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Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall Newsletter 2023



Corey Froning of The Farm Upstream with garlic scapes

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.

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.

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.

The Hunt Farm, Purchased and Conserved!

With great excitement, we report the purchase and conservation of the Hunt Farm by the young farmers called, The Farm Upstream. Thanks to tremendous community support, JULT was able to raise the \$20,000 necessary to close the conservation easement funding gap with over 60 donors. Now, our community can look forward to a new generation of farmers working the scenic, agricultural land stretching along Lee River Rd. in Jericho. Here is what Jake Kornfeld from The Farm Upstream wrote about this amazing farming opportunity.

"Conserving the Hunt Farm means that the land will forever be kept open and available for agriculture. This is a parcel that deserves our appreciation and protection. We have grown even more sure of that after seeing how it fared in the recent flooding, during which all the fields drained well and stayed out of the river. That gives us confidence that as the world grows more turbulent in the coming years, this piece of land will still yield opportunities to produce food for the community, opportunities that very likely would have been lost forever without conservation.

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



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

Remember to "Like" us on



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Conservation would have been far more challenging without JULT support. Given Jericho's desirable location and this parcel's remarkable features, the easement value exceeded the amount we would have been able to secure with the Vermont Land Trust. Not only did JULT raise private funds for the easement, you also made us aware of the opportunities through the town conservation reserve fund and supported us through that application process. When we realized that the full easement value would be paid without us having to spend down all our cash savings we were elated. It means that we will have some money left after the property purchase to start to make our vision for the land a reality. The first project will be rehabilitating the old farmhouse to house two families. While that is happening, we will be working to turn the garage into a farm stand, which we hope to have up and running by next summer.

With the easement fundraising, we also gained a deeper appreciation of what a welcoming community we will be setting down roots in. Clearly, the Jericho community values its agricultural lands and is seeking more opportunities to engage with them. We're looking forward to providing that engagement!

As we restore the infrastructure in the coming seasons, we will be working just as hard to restore the soil. The "parent soil" at the farm is excellent, but years of taking off hay without amendment have left the soils lacking in immediately usable nutrients. We will be implementing diversified fruit and vegetable cropping systems that improve the land even as we harvest crops from it. There are a thousand things we want to do, but realistically, it's all going to shift as we get to know the farm and the community better. That said, our first steps in production will be a market garden providing the fresh, healthy foods we've all come to appreciate from local growers, a laying hen flock, and the planting of berries and fruit trees."

Green "Conserved Land" Signs Go Back Up!

How much land has JULT conserved over 24 years? Several thousand acres which include a mix of public and private properties, farm and forest, and remote wildlife habitats. Our green signs indicate the most notable lands along our busy roadsides. Take a look and share the importance of these green signs with friends and neighbors, many of whom are unaware of the importance of permanent land conservation. For just a few, Casey's Hill, the Tomasi Meadow, Mills Riverside Park, Old Mill Park, Kikas Valley Farm, Mobbs Farm, the Barber Farm, the Wolfrun Natural Area, and now, The Farm Upstream! This conservation work is ONLY possible because of your strong membership support. **THANK YOU!**



YOU ARE INVITED!

JULT Annual Meeting

Monday, October 2nd - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Underhill Town Hall

Come celebrate a busy year of land conservation at our Annual Meeting! Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. with a short business meeting at 7 p.m. We are delighted to have Jaclyn Comeau, a wildlife biologist and the **Black Bear Project** Leader for the *Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department* as our guest speaker. Her topic will be about living with black bears.

For over nine years, Jaclyn has led black bear research and education in Vermont. As a Black Bear Project Leader, she works to coordinate and conduct research evaluating the effects of industrial wind development within large bear-scarred beech concentrations on black bears. She also captures black bears to fit them with satellite GPS collars. She studies black bear activity and habitat use via telemetry and remote camera data. She evaluates roads as potential landscape barriers in cooperation with Staying Connected Initiative. And finally, Jaclyn assists Vermont residents with resolving human-bear conflicts. Bring your questions and learn more about our important black bear neighbors.

Farmers' Market

October 5th - 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Mills Riverside Park

Come visit us at the Farmers' Market! We are always delighted to meet with our wonderful community and answer any questions about JULT.



Thanksgiving Thoughts

Vermonters have much to be grateful for throughout the year, but autumn is especially rewarding. We embrace our brilliant landscape with its reds, yellows, and greens. We relish the tangy, sweet smell of wood smoke and the crisp bite of a Macintosh apple. Our outdoor thoughts turn to enjoying the variety of trails that connect us to our vibrant, rural landscape. Soon, we'll be adding snowshoes or skis to our feet as we explore the countryside. We'll be anticipating another beautiful season in Vermont, winter.

As cherished as our open and forested lands are, like everything beautiful and unique, it's fragile and therefore in peril. JULT is thankful to be part of a strong community that appreciates the rural landscape that rests below the broad shoulders of Mt. Mansfield. Thank you for supporting JULT through your membership!