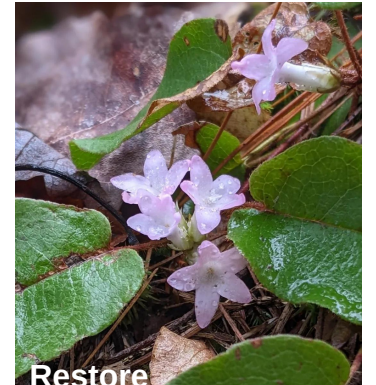
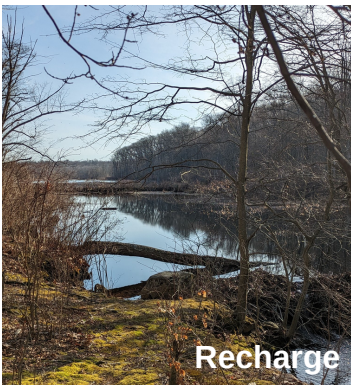


# Joshua's Trust News

*Protecting Land and Preserving Heritage. Forever.*

Spring 2024



*Celebrating 58 years of conservation  
in northeast Connecticut. Your  
support makes this possible!*



## JOSHUA'S TRUST

### Mailing address:

PO Box 4  
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

### Email:

administration@joshuastrust.org  
www.joshuastrust.org

### Visit us at:

The Atwood Farm  
624 Wormwood Hill Rd., Mansfield Ctr.  
Phone: 860-429-9023

### STAFF

Executive Director: Michael Hveem  
Finance Administrator: Joyce Fountain  
Stewardship Coordinator: Alex DiMauro-D'Amico  
Land Protection Manager: Bryan Avery  
Development & Communications Manager: Michelle Poudrette

### OFFICERS

President: John Hankins  
Vice President: Karen Zimmer  
Secretary: Marie Cantino  
Treasurer: Gail Bruhn

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Bruhn, Mansfield  
Marie Cantino, Mansfield  
Jim Cole, Andover  
John Hankins, Mansfield  
Erin King, Mansfield  
Chris Kueffner, Mansfield  
Scott Matthies, Chaplin  
Chris McKleroy, Hampton  
Betsy Paterson, Mansfield  
Bill Penn, Andover  
Marilyn Schreiber, Willington  
Terry Wakeman, Ashford  
Michael Willenborg, Mansfield  
Terry Wollen, Mansfield  
Karen Zimmer, Mansfield



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.



## PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

### IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST

By John Hankins

When I was eight-years old, my wise mother convinced me to open a savings account at the Willimantic Savings and

Trust branch on Dog Lane in Storrs. For a young boy who had scrimped and saved portions of his 25-cent allowance for the better part of a year, it was a major leap of faith to hand over \$10 to an unfamiliar grown-up behind a very tall counter. In return, they gave me a small pass-book that listed my \$10 deposit, and over the next several years the little book started to fill up with additional small deposits and interest payments. Before I knew it, I'd become downright rich, with over \$100 in assets!

What got me thinking about this was a recent conversation I had with one of our volunteers about the name of our organization – Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust. Yes, it's a mouthful, and we typically boil it down to "Joshua's Trust," or sometimes just "JT." **The point made was that "Trust" is a critically important part of our name as it embodies concisely and powerfully why our members would trust us with their dollars, or with land that may have been in their family for generations.**

Continued on Page 5

**THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

# MEET JOSHUA'S TRUST'S NEW INTERNS

By Ben Lassy with contributions from Claire Flanagan, David Dynowski, Jillian Gere, and Jessica Lavoie

“A city in the middle of nowhere” is how most students describe the University of Connecticut. Storrs is a largely enclosed, all-encompassing campus, which makes it hard to consider venturing off it for any reason. This isolation is only furthered by the prevailing mindset that there isn't much besides farmland and forests beyond the outskirts of university property.

For all those involved with Joshua's Trust, as well as the many community members who have walked its trails, the farmland and forests surrounding UConn are undoubtedly some of its greatest assets. As new interns at Joshua's Trust, Claire, David, Jillian, Jessica, and I are grateful to be a part of this community, and each of us has found that although UConn may be in the middle of “nowhere,” it is surrounded by wonderful scenery and habitats which are unique to this region of Connecticut.

Just outside of the campus — nestled near E.O. Smith High School — is Whetten Woods, a Joshua's Trust property with a winding trail and peaceful landscape. Not too far west of it rests the lovely Dunham Woods, which has a clear view of Dunham Pond in the winter. During all seasons, there is beauty to be seen in the nature protected and maintained by Joshua's Trust, and it's right on UConn's doorstep.



Talking conservation with Ruth Cutler  
From left to right: Jillian Gere, Claire Flanagan, Ruth Cutler, Bryan Avery, Ben Lassy, David Dynowski, and Paul Pribula

Dunham Woods in Mansfield



**“There is beauty to be seen in the nature protected and maintained by Joshua's Trust, and it's right on UConn's doorstep”.**

~ Ben Lassy

Appreciation of the land around UConn is what brings Professor of Geography, John Jolly-Ballantine and Joshua's Trust together. For several years, Professor Ballantine has invited students from his classes and the geography department at large to information sessions with Joshua's Trust staff. These meetings showcase an internship which is not solely about labor put in, but about the linking of the university community to the nature surrounding it.

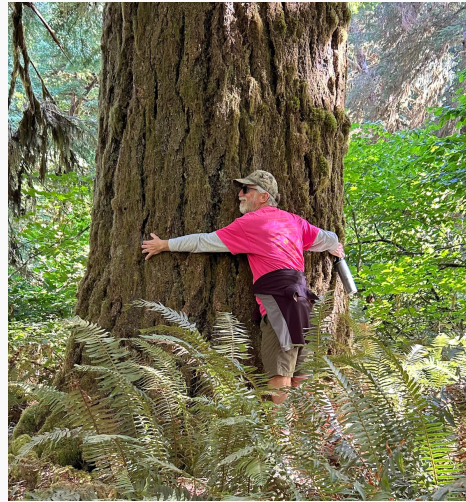
*Continued on Page 6*



## JT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD



Dr. James Cole of Andover is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Connecticut.



William Penn of Andover is retired from the position of Project Manager at United Technologies, working to manage environmental investigations and restorations.

### **How long have you been involved with JT?**

I have worked with the Trust for about 3 years as a Steward and volunteering on work crews.

### **What prompted you to get involved?**

I have always enjoyed hiking and cycling in Eastern Connecticut and I wanted to do my part to preserve our wonderful open spaces.

### **What's your favorite property and why?**

I love Utley Hill. It has an amazing variety of natural and historical features: rock ledges, a large swamp, beaver dams, a brook with remnants of old mills and a cool stone bridge.



### **How long have you been involved with JT?**

I've been volunteering with JT with stewardship work for a year. I have hiked JT properties for over 20 years.

### **What prompted you to get involved?**

I've financially supported open space preservation over the years. Life recently provided me the time and opportunity to get actively engaged in this work, Wanting to act locally, JT offered opportunities that matched my interests.

### **What's your favorite property and why?**

Utley Hill Preserve is the closest JT property to me and offers some of the longer trails in the JT portfolio. I have hiked and snowshoed the property and enjoy taking in the old mill remnants, the old trees, and the beaver dams.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your membership matters! As a member, you'll have a direct hand in safeguarding the beauty and vitality of northeastern Connecticut for generations to come. Join us in this crucial mission and help ensure a greener, healthier future for all. Return the enclosed card or visit our website at [joshuatrust.org/ways-to-give/](https://joshuatrust.org/ways-to-give/) to become a member today.

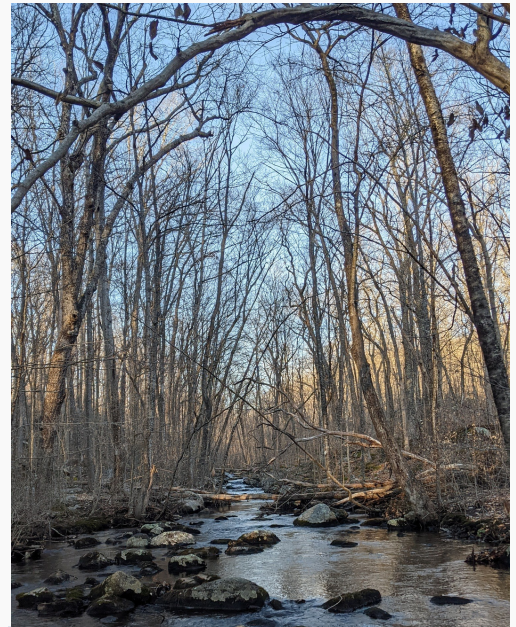




## IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST (CONTINUED)

I had never really considered how many banks include “AND TRUST” in their name until I sat down to write this piece. I couldn’t help myself – I Googled it, and found the following: “A trust company does not own the assets its customers assign to its management, but it may assume some legal obligation to take care of assets on behalf of other parties.”

While this description was written for financial institutions, it also says something about how Joshua’s Trust operates, particularly the part about “an obligation to take care of assets on behalf of other parties.” We don’t exactly own properties in the classic sense because we can’t sell them and turn them into cash. Instead, we commit to the original donor to effectively steward these lands, forever. **It’s an enormous responsibility that will continue for many lifetimes, and one we willingly embrace.**



Early spring along Stonehouse Brook in Tower Hill Preserve, Chaplin

I had not intended for this piece to sound like a fundraising letter, but my emotions got the best of me and I strayed. So be it – now get outside and enjoy the return of Spring to northeast Connecticut.

## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS CAN BENEFIT CONSERVATION



Karen Zimmer wears many hats at Joshua’s Trust. As a longtime member she knows, firsthand, how her support helps conserve open space for the benefit of wildlife and the many people who enjoy nature.

By Karen Zimmer

I’m lucky enough to have a nice IRA and I’m also lucky enough to have lived long enough to meet the age limit for required minimum distributions, (RMDs, age 73). Since I fortunately don’t need that extra money to live on, I have been donating to organizations I believe in, like Joshua’s Trust. **I know and trust our local land trust and I feel happy and grateful to be able to donate directly to the Trust from my IRA so that I can avoid paying taxes on it.**

This means that I can stretch my IRA dollars. Such a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) avoids being taxed by both the federal government and CT. Ask your financial advisor or attorney how this could work for you!

I have walked the JT trails for over 30 years. Now I understand how important protected lands are, not only for my personal adventures and communion with nature, but also for our wider community of people, animals, plants and insects.



## MEET JT'S NEW INTERNS (CONTINUED)

As interns until May, the five of us have come to see that our work with Joshua's Trust is not only a great experience for potential future careers, but also an invaluable opportunity to do a service for our community and to preserve Connecticut's wildlife. We each bring our own, unique experiences to JT and are confident we'll be getting unique experiences in return.

Jillian, Jessica and Claire's interest in environmental science blends with the background David and I have in history, and shared among all of us is a deep admiration in preserving the land and wildlife around UConn. Thank you to everyone at Joshua's Trust for providing this experience. We're excited to share the results of our work with you!



*The Oak at Chenes Roches Preserve*

**Ben Lassy** is a junior pursuing a history and geography double major who is thrilled to learn that JT preserves just as much history as it does nature.

**Claire Flanagan** is a sophomore pursuing a major in Environmental Science paired with a minor in Economics.

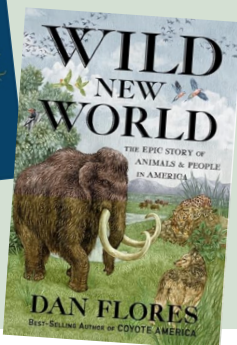
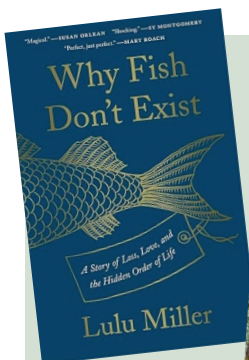
**David Dynowski** is a senior at UConn pursuing a dual degree in History and Geography.

**Jillian Gere** is a senior at UConn with a double major in Environmental Studies and Geography.

**Jessica Lavoie** is a senior at UConn pursuing Environmental Science with a Global Change Concentration.

*We are thrilled to be working with such dedicated and talented UConn students.*

*To learn more about each intern or to stay abreast of their work at JT, visit our website at [joshuastrust.org/joshuas-trust-2024-intern-introduction/](https://joshuastrust.org/joshuas-trust-2024-intern-introduction/).*



*The JT Book Critters has had two fascinating book discussions so far this year.*

Our January read was *Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life* (2020). During our discussion, we explored the pros and cons of categorical thinking and how it impacts our lives.

Our February read was *Wild New World: The Epic Story of Animals & People in America* (2022) by Dan Flores. We found it to be an amazing story from before the Clovis arrival to the ongoing shaping of wildlife today.



## WITH APPRECIATION FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Joshua's Trust could not fulfill its mission without the tireless support of our volunteers. We recently sat down with Carl Lindquist, M.D. from Chaplin to thank him for his many years of dedication to the Trust and to talk about his stewardship of the beautiful Hubbard Sanctuary and Agnes' Pasture.

Carl first heard about Joshua's Trust from fellow physician, Sam Dodd, one of the founders of JT. In 1987 the Lindquists purchased Mollie Hubbard's Chaplin home. Mollie had donated over 30 acres of her land to the Trust in 1985, and Carl knew that he wanted to live next to protected land. He has been a steward of the Hubbard Sanctuary for 30 years.

When asked how many hours he thought he'd put into the Sanctuary over the years, Carl replied that he couldn't necessarily quantify his work as he always picks up sticks and cleans up areas as he explores the property. "It is not really work. It's a joy to be out there. I love the diversity, especially the seasonal changes of both the flora and the fauna."

We thank Carl and Julie for their commitment to this property, to conservation, and to the Trust. To learn more about Hubbard Sanctuary and Agnes' Pasture or to learn how to become a JT steward, visit our website at [joshuastrust.org](http://joshuastrust.org).

## JOIN US AT OUR 58TH ANNUAL MEETING

Join Joshua's Trust staff, Board of Trustees, and friends on April 13 at Knowlton Hall in Ashford to celebrate another great year of accomplishments in conservation. We'll start at 4:00 PM.

Our featured speaker will be Landis Hudson, the Executive Director of Maine Rivers in Yarmouth, Maine. She'll be talking about the amazing work their group has done to return fish passages from the

sea into the interior of Maine through the removal of dams and the creation of fish ladders. Her environmental success with this program is an inspirational story that gives us hope for our future.



*Landis Hudson, Executive Director of  
Maine Rivers in Yarmouth, ME.*

Joshua's Trust members will have the opportunity to vote for this year's slate of Board members. It's not too late to become a member to vote in this year's election. Visit our website to learn how to become a member today. **Registration for the Annual Meeting is recommended but not required.** Visit our website for details.



*Dr. Carl Lindquist and his son  
in New Zealand*



JOSHUA'S TRACT  
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.  
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MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

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### What's Inside:

It's All About Trust  
Meet the JT Interns  
New Trustees  
An invitation to JT's 58th  
Annual Meeting

## SPRING EVENTS

This year we have partnered with The Last Green Valley to provide fun and educational activities throughout Spring. Join us for a "Spring Outdoors" event near you.

**April 6**

Spring Mysteries at Bradley-Buchanan Woods

**April 17**

Wednesday Walk at Pigeon Swamp Preserve

**April 21**

Water in Earthly Processes at the Gurleyville  
Grist Mill - With Robert Thorson

**April 27**

Mosses and Lichens at Tobiassen Forest

**May 1**

Wednesday Walk at Allanach-Wolf Woodlands

**May 4**

Maypole Celebration at Atwood Farm

**May 15**

Wednesday Walk at Tinkerville Brook Preserve

**May 19**

Tree ID Walk at Iron Mine Valley Preserve

**THE GURLEYVILLE GRIST MILL WILL OPEN FOR THE SEASON ON  
SUNDAY, MAY 19 FROM 1 TO 5 PM.**

Visit our website at [joshuastrust.org/events/](http://joshuastrust.org/events/) for more events and  
details and directions to each.

