



Farm buildings ready For Open House Day

It has been dirty work, but Trust volunteers have prepared a number of fun exhibits at the historic Atwood Farm in time for Connecticut Open House Day on June 11.

With dust masks in place and shop vacs humming – sometimes as many as three at a time -- workers have cleaned and organized the farm's outbuildings, including its blacksmith shop, weaver's cottage, ice house, hen house and massive 19th century barn.

All of them, along with the Trust's headquarters house, will be open for public inspection from noon to 4 p.m. on Open House Day, a statewide event featuring 170 local attractions, historic sites and museums all over Connecticut.

The 67-acre Atwood Farm at Wormwood Hill and Mount Hope roads in Mansfield recently became the headquarters for Joshua's Trust following its donation by the late Isabelle Atwood.

Built in 1883, the farm's beautifully preserved barn has two levels plus a hay mow with a hayfork and carrier at the top. The sliding front doors open to create a very wide and



It was dirty, dusty work, but volunteer workers have vacuumed, swept, and organized the Atwood Farm's outbuildings to prepare them for visitors June 11.

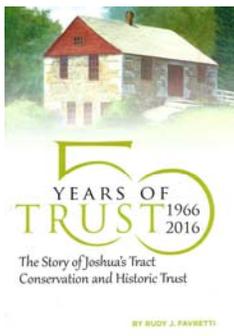
tall opening to accommodate wagons. The lower level, opening out to the barn yard and lane, used to house cattle.

Bruce Clouette, a local historian, is working on obtaining

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Our 50th anniversary celebration kicks off with book signing ceremony

The Joshua's Trust 50th Anniversary celebration is officially underway, kicked off earlier this spring with the release of author Rudy Favretti's new book about the organization: "50 Years of Trust."



Rudy was on hand at the South Eagleville firehouse April 23 to sign copies of his work and speak about it with guests. The Juniper Hill Jumpers jazz band was also there to entertain.

The Trust was incorporated in 1966 as a joint initiative of the Mansfield Historical Society and Mansfield Conservation Commission.

Rudy's book will be available for purchase at the Trust office at the Atwood Farm on Wormwood Hill Road

in Mansfield and at any special events such as the open house day at the Atwood Farm on June 11, and at the annual Gala on Oct. 15.



Author Rudy Favretti autographs his book for Gene Harris, of Glastonbury, whose wife, Charlotte, in 2006 donated a conservation easement to protect 89 acres in Columbia.

Joshua's Trust

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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
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Vice President: Karen Zimmer
Acquisitions Chair: Warren Church
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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.

The season of renewal!

Dear Members,

Warmer days and earlier daybreaks mark the start of an important time for Joshua's Trust: It's our annual Membership Drive!

Our membership year starts July 1, but renewals in April, May or June keep you in good standing through June of 2017.

Membership dues are our biggest source of funding for JT's operat-

TRUST NOTES

By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

ing expenses throughout the year. Please take a minute to fill out and mail the form on the back page of this newsletter, or go

to joshuastrust.org/members to securely renew online.

Many thanks to those of you who've renewed already. Won't you please spread the word?

See you on the trail!

—Doug

Maintaining the Trust's trails is hard work

There are a lot of Joshua's Trust volunteers who don't mind getting a little sweaty in the interest of preserving our properties.

Below, Elizabeth Couch Preserve in Coventry got a facelift with the clearing of vegetation, laying of wood chips, trail re-blazing and re-routing. At right, a work party at Whetten Woods in Storrs to remove trees and stones in preparation for a new parking area off Hanks Hill Rd.



Thank you 50th Anniversary Sponsors

Diamond: Peter Anderson, Gail Bruhn, Allison Burchell-Robinson, Warren Church, Ann Dunnack, Rudy Favretti, Brent Gottier, Gwen Haaland, Angelika Hansen, Doug Hughes, Bill Ingalls, Carl Lindquist, Scott Matthies, Greg Padick, Dave Parry, Jim Russel, Nancy Silander and Karen Zimmer

Gold: Carl and Julie Lindquist, Savings Institute Bank and Trust

Silver: James Ryan **Bronze:** Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.; McCaughtry & Associates

Plenty of time to earn a backpack as Trust's Passport Program for hikers gets into full swing

In this year's Passport Program, collect 18 stickers 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 sticker! For directions to the properties and to view trail maps, visit our [list of properties](http://www.joshuastrust.org/property-list) at www.joshuastrust.org/property-list.

June 4, Saturday

Whetten Woods, Storrs, 11 a.m..

Led by Sue Beach, letter boxing takes place on this 24-acre property on Dog Lane on the far edge of the Lutheran Church parking lot. You will cross a good size wooden bridge, view a prominent rock ledge, cross a stream and stone walls.

Directions: park in the church's parking lot. For update information, call Sue Beach at 860-477-0471



holes formed by the glaciers.

July 9, Saturday

Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin, 10 a.m.

Join Deb Russell for a mid-summer Wildflower Walk. The walk leads through woodlands and Agnes' pasture with abundant wildflowers.

Directions: property is located behind Chaplin Town Hall, 498 Phoenixville Rd (Rt. 198). Parking is near the fence. For information and updates, please call Deb at 860-423-1230 or email james_r_russel@yahoo.com

June 5, Sunday

Couch Preserve, Coventry, 10 a.m.

Join Eric Thomas for a "Woodland Wonders" walk. This 18-acre preserve has a forest and early succession habitats, offering an increasingly rare habitat for shrub loving species.

Directions: from junction of Rts 31 and 275, go north on Main St (Rt. 31) 0.3 miles to Root Rd. Turn right on Root go one mile to sharp turn, road is now Cooper Lane. Go 800 ft. and park on right shoulder by JT sign. For information-update email Eric at waterthames@yahoo.com.

July 16, Saturday,

Skungamaug Meadows, Tolland, 10 a.m.

Eric Thomas will lead a walk at a 27 acre preserve with varied habitats. Looking for "Birds, Bugs and Butterflies."

Directions: Rt. 195 to Goose Lane. Follow for 1 mile, right turn onto Lemek Lane, park in cul de sac. For information and updates email Eric Thomas at waterthames@yahoo.com.

June 8, Wednesday

Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin, 8 a.m.

Steve Morytko, well known birding expert, as he leads a bird walk. Novice and experienced birders are welcome. Bring binoculars, a few extras may be available. The walk is expected to be 2 – 3 hours but leave when you want to. **Note: this is a change from the originally scheduled date.**

Directions: property is located behind Chaplin Town Hall on Rt. 198, just north of North Bear Hill and Chaplin St. Parking is straight ahead near the fence. For information and updates, please call Steve at 860-680-5728



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 0.5 miles will take us past acres of mountain laurel, marsh areas, and wet and dry kettle

Aug. 13, Saturday

Tinkerville Brook Preserve, Ashford, 10 a.m.

Meet Craig Smith and Anna Marie Stark for a fairly easy 1.8 mile walk exploring "Land Use Over the Centuries."

Directions: from Rts.44 and 89, go north on Rt. 89 for 5.2 miles to Turnpike Rd. After 0.6 miles, turn right on Armitage Rd for 0.7 miles to small dirt road on the left – park near entrance gate. For more information email Craig at craig.f.smith@gmail.com

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Gurleyville Grist Mill opens its season

The Gurleyville Grist Mill is now officially open for the season following opening day events on a gorgeous May weekend.

More than 20 people attended the Sunday May 15 event at the ancient mill along the Fenton River. The place was busy all afternoon.

Visitors were very glad to see us open, including some passing hikers who stopped for a tour. Others found the event online and through the Last Green Valley promotions or newspaper calendar listings.

Trust Vice President Nancy Silander and her husband John brought the appropriate celebratory spirit in the form of cupcakes topped with the number 50 — to remind the guests of the Trust's 50th anniversary this year.

The showing of the 1981 film "Guest of the Nation" at the Atwood Farm, the Trust's headquarters, went well, also. People were very amused to see the mill used in the film in the guise of an Irish cottage. They also got to see some of the Wormwood Hill landscape as it was 36 years ago.

The mill and museum are open from 1 to 5 pm on Sundays through second Sunday in October. Groups may be hosted any day by appointment. Call Joshua's Trust at



Opening day at the Gurleyville Grist Mill, in background. These folks are standing on the lawn of the miller's house

(860) 429-9023. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcomed.

Directions: The mill is about 2 1/2 miles east of the University of Connecticut in Storrs on Stone Mill Road off Chaffeeville Road in Mansfield. It is NOT on a numbered route.



At left, Grist Mill docents get a briefing from historian Bruce Clouette as they prepare for the touring season. At right, guests poke around inside the historic grist mill on opening day. The small structure in the photo is a scale model of the building. (Photos by Fran Funk.)



Passport Walks continued from previous page

Sept. 25, Sunday

Pigeon Swamp, Lebanon 1 p.m.

Find out from Dennis Latchum about this area where "Pigeons Once Flocked."

Directions: from intersection of Rt. 32 and 203, take Main St, cross Babcock Hill Rd, go up the hill, take first left just beyond blue firehouse. This is Pigeon Swamp Rd, follow this road to end of pavement. For more information email Dennis at dlatchum@gmail.com.

Sept. 30, Friday

Knowlton Hill Preserve, Ashford 6:30 p.m.

Join John G. Morey at the for a hilltop tour of the autumn night to see stars, constellations and planets. If cloudy, back up date is Saturday, Oct. 1. Bring folding chairs, binoculars, and telescopes. If bringing a flashlight, red colored lights are strongly recommended.

Directions: Preserve entrance is near 74 Knowlton Hill Rd. For more information email John at jgmorey@yahoo.com.

Trust's Atwood Farm ready to receive visitors June 11 as part of Connecticut Open House Day

Continued from Page One

recognition for the structure on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places. Visitors on Open House Day will see areas for tools of planting and harvesting, processing, animals and soil preparation.

"Since our open house last June when the weaver's cottage was our only exhibit, the Atwood Committee has worked very hard to clean out the buildings and arrange and label tools and implements for new exhibits," said Mona Anderson, committee leader. "Several intense work parties have made this possible."

Rudy Favretti, who also wrote the Trust's history in a newly released book, has been working for months on the blacksmith shop. It has an enormous number of tools for blacksmithing and carpentry and he has organized and displayed them. A grain bin and chest in the shop were packed full of games and toys and other small items -- some in a state of decay, others small treasures, Anderson said. Nancy Silander and Nan Cooper took on the sorting and salvaging operation in April.

Elsewhere around the property, volunteers leveled the floor of the open carriage shed so they could move a sled



The Trust's headquarters at the Atwood Farm.

from the blacksmith shop to join the wagon that was there. Nest boxes and feeders were added to the hen house, and the split-rail fence in the barn yard was restored.

There were a lot of volunteers putting elbow grease into the project, including Carol Enright, Jeannie and Stoddard Slayton, Peggy and Warren Church, Char and John Meyer, Paul Aho and, with his invaluable tractor, Greg Anderson.

Parking at the farm is accessible from Wormwood Hill Road.



Trust volunteers gather outside the Atwood Farm's massive barn by a wagon that will be among the exhibits on Connecticut Open House Day June 11. A number of the farm's outbuildings have been cleaned and organized for the event.

Please renew your membership

The Trust's continued success at protecting Connecticut open space depends on its members. Letters went out in April reminding you to renew your membership for 2016. Please renew your membership now. And if you already have, thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues (\$10 Full-time Student; \$20 Individual; \$35 Family; \$100 Sustaining; \$250 Patron; \$500 Benefactor)

New member Check here []

Gift Membership: List names and addresses below. We'll send a gift card.

**Go green, please! Read the newsletter online
and save us the expense of mailing by checking here:**

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