



Annual Dinner Meeting April 18 Will Be Trust's 47th Such Assembly

The Wilderness Lake Campground in Willington will once again be the site of the Joshua's Trust annual meeting when members convene on Thursday, April 18, for the 47th time.

David Wagner, a former Trust president and rare species biologist at the University of Connecticut, will be the featured speaker; and of course there will be food.

Tom O'Connor will again cater, providing a menu of appetizers, stuffed chicken breast, rice pilaf and accompaniments, and fruit cobbler for dessert. Wine, water and coffee will also be served; and vegetarian and gluten-free options will also be available for those who reserve them.

The Wilderness Lake Campground and Resort is located at 150 Village Hill Road in Willington. Village Hill Road, off Route 32 just north of the I-84 underpass.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by the annual meeting and the speaker.

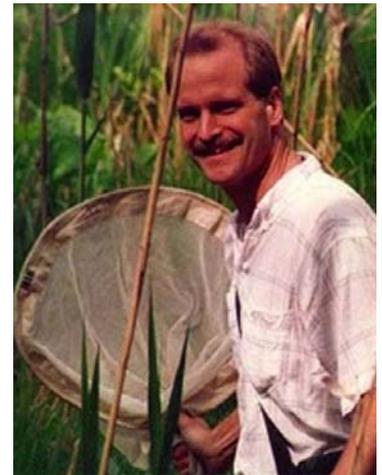
Reservations are essential and must be received by April 11. The cost is \$25 per person. As this event is quite popular, we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. (You can use the reservation form on the back

page of this newsletter.)

Dr. Wagner, from UConn's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, is the author of some very popular books on butterflies and moths. He will speak on the role of land trusts in protecting threatened species.

His talk, entitled "Joshua's Trust Lands, Imperiled Species, and Stewardship," will address in particular the endangered species such as the Frosted Elfin butterfly found on Joshua's Trust's lands and at Mansfield Hollow.

Focusing on historical and geographical factors, Dr. Wagner will make a case for stewardship that concentrates on restoration rather than just preservation.



Dr. David Wagner

Columbia: Open Space Not A Big Funding Priority

By Nancy Silander

The entrance to the Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia vividly demonstrates the pull in the town between open space and development.

The path is bordered for the first 100 yards or so by a large home with surrounding lawn, and on the other by a private gravel drive. It sits atop a marsh, the east side of which is protected, while the west side is not.

Columbia has seen exponential growth in the past 50 years, developing from a rural to a suburban town as its population has grown from just over 800 to over 5,000. Although the growth has slowed somewhat since 1990, every year continues to see an increase.

Over half of the town is undeveloped, but only 2 percent is permanently protected. Less than 10 percent is open space owned by the town, state, or a land trust, or has deed restrictions on its development. Approximately 20 percent of the forest and agricultural lands have reduced assessments, but they are not protected from development.

Although the 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development includes an Open Space account, according to Ann Dunnack, the chair of the Columbia Open Space Committee, it has been "unfunded by the town [the past] ten years except for fees in lieu of open space set aside for development."

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Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2013 membership dues, it's not too late.



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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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.

While Some Things Change, Other Things Still Hold True

In my last column I wrote about change, specifically how Nature changed my landscape.

In reflection I realized that whether I like the change or not, there is nothing I can do about it except wait. Wait for the new growth of trees which will come eventually and the landscape will change... again.

What is it about change that so many people don't like?

Is it the interruption to the rhythm of their lives, the disinclination to accept that not everything

is under their control, the belief that the old way is best? How many times have you heard someone say it was better in the old days, that it was more fun?

I have heard people say that very same thing about the Trust.

And, since I am enjoying my association with the Trust, it makes me wonder what made it more fun then. Is it that changes have been made as we have grown older?

Yes, we have more land. We have more members. We have more resources and more committees and

more activities. We have more volunteers, more stewards, more trails, more monitors.

We have more reports. We have to keep records and make sure our files are in order.

Darn, we have more policies and procedures and financial controls. But are these really changes or do

they more accurately represent growth, a natural progression during the almost 50 years we have been a land trust?

One does expect changes as we grow. After

all, how many of us look the same as we did almost 50 years ago?

There is one thing that has not changed or grown older -- our mission and our core: conserving and protecting land. We started doing that in 1966 and we are still doing it in 2013.

I'm not a betting person, but I will wager that our volunteers today are having just as much fun and enjoying their association with the Trust as did all those who came before.

So we haven't changed. Nor has my landscape -- not in the long run.

REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President

Beer And Wine Tasting Set For Sunday, May 19

Our annual wine and craft beer tasting, generously supported by Bombadil's Spirit Shop in the Mansfield Big Y Plaza, will take place at the home of Jane and Robert Moskowitz on Sunday, May 19, from 4-6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for discovering new wines, beers and liqueurs. More details will be available in the early May edition of the newsletter or on the web site.

Trust Advocates For Open Space

Continued from Page One

Open space helps to stabilize the tax rate and to keep the character of the town its citizens want. Dunnack noted that Columbia's water and natural resources are part of its uniqueness that is not always well-appreciated or understood.

However, with Trust member Joan Hill's help, they have been reaching out to the local politicians to inform them of the importance of open space.

Lately, several farmers have been working with the Department of Agriculture, as well as with Joshua's Trust, to permanently protect significant amounts of acreage through conservation easements as well as the purchase of development rights by the state.

In May, 2011, the Joshua's Trust Board voted to contribute \$15,000 to the town of Columbia to help support the purchase of the development rights for the Szegda Farm on Rt. 66

The three local properties that Joshua's Trust helps to protect: the Utley Hill Preserve, Potter Meadow and the Goldberg parcel are a start.

But, as Dunnack remarked, there has to be constant vigilance with all the stakeholders, and it has to be grassroots, beginning with the landowners as well as with the townspeople. Columbia continues to have many opportunities to protect its open space and the rural character its residents value.



The entrance to Columbia's Utley Hill Preserve

Potter Meadow Snow Provides Insight Into Animal Population

Potter Meadow in Columbia provided an appropriate snowy surface for discovering animal tracks -- much to the delight of the children and adults who accompanied Heather Phillips on a cold President's Day hike.

Thanks to the deep snow, the walkers easily found evidence of a number of animals living in or near the meadow, including coyote, rabbit, deer and weasel.

Along the way, Heather also hid pictures of other animal tracks often found in eastern Connecticut, so the participants could add less common ones to their repertoire.

Potter Meadow is accessible from Commerce Drive off Route 66. The 34-acre site lies in the floodplain of the Willimantic and Ten Mile rivers.



Jumpin' Junipers, Hill, that was some mighty fun — and profitable — jazz

The Juniper Hill Jumpers Jazz Band, under the direction of former Trust president and trombonist Hill Bullard, entertained a crowd of Joshua's Trust members and friends for a couple of hours on Feb. 3 at Knowlton Hall in Ashford.

It didn't take long for the band to get the crowd clapping and dancing. Many were impressed by the diversity of the band's ages, from 40 to over 90 years old.

The event raised almost \$1,000 for the Trust. The next benefit concert will be announced in the late spring.

JOSHUA'S TRACT
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Join us once again — or for the first time — at the annual dinner

If you haven't attended before, here's your chance to rub elbows with people who, like you, appreciate the importance of open space and preserving nature's beauty. If you are a regular Joshua's Trust dinner guest, welcome back! Use the form below to make your reservation. This year's shindig is April 18 at the Wilderness Lake Campground and Resort in Willington.

Joshua's Trust Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Please submit by April 11, 2013

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please make reservations for _____ people @ \$25 each: Total \$_____.

Number of Chicken entrees _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____

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 06250-0004.