



Joshua's Tract

Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.



SPRING 2011

www.joshuaslandtrust.org

Trust Earns National Accreditation

After years of planning and volunteer work, Joshua's Trust has been granted national accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The accreditation – one of only four granted in Connecticut -- signifies that Joshua's Trust meets national standards of excellence in upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, based in Washington, D.C.

The accreditation is a landmark achievement for an organization that started with a handful of volunteers in 1966. Madge Manfred, former Trust president and chair of the Trust's accreditation committee, explained how challenging the process was.

"It took five years of teamwork to transform an energetic, all-volunteer land trust into a professional level or-

ganization," Madge said. "Decades of informal operations had to be translated into written policies, internal assumptions about long-term costs had to be confronted, and hard

questions had to be asked about our ability to fulfill our promises."

The accreditation process required the Trust to undergo a rigorous external examination of its management, systems, and policies used to protect its lands.

"We had to stop patting ourselves on the back for being a pretty good outfit and face the scrutiny of an external review," Madge said. "We now have a clearer sense of what we do well and what we need to do to be better. It hasn't been easy, but the benefits have been significant."

"We are all that much prouder having achieved the seal of accreditation," added new Trust President Allison Burchell-Robinson of Ashford. "Madge was our goal set-

'...hard questions had to be asked about our ability to fulfill our promises.'

— Madge Manfred

Continued on Page Two

Annual Meeting Is April 12

Come celebrate another year of accomplishments at the annual meeting on April 12 at Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford.

The meal will be catered by the well-known Hartford barbecue and Cajun food eatery, Black-Eyed Sally's. Appetizers, wine, and soft drinks will be served at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by reports and a noted speaker.

The per person cost is still just \$20.

Mona Anderson, who organizes the event, was told last year that our favorite gathering spot in previous years, the Hole-In-The-Wall Gang Camp, had such an extensive schedule that it would no longer be available to outside groups.

Please use the reservation form on the back of the newsletter. Check the Trust website for news about the guest speaker and other activities.

Directions: Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford is located on Route 44 just west of its intersection with Route 89, or, when coming from Route 195 in Mansfield, one mile east of the Route 44 intersection with Route 74, next to the Cumberland Farms convenience store.

Longtime Trust Activist Birge Dayton Passes



See Tribute On Page 5

Reserve Your Place At The Annual Meeting Using The Form On Back Page.



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
Email: joshuastrust@snet.net
www.joshuaslandtrust.org

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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 4,100 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



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

Lessons To Be Learned From A Wicked Winter

Have you ever felt that your words have come back to haunt you? I know in my last column that I said I like the cold, but this is ridiculous!

Winter has been here for a little over a month and there is more snow on the ground than I can ever remember.

Knocking the icicles off the roof, I fell into a drift that came over my waist.

Come on. Still, there are lessons

to be learned from this winter siege. Just watching the birds on the feeders carefully catching one seed per time, fluffing their wings in the brutal wind gusts, scratching the surface to find the buried seed and the squirrels undaunted returning time after time to the only food available makes one believe in survival. I can't see the other wildlife out there but I do see their tracks.

Survival.

We all survive, but only our land does so in perpetuity.

And, if we want to keep our Joshua's Trust land protected and preserved as we have promised, we need you and your help. Our operating budget is comprised primarily from membership dues and contribu-

tions. Our membership numbers have dropped a bit in the last couple of years, down from our high of more than 850. That could lead to decreasing revenues in the years to come.

I have challenged the Board of Trustees and the Officers to each bring in two new members this year. I have done so.

Now I am reaching out to you to encourage just one friend/acquaintance/ family to become a member.

How about a gift membership for someone special?

Just imagine: if you were 100 percent successful, that would equal double the membership.

Why not give it a go?

I am looking forward to seeing and meeting many of you at the annual dinner held this year for the first time at the Wilderness Camp Ground in Willington. Please mark April 12 on your calendar right now.

We can talk about your membership success then, along with anything else on your mind.

Keep in mind we will have survived this winter.

REFLECTIONS ON THIS AND THAT

By Allison
Burchell-Robinson

Joshua's Trust President



Trust Earns National Accreditation

Continued from Page One

-setter, task master and cheerleader all rolled into one. She set the bar high and she made sure we met it."

The newsletter and other Trust materials will now display the accreditation seal visible at the top of Page One and in the masthead to the left.

Thanks To All You Trust Contributors In 2010

Thanks to all listed here who made donations of \$50 or more in addition to their yearly membership dues during 2010. Without your additional support, the Trust would not be able to carry out its mission. Please let us know if your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled.

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Property Stewards Stay Busy Even Through Winter Months

With more than 60 individual properties to care for, the stewards are always busy, even through the winter months.

Hill Bullard and Gary Griffin have been leading crews to continue marking boundaries. They expect to complete another 12 while the leaves are off the trees.

Clean-up at the Ashford Oak has been completed, a frontage fence installed and a brochure box positioned.

At the Preston Sanctuary, a December workshop on control of the invasive barberry was well attended.

A team of stewards, assisted by volunteers from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, whacked two acres of barberry in preparation for further treatment during the growing season.

Work on invasives control has been funded in part by a multi-year federal grant to improve wildlife habitat. The cleared acres will be turned into a hayfield buffer of native plants and shrubs.

Many thanks to retiring Church Farm steward Art Runnels and to Charlene and John Meyer, long-time stewards at the Hubbard Sanctuary, all of whom provided many years of outstanding service.

The Ashford Oak has been cleaned up and a frontage fence and brochure box added.



2010 Contributors

Continued from previous page

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Birge Dayton, Longtime Trust Volunteer, Passes

By Gary Griffin

Longtime Trust member and volunteer trail worker Birge Dayton, 80, of Coventry, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Born in Worcester, Mass., Birge worked at Pratt & Whitney for 37 years before his retirement. He is survived by daughters Deborah Smith and Linda Dayton and son Robert Dayton.

For several years, Birge was the Trust's chief bridge designer and builder. He procured the lumber and hardware needed for each bridge and arranged delivery to the site, where he patiently oversaw construction with the help of other Trust workers.

In recent years, when it became increasingly difficult for Birge to get around, the Trust's Stewardship Committee still called upon him for his expertise and knowledge. His fellow trail workers began to furnish him with a "director's chair" so that he could oversee the building of his designs while sitting.

Birge was also a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, and the Chatham Trails Association (Southern NH). Trust trail worker and steward Bob Schoff recalls that Birge was well known in AMC circles for his repairs of structures on the Appalachian Trail in western Connecticut.

Greg Anderson described Birge as a "special member of the Trust," one who was dedicated to securing property for



BIRGE DAYTON (1930-2011) sitting in a directors chair watching CFPA workers replace a bog bridge in the Pachaug Forest in Voluntown.

Photo by Bob Schoff.

the common good, "and then making it appropriately accessible to the general public."

A memorial service was held on Jan. 20. Online condolences can be expressed at www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Trust Acquires 27-Acre Property In Tolland



INSPECTION: Stewardship Committee members examining the new property are, left to right, Ken Hankinson, Joan Hill (chair), Dan Donahue, Gary Griffin and Ann Dunnack.

Photo by John Pagini

A 27-acre parcel in Tolland has been given to Joshua's Trust in December by the Lemek family as part of a subdivision open-space requirement.

Located off Lemek and Goose lanes, the property offers the primary benefit of permanently protecting about 600 feet of the Skungamaug River and its buffer area.

The Skungamaug enters the western portion of the property about half way down the western boundary, meanders to the southwest, and exits the parcel into a large open space owned by The Coventry Game Club, Inc.

A natural resource inventory will be conducted on the property during the next several months to determine the location of vernal pools, wildlife habitat, rare flora, and other characteristics.

A management plan will then be developed to detail the best uses and protection of the land.

Join us for this year's annual meeting...
...at Ashford's Knowlton Memorial Hall

This year's annual meeting and dinner will be held at Ashford's Knowlton Memorial Hall . It includes wine, appetizers, dinner and a guest speaker. New members are encouraged to attend!

Joshua's Trust annual dinner reservation form

Please submit by March 31.

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

Please make reservations for _____ people (\$20 per person)

2011 dues if not yet paid: _____ Total enclosed \$_____

Is this the first annual meeting you are attending? (Yes / No)

Make check payable to: Joshua's Trust

Mail to: Joshua's Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004.

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