



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Winter 2013



Winter snow and bright blue skies often signal a day of sliding at Casey's Hill. For generations, countless children have enjoyed this thrill and with Casey's Hill permanently protected, this sliding tradition will continue. Abundant snow can also draw visitors to Mills Riverside Park for snowshoeing, cross country skiing or just a casual walk. Many simply enjoy the magnificent view of Mt. Mansfield, its broad shoulders wrapped in snow, from the park. Mills Riverside Park is also permanently conserved. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is very proud of the land that we have protected through the years and we are extremely pleased with the steadfast community support that we receive. Without this support, these local treasures would not exist.

In this new year of 2013, JULT is looking forward to more conservation opportunities within our two towns. In fact, several are underway right now and many discussions with landowners continue. If you are **not** a member, please join us by filling out the membership panel of this newsletter. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, colorful decal and the satisfaction of knowing that together, we can protect important land today...for tomorrow.

Thank you!



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

Remember to "Like" us on



# **ENHANCED EASEMENT INCENTIVE RENEWED THROUGH 2013**

Congress recently renewed a 2006 incentive that enables family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners to get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement on their land. This invaluable conservation tool has helped the Jericho Underhill Land Trust work with willing landowners to protect hundreds of acres since it was first enacted in 2006. Landowners who act quickly to conserve their land can now enjoy these benefits, but they're currently set to expire December 31, 2013.

Generous landowners who donate voluntary conservation easements are inspired by many things: they love and feel connected to their land, and they wish to leave a legacy for future generations. This inspiration is central to our work to permanently protect valuable natural resources. But for almost all of our donors, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners in our community.

The legislation allows easement donors to:

- Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30%);
- Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching or forestry; and
- Continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years (previously 6 years).

As an example, under the prior law, a landowner earning \$50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement worth \$1 million could take a total of no more than \$90,000 in tax deductions. Under the new law, that landowner can take as much as \$800,000 in tax deductions – still less than the full value of their donation, but a significant increase.

**If you are interested in learning more about conserving your land,  
please contact JULT at 899-2693 or e-mail us at [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com)**

# BOLTON VALLEY NORDIC AND BACKCOUNTRY UPDATE

The Vermont Land Trust is in the home stretch of their bid to preserve the Bolton Valley Nordic Center. In March of 2012, VLT launched their ambitious plan to raise \$1,850,000 to save the 1,161 acre parcel from being developed. With a deadline of March 31 fast approaching, they still need \$93,000 to complete the deal.

When volunteer Bolton patroller Ann Gotham learned that the land on which she had skied for years was about to be sold to a private developer, she contacted VLT to see what could be done. With the help of a group of Bolton loyalists known as the Friends of Bolton Valley Nordic, VLT launched a fundraising campaign which included a variety of special events. Gotham's contributions were recognized with several nominations to be the Burlington Free Press's Vermonter of the Year.

JULT has collaborated with VLT on the fundraising campaign in recognition of the importance of this wonderful jewel of land which sits in the middle of the Chittenden County Uplands Project area. We are gratified that over 50 of our members contributed funds for this important purchase and hope that those of you who haven't will consider a donation to help VLT in the final days of their campaign. Nearly 900 people have contributed, including 70 who donated \$5,000 or more to become part of the Gardiner Lane Leadership Circle.

The Bolton Valley Nordic Center has a new manager and the season has gotten off to a great start with race teams training on the groomed terrain and backcountry skiers enjoying their off-piste treks through the woods. In March, the Catamount Trail Association will host their 5th annual Trapp to Bolton race on the portion of the Catamount Trail that connects the two ski areas. We join VLT in hoping that these activities will continue for many years to come.

For more information, go to [www.vlt.org/initiatives/active-community-projects/bolton](http://www.vlt.org/initiatives/active-community-projects/bolton)

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

JULT is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to important land conservation within our two towns. Besides working with landowners and the community to this end, we own and steward over 600 acres comprised of farm and forest with trails for public enjoyment. Please consider joining us in our work which ranges from invasive plant species patrol and trail work to becoming a board member. Whatever your interest, we have a place for you. Multiple opportunities await. Just contact us at 899-2693 or [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) for more information.



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## Membership Matters

- Livy Strong  
*Chair*
- John Koier  
*Vice Chair*
- Phyl Newbeck  
*Secretary*
- Hilaire Thomas  
*Treasurer*
- John Schroeder
- Trevor Squirrel

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.

