



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall 2017



TEN ACRES PURCHASED AND DONATED TO KIKAS VALLEY FARM

For those who travel on Skunk Hollow Road in Jericho, one of the pleasures is the sweeping view of Kikas Valley Farm's planted fields with Camels Hump as the background. Heading in the opposite direction, one is treated to the scenic vista of Mt. Mansfield with cattle quietly grazing. For over forty-five years, cattle have spent the warmer months browsing along the rugged hillside and finding shade under trees. But this long history of ranching and the extraordinary view of Mt. Mansfield that we all enjoy were about to end. Suddenly this land was placed on the market as a possible house site. Fortunately for all of us this did not happen. On June 30, 2017, this grazing land with a spectacular view was purchased and immediately donated to the Jericho Underhill Land Trust. Now this pastureland is part of the 280-acre Kikas Valley Farm thanks to this very generous act. Skunk Hollow Road travelers can now be assured that this rural scene and use will always remain intact. JULT's mission includes conserving working landscapes, scenic vistas and wildlife habitats. It is not often when one property, Kikas Valley Farm, can accomplish all three. It is also not often that a concerned citizen can step in and positively affect our town's scenic landscape today and for the future.



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

Remember to "Like" us on



CARE ABOUT CAIRNS?

On Saturday October 21st 2017, intrepid explorer Joanna Carpenter will be leading all those interested for a cairn walk. There is no one person better suited for this position as she has a strong passion for discovering these ancient stone constructions and trying to determine their history. The southern portion of the Wolfrun Natural Area encompasses quite a few cairns of different sizes and shapes. The largest at Wolfrun is the platform cairn and there are a number of them.

Cairn expert Norman E. Muller writes this about them.

“One curious lithic feature that the author has been intrigued about, and which may even be more significant than stone chambers, is what is called a platform cairn. This is a large, waist-high stone platform of dry stone masonry, sometimes measuring twenty or more feet to a side, and in form either rectangular, square, oval or some other shape. If constructed on a steep slope, the downhill side of the platform can be



upwards of ten or more feet high, whereas the uphill side is waist high or less. The top surface of these platforms is usually flat and covered with smaller stones called paving, though a rounded surface is not unheard of, as the reader will soon discover.

This was a massive undertaking, and it makes no sense from a practical and agricultural standpoint, given that most farmers in this part of Vermont had a hard enough time just scraping by on a day-to-day basis. And the image of such a farmer, at the end of a hard day, trudging through the woods gathering stones to build a monumental platform cairn having no obvious function is simply ludicrous. Still, in spite of the illogic of such an enterprise, some archaeologists and historians continue to claim that all structures of this sort are colonial unless proven otherwise. So, here we have a scenario of a crazy farmer doing all this work for no obvious purpose.”
<http://www.neara.org/images/pdf/platformcairns.pdf>

Please join us at 10 AM for a casual walk as we explore the ancient cairns of the Wolfrun Natural Area.

There is no better time to explore the diverse properties of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust than the autumn season.

Wild asters, flowering milkweed, Joe Pye weed and many more wildflowers color the landscape. The woods have gotten quieter without the busy warblers for they are heading to their winter homes. Annoying insects have left too.

Now one can walk among the crimson and gold forest trees, the open farm fields, and the rugged and remote wildlife habitats. Your local land trust is planning a number of walks this fall season and we certainly hope that you can join us. Please look at our events section for more information!



QUICK QUIZ!



1. What does “conserved” land mean?
2. Is the Mobbs Farm in Jericho conserved?
3. Is the UVM Research Forest in Jericho conserved?
4. Is the Old Mill Park in Jericho conserved?
5. Is Casey’s Hill in Underhill conserved?

Answers on next page

JULT HIRES A GPS MAPPING CONSULTANT

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the hiring of Hannah Phillips as our GPS consultant. She will be inventorying and mapping our trails at the Wolfrun Natural Area and Kikas Valley Farm. Scattered volunteer efforts in the past have not provided us with a comprehensive map that would prove useful for folks who wish to walk our trails. We are looking forward to having a map that can be downloaded off of our website and be added to a trailhead kiosk. Information will include directions to our two properties, parking, length of each trail and hiking time involved.



EVENTS

September 30, 2017 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Mills Riverside Park

Join Vermont Land Trust staff and Jericho Underhill Land Trust board members for an exploration of the many wildlife habitats at Mills Riverside Park. This is a 40th Anniversary celebration event for the Vermont Land Trust. We are very pleased that preeminent field ecologist and Jericho resident, Liz Thompson, will be leading this casual walk. Refreshments will be provided.

October 14, 2017 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Kikas Valley Farm

Join us as we hunt and destroy invasive Japanese barberry shrubs. Originally used as a landscaping plant, Japanese barberry has spread throughout Vermont's forests and open fields.

October 21, 2017 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Wolfrun Natural Area

Join Joanna Carpenter as she leads a walk on the wild side, discovering ancient cairns that are carefully constructed and have stood the test of time. Some are in the shape of an animal with long tails, some pillar like with quartz inserts. All are intriguing. Carpooling at the Jericho Community Center at 9:30 a.m.

Answers to the Quick Quiz

- 1. "Conserved" land means that a legal document called a conservation easement permanently restricts certain uses. Typically this includes development.
- 2. NO
- 3. NO
- 4. YES
- 5. YES

There is no other way to ensure the protection of land in perpetuity.

Membership Matters

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is funded entirely through membership donations. If you are a member, **THANK YOU!** If you are not, please consider joining as our ability to protect our towns' rural heritage depends on it. Simply fill out the membership panel in this newsletter with a check to JULT. One can also join via our website at www.jult.org. **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**. All contributions are tax-deductible.

