



East Haddam Land Trust Newsletter

Summer 2015

Since 1979 ... continuously working to preserve and hold in trust the beautiful, vital lands and waterways of East Haddam.



Make your investment for now and the future at www.ehlt.org or mail your investment to **East Haddam Land Trust P.O. Box 122 East Haddam, CT 06423.**

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EHLT'S NEWEST GEM — GOLET FARM PRESERVE

For several years, EHLT directors discussed preserving land bordering Great Hillwood Road with Tom Smith, grandson of Charles Golet the original property owner. Mr. Smith and his cousins recently agreed to sell EHLT the 32 acres.



In keeping with his strong conservation ethic and desire to preserve open space, Tom Smith donated his 78% interest to EHLT—a donation valued at \$95,000! Your investment in EHLT helped cover the remaining costs.

Charles Golet acquired the property around 1920 from a Mr. Willenbrock of New York City. Mr. Willenbrock owned the sulky race track where Oak Grove Senior Center now stands.

For about the next 35 years, the Golet Farm supplied the Moodus community with milk, cream, and butter from a 32-head herd of milking cows; raised chickens and supplied eggs; and maintained a small orchard. Over the years, Charles Golet split off several small parcels on the original farm as home sites for family.



Today, Golet Farm Preserve (green on map) is meadows (photo above), wetlands, and woodlands. It connects to Heritage Park and the East Haddam Senior Center on the opposite side of Great Hillwood Road (red on map), Oak Grove Senior Housing to the west (yellow on map), and Town-owned land and the East Haddam Elementary School property to the south (lavender on map).

Before East Haddam Land Trust's newest gem is 'officially' open to you, the public, volunteers must mark the Preserve boundaries, establish a parking area, and create and mark trails. We welcome help with any of these tasks - contact Rob Smith at 860-873-2189 or by email at president@ehlt.org to assist.



To minimize tick bites use bug repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pant legs into socks, consider avoiding areas heavily populated by Japanese barberry, and always do daily tick checks.

CAES YouTube videos
[Japanese Barberry, Controlling This Public Health Risk](#)

CAES bulletin "Japanese Barberry Control Methods" at http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/special_bulletins/special_bulletin_feb_2013_ward.pdf

JAPANESE BARBERRY HARBORS TICKS



Japanese barberry can be a devil to control. But there's good reason to try. Large stands provide ideal habitats for mice and ticks. Mice and ticks harbor and spread tick-borne disease.



Invasive in every New England state except Maine, Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is rarely browsed by deer. It produces red berries eaten, excreted, and distributed by wildlife. It roots easily when branches touch the ground. It has a vigorous root system with tiny rootlets that re-sprout unless completely removed. Plus, it leafs out in early spring, maintaining high ground-level humidity exactly when needed by incubating ticks.

Over many years, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) scientists monitored plots of land on which Japanese barberry did and did not grow. They counted the white-footed mice living in these plots, the black-legged ticks feeding on the mice, and the number of Lyme disease-infected ticks.

CAES research shows that controlling Japanese barberry can reduce Lyme-infected tick populations by as much as 60%.

On average, the scientists report 80 more infected ticks per acre where Japanese barberry was not controlled, compared with where it was. They counted 30 more infected ticks per acre in controlled plots versus plots with no Japanese barberry growing.

Japanese barberry is relatively easy to hand weed when still seedling size (photo at left). More mature shrubs are harder, but not impossible to manage. CAES offers management advice in the links to the left.

CITY GIRL CHERISHES OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE ~A MEMBER'S STORY~

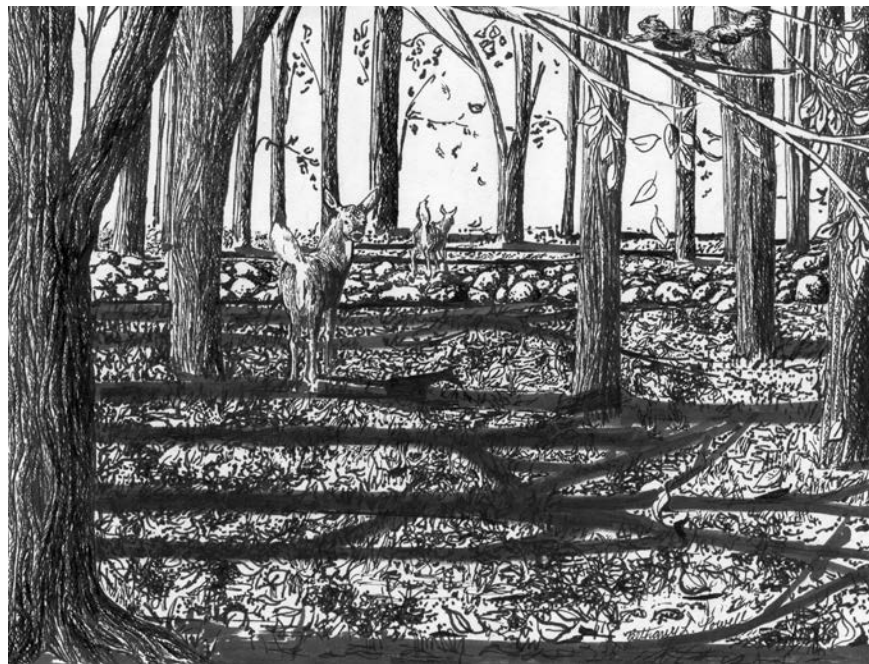
Pietrina Saxton, former EHLT director and current member, shares how she came to love the natural beauty of East Haddam and the surrounding region.

Despite being born and bred in New York City, I have always relished time spent outdoors upon patches of green. I can thank my parents for this quality. Our many family weekends spent meandering through local parks, traversing the Hudson River on ferries, and visiting relatives in Montauk and the Catskills instilled within my sister and me a love for observing and exploring life. Through these trips I learned how to fish, swim, hike, and appreciate the outdoors.

But my love is genetic; both my maternal and paternal grandparents came from regions that depended upon hiking, farming, fishing, and navigating for their survival. The story of their lives and hardships help guide me into the study biology and chemistry. Throughout my career as a scientist, I have worked at Sloan-Kettering Institute, Ayerst Labs and Pfizer.

When I moved to the Lyme/East Haddam area over twenty years ago, I instantly fell in love with the region's beauty, open space, rivers, streams, wildlife and farms.

Soon after settling in Lyme, my husband and I realized the importance of supporting the efforts of The Nature Conservancy and local Land Trusts. We became members and attended various hikes and efforts with the land trusts of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem, as well as The Nature Conservancy. When asked to help with The Nature Conservancy's fundraising efforts for their Five State CT River and Open Space Programs, I dove right in finding the group fun, lively, and focused. I relished the rewarding nature of the work and knew I wanted to continue to contribute to land preservation groups.



Deer in Woods by Bethany Powell (age 15)

East Haddam Land Trust 2015 Nature Calendar 1st Place, Teenage Winner

At Anita Ballek's insistence, I joined the EHLT leadership team and served two terms. I enjoyed working with both Anita and the various other directors and have many fond memories of hikes and experiences with new-found friends and colleagues. Protecting and preserving this magnificent rural paradise we all call home doesn't happen in a vacuum. It requires the combined efforts of residents giving their time and support to local, regional, and national conservation groups.

EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST, INC.

P. O. Box 122
East Haddam, CT 06423

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www.ehlt.org



DON'T MISS OUT ... GET EHLT UPDATES BY EMAIL

SIGN UP AT www.ehlt.org.

EHLT Paddles

last Sundays in
July & Aug,
9 am-noon

Full Moon Paddles
scheduled annually

All paddlers welcome!

“Last Sunday” Hikes

last Sundays of
Sept-June, 1-3 pm

EHLT hikes are
generally easy to moder-
ate in difficulty.

All are welcome!

EHLT Stewardship-

Trail & Preserve

Maintenance

3rd Saturdays

Sept-June

9 am-noon

Volunteers welcome!

CHECK EVENTS AT www.ehlt.org



EHLT ON FACEBOOK