



# East Haddam Land Trust

Spring/Summer 2019

## INVEST IN EHLT

Online:

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

By mail:

East Haddam

Land Trust

P.O. Box 122

East Haddam CT

06423

## 2019 EHLT DIRECTORS

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President

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One Vacancy

# East Haddam Land Trust Newsletter

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

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

More than four decades ago a group of visionaries conceptualized an organization that would preserve the natural beauty of East Haddam. Their idea incorporated in 1979 as East Haddam Land Trust. Its main purpose: to engage in and promote, for the general public, the preservation of natural, historic, and scenic sites of East Haddam and contiguous towns.

### 40 Years of Land Conservation

East Haddam Land Trust received its first preserve, Hammond Mill, in 1980 as a donation from John and Barbara Kashanski. It was at the Kashanski's dining room table where our founders first developed the groundwork for the Land Trust. Forty years later,



Eightmile River at Hammond Mill Preserve

your land trust oversees 700 acres of natural, historic, and scenic sites.

Much of this acreage was donated for public use. Today the beaver pond at Sheepskin Hollow, the reservoir views at William Jezek Memorial, wooded paths at Balahack, the wildlife and fields at Olde Field, the waterfall and mill remnants at Bernstein, and the Eightmile River at Ayers – are all open to you and for you because of land donations.

Some public use Preserves, such as Golet Farm, came to fruition through purchase/donation deals. The Land Trust protects other acreage through donated or purchased conservation easement agreements that give landowners continued land use - farming or haying for example - but prohibit development.



Vernal pool at Miller Farm Preserve

Thanks to monetary donations, grants, and partnership funding, East Haddam Land Trust is has been able to purchase land. Its first purchase, in 1991, was a single acre adjacent to Hammond Mill Preserve. Its most recent purchase - the largest in its history - is the 87-acre Miller Farm Preserve. – *continued...*

## Celebrating 40 Years—continued

### 40 Years of Appreciating Nature

Knowing about nature leads to greater appreciation of nature. East Haddam Land Trust's founders understood this. They framed the land trust to engage in and promote learning about the water, soil, plants, animals, birds and other wildlife in your backyard and on neighboring acreage.

During hikes and paddles Land Trust members share tidbits about trees and plants, discuss the geologic features that formed our region, and identify bird calls or evidence of wildlife.

The [Anita Ballek/East Haddam Land Trust Scholarship](#) provides \$1000 annually to a graduate of Nathan Hale-Ray High School who seeks secondary education in environmental studies.

Forty years of annual meeting presentations helped engage you in Connecticut's archeology, wildlife, plants, geology, and conservation history.

Your Land Trust is one of six sponsoring the annual [Land Trusts' Photo Contest](#) to engage hundreds of amateur photographers in showing and sharing the region's natural and historic features.

East Haddam Land Trust also partners with other East Haddam organizations, Audubon Connecticut, Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wild Flower Society), the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed, Friends of Whalebone Cove, and other State and local land conservation groups to help you better understand and appreciate the natural beauty surrounding all of us. —rs, jmh

*East Haddam Land Trust is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that preserves and protects land in perpetuity for the public benefit.*



Hummingbird with Cardinal Flower—Linda Waters  
Honorable Mention-Wildlife-2019 Land Trusts' Photo Contest

## Miller Farm Capital Campaign—Donate by July 1

In March 2019, East Haddam Land Trust entered a purchase contract for the Miller Farm ... Great News! But this does not end the need for donations to the Capital Campaign. The Miller Farm purchase required most of the Land Trust's land acquisition fund plus all of the \$96,000 already donated to the campaign and every penny of the grant dollars coming from the State.



Larry & Peggy Nichols signing the Miller Farm contract

To replenish our land acquisition fund, Land Trust Directors will keep the Capital Campaign active until July 1, 2019. Please help rebuild the land acquisition fund. Invest in East Haddam Land Trust at [ehlt.org](http://ehlt.org) or mail your donation to East Haddam Land Trust, PO Box 122, East Haddam, CT 06423, and note "Miller Farm" on your check. Thank you!



## East Haddam Land Trust

### MEMBERSHIP

Guardian \$500

Sustaining \$250

Contributing \$100

Family \$50

Basic \$20

Any amount is  
welcome

### EMPLOYER MATCHING

### DONATIONS

DOUBLES YOUR  
EHLT

### DONATION

Obtain matching  
donation forms  
from your em-  
ployer's human  
resources dept.

List EHLT on forms  
then submit to  
your employer.

Employer verifies  
your donation,  
then matches it!

## Members' Story: Susan and Arthur Merrow

We moved to East Haddam in June 1971 when the notion of a land trust – an organization that actually acquires open space to preserve – was a novelty. We are the generation inspired by the first Earth Day, and our simplistic notion was to fix up an old house and live off the land. Forty-eight years later we are still fixing up the old house, and East Haddam Land Trust, with its 300 or so members, exists alongside 115 land trusts across the State. Connecticut has one of the best organized land conservation movements anywhere.

After finding our little piece of paradise, it didn't take long to figure out that if we wanted to get back to the earth we'd better become part of a movement to preserve Earth's natural spaces. I began a happy association with the Sierra Club, which goes on to this day, while Arthur joined and eventually chaired the first East Haddam Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission tapped into the beginnings of a land preservation ethic that has been part of our town character ever since. The Commission invited a speaker to talk about what a land trust is and does, and a group set out to form East Haddam Land Trust here.

Meanwhile, we set to expand our foothold in town by acquiring a lot next door and a parcel made up of three lots across Haywardville Road. Soon after moving here we learned that the large parcel across the road had been subdivided. We envisioned a sign across the street that read "Colonial View Acres – House Lots." We bought the 10.5 acres knowing that our farmstead would have been that "Colonial View."

Now, after enjoying this property (photo) for some thirty years, we happily gifted it to East Haddam Land Trust. We like to think it is doing its small share to protect the headwaters of Lake Hayward Brook and a little corner of the Eight Mile River watershed.

We will always count as one of the luckiest of our lives the day we found our place in East Haddam where humans and wild critters alike are surrounded by a remarkably beautiful and healthy natural environment. East Haddam's wealth of untrammelled landscapes, clear running streams, and gorgeous vistas - so much a part of why



we love this town - remain here only because people stretching back over generations knew the value of these resources and willingly worked to keep them that way.

For 40 years, East Haddam Land Trust has led the way, kept its focus on what is important to save, and showed us how to work together to conserve our natural spaces. We are proud to have been even a footnote in this story. —S. Merrow

Your land trust was busy in 2018. We added to our growing list of preserves, started a \$200,000 Capital Campaign to Preserve the Miller Farm, and worked diligently toward completing our application for accreditation. The table to the right reflects our total income and our total expenses for 2018. This includes our Capital Campaign as well as corporate matching grant programs through members' employers.

**Land Acquisition** remains our highest priority and expense. In 2018, we completed the purchase of land that will be part of Monica's Woods Preserve, paid for the purchase option for Miller Farm, continued payments for PeGus's Path Preserve, and paid survey costs related to other potential acquisitions.

**Capital Campaign:** our generous community donated \$63,114 in 2018 for the purchase of the 87-acre Miller Farm. The Capital Campaign closes on June 30, 2019.

**Stewardship** costs remain low thanks to hard-working Stewardship volunteers.

**Membership and Outreach** costs include our public programs such as the Musical Bridges concert, and printing and mailing newsletters, maps, and donation appeals and thank you letters.

**Administrative** costs were reduced in 2018 with the introduction of new website and database programs. Our work toward accreditation added to administrative costs, but this work will be complete in 2019 and is making EHLT a stronger organization.

Money in the Land Trust's reserves covered the 2018 Operating Deficit of \$39,562. The Land Trust will receive two state grants in 2019 that will help replenish some of these reserves. However, with continuing contract commitments for the land purchases listed above and for future land conservation, your continued investment is critical to East Haddam Land Trust's mission. —daj, jmh

East Haddam Land Trust 2018 Operating Results	
<b>Income</b>	
Annual Memberships <small>(membership, memorials, misc.)</small>	\$12,884
Donations, Grants <small>(capital campaign, corporate match, general and restricted to land acquisition, scholarship and stewardship)</small>	\$75,440
Miscellaneous <small>(gear, program grant, investment)</small>	\$7,746
Calendar <small>(donations, sponsorships)</small>	\$6,408
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$102,478</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Land Acquisition <small>(appraisals, legal, surveys, purchases)</small>	\$106,094
Stewardship <small>(signs, fencing, maintenance)</small>	\$2,104
Membership and Outreach <small>(printing, mailing, programs, gear)</small>	\$10,321
Administrative <small>(insurance, accounting, education, dues, website)</small>	\$18,186
Calendar <small>(printing, mailing, contest prizes, layout)</small>	\$5,335
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$142,040</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(39,562)</b>

**Thank you!**



## East Haddam Land Trust

EHLT's 12-member board meets monthly to manage business, membership, communication, fundraising, and events.

We invite general members to serve on our Fundraising and Stewardship committees, or help with events such as the Annual Meeting in January or Musical Bridges in August.

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

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS - STEWARDSHIP

In 1971, we started with no land. Forty years later your Land Trust oversees 700 acres our Town's woodlands, fields, and grasslands. This is only 2% of the total land in our scenic Town. Still, overseeing 700 acres requires work. Trails and footbridges don't build or maintain themselves.

We count on Stewardship Volunteers to help. This work can be as simple as picking up trash from Preserves and clearing small brush from trails. It can be as involved as helping to build a footbridge, install fenceposts, or chainsaw damaged trees.

Currently our Stewardship Crew volunteers more than 400 hours annually maintaining trails, blazing new trails, monitoring preserve boundaries, and doing the tasks mentioned above. Stewardship work is scheduled for 9 am to noon on the third Saturday of each month except July and August.

### STEWARDSHIP TRAINING—JUNE 8, 2019—GOLET FARM PRESERVE

Learn more during the Stewardship Training from 9 am to noon on June 8. We will cover the basics of trail clearing, maintaining, and blazing; work on some invasive shrub management practices; and answer any questions you have about our Stewardship program. Please visit [ehlt.org](http://ehlt.org) and our [Facebook page](#) for updates.

## Black Bears

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection notes [black bears](#) (*Ursus americanus*) live in forestland with wetlands, rock ledges and thick understory; have keen hearing and will smell food aromas from long distances; feed on plants, grasses, fruits, nuts, berries, ants, bees, carrion, and may prey on small mammals, deer, and livestock; travel and feed mostly at night; can lose their fear of humans if food is found near humans; but are rarely aggressive toward humans. To avoid attracting them:

- Remove bird feeders from March through November and if visited by a bear in winter; do not leave pet food outside, store livestock food in airtight containers.
- Store trash in a garage or shed, take out for collection in the mornings, keep in cans with tight fitting lids.
- Keep grills clean and store in a garage or shed.
- Do not add meats or sweet-smelling fruit to compost piles; sprinkle lime on compost to reduce odors.
- **DO NOT FEED, OBSERVE FROM A DISTANCE, [REPORT SIGHTING](#).**



Foot molds of young black bear



## East Haddam Land Trust

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Newsletter

### East Haddam Land Trust Events

#### **Last Sunday Hikes, 1-3 pm**

5/26, 6/30, 9/29, 10/27, 11/24

#### **CT Trails Day Hike, 1-3 pm**

6/1, Hatch Lot

#### **Summer Paddles, 1-3 pm**

6/16, 9/13

#### **2019 Stewardship Saturdays**

6/15, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/21

9:00 am-12 noon



#### **Musical Bridges 2019**

August 19

Goodspeed Lawn

Event locations updated at [ehlt.org](http://ehlt.org)  
and on [Facebook](#)

Join us for fun outings! Sign up for email updates at [ehlt.org](http://ehlt.org), like us on Facebook.