



East Haddam Land Trust

Summer 2016

Invest in EHLT

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www.ehlt.org

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

Matching Donations:

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East Haddam Land Trust Newsletter

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

LEAVING A LEGACY OF LAND

- A MEMBER'S STORY -

"I've had a damn good life," says nonagenarian John Kashanski, former Director and long-time East Haddam Land Trust patron. He recalls days exploring Riverside Park in his hometown of New London, nights camping with the Boy Scouts, and his career working with youth at The Learned House, now part of the Child and Family agency. But he most fondly speaks of his 55-year marriage to his love, the late Barbara Kashanski, and their life raising three daughters on their beloved property in East Haddam's North Plain section.

The Kashanski's learned of East Haddam through noted Connecticut College botanist, the late Dr. Richard Goodwin whom Barbara, an avid bird lover and plant enthusiast, met while working at the Connecticut College Arboretum.

"It was fate," John recalls. With a handshake and free legal advice, they purchased about 40 acres off Dolbia Hill Road and proceeded to protect this and other natural areas.



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Former dam site on the Eightmile River at Hammond Mill Preserve.

John recollects conversations around the Kashanski dining room table—with Anita Ballek, David Bingham, and other forward-thinking conservationists—as the seed that became East Haddam Land Trust.

"You have to look to the future ... to think of the kids and what might be left for them." - John Kashanski

The Kashanski's are EHLT's first land donors, gifting the 12-acre Hammond Mill Preserve in 1979. There Scouts camp as John did in his youth, the public explores the nature of the Eightmile River, and the historic site of a former water-powered mill is preserved in perpetuity for all to appreciate and enjoy.

Note: Learn more about protecting your land. Call 860-484-3458 to ask for your free copy of "Protecting the Land You Love."



East Haddam Land Trust

In Memory Of

EHLT is honored to be the recipient of the following, and all, memorial donations.

Donations in memory of Elaine Smith, mother of EHLT Director Rob Smith, totaled \$400.

Donations in memory of Jerry (Milton) Bristol, former East Haddam resident for 31 years, totaled \$970.

Thank you.

Websites and Apps to Up ID Skills

Most questions posed during EHLT outings begin with, "What's this ... ?" Check these nature identification websites and smart phone apps for answers.

WEBSITES

Connecticut Botanical Society: info and photos of common CT plants. Search by flower color or plant type at www.ct-botanical-society.org.



© www.ehlt.org
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) at Hammond Mill Preserve

Go Botany: list of 1,200+ common New England native and naturalized plants at <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org>.

Arbor Day Foundation: Tree Identification guide by region and characteristics at www.arborday.org/trees/index-identification.cfm.

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group: info and photos on all invasive plants in CT. Search the Photo Notebook under the Meet the Plants tab at cipwg.uconn.edu.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: all things birds at www.birds.cornell.edu.

CT DEEP: under the Natural Resources tab click the Wildlife link for general info. www.ct.gov/deep.

SMART PHONE APPS

Leafsnap: visual recognition software IDs trees from photos of leaves. Free, IOS only. leafsnap.com.

Audubon Guides: digital field guides for wildflowers for IOS and Android; birds for IOS and Android; North American birds and butterflies for IOS; New England Nature for IOS Shop Apps at www.audubonguides.com.



© www.ehlt.org
Maple leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) at William Jezek Memorial Preserve

BeeSmart: The Pollinator Partnership lists nearly 1,000 native to the US plants that are pollinator-friendly. Free, for IOS and Android at www.pollinator.org/beesmartapp.htm

Outsmart Invasive Species: ID invasive flora and insects. Free, for IOS and Android at <http://apps.bugwood.org/apps/outsmart/>

Merlin Bird ID: From The Cornell Lab; search by size, main colors, and where seen. Free for IOS and Android at merlin.allaboutbirds.org.

Peterson Birds of North America: like the books, for IOS and Android at <http://petersonguides.com/Birds.php>.

To maximize your outdoor experience, snap a phone photo of the species in question. Once home, compare your photo with the photos and information at the websites listed here.

Living with Black Bears

According to Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), East Haddam is not a black bear hotspot. Yet our woods offer the caves, hollow trees, mountain laurel thickets and brush piles black bears seek for cover and raising cubs, in addition to the berries, nuts, insects, skunk cabbage, young tree shoots, and occasional small mammal and carrion on which they feed.

The state-wide black bear (*Ursus americanus*), population is growing 10-15% annually. 2015 sightings surpassed 4,500.

Black bears have no back hump, better hearing than humans, and a strong sense of smell. They are highly intelligent, strong swimmers, excellent climbers and fast. They can run up to 35 mph and cover a football field length in 5-6 seconds.

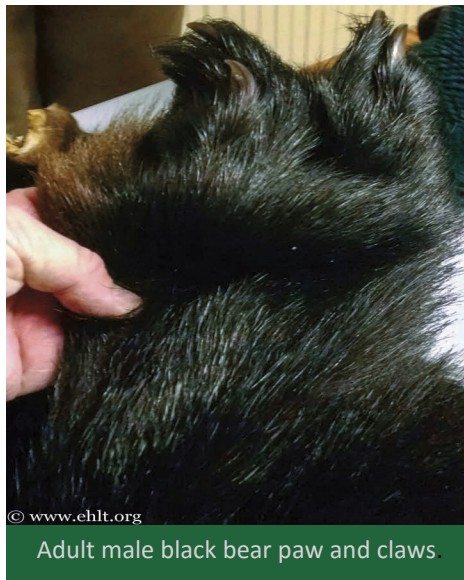
When winter snow cover reaches 6-8 inches black bears enter hyperphasia, a resting state that lowers body temperature and heart rate but still allows them to hear. They will wake up and forage during mild winter weather.

Female black bears are single parents, bearing cubs in dens in January and February where cubs remain for 3-4 months.



Young male black bear paw castings.
 Males weigh 150-450 lbs.
 Females weigh 110-150 lbs.
 Yearlings weigh 45-100 lbs.

In March, 2016 the East Haddam Library System and East Haddam Land Trust co-sponsored a presentation on Connecticut’s black bears. Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn offered great information and advice on what to do and how to act should a black bear surprise you on your property or during a hike (see sidebar).



Adult male black bear paw and claws.

Black bears are most active at night and generally avoid humans. Still, attractants such as bird feeders, trash cans, outdoor pet food, compost piles, fruit trees, and berry-producing shrubs may habituate them to humans and barking dogs.

Preventing black bears from getting used to humans and pets helps keep bears, humans, and pets safe (see sidebar).

If you see a black bear, observe it from a distance. Very few black bears attack humans. Still, DEEP advises you fight back if one comes after you. And, consider carrying bear spray, just in case.

See updated sighting information at www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/sighting/bearsight.asp.

**REPORT
 BLACK BEAR
 SIGHTINGS
 to the DEEP
 Wildlife Division
 860-424-3011**

Avoid attracting black bears:

- Take bird feeders down from spring through early autumn, and if a bear visits one during winter.
- Leave no pet food outside.
- Cut compost pile odors by sprinkling with lime; avoid composting sweet-smelling fruit rinds and never add meat scraps.
- Keep outdoor grills clean; store in a garage or shed.
- Never feed bears.

If encountering a black bear:

- Make noise, stand tall, wave arms, back away slowly, and avoid direct eye contact.
- Do not run or climb a tree.
- Know a startled bear may stand or take a few hops toward you.

When hiking:

- Carry bear spray in a holster.
- Leash your dog/s.



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East Haddam Land Trust Events

“Last Sunday” Hike

1:00-3:00 pm, June 26

Father’s Day Paddle

June 19

“Last Sunday” Paddle

July 31, Aug. 28

Full Moon Paddle

July 19, Aug. 18, Sept. 16

Stewardship Saturday

3rd Saturday, Sept. thru June

9:00 am-12 noon

Musical Bridges

August 29, 2016

Details at Events at www.ehlt.org

Like us on Facebook

Join us for fun outings! Sign up for event emails at www.ehlt.org.