

USDA Invasive Plant Expert Will Address Joshua Trust's Annual Meeting On April 21

Dr. Charlotte Pyle, an ecologist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Connecticut, will speak about invasive plants and native alternatives at this year's annual dinner.

A whole generation of children now see as "normal" a Connecticut landscape with places covered in plants like Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, and Japanese Barberry. It takes work to prevent invasive plant establishment and to remove invasives in places where they have become established. Land trusts can make a difference by understanding and making those choices about protecting valued native habitats from invasive plants.



Bittersweet

The annual meeting will be held April 21 at the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang Camp in Ashford. A tour of the frontier-style camp will begin at 5:30 p.m., appetizers at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the business meeting, awards, and speaker.

The cost remains a bargain, just \$20 per person. The dinner has sold out for the last few years, so you are encouraged to send your reservation as soon as possible. (Use the form on the back page.)

Directions: The camp entrance in Ashford is on Route 44, about 2.7 miles east of the junction with Route 89 and .5 miles east of the blinking light at Route 44 and North Road. Over the driveway is a high wooden arch. Signs will direct you to the dining hall.

Extraordinary Women; Outstanding Properties

Joshua's Trust received conservation easements on two outstanding properties in January. Madeline Regan of Tolland donated an easement on 30 acres of forest off Tolland Stage Road, and later in the month Agnes Fuller of Chaplin signed the easement deed on 12.5 acres of upland pasture on Tower Hill Road.



Agnes Fuller

Both of these women have had a special relationship with their respective properties.

Madeline's grandparents acquired the Tolland property in 1893 and shortly thereafter moved into the 18th century house across the street, where Madeline still resides. Over the years the parcel was used as a wood lot providing both tim-

ber and cordwood to the Regan family.

The chestnut and oak beams in Madeline's house came from this lot. Madeline has spent many hours in this forest helping her dad manage the forest, harvesting nuts and blueberries and just taking walks with her mother to study and enjoy the flora and fauna.

In later years Madeline shared her knowledge by conducting nature tours for groups like the Connecticut Botanical Society. In 1982 she discovered that her favorite path though the forest was actually part of the historic Great Trail of New England or Connecticut Path. This was an Indian trail used by Thomas Hooker and the first settlers of Hartford. Today this forest, which is surrounded by other open space preserves, contains stands of mature pine and hardwood with small brooks running through.

Agnes Fuller has actively farmed her land on Tower Hill Road since 1950, when she moved to Chaplin. Throughout the years she has raised chickens, turkeys and cattle on

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Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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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 3,000 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.
Phone: 860-429-9023

Can We Meet The Challenge?

It is no secret that, in its long history, Joshua's Trust has been highly successful in achieving its primary mission of preserving valuable open space in the Quiet Corner. By the end of 2009 we will most assuredly pass the 4000 acre mark in terms of permanently protected open space.

What does the future hold? Can we continue to acquire land that should be protected, while still being responsible

stewards of the 2000 acres we own and monitor of the 55 conservation easements we hold?

The conservation trust business is not as simple as it once was. I understand that some of our early acquisitions were accomplished with nothing more than a handshake and a quitclaim deed.

Most of our land and easement transactions today require the involvement of lawyers, appraisers, surveyors and other real estate professionals. The stewardship of our properties has also gotten more complicated. Gone are the days where all we had to do on a new

property was to build and maintain a trail. Responsible management today requires that we have a written management plan for all our properties that includes such items as invasive control, habitat management, public education and trail management. Probably the hardest thing for most of us to get used to is all the documentation required for our acquisition and stewardship activities.

How are we coping with all these changes? In my judgment, a m a z i n g l y well considering that we

Warren's Word By Warren Church Joshua's Trust President



are still a primarily volunteer organization. We can mainly thank the commitment of our many volunteers who continue their outstanding service. We are also fortunate to have the help of area professionals who provide their services pro bono or at a reduced rate. To help guide us into the future the Trust has formed a Long Range Planning Committee that is in the process of making recommendations to the Trustees on how we can achieve our goals over the next ten years.

Regan, Fuller Make Generous Contributions

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the land.

The pasture, which is covered by the easement, extends in back of her house and barn back to the Natchaug Forest. It is bounded on the east by our own Hubbard Sanctuary.

She especially loved to take walks on the pasture to check on the cows, mend fences and just enjoy the open property. Life has not always been easy. During a particularly bad drought year, with the

help of her cousin, she hand dug a well so that her cattle would have water.

Ultimately, both Madeline and Agnes want to donate title to these outstanding properties to the Trust.

They are using the conservation easement now to insure that the land will remain intact should any future circumstances prevent title from coming to JT.

We thank them both for their generosity.

Mansfield Approves Purchase Of 5.9 Acres Adjacent To Proposal Rock Preserve...

A key 5.9-acre parcel has been purchased with assistance from the Town of Mansfield.

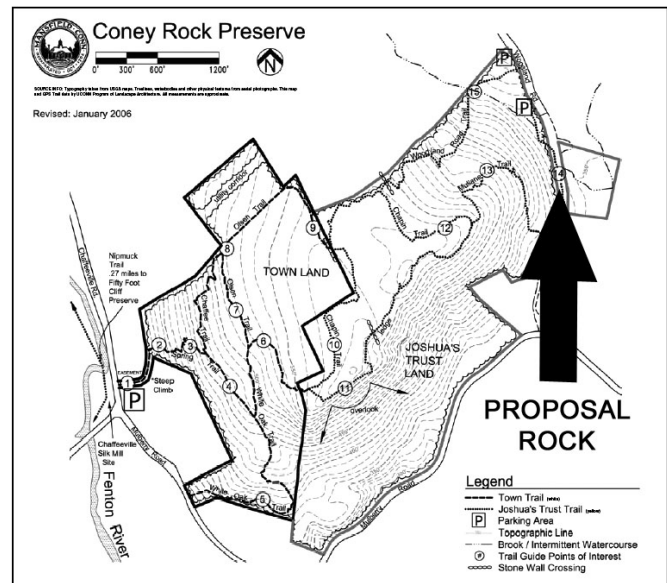
Located adjacent to Proposal Rock Preserve, the land provides a link to over 220 acres of open space at Coney Rock. The parcel also provides an access corridor between several houses to protect wildlife moving between interior forest tracts on the north and south sides of Mulberry Road.

The Mansfield Town Council also voted to purchase a property on the other side of Mulberry Road, which will make possible the creation a long trail linking several pieces of open space.

The partnership between Joshua's Trust and the Town of Mansfield has been very fruitful. In 2001, the town received a grant from DEP to purchase 60 acres from the Olsen family.

The success of the grant application was partly due to support from Joshua's Trust and agreement from David Chapin that he intended to donate 134 adjacent acres to the Trust. That gift was made in 2002. A short time thereafter, Joshua's Trust purchased a 17-acre addition in a bargain sale.

Most of the land protected by Joshua's Trust has come from gifts, and the limited funds for land acquisition



This map shows the relationship between the Trust's land and that owned by the Town of Mansfield off Mulberry Road.

have been used judiciously, usually in collaboration with one of the towns served by the Trust. In addition to projects in Mansfield, the Trust has collaborated with Willington, Lebanon, and Ashford.

...While Willington Pursues 134-Acre Tract With Help From Joshua's Trust And DEP

The Town of Willington is in the process of acquiring a 134-acre parcel of land in the southeastern portion of town from the Knowlton family.

Funding for the \$625,000 purchase and associated costs is from Town funds, an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant of \$306,250 from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and support from the Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

The parcel is contiguous with 431 acres of committed open space including the Talmadge tract owned by the

Town, the University of Connecticut's Moss Forest and an adjacent Connecticut Forest and Park Association parcel.

The property contains half a mile of the blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail. This parcel is particularly attractive as dedicated open space because of its protection of a major aquifer serving the University of Connecticut, its forested nature and support of wildlife, its potential for passive recreation, and opportunities for environmental research and education.

The Town expects to close on the parcel late this spring.



Recent Contributors to Joshua's Trust

We thank all who made special donations in addition to their yearly membership dues to Joshua's Trust during 2008. Without your additional support, the Trust would not be able to carry out its mission. Please let us know if your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled.

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Join us for this year's annual meeting... ...at The Hole-In-The-Wall Gang Camp

This year's annual meeting and dinner will begin with tours of Paul Newman's Hole-in-the-Wall Gang Camp in Ashford. It includes wine, appetizers, dinner and a guest speaker. New members are encouraged to attend!

Joshua's Trust annual dinner reservation form

Please submit by April 9.

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

Please make reservations for _____ people (\$20 per person)

2009 dues if not yet paid: _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

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