



THE SIGNS OF FALL...

Maple leaves tinged with red, the first whiff of wood smoke, shorter days with crisp nights; the Autumn world is upon us. Summer has lost its lazy hold and the routine chores of winter preparation replace it. Fill the woodshed, bed the garden, rake leaves, and pull out the heavy clothes. Canada geese announce their departure across the blue skies. The countryside and all of its creatures are preparing for the next season and it is a long one, winter. A celebration of color frames the open fields as Autumn deepens. How fortunate we all are to experience this beauty every year and right at home.



FOCUS ON FALL

Some folks approach the fall season with a bit of dismay that the spring and summer are so soon over. But many others welcome the new season with anticipation of the particular beauty that only the fall offers. Enjoy with us a few photos taken in September and October at three special places. Places that have been acquired and conserved by JULT and its members.

Permanently conserved in 2003, the 279-acre **Wolfrun Natural Area** is a beautiful and diverse habitat of forest, wetland and ledges. Wolfrun is home to many wildlife species including moose, bear, bobcat, heron and beaver.

Check out the photo below of the large beaver lodge with a great blue heron nest just to the right of it. And then a close-up of the nest - the herons, however, have fledged and were gone by the beginning of August. The beaver downed tree pictured is over 1 foot in diameter! The phone next to the pile of bear scat measures 5 inches, giving a sense of scale. And lastly, there is JULT's good friend Logan waiting for permission to cross a gate.



Acquired and conserved in 2005 is the 280-acre **Kikas Valley Farm**. 75 acres is leased to a local farmer, the balance is mostly wooded and includes walking trails and a section of the VAST trail. Pictured here first is a view of the farmland with the woods behind. The second photo is of JULT board chair Livy Strong along with her dog, and board vice-chair John Koier.



Membership Matters

JULT is eager to work with landowners and the community to conserve. It also supports the careful stewardship. Adding signs are necessary and ongoing.

Membership renewal starts January 1st. If you are not a member, please join. Members receive our newsletter, distinctive decal and the pleasure of



JULT purchased and conserved the **Gateway** land in 2009. These 123 acres is adjacent to the Wolfrun Natural Area and also consists of diverse wildlife habitat. In addition there are fascinating sites from homes and farms of the past consisting of foundations, wells and extensive stonewalls.

Pictured below at Gateway are a garter snake in its cover of leaves, a beautiful display of bottle gentian and the crew that participated in the Science to Nature Project hike entitled "A Walk into the Past."

All three of these beautiful places are open to the public and your visit now or any time of year is welcomed. Please visit jult.org for additional information.



Article and photos by John Schroeder

HOW DOES A LAND TRUST CONSERVE LAND?

Land trusts have many options available to them in order to conserve land. Two of the most popular options are fee simple and conservation easements.

FEE SIMPLE

A land trust can conserve land through an outright purchase or donation, in which the landowner sells or grants all rights, title and interest in the property to the land trust. The land trust maintains perpetual stewardship and management responsibility for the land. It owns the land and may grant conservation easements on land it owns in fee to another conservation organization, agency or town.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A conservation easement (or conservation restriction) is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows the landowner to continue to own and use the land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

A landowner may sell a conservation easement, but usually easements are donated. If the donation benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources and meets other federal tax code requirements, it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. The amount of the donation is the difference between the land's value with the easement and its value without the easement. Placing an easement on property may or may not result in property tax savings.

Perhaps most importantly, a conservation easement can be essential for passing land on to the next generation. By removing the land's development potential, the easement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax. Whether the easement is donated during life or by will, it can make a critical difference in the heirs' ability to keep the land intact.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/conservation/documents/landowners.pdf>

Please feel free to contact JULT with any questions about conserving your land.

...
 ve our towns' important landscape. Your membership contribution
 rdship of the land that we own. The maintenance of trails and

...
 se join. Also, for gift giving, consider a membership to JULT. All
 knowing that you are saving the special places that we all call home.





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Membership Matters

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

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 _____

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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.

