



Trust welcomes new leaders, celebrates its volunteers

With the help of Camp Horizons, Joshua's Trust has once again proven it knows how to put on a party!

Once a year the Trust assembles at a local venue to celebrate its mission and renew its spirits for the year ahead. This year, on Oct. 15, staff at the South Windham camp for children with special needs provided a delicious four-course meal as Trust members recognized the many achievements of their volunteers.

Three out-going Trustees – Bob Dubos of Chaplin, Chuck Vinsonhaler of Mansfield and Eric Thomas of Coventry – were thanked for their service and three new Trustees were introduced: Gail Bruhn of Mansfield, Carl Lindquist of Chaplin and Dave Parry of Windham.

David Wagner, a past president of the Trust, received the individual Conservation Award in recognition of his work in New England on caterpillars. Dr. Wagner's book, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, is widely regarded as one of the most authoritative field guides on caterpillars. He has been at the forefront on preserving the habitat of native insects, and his books have been an important tool in educating the public about the importance of habitat preservation and the joys of discovering these small fascinating creatures.

The Conservation Award for a group went to the Friends of the Shetucket River Valley.

Their mission is to help other not-for-profit organizations and governments acquire and preserve open space through fund-raising and public awareness cam-

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Bill Ingalls accepts his Sam Dodd Award in recognition of his bridge building at three JT preserves.

Franklin, small and rural, has its development pressures

Franklin is one of the smallest of the Trust's 14 towns, both in population and in land size. It is also a town that has seen increasing growth, tripling in size in the last half century to almost 2,000 people.

Historically, Franklin has been an agricultural town – and even today, agriculture is its “most extensive land use,” according to the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development. There are four large dairies, several large animal farms, and a number of community supported agricultural operators who participate in local farmers' markets.

In fact, Franklin ranks second in the state in the amount of acreage for farms which have sold their development rights through the Department of Agriculture.

Over 37 percent of the land in Franklin is open space, the largest parcel being that of the Franklin Wildlife Manage-



ment Area.

But there are growing commercial and development pressures on Franklin because of its proximity to several major roads and railroads that make it attractive to commercial and light industrial development.

Currently, there are two major efforts in the town to ensure that the growth does not negatively affect the town's open space. The Agriculture and Conservation Commission has recently been created to protect and preserve open space through inventorying the current land use and educating the citizens of Franklin.

The Friends of the Shetucket River Valley has also been spearheading a drive to preserve the land along this 20-mile river that winds through Franklin, Scotland and Sprague

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The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

At year 50, we look forward

Dear Members,

It's been a transformational year for the Trust, capped off with important New Year's resolutions by the JT Board to review and improve key aspects of the way the Trust is governed.

One particularly critical challenge the Board has committed to is creating a new Strategic Plan that identifies a focused vision of what the Trust will accomplish over the next five years.

This plan will not only identify our consensus of the goals most worthy of our time and energy, but will map out how we

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By Doug Hughes
Joshua's Trust President

achieve those goals and -- importantly -- how we measure our progress each step of the way. Many thanks to JT Vice President Nancy Silander for volunteering to lead our strategic planning efforts, and we all look forward to hearing and sharing your thoughts on this important process.

How fitting to begin our 50th year as a Trust not just by looking back but by looking forward!

Best wishes for the New Year,

—Doug

Nearly 3,000 acres protected along the Shetucket

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before emptying into the Quinebaug River in Norwich. Already, almost 3,000 acres which are in close proximity to or abut the river have been protected, creating a potential wildlife corridor along this trout and salmon river.

Efforts are now underway to add another 125 acres located in Franklin. The group has raised almost 85 percent of the needed funds, and Joshua's Trust has pledged

support as well, understanding the value of such a corridor.

The importance of open space in each of the towns the Trust serves impacts land use in the region as a whole, and Franklin is no exception.

If you are interested in learning more or to help the Friends of the Shetucket River Valley, please go to [their web site](http://www.shetucket.org/home.html) at www.shetucket.org/home.html.

A pressing engagement at the Atwood Farm cider orchard



Thanks to Leslie Sweeney and her family, the Atwood Committee, and in particular Peggy Church and Angelika Hansen, for a successful cider pressing demonstration Oct. 25. Tasting the difference between newly pressed unpasteurized cider or pasteurized cider from a local orchard was a new experience for many attendees. Visitors also enjoyed the weaving house with its exhibits on 19th century home-produced textiles.

At right: Peggy Church



Annual dinner rewards volunteer spirit

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paings. They most recently helped to protect 230 acres bordering the Shetucket River, which was the former Watson Farm, now the Sprague Land Preserve.

They are currently working on protecting the 111 acres adjoining Robinson property.

The Sam Dodd award for a special stewardship project went to the two "Bills" – Bill Ingalls and Bill Bland – for their bridge building – at Friedman Memorial Forest in Ashford, Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia and Whetten

Woods in Mansfield.

Ann Dunnack received the Mighty Oak award, in "recognition of her long-standing and steady stewardship." She has been a steward of the Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia for many years, as well as a regional coordinator, and is now chair of the stewardship committee.

The Presidential Citation Award, in recognition of service above and beyond to the Trust, went to Allison Burchell-Robinson, currently Treasurer, as well as a past president.



At the annual dinner, from left: Trust Secretary Karen Zimmer; Ben Williams accepting the Conservation Award for David Wagner; and Gary Griffin presenting Ann Dunnack her Mighty Oak award.

Three new board members

Three new Trustees joined the board in October.

Gail Bruhn has lived in Mansfield most of her adult life and is a long-time Trust member. She is a retired senior financial executive with experience in insurance, banking and non-profits.

Carl Lindquist of Chaplin has been a steward of the Hubbard property for over 25 years. He is a retired ophthalmologist who loves the outdoors.

Dave Parry returned to Windham six years ago after serving as executive director of several Boy Scout Councils. He is most recently retired as Boy Scout Director of Development in Hartford.

Eco-Forum continues Dec. 10 with talk on plants

The Trust's new Eco-Forum lecture series began in November and continues Dec. 10 when Elizabeth Farnsworth, the senior research ecologist with the New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, Mass., will speak on "The state of plants" in New England.

On Jan. 14, Claire Rutledge will discuss "The Emerald Ash Borer," a highly invasive pest that is devastating ash forests across the East. The forum concludes on April 14, 2016, when Mitch Wagener presents "Climate change and its effects."

All talks are at the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library on Route 89. The doors open at 6:45 pm on the given dates and the presentation starts at 7 pm. Programs last approximately an hour. The cost for Trust members is \$5, and for non-members, \$8 and preregistration is required – the forms can be found at www.joshuatrust.org/eco-forum.



Elizabeth Farnsworth

Now's a great time to make a gift to the Trust

Joshua's Trust depends on you, its members and neighbors in the community, to help finance activities which focus on our mission of land preservation in northeastern Connecticut. Your generosity today helps ensure the protection of the region's natural beauty and our children's heritage.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- I am interested in exploring conservation options for my land.
- I have made provisions in my will for Joshua's Trust.
- I am interested in making a gift of securities to the Trust.

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