

## Benefactor's Exceptional Generosity To Be Celebrated At May 23 Dedication

The generosity and foresight of Ada Wolf will be celebrated May 23 at the dedication of the 102-acre property in Windham she bequeathed to Joshua's Trust.

Town and Trust officials will participate in the dedication of this exceptional preserve, walks will be offered, and refreshments served from 2 to 4 p.m. Members are invited and those who would like to attend are asked to register by calling the Trust office 860-429-9023 and leaving a name and phone number or by emailing that information to [joshuastrust@snet.net](mailto:joshuastrust@snet.net).

Located on Back Road in Windham, the property includes a 22-acre pond, known as Lake Marie, extensive woods and streams, as well as scenic views. In keeping with Mrs. Wolf's wishes, two small cottages on the property were removed, and the land is being restored to a natural state.

In addition to providing excellent opportunities for passive recreation, the property is located in an area identified by Windham's 2007 Plan of Conservation as having "the highest natural resource priority."

Mrs. Wolf left an endowment with the land, to cover the costs of stewardship, and to allow for purchase of abutting property, thereby increasing the likelihood of creating a future greenway.



**A view of Lake Marie, part of the 102-acre Windham property bequeathed to Joshua's Trust by Ada Wolf.**

Directions: from Windham Center, follow Route 14 toward Scotland. Take the second left onto Back Road. Go slightly more than a half mile. You will see Lake Marie on your left. The drive into the property is just beyond.

## Students, Scientists Will BioBlitz The Church Farm

The fields and woods of the picturesque Church Farm in Ashford will be swarming with life in early June – and there will be plenty of people to count it up.

Joshua's Trust, EastConn and Eastern Connecticut State University will host a two-part BioBlitz designed to catalog every species on the property. The event is similar to a national BioBlitz held at a different national park each year.

On Friday, June 4, 120 middle school students from Sterling, Coventry, and Windham will blitz the 228-acre Church Farm property for six hours starting at 9 a.m. Us-

ing previous training in field observation, they will seek to identify all the species they can in one of six categories – insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, aquatic life, and plants. They then will share their finds with scientists at BioBlitz Central.

From Friday at 3 p.m. to Saturday, June 5, at 3 p.m., a 24-hour BioBlitz will take place. Scientists in many fields will race to inventory all the species they can on this lovely parcel that belongs partly to the Trust and partly to ECSU. Because of limitations of parking toilets, etc.,

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## Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4  
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250  
Email: [joshuastrust@snet.net](mailto:joshuastrust@snet.net)  
[www.joshuaslandtrust.org](http://www.joshuaslandtrust.org)

### OFFICERS:

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Allison Burchell-Robinson  
Past President: Warren Church  
Vice President: Mona Anderson  
VP Land Acq: Richard Hyde  
Secretary: Carol Enright  
Treasurer: Hamilton Holt  
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Mochel

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John Pagini

### Gristmill Management:

Isabelle Atwood

### Stewardship: Joan Hill

### Membership:

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### Newsletter Editors:

Madge Manfred, Paul Stern

**Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust** was formed in 1966 to receive gifts of money and land, or to buy land of historic, aesthetic, or scientific value, for the benefit of future generations.

It is designed to supplement the open space efforts of federal, state and local governments. The Trust protects over 4,000 acres in the region, maintains trails which are open to the public, and publishes *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book*.

The office is located in the historic Eagleville Schoolhouse, South Eagleville Rd., in Mansfield.

Office hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm.  
Phone: 860-429-9023

# Seven New Board Trustees Bring Valuable Knowledge, Experience

Four new trustees were elected at the annual meeting to serve five-year terms. Additionally, three people have been named to fill unfinished terms. The new trustees are:

**Bob Dubos**, Chaplin, recently retired from his position as manager of scientific collections for the University of Connecticut Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Bob and his wife own and operate Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm in Chaplin. They recently granted a conservation easement to Joshua's Trust, protecting a beautiful piece of property along the Natchaug River.

Having just completed a two-year term as first selectman for the town of

Chaplin, Bob looks forward to working with JT to conserve and preserve the natural world he has always loved.

**Melanie Johnston**, Hampton, retired from a long career in health care administration, then served as a town selectman for two years. Melanie has been involved in volunteer work in her community and as a board member for many local organizations.

Melanie and her husband have five grown children. Part of their property, bordering the Little River, is covered by a conservation restriction. In addition to her commitment to conservation, Melanie brings to the Trust her skill as a grant writer.

**Ted Taigen**, Tolland, grew up in Colorado and moved east to earn a doctorate in ecology at Cornell University. Since 1981, Ted has been a professor in ecology and evolutionary biology and has served as advisor to diverse stu-

dent groups at UConn, including the Natural History Club and the men's basketball team. Ted served on the Town of Tolland Board of Recreation for several years and was involved in the planning and development of several natural properties in the town, including Crandall's Park and Heron Cove Park. He and his wife have three children.

**Eric Thomas**, Coventry, earned a master's degree in natural resources management at UConn while working as an interpretive naturalist at Dinosaur State Park. He joined and soon became chairman of the Coventry Conservation Commission for a 10-year period. Eric remains active with the Town of Cov-

entry, currently serving as chair of the Conservation Corps Committee, stewarding town-owned open space lands. He also helped create the Willimantic River Alliance in the mid 1990s, an organization he still works with today. As a watershed manager for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, he has coordinated the efforts of several groups working to protect and restore watershed functions and values. Eric and his wife Lisa are raising two girls in Coventry. Eric has already served a partial term on the board.

Those appointed to finish unfilled terms are:

**Deborah Lee**, Eastford, graduated from Wells College on Lake Cayuga in Aurora, NY. After teaching biology and chemistry in The Virgin Islands and the Washington, D.C. area, she earned a Master's degree in biology at West Indies Marine Lab on St Croix, US Virgin

### NEW TRUSTEES

**Bob Dubos**  
**Melanie Johnston**  
**Ted Taigen**  
**Eric Thomas**  
**Donald Cianci**  
**Deborah Lee**  
**Nancy Polydys**

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## *New President To Take Over At Trust's May Meeting*

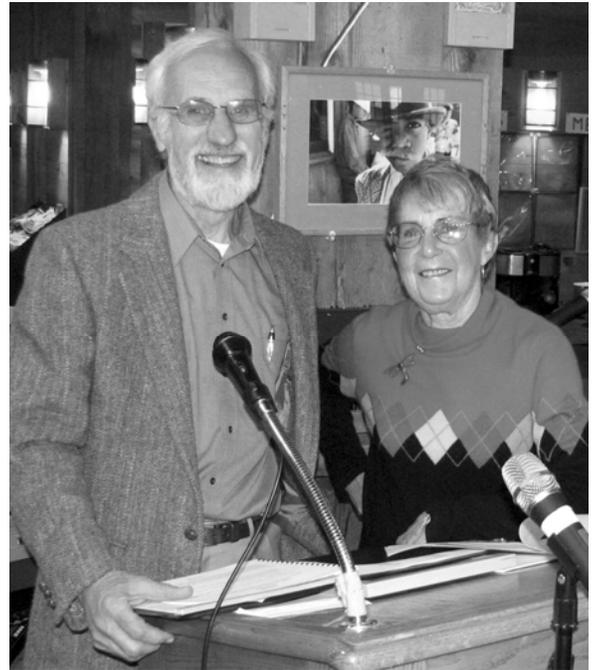
Warren Church will be handing over the presidential reins to Allison Burchell-Robinson at the May 13 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Allison, the president-elect, has been a Trustee since 2004, a productive grant writer, and a member of the Executive, Investment, and Long-Range Planning committees. During that time she also served as treasurer of the Storrs Congregational Church.

After a long career behind the scenes in theater and television, she moved on to become a vice president at Covenant House NYC. She lives on a farm in Ashford that has been in her family since the early 1700s and which she and her husband, former NBC/ABC broadcaster Wally Robinson, have completely restored. They have also reclaimed the pastures that are now home to their horses.

In 2003, the couple donated the 25-acre Burchell-Harris Preserve to the Trust in honor of their late son, Jonathan Edgar Burchell, who was killed while piloting a bush plane as part of a wildlife conservation effort in Kenya.

During his tenure as president, Warren has overseen the Trust's increasingly important role as a leader of conservation efforts, the strengthening of the Trust's organizational capacity, and implementation of the improvements needed to qualify the Trust for national accreditation. He will return to chairing the Conservation Easements Committee, as well as serving on the Executive and Land Acquisition committees.



**Current President Warren Church shares a moment at the podium with incoming president Allison Burchell-Robinson during the Trust's annual meeting last month.**

## **New Trustees Well Suited To Their Roles As Conservationists**

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Islands. Later Deborah earned her Ph. D. in ecology from UConn and subsequently taught college-level courses. She specializes in the ecology of stream insects.

She has served on Eastford's Wetland Commission for 19 years and the Conservation Commission since 2002. Deborah and her partner have run Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery, a native plant nursery located in Eastford, CT since 1998. She has also led botanical hikes and taught evening landscape classes to homeowners, stressing the importance of incorporating native plants. Her term will expire in 2014.

**Donald Cianci**, Columbia, obtained his law degree from the University of Connecticut after serving two years in the U.S. Army. He has been engaged in the general practice of law for 35 years, with his law practice now located in Columbia, where he, his wife, Carmen, and family, reside. Having grown up in West Hartford, Don watched his bucolic landscape of farms, woodlands and fishable lakes degrade to that of endless subdivisions and malls.

In November, 2009, Don completed a four-year term as First Selectman of Columbia, previously having served two years as a selectman and six years prior to that as a member of the Inland-Wetlands & Watercourse Commission.

Don is extremely proud that in May of 2008, with the assistance of Joshua's Trust, the Town of Columbia purchased in fee simple the 134-acre Szedga Farm, which is to be preserved in perpetuity as open space. His term will expire in 2013.

**Nancy Polydys**, Scotland, moved to the Quiet Corner because of her love of nature and soon became a member of Joshua's Trust. Since retiring from the airline industry, she has taken a more active role in a number of local organizations, including the historical society.

A life member of Joshua's Trust, she currently serves on the Membership Committee and assists with distribution of the JT Walk Books in several towns. Nancy has taken workshops to become a citizen-scientist and travels widely, most recently to Cuba on a birding expedition. Her term will expire in 2012.

## A Successful Year In Land Acquisition ... ...Demonstrates Donors' Trust In The Trust

"Land acquisition is a process that is highly dependant upon confidence of land donors and their families that the Trust will faithfully carry out their wishes to preserve and protect their property forever," explained Richard Hyde, Vice President for Land Acquisition, in his annual report.

In most cases it takes time for a potential donor to make a decision on whether to donate land or an easement. Consequently, some projects are carried on the books of the Acquisitions Committee for many months, if not years.

During 2009, five families gifted land to the Trust, and one family donated a conservation easement. Additionally, the Trust helped purchase property through a bargain sale, and contributed \$15,000 toward the purchase of development rights on a 104-acre Lebanon farm. As a result, more than 300 acres in six towns were protected.

The gifts of land and conservation easements include the following:

- In March, the Trust received the remaining 80 percent interest in Julie Rankin's gift of 81 acres in Ashford.
- John L f of Storrs donated 18.1 acres in three parcels in June of 2009. L f and his family developed a walking trail they used throughout the years.
- Agnes Fuller of Chaplin donated 15.1 acres abutting the Hubbard Preserve. Although merged with the Hubbard

Preserve, the portion of the preserve that was Agnes Fuller's will be called Agnes' Pasture.

- The Trust took ownership in October of Ada Wolf's bequest of 102.6 acres in Windham, after dam repairs were completed on 22-acre Lake Marie.

### *A Beautiful Memorial*



**In March, the Toubman family installed a lovely stone bench at the crest of Ashford's Knowlton Hill in memory of their recently deceased mother, Miriam. It sits next to a similar bench they had previously placed in memory of their father, William. Many a visitor will enjoy these seats where they can contemplate the beautiful vista of the Mt. Hope Valley in the distance.**

- Also in October, Wolf and Edwina Rechlin of Lebanon sold the development rights on their tree farm. Joshua's Trust contributed toward the purchase and played a key role in negotiating the terms of the easement.

- In November Sheila B. Clark of Mansfield donated 4.83 acres abutting the Nate and Theora Whetten Woods in Storrs. This addition increased the size of Whetten Woods Preserve to 30 acres.

- In cooperation with the Town of Mansfield, the Trust purchased a 5.99-acre parcel in February from Dr. Harvey Luce as a bargain sale. The lot is located adjacent to the Proposal Rock Preserve and links over

220 acres of open space at Coney Rock as well as providing access from Mulberry Road.

- In December, Bob and Pat Dubos granted a conservation easement on their 13.5 acre Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm in Chaplin.
- Tractor Supply Company gave a 0.58-acre conservation easement that will help to protect the Trust's White Cedar Bog in Windham.

## BioBlitz In Early June

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ECSU can allow only 50 people at a time on the site, so while the public is welcome to become involved, prospective participants will have to pre-register for pre-set time slots.

Organizers expect to have number of events for the gen-

eral public – an owl prowl, introduction to dragonflies, bird walks, etc. Check the Trust's web site for a schedule of events to be posted in late May.

Volunteers to help with this event are badly needed – from scientists and amateur naturalists, to help with registration, traffic control, and leading public outings. If you'd like to help, please contact: General volunteers: Joan Hill (860-228-2849 or [jhill003@charter.net](mailto:jhill003@charter.net)) or scientists: Juan Sanchez (860-455-0425 or [jasdarwin2@charter.net](mailto:jasdarwin2@charter.net)).

## Trust's Finances Solid

"I am pleased to report that Trust operations continue to be in good shape and the financial condition of the Trust remains strong," announced Treasurer Tony Holt at the annual meeting.

Highlights are as follows:

### Balance Sheet

For the total fiscal year of 2009, total assets increased by \$651,000. Cash was up \$34,000, investments were up \$112,000 and there were additions of land totaling \$505,000.

### Income Statement

Operations showed a gain of a little over \$8,000 for the year. We did not take any of the budgeted income from the investment fund.

Gristmill: Major repair activity was dormant for the year. This allowed cash and investments to recover from the expenses of the previous two years. Cash and investments rose by \$15,000 during the year.

### Investments

The value of Trust investments appears to have stabilized and resumed growth. The value moved from \$953,000 on 12/31/07, to a low of \$674,000 on 3/1/09 and back to \$882,000 at 12/31/09. In spite of the seeming volatility of that value during this time, the portfolio consistently out-performed the market. For that we can thank our investment advisor, Laurel Grove Capital.



**At the April annual dinner meeting, Trust President Warren Church gave awards to Pat Mochel, assistant treasurer; Marietta Johnson, membership, and Tony Holt, treasurer. All three are anchors of the organization's operations and staff the office every Thursday.**

The Investment Committee met twice in 2009. Leora Garner, of Laurel Grove Capital, attended both of the meetings.

The detailed financial report for the year ending 12/31/09 is available on request. This is not an audited statement, which the Trust will get later in the year; but it does fairly show the financial condition of the Trust. That condition is excellent and certainly better than it has been for the past two years.

### Remember September's Fund-Raising Tag Sale

Joshua's Trust will hold a tag sale fundraiser in September, so please begin saving up your saleable items for donation to the cause.

(No clothes, electronics, books or magazines, please.)

Those who wish to volunteer or donate items should email [cnorga@earthlink.net](mailto:cnorga@earthlink.net).

Check the JT website later this season for details.

## Committee Meets Growing Challenge

Finding ways to increase the financial resources of the Trust is a challenge these days.

As the Trust continues to grow, its need for income to cover stewardship, acquisition, legal defense, and administration multiplies.

In 2009, the Development Committee, chaired by Corine Norgaard, raised approximately \$3,000 at a wine-tasting held at the home of Jean Haskell and Claire Michaels on May 15.

Committee members provided hors-d'oeuvres and more than 50 different wines were provided under the auspices of Bobadil's Spirit Shop located in the Big Y shopping plaza on Route 195. The Development Committee in 2009

continued its campaign to enlist new Life Members. Life memberships cost \$1,000, which may be paid in a lump sum or two annual installments of \$500 each.

New Life Members added in 2009 are: Donald and Vickie Wetherell and Joe Voboril.

A new business membership added in 2009 was Shane Navratil & Co., Certified Public Accountants.

Under Carol Enright's direction, the Committee continued to sell pins, caps, t-shirts and a new item, tote bags with the Joshua's Trust logo on them. These items not only provide funds to the Trust, but also enhanced our recognition.

# Pair Fine Wine And Art With Conservation

*Contribute to the work of land conservation as you taste a variety of fine wines, savor delicious hors d'oeuvres, enjoy rooms of fine paintings, and walk the grounds of a beautifully landscaped property with trails to the Mt. Hope River. Nationally known watercolorist Charles McCaughtry and Arts Exclusive will donate 20 percent of any art sales to Joshua's Trust.*



*\$35 per person. Register by May 7 or email to [cnorga@earthlink.net](mailto:cnorga@earthlink.net)*

## **Joshua's Trust benefit wine tasting and art sale reservation form** **Please submit by May 7.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ people @ \$35 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

I cannot attend, but would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Make check payable to: Joshua's Trust  
Mail to: Joshua's Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004.

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