

**GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2005 **Time:** 7:15 PM
Place: United Methodist Church Parish Hall,
626 Old Main St, Rocky Hill
at corner of Church & Old Main Streets. Parking is off Church Street.

- Agenda:**
1. Minutes of Annual Meeting 2003
 2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2004
 3. President's annual report to the members
 4. Report of the Nominating Committee.
 5. Election of Directors to serve until 2007.
 6. Election of Officers to serve until next annual meeting.
 7. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.
- Julianne Steffens, Secretary of the Trust

A Catered Dinner will precede the meeting and program

6:00 PM - Social hour - Fruit punch, cheese & crackers, fruit & veggie platters.
6:30 PM - Dinner - Menu: Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, peas, gelatin salad with pineapple & carrots, ice cream. A vegetarian casserole and fruit bowl is available for those with dietary restrictions.
7:15 PM Annual Meeting Convened

8:00 PM Program:
"How can local and regional land conservation
priorities be successfully integrated in the Great Meadows?"

**Speaker: Clem Clay, Connecticut River Program Director,
Trust for Public Lands**



Clip and mail with check payable to Great Meadows Conservation Trust to GMCT Annual Meeting, E.A. Olson, 52 Hitching Post Lane, Glastonbury, CT. 06033 or call reservations to E.A. Olson (860) 633-8417. Please note this event is open to family and friends.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Vegetarian _____ or special dietary needs _____

Number attending _____ \$12.50 per person Total enclosed _____

Reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, March 9th.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ralph Moyer of Wethersfield, with committee members Mary Carter, Rocky Hill, and Deb McIntosh of Glastonbury, presents the following slate of Trust members who have agreed to serve as officers or directors:

Nominated as Directors for three years (2005-2008):

Judith Haddad, Wethersfield,
Richard Mihm, Glastonbury and
Peter Maxwell, Rocky Hill.

Officers nominated to serve for coming year:

President: James Woodworth, Wethersfield,
Vice President: Elizabeth A. Olson, Glastonbury,
Treasurer: Richard Mihm, Glastonbury
Secretary: Richard G. Doran, Rocky Hill

Members of the Operations Committee who served in 2004

Board of Directors:

President: James Woodworth, Wethersfield,
Vice President: Elizabeth A. Olson, Glastonbury,
Treasurer: Neal W. Cox, Rocky Hill
Secretary: Julianne Steffens, Secretary
Clyde Brooks, Glastonbury
Edward Chiucarello, Rocky Hill
Richard G. Doran, Rocky Hill
Joseph Hickey, Wethersfield
Ralph O. Moyer, Wethersfield
Pamela St. Jean, Wethersfield
Edith Schade, Glastonbury
Chris Sprague, Rocky Hill

Other Members of the Operations Committee:

Ingrid Boelhouwer, Wethersfield
Mary Carter, Rocky Hill
Judith M. Haddad, Wethersfield
Anne C. Kuckro, Wethersfield
Lawrence Lunden, West Hartford
Deborah McIntosh, Glastonbury
Joan Mihm, Glastonbury
Eleanor & Peter Revill, Rocky Hill
Donald G. Watson, Rocky Hill
Paul Woodworth, Hartford

**GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC
2004 ANNUAL REPORT**

President's Report



A walk in the meadows is sufficient to raise our spirits and renew our purpose—reminders of the unique value of the meadows and of our efforts abound. Two of the seven eagles hatched, fledged and banded in Connecticut were fortunate to begin their lives where the river meanders through the meadows.

As these two fledglings were flexing their wings in June, The Connecticut Greenways Council and the Department of Environmental Protection awarded one of their Annual Greenway Awards to the Trust in recognition of our efforts to protect a most critical stretch of the river greenway. Special recognition went to Trust founding member Joe Hickey for his pioneering work leading to bicycle trails throughout the state.

Our year began with winter walkers inspecting many of our parcels and introducing neighbors in Wethersfield to the Wood parcel where a town stream channel improvement project will also allow us to develop trails leading to views of the marsh, and the Wolf parcel where we have revised our stewardship plan and received an IWWC permit to restore and maintain the meadow habitat. From the banks of Folly Brook, we continue to contribute our voice to the MDC CSO debate.

New this Spring were kayak/canoe paddles from our favorite launch spots in each town. The highlight turned out to be Keeney Cove where twenty-five great blue heron had gathered...drawn not only to the solitude of the quiet waters, but also to hundreds of silvery alewives splashing on shore to spawn. Join us this May!



While hundreds of motocross enthusiasts roared around the existing track in the RH meadows, the Trust joined with farmers, owners of surrounding land, and other RH residents to express our disapproval of a second motocross track proposed for the meadow. The proposal was withdrawn. In addition to joining the fray on specific proposals such as the RH Foundry, the Trust supported open space funding and other legislative issues affecting the environment, and co-sponsored community forums on the Connecticut Metropatterns report, exploring the relationship of property tax policies and open space development pressures.

The archive of the Trust's 30 year legacy of stewardship and advocacy for the meadows is now organized and accessible at the Wethersfield Historical Society. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Historical Society for their generosity of time, space and preservation expertise. This material would still be in cardboard boxes spread around the towns without the Herculean efforts of Jolly Steffens, ably assisted and supported by Larry Lunden and Paul Flannery, to winnow and organize.

In addition to bringing this huge project to fruition, Jolly's contribution to the ongoing operations of the Trust can be measured by the fact that she'll be replaced by not one but two people. Following in her footsteps in the official duties of secretary will be Rick Doran. We have added a rather large line item to our budget for a recording secretary—a willing volunteer would save the Trust substantial funds!

Perhaps the most significant Trust event this year is the gift of three parcels of land in the Wethersfield meadows from the Wolcott family. Their stewardship began in 1661—ours in 2004!

Jim Woodworth

Land Acquisition Report 2004

The Land Acquisition Committee has been active in contacting land owners in the Meadows to procure land. In 2004 the Trust received title to three parcels in Wethersfield, a gift of the Wolcott family. The committee continues to monitor land records in the three communities and several parcels in the meadows were inspected by members of both Land Acquisition and Land Management committees to evaluate them for potential acquisition. To accomplish the goal of preserving land in the meadows, the help of all members is vital.

Pamela St. Jean, Chair

Land Management Committee, Annual Report 2004

Trust parcels continue to be in good shape. Three new parcels were acquired in 2004 bringing the total to 38 parcels of approximately 151 acres. The three Wolcott parcels in Wethersfield are 15 acres of wooded, marshy, and crop land. The crop land will continue to be rented to Winding Brook Turf Farm. Because of erosion along the Connecticut River bank on one of the Wolcott parcels, the Town diverted the road around the area.



George and Connie (Wolcott) Mason and Jim Woodworth

Installing a sign on the Wood parcel, as required by the easement to the DEP, had to meet many requirements. This included: approval from the Town; a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Wethersfield Historic District; a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals; a Building Permit from the Wethersfield Building Department. The post in the ground, considered construction activity, required a "Call before you dig" to check for utilities. After Jim and Paul Woodworth installed the sign, the Building Department inspected and approved!

On work days on the Wood parcel, invasive Japanese Knotweed has been cut back and mowed and a tree removed to open more of an area for mowing. Workers included Paul Woodworth, Jolly & Charles "Chain Saw" Steffens and Paul Flannery. The Town of Wethersfield developed plans to modify the berm on the Wood parcel to widen the water channel, and also, remove some imbedded trash and open an area for off- street parking. The \$30,000 item was cut from the town budget in 2004, but is included in the 2005 budget...as of this writing. Call your town council members!

Several work days were scheduled to clean up the Wolf parcel, formerly the Nature Conservancy parcel. A management plan, originally developed in the 1970's, has been updated with plans to restore and maintain the meadow habitat. The neighbors have helped in cutting back the invading Staghorn Sumac and red maples. The IWWC granted a permit for this clearing. Helpers were Bill Holmes, Roland LeClerc, Dena Mehalakes, Jim Arnold, Jim and Paul Woodworth.

Local farmers continue to lease the 25 farmable acres in Trust parcels. The Coast Guard continues its lease of channel marker #122 and the Town of Wethersfield leases the road diversion on a Wolcott parcel. Jim Woodworth managed the lease program

Annual Brisk Winter Walks to inspect Trust parcels were publicized to members and neighbors with good response. With the increase in the number of Trust parcels, the chairman created a data base to hold all the records from which a variety of reports may be made.

Larry Lunden, Chairman

Program Committee Annual Report 2004

At the Annual Meeting in March 2004, Judy Preston, Ecologist with Tidewater Institute, presented a program entitled: "The River Continuum: A Framework for Understanding the Ecology of Rivers."

In May 2004, "Wednesdays on the River with the GMCT" debuted with canoe/kayak paddles from Wethersfield Cove, Keeney Cove and Ferry Landing.

In November 2004, Frank Kaczmarek, prize-winning and published nature photographer, presented "Nature Up Close - Macro photography" with both enlarged prints and color slides, he concentrated on insects. The Trust cosponsored this program with Connecticut Audubon Center in Glastonbury.



At two community forums titled "Connecticut Metropatterns: Regional Agenda for Community and Prosperity in Connecticut," presenters reviewed statistics, land use regulations and tax policies that have resulted in today's development and urged the audience to seek needed reforms. The Trust was one of the cosponsors for the forums, one held in Glastonbury and the other in Rocky Hill.

E.A. Olson, Chair.

Membership Report for 2004

At the end of 2004, the Trust had 135 Family or Individual members and 47 Life Members.

Charlotte Harris of Glastonbury became a Life Member.

New Members in 2004;

Eugene Casale	Glastonbury
Betty McLaughlin	Glastonbury
Shannon Burke Sirorowicz	Glastonbury
Steven Finkel	Rocky Hill
Roland and Doris Leclerc	Wethersfield
Barry and Myrna Schlein	Wethersfield
Karen Stetler	Wethersfield
Susan Seilor	Marlborough

Deceased members in 2004

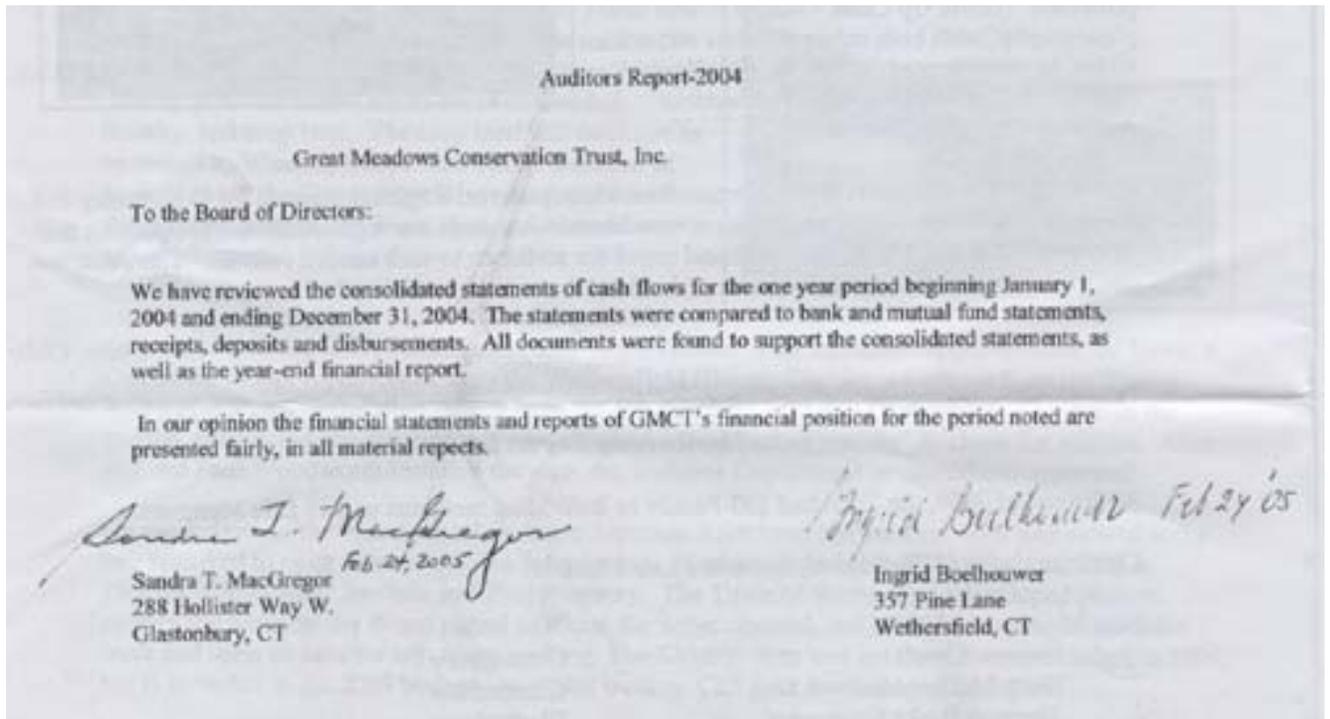
Chris Sprague (member since 1970; Director 1991-3; 2003-4)	Rocky Hill
Stephen Ucich (member since 1992)	Wethersfield
Barney Wilkus (member since 1992)	Wethersfield

Joan Mihm, Chair

Finance and Development Annual Report 2004

This year saw the successful completion of our effort to build a fund for land acquisition. The Eleanor Buck Wolf Land Preservation Fund achieved a level of \$135,000. We are most grateful to our donating members and other friends who made this possible.

Deborah McIntosh, Chair





Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033



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