



Grist Mill restoration underway with more to come next spring

If you had a chance to visit the Grist Mill this fall before it closed up for the winter, the docent most likely pointed out some of the recent restoration work that was done by Kronenberger & Sons Restoration.

A condition assessment completed last spring noted that the stone foundation of the building was deforming or “racking” due to water runoff from a road located at a higher elevation than the mill building, and that key framing members were insufficiently supported with footings or were cracked or otherwise damaged.

Fortunately, Kronenberger was able to do the work so that public access was unaffected.

The work would not have been possible without the support of community donations, and grants from Historic New England, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the 1772 Foundation.

The work will continue in the spring – this time up top – on the roof and the chimney structure. In addition, a senior engineering group from the University of Connecticut is assessing the embankment where the mill sits, as recent flooding has begun to compromise its viability.

While grants do help us pay some of the expenses, it is the community at large on whom we depend for most of the funding.

Our goal of \$300,000 has been partially met. We have raised about \$50,000, but we still need to raise \$250,000



An example of the structural work being done on some of the Grist Mill framing. The roof also needs work.

more over the next two years to complete the restoration. You can help by going to our website to donate or by sending a donation to our mailing address.

The Grist Mill is the only remaining stone mill in Connecticut – and certainly a singular treasure of our agricultural history in the region.

Our two new college interns bring a passion for the environment

Interns from the University of Connecticut have once again been proving their worth at the Trust and enabling long-thought-about projects to be accomplished.

One such project – visual recordings in order to ensure that future generations know what transpired – is being undertaken at the Grist Mill by Ron Camarota and Alyssa Hagearty.

Alyssa grew up in New Haven, and as a freshman at UConn learned about climate change, land fragmentation and preservation and climate justice. “The knowledge I gained expanded my appreciation and focus on the environment. I hope to do work on public policy in the future.”



Ron Camarota

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There's an event coming up you can Thoreau-ly enjoy. See Page 4.

Joshua's Trust

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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.

To save the landscape we developed a plan

You may have read about philanthropist Hansjorg Wyss, a Swiss national who came to the U.S., fell in love with Wyoming, and established the Wyss Conservation Foundation, dedicated to strengthening connections to the land.

He recently pledged one billion dollars over the next 10 years toward land and ocean conservation.

He says that while 15 percent of land worldwide has been protected in a natural state, many scientists say that "at least half the planet needs to be protected to save a large majority of plant and wildlife species from extinction" and that "the food, clean water and air we need to survive and prosper depends on our ability to protect the planet's biological diversity."

We need to do our part in this effort.

I never realized that New England has the greatest forest cover in the U.S., or

TRUST NOTES



By Karen Zimmer
Joshua's Trust President

that large forest blocks are necessary to provide areas of "flow" for plant and animal species to move and survive as the climate changes. Included in one of these important areas of concentrated flow is a large area of unfragmented forest in our Joshua's Trust region.

Thanks to the leadership of forester Dan Donahue, Vice President Paul Pribula and grad student Julia Rogers, JT Trustees adopted a Strategic Landscape Conservation Plan in September.

Our newly adopted plan will help educate and guide us as we move toward doing our part to conserve the most important places in our 14 towns.

Acquiring property for the Trust itself is only one of the ways we can help protect important places.

Soon we will have a "story map" on our website, under "about us" that will help explain our approach. — Karen

We love you, volunteers! Come celebrate on Feb. 9!

Have you done (or are you doing) volunteer work with Joshua's Trust?

Are you on one of the committees?

To celebrate you and all our other volunteers (and there are many!), you are invited to our annual Valentines for Volunteers celebration to be held on Feb. 9, from 2- 4 p.m. at the Atwood Farm.

Last year it was Charles Darwin, but this year we will have a special guest from Concord, Massachusetts – Henry David Thoreau – who will speak about his recent experiences at Walden Pond as well as other observations.

We hope you can join us!



Discover our properties' special charms in winter

Because of the iffy weather conditions that often accompany the next few months, the Trust does not organize walks on its properties until spring. They will be posted on the website and in the spring newsletter as they are scheduled.

But don't despair! Our properties still offer plenty of opportunity for outdoor fun (or shaking off a winter feast.)

We recommend you go to our website and take a look at the properties with trails.

If we get over three inches of snow, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are great at Allanach-Wolf Woodlands in Windham; Bradley-Buchanan Woods, Lof Woodlands, and Whetten Woods in Mansfield; Potter Meadow in Columbia; and Pigeon Swamp in Lebanon.

For a little more challenge (but not impossible) try Tobiasen Forest in Tolland or Josias Byles Sanctuary in Ashford.



Please note that Two Sisters in Chaplin is closed until further notice because of tree harvesting. Also, be aware that snow or ice on the ground can diminish the parking availability at any of our preserves.

A fresh snowfall, on the other hand, can bring to our woods a quiet beauty that is special to behold.

A digital approach to preserving the Grist Mill's story

Continued from Page One

Ron is a "non-standard" student, as he is officially retired from his 33-year career in the corporate world in Pennsylvania after serving in the Marines in Vietnam. Working with an environmental group is a natural fit.

"I have been active in environmental causes throughout my adult life and have tried to support and educate the public," Ron said. "I am a charter and life member in the International Snow Leopard Trust, a life member of the New York Zoological Society and served a term on the board of directors of the Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington, DE. "I even supported the radical wing of the environmental movement *Earth First!*"

Having moved to the area to help care for his mother-in-law, he is now studying history at UConn in order to combine his worldly experience with deep research, and to

"make a small, scholarly contribution."

His internship at the Grist Mill combines his two passions. He and Alyssa are creating special multi-media online presentations called StoryMaps to try to "bring some life through technology to the story of the Gurleyville Grist Mill."

A StoryMap is an interactive website that includes different visual elements like photos, maps, videos, and written information.

Ron and Alyssa are also interviewing and filming longtime docents like Quentin Kessel and Allen Barstow as well as photographing the mill and the surrounding area.

Look for the StoryMap soon on the Trust web site. And, if you'd like to get involved as a volunteer at the Grist Mill, please contact Fran Funk through the Trust. Preservation, nature and history – a combination of all three at one place!

Volunteering on Trust projects is a great way to get outdoors

This fall Trust volunteers and student groups from the University of Connecticut have completed over 11 projects at various Trust properties.

The community service groups at the university have increasingly chosen working at the Trust, perhaps because it gives the students an opportunity to get outside without electronics and to interact with others.

Andy Woodcock, our volunteer coordinator, says he enjoys working with the groups because they are so willing to work together and seem to have such fun.

Among other projects completed this fall were clean-ups at the pond lot on Echo Lake, wall clearing and improving the site lines at the Atwood Farm.

All is pretty quiet between December and March, but once work starts up again, and if you'd like to get involved, just contact Andy at the Trust office (andy.woodcock@joshuastrust.org) and he will let you know the what, when and where of spring projects.

You choose what fits your schedule. It takes a community to maintain our 70 preserves. We'd love to have you.



You will Thoreau-ly enjoy this excursion

Join us on Saturday, April 27, 2019, (heavy rain date May 4) for the Trust-sponsored excursion to Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, the historic epicenter of America's environmental movement.

Robert Thorson, local author of scholarly and popular books on Walden Pond, will be our guide as we explore the pond. After, we will have lunch at Concord's Colonial Inn, and then spend some time at the Authors' Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, before returning to Connecticut.

The group is limited to 20 participants.



Henry Thoreau

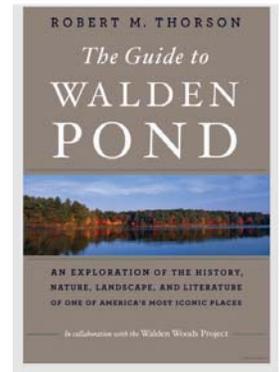
The cost will be \$100, which includes a copy of Thorson's most recent book – *The Guide to Walden Pond*, lunch, and entrance and parking fees.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to Concord.

We will meet at the pond entrance at 10 a.m. on the day of the event and plan to leave about 4 p.m.

This makes a great holiday gift!

For more information, or to sign up, please email Nancy Silander (nancysilander@gmail.com). We anticipate this excursion to fill up quickly.



The cover of Robert Thorson's book.

There are many ways you can support the Trust

Contribute as a business sponsor...

Partner with Joshua's Trust! What better way to be a part of improving the quality of life in our community?

We are inviting businesses and community organizations of all kinds to become sponsors of Joshua's Trust. We are seeking organizations who would like to partner with our efforts to build a better and more sustainable community here in eastern Connecticut. A community sponsor will get exposure at our many events and activities, on our website and in our publications.

Sponsorship levels are: American Chestnut - \$5,000; White Cedar Sponsor - \$2,000; Hickory Sponsor - \$1,000; Sugar Maple Sponsor - \$500; White Pine Sponsor - \$250.

If you are interested or know someone whom you think would be interested in supporting us in this way, please contact Michael Hveem at the Trust office or David Parry, Chair, Development at dfparry01@gmail.com.

...or personally

As the end of the calendar year approaches, those of you with IRAs who have attained the magic age of 70½ can give some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (also known as Qualified Minimum Distribution) directly to charity without adding it to your income (and bypassing the tax liability.)

You should consult your financial advisor or tax preparer to be sure you do it correctly.

If you are giving to the Trust, please list the name as Joshua's Trust, or as Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.

And, make sure that if you have a particular part of the Trust in mind, e.g. the Grist Mill or another property, to designate that on the check as well (on the memo line).

Also, it is now much easier to donate to the Trust online any time you want! Donations can also be made from our Facebook page, our Twitter account, or our Instagram account.

Please go to our website or, of course, you can send in your donation to Joshua's Trust, P. O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

And, thanks!

Many thanks to our community sponsors who give generously to support the mission of Joshua's Trust.

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Kids press the apples, cider impresses them

The Atwood Farm once again hosted a cider pressing in October, thanks to Lesley Sweeney and her family. Children especially were more than willing to throw the apples into the chopper (upper left) and then to turn the press to produce the cider (upper right). Trust Executive Director

Mike Hveem's dog Royce was a big hit with local Girl Scouts who took a little of his fur and, under direction from textile expert Peggy Church, "wove" it. Below is an antique cake mold found in the barn and the cake duck Mona Anderson produced from it. *(Fran Funk photos.)*



Support conservation as part of your annual giving

This is the time of year when many people do their charitable giving; and it is a good time to think of Joshua's Trust. As always, the Trust's continued success in protecting Connecticut open space depends on the support of its members. All contributions include membership and are tax deductible.

Name _____

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\$20 Friend; \$35 Supporter; \$100 Caretaker; \$250 Patron; \$500 Preservationist; \$1,000 Conservationist; \$ _____ Other
New member? If so check here []

Go green, please! Read the newsletter online and, if you like, you can make a donation online, too.



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