

Bog Defense Earns Stewardship Award

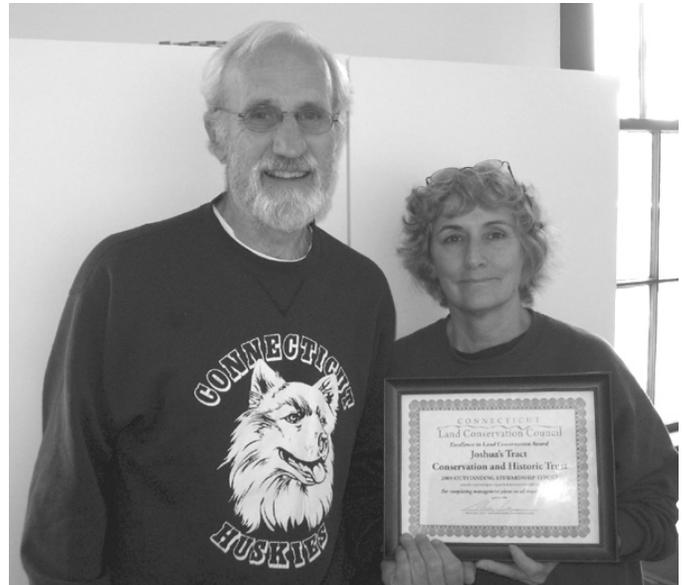
Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust received the award for Excellence in Stewardship at the Connecticut Land Conservation Council's annual conference, held at Wesleyan University on April 4.

Joshua's Trust has previously received awards for its conservation accomplishments, but regards the stewardship award as especially significant.

The award recognizes the Trust's defense of the Windham Atlantic White Cedar Bog, located on Rt. 6 in Willimantic and the organization's progress in developing management plans for all of its properties.

"Land acquisition is only the first part of our job," explained President Warren Church. Once the Trust acquires a property or an easement, it is committed to caring for that property forever and defending it against potential degradation.

One of the Trust's greatest challenges now is to build the financial resources to protect properties. A management plan for each property is needed to determine its special requirements and future costs in dollars and volunteer labor.



President Warren Church and Stewardship Chair Joan Hill with the stewardship award received by Joshua's Trust.

Gift Will Support Family's Land Donation

By Suzanne Zack

Lois E. Clarke has spent many decades of her life behind a camera focusing on the beauty in the world, and has shared her vision with others through her prize-winning nature, travel, and landscape photographs.

In February, Clarke made certain that others would experience some of the same wonders of nature that initially inspired her by donating \$30,000 to Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust.

The funds will be used to support 89 acres of the Clarke family farm in Columbia, given by Clarke's

sister Charlotte Harris to Joshua's Trust in 2006, as well as all future land and easement gifts to Joshua's Trust in Columbia.

"I don't see how we cannot benefit from land that's kept as open space," Clarke simply says. "More of it should be done."

"Joshua's Trust is extremely grateful to Lois Clarke and the Clarke family for their generosity," said Warren Church, president of Joshua's Trust.

"The gift will guarantee the long term stewardship of the Harris conservation easement in Columbia and provide additional funds for stewardship of future properties donated to the Trust in Columbia."

Check Out The Summer Walk Events On The Back Page.



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

With Frugal Use Of Trust Resources We Meet Some Serious Challenges

How time flies when you are having "fun!" It doesn't seem possible that my second year of being President is almost over. It has been a year wherein we continued to be successful in achieving our mission in spite of some daunting challenges.

One such challenge was the commercial development proposal by the Tractor Supply Company that threatened our sensitive White Cedar Bog in Windham off Route 6.

We met this challenge by hiring an expert consultant who proposed a low-impact alternative

to the development that was finally accepted by the developer. We ultimately signed an agreement with the developer that included the low-impact design, an easement buffer between the development and the bog, and provided for post-development testing to insure against the contamination of the Bog.

Another big challenge for us has been the economic recession. The sharp downturn in the stock market has resulted in a lowering of our capital investments and income from these funds. Thanks to the decisions of our Investment Committee and our fund managers, we fared much better than the market indices (*See the investment report on Page 3*). Fortunately, the generosity of our donors and frugal management enabled us to move money into board-restricted funds to take care of future needs.

Thanks to the following 2008 contributors whose names were inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter: Andy Belisle & T. Tully, Bob Dubos, Richard Hyde, Meg McCarrick, Bill Philbrick, Bruce Raymond, and Steve and Kathy Smith.

I would like to thank all our volunteers and volunteer committees for all their contributions in 2008.

The efforts of our Acquisition and Planning Committee, headed up by Richard Hyde, have resulted in the addition of new conservation easements.

Ivan Robinson granted us an easement consisting of 42 acres of valuable open space in Tolland, while Warren Stone gave us an easement on 58 acres of

equally important open space in Hampton. The Committee also worked with the towns of Lebanon and Willington in collaborative

projects to save over 250 acres of valuable open space in those towns.

Joan Hill and her Stewardship Committee has been busy responding to the needs of our 60 properties in 13 towns. They have also taken on the noble task of formalizing management plans on all of our properties.

Special recognition should be given to the Events Committee headed up by Izzy Atwood. The very successful *Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem* concert raised over \$3,000 for our acquisition efforts.

To meet the challenges of the future we have established a Long-range Planning Committee headed up by past president Madge Manfred. This Committee will be making important recommendations to the Trustees as to what direction the Trust needs to take to continue to be successful in the coming years.

Warren's Word

By Warren Church
Joshua's Trust President



New Trustees Have Impressive Backgrounds

Eric Apgar has lived in Columbia since 2002. While in Napa, CA he served on the board of the Land Trust of Napa County. Eric now works for the Northeast CT Council of Governments as a GIS Analyst. Previously he worked at the CT DEP for two years mapping trails and

open space.

Bonnie Ryan, a resident of Mansfield since 1973, taught at Mansfield Middle School for 25 years, retiring in 2004. An elected member of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency, she is also a member of Altrusa International of Connecticut.

Walter Smith, a Mansfield resident, is a 1977 graduate of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and a 2004 graduate of Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. As a conservationist with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, he concentrated on collaborative water quality and watershed management. Retired, he remains active in agricultural issues and education.

Patty Szczys recently moved to Willimantic after joining the faculty at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she teaches Conservation Biology, Genetics, and Tropical Biology. Patty is a member of the Windham Conservation and Open Space Commission and looks forward to facilitating partnerships between Joshua's Trust, the Town of Windham, and Eastern Connecticut State University.



Three of the four new trustees: (from left) Eric Apgar, Patty Szczys, and Bonnie Ryan with Allison Burchell-Robinson, who chaired the nominating committee.

Trust's Finances Take A Wallop, But Beat The Dow

Treasurer Tony Holt reported at the annual meeting that although the value of investments has declined during the past year, the Trust's overall finances are healthy.

For 2008, total assets decreased by \$190,000. Cash was down \$7,000, investments were down \$183,000 (almost 20% for the year) and there were no additions of land. Operations showed a gain of \$9,000 for the year.

Major repairs on the Grist Mill were completed during the year and, for the moment, no new projects are in the works.

Fund liquidity, though diminished by the projects of the past two years, remains adequate.

The value of our investments was \$953,000 at the end of 2007; \$753,000 on Nov. 30, 2008; and \$771,000 on Dec. 31, 2008, down 19% from the previous year. The

Dow was, since December of 2007, down 30% for that same period.

A portfolio decline of 19% is certainly not welcome; but, compared to the market's performance, our investment advisors seem to be doing an excellent job. The account value is

still ahead of our initial investments.

The Investment Committee will continue to monitor the investment situation closely.

The detailed financial report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2008, is available on request.



Invasive Hunt:

Student volunteers from Eastern Connecticut State University cleared invasive plants recently at Pigeon Swamp. At back left is Marc Lange, a board member from Lebanon, and to the back in sunglasses, Gary Griffin, a regional steward.

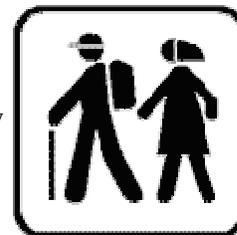
Marvels To Behold In Your Own Neighborhood

These Two Summer Walks Will Enlighten And Delight

Amazing Kettle Holes

May 23, 10:30 a.m. "The Amazing Story of Kettle Holes," a walk with University of Connecticut Prof. Robert Thorson, will leave the parking lot to the south of the Mansfield Library and follow the trails at Bradley Buchanan Woods to Echo Lake. Thorson's new book on kettle holes has just been published. Before starting out, Thorson will give a short talk on the human and geological history of the area. Rain date is May 24 at 2 p.m.

Directions: The Mansfield Library is located on Rt. 89, about .5m north of the intersection with Rt. 195.



A Tour Of Future Storrs

June 6, 10 a.m. . Storrs Center downtown and Whetten Woods. Joshua's Trust and The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will lead a walk of the future Storrs Center downtown and the Whetten Woods trail located on open space adjacent to Storrs Center. An easy pace over fairly flat terrain; woods and parking lot. Meet 10 a.m. behind Starbucks on Storrs Road (Route 195).

Please pre-register with Leader Cynthia van Zelm, vanZelmCA@mansfieldct.org, 860-429-2740.

Gardening Tip: Visit the **Gardens at Bassetts Bridge** in Mansfield during the month of May. Owners Wes and Jean Bell will donate 20 percent of your purchase amount to Joshua's Trust. Just ask to fill out a donation card.

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