



P.O. Box 624  
St. Johnsbury  
Vermont 05819

## Passumpsic Valley Land Trust

2019 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER: VOL 25

[WWW.PVLT.ORG](http://WWW.PVLT.ORG)



**PASSUMPSIC VALLEY  
LAND TRUST.**

*The Passumpsic Valley Land Trust is a nonprofit conservation group composed of local volunteers who are dedicated to preserving the beauty and ecological habitats of the Passumpsic River and its watershed, as well as improving public access.*



# Passumpsic Valley Land Trust

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## PVLT'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - REMINDER

It's time for PVLT's once-per-year membership renewal reminder that we now integrate into the autumn newsletter, in place of personalized reminder letters that long-time members may remember. A membership that is current entitles you to cast a ballot for your Board of Directors at Annual Meeting time, and to vote on any special items that may come up, e.g., by-law changes. PVLT depends on your faithful support not just for underwriting your organization's land conservation activities but also for demonstrating to grantors that PVLT is recognized, vital and respected.

*PVLT bylaws: Article II Membership and Structure. Section I – Members. A. Any person or organization shall be entitled to membership in the Trust upon payment of annual dues. B. For the purposes of voting, annual membership for new members shall be effective 14 days following the receipt of dues payment and shall run for one full year beginning with the effective date. For renewing members, membership shall begin immediately and run for one full year from the date of dues receipt by the Trust.*

The mailing label on this newsletter displays the month and year that your membership will or did expire, roughly one year since your last contribution. If you recently sent a renewal, we thank you. If you renew on a different annual cycle that works for you, please feel free to stay with it and disregard this request.

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If you are due for renewal, or are not a current member but wish to establish or renew your membership to enable you to vote for Directors in the 2019 election, send in the ballot with your new or renewed annual membership dues, a minimum of \$10 for an individual membership, \$25 for a family membership. A family membership entitles two family members to cast a ballot. You may photocopy the ballot to enable a second vote.

Annual membership dues (minimum amount) for various membership categories:

Individual:       \$10                      Family:       \$25  
Organization / Business / Corporate:       \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gifts to Passumpsic Valley Land Trust** support PVLT's conservation activities related to the Passumpsic River and its watershed. Every gift makes a difference, and impacts the recreational, educational, ecological, and historic assets of these resources. Now is the time to consider giving to Passumpsic Valley Land Trust! Interested in more information? Please contact board member Laurie Olszowy at [lcocappy@gmail.com](mailto:lcocappy@gmail.com)

## VOTING FOR DIRECTORS

**I**n accordance with PVLT bylaws (Article III, Section I, parts A, B, and C) the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Directors for a three-year term beginning December 2019:

Leonard Gerardi (2019 - 2022) Re-election

If you are a current PVLT member with voting rights, that is, you have made a qualifying membership contribution since November 2018, then you may vote by cutting off or photocopying the ballot below and sending it to: **PVLT, P.O.Box 624, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819**. Ballots for election of Directors must be received no later than **Friday December 6, 2019**.

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**Ballot for PVLT Board of Directors, for 3-year term 2019-2022**

(Check or write-in no more than one name)

**Leonard Gerardi** [    ] or Write-in candidate \_\_\_\_\_

## JOES POND WETLANDS IN GOOD HANDS

Thanks to the generosity of Marjorie Brown, PVLT has conserved another piece of the wetland complex at the inlet end of Joes Pond. Nola Forbes, Marjorie's daughter, contacted PVLT early in 2018 about 93-year-old Marjorie's interest in donating the family's small marshy stretch of Joes Pond frontage in Danville to PVLT. Nola was already aware of PVLT's extensive holdings in that area, and hoped theirs could be a helpful complement to PVLT's protection of the Joes Pond wetlands. That addition became a reality in October 2018 when the Marjorie E. Brown Family Trust transferred the property to PVLT.

The undeveloped Brown parcel is immediately to the east of the intersection of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Channel Drive, where Danville meets the towns of Cabot and Walden. The outlet of the locally known "Loon Hole" on the north side of Rail Trail drains under the Trail and forms the Brown parcel's west boundary. PVLT's larger holdings are between the Rail Trail and Channel Drive to the west of the intersection and straddle Joes Brook. The half-acre parcel is a combination of alder / cedar thicket and cattail marsh along an emergent wetland area of the lake. Much of it is seasonally inundated. It serves as essential habitat for muskrats, beaver, other furbearing mammals, and quite a variety of waterfowl and wetland-dependent songbirds. Preserving the natural integrity of the lake margin benefits several fish species as well. In the broader context, wetlands serve as sponges and filters contributing to maintaining good water quality in openwater areas they abut.

Marjorie was well known in our community for half a century as, among other things, a musician and music teacher, remarkably completing the 2018 season playing in both the St. Johnsbury Town Band and the Lyndonville Military Band. Sadly Marjorie passed away this past July just a couple weeks after her 95th birthday. PVLT is grateful to Marjorie and her family for their contribution to the health and beauty of Joes Pond and its surrounding habitat.

### Joes Pond spring outing in the planning stage

With the addition of the Marjorie Brown parcel to PVLT's conserved lands, PVLT now owns nearly 2/3s of a mile of frontage along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail at the head end of Joes Pond. Although much of this 100+ acres of land is pretty wild and difficult-to-navigate forest, scrub-shrub and wetland habitat, we're thinking: what better way to showcase this conservation effort than to have a bicycle tour along its margin. So, sometime in Spring 2020 after Joes Pond's ice is out, the weather is warming, and the redwinged blackbirds have returned and are perched among the marsh vegetation, we hope to organize a 5-mile roundtrip informal peddle along the Rail Trail from the US Rte 2 parking lot in West Danville out to Joes Brook and back. It should be a great opportunity to check out some of Joes Pond and its surroundings, learn about local habitats that have been conserved and get some exercise. We'll plan to get the word out well in advance. Stay tuned.



## PASSUMPSIC VALLEY LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

**The Passumpsic Valley Land Trust invites you to attend its 26th Annual Meeting and walk/snowshoe-about.**

**WHAT:** Annual Business Meeting, followed by a walk or snowshoe along the East Branch Passumpsic

**WHEN:** Saturday December 7, 2019 at 1:00 pm, rain, snow, sleet, or sunshine

**WHERE:** PVLT's Calkins parcel and Langmaid Easement at the junction of VT Rte 114 and Burrington Bridge. The meeting will take place outdoors, but undercover on the historic Randall Covered Bridge.

From Lyndonville: At junction with US Route 5 at north end of Lyndonville village, travel north 1.7 miles on VT Rte 114. Turn right onto Burrington Bridge Road, parking roadside on right and left.

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

1. Reading and acceptance of Annual Report
2. Reading and acceptance of Financial Report
3. Report of Nominating Committee and election of Directors

Light refreshments will be offered.

Immediately following the Business Meeting, anyone interested may join in a walk or snow shoe along the East Branch Passumpsic River on PVLT's Calkins parcel and Langmaid Easement woods road adjacent to the bridge.







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## A WALKING TOUR -- PVLT'S 24 ACRE MURPHY PROPERTY



This past August, PVLT board and interested members of the public met to discuss the existing conditions on the Murphy property and how wetlands and floodplain forests might be restored on this important floodplain property along the main stem of the Passumpsic River in Lyndonville.

In reviewing the properties currently owned by PVLT, it is clear that there are a number of opportunities to restore the properties to protect and enhance their ecological benefits for water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and aesthetic appeal. Such restoration has already occurred through the removal of the East Burke Dam, but there are numerous additional opportunities. In particular, many of the properties border the rivers and streams of the Passumpsic River Watershed and remain largely vegetated by abandoned, old agricultural fields (e.g. Confluence, Calkins, Davis, Murphy, and Towns properties). On these properties, we have observed that there are opportunities to protect and enhance floodplain habitats, including floodplain forests and wetlands. Restoring these habitats would protect and improve water quality, improve both riparian and in-stream fish and wildlife habitats, and increase flood resiliency.



*Thank you to our dedicated members who joined us to walk PVLT's Murphy property behind the Plaza White Market. Our conversation about floodplain restoration was an important community interaction on a timely topic. Special thank you to Fritz Gerhardt from the Connecticut River Conservancy for his expertise.*

Visit the PVLT website for additional information about the Murphy parcel and other conserved properties. PVLT has 24 parcels in 11 Passumpsic Valley Watershed towns totaling approximately 600 acres.