



Annual Report and Board Election

This year's Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting was held on May 20 at the Cross Lots Preserve. Unlike prior years when we have held a formal event and reception, Covid-19 protocols required that we hold a scaled down version with limited participation. In addition to board members in attendance, approximately 15 other members were present.



to update/implement its Mission, Values, and Vision statements. ELT did not acquire any new land this year but continues to be on the lookout for expansion, with the focus on abutting properties to existing land.

Programs were put on hold due to the pandemic, other than volunteer clean-up events. ELT published *Thatchbed Island and Its Ospreys* last year. We continue to reach out

The Essex Land Trust completed its 52nd year of ongoing operations in 2020. The year's activities were significantly impacted by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. Events were curtailed or cancelled as the country was required to quarantine and limit gatherings. The opportunity to be outdoors was one of few sanctioned activities, which resulted in a significant increase of visitors to land trust preserves.

One result of the pandemic has been the single largest increase in new members in recent memory. Total membership by year-end 2020 reached 450, including 24 corporate supporters. Donations and dues from the 42 new members were over \$6,000, an important addition to the land trust's resources and its ability to maintain its 650 acres of land. We thank all members, donors and corporate sponsors for their support without which we could not carry out our mission. Total revenue for the year came in ahead of a tight expense budget, thereby allowing the land trust to start off the new fiscal year with a positive cash balance.

In other developments, the Board has been working

to potential new board members and volunteers to find individuals who can contribute to ELT. Stewardship is a focus of our resources, and in the past year, we have built bridges, benches, and worked to eliminate invasive species. We also implemented the Science and Technical Advisory Committee, to meet several times a year and provide professional advice to ELT (see article on page 8). The Stewardship Steering Committee was established to work together on projects and provide support to the stewards on the preserves.

Board Announcements

Deb Carreau was nominated and elected to a two-year term as a board member. In March 2021, the Board appointed her as Assistant Treasurer. Deb has been an ELT member since 2010, is a Conservator for Life, and has lived in Essex for 30 years with her husband, Wright. Deb has 35 years as a CPA and recently retired. She spent 23 years in



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senior finance, controller, and audit roles at UTC, two years as VP Finance at Stanley Works, eight years as CFO of a publicly traded company, and two years as an auditor with PwC.



Leif Owens was nominated and elected to a one-year term as a board member. In April 2021, the Board appointed him as Preserves Manager to fill a vacancy. Leif will complete the remaining year left in the outgoing Chief Steward's three-year term. Leif has been an ELT member since he moved to

Essex in 2014 with his spouse, Kristin. He has been a well-respected co-steward at Cross Lots, serves as ELT DEEP Permitting Coordinator for 5 ELT Preserves, has been involved in large scale projects at Bushy Hill/Platt and Millrace. He retired after 34 years with 3M and over 20 years' experience managing US and International manufacturing operations. His nonprofit experience included serving on various 3M Foundation initiatives in both the Twin Cities and various Connecticut locations.

Mike Carlucci, Jim Denham, Barbara Sarrantonio, and James Daly were elected to new three-year terms. Other Board members elected at prior meetings include Joel Anik, Chet Arnold, Jeff Croyle, Carrie Daly, Paul Greenberg, and Bob Nussbaum.

Nancy Rambeau and Geoff Furtney Receive Recognition

Jim Denham conveyed the gratitude of the Board to outgoing member Nancy Rambeau, who stepped down last year after dedicating many years of involvement to ELT. The ongoing pandemic prevented a proper thank you for her service before now. Nancy has been a member with her husband, George, since 2008. She first joined the



board in 2011, as Volunteer Chair, in 2013 she became Secretary and served as President from 2106 to 2020. In addition to participating in our first Strategic Planning exercise which started in late 2016, Nancy was a key participant in the team which spearheaded the complicated and time-consuming national Land Trust Alliance accreditation process, resulting in accreditation being awarded in 2019. Nancy also represented ELT with the Lower Connecticut Council of Governments and the regional Land Trust Exchange. Nancy's style as both a participant and leader always ensured broad participation in all discussions and deliberations. Achieving consensus has been a hallmark of the Essex Land Trust Board modus operandi, and Nancy's approach strengthened this key organizational fundamental. The Board presented Nancy Rambeau with a gift in gratitude.

Bob Nussbaum recognized Geoff Furtney's service to ELT as outgoing Chief Steward. The stewardship team is better equipped, and ELT properties have been improved because of Geoff's contributions through the years. Geoff has built bog walks, benches, bat houses, beaver containment devices, the extension to the barn at Cross Lots and bridges. Through both his vision and his ability to follow-through with the labor-intensive work, he transformed multiple properties, including the Millrace. The Board has made him a Conservator for Life, presented him with a plaque, and his name will be added to Conservators Rock. (See next article for spotlight on Geoff Furtney).

After concluding the Annual Meeting, the Board elected the following as officers: Jim Denham, President; Jeff Croyle 1st Vice President; Bob Nussbaum, 2nd Vice President; Deb Carreau, Treasurer; Carrie Daly, Secretary.



Jim Denham, President; Jeff Croyle, 1st Vice-President; Bob Nussbaum, Vice President; Deb Carreau, Treasurer; Carrie Daley, Secretary

Volunteer Spotlight -

Thanking Former Chief Steward Geoff Furtney

By Forrest Stump and Friends

We are all familiar with the concept of gravitational pull. It's all around us; it gives our bodies weight, it causes tides to raise and fall, it influences our earthly travel around the sun. Some people have a similar pull and influence on others by sheer force of personality. Geoff Furtney is one such force.

Most of the ELT stewards first became aware of Geoff back in 2015 when he was introduced as our new co-chief steward. There wasn't much bluster or excitement surrounding the announcement. Geoff just quietly smiled and accepted the role. Little did we expect to see the energy, vision and dogged determination he brought that drove us to accomplish so much more than we could have ever expected.

Here's the part where gravitational pull comes into play. A strong leader has a clear vision of what can be achieved by the team with the right guidance. By pulling those folks into the vision, giving some say and ownership in the outcome, the goals are met, and everyone comes away with a sense of purpose and inclusiveness. Geoff's natural ability and hard-won experience in the corporate world taught him how to "pull" those around him to achieve a common goal.

Besides having overall responsibility for all our stewards and preserves, Geoff was also the Millrace steward. Those familiar with that property before Geoff's involvement, will not recognize it today. Geoff personally transformed it from a jungle of invasives repeatedly battered by flooding into a beautiful walkable natural habitat. He was the creative force and muscle behind both new bridges, the boardwalk, the new plantings, the mass clearing of dead and diseased trees, etc. His impact on other preserves is also significant – the various bog walks, the new benches, etc. make our properties all that more inviting. Geoff was also the driving force behind upgrading our equipment to better address our increasing stewardship challenges. (Likely because he had reached the end of his rope after multiple repairs to every engine in our arsenal.)



We will all miss his humor, his writing style, his vision and his occasional curmudgeonliness, but we are thrilled to know that Geoff is happily redirecting his unique skills towards his creative painting, carpentry and woodworking and being a grandfather. Geoff's influence on the ELT and our preserves will be felt for many years to come and for that reason, the ELT Board unanimously agreed to make Geoff a Conservator for Life.

Why "I/We" Joined the Essex Land Trust

By Jim Denham

The past 12 months have been remarkable in so many ways. From having the world turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused everyone to take a step back from "normal life," to limiting personal interaction on many levels. One noteworthy development over this period has been the substantial increase in support for non-profit organizations of all kinds. The Essex Land Trust noticed this development initially through the large number of visitors exploring the Town's open space preserves. Clearly, getting outdoors became a welcome tonic to the confinement to which we were all subject.

One further impact has been the record number of new members who signed up to support the land trust. A total of 42 families joined up over the past year, representing all membership categories ranging from 2 Conservators for

Life to 22 entry level Hikers. In order to better understand the increase in memberships, we reached out to our new members asking them their motivation for joining.

We received many inspiring and gratifying responses. Reading through the emails, several common themes emerged: support for the land trust's mission and preserves, the health benefits of being outdoors, preserving what makes Essex so special, how land trust preserves have been so helpful during the pandemic, and preserving open space for public enjoyment. In short, the Essex Land Trust is fulfilling a meaningful role in the community. We thank all new and current members for their dedication and support.

Following are selected excerpts from the responses we received.

Here's why I joined. Growing up in Centerbrook (50 or so years ago), I always enjoyed playing in the woods around town. In fact, the ELT Windswept Ridge property is one area where I would venture with my buddies into, traipsing down the steep ridge from Woodland Drive. So, when I moved back to Essex two years ago after being away from the town for 35 years, it was wonderful to discover, along with my dog Finn, the variety of trails and properties maintained by the ELT. Seeing how the Land Trust has helped keep Essex, "Essex," I wanted to be sure to support the organization and its mission.

My husband and I joined because we are avid hikers and love the local trails. We also wanted to support local environmental efforts with regard to sustaining land for public enjoyment.

Land trust land is incredibly important to me and should be for anyone who cares about their mental and physical well-being. This relatively wild, outdoor space connects us with elements vital to human health: trees that give us oxygen, soil that stores carbon and water that is therapeutic blue space. Not to mention all the beneficial animals, from the big, like bald eagles, to the microscopic.

Having been a member for only a few months, I can only tell you at this point why I joined. Everywhere I've lived to this point in my life (Waterbury, South Windsor and now Essex), I've made a point of getting involved in the community, whether it be through sports or voluntary civic activities. I worked hard to be able to live in a beautiful town like Essex and now that I'm here, I'm happy to do what I can to help preserve the picturesque landscapes and keep the place perpetually beautiful.

We are new to town, moved in June 2019, we love the outdoors, we are proponents of environmental awareness and responsibility, we wanted to propagate what those before us have established to ensure the lands are protected for future residents and visitors.

Shortly after moving here, we were given the ELT brochure by an acquaintance. We had no idea the ELT were stewards for so many preserves. We felt a good way to learn more about these special properties was to get involved as volunteers.

I live near the Falls River Trail, so get out daily to run laps on the trail. I've hiked several other land trust trails, but so far, this one is my favorite! I'm an outdoor adventure gal, and enjoy hiking, biking and paddling, so I've also enjoyed paddling the Mill Pond, which is also close to home. I joined the Essex Land Trust, to help support the organization that I was enjoying!

We have been Essex residents for over 30 years and have enjoyed the properties of the Essex Land Trust. It was a beautiful hike in the Preserve last fall with our daughter and son in law which prompted us to become members and help the Trust continue its fine work.

Keeping special parcels of land, free from development, is in best interest for all of us, and for future generations.

I moved to Ivoryton in the fall of 2019 and quickly discovered the preserve at Falls River and the Johnson Farm preserve. These well-maintained properties were a joy to visit, particularly during the pandemic when it was difficult to maintain a normal schedule of outdoor activities. Our enjoyment of these properties led us to become members so we can become part of this worthwhile organization.

We encourage our members to renew their support for the land trust as soon as possible

The Essex Land Trust depends on membership dues and donations to manage its operating expenses. Over 60% of our expenses are focused on caring for our 23 preserves. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic has seen an unprecedented number of visitors to our properties. They require regular maintenance, which this year has been impacted by several wind events, requiring a significant amount of tree work. Your support really does make a difference. We thank you.

A New Member's Testimonial

By Tom Soboleski

What does the Essex Land Trust mean to me? During 2020, the ELT trails became like life-blood to me. They provided me with a means to maintain my fitness, both physical and mental, through a personal medical challenge.

Just before the pandemic struck, I developed a hernia that became the hernia from hell. After an initial "routine procedure" to implant mesh, six days later something failed and the hernia was back, worse than originally. For the next seven months, all I could do for exercise was walk. For someone who loves bicycling, tennis, and working in my landscape, this drove me crazy.

I live just up the street from the Falls River Preserve and walking its trails became my routine. I had to stay on the level; slopes and rises were just too strenuous. So even though it is a short walk from my house – but down and up a steep hill, I had to drive down. Though I had occasionally hiked there before this, I soon gained a new appreciation for what the woods can do for one's well-being.

Before long I began to explore some of the other preserves and look for trails that were relatively flat. This led me to Turtle Creek, Viney Brook, Millrace, Bushy Hill, Cross Lots, Windswept Ridge, and The Preserve. Each preserve revealed to me an array of natural wonders that I never had a full appreciation for. It felt like walking through a museum of nature every single time. Every bend in the trail revealed a new visual delight; the variety of bark textures and

bent branch forms continually amazed me. Discovering seemingly healthy trees that were snapped like toothpicks awed me to the immense power of the wind. I couldn't take another step without stopping to take photos and videos.

That's only part of the excitement. Another side benefit, particularly given the pandemic, was how often I would cross paths with other hikers. Sometimes we'd just move apart to create space and pass each other. But other times I'd make a comment and soon we'd be deep into conversations that could go on for 15-20 minutes and cover a variety of topics. This was an amazing mental boost to fill the void of restricted human interaction because of the quarantine. When these little woodland chats ended and I resumed my walk, I'd often marvel at how wonderful serendipity is and what a fantastic place I live in and how many really nice, interesting people are all around me. Words can't adequately express the gratitude I've felt for all this.

After a few months of this in Spring 2020, it occurred to me how valuable my hikes were for sustaining my physical and mental well-being. I felt so grateful that these trails are here, close by, easily accessible. I realized that someone is maintaining these preserves and doing a great job of it.



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It occurred to me that all this is so rewarding to me that I cannot take it for granted and I must show my appreciation. So, I sent a donation and became a trekker of the land trust.

As I hike, I often will clear aside branches that may have fallen on a trail. I will remain a member as long as I live in Ivoryton and will be happy to volunteer with maintenance as time permits. My health has returned to full strength

and I'm back to bicycling. If the weather is warm, that's my go-to exercise. But the trails of Ivoryton and Essex now have a hold on me. I love them.

I am very grateful for the Essex Land Trust and all it does to provide a fantastic resource to maintain my body and mind through connecting with our wild and fascinating world. I've learned that our natural resources should never be taken for granted. Bravo to ELT!

Mosquitos: Small and Dangerous ... but Part of Nature

By Matt Winkler

Mosquitos are the most dangerous critters on earth: not Crocodiles, not Sharks, not Tigers, and not Snakes! The World Health Organization says mosquitos kill over 725,000 people every year, most by Yellow Fever. The sheer numbers of mosquitos are its most significant factor. Worldwide, there are 3,000 species of mosquitos, with about 150 species in the U.S. Why should we care? Because climate change is warming Connecticut's winters and allowing tropical species to migrate up from the south and survive in Connecticut. Further, there are no vaccines for these tropical mosquito-borne diseases. Right now, there is West Nile Virus, Zika, Dengue Fever, and Chikungunya Virus. These mosquito-borne diseases are already here!

You can have a big impact on your mosquito populations by preventing any standing water on your property. Water standing under flowerpots, in saucers, water left in watering cans, pet's water bowls, children's pools, even bottle caps holding water can be breeding sites. The gutters on your roof are great breeding sites. Any leaves, or other debris, in the gutters that provide standing water can work to breed in 3 days. Another gutter tip is to check to see if the gutters are sloped to completely drain the gutters dry. Even clean gutters that are sloped away from the downspouts will still hold enough water to breed mosquitos. If you have any drainage ditches, or culverts, or ponds that cannot be completely drained, add mosquito "Dunks", that contain a natural bacterium, and will kill the mosquito larvae, without toxins.

Mosquitos are important in nature's food chain

As conservationists, we recognize that mosquitos, and other insects, are a vital link of nature's food chain. A few of nature's mosquito consumers are Dragonflies, Damselflies, Turtles, Frogs, Hummingbirds, Wrens, Warblers, Woodpeckers, the entire Swallow Family, including Purple Martins, and, of course, Bats.

As Essex Land Trust members, we want to maintain a clean, natural environment, free from toxins that are all around us. While they might seem be "quick and easy," toxins are never right. We must remind our friends and neighbors not to attack mosquitos with toxins, poisons, pesticides, insecticides, permethrin, and even the so-called natural oils that are not safe to use. Very simply, these toxic pesticides contribute to all local wildlife declines; yes, even to the birds and the bees!

So, what are our natural, non-toxic choices? How about installing a beautiful Purple Martin condo, that is both attractive and effective? Anyone seeing your beautiful condo will immediately know that you support the "natural world." Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, and Barn Swallows are all avid mosquito consumers. For example, a single adult Tree Swallow will consume 2,000 insects in a typical day. During the nesting season, a nesting pair and its fledglings will consume over 300,000 insects during their average 45-day nesting period!

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The role of bats

How about building a certified BCI “Bat Nursery House” and let the small, local bats tear through the local mosquito population, while feeding their “pups” to adulthood? That is the ELT plan for some of our preserves. Next time you visit the “Osage Trails” land trust preserve, visit the bat house installed in May 2021. Join in and help us to put a bat house on your own property! If you are sitting outside around dusk, watching the bats flying in search of local mosquitos, you will be entertained by their aerobatics. Bats have incredibly unique wings, that they can adjust in flight, to allow them to make sharp turns in the air. Their aerobatics, coupled with their unique “echo location systems,” allows them to find and catch thousands of mosquitos, in flight, in total darkness!

Another thought is to place Ultra-Violet (UV) “black lights” about 100 feet downwind from you. The black light will draw the mosquitos away from you, towards the black light. To make this natural black light method yet more effective, place a low speed, box fan blowing cooling air onto you, and in the direction of the black light. Mosquitos are poor flyers, and they will avoid areas with air in motion. So far, no need for toxins!

The use of repellants

Repellants are not toxic, but some peoples skin is sensitive to the ingredients in repellants, so it is always preferred

to put the repellants on clothing, instead of your skin. Repellant active ingredients are varied, but typically DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. *Consumer Reports* tested 23 repellants with different ingredients, and at different concentrations. 70 % of the repellants tested used “DEET” as its active ingredient. They concluded that DEET on clothes with concentrations between 25 to 30 % was the most protective and provided about 6.5 hours of repellant protection against mosquitos. As a general rule, plant oil-based repellants performed poorly by providing less than 2 hours of repellency.

Finally, climate change has brought us several new tick species, each with their own new bacterial illnesses. In Connecticut, we now have our usual Dog Tick and Deer Tick (black-legged Tick), and the new species are the Asian Long-horned Tick, Gulf Coast Tick, and the Lone Star Tick. The best protection when walking in woods and fields, and tall grass, is to wear “light colored clothing” and to use repellant ingredient “DEEP”, at 25 to 30 %, sprayed on shoes, socks, and pant bottoms below the knee. As a backup, take a shower upon arriving home, and put your clothing into the washing machine. And if your dog had accompanied you on your walk, don’t forget to carefully check the dog for ticks. If you should miss a tick, and get bitten, see a doctor promptly, since these tick transmitted illnesses are neurological diseases and should be treated promptly. Don’t let these illnesses get you down!



The Science & Technical Advisory Committee

By Chet Arnold

Protecting land from development is the first and most important conservation task on the Essex Land Trust's To-Do list. But once land is acquired, there are a host of management actions to be considered if the land trust is to preserve the natural resources on that land for the benefit of future generations. Threats to the health and ecological balance of the 650 acres owned by the land trust, chief among them invasive species and climate change, necessitate that ELT manage our preserves to the best of our ability.

Figuring out what to do in the face of such complicated and intractable problems falls chiefly upon our corps of preserve stewards. It's a heavy lift. So, in an attempt to support the stewards in their management role and led by former Chief Steward Geoff Furtney and ELT Vice President Jeff Croyle, the land trust has created the Science and Technical Advisory Committee, or STAC, a group of experts who can advise the stewards and the Board based on the best and most recent scientific thinking. A roll call of this impressive group of experts is as follows:

Steve Gephard, recently retired fisheries biologist from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is an internationally known expert on anadromous fish (fish, like Atlantic Salmon and River Herring, that spend their life in the ocean and return to fresh water to spawn). Steve was a key player in the construction of the fishways on the Falls River, including the newest one at the spillway behind Centerbrook Architects, and has worked with ELT on each project.



Leslie Kane is the Director of Center Operations and Business Planning for the Audubon CT and Audubon NY programs. Part of her portfolio is to oversee Audubon's 700+ acre Bent of the River preserve in Southbury, which dovetails well with her longstanding service on the Southbury Land Trust Board of

Directors. Leslie brings her expertise in the management and enhancement of bird habitat. Before working for

Audubon, her career in conservation included being the Environmental Planner for Guilford, CT.

Dr. Juliana Barrett is an Extension Educator at UConn and a faculty member of both the Connecticut Sea Grant Program and the Center for Land Use Education and Research. Juliana is a coastal ecologist working on restoration of coastal habitats in the face of climate change and invasive species.



She also teaches an undergraduate course at UConn on local responses to climate change. She has helped ELT out on numerous occasions in the past, walking potential acquisitions to give us her advice and assessment of the properties, and, most recently, advising the stewards on plantings in the Mill Race preserve in Ivoryton.



Tom Worthley is an Extension Professor and Forester and has been at UConn for almost 25 years. Tom works with landowners on the management of their forest land and has been quoted widely in the press in recent years regarding the ash tree die-offs related to the emerald ash borer, and the oak mortality related to gypsy moth

infestations. Tom also works with the Eversource Center at UConn on forestry practices that can reduce power outages during severe storms. In his private life, Tom is a longstanding member of the Haddam Land Trust.

Board member **Chet Arnold** is coordinating the STAC and serving as liaison between the committee and ELT. Chet also serves as a member of the STAC, bringing expertise in water resources management from his longtime post at UConn as a Water Quality Educator and the Director of the Center for Land Use Education and Research.



2021 will be a test run for ELT and the STAC as they explore the best ways to flesh out this new model. The Committee met virtually in January 2021 to pour over and discuss an initial list of questions compiled by the stewards.

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The focus of the questions ranged from hay field mowing to invasives control to poison ivy treatment. Since that time, Steve Gephard has advised the Acquisition Committee on a potential land donation that was being considered. In June, Leslie Kane will be hosting a group of stewards at the Bent of the River to observe and discuss methods for maintaining open field habitat areas.

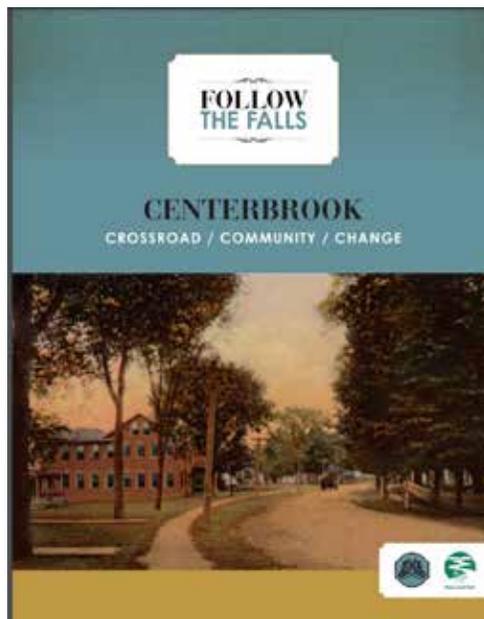
It's well known that if you ask any group of scientists about a complex question, the answer will almost certainly be "Well, it depends..." Despite this undeniable fact, there is every indication that the creation of the STAC will result in more informed land management at ELT. We are extremely grateful to these busy people for volunteering their time to help us better fulfill our mission!

Follow the Falls: Centerbrook - Crossroad/Community/Change

Centerbrook has served as the crossroads of Essex since early colonial times. Over the centuries Centerbrook's central location and geographical features shaped a rich history that continues to unfold today. Beginning in the 1640s, well-irrigated flood plains along the Mud River began to attract settlers from Saybrook Colony who were eager for rich farmland. Within two generations a small village formed and established its own Congregational Church at Center Saybrook, as Centerbrook was then known.

Enterprising settlers harnessed waterpower at the largest drop in the swift-moving Falls River (behind today's Centerbrook Architects) to power a series of mills, which contributed to the community's continued growth. Within a few years a gristmill, lumber mill and iron forge were in operation, further expanding manufacturing and commerce.

Roads from present day Deep River, Essex Village, Westbrook and Saybrook all met in Centerbrook close to the Congregational Church, or Meeting House as it was known back then. The relatively flat terrain lent itself to the development of transportation networks. The Middlesex Turnpike was built through Centerbrook in 1801-1804, connecting Saybrook to Hartford. Taverns, stores and schools sprung up, adding community life at the crossroads. Later in the 19th century the Valley Railroad was built, connecting Centerbrook to a nationwide transportation system.



Over the centuries Centerbrook's story has served as one of adaptation, innovation and resilience in the face of economic and social change. Flowing through the heart of it all is the Falls River. For more information on the Follow the Falls project, please visit the EHS website, www.essexhistory.org/followthefalls for the online e-magazines, a virtual tour of 1910 Centerbrook, scholarly articles and events.

Editor's note: The Essex Land Trust has been collaborating with the Essex Historical Society's Follow the Falls Project, a three-part initiative that tells the story of our community as related to the Falls River, which traverses our

three villages. The first installment of Follow the Falls explored the area's natural history, Native American and European settlements and the harnessing of the river's waterpower. The focus was the industrial development of Falls River Cove next to the land trust's Osage Trails Preserve, where the Williams Complex & Shipyard was a bustling industrial area that contained a major shipyard, sawmill and ironworks. The second installment focuses on the Village of Centerbrook and its role in the settlement and economic development of the community. The story of Centerbrook is alive and continues to unfold. Everyday thousands of people drive to, from and through Centerbrook seemingly unaware of its compelling, layered history. A future installment will trace the development of the Falls River upstream in the Village of Ivoryton. The Ivoryton story will cover its industrial history, social development and continuing link with the Falls River.

ELT Briefs

Stewardship Appreciation Event Held

The land trust board hosted a Steward's Appreciation event on June 5th at Cross Lots. More than 30 stewards help to maintain the land trust's 23 preserves (comprising 650 acres), clearing trails, trimming tree branches and working to control invasive vegetation. Food and beverages were provided, and stewards were given new steward hats and Essex Land Trust water bottles. The land trust is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and hard-working team caring for its preserves. We thank them all for their many hours of stewardship.



June Events: Paddle in South Cove and Picnic Concert

Two annual events were held on June 12 as part of the land trust's activities calendar.

Twenty kayaks and canoes participated in our South Cove-Thatchbed Island-Turtle Creek event on Saturday June 12. Land Trust Board member, Jeff Croyle led the trip, highlighting the history of Thatchbed Island and the uniqueness of this section of the lower Connecticut River.



An estimated 180 participants showed up for the Essex Land Trust's annual BYO picnic-concert on Saturday, June 12 held at the Essex Main Street Park. Music by Melaena, a 6-piece cover band based out of Norwich, CT delivered on its promise to execute music that "makes you want to dance."



Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar!



Name That Preserve

The Essex Land Trust is excited to offer you a chance to know our preserves and town properties testing your knowledge by identifying the location of some of our favorite spots. So, it's time to shake off those winter blues and explore some of the Essex's Open Space areas. Prizes will be given to the top ten individuals who achieve the most accurate entries. We are calling this event the **Name That Preserve** contest, although it might also be described as a scavenger hunt. Here's the idea: we have created a photo album with pictures grouped into four categories.

Structures (bridges, stairs, steps, bog walks)

Stones & Stone Walls (significant boulders, split rocks, memorial boulders, geodetic markers)

Relaxation Spots (a place to sit down, relax and enjoy one's surroundings)

Notable Views (locations that feature an inspirational view)

Explore land trust and town properties, look for the sites featured in the pictures and correctly identify the property name. To participate, fill out the entry form and submit to the land trust email address: info@essexlandtrust.org. Entries must be received by **09/15/21**. To access the entry form and contest photo album log onto, https://www.essexlandtrust.org/05_activities.html

Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, September 24-26

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Connecticut River Conservancy's Annual Source to Sea Cleanup and the Essex Land Trust is proud to be a part of it. The event will be held on September 24-26, 2021 and involves hundreds of volunteers in small groups across all four Connecticut River states. Groups will cover nearly the entire length of the Connecticut River from Stratford, NH all the way to Old Saybrook, CT and included many tributaries along the way. The land trust will be announcing the specific date, timing and location closer to the date.

Saturday, October 23 7:30 am – Ivoryton Village green Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase

Supported by the Essex Land Trust, this race benefits the Ivoryton Library and its programs. The 5K racecourse winds through Ivoryton Village and the Essex Land Trust's Falls River Preserve. 5K prizes will be awarded to 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 7:30 am. Race starts at 8:45 am for children and at 9:15 for adults. Parking in designated lots. Rain or shine.



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