



George Russell, 90, was influential figure in Trust's early years

George Russell, Jr., a longtime Storrs resident and an influential figure in the early years of Joshua's Trust, died Jan. 11 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was 90.

Dorothy Goodwin, the Trust's second president, relied on his counsel that he willingly offered as an expert on open space conservation. George worked on the non-political staff of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

As a resident of Mansfield, he served on its Planning and Zoning Commission, and helped initiate a program of meaningful land conservation that has served as a model for towns throughout the state. At the same time he was chairman of the Trust's publicity committee and also served as a Trust trustee for several terms.

George's sound advice was important. At a special meeting of the Trust in 1973, dealing with financial issues, he advised that fund-raising

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New shine on an old building

Thanks to a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation, a new coat of paint is making our headquarters, the Atwood House, shine.

Lead in the oldest layers of paint required lead paint removal protocols to be observed. You may have seen the workers of Barcon Home Improvement in their plastic suits in the heat of August removing the old layers.

There was also a fair amount of repair of sills and trim boards required. The result is preservation of this historic building and a safer environment with no flaking lead paint.

Joshua's Trust is grateful to the 1772 Foundation, in cooperation with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, for helping make this possible.

Annual meeting is April 22 (Earth Day)

After moving the annual meeting to the fall several years ago, the trustees have decided to change it back to spring. New trustees, who are voted in at the annual meeting, begin their terms in May.

Because we just celebrated our 50th anniversary with a big gala last October, the board decided to go more "low-key" this time.

The meeting will take place, not coincidentally, on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 4 p.m., at the Mansfield Eagleville Firehouse. The firehouse is located on Route 32 just south of the South Eagleville Road intersection.

Instead of a meal, we will have light hors d'oeuvres and

wine during the social hour when you can get together with other Trust members and find out what they've been up to, as well as find out what new initiatives are taking place with the Trust.

Our speaker will be University of Connecticut philosophy Prof. Jc Beall, a beekeeper who will talk about supporting pollinators.

Donations will be taken at the door to cover the cost of the hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Please sign up in advance by emailing activities@joshuastrust.org. Please write Annual Meeting in the subject line and indicate the number in your party.

This is a good time to renew your membership. See the back page.

Joshua's Trust

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Visit us at:
The Atwood Farm,
624 Wormwood Hill Rd., Mansfield.
Office hours: Tues. Thurs. noon- 5 p.m.
Phone: 860-429-9023

OFFICERS:

President: Doug Hughes
Past President: Fran Funk
Vice President: Karen Zimmer
Secretary: Nancy Silander
Treasurer: Gail Bruhn

STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem
Finance Administrator: Tish Ignatowicz
Volunteer Coordinator: Andy Woodcock

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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.

An orderly transition

TRUST NOTES

By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

The orderly transition of leadership is as important in organizations as it is in politics, and Joshua's Trust won't skip a beat as current Vice President Karen Zimmer steps in as expected to become the Trust's 21st president at the next Board of Trustees meeting in May.

Karen has already made tremendous contributions to many areas of the Trust, and her outstanding energy, intelligence and passion for our efforts will undoubtedly speed up our 50-year-old trajectory of sustainable growth and process improvement. Her enthusiasm for JT is contagious, and I hope that all of our volunteers and supporters have a chance to meet her personally. Hail to the chief!

Leadership continuity is also ensured by our strong and active Board of Trustees, who chair our committees and manage the myriad technical and logistical challenges inherent in managing the needs of our properties, easements, historic sites and operations.

The trustees as a whole make all the important decisions for JT and continuously plan for our future. They, not the president, are our "deciders." Unlike our

legislators, trustees are limited to no more than three terms of three years each, although many former trustees continue service as our most stalwart volunteers.

Our professional staff, like civil servants, provide stability, efficiency and operational expertise to the Board.

Mike Hveem, our first full-time executive director, now has more than two years in this role and like any great chief-of-staff works tirelessly to maintain excellent relations

with members, volunteers, the board, and the various communities with which the Trust interacts.

Of course, we couldn't do this at all without the remarkably consistent support of our constituents, the members -- many of whom

have renewed their memberships annually for decades. That's incredible party loyalty.

It's been a great honor for me to be president of this amazingly talented group of leaders and volunteers who keep Joshua's Trust great. Thank you for your support, and hope to see you on the trail!

— Doug



Incoming President Karen Zimmer and departing President Doug Hughes.

Join us on Open House Day at the Grist Mill and Atwood Farm

In conjunction with Connecticut Open House Day on **Saturday, June 10**, the Atwood Farm and the Grist Mill will be open for visits.

Come see the exhibits inside the many outbuildings at the Farm – we have new labels and explanations about

farming back in the late 19th century. Docents will be at both places to answer any questions.

Then, enjoy a walk along the Fenton River on the blue trail at the Grist Mill.

It will soon be time to maintain our trails

A foot of snow may not inspire thoughts of trail work, but a cardinal just landed on a bare branch outside my window at Joshua's Trust headquarters and, just like last year, spring is coming.

Just like last year and every one of our 50 years, JT is looking for volunteers who like to hit the trail, clear the trail and maintain our beautiful acreage.

Even if trail work is not your thing, JT has a place for you. It's called administrative work, but it's really the nuts and bolts of the organization – the stuff that makes it all possible. I'd like to talk to you about using your skills for an organization you believe in.

Andy Woodcock Volunteer Coordinator



We're also looking for volunteers with an interest in local history. The Gurleyville Grist Mill could benefit from people to tell the story of its varied history and cultural contributions as one of the longest standing mills in the area.

I'm asking you and two friends to contact me – andy.woodcock@joshuastrust.org – or call 860/429-9023 – or fill out the form found on our webpage. Right at the top, click

the Volunteer option.

There's no pressure. You can pitch in for as much or as little time as you can.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

... Committee work, on the other hand, takes place year round

In addition to the volunteers Andy Woodcock refers to above, the Trust is always looking for people interested in serving on its various committees.

There are six standing committees responsible for various Trust functions:

Stewardship led by Ann Dunnack – composed of individuals who oversee our many properties;

Development led by Dave Parry – members interested in improving our financial well-being through fundraising and friend-raising;

Education and Outreach led by Nancy Silander – members interested in spreading the word about the Trust as well as in organizing activities such as walks and special events;

Acquisitions led by Warren Church – members interested in evaluating properties that the Trust might be adding to its land portfolio;

Finance led by Gail Bruhn – members who are responsible for overseeing the budget and the investments of the Trust; and

Nominations and Governance led by Karen Zimmer – members who recruit new trustees and who ensure that we are operating in accordance with policies and procedures that govern the Trust.

If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact the chair or call the office during office hours, or fill out a volunteer form.

We'd love to have you involved!

We're not giving up on seeing the stars

On Friday, **March 24, 7:30 -9:30 p.m.**, local astronomer Paul Pribula will demonstrate how to look for constellations as we try once more to have a stargazing evening.

Given the vagaries of New England weather and the moon phases – (there needs to be a new moon) – we have several potential dates (see below). A cloud cover or precipitation moves the event to the next date.

Stargazers should gather at the Allanch-Wolf Preserve in Windham for parking, and walk about a quarter mile to the paved loop by the garage. Bring a chair or blanket, binoculars and/or a telescope, and a flashlight for walking back.

Please sign up in advance by emailing

activities@joshuastrust.org and putting “stargazing” in the subject line

along with how many are coming, or by calling the office at 860-429-9023 no later than the Friday before. If we have your email, we can let you know if the date is changed.

March 24 – 7:30 -9:30 p.m. Fall back dates (same time): March 25; March 31; April 1. If none of these work – we'll try the next new moon phase:

April 21 – 8 – 10 p.m. (note later start). Fall back dates: April 22, April 28, April 29

And, if we are stymied with all of these – we'll try again in the fall!



George Russell, guiding founder

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urging that that “each phase of it should focus on a particular project or cause, not just fundraising in general.”

George was a graduate of UConn, with honors, in 1952, after having served in the United States Army Intelligence Service.

He resided in Mansfield for 44 years with his wife, Maria, who died in 1999, and five children. His final years were spent in Waterbury, his birthplace.

He shall be remembered as one of our guiding founders.

He captures the 'awesomeness' of Trust lands

Matt Woodward appreciates the “awesomeness” of the Joshua's Trust properties — and has captured it on video.

In his own effort to honor and celebrate the Trust's 50 years of conservation and preservation, Woodward is in the process of hiking all of the Trust's properties and creating videos explaining their special features and history.

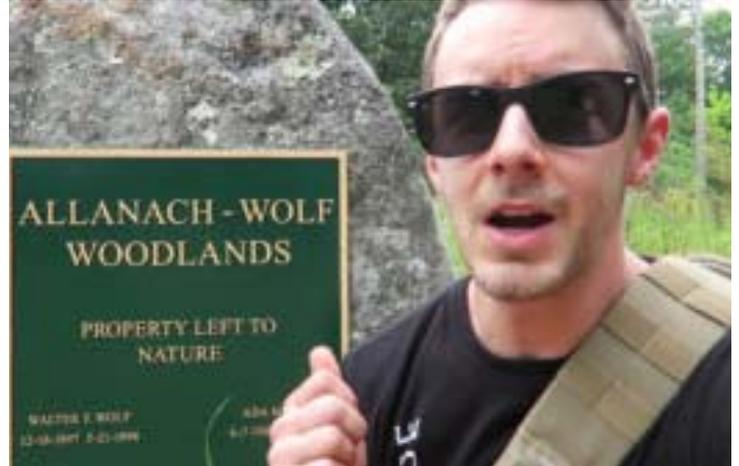
He has documented trails in 11 towns.

Woodward's collection of [videos can be found online through the Trust website](#) or on YouTube. Each one takes viewers on a narrated walk with the young Chaplin man as he talks about points of interest. He has grouped the videos by town.

His Windham video takes viewers, via drone, on an aerial tour of Allanach-Wolf Woodlands, zooming over the surface of Lake Marie and up over the trees for a drone's-eye view of the surrounding region.

A 2011 graduate of the State University of New York in Oneonta, Woodward works at the Willimantic Co-op as a grocery coordinator. “So far I haven't pursued anything related to my degree [in international studies] as I've grown to appreciate the community and values of the Co-op.”

“I don't have any training in video production, which



makes me self-taught, I guess,” he says. “I enjoy the physical challenges of hiking (especially for the back-to-back hikes on the JT videos), the intellectual challenge of researching the history and environment, and the problem solving of how to organize and shoot it. At its most basic, I just like going out and trying to capture the ‘awesomeness’ nature has to offer.”

And that he has.

Spring is nature's way of telling you to go outside

March 26 (Sunday) – 2 – 3:30 p.m. Potter Meadow (Columbia) – come look for spring along the stream and in the forest, and if we're lucky, see some salamanders. Rain (or snow) cancels. No dogs, please. Children welcome. Moderate. Sign up by emailing activities@joshuastrust.org (put March 26 in the subject line) or call the Trust office during office hours (Tuesday and Thursday noon – 5 p.m.)

April 22 (Saturday): 1 – 3 p.m. Dunham Woods (Mansfield). Thor Thorson leads us on a walk to see stone walls and dams. Easy. No dogs, please. Children welcome in a backpack or school age. Rain cancels. Alternate date: April 23. Please email activities@joshuastrust.org and put April 22 in the subject line or call the office during office hours (Tuesday and Thursday, noon – 5 p.m.) if you are planning to come as there is a maximum number of

walkers and parking is limited.

May 6 (Saturday) – 6 a.m. Pigeon Swamp (Lebanon). Birders should gather at Pigeon Swamp at 6:00 a.m. to meet Dave Parry and Mike Curtis. Bring binoculars and walking shoes! Kids welcome, but please, no dogs. Easy. Rain cancels.



June 4 (Sunday) - 2-4 p.m. Utley Hill Preserve (Columbia) It's Connecticut Forest and Parks Trails Day, and Ann Dunack will lead this hike. Learn about the beaver cycle, and how the people of the 18th and 19th century used water power to run their mills. 2 miles, moderate terrain.

June – Geo-caching with Laurie Gypson. Come learn how to geo-cache. Please check the web site for date, place and time. Several other walks are also being planned, but there are no firm details yet, so please check the Trust web site later this season or call the office during office hours.



KIDS, SEE RAPTORS UP CLOSE! On **Thursday, April 13, at 10 a.m.**, kids and adults alike can join Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation for a special program on owls. The program will begin at Horizon Wings where attendees will learn about some of the rescue's resident owls. Following the program, there will be a walk at Iron Mine Valley Preserve just five minutes up the road. The walk will focus on owls' natural habitat and springtime habits. Sign up by emailing activities@joshuastrust.org and put “raptors” in the subject line or by calling the Trust during office hours .

We bid farewell to a former president...

Au revoir! In keeping with the orderly transition that Doug mentions in his president's column, Allison Burchell-Robinson has resigned as Treasurer, and Gail Bruhn, who has been working with her for the past year, will take over.

Allison has been involved with the Trust since 2003 when she and her husband Wally became stewards of the Burchell-Harris Preserve in Ashford.

She immersed herself in the work of the Trust, becoming a Trustee, chairing the Development Committee and then becoming President of the Trust from 2010 to 2013. She has served as Treasurer since 2014.

During her presidential tenure, the Trust was accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, launched a successful capital campaign, and accepted the Atwood Farm, subsequently moving its offices and hiring its first staff.

As Allison observes: "It is no longer a small group with a mission of preserving and caring for the land. That group

has grown into a business with its own headquarters, staff, more assets, more volunteers, but the same mission and a professionalism achieved through the LTA accreditation and reaccreditation."

She hopes that eventually all 14 of our towns come to see the Trust "as their land trust."

She and Wally, along with Gitane her horse, plan to relocate to upstate New York, to be closer to their summer home in the 1,000 Islands, where she hopes to once again become involved in a land trust organization.

Her enthusiasm and expertise will be missed.



... and greet our newest trustee, Paul Pribula

Take a Midwesterner who lives where the land is mostly flat and laid out in an orderly grid. Stick him in Connecticut, with roads that go in all directions, including up and down, and what does he do?

He becomes a mapmaker!

More specifically, he becomes someone who has learned to use GPS technology and ArcGIS mapping software to help the Trust map its many properties and natural resources. It is work that will help us with potential acquisitions and those who want detailed information about our properties.

Meet Paul Pribula, our newest trustee, who is filling out the remainder of Allison Burchell-Robinson's term.

Pribula has lived in Willington with his wife Laurel and canine companions for more than 30 years.

When he got here, he said, he was "immediately taken by the forests, hills, rivers, etc., and went a little nuts getting into hiking, backpacking and paddling white-water."

He came east for a teaching job, but eventually migrated into information technology, working in area banks. The technical background and a backpacking/kayaking-driven fascination with cartography led him into GPS technology and map-making.

Before becoming a trustee, Paul helped make maps for the Willington Conservation Commission and volunteered at the Trust, helping to digitize our property maps in order to make them not only easier to use by stewards, but also to help the Trust determine what land is worth protecting because of its soils, vegetation, water courses and other resources.

When asked what he likes about volunteering at the Trust, Pribula said "I've found that I've been working with and around people with whom I have interests and goals in common, and who are a pleasure to work with."

So, thank Paul the next time you download a map from our web site or ask if the Trust can help you with mapping a parcel in one of our towns!



New Trustee Paul Pribula of Willington is also into astronomy. He'll be leading a JT skygazing event March 24. See page 3 for details.

A good time to renew your membership

Your membership in Joshua's Trust is valid for 12 months, so you choose the month you want to renew. If you didn't renew at the close of 2016, please take this opportunity to "begin again." As always, the Trust's continued success at protecting Connecticut open space depends on the support of its members.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues (\$10 Full-time Student; \$20 Individual; \$35 Family; \$100 Sustaining; \$250 Patron; \$500 Benefactor)

New member Check here []

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