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*Membership Matters!*



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

**Spring Newsletter 2023**



Spring at Mills Riverside Park

Photo credit: Jeremy LaClair

## 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)

## Spring Forward

Even in its subtlest forms, spring has arrived. The snow is finally retreating and the cold, dormant ground awakens with new energy. The first fragile green emerges cautiously and meets our eager eyes. The frozen landscape has melted and is now filling our rivers and ponds. Water trickles from everywhere, including from our snow weary roofs. And the work and joy of spring, which has greeted many generations, pulls us into a new rhythm...sugaring, preparing the garden, house cleaning and taking off at least one layer of clothing.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust invites you to celebrate this new season along with us. We have several exciting events planned. Please join us.



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

**Remember to "Like" us on**





## The Ripple Effect

According to the *Trust for Public Land (TPL)*, Vermont's investments in land conservation, "support the creation and maintenance of conservation lands, parks, trails, rivers, and farms. From school field trips to study wildlife to evening walks to stay fit, access to these lands provides diverse recreational, educational, and health opportunities for residents and visitors and enhances quality of life for all Vermonters. The high quality of life, in turn, attracts talent, employers, and investment to the state. Second, residents take advantage of the state's plentiful outdoor recreation opportunities. By purchasing equipment and gear to use while participating in those activities, residents boost local businesses and contribute to Vermont's recreation economy. Finally, businesses that sell an outdoor recreation experience depend on protected waterways and lands to lead hunting, fishing, rafting, and adventure trips. These businesses offer jobs, attract visitors, and contribute significantly to the state's economy." An economic analysis conducted by TPL showed that for every \$1 invested in land conservation by the state, there is an economic return of \$9. <https://www.tpl.org/resource/vermonts-return-investment-land-conservation>

*"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."*

Rachel Carson



## What Does "Land conservation" Mean?

The mission of a land trust is to permanently conserve important land. This is accomplished by working with landowners and the broader community. The most traditional tool for conserving land is called a "conservation easement". The conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land, primarily development, to protect the property's special conservation values. These restrictions remain with the land and apply to all subsequent landowners. This is why land trusts describe property as **permanently** conserved. The land trust that "holds" the easement is responsible for ensuring year after year that the restrictions within the conservation easement are being followed. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust often partners with the Vermont Land Trust so that the larger organization holds the easement.

As mentioned, the conservation easement is an established tool for permanent land protection. Sometimes there is confusion about the term "conserved" as it is used very broadly. For example, real estate advertisements may proclaim that a house sits by "conserved" land or include "preserve" in a development's name. There is the general perception that public lands owned by the town, the university, and the federal government are conserved just because they are undeveloped and may allow public access. In fact, many parcels that are assumed to be "conserved", even if they are described as "open space" on town planning charts... are not at all. Some may also believe that zoning regulations are sufficient to restrict development. This is not the case. Residents of Jericho and Underhill can be assured that all the work that JULT does results in **permanent** land conservation, and we look forward to many more opportunities.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**April 29th – Annual Spring Wildflower Walk with Michele Tulis – Mills Riverside Park – 10:00 a.m.**

Come join us for a casual walk as Michele guides us along park trails to identify early, spring wildflowers. Michele has a wealth of plant knowledge and shares traditional and medicinal uses along with interesting stories. She has been leading this exceptional walk for a number of years. Expect to see Bloodroot, Trout lily, Dutchman's breeches, Trillium, Eastern Spring beauty, and other woodland ephemerals. Trails can be wet so please wear boots. This event is a perfect way to say "hello" to spring!



**May 13th – Annual Bird Walk with Evergreen and Sabina – Mills Riverside Park – 7:00 a.m.**

Join Evergreen Erb and Sabina Ernst for an early morning stroll at the park. We will be looking for and listening to our newly arrived bird species. Birds that flew over the oceans in fall's southward migration are all coming back. The park offers numerous habitats that attract a wide range of birds, and they are especially plentiful in the early morning hours. Evergreen has been leading this annual event for over 23 years and Sabina, who is a JULT board member, generously shares her extensive knowledge as well. Here are just a few of the birds that we might spot, Eastern Kingbird, Scarlet tanager, Indigo bunting, Belted kingfisher and many different warblers. This walk is suitable for all ages. Don't forget to bring your binoculars and be ready for an enjoyable birding adventure at the park.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Right now, JULT is discussing with several landowners how to conserve their land. We will have an important update concerning the conservation of important farmland soon. Please keep updated by checking our website and social media. Thank you for your continued membership that supports our work. Besides ongoing conversations, your membership contributes to land stewardship costs and public outreach.



Kikas Valley Farm



Marsh Marigold



Early Emergence

Thank You