

## Meet Your Directors

(Continued from Spring newsletter)

**Jane Anderson**, born and raised in New Britain, earned a BA in biology from a Philadelphia college. She worked in several medical labs and as a licensed medical technologist at several area hospitals. Jane and her husband Forrest moved to East Haddam in 1974, raising their two children, Rachel and Daryl here. Jane was an East Haddam Junior Women's Club member for nearly 10 years and enjoys knitting, crocheting, gardening, hiking and canoeing. During her 10-year membership with EHLT, Jane has spent nearly 8 years helping with the EHLT Calendar.

As a lifelong East Haddam resident, **Roy Parker** grew up fishing, hiking, and playing in the woods here. He is an alumnus of The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, earned his Masters Degree in Middle School Education from Saint Joseph College and his School Administration Certificate from Sacred Heart University, both in Connecticut. Roy is founder of the East Haddam Soccer Club, co-founder of Nathan Hale-Ray Alumni Association, and chief organizer of the Machimoodus Outdoors Club for people who enjoy being outside. Roy is an avid birdwatcher and enjoys kayaking, hiking, gardening, travelling, and family time.

**Sarah Thurmond** grew up on a farm in Southern Illinois (where her father still resides). She earned a BA in Graphic Design from the University of Cincinnati. After college, Sarah moved to Boulder, Colorado to spend time in the mountains, then moved to Indian Rocks Beach, Florida to live near the ocean. In 2004 Sarah moved to Connecticut and fell in love with the country charm of East Haddam. She works as a web designer and photographer (see her photos at ... ) and with various non-profit groups including The Nature Conservancy's Burnham Brook Preserve. Sarah also plays ragtime piano, rides horses, and paints animal and nature scenes

## EHLT has a new look!

EHLT's new website has now replaced the former site. The new site gives members access to their membership status, allows for new and renewal memberships, and lets members and non-members choose their email preferences. EHLT can now send out batch emails to announce upcoming events like regular hikes and work parties (stewardship), summer and early autumn paddles, and special events. Preserve information is continuously updated with information and photos. Take a look around at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org) and tell us what you think.

**Follow EHLT on Facebook.** You'll find photos from previous hikes and paddles, land preservation updates, and important information about events on EHLT's Facebook page. Search for East Haddam Land Trust in the Facebook search bar, visit the page and hit the 'Like' button. Then hold your pointer over this button to check the Get Notifications option so EHLT updates show up in your Facebook News Feed.

**EHLT history.** East Haddam Land Trust has been in continuous operation since 1979. As one of the region's very first land trusts, it was founded by a group of East Haddam residents who cared about preserving the town's natural resources. Many EHLT founders remain active in land trust activities and have helped EHLT carefully nurture relationships with local landowners interested in maintaining land in a natural state and protecting their land from future development.

**Who we are.** EHLT is a volunteer, non-profit corporation, membership-based community of people who believe that preserving open space in East Haddam is important. Members are your neighbors and friends, mostly living in East Haddam. But members also include people from neighboring towns, far-flung locations around the country and former or non-residents who feel a bond with East Haddam and EHLT's mission.



Postal Customer

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# EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER



The upper mill wheel pit foundation and headrace outlet to wheel at Hammond Mill Preserve

*Summer 2013*



# EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Periodically we highlight one of our preserves, such as Hammond Mill, EHLT's first preserve. - Rob Smith

### Hammond Mill Preserve

Shortly after a group of far-sighted individuals incorporated the East Haddam Land Trust in 1979, John and Barbara Kashanski donated a unique parcel of land to the Trust. This parcel - now Hammond Mill Preserve - became East Haddam Land Trust's first preserve. It is located on the Eightmile River and can be found off of West Dolbia Hill Road, which is off Hopyard Road about .75 mile north of Route 82.

This 12-acre preserve has a rich history. The first recognized owner was Squire John Chapman. The river here was damned and, through clever engineering, the impounded river provided water power for two mills on the property. Additionally, a careful evaluation of



Former mill pond location and Eightmile River

the site indicates that Hedge Brook, which also flows through the property, provided a supplemental water source to keep the mills operating. Hedge Brook was damned west of Hopyard Road (private property) and its waters were re-routed into the sluiceway. In the late 1700's and early 1800's, Chapman operated a number of mills. These included a grist mill

for grinding various grains, a sawmill, a fulling mill for thickening and cleaning woolen cloth, a blacksmith shop and an oil press where flax seed was pressed into cakes which were used as cattle feed.

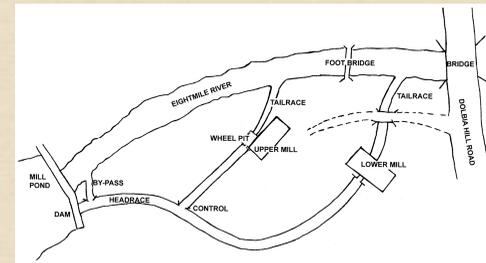
By the time Edward Crowninshield Hammond purchased the property in the early 1900's, the dam had been breached and the remaining mill was in disrepair. It became Hammond's hobby to rebuild the mill and restore the dam and associated mill races on this property, which he referred to as Woodcock Hollow. At the time the property held a large collection of mill stones, plus leach or lye stones used for leaching lye out of wood ashes. The lye was then used to make soap.

For over 25 years, Mr. Hammond was an ardent supporter of the Boy Scouts. Upon his death in 1940, his family donated the property, in Hammond's memory, to the Pequot Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The property was to be used by the scouts as a "pioneer scout camp" where senior scouts could practice Scout-craft and use the location to learn many skills and crafts of the colonial settlers of this area.

Eventually, the Boy Scouts sold the Preserve property to the Kasanki's, with the condition that scouts be able to use the property as a camping area. The sawmill was moved from the property by Ray Schmidt, who had it re-erected below the dam in Johnsonville. It is unclear when the dam again was breached by the flow of the Eightmile. The river has

continued to erode the concrete and stone portion of the dam that Hammond had re-built. However, most of the stone work of the sluiceways leading to the mill sites is intact. The stone-walled headrace for the upper mill is an example of Yankee ingenuity at its best! When you visit, look for the stone steps built into the wall.

Though the landscape of Hammond Mill Preserve has been altered by periodic flooding of the Eightmile River and decades-long activities prior to EHLT's acquisition of the property, you can still imagine the hustle and bustle of activity that must have occurred here two centuries ago. BUT, you can also see why Hammond and the Kashanski's loved the property for its current beauty and serenity. In keeping with Hammond's wishes that the Boy Scouts have access to the property, scout groups still periodically camp and fish here. Please visit this extraordinary example of East Haddam's colonial history while enjoying the quietude of the woods and the sound of the Eightmile as it makes its now unimpeded way to Hamburg Cove.



Hammond Mill Preserve trial map showing former mill sites.



Dam control opening to sluiceway (headrace). Also barely visible on right side is excess control "valve" or opening back to river.



At Hammond Mill Preserve control point from main sluiceway to upper mill dam headrace.