



### CHAPMAN'S POND PRESERVES

Chapman's Pond is a large tidal pond located in the southwestern corner of East Haddam. It is connected to the Connecticut River by two tidal creeks. The area played an important role during the Town's development as the center of fishing activities and the growing of livestock hay for many of the Town's farmers. Small strip lots of the meadow belonged to each farm family. Each year, farmers harvested the hay from the wet meadows that spanned between the pond and the river. The Great Flood of 1936 destroyed the hay meadows and a floodplain wetland and marsh became established.

Chapman's Pond, the floodplain and the surrounding upland forests have gained ecological importance in this scenic, somewhat remote area. The Nature Conservancy and the Land Trust worked cooperatively to preserve the area, and now, over 700 acres are preserved. The EHLT owns several small parcels contiguous to that of TNC, and the effort to preserve the remaining small parcels continues.

The Land Trust's six parcels are accessible only by boat at high tide. The TNC properties are accessible by boat or by trail off of River Road. There is parking for 2 or 3 cars after the right turn onto an old woods road on the north side of the River Road, near the 90 degree turn, about 1/4 mile from Rte. 82. The trail begins beyond the parking spaces.