we are able to maintain and up-grade our many properties. Without their tireless commitment, the Trust would not be able to keep its promise to conserve and preserve the land and buildings for which we are responsible.

Each of our preserves has different characteristics, and stewards have a responsibility for determining how best to protect the property, including working with property abutters to ensure that boundary lines are respected, keeping invasive species at bay, maintaining or creating trails if appropriate, and generally assuring that the property is one the Trust can be proud of.

Ann Dunnack, Trustee and chair of the stewardship committee, and Ann Lewis, our conservation coordinator, have been working together for the past several months to re-organize the trails subcommittee, and it is now showing results.

There are new name signs and kiosks, clearer trail markings, and better training for new stewards and regional coordinators as to what their responsibilities are.

Continued on Page 5



Rob Beach paints one of our new property signs during a sign-making party at Joe Charron's workshop.

Joshua's Trust

Mailing address:
P.O. BOX 4
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Email:
administration@joshuastrust.org
www.joshuastrust.org

Visit us at:
The Atwood Farm,
624 Wormwood Hill Rd., Mansfield.
Office hours: Tues. Thurs. noon- 5 p.m.
Phone: 860-429-9023

OFFICERS:

President: Doug Hughes
Past President: Fran Funk
Vice President: Nancy Silander
VP Land Acquisition: Warren Church
VP Historic Properties:
Secretary: Karen Zimmer
Treasurer: Allison Burchell-Robinson

STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem
Conservation Coordinator: Ann Lewis
Finance Administrator Tish Ignatowicz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Andersen, Willington
Gail Bruhn, Mansfield
Donald Cianci, Columbia
Ann Dunnack, Columbia
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield
Fran Funk, Coventry
Brent Gottier, Tolland
Gwen Haaland, Ashford
Angelika Hansen, Hampton
Doug Hughes, Mansfield
Bill Ingalls, Lebanon
Carl Lindquist, Chaplin
Scott R. Matthies, Chaplin
Greg Padick, Mansfield
Dave Parry, Windham
Jim Russel, Windham
Nancy Silander, Mansfield



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

Big plans in works

Joshua's Trust has done the incredible in its first 50 years of existence: Since 1966, we've grown from a handful of friends with a dream of conserving land to stand now among the largest land trusts in the state of Connecticut, accredited to the high standards of the national Land Trust Association.

We are going to celebrate this remarkable Golden Anniversary with all the fanfare it deserves – you can see the current slate of activities listed in the pull-out schedule in this newsletter. (Pages 3 and 4.)

The schedule kicks off with a party at the Eagleville Firehouse on April 23 (where Rudy Favretti will sign copies of his new book on the history of Joshua's Trust!), and culminates in a gala dinner at our annual membership meeting October 15. In between, we'll have more than 25 walks, open houses and other events.

We hope you will join us for as many as you can.

While this is a time for celebration and reflection of the past, it also coincides with an intense effort of JT's Board of Trustees to reshape our organization to better address the future and its challenges.

After a Board retreat last fall identified ways to improve our self-governance, we are

now considering changes to our committee and leadership structures that will improve the efficiency of the organization and ensure that we continue to bring in new ideas and people to keep the Trust going strong in perpetuity.

Later this spring, the Board will turn to creating a new Strategic Plan that will help us focus our efforts on what's most important to our mission in the future.

When the Strategic Plan is complete, at the end of this

year, the Board will in turn consider creating a resource-building plan for ensuring a robust development effort so we can have the financial means to meet our past promises of preservation and continue to grow our capacity for more.

We are what we are now because of the generous support of our members, who have brought us to this point of strength.

Membership support is also a signal to grants-making organizations, and so we've received significant support in the past year from the Land Trust Alliance, the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, and the 1772 Foundation.

Many thanks to all who've helped us to the half-century mark, and to those who will help us through to the next. Let the celebrations begin!
— Doug

TRUST NOTES

By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

Final Eco-Forum presentation on 'Climate Change' scheduled for April 14

The last of four presentations in our popular Eco-Forum is scheduled for April 14 when Western Connecticut State University ecologist Mitch Wagener will talk about "Climate Change and its Effects."

Wagener, who earned his doctorate in soil ecology during a 13-year stay in Alaska, teaches climate ecology, entomology, and related courses at WCSU in Danbury.

His presentation will be at the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library

on Route 89 in Mansfield. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. with the presentation starting at 7.

This final Eco-Forum event is open to both Joshua's Trust members and non-members. For those who haven't already paid for their four-event package, costs for Trust members are \$5 per presentation and \$8 for guests.

Attendees must pre-register using forms available on the JT website.

Letterboxers needed!

The Trust is looking for people who do letterboxing to create and adopt letterboxes on our preserves. Contact Sue Beach if you are interested: zunibeach@mac.com.

Here's how we celebrate 50 years of conservation

Please keep this as a reference for the many activities happening in the next months as we celebrate our love of the land and the people who make our organization work. For up-to-date information please go to the web site: www.joshuastrust.org or call the Trust office at 860-429-9023.

Trust Book Signing

April 23 (Saturday), 2- 5 p.m.
Eagleville Firehouse (Rts. 32 and 275), Mansfield

A celebration of the Trust's beginning! Rudy Favretti will be signing his book on the history of the Trust (*50 Years of Trust*), and Hill Bullard and our "house" band the Juniper Hill Jumpers will play the music! Come eat, drink and celebrate with other Trust friends! (No cost).



Atwood Farm

June 11 (Saturday), 12- 4 p.m.
Atwood Farm, Wormwood Hill Rd, Mansfield

Connecticut Open House Day. Come see the historic property that is now our headquarters. A number of the outbuildings will be open including the Weaver's House, the Blacksmith Shop, the hen house, and the house itself.

Passport Walks

Spring weekends

Learn more about the Trust by taking guided walks on our properties. Walk leaders will give you a special passport for stamps for each walk you do. Collect 18 stamps from walks this year in your passport and you will get a Joshua's Trust string backpack – great for all those things you need for a walk. (*See the list on the reverse of this page for places and times.*)

Grist Mill Opening

May 15 (Sunday), 1- 5 p.m.
Grist Mill , Stone Mill Road, Mansfield.

The Gurleyville Grist Mill opens today and we will celebrate with docent tours. A film will be shown at the Atwood Farm at 3:00 p.m. that features the Grist Mill and some other places in Mansfield. Take a walk along the Fenton River on the blue trail at your leisure.

Summer Events

Please check the web site as well as the June newsletter for up-dated walk information.

Art Exhibit and Cider Pressing

October 9, 2-4 p.m., Atwood Farm.

Come see what the plein air artists have been painting at the farm, as well as a display of fiber art by well-known Chaplin artist Cathy Smith. Cider pressing with apples from the Atwood Farm's trees.

Gala and Annual Dinner

October 15, 6-10 p.m.
Camp Horizons, South Windham

Our Gala and Annual Dinner will feature awards and music by John Paolillo. More details will be forthcoming in the late summer.

Anniversary celebration kicks off with a book signing

Continued from Page One

section of Routes 275 and 32 in Mansfield. Our "house" band, the Juniper Hill Jumpers, will provide music for the event.

Our "Passport Walks" begin the first weekend in April and continue through November. This program gives outdoor enthusiasts a chance to explore many of the Trust's well-marked and wonderful trails throughout the region.

Participants may obtain a passport book from individual walk leaders or at the Trust

office and will receive a 50th anniversary stamp for each trail they walk. Collect 18 stamps to receive a string backpack decorated with our Joshua's Trust 50th Anniversary logo.

Our two historic properties will open with special tours: the Grist Mill on May 15, and the Atwood Farm on June 11. The latter will have a number of the outbuildings opened for the first time, including the blacksmith shop, the ice house and the hen house.



Rudy Favretti

Explore the Trust's trails, earn a backpack in this season's Passport Program for hikers

In this year's Passport Program, collect 18 stamps from walk leaders and receive a string backpack with a Joshua's Trust 50th Anniversary logo.

Get your passport book from any walk leader or at the Trust office. There will be over 25 Passport walks between April and November, so plenty of opportunities to get a stamp! For directions to the properties and to view trail maps, visit our [list of properties](http://www.joshuustrust.org/property-list) at www.joshuustrust.org/property-list.

April 2, Saturday

Allanach -Wolf Preserve, Windham, 8 a.m.

Join David Parry for a birding walk at this beautiful tract in Windham.

April 9, Saturday

Two Sisters Preserve, Chaplin, 10:30 a.m.

Carl Lindquist will lead a walk of this 40-acre forested tract with multiple stone walls, rocky outcrops and glacial erratics. After a short, moderately steep initial climb, the trail is one mile long on gently rolling terrain.



April 16, Saturday

Josias Byles Sanctuary, Ashford, 9:30 a.m.

Marian Matthews helps walkers connect past to present by walking the Sanctuary trail and coming to the Historic Byles Homestead for snacks, drinks and a few stories. Enjoy the 2-mile long, easy-to-moderate loop trail as you pass a meadow, descend a short steep section to a stream, then travel through a bio-diverse climax forest.

April 23, Saturday

Pappenheimer Preserve, Scotland, 10 a.m.

Jim Russel will host a walk on the "Wild Side." Hike the 101-acre forest preserve, abutting Mohegan State Forest. Visit Red Maple swamp and a 5.5-acre grass covered swamp. A moderate walk, leashed dogs welcome. Pre-registration required.



April 30, Saturday

Friedman Memorial Forest, Ashford, 9 a.m.

George Jacobi will host "Walking the Woods for Wildlife" – a moderate walk.

He will discuss and practice deliberately walking to maximize wildlife sightings, while traversing a 2-mile loop with diverse ecosystems, including how to move (or not) and how to see and hear more effectively. No dogs, please.

May 7, Saturday

Tobiassen Memorial Forest, Tolland, 10 a.m.

Ken Hankinson –Vernal Pools.

May 14, Saturday

Pigeon Swamp, Lebanon, 10 a.m.

Deb Russel, May Wildflowers at Pigeon Swamp.

May 15, Sunday

Grist Mill, Mansfield 1 p.m.

Opening of the Grist Mill and walk along the Fenton River.

(See Page 3.)



May 15, Sunday

Knowlton Hill Preserve, Mansfield, 9 a.m.

Dr. Chris Elphick and Dr. Greg Anderson, Birding at Knowlton Hill.

May 21, Saturday

Hubbard Sanctuary and Agnes Pasture, Chaplin 1 p.m.

Warren Church, offers a history of the Joshua's Trust Properties.

May 28, Saturday

H. E. Preston Sanctuary, Hampton, 1 p.m.

Marcia Kilpatrick, Exploring We Will Go – a walk especially for children.

June 4, Saturday

Whetten Woods, Storrs, 11 a.m..

Led by Sue Beach. Letter boxing

June 5, Sunday

Couch Preserve, Coventry, 10 a.m.

Led by Eric Thomas. Woodland Wonders

June 18, Saturday

Bradley—Buchanan Woods, Mansfield, 12 p.m.

Led by Christine Hare: A Walk on the Trust's First Acquisition. A short, hilly .5 miles will take us past acres of mountain laurel, marsh areas, and wet and dry kettle holes formed by the glaciers.

Gary Griffin – One of the Trust's 'go to' people

For the past 20 years, Gary Griffin has been a tireless volunteer at the Trust.

A soils scientist at the University of Connecticut by profession, and a former member of the Willington Conservation Commission, Gary was encouraged by Dan Donahue and Betsy Treiber to become a member of the Trust. Never one to join and then sit -- Did you ever see him hustle around Mansfield Supply? -- he quickly became a Trustee, and then chaired the trails committee.

He has also done boundary work with Hill Bullard, and is currently working with foresters as the Trust organizes its first forest management program at Bernard Church Woods in Chaplin. He is happiest out of doors, doing field work, whether constructing or restoring trails, as well as maintaining the records of the work parties.

One of his favorite properties is the Utley

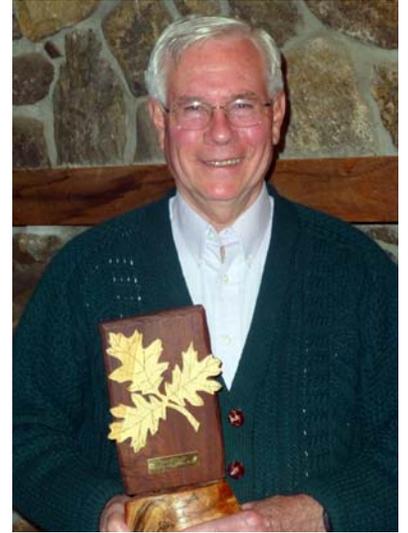
Preserve in Columbia. He has fond memories of moving wheelbarrows of wood chips onto the poorly-maintained trail, with the reward of smoked salmon provided by Lance Magnusson and potato chips for a true fish and chips party.

Ann Lewis, the Trust's conservation coordinator, says that Gary continues "to serve as a reservoir of knowledge about how to get things done on our preserves and [is] our go to person."

He appreciates those volunteers who "really get caught up in it," as he feels that without them, the Trust would fall flat.

Gary encourages all the volunteers to "keep up the great work!" As long as he stays healthy and in shape, he will continue to give his time and energy to the Trust, he says.

In 2013, he was honored with the Mighty Oak Award by the Trust for long and steady stewardship service.



Gary Griffin

Stewards' essential work helps keep the Trust's conservation promise

Continued from Page 1

The project load has increased to the point that the Trails subcommittee chair can no longer supervise all the projects, so the committee has been divided into geographical area teams with varied areas of expertise: carpenters, chain saw operators, invasive removers, sign/kiosk builders, etc. This year these teams will work with the preserve's steward and regional coordinator to re-blaze and clean up trails as well

as to assess any projects that require larger work parties, like invasive species removal or erosion control.

The hard work of our stewards and stewardship volunteers and their dedication will be celebrated in late May at the Atwood Farm.

If you are interested in helping our stewards, whether one time or more frequently, please contact Ann Lewis (ann.lewis@joshuastrust.org). There's always a property that can use more volunteers.

Katie Lynch passes



The Trust is saddened to report the death of long time Trust member, Catherine "Katie" Lynch on Dec. 5 of last year.

Dr. Lynch worked behind the scenes, serving on the Boundary Committee and as Co-Steward for the Hubbard Sanctuary/Agnes' Pasture. She retired from Eastern Connecticut State University, where she taught Asian history. Her history background served her well for the research necessary to locate boundaries of unsurveyed Trust lands and she became skilled enough to lead her own crew. Katie was dedicated to the mission of the Trust and has continued her support by leaving her car and house in Chaplin Village to the Trust, to be sold, the proceeds to be used as the Trust sees fit.

She will be missed by all who worked with her.

Save these dates for summer family fun!

Save the dates for summer family programs with Joshua's Trust and the Town of Mansfield! All are invited.

Preschool age: Join Maggie Ferron of Mansfield's Early Childhood Services for 45-minute nature walks in Mansfield's Whetten Woods. We will create collections, work on scavenger hunts, and play Pooh sticks. Three Thursdays: **June 23, July 21, and Aug. 25 at 3 p.m.**

For elementary age:

June 25, Saturday, the State Archaeologist, Dr. Brian Jones, will lead a walk at Mason's Mill preserve in Mansfield. Come hear about how archaeologists learn about the past.

July 9, Saturday, Dr. Will Ouimet of UConn will lead a geological exploration of the Bradley-Buchanan Woods behind the Mansfield Public Library. He will explain the preserve's kettle holes and identify common rocks and minerals.

Aug. 20, Saturday, Warren Church will lead a trail run at Chaplin's Hubbard Sanctuary. Gear up for the school year with a kids' trail race!

Be a Trust sponsor at this special time

Joshua's Trust celebrates its 50th anniversary beginning this spring; and we invite local businesses and individuals to help sponsor this special time in recognition of the Trust's ongoing role in conserving more than 4,000 acres in northeastern Connecticut. We hope you will consider becoming a sponsor at one of the levels described below: (See our website for an explanation of the benefits each level affords the donor.)

- Diamond — \$2,000 + Silver — \$500 Friend — \$100
 Gold — \$1,000 Bronze — \$250

Please list me as a sponsor at the level checked. Amount enclosed \$ _____

Or please send me sponsorship information at the following address

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Tel No. _____ Email _____



Mail to Joshua's Trust Sponsors, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STORRS CT 06268
PERMIT NO. 100

JOSHUA'S TRACT
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.
P.O. BOX 4
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
Return Service Requested