



An unchanging mission, clearer, stronger

Fifty years of conservation and preservation has not changed the original purpose of Joshua's Trust.

Last fall, Trustees went on a retreat organized by the environmental consultants who earlier had helped the Trust reorganize its governing structure. Using the information and insight gained at the two-day session, the ad hoc Strategic Planning committee used their Jeffersonian skills to craft a mission and vision statement.

It was especially gratifying to realize that 16 different

Trustees could reach agreement, and that their idea of Joshua's Trust mission is essentially unchanged from the way it was envisioned by the Trustees half a century ago.

So, we do not have a new mission, simply a clearer one, as well as a clearer vision of where we hope to be in 25 more years.

The Mission and Vision were both approved at the May Trustee meeting. The ad hoc Steering Committee is now

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The annual meeting goes casual ; honors great volunteers

On Earth Day, about 60 Joshua's Trust members came to the annual meeting to socialize, to elect board members and to celebrate some of the Trust's volunteers.

Instead of a dinner, the outreach committee decided to have a social hour with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the late afternoon. Attendees deemed the format a success – so it is likely that we will do a similar event for the annual meeting next spring.

Four trustees were unanimously elected: immediate past president Doug Hughes and Carl Lindquist will start their

second three-year terms, Marilyn Schreiber from Willington, and Paul Pribula (who is filling out a term), also from Willington are new Trustees.

Three "retiring" Trustees were thanked for their many years of service: Rudy Favretti, Gwen Haaland, and Allison Burchell-Robinson. Rudy and Gwen will continue to serve on Trust committees.

Before biology professor Bryan Connelly spoke on the

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Members seemed to appreciate the new casual format —and the hors d'oeuvres — of this year's annual meeting.

Joshua's Trust

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OFFICERS:

President: Karen Zimmer
Past President: Doug Hughes
Vice President: Betsy Paterson
Secretary: Nancy Silander
Treasurer: Gail Bruhn

STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem
Finance Administrator: Joyce Fountain
Volunteer Coordinator: Andy Woodcock

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Margaret Ferron, Mansfield
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Dave Parry, Windham
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Paul Pribula, Willington
Marilyn Schreiber Willington
Nancy Silander, Mansfield
Karen Zimmer, Mansfield



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.

A place to call home

A few years ago, I thought I was moving 1,000 miles to the south of us.

Besides abandoning the friends I had made over 20-plus years, I felt deep sadness about leaving so many natural places that I'd been able to experience because they're freely available to all of us.

I had walked the trail in Whetten Woods hundreds of times, so I narrated little videos of the stream and woods to take with me to remind me of "home."

I never did leave, and I've since lost those videos. Back then, I didn't realize how much vision, passion, generosity, determination, sweat, expertise and, sur-

prisingly, vigilance goes into making what I love about this area possible.

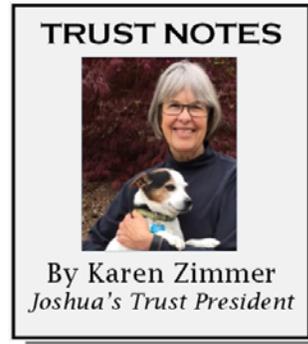
When the Trust moved to Atwood Farm in 2014 and I became secretary, I began to meet the people and see the work that makes it all happen. The Trust is a complicated and wonderful thing!

It has become my second home, and I thank all the people who have given in so many ways to make Joshua's Trust the success that it is, who are like an extended family to me.

I'd love to hear your ideas, so feel free to email them to me at:

president@joshuastrust.org

— Karen



Our mission unchanged and clearer after 50 years

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working on the strategic goals and the action plans needed to carry them out.

Our Mission: The Mission of Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust is to permanently protect and maintain the land and preserve the heritage of north-eastern Connecticut for the benefit and well-being of present and future generations.

Our Vision: Joshua's Trust is leading the way in the conservation and stewardship of priority landscapes and cultural resources in Northeast Connecticut.

Completion of the 2017 Strategic Plan and the Joshua's Trust Regional Land-

scape Conservation Plan has resulted in a marked increase in the Trust's collaboration with public and private conservation partners.

Full-time executive and stewardship staff, joined by many devoted, engaged volunteers, are succeeding in expanding and maintaining a network of conserved land, ensuring the ecosystem values and cultural attributes which define the region are protected and maintained in perpetuity.

People of all ages, especially young families, are discovering the simple joy of a walk in the woods at a Joshua's Trust preserve and are responding with increasing engagement, volunteerism and financial support.

They make for more work, and we thank them for it!

Once again, we have another big donation of tools from **Stanley Black and Decker**.

Last year and again this year the company has helped us fill an order for all the tools we need for our stewards and increasing number of large work parties.

Thanks to Stanley Black and Decker for their generosity!



A busy, busy spring for many trust volunteers

Trust volunteers have been especially busy this spring both outdoors and indoors.

Thanks to Rob Beach, Terry Wakeman, and steward Dave Sherman, the Rankin Preserve (Ashford) will soon have a trail for hikers. Joe Charron (steward at Pigeon Swamp) made two benches.

One was installed at the Stone Preserve by stewards David and Susan Fowler with assistance from Terry Wollen from the Roving Stewardship Crew. The other was installed at Fliegel Farm Woods by steward Gwen Haaland and regional coordinator Gary Griffin.

Delta Sigma Pi, the University of Connecticut business fraternity that received the group conservation award at the annual meeting,



Above, volunteers Rob Beach (l) and John Morey team up to remove a downed tree from a trail at Whetten Woods Preserve.

At right, ECSU students shoot a scene for their video project about the Trust.



Our thanks to the University of Connecticut Delta Sigma Pi fraternity for cleaning up around the Grist Mill.

worked at the Grist Mill doing general clean-up, as well as at Agnes' Pasture – along with the UConn Eco Club and the UConn Track and Field team.

The Roving Stewardship Crew - headed by Ann Lewis and Andy Woodcock - have been busy at a number of locations, putting up new signage, checking for trail issues, clearing in-

well, on mapping and a land management plan, as well as drawing up a list of towns' conservation and planning committees so that the Trust can quickly identify whom to contact when land issues arise.

ECSU students have made two films featuring our properties, along with interviews of various Trust volunteers. We hope to have these up on YouTube soon.

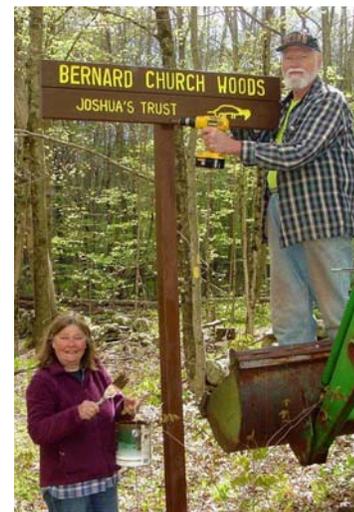
Once again this summer, you will see 16 EastConn students working with our stewards, clearing invasives and doing other sorts of property maintenance.

If you'd like to join in, contact Andy Woodcock, the volunteer coordinator.

vasives and large trash. A shout out to Joe Charron, Gary Griffin, Michael Griffin, Rob Beach, John Pagini, Vern Beausoleil, Carl Lindquist, Kitty LeShay and Dick Weingart, and the stewards at Whetten Woods, Two Sisters and Couch Preserve.

And to all of you who do clean up on our trails when you walk – thanks!

Student workers from UConn, Eastern Connecticut State University and E. O. Smith High School have been working indoors as



Above, Kitty LeShay and Dick Weingart install a new sign at our Bernard Church Woods Preserve in Chaplin.



Your IRA might be a good vehicle for donating to Joshua's Trust

As we approach summer, Joshua's Trust volunteers and staff are working hard to spruce up our properties. Your financial support is critical to make that happen. Contributions of any size are most welcome!

You can send them to the Trust (P. O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250) or donate directly on our website. Every dollar helps, so thank you!

If you are 70½ and have an IRA, it may be advantageous for you to make your charitable contributions through your IRA. There are two primary benefits. One of the key benefits of the direct charitable contribution from your IRA is that the distribution counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The other big benefit is that it is tax exempt, so you pay no income tax on the distribution.

You can contribute more than your RMD to charity as

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long as you do not exceed \$100,000 in a calendar year. The gift must come directly from your IRA and must go directly to a charitable organization. However, you can no longer list this as a charitable deduction so some people may not benefit. Check with your tax preparer to see if this could benefit you as well as your favorite charities.

The Trust continues to receive thoughtful gifts from the estates of supporters and friends. Often, we are unaware that Joshua's Trust was a beneficiary.

In those cases, we wish we could have thanked them in their lifetime. If you have made a provision in your will in support of Joshua's Trust, we would love to know. Perhaps it would encourage others to follow your example.

Worthy volunteers recognized for their loyalty, effectiveness

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importance of pollinators, several awards were presented. Doug Hughes, in one of his last acts as president, gave a presidential citation to Vern Beausoleil for his work on bringing the Trust's technology up to date.

Ann Dunnack presented the stewardship awards: the Sam Dodd award to Susan Beach in recognition of her work on eradicating Japanese barberry, and the Mighty Oak award to Terry Wakeman and Quentin Kessel for their work at the Grist Mill.

Nancy Silander presented the Individual Conservation Award to former president Fran

A member of the Delta Sigma Pi fraternity accepts its award from Nancy Silander and Doug Hughes.



Funk for her long service to the Trust, and the Group Conservation Award went to Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity at the University of Connecticut, for their stewardship work since 2015.

The Madge Manfred Volunteer award for outstanding volunteerism went to Trust historian Rudy Favretti. Ask to see the bowl when next you see him. It is awarded each year in memory of the late Madge Manfred, one of the Trust's most innovative and dedicated members.

The Trust also wants to recognize the several hundred volunteers who willingly show up and do what they're asked. It is because of you that the Trust functions! Thank you!



Susan Beach, right, receives her Sam Dodd Award from Ann Dunnack.

Please don't touch the science!

Sometimes while walking on a Joshua's Trust property you see a plot marked out, or flagging, or a web cam. Please don't touch! It is most likely someone's scientific research project and disturbing it could cause loss of valuable data (and time).

Given that we live in a community with two major research institutions and aspiring adolescent scientists in our region's high schools, and that we have property that has

not been developed, researchers often come knocking. Before getting started, however, they have to fill out a proposal so that the stewards can approve it.

Over the years, scientists have studied vernal pools, endangered species, bird populations, and other subjects.

The state archeologist is considering using Utleys Preserve for the annual Connecticut dig due to its potentiality as a pre-colonial Native American settlement.

So, if you'd like to set up a study site – please contact the Trust office. And if you see marked areas, please, don't disturb!

Dorothy Church Zaring passes; donated Church Farm Preserve

By Rudy Favretti

Dorothy Church Zaring, a former CIA intelligence analyst and political activist whose family donated much of their well-known Ashford farm property to Joshua's Trust, died March 3 in Washington, D.C. at age 106.

Dorothy was born in Hartford and attended Oxford School, and was a schoolmate of Katharine Hepburn. (Dorothy is also longtime Trust member and former President Warren Church's third cousin once removed.)

After graduation from Vassar in 1932, during the depth of the Depression, Zaring participated in Gov. Wilbur Cross's Commission to survey the Human Resources of Connecticut. Thereafter, she worked in New York as a report writer for a large insurance firm.

In 1942 her talent for languages led to her recruitment by the Military Intelligence Service of the Pentagon, and from there she transferred to the overt side of the Central Intelligence Agency when it was formed in 1947. She remained there for 27 years as an intelligence analyst and reports writer focusing on Italy. (She spoke Italian fluently.)

She met her late husband, Joe LeRoy Zaring at the CIA; they were married in 1954. Together they founded the Martin Institute for Peace Studies at Joe's alma mater, the University of Idaho. Dorothy was later made an honorary alumna of that institution.

While growing up in Hartford, Dorothy spent her summers in Ashford at the Church Farm. Her great-



Dorothy Church Zaring.

grandfather, John Church, had acquired the farm in 1840 after marrying Lucinda Aspinwall whose father, Zolman Aspinwall, built the main part of the residence in 1821. (The ell attached to the rear was constructed in 1791.)

Dorothy's grandfather established a chain of men's clothing stores, in Danielson, Willimantic and Middletown; Dorothy's father established another store in Hartford, hence the family resided there.

After Dorothy and Joe retired from their respective governmental positions, they spent about half the year at the Church farm, from April into October, diligently making repairs and continuing the restoration of the buildings. They gave the Trust several parcels of land – now called the Church Farm Preserve – between 1981–1987, a total of 79 acres. A larger portion of the historic Church Farm was given to Eastern Connecticut State University, which celebrated the opening of the Church Farm Center for the Arts and Sciences in May 2009.

The Zaring's generosity was extended by hosting several Trust fund-raising activities at their house and especially in their magnificent barn, built in 1895, and thought to be the largest barn in Windham County.

Both the house and the barn are on the National Registry of Historic Places. Joshua's Trust maintains trails on the preserve that are open to the public.



The Church Farm house.

The Trust offers events for families to enjoy all summer long

Our walks continue on a monthly basis; plus special events for families.

Join us on June 17 (rain date June 24) to learn how to geo-cache at Bradley-Buchanan (Mansfield – entrance next to the library). This activity is geared to those who want to use technology in the out-of-doors. Various caches have been placed on Trust properties.

Learn how to find them – we will be joined by veteran geo-cacher John Kochinskas. It is best to download a geo-caching app on your smart phone or other device before. The walk (easy to moderate) is geared to kids and adults, and dogs on leash are welcome.

On July 22, Rob Beach will lead a summertime discovery walk at Whetten Woods (rain date July 23) from 10 – noon. Children and dogs are welcome at this easy walk.

Look for another geology walk that is currently in the

planning stages for August.

Stargazing finally took place in late April – we hope to schedule another session in the fall. The owl walk (co-sponsored with Horizon Wings) and fairy houses (co-sponsored with the Mansfield Library) were very popular.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 7. Dr. Prakash Kashwan will discuss his recent book *Democracy in the Woods: Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India, Tanzania, and Mexico*, at the Buchanan Center (Mansfield Library). You can learn more about this [on the web](#).

And please stop by when you see our volunteers at various community events! We often have kids' activities, and we always have a recommendation on where to go to enjoy our Trust properties!



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 didn't renew at the close of 2016, please take this opportunity to "begin again." 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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