



Trust's Annual Dinner A Night Of Renewal, Recognition

The Joshua's Trust annual meeting is a time for renewal and recognition; and this year's meeting was no exception.

Four new trustees were voted onto the board, and several members were recognized for their generous and tireless efforts on behalf of the organization.

The April 19 celebration was even held at a new location – Wilderness Campground in Willington, where Tom O'Connor catered a delicious chicken dinner.

Afterward, Dr. Tom Worthley, a Connecticut state extension agent, gave a most informative talk on the relationship among the invasive Japanese barberry which offers ideal protection for field mice which harbor deer ticks, the carriers of many diseases, among them Lyme.

The four new Trustees voted on to the Board were Rudy Favretti and Greg Padick from Mansfield, Fran Funk from

Coventry, and Angelika Hansen from Hampton (see Page 4 for further information on each Trustee).

The Sam Dodd award, designed to recognize a specific project carried out by a self-motivated steward, went to Joe Charron for the habitat restoration work he has undertaken at our Pigeon Swamp Preserve in Lebanon for more than ten years.

Joe has returned abandoned fields, terribly overgrown with a wide assortment of invasive species, to an early successional habitat friendly to a wide variety of wildlife.

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Pictured above: At left, members await their dinner at the beginning of the annual meeting at the new venue. At right, three of this year's award recipients — Joe Charron, Bob Schoff and Chuck Vinsonhaler.

This Year's Tasting Festival Will Expand Your Horizon

The Joshua's Trust Wine Tasting Festival has become a popular annual event, and this year will expand to offer a selection of craft beers and specialty liquors.

Co-sponsored with Bombadil's Spirit Shop, the festival will have 15 vendors, live music, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. It is a great opportunity to sample a wide variety of beverages, order at a discount, and have fun with friends in the Joshua's Trust community.



The Big Jump Band will perform.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 20, 4 – 6:30 p.m. at the Hampton Community Center, 178 Main Street, a beautifully renovated Grange Hall dating to 1906.

The remarkably talented band [Big Jump](#) will perform. [Check them out](#) on YouTube or Facebook.

The cost is \$35 per person for members; \$40 for non-members. The reservation form is available at www.joshuaslandtrust.org and on the back of this newsletter.

Learn About The Newest Trustees! See Page Four.



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4
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www.joshuaslandtrust.org

OFFICERS:

President: Allison Burchell -Robinson
Vice President: Mona Anderson
VP Land Acq: Richard Hyde
Secretary: Carol Enright
Treasurer: Hamilton Holt
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Mochel

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Donald Cianci, Columbia	Deborah Lee, Eastford
Robert Dubos, Chaplin	Scott R. Matthies, Chaplin
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield	Greg Padick, Mansfield
Sara Stefon Fusco, Lebanon	Bonnie Ryan, Mansfield
Fran Funk, Coventry	Nancy Silander, Mansfield
Brent Gottier, Tolland	Ted Taigen, Tolland
Angelika Hansen, Hampton	Eric Thomas, Coventry
Melanie Johnston, Hampton	Chuck Vinsonhaler, Mansfield

Margaret Welsh, Ashford

Conservation Coordinator: Stephanie Clark
Gristmill Management: Isabelle Atwood
Stewardship: Joan Hill
Membership: Bonnie Ryan, Marietta Johnson
Newsletter: Nancy Silander, Paul Stern

Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust was formed in 1966 to receive gifts of money and land, or to buy land of historic, aesthetic, or scientific value, for the benefit of future generations.

It is designed to supplement the open space efforts of federal, state and local governments. The Trust protects over 4,100 acres in the region, maintains trails which are open to the public, and publishes *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book*.

The office is located in the historic Eagleville Schoolhouse, South Eagleville Rd., in Mansfield.

Office hours: Thurs.1:30-3:30 pm.



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

Raising The Trust's Profile

This past year has been one of changes and challenges.

As many of you are aware, we changed the dues structure for the first time in many years.

We introduced Pay Pal as a means of renewing memberships, making contributions, and signing up for special events and walks on line.

We added an office clerk part time and hired a new conservation coordinator.

We held a retreat for the Board which allowed for informal socializing as well as an in-depth look at the acquisition of land and the related costs.

We trademarked the critter!

And, as with all changes, we challenged the Board and the Committees to do better. To do better, you need to identify those areas for improvement or those that require change.

An area that we discovered where big improvements and changes are needed is with Joshua's Trust's profile. It is lower among our 14 towns than we thought.

There are many out there who are unaware of...

• Our purpose, (Recent conversation with a man: "So what are you, a bunch of tree huggers?" To my response that we were a land conservation organization that protected

land, he walked off saying: "Isn't that what I just said?")

- What towns we represent,
- What we do with the land,
- How we acquire our land,
- Where our properties are,
- What role volunteers play,
- Who our leaders are,
- How one becomes a member.

This is pretty basic to you because you know what the Trust does. Your neighbor, business acquaintance, friendly store-keeper or relative may not.

Instead of taking for granted that everyone knows about us and the importance of our

mission, let's take it upon ourselves to spread the word. Invite your neighbor to go for a walk on one of our properties in your town. Share your Walkbook or invite them to join and get a Walkbook of their own.

Tell them about the special events held throughout the year and buy them a ticket if necessary. Take your class or your club on a nature walk. Talk about the Trust at the functions you attend or

ask for a speaker from the Trust.

Give gift memberships.

I want to challenge you, our members, to spread the word. Joshua's Trust is not a secret society, a closed organization, a private club. Joshua's Trust

belongs to all of us.

Get the word out even if you have to shout it.

REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President



A CORRECTION: The list of donors published in the March newsletter was for the year 2011, not 2009 as was incorrectly reported.

Walking The Walk In The Local Environment

On a beautiful early spring afternoon, 14 walkers accompanied leader Sarah Stratton and steward Mona Anderson on a walk at Knowlton Woods.

They saw remarkable evidence of the recent storms and of invasive plants, as well as of current mammal and bird activity. Particularly amazing were the tree trunks where the piliated woodpecker had drilled holes near the marshy areas of the trail.

Despite the early season, several wildflowers were already visible, and skunk cabbage was all along the streams. Mona added a lot of information about the earlier history of the property, as the walkers passed by old well holes and trash piles.

Walks are scheduled approximately once a month. Email us if you would like to receive email alerts from the Walking Group (joshuastrust@snet.net), or go to the web page for updated information.



The walking group heads down Knowlton Hill.

Celebrate National Trails Day With A Visit To Potter's Meadow

Be sure to check local publications for a number of special walks to celebrate National Trails Day on June 2. Joshua's Trust will sponsor a walk that day at Potter's Meadow in Columbia from 10 – 11 a.m.

Native Americans and Europeans have left their mark on this flood plain area, and it continues to be full of abun-

dant wildlife including beaver, otter, and many bird species. Please, no dogs. The route is about 1 mile and will be muddy if there has been recent rain. Heavy rain cancels and pre-registration is not necessary. Meet at the end of Commerce Drive. Please contact the leader, Joan Hill, if you have any questions at (860) 228-2849.

Coventry Has Begun Allocating Open Space Funds

While Coventry has a long history with Joshua's Trust, being among the first towns to have land deeded to the Trust—the Taylor Preserve in 1980—the town has only recently begun including money in its annual budget for open space and development rights.

The town, with money from this past year's budget, along with Joshua's Trust and the Connecticut Farmland Trust, is buying the development rights to the Reynolds' farm on Flanders Road.

John Elsesser, Coventry Town Manager, is very excited about the town's first foray into purchasing development rights, particularly because this parcel has frontage along the Willimantic

River, and also will allow the town to piece together other open space parcels nearby, creating a habitat corridor.

There are three other Trust properties in Coventry, too: the Breen parcel on Old Eagleville Road, Broadway Meadow on North Farms Road, and the Elizabeth Couch Preserve on Cooper Hill Road.

In addition, there are approximately 86 acres of conservation easements.

According to Trustee Eric Thomas, putting money towards open space acquisition continues to be a challenge in Coventry.

He is hoping to raise Coventry's citizens' awareness with the Trust banner that will be on the town green for three weeks beginning in mid-April.



Coventry's Elizabeth Couch Preserve



Four New Trustees Join The Governing Board

Four new members have been elected to the Board of Trustees: Rudy Favretti and Greg Padick from Mansfield, Fran Funk from Coventry, and Angelika Hansen from Hampton.

Rudy Favretti is no stranger to Joshua's Trust as he is an original founding member. He has never served as a Trustee but he has been an active member over the years, and has been the featured speaker several times at the annual meetings. Rudy has lived in Mansfield most of his adult life, raising his three children here with his wife Joy.

He earned degrees from UConn and Cornell in Plant Science, and in landscape architecture and land planning, as well as regional planning from UMass. He is now professor emeritus of landscape architecture, a program he founded and taught in for over thirty years. He is the author of fourteen books and numerous articles and pamphlets on various aspects of land planning and preservation, as well as on the local history of Mansfield's villages. He currently is overseeing the writing of a history of the Trust.

He has been active on a number of town committees, most notably as chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee. He would particularly like the Trust to put some more emphasis on the second part of their name – Historic

- since this is another important layer to land preservation.

Fran Funk returns to the board after an over 30 year absence when she was president of the Board from 1977-1978. She is a native Nutmegger, but also has ties to New York City.



Fran Funk

and her belief that permanent open space is an essential part of urban landscapes.

Angelika Hansen was born in Germany and came to the U.S. as a child. After receiving her degree in anthropology in Queens and working in New York City, she moved to Hampton where she and her husband have lived for over 30 years. She began a new career in real estate in which she continues to be active.

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Their Dedication To Conservation Brings Thanks

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The Mighty Oak Award, given for long and steady stewardship service, went to Bob Schoff for his longtime stewardship of Iron Mine Valley in Ashford and his participation in countless work parties.

The Presidential Citation for volunteerism went to Chuck Vinsonhaler for his tireless work in whatever capacity he is asked.

The Trust also gives two conservation awards annually, one to a

group and the other to an individual.

Eco House at the University of Connecticut received the group conservation award for their service efforts in conservation both on the UConn campus and in a number of local towns.

On campus, the group sponsors cleanups, waste audits, recycling, and other green initiatives. Locally, they have worked on trail and river clean-ups, supported vegetable gardens at local schools, and constructed flower gardens at Windham Hospital among many of their efforts.

Professor Mark Westa, the director, Kelsey Sullivan, and Andrew Brown accepted the award on behalf of their fellow students.

The individual award recognized Hill Bullard for his long-term service to the Trust, in particular for his leading role in defining and marking the boundaries of the Trust's properties.

He has also served the Trust in many other capacities over the years, including President from 2001-2005, and most recently as a band member of Juniper Hill Jumpers whose recent concert benefited the land acquisition fund.



Prof. Mark Westa, at left, Andrew Brown and Kelsey Sullivan accept the conservation award for Eco House.

Favretti, Funk, Hansen And Padick Join The Board

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She has served on a number of civic boards in Hampton including the Historical Society, the Beautification Committee, and the Recreation Committee. She is also a Justice of the Peace and a Friend of Trail Wood. A number of her hobbies have an outdoor focus including birding and gardening.

Angelika has admired Joshua's Trust for a number of years and credits Marcia Kilpatrick with getting her involved. She is eager to find out where her energies can best be put.

Greg Padick has been a member of the Trust and an area resident for over 40 years, first in Coventry, then in Mansfield. He graduated from UConn with degrees in finance and in economics and began his career as a town planner in Coventry, continuing in Mansfield until he retired last year.

During his 30 years with Mansfield he was most often involved with coordinating the town's conservation and development plans, and was responsible for helping to protect over 2500 acres.



Greg Padick

Nancy Polydys and Marcia Kilpatrick leave the board as the new members arrive. Their years of service were acknowledged at the annual meeting.

Because the town of Mansfield works closely with Joshua's Trust on issues regarding open space, he has probably talked with every president over the years.

In addition, he often worked with the Trust informally as a steward for Wolf Rock and marking trails. He and his wife, Patricia Swords, live in Mansfield where they raised their two daughters.

Help Build A Butterfly Garden

With its management plan approved, work is going forward to make the Allnach-Wolf Preserve in Windham one of our premier preserves.

We are currently working on installing a butterfly garden that will feature plants that are attractive hosts for both larvae as well as nectar. We need volunteers to help plant, water, and weed out the invasive plants (including lots of free forsythia and lilac) during the first growing season.

Since most of the new plantings will be natives, little maintenance other

than dead-heading and light weeding will be necessary in future years. If you can help, please contact Joan Hill at 860-228-2849 or email her at jhill003@charter.net.

For a different take on helping out at Joshua's Trust properties, check out [the blog](#) that the UCAELI class put together about their service day working outside at the Allnach-Wolf Preserve.

The students were very excited about participating in a unique American experience.

Our Volunteers Are Our Most Important Asset

Volunteers are our most important asset. In her annual report, Trust President Allison Burchell-Robinson reported that Trust volunteers logged over 7,500 hours of work on the organization's behalf.

Paying them for that work at the current annual minimum wage would cost over \$65,000.

Perhaps the most active committee is the stewardship committee, chaired by Joan Hill.

It received two grants to help improve habitats or to do outreach. Trail Crew membership grew to 38, and its members logged over 300 hours.

After Years Of Service, They Take Leave With Our Gratitude

Without the tireless commitment of a number of people, the Trust would not be able to function as well as it does.

A round of applause and a huge thank you to the following people who are retiring from their many years of service as stewards or trustees:

- The Rich Moynihan Family – stewards of Bradley Buchanan and Pond.
- Mike Hayden for his many years as Head Steward at Iron Mine Valley Preserve.
- Tony Holt for his many years as steward at Holt-Kinney Woods.

- Betty Robinson for her long service as steward at Dunham Woods.

A Long-time Member Passes

Joshua's Trust lost a long-time supporter, Dr. Dennison Nash, who died on March 20.

Well known as a beloved UConn professor of anthropology and author of a seminal book on the anthropology of tourism, he was involved in a number of non-profit organizations on a global, national and local level.

A memorial service was held on April 22 at the university.

JOSHUA'S TRACT
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ORGANIZATION
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*There's More Than Wine ...
...At This Year's Festival*

This year's Annual Wine Tasting Festival is May 20, 4-6:30 p.m. and will expand to include a collection of craft beers and specialty liquors. Use this form to make your reservation.



Wine Tasting Festival reservation form

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

_____ members @ \$35 per person

_____ non-members @ \$40

I cannot attend but would like to make a contribution.

Make check payable to: Joshua's Trust Mail to: Joshua's Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004.