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*Membership Matters!*



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

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

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[www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust](http://www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust)



Spring at the Wolfrun Natural Area

## SPRING IMPRESSIONS

Imperceptible at first, the subtle nuances of spring hint at the new season arriving. The drip of maple sap joins the drip of melting snow. The first tentative blossoms emerge from the heavy weight of winter. Fresh green leaves start to color the monochrome forest. Ponds open, days lengthen, the sun warms. Bold new colors transform the countryside. Everything is new again. How fortunate we all are to experience this annual miracle first hand, in the woods and on the meadow.



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

Remember to "Like" us on





## SEVENTY ACRES SAVED AND DONATED!

We are extremely grateful for the purchase and donation of seventy forested acres of land that will be added to Kikas Valley Farm. This very generous donation builds on over two hundred acres of forest that exists within Kikas Valley Farm. For the first time in a century, Vermont is losing forestland at a significant rate. Development is increasing twice as fast as our state's population and forest fragmentation is the end result. Larger, contiguous forested areas are being broken into smaller and smaller pieces. Once forest integrity is lost, many species also lose their habitats as they are forced into an "edge" forest with less protection. The human species also loses when

forests are fragmented as there is less carbon sequestration, less water filtration and less climate mitigation. Recreational pursuits are also in jeopardy.

Adding these seventy acres keeps a large tract of forest intact and healthy. We are extremely thankful for this wonderful gift of land to the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and we look forward to introducing this property to you soon. Just check our EVENTS section.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is dedicated to protecting our community's working landscape, scenic vistas, and important wildlife habitats. This work continues every day and includes talking with interested landowners, town commissions and community members. Our efforts depend entirely on membership donations. If you are not a member, or need to renew, please use the panel on the newsletter. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to continue our work to save the important places that we all call home.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Your local land trust is seeking those who are interested in land conservation to help us become even more efficient. We can use your help in many ways. Whether it is land stewardship, natural habitat inventory, GPS mapping, publicity, event planning, data base, a board position, you name it. If you would like to know more about the many opportunities to help JULT become even better, just contact us at 899-2693 or julandtrust@gmail.com



## EVENTS

**May 7 Monday – ANNUAL MEETING Jericho Community Center.** Everyone is invited to help us celebrate another year of land conservation! **Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m.** with a short business meeting at 7:00 p.m. We are very excited to have State Biologist, Tom Rogers, as our keynote speaker. His presentation is titled, **"Wildlife in a Changing Climate"**. Rogers has worked on a variety of conservation projects, researching zebras in Kenya, golden-winged warblers in New York, sage grouse and bald eagles in Wyoming, and grizzly bears in Montana. Tom currently works in outreach for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, connecting the public with fish and wildlife through writing, speaking, and photography. Through colorful photos and captivating stories, the audience will come away with a new understanding of how climate change is affecting wildlife. Rogers will talk about what people can do to help conserve biodiversity in Vermont in the face of these new threats. "From warmer, wetter winters to increasingly severe storms, wildlife faces a variety of challenges from a changing climate," said Rogers. "We'll discuss how different species might continue to respond to many of these challenges and what conservationists are doing to address them." Again, everyone is invited to attend this free event.

**May 9 Wednesday – Deborah Rawson Memorial Library 6:30 to 8 p.m.** Look forward to an exciting presentation by Evergreen Erb about birds in Vermont. The talk will include a special emphasis on the birds that we may see at the park during Saturday's walk on May 12th. Evergreen will also include the natural history of select birds and will also focus on their songs. Learn, go and see!

**May 12 Saturday – 20th Annual Bird Walk! 7 a.m. Mills Riverside Park** One of the most noticeable indications of spring is the return of our spring migrant birds. We are always pleased to have Evergreen Erb, with the assistance of Sabina Ernst, lead another exciting bird walk at Mills Riverside Park. Evergreen has led this casual walk for 20 years and counting! We expect to see newly arrived warblers, Baltimore oris, Eastern kingbirds, song sparrows and many more. These birds arrive decked out in vivid, full breeding plumage and announce their presence with a variety of songs. Bring your binoculars and plan on a fun walk whether you are a beginning birder or an expert.

**May 20 Saturday – 2nd Annual Spring Wildflower Walk! 10 a.m. Mills Riverside Park** Michele Tulis will take us on a spring wildflower exploration as we casually walk some of the forested trails of Mills Riverside Park. We expect to see red and white trillium, Spring beauty, Jack in the Pulpit, trout lily, bloodroot, Dutchmans's Breeches, and more. Wear boots as the trails can be muddy.

**June 16 Saturday – New Forest Walk at Kikas Valley Farm, Jericho 10 a.m.** Join us as we walk the trail that links our farmland to the donated 70-acre forest parcel. We will talk about forest integrity, signs of a healthy forest, and the working land history of this area. The trail is rugged and climbs the hillside, so we will take our time. We will meet in the small Kikas Valley Farm parking lot off of Tyler Place and on the left.