



Joshua's Tract

Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.



SPRING 2012

www.joshuaslandtrust.org

Trust Will Hold Its 46th Annual Meeting April 19 At A New Venue In Willington

The 46th annual Joshua's Trust dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19 at a new venue -- the Wilderness Lake Campground and Resort in Willington.



Our speaker will be Thomas E. Worthy, an extension forester, who will give a talk entitled "Invasive Species in the Connecticut Woodlands: an Intricate Puzzle."

The dinner, catered by Tom O'Connor, will include appetizers, stuffed chicken breast, pesto pasta and accompaniments, with fruit cobbler for dessert; and, of course,

wine, water and coffee.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m. at the Wilderness Lake property, 150 Village Hill Road, Willington. The meeting and guest speaker will immediately follow.

Reservations are essential and must be received by April 12. The cost is \$25 per person.

As this event is quite popular, we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

Please use the form on this newsletter's back page.

Mike And Jean Hayden Prove Loyal And Tireless Volunteers

Longtime Joshua's Trust activist Sam Dodd certainly recognized some potential new members when he met Mike and Jean Hayden back in the 1970s.

Their sons were classmates, and a request from Sam's son to help build trails in Mansfield's newly acquired Schoolhouse Brook area got both fathers involved as well. Soon it became evident that Mike and Jean's interest in the outdoors, in particular hiking, as well as in land conservation, perfectly matched the interests of the Trust.

Within a few years, they were active members, beyond simply paying dues.

After retiring from his job as a chemistry teacher at E.O. Smith High School, Mike became a trustee and board member, serving for more than nine years. This was just about the time that the Trust acquired the Eagleville Schoolhouse as an office, and he and Jean, along with Sam and Virginia Ferguson, spent most of their Thursdays getting it organized.

Jean worked primarily in the office, setting up files and organizing the notebooks. This was before the office had



Mike and Jean Hayden at Iron Mine Valley in Ashford

a photocopier, and of course, a computer. As well, she worked on the membership lists when Virginia Ferguson left.

Mike and John Barclay were among those who realized that the new trustees needed a handbook, so they organized the first one, which had 22 pages.

And if you've ever admired the landscaping around the schoolhouse, Mike and Jean are responsible for a number of the plantings, including the lilacs and day lilies.

Of course, being friends with Sam Dodd meant involve-

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Meet Our New Conservation Coordinator. See Page 3.



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 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.

Want To Be Busy Outdoors? Join One Of Our Volunteer Units

In my last column I lamented the fact that I was putting winter shoes on the horses when it was 67 degrees outside. Was that a gentle nudge that this would be the winter that wasn't? After last winter we were all due for a break, with due apologies to the winter enthusiasts.

No excuses for not getting

outside now where the temperature is co-incidentally 67 degrees.

On the off chance that you don't have enough outside work on your own, you are welcome to join us.

The two winter walks sponsored by the Outreach Committee were extremely well received and I thank Ken Metzler and Juan Sanchez for leading them. More walks are scheduled.

The Stewardship Committee, always busy, will be gearing up for Spring Cleaning. Mother Nature can sometimes use a hand too.

The Boundary Committee has a goal of marking all boundaries of owned lands by the end of 2012. The Acquisition Committee is always ready to check out potential land gifts or easement offers. Join the

Committee for Easements as a monitor.

The Trust offers inside work opportunities as well. We represent 14 towns and would like to have Board

representation from each one. If you like math and working with figures, there's room in the financial

corner. If writing is your skill, we need help with publicity, the newsletter, and/or grant writing.

If you have fund-raising skills and like social events, head to the Development Committee.

If you have ideas about growth and reaching out, the door is wide open at the Membership Committee.

If you have legal skills, the Legal avenue is for you. If you like to organize, there's room on the team developing a filing policy, reviewing and revising our system for manual and electronic files.

Some Committees meet on a regular basis, others meet as needed. So many volunteers have told me that the Trust gives them far more than what they give to it.

Join us and see.

REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President



We're Going Greener. Consider Signing Up!

This newsletter has been available on www.joshuaslandtrust.org for some time, but now is being sent digitally to those of you who requested it.

You are also getting a paper copy as a back-up this time in case there is a problem with your email address. If you requested online delivery and did not receive it, please let us know.

Having the newsletter sent to you on-line frees up funds that the Trust can use for other initiatives, so please consider doing this!

New Conservation Coordinator Stephanie Clark Starts Work In April

Welcome to Stephanie Clark who has been hired as our new part-time conservation coordinator.

She replaces John Pagini who resigned in January.

Stephanie grew up in Gray, Maine, just north of Portland. She majored in Spanish at St. Michael's College in Vermont, with a minor in environmental studies. After spending a year abroad, she found her true passion was the environment.

After college, she spent a summer with the Youth Conservation Corps working on trails, and then went out to Washington State to work for the conservation corps there. However, she missed New England, and returned to Maine to work on her master's at Southern Maine University with a focus on land use and environmental planning, and in particular the role of land trusts.

Stephanie is scheduled to start work here on April 1. She currently works for the Maine DOT, but is excited to be coming to Connecticut to work in her area of concentration. She is amazed at the number of volunteers at Joshua's Trust, and is eager to find out about the different issues the trust faces, in particular looking at long-range planning.

Her enthusiasm and excitement are contagious. Stop by and meet her at the JT office.



Stephanie Clark

Tasting Fest Set

Mark your calendars now for discovering new wine, beers and liqueurs at our very popular tasting fest.

The event will be held on Sunday, May 20, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in Hampton at the Community Center, 178 Main Street.

The Big Jump, one of our popular local bands, will provide the music.

More details can be found soon on our web site.

Haydens ...Continued from Page One

ment in the Walk Book. For a number of years, Jean stored the books at their house – Sam making sure they weren't in a damp basement -- and then she distributed them to various businesses for selling. She was also responsible for collecting the monies from those businesses as well.

The Haydens' favorite Trust property is Iron Mine Valley in Ashford, for which they share the stewardship with Al Chen. Mike and Al developed the trail system when the property was first acquired by Joshua's Trust, and Mike continues to do trail maintenance several times a year.

Allanach-Wolf Woodlands Gains 17 Acres From Windham Deal

The 102-acre Allanach-Wolf Woodlands in Windham is being enlarged by 17 acres now that Windham voters have approved the sale of an adjoining parcel to Joshua's Trust.

The municipality had acquired the land-locked acreage several years ago when its owner failed to pay the taxes. The parcel abuts the Allanach-Wolf Woodlands, the 102-acre preserve on

Back Road in Windham, which we protect. Sale of the property was by public bid, and the high bid was made

by the Savings Institute, which administers the Ada Wolf Trust. Acquisition of this land will provide additional protection to the watershed and habitat diversity.



Above, a group of walkers visits the property.

At right, attending the town meeting where the property was sold, are Patricia Szczys, chair of the Windham Conservation Commission, with her son; Trust President Allison Burchell-Robinson, Mike Westerfield of the Windham Conservation Commission and, standing, Bruce Hodgins, vice-president of the Savings Institute.





This Year's List Of Contributing Donors

Our thanks all who made donations in addition to their yearly membership dues to Joshua's Trust during 2009. This is a list of those who gave \$50 or more this year. 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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In Memoriam

The Trust received donations in memory of the following people:

**Virginia Herrmann,
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Walk Group Focuses On Enjoying Trust Lands

Joshua's Trust has begun a walk group to encourage members to learn about and enjoy various trails near or on our properties.

In February, naturalist Juan Sanchez used Bernard Heinrich's book *Winter World* as the inspiration for a walk in the Goodwin State Forest in Hampton.

More than 40 people hiked along with Sanchez as he expounded on the winter survival techniques of northeastern animals. He illustrated various parts of the book with actual finds

along the trail including a turtle's shell, a hornet's nest, a beaver's lodge, and a number of lethargic insects.

The spring walk will take place on the Knowlton Hill property on March 21 – Mona Anderson, one of the stewards, will accompany the group.

If you are interested in learning more about this walking group, please contact Sarah Stratton at joshustrust@snet.net.

Juan Sanchez, walk leader, demonstrating an insect habitat.



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*Join us for this year's annual meeting...
...at Wilderness Lake In Willington*

This year's annual meeting and dinner will be held for the first time at Wilderness Lake Campground and Resort , 150 Village Hill Road, Willington. Dinner includes wine, appetizers, dinner and a guest speaker. New members are encouraged to attend! (You can meet our new conservation coordinator, too.)

Joshua's Trust annual dinner reservation form

Please submit by April 12.

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

Please make reservations for _____ people (\$25 per person)

2012 dues if not yet paid: _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Is this the first annual meeting you are attending? (Yes / No)

Make check payable to: Joshua's Trust

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