



Trust Loses Pillar In Death Of Madge Manfred

By Allison Burchell-Robinson

A Joshua's Trust photo contest catalyzed a critical resource for the Trust: Madge Manfred.

In 1970, her husband John won second prize in the contest. "We felt funny about taking the \$50 prize money from the Trust, so we used it to purchase a membership," he said.

John's ensuing work with the Trust quickly ensnared Madge, who brought along her remarkable talents in communication and organization.

These skills turned out to be an essential connective tissue for a complicated organization.

John remarks, "Madge was not a trained environmentalist, but she saw the big picture from Day One, the critical need for an entity like Joshua's Trust, and she saw where she could contribute to its success. And what



Madge starts, she finishes."

Knowing that communication was essential to binding together the disparate constituencies of the Trust, Madge started with the newsletter, which she edited for over 20 years.

This task led naturally to serving as chair of various Trust committees. In the understatement of the year, John noted, "Madge runs a good meeting."

As President of the Trust from 2005-2007, she guided it through a period of growth and increasing visibility.

She set a goal of doubling Trust membership and met it. She recommended the Trust join the national Land Trust

Alliance as the best way to enhance Joshua's Trust's practices.

The "sales job" required all of Madge's leadership skills and occasionally a dose of her rarely seen exas-

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Joshua's Trust lost one of its most prominent, faithful and beloved leaders last month with the death of past president Madge Manfred.

Madge, of Mansfield and Surry, Maine, lost a heroic three year battle with multiple myeloma on May 15. She served Joshua's Trust for decades in many capacities, including president.

She was also a past president of the Connecticut Council of Teachers of English, was a professor emeritus of Three Rivers Community College and a docent at the University of Connecticut's Benton Museum.

Madge leaves her husband John, daughter Leila Fecho, son-in-law Dirk Fecho, granddaughter Leilani Fecho, sister Sharon Birmingham and brother Thomas English. Donations in Madge's name may be made to either Joshua's Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield, CT 06250. or The Toddy Pond Association, P.O. Box 645 Blue Hill, ME, 04614.

Our Need For Your Support Is Great As Ever

You may not have noticed, but Joshua's Trust gave all members a freebie this year -- a free six-month membership extension as we transitioned to a July-through-June membership year.

For nearly half a century, we've been asking you to renew in November and December for the following calendar year, but we've moved the membership cycle to align with our fiscal year and to give us a more timely picture of membership support at the annual member meeting in the fall.

All good things must end, however, and -- if you have-

n't done so already -- we ask that you take a minute now to show your support for another year. You can use the mail-in renewal form on the back of this newsletter or go online at joshuastrust.org/members.

Whichever way you choose, please accept our deep appreciation for your support of the Trust's commitment to perpetual protection of land and historic sites in North-eastern Connecticut. We could not do this without the loyal support of members like you.

Membership revenues are a key part of our operating

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Help Plan The Next Annual Meeting. See Page 3.



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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Conservation Coordinator: Stephanie Clark
Atwood Farm: Mona Anderson
Conservation Restrictions: Warren Church
Grist Mill: Gay Wagner
Stewardship: Maura Robie, John Weedon
Membership: Doug Hughes, Marietta Johnson
Newsletter: Nancy Silander, Paul Stern
Outreach: Marcia Kilpatrick

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 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.

Volunteers Are Our Heart

When Joshua's Trust was formed in 1966, no one could then envision how this Trust would grow in size, numbers of properties, or the need for volunteers.

Volunteers alone have kept the Trust moving forward for almost half a century. Without our volunteers, we would not be accredited with the national conservation organization, the Land Trust Alliance. This was accomplished by Past President Madge Manfred, who had volunteered for decades; and whose wisdom, foresight, and persistence, made Joshua's Trust a stronger organization. We will miss her quiet guidance and deep caring.

Volunteers do everything: filing, mailing newsletters, maintaining the Trust's website, trail work, treasurer and budget reports.

We have people with GIS (Geographic Information System) skills to help with mapping and trails. Volunteers on the Financial Committee share their accounting and budget skills. Birders and naturalists lead walks. Still others help at the information booth at events in our 14-town region. Some are docents at the Gurleyville Grist Mill.

Others plan fundraising events.

Artists have donated their skills to benefit the Trust. Others have tools and equipment to allow us to complete projects that we couldn't do by hand.

Our stewards are our volunteers who enjoy being out-of-doors. They care for our protected properties throughout the year.

Our second smallest property is the Ashford Oak, on 0.36 acres. Some properties are over 100 acres. They may protect water supplies, animal habitats, or are properties of unique beauty or with special ecological attributes.

All are maintained by volunteers as specified by the donor, the Trust's standards and management plans.

Stewards walk the boundaries once a year, look for safety issues, and personally check and maintain boundary markers. Many remove invasive plant species to give native species a chance to reestablish. They also provide comprehensive reports on their observations to be filed as official records for the property. They love to be working in the woods!

If this is you – come help us out! There is always a place for another volunteer.

Please call the Trust Office: 860.429.9023.

TRUST NOTES



By Fran Funk
Joshua's Trust President

Atwood Farm Is Ours. Check Out The Changes

The probate process for the Atwood Farm finally finished in May, and the Trust now has ownership. Bids were recently solicited for work to enable us to use it for Trust activities. If you go by this summer, you will see a

new parking lot with lighting and a handicap-access bathroom and ramp being installed. We hope to have it all completed by this fall and to celebrate our acquisition with Trust members. Stay tuned!

WALKING AROUND...



Here are events planned for June.

JUNE 7, 10- 11:30 a.m. Josias Byles Sanctuary, Ashford.

Rain or shine. The hike is of moderate difficulty with gently rising terrain and occasional obstacles. Children are encouraged to participate with parents. Leashed dogs are allowed. If weather is questionable, call the Trust Office at 860-429-9023. The Sanctuary is located on Rt. 44 in Ashford, 1 mile east of Rt. 89. The trail entrance is on the north side of Rt.44, across from the North Veterinary Clinic. Check the website, www.joshuastrust.org for general and parking information.

JUNE 7, 1 – 3:30 p.m. - Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin.

A Joshua's Trust Walk in conjunction with Connecticut Trails Day, led by Warren Church, will last about 1.5 hours. This easy to moderate trail leads past and /or through a variety of terrains including two ponds, a large hay field, and a wooded ridge. Hikers should meet at the Chaplin Town Hall parking area (198 Chaplin St.). Directions: please go to the Trust web site at www.joshuastrust.org. The rain date is Sunday, June 8, same time. Call Warren Church 860-455-0724 for further information.

JUNE 8, 1– 3 p.m. Fliegel Farm to Langhammer Woods, Ashford

Explore the 2 mile road along the Old Connecticut Path following the Old Howey Road corridor from Fliegel Farm (Joshua's Trust) to Langhammer Woods (Ashford Conservation Commission) and back, with the option for an introduction to Fern Glade for those who want a shorter walk to explore Knowlton Brook. This walk has a

mild level of difficulty and is suitable for adults and families with younger children.

Directions: From Rt. 74, turn on to Seckar Road and follow to Howey Road. Turn right at Sean Patrick's Plants (34 East Howey Road, Ashford) and park in the field on the right by the green/hoop houses. For more information call Gwen Haaland 860-429-4241 or visit <http://www.ctwoodlands.org>.

JUNE 10, 7:30-9:30 a.m. Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin

For a different take on Hubbard Sanctuary, join Steve Morytko as he leads a bird walk. The grassland, wetlands, edge and nearby forest habitats attract many species including Cerulean Warbler and Bobolink - two threatened species in Connecticut, as well as a number of other breeding and migrating species. The grassland habitat is unique among Joshua's Trust properties. We often have outstanding looks at several much sought after species.



Novice and experienced birders are welcome. Bring binoculars but a few extra pair may be available if you don't have them. The walk is expected to be 2-3 hours but leave when you need to. The walk will be held rain or shine so please dress appropriately.

Directions: Hubbard Sanctuary is located behind the Chaplin Town Hall along Rte 198 just north of the intersection with North Bear Hill Road and Chaplin Street. Parking area is straight ahead near the fence when you drive in.

Check the Joshua's Trust website for information on events later in the summer!

We Need Your Input About The Annual Meeting

As you may know, the Trust must have an annual meeting once a year. In the past, it has been held in April, but last year, in order to coordinate with the end of the fiscal year, it was changed to the fall.

This offers us an opportunity to explore other changes we may want to make, and we want to hear from YOU! Do you enjoy going to the dinner? Would you prefer just

dessert and coffee? Would it be better on the weekend rather than a week day?

Do you have any suggestions for venues (we need space for 100-150)? Do you like having a speaker?

If you have an opinion, please email Fran Funk at funk.frances@gmail.com. Planning will begin this summer and we really want to know what you would prefer!



Columbia And The Trust —Partners

By Ann Dunnack

“Thank you, Joshua’s Trust!”...“Hoorah for Joshua’s Trust!”...“We are so grateful for your help!”

This is what was heard echoing through Yeoman’s Hall after the Town Meeting May 20.

The purchase of the development rights for the 54-acre Kassman Farm on Post Hill off of Rt. 66 was approved overwhelmingly by the people of Columbia.

The rights were purchased under a Connecticut Department of Agriculture agreement.

Connecticut contributed 70 percent of the funds, and the municipality was responsible for 30 percent. Columbia reached out to Joshua’s Trust to assist with the Town’s portion. Joshua’s Trust contribution of \$10,000 made the deal possible.

This is not the first time Joshua’s Trust and Columbia have worked together to conserve land. JT contributed funds to help conserve the Szegda Farm next door to the Kassman Farm two years ago.

The Kassman Farm abuts another conserved farm -- the

Skyline Farm across the street. Altogether, the three farms will protect nearly 200 acres of farmland, and a magnificent view from the top of Post Hill.

Meanwhile, thanks to the generous bequest of Henriette Brand of Columbia Lake, Columbia now has added 48 acres of undeveloped land to its Recreation Park.

This land abuts the Trust’s Utley Hill Preserve, extending from Columbia Lake to Route 66. Together the Utley Preserve and this new parcel protect the entire east shoreline of the Great Columbia Swamp, the watershed of Columbia Lake.



The trail sign at Columbia’s Utley Hill Preserve



Grist Mill Welcomes First Visitors Of Season

A group of well-prepared enthusiasts descended on the Grist Mill May 4 to ready it for the season.

They all appeared bearing the cleaning tools to dust, vacuum, scrub, and generally put things in good order for visitors for the opening afternoon.

On Sunday, May 18, Margaret and Quentin Kessel, long-time docents, along with new docent, Cheryl Le-Beau, greeted the first visitors of the

season.

We hope you will come and appreciate the beauty of this little stone Grist Mill and visitor's center, and learn a little more about Mansfield’s past.

The mill is the only stone grist mill in existence in Connecticut.

Located by the Fenton River, which provided its source of power, it is open Sundays, 1–5 p.m., to mid-October.

Madge Manfred Left Her Fingerprints In Many Places

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peration.

Finally, the Legacy Project was launched with unanimous board support, with the purpose expanded to include money for the land acquisition fund, stewardship activities and staff support.

And of course Madge volunteered to head the committee.

Madge’s successful application for grant funds to retain a consultant to guide the campaign encouraged the partici-

pants about potential success. The Legacy Campaign has since brought in more than \$700,000.

Madge Manfred’s fingerprints can be seen in each phase of the Trust’s growth and evolution over the past decades. She was always looking ahead, with a vision for the future possible for Joshua’s Trust and willing to step up to ensure the necessary foundation work such as strategic planning, accreditation, and the capital campaign.

It is in no small part due to Madge’s efforts and vision that Joshua’s Trust stands where it is today.



Visitors to the annual wine and beer tasting got a taste of beautiful weather in addition to fine spirits like those dispensed by the Westford Hill Distillers, below.



Nice Weather Graces Trust's Annual Wine Tasting Event

Joshua's Trust held its annual Wine and Craft Beer Tasting Fund-raiser this year at the Church Farm in Ashford on May 18.

It was a beautiful spring day to be outside celebrating the Trust with friends and neighbors. Attendees were able to walk the grounds and view the Joshua's Trust Traveling Photo Exhibit while sipping quality wines and craft beers and nibbling on hors d'oeuvres made by Trust volunteers.

Charles McCaughtry, local artist and long-time friend of the Trust, had an exhibit of his art work displayed in the historic barn. McCaughtry graciously donated a portion of the proceeds from his art sales made between his gallery open house on May 3 and the tasting on May 18 to Joshua's Trust.

Money raised from this popular event supports the Trust's annual operating budget.

Your Support Has Lasting Impact On JT's Mission

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budget, and we plan on your renewals as we anticipate the costs of stewardship, acquisitions and administration of the properties entrusted to us.

Our costs keep rising (Have you seen the price of shovels lately?) but our membership fees are the same as last year, making your renewal even more important to us.

After you renew, will you please consider helping us grow our membership base in the coming year? Your

friends, family, neighbors and co-workers may not know about the role that Joshua's Trust plays in preserving more than 4,000 acres in our towns – and nobody can make the case for our support better than you can. That little act of volunteerism can have large and lasting effects in protecting our mission and growing our capacity to acquire and protect even more open space and historic places.

Thank you so much for your support of JT in the past, and thanks especially for your renewal for the upcoming 2014/15 membership year.

JOSHUA'S TRACT
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Now is a good time to renew your membership!

Last year's memberships (2013) in Joshua's Trust expire at the end of June. Renewing now will keep you as a member in good standing through June of 2015. Sending in your renewal now will save us the cost of mailing a reminder later. 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 []

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**Go green, please! Read the newsletter online
and save us the expense of mailing by checking here:**



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