

EHLT NEWS

Lee May Joins Land Trust Board

Lee May, award winning journalist and author, recently joined the board of the East Haddam Land Trust. Lee's journalism career spans three decades and includes assignments ranging from lifestyle features to the federal government. A gardening and food columnist at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* from 1992 to 2002, Lee wrote for the *Los Angeles Times* – as a Washington correspondent covering the White House and other national stories.

Lee's collection of essays, *Gardening Life*, explores the tapestry of emotions and experiences that gardening evokes. *In My Father's Garden* recounts his coming-of-age and tells how he and his father nurtured a long-lost connection through their love of gardening.

“Joining the board gives me an opportunity to work with kindred spirits, helping preserve and protect what brought me here: the beauty, calm and nourishment of nature's garden.” Lee lives and gardens in East Haddam with his wife, Lyn, and their two cats.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1, 1PM The Land Trust President's New Years Day hike will be at Machimoodus State Park. We will be exploring some of the familiar trails in Machimoodus as well as those in the newly acquired adjacent state property formerly known as Sunrise Resort. The hike will start from the Machimoodus parking lot off of Rt. 151 at 1:00 PM and last about two hours. Heavy rain will cancel though cold or snow will not deter the hearty among you.

Friday, January 16, 7PM, Come join the EHLT at its Annual Meeting at the Town Grange Hall. Meet the board, learn about EHLT's future plans and find out how you can help. Watch for future mailings or check the trust's website for details on this year's keynote speaker.

Items and Assistance Needed

The land trust needs some civil engineering assistance (pro bono?) in designing a thirty foot long foot bridge in our Sheepskin Hollow Preserve.

A flat file (24" by 36" minimum) is needed to store our many maps of our preserves and easements.

If you can assist your land trust with these items, please contact the president by email (see website) or by mail at our address.



EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST
P.O. Box 122
East Haddam, CT 06423
www.ehlt.org

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EHLT Annual Meeting

Friday, January 16, 2009 @ 7PM
Town Grange Hall

EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER



Winter 2009



EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST

AN OPEN LETTER TO EAST HADDAM RESIDENTS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As President of the East Haddam Land Trust I am asking for your help. We are currently working with land owners to protect close to 150 acres of land on the Moodus River in the north to the Eightmile River in the south. To do this crucial work, **we need your financial support**. The land trust, which is a totally volunteer non-profit organization, relies on the generous contributions of its members. Our annual membership drive is the primary method of raising the necessary funds to purchase, protect and steward the lands of the trust.

Land trust preserves enhance the quality of living for East Haddam and Moodus residents, because open space has a calming influence on us all. Visiting local open space for a family hike in the woods on a brisk fall day is a treasure that many towns don't offer. On some of our preserves you have the chance to view history and wonder about the industry of our forefathers, on others you can observe some of our wonderful natural resources.

Almost thirty years ago, some far-sighted individuals recognized the unique scenic, cultural and ecological values of our town. They established one of the first land trusts in

Connecticut to help protect these values. Since that time, the land trust has grown in membership and now owns or protects (through easements) over 300 acres.

Many of the properties now owned or protected were generously donated to the trust by landowners concerned that their property's unique history or ecology be preserved. These protections are forever and are written into the deed; however, the land may still be used for fishing, hunting, firewood cutting, limited timber harvesting or other outdoor recreation activities.

Not all the land the trust protects has been given to us. We have purchased property from willing sellers, typically working with other land protection organizations. Once we know what the landowner's wishes are for the property, the land is appraised and we work, alone or in partnership, until all parties are satisfied with the financial outcome. **Contrary to some beliefs, the land trust does not "take" land.** The land trust pays a fair-market, mutually-agreed-upon value for the properties it purchases. Occasionally, owners agree to sell land at a reduced price in order to achieve a tax benefit.

In a few weeks you will receive our annual membership appeal letter. Please take the time to join the land trust if you are not already a member. If your membership has lapsed, or you are currently a member please renew. Any contribution is appreciated.

A neighboring land trust has nearly 80% of their households participating as members. I think the citizens of East Haddam and Moodus appreciate our town's historic and rural character every bit as much as our neighbors appreciate theirs. So, I'm challenging each and every family to support the land trust so we can accomplish our common goals of preserving our town's character.

As always, thanks for your support. Please visit your land trust's preserves and check out what's happening on our website: www.ehlt.org.

Thanks,

Rob Smith
President, East Haddam Land Trust



Photos (from top): Machimoodus State Park; EHLT Work Party at the Helmboldt Easement; the Moodus River.