

Saturday, August 11, 9am

Heron Pond Road  
Off Route 154, Essex

### Heron Pond Hike

Heron Pond is a 25-acre preserve with two lively watercourses flowing down separate valleys with a ridge in between. An easy-walking terrain with trails reaching from high ground and rocky outcroppings to sandy streambeds. Discover traces of old roadbeds and stone walls hinting at the land's early uses which included logging and pasturing of farm animals. Bad weather cancels.

September 8, 9am

Book Hill Woods Road Entrance

### Hike at Canfield Meadow Woods

A part of this land trust property was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Canfield in 1968, making it one of the land trust's earliest properties. A donation by the Nature Conservancy in 1985 completed the more than 300 acres of preserve shared by Essex and Deep River. It consists 17 trails winding through mixed old and new growth forest with many rocky outcroppings. Bad weather cancels.

Sept (to be announced), 9 am

Great Meadow, Essex

### Source to the Sea Clean Up

Join us in cleaning the shores and marshes of our beautiful CT River. Sponsored by the CT River Conservancy, volunteers will collect debris along the length of the river from its source in Vermont to its mouth in Old Saybrook. Meet for your assignment at the Essex Boat Club (dirt road access between #143 and #145 River Rd. (the lane also serves Pettipaug Yacht Club). Wear waterproof boots and come rain or shine. Refreshments will be served. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Saturday, October 6, 10am

Windswept Ridge Preserve

### Essex Land Trust 50th Anniversary Hike

Come celebrate the re-opening of this unique and greatly expanded property. Once just a neighborhood property, it has become a large preserve stretching from Ivoryton to Essex. With help from a professional trail builder, our stewards have created new and unique trails in this 40+-acre property, which consists of ridges, ravines and wetlands. Enter at one of the three locations: the Windermere Way entrance, the Windsor Lane entrance or the Plains Road entrance. Stewards will guide you to a central location where we will celebrate the re-opening of this very special property. All ages welcome. Boots recommended. Rain date: Sunday, October 7, 1pm.

Saturday, October 20, 7:30am

Ivoryton Village Green

### Annual Ivoryton Library Pumpkin Chase 5K

Co-sponsored in part by the Essex Land Trust, the Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase benefits the Ivoryton Library and its programs. The 5K-race course winds through Ivoryton Village and the Essex Land Trust's Falls River Preserve. 5K prizes awarded in 10 age groups. Runners 8 and under running in the Kids' Fun Run will be given medals and invited to stay for craft and story time. Registration begins at the Ivoryton Village green at 7:30am. Race starts at 8:45 am for children and at 9:15 for adults. Parking in designated lots. Rain or shine.

Saturday, November 3, 9am

Falls River Drive, Ivoryton

### Falls River Preserve Hike

A beautiful autumn walk, the Falls River preserve is a 40-acre peninsula of forest and ledge projecting into Mill Pond on the Falls River. The more challenging trails cross over ledges of 800-million year old metamorphic schist forming the peninsula's spine. The Falls River was dammed in the 18th century to provide waterpower to run a gristmill, a sawmill and an iron works over the years. The land has been used for logging and pasture as recently as the 1930s. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, November 17, 9am,

Cross Lots Preserve  
40 West Avenue, Essex

### Cross Lots Clean Up

Cross Lots lovers and dog walkers: come help us put this Land Trust preserve to bed for the winter, get a mild work out and connect with your neighbors in a beautiful setting. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring rakes, blowers, etc. Families welcome. Rain date: Sunday, November 18.

December 8, 9am

Read Hill Street, Ivoryton

### Year-end Hike at Johnson Farm

Once a working farm, this 49-acre jewel of fields and forest in Ivoryton now offers trails across fields and through the woods. There are beautiful open sky vistas from several locations. If windy, bring a kite to fly. Trails are easy to moderate. Leashed dogs welcome. Park in parking lot on Read Hill Street, off of Comstock Rd. Bad weather cancels.



Celebrating **50** Essex Land Trust

### The Essex Land Trust Mission

The Land Trust acquires open space by gift or purchase in order to protect the environment, to preserve the small town character of Essex and to provide the community with passive recreational and educational opportunities.

The Land Trust conserves wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands and scenic views by maintaining properties in a natural state now and forever.

The Essex Land Trust is an independent, non-profit organization supported by donations and managed by volunteers.

Anyone who would like to be on our volunteer roster should contact our volunteer coordinator Judy Saunders at [judith.saunders@comcast.net](mailto:judith.saunders@comcast.net) or by calling 860-581-8108.

For more information about the Essex Land Trust and these events, please visit our website at [www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org). or email [info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:info@essexlandtrust.org).

### Essex Land Trust Properties and Trails

Since its founding in 1968, the Land Trust has helped preserve over 1000 acres of open space, of which it owns or holds under easement approximately 650 acres. We invite all of the community to enjoy our 23 preserves, many along the spectacular waterfronts of the Connecticut and Falls Rivers. Properties are open sunrise to sunset and we encourage everyone to enjoy these open spaces to experience the natural beauty and diversity of the Essex community.

To learn more about the Essex Land Trust, programs, properties, and to download trails maps, visit us at [www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org) or contact us at [info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:info@essexlandtrust.org).

## Essex Land Trust

P.O. Box 373, Essex CT 06426

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Celebrating **50** Essex Land Trust

# 2018 Calendar of Events

[Essexlandtrust.org](http://Essexlandtrust.org)

## 2018 ELT Events

The Essex Land Trust annually organizes a calendar of diverse events including hikes, lectures, nature talks, canoeing and kayaking trips, all featuring guest speakers and knowledgeable naturalists. All of these events are free and open to the general public.

### January 1 - February 28, 2018 Land Trusts Photo Contest

Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to submit your favorite photos taken in East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Salem of Scenic Landscapes, Wildlife, Plants, and Cultural/Historic locations. Includes participation in Youth and Black & White categories. For contest rules, entry forms and other details visit: [landtrustsphotocontest.org](http://landtrustsphotocontest.org)

**Sunday, January 14, 3 pm** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### The Falls River Estuary, Its Nature and Ecology

Naturalist Phil Miller of Bushy Hill Nature Center will describe the flora, fauna and ecology of the Falls River Estuary and will elaborate on the area's natural resources that were ideal for settlement by both Native and European populations. Lecture co-sponsored with the Essex Historical Society. Refreshments provided.



**Wednesday, January 17, 7pm** **Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue**

### Connecticut and Climate Change – What is happening?

Connecticut Sea Grant College Program Education Educator Juliana Barrett, Ph.D. will explore climate change impacts for Connecticut over the next 100 years, information and tools that are available and adaptation strategies to improve our resilience. Hurricanes Irene and Sandy showed just how vulnerable coastal Connecticut is to storm damage and flooding. These events challenge communities to come up with adaptation strategies to deal with impacts from climate.



**Sunday, January 21, 3pm** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### Early Industries Along the Falls River

Brenda Milkofsky will present an examination of the mills, forges, cottage industries and larger manufactories all powered by this dammable waterway with its natural falls. She will explain how the development of all three of Essex's villages depended upon harnessing the river's waterpower. Lecture co-sponsored with the Essex Historical Society. Refreshments provided.

**Sunday, January 28, 3pm** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### The Williams Shipyard at Falls River Cove

Dr. John Pfeiffer, Professor Emeritus, Archaeology, Wesleyan University, will address the historic Essex Williams Shipyard. Dr. Pfeiffer will explain how the shipbuilding complex's foundations still lie beneath the river's silt and will paint a vivid picture of early interdependent maritime trades, all operated by one family from 1790-1845. Lecture co-sponsored with the Essex Historical Society. Refreshments provided.

**Saturday, Feb. 3, 2pm** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### Live Raptor Presentation

A Place Called Hope, Inc. is a Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Center specializing in the rescue and care of Connecticut's wild injured, orphaned or ill birds of prey. This program is about protecting wild raptor species and how to lessen conflicts with wildlife in our backyards. The handlers will share resident raptor species with the audience for a unique close up. All ages welcome.

**Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 am - 2pm** **Bushy Hill Nature Center  
253 Bushy Hill Road, Ivoryton**

### Maple Sugaring Event

Attend a Maple Sugaring Open House with the staff at Bushy Hill who will be running the Sugar Shack. Discover their Maple Sugaring Process from tree to shack to table. You will be able to purchase some sweet liquid gold Maple Syrup too. Other Sugar Shack Open Houses are on February 17th, March 3rd, and March 10th. All ages welcome.

**Monday, March 5, 2pm** **Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue**

### Conservation Practices at the NYBG

Co-sponsored lecture with the Essex Garden Club, Brian Boom, PhD, Director of Conservation at the New York Botanical Garden will speak on conservation practices in Connecticut and at the NYBG. All are welcome.

**Monday, March 26, 7pm** **Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue**

### Protecting Connecticut's Groundwater Resources

Lecture on protecting Connecticut's groundwater resources with a focus on the lower Connecticut river valley by Gary Robbins, Professor of Geology in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Dr. Robbins specializes in Hydrogeology and has been at UCONN for 31 years. He has published many papers related to CT groundwater resources.

**Thursday, April 12, 5:30pm** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting

Join us for ELT's festive 50th Anniversary celebration, cocktail party and annual meeting. Light food will be served. Tickets (\$30) for the cocktail buffet (5:30-6:30) will be available at the door. Business meeting and presentation that follow are free to all. Non-members welcome.

**Thursday, May 3, 7pm** **Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue**

### Introduction to Spring Birdwatching

Rob Braunfield, artist, naturalist, writer and teacher of birdwatching in the northeast for 25 years, has a unique approach to birdwatching, combining an aesthetic appreciation of birds with a biological understanding of their lives. Join him for a lively discussion on the techniques used to identify migrant songbirds, shorebirds, raptors and waterfowl, illustrated with slides and drawings done before the audience. Co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon. All ages welcome.



**Saturday, May 12, 10am** **Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road**

### Birding and Nature Walk

ELT member and birder, Jim Denham, will lead a 1-2 hour walk through Essex Meadows' woods to explore the peak bird migration and breeding season. You will see and hear dozens of species around this very diverse landscape. All levels of knowledge are welcome. Refreshments provided at the conclusion of the walk, courtesy of Essex Meadows. Bad weather cancels.



**Saturday, June 16, 2pm** **Public Boat Launch, Essex**

### Canoe/Kayak around Thatchbed Island & South Cove

Meet at the public Boat Launch below Essex Town Park. Bring your own boat for an early summer kayak/canoe trip around Thatchbed Island and South Cove, led by a naturalist. Discover the abundant wildlife and the history of ELT's first purchase. Participants should register on site and launch their own boats prior to the 2pm departure. A safety boat will accompany. Bad weather cancels.

**June 16, 5:30pm** **Main Street Park, Essex**

### A Concert in Essex Town Park

Join us at the lovely Essex Main Street Park for an early summer BYO beverages/picnic and concert by the infamous Corinthian Jazz Band. Bring chairs, blankets. Relax, dance and enjoy! Bad weather cancels.

**Saturday, July 14, 10am** **Falls River Park Landing  
Falls River Drive, Ivoryton**

### Kayak Race on Mill Pond

Join us for an informal, fun and family friendly race around Jean's island, a seven-acre preserve on Mill Pond in the Falls River. Participants ages 12 and older should register on site and launch their boats from the Falls River Park Landing, located on Falls River Drive. Safety boat will accompany. Bad weather cancels.