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Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Autumn 2018



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!)

Please contact me regarding:

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

Other Considerations:

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

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.

P.O. Box 80 • Jericho, VT 05465-0080 • 802-899-2693 • julandtrust@gmail.com • www.jult.org
www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust

AUTUMN THOUGHTS

The first hints of autumn are subtle. Green ferns tinge with cinnamon brown, bright yellow goldenrods and sparkling blue asters start to dot the fields. The moving show of autumn begins even before we are ready to say "goodbye" to the heat of summer. Yet, we eagerly welcome this brief but brilliant season. We anticipate the annual ritual of color that will predictably unfold. The first hints of a changing season are quickly followed by the explosion of color that transforms our landscape. This is leaf-turning time. Every deciduous tree flashes its flaming reds, yellows and golds. Evergreens quietly provide the deep green contrast. Days get shorter and colder. The garden receives its first hard frost and field and forest colors intensify. Late afternoon sunlight magnifies this spectacular autumn show. How fortunate we are to experience this extraordinary display of nature in the place that we all call home.



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

Remember to "Like" us on



JULT IN OUR COMMUNITY, YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT WORK

JULT is busy working with several landowners in both towns to conserve extremely scenic and productive hayfields. Appraisals are underway. We look forward to updating this information soon.

JULT is working with the Mobbs Committee and the Jericho Trails Committee to advocate for the permanent protection of the Town owned Mobbs Farm. This 278-acre forested property offers miles of recreational trails, expansive field views and also serves as the location of the Town garage and a future solar array. Without protection, the most critical areas of Mobbs Farm for recreation and wildlife habitat could be developed and lost for public enjoyment in the future.

JULT supports Underhill's Town Stabilization Land Contract that reduces taxes for landowners of larger properties as an incentive to keep land open and undeveloped. A similar contract was terminated in Jericho and we propose that it be reintroduced.

JULT applauds Jericho's Natural Resource Overlay that was created after years of careful inventory by the Jericho Conservation Commission.

JULT is advocating for increased funding to the "Open Space/Public Use line item in Jericho's Town budget and for the Town of Underhill to consider a similar line item, which helps to fund land conservation along with public access improvements.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

How important is Old Mill Park, Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, the Wolfrun Natural Area, Kikas Valley Farm and over 1500 acres permanently conserved property within our community? THANK YOU for your membership to JULT as this is our only funding and it allows more conservation work within Underhill and Jericho. NOT a member? Please join us by filling out the membership panel and sending it back to us.



WELCOME SABINA ERNST TO OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

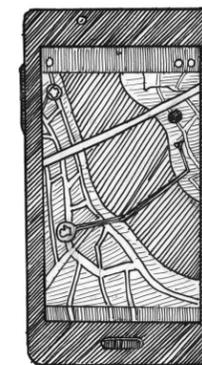
The Jericho Underhill Land Trust's newest board member, Sabina Ernst, has been gardening since she was a child. That sparked a broad interest in the natural world which has continually developed. After taking a Field Ornithology course in college, Sabina's interest in nature expanded to the amazing world of birds and she has been an avid birder ever since. In 1992 she had the wonderful opportunity to work as a field intern on Mattinicus Rock, Maine studying Atlantic Puffins and Common Terns with Audubon's Project Puffin. In 2004 she became interested in the sustainable gardening movement and has been gardening for wildlife by using native perennials and nurturing the native ecosystems in her gardens. She was on the volunteer-led committee which helped certify her former town as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat, and now in Jericho she applied for and received a grant from the New England Wildflower Society to plant a Pollinator Friendly garden in the Town Green in August, 2018. Sabina is passionate about the environment and believes in being a good steward of the land. After moving to Jericho, she became curious about Land Conservation and began attending JULT monthly meetings, leading to a position on the board in 2018. She is proud to serve with the JULT board and promote conservation of land in Jericho, Underhill, and beyond. Sabina is currently on hiatus from her career as a small animal veterinarian but hopes to return to clinical practice sometime in the future.

WHAT IS PERMANENT LAND CONSERVATION?

The most traditional tool for conserving land is called a "conservation easement". This is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land, primarily development, in order to protect the property's special conservation values. These restrictions remain with the land and continue with all subsequent landowners. This is why land trusts describe property as permanently conserved. The land trust that holds the easement is responsible for ensuring that year after year the restrictions within the conservation easement are being followed. This is a huge responsibility that never ends as the property is monitored in perpetuity. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust often partners with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) so that the larger organization holds the easement. Effectively monitoring land often requires specially trained staff members and the financial resources to go to court, if necessary, when a property violation is found. In fact, the I.R.S. requires that any land trust that holds a conservation easement MUST have the funding necessary to effectively monitor and enforce. As many know, zoning regulations will not protect land as they can be revised every five years. Deed covenants are also not reliable. If you are a landowner who wishes to conserve some or all of your property so that the unique natural features will remain, there is no better way than to contact a land trust.

GPS TRAIL MAPS

Thank you Hannah Phillips for providing the GPS trail maps that can now be found on our website at www.jult.org. Just click on Conserved Properties. These maps better enable visitors to find and enjoy the Wolfrun Natural Area and Kikas Valley Farm. Many hours of work and we thank you!



YOU ARE INVITED! GET OUT AND ENJOY OUR AUTUMN

September 22, 2018 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Mills Riverside Park - Who better to help us explore the diverse habitats and autumn wildflowers of the park than Liz Thompson. She is the Director of Conservation Science for the Vermont Land Trust and co-author of *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont*. Liz also helped start Vermont's Natural Heritage program that protects fragile natural areas. In addition, Liz also teaches field botany and plant ecology at the University of Vermont. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the natural world around us. There will be refreshments at the pavilion and all are welcome.



October 20, 2018 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Wolfrun Natural Area - Come join us for a beautiful autumn walk to explore the historic platform cairns with Joanna Carpenter. These ancient cairns were 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.

October 27th, 2018 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Wolfrun Natural Area - Land Stewardship Director, John Koier, will be leading this incredible walk. Using the Beers Atlas of 1869 as our guide, we will visit some of the cellar holes, foundations, walls and wells found on our "Gateway" addition to our conserved Wolfrun Natural Area. These historical artifacts hidden in plain site on land that has now grown up to tall trees, but was once cleared and farmed, could tell many stories of the determined people who managed to eek out a living under challenging circumstances in the town of Bolton. Please join us as we attempt to honor and bring to life a slice of Vermont's early agricultural past. As parking is limited, we will carpool from the Jericho Community Center at 9:30 a.m.

**Please contact JULT at 899-2693
or julandtrust@gmail.com
with any questions.**