



East Haddam Land Trust Newsletter

Fall 2014

Why Preserve Land?

- Increased home value adjacent to preserved space
- Reduced need for costly municipal services
- Protected ecosystems function naturally
- Entices recreational tourism & supports associated business
- Improves healthy community recreational, educational opportunities

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East Haddam Land Trust—Celebrating 35 Years

It's been 35 years since a group of like-minded East Haddam residents had the foresight to form the non-profit organization, East Haddam Land Trust and set its mission to:

- Acquire land for preservation in its natural state.
- Educate the public in the value of preserved land/waterways.
- Motivate public use of preserved land/waterways.
- Create and maintain trails on preserved lands.
- Advocate for continued land preservation.

EHLT's current Board of twelve directors continues to

manage EHLT as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 corporation, following the mission created by EHLT Founders. But to continue preserving East Haddam's land and waterways, EHLT needs you.

EHLT needs funding from conservationists—like you—who understand the value of preserved space.

EHLT used a significant chunk of its coffers to preserve 45 acres adjacent to the Moodus River and contributed funds to help the Town of East Haddam purchase its Hatch Lot (formerly Pages) and Roaring Brook (formally Zeiler) Preserves.

Soon other key parcels will become available for preser-

vation. EHLT needs funds to act on these parcels.

Your pledge of any amount this year and in 2015—or any amount now—will increase EHLT's ability to preserve land and maintain its current preserves.



EHLT's Sheepskin Hollow Preserve

Donate at www.ehlt.org, or mail your check to East Haddam Land Trust, P.O. Box 122, East Haddam, CT 06423.

EHLT Says Thanks for Donations of Goods and Space

East Haddam Land Trust greatly appreciates all donations, no matter the size, and is extremely grateful for these recent donations.

One is office space, kindly donated by Kathy and Bruce Briggs. After many years holding Board meetings at EHLT Founding member Anita Ballek's house and using her basement for file storage, EHLT has a new home.



EHLT 2014 Directors in new office space (L to R front: Pete Govert, Dot Millen, Rob Smith, Joene Hendry, Sarah Gworek; back: Pat Anderson, Jane Anderson, Barbara Pokorny, Bob Ballek.) Directors John Matthew, Gail Sharkey, Lynn Wilkinson not in photo.

The other is a new leaf blower kindly donated by local businessman Bruce Dutch. Having this leaf blower allows EHLT volunteer stewards to be much more efficient in clearing leaf debris from trails.



L to R: EHLT Vice-president Pete Govert, Bruce Dutch, EHLT President Rob Smith

THANK YOU for these and all donations received!

Demystifying East Haddam's Land Conservation Organizations

East Haddam is fortunate to have private and government organizations caring for its protected and preserved acreage, but which organization oversees what property? Here's a quick explanation.

East Haddam Land Trust ... continuously working to preserve and hold in trust the beautiful, vital lands and waterways of East Haddam.



Visit East Haddam Land Trust's website, www.ehlt.org, to learn more about EHLT's Preserves and sign-up for EHLT emails

East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) is a *private land conservation organization* and depends upon donations, grants and volunteers.

EHLT's main goal is preserving East Haddam's natural areas through direct land donations, direct land purchase, or conservation easements. EHLT also aims to foster an understanding and appreciation of natural spaces through sponsored hikes, paddle trips, trail building and maintenance programs, and activities for the public. EHLT awards an annual scholarship for a student pursuing secondary education in an environmental field, and collaborates with regional land conservation groups in preservation efforts.

EHLT-protected land is generally open to the public and maintained by EHLT volunteers. EHLT preserves include Sheepskin Hollow, Hidden Valley Farm, Hammond Mill, and the William Jezek Memorial Preserve, plus others that, together, total more than 250 acres of natural, open-to-the-public space.

Other EHLT easement-protected properties remain semi-private—open only for special, pre-planned events—to minimize human impact to these often-pristine spaces.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, non-profit corporation that works with EHLT, the Town and the State to permanently protect many hundreds of East Haddam acres, including Burnham Brook and Chapman Pond.

The State of CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) oversees several thousand acres of state park and forest, wildlife management areas, and dams and boat launches and works with EHLT, TNC, and the Town in open space preservation and maintenance.

The Open Space Committee (OSC) is East Haddam's municipal agency that seeks and evaluates properties using an established criteria-based scoring system to determine if a property should be protected. Every Town commission and EHLT is represented on the OSC which forwards open space recommendations to the Selectmen and other Town commissions for approval. The OSC also applies for State grants, evaluates acquisition costs, and collaborates with the Town Attorney before any acquisition moves to Town referendum, then works with the Selectmen to complete voter-approved Open Space purchases.

The East Haddam Conservation Commission (EHCC) is a municipal agency that oversees and maintains some Town property as well as over 1800 acres of Town-owned Open Space property purchased, with voter approval, for public use.

The Town's Hatch Lot and Roaring Brook Preserves are two examples of Open Space overseen by EHCC volunteers and, on occasion, the Town's Public Works Department using the Town's heavy equipment.

The private East Haddam Land Trust and the municipal East Haddam Conservation Commission often join forces on specific projects.

During the 2013-2014 school year EHLT and EHCC volunteers worked with the new Environmental Club at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, helping students learn trail-creating practices by guiding the building of a new trail on Town Property adjacent to the school, and fostering students' knowledge about and appreciation for plants and animals living in this natural setting.

EHLT and EHCC volunteers also work together building and maintaining trails on both Town-owned Open Space and EHLT-held preserves.

Signage Identifies Boundaries, Trails of Land Trust Preserves



EHLT's Hidden Valley Farm Preserve

The borders of East Haddam Land Trust preserves are marked by signs, usually posted on trees. Yellow “Entering East Haddam Land Trust Property” and white “Leaving East Haddam Land Trust Property” signs denote preserve boundaries.

Trails are marked by color blazes—tags or paint in blue, orange, yellow, red, white, or purple—on tree trunks or, in absence of trees, on posts.

Color blazes match trail map and directional references. Many trail maps can be downloaded and printed from www.ehlt.org.



Trail blazes

Ninth Annual Land Trusts Amateur Photo Contest

Submission Deadline: OCTOBER 31, 2014.

Amateur photographers:

submit photographs of the scenic countryside, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historic features in the towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Essex, Salem and East Haddam. Land Trusts in these towns sponsor this contest, but photographers don't have to live in one of these towns to enter.

A three-judge panel awards \$100, \$75, \$50 and \$25 cash prizes in five categories: Landscape/Waterscape, Plants, Wildlife, and Cultural/Historic for photographers 15 years of age and older, plus photographs of any subject for photographers aged 14 and younger. A special John G. Mitchell Memorial Award of \$100 will go to the photograph determined to best promote and support biodiversity and the environment. John G.

Mitchell was a life-long environmentalist and former photo contest judge.

The Ninth Photo Contest will be judged by two returning judges, William Burt, a naturalist and wildlife photographer acclaimed for his beautiful books; and Amy Kurtz Lansing, an accomplished art historian and curator at the Florence Griswold Museum. The third and new judge is Skip Broom, a respected, award-winning local photographer and antique house restoration housewright. Mr. Broom replaces the much-appreciated retiring judge, Rudy Muller, who volunteered with the Contest for many years.

All entered photographs, plus all winning photos, will be displayed and celebrated in a public reception in March 2015. Reception information will be shared nearer to this

date.

The sponsoring land trusts encourage amateur photographers to share wonderful photos highlighting the beauty of these southern Connecticut towns and the pressing need to preserve these environments.

Sponsoring land trusts include:

- [Lyme Land Conservation Trust](http://www.lymelandtrust.org),
- [Essex Land Trust](http://www.essexlandtrust.org),
- [Old Lyme Land Trust](http://www.oldlymelandtrust.org),
- [Salem Land Trust](http://www.salem-land-trust.org),
- [East Haddam Land Trust](http://www.ehlt.org)

Contest awards are generously funded by Lorensen Toyota, the Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, Ballek Garden Center, Essex Savings Bank, Murtha Cullina LLP, ChelseaGroton Bank, and Alison Mitchell in honor of her late husband John G. Mitchell.

Download contest rules at <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/news/photocontest/>.

Entry forms will be available after September 1 by email: photocontest@lymelandtrust.org.

View previous Land Trusts Photo Contest winners at <https://landtrustphotos.shutterfly.com/>

East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.

P. O. Box 122
East Haddam, CT 06423

Web: www.ehlt.org



East Haddam Land Trust Upcoming Events

EHLT schedules hikes or paddles the last Sunday of each month.

“Last Sunday” Hikes: September through June, 1 pm to 3 pm.

“Last Sunday” Paddles: July and August usually from 9 am to noon.

Columbus Day Weekend Paddle, October 12.

We welcome your ideas for outdoor events. Email communications@ehlt.org or president@ehlt.org

EHLT does trail work the 3rd Saturday, September through June.

Stewardship Saturday often involves clearing debris and branches, clearing vegetation, and repairing existing trails; creating and marking new trails and re-marking existing trails; building bridges; and marking preserve boundaries. And, in the midst of all this work, some fun. Want to help?

Email president@ehlt.org.

East Haddam Land Trust Annual Meeting, January 16, 2015.

Speaker: Amy Patterson, executive director of Connecticut Land Conservation Council, on the value of preserved open space.

To specifically fund the Anita Ballek/East Haddam Land Trust Scholarship Fund, EHLT will hold a Silent Auction of goods and services.

This meeting and auction is open to the public.

Up-to-date EHLT Events listed at www.ehlt.org, click the Events tab