



# East Haddam Land Trust

Autumn 2016

## Invest in EHLT

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

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# East Haddam Land Trust Newsletter

East Haddam Land Trust preserves and protects land in perpetuity for the public benefit.

## FROM A FARM TO A FARMING LEGACY

- A MEMBER'S STORY -

*Anita Ballek has more local history tucked away in her memory banks than most. For more than 350 years her family has lived on, farmed, and cared for the land and the surrounding acreage that is now Ballek's Garden Center. Here's*

*Anita's story ...*

As a child, fetching the cows from the lower pastures gave me an opportunity to follow their narrow "cow paths" to the far corners of our farm. Each day and each season brought a new joy of nature to discover—nesting roughed grouse, ripening blueberries, the bright red-orange blossoms of Indian paintbrush. Sea-



The cow pasture at Ballek's farm in East Haddam.

sons flew by, from the awakening of the skunk cabbages in early spring to the browning of the goldenrod in autumn, as my family lived and worked on our farm.

*My love of natural spaces was certainly seeded during my early years on the farm.*

As I matured into adulthood and became more involved in our town, I realized just how special a beauty East Haddam is. During the 1950's, while roaming the town seeking Farm Bureau memberships, I saw stone-walled open fields lining the roads and vistas across hills that created a Grandma Moses landscape that I thought would never change.

*Continued on page 2 ...*



## East Haddam Land Trust

### EHLT 's 2016

#### Board of Directors

Pete Govert,  
President

Rob Smith,  
Vice President

Dean Anderson,  
Treasurer

Joene Hendry,  
Secretary

Barbara Pokorny,  
Membership

Susan Dowling,  
Director

Bob Ballek,  
Director

Sarah Gworek,  
Director

Roger Nemergut,  
Director

Vickie DeNicola,  
Director

Doreen Jezek,  
Director

Our 12-member board manages EHLT's business, membership, communication, fundraising, and events.

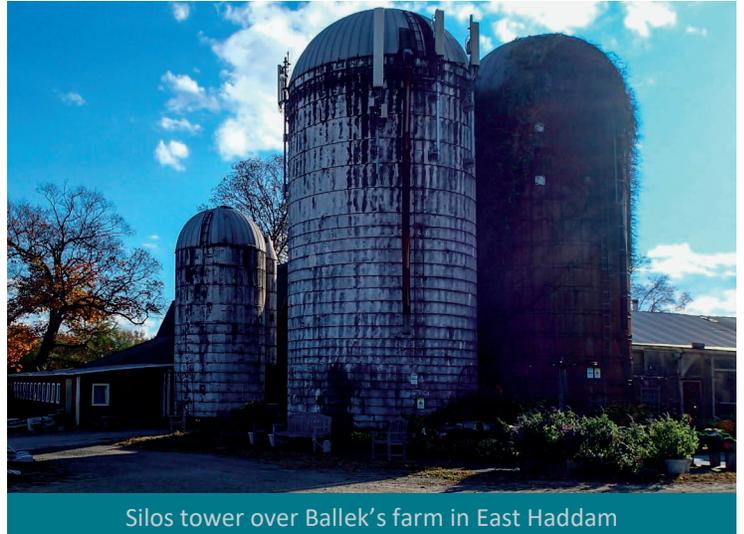
We currently have one vacancy, and will vote in four new directors in 2017.

Please call 860-484-3458 or email [president@ehlt.org](mailto:president@ehlt.org) if interested in joining our board.

## Member's Story continued ...

My wake-up call came during the 1960's when East Haddam embarked on a "Plan of Development" that zoned my family's acreage "industrial." I was aghast. During this same period, I became active in forming the East Haddam Land Trust. At the time, I selfishly thought, "I'll give the farm to them to keep it open space forever."

It was attorney Alan Birmingham, a fellow founder of the East Haddam Land Trust, who persuaded me that our fledgling organization was not qualified to manage a working farm. But this did not stop me from working with fellow East Haddam



Silos tower over Ballek's farm in East Haddam

Land Trust founders to preserve other wild places in East Haddam. After 20 years serving East Haddam Land Trust's board of directors, the directors established the Anita Ballek/East Haddam Land Trust Scholarship. This annual scholarship is awarded to a Nathan Hale-Ray High School graduate pursuing environmental studies, and is jointly supported by the Land Trust and me. Since 1999, the Anita Ballek/East Haddam Land Trust Scholarship has helped 16 local graduates.

But what about the family farm? My children and I want it to provide an agricultural livelihood for whomever is willing to work hard and love the land as we do. We want our family acreage to be farmed in perpetuity. Therefore, we are donating our "Development Rights" to the Connecticut Farmland Trust, an established preservation organization specifically created to preserve and manage working farms.

*The booklet "Protecting the Land You Love" explains the avenues available for preserving your land. Call EHLT at 860-484-3458 or email [president@ehlt.org](mailto:president@ehlt.org) for your free copy.*

## WHAT DOES EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST DO?



Golet Farm Preserve

**EHLT PROTECTS  
AND MAINTAINS  
500 ACRES OF LAND  
(12 ACRES ADDED IN  
2016)**

**10 PRESERVES HAVE  
PUBLIC USE TRAILS,  
5 PRESERVES DO NOT**



**EHLT STEWARDSHIP  
VOLUNTEERS DONATED  
AT LEAST 700 HOURS  
IN 2016  
CLEARING TRAILS, MARKING  
BOUNDARIES, INSTALLING  
SIGNS, AND OPENING ACCESS  
TO EHLT PRESERVES**

*East Haddam Land Trust is your local, all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt organization that conserves irreplaceable land and waterways for the enjoyment of current and future generations of people and wildlife.*

### So far in 2016 East Haddam Land Trust:

Sponsored 21 hikes, paddles, and public events engaging at least 745 people; sponsored the East Haddam Farmers' Market; created/distributed 6000 free Nature Calendars.

Held the 2016 Musical Bridges concert (photo right), engaging at least 400 people and 30 musicians in music and fun; raised \$6000 for EHLT's Stewardship Fund.

Raised \$375 for the Anita Ballek/EHLT Scholarship Fund at the 2016 Annual Meeting book auction.

Installed Preserve signs, built/maintained trails, opened Golet Farm Preserve, finalized purchase of Bloch Preserve.

Began the process of becoming a Land Trust Alliance accredited organization.

Shared printing/distributing of East Haddam trail maps with the East Haddam Conservation Commission.

Worked with area Land Trusts, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, and the Land Trust Exchange on sharing services to improve efficiency, and a regional booklet highlighting the preservation value of the lower Connecticut River valley region.

Supplied volunteer labor, major funding, engineering, and video documentation for the Eightmile River Foot-bridge/Richard H. Goodwin Trail a (see bridge video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4fWuXWUXhc>).

Celebrated EHLT Director and current Vice President Rob Smith's receipt of the 2016 Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Land Conservation, awarded by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.





East Haddam  
Land Trust

## MEMBERSHIP

Guardian \$500

Sustaining \$250

Contributing \$100

Family \$50

Basic \$20

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYER MATCHING

## DONATIONS

DOUBLE YOUR  
EHLT

MEMBERSHIP  
DONATION

Obtain matching donation forms from your employer's human resources dept.

List EHLT on forms then submit to your employer.

Employer verifies your donation, then matches it!

## MEMBERS - THE LIFEBLOOD OF EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST

Members keep East Haddam Land Trust's mission alive—to preserve and protect land in perpetuity for the public benefit. November marks the beginning of our 2016-2017 membership campaign, and we know these campaigns work—over the last three years they brought EHLT 70 new members.

Our members value naturally preserved areas as places to refresh busy minds, observe wildlife and vegetation, and get a blast of fresh air. EHLT members support preserving land to maintain our Town's rural character, protect key waterways, and build greenway corridors so vital to plant and animal life.

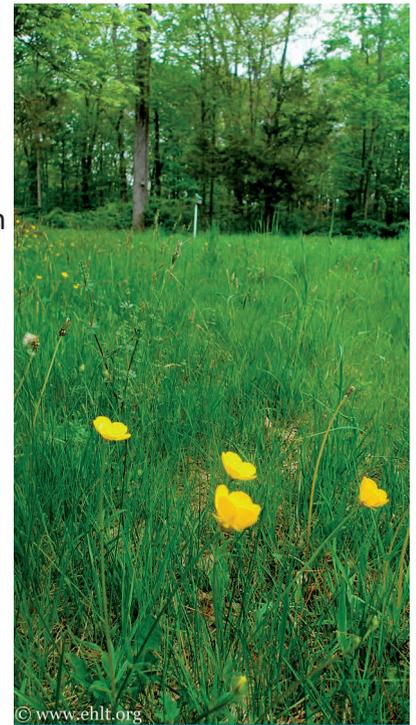
Currently, 363 members sustain EHLT's mission to:

- ◆ create, maintain, and identify hiking trails for public use.
- ◆ share environmental and land preservation issues.
- ◆ sponsor events that get people outdoors.
- ◆ provide scholarship funds to local high school graduates pursuing environmental studies.
- ◆ have funds to act when land preservation opportunities arise.

We invite you to join us.

Please use the enclosed envelope to invest in East Haddam Land Trust.

***Thank You! Every membership counts.***



© www.ehlt.org

Golet Farm Preserve meadow.

Invest in East Haddam Land Trust to  
touch the land you help preserve,  
see the views you help protect,  
and observe plants, trees, and wildlife  
on the forever home you help provide.

## About 1/3 of East Haddam is an Audubon CT-designated Important Bird Area

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identify regions critical to survival of year-round and migratory birds. About one-third of East Haddam falls within the 62,000-acre Lyme Forest Block IBA, an area >70% forested.

IBAs are voluntary partnerships to prioritize efficient use of science-based conservation planning and habitat improvement. IBAs place no legal or regulatory restrictions on land.

East Haddam Land Trust stewards, or manages, all its preserves—including Sheepskin Hollow, Ayers, Hammond Mill, Olde Field, Ballahack, and William Jezek Memorial, the six within the Lyme Forest Block IBA - as healthy bird habitat. To help, consider joining our stewardship team—contact [president@ehlt.org](mailto:president@ehlt.org)—and stewarding your home landscape, regardless of size, with birds in mind. Here's how:

- ◆ Plant/maintain native ferns, grasses, nectar flowers, and a mix of native deciduous and conifer trees and shrubs in landscaped areas and along woodland edges.
- ◆ Keep safe snags (standing dead trees) as bird nesting sites.
- ◆ Keep downed deadwood as protection for ground-nesting birds and food sources for insect-eating birds.
- ◆ Minimize human impact in interior forests.
- ◆ Learn to manage/control invasive plants that crowd out native vegetation.
- ◆ Minimize or stop pesticide use.
- ◆ Conserve water and protect runoff.



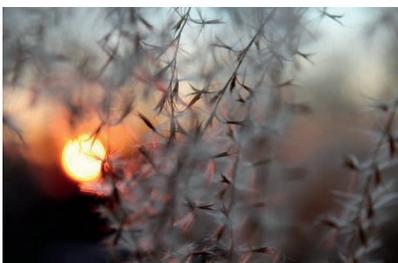
Nuthatch pair on pine. By Martha McLaud Tonucci

Learn more about stewarding home landscapes at <http://ct.audubon.org/audubon-at-home>.

Learn about gardening with natives at <https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Gardens/view>.

Visit the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (<http://cipwg.uconn.edu/>) for more on invasive plants.

## Focus, Shoot, and Enter the Land Trusts Photo Contest



'Sunset at Hatch Lot II'  
by Patrick Burns,  
2016 1st Place Youth

The five Land Trusts of East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, and Salem invite amateur photographers to submit photos to the Land Trusts Photo Contest. Youth and adult photographers may enter wildlife, plant, landscape/waterscape, and historic/cultural scenes captured within the five towns. Winning photos, chosen by a 3-judge panel, receive cash prizes. All entries displayed at a March 10, 2017 reception.

Visit <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/news/photo-contest/> for rules and entry forms.

**Submission deadline is January 31, 2017**



## East Haddam Land Trust

P.O. Box 122  
East Haddam, CT 06423

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### East Haddam Land Trust Events

#### **“Last Sunday” Hikes**

1:00-3:00 pm,

11/27/16, 1/1/17, 1/29/17, 2/26/17,  
3/26/17, 4/30/17, 5/28/17, 6/25/17

weather permitting

#### **Stewardship Saturday**

3rd Saturday, Sept. thru June

9:00 am-12 noon



#### **EHLT’s Annual Meeting**

January 20, 2017

Program features birds of prey, information on managing your bird habitat, and homemade bird houses

**Details at Events at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org)**

**Like us on Facebook**

**Join us for fun outings! Sign up for event emails at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org).**