

Joshua's Trust News

Protecting Land and Preserving Heritage. Forever.



Published quarterly by Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust

www.joshuastrust.org

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION LECTURE SERIES

by George Jacobi

The Climate Change talks, co-sponsored by Joshua's Trust and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History was led off by Dr. Anji Seth at UConn's Biophysics Building on January 12 with information about the local and regional weather shifts that are already occurring due to global warming. Dr. Seth did not directly discuss adaptation to or mitigation of climate change, but explained (with graphs from CIRCA, the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation) the estimates of temperature, rainfall, and drought that we can expect in our lifetimes. The projection was broken into changes already set in motion, that will occur between now and 2050, and those that MAY occur between 2050 and 2100, based on our own individual and collective efforts going forward. The somewhat grim statistics included a significant temperature rise and the likelihood of both drought and increased heavy precipitation from larger storms.

Her talk then turned more encouraging, emphasizing that working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions regardless of where we are at a given moment in time will result in positive benefits.



Pictured above: Dr. Anji Seth sharing on the impact of climate change in Connecticut.

A FREE LECTURE SERIES

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO LOCALLY TO HELP ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE



Sponsored by Joshua's Trust and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

All lectures will be held in the UConn Biology/Physics Building, Room 130, 91 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269. Parking is available in North and South Garages.



Sunday, January 12, 2:00pm
Dr. Anji Seth, UConn Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation
Dr. Seth will present a talk on regional climate adaptation—how will a changing climate effect us on a local rather than a global scale?

Sunday, February 9, 2:00pm
Christine Palm, State Representative
Representative Palm recently submitted legislation to ensure that climate change is addressed in CT school curricula. She will share her experiences with us.

Sunday, March 8, 2:00pm
Beth Bernard, Project Learning Tree
Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth (preschool-grade 12). Beth will lead children's activities during this session.

CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Though some effects of carbon-caused planetary warming are now inevitable, we can still ameliorate much of the changes that threaten the last half of the century. She listed the plethora of organizations, like the Citizen's Climate Lobby, that one could join. The "Solar Dominance Hypothesis", she explained, submits that the movement toward solar and renewable energy and holistic agriculture practice is inevitable economically.

The second lecture in the series featured State Representative David Michel of Stamford, who substituted on short notice for Christine Palm, Representative for District 36. The talk covered many topics. He spoke of renewable energy with a focus on environmentally sound ways to install offshore wind turbines. He spoke of the fact that urban centers create 70% of the damaging emissions to the environment and thus should be where effort is focused.

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JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

JOSHUA'S TRUST

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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.

BEHIND THE SCENES

by Paul Pribula

It's been almost a year since I became President, and became privy to goings-on in the office. In that time, I've become more aware of the vast numbers of hours volunteers are putting in to perform critical tasks that require expertise as well as time. Since numerous efforts happen in the background, out of the view of most of our membership, I'm going to take this opportunity to highlight one that takes place mostly out of sight in the woods.



Rob Beach, one of our boundary crew members, out in the field.

Our boundary crew recently completed a decade-long effort to verify and refresh boundary markings on all 71 of the properties that Joshua's Trust owns, also known as fee-owned properties. Boundary markers, as the name would imply, mark the edges of properties either owned or managed by Joshua's Trust. This undertaking required gathering documentation from town offices (e.g., survey maps, deeds) in addition to field work. I used to think that boundary checking was a neat and straight-forward process (compass bearings don't change, right?), I have learned that this is not the case. I've learned that the relation of the boundary line bearings indicated on survey maps vary according to where the magnetic North pole was that year, and sometimes whether the surveyor chose to use magnetic north, true north, or grid north.

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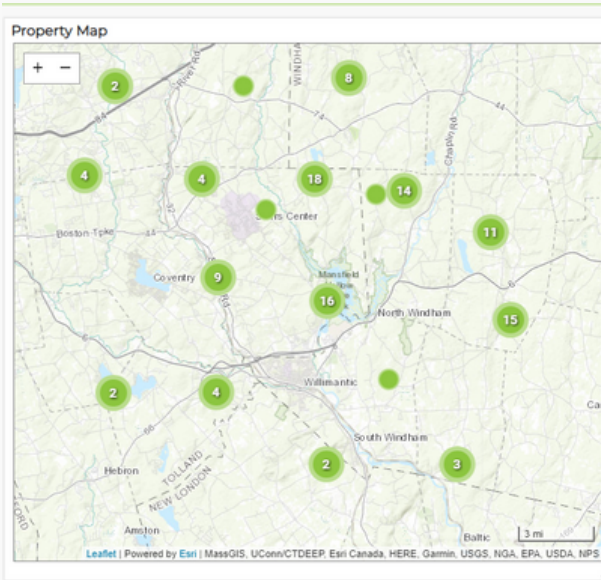


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NEW LANDSCAPE

by Kailyn Murphy



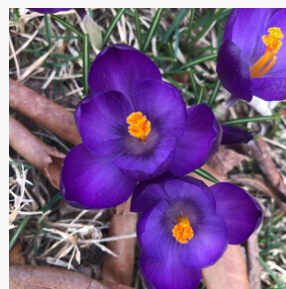
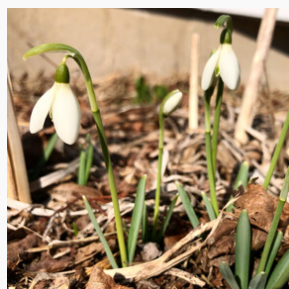
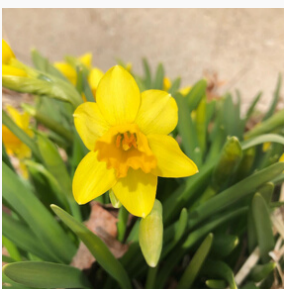
At the beginning of 2020, Joshua's Trust was awarded a grant as part of the Northeast Land Trust Advancement Initiative, a partnership program of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and The Last Green Valley, funded through a grant from The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut - Janvrin Fund. The grant allowed Joshua's Trust to purchase a new database called LANDSCAPE. LANDSCAPE is a platform that allows the Joshua's Trust team to input information about all of the properties that Joshua's Trust manages.

This will enable the Trust to be more efficient both in conservation as well as in the management of our properties. For example, the database inputs all of the properties into a map (pictured above). This map helps the team visually see the areas of potential expansion and connection. We are just scratching the surface of the opportunities that this database will provide! While this is something that most of you will never see, it is a tool working hard behind the scenes to make the work of the Trust possible.

BEHIND THE SCENES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Add to that the challenge of determining the mapping practices of the surveyor, the variety of terrain (e.g., rocks, swamp, steep inclines), flora in the New England landscape and the creativity surveyors have historically shown in their ability to conceal landmarks. My favorite creative landmark consists of rocks with one-inch drill holes nestled among hundreds of rocks without drill holes. Fortunately, our crew seems to find great joy in these problem-solving "opportunities" (my word) and is relentless.

While a major milestone has been reached with the completion of the fee-owned properties, the boundary crew has moved on to the next challenge: our 65 properties that we manage through conservation restrictions (restrictions put on the land to protect it from further development). So don't be surprised if you spot small parties of volunteers wearing hi-visibility vests out and about, staring at maps, pointing in different directions, or rooting around on the ground like they've dropped something. They're hard at work.



JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS



Eagle Scout candidate, Tony Wasiele, created 25 nesting boxes for various animals including wood ducks, bats, and owls. These boxes have now been placed on various properties. Keep your eyes open to see who moves in!



The Northeast Land Trust Advancement Initiative hosted a meeting on Regional Mapping at Atwood Farm on February 13th.

WANT TO SEE MORE OF JOSHUA'S TRUST?

Follow us on social media!



@joshuastrust @joshuas_trust @JoshuasTrust_ joshuastrust.org

GRIST MILL OPENING MAY 17



The historic Gurleyville Grist Mill will be opening for its summer season starting Sunday, May 17th. The Grist Mill is open Sundays from 1-5 pm from May 17th to October 11th. Come and see this landmark as it has been for centuries. Enjoy a tour from one of our knowledgeable docents. While visits are free, donations are appreciated so that we can continue to maintain this historic landmark.



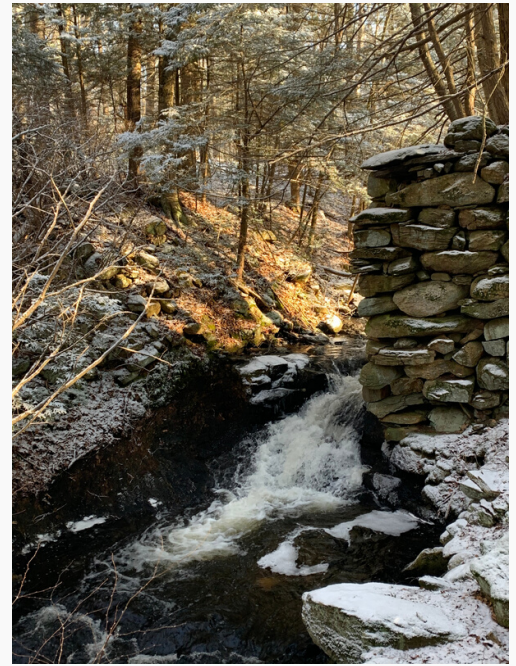
Up until COVID-19 created a need for social distancing, our trail crews were hard at work every weekend starting in February. We can't wait to work together again soon! See the calendar on our website for upcoming trail crew dates and locations.



ESCAPE TO NATURE IN ASHFORD

by Ada Snodgrass

More daylight hours mean more time to be outdoors! And while Joshua's Trust offers many opportunities to get outside, in this newsletter, I would like to introduce you to a few of the beautifully diverse trails in Ashford. This is home to one of our more unique properties called Church Farm. It contains not one but two vastly different trails. If you're in the mood for an easy stroll, the Meadow trail, on the east side of Route 89, takes you over a long boardwalk and through the meadow along the Mount Hope River, complete with views of the nearby hills. Quite the opposite of this, the trail with parking on Varga Rd is one of Joshua's Trust's most challenging hikes. The 2-mile route is largely an uphill climb and offers a viewpoint over cliff ledges.



Tinkerville Brook

Nearby Friedman Memorial Forest is a great place for an intermediate hiker to explore. This property has multiple routes and viewpoints. The first view is at a bridge crossing a small brook, all the way up through oak-hickory to lake views at both the yellow and spur trails before reaching an overlook at 660 feet above sea level. Northwest of Friedman is Tinkerville Brook Preserve, perfect for a beginning to intermediate hiker. The trail passes a small pond where there is often beaver activity. The trail then reaches an old mill site, just before the loop, where you can see white water rushing over the rocks. At the furthest point is a breathtaking view of Bissonette Pond.

These are just three of the eight trails Joshua's Trust has to offer in Ashford. Fliegel Farm Woods is a smaller parcel with a short 0.3-mile lollipop trail that passes through a rare maiden fern garden, seasonal wetlands and along a small stream. Josias Byles Sanctuary's 0.9-mile Yellow Loop Trail takes hikers through the woods, along Byles Brook, to a viewpoint over the beaver reservoirs. A 0.4-mile blue-blazed shortcut for those preferring a shorter walk, also loops back to the parking area. The Orange spur trail leads to an overlook above a five-acre meadow teeming with wildlife.



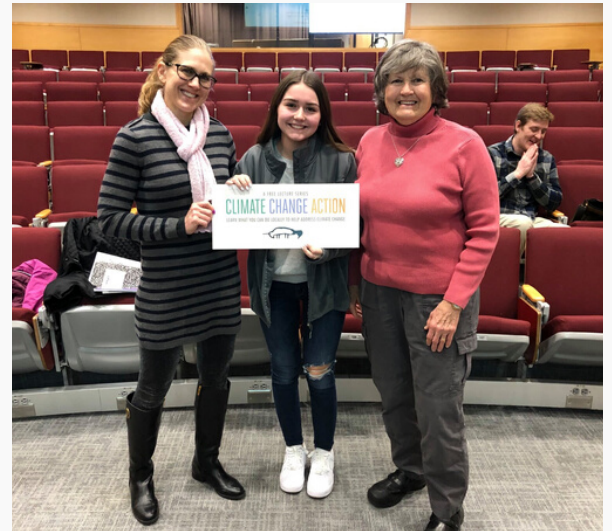
Rankin Preserve also offers a large loop trail with an uphill climb from 400 up to 600 ft. above sea level featuring historic stone walls. Iron Mine Valley is a hidden gem behind a residential neighborhood that leads down to Bebbington Brook and marshland views. Ashford is only one of the 14 towns Joshua's Trust owns property in! Our next newsletter will highlight our properties and trails we have in Chaplin and Columbia. Hope to see you out on the trails!

JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION LECTURE SERIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Representative Michel has much experience working with international wildlife conservation groups and his passion for cetaceans was evident. Words such as “Protecting the oceans will be protecting us”, expressed his energy and knowledge of the seas and our own Long Island Sound. He explained at length how bills in Connecticut get proposed and the lengthy process that leads each to success or failure. This very informational (and intimidating) explanation of the legislative process gave the audience a real picture of how lobbying works. He and Representative Palm have introduced many bills on environmental topics with limited success. Stamford itself, due to his advocacy, has made strides in several areas without waiting for the state to get involved, and this speaks to town and local action being a positive force for ecological issues.

Beth Bernard, Project Learning Tree Coordinator, Education Director for CT Forest and Park Association, and Forest and Program Director at Goodwin State Forest, completed this winter's program series by explaining and - demonstrating - how to teach children about climate change. Although 75% of Americans say schools should teach it, a bill requiring the subject didn't pass last June in the CT Legislature. As I write this, it has been brought up again and is being discussed. Her presentation featured a lot of audience interaction, much like an actual classroom setting. The message was to be hopeful, make a personal connection, and use the facts, while not contributing to fear and controversy. Model persistence, confidence, and listen sincerely. In particular, she emphasized, “Connect kids with nature, don't scare them away from it.” The program ended in the lobby, with a series of educational hands-on activities that engaged the audience as much as the children they were created for.



**Samantha, Victoria and Ann:
three generations of women combating
climate change**

The take-away from this combination of approaches to confronting climate change seems to this writer to be, as Arnold Schwarzenegger once said in a movie, “Do it now.” All reading this are probably good ecological stewards of their personal lives, and yet here we are anyway. A lot of ways to combat global warming, in all its complexities, are before us. Can Joshua's Trust members add one or two more to our lives? Some will be immediately effective; others will bear fruit for future generations. In any case we must begin now, as this astonishingly mild and snow-less winter turns to spring in eastern Connecticut.

ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED

Due to CDC and federal guidelines, we are indefinitely postponing the annual meeting scheduled for April 18. The annual report will be available on the web site on or around the 18th."



WALLY ROBINSON

DECEMBER 7, 1938-JANUARY 14, 2020

by Allison Burchell-Robinson

Wally Robinson, news and sports correspondent for NBC and ABC Network Radio, restaurateur, a PR guy who put fannies in the seats, restorer of an early 18th century house, raconteur, sports aficionado and a devoted fan of the theatre, symphony, and the outdoors, was a true renaissance man. He was equally at home in the apartment in New York City, logging on the farm or docking his boat on the island. A passionate reader, Wally devoured mysteries, Civil War battles, biographies and his daily newspaper. Born in Massachusetts, he was a lifelong fan of the Patriots and his beloved Red Sox.



Wally's initial involvement with Joshua's Trust happened in 2003 when he and his wife, Allison Burchell-Robinson, donated 25 acres to the Trust in memory of their son, Jonathan, who was killed in Kenya when the bush plane he was piloting in search of lions crashed. His interest grew from exploring various Joshua's Trust properties and supporting Allison's involvement as a Board member. Taking on the role of Encroachment Officer* was a natural for him as he liked people and he liked to solve problems. He would call the alleged offender and say, "Hi, you may not know we have a problem but how about we meet to solve it". Upon meeting he would open with "I'm the last friendly person from the Trust that you will meet." His success record was 100%. Now Wally has joined Jonathan and together they roam the Burchell-Harris Preserve.

***Editor's note: An encroachment officer is in charge of contacting landowners who are somehow encroaching past a boundary on a property that Joshua's Trust owns or manages.**

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

You all are the people who make land conservation in our area possible! You are protecting homes for our local wildlife. You are providing spaces for people to ensure undeveloped nature. You are making a difference in your community! Thank you!

REMEMBER

There are many ways to give to Joshua's Trust! We accept gifts of money, land, stock, IRA distributions, volunteer hours and more. If you would like to discuss any of these opportunities with us, please email administration@joshuastrust.org or call (860) 429-9023.

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JOSHUA'S TRUST UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25

Walk at Church Farm

10 a.m. Church Farm, Ashford

May 2

Mosses, Fungi, and Friends

10 a.m. Friedman Forest, Ashford

May 3

Pole Celebration

2 p.m. Atwood Farm, Mansfield

May 16

Walk Iron Mine Valley

10 a.m. Iron Mine Valley, Ashford

May 30

Family Fly Fishing

10 a.m. Gurleyville Grist Mill, Mansfield

*All events are subject to change and
cancellation. Please visit our website,
joshuastrust.org/events for the most
up to date information and
descriptions of events.*