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Membership Matters!



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Spring Newsletter 2022



The Riverside Meadow

## 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](http://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 Riverside Meadow...We Did It!

We are extremely pleased to report that the Riverside Meadow was purchased by JULT on March 24th, 2022. This acquisition means that the meadow will remain a productive hayfield and that the extraordinary view of Mt. Mansfield, through Mills Riverside Park, will remain intact. The Jericho Underhill Park District also receives an easement that allows maintenance and emergency vehicles access off the driveway. This is critical as the park's bridge cannot handle larger vehicles.

We want to thank our community of supporters for your generosity that was displayed as we sought to raise \$200,000 in just three months. This was a very tight timeline, and we are thrilled that it was met! JULT matched \$25,000 in donations which helped us meet our goal as well. The extraordinary success of this fundraising effort points to the shared interest that our community has for keeping land productive, scenic vistas intact, and wildlife habitat and corridors open. Thank you for supporting our conservation work which helps protect the lands that we all care about. Current and futures generations will continue to benefit from the purchase of the Riverside Meadow and we THANK YOU!

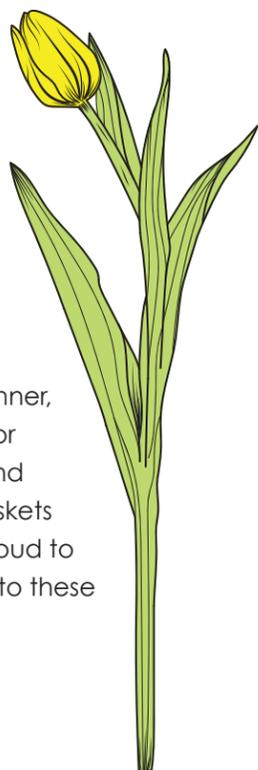


## Mobbs Farm Update

Another conservation success is about to take place with the town owned Mobbs Farm. As this newsletter is being written, the Jericho Selectboard will be reviewing the final conservation easement documents during an upcoming meeting. This is the last step before 232-acres of the Mobbs Farm are permanently conserved with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). The JULT was responsible for raising \$23,000 towards the \$43,000 conservation effort and this was accomplished readily with the substantial gift of \$13,000 from the Kusserow Family Fund. The first use of Jericho's Conservation Reserve Fund contributes \$10,000 with VLT adding another \$10,000 through a forest grant. Jericho residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of protecting this diverse landscape that offers recreational opportunities, sensitive wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, scenic vistas, and so much more. We look forward to reporting the conservation of Mobbs Farm and having a community-wide celebration soon!

## Abenaki Gathering Agreement

The JULT is collaborating with the citizens of the four Vermont state-recognized Abenaki tribes to offer the collection of certain plants at Kikas Valley Farm and the Wolfrun Natural Area. Specific plants are used for Abenaki traditional ceremonies, food, art, and medicinal purposes. Any collection of plant material will be accomplished in a sustainable manner, leaving populations the same size or larger the following year. Only hand tools may be used with bags or baskets for collection. We are extremely proud to offer the Vermont Abenaki access to these important plants.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**You Are Invited!** Please put these dates on your spring calendar. Also check our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and Front Porch Forum for important JULT updates.

### May 7th Annual Spring Wildflower Walk with Michele Tulis Mills Riverside Park 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a casual walk at Mills Riverside Park as Michele guides us along the trail to identify early, spring wildflowers. Michele has a wealth of knowledge and shares traditional and medicinal uses along with interesting stories about the plants. Not to be missed!

### May 12th Bird Presentation with Evergreen Erb 6:00 p.m. Deborah Rawson Memorial Library

Join us for a presentation by Evergreen Erb about the birds that we are likely to see during our subsequent bird walk. She has an extraordinary slideshow with the songs and calls that each bird makes. This program will be in-person and virtual via Zoom so you will have a choice of how you'd like to attend. Registration is required so please call the Library at 899-4962 or go to their website. This program is co-sponsored with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Emails used to register will be shared with JULT

### May 14th Annual Bird Walk at Mills Riverside Park 7:00 a.m.

Join Evergreen Erb and Sabina Ernst for an early morning stroll at the park. We will be spotting our newly arrived bird species along with our year-round avian residents. Evergreen has been leading this well-loved walk for over 22 years. Sabina is a JULT board member with a great deal of bird knowledge that she enjoys sharing. This walk is suitable for all ages. Come and go as you please. Bring your binoculars, wear sturdy boots, have a mask and be ready to enjoy an exceptional birding adventure at the park. This walk is co-sponsored with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. Registration is required so please call the library at 899-4962 or visit their website. Emails used to register will be shared with JULT.

## Spring Renewal

Daffodils are emerging at Mills Riverside Park along with the more subtle signs of spring, the common wildflowers of Bloodroot, Trout-lily and Coltsfoot. The sounds of spring are also ever present with the male Cardinal signaling his intentions, joined by many other bird species. Some have recently arrived from long migrations.

At Kikas Valley Farm, the strawberry plants are already peeking out from under their warm mulch beds. Early morning farm labor has arrived to start the seasonal process...the composting, the tilling, the planting. The red-winged Blackbirds witness this work perched along the wetland accompanied by the killdeer, excitedly zigzagging across the open landscape.

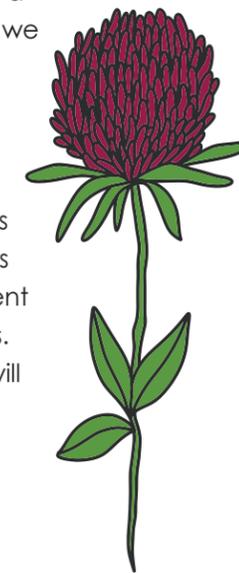
The birthing season will soon arrive at the Wolfrun Natural Area. Many species will have babies in the spring and early summer. We know that the Great Blue Heron rookery will be active, along with the more reclusive habitats of black bear, bobcat, and moose. That is just to mention a few of the more prominent residents at this exquisite wildlife area.

With every new spring, JULT celebrates the permanent conservation of these important lands. We invite you to come visit and enjoy this season of renewal too. If you'd like company...plan on attending one of our events. And if you are not a current member of JULT...please join us. Our land conservation work depends on our membership, much like an early spring rain on a planted field that helps make things grow. Thank you



## The Davis Farm

The JULT has never had three land conservation projects at the same time... all requiring some fundraising. It is a true credit to our community that we have been successful at meeting our critical fundraising goals. We are delighted to say that JULT has raised the full \$50,000 necessary to conserve 181-acres of the Davis Farm! The remaining work includes drafting the conservation easement along with other legal documents. This will take several months. We will keep you updated!



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As we celebrate 33 years, you can take pride in knowing that together, we've protected over 3000- acres of important land to benefit water, wildlife, and people for generations to come. Your membership helps us conserve, care for, and connect people to some of our community's most important landscapes. Some include Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, the Wolfrun Natural Area, Kikas Valley Farm, the Tomasi Meadow, the Riverside Meadow hayfield, and hundreds of privately owned farm and forest acres and soon, Mobbs Farm and the Davis Farm! We can't do this work without you. Your membership donation supports our entire conservation effort which includes working with landowners, fundraising when necessary, taking care of the land that we own, paying taxes, offering events and so much more. Thank you for your membership to JULT! If you are not a member, please JOIN us! Help protect the lands that you love by getting involved.