



Fifty years down, plenty more to go

Our year-long 50th anniversary celebration closed fittingly Oct. 15 when more than 100 members and friends gathered to talk, eat and recognize Joshua's Trust's accomplishments as the largest land conservation organization in eastern Connecticut.

Among the many attending the gala at Camp Horizons in South Windham was Sam Dodd, one of the original founders of 1966, who was



Sam Dodd.

PHOTO BY KITTLY LESHAY

praised and applauded for his many and profound contributions to the Trust over the years.

Dodd was introduced to the assemblage by former Trust President David Wagner as an icon of the organization whose name has become "synonymous with Joshua's Trust." He described Dodd's leadership of the Trust through its earliest years as thoughtful and tough, and his advice as seldom wrong.

"Sam's done it all," Wagner said. Dodd's *Joshua's Trust Walk Book*, the product of days of hiking then documenting

the Trust's trails, is one of his most enduring contributions.

As it was also the occasion of the annual meeting, some changes to the by-laws were put into effect, including one limiting trustees' three-year terms on the board of directors to three.

All 16 current trustees were unanimously voted onto the board to serve staggered terms ending over the next three years. The vote included the newest ones: Maggie Ferron (Mansfield), former Mansfield Mayor Betsy Paterson (Mansfield), Dave Parry (Windham), and Carl Lindquist (Chaplin).

Gala night is also a time for recognizing the work of many other volunteers. Trust President Doug Hughes gave out two presidential citations: to Marcia Kilpatrick for her extraordinary organization of walks over a number of years, and to Paul Stern for his work on the web site, newsletter and Facebook page, keeping the membership up-to-date and informed.

Trust Executive Director Michael Hveem presented the inaugural "Madge Manfred Volunteer Award" to Jim Rüssel for his many efforts on the Trust's behalf. The award, also presented by the late Manfred's husband John, recognizes those whose work for the Trust embodies the selfless and tireless spirit shown by Madge herself.

The group conservation award fittingly went to the

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Meet the Trust's new volunteer coordinator

The visitor hesitantly entered the Atwood Farm, unsure where to head, when he heard a "Good morning, can I help you out?" Within minutes, Andy Woodcock, the Trust's recently hired volunteer coordinator, and the visitor were talking animatedly, and Andy was encouraging him to fill out the volunteer form to determine where his skills and interests could best be used.

Andy has been with the Trust since early fall. He is a New Englander through and through. He grew up in Bangor, Maine, with Acadia National Park as his back yard. Out of college, he headed to Washington, D.C. and to other New England states, both as political staff and as a newspaper reporter.

Working at the Connecticut Citizens Action Group and

preventing the expansion of I-384 into Rhode Island and improving the safety of Route 6 was his first foray into protecting the environment.

Twenty-eight years ago, he landed in Willimantic where he and his wife raised three children, all of whom work for non-profits.



Andy Woodcock

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Joshua's Trust

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OFFICERS:

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Past President: Fran Funk
Vice President: Karen Zimmer
Acquisitions Chair: Warren Church
Secretary: Nancy Silander
Treasurer: Allison Burchell-Robinson

STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem
Finance Administrator: Tish Ignatowicz
Volunteer Coordinator: Andy Woodcock

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Gail Bruhn, Mansfield
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Ann Dunnack, Columbia
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield
Margaret Ferron, Mansfield
Gwen Haaland, Ashford
Angelika Hansen, Hampton
Doug Hughes, Mansfield
Carl Lindquist, Chaplin
Dave Parry, Windham
Betsy Paterson, Mansfield
Jim Russel, Windham
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.

An exercise in generosity...

It struck me, after our wonderful annual meeting and dinner, that the Trust's long success is really a story of generosity.

That was apparent at the meeting, generously organized by volunteers to recognize the generous contributions that other volunteers have made to our efforts.

A number of friends and local businesses showed their generosity by donating more than \$15,000 to commemorate our half-century achievement. The recent contribution of much-needed tools reported elsewhere in this newsletter is another example of the great spirit of generosity that sustains us.

At its core, the Trust itself is an exercise in generosity. We – members, volunteers, and donors – are giving our time and money to the benefit of future generations of whom even the luckiest of us will see a tiny few.

Sure, we'll take pleasure in hiking our trails, or marveling at the workings of the Grist Mill, but we give now with the

certainty that our efforts will be enjoyed by countless unknown future residents and visitors to this beautiful patch of

Connecticut, in what is, for now, the last major stretch of dark night sky between Boston and Washington, D.C.

Who can imagine what this world is like in the years to come?

While technology will bring much that is good (self-driving cars may

mean that we'll never be too old to take ourselves out to the Atwood Farm for a visit!) there's no doubt that eventually the pressures of increasing population will make each property and conserved easement incalculably more valuable than they are now.

We'll continue to work, and give, fully aware that we'll never see the beneficiaries of our efforts – but know that whatever form your generosity takes now will be appreciated in perpetuity.

On behalf of the future, I thank you!

—Doug

TRUST NOTES

By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

... and another from Chappa estate

In October the Trust received its final distribution from the Estate of Susan Chappa. The Trust was the sole recipient of Susan's will and the total distribution was over \$163,000.

Chappa lived for many years on Crane Hill Road in Mansfield. She died at the age of 62 in an unfortunate automobile accident in front of her house.

Susan loved nature and the outdoors. Her second big love was animals, both wild and domestic. In 2007 she and her former husband Sam Matos donated a conservation easement on their 5-acre plot to the Trust both to protect the land and to protect her numerous pet cemeteries on this plot.

Susan was a member of Joshua's Trust for a number of years and never departed from her love of her Crane Hill Road parcel and the surrounding countryside.

Her family and friends will forever remember her dedication and spirit that led her to think of others in such a magnanimous way.

She strongly believed in the mission of the Trust and wanted the proceeds of her estate to go toward the acquisition of valuable conservation land in the Quiet Corner.



Susan Chappa

Water Rising celebrates nature, supports the Trust

For members with an interest in art as well as in nature, the Trust recently helped sponsor two events.

In late September, artists who used the Atwood Farm or its region as inspiration, displayed their works at the farm in the barn. Shauna Shane, a well-known local artist, helped to organize this effort which included six different painters.

In early November, the Kerri Gallery in Willimantic, along with the Trust, helped to promote the book "Water Rising," put together by two artists from Woodstock.



One of the watercolors in the book of poems and paintings, *Water Rising*.

Leila Philip wrote the poems, and Garth Evans, an internationally recognized sculptor and painter, created the watercolors that are a collaboration intended to inspire stewardship for the natural environment.

Combined with a musical and video installation shown at the gallery, the result is a wonderful evocation of nature in our area.

The book is for sale at the Trust office and makes a wonderful gift for anyone

who appreciates nature reflected in art.

Our new volunteer coordinator, Andy

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When he retired from his position as supporting staff at the Connecticut General Assembly, he realized he needed to do more than just hang around, and the part-time volunteer coordinator position at the Trust seemed made for his people and organizational skills.

Andy has taken on the daunting task of building the volunteer base, and matching volunteers to the Trust's needs. Working this closely with Trust volunteers and staff has impressed Andy.

"It's the people," he says, "their pride in management, from trail to administration. The combination of the mission, the dedication of the volunteers, the variety of the work, and the properties themselves are the ingredients that I believe will sustain the Trust and attract new members and volunteers for years to come."

When Andy is not at the Trust, he is illustrating human interest stories he has written the last few years.

Come by any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and welcome him on board – or rather, be welcomed!



Volunteers busy beavers this fall

This fall has been a particularly busy time for many volunteers at the Trust, especially on our properties. Thanks to various volunteer groups, volunteer supervisors and to our many committee volunteers this fall we have:

- >Worked with UConn students (many!) on eliminating invasive plants from properties;
 - >Did GIS mapping of our properties with an E. O. Smith senior and UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy;
 - >Organized our property files;
 - >Prepared the outside of the Atwood Farm buildings by digging trenches along the bases of each one;
 - >Identified many items in the farm's barn and the blacksmith shop with more permanent, informative labels;
 - >Worked on offering walks at many properties, often coordinating with the Last Green Valley and their Walktober program;
 - >and evaluated proposed property easements.
- If you are interested in helping – whether once a year, once a month, once a week, or more frequently --please contact Andy Woodcock (andy.woodcock@joshuatrust.org).

Although the weather may not always be as cooperative in our New England winter, the Trust offers a number of opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors.

Have you tried letterboxing? Come by the Trust headquarters on Mansfield's Wormwood Hill Road to get started. The first letterbox trail is right there on the Atwood Farm.

Have little ones who need a focus? Try a scavenger hunt on one of the properties. (See page 4 for details.)



And stay tuned for the Young Photographers initiative. Need a purposeful walk or prefer to walk with some company? The new walk committee will be meeting in early December.

Walks are currently being planned for several of our properties – please go to the website to see place, date, time and other advisories.

And, if you want to be involved in the planning, contact Nancy Silander (nancysilander@gmail.com).

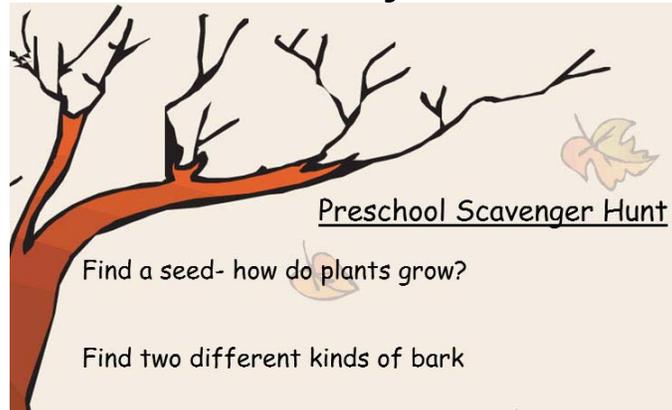
Seek and ye shall find ... family fun in the great outdoors

Are you looking for a healthy family activity that is engaging, educational, doesn't cost anything and doesn't involve staring into an electronic screen?

Maybe then you'd like to go on a scavenger hunt at one of five Joshua's Trust properties.

Conceived and executed by a trio of Trust volunteers, the scavenger hunt leads preschoolers and school-aged children on a romp through the woods looking for leaves, bugs, things to jump over and signs of local wildlife.

Families may pick up a reusable laminated scavenger hunt sheet at the Trust kiosks located at the entrances of five properties: Whetton Woods and Bradley-Buchanan Woods in Mansfield, Iron Mine Valley in Ashford, Utley



A sample of a scavenger hunt instruction sheet.

Hill Preserve in Columbia and Allnach-Wolf Woodlands in Windham. (Visit our website for directions to each property.)

Each double-sided sheet has specific challenges and tasks to perform depending on the child's age: "Find three different kinds of leaves, find fungus on the ground; listen, how many kinds of birds do you hear?"

Families are encouraged to take photos on their visits and post them on the Joshua's Trust Facebook page.

The hunts were developed by Trust members Maggie Ferron, Nancy Silander and Ann Dunnack.

Ferron said the scavenger hunt sheets will be updated seasonally so families can enjoy the properties year round.

UConn student volunteers wage war on invasive barberry at Whetton Woods property

By Sue Beach

Whetton Woods in Mansfield is much more woods than invasive plants now thanks to great volunteers this autumn.

Colin Mortimer brought a work party of fellow University of Connecticut Student Government-External Affairs Committee members on Oct.15. They spent hours removing barberry that has spread to our upland areas.

The next day Olivia Defilippo brought volunteers from the UConn Scouting Association. That group worked to clear a swath of barberry and multiflora rose from the loop rail to the stream bed. This kind of clearing allows us to remove barberry from the stream itself and create brush piles for small wildlife.

Andy Alderman brought a very large group of members of the Theta Iota Chapter of the international business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi. That group split into two teams, the Indians and the Cubs, racing to cut swaths of invasives across the stream bed to reach a bag of chocolates planted



UConn student volunteers take a moment off from work for a photo op.

in a cruel multiflora rose!

The great part was that upon reaching the chocolates both teams let the bag fall to the ground and kept clearing away!

We have been fortunate this year to have interested and committed students helping again. I thoroughly enjoy working with them.

Another JT member, Marie Cantino, has been enormously helpful in working with the student groups as well. She may not be a formal steward, but she *IS* a steward!

Thank you, Stanley Black & Decker!

The Trust requested, and Stanley Black & Decker responded – with shovels, gloves, clippers, and other necessary equipment for maintaining our many properties.

With many University of Connecticut student groups

offering their help, we needed lots of supplies.

Now, we are ready!

Thank you, also, to Dave Parry who initiated the call.

StanleyBlack&Decker

Trust's 50th anniversary party celebrates its longevity and its faithful volunteers

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the "parents" of the Trust: the Mansfield Conservation Commission and the Mansfield Historical Society, as back in 1966, it was members from these two organizations who began the Trust.

The individual conservation award was given to Ruth Cutler of Ashford, who not only organizes and inspires those in Joshua's Trust, but has also been active in conservation efforts statewide.

Trustee Rudy Favretti received recognition as the author of "50 Years of Trust." Published earlier this year, the book documents the Trust since its creation in 1966.

Ann Dunnack, chair of stewardship, presented the Mighty Oak award for outstanding stewardship for over 30 years to Greg and Mona Anderson, stewards of Knowlton Hill Preserve. Mona Anderson also serves on the Atwood Farm Committee.

The Rev. John Burton received the Sam Dodd award for special projects for his woodworking skills in creating signs and constructing kiosks at a number of our properties.

The evening ended with dancing to the music of John Paolillo and, of course, talk of what might be coming in the next 50 years.



PASSPORT PERSERVERANCE
 Rose and Norman Baker of Ashford know how to stick it out. Here they are receiving their Joshua's Trust back packs for completing this season's Passport Series. Rose attended JT 20 hikes and Norman 18.



AT THE GALA

Sam Dodd, speaking with Nancy Silander (upper left photo) was the guest of honor, but lots of deserving people got awards. At upper right, Ruth Cutler shows off her conservation award presented by Trust Executive Director Michael Hveem, President Doug Hughes and incoming President Karen Zimmer. At right, the Rev. John Burton accepts the Sam Dodd Award, and at left, Quentin Kessel, chairman of the Mansfield Conservation Commission, shows off a model of the Gurleyville Grist Mill operated by the Trust.



Now's a great time to make a gift to the Trust

Joshua's Trust depends on you, its members and neighbors in the community, to help support activities which focus on our mission of land preservation in northeastern Connecticut. Your generosity today helps ensure the protection of the region's natural beauty and our children's heritage.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- I am interested in exploring conservation options for my land.
- I have made provisions in my will for Joshua's Trust.
- I am interested in making a gift of securities to the Trust.



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