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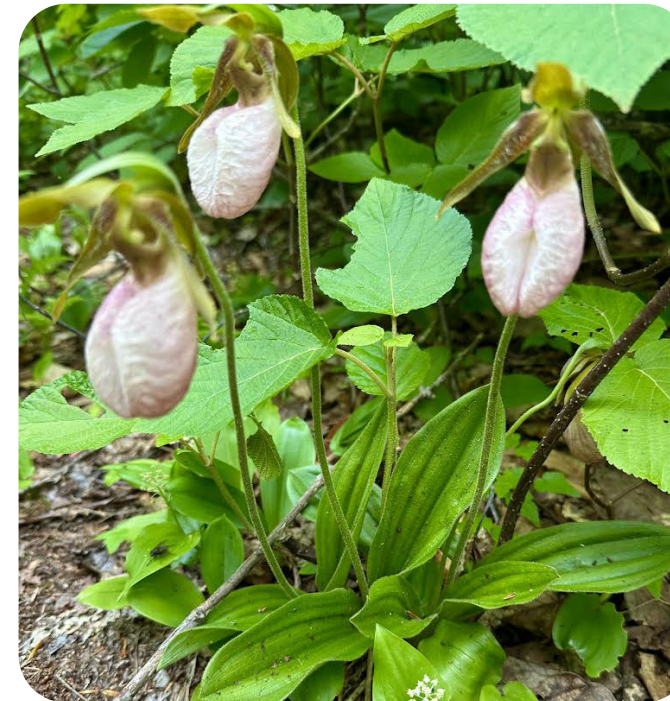
Membership Matters!



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Spring Newsletter 2026



Pink Lady's Slippers welcoming Spring

## COLLABORATING FOR A BETTER LAND

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is delighted to partner with the Friends of the Winooski River for additional streamside tree and shrub planting at our Kikas Valley Farm property.

We were fortunate to work with Friends of the Winooski River last year when they brought a crew of volunteers from SunCommon who helped plant trees along the stream on the northwestern side of the farm. Friends of the Winooski shared the following: reflection:

*"Over the course of the 2025 field season, the Friends of the Winooski River will have planted more than 3,000 native trees and shrubs along rivers and streams throughout the watershed.*

*"Trees and streams go together like peanut butter and jelly. They're just better together," says Sam Puddicombe, Restoration Project Manager with Friends of the Winooski. "Woody buffers stabilize streambanks, help keep pollutants out of our waterways, and slow flood waters." The roots of these larger plants hold soil in place far more effectively than grass, preventing sediment, which holds phosphorus from washing downstream into Lake Champlain, where they contribute to harmful algae blooms. These buffers also filter the pollutants from rain running over the land and are able to slow flood waters that move through them. A stream with a wide, healthy buffer of native vegetation is cleaner, more stable, and more resilient.*

*Beyond cleaner water, these plantings provide valuable habitat for wildlife, birds, and fish*

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The conserved farms, forests, and open fields of Jericho and Underhill did not protect themselves. They are here because landowners decided, generation after generation, that the land is worth caring for. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust works to make this happen! Your Membership donation is vital. Thank you!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

JULT's work is only possible with your support. There are several ways to get involved:

- **Renew your membership or become a member** to support ongoing conservation and land stewardship.
- **Volunteer** for trail maintenance, community events, or administrative work.
- **Attend a board meeting** — JULT meets on the first Monday of every month, either via Zoom or at the Jericho Community Center's backroom.
- **If you own land** and want to explore conservation options, reach out. JULT works one-on-one with landowners to find approaches that serve both the landowner's goals.

You can contact the Jericho Underhill Land Trust by mail at PO Box 80, Jericho, Vermont 05465, by phone at (802) 899-2693, or by email at [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com). More information is available at [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org) and on Facebook.

## HINTS OF SPRING

Ice softens, snow melts, and the first, fragile hints of Spring appear. Frozen ground becomes alive with growing things, and our senses excite to the parade of life to come. Wildflowers such as spring beauties, bloodroot, and trout lilies confirm the seasonal change. Trees and shrubs, once barren, produce the soft green haze of budding leaves. The bright color and sound of newly arrived birds fill our branches once again. The season of Spring assures us that new life greets us predictably, even after a long, cold winter...year after year. How fortunate we are to live in a rural community where Spring is experienced in so many beautiful ways.



# You Are Invited!! Save The Dates And Times

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



## ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK SATURDAY, MAY 2ND WITH MICHELE TULIS MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK – 2:00 P.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! We will meet in the parking area. Note the afternoon time.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN JERICHO 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. - BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.



Let's celebrate an extraordinary year of land conservation! Refreshments and a half-hour social opportunity will begin at 6:30 p.m. Our short business meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by our guest speaker, Craig Newman. Craig has been our guest speaker on several occasions and always contributes incisive information about our avian neighbors. Craig is the current Director and co-founder of Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OFES). OFES offers unique educational programs that stimulate the mind and heart with the help of live raptors who serve as wild ambassadors. Founded in 1989, Outreach for Earth Stewardship's (OFES) mission is to strengthen respect and understanding for wildlife. OFES is licensed by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to rehabilitate wild birds and have them serve as animal ambassadors if they cannot be released. Craig is a Jericho resident and has been on call to respond to many avian emergencies locally and beyond.



## ANNUAL BIRD WALK WITH EVERGREEN AND SABINA SATURDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> - 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 variety of birds, and they are especially plentiful in the early morning hours. Evergreen has been leading this annual event for over 27 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.

Please contact JULT at [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) with any questions.  
Other event ideas that you may have...just let us know!

## RAWSON FARM UPDATE

Just as the early signs of spring manifest themselves, we are excited to report that the permanent conservation of 100 acres of the Rawson Farm is well underway. We expect that this will be completed within a few months. Thank you to the many who generously supported this effort by donating the funds necessary to reach our \$20,000 goal. We also want to thank the Town of Jericho for contributing another \$20,000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund. And most of all, we want to thank Burton Rawson for the dedicated stewardship of his land and his vision to protect it.



Craig with one of his ambassadors

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## COLLABORATING...

throughout the watershed. "Intact riparian areas are important to wildlife species for food, shelter, and safe movement across the landscape," says Katie Kain of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which supports this work through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. "The planting projects completed by Friends of the Winooski in 2025 will provide a host of wildlife habitat benefits. In particular, the restored areas will support migratory songbirds by providing nesting structure and food sources, improve water quality for sensitive fish species through shade and biotic inputs provided by planted trees, and enhance pollinator habitat by diversifying plant species in riparian zones," she added."

This spring, we will be doing some work along streams on the Southeastern side of the farm property. Part of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust's mission is thoughtful stewardship of the land, and improving water quality in the streams that pass through our properties is one of our stewardship goals. JULT will be hosting a community walk along the Kikas Valley Farm planting area in March 2026 to look at the site and answer questions. Stay tuned for details.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your membership donation allows JULT to continue our land conservation work. JULT is responsible for stewarding two large properties. Your membership donations help to support this work. Please join us for the first time or renew your membership. This funding supports landowner engagement, community events, land stewardship, and more. Online membership donations may be made at [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)

## THANK YOU!