



Bugs, bridges and stewardship

It has been a busy summer for stewardship activities at Joshua's Trust.

During July, volunteers endured humid weather and a few bugs while building a bridge at our Whetten Woods preserve in Storrs. Carpenter Bill Bland was joined by several other volunteers who hauled materials out to the site and constructed a 40+ foot bridge/boardwalk over a stream on the preserve.

This will allow easier hiking for the various groups and individuals using this preserve. Thanks to all who participated.

In addition to the routine trail and boundary maintenance conducted by our preserve stewards, we've also got lots of other stewardship projects in the works to improve access to and wildlife habitat on the preserves.

So, please join us. We need your help to keep our properties serving a vital role as open space in our communities.



Some of the many people who helped on the Whetton Woods project: l-r, Greg Padick, Terry Wakeman, Bill Bland, Rob Beach.

Trust's annual meeting, dinner set for Oct. 15

The bright and modern dining hall at Camp Horizons in South Windham will be the setting this year for the Joshua's Trust annual dinner meeting.

The fun begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the camp located at 127 Babcock Hill Road, South Windham — not far from the intersection of Routes 32 and 203.

The camp was founded in 1979 by sisters Chris and Kathleen McNaboe, both special education teachers, who saw that parents needed respite care for their children during the year.

The McNaboe's initially created a weekend program in the country, but shortly requests poured in for year-round support. With steady growth, Camp Horizons now provides

year-round services for 1,700 people annually.

This new meeting location is roomy, bright, and has a professional kitchen and staff.

There will be annual awards and a guest speaker, still being confirmed at press time.

The event starts at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 6:30, and the speaker and annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$28 per person. The menu includes choice of chicken, fish or vegetarian entrée, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

Reservations close on Oct. 7. Please reserve your space by sending in the form on the back page of this newsletter, or by using the online version on our website.

New lecture series will touch on range of environmental topics

This fall, Joshua's Trust will begin a new lecture series called "Eco-Forum."

The series will feature four speakers, all experts on environmental topics of interest to the general public.

On Nov. 12, Tom Harrington will speak on "Population changes of birds in New England." A retired biology teacher, and the Trust's new public program coordinator, Harrington has long had an interest in ornithology and entomology.

Dec. 10, Elizabeth Farnsworth, the senior research ecolo-

gist with the New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, Mass., will speak on "The state of plants," with a particular emphasis on the flora of New England.

On Jan. 14, 2016, Claire Rutledge will discuss "The Emerald Ash Borer," a highly invasive pest that is devastating ash forests across the East. Rutledge is a scientist and assistant entomologist with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

The forum concludes on April 14, 2016, when Mitch

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Check out the walks coming up this fall! See Page 3.



Joshua's Trust

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

Tending the Trust's easements takes a lot of hands-on effort

If only land conservation was as simple as doing paperwork!

Many don't understand the huge amount of physical labor required to protect Joshua's Trust's preserves and to monitor the conservation easements we hold.

More than 200 people volunteered time to the Trust last year, and the vast bulk of that energy went toward the hands-on activities necessary to maintain these lands in perpetuity.

Preserves and easements need different sorts of support. Most of our preserves -- the lands we own through donation or purchase -- are walkable by the public and require careful tending of trails.

Our stewards have responsibility for specific preserves and keep tabs on their assigned property to ensure that the trails are safe and that invasive plants are kept in check.

Stewards organize work parties when needed, like the 25 people who came together recently to help build a boardwalk at Whetten Woods.

Conservation easements require another kind of TLC. Easements are legal agreements between the Trust and the owners of the land requiring specific restrictions on what can and cannot be done on the property, and our conservation monitors periodically inspect each easement and

make sure that the use of the land is within the agreed upon limits.

Why is this important? Because wise use of our volunteer manpower – and the very limited amount of paid staff we have to coordinate them – is one of our biggest concerns in accepting new properties and easements.

If we could save every stray wooded acre in Northeast Connecticut, we would – but we can't. The burden of perpetual care would be overwhelming.

So thanks to all our stewards and monitors, for everything they do for us – and thanks to all of you who support them. If you'd like to be a part of this effort, we'd love to have you!

— Doug

TRUST NOTES



By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

Our new conservation coordinator

Ann Lewis, already active on the Stewardship Committee, took over in June from Jamie Sydoriak as our new part-time conservation coordinator.

Lewis has been serving on the Trust's Stewardship Committee for the past year as the Trails Chair, coordinating volunteer work parties on boardwalk, bridge and invasive plant removal projects. She will continue in this volunteer role in addition to her new duties as conservation coordinator which will have a strong focus on stewardship of the Joshua's Trust Preserves. Lewis also works as a home care occupational therapist after a prior career of working in the conservation arena for The Nature Conservancy. She is very excited to be returning to the world of conservation and looks forward to participating in the Trust's efforts to manage our preserves for environmental and historic preservation, recreation, and the enjoyment of the community.



Ann Lewis, the new conservation coordinator

Tolland teen is winner of Trust's Doris Tobiassen essay contest

Kacey Dutton of Tolland wrote the winning essay in our spring contest to help teens learn about the Trust and its preserves, and to encourage young people to think more deeply about the outdoors.

The contest for Tolland High School juniors also honored Doris Tobiassen, a former Tolland High School English teacher, who gave the property to the Trust known as Tobiassen Memorial Forest.

Kacey lives in Tolland with her parents and younger sister. She says that "being outdoors clears my head and calms me down when I'm stressed."

This summer she spent outdoors as an artist on a project with the Tolland Art Society. They were commissioned by Tolland's Conservation Commission and Conservation Corps to paint a mural over graffiti on a cement wall on the Crystal Peat Hiking Trail. (You can read Kacey's essay on our web site.)



Kacey Dutton

Eco-Forum lecture series will feature four experts

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Wagener teaches climate ecology, entomology, and related courses at Western Connecticut State University, Danbury.

All talks will be held at the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library on Route 89 in Mansfield. The doors will open at 6:45 pm on the given dates and the presentations will start at 7 p.m. Programs last approximately an hour.

Preregistration is required. The cost for Trust members is \$5, or all four for \$15. For non-members, it is \$8 each, or \$25 for all four.

More details about each presenter can be found on the web site joshuatrust.org/eco-forum, as well as the pre-registration form.

Help the Trust renew its hard-earned accreditation by writing in

Joshua's Trust is applying for renewal of its accreditation to the Land Trust Alliance this year.

The accreditation agency invites your comments on our benefit to you and the 14 towns in which we operate.

Your comments will be most useful by **Nov. 2**, and can be

sent by e-mail to info@landtrustaccreditation.org, or by mail to:

Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.



WALKING AROUND...

Saturday, Sept. 26 10 a.m.

H. E. Preston Sanctuary (Hampton)

Join Scott Matthies and Gary Griffin for a walk/talk at the H.E. Preston Sanctuary in Hampton on various methods used to control invasive plants such as Japanese Barberry, Bittersweet and Multiflora Rosa.

The walk will go through a wooded area where a thick stand of Barberry has been removed. The walk will also pass along a field edge where repeated attempts have been made on the thriving Bittersweet and other invasives. Finally, an area will be viewed that the State Department of Forestry and Horticulture used in its effort to control invasives.

Directions: the Sanctuary is 3 miles north from Hampton Center on Route 97, across from Kimball Hill Rd. Look for the Joshua's Trust sign at the entrance. For information, email Scott at scottmattiews@charter.net.

Sunday, Oct. 4 9:30 a.m.

Byle's Sanctuary (Ashford)

This walk is one of Walktober walks and is sponsored by the Trust. Connecting past and present, enjoy this almost 2-mile long easy to moderate loop as you pass a meadowland, then descend down a short steep section next to a stream, and then travel through a bio-diverse climax forest.

We will also observe a beaver dam on the Mt. Hope River. After the hike, enjoy snacks, drinks, and a few stories at the historic Byles Homestead (now Henrietta House Bed and Breakfast) just off the trail.

Directions: The parking lot is located on Route 44 in Ashford less than a mile west of the Route 89 intersection, across from the veterinary clinic.

Saturday, Nov. 28 10 a.m.

Utley Hill Preserve (Columbia)

Hike the Utley Hill Preserve with steward, Ann Dunnack, 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. Rain or Shine.

Meet at the Columbia Recreation Park, on Hennequin Road in Columbia.

Directions: From the intersection of Route 66 and Route 87 at the center of Columbia, travel west on Route 66. Go two miles and turn right onto Hennequin Road. Travel half mile, the Recreation Park will be on the left. Follow the driveway all the way in and turn right in the parking lot. Meet by the gate to the power line.

Annual meeting Oct. 15 at Camp Horizons

The Joshua's Trust Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m. at Camp Horizons at 127 Babcock Hill Road in South Windham:

The menu offers a choice of grilled lemon pepper chicken breast, baked stuffed sole, or eggplant Parmesan. All are served with roasted potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert. The dinner will cost \$28 with a cash bar. If you would like to help defray any extra costs to the Trust, you may add a donation.

Joshua's Trust Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Please submit by Oct. 7

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please make reservations for _____ people @ \$28 each: Total \$_____.

Lemon Pepper Chicken _____ Baked, stuffed sole _____ Eggplant Parmesan _____

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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