



## Land Trust Protects 25 Acres

The Essex Land Trust recently helped protect approximately 25 wooded acres on Heron Pond Road (formerly Truebe Road, off Route 154) by accepting the property as the open space set-aside required as part of the Heron Pond subdivision.

"We are very excited to have been able to help set aside this land and create the Heron Pond Preserve," said Essex Land Trust President Paul Greenberg. "I would particularly like to thank Truebe Associates, Essex Highlands, and the town of Essex for making this possible."

The Land Trust now owns a total of 24.9 acres at the site, which includes an open space parcel of 21.5 acres that will be open to the public. Essex Land Trust also owns a 75-foot buffer of 0.7



acres between the west side of Heron Pond Road and the open space parcel, and a second 75-foot buffer of 2.7 acres running from the east side of Truebe Road behind several of the subdivision lots. In addition, there are three areas protected by conservation easements running between the road and the open space area and in the rear of the subdivision lots. Except for two trails leading to and along the pond and connecting to the open space parcel, the buffer and easement areas will not have public access.

Bob Graulich of Truebe Road has volunteered to serve as preserve steward for this property. Essex Land Trust will invite the public to visit the preserve when it has posted trails and designated a small parking area.

## Bike Across America for a Greener Essex



the Essex Land Trust. Fowler and Zack began their journey from Portland, Oregon, on June 5 and will arrive on **Tuesday, August 7, at 4 p.m. at the Ivoryton Library.** Please join us to welcome them back!

Fowler and Zack Storms are riding from Portland, Oregon, to Essex. To give their adventure more meaning, they decided to make their journey a fundraiser for

Supporters can help support their effort by donating to the Essex Land Trust, or by pledging a "per-mile" amount. The total distance pedaled will be 3,500 miles. One hundred percent of all contributions will go to support the efforts of the Essex Land Trust to acquire and permanently preserve open space in Essex. The Storms family is underwriting the boys' expenses. A flyer is enclosed with this mailing. Thank you if you have already contributed!

Please send your contributions or pledges to: Essex Land Trust, P.O. Box 373, Essex, CT 06426. You can follow Fowler and Zack's ride through a link from the Essex Land Trust Website: [essexlandtrust.org](http://essexlandtrust.org). Just look for the bike ride link. If you have questions, please call Jim Storms at 767-1828.

## Working Together for Canfield-Meadow Woods

Canfield-Meadow Woods is the largest of the Essex Land Trust's properties and is owned jointly by the towns and land trusts of Essex and Deep River (300 acres total; 131 acres owned by ELT). Both Land Trusts and both Conservation Commissions are actively involved in the management of this beautiful preserve.

Recently, the four organizations involved have begun to discuss ways they can coordinate and cooperate in the maintenance of this property. At a June 18 meeting at the



*The Essex steward of Canfield-Meadow Woods is Charlie Roy (above), who lives near the Dennison Road entrance. Charlie is an avid trekker and trains in Canfield-Meadow Woods by taking a two hour hike 3 to 4 times a week. In two hours, Charlie can cover the entire preserve and knows each trail intimately. He and his sons, along with Land Trust Chief Steward Al Macgregor, have improved the trails and markings throughout the preserve. Charlie was honored at Essex Land Trust's annual meeting in April for his contributions.*

Ivoryton Library, representatives of the four organizations came up with suggestions to take back to their respective groups. The recommendations include:

- Improved signage with small kiosks at each trailhead
- A new topographical map with trails marked in color
- A unified trail marking system
- Work parties to install and repair bridges and improve entrances

For more information or opportunities to volunteer, please contact Alan Macgregor at 767-0693 or email [essexlandtrust@comcast.net](mailto:essexlandtrust@comcast.net).



*Hikers at Canfield-Meadow Woods on the Land Trust's May 5 excursion.*

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## The Land Trust's New Look

Enclosed with this issue of *Essex Woods and Waters* you will find a complimentary Essex Land Trust bumper sticker. The design of the bumper sticker was donated by Essex resident Steve Haines of Haines design, who has also created our new logo, stationery, posters for coming events, as well as *Essex Woods & Waters!*

Steve Haines has been a professional graphic designer for close to 40 years. During that time Steve has worked for and with some of the world's top design firms. In 1987, Steve and his wife Barbara started HainesDesign, a "boutique" design firm based in Westport, Connecticut. Among their identity clients were giants like GE, SNET, Conagra and many smaller companies. Today, after a four-year hiatus living (and working) on a sailboat cruising coastal America, the Haines have settled here in Essex. Examples of their work can be seen at [www.HainesDesign.com](http://www.HainesDesign.com) and [www.Iconigram.com](http://www.Iconigram.com), their companion websites.



*Hikers explore a cedar swamp at Bushy Hill Nature Center during the Land Trust's March 31 "Vernal Pool Walk" led by Neill Bovaird.*

# Streamside Properties Help Protect Connecticut River

One of the benefits of the Essex Land Trust's conservation work is helping to maintain the health of the Connecticut River.

For example, Osage Trails (in photos), the Essex Land Trust's eight-acre preserve near the mouth of the Falls River, helps filter non-point runoff before it enters Falls River Cove, and from there the Connecticut River. Osage Trails consists of grass, meadow, forest and wetlands. According



to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a vegetated buffer as narrow as 50 feet can remove the majority of nitrogen and phosphorus from surface and subsurface runoff.

What benefits does streamside vegetation provide? It plays a critical role in protecting stream banks and providing vital wildlife habitat. The type of vegetation present also

is important for stream bank stability and as food for wildlife. Trees and woody vegetation draw water from the stream banks; this helps to de-water the banks and improve their stability. In addition, tree roots that

hang from the stream banks provide places for fish and other animals to hide from predators. Leaves falling from trees provide food for some aquatic insect larvae. Trees also provide shade for the stream, keeping water temperatures cooler, which in turn helps water hold more dissolved oxygen.

The Essex Land Trust keeps its lands in their natural state and, where possible, strives to enhance their ability to protect area waterbodies. We urge town residents to do the same with their properties.

A consortium including the Connecticut River Gateway Commission ([www.crerpa.org/gateway](http://www.crerpa.org/gateway)) and Tidewater Institute (395-0465) is documenting the waterfront resources of the lower river and educating its residents about preserving open space and protecting water quality.



## Volunteer to Help the Land Trust!

The Land Trust needs your help! Please let us know if you're willing to donate your time and expertise. Just call Suzy Burke, Membership Chairman, at 767-0735, or send us an e-mail us at [essexlandtrust@comcast.net](mailto:essexlandtrust@comcast.net).

We're looking for volunteers to help with:

- Property maintenance for Canfield Meadow Woods in Essex and Deep River
- Creating the Land Trust's new historic park at the Millrace in Ivoryton
- Computer projects such as data transfer, merge letters in Word, and large group e-mails to members (knowledge of Excel and Access helpful)
- Writing press releases to publicize ELT land acquisitions, events and other newsworthy items
- Organizing mailing parties and bulk mailings
- Reaching out to inactive members
- Fundraising

And we're always looking for people who'd like to help with property maintenance at Cross Lots and other Land Trust preserves. We all live in a very special place and

benefit from a community that treasures wildlife habitats, scenic views, wetlands, and river frontage. Please help us continue this tradition of preserving our environment. Your support really *will* make a difference!

## Volunteers Needed for Mill Race

Work continues on the Mill Race Preserve. Board Members Paul Greenberg and Bob Nussbaum are preparing a work plan for poison ivy removal, trail cutting, bridge building, historic marker installation, benches, and completion of the parking lot. If you are interested in attending a kickoff meeting for this project, please contact Bob Nussbaum at 767-0811.

**The Essex Land Trust supports the Clean Energy Initiative and encourages all Essex residents to sign up. Call Frank Hall at 767-2355 for more information.**



*Essex First Selectman Phil Miller (toward left in white shirt) leads an excursion into Turtle Creek on May 26.*

## Coming Events

**Tuesday, August 21, 5 p.m.**

***Please note new date!***

### **Canoe/Kayak and Picnic, North Cove/Falls River**

Paddle the Connecticut River and have a BYO picnic supper at Osage Trails Preserve on North Cove. Meet at Steamboat Dock. Picnics and beverages will be transported separately by car to Osage Trails. Return to the Main Street boat launch at dusk.

**Tuesday, September 18, 5 p.m.**

### **RiverQuest Swallow Cruise**

Cruise the lower Connecticut River on the RiverQuest for bird watching at sunset. Bring your own snacks and beverages. \$30 per person. Call Gudrun LeLash, 767-9763, to reserve. Meet at the dock behind the Connecticut River Museum.

**Sunday, October 7, 1:30 p.m.**

### **Heron Pond Preserve**

Come explore the Land Trust's newest preserve! Preserve is located off Heron Pond Road (formerly Truebe Road) off Route 154.

## We Need Your Email Address

Recently, the Essex Land Trust has started using email messages as a way to remind members about programs and events as well as to communicate about important issues related to land preservation and the environment in our community.

The land trust never shares lists. Also, as a security precaution, we will send email messages that do not show your address.

If you did not receive our recent posters on the canoe/kayak trip or the Cross Lots picnic, please send an email message to [essexlandtrust@comcast.net](mailto:essexlandtrust@comcast.net) and we will add you to the list.

If you are a subscriber to AOL, please adjust your settings to allow messages to be delivered from the Essex Land Trust. You can be confident that such emails will be infrequent. Call Carol MacElwee at 767-2023 with any questions.



*Exploring a vernal pool with the Land Trust on March 31.*

**Thanks to  
Essex Savings Bank!**



The Essex Land Trust would like to thank Essex Savings Bank for its generous ongoing support, including underwriting the cost of *Essex Woods and Waters!*