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John Connell



Membership Matters!

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:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward Membership | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Membership | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Membership | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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.
All contributions are tax-deductible.

P.O. Box 80 • Jericho, VT 05465-0080 • 802-899-2693 • julandtrust@gmail.com • www.jult.org
www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Winter Newsletter 2023



Mills Riverside Park from Riverside Meadow

Winter brings us brittle cold days, bright blue skies and sparkling sunshine. Snow softens the contours of the land and gives us sliding, skiing, and more outdoor fun. Ice glistens bright; clean and clear. How fortunate we all are to live in this magical, frozen wonderland. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is pleased to have permanently conserved some of these very special places for winter enjoyment. We look forward to an exciting new year of accomplishments in 2023.



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

Remember to "Like" us on



John Connell, Welcome Aboard!

We are extremely pleased to welcome John Connell to our land trust board. He brings years of experience in community building, farming, veteran programs and more. Many of you know that he and his family are longtime residents of Underhill. John wrote this about himself.

The writer Wallace Stegner said that the value of land protection is very simple. We need landscapes, open land, forested land, land that is cared for, protected. Because, when we drive past such land or enjoy these spaces in one way or another, we feel something. I think we feel a certain pride, a certain peace, a certain hope for the future. I have lived in Underhill Center with my family for many years. We have tried to be stewards of this property that was once a working farm of 1860. I am a teacher, part farmer, part storyteller, husband, father, grandfather. I am glad for the opportunity to serve the Jericho Underhill Land Trust.

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 towards this end, we own and steward almost 800 acres of farm and forest with trails for public enjoyment. Please consider joining us in our work. **Right now, we have an immediate need for a volunteer to help us with our membership database.** Other opportunities range from invasive plant species patrol, trail signage and more. Whatever your interest, we have a place for you! Just contact us at 899-2693 or julandtrust@gmail.com for more information.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thank you so much for your support of JULT! We depend on membership donations to keep working for land conservation. Without your help, we could not have conserved the bulk of Mobbs Farm and purchased the scenic Riverside Meadow in 2022! We continue to strive towards the conservation of the Davis Farm. Protecting important properties is a complex business and it can take years to accomplish. Without your steadfast support, it would not be possible. **Thank you!**

JULT Land Stewardship

Our land trust now owns and manages nearly 800 acres of unfragmented and biodiverse woodlands, all within Eastern Chittenden County.

As expanding development continues to fragment our local landscape and make life more difficult for many of our reclusive native species, we continue to manage these lands for improved water quality, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity.

Along with many other activities, we continuously monitor the integrity of our conservation easements along with the holders of these perpetual documents: The Vermont Land Trust and The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

This past year, we found a solution to peaceful coexistence with one of our keystone species at the Wolfrun Natural Area. Beavers have been continually threatening to destroy our single access point to the interior of this property by damming up a large culvert. We were able to construct a beaver exclusion fence with the help of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to keep the culvert flowing.

Beaver populations are on the upswing in Vermont. Along with improving water quality, they are well known for the benefits they provide for many other species. Beavers create important habitat for great blue heron, moose, waterfowl, otter, amphibians, insects, fish, and songbirds. All of these may be found at the Wolfrun Natural Area. Please visit our website at www.jult.org and click on "Conserved Properties" to learn more.

Thank you for supporting our continuing work for the maintenance and improvement of our Vermont ecosystems!

John Koier
JULT Land Stewardship Chair



YOU ARE INVITED!

March 4, 2023 10:00 a.m. - Mobbs Farm parking lot off Browns Trace, Jericho.

Please register by calling JULT at 802-899-2693 or emailing us at julandtrust@gmail.com. Group size is limited to 15. JULT members only please.

Late Winter Wildlife Tracking Walk: Connect with local wildlife through the discovery of their tracks and sign. We'll build an understanding of who is active on the landscape and consider where and how to look for evidence of their daily and seasonal behaviors, taking advantage of whatever the location has to offer. A typical program contains the following elements: analyzing a set of tracks, interpreting the pattern of tracks to visualize how an animal was moving across the landscape, animal sign (which can include scat, feeding sign, denning and bedding areas, and territorial marking), interpreting animal behavior from tracks and sign, and documenting tracks for wildlife monitoring or for expert confirmation. Woven through all of this will be stories and insights into the adaptations and interrelationships of our wild neighbors. This program can be tailored to the experience level and interests of the group.

Sophie Mazowita is a naturalist, educator, and wildlife guide based in Jeffersonville, Vermont. She offers online and in-person tracking workshops through her website, Tracking Connection, and also guides week-long wildlife trips to Yellowstone and to Canada's polar bear country with Natural Habitat Adventures/WWF. At home in Vermont, her work focuses on identifying wildlife corridors and monitoring forest connectivity at a town and regional scale, and she manages the community science program for the nonprofit Cold Hollow to Canada. She also manages Tracker Certification, the nonprofit that offers CyberTracker wildlife tracking certifications across North America and hosts the biannual online North American Wildlife Tracker Conference. She holds an MS in Plant Biology from the UVM Field Naturalist Program, and her graduate work was focused on a natural resource study and management plan for Red Razowitaocks Park in South Burlington. She has taught and coordinated chapters of the Vermont Master Naturalist Program for both South Burlington and Cambridge.

Economic Benefits of Open Space Protection

by Rand Wentworth President, Land Trust Alliance

"Communities that conserve land make an investment in future economic development. Companies frequently relocate where their top talent wants to live, and that is most often in places of natural beauty. When land is protected, the adjacent land often increases in value, with homes selling for 10–20 percent more than comparable homes without access to parks. Frederick Law Olmsted first demonstrated this principle in the late 1800's when he documented that Central Park caused \$5.4 million in additional annual tax revenues, quickly repaying the \$14 million cost of the park. American consumers seem to have grasped this simple economic principle: A survey by the National Association of Homebuilders concluded that new homebuyers value trails and natural areas above any other amenity. Saving land from development is often the best way to reduce government spending and avoid increases in property taxes. Many jurisdictions believe that they will make money from the property taxes on new subdivisions, ignoring the true cost of schools, roads, police, water, and storm water management. Studies show that it costs between \$1.04 and \$2 for every dollar of tax revenue to provide services to a typical subdivision, so current taxpayers end up subsidizing outsiders who bring increased traffic, crowded schools, and the loss of the community's individual culture. It is also cheaper to protect clean water at its source than to build expensive water treatment facilities. New York City, for example, saved \$5 billion in construction costs by purchasing conservation lands around its reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains."



Sophie Mazowita