



## Volunteers Cited For Ambition, Hard Work



Innovation, dedication, perseverance and plain old hard work by Joshua's Trust volunteers were all recognized last month when the organization's members assembled for their annual meeting and dinner.

For the second year, the event took place at the Wilderness Lake Campground and Resort in Willington, thanks to the generosity of owner **Ray Crossen**.

During the course of the evening, four Trust members, a congressman and one regional organization were cited for their contribution to the Trust, its conservationist ideals and protection of the environment.

The membership also welcomed the reappointment of trustees **Don Cianci, Jim Russell** and **Gay Wagner**. They were previously filling vacancies and are now signed on for five more years.

The Sam Dodd award, recognizing a specific project carried out by a self-motivated steward, went this year to **Scott Matthies**

At left, the Mighty Oak Award

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## Hampton — Where Open Space Is A Priority

Although less than 10 percent of the town of Hampton is considered developed, a recent study commissioned by its Planning and Zoning Commission reported that the municipality could easily triple the number of buildable lots.

According to **Allan Cahill**, the first selectman, Hampton's citizens are not interested in building small cities, but in preserving the community they have.

Joshua's Trust has been an important player in that charge.

This past year, after winning a \$15,000 grant from the Trust and a \$101,500 grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the town used its open space acquisition funds to pay over half the purchase price for the 50-acre Rita Edwards Preserve.

The parcel is located near the center of town, and is contiguous to the Goodwin Forest. It has woods, fields, stone walls and a brook, making it ideal for walkers as well as for habitat reclamation for endan-

gered wildlife.

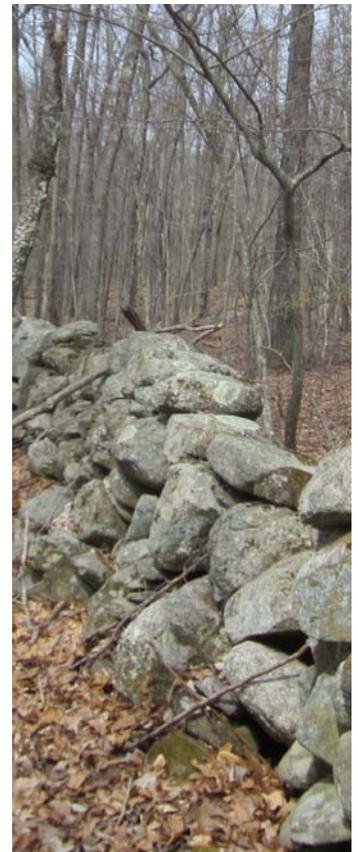
This is not the first property in Hampton that Joshua's Trust has helped to protect. Others are the H. E. Preston Nature Sanctuary, the Warren Stone Preserve, the George and Margaret Hemphill Woods, and more than 215 acres in conservation easements.

Recently, the town voted to transfer money from the general fund to the Land Acquisition Fund, which goes to both open space and/or municipal needs.

Such an action fits precisely into Hampton's stated mission in the Plan of Conservation and Development -- to preserve the quality of what they have in open space and conservation.

Thus, as opportunities arise for preserving large tracts of land, the town is ready to take appropriate action. Because of its committed citizenry, Hampton should be able to continue to protect its valuable resources.

Spring awakens at Rita Edwards Preserve





## Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250  
Email: [joshuastrust@snet.net](mailto:joshuastrust@snet.net)  
[www.joshuaslandtrust.org](http://www.joshuaslandtrust.org)

### OFFICERS:

President: Allison Burchell -Robinson  
Past President: Warren Church  
Vice President: Mona Anderson  
VP Land Acq: Richard Hyde  
Secretary: Carol Enright  
Treasurer: Hamilton Holt  
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Mochel

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Robert Dubos, Chaplin	Greg Padick, Mansfield
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield	Jim Russel, Windham
Sara Stefon Fusco, Lebanon	Bonnie Ryan, Mansfield
Fran Funk, Coventry	Nancy Silander, Mansfield
Brent Gottier, Tolland	Ted Taigen, Tolland
Angelika Hanson, Hampton	Eric Thomas, Coventry
Doug Hughes, Mansfield	Chuck Vinsonhaler, Mansfield
Deborah Lee, Eastford	Gay Wagner, Hampton

Margaret Welch, Ashford

Executive Director: Stephanie Clark  
Stewardship: Dan Donahue  
Membership: Doug Hughes, Marietta Johnson  
Newsletter: Nancy Silander, Paul Stern

**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.

The Trust protects over 4,100 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



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

# Time To Make Adjustments

At the recent Connecticut Land Conservation Council Conference, one of the speakers made the remarkable statement that a land trust is formed with the intention of existing forever.

I'm sure that companies are formed with the intention of staying in business for a foreseeable future, dynasties probably like the idea of the long run, and families are proud to hand their business down through generations.

But forever?

Think of the implications of long-term or strategic planning. Should we have an annual budget or one for the century and a short term plan to cover the first 250 or, even better, 500 years? The mission statement is relatively easy, but how does one prepare a vision statement for a world we may not recognize in 1,000 years?

Simply put, we can't and we don't.

What we do is act today and plan as far ahead as we can comfortably foresee and to date Joshua's Trust has done a good job of that.

We've protected ourselves or helped our towns protect more than 5,000 acres. Every potential property is scrutinized and evaluated against a long list of criteria before presentation to the Board of Trustees.

We take good care of our land with yearly monitoring visits on our easements. Our stewards can be found almost daily on one property or another doing maintenance or re-

pairs.

Each property has a five-year management plan and our easements all have baseline reports. We revisit our Long Term Plan for updates, changes and revisions. We meet annually with our investment advisor and maintain contact throughout the year. We frequently consult with our auditors about our financial policies and procedures.

We schedule walks, talks and events for education and fun on our properties.

We have a Power Point presentation

about the Trust which is available to libraries, schools, clubs and other requested avenues.

We dance to the Juniper Hill Jumpers or taste wine and beer at fund-raising events.

And who does all of this? Our volunteers, that's who.

You, working alone or in committees, spending more than 8,000 hours keeping the Trust going.

And out there in that forever world, there will be more volunteers like you, ones who will step up and carry on protecting and conserving our land and ensuring the permanence of Joshua's Trust.

These volunteers will say they did their best, they made it happen and they did it well.

Will there be changes? Probably. Will we do some things differently? Probably.

But, remember we have a long time to make adjustments as Joshua's Trust continues... forever.

## REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison  
Burchell-Robinson  
*Joshua's Trust President*

## Madge Manfred Given 'Excellence In Conservation' Award

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council, the umbrella organization for uniting more than 125 land trusts in the state, has honored Madge Manfred with the Excellence in Conservation Individual Award.

The award recognizes those individuals in the state who have made a substantial contribution to conservation causes which have furthered the work of land trusts, and whose contributions can serve as a guide to others. It was conferred on Madge at the organization's annual conference March 23 in Middletown.

Madge certainly embodies this description. Most Joshua's Trust members know Madge, as she has been an active member of the Trust for more than 40 years.

Not only was she the editor of this very newsletter for more than 20 years, but she has also served as president, and has chaired or been a member of a number of Trust committees.

While serving as president, Madge successfully undertook a mission to grow the Trust and to give it increasing



**Madge Manfred, cited for her contribution to conservation.**

visibility, and she has continued to put her energies toward an on-going strategic long-term planning process.

She led the successful effort for Joshua's Trust accreditation with the national Land Trust Alliance, and is currently working on the Legacy Campaign, as well as chairing the Development Committee.

Madge, a retired educator and Mansfield resident, said with her typical humility that she was honored to receive the award.

"I could not have accomplished anything on my own. My success came from the help of many others. Joshua's Trust has attracted a number of imaginative volunteers with a 'can do' attitude."

Madge is the ideal example of the consummate volunteer – one who is deeply

committed to the organization and to its values, and who works to ensure that its mission is an integral part of the communities that it serves, as well as being an organization that can serve as a model to others.

## Taste The Wine, Tour The Mill

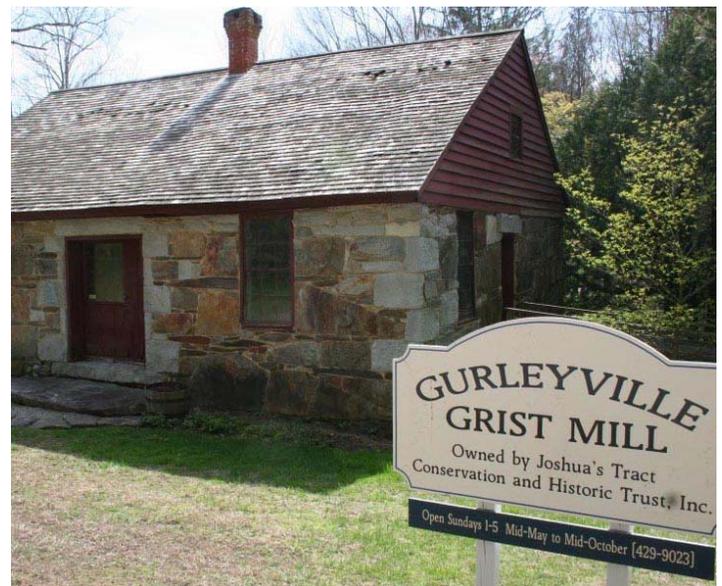
The Joshua's Trust wine tasting will be held at the home of Jane and Robert Moskowitz on Sunday, May 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Moskowitz's residence is an architectural gem located at 117 Stonemill Road in Mansfield.

Guests of the event are welcome to enjoy the house and grounds as they sample various wines, liqueurs and hors d'oeuvres. The Trust extends its thanks to Bombadil's Spirit Shop of Mansfield for its generous support of this event.

The Moskowitz home adjoins the Fenton River, blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail and Gurleyville Grist Mill, which will be open for tours before the wine tasting, beginning at 1 p.m.

**Please reserve your place at the wine tasting** by filling out and mailing the form on the back page of this newsletter along with your payment. Admission is \$35 per person for Trust members, \$40 for non-members.

For additional information, call the Trust office at 860-429-9023.



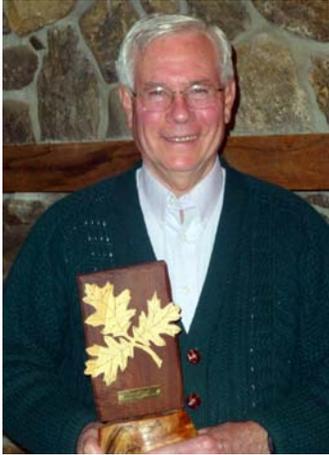
**The Trust's Gurleyville Grist Mill will be open for tours before the wine tasting event.**



## Contributions Of Personal Time, Talent, And Support Acknowledged At The Trust's Annual Dinner Meeting

*Continued from Page One*

for his work at the H. E. Preston Nature Sanctuary in Hampton. Scott managed an ambitious four-year invasive species removal project and has begun monitoring its effectiveness. Additionally, he has cleared and maintained the trail, improved access to the property, and worked on numerous other small tasks.



**Gary Griffin — The Mighty Oak Award**

**Gary Griffin** received the Mighty Oak Award, given for long and steady stewardship service. Gary currently serves on the Stewardship Committee as a regional coordinator and as chair of the Trails Sub-Committee.

Gary works tirelessly at planning, organizing, participating on, and then documenting work parties for the Trust's endless stewardship needs. He is also steward at the Lof Woodland. He does all of his work with an enviable ease and a great sense of humor, making him a joy to work with.

The Presidential Citation for volunteerism went to **Pat Mochel** who retires this year after many years of being our Assistant Treasurer. If you ever had to get a bill paid, you knew how quickly and willingly Pat got the job done. Pat's dedication to the Trust is evident by the fact that she is well-known to be the "go-to" person in the office. She has been a source of knowledge and inspiration for all who work with her.

The Trust also gives two conservation awards – one to an individual and the other to a group. This year's awardees were **U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney** (D-2<sup>nd</sup> District) and the **Coventry Regional Farmers' Market**.

Representative Courtney's aide, **Emma Piatrantonio**, accepted the award on his behalf. Courtney has a strong record in support of conservation and protection of the environment. He has helped with legislation to make tax deductions permanent for conservation easements. He has also supported environmental education grants for outdoor experiences.

The League of Conservation Voters noted that "his efforts to protect and preserve the Eightmile River [in Had-

dam] have raised the bar for green leaders in Congress." As well as the Eightmile River, he has pledged to protect eastern Connecticut's environmental treasures for future generations, including the Last Green Valley and Long Island Sound. He has also helped with grants from the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development program, which is designed to promote economic stability for communities, businesses, and farmers in rural areas.

**Lyndon and Roberta Wilmot**, founding members of the Coventry Regional Farmers' Market's organizing team, accepted the award on their behalf. The Market's strong support of local farmers ties in precisely with a major goal of Joshua's Trust to preserve the rural character of the area.

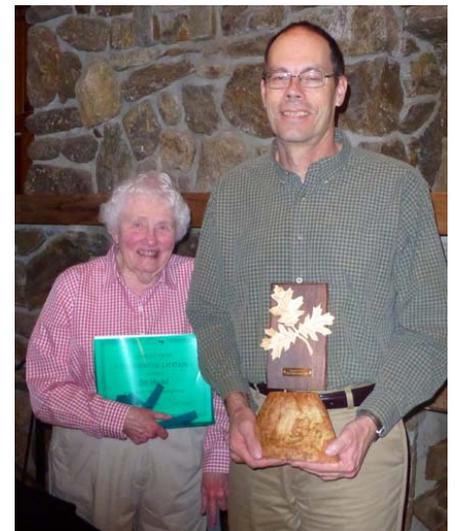
Since 2004, the Market has built a loyal following, allowing more and more farmers to sell their products and raising people's awareness of the local farming communities. It also makes it easier to eat seasonally and locally, furthering the broader goals of conservation.

Over 75,000 visitors annually visit either the summer market held at the Nathan Hale Homestead or the winter market held at Coventry High School. The Market is also part of the Connecticut Farmer's Market Trail.

Guest speaker for the evening was **Dr. David Wagner**, a former Trust President and rare species

biologist at the University of Connecticut. He gave a fascinating presentation on the rare species found in North-east Connecticut and made recommendations on how the Trust can restore the habitats of these important species.

**Tom O'Connor** prepared a delicious meal for members to enjoy as he did last year. We would also like to thank the Town of Ashford for the loan of a sound system for making sure the audience could hear all the speeches!



**Pat Mochel, left, and Scott Matthies display their awards.**

# Volunteers Active, Finances Strong

Here are some highlights from the Joshua's Trust Annual Report of 2012. The complete report may be viewed online at the Trust's website, [www.joshuaslandtrust.org](http://www.joshuaslandtrust.org). Trust President Allison Burchell-Robinson's remarks about the year are published in her newsletter column on Page 2.

This year, volunteers have spent more than 8,000 hours working on the Trust's numerous committees to make sure the organization and the properties it protects are in good shape.

The Finance Committee has been working to develop policies regarding the funds raised by the Legacy Campaign and the expansion of paid staff.

The Membership Committee reported that the majority of Trust members are loyal to the organization and renew each year.

The new dues structure resulted in dues of \$26,885 -- a 27 percent increase in membership funds for 2012.

The Stewardship Committee has been working diligently to manage Trust land through the development of management plans, coordination of preserve stewards and work parties, protecting boundaries, and improving wildlife habitat.

The Atwood Committee has been working to manage Isabelle Atwood's property that was left to the Trust and is currently in probate.

The Conservation Restriction Committee completed the annual monitoring of our 61 easements and held an easement owner workshop on invasive plant species control.

The Development Committee had a busy year planning

numerous fundraising events, such as the Wine and Craft Beer Festival and the Dixieland Jazz Festival, as well as launching a capital campaign.

The Grist Mill Committee was re-formed this year and is currently engaged in developing a management plan and working on summer activities.

The Land Acquisition Committee has been busy pursuing potential land donations to the Trust. In 2012, three properties and one conservation easement were given to the Trust.

The Newsletter Committee created and distributed four issues in 2012 through print and in electronic format.

The Outreach Committee held many walks on Trust properties and attended various community events in 2012.

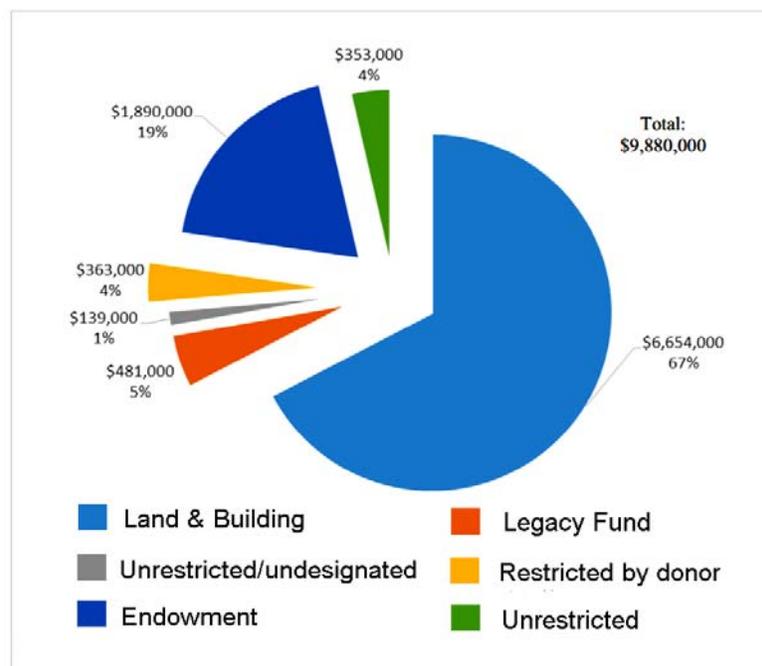
The Record Keeping and Archives Committee developed and has been implement-

ing a filing protocol for the office files.

According to the Treasurer's Report, the Trust's assets increased by \$398,000, due primarily to the Legacy Campaign.

In the Operating Fund, although expenses exceeded income, (perhaps also due to the impact of the Legacy Campaign or a delay in dues collections) no funds were taken from investments. The Treasurer reported that the financial condition of the Trust remains strong.

**Balance Sheet Equity Accounts  
February 28, 2013**



JOSHUA'S TRACT  
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.  
P.O. BOX 4  
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

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## JOSHUA'S TRUST ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$40 for non-members)

I / We cannot attend but would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Tickets will not be mailed out.)

Please make check payable to Joshua's Trust.

Mail to:

Joshua's Trust Wine Tasting, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250

