

January 27, 2025

LCRLT
145 Dennison Rd.
Essex, CT 06426



Dear Members of the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust:

We are writing to ask that you submit nominations for our 2024, 5th annual award of the Melvin Woody Lower Connecticut River Conservation Award. Nominations can either be for an organization or an individual that you feel has significantly contributed to the conservation of the lower Connecticut River region.

Last year's award went to J.H. Torrance Downes, nominated by the Town of Old Saybrook "in recognition of his many significant contributions to the conservation of the Lower Connecticut River Region (LCRR). Torrance dedicated his career to promoting and protecting the beauty, health and significance of the LCRR through his work with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and other affiliations. His efforts have resulted in the preservation of many acres of open space and will continue to do so through plans and regulations that he has helped develop." Other awardees are John Hall and the volunteers of the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, Janet Stone of the Deep River Land Trust and Marilyn Gleeson of the East Haddam Land Trust. Their contributions to the region can be found at <https://www.lcrlt.org/awards> .

We are very proud to offer this award, named after one of our prominent board members. As the most ardent supporter of the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) www.rivercog.org/commissions-and-committees/land-trust-exchange/ since its inception in 2009 and the guiding voice to the transformation and growth of that informal organization from a conservation tool of the Lower Connecticut River Gateway Conservation Zone, to a broader geography that encompasses and supports the conservation needs of all of the communities of the lower Connecticut River Region, the annual award is named in Melvin Woody's honor. Melvin has been a member of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission since 1973, served as its Chair for many years, and is currently the Commission's first ex officio member. The Commission is responsible for protecting over 1,000 acres within the Gateway Conservation Zone and has supported many environmental studies and restoration projects.

Please submit your nomination by February 13th, 2025 to ELoPresti@rivercog.org

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Samolis".

Joe Samolis, President