



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall 2016



## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Summer relinquishes its sultry heat in fits and starts, slowly advancing to the cooler period of autumn. We know this familiar rhythm of transition, having lived it many times before. The entire countryside signals this change by adding color wherever possible. We see the bright blue of asters, the deep yellow of golden rod, and the first vibrant maple leaf laying on the trail. The hot reds and oranges that overwhelm the wooded hillsides are fleeting. Autumn is the briefest of seasons and so there is much to achieve in these few months and nature seems to know it. Wherever you look, there is a rush of color. Now the air has a crisp chill to it and chores await...for winter is coming. Our lazy and relaxed summer has been brought to an end and life seems more intense. The sweet smell of wood smoke mixes with the tangy aroma of damp leaves. Precision squadrons of noisy Canada geese signal their migration south. How fortunate we all are to have this flamboyant season at our doorstep to enjoy.



We're on the web: [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)

Remember to "Like" us on



# LAND TRUST NEWS

I was fortunate to have been at the Jericho Selectboard meeting on September 15, 2016 when Honorary Fire Chief Mr. Randy Clark Sr. was on the agenda to speak about the Rivers property. For a number of years, this land and its future have been discussed. Many travelers on Browns Trace relish the expansive views that help create the scenic gateway to Jericho Center. Mr. Clark began his PowerPoint presentation by giving a quick summary of how the Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) received this property from Alice Rivers. He said that it was a shock as the UJFD had only asked for three acres and the timing was sudden as she wanted the property transferred by January 1st. It was already Christmas time. Mr. Clark went on to explain that offers have been made on certain sections of the Rivers property and the UJFD spent substantial



Photo by Livy Strong

time considering them. But then, he quietly announced with a tear in his eye that their final decision had been made and it was to transfer the Rivers property to the Town of Jericho. Now it was **our** turn to be shocked... and delighted. Similarly he asked that the transaction take place by October 1st, a very short time. Everyone in the room was speechless and very appreciative. We clapped as Mr. Clark shook hands with the Selectboard members and as the other Chiefs came forward. Now, the Town of Jericho and its residents have the opportunity to consider the

ways that the Rivers property can continue its scenic role along with other benefits. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust will be advocating for the conservation of this special land.

ARTICLE BY LIVY STRONG

---

## HOW TO USE THE FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION

In 2015 Congress enacted one of the most powerful conservation measures in decades: the enhanced federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations.

The permanent conservation easement tax incentive is a powerful tool that helps Americans conserve their land voluntarily. For land trusts across the country, the permanent incentive represents vastly increased opportunities to protect the special places in their widely varied communities.

If you own land with important natural, agricultural or historic resources, donating a conservation easement can be a prudent way to both save the land you love forever and to realize significant federal tax savings.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/taxonomy/term/121>



Photo by Phyl Newbeck

# YOU ARE INVITED!

You are invited to attend a JULT field trip ably led by our land Stewardship Chair John Koier.

We will be visiting a working landscape project on our Wolfrun Natural Area parcel that was set in motion 2 years ago. This is the first phase of a wildlife enhancement project that is a function of our Conservation Management Plan. In the Fall/Winter of 2014 a local logger completed a 3/4-acre patch-cut at the direction of our consulting forester. We will be visiting this completed patch-cut to notice changes to the vegetation and evidence of wildlife activity that we may be able to observe as compared to the surrounding untreated landscape. Prepare to see the forest landscape through the eyes of a white tailed deer, turkey or black bear. We recommend hiking shoes or similar sturdy footwear for this moderately strenuous trek over rough terrain.

**October 29, 2016**

**Time: 9:00 AM until Noon.**

**Location: Wolfrun Natural Area North entrance parking area**

**Please contact John at 899-1830 or Livy at 899-2693 with any questions**

## KITCHEN TABLE TALK

The decision to permanently conserve one's land can be a quiet thought, a feeling. Scanning the open meadows and forested hillsides one thinks, what will become of this? How will others enjoy this view and the wildlife that populates it? How can I help ensure that this property retains these features? Over time, questions grow along with the desire to conserve these special places. A phone call is made to the land trust and answers are found. We visit, usually meeting at the kitchen table, to discuss first steps and possibilities. We share the love of the land by walking and listening about it. Thoughtful decisions take time and include other family members as well and so speed is rarely considered. In fact, years can go by from the first wish to protect to the final result. Right now, the JULT is working with several families to help make this happen.



Photo by Livy Strong

### *Membership Matters* .....

Without your continuing membership support, the JULT would not be able to achieve our land conservation mission.

**Won't you send in your 2017 membership renewal today and continue your commitment to help save our towns' rural landscape for tomorrow?** Members will receive newsletters, special event invitations and our distinctive decal.

Gift memberships are also available for the holiday season.



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Burlington, VT  
Permit No. 357

Return Service Requested

## Membership Matters

- Livy Strong  
*Chair*
- John Koier  
*Vice Chair*
- Phyl Newbeck  
*Secretary*
- Hilaire Thomas  
*Treasurer*
- John Schroeder  
*Publications*

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.

