



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Spring 2013



Come join us on **May 6** for our Annual Meeting with special guest presenter Craig Newman from Outreach for Earth Stewardship (O.F.E.S) and several live bird ambassadors. O.F.E.S. was founded in 1989 and is based in Shelburne, Vermont. Licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, O.F.E.S. is a non-profit organization that focuses on environmental education and raptor rehabilitation. The hawks and owls that serve as wild ambassadors cannot be released due to their injury but continue to represent their wild living counterparts and give us an opportunity to meet them up close and personal. Craig will explain what roles these magnificent birds play in a healthy ecosystem and how the lives of these wild creatures intertwine with our own lives.

Our annual meeting will take place at the Underhill Town Hall and will start with refreshments at 6:30 PM. A short business meeting will follow. Everyone is invited, member and non-member, adults and children. A free raffle includes beautiful wildlife prints as prizes.



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

Remember to "Like" us on



LET'S CELEBRATE SPRING! *Come Join Us.*

April 28

Wolfrun Workday, trail clearing and apple tree release follow-up. Bring your bow saw and loppers if you have such and plan to arrive at 9:00 AM and be done by noon. Call John Koier 899-1830 for directions and more information.

May 6

Annual Meeting, 6:30PM at the Underhill Town Hall with guest presenter Craig Newman from Outreach for Earth Stewardship.

May 11

Mills Riverside Park, join the Jericho Conservation Commission and JULT for removal of invasive Japanese knotweed along the river bank. Bring your shovel and boots and plan to put some serious effort into removing this species that is rapidly out colonizing our native riparian plants from 9:00 AM until noon. Call John Koier 899-1830 if you need more information.

May 17 & 19

Yearly Bird Walk with Evergreen Erb and Maeve Kim. Join Evergreen for a delightful slide preview of our favorite local birds and recent spring migrants at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library's Fireside Room at 6:30 PM on May 17. Then meet again at Mills Riverside Park with Evergreen and Maeve at 7AM on May 19thth for an exquisite, leisurely walk. Bring your binoculars and get ready to celebrate the variety of birds found within the park's numerous habitats. The event series is co-sponsored by the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Come to both events or pick one. Please call Livy at 899-2693 with any questions.

WOLFRUN NATURAL AREA Conservation Plan Update Completed

It's hard to believe that it was ten years ago that the JULT stepped up to the plate and did what was necessary to permanently conserve the Wolfrun Natural Area. Since the beginning of our ownership of this property it has been enrolled in the Vermont State Land Use Value Program. This program helps to preserve open land in our Vermont towns by lowering the taxable value to reflect the actual use of the property, which in this case is a wildlife preserve. To stay in compliance with this program we are required by the state to adhere to a management plan, which needs to be renewed every ten years.

Our foresters Susan Morse and Alan Thompson completed the fieldwork and presented the new plan that we just approved. Now we are good for another ten years!

The plan is a Conservation Forest Management Plan and does not require any major timber harvesting but only thinning with the objective of wildlife habitat improvement: beech, black cherry, serviceberry and oak release work and some general thinning that will benefit bobcat, black bear, moose, white tailed deer, river otter and mink which are all documented inhabitants of this rugged and valuable wildlife reserve.

Spring Emerges



The first signs of spring are tentative and the pace seems slow. Frozen icicles begin their methodical drip as the snow grudgingly releases its hold. The winter battered hills soften with the first hint of color, buds and then baby leaves to follow. The long sleep of winter is over and life and activity return to our woods and pastures. Maple sugaring signals early spring just as confidently as the birds in the trees. Lambs dot our farmscapes and remind us about the annual renewal of life that is spring. Tilling begins as the chilly earth warms and the growing season begins. The song of spring peepers and the robust yellow of marsh marigold relieve our winter weary senses. Yes, spring is here! Let's celebrate the promise of new life by getting out into the woods and fields and enjoying the immense natural beauty surrounding us. Join us on a walk, a work day, the annual meeting and let us also know what other outdoor activities you would like JULT to host.

HOW DO LAND TRUSTS HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

Across the country, local citizens and communities have joined together to save the places they cherish by establishing land trusts. These non-profit, community-based conservation organizations acquire and protect land for the public good. Strong land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and long-term caretakers of their critical land resources.

The nation's 1,700 + land trusts work with communities to acquire and manage land for the purpose of permanent conservation and then steward the land for public benefit. The land trusts are on the front lines with their local communities to help them save America's land heritage.

Over the years, land trusts have been extraordinarily successful, having protected more than 37 million acres of land, according to the National Land Trust Census.

Land trusts help preserve land for future generations, protect our food and water supply, provide wildlife habitat, and strengthen communities.

This is an excerpt from an article found on the Land Trust Alliance website.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/conservation/landowners/how-do-you-benefit-from-land-conservation>

If you would like to know more about JULT and land conservation, please contact us at 899-2693 or JULandtrust@gmail.com.



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Membership Matters

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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 _____

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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.

