



Joshua's Trust At Critical Juncture

Legacy Campaign Will Help The Organization Meet Growing Responsibilities

A quiet campaign for the Quiet Corner!

As you may have heard, Joshua's Trust has been working on a major fundraising program, the Legacy Campaign.

We are delighted to report that in the first year we have secured over \$680,000 in gifts and pledges from major donors. Our treasurer, Tony Holt of Mansfield, chairs this effort.

The goal is in sight, and we are asking you to help us over the top when you receive a letter and a pledge card in early February, 2014.

Your gift, payable over five years, will enable the Trust to continue in its efforts to preserve our natural and historic resources.

In just under 50 years the Trust has had considerable success. Operating largely with volunteers, we now protect over 4,000 acres through ownership and easements.

We have developed a regional service area that includes 14 towns, a model admired by other land trusts.

In collaboration with "our" towns, we have made small



Scenes from various properties preserved and protected by Joshua's Trust. How many can you identify? (Answers on Page 5.)

gifts of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to aid them in preparing for open space acquisitions. Appraisals, surveys, and title searches quickly eat up the funds earmarked for open space protection or purchase.

Now Joshua's Trust faces an important juncture. We have grown to the point that we cannot continue to oper-

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Auction Draws Hundreds, Raises Thousands

A fund-raiser of rare character and scope, the auction at the Atwood Farm in early October brought out over 400 antique enthusiasts and raised some \$168,500 for the continued support of the property.

The late Isabelle Atwood's unusually large collection of antiques – all to be sold in one day -- drew bidders from all over the Northeast, many of them antique dealers. The attentive crowd gathered at the farm on Wormwood Hill Road in Mansfield under a large canvas tent as item after item was put on display.

Following previews on the two previous days, the bidding began in the morning and continued uninterrupted until after dark. The number, quality and variety of the items on auction was rare, and the bidding was enthusiastic.

Paul Russ of Russ Antiques managed the sale, and recently delivered a check for the Trust's share of the proceeds. They are to be dedicated to the maintenance of the farm and its possible use as a 19th-Century farm museum.

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Your Membership Has Been Extended! See Why On Page 5.



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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www.joshuaslandtrust.org

OFFICERS:

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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.

The Important Work Of Remembering It's Heaven

This is my last column as president of Joshua's Trust.

It has been a whirlwind three and a half years and an experience I will treasure and long remember.

The Trust is special in so many ways in the work that we do, the volunteers who carry so much of the workload, the executive director, Trustees and officers who guide and direct the activities, and you, the members, who continually support the Trust and answer the clarion call of the Annual Appeal, the Legacy Campaign and the membership drive.

It isn't just your contributions that matter. What's more important is your commitment and belief in the Trust and its mission to save and preserve land.

There's a saw mill not far from my home. It's small but always working. I hear it when out riding in the woods. As I pass under, over and around the big trees I think about how long it took for them to reach their current stature and height and I think about the short time it takes to cut one down as new food for the voracious sawmill.

I am surrounded by the forest and could probably ride all the way to the Yale Forest. It is Heaven. But not to the neighbor who still talks to me

about developing our piece of land. "Think about the money you would make," he says.

I think about the lost trees and the lost open space and the improbability of bringing it back.

I have written before about the enormity of protecting land forever. An even larger enormity is the lost land.

How long has it been since you saw a developed piece of land returned to its natural state? Developments don't get up and move elsewhere. Roads don't disappear into nowhere. Unprotected land is seldom left alone as our ancestors did when allowing the land to lie fallow and recover.

Unfortunately there are many who think that land now requires man-made objects to be placed on it, pushing nature further and further aside. That is why Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust and all the other land trusts are so important.

We are pushing back!

Serving as president of the Trust has been a privilege -- one I wish all of you could enjoy. But stepping in now is Frances Funk, a well-known photographer, long time member and former Trust president.

Bon voyage, Fran. You're in for a terrific ride!



REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President

Building A Larger Reserve

Continued from Page One

ate as we have for almost half a century. We recognize that our volunteer corps needs more staff support.

Our successful application process for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance underlined the need for a larger reserve fund for protecting easements and for land acquisition (direct and collaborative).

Gifts received in our first year are already invested and working for us, and have been earmarked as follows: Legal defense, \$150,000; Stewardship, \$160,000; Land acquisition, \$162,000; Fundraising and outreach, \$50,000; Operating support, \$160,000.

If every member makes a pledge in the annual amount of a daily coffee or newspaper, we can meet our goals.

You may make an unrestricted gift or you may designate it to one of the funds listed above.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Tony Holt (Tholt2@sbcglobal.net or 860-429-9023) or our Executive Director Stephanie Clark (stephanie.clark@joshuastrust.org or 860-429-9023).

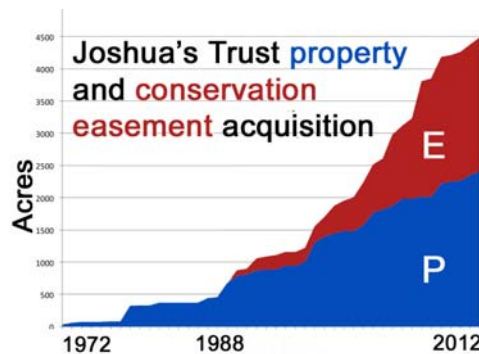


Chart by John Pagini

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our newest members:

Bev Allen, Eric Apgar, Susan Barney, John Bell, Kathleen Bradley, Diana Cowles, Anthony D'Ambrosio, Elizabeth Jockusch and Lionel Shapiro, Lynn Ericksson, Morgan Fagant, Bob and Kathe Gable, John Greene, Rebecca Grillo, Benjamin Hanna, Pat Hempel, George Khouri, Patricia Kibbee, Richard Kreuzscher, Robert Mahoney, Marian Matthews, Bill McEvey, Sherry McKeever, Peggy McKleroy, Kate McLaughlin, Ron and Joanne Pal, Evelyne Parizek, Nancy Parry, Melissa Paterno, Stephen Pelletier, Mark Renowski, Melissa Shortell, Jeannie and Stoddard Slayton, Karen Snyder, Fiona Somerset, Glen Stolle, Ande and Paul Veilleux, Lex Vincze, Penelope Williams, Joe Williamson, Suzanne Wilson, and Yankee Antiques.

We look forward to seeing you at our Trust activities!

And New Acreage!

Thanks to Daniel Donahue and Susan Harrod, Joshua's Trust recently received a 4.5 acre parcel in Ashford along the pristine Mt. Hope River. The preserve will be named the Mount Hope River Wildlife Sanctuary.

Grist Mill Draws Visitors From All Over The World

Over 452 visitors from 53 Connecticut towns, 15 states, and six countries enjoyed tours of the Grist Mill this season.

Thanks to a number of dedicated docents, the Mill was open every weekend from May through October.

Just before opening in May, Rudy Favretti led a tour of historic Gurleyville just for the residents and docents, a walk he repeated during the Walktober events.

We will have a printed walking tour of Gurleyville available next season at the mill museum. If you are interested in participating as a docent, please contact the Trust office. We look forward to seeing you as a visitor or docent next spring!

Docents Quentin and Margaret Kessel, right, talk with Alice Smith and Donald Morse, who visited the mill as a child. (Photo by Joan Hill)





Come Walk With Us All Winter Long

The informal walking group, led by Marcia Kilpatrick, will be sponsoring one walk a month at a Trust property.

The December walk was held on the 4th at Preston Preserve in Hampton. Please check the web site for the ones in January, February and March.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, come join naturalist Tom Harrington for a walk at the Joshua Trust's Pigeon Swamp Preserve in Lebanon. The walk will start at 10 a.m. and last about two hours. The property likely served as a roosting site for the once-abundant, now extinct Passenger Pigeon, thus the name. We will be keeping our eyes out for present-day inhabitants.

Please dress warmly, depending on the weather.

To find the entrance, go to the intersection of Routes 32 and 203 in South Windham. Turn to go into South Windham (past the library) and go up Machine Shop Hill Road until you see the firehouse on the left (where the road flattens out a bit). Take the first left after the firehouse. This is Pigeon Swamp Road. The road ends in about 1 mile. The small parking lot is right at the end of the road.



HIKING HALL — This photos was taken as Trust members walk the Hall property in Mansfield below the spillway of the Mansfield Hollow dam. Photographer Gwen Haaland points out that the property is a hidden gem with some interesting plants including "running cedar" and another lycopodium species and royal ferns.

You can find other opportunities for getting out of the house this winter when you go to our new web site! See you outside!

Trust Aims To Make Atwood Property A Museum Of 19th-Century Farming

Continued from Page One

Many of the items were sold in lots, while a number of antiques from the farm were given previously to the

Mansfield Historical Society to complement those that Isabelle had already donated. As well, the Trust kept others for use in the house.



We continue to pursue a zoning change to permit the activities we envision.

The Atwood Committee meets regularly to determine how best to proceed to fulfill the Isabelle Atwood's wishes that Joshua's Trust preserve the property as a museum and an example of a late 19th Century farm.

If you are interested in helping with this transformation, or if you have museum expertise that you would like to share, or would like to help with the heirloom apple orchard, please contact the chair, Mona Anderson, at the Trust office.

Auctioneer Dan Russ, at left, under the tent during the Atwood auction.

Willington Faces Open Space Challenge

Depending on where you are in Willington, it may seem that a lot of the town is in forest and farms, or that not much is, particularly near the I-84 exits.

While there are many large tracts of farmland and forest, in fact, just over 10 percent (a little over 2,400 acres) is protected from development.

Esther Labbee's two recent gifts of land on Blair Road and the conservation easements on the Heck property (Common Road) are the only properties the Trust protects in the town.

Christina Mailhos, first selectwoman, knows her community values "the open space and rural nature" of the town.

In the past 20 years, the town has spent over \$660,000 to protect various tracts including the Fenton-Ruby Park and, most recently, the Knowlton parcel in the southern part of town.

(Joshua's Trust also contributed to this purchase with a grant of \$15,000.)

However, Mailhos worries about the large farms whose owners are getting

older and just what will become of their land once they are gone.

The Conservation Commission, led by Peter Andersen, would like to see more land protected, particularly in the identified conservation priority areas.

By 2017, the commission would like 15 percent of the town's land protected, working up to 24 percent by 2032 – for a total of 3,300 additional acres.

Each year it actively encourages the board of finance to set aside monies for open space, whether for development rights, conservation easements or direct acquisition.

Conserving Willington's natural, scenic and cultural resources demands a commitment from residents and the town government, aided by the state and land trust organizations such as Joshua's Trust.

By working together, they can keep what makes their town special in the Quiet Corner of Northeastern Connecticut.



A New JT Website Soon

Our website is getting a makeover!

The University of Connecticut's Digital Media Department is rebuilding our website for free as part of a student-led project.

New features will include a library of member-supplied photographs of JT properties, timely Facebook news updates on the home page, a calendar of events, and new mapping technology that will make it easy to locate and all of our properties.

We look forward to a launch in mid-December, and ask that you bear with us through any issues during the transition period.

Once the new site is up and running, please let us know what you think.

www.joshuaslandtrust.org

Page One Photo ID's

Left to right, top: The Ashford Oak, Iron Mine Valley, benches on Knowlton Hill. Bottom, the kiosk at Wolf Rock, Lake Marie on the Allanach property, the Goodrich property, sign at Utley Hill Preserve.

Board Changes Membership Start, End Dates

If you think your membership expires in December, we've got a sweet surprise for you!

At their September meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to extend all current memberships for a six month period, that is, until June 30, 2014.

Starting in July, 2014, memberships will run concurrent with our new July-through-June fiscal year rather than the calendar year, as we've previously done.

All renewals and new memberships paid for *before* July 1, 2014, will keep you a member in good standing until June 30, 2015.

The board took this step for a couple of reasons.

First, aligning our membership year with our fiscal year gives us an up-to-date count of our membership for our annual report and meeting – which will now take place in early fall.

Second, we wanted to reduce the overlap between our

membership renewal reminders and our annual fund appeal, both of which are mailed during the months of November and December.

These are our two most important sources of operating revenue throughout the year, and the Board wants to avoid overloading our members with communications during the busy holiday season.

Because the six-month extension of the membership raises the possibility of a revenue shortfall this fiscal year, we hope you'll renew your registration early – again, your renewal is good through June of 2015 whether you renew now or wait until the deadline next summer.

So why wait?

Your early renewals will save us the significant costs of mailing reminders next year. **We invite you to use the form on the back of this newsletter or go online at www.joshuaslandtrust.org.**

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Renew Your Membership for 2014 —15

All current memberships in Joshua's Trust have been extended to June, 2014, as we realign our fiscal year. Sending your renewal now will save us the cost of mailing a reminder later. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues (\$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.

Year-end contribution \$ _____ Unrestricted \$ _____ Specifically for \$ _____

Yes ___ I'd like to receive the newsletter electronically at the above email address.

Mail form and check to Joshua's Trust, PO Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250

OR Pay online with PayPal by visiting the [Joshua's Trust's website](#) and clicking on the donation form.