



A big project to shore up the boardwalk at Church Farm got a huge helping hand from participants in EASTCONN'S summer job program. From area high schools, the young men worked as a team and created two gabion baskets or rock-filled wire mesh supports. It was one July day in a four-week program. Joshua's Trust salutes with gratitude EASTCONN, supervisor Norma Gervais, and the six participants. (Pictured above.)

COOL TRAIL FOR A HOT DAY

by Nancy Silander

The multitude of ferns that greets a hiker is an excellent indicator of shade and cool—greatly appreciated on this warm August morning. We were on the new trail that eventually leads to the Church Farm trail—but built to give safer access to that trail as well as more parking. The two stewards—Charley McCaughtry and Kevin Kirchner—took advantage of this natural coolant, as well as other natural elements when designing this connector.

Large pines contrasted with the tiny spring peepers crossing the trail. Boulders dot the downhill portion at one point. Thick moss on these boulders invites little fingers to feel the softness. While springs abound, this late in the season they were mostly dry, leaving wet areas and demanding you to cross on top of a stone wall to avoid muddying shoes.

The trail, while considered moderately difficult due to some slight elevational changes, is an easy route for kids to explore. It's full of surprises. Here's an old cart path, or maybe a cow path—though the cows have not been here for decades. Is this coyote scat? What do you find under the leaves?

Once the trail was designed, Andy Woodcock, (Trust volunteer coordinator) engaged students from ECSU, the Urbanski family of Coventry, and the Kirchner family of Ashford, to help with clearing the trail of ubiquitous poison ivy, large logs, low-hanging branches, and then blazing it blue. Now, it's ready for the community. Look for the Joshua's Trust signs on both sides of Varga Road in Ashford. On the Trust web site, there is more trail information as well as a map.

JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

JOSHUA'S TRUST

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 4

Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Email:

administration@joshuastrust.org

www.joshuastrust.org

Visit us at:

The Atwood Farm,

624 Wormwood Hill Rd., Mansfield.

Office hours: Tues. Thurs. noon- 5 p.m.

Phone: 860-429-9023

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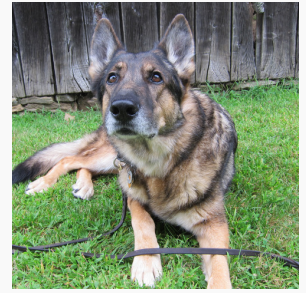
The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

TAKE A HIKE

by Paul Pribula

It's September, we're approaching the fall season, and the heat and humidity of Summer will soon be a not-so-pleasant memory. Yes, as an avid hiker and backpacker, I'm biased in favor of the cooler temperatures that favor strenuous outdoor activities. Some of my fondest memories from my childhood are of weekend hikes with my parents in Cook County (Illinois) forest preserves. Years later, when Laurel, my wife, and I moved to Connecticut, more fond memories were formed when we discovered *real* forests, trail systems, and streams and rivers where you could see to the bottom.

Please consider taking advantage of the open spaces, forests and trail systems we have in Connecticut. Take a hike, a walk, a stroll, a saunter, or whatever speed your style or mood prefers, and share the outdoors with your family. For ideas on where to take a walk, go to our website and check the **Explore Our Properties** tab. You'll find links to descriptions of our properties that have trails, along with directions and maps. If you're not sure how to get started, consider checking out the scheduled guided walks that are listed on the website under **Upcoming Events**. In addition to making some friends, you'll have the opportunity to learn things from our knowledgeable volunteers.



Not our president, but his photo.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS



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RISING WATERS

by Rob Beach

In the spring of this year, visitors approaching the bridge over wetlands at Bradley Buchanan Woods were met with an unwelcome surprise. Descending the trail leading down to the ponds, they came upon a tilted and partly submerged boardwalk. The walkway no longer extended to dry land, and a well-meaning soul had piled pallets and branches in an effort to preserve dry feet.

The stewards of the property, Christine Njuki and Jon Sgro, had never seen the water level so high. The water level has been rising in recent years and sometimes the boardwalk has

been partially submerged, but it had never been entirely inundated and twisted. It was critical to fix the boardwalk so that the property could be fully accessible.

After observation and discussion, the stewards, along with Executive Director Mike Hveem, Stewardship Chair Ann Dunnack and Volunteer Coordinator Andy Woodcock, consulted with Bill Ingalls, a regional coordinator and skilled carpenter. The Trust plans to raise the walkway above the high water level and extend the boardwalk on the northerly side. Work will commence in the near future; on its completion, the next task will be to extend the boardwalk toward Echo Woods so that hikers can enjoy a dry and safe excursion through fascinating terrain.

REMEMBERED *FOREVER*

by Kailyn Murphy

Snowy Christmas walks, searching for a lost cat, and smoking a pipe under a tree are just some of the many memories Doug Hesche and his family have of Bradley-Buchanan and Echo Woods. Now an Ohio resident, Doug has never forgotten the time he spent on Joshua's Trust properties as a child. Recently he went through the hospice process with his mother, M.J. Hesche. During his mother's time in hospice, she and Doug spent a lot of time thinking about special times and places and those walks in the woods. M.J. passed away June 24th of this year.

To honor his mother and those special memories in the woods, Doug decided to make a generous donation to Joshua's Trust that will fund a boardwalk improvement project at Bradley-Buchanan Woods. "We wanted to make sure we contributed to the legacy of Joshua's Trust, so that other people can grow their own memories." When Doug told his uncle about their plan to lay his mother to rest in Connecticut and visit the places that hold so many wonderful memories, his uncle told him to go find a specific tree. That's how powerful nature can be, that even after 50 years, his uncle still remembers that one tree.

Continued on page 5.

Painting of Echo Lake
By M.J. Hesche



JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS



Plein Air Painter, Debra Gag, visited Atwood Farm for the first time on July 7. "Such an inspiring property" with "inspiration at every turn." Her painting from that day is pictured above.



Isabelle Atwood's relatives from Norway came for a visit! It's so wonderful to see the ways Joshua's Trust connects to the community and the world.



One of the beautiful views you can discover at Church Farm Preserve. Keep an eye on your email and social media for an official opening date for the new trail!



Spring flood waters had damaged the existing bridge leading the the Church Farm river boardwalk. EASTCONN students assisted the property stewards to repair this key entry point to this property.



The Gypsy Moths had defoliated the majority of red oak trees on the Two Sisters Property. As a safety precaution and to encourage diversity through forest management, a timber harvest was conducted. The trails are now reopened and you will likely see more birds around! Forest management has shown to be great for birdlife!

WANT TO SEE MORE OF JOSHUA'S TRUST?

Follow us on social media!



@joshuastrust @joshuas_trust @JoshuasTrust_ joshuastrust.org



BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE COMMUNITY

by Kailyn Murphy

Kevin Kirchner has had an inexplicable connection to Church Farm Preserve even before he and his wife bought a home across the street. He would drive by and say “There’s just something about that place.” When he moved from New Jersey to Connecticut and settled across from Church Farm, Kevin met Charley McCaughtry, steward of Church Farm, who introduced Kevin to Joshua’s Trust. Kevin has “learned how you can effect everyone else’s life with just a little bit of your time.” So, when Charley expressed the Trust’s consistent need for volunteers, Kevin was happy to roll up his sleeves and work with Charley. Now maintaining Church Farm is now a family affair. For father’s day, him and his daughters went out to clear trails, because that is what Dad wanted to do.



When asked what his favorite thing about Church Farm is, Kevin’s answer was two-fold. First, he said “love hill” (as his family calls it) where he and his wife eloped along with a minister and their two children. The second is the history of Church Farm. Kevin is currently researching the Farm’s long history and has now traced back records all the way to the American Revolution. Kevin likes working behind the scenes for the community and will continue to do so for as long as he can.

“We wanted to make sure we contributed to the legacy of Joshua’s Trust, so that other people can grow their own memories.”

- DOUG HESCHE, DONOR

REMEMBERED *FOREVER* (CONTINUED)

Not only did Doug’s time outside leave lasting memories but Doug says it also instilled a lifelong love of nature and hiking. It made him realize that there are special places in the world and these special places need to be taken care of. That’s why he decided to give to Joshua’s Trust; it’s forever. “There’s a permanency that you don’t always get in charitable organizations. I want to leave something that’s important.”

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

So many of you have not only given once but several times this year. If you haven’t written a check or donated online yet, do it today! We need your support to continue our important stewardship work.

REMEMBER

- If you are 70 years old, think about donating some of your RMD to Joshua's Trust. It may save on your tax liability while helping the Trust.
- If you have appreciated stock and donate that stock directly to Joshua Trust, you may not be subject to capital gains taxes.

JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS



Terry Wakeman and Bill Bland have completed the restoration of the windows on the blacksmith's shop at Atwood Farm. They repaired 6 windows and 4 windowsills. Many thanks for their hard work!



Bill Deuel's relationship with the Allanach-Wolf Woodlands goes back 40 years to when he first moved to his home in 1968. He believes his work mowing the property gives Allanach-Wolf a nicer look and purposefully keeps the paths clean so people can walk. Bill works quietly in the background, filling in where necessary to make the property its best. We have been honored to have Bill as part of our hardworking group of volunteers for the Trust!



Visitors to this historic stone mill are able to see the mill unchanged and as it was when a steel gear broke in 1941 and could not be replaced because of the war effort. On Sunday afternoons from mid-May to mid-October from 1 to 5 p.m., the guides share the history of this Grist Mill in the Gurleyville section of Mansfield. Visitors vary in number ranging from two on a slow day, to twenty or more. They have come from all over CT, and from many states. Members of the Gurley family have also visited this year. Bruce Coulette is pictured above giving a tour!



Born and raised in Northeast, CT and new resident of Mansfield, Kailyn Kowolenko (Murphy as of September 15th!) has been with Joshua's Trust for 4 months as our development administrator. Her background is in education but she has a passion for conservation that stems from her faith. "I believe that God gave humans a job to take care of the earth." Kailyn enjoys traveling, hiking, rock climbing, kayaking and reading. She would love if you stopped in sometime and introduced yourself!



NEW ACQUISITIONS AHEAD

by Michael Hveem

Conservation work takes time and patience. Discussions with landowners who are weighing their options, ensuring due diligence, meetings with the Joshua's Trust acquisition committee and board of trustees; all move at their own pace. It can feel like not a lot is happening, and yet, we have eight conservation projects that we have been working on over the past year!

This fall, we expect to complete the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Town of Hampton that will add to an existing Joshua's Trust property and abut a Joshua's Trust conservation easement property. Look for further details in your email and on our social media feeds.

We also expect this fall to accept the donation of a parcel of land in the Town of Coventry that includes about 1,500 feet of frontage on the Willimantic River. There is good potential here for a spot to put in a kayak or canoe.

Considerable time has been spent on a potential donation of a property in the Town of Tolland. Consisting of over fifty acres of field and forest, it is an attractive property. A mix of woods, field and river frontage. However, the project is complicated by some existing built infrastructure. At this writing we are still weighing the conservation benefits versus the potential burdens, financially and in volunteer hours, to maintain the property in perpetuity.

A 45-acre property donation located in the Town of Hampton is in its second year of negotiations and discussion. Slowly but steadily the project gets closer to the finish line.

We continue to explore a project in the Town of Mansfield that would add about 30 acres to existing Joshua's Trust properties. While temporarily stalled, we will be communicating with the landowner to explore returning to the table next spring.

Finally, we are in the very earliest stages of exploring a potential project in the Town of Lebanon. This project is especially exciting because it would potentially permit us an entirely new access point for one of our more off-the-radar properties.



STANLEY BLACK & DECKER GIVES GENEROUSLY!

Their generosity has provided Joshua's Trust with tools that are used to build bridges and boardwalks, kiosks and signs,. They have also provided a continuous supply of loppers, which wear quickly in the hands of hundreds of volunteers over the hundreds of hours spent maintaining our trails.

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JOSHUA'S TRUST UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14

Bugs and Birds Walk
10 a.m. Potter Meadow, **Columbia**

October 20

History Walk with Marian Mathews
10:30 a.m. Josias Byles Sanctuary, **Ashford**

October 5

Talking to Trees Walk
10 a.m. Tobiassen Forest, **Tolland**

November 9

Forest Walk with Deb Field
10:00 a.m. Pappenheimer Preserve, **Scotland**

October 6

The Sounds of Music Concert
12 p.m. Allanach-Wolf Woodlands, **Windham**

November 29

Turkey Walk
9:30 a.m. Utley Hill Preserve. **Columbia**

October 19

Cider Pressing Event
2-4 p.m. Atwood Farm, **Mansfield**

For full descriptions of each of our upcoming events, visit joshuastrust.org/events-calendar. Space is limited for some of our walks. Email activities@joshuastrust.org to secure your spot.