



# East Haddam Land Trust

Celebrating 28 Years of Land Conservation

Founded 1979

Official Newsletter

Autumn 2007

## President's Message

In this edition of the EHLT Newsletter, we celebrate the landmark purchase of the Patrell property on the Eightmile River, honor two individuals who were instrumental to the creation of the East Haddam Land Trust, and extend a special thank you to all those who made this land acquisition possible.

Our thanks go to the Patrell family, whose desire to see their land maintained as open space for public enjoyment and whose willingness to negotiate a bargain sale made the purchase possible.

Our thanks go to the Nature Conservancy, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, and the town of Lyme for their commitment to this cooperative effort, funding a substantial portion of the purchase price, providing expertise and support throughout the process. Thanks to those who acted on a vision of preserving this property as open space, including Maureen VanDerStad, Jeanne Meredith, Sue Merrow and Vivien Blackford. Thanks to Jim Ventres, East Haddam Planning Administrator, for obtaining \$275,000 in state open space grant funding for the \$550,000 purchase.

Above all, our thanks go to you, our members and the people of East Haddam, for coming out in record numbers to unanimously approve this open space acquisition at town meeting, and for contributing so generously to our fundraising campaign. With your support, our fundraising efforts have been highly successful, bringing us over the top of our \$27,500 goal. As a result, not only has the Land Trust fulfilled its financial obligation toward this acquisition, but it is now better positioned to be pro-active in future land conservation efforts.

*Barb Bloomberg*  
*EHLT President*

### Join us for the Annual Meeting!

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 7PM  
Town Grange Hall

Speakers, Refreshments and Land Trust News!  
Featuring Ralph Lewis, retired State Geologist  
"The Geology of East Haddam"



## Patrell Preserve: A gem on the Eightmile

Acquisition of the Patrell property this fall represents the culmination of years of negotiations and the creation of a partnership that included two towns, two land trusts, and the Nature Conservancy.

The property was owned by the family of Oliver and Kay Patrell, who originally had the property approved for subdivision and listed for sale. An appraisal at that time gave the property a value of \$1.1 million. When approached with the idea of creating a preserve, however, they agreed to take the property off the market and negotiate a sale that would meet their financial needs. Without the family's willingness to work with the partner organizations and their desire to see the land conserved, this acquisition would never have become a reality.

This lovely, 46-acre parcel of land on Baker Lane has over 3000 feet of frontage on the Eightmile River. An existing paved trail provides easy access to the river, even for the handicapped. Interesting geologic features include eskers, kettleholes and moraines created by retreating glaciers. The forest cover of mixed hardwoods helps protect the riverbanks and maintain cool water temperatures essential for a healthy fish population. Old fields on the property provide habitat for ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.

Plans for the property include removing invasives, extending the existing trail network and erecting informational signs describing the geology and other interesting features of the terrain. Look for more information on the EHLT website soon.

# In Memoriam...

## Dr. Richard Goodwin

When Dick Goodwin died this past summer at the age of 96, East Haddam, the State of Connecticut and Planet Earth lost one of its most visionary, intellectual, and passionate conservationists.

When Dick and his devoted wife, Esther, moved to East Haddam in 1956, they purchased a 170-acre old farm on Dolbia Hill Road. It consisted of fields, a beautiful hemlock ravine and a pristine trout stream. In 1960, they established the Burnham Brook Preserve by a donation of 46 acres of land to The Nature Conservancy. Shortly thereafter, another 50 were donated by a neighbor. With his efforts to obtain more donations of land and bargain sales from their neighbors— much of the monetary contributions from Dick and Esther themselves – the Burnham Brook Preserve now consists of about 1200 acres within the Eightmile River Watershed.

In addition to his more renowned accomplishments, Dr. Goodwin directly contributed to the establishment of the EHLT. In the late-1970's, a building boom in town, several of us met and discussed a new concept for the town: a land trust. Dick helped with the organizational protocol. By 1979, the all-volunteer East Haddam Land Trust was incorporated, with Dick as one of its nine Board of Directors. As its second president, he served two three-year terms, and he devotedly supported the Land Trust up until his death. Although many town residents were initially skeptical of the EHLT, he helped it become a highly respected organization that has saved over 350 acres.

Beginning in the early 1950's, Dr. Goodwin helped to create The Nature Conservancy and helped build it into what it is today. He served two unpaid terms as its president. A non-profit, national organization, TNC has grown to a global vision initiated by Dr. Goodwin, and has saved 15 million acres of land in the US and another 102 million acres in 29 other countries. In 1960, Goodwin and Conn. College botany professor, William A. Niering, established the state chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

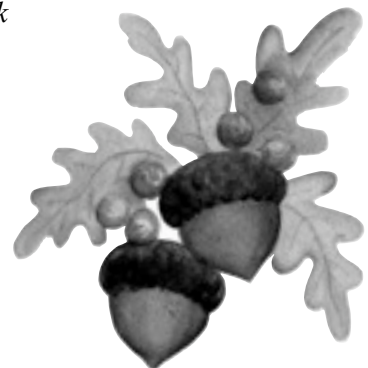
Dr. Goodwin served as Professor of Botany at Connecticut College in New London from 1944 to 1976. He pioneered his life's philosophy: ecology, over-population, clean air and water, global warming, and preservation of critical open spaces on Earth. Harvard educated, he received three degrees in 1933, 1934 and 1937 respectively.

East Haddam and Burnham Brook were his and Esther's love. A monetary contribution by the Goodwins in the 1970's has grown to an impressive endowment toward the preserve's stewardship and management. A wildlife inventory of the 96 acre parcel was published in 1966. As The Burnham Brook Preserve grew, scientific studies were undertaken and wildlife inventories were updated; a fourth was published shortly before his death. Goodwin was the author of numerous scientific articles and books including *Burnham Brook Preserve of the Nature Conservancy 1960 to 2005* (December 2006), and his autobiography, *A Botanist's Window on the Twentieth Century* (Harvard University, 2002). Among his other contributions, Richard H. Goodwin was a poet. At a memorial service the main Burnham Brook loop trail was dedicated to the Goodwins. Another new trail meanders off to the west, where an impressive glacial boulder rests. On it is a bronze plaque, with Dr. Goodwin's poem, *Soil*.

*Martha McLaud Tonucci*  
*EHLT founder and past board member*

### SOIL

Dark, moist, wonder in my hand,  
Living, breathing, nurse of seed,  
Foundation of all,  
How many dead leaves have you known,  
How many men?  
The peace you must know,  
Having flown as a bird,  
Leaped as a frog,  
Thought as a man,  
Loved as a woman.  
Eternal life or living dead,  
When I am to be set among you,  
Cast my ashes with the wildest of daisies  
-Richard Goodwin



## Alan Birmingham, an appreciation

The Land Trust lost another founder this summer with the death of Alan Birmingham. Alan was an attorney and was of incalculable assistance to the Board as it was just getting started. As a non-profit organization, our tax-free status is very important to donors and there is a lot of paperwork and submissions to the Secretary of State that are required. Alan knew all of that stuff and guided us through the confusing process without a misstep.

While other new land trusts experienced some legal snafus, the East Haddam Land Trust had clear sailing due to Alan's expertise, energy, and selflessness. He never charged the organization for his legal services, which amounts to a very generous donation. He served as secretary and treasurer during the early years-- which are often difficult positions to fill-- and served on the Board for a total of 16 years. When offered the more glamorous job of president, he always declined. Alan preferred a low profile. He had a quiet demeanor but had a true dedication to the protection of land and natural resources. He fostered confidence in both himself and the organization.

Alan Birmingham may have been a quiet leader but I am confident that the other founding members of the Trust will support me when I say that Alan Birmingham deserves a huge amount of credit for the success of the East Haddam Land Trust and we should all be grateful for his involvement. We are very sad at his passing.

*Steve Gephard,  
EHLT Past President*

## Become a Member today!

Membership in the East Haddam Land Trust is accepted throughout the year for the current calendar year. At this time, we will also begin accepting new memberships and membership renewals for the 2008 calendar year. Please consider supporting the EHLT with your membership dollars.

## Thoughts at the Bridge..

Did you know that idling gets 0 miles per gallon? Studies show that you save gas by turning the engine off and restarting it if you expect to idle for more than 10 seconds. A common occurrence for East Haddamites. You will also prevent pollution by avoiding long idles. So next time the bridge interrupts your busy day, turn off the car, enjoy the scenery and save a buck besides.

## Upcoming Events

Be a part of the East Haddam Land Trust by participating in our many events. Want to learn about upcoming events via email? Contact the EHLT email administrator ([K2PFS@aol.com](mailto:K2PFS@aol.com)) with "Add me to the EHLT email list" in the subject line.

**January 1, 1PM**, New Year's Day Walk. Machimoodus State Park. Meet in the parking area for a guided hike with spectacular views of the Salmon and Connecticut Rivers.

**January 18, 7PM**, Come join the EHLT at its Annual Meeting at the Town Grange Hall. Featured speaker will be Ralph Lewis, retired State Geologist, who will speak about the geology of East Haddam.

**Coming this February**, Volunteer Night. Learn about how you can help EHLT with stewardship of town preserves, fundraising, wildlife conservation and other activities. Watch the EHLT website and email list for details.

**Coming this March**, Woodcock Walk. Also known as "timberdoodles" these birds put on a remarkable display for their mates. Join EHLT and local experts to view this unique natural wonder.

## Get the EHLT Calendar

The EHLT annual "Nature Notes" calendar for 2008 is now available. This calendar is free, and copies may be picked up at several locations around town. Plans for the 2009 calendar art contest are already underway; details are in the calendar.

Please join us in extending our thanks to Martha McLaud Tonucci, who designed the calendar and wrote all the nature notes, Noelle Avakian for her assistance its layout and production, and to all the area businesses and individuals whose sponsorship made this free calendar possible.

## EHLT 2007 Board of Directors


<b>President</b>	Barbara Bloomberg.....	873-8758
<b>Vice President</b>	Rob Smith .....	873-2189
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Geisey .....	526-2407
<b>Secretary</b>	Noelle Avakian.....	873-1994
<b>Directors</b>	Anita Ballek .....	873-8878
	Matt Budzik.....	873-3787
	Don Goss.....	526-0877
	John Rozum.....	873-1439
	Jane Zirlis.....	873-3025

The EHLT newsletter was supported, in part, by the generous donations of these local vendors. Please make a point of thanking them for their support!



**Village Pizza & Restaurant**  
Nathan Hale Plaza  
Rt. 149 Moodus, CT 06469

Phone: (860) 873-1416 Fax: (860) 873-1417



**ADRIANA'S HAIRSTYLING**


25 Falls Rd.  
Moodus, CT 06469

PHONE: (860) 873-3494

*Hair, Tanning & Waxing*

**The Ballek's Garden Center Proudly Supports the East Haddam Land Trust**

*Ballek's Garden Center*



Anita M. Ballek  
Nancy Ballek Mackinnon  
George F. Ballek  
Richard A. Ballek

90 MAPLE AVENUE  
E. HADDAM, CT 06423  
Tel. (860) 873-8878  
Fax (860) 873-3252

**NATHAN HALE PHARMACY**  
Nathan Hale Plaza  
Moodus, CT 06469

Your  
Neighborhood Pharmacy  
with You in Mind

We Accept All Prescription Insurance  
and  
Medicare Part D Plans

M - F 9AM - 8:30PM  
SAT 9AM - 6PM  
SUN 9AM - 1PM

PHONE: 860 873 1481  
FAX: 860 873 2490

HOME MADE, SIMPLY PURE  
DOG BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS: Pulverized chicken and/or turkey bones, giblets and meat, broth (fat removed), sunflower seeds, corn meal, whole wheat flour, yeast + lots of love, no salt, no preservatives

Training treats • Bones, 2"-5 1/2" • Hearts

MARTHA McLAUD TONUCCI  
Maker of gourmet dog biscuits,  
and proud supporter of the  
East Haddam Land Trust  
873-9187

East Haddam Land Trust Inc.  
P.O. Box 122  
East Haddam, CT 06423

[www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org)

**Don't forget the EHLT Annual Meeting  
Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 7PM  
Town Grange Hall**

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 25  
East Haddam, CT

## Postal Customer

