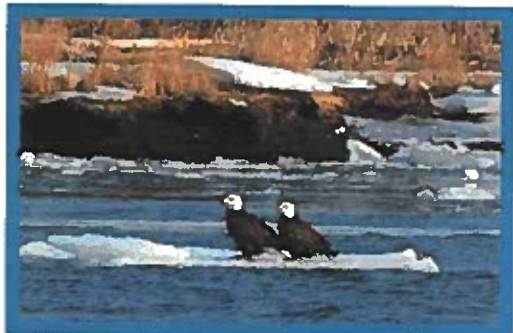


# Old Saybrook Conservation Circular

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## Bald Eagles



Did you know that Bald Eagles – our national emblem, were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1973? That in the 1960's sightings in the continental

US were rare? The decline of the eagle population was due to loss of habitat and the use of a pesticide – DDT – that contaminated the food chain all the way up to the large birds of prey. This pesticide caused the eggs to be too thin and they cracked during the incubation period. However, efforts were begun to reintroduce eagles. In 1992, Connecticut saw its' first successful nesting in over 40 years by a pair of eagles that nested in Litchfield County. It was later determined that the nesting pair came from a reintroduction program in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Since then, our eagle population as rebounded and the bald eagle formally removed from endangered species protection.

Today, we can see Bald Eagles along the Connecticut River Valley. We have several successful nesting pairs along the

river. During the beginning of February, there are cruises on the Connecticut River for eagle watching and our neighbors in Essex celebrate Eagle Watch. During my daily commutes to Middletown and beyond, I will sometimes see an eagle perched on a tree overlooking the river or soaring high above. This morning I saw a pair of Bald Eagles performing their ritual mating flights, which prompted me to find out when Bald Eagles start mating and nesting. Bald Eagles start their mating and nesting activities in January in Connecticut, laying their eggs anytime from February through March. Brrrrr – who would think they would be trying to keep eggs and young chicks warm at temperatures normally well below freezing! Eggs usually hatch in about 35-40 days and it takes at least 3 months before the young are able to try their wings to fly from the nest. Although these majestic birds of prey have made a tremendous comeback, they are fragile. They can be easily disturbed by human activity especially near their nesting sites.

My recommendation? If you are able to take a jaunt to Essex or other areas along the Connecticut River, or take one of the eagle watch cruises that are available – it will be an adventure to remember with the family.

Written by Richard Esty

## New Year

The New Year has come! It seemed like a long year this past year – so many things happening in the world. Our planet has been ravaged with devastating wild fires both at home and abroad, heat records being set, record droughts and severe weather patterns. Although historically, we have experienced these same types of events, they are now occurring at a greater and more severe frequency. Whether you are a believer in Global Warming or not, it is quite evident to all that things are rapidly changing and not for the better. The human race is a very adaptable species. Combine that with our ability to create new technologies – we stand a far better chance of surviving the environmental changes that are being thrust upon us. Unfortunately, these climate changes will play havoc on our flora and fauna across the globe. For them, the changes are occurring at such a rate, that they are not able to adjust to the changes in their environment. Because of the 'circle of life', when one species fails – so do all the others that are dependent on them for food, shelter or nesting. In effect, a nasty chain reaction starts. Add to that the pressures of loss of habit due to human urbanization and consumption; it is a miracle that the rate of extinction has not been greater. However, there have been many documented reports that we have reached a time of unprecedented population decline in plant, animal, insect and other life across the globe. Add to that the current sea level rise calculations due to melting ice caps, are causing concerns for countries across the world including the United States.

*continued on next page*



The Town Transfer Station will accept car batteries for recycling.

Do not dispose of your alkaline batteries - AAA, AA, C, D, 9 Volt, etc. They can all be recycled at the Town Transfer Station.



### Scavenger Hunt

See if you can find this lighthouse. If you do, let us know on our FaceBook page - old saybrook conservation commission.

### Animal Track Quiz –

Try your luck at identifying these common animal tracks you might see While walking in your back yard or the woods.....





## Household Hazardous Waste Items

What items are acceptable for Hazardous Household Waste Disposal?

• Adhesives	• Floor Care Products	• Oven and Drain Cleaners
• Aerosol Cans	• Fungicides	• Paint Strippers and Thinners
• Ammonia	• Gasoline and Diesel Fuels	• Pesticides
• Ant Sprays	• Herbicides and Insecticides	• Photographic Chemicals
• Artists Paints	• Kerosene	• Pool Chemicals
• Brake and Transmission Fluids	• Mercury and Mercury Switches	• Rechargeable Batteries
• Charcoal Lighter Fluids	• Mercury Thermostats	• Turpentine
• Cleaning Solvents	• Moth Balls	• Wood and Metal Polishes
• Epoxy Products and Glues	• Oil and Latex-Based Paints	• Wood Preservatives

What items are **not** acceptable for Hazardous Household Waste Disposal?

• Ammunition	• Empty Container of Any Kind	• Medical Waste
• Biohazard Materials	• Explosives	• Medicines
• Business Waste	• Fire Extinguishers	• Smoke Detectors
• Car Batteries	• Freon	• Tires
• Cement	• Ice Melt	• Used Oil
• Electronics	• Marine Flares	



### Scavenger Hunt

See if you know where this woodland photo was taken. If you do, let us know on our FaceBook page - old saybrook conservation commission.

## New Year *continued from page 1*

Why should this matter to us? What can we do? Do we have to do anything at all? These questions are being posed by people on both sides of the spectrum. A person does not need an advanced degree to see that life is changing quickly now and we need to do what we can to protect the planet and to protect our future. Whatever we come up with, it will not be an easy task. But we have to start. The hardest thing is starting. So what is a better time than now - a new year, a new hope?

Let us start by thinking about what we are discarding into our environment. What can I do for my part? Can it be recycled or reused? Can it be composted? Should I refuse to purchase because it cannot be recycled or reused? In this current edition of the Old Saybrook Conservation Quarterly Newsletter, we are providing you with some easy tools that you can use to start the ball rolling. Over the next several editions of our newsletter, we will continue to provide information about recycling. We will also be providing information about state and federal programs that are available for towns like Old Saybrook to reduce their footprint and reduce the rising costs associated with the disposal of waste. This cannot come at a more critical time as landfill access is becoming harder to find combined with working with an aging waste to energy conversion resources that are struggling to keep up with the current demands.

- Written by Richard Esty



Connecticut disposes of 2.4 million tons of waste annually. That translates to 1,370 pounds per person annually. What cannot be burned in our waste to energy conversion plants or recycled is transported to landfills.

## RECYCLING SYMBOLS DECODED



### THE MOBIUS LOOP

This universally recognized logo means an item is capable of being recycled



### THE GREEN DOT

This symbol lets us know the producer supports recycling programs



### WASTE ELECTRICALS

From home appliances to mobile phones, items with this symbol can be recycled



### GLASS

This mark reminds us to dispose of glass bottles and jars in a bottle bank or a glass household recycling collection



### COMPOSTABLE

The Biodegradable Products Institute created this logo to help consumers know what items are compostable



### WOOD

This Forest Stewardship Council mark recognizes products that contain wood from well-managed forests



### HAZARDOUS

Radioactive, biohazard, flammable, and toxic items bearing these symbols should never be recycled



### THE TIDY MAN

Not directly related to recycling, this logo reminds us to dispose of the item in a thoughtful manner



## Animal Track Quiz Answers

- 1 - Rabbit    2 - Opossum    3 - Squirrel    4 - Raccoon  
5 - Skunk    6 - Bobcat    7 - Coyote    8 - Fox

## Conservation Commission Members

Richard Esty, Chair  
Christine Picklo, Vice Chair  
Kelly Hartshorn, Secretary  
Donna Leake  
Larry Ritzhaupt  
Glenda Sohl  
Tomas Gezo  
Joseph Bradley, Student Rep.

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