



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Winter 2010

Conserving Jericho's Barber Farm

The historic Barber Farm was settled in 1770 and has an agricultural legacy that spans many generations. For 240 years, the farm has produced a great variety of fresh foods for area families. Season after season, the rhythms and tempo of the farm have revolved around the land. This agrarian culture that we all treasure within our community, is becoming increasingly rare.

Fortunately, the owners of Barber Farm, the Siegchrist family, passionately wish to see this agricultural legacy continue. They have a ten-year lease with their neighbors, the popular Jericho Settlers' Farm. Today, both the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) are

working with the Siegchrist family to ensure that farming remains vibrant at Barber Farm. A conservation easement will permanently protect 148 acres, 78 acres of which are listed on state maps as statewide significant soils, for agriculture and keep this land affordable for farming into the future. Barber Farm will remain in private ownership. This conservation project will also incorporate public access through a trail connection from JULT's Kikas Valley Farm to a spectacular scenic vista of Camels Hump which is found at the top of the Barber Farm meadow.

The Siegchrists have generously agreed to accept significantly less than the full market value of the conservation easement. JULT and VLT are seeking \$260,000 to fund the acquisition of the conservation easement and associated costs.

Fortunately, a grant application to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for \$235,000 was recently approved! This leaves an additional \$25,000 of local fundraising that is necessary. At JULT's request, the selectboard agreed in early December to include spending \$13,000 from the Open Space Fund in the FY11 budget to assist with this important conservation effort. If this budget item is approved by Jericho voters at Town Meeting, JULT and VLT will only need to raise \$12,000. Both the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust are appealing to the community to help ensure that Barber Farm's agricultural land with such a long history, continues to produce and enrich Jericho's farming heritage.



Help Protect Jericho's Barber Farm

It **can happen** with your help! Together we can permanently conserve this important farm. With significant funding from a Vermont Housing and Conservation Board grant, 90% has already been raised. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Jericho Underhill Land Trust, PO Box 80, Jericho, VT. 05465 www.jult.org or The Vermont Land Trust, 8 Bailey Ave., Montpelier, VT. 05602 www.vlt.org Donations may also be made on our respective websites. Please note the donation for "Barber Farm". **Thank you!**

Save the Date. You Are Invited!

JULT members, family and friends are cordially invited to our annual meeting on **May 3, 2010** at Underhill Town Hall. Help us celebrate a great year of local land conservation. Refreshments will begin at 6:30 pm with a short business meeting at 7. We are very pleased to have conservation planning biologist Jens Hawkins-Hilke from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department as our guest speaker. He will be speaking about the "Changing Scales in Conservation Planning". Jens will describe shifting perspectives in how we plan for our natural resources. For example, one could look at a single Vermont town in the context of all of northern New England, showing the landforms, land use, hydrology and geology, across the region. This perspective suggests a certain set of ecological priorities for representativeness and uniqueness across a large landscape. One could also look at just one parcel in town and map the same features as above. More localized knowledge of biological diversity in flora and fauna might lead to a different set of priorities on the map referencing what's locally abundant or rare. As we learn more about our land, we're able to gain depth in our perspective of both scales of understanding the landscape and both sets of priorities. This has implications for the way we do land use planning for local communities

JULT Applies for SHAPE Grant

On January 11, 2010, JULT formally applied to the Mount Mansfield Union High School's SHAPE grant program, Students Helping Achieve Philanthropic Excellence. From the invitational letter, "This program strives to engage and empower students through philanthropic activities, leadership opportunities, civic engagement and career development to help them achieve personal and professional success." The students form a student foundation with the ability to distribute grants to local non-profit organizations in the amount of \$1000 to \$2000. JULT applied for grant funding to assist with the conservation of Barber Farm.



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JULT is now on Facebook. Visit us and become a fan! Get access to our newsletters, including this one. Up to date information and photos of JULT activities. Give us your comments, be in touch through the "causes" feature of Facebook. Search on Facebook for "Jericho Underhill Land Trust".



Exploring Vermont History on the Gateway Land

On Saturday, November 14th, sixteen orange clad hikers set out to explore the Gateway land. These 123 beautiful wooded acres are located in the Town of Bolton and were recently purchased by JULT to augment the Wolfrun Natural Area. Hiking both on existing trails and off trail with a GPS, we discovered a wealth of intriguing features, both natural and man made.

The Beers Atlas of Vermont from 1869 shows a town road (now a VAST trail maintained by the Richmond Rough Riders) running through Gateway from Old Stage Road and ending at Snipe Ireland Road. We believe this was called the East Indies Road. Along this route it was very exciting to discover some distinctive features. These include extensive fieldstone walls, a rock lined natural spring, a perfect circle rock lined well and a stone house foundation. On the other side of this road stands an enormous barn foundation banked on one side. Further explorations in other sections of Gateway led to finding at least one more house foundation as well as several fieldstone structures that we call “pillars” but whose function we have not been able to determine. However, research by JULT member Joanna Carpenter reveals that archaeologists have documented similar structures in other places in Vermont and New England. They refer to them as cairns, which are intentionally constructed piles of stones built one stone at a time for a specific purpose. They have been built by both Native Americans for ceremonial purposes, and by Colonials for utilitarian purposes.

The three hour hike also turned up a large porcupine den (see photo) and a run in with a “scent bomb” hung in a tree. It was after all, the first day of deer rifle season and we were not the only ones interested in being in the woods. We concluded our amazing walk with apple cider and donuts and pleasant conversation and a strong desire to learn more about these intriguing cultural artifacts.

JULT plans to offer more walks into the Gateway land this year. Check your newsletter, our website and Facebook for the dates. More information about the pillars can be found at <http://www.neara.org/Muller/platformcairns.htm#07>



Cairn photo credit Joanna Carpenter



Porcupine den photo John Schroeder



Cairn photo credit Joanna Carpenter

JULT Receives a Grant from SignARama.

Every dollar counts when it comes to running a stream-lined, all volunteer organization. JULT applied to SignARama's *Grants for Success* sign award program to help offset the cost of a new banner. We are pleased to announce that JULT was one of twenty non-profit organizations that was successful. We look forward to increasing our visibility within our community at local events with a new banner.



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT
Permit #357

Protect Barber Farm!

Livy Strong, *Chair*
Catherine Stevens,
Vice Chair
Phyl Newbeck, *Secretary*
Hilaire Thomas, *Treasurer*
John Koier
John Schroeder
Trevor Squirell
Roy Towlen

Help protect our future landscape...TODAY



Please note: All JULT memberships now run from May 1 to May 1 of the following year.

Please sign me up for:

- Conservator** membership \$500
- Steward** membership \$100
- Sponsor** membership \$50
- Family** membership \$35
- Individual** membership \$25
- Student/Senior** membership \$10
- Lifetime** membership \$1,000
(Beat inflation and avoid renewal notices!)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Other considerations:

- My employer's matching gift is enclosed.
- Please **do not** send me a "thank-you" gift.
- I wish to remain anonymous.

Please contact me regarding:

- Conservation options for my land.
- Making a gift of stock
- Including JULT in my will
- Other planned giving opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities:
 - ___ Fundraising/Events
 - ___ Office/Administration
 - ___ Trails/Land Stewardship

Please make checks payable to JULT and mail to the address below. Or you may pay by credit card via our website: www.jult.org. All contributions are tax-deductible.

**P.O. Box 80 • Jericho, VT 05645-0080 • 802-899-2693 • JULandtrust@myfairpoint.net • www.jult.org
www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust**