



National accreditation is renewed!

In a reaffirmation of its faith in Joshua's Trust, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission has renewed our national accreditation, signifying confidence that the Trust's lands will be protected forever.

"This achievement demonstrates our commitment to land conservation that is effective, strategic and permanent," said Joshua's Trust Executive Director Michael Hveem. "Our entire organization is stronger for having participated suc-

cessfully in the rigorous accreditation renewal process."

Joshua's Trust works in 14 towns in northeastern Connecticut, and protects more than 130 properties totaling 4,500 acres. Many of the properties provide recreational access, while others protect critical watersheds and wildlife habitats. Joshua's Trust also manages two historic properties, the Gurleyville Grist Mill and the Atwood Farm, both

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Margaret Welch: 'File Queen'

By Kitty LeShay

Volunteers are the very fabric of Joshua's Trust, and Margaret Welch of Ashford is one of the Trust's most committed volunteers.

Margaret retired in 2009 from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection where she had been a land use planner, working with Connecticut's coastal communities to help them make development decisions that would also protect Long Island Sound.

Six months after retirement she was knocking on the Trust's door, asking, "How can I help?" She had been a Trustee, so she was familiar with some of the areas where volunteers are needed.

Her favorite job at the Trust is organizing processes and developing tools to help those processes run smoothly. She has completed one such project where she researched the process of acquiring a new piece of property from start to finish. She then created a tool, the Acquisitions Checklist, which will help streamline the acquisition process.

She played a key role in preparing for the Trust's recent re-



Margaret Welch oversaw and organized the Trust's re-accreditation application..

-accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance, volunteering over 200 hours on this enormous and essential project.

Never one to stop when the task does, Margaret then took

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Annual dinner and 50th anniversary bash is Oct. 15

The Trust will acknowledge its 50th anniversary with a culminating celebration and dinner on Saturday, Oct. 15. Instead of a speaker, there will be music – and dancing for those so inclined!

John Paolillo, a local musician who has played at a number of area locations, will provide the toe-tapping tunes with music from each of the decades the Trust has been in existence.

The event takes place at Camp Horizons in South Wind-

ham, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner. After dinner, the slate of new trustees will be voted on by the membership and awards distributed, and then the music begins.

Sam Dodd, one of the founders, will be our special guest along with his wife Ann, and grandson. The cost for the dinner is \$35. Reservations are required by Oct. 3 and can be made through the mail with the form on Page 6 or on the Trust's web site. We look forward to seeing you there!

Joshua's Trust

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Phone: 860-429-9023

OFFICERS:

President: Doug Hughes
Past President: Fran Funk
Vice President: Karen Zimmer
Acquisitions Chair: Warren Church
Secretary: Nancy Silander
Treasurer: Allison Burchell-Robinson

STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem
Finance Administrator Tish Ignatowicz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Andersen, Willington
Allison Burchell-Robinson, Ashford
Gail Bruhn, Mansfield
Warren Church, Chaplin
Ann Dunnack, Columbia
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield
Gwen Haaland, Ashford
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Doug Hughes, Mansfield
Carl Lindquist, Chaplin
Dave Parry, Windham
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Jim Russel, Windham
Nancy Silander, Mansfield
Karen Zimmer, Mansfield



Visit the Trust's Facebook page for news updates.



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

Why accreditation matters

I can't convey how happy we are with the news that our accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission has been renewed for another five years!

This is the highest distinction that a land trust can achieve, and signifies the LTAC's confidence in our ability to protect our preserves and easements.

Why is it so important that we work to earn this recognition?

The primary reason is that it's an incredible opportunity to confirm that we are doing all the right things to keep us successful. The LTAC defines best practices based on its experience with land trusts around the country, and following their rigorous processes helps us avoid the costly and time-consuming mistakes that others trusts have made.

Secondarily, our achievement serves as

TRUST NOTES

By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

a powerful communication to our members, donors, communities and grants-making organizations that we are worthy of support. It tells the world that we are committed, strong, and able to follow

through on our promises of perpetual protection for our land.

Hundreds of hours went into preparing our records for the very thorough re-accreditation process, under the leadership of our Executive Director Mike Hveem. We owe a giant collective thank you to Mike as well as those who contributed so much, particularly Margaret Welch, Allison Burchell-Robinson, and Warren Church, among others.

And of course, we couldn't have done this without our members – so congratulations to you!

— Doug

Joshua's Trust among 350 accredited in U.S.

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both located in Mansfield.

Joshua's Trust was among 38 land trusts across the United States to achieve accreditation or to have accreditation renewed in August. Joshua's Trust joins the more than 350 accredited land trusts that demonstrate their commitment to professional excellence through accreditation, helping to maintain the public's trust in their work.

"It is exciting to recognize Joshua's Trust with this distinction," said Tamma Van Ryn, executive director of the Commission. "Accredited land trusts stand together, united behind strong ethical

standards ensuring the places people love will be conserved forever. This network of land trusts has demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership and lasting stewardship of conservation land."

Each accredited land trust must apply for renewal every five years and undergo a comprehensive review as part of its renewal application.

The process is rigorous and strengthens land trusts so they can help landowners and communities achieve their goals.

Margaret Welch of Ashford undertook the enormous task of organizing the Trust's materials for the re-examination.



Joshua's Trust takes stewardship of its properties seriously. We make sure that our signs, kiosks, and trails are all in good condition. Some of our steward duties involve mowing fields for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Recently the Stewardship Committee purchased a new DR Field Mower, primarily to maintain the field at Church Farm.

Plenty of time to earn a backpack as Trust's Passport Program for hikers continues into fall

In this year's Passport Program, collect 18 stickers from walk leaders and receive a string backpack with a Joshua's Trust 50th Anniversary logo.

Get your passport book from any walk leader or at the Trust office. There will be over 25 Passport walks between April and November, so plenty of opportunities to get a sticker! For directions to the properties and to view trail maps, visit our [list of properties](http://www.joshuastrust.org/property-list) at www.joshuastrust.org/property-list.

Sept. 25, Sunday

Pigeon Swamp, Lebanon 1 p.m.

Find out from Dennis Latchum about this area where "Pigeons Once Flocked."

Directions: from intersection of Rt. 32 and 203, take Main St, cross Babcock Hill Rd, go up the hill, take first left just beyond blue firehouse. This is Pigeon Swamp Rd, follow this road to end of pavement. For more information email Dennis at dlatchum@gmail.com.

Sept. 30, Friday

Knowlton Hill Preserve, Ashford 6:30 p.m.

Join John G. Morey at the for a hilltop tour of the autumn night to see stars, constellations and planets. If cloudy, back up date is Saturday, Oct. 1. Bring folding chairs, binoculars, and telescopes. If bringing a flashlight, red colored lights are strongly recommended.

Directions: Preserve entrance is near 74 Knowlton Hill Rd. For more information email jgmorey@yahoo.com.

Oct. 1, Saturday

Sprague Land Preserve, Franklin 1:30 p.m.

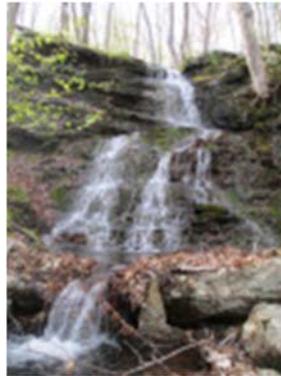
Led by Susan Allan. Come and explore the newest section of this 500-acre property formerly known as the Mukluk Preserve. The land is bordered in part by the Shetucket River.

Directions: From the intersection of Route 32 and Route 207 in Franklin, follow Route 207 east about 2.9 miles to Holton Road. Turn left onto Holton Road (across from cemetery). Proceed for approximately 1 mile to the entrance of the Sprague Land Preserve located on the right.

Oct. 2, Sunday

Josias Byles Sanctuary, Ashford 10 a.m.

Connect the past and the present with a 1.5 mile walk through a bio-diverse climax forest, including a stream and beaver dam, with stories after the hike at the historic Byles Homestead just off the trail.



Sprague Land Preserve

Directions: Trailhead is on the north side of Route 44 about one half mile east of the Route 89 intersection.

Oct. 15, Saturday

Chenes Roches Preserve, Willington 10 a.m.

Led by Peter Andersen. Take a 1.7 mile hike on the new trails in one of the Trust's newest preserves, through open hardwood and stands of old pines, and along a hemlock-shaded stream in a steep-sided vale.

Directions: From Route 32 in Willington, take Schofield Road north until it becomes Village Hill Road. Continue north to Blair Road on left. The preserve is at No. 65.

Oct. 22, Saturday

Wolf Rock Nature Preserve, Mansfield 2 p.m.

Led by Robert Thorson. The walk will focus on the area's geography.

Directions: From Route 195, take Brown's Road 1 mile to where Crane Hill Rd. forks to the left. Travel on Crane Hill Rd about 0.2 m to the crossing of the Nipmuck Trail (blue-blazed). Parking area is on the right hand side.

Oct. 23, Sunday

Tobiassen Memorial Forest, Tolland 1 p.m.

Led by Ken Hankinson. This walk will focus on the sights of New England in the fall.

Directions: From the junction of Route 31 and Route 44 in Coventry, Ct, go north on Grant Hill Road 2.8 miles to Noah Lane. Turn right on Noah lane and go to the end. Park on the right side of the cul-de-sac where the trail begins.



Wolf Rock

Saturday, Oct. 29,

Coney Rock Preserve, Mansfield

Join a UConn emeritus geologist and Carl Lindquist in a walk up and along this prominent escarpment, providing magnificent vistas across the Mansfield Hollow area which lies below this tabletop area. The trail passes through various forest types, reflecting the nature of the underlying

Trust welcomes guests to Atwood Farm, Grist Mill

The Joshua's Trust Grist Mill and newly spiffed up Atwood Farm were part of Connecticut Open House Day June 11, celebrating the richness of life throughout the state.

For those who visited the Atwood Farm, the dream of twin sisters Isabelle and Harriett Atwood was being lived in real time. Harriett passed away in 1984, but Isabelle lived into her 90s. They moved buildings onto their 67-acre property with the vision of creating an historic 19th Century farm and it was accomplished over decades.

On Open House Day, some 50 visitors came to visit the weaver's cottage, newly opened blacksmith shop and massive 133-year-old barn. Many remember the impressive structure as being choked with antiques the sisters really did not want to sell because they loved them all. Though many were sold at auction to raise funds to operate the farm, some of the most impressive historic relics remain as examples of farm life in an earlier era.

Guests Susan Allen Konow, her daughter Katrina and



Peggy Church explains weaving to visitors to the Weaver's Cottage.

friend Monica enjoyed their visit on the rainy Saturday.

"My dad grew up on a farm," Katrina said. "Half the tools he had on his farm are here and I learned about their uses today," she said.

"There is lots of neat stuff at the Atwood Farm and the people in the displays were very knowledgeable," added her mother.

Indeed, some of the Trust's most learned members were there to explain the displays and tell of their history.

Rudy Favretti, who had spent days organizing the blacksmith shop and labeling its contents, was there to narrate and answer questions.

Peggy Church, handweaver, was giving weaving demonstrations in the weaver's cottage and providing a history of the pre-industrial creation of cloth from wool and flax fiber.

Visitors entering the cottage find themselves in another time, seeing wools bright with the colors of natural dyes.

Visit joshuastrust.org for information about upcoming programs at the farm.

Our new preserve!

Esther (Jo) Labbe of Willington deeded 55 acres of her property to the Trust that was opened to the public after her death in 2013. She named it Chenes Roches — Oaks Rocks — to highlight the large white oak tree and the giant boulder on the property.

Her will stipulated that the Trust sell the house along with 7 acres to a farmer, and it has taken three years, and a number of volunteers, to get the property ready.

Preparations have included the demolition and removal of several barns and other structures, construction of a small parking area, and laying out of trails.

Many thanks to Pete Andersen, Bill Goodale, Paul Pribula, Vern Beausoleil, Terry Wakeman, and Scott Matthies for all the work.



Vern Beausoleil at the new Chenes Roches trailhead sign.

Of apples and art

The Trust has a number of fall activities to continue the celebration of its 50th anniversary — and we hope you'll join us!

On Sept. 24 and 25, from noon to 5 p.m., artists who have painted *en plein air* at the Atwood Farm and in the vicinity will exhibit their work in the barn at the Atwood Farm. Shauna Shane, a well-known Mansfield artist, is organizing the show.

Leslie Sweeney returns on Oct. 9, 1-4 p.m., to the Atwood Farm with her cider presses. While the apple crop has not been as prolific as last year, she can still get apples from the area.

Come taste unfiltered, unpasteurized cider as you watch it being produced!

Margaret Welch — tireless ambassador for the Joshua's Trust community

on the responsibility of reorganizing all of the property files for clarity and content, eliminating duplicate information and making note of missing data.

Anyone who has had the occasion to use the Property and Easement Files in the office will understand how valuable our "File Queen" is. She is now looking for a volunteer to take over "File Queen" responsibilities so that she can focus

on her next project.

Not only is Margaret Welch a tireless volunteer for the trust, but she is also a wonderful ambassador to the community, always warm and welcoming to new volunteers, and spreading the good news of Joshua Trust's mission to the people she meets.

Thank you, Margaret, for all you do!

EASTCONN student volunteers help clear invasive species



The EASTCONN work crew lines up for a group photo, left, after a day of helping rid the woods of Japanese barberry.

On a hot and humid week in July, and again in mid-August, students from the EASTCONN Summer Youth Employment and Training Program came out to both our Whetten Woods and Dunham Woods Preserves for an invasives removal project.

Despite the weather, they put quite a dent in the Japanese barberry at both places. Japanese barberry is an introduced invasive plant that is taking over natural habitats in our area. It eliminates the native vegetation and provides habitat for white-footed mice, carriers of the black legged ticks that spread Lyme disease.

Joshua's Trust stewards Susan Beach at Whetten Woods and Careen Jennings at Dunham Woods provided instruction in barberry removal and assisted in the efforts.

The EASTCONN Summer Youth Employment Program gets funding from the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board which pays selected students to work on community based projects for five weeks in the summer.

The Trust was able to participate through the efforts of volunteer Ann Lewis.

We hope to continue this developing relationship in the future.

Autumn is the best time for a Passport walk

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deposits.

Directions: From its Storrs Road terminus, follow Chaffeeville Road 1.8 m to just after it crosses the Fenton River and the entrance to Mulberry Road. At that point on the right there is a park sign, parking for several cars, and the start of the Spring trail.

Saturday, Nov. 12

Pappenheimer Preserve, Scotland 10 a.m.

Led by Jim Russel. Take a walk on the wild side. Hike the 101-acre forest preserve, abutting Mohegan State Forest. Visit Red Maple swamp and a 5.5-acre grass covered swamp. A moderate walk, leashed dogs welcome.

Directions: The trailhead is located on Route 97 south of Murphy Hill Road.



Pappenheimer Preserve

Friday, Nov. 25

Utley Hill Preserve, Columbia 10 a.m.

Led by steward Ann Dunnack. The walk will focus on history, following the Utley Brook to the Great Columbia Swamp, watershed of Columbia Lake.

Along the way see the ruins of several mills from the 18th and early 19th centuries. Experience woodland, wetland, and open brush habitats along the way. Leashed dogs and kids welcome. Two miles, two hours, moderate difficulty.

Directions: From the junction of Route 87 and Route 55 in Columbia, go west on Rt. 87 1 mile to Lake Road. Turn left on Lake Road and go 1 mile to Erdoni Road on the right. Enter opposite Erdoni on the left side of Lake Road.

Anniversary Gala Oct. 15 at Camp Horizons

This year's annual dinner at Camp Horizons in South Windham will be no ordinary affair, since Joshua's Trust will be celebrating 50 years of conservation and preservation in northeast Connecticut. Join us at 6 p.m. Oct. 15 for an evening of camaraderie, music and fun and help keep us our momentum for another 50 years.

Use the form below to make your dinner reservation today!

Joshua's Trust Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Please submit by Oct. 3

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please make reservations for _____ people @ \$35 each: Total \$ _____.

I cannot attend, but would like to contribute \$ _____

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



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