

Joshua's Trust News

Protecting Land and Preserving Heritage. Forever.



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www.joshuastrust.org



A NEW PROPERTY FOR JOSHUA'S TRUST

THE JANOSACK PRESERVE

by Susan Allen

Joshua's Trust is an organization that has touched the wider community in many ways. In doing so, they have become a trusted ally with Connecticut residents and others who love the natural world. This is evidenced by a recent gift from a dear friend of mine, Ms. Lorraine Janosack/Jencik. When Lorraine passed in May of 2022, she bequeathed 42 acres of her beloved family-owned land located in Franklin, Connecticut to Joshua's Trust (JT). She believed in JT's mission, saw their very capable staff and management skills and it became an easy decision.

The Janosack Preserve (as it will be called) is a mixed-terrain property. It has it all: fields to woods, uplands to valleys, and a mixture of wetlands to include swamps, streams, and a small pond. These differing environments host an array of ecosystems to support varying flora and fauna. To amplify the ecological value of the property the Janosack Preserve is located in an emerging 3,000-acre wildlife corridor in a secluded section of the Shetucket River Valley area.

In the past, the Janosack property was a farm. The family made their living by milking cows and raising egg-laying chickens, sending the products to market. The family immigrated from Slovakia, first living in New York City before following a relative to Franklin, CT and in 1917 buying the old Hyde farm. It is said that when they...

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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.

WINTER'S CHARMS

by Rob Beach, President

There is, without a doubt, something to be said for cocooning in mid-winter. A pleasant afternoon's relaxation with a crackling fire and a downy comforter has a certain allure. Don't forget tea and scones. And perhaps a crossword puzzle or a Victorian novel. Life could not be better.



Or could it? Brisk activity beckons as well. When Jack Frost nips at your heels, the winds howl and your breath freezes into clouds in the air, a bracing cross-country ski or snowshoe raises your pulse and your spirits. Remember skating on ponds in your youth? When the nights are cold and still, you can recreate the experience. If leisurely walks are more your style, wander outside and find a navigable trail to peruse. Signs of life are discernible even on the coldest days: you can come across animal tracks and swooshes of wings on soft snow. As darkness falls in late afternoon, you may then repair to the warm fire with muscles ready to rest and a sense of renewed vigor.

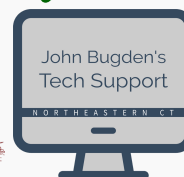
Joshua's Trust plays several roles in facilitating winter's joys.

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THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Shenipsit Striders



JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

A FOND FAREWELL

by Kailyn Murphy

By the time you read this I will no longer be the Development Administrator at Joshua's Trust. I have resigned my position as I await the arrival of my second child. It's not easy for me to transition away from Joshua's Trust. JT has been a part of my life through the past three and a half years and has been a constant as I got married, experienced a global pandemic, and had my first child. I've grown and changed a lot over these years and I am proud of the work that I've done with Joshua's Trust.



When I first started, I knew virtually nothing about land trusts. But over the years, I have developed an appreciation for nature and preservation that I never had before. Not just to enjoy for a hike or to look at, but because it protects our community in the event of natural disasters. It ensures clean drinking water. It provides shelter for our native animals. The list goes on and on.

But what I was most amazed to learn was the generosity of this community. As I learned the history of Joshua's Trust and discovered that many of the properties that Joshua's Trust protects were donated, I was in awe. It's not just anyone who will donate acres and acres of land to be protected forever. Furthermore, as development administrator I saw each and every donation that came through our door and every day I was floored by the generosity of our donors who give again and again and again. Our community believes in the mission of Joshua's Trust and it is inspiring.

But aside from seeing the donations, I also got to hear the stories of impact. JT properties hold so many precious memories for people. From those who found solace and peace in a chaotic world on the properties during the pandemic, to those who fondly remember these properties from when they were children, to those who walked loved ones through illnesses on the trails. Each of these stories reminded me of why this work is so important.

I may no longer be formally working for Joshua's Trust, but I won't stop walking the properties, sharing

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the trails with my friends and family, and working hard to protect our planet and the natural resources of our community. Thank you to each of you for the you support Joshua's Trust and therefore our community and our world. Thank you for making me proud to say that I worked for JT. Thank you and I hope I see you out on the trail!



THE LAST GREEN VALLEY (TLGV) WATER QUALITY REVIEW OF TINKERVILLE BROOK IN ASHFORD

by Jean Pillo

Tinkerville Brook is a scenic headwater stream in Ashford. It originates at the outfall of Armitage Pond. On its way to Bissonnette Pond and the Fenton River, it flows through JT's Tinkerville Brook Preserve. The brook is shaded by a canopy of trees, and urban stormwater runoff is limited to one or two rural roads.



In the fall of 2022, volunteers from TLGV's Water Quality Monitoring Program completed a riffle bioassessment of Tinkerville Brook. A riffle bioassessment is a means to determine water quality based on the biodiversity of pollution-sensitive underwater bugs. Certain types of stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies that live in fast flowing wadeable streams have known reactions to water quality and won't be found in impacted streams. If four or more of a statewide list of pollution sensitive bugs are found in a stream when sampled between September and November, then the stream is assessed as meeting the Connecticut Water Quality Standards for support of aquatic life. The unofficial result of the November assessment of Tinkerville Brook was the brook met the required biodiversity threshold. This evaluation is based on the years of experience by Jean Pillo, TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator. However, data in the form of a voucher sample of the bugs was submitted to CT DEEP where a professional aquatic entomologist will verify the IDs. Once verified, CT DEEP will report the completed assessment on a list of assessed streams they are required to send to Congress every two years. By using trained "citizen scientists" to expand their ability to assess smaller headwater streams, the limited DEEP staff can focus their efforts in other areas.

In 2021, TLGV volunteers assessed the water quality of Bebbington Brook in the Friedman's Memorial Forest. The official result of that assessment is that Bebbington Brook met the "four or more" requirement and will be included in the 2024 CT Integrated Water Quality Report prepared by CT DEEP.

Why is it important to complete these assessments? For local municipal wetland agencies, consideration of the aquatic life in streams should be an important influence on development proposals. These critters require leaf litter as the base of their food chain, so clearing trees too close to the stream will impact their available food resources. In terms of water quality, clearing trees along the stream reduces a vital organic nutrient supply. Loss of tree canopy also increases the solar exposure to the stream, increasing the water temperature.





Discharging stormwater from developed land or damming a stream will also impact the water temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration of the water. As gill breathing organisms, increased turbidity from improper sediment and erosion controls can suffocate them or bury their stony habitat. Over-enrichment from inorganic nutrients or toxin runoff into their habitat from chemically treated lawns will also degrade the habitat. Before you apply lawn chemicals to your property, please read the warning label on the bag. The underwater bugs used in these assessments are referred to as macroinvertebrates on the bag, and grub killers also kill them.



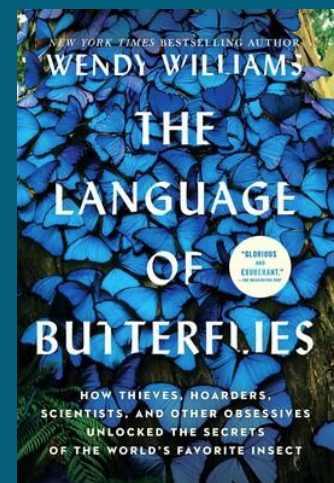
Documentation of healthy stream habitat is just as important as documenting degraded habitat. Through careful planning and land conservation, preserving the land along these vulnerable headwater streams is the best way to protect the water quality in them. Public education is also critical. The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program thanks Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust for protecting the streams that flow through their preserves, and for allowing the TLGV volunteers to study the water quality in Tinkerville Brook and Bebbington Brook, adding to our inventory of healthy stream environments in our National Heritage Corridor.



The TLGV water quality monitoring program was initiated in 2006. Each year, dozens of streams, lakes and ponds are studied. The riffle bioassessment program is one of multiple water quality monitoring methods coordinated under this program. To learn more about TLGV's volunteer water quality monitoring program and how you can become involved, visit thelastgreenvalley.org or reach out to Jean Pillo for more information; email her at Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JT CRITTER BOOK CLUB

This fall, the the Joshua's Trust "Book Critters" discussed four books on our theme of Science, Nature, and the Environment. Our reading of *The Language of Butterflies* by Wendy Williams and *Bicycling with Butterflies* in October was timed to follow with the monarch migration. Our November book, Bill Gate's *How to Avoid A Climate Disaster*, offered a hopeful status report from the engineering-finance mindset and a review of where we need to go from here. Our "classic" for the fall was *Woodswoman*, by Anne LaBastille, her personal memoir of living independently in the Adirondack wilderness in the 1960s. The group is co-coordinated by Kristine and Robert Thorson.



JOSHUA'S TRUST NEWS

WINTER'S CHARMS (CONTINUED)

Most obviously, many preserves welcome snowshoers, hikers and skiers in almost any weather. The experience is different from a leisurely summerly stroll, and some caution is advised regarding clothing, fitness level and cell phone contact. But the exhilaration is irreplaceable!

More subtly, the acres conserved by Joshua's Trust help preserve the environment and retard climate change. Every preserved acre sequesters carbon, and every acre helps. The forested land that you hike through is quietly restoring balance to the earth.

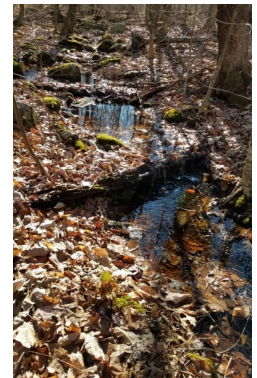
When you repair to the fireside after a wintry jaunt through a Joshua's Trust preserve, you can rest assured that the world is still a remarkable place that we steward with pleasure.



JANOSACK PRESERVE (CONTINUED)

first arrived that they would not get off the trolley onto the dirt Pleasure Hill Road becoming nervous since there wasn't a building in sight. However, in little time, this land became home, a cherished home.

The transfer of the Janosack Preserve from the estate to JT is nearly finished. There are plans for the Preserve to be open to the public in the future. There will be an announcement when the transfer is complete with signage, a small parking area and trail. It is located about a mile up on Pleasure Hill Road on the north side of the street. I know Lorraine and her ancestors are smiling as they join with Joshua's Trust to respect and protect our natural world.



Don't forget that you can make a difference both today and tomorrow by making estate plans that include Joshua's Trust. If you notify Joshua's Trust of your estate plans for the future, a generous donor couple will give \$750 to Joshua's Trust TODAY!

To learn more about the Bequest Challenge visit joshuastrust.org/bequest-challenge.



A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM YEARS AGO IS REGIFTED

by Kailyn Murphy

(Excerpts from the Spring 1998 newsletter article entitled “A Christmas Gift!”)

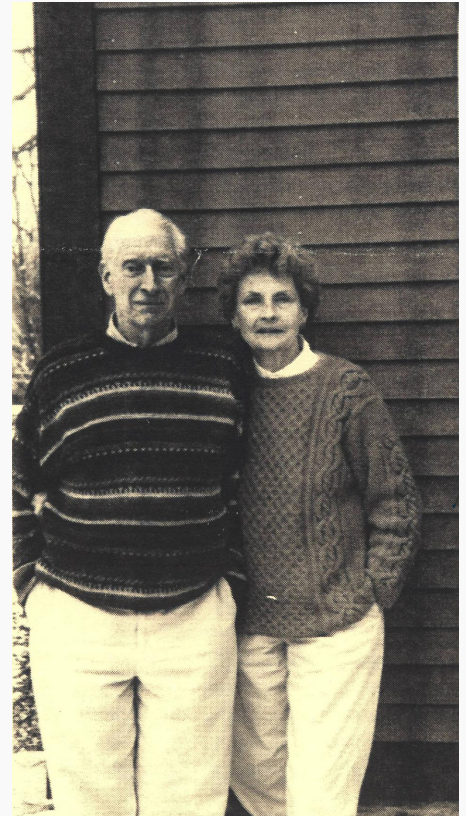
“Joshua’s Trust was the pleased December recipient of a very special conservation easement on 85 acres of prime woodland given by Margaret and Arthur Pinkham. The land is on Colt’s Pond Road in southern Ashford and extends north to have a much-desired common border with the trust’s Friedman Forest and in the southeast it’s almost in contact with state forest, which in turn borders the trust’s Hubbard Sanctuary.

While the land remains private, the Pinkhams have graciously indicated their willingness to have the trust bring a branch of the Friedman Forest trail down along the western border of the easement to Colt’s Pond Road.

The Pinkhams are new to the area and although they maintain ties to Boston, where Arthur Pinkham has been working, they definitely consider Ashford as their home and have gone to great lengths to improve and enjoy their property in Ashford. Much of their married life they have lived right in Manhattan, where they both worked.

The Pinkham easement land has been evaluated by a state forester, Sherwood R. Raymond, Jr. He states that the ‘woodland is comprised of mixed hardwood tree species known to the forestry community as the transition hardwoods.’ This type of woodland, he says, is infrequent in eastern Connecticut.

Other agencies expressing approval of this conservation easement include the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut, which notes the land is on both the conservation and preservation designations of the Locational Guide Map for 1998-2003. Also approving are the Office of the Selectman and the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Ashford. The Selectmen state ‘We find your plan consistent with the best thinking of the town planners as we approach the millennium.’”



Over the years since this article was written, Margaret and Arthur became very involved with the Trust, Margaret on the acquisition committee and Arthur on the finance committee. Sadly, Arthur passed in 2010 and Margaret earlier this year. Former trustee Warren Church fondly remembers Margaret’s friendly smile and quick wit. Their legacy lives on as their estate has been passed to Joshua’s Trust for ownership in fee. The Pinkhams “Christmas gift” from 25 years ago is gifted yet again.

Membership

Membership is given for one year to anyone who gives at least one dollar to Joshua's Trust. Our members are critical to the mission of Joshua's Trust and have the important role of voting on new trustees and other issues at our annual meeting every April. Become a member of JT today by returning the envelope in this newsletter.

JOSHUA'S TRACT
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LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

Earth Day Walk

"Writ in Stone"

Saturday, April 22, 2023

1:30-3:30 PM

Join Robert M. Thorson for his third annual Joshua's Trust Earth Day Walk-and-Read. This year we will hike the new Tower Hill Preserve in Chaplin, carefully examine its stone walls for clues to Earth history, and share one-minute passages of nature writing on the significance of rock and stone in our lives, figuratively and symbolically. His are from "Writ in Stone," the final chapter of his book *Stone By Stone* (2002, Bloomsbury).

May Pole

Atwood Farm

May 6th

2:00-4:00 PM

Come dance to the Mansfield Middle School fiddlers as we celebrate the spring with a dance around the May Pole at the Atwood Farm.

