

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release, September 6, 2008:

Contact person: Tony Sullivan
Phone: (860) 391-4249
E-mail: landtrustphotos@yahoo.com
Fax: (810) 454-1891

Local conservation groups are inviting amateur photographers to focus on the celebrated and scenic countryside of Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem and East Haddam and submit their photos to the Fourth Annual Amateur Photo Contest.

The Conservation/Land Trusts from each of those towns are sponsoring the contest. "This year, in recognition of the President signing into law the designation of the Eightmile River as a *Wild and Scenic River*, we have added the towns of Salem and East Haddam to our contest", said the conservation trusts' spokesperson, Tony Sullivan. All amateur photographers are welcome to enter the contest regardless of what town they reside in.

This contest is being funded with the generous support of Lorensen Toyota, Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Bank of America, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, Essex Savings Bank, Pfizer, Inc. and ChelseaGroton Savings Bank.

Judges will award \$100, \$50 and \$25 cash prizes for each of the following categories:

- Landscapes/Waterscapes
- Plants
- Wildlife
- Cultural/Historic
- Any subject for Young Photographers, below age 15

In addition to the above noted prizes, a special \$100 award will be given in honor of our recently deceased judge, John G. Mitchell, for the best photograph that promotes and supports our environment and biodiversity.

"We are delighted by the caliber of the judges we have been able to attract," said Sullivan.

The three independent judges are **Anne Hoy**, Professor of Art & Photographic History at New York University and former curator at the International Center of Photography in New York. She is the author of National Geographic's book, *The Book of Photography: The History, the Technique, the Art, the Future* and

Fabrications. Staged, Altered, and Appropriated Photographs, Abbeville Press. **William Burt**, a naturalist who has won acclaim for his books of wildlife photography: *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*, *Shadowbirds*, and his recently released *Marshes: The Disappearing Edens*. **Amy Kurtz Lansing**, Curator at the Florence Griswold Museum and a Yale University doctoral candidate in the History of Art. She is also the author of *Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry's Paintings of Past and Present*.

“We’re expecting to see some wonderful photographs from our contestants,” said Sullivan. “Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem and East Haddam are among the most beautiful places in Connecticut. The landscapes and seascapes here turn up repeatedly in the great paintings of the American Impressionist movement. We think photography is another way to remind ourselves of what we have, and to show how important it is to protect and preserve that heritage.”

The deadline for submitting photographs is January 31, 2009. For questions, entry forms and a copy of the contest rules visit www.olct.org or e-mail the organizations at landtrustphotos@yahoo.com.

###