

Trust Hits 3,000-Acre Milestone

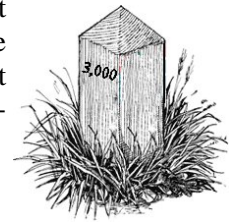
From its humble beginnings in 1966, Joshua's Trust has grown to the fourth largest land trust in Connecticut.

The recent addition of a 4.5 acre conservation easement from Home Depot, brings the total land protected to just over 3,000 acres.

The Trust's first property was Bradley-Buchanan Woods, acquired in 1970. But the early years of the Trust were financially precarious. At one point, the Trust had to sell Echo Woods to the Department of

Environmental Protection when it became impossible to make the mortgage payments. Since that time, however, the Trust has continued to prosper.

In 1988, the Trust accepted its first conservation easement on 87 acres in Ashford. Now easements are held on 1,060 acres in eight area towns, and the Trust owns 1944 acres in 13 towns.



Hugh Hamill — A Pioneer and Leader

The Trust lost a valuable member in April.

Hugh Hamill served on the Board of Trustees and twice served as the President of Joshua's Trust, in the 70's and more recently in a term ending in 2001.

The Trust has evolved and grown over its history and Hugh was important in both the early stages and more recent times.

He spent his career as a distinguished history professor at the University of Connecticut, specializing in Latin American History. He was a strong supporter of the historical elements of the Trust's mission.

He was one of the important organizers in the fight to save Eaton Farms in Mansfield Center from development.

This plot, near the intersection of 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road, is now maintained by the town as a nature area. It was the site of revolutionary war musters and is thus important as a historic place.

Hugh was instrumental in organizing the Historic district of Mansfield Center, one of the first historic districts in the area. He was also a steward of Bradley

Buchanan woods in Mansfield Center. Under his presidency the Trust donated money that helped the Textile Museum in Willimantic and the Huntington House in Scotland survive at crucial periods.

This list of accomplishments does not do justice to his real importance to the Trust and to the people who interacted with him.

When you talked to Hugh you felt like he was truly listening to you. He was unfailingly polite in the true sense of that word. He was president during two different centuries, but his manner seemed to come from an earlier time when honor and civility were more important than instant results.

When he presided over the meetings it was with a quiet calm confidence that gave weight

and gravity to the interactions. His actions as president and as a trustee were backed by solid information and well thought out reasoning. He was a truly compassionate, generous, kind person who used those qualities to make the world a better place. Members of the Trust will miss both the substance and the style of this remarkable person.

—Mona

New President At Helm

After serving as president for four years, **Hill Bullard** has turned over the gavel to **Madge Manfred**.

The Board of Trustees elected Manfred at the May meeting. A long time member of the Trust, she has previously served as a trustee, editor of the newsletter, and member of several committees.

Continued on Page 3



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

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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 3,000 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.

This newsletter is published three

New President Outlines Goals

Increasing Membership Most Pressing Priority

A Note From
The President



Madge Manfred

As the new president, I'd like to introduce myself and outline some of what I hope to accomplish with your help.

There's no way to fill **Hill Bul-lard's** shoes, although I do have a large foot for a woman.

Many of the new acquisitions that will come to the Trust in the next few years are a result of work that Hill has already done, assisted by **Richard Hyde, John Sokolowski, and Warren Church**, the key figures in land acquisition and conservation easements.

I would not feel able to take on the role of president were it not for a terrific bunch of officers, trustees, and volunteers. I'll also have the help of my husband John and the younger generation, our daughter **Leila** and her husband **Dirk Fecho**. This will be a family undertaking.

We were introduced to the Trust in its early days by our neighbor and friend **Dave Hankins**, who gave us a copy of the *Walk Book* as a Christmas present. John became one of the stewards at Potters Meadow, and after I retired from teaching at Three Rivers Community College, I became editor of the newsletter. Over the years as we have watched development change the landscape, the Trust has become increasingly important in our lives. We believe that our quiet corner is at a "tipping point," and that without a

strong local conservation effort, we are in danger of becoming another suburban conglomerate.

The Trust has been more successful at acquiring new properties than it has at attracting new members. We now protect over 3,000 acres, but our membership has remained at a fairly constant number, as we gain some and lose some each year.

Having tried a number of approaches to getting new members, I know that the best single way is person-to-person contact. If each current member could recruit one new member, we would double our membership. There's a trial membership form on the back of this newsletter, which you can use to sign up a friend or neighbor at no cost.

Why do we need new members? Membership is a major source of revenue for Trust operations. The Trust's responsibilities have grown to the point that we need to hire staff. Right now we rely entirely on volunteers, but some jobs have become too large and complicated to continue in that fashion.

In addition to membership, staffing and land conservation, my other goal is to begin the process of getting Joshua's Trust ready for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance.

The LTA has been preparing standards for sound and ethical practices, partly in response to Congressional activity aimed at abuses that have gone on in isolated cases. The LTA believes that cumbersome governmental regulation will not be necessary if land trusts strengthen and document their practices.

Joshua's Trust has a long history of sound operation; the task is primarily to formalize what we do.

Trust Sponsoring Three 'Walking Weekend' Events

Joshua's Trust will sponsor three walks during the Quinnebaug-Shetucket Walking Weekends. Brochures with the full schedule of walks are available at many locations in Eastern Connecticut.

Life on Knowlton Hill, Mansfield

8 a.m. Sat., Oct. 8

Adults will enjoy this slow, hilly 2 1/2 hour walk to learn the birds and plants in the fields, hills and forests of the Knowlton Hill Preserve.

From Mansfield Ctr., take Rte. 89 for 1.2 mi.; turn left on Wormwood Hill Rd. pass the intersection with Mt. Hope Rd. Bear left on Knowlton Hill Rd. to the preserve on the right, just before crossing the Ashford town line.



stones, to a granite cliff with a spectacular vista. Best for adults and children over 8.

From jct. with Rte. 89, take Rte. 195 north for 0.2 mi.; turn right at blinker onto Chaffeeville Rd. for 2.7 mi., then right on Wildwood Rd. (gravel) 0.5 mi. to end at "Proposal Rock" sign. Park only on right; crowd brush to respect local

From Coney Rock You Can See Forever, Mansfield

1:30 p.m., Sat. Oct. 8

Take this 2 1/2-hr. moderate, sometimes steep, walk through the Coney Rock Preserve's mixed-tree forest, recently logged areas, across a stream on stepping

road use.

Glacial Features, Mansfield

1 p.m. Sun. Oct. 9

Take short walks at three nearby but separate sites to observe and learn about geologic features on this three-hour excursion with ECSU Environmental Earth Science Prof. **Sherman Clebnik**.

Meet and park at Mansfield Library on Route 89,

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Last May, the undersigned assumed the chair of the Stewardship Committee, succeeding **Sam Dodd** who oversaw the management of Trust properties for almost 40 years. His will be a hard act to follow and all is in good order, especially the trail system and the assignment of stewards for each property.

My role will be to manage Trust properties with any eye to making sure that we know the boundaries on our many unsurveyed properties and perform boundary agreements with abutters whenever old colonial deeds are vague. We have three of these in the works now for portions of the Windham Atlantic White Cedar Bog, Proposal Rock, and the Pappenheimer parcel. With all the development pressure on land in Connecticut, we

need to establish and mark our bounds or risk challenges from adjacent development. Battling invasive plants such as bittersweet will also be a priority.

Please welcome the following new stewards: **Juan Sanchez** of Chaplin for the Windham Atlantic White Cedar Bog; **Jack Fulton** of Mansfield for Owen's Mere; **Scott Matthies** of Chaplin for the Preston Sanctuary; husband and wife team **Denise Burchsted** and **Rich Moynihan** of Mansfield for Echo Woods Beach, Pond Lot, and Bradley Buchanan Woods

If any of you know of situations that need attention on any of Trust properties, please call me at 455-1356 or, better yet, email me at hbull39@hotmail.com. We have one steward vacancy, for the 5-acre Micheal's Preserve, across the river from the Gurleyville Grist mill. Please contact me if you are interested.

— **Hill Bullard, chief steward.**

NEW PRESIDENT *Continued from Page One*

The Board of Trustees passed the following resolution: "We commend Hill Bullard for his years as Joshua's president. He has in every way gone above and beyond the call of duty. During his time as president the legal issues and acquisition activities have multiplied. The members have no right to ask anyone to work

as hard as Hill has.

The difficult and draining battle with Home Depot was ended in the best agreement we could expect. Hill's efforts in land acquisition have been amazing. He has modernized our fund raising and grant writing activities. He has been able to identify and convince donors for specific projects. We are grateful that he has served so long and happy that he will continue to serve the Trust on the Stewardship Committee."

Walk Book's Fourth Edition Makes Its Debut At Celebration

Celebrate the release of the Fourth Edition of the *Joshua's Tract Walk Book* at a publication party 3 to 5 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Trust Office.

Author **Sam Dodd** will sign copies, and refreshments will be served.

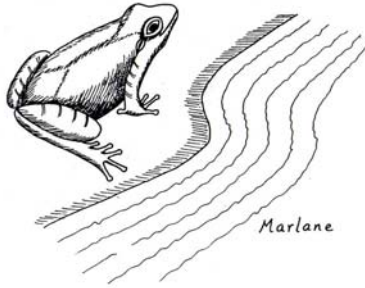
He has recently retired as head of the Stewardship Committee, a position he has held for decades.

The party will be an opportunity to thank Sam for the countless hours he has given to recruiting stewards, organizing teams to plan and cut trails, build bridges, maintain proper-

ties, and carry out the Trust's mission to preserve land in our region.

The new Walk Book has information on the many new properties that have been acquired during the last several years, as well as new trails on other properties. There are 15 new trails or extensions of old trails.

The Walk Book has been an important part of the Trust's public outreach, encouraging the use of Trust lands and educating people about the Trust's goals.



Joshua's Trust Trial Membership Form

Join now at no cost for the remainder of the year. Then decide if you want to continue in 2006.

Name _____

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