

# Joshua's Trust News

Protecting Land and Preserving Heritage. Forever.



Winter 2014

Published Quarterly by Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust

www.joshuastrust.org



Carol Enright, left, and Stephanie Clark welcome Trust supporters at the annual dinner, held for the first time in the fall.

## Trust Annual Dinner Moves, Volunteer Spirit Follows

The Joshua's Trust annual dinner underwent a metamorphosis this year – a time change as well as a venue change.

More than 100 Trust members enjoyed dinner at the newly-opened Windham Club (formerly the Willimantic Country Club) on Oct. 15. The speaker, local photographer Stan Malcolm, gave many of the attendees a first time look at the Airline Trail as he talked about its inception and its current status.

Fran Funk, retiring president, handed out the presiden-

tial awards for the numerous hours given to the Trust.

Awardees were:

Warren Church and the Acquisitions Committee. Church, a past JT President and Committee members Margaret Welch and Marcia Kilpatrick accepted the award for their efforts in finding, assessing and informing the Board of Trustees about new projects.

Additional 2014 Presidential Awards were presented to Secretary Carol Enright, retiring Treasurer and newly

*Continued on Page Five*

## Close Vote On Open Space Brings Disappointment — And Hope

The recent proposal to bond a million dollars for open space preservation put on the November ballot in Coventry was turned down, on recount, by one vote.

While it is a disappointment that the proposal did not pass, it is encouraging to know that half of the voters were in favor of the town protecting natural places for conservation, recreational, or green and quiet-value reasons.

Coventry has indeed set aside money in its budget in the last few municipal budget cycles.

That support to the Land Acquisition Fund has resulted in acquisition of the 35-acre forested Thornton Brook Preserve on Pucker Street in fee simple.

In process is the fee simple acquisition of the 61-acre Williams property on Cooper Lane (a project Joshua's

Trust collaborated on), and the purchase of development rights for the 100-acre Reynolds farm on Flanders Road.

The close vote in the referendum gives hope that the issue will again be presented to voters in the future, and perhaps at that time there will be a more positive outcome.

Meanwhile, the Town of Lebanon is to be commended for its recent move to set aside money in the budget for purchase of land or development rights to preserve farmland in their town. Lebanon has clearly been an agricultural community, and has been actively working to protect this resource.

Towns often work in partnership with the Trust in these endeavors – it is through the members' generosity that we are able to do so.

**Year-end is a good time to donate to the Trust's conservation effort**



## Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4  
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250  
Email: [joshuastrust@snet.net](mailto:joshuastrust@snet.net)  
[www.joshuastrust.org](http://www.joshuastrust.org)

### OFFICERS:

President: Doug Hughes  
Past President: Fran Funk  
Vice President: Nancy Silander  
VP Land Acquisition: Warren Church  
VP Historic Properties: Keith Wilson  
Secretary: Carol Enright  
Treasurer: Allison Burchell-Robinson  
Asst. Treasurer: Hamilton Holt

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Andersen, Willington	Angelika Hansen, Hampton
Donald Cianci, Columbia	Doug Hughes, Mansfield
Robert Dubos, Chaplin	Bill Ingalls, Lebanon
Ann Dunnack, Columbia	Scott R. Matthies, Chaplin
Rudy Favretti, Mansfield	Greg Padick, Mansfield
Fran Funk, Coventry	Jim Russel, Windham
Brent Gottier, Tolland	Nancy Silander, Mansfield
Gwen Haaland, Ashford	Eric Thomas, Coventry
	Chuck Vinsonhaler, Mansfield

Conservation Coordinator: Stephanie Clark  
Atwood Farm: Mona Anderson  
Conservation Restrictions: Warren Church  
Grist Mill: Vacant  
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.

# This New Year To Be A Real Game-Changer For The Trust

For the Joshua's Trust community, 2014 was a year of many advances – our successful Legacy Campaign and transfer of the Atwood Farm, among others – and one devastating loss: the death of long-time leadership pillar Madge Manfred.

We have celebrated and we have mourned, and kept progressing toward our shared goal of protecting local open space and historic sites.

But 2015 will be a game-changer for Joshua's Trust.

First, we are fortunate to have found an outstanding executive director who could choose from many enviable careers: Michael Hveem is an attorney, and an MBA, and has years of experience in financial investment firms.

But Mike has a different notion of what success is, and wants to use his tremendous energy and skills in ways that matter deeply to him, and to us.

Managing a land trust, like most other things in our modern world, has become a hugely complicated undertaking. Understanding conservation laws, meeting accreditation requirements and growing support from grants-making institutions, businesses and individuals -- our executive must master all these critical responsibilities.

Management expertise will never be more important than providing members with opportunities to be a part of our work, and having their volunteer contributions recognized

and appreciated. Mike is a leader who will support both the head and the heart of our organization.

Mike's start date of January 1 coincides with the planned move of our headquarters from the historic two-room schoolhouse to our own historic Atwood Farm in Gurleyville.

This is the second game-changer

for us next year: A space that can accommodate multiple meetings simultaneously and still allow office volunteers and staff to work productively and efficiently in relative quiet.

Efficiency is increasingly important in all areas of the Trust. Volunteers (more than 170 last

year!) deserve to have their precious time valued, and the many demands on staff require making the most of each hour.

But one of the most valuable impacts of the Atwood Farm may be what it can do for providing comfortable space for conversation and informal exchanges that make the Trust much more than a well-run not-for-profit, but a place to meet and share with people who share your conservation values.

If you can volunteer to help with the Atwood move, we'd love the help; otherwise, we hope you will find a chance early next year to meet Mike Hveem and see our new home.

Best wishes for your own New Year.

— Doug

### TRUST NOTES



By Doug Hughes  
*Joshua's Trust President*

## We're Moving To New Headquarters. Wanna Help?

After many years at the Eagleville Schoolhouse on Rt. 275, the Trust offices will be moving to the Atwood Farm on Wormwood Hill Road in Mansfield.

As the Trust has expanded, so have our space needs. Isabelle Atwood's home that she so generously donated to Joshua's Trust will become our new headquarters. The home will also be used for meetings and other gatherings.

We are now going through the preliminary phases of transition to our new headquarters while preparing to leave the schoolhouse.

Allison Burchell Robinson and Gwen Haaland are heading up the move. We will be hiring a professional moving company that will carry our furniture, files and electronics, but we will still need volunteers on the actual day of the move.

To confirm the date, please check the web site after January 1.

If you can spend even a couple of hours helping out, please call (after the holidays) Gwen at (860) 429-4241 or Allison at (860) 429-9023.

## Of Bridges And Bears On Church Farm Trail

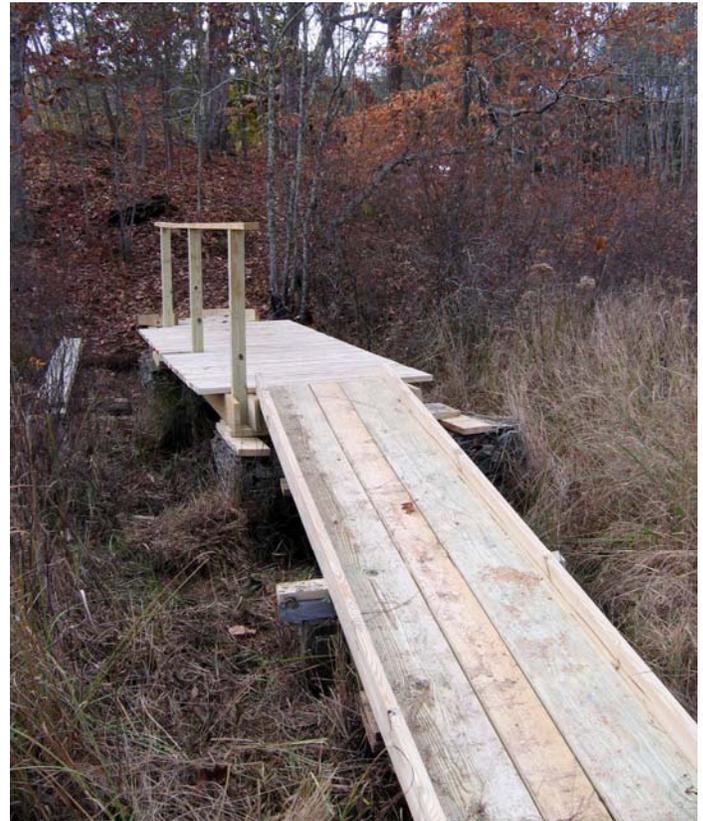
Loud hammering could be heard across the Ashford countryside one Monday in October as a dozen volunteers set to work improving the Church Farm trail.

Charlie McCaughtry and 11 other workmates dismantled the old rotted bridge on the trail and constructed a much-needed new one. The work crew included Gary Griffin, Gene Bowen, Peter Gergler, Terry Wakeman, Nan Cooper, Dave Sherman, Jim Knox, Bill Darcy, Bill Ingalls, Bill Bland and Peter Andersen.

The replacement was re-designed by Charlie in order to eliminate a step that impeded the brush mower from easily going across, so now the trail can be more easily mowed.

While the trail is only about a half mile long, it is used by a number of visitors, especially along Rt. 89. Recent fauna sightings include coyote, beaver, gray fox, bobcat, fisher, mink, otter and deer -- and, the occasional black bear.

The trail and surrounding area are also popular with birders.



The new trail bridge at Church Farm in Ashford.

## Members Are The Lifeblood Of The Trust's Achievements

While the long name of Joshua's Trust (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust) might make it seem an anonymous and impersonal organization, it is not.

It is you who are members who are the Trust -- not the name.

It is the individual members working as one voice who determine the Trust's direction and what it helps to protect -- forever -- both environmentally and historically. Without you, the Trust does not exist.

Make your voice heard -- come see your office, your web site, or any of the activities we sponsor. We need your voice and your talents to ensure the Trust continues its mission of preservation.

Along the same line, we always have one-time projects, especially in the trails maintenance area, that need volunteers.

Please visit the web site for the current ones, which include help with the move in January.



# WALKING AROUND...



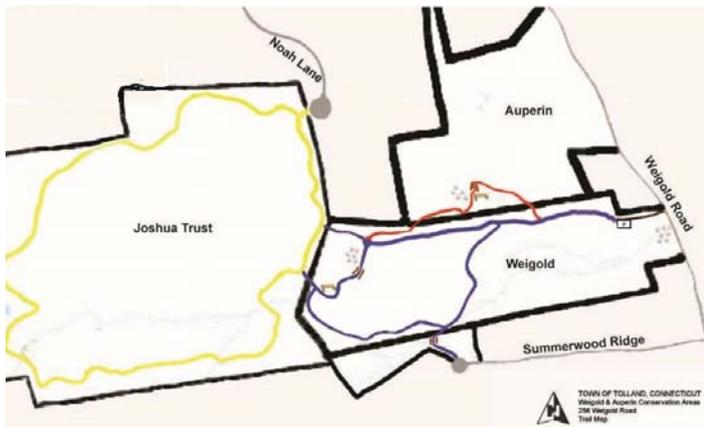
Winter is a great time to get out as our forested areas, without their leaves, now offer very different views, making it easier to see some of our native fauna that hang around in the winter. The ground can vary from leaf-covered to snow-covered to mud-covered. A walk in the woods is fun way to work off some of that holiday food! Please dress appropriately for Trust outdoor activities. If you would like younger family members or your dog to accompany you, please check with the walk leader to be sure the hike is appropriate for them.

## Tolland

**Jan. 10, 10 a.m.**

Join the Steward of the *Tobiassen Property* in Tolland for a *Walk on the Wintertide*.

The relatively easy 2-hour hike winds through the wooded parcel, crosses brooks and old stone walls as you traverse the property. Bird and wildlife sightings are



highly likely. Dress warmly, and possibly Yaktrax or STABILicers recommended, depending on conditions. Severe weather may cancel.

**Location:** From the junction of Route 31 and Route 44 in Coventry, go north on Grant Hill Road 2.8 miles to Noah Lane. Turn right on Noah lane and go to the end.

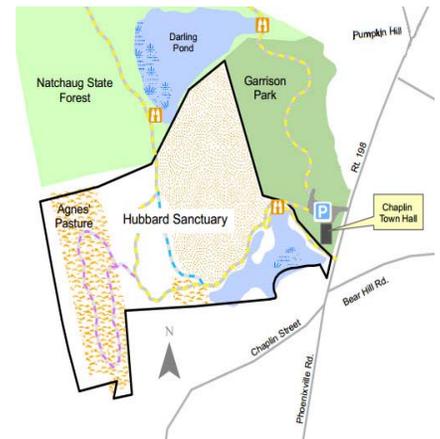
Park on the right side of the cul-de-sac where the trail begins. For up-dated information, call Ken Hankinson by 9 a.m. the morning of the hike at [860-871-7592](tel:860-871-7592).

## Chaplin

**Jan. 20, 1 p.m.**

Come enjoy an easy walk at *Hubbard Sanctuary* in Chaplin.

The hike will follow along the trail which passes a very large field and a pond, into the forest, and then passes another pond and back to Garrison Field to the parking lot. The walk is easy with flat terrain. Please dress for the weather, especially footwear.



**Hubbard Sanctuary's location**

**Location:** Parking is available at the Chaplin Town office building located on Route 198, 2.2 miles north of the intersection of Route 6 and Route 198. For information call Marcia Kilpatrick at [860-455-1226](tel:860-455-1226).

## *Here's a painless (almost) way you can support the work done by Joshua's Trust*

Did you know that Amazon.com will donate a portion of the sales from your purchases to a charity of your choice?

If you are an Amazon customer, please consider selecting Joshua's Trust as your charity of choice through their AmazonSmile program.

Your holiday purchases this season could be giving two gifts in one. Just go to [www.smile.Amazon.com](http://www.smile.Amazon.com) and choose Joshua's Trust.





Clockwise, from upper left: From Lebanon, (l-r) Alicia Wayland, Teri Lang, Dennis Latchum, Lebanon Planner Phillip Chester, and First Selectman Joyce Okanuk . Upper right: Marcia Kilpatrick, Warren Church, Margaret Welch; Lower right: (l-r) Keith Johnson, Gary and Eileen Griffin; Lower center, Tony Holt; and lower left, Marc Lang, left, chairman of the Lebanon Con-Ag group, and Howard Wayland.

## Worthy Volunteers Recognized For Their Important Works

*Continued from Page One*

elected assistant treasurer Tony Holt, and membership records keeper Marietta Johnson.

The Individual Award went to Richard Hyde. Richard has served as the vice president for acquisitions for the last 10 years, and is also a former trustee. He has been involved in preserving over 2,000 acres of land in conservation restrictions and in fee, including Coney Rock and the Allanach Wolf Woodlands.

The 2014 Group Conservation Award was given to the Lebanon Conservation and Agricultural Commission known informally as Com-Ag. It has established goals of raising significant funds in an effort to protect

2,000 acres of land in Lebanon and has already protected more than 1,000 acres. Chair and former JT Trustee Mark Lang accepted the award. First Selectwoman Joyce Okanuk, Town Planner Phil Chester and other commission members also represented the group.



**John Manfred and his daughter Leila Fecho speak to Fran Funk and Doug Hughes about former Trust President and longtime supporter Madge Manfred, who died last year.**

The Mighty Oak Award for stewardship went to Joan Hill. Joan, a former trustee, assumed leadership of the Stewardship Committee in 2007.

She oversaw the introduction of regional coordinators, the keeping of records, the introduction of stewardship plans, the establishments of kiosks, the attacks on invasive species, as well as the securing of grants and the introduction of GPS.

# Former Leaders Thanked, New Leaders Named

At the annual meeting in October, Margaret Welch (Ashford), Bonnie Ryan (Mansfield), Deb Lee (Eastford) and Ted Taigen (Tolland) were thanked for their service as Trustees. Doug Hughes finished a partial term and will now serve a new 5-year term.

Two former Trustees have returned: Peter Andersen from Willington and Ann Dunnack from Columbia. Both Pete and Ann are active on the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee in their respective towns, and have worked with their towns and the Trust in various capacities.

The Grist Mill chair is vacant – if you would be interested, please contact the Trust office.

In addition, all committees can use your help! This can be on-going, or one time for a particular project. Please contact the Trust office if you can give us some assistance!

**New executive director  
Michael Hveem**

*At the Nov. 13 Trustee meeting, the following officers were approved (please see the Trust web site for more information about the individuals):*

**Interim President – Doug Hughes**  
**Vice President – Nancy Silander**  
**Treasurer – Allison Burchell-Robinson**  
**Assistant Treasurer – Tony Holt**  
**Vice-President for Historic Properties – Keith Wilson**  
**Vice-President for Land Acquisition – Warren Church**

## Michael Hveem Hired As New Trust Executive

We have also hired a new Executive Director – Michael Hveem, from Vernon. Mike is returning to eastern Connecticut after a long absence.

He has both a B.A. and M.B.A. from UCONN, has worked as a lawyer, and most recently as the executive director for a non-profit theater in Avon.

He is a long-time member of the Trust.

Please come by the Trust Office on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon to meet him.



JOSHUA'S TRACT  
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.  
P.O. BOX 4  
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STORRS CT 06268  
PERMIT NO. 100

Return Service Requested



JOSHUA'S MARK

®