

## EHLT NEWS

### What We're Working On...

The preservation of the Moodus River corridor has been a long-term goal ever since the Land Trust began. Now, thanks to the vision of Gary and Donna Bogan, the dream is becoming a reality. The Bogans own significant frontage on the Moodus River and have been in negotiations with EHLT to preserve and protect their beautiful and unique property. Soon, EHLT will option the right to purchase property and conservation easements from the Bogans. The protected property will become the core of what is hoped to become the Moodus River Preserve – a continuous, walkable stretch from Grist Mill Road to beyond Falls Road. To finish the work begun by the Bogans we will need your help. Look for upcoming information on this exciting project and ways you can help bring it to fruition.

### And Thanks!

Kudos and thanks to the far-sighted voters of East Haddam and EHLT members whose support will enable future generations to enjoy over 400 acres of woodlands, forests, and fields! Last summer's open space referendum was a huge success and a win for all the citizens of East Haddam. Congratulations on a very wise investment in our future!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 1, 1PM** East Haddam Land Trust President Rob Smith will lead the annual New Years Day hike. This year we will explore portions of the 1524 acres of the DEP's Babcock Wildlife Management Area. This area of open space extends from East Haddam into Colchester. So come out and enjoy the brisk winter weather while clearing the head of those celebration residuals.

All are welcome and participants should meet at the junction of Colchester Turnpike and Olmsted Road, approximately .75 miles east of the reservoir on Colchester Turnpike. Heavy rain will cancel the hike. Pets allowed on leash. Call Rob at 860-873-2189 for more information.

**Friday, January 15, 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.

Our guest speaker will be Parker Lord, selectman from Lyme. Mr. Lord will give a presentation about his adventures canoeing the length of the Connecticut River. Starting near the Canadian border with Vermont, the river travels over 400 miles to its mouth between Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Mr. Lord's narrative and photos of the adventure are informative and enjoyable. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.



EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST  
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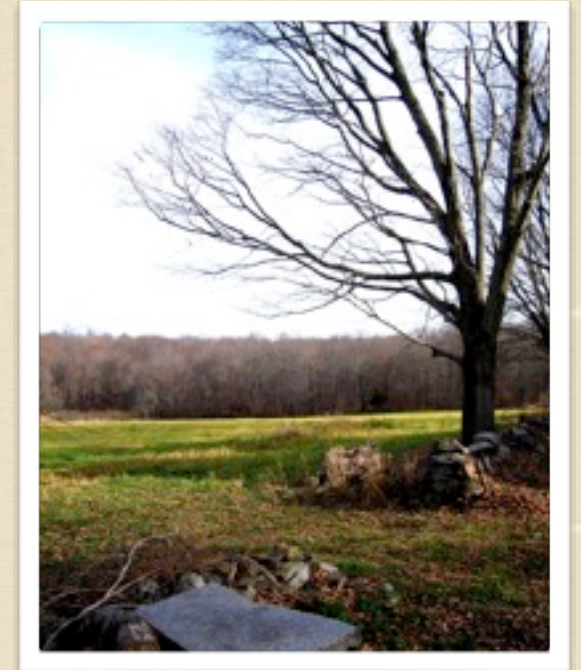
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**EHLT Annual Meeting**  
Friday, January 15, 2010 @ 7PM  
Town Grange Hall

# EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER



*Winter 2010*



# EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST

## BECOME A “RIVER SMART” HOME

The Eightmile River and its watershed are extraordinary environmental treasures, and we have the Federal Wild and Scenic Watershed designation to prove it. The watershed comprises 40,000 acres, or about 30% of the towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem. In order to pass the bills in Washington DC to prove its worthiness residents of each town worked for 5 years to study and nominate their river.

Now it's up to each of us to keep it clean and healthy. According to Anthony Irving, Chairman of the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee, “The future health of this extraordinary river depends on the folks who live in her watershed. If they understand how their day-to-day activities affect the river, and if they make a commitment to partner with us in stewardship, the future of our river will be bright. We need for everyone to pitch in with the small things we can each do every day as good watershed citizens.”



Can you help? Here's a simple thing you can do: become a River Smart Home. And you don't have to live near the Eightmile to participate!

It's easy. Go to the Eightmile River website, [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org), take the RiverSmart Survey and Pledge. In return, you will receive an information packet about protecting the river and a small, sturdy sign that states “RiverSmart Home” to display on your property. The sign tells the world that you care and you're doing your share. Log on today and give it a try.

The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee, made up of representatives of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme, local land trusts, and the Department of Environmental Protection, meets bi-monthly to oversee the programs and activities called for by the Wild and Scenic designation. Interested citizens are encouraged to log on to [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org) for more information.

## THE GELSTON EASEMENT

Todd and Charlotte Gelston, who donated a thirty-acre conservation easement to the EHLT this summer, hosted a stewardship event at the property in November. After Todd's narration about the three-century history of the property, EHLT members set off to mark the boundaries of the easement.

This easement will assure that the property will remain in its current undeveloped state in perpetuity. All of the fields and woods are now protected open space. “I still own all the rocks, trees and dirt,” observed Mr. Gelston, “but this ensures that the land will always remain much as it has for the past two hundred years.”

An easement is a great conservation tool to preserve open space but also has significant tax benefits for landowners. If you think a conservation easement might be right for your property, contact the EHLT president for more information ([president@ehlt.org](mailto:president@ehlt.org)).



Photos (from top): Todd Gelston details the history of the property; EHLT members set off to mark the easement boundaries; EHLT Stewardship team.