



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Winter 2012




Casey's Hill, Photo credit: John Koier

## WINTER BEAUTY IN VERMONT

The stark beauty of winter pulls us from our warm homes and entices us outdoors to experience the sharp contrasts of Vermont's longest season. Brittle cold, bright blue skies, soft curves of snow punctured by stiff, bare trees, heavy silence broken by chickadees and the squeal of children. Opportunities to enjoy this spare beauty abound.



The Jericho Underhill Land Trust has worked through the years to ensure that these opportunities continue...forever. Whether sliding down Casey's Hill, cross country skiing at Mills Riverside Park, snowshoeing at Kikas Valley Farm or hiking the rugged trails of the Wolfrun Natural Area, everyone can be comforted by knowing that these special places are permanently protected. This thought warms the soul, much like a dark and savory mug of hot chocolate.

 JULT has a new website and it went live in late September! Please explore our site and see what we have been up to - what's coming next and how you can become a part of what we do!

## AS A MEMBER, YOU INVEST IN THE FUTURE

When the stock market plunged dramatically, there was one investment that transcended the drop. That investment is land conservation. Protected property will never share the up and down ride of the stock market and will only grow in value as the community continues to appreciate and enjoy: clean water, fresh produce, rare wildlife habitat, natural beauty and places to recreate.

Thirteen years ago, Mills Riverside Park was born. What would we have lost if the park...never was? No farmers' market, no summer concerts, no sports activities, no dog walking, no scenic view. And what is the value of a winter sliding hill that will always excite children? The opportunity to save land is never convenient and can't be postponed. Farm fields and forest, majestic views and rare wildlife habitat help create the rural landscape that we all call home. Your **membership support** allows JULT to accomplish our land conservation work and together, we can save today's special places for tomorrow. Something that only appreciates in value.

### *Did You Know?*

JULT is always eager to talk to folks about land conservation. Invite us to your living rooms, organizations and events.

We meet on the first Monday of every month at 7pm at the Community Center in Jericho Center. The exception is our Annual Meeting at the Underhill Town Hall which takes place in May. You are always invited to learn more about what we do.

There are over 1,700 land trusts in the United States.



Cairn, Photo credit: Joanna Carpenter

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us for our Annual meeting on **May 7th starting at 6PM** at the Underhill Town Hall. We look forward to sharing JULT's latest conservation updates along with some excellent refreshments. Our guest speaker is Lisa Gannon who has served as State Coordinator of VT New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) for the past nine years. Her Power Point presentation is titled "Stunning Stonework: The Sacred Landscape of West Bolton, Vermont". She writes, "There exists a myriad of enigmatic stonework in the woods surrounding West Bolton, much of it resting on land conserved by the Jericho Underhill Land Trust. The geography and the ethnographic history of the Winooski River Valley may provide important clues as to the origin of these sites." Come join us as we explore the mystery of the ancient stone cairns.



## JULT ADJUSTS MEMBERSHIP TERM

After some discussion, the JULT Board of Trustees decided to adjust the membership term so that it agrees with the calendar year. Therefore, instead of a membership term that runs from May to May, it will now run from January 1 until December 31. Members who renewed in November or December will receive membership through December 31, 2012. We believe that this change will fall more naturally into the annual cycle.

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

Remember to "Like" us on 





Cairn in Winter

## LAND CONSERVATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

- Land conservation helps reduce the pace of climate change: forests, prairies, farmland and other habitats help reduce climate change by absorbing nearly 15% of annual U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.
- Land conservation helps increase ecosystem resilience to climate change: acquisition of strategic lands for migration corridors, connectivity and buffer zones help landscapes adapt to future conditions.

Learn more at [www.lta.org/climatechange](http://www.lta.org/climatechange)



Photo credit: Alton Verity

## How Much is a View Worth

Lulled by the demands of our everyday life, it is not unusual to take the extraordinary beauty of our towns' open lands for granted. A casual glance out the car window is often richly rewarded with the heaving white lines of Mt. Mansfield, the simple patterns and textures of our working land, dense forest climbing the hillsides, and pastures studded with dairy cows. These splendid views help to define Jericho and Underhill as rural and unique. However this is a fragile landscape that can be lost almost without notice until it is too late. A window glance would then reveal the crushing blandness of suburban sprawl. Jericho Underhill Land Trust is dedicated to preserving our towns' working landscape, scenic vistas and important wildlife habitats. With community support, we have succeeded in keeping many treasured views intact: Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, and Kikas Valley Farm to name a few. Our efforts to protect the special scenic qualities that compose Underhill and Jericho earnestly continue. If you are not a member today...please join us!



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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

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

