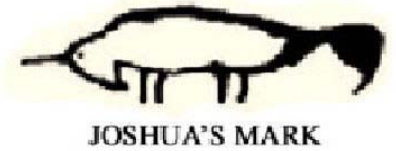


Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.



WINTER ISSUE 2010

www.joshuaslandtrust.org

Stewards Hatch New Plan For Ancient Ashford Oak

By *JOAN HILL*
Stewardship Committee Chair

With cooler weather and more volunteers available after summer travels, stewardship work has picked up.

Work parties have been active at both Broadway Meadow in Coventry and Hubbard Sanctuary in Chaplin, working to cut back shrubs invading the margins of hay fields. Two new kiosks were installed, one at Hubbard and one at Allanach-Wolf Woodlands in Windham.

After considerable discussion and consultation with Ashford residents, a plan has been developed for the venerable Ashford Oak, once the largest tree of its kind in the world.

The tree will be allowed to live out its natural life without any future interventions. The limbs that fall naturally will be cleared and used, if possible to create "heritage" items.

Continued on Page Three



Tork Concert Raises Funds And Spirits



Peter Tork signs autographs for audience members at his show.

Peter Tork and his band Shoe Suede Blues drew a capacity crowd to the Joshua's Trust benefit party at Ashford's Knowlton Memorial Hall on Oct. 15.

Over \$2,500 was raised for land conservation as a result of Peter's generous donation of his time and that of his band members, Michard Mikuls, David Bronson, and Arnold Jacks.

This is the third such benefit that Peter has given for Joshua's Trust, and each one seems better than the last. The music lifted everyone's spirits, and a number of bodies. By the end of the evening, there were more people on the dance floor than still in their seats.

Thank you, Peter!

Tag Sale Success

The September Tag Sale, organized by Corine Norgaard, raised \$1,232.22!

Thanks to all the donors and volunteers; in particular, Isabelle Atwood, Dick Schleicher, Mona Anderson, Harriet Walker, Bonnie Ryan, Gail Chernosky, Melanie Johnson, Sue Schmerl, John Pagini, Madge Manfred, and Nancy Polydys.

2011 Membership Renewal Form On Back Page



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust was formed in 1966 to receive gifts of money and land, or to buy land of historic, aesthetic, or scientific value, for the benefit of future generations.

It is designed to supplement the open space efforts of federal, state and local governments. The Trust protects over 4,000 acres in the region, maintains trails which are open to the public, and publishes *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book*.

The office is located in the historic Eagleville Schoolhouse, South Eagleville Rd., in Mansfield.

Office hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm.

Phone: 860-429-9023

An Unassuming Letter Brings An Uplifting Holiday 'Thank You'

In my first column as president I wrote that we would start work this fall to develop a five-year plan to raise funds needed to cover our easements and owned land under guidelines suggested by the Land Trust Alliance.

While I am not a believer in signs, I do think that there are times when a strong signal has been sent. In the mail last month came a letter handwritten and plain until we began to read it.

I won't disclose the sender's name (a life-long walker) but I will quote verbatim the closing: "Walking's cheap, so I've saved a bundle and here's a chunk of it to say 'thanks for the memories' of the beautiful but vanishing quiet corner of Connecticut."

That chunk was a check in the amount of \$20,000!

Well, this donor just helped us achieve our easement protection goal for the first year! It inspires us to continue to work hard to prevent the further vanishing of

our corner.

While it would be nice to receive letters like this one on a regular basis, it is gestures like this that make the people who make up Joshua's Trust so special.

I am constantly surprised by the number of people who stop by the office to say hello, offer to help out on a project or wherever needed, drop off a check or just hang out for a bit.

One volunteer brought in a plate of cookies because... well, because. It's a fun place to be. So, join us!

As I write this column, I am sitting by the fire, my husband is watching football, Thanksgiving is behind us and winter is on hand. My horses have grown their winter coats, the cats have decided that indoors is better, the bird feeders are filled *and refilled*, the hot tub is working and the wood is stacked.

I like the cold, but I send you warm wishes for the coming holiday season.

REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President



Here's To Our Generous Lifetime Trust Members

Several people have become life members during the past year, either by donating \$1,000 or through property gifts. We want to acknowledge their generous support.

Members at the \$1,000 level: Harry & Honey Birkenruth, Fred Cazel, Warren & Peggy Church, Joe Courtney, Margaret Joy Daentl, Michael & Mary Ellsworth, Shawn & Linda Fisher, Lois Clarke, Prudence Corson, Keith & Marietta Johnson, Quentin & Margaret Kessel, John Lof, John & Madge Manfred, Corine & Richard Norgaard, Nancy L. Polydys, David Platt, Daniel Reilly, Richard Schleicher, R. Patricia Schoppe, Richard & Donna Skaats, Winthrop & Anne Smith, William Stallman, Jack Summers, Joe Vobril, Don & Vicky Wetherell.

Land donors: Beth & Leonid Azaroff, George & Ann Bailey, Gaetano Bazzano, Edward Blatchford, Ed Boettiger, Allison Burchell-Robinson, Charles & Mary Bradley, Marylou Breen, Lou and Barbara Cano, David Chapin, Church Family, N. & J. Clark, Agnes Fuller, Thomas Gaines

Leon Gardner, Elizabeth Hamill, Kay & Hamilton Holt, Morris Kaplan, Esther Labbe, James & Patricia Leta, John Lof, James Makuch, Audrey Manter, Charles & Dawn McCaghy, George Merrow, Leonore Mullane, Elaine Mrosek, Florence Palmer, William Paradis, Sarah Pappenheimer, John Pappenheimer, Margaret Pinkham, Julia Rankin, Marian Rollin, Gail Smith, Joe & Dorothy Zaring.

Stewardship Work Is Again Picking Up

Continued from Page One

Fence posts to mark the front corners of the lot will be installed, along with a new box to hold brochures about the tree. Underbrush will be cleared, as well as any volunteer oaks that might compete with the official replacement tree, which was planted about 20 years ago.

Many high school and college volunteer groups have come forward to offer help on various preserves. Youngsters from the E.O. Smith Alternative High School will be working to improve the parking and entrance area at the Couch Preserve.

Honor Society students from Windham Tech will be dealing with invasive plants at Pigeon Swamp, and our most enthusiastic group, "People Helping People" from ECSU, will also be working at Pigeon Swamp.

Outreach and cooperative programs with area schools have also resumed with the new school year. Although the grant funding has been cut back, the second (and final) year of the EastConn grant will allow us to continue student field research at Knowlton Hill, and provide a culminating BioBlitz, this year at Allanach-Wolf in May. Both teachers' and students' feedback about last June's BioBlitz was tremendously favorable.

Maura Robie has agreed to serve as a regional coordinator.

Two new stewards have also started enthusiastically on their duties – Bill Darcy of Ashford at the Church Farm and Nord Yakovleff and his wife Peggy Rux at the Byles Sanctuary. Welcome to them, and a thanks to Art Runnels, retiring from stewardship at the Church Farm!



ASHFORD OAK VISIT.

Stephen Toubman, right, has taken over as the new steward for the venerable Ashford Oak, so on a chilly fall morning, he and new regional coordinator Maura Robie, left, get a briefing from longtime JT activist Gary Griffin, second from left.

They are joined by William Karosi of Ashford, who has been the oak's neighbor and followed its life for many years.



UConn's Rudy Favretti Agrees To Write JoshuaTrust's History

Rudy Favretti, professor emeritus of landscape architecture at the University of Connecticut, has agreed to author the official history of the first 50 years of Joshua's Trust.

He was formally appointed to the task at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The publication will be prepared for the celebration to mark the 50th anniversary in 2016. The Anniversary Committee is seeking photos, clippings or other information to include. They can be sent to the JT mailing address: P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

Time To Renew Your Membership for 2011

Membership in Joshua's Trust expires at the end of the calendar year. Sending your renewal now will save us the cost of mailing a reminder later. Thank you for your support.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ E-mail_____

Dues (\$10 individual; \$20 family; \$50 sustaining; \$100 patron; \$250 benefactor \$1,000 life)

New member, check here [] Gift Membership: List names and addresses. We'll send a gift card.

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