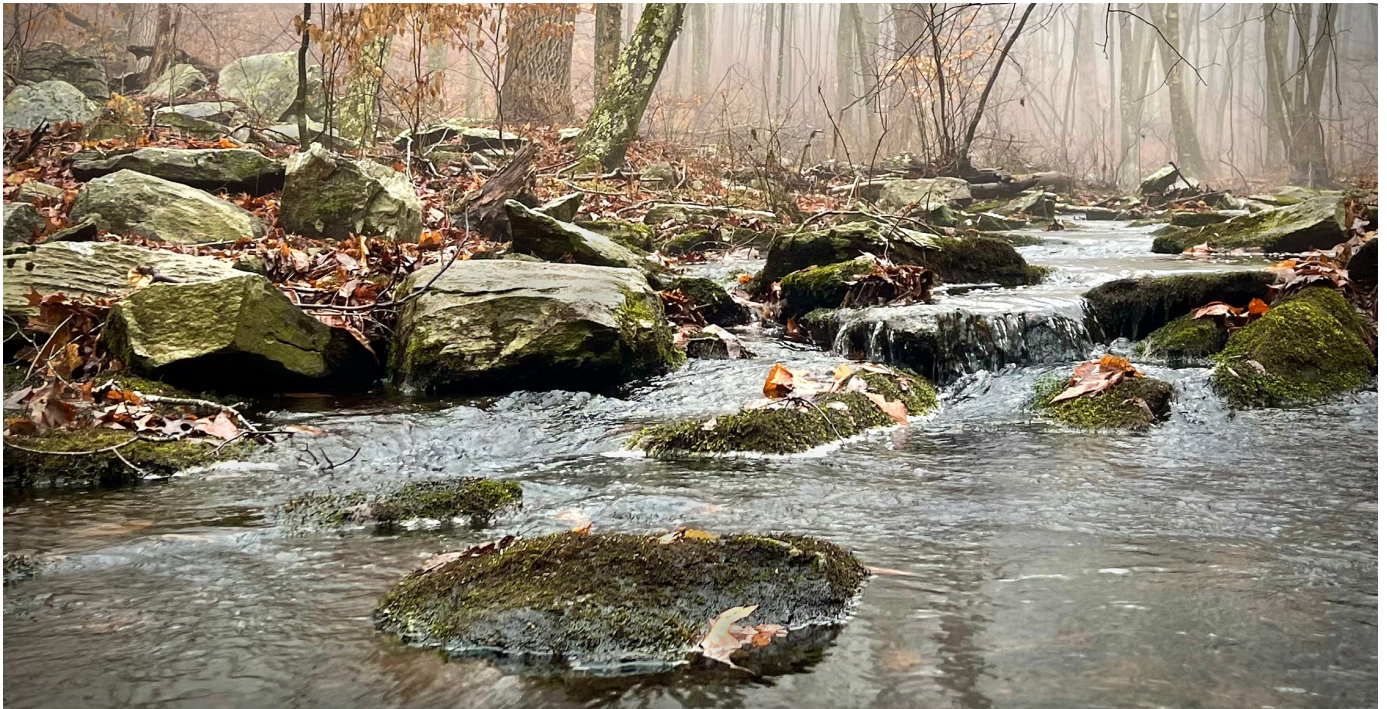


The latest updates from the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed



Burnham Brook | Photo by Regan Stacey

Chairman's Column: Valuing Open Space

by Anthony Irving

As we reflect on the last several years, we are reminded of the importance of our open spaces and their link to our mental and physical well-being. But is it possible to put a value on that open space? Let's consider the case of the Eightmile River Watershed, one of the nation's Wild and Scenic River systems.

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IN THIS ISSUE

BUILDING BRIDGES

HISTORY HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The Restorative Power of Nature

by Regan Stacey

I must confess, I sing to the trees. They don't judge. I think the nearby squirrel had something to say, but between her and the dense mist dripping from the trees, all was silent between the notes of my voice. Slowly as I walked, I could hear the distant wash of water over stone, where Burnham Brook babbled and had stories to tell.

Humans have been co-evolving with the forest longer than any of us can fathom and when we tune in, we know this connection deep in our bones. Over the history of our species, we have spent 99.7% of our time closely entwined with the natural world. Today, we spend 90% of our time indoors using technologies our Stone Age brains are not, frankly, fully ready to process and our bodies are taking the beating.

In our hurried modern lives, how can we come into balance in a way that best supports our internal rhythm? Studies have shown that a healthy connection with nature has the power to alleviate psychophysiological stress including anxiety and depression.

Continued on page 6

Chairman's Column: Valuing Open Space *continued...*

Congress determined the Eightmile possessed exceptional natural resource values; specifically, superior water quality, an impressive array of unique species and natural communities and the wholeness of a mostly intact watershed ecosystem, along with a rich history of cultural resources. The most effective way to safeguard these resources is with open space land protection whether by gift, purchase, or conservation easement. This approach also ensures town character, provides recreational opportunities and is a cost-effective approach to improve and enhance the quality of life in our towns.

The towns of Lyme, Salem and East Haddam comprise most of the 40,000-acre Eightmile River watershed. Like most Connecticut communities we continue to grow. Between 2000 and 2020 population in the three towns increased 8.4% from 14,236 to 15,438 compared to statewide growth of 5.7%. Historically, a

town's taxation strategy was strictly development driven – the greater the growth the larger the tax base and the more dollars coming in to pay for goods and services. So, the highest and best use of land was seen in terms of development potential.

But this model is outdated. Our watershed towns recognize that uncontrolled development is not in their best interests as it relates to increased infrastructure and service costs, the loss of town character and greater environmental impacts. Through land-use regulations, towns can guide and direct development, but these restrictions do not necessarily control growth, nor do they fully address economic costs, cultural considerations nor the cumulative environmental consequences. So, even as our watershed towns strive to conserve rural identity through regulation they are ultimately at the mercy of the marketplace. The Eightmile committee is charged with protecting the outstanding environmental functions and values identified by Congress such as wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed ecology. The limited authority the

Committee has, is through review and input on federally authorized projects—such as its input on the recently completed RT 82 bridge in Salem (see “Building Bridges” on page 5). The committee works primarily through more cooperative channels such as promoting the merits of watershed protection, conducting scientific research, offering education programs, and providing community grants. Towns may agree with our environmental agenda, but this by itself cannot solve the financial issues they face. But attitudes and strategies are evolving relating to balancing environmental and economic priorities. To date 15,400 acres or nearly 40% of watershed lands are protected. Towns now recognize that open space

How do we value open space as it relates to the economic, cultural, and environmental challenges facing our communities?

protection is also a cost-effective approach to manage development while protecting rural attributes, both cultural and environmental. ERWSCC supports this endeavor by providing resource information and granting funds supporting land preservation initiatives and stewardship. (For a list of projects see page 4).

Economic sustainability

The economic arguments for the old model are really quite weak. It turns out residential development usually costs towns more in goods and services, especially education, than generated taxes cover. Although farmland and open space lands generate less tax revenue than residential, commercial, or industrial property, they require limited infrastructure costs and on-going financial outlays. A Land Trust Alliance report on the Cost of Community Services covering 25 states shows that, on average, the median cost per dollar of revenue raised costs a town in services, \$0.30 for commercial and industrial lands, \$0.37 for working and open space lands, but \$1.16 for residential lands.

Open space protection costs towns little once purchased and even contributes to lower tax rates and increased adjacent property values. Acquiring open space is a one-time expense and when working with partners, such as the state and our local land trusts, these costs are reduced dramatically. (See Partner Spotlight on page 11) And there is a return on

this investment. Open space preservation not only saves towns money over the long run, but by retaining traditional uses such as farming & forestry the land is a renewable resource that contributes economic value. As our many watershed preserves become a destination for outdoor enthusiasts, these visitors will spend more in the local economies. The Eightmile's *Wander Our Watershed* interactive map (at www.WanderOurWatershed.org) highlights local businesses, such as places to eat and stay alongside the array of outdoor activities our open spaces provide.

Social sustainability

Forest lands provide important services and values essential to our quality of life – think about our sense and feeling of place and our ties to nature. One of the six resource values as recognized by Congress for the Eightmile River watershed was our “cultural landscape and history”. This history dates back hundreds of years to native peoples and subsequent early settlements (please see “History Hidden in Plain Sight” on page 8). ERWSCC is charged with helping to preserve our cultural legacy for future generations, including, aesthetics, recreation, spiritual and traditional uses of the land. Open space defines our feelings of place and maintains our connections with the land (see “The Restorative Power of Nature” on page 1). And with so many of these spaces open to the public, opportunities to interact with nature are widely available. During the pandemic so many of us use the trails and outdoor spaces to enjoy nature, manage stress and support well-being during this difficult time.

Biological/ecological sustainability

Open space maintains the stability and resilience of biological and physical systems. In addition, our forests maintain water quality by filtering pollutants

in runoff and recharging groundwater and are a major contributor to sequestering and storage of carbon helping to mitigate climate change. By managing land for its ecological functions and values we in turn, preserve biological diversity through minimizing fragmentation and parcelization which would otherwise lead to habitat loss. In fact, the watershed ecosystem contains 54 state listed rare plant species with eleven being of regional significance in New England. However, whether common or rare, maintaining the balance of all native species is integral to long term ecosystem health. This commitment to open space protection ensures the stability and resilience of plant and animal systems. In its essence the watershed is a zoo, and we are the zookeepers. (For some of the creatures we help track, please see “Water Quality Monitoring” on page 7)

A number of parcels remain that if developed will endanger the survivability of species over time, but the reality is we can't protect it all. The latest data from the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) show that between 1985 and 2015 115,000-forested acres (3.5%) were cleared in Connecticut. During this same period Lyme lost 455 acres equaling 2.7%, East Haddam lost 986 acres also equaling 2.7% while Salem lost 602 acres or 4.1%. As populations increase, so will development and hence, habitat loss. How this increase is planned for and managed will dictate the character of our communities well into the future. Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetland regulations give us better siting outcomes that are less disruptive and balance housing needs, but it's open space protection that continues to preserve and shape the character of the Eightmile River and our watershed towns. Growth can be beneficial unless it takes away what we value most.



The watershed landscape | Drone photo by Frank DiNardi

The Eightmile Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee Members

Anthony Irving, Chair

Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Ed Natoli, Vice Chair

Town of Salem

Dave Gumbart, Secretary

The Nature Conservancy

David B. Bingham

Salem Land Trust

Richard Chyinski

Salem Land Trust

Anthony Griggs

Town of Salem

Kim Barber-Bradley

Town of Salem

Paul Armond

Town of Lyme

Regan Stacey

Town of Lyme

Melvin Woody

Lyme Land Conservation Trust

Mary Augustiny

Town of East Haddam

Bernie Gillis

Town of East Haddam

Rob Smith

Town of East Haddam

Pete Govert

East Haddam Land Trust

Liz Lacy

National Park Service

Eric Thomas

CT DEEP

Staff: **Patricia Young**
Riley Doherty

Thank you to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust for their continued support as ERWSSC's fiscal agent.

Preserving and Stewarding Watershed Land

by Patricia Young

Four years ago, ERWSSC initiated a Community Grant Program which has among other things, funded a number of land preservation and stewardship projects. Land Preservation equals clean water, protected habitat, flood control, property value increases, outdoor exploration and so much more. Since 2018, ERWSSC has contributed over **\$81,000** for local projects.

2018

Salem Land Trust: \$5,629 for appraisals and signage for a 255 acre parcel off of West Road

2019

East Haddam Land Trust: \$3,200 towards the acquisition of a 5.25 acre parcel on Dolbia Hill Road.

Salem Land Trust: \$1,631 for trail access and installation of benches and kiosks at Riverside Preserve on Darling Road.

Town of Lyme: \$3,550 to assist with invasive species removal at a historic site at Hartman Park and 15 educational signs.

State of Connecticut: \$10,000 towards preservation of 98 acres to increase protection along Muddy Brook in East Haddam, expanding Devil's Hopyard State Park.

Salem Land Trust: \$20,954 to help preserve 227 acres along West Road, creating the Woodland Warbler Preserve (total 270 acres).

2020

Town of Lyme: \$7,500 for access and installation of an off-road parking area at the Johnston Preserve.

2021

Salem Land Trust: \$12,700 to offset surveying costs for acquisition of two parcels, 43 acres and 12 acres to add to the Alf and Sylvia Bingham Preserve

Town of East Haddam: \$15,000 towards the preservation of 124+ acres in Eightmile River Watershed headwaters near Lake Hayward.

Town of East Haddam Conservation Commission: \$935 for invasive species removal and purchase of native plants to improve pollinator habitat at Patrell Preserve.

2020-2021 Expenditures

Contract Staff & Intern	\$75,431
Operating Costs	\$7,773
Outreach & Education Comm	\$3,491
Protection, Management & Project Review Comm	\$4,153
Monitoring & Science Comm	\$1,890
Executive Comm	\$1,738
Annual Report/Newsletter	\$5,429
Preserved Lands Map & Mailing	\$6,530
Community Grants	\$935
Subtotal	\$107,370
Work with a Scientist-Project (NPS Grant)	\$434
Approved Community Grants (not yet invoiced)	\$28,200
Grand Total	\$136,004

Building Bridges

by Patricia Young

Most watershed residents are probably familiar with the recent RT 82 bridge reconstruction in Salem, but they are likely less familiar with the role that the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSCC) working with the National Park Service (NPS) plays in the federal permitting of these type of projects. "Wild & Scenic" is a federal designation, enacted back in 1968, specifically to protect high quality rivers from degradation. Degradation can be associated with building dams, or other large projects such as significant wetland filling adjacent to rivers, or building (and rebuilding) of culverts and bridges crossing designated Wild & Scenic River sections. ERWSCC, along with National Park Service is charged with reviewing and collaborating on federally funded and permitted projects on the Eightmile Wild & Scenic designated sections with a directive to ensure that none of the outstanding resource values, for which the river was designated, are negatively impacted.

In the case of RT 82 bridge project over the East Branch of the Eightmile River, staff, board members and NPS representatives met early on with CT DOT representatives, CT DEEP and CHA Consulting (design engineers) to discuss design alternatives, water handling and erosion control during construction, the need to maintain wetted surfaces for aquatic life, invasive species control and bank stabilization with native plants (over 3,000 native species were planted). The end result was a well-coordinated project that addressed protection of sensitive aquatic species and long-term stabilization.

This collaborative approach requires a focus on local river concerns and can ensure a smoother federal permitting process for the applicant. Several other recent projects that ERWSCC has or is in the process of reviewing include the bridge over Chapman Falls at Devil's Hopyard State Park, along with two bridges in Lyme over Falls Brook and the Main Stem of the Eightmile River.



Eightmile and National Park Service staff with CT DOT and CHA engineers touring the new bridge

The Restorative Power of Nature *continued...*

In particular, the practice of forest bathing or mindful time spent among the trees, has been shown to reduce levels of cortisol (stress hormone), reduce blood pressure and heart rate, reduce inflammation, improve mood, sleep, and cognitive functions – including focus, creativity, and productivity— as well as, boost our immune system to name a few.

From the biopsychosocial to the spiritual benefits, this growing global wellness practice is taking root.



Forest Love | Photo by Regan Stacey

Forest bathing is inspired by the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, or taking in the forest atmosphere. It began as a formal practice over 40 years ago in response to the technostress of the 1980's. Today, it's where yoga was about 30 years ago in the United States.

In the practice of forest bathing, emphasis is placed on sensory connection—waking up our bodies to the aliveness we experience through touch, smell, sight, sound, and even taste. It's about coming into relationship with the natural world and feeling an innate sense of belonging, dissolving, if even for a moment, the sense of separation between us and the rest of nature.

While some of the health benefits are experienced through participating with the forest in a mindful way, others are offered directly from the trees.

The trees emit aromatic organic compounds called phytoncides. Translated from Greek and Latin, it

means “plant” and “killer.” Phytoncides are part of the trees’ immune system, protecting them from pests and pathogens. Because we evolved with trees, these phytoncides protect us too. When we breathe them in through the forest air, they boost our immune system, increasing the number of natural killer cells that attack virus infected cells, as well as, boosting anti-cancer proteins. Phytoncides are also responsible for reducing the stress hormone, cortisol, and blood pressure. The natural aromatherapy of phytoncides is emitted by nearly all plants. You can smell these in conifers, that signature scent that says, “I am pine.”

The recommended dose to receive nature’s benefits is 2 hours per week. The longer you are in the forest, the greater the immune boost and the longer the effects. For example, spending three days in the forest can boost your immune system for up to 30 days.

If you’d like to head out to a forest near you, there are a few ways to approach the practice of forest bathing. The first is to remember it’s not about being in nature so much as how you are with nature. When we slow down, open our senses, and stop to notice the forest along the way, we are also supporting present moment awareness. This mindful awareness amplifies the restorative effects of the landscape. Simply sitting in stillness among trees for 10-30 minutes has proven to reduce stress. You might even notice that after about 20 minutes, the birds return and you are fully immersed in the forest community.



Misty Morning | Photo by Regan Stacey

If you would prefer a guided experience, you can attend a walk with a certified forest therapy guide. The guide will offer you a mindful immersion complete with invitations to engage with nature and a wild-foraged tea to conclude the experience.



Ten Thousand Buds | Photo by Regan Stacey

There is great hope in restoring our connection with the Earth. When we foster a re-connection to nature for the betterment of ourselves, our communities, and our planet, we come home—to our wholeness and our deep belonging. All beings benefit.

So the next time you step outside—dip into the well of wonder, stay curious, and perhaps sense a deep gratitude for the miracle of this life and all life. Feel your aliveness with each step, each breath... see where it takes you.

Maybe even hum a tune.

Join Regan and ERWSCC for a complimentary forest bathing walk this spring. Please check the Eightmile River Facebook page for an event announcement or email us at info@eightmileriver.org. Registration will be limited to 10 people.



Dripline | Photo by Regan Stacey

2021 Water Quality Monitoring

by Patricia Young

The Eightmile Committee currently coordinates four types of stream monitoring programs throughout the watershed. These include summer baseline monitoring, stream temperature, conductivity (for chlorides), and riffle bioassessments (the collection and identification of benthic macroinvertebrates).

Working with Three Rivers Community College's Environmental Engineering Technology students and their professor, Diba Khan-Bureau, the East Haddam Girl Scouts, and Eightmile representatives, 11 riffle bioassessments were completed throughout the watershed this past fall. Certain species of stoneflies, caddisflies, and mayflies are associated with healthy habitat conditions, so their presence confirms good water quality. Below are some of these important species we found during stream assessments. Thank you to board member Ed Natoli for the close-up shots below.



Free-living Caddisfly | Photo by Ed Natoli



Brush-legged Mayfly | Photo by Ed Natoli



Plant Case Maker Caddisfly | Photo by Ed Natoli

History Hidden in Plain Sight

by Riley Doherty

★ Former mill site at Chapman Falls

In 1774, prior to the start of the American Revolution, the rebel flag flew high in the town of East Haddam - a warning to Loyalists. Dr. Abner Beebe, a physician and owner of the former gristmill and sawmill at Chapman Falls, was a known Tory (someone loyal to the King of England) who openly drank tea - an act considered a sign of loyalty to England. One night, after the East Haddam Committee Association determined Abner and his relatives "inimical to the Liberty of these American Colonies", the Sons of Liberty took matters into their own hands. An angry mob showed up at Abner Beebe's home and gristmill, breaking the windows where his sick child lived, and destroying the mill so it was no longer in working condition. The Sons of Liberty threw the millstone over Chapman Falls. The mob beat Abner, stripped him, and poured hot pitch on his skin which caused blisters. They then rubbed pig feces all over his body.

Abner's gristmill was destroyed, and townspeople were banned from doing business with him unless he signed a confession the town wrote. According to East Haddam records, Abner Beebe transferred the deed of his property to John Chapman, a relative in March of 1774, and it was later returned to him when the war was over. You can still see the old foundations of the gristmill, sawmill, house, and a small store today at the top of Chapman Falls. The millstone was removed from the Eightmile River, after the story was published by the New York Times in 2004, in fear that people would damage or take the stone. The millstone was later displayed in the Smithsonian Museum and the East Haddam Historical Society Museum.

The Town of East Haddam, in partnership with the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed, the East Haddam Historical Society, the Municipal Historian, and the emeritus State Archaeologist, has received a Survey and Planning grant from the CT State Historic Preservation Office to fund an archaeological dig at the site in upcoming years. The dig will also take place below Chapman Falls, where Native Americans would have fished prior to colonial settlement.

★ Remnants of the Charcoal Hearths


Connecticut was once a large producer of iron. Between 1880 and 1925, Connecticut's forests were clear cut to produce charcoal, which was the only fuel source at the time that generated enough heat to smelt iron ore. Each year one blast furnace would use charcoal made from 600 acres of trees. The process of creating charcoal was laborious and dangerous. Trees were cut down and logs dragged in place by horses where a hearth would be built. A charcoal hearth was a round mound about 30 feet wide, built with tightly stacked logs and covered in soil and leaves to limit airflow. A chimney in the middle of the hearth was used to manage the slow burn of the wood inside. The hearths burned for weeks and were maintained by colliers, boys and men who would climb on top of the hearth to tend the smolder and would sometimes tragically fall into the burning pit. When the wood turned to charcoal, it was raked into piles, bagged, and sent to iron makers and blacksmiths.

Although charcoal production declined when coal was introduced in the late 1800s, you can still find the remnants of these hearths in our forests today. There are two good examples along the orange Heritage Trail in Hartman Park in Lyme, one of which was documented in Lyme records as part of the Jarious Perkins 1846 estate. When walking the trail, you'll notice a circular shape where the hearth once stood, and under the leaf layer the ground is still littered with charcoal burned over 100 years ago.

 Eightmile River Watershed Boundary

 Eightmile Rivers & Streams

 Town Boundaries

 Story Locations

 Historic Sites

Ancestral Native Tribe Land

 Hammonassets

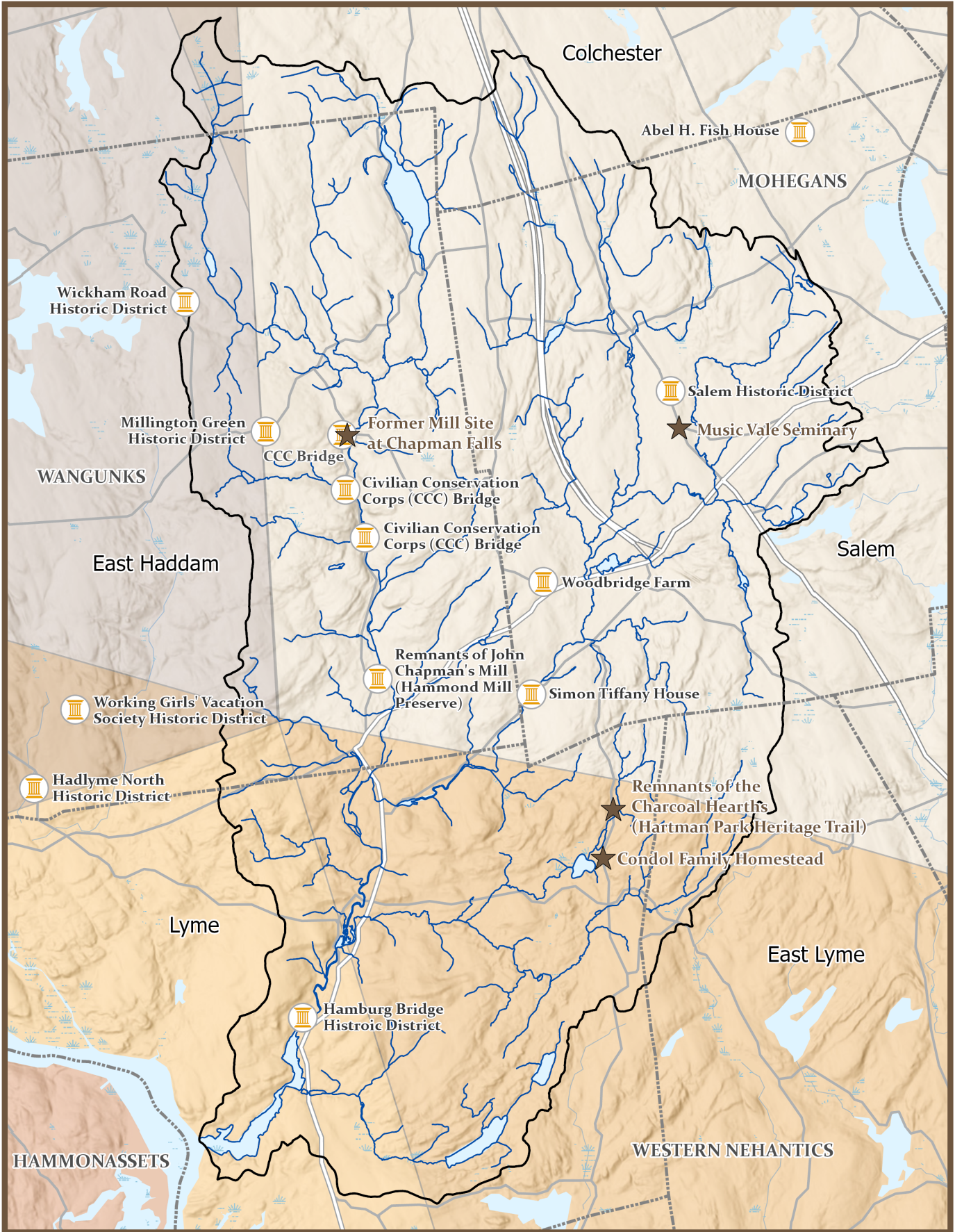
 Mohegans

 Western Nehantics

 Wangunks

The Native tribe boundaries on this map represent the general areas of the tribes. Boundaries were fluid meaning there weren't hard political lines and their areas overlapped. - Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD, Emeritus State Archaeologist

There are 20 known Native American archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the Eightmile River.



★ Music Vale Seminary

In 1835, the first degree-granting music conservatory in the United States was born. Its founder, Orramel Whittlesey, was born and raised in Salem, CT. While growing up, he and his brothers had a passion for the piano. Each day they would take turns practicing for 2 hours on their piano. Dedicated to their practice, they would leave for New London once a week at 8pm for piano lessons and would return to Salem at 5:30am just in time for the next day's chores.

In 1826, Orramel and his brothers moved to Buffalo, New York to become piano makers, but eventually returned to Salem seven years later bringing their business with them. Orramel began to teach piano and opened Mr. Whittlesey's School in 1835, which was later renamed the Music Vale Seminary. The school became so popular, students came from across the United States, Canada, and even the West Indies to study organ, harp, guitar, piano, voice culture, and music theory. There were about 80 students in attendance at any given time and about 20 graduates each year. The students, mostly women, followed strict rules, which included rising at 5am each morning to dust off pianos and practice before breakfast. Students then participated in 4-hour practice periods with breaks to study theory. They were also expected to perform for ticketed events in the school's grand performance hall.

The school took a couple of major hits before it closed, including the Civil War (1861-1865) when attendance dropped, and a fire in 1868 that burned down the original school and required a rebuild. When Orramel passed away in 1876, his daughter closed the school. The newer school buildings were destroyed in a second fire in 1897, however the original barn remains to this day. You can drive by the Music Vale Seminary site to see the state historical marker (on Rte. 85) and the English style red barn surrounded by fields (on Pratt Rd).



Original barn can be viewed from Pratt Rd.



State historical marker on Rte. 85

★ Origins of Salem

Have you ever wondered if there is a connection between Salem, CT and Salem, MA? Well, there is.

Prior to 1725, the land that makes up Salem today was part of Colchester and Lyme. Colonel Samuel Browne, who came from an influential family, "was the wealthiest and most distinguished merchant in Salem, Massachusetts". In 1718, he began buying large tracts of land in what was then Colchester and Lyme, which totaled over 8,000 acres. At that time, he became the largest landowner in the area. He bought some of his land from the Mohegan Tribe, who called it Paugwonk. In 1725, Col. Browne named the area New Salem Parish, and later in 1819 the Town of Salem was incorporated.

A portion of Col. Browne's land was used for farming, which took place along the East Branch of the Eightmile River where the soil was suitable. There were 12 slaves owned by the Browne family who worked the land. His land was passed down to his oldest son and then his grandson. In the 1720s, Col. William Browne, grandson of Col. Samuel Browne, built a mansion in Salem which he named Browne Hall. This mansion was located on the south side of Music Vale Rd. near Governors Rd, which is now Rte. 85. Col. William Browne was a Tory, loyal to England during the American Revolution, so in October 1774 he retreated from Salem to Boston and eventually to England in 1776. The Browne estates were confiscated, as was all Tory property during the Revolution, and split up into many small farms.

★ Condol Family Homestead

In 1757, Cuff Condol, a man of Native American descent, specifically Nehantic, Narrangansett, and Pequot Sachem bloodlines, was born in Charlestown, RI. At some point in his youth, he became a slave of Captain Stephen Smith of Lyme, CT. It is believed that Cuff probably went to war with Capt. Smith during the American Revolution, however there are no documents that prove this. In his 30th year of life, on June 28, 1787, Cuff was bought from Capt. Smith by a group of three Native Americans in Lyme, one of whom was a relative of Cuff from Charlestown, RI. They were living on the Nehantic Gungy Tract, which was former Native American hunting land. This group allowed Cuff to buy his freedom from them, which he officially did three years later in 1790.

Cuff married Catherine Waukeet in 1788 and the couple had 10 kids together. Four years after becoming a free man, Cuff bought land on the Nehantic Gungy Tract. This is where the original Condol family homestead, built in 1800, still exists on Gungy Road. In Joseph Caples memoir, he mentions that the stone walls near the homestead were built by his grandfather Daniel R. Condol and his great grandfather Cuff Condol. On an old map of Lyme, you can see the name D. R. Condol inscribed at this location and again across the street. Joseph Caples was born in the Gungy Tract homestead in 1873. He lived in the homestead with his wife Martha Bogue, who was of Mohegan Native descent, until his death in 1954. Joseph and Martha didn't have any kids. They were farmers, members of the Grassy Hill Church, and involved in their Lyme community.



Condol family homestead, photo from Lyme Public Hall Archives

- Sources used for the research of the historical stories and map in this article can be found on our website, www.eightmileriver.org. -

Partner Spotlight: East Haddam Land Trust

by Joene Hendry

Since its 1979 inception, East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) has worked to protect the pristine waters of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed. Its first property, Hammond Mill Preserve on West Dolbia Hill Road, protects 12 acres along the west side of the Eightmile River. Another 10 acres of conservation easements protect the opposite side of the river. The preserve and easements were donated over time by the Kashanski family, whose matriarch was a founding director.

Over the subsequent 43 years, the land trust has conserved more than 700 acres through generous donations and with state and private grant funding. The land trust has worked with the Towns of East Haddam and Lyme, The Nature Conservancy, Lyme Land Trust, and the State of Connecticut to conserve additional land.



Waterfall at Sheepskin Hollow Preserve

Photo provided by East Haddam Land Trust

Volunteers maintain 10+ miles of trails and regularly offer director-led hikes and other events. At the end of August, its free Musical Bridges Concert on the Goodspeed Theater lawn features local musicians jamming to favorite rock and blues tunes.

Preservation of a 'geologic gem' is the current fundraising focus of the land trust's 12-member board of directors. The 68-acre Saunders property, nestled between Hedlund and Honey Hill Roads, shows evidence of two separate geologic terranes (bedrock units of different origins separated by a fault), and has separate streams feeding the Eightmile River and Roaring Brook watersheds.

Visit www.ehlt.org for more information, to donate, and to sign up for email updates. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**EIGHTMILE RIVER**
WILD & SCENIC WATERSHED


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Postal Patron




Contact us

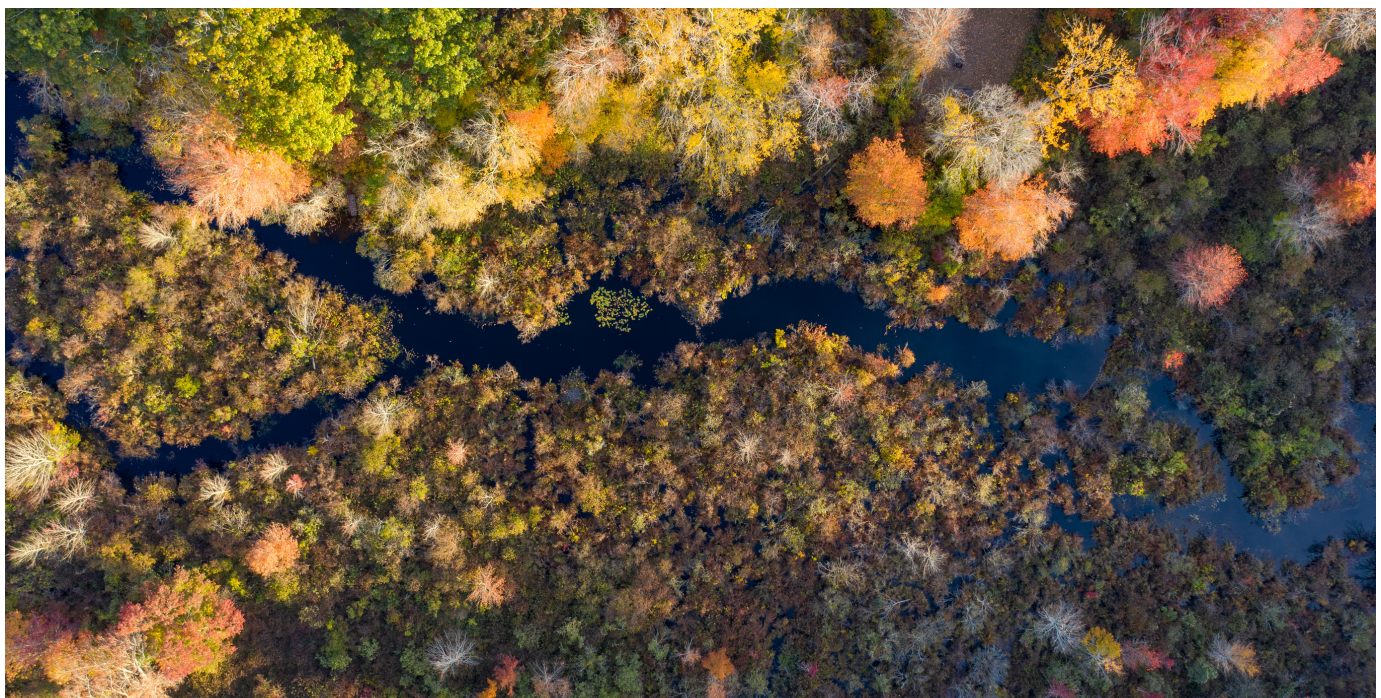
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Tributary to the Eightmile River from above | Drone photo by Frank DiNardi