



THE MEADOW VIEW

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. in Glastonbury, Rocky Hill and
Wethersfield, Connecticut

Vol. I No. 3

September 1989

A HIKE ON THE WETHERSFIELD MEADOWS

SPONSORED BY

**BY THE GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST
AND
THE CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY HOLLAND BROOK
CENTER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1989

**Dr. Frank Child will lead the hike which will tour flood plain
forest, agricultural and open meadow land as well as the
Connecticut River**

Meet at the Visitors' Center parking lot on Marsh Street, Wethersfield at

1.45 P.M.

OR

Form car pools at the Holland Brook Center, 1361 Main Street, Glastonbury
at 1.30 P.M.

This a Rain or Shine Event!

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Trust held June 1st. at the Holland Brook Center was attended by more than fifty members and friends. In addition to receiving reports, the members elected as Directors to serve until 1992 Deborah McIntosh, Frank Child and Eleanor Revill. Astrid Hanzalek, chair of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Watershed Council spoke on the progress of River Watch and praised the Trust's commitment to the project. Following the business meeting, Ruth Bergengren gave a slide presentation of scenes of the Great Meadows.

The Board of Directors convened the same evening and chose the following officers for the coming year: Clyde Brooks, President; John Lepper, Vice-President; Eleanor Revill, Secretary and Judith Parker, Treasurer. A list of officers and members of the Operations Committee is given on the back page.

RIVER WATCH NEWS

The RIVER WATCH HOTLINE (241-0500) in its first summer of operation has received several calls for information and a few complaints. Reports of abandoned cars on the riverbank were referred to the Department of Environmental Protection, and because they were within the flood encroachment lines the wrecks were ordered removed. The land owners are responsible for doing this.

While River Watch has not been involved with all the policing of the meadows, its publicity must be at least partially responsible for the heightened awareness of the need for better protection of the area. DEP has stepped up its river patrol to reduce speedboat wake damage. The Wethersfield police have made arrests for illegal dumping in the meadows. However more needs to be done to curb damage and theft of crops. There have been reports of questionable activities at night, when the meadows are supposedly closed, involving boats, vehicles and even helicopters! However we still hope to achieve that bucolic peace we would like to associate with the Great Meadows.

LIVING BY THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

Living on the border of the Connecticut River flood plain can be an exciting observation post for bird and animal lovers.

The Folly Brook Natural Area should be known for more than the tree-cutting folly perpetrated by DOT. Besides the water birds on the Wethersfield Cove, the wildflowers in its surrounding meadows and marshes, we have a tally of more than twenty animals who make their homes in these fields and woods. Even deer wander through occasionally, probably swimming the river from the Glastonbury side.

I have come face-to-face with a racoon on a trail deep beneath the smartweed and sensitive fern of the marsh, I don't know which of us was the more suprised.

One day I watched two crows apparently dancing up and down -- a mating dance? Crows? No. Through my binoculars I watched the object of the crows' coordinated attack. A large rat, the fur on his back disheveled by the sharp peck from his attackers. But rats are never stupid. He kept jumping at the crows, all the while leading them across the meadows until he reached the entrance of his underground home and disappeared down the hole.

Eleanor B. Wolf

HUNTING SEASON IS APPROACHING

Caution is advised during hunting season! Since this sport is a permitted use in the flood plain, and we share the meadows with several game clubs, be careful during the season which runs from October 21 to December 30. Most hunting activity takes place in the hours of dawn and dusk, Monday through Saturday. Sunday hunting is not permitted. The most common game species taken is the pheasant. The birds are purchased and stocked by the clubs.

HELP SAVE DUCKS - BUY DUCK STAMPS

Extreme heat and drought and loss of wetlands in recent years in the US and Canada have contributed to a sharp decline in the duck population. Conservationists can help the US Fish and Wildlife Service add waterfowl habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System by buying "Duck Stamps". These are the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps available at the US Post Office for \$12.50. The stamp is required for hunting waterfowl, however many people buy the stamps to support conservation as well as for their collection value.

This year's stamp pictures a pair of lesser scaup painted by wildlife artist Neal Anderson. Since the Duck Stamp program was started in the early thirties, nearly four million acres of habitat have been purchased.

Reports are circulating that hunters are voluntarily planning to reduce their duck bag limit this season.

NAYAUG CANOE RACE

The first Annual Nayaug Canoe Race will be held Saturday, September 23 in the morning starting at Pease Lane in South Glastonbury. The course is 5 to 8 miles depending on the class of expertise required. Entry fees of \$7.00 will benefit the Red Hill Coalition. A barbecue will follow, charge \$6.00. T-shirts will be available.

Entry and other details can be obtained from Dave Ahlgren at 633-5665 or 297-2588, or Deke FitzGerald 633-6496 or 643-1136.

WE WELCOME YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

We hope that our readers will send news, views and letters to THE MEADOW VIEW for us to publish. Historical items, nature observations and agricultural news are all subjects of interest to those concerned with the Great Meadows. Comments on this publication will also be welcome. Please pick up the quill and write! Please send items to The Meadow View, Great Meadows Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This application is for those who wish to join the Great Meadows Conservation Trust and help to keep the flood plain of the Connecticut River as open space for agriculture and natural enjoyment.

Membership Chair
Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.
P.O.Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Please enrol _____

_____ (name, address, telephone no.)

as _____ Member(s). Enclosed is \$ _____ annual membership

dues. Date _____

Membership categories: Individual Member \$10. Family Member (parents and children under 16) \$15, Life Member \$200.

OUR ORGANIZATION

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clyde Brooks (G) President
John C. Lepper (W) Vice-Pres.
Eleanor D. Revill (R) Secretary
Thayer Chase (W)
Frank M. Child (W)
Robert Farrell (R)
Deborah McIntosh (G)
Peter M. Stern (G)
Donald D. Watson (R)

THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Directors listed above and -
Judith Parker (W) Treasurer
Carl Bergengren (G)
June Cox (R)
Joseph Hickey (W)
Betsy Katz (G)
Henry Kinne (G)
Joan Mihm (G)
Peter J. Revill (R)
William Robbins (R)
Edith Schade (G)
Christine Sprague (R)
Julianne Steffens (G)
Barbara Surwilo (R)
Charles Wisnioski (R)
Eleanor B. Wolf (W)
The position of Secretary of the Operations
Committee has yet to be filled

G Glastonbury, R Rocky Hill,
W Wethersfield



P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

J. Mihm Membership
E. Schade Publicity
D. McIntosh Land Acquisition
P. Revill Land Management
P. Stern Finance

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

C. Brooks	633-7406
J. Lepper	529-2290
E & P. Revill	529-9254
J. Mihm	633-1806
E. Schade (Duffy)	633-4885
D. McIntosh	633-2179

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE --

--"One Creature per Acre and Other Stories of the Old Rocky Hill Meadows" which was presented by Peter Revill at the 1987 Annual Meeting? Requests for a transcription were received, and it was planned to print it in The Meadow View. Space has not allowed for this so we are planning to make copies available for about \$2.50 each plus postage in the next month or two. We need to know how many copies are wanted in order to plan the printing. To help us know, please send a postcard soon (no money yet!) to P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033, c/o Meadow View letting us if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

CREDITS

Material for this issue has been supplied by John Lepper, Julianne Steffens, Ellie Revill, Eleanor Wolf and Editor Peter Revill.