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*Membership Matters!*



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Winter Newsletter 2022



Organic grass-fed cows at 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:

- ☐ **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
- ☐ 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](http://www.jult.org)**.  
All contributions are tax-deductible.

P.O. Box 80 • Jericho, VT 05465-0080 • 802-899-2693 • [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) • [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust](http://www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust)



We're on the web: [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)

Remember to "Like" us on



For three generations, the Davis family has farmed this extraordinarily scenic landscape along Cilley Hill Rd. in Jericho. Cedric Davis first began the family dairy business in the 1940's. Ever since then, cows have strolled the open meadows and gathered in the barn for daily milking. This routine continues with Tammy and Gary Davis and their 130-cow dairy herd. Once a farm among many, today the Davis farm is the LAST dairy farm in Jericho. Besides the organic milk that they sell, farm fresh eggs and carefully crafted compost are also available.

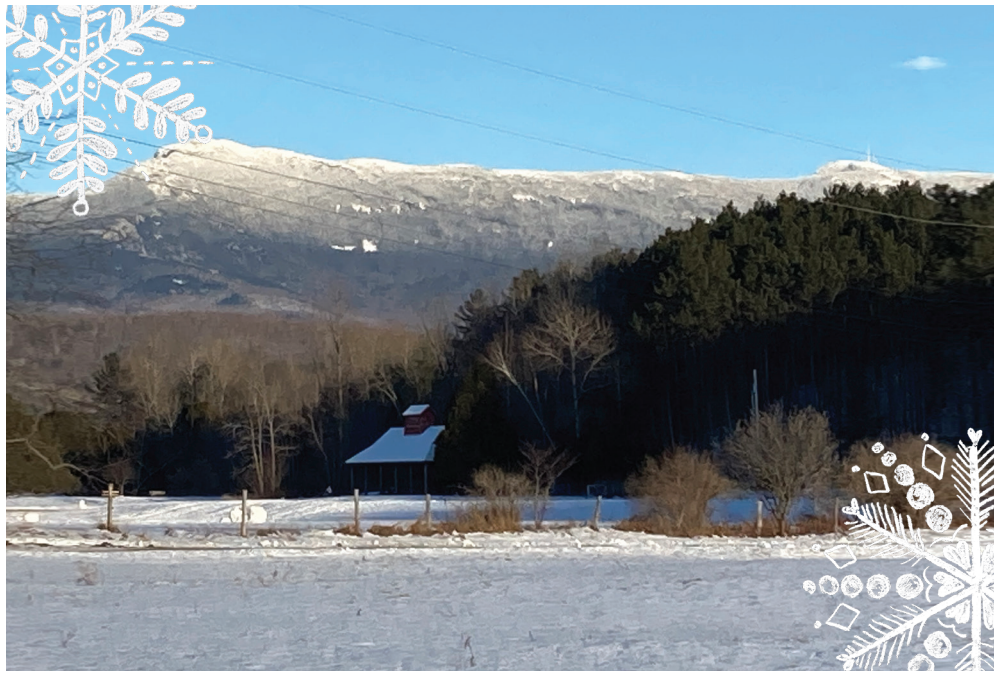
Right now, the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) are working with Gary and Tammy Davis to conserve 181-acres of their farm. Their intense love of their land along with the rich history of stewardship over multiple generations provided a strong reason to conserve. Encroaching housing development also offered a motivation to reach out to both land trusts for assistance. A permanent conservation easement involves appraising the value of the development rights and including the additional project costs. This easement will ensure that the farm's excellent soils will remain in agriculture and be protected....forever! The amount that needs to be raised is \$751,000. A grant application to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) was successful with \$701,000 being awarded towards this goal.

The JULT is raising the additional \$50,000 needed. We are extremely pleased to say that we are well on our way! Generous community members have already donated \$30,000. **Please consider joining us and sending a tax-deductible donation to JULT** with the Davis Farm listed on the memo line or a Pay Pal donation through our website at [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org). Our mailing address is JULT P.O. Box 80, Jericho, VT. 05465. Together, we can help conserve the Davis Farm for today and tomorrow. If you have already given, THANK YOU!

For more information about the Davis Farm, please go to their website at <http://davisfarmvermont.com>.

## Another Land Conservation Opportunity!

In the twenty-three years that JULT has been very active, we have never had more than one conservation project at a time. Well, 2022 is the exception! We are thrilled to be working alongside the Davis family to protect 181-acres of their farmland. We are also concluding the conservation of the Jericho town-owned land, Mobbs Farm. AND we are also undertaking the purchase of the Riverside Meadow.



Riverside Meadow (A Visual Gateway to Mt. Mansfield)

Eastbound travelers on Vermont RT. 15 are routinely greeted with a magnificent view of Mt. Mansfield. Much of this scenic corridor is permanently protected with the conservation of Mills Riverside Park. However, the 11-acre meadow that precedes the park is not conserved. If houses were to be located on this active hayfield, they would intrude on this sweeping view. Houses would remove the rural expanse that we are accustomed to seeing and the agricultural use of these acres would end. Wildlife would also be displaced. Beyond the scenic and agricultural importance of this land, there is a rare and historic reason to keep this property open and undeveloped. According to local historian, Gary Irish, the original cabin built by the Brown family in 1774 is located here. These early settlers of Jericho selected this spot for their farm and continued to stay, even after their first cabin burnt down.

In addition to protecting this meadow, the Jericho Underhill Park District (Mills Riverside Park) will receive an easement which will allow ambulance

and maintenance vehicles to access the park via the driveway. As many of you know, the covered bridge, now under reconstruction, has a maximum load limit of only 10,000 pounds. This severely limits important vehicular entry.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) has signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Charron (Balch) family to buy this pastoral land for \$200,000. We have until March 31st, 2022 to purchase this property. The opportunity is now to ensure that the Riverside Meadow remains intact and continues to provide a very scenic gateway to Mt. Mansfield.

JULT is offering a Challenge Grant that will match every dollar that we receive up to \$25,000. Won't you help us protect this important landscape for today and tomorrow? Please send a donation to JULT with Riverside Meadow on the check memo line or contribute via Pay Pal on our website at [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org). Thank you!

**Please contact JULT at [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) with any questions.**  
**Other event ideas that you may have...just let us know!**

**We are extremely pleased to have Lisa Paone join our board of trustees!**

## Welcome Lisa Paone

Lisa Paone has lived in Jericho with her family for over 30 years. She and her husband, Eddie, have raised two children here. Lisa recently retired from working in the office at the Jericho Elementary School. Prior to that she worked for United Airlines until she took an early retirement with them. Lisa has appreciated the natural world around her since she was a child. Along with this appreciation, she also recognized the need to protect the land. Over the years Lisa has had the opportunity to hike in many beautiful areas of the world and realizes how important it is to protect our open land, our wildlife, and the beautiful landscapes that nature has created. She is a regular on trails at both Mills Riverside Park and Mobbs Farm. She is excited to be a part of the JULT working to conserve and protect land in Jericho and Underhill.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**You Are Invited!** Please put these dates on your spring calendar. More details will follow in our next newsletter. Please also check our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and Front Porch Forum for important JULT updates.

**May 2 7:00 p.m. JULT Annual Meeting** - Let's celebrate land conservation! Guest speaker to be announced.

**May 7th, 10:00 a.m.** - Join Michele Tulis as she leads her annual spring wildflower walk at Mills Riverside Park. Not to be missed!

**May 14th, 7:00 a.m.** - Join Evergreen Erb and Sabina Ernst on our annual bird watching expedition at Mills Riverside Park. This will be preceded by a Deborah Rawson Library bird presentation on **May 12th at 6 p.m.** This will be a hybrid event so that you can attend remotely.

## Winter Brilliance

Winter brings us brittle cold days, bright blue skies, and sparkling sunshine. Snow softens the contours of the land and gives us sliding, skiing, and more outdoor fun. Ice glistens bright; clean and clear. How fortunate we are to live in this magical, frozen wonderland. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is pleased to have permanently conserved some of these very special places for winter enjoyment which include Casey's Hill and the Tomasi Meadow. We look forward to an exciting new year of accomplishments in 2022.

## Inaugural Land and Lives Award goes to Livy Strong of Jericho Underhill Land Trust

(Press release from the Vermont Land Trust)

This year, the Vermont Land Trust launched a new award to honor an individual who has strengthened connections between land and lives for the enduring benefit of all.

"Vermont's working landscape is a rich mix of traditions as well as new challenges and opportunities," said VLT President & CEO Nick Richardson. "To reflect this, the Land and Lives Award recognizes the dynamic nature of conservation and the importance of relationship to land."

Livy Strong, volunteer president and founder of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT), was honored with the first Land and Lives Award. Over decades of committed effort, JULT has conserved nearly 2,000 acres and now owns 650+ acres in Jericho, Richmond, and Bolton.

"Livy has been a driving force behind JULT and the Jericho Underhill Park District for their entire existence," said VLT's Bob Heiser. "For more than 30 years, Livy has fundraised and worked tirelessly to conserve Mills Riverside Park, Wolfrun Natural Area, the sledding destination Casey's Hill, Kikas Valley Farm, the Barber Farm, and Tomasi Meadow. All these are open to local communities and visitors from far and wide."

"I feel extremely honored to receive the inaugural Land and Lives Award," said Livy Strong. "This achievement would not be possible without a strong, supportive community. I would also like to recognize our hardworking board members of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust."