



Scotland: Small In Population, Big On Open Space

Scotland has one of the smallest populations that Joshua's Trust serves, and at 18.2 square miles is our second smallest in size. (Only Andover is smaller). That has not stopped the town from pursuing conservation and farming easements in order to protect its rural character.

About 60 percent of the land in town is current open space, mostly state forest.

The town has "an aggressive open space policy," according to Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Gary Greenberg. The PZC committee identifies properties of "unique value" for preservation. They work with private landowners and government entities, and the Trust helps to "fill out adjoining areas and to augment what the public has already done," he said.

The town has also worked with other state programs such as the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program.

In June, 2014, Scotland acquired the Racicot property which consists of almost 40 landlocked acres near the



center of Scotland. The majority of the property is wooded, and will provide additional recreational opportunities, consistent with the abutting James Spignesi Wildlife Management Area. The town also acquired an abutting nine acres from the Racicot family located next to the

Scotland Elementary School.

The town also encourages farmland preservation. Even though they are no longer active, the former dairy farms in town continue to be used for growing corn and hay, the largest one being the Bass Farm in the southern end of the town. The town zoning allows disused buildings to be used for other purposes as long as they are agri-

cultural-related -- farm stands, for example.

The Pappenheimer Preserve, once a working farm, was donated to the Trust in 2005 by Sarah Pappenheimer and her brother John. It has over 100 acres of mostly level forest land and marsh and is bounded to the north by an additional 700 acres of protected land, the Mohegan State

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Membership Is Up, But There Can Never Be Too Many

For most of the Trust's history, membership renewal letters were sent in November, and seemed timed to arrive just at the end of fall's peak colors.

The new July-through-June membership cycle sends renewals more in sync with the blooming of the irises, but our loyal members have adapted well so far.

As we approach the start of the 2015-16 membership campaign next month, not only is membership up from the year prior, but more of our new and renewal members chose the Sustaining, Patron or Benefactor levels of sup-

port. We now have nine members in the new Student category, which we hope will continue to grow as we engage the next generation of Connecticut conservationists. Paid memberships, including Lifetime members, stand at 698.

One of the reasons JT's Trustees changed the membership cycle was that the Annual Appeal and the renewal letters previously were sent out with little more than six weeks between mailings, and it didn't seem right to tap

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Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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OFFICERS:

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VP Historic Properties: Keith Wilson
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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 4,400 acres in the region, maintains trails which are open to the public, and publishes *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book*.

Office: The Atwood Farm,
624 Wormwood Hill 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.

'The Move' Goes Well

"The Move" was an outstanding moment in the Trust's history.

In the course of just a few cold days in January, everything accumulated at the Eagleville Schoolhouse over the last 22 years – every document, hammer, sign and chair -- was picked up and carried into our new headquarters at the historic Atwood Farm.

While there is still work to do, it looks like we've been there forever.

Oddly, even the computer printers and the copy machine seem to fit this beautiful old place.

A working farm since 1877, the Atwood has always been a place with a purpose, and always tied to – and dependent on – the natural environment.

Now that purpose has changed, but the sense of mission and disciplined caretaking indispensable to a well-run farm is still very much in the air.

Like the Atwood as a working farm, the Trust relies on people working together. So it was when we moved, as dozens of volunteers loaded a caravan of tiny cars and big pickup trucks to make the six-mile drive from the Schoolhouse to the intersection of Gurleyville and Wormwood Hill roads.

Three young movers brought over the heaviest furniture the following day (our beautiful old map case weighs many hundreds of pounds alone!); and after a few days of unboxing and plugging in, we were back in business.

Now that The Move is behind us, the need for volunteers remains. Perhaps the best feature of our new home is the chance it gives volunteers the space we've never had to work together --or apart;. The two-room Eagleville Schoolhouse couldn't accommodate separate simultaneous meetings.

While "outdoor" volunteers perform many of the most visible activities of the Trust in monitoring easements and stewarding properties, we still have many critical needs that can be done indoors, in comfortable warmth and the company of people who share your interest in protecting and growing open space.

Whatever skills you have to share can really make a difference: Some of the things we need particularly are volunteers to manage the paperwork of stewardship and easements; to schedule and remind other volunteers of recurring responsibilities; to write for our newsletter and website; to lead walks; to staff the booth at town fairs; to maintain our computers.

The range of opportunities is wide and we are certain to find a way for you to make a valuable contribution in whatever time you have to give.

If you haven't been by already, please come by the Atwood Farm and get a tour – though there are often volunteers working on-site, we are open every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to five or by appointment.

We look forward to seeing you.

— Doug

TRUST NOTES



By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

Check Out Our New Headquarters

When Isabelle Atwood left her estate to Joshua's Trust, she intended that the property become a farm museum. Over many years she collected farm and textile tools toward that end.

She also maintained the barn, blacksmith shop, carriage shed, corn crib, and the little red Weave House which now houses the textile tools she collected.

The Weave House is now ready for visitors by appointment. Contact Peggy Church at peggy-church@earthlink.net or 860-455-0724 if you would like to visit.

For the rest of the farm, we will be participating in the state-wide Open House Day on Saturday, June 13, from 12 – 4 p.m. You may visit the outbuildings, as well as the public part of the house (the Trust office will be closed).

Come see us and enjoy the farm!

The move from the old Eagleville Schoolhouse went

very well —with assistance from many helpful volunteers.

We managed to finish just before the snows of this winter really got started!

Previous to moving day, volunteers came in to toss items no longer needed, to pack boxes, and then ferry them to the farm.

On the actual move day, the truck showed up on time and moved the furniture and many files over to the house.

The volunteers who work there are thrilled with all the space and privacy that the Atwood Farm now provides.

While our physical address has changed to 624 Wormwood Hill Rd., Mansfield, our mailing address has not, nor our phone nor our Internet address. Come by and pay us a visit – though you may be asked to help organize materials – still an on-going process.

HOME AT LAST

We have finally and officially moved to our new home at the Atwood Farm.

At right, Executive Director Michael Hveem works in the new conference room.

At lower left is the Weave House which is now ready to receive visitors, and at the lower right is, despite this winter's record-setting snow, the new main entrance.





Mike and Jean Hayden at Iron Mine Trail in Ashford.

The Trust Marks, With Sadness, The Death Of Mike Hayden

It is with much sadness that we recognize the passing of long-time JT volunteer Mike Hayden.

Mike was a Trustee and a steward for a number of years during the 1980's and 1990's.

He and his wife Jean (who survives him) could often be found in the Schoolhouse working on its organization, or working with Sam Dodd and the walk book or on the Iron Mine Trail that he was steward of for many years.

Besides Jean, he is survived by two sons and their families.

Trust's Work In Scotland: Significant, Varied, And Ongoing

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State Forest. Ongoing logging operations there are now complete, and the Trust is working on developing trails in the preserve this spring.

(Please check the Trust website before walking on this property.)

The Trust recently accepted Devotion Woods, a 21-acre property, which is the open space parcel on a small sub-division off of Route 97. It is mostly located on high ground overlooking surrounding farmland. The Trust plans to develop a trail on the property which will be open to the public.

We also own two significant conservation easements in Scotland.

One is a 50-acre parcel donated by Marshall Green very close to Devotion Woods along Section Road. Next to the road is a large open field which rises gently to a forested ridge. Further to the north near the Hampton border on Route 97 we have a 107-acre easement which borders the Nature Conservancy's Rock Creek Sanctuary. Both of these parcels border and protect the Little River. We continue to work with several other property owners to put more land into conservation easements.

Scotland, despite its size, has a number of unique properties, in undeveloped land and in agriculture. Working with the Trust and various government entities the town will be able to protect these, both for its current as well as future citizens.

Membership Is Growing, And Their Generosity Is Showing

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the generosity of our members in consecutive months.

Secondly, lining up the membership year with the fiscal year lets us give a clearer picture of trends to our members at the annual meeting in the fall.

Members were indeed generous in our 2014 Annual Appeal, with \$23,900 collected in the last months of the year. Thanks very much to all who supported us through the appeal and membership. These are our two biggest sources for funding our annual operating budget and critical to our operations.

Membership renewal letters won't go out until April, but by renewing now you can save us the cost of postage.

Better yet, just renew yourself with a note to the Trust, and give this newsletter to a friend or neighbor.

Bringing new members to the Trust is a great way to ensure that we stay strong and make good on our promise of perpetual protection of the land and historical properties entrusted to us.

The Atwood farmhouse on Wormwood Hill Road in Mansfield



WALKING AROUND...



Due to the snows that fell at propitious times, various planned walks had to be postponed or canceled. However, on **Thursday, March 12, at 1 p.m.** join Marcia Kilpatrick, chair of the Outreach Committee, at the Allanach-Wolf Preserve, located at 165 Back Rd., Windham.

On the hike, participants will hear about the history and management plans for this beautiful area.

View Lake Marie and enjoy the new bird blind built by Eagle Scouts. The hike is not strenuous. Park in the parking lot at the entrance.

Any questions about the weather or the hike, contact Marcia at 860-455-1226.

Please check the web site for up-to-date information on other walks. Don't forget – Trust properties are open every day for you to enjoy!



Farewell, Stephanie, And Thank You For Your Loyal And Pleasant Service

Anyone who has volunteered at the Trust over the past three years knows Stephanie Clark, our Conservation Coordinator.

Among many other duties, Stephanie helped manage the volunteers who monitor easements and steward properties, and ensured our compliance with the recordkeeping that is required as part of our legal responsibilities and accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance.

She has been a tremendous and exceedingly pleasant asset in her time at the Trust, and we could not have accomplished nearly as much as we have without her help.

Stephanie left the Trust in February, as she and her husband Nathan plan to start a family. Please join us in thanking her for all her help -- and check the website for an announcement of her upcoming baby shower at the Atwood Farm!

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Please Renew Your Membership

Membership renewal letters won't be going out until April, but you can save the Trust some postage expense by renewing now. If you've already renewed, thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues (\$10 Full-time Student; \$20 Individual; \$35 Family; \$100 Sustaining; \$250 Patron; \$500 Benefactor)

New member Check here []

Gift Membership: List names and addresses below. We'll send a gift card.

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