



Lebanon Preserving Agriculture, History

By First Selectman Joyce Okonuk

Since the beginning of our nation's founding, Lebanon has been associated with agriculture, war provisions and the Trumbull family.

Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's War Office on Lebanon Green was the site of over 1,100 meetings of the Council of Safety which dealt with the defense of the colony of Connecticut and helped supply provisions to the Continental Army.

The office was also Trumbull's headquarters for a vast agricultural empire. Unlike other town greens, the 27-acre Lebanon Green still remains in agricultural production.

Under the auspices of long-time First Selectman Joyce Okonuk, Lebanon's Conservation and Agriculture Commission and Town Planner Phil Chester, the Town has been working for the better part of a decade to preserve Lebanon's precious farmland.

Lebanon is solidly committed to preserving agriculture.

The primary purpose of Lebanon's zoning regulations is "to promote and protect existing agricultural uses and prime and important farmland soils."

Additionally, its Plan of Conservation and Development calls for preserving 2,000 acres of land over the coming decade.

Lebanon, in partnership with Joshua's Trust, CT Farmland Trust, the State of Connecticut and the USDA has preserved almost 5,000 of its 10,000 acres of farmland.

Most recently, Joshua's Trust helped the town preserve the 100-acre Rechlin forest

and the 162-acre former Anderson homestead by providing \$15,000 toward each of these preservation efforts.

The Trust also protects Pigeon Swamp Preserve -- 135 acres, Ten Mile River Sanctuary -- 7 acres, and Ten Mile



The Trumbull House Museum

Grist Mill Guide Training Starts Soon

In late March the Gurleyville Grist Mill guides will meet to start planning for the 2014 season and some public events at the museum.

If you would like to become a guide, all you need is some time on a few Sunday afternoons, an interest in local history, and enjoyment of sharing

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New Trust President Fran Funk Introduces Herself. See Page 2.



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
Email: joshuastrust@snet.net
www.joshuastrust.org

OFFICERS:

President: Fran Funk
Past President: Allison Burchell-Robinson
Vice President: Mona Anderson
VP Land Acquisition: Richard Hyde
VP Historic Properties: vacant
Secretary: Carol Enright
Treasurer: Hamilton Holt
Asst. Treasurer: vacant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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*.

Office: The Historic Eagleville Schoolhouse, South Eagleville Rd., Mansfield.

Office hours: Tues. and Thurs. 1- 4 p.m.
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.

New Leadership Brings Some Changes, But Not To Our Main Mission Or Spirit

Allison Burchell-Robinson was the Trust's 14th president and held the office for three and a half years. She stepped down on Jan. 1, and on that first day of the new year, I became president of this wonderful organization.

It is a challenging responsibility. It is a wonderful opportunity... to learn, to lead, to get to know and see the work of hardworking volunteers, dedicated trustees, and a generous membership.

It is an honor to be associated with this significant group that has such an important mission: to preserve natural lands for our children, our children's children, and down through the ages. Forever - it is a very inspiring idea to contemplate.

Thanks to our dedicated membership and our energetic and steady volunteers, we are succeeding as our founders had hoped we would.

After 48 years, we are now very much in the minds of people whose land means so much to them. (Some bequests come unexpectedly, surprising us with the gifts from supportive friends who quietly make the decision to have their land remain in a natural state.)

The Board of Trustees changes as Trustees complete their five year terms. With new Trustees comes new thinking, which can mean change, of course. One of those changes this year is our upgraded website, which also retains some of the features that have served us well in the past.

Our [revised website](#) with a new contemporary design will have been launched by the time you read this.

This was a pro bono effort for the Trust by some talented students in the School of Digital Media at UConn – for some, the first project they would tackle as a practical application of their skills.

Our site will continue to have such standard features as printable maps of properties showing location, boundaries, and trails.

But the site will also have new features such as integration of Google maps for satellite imagery of our properties; a calendar that shows walks, meetings and social events in one place; a president's message; current JT news; pictures from our properties; an online store with JT merchandise; and integration with our Facebook page.

While the Trust moves forward, the basics remain the same. Our mission, acquisition, stewardship duties, administrative work, and walks continue throughout the seasons. Our exploration of ideas for new outreach programs is ongoing and we are always looking for new ideas, so please get in touch if you would like to explore one or volunteer.

The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Please stop in and say hello. We would like to know your concerns and opinions about what we are accomplishing, and suggestions that you might have.

Don't forget to "like" us at Joshua's Trust on Facebook.

TRUST NOTES



By Fran Funk
Joshua's Trust President

Bearing Witness To A Remarkable Bird

By Tom Harrington

In the early spring of last year, I arrived at dawn at Bacon Academy in Colchester. When I got out of the car, I heard a loud "peent" from somewhere near the forest edge. I recognized it immediately as an American Woodcock.

I climbed over one of the numerous snow piles and could just barely make out his silhouette on the ground. I stood there as he performed his famous and remarkable courtship display.

After a few more calls, he began his courtship flight. He flew up into the air and started to circle higher and higher all the while making chirping and twittering sounds with his outer primaries – the main flight feathers on his wings.

As he ascended, the chirps become more musical and rounded. He reached a height of 200-300 feet, and then came back down to earth rapidly. His descent was accom-

panied by a whistle-like sound produced by the wing feathers.

He landed close to where he started and began the process all over.



Sketch of an American Woodcock

Sometimes, you may notice a female very close to the beginning and ending spot. For the next week or so, I heard him every morning, never spying his intended, however!

Over many years of watching and listening to these displays, I am still in awe of what occurs. I have found no description that does it justice; you have to see and hear it to believe it.

The walk at Skungamaug Meadows in Tolland in April will be to watch and listen for this display. If we are successful, we will have the pleasure of hearing and perhaps observing one of the most amazing behaviors of any bird.

I hope to see you there.

Jumpin' Jehosaphat! This Will Be Fun

Get ready to bounce into spring!

Need to shake off those winter blahs and get moving again? Come move and dance to the Juniper Hill Jumpers who will once again entertain us with Dixieland Jazz at Knowlton Hall in Ashford on Sunday, April 6 from 2 – 5 p.m.

Our own Hill Bullard leads this ageless group in a variety of tunes, guaranteed to put you in the mood for movement!

Along with a little wine and food, come enjoy mingling with your neighbors while being royally entertained. Admission is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members.

Reservation forms are on the back page of this newsletter.



The Juniper Hill Jumpers, led by former Trust president Hill Bullard (third trombone from left), will again perform their special brand of Dixieland jazz and other tunes on April 6.



Sign Up To Be A Grist Mill Guide

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your time with visitors.

Guides are expected to take part in training in April, apprentice at the mill along with an experienced guide in May, and serve as a guide one Sunday a month from June through October. We are also planning a couple of gatherings during the season.

Trustee Gay Wagner has volunteered to chair the Grist Mill Committee, replacing Joan Hill. She and the guide committee have drafted a new interpretive plan for the mill and a redesign of the Visitors Center, to be implemented in coming months.

Prospective volunteers are invited to contact Gay with questions (phone:860-455-9875), email gwagner1@mindspring.com or to add their name to the guide roster.

Details about date, time and place for the guide meeting will be available in March.



The Grist Mill front door.

Stewardship Committee Seeks Two Good Leaders

The Stewardship Committee is looking to fill two volunteer leadership positions: Regional Coordinator and Trails Committee Chair.

The Regional Coordinator serves as the point of contact for a number of Stewards who are maintaining Trust Preserves. The open regional coordinator position covers certain properties in Mansfield.

The Trails Committee Chair organizes and oversees stewardship projects on Trust Preserves.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Clark at stephanie.clark@joshuastrust.org or (860) 429-9023.

New Stuff... *More New Stuff...* *Even More New Stuff!*

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! We look forward to seeing you at the Trust properties and activities!

Lester Barber	William
Gail and Tom Bruhn	and Jacqueline Greene
Michael Callahan	Kevin Kirchner
Pamela Diggle	and Karrie Flynn
Peter Gergler	Angela Langevin
and Kathleen McElroy	Louise Lewis
Cynthia Jennerwein	Scott Westvold

NEW STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to create a new category of membership for full-time students.

Annual dues for students will be \$10, and the membership year will coincide with the new July-through-June membership cycle created to align the membership year with the Trust's fiscal year.

"The Trust has had a remarkably loyal membership base, including several members who have maintained member-

ship from the Trust's early years nearly a half century ago," said Doug Hughes, membership committee chair. "And while every renewal is important to our success, we need to broaden our base of members. Student memberships are one of the ways we're working to do that."

Membership renewal notices will go out in April, but current members are encouraged to renew early to save us the cost of mailing reminders. Members can renew online with PayPal or download and mail forms at joshuaslandtrust.org.

NEW ACREAGE

David Hall's bequest of over 19 acres in Windham near Mansfield Hollow was recently accepted by the Board of Trustees.

The Hall Preserve abuts the Mansfield Hollow Dam and the land maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers.

NEW DINNER DATE

The annual dinner will now be held in September (and not in April) to coincide with our fiscal year. Look for more information in the June newsletter.

It's Not Too Late To Contribute To The Trust's Legacy Campaign

The Legacy Campaign, begun in early 2012, will wrap up this spring. Letters to the membership-at-large were mailed in February. The Trustees will receive a report from chairs Tony Holt and Madge Manfred at the May meeting. If you have not had an opportunity to donate, you may go to joshuastrust.org/legacy

WALKING AROUND...



Here are events planned for this season.

March 9 – 2 p.m. Hampton – Trail Wood.

Joshua's Trust and Connecticut Audubon are co-sponsoring a walking event at Edwin Way Teale's Memorial Sanctuary in Hampton.

The walk is easy and flat, except for some slight rolling hills. After the walk, the small museum and his writing cabin and study will be open for visiting.

Edwin Way Teale, a famous naturalist and Pulitzer Prize winning author, wrote numerous books including *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm* about Trail Wood and *A Walk through the Year*. Refreshments will be served.

Directions: from the intersection of Rt. 6 and Rt. 97, go north on Rt. 97 for 2.6 miles, turn left onto Kenyon Road – Trail Wood is on the left after 0.4 miles at #93. Look for the large sign at the entrance and proceed to the grass parking lot on the left.

From Rt. 44 and Rt. 97, go south on Rt. 97 for 5.2 miles, turn right onto Kenyon Road, and follow directions above.

April 11 - 6:30 p.m. Tolland - Skungamaug Meadows.

Join Naturalist Tom Harrington from Storrs (a regional coordinator and steward for Joshua's Trust) for two hours during which one hour or more will be spent watching for displaying American Woodcocks. (See Tom's article on page 3 of this newsletter).

The walk will be easy, but you will need a flashlight for the return walk,. Rain Date: Saturday April 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. RSVP highly encouraged via e-mail: tomharrington@yahoo.com.

April (days and time TBD) – more bird walks.

Several bird walks are in the planning stages, but it depends on when they (the birds) decide to return this spring. Steve Morytko will be the leader.

So, don't forget to check the web site as these and other walks currently in the planning stages are finalized!

See you around!

Wine Tasting, May 18, Church Farm, Ashford

Mark your calendar now for the annual Wine Tasting.

This year we will be at the Church Farm in Ashford, thanks to the generosity of Eastern Connecticut University which now maintains the house.

More details will be published on-line and mailed out in the spring.

And for you long-range planners...

National Trails Day, June 7.

The Trust is lining up three walks for this Saturday, the nation's largest celebration of hiking trails.

Atwood Farm Open House, June 14

The Trust's newly acquired farm in Mansfield will be open for inspection.

Joshua's Trust, Lebanon, Partners In Preserving Land

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River Pool – 2.5 acres.

According to Town Planner Chester, property owners regularly approach the town interested in preserving their land.

“Without the financial and political support of Joshua's Trust it is unlikely that the Rechlin or Anderson projects would have come to fruition,” he said. “Lebanon needs the support of Joshua's Trust to continue our preservation efforts.”

First Selectman Okonuk notes that Lebanon is one of the largest towns geographically in Connecticut. “Joshua's Trust is Lebanon's land trust. We are partners in preserving our treasured landscape.”



The entrance to Pigeon Swamp, one of several properties protected by the Trust in Lebanon.

JOSHUA'S TRACT
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.
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MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

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Return Service Requested



Spring Jazz Concert Reservation Form

The joint will be jumpin' when the Juniper Hill Jumpers put on this afternoon of lively jazz. Use this form to reserve your place at the Trust's spring fund-raising concert 2-5 p.m. Sunday, April. 6, at Ashford's Knowlton Memorial Hall on Route 44.

Name _____

Address _____

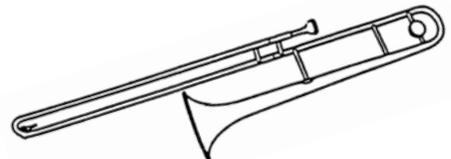
Email _____ Phone _____

Number attending _____ x \$20 = _____
(\$25 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 Spring Jazz Concert, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250