



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall 2015



FALL BACK

The gradual change of seasons from summer to fall is almost imperceptible at first. Ferns hint of the colder months when their slender leaves turn brown. Goldenrod and wild asters expand across our fields as the summer wildflowers retreat. Milkweed pods explode with seeds for next year. Our summer birds grow quieter, some are preparing for the long journey south. The hummingbird feeder becomes vacant. Our air and sunlight change too. Crisp, cooler mornings and the slanting afternoon light remind us that colder weather is ahead. The first red maple leaf on the ground sets the tempo for greater change. Soon the reds, yellows, and golds of peak leaf season will be on display across our countryside. How fortunate we all are to live amongst this beauty...throughout the seasons.



We're on the web: www.jult.org

Remember to "Like" us on



JERICHO UNDERHILL LAND TRUST THROUGH THE SEASONS

Seasonal changes influence your land trust too. During the summer months, we are busy taking care of the land. Trail maintenance, forest plans, and wildlife habitat enhancement are just a few of the activities. Autumn gives us our final opportunity to complete property stewardship before the winter sets in. Winter is a good planning time for the land trust; the budget, fundraising opportunities and an event schedule for the New Year. Reaching out to landowners within our community is a year round effort. We are also poised to assist in important land conservation at any time. Thank you for supporting JULT through your membership.

TOWN PLANS MATTER

According to Land Trust Alliance, unplanned development is a major threat.

“Every day we lose more than 5,000 acres of land to development. Orchards, farms and meadows are being converted to shopping malls. Wetlands are filled and developed into office parks.

This loss of our land is not happening by accident. For many decades, our country has created tax laws, zoning and transportation policy that fuel rapid, sprawling development of natural areas. Typical building patterns in America drive us further and further from the center of our communities as we carve up increasingly distant fields and forests.



The U.S. population is projected to grow by 100 million and the amount of land covered with housing, roads and shopping malls will nearly triple by 2050. More than 80% of our population will live in metropolitan areas where open space will be increasingly precious. The places we have counted upon for generations are disappearing...”

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/why- conserve-land/threats/unplanned-development>

As a citizen of Underhill and Jericho, what can we do? Besides supporting your local land trust, it is also vital to stay involved

in the towns’ planning process. Every five years, the Comprehensive Town Plan is revised by the planning commission. This document lays out a vision for the town and the implementation steps to help get us there. Right now, Jericho is going through this process. Seek out the final “draft” copy when it is ready and give your input at public hearings or in written form. The Town Plan is the framework for zoning regulations too and deserves our attention.



HELP WANTED

If you have an interest in land conservation, we could use your help. Opportunities include land stewardship, publicity, mapping, event planning and much more! Simply contact us at julandtrust@gmail.com with your interest and we will follow up.

JULY IN WOLFRUN NATURAL AREA

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY JOHN SCHROEDER

After a successful fundraising campaign, enthusiastically supported by the local community and assisted by the Vermont Land Trust, 279 acre Wolfrun was acquired and permanently protected by JULT in 2003. Wolfrun is home to many wildlife species including moose, bear, bobcat and beaver. The habitat is diverse, consisting largely of forest, ledge and wetland. Relatively remote, after leaving the dirt road access area, a hiker is quickly immersed in a beautiful natural landscape with few reminders of the more hurried world not far away.



Moose Pond is a beaver pond with an impressive dam. Recent flooding, however, has washed out a section of the dam and has yet to be rebuilt. But although the beaver have temporarily left the pond, the surrounding area is loaded with signs of their recent occupation.

A little further in there are rugged cliffs hiding abundant caves and crevices for wildlife to use for denning, resting and hunting. There are pleasant



views from some of the cliff tops. The terrain can change abruptly from easy walking forest floor to rocky and steep. From thick, dense vegetation to wetland. From more open hardwood forest to thick Spruce and Hemlock stands.



Where the soil and light conditions are favorable there are lots and lots of blueberry bushes. In July they are preparing for the time later in the season when they will bear fruit. And finally there is Logan to follow back to the dirt road.

For additional information about Wolfrun including trail information, go to jult.org.



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Membership Matters

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Help protect our future landscape...TODAY

Please note: All JULT memberships now run on a calendar year from January 1st to December 31st.

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 _____

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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.

