



# LAND TRUST NEWS

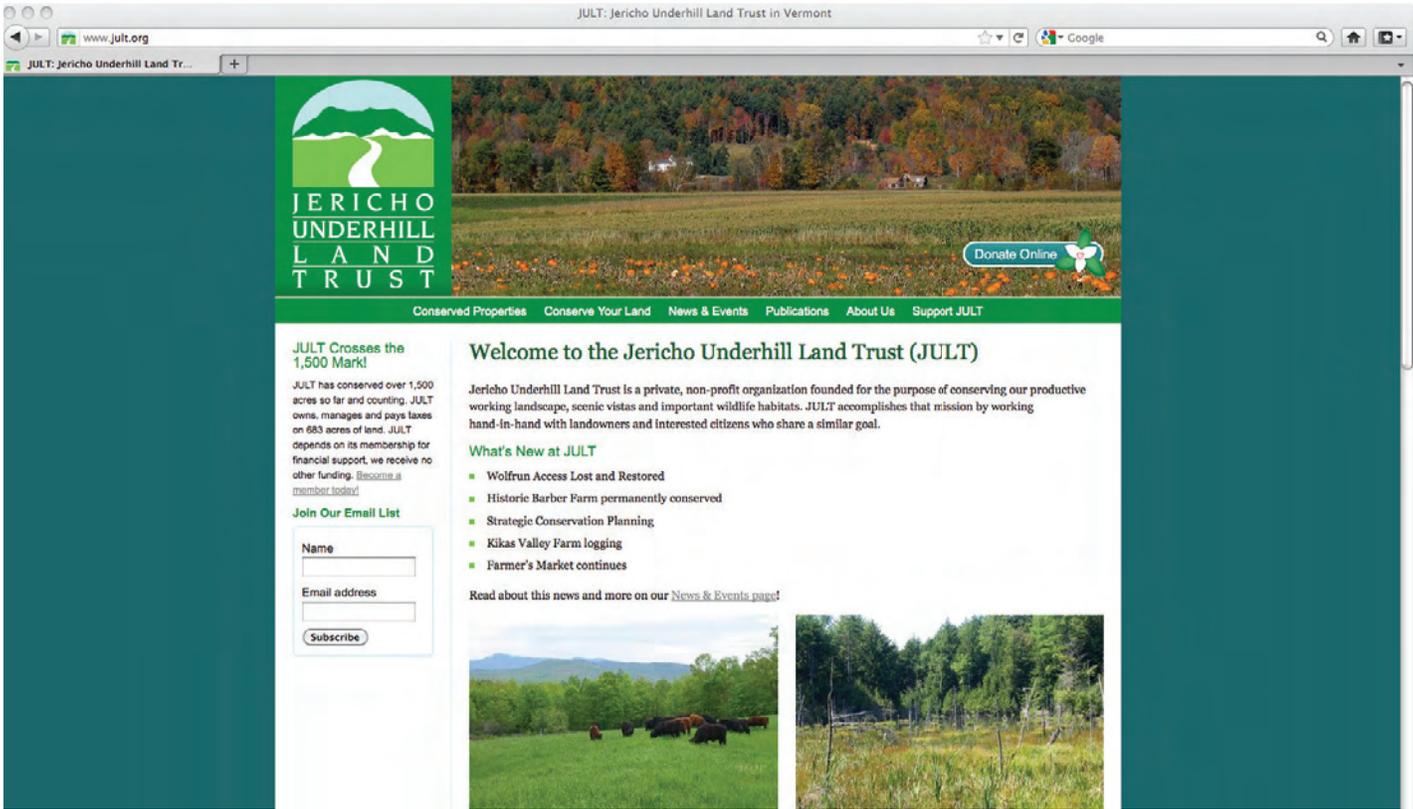
Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Summer/Fall 2011

## JULT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

JULT has a new website and it went live in late September! Developed with the expert help of Paul and Kris at ecopixel.com, a local web design firm, we are very excited about the new look and features and think you will be too. Check us out at [http:// www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org).

Our development committee worked hard to make our web presence attractive, informative, useful and easy to get around. Features include profiles of conserved properties, land stewardship, how to conserve your land, news and events, publications and information about the land trust. There are also lots of great photos and even a seamless link to our facebook page. There is an easy way to contact us for comments and more information as well as a place to opt in to our email database if you would like to receive information that way. Of course, there is also a simple way to join us by becoming a JULT member at many different levels.



So please check us out and let us know what you think. Explore our site and see what we have been up to - what's coming next and how you can become a part of what we do!

# AUTUMN THOUGHTS

Autumn is a big event, a grand finale of color, an explosion of reds and yellow that transform our landscape. Sunlight intensifies as the days grow short and nights lengthen. The cold air hardens in our nostrils, spiced with wood smoke.



Autumn is a special time to walk the land and experience the beauty of this brief, bright season. Instead of looking exclusively for the big views of autumn, a simple walk reveals the more subtle changes that prepare nature for winter. Scintillating leaves of gold paving the trail, Canada geese gleaned the stubby corn fields, rows of bright orange pumpkins waiting to be picked, winter grasses waving in the chilled air. We invite you to savor these intimate scenes of autumn by walking the trails of Kikas Valley Farm. The farm is located on Tyler Place, just off Skunk Hollow Road in Jericho. There is a small parking area with trails leading you through farm and forest. If you would like company, please join us on October 29 at 10:00 AM for a casual stroll in appreciation of autumn.

Please call Livy with any questions at: 899-2693.

## WOLFRUN ACCESS REPAIRS

Blame it on the beavers. For the past several years they have been active in Moose Pond. Beavers, by nature, are never content with things as they are. We have seen the water level of the pond rise incrementally each of the last three years.

Moose Pond was formed by a man made stone dam years ago and was the source of blocks of ice in the years before refrigeration. Over the top of this the beaver have added their own dam, raising the level of the pond by almost three feet. We had very heavy rain in early May and the beaver dam gave way releasing a torrent of water which the ancient stone culvert at the base of the raised roadbed could not handle. A ten-foot deep gully was created where the road had been by that huge volume of water racing across it.

After a good deal of brainstorming, a local contractor was hired to do the repairs. He had equipment small enough to gain access

Looking up at Wolfrun gate from the bottom of the washout.



and was able to salvage enough fill from the site to complete a new lower roadbed and we were all happy that we again had access and had even managed to save our gate!

Then along came Irene. Even more water came pouring through the breached dam and we are again presented with a loss of access. This time the gully is only four feet deep, because the whole roadway was lowered in the reconstruction process, but nonetheless impassable. We are currently considering the installation of two culverts to act as an overflow with the help of some engineering expertise to determine size.

## Did You Know?

JULT is always eager to talk to folks about land conservation. Invite us to your living rooms, organizations and events.

We meet on the first Monday of every month at 7pm at the Community Center in Jericho Center. The exception is our Annual Meeting at the Underhill Town Hall which takes place in May. You are always invited to learn more about what we do.

There are over 1,700 land trusts in the United States.

# Membership Matters!!

Remember to "Like" us on



The first hard frosts of autumn jolt our senses alive and remind us of the colder months ahead. Time to prepare...stack the firewood, ready the pantry, pull out the hefty, warm clothes. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust needs to prepare as well. Our ability to conserve the special places of our community depends on one thing...members like you. If you have not *renewed* this year, please choose to continue your support. Simply look at the mailing label of this newsletter to determine your membership status. All members receive our colorful decal, newsletters and invitations to special events. But most importantly, your membership support means that we can protect our towns' working landscape, scenic vistas and rare wildlife habitat *today* for tomorrow. *Thank you!*



## SUMMER TOIL

Summer usually brings a more relaxed approach to work as we cherish the long days and endless outdoor activities. But JULT's board of trustees stayed focused throughout the balmy days on a number of very important tasks. In this newsletter, John Schroeder writes about our new website which took several months to develop and tweak. With this website, we look forward to a vibrant online presence along with an easier interaction with the community. John was joined by a core group of board members who worked right along side him. They include Phyl Newbeck, John Koier and Catherine Stevens.

Another article in this current newsletter points to the work of our Land Stewardship Director, John Koier. The Wolfrun Natural Area's single access to the northern end of the property is via a narrow land bridge. This was overwhelmed by water following this Spring's massive rainfall.

John worked with a contractor to re-establish a pedestrian entrance to Wolfrun, only to see his efforts washed away again with Hurricane Irene. Disheartening as this is, John has returned to remedy the situation and to ensure that we all can enjoy a walk in this splendid wildlife area.

Mentioned in our winter newsletter, board member Trevor Squirrell is working on a "Strategic Conservation Plan" that pulls together data set information about our towns' wildlife and natural areas. This information will help JULT carry out our broad conservation mission well into the future. Trevor is joined by Catherine Stevens and John Koier as members of this sub-committee.

Meanwhile, Catherine Stevens has volunteered to lead our board through a Sustainability Plan. This effort includes assessing JULT's strengths and weaknesses and determining how we can become even more effective. We are especially interested in community feedback so please, check out our NEW website and send us a note. Want to help with our land trust work... just let us know and we will contact you.





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## Membership Matters

- Livy Strong  
*Chair*
- John Koier  
*Vice Chair*
- Phyl Newbeck  
*Secretary*
- Hilaire Thomas  
*Treasurer*
- John Schroeder
- Trevor Squirrel
- Catherine Stevens

# Help protect our future landscape...TODAY

**Please note:** All JULT memberships now run from May 1 to April 30 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!)*

**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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.jult.org). All contributions are tax-deductible.

