

Board Accepts Ada Wolf Property

Joshua's Trust has been named as the recipient of a 102.6 acre property in the will of Ada Wolf, who passed away last spring. Mrs. Wolf also provided an endowment specifically for the management of the property and possible purchase of adjacent land.

The Board of Trustees voted at its recent meeting to accept the property pending completion of work to be overseen by the Savings Institute Bank and Trust, the executor named in Mrs. Wolf's will.

The actual transfer of the property is expected by March 2008.

Located on Back Road in Windham, the property offers scenic views, opportunities for walking trails and scientific research, and helps protect the Indian Hollow Watershed.

A 22-acre shallow pond, known as Lake Marie, is fed by local streams which course through the woods.

Situated in a relatively undeveloped area, the property has been identified as having the highest natural resource priority in the Town of Windham's 2007 Plan of Conservation.

"This property has the potential to be the core of a future greenway," said Jennifer Kaufman, the project leader. Greenways are large tracts of pro-



tected land that are necessary for conservation of natural resources.

Mrs. Wolf's will allows for up to 25 percent of the endowment principal to be used for purchase of abutting property.

"Mrs. Wolf's gift is exceptionally far-sighted," said Richard Hyde, the Trust's vice president for land acquisition. "Her generosity included recognition that there are long-term costs associated with the proper stewardship of land."

A formal dedication of the property will be held next spring, giving Trust members and neighbors an introduction to the Wolf property.

Project Leader Jennifer Kaufman, left; Bruce Hodgins, vice-president of the Savings Institute Bank and Trust, center; and Joshua's Trust President Warren Church.

New Conservation Easements Total 421 Acres

Several new conservation easements totaling 421 acres have been offered to Joshua's Trust.

The largest property protected is a 210-acre farm on the North side of Old Colony Road in Eastford owned by Mary Ellen and Michael Ellsworth. The property includes a house lot surrounded by beautiful, rolling fields and forest land. There is a four-acre spring and brook fed pond in the middle of the property. This brook transverses the property

and joins Bundy Brook on the East boundary. The variety of fields, forest, and wetland provide excellent habitat for wildlife and scenic vistas. This property was classified by the Town of Eastford Conservation plan of 2004 as priority land for conservation.

Warren Church, current president of Joshua's Trust, has given an easement on approximately 70 acres on the West side of Tower Hill Road in Chaplin. It is part of the Church

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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

A Year Of Great Growth

Like it or not, 2007 is rapidly coming to an end and this is our last newsletter of the year.

This has truly been a year of growth, challenge and excitement for the Trust. In addition to adding one 15-acre property along the Natchaug River in Chaplin, 12 acres adjacent

to Wolf Rock in Mansfield, and accepting the 102-acre Wolf property in Windham, we have accepted seven conservation easements representing approximately 570 acres — each in a different town!

We are now protecting over 3,600 acres of valuable open space in the Quiet Corner.

Perhaps the most rewarding acquisition work involves the Wolf Prop-

erty in Windham. The Trustees voted to accept this beautiful parcel which includes the 22-acre Lake Marie at their November meeting.

I would like to thank Jennifer Kaufman (project manager) and the members of the Wolf Property Advisory Committee for doing the homework which enabled the Trustees to make an informed decision.

One thing that we must continue to remember is that each time we add a property or accept an easement, the Trust is assuming a perpetual stewardship obligation.

Fortunately, the membership continues to step up with generous donations and volunteer help to insure that these commitments will be met.

Warren's Word

By Warren Church
Joshua's Trust President



Grants Will Assist In Community Outreach

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation has awarded a \$3,400 grant to the Trust to assist in the purchase of a new computer and a computer projector.

Allison Burchell-Robinson, who wrote the grant, said she was delighted that the full amount of the grant request had been funded. Norcross also approved a grant request last year which enabled the Trust to upgrade its computer equipment.

"The office will now be well equipped to handle the increasingly complex tasks of a growing organization," Allison said. "The projector will enable representa-

tives of the Trust to make presentations about our goals and accomplishments. It is essential to our educational outreach to the community," she added.

A \$2,000 grant from the Quinnebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor has also been received. This grant will help support the production and distribution of an informational DVD about Joshua's Trust.

John Meyer, retired from a career in professional videography, has volunteered to undertake the project. He has enlisted faculty and student volunteers from Eastern Connecticut State University to assist him.





Don't Let The Fun End With The Holidays

Joshua's Tract has teamed up with Mansfield Parks and Recreation to offer a variety of family-friendly, environmental education events. The Trust is exploring ways to collaborate with conservation commissions and recreation departments in other area towns. The goal is to bring affordable or free events to the region served by the Trust.

To register for the events below, contact the Mansfield Parks and Recreation office: 429-3015 or register on line by going to www.mansfieldct.org, clicking on the Community Center logo, and then to online registration. Registration opens Dec. 10 for residents; Dec. 17 for non-residents. Fees for all Mansfield co-sponsored programs: \$5 per person for Mansfield residents; \$8 non-residents; \$10 maximum per family for residents; \$20 per family for non-residents.

Feet, Hooves and Paws -Winter Animal Tracking

Identify animal tracks and discover amazing animal behavior. Bring questions and share your tracking experiences with the group. We will begin inside at the Joshua's Trust office with activities and will follow with a trek outdoors. Dress warmly and wear boots suitable for walking in the snow. Instructor: Sue Harrington, naturalist.

Sun., Jan. 27, 2-4 p.m. at the Joshua's Trust Office (Rtes 32 and Rte 275)

Fee: See top of page.

Star Party

What can be seen in the winter night sky? An evening of stargazing and exploration. We will begin under the Pavilion at Lion's Club Field and then out on a soccer field to identify the brighter stars and constellations, and find several binocular objects. Dress warmly and wear boots suitable for walking in the snow. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars and flashlights. For families with children 5 and older. Instructor: Cynthia Peterson, UConn Department of Physics.

Sat., March 8 (Cloud Date Sat. March 15), Lion's Club Field (off Route 89) 7-9 p.m.

Fee: See top of page.

Wildflowers Through the Year

Are you tired of winter? Are you ready for a little more color in the outdoors? Let's think spring as we take a look at the breath-taking colors provided by local wildflowers. Not only will we learn what they are, but how some got their names, how some were used by Native Americans and other fascinating tidbits that will make them more interesting. Join us for this slide program that will take you from the first flowers of spring to the very last of blossoms of fall. Instructor: Sue Harrington, naturalist

Tues., March 18, in the Mansfield Community Center, 10 South Eagleville Rd. 7-8 p.m.

Fee: See top of page.

Teddy Bear's Picnic

For the young ...

...and young at heart.

Bring your favorite bear and join naturalist Sue Harrington at the Eagleville Schoolhouse (Rtes 32 and 275) for refreshments, activities, and interesting information about live bears.



Jan. 12, 1-3 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$5 per person; advance registration is required by Jan. 7 and space is limited.

A registration form is available on-line at www.joshuaslandtrust.org. Call 423-8683 if you have questions.

Nature Reading Group

Does nature and those who muse about it inspire you? The nature reading group meets the first Thursday of the month at the Mansfield Community Center to read and discuss historic and popular literature on nature and conservation. Discussion leaders: Jean Haskell and Madge Manfred

Thurs., Feb. 7: *The Trees in My Forest*, by Bernd Heinrich. Vermont biologist and nature writer Heinrich takes readers on an eye-opening journey through the hidden life of a New England forest.

Thurs., March 6: *The Same Ax, Twice: In the Memory House* by Howard Mansfield, another New Englander. While telling us memorable stories of "Noahs" working to preserve from extinction whatever is useful, beautiful, or well-made, Mansfield urges us to conserve more and consume less.

No fee.



Easements Preserve Land All Over The Region

Continued from page 4.

farm, which has been in the family since 1834. The mix of field, old pasture, pine and hardwood forest provides excellent habitat for birds and animals. The easement abuts over 400 acres of contiguous open space to the east, protected by Forest Legacy, and forms part of the Mount Hope River watershed.

In Lebanon, Lance and Pauline Magnuson have conserved 34 acres on the North side of Hoxie Road. It is a combination of a picturesque 12-acre hay field which is visible from the road, a pond, one to two acres of wetland and several more acres of open space including a Christmas tree planting area. A native trout stream

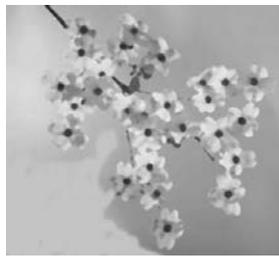
runs through the property. The remainder of the land is a hardwood forest. In addition to providing ideal wildlife habitat, the easement abuts and potentially avails access to the Pember Wetlands, a 15-acre parcel owned by the Trust.

Ivan Robinson has donated an easement on approximately 52 acres on Cedar Swamp Road in Tolland. The property is fairly flat with an abundance of wetlands, which are covered with cranberry bogs, laurel and blue-

berry bushes. A brook runs through the property, and there is substantial potential for preservation of adjoining open space. Although easements enable the donor to maintain ownership of the property, Mr. Robinson has generously agreed to allow the Trust to sponsor up to two

walks a year on this beautiful land, which is traversed by well-maintained trails.

Warren Stone has protected approximately 55 acres on the South side of Hartford Turnpike (Route 6) in Hampton. The property includes a mature hardwood forest, two small ponds and a larger beaver pond. This property has been designated as prime land for open space preservation. It is adjacent to the Goodwin State forest



Dogwoods Now Grace Knowlton Hill Preserve

Through the good offices of Carol Yee of Carol's Collectibles, Prides Corner Farms, a nursery in Lebanon, donated 15 seven-foot dogwood trees to Joshua's Trust to

replace the old dogwoods along the road near the entrance on the Knowlton Hill Preserve in Mansfield.

Greg and Mona Anderson, the stewards for that property planted them in late September.

This gift will give pleasure for many years, not only to visitors to the Preserve, but to the people who walk, bike and drive by.

Joshua's Trust members should keep in mind the generosity of Carol's Collectibles, a local business which specializes in unusual plants. The business is located on Perry Hill Road in Ashford.

and forms part of the Little River and Shetucket River watersheds.

"Each of these properties significantly contributes to conservation efforts in our region," explained Richard Hyde, vice-president for land acquisition. "A conservation easement is a flexible tool which permits the owner to protect open space while retaining title to the land. In many cases, the donation of an easement can also lead to a tax savings for the donor."

Time Growing Short To Make Gift Of IRA Distribution

The opportunity to donate and avoid paying taxes on your mandatory annual IRA distribution will expire at year's end.

If you are at least 70½ years old, you must take a minimum distribution. Failure to do so can result in tax penalties on top of the regular income tax.

For example, if you had \$100,000 in IRA accounts, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) might be \$3,649. You can donate any of the RMD to a charitable

organization such as Joshua's Trust and it will not be counted as income when you file your taxes.

There are several online sources where you can get details about the RMD, including www.finance.cch.com.

If you want to use your IRA distribution as a donation, contact your IRA plan administrator now about making the gift.

The transfer of funds must be made before Dec. 31 to qualify for the tax exemption.



Family's Donation Rests Walkers' Bodies and Souls In Memory Of Longtime Volunteer Virginia Ferguson

Family and friends gathered at Coney Rock in Mansfield on the morning of Oct. 20 for the dedication of a stone bench to the memory of Virginia Ferguson.

The bench is one of two donated to the Trust by her husband, Roger Ferguson. Virginia, who died a few years ago, served as the first office manager when the Trust moved to headquarters at the Eagleville Schoolhouse. She and her husband were long-time volunteers for the Trust, which was established in 1966 as a regional conservation organization.

On hand for the dedication were Andi Hummer of Mansfield and Helen McCue of Ashford, sisters of Roger Ferguson. Along with other family members, friends, and Trust officers, they recalled Virginia's deep affinity with the natural world and the priority she gave to conservation.

The granite benches are inscribed with a line from one of Virginia's favorite poems: "I saw the last leaf of fall ask the first snow flake to dance."

From the bench atop Coney Rock, one can see miles of eastern Connecticut woodlands. The second bench is placed by the Fenton River, behind the Gurleyville Grist Mill, a historic site protected by Joshua's Trust. For information about public access to the Joshua's Trust trails, check the Trust's website: www.joshuaslandtrust.org.



Andi Hummer, left, and Helen McCue sitting on one of the benches donated by Roger Ferguson in his wife's memory. Keith Johnson, steward of the Coney Rock property, stands behind.

John Pagini Replaces Katherine Winslow As Conservation Coordinator

John Pagini, a Coventry resident who has served on JT's Board of Trustees, will replace Katherine Winslow as conservation coordinator.

Katherine provided fine service to Joshua's Trust during her brief tenure, but was offered a full-time position elsewhere.

Recently retired from a career as a public sector planner, John is now a land-use planning consultant to municipalities and regional governments, including the Town of Scotland.

He is on the Board of 1,000 Friends of Connecticut, an advocacy group for smart growth, and on the executive committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Since joining the Trust's board one year ago, John has

rolled up his sleeves to help with numerous projects, and has been actively engaged with conservation efforts in Coventry.

"As a planner, I spent my professional career serving dedicated all-volunteer land use boards, finding that role challenging, but very rewarding," John said.

"As I enter a new stage in my career, I have discovered that same extraordinary dedication and energy in Joshua's Trust, which has made the Trust so successful. I intend to apply the same skills I did as a planner and administrator to my role as conservation coordinator.

"The Trust is entering a new stage - seeking to strengthen stewardship; becoming more pro-active in its conservation efforts; building its funding capacity for long-term sustainability; and preparing for accreditation."

2008 Membership Dues Form

Membership in Joshua's Trust expires at the end of the calendar year. Sending your renewal now will save us the cost of mailing a reminder later. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues (\$10 individual, \$20 family, \$50 sustaining, \$100 patron, \$250 benefactor) _____

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