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Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall Newsletter 2022



The Davis Farm

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:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward Membership | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Membership | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Membership | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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
- ☐ Other planned giving opportunities
- ☐ Volunteer opportunities:
 - ☐ Fundraising/Events
 - ☐ Office/Administration
 - ☐ Trails/Land Stewardship

Legacy Planning:

Please consider JULT gifts that might include a bequest or charitable income gift. Ask an attorney or estate planner about your options.

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.

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www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust

AUTUMN SPLENDOR

The gradual change of seasons from summer to fall is almost imperceptible. Green ferns are the first to hint of the colder months when their slender leaves tinge 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 full 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



DAVIS FARM: Conservation Around the Corner

JULT is pleased to report that the conservation of 181-acres of the Davis Farm is well underway. Thanks to our very supportive community, JULT was able to raise the \$50,000 necessary to protect this land. The draft form of the conservation easement is being written. The baseline documentation report has started. This report is a series of photos, texts and maps that record the property as it exists now and will be used in perpetuity as a reference. We look forward to updating you on the continuing progress!

Celebrating Land Conservation!

JULT's Annual meeting on August 1st was a great success. We were extremely pleased to host our gathering at Mills Riverside Park's pavilion. Talking about land conservation on conserved land is especially gratifying! Our guest speaker was Craig Newman of the non-profit, Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OFES). He brought along a barred owl, Eastern screech owl and a great horned owl. Craig had rehabilitated each bird after devastating injuries. None could be returned to the wild and therefore they serve as wild ambassadors. Craig's presentation was very educational as he introduced each bird and explained their natural habitat needs and the ways in which birds can get hurt. Most are hit by cars; others fly into netted soccer goals and get caught. For this reason, all nets should be removed from soccer goals when not in use and still on the field. For those who would like to learn more about OFES, please go to <http://www.ofesvt.org>.

Craig's owl presentation may be watched on Mt. Mansfield Community TV.



Craig Newman with a barred owl.



WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT!

Where does JULT's ability to conserve land come from? It comes from members like you who support your local land trust. JULT receives no other funding, so we depend on your help. Over the years, we have worked to conserve over 2000 acres, with most of this land available for recreational enjoyment. Whether it is Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, the Tomasi Meadow, the Wolfrun Natural Area, Kikas Valley Farm, Old Mill Park or Mobbs Farm, none of these lands would have been saved without your membership donations. **Please renew your membership today so that we can continue to protect our community's treasured landscape for the future! Gift memberships also available.**

Taking Care of JULT's Land

John Koier, JULT's Land Stewardship Director, reported at our Annual Meeting that JULT currently owns, pays taxes on and manages almost 800 acres of land in Jericho, Richmond, and Bolton. Michael Brown of Birdseye Consulting is our new consulting forester for Kikas Valley Farm. He has incorporated some bird-friendly practices which were developed in conjunction with Audubon Vermont. We have continued invasive plant removal with Will Dunkling, of Trout Lily Forestry Services LLC, to reduce and hopefully eliminate large patches of Japanese barberry, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose in the woodlands above the farm fields. Last summer, we started the federal grant application process to perform riparian stream bank improvements along both sides of the small stream that flows through the Ten Acre Pasture. This land offers a gorgeous view of Mt. Mansfield for all who travel on Skunk Hollow Rd. heading to Jericho Corners. The grant was approved, and work should be completed in the fall.

Beavers have returned to Moose Pond at the Wolfrun/Gateway property this year. They clogged the culvert with mud and branches under the ancient land bridge. This land bridge is our only access point to the northwestern section of the property. After cleaning it out several times with costly heavy equipment, (\$500 and then \$800) we sought the advice of Tyler Brown, the beaver expert at Vermont Fish and Wildlife. We now have a beaver exclusion fencing system to prevent this from happening again. John also walked the Wolfrun Natural Area with Chittenden County Forester, Ethan Tapper, who ensured that we are compliant with our forest management plan. Stewarding land for public access and wildlife habitat is expensive. We thank our members for supporting these efforts.



Change of Board Positions

Hilaire Thomas, after many years as treasurer, is stepping down and concentrating on our membership data base. We welcome board member Lisa Paone, who will be filling the treasurer's role. Thank you to both Hilaire and Lisa for your willingness to serve in these positions for JULT.

YOU ARE INVITED!

September 24, 2022 10 a.m. to 12-noon

Fall Wildflower Walk at Mills Riverside Park

Come join Liz Thompson for a casual walk along the trails of the park. We will be exploring the many plants that brighten the landscape and provide fall color. Liz is the Director of Conservation Science for the Vermont Land Trust and co-author of *Wetland, Woodland, Wild-land: 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!

October 1, 2022 10 a.m. 12-noon

Cairn Walk at Wolfrun

Come explore the ancient cairns of the Wolfrun Natural Area with Joanna Carpenter. Joanna has been leading this walk for many years and is excited to continue following the pandemic. This is a true adventure into the pre-colonial past as many believe the cairns were constructed by Native Americans. Some of these stone structures are in the shape of animals with long, winding tails, some are pillar-like with quartz inserts. All are intriguing. These cairns can be found at Wolfrun's southern entrance where there is no roadside parking. A quarter mile walk on Stage Rd. is required to access this area and return. So, expect a fair amount of walking. Registration is required. Please email us at julandtrust@gmail.com or call at 808-899-2693 to register. Please also contact JULT with any questions.