



THE MEADOW VIEW

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

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September 1996

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust
Members and Friends
are invited to

GOOD GUY BUGS

Monday, September 16 at 7.30 P.M. at the Masonic Temple
(Grange Hall), 895 Main Street, South Glastonbury.

Come to hear a talented local teacher describe environmental lessons that children will try out this fall with names like "Good Guy Bugs" and "Fruits and Veggies".

Sandee Brown of Glastonbury will describe the new agricultural curriculum " Food, Land and People", being introduced in Connecticut and two other states. Ms. Brown teaches third grade in Hebron where she developed nature trails linking "Outdoor Classrooms".

The program is being co-sponsored by the Connecticut Audubon Holland Brook Nature Center, The Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury and the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. There will be refreshments.

AN AFTERNOON CANOE TRIP ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

From Keeney Cove to Ferry Park
Sunday, September 29th, 1996
12:30 PM to Dusk

Join Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) River Steward Tom Maloney for an early fall canoe trip on the river on a Sunday afternoon. This trip will explore the river and its inlets from Keeney Cove in

Glastonbury to Ferry Park in Rocky Hill. Depending on wind and current, it may be an easy paddle or it may be a long haul. Prior experience with River paddling is advised. Swimming ability is a must. Bring your own canoe, the required flotation device (life Jacket) and paddles, an extra paddle, too. Canoes are also available from CRWC on a first call, first served basis. Space is limited. To register for the trip call CRWC at 860-528-3588 (Monday-Friday 9 - 4:30 PM).

**8TH ANNUAL NAYAUG CANOE
RACE AND RIVERFRONT
CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, OCT. 6TH
9:30 AM
KINNE FARM, TRYON STREET AND
PEASE LANE, SOUTH GLASTONBURY**

A day of fun and food for all. The Kinne farm is a great place for a Pancake Breakfast 9:30 - 10:30 AM; to listen to the Story Teller and to the music and song of the Connecticut River Ramblers, too. Beware of the Pirates. The Canoe Race starts at 1:30. Registration for the race will be from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Bring your own kayak or canoe. CRWC canoes, paddles and flotation jackets will be available on a first come, first served basis on the day of the race. Open to the general public.

A cordial invitation to the event is extended by the sponsoring Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury with the CRWC to members of like-minded groups who share in the protection and preservation of the river and its environs.

**WOODLAND DIARY WITH STEVE
GRANT**

Tuesday., November 12, 7.30 P.M. at the Connecticut Audubon Center, Glastonbury.

Steve Grant, Nature writer for the Hartford Courant, has been camping a few days each month since June in the 7840 acre Yale Myers Forest in Eastern Connecticut. He will have many tales of this area with its history and its nooks and crannies of wilderness.

The program is co-sponsored by the Audubon Center and GMCT.

Admission: members \$4., non-members \$6.

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As I write the summer continues, the garden is producing, fall will be upon us all too soon. The Trust's committees have also been productive this summer. The By-laws Committee has drafted several changes for Board review this fall and, if approved, will be brought to the membership for vote early in the new year. The Land Management Committee has inspected Trust parcels in both Rocky Hill and Glastonbury, having checked Wethersfield properties during the winter months. An abandoned car on one property was removed, by the Rocky Hill Police. The lease of Trust land to the U. S. Coast Guard for a channel marker was renewed as were leases to local farmers. Land acquisition efforts continue with letters and meetings with individual land owners to discuss options to reduce property or inheritance taxes.

A report in the local paper alerted another board committee to action. The National Eastern Corp. (NEC) application for the bridge component assembly on a barge in Crow Point Cove is to be reviewed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. This spring, in anticipation of hearings before the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Trust Board of Directors sought out expert witnesses. The board has contracted with Richard Orson, an environmental and ecological consultant of Branford, CT to review the NEC application and to testify at public hearings.

Also in the news is the "motorcycle stimulated Worm farm", the validity of which is questioned by the Department of Agriculture. The owner has yet to apply for a permit from the DEP. Recent TV and media coverage reports motorcrossing as a competitive and recreational sport of increasing popularity. The owners of the Rocky Hill motorcross tract recently purchased several acres adjacent to the track with an agreement that they will continue to be farmed by the former owner. It raises questions and concerns for the future of the meadows and the loss of valuable farmland.

Connecticut is losing Les Corey, the director of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. He has transferred his

allegiance to the TNC from Connecticut to Arizona. To acknowledge the Trust's valued association with Les, the Board voted to donate to the Internship Program established by TNC CT Chapter in Les Corey's name as described below. In his stead, welcome another friend of the environment and of the Trust, Denise Schlener.

The summer heads into fall, the work of the Trust continues.

Jolly Steffens

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1996

For our 27th Annual Meeting we tried a new format, a bring-your-own picnic lunch at The Connecticut Audubon Society at Glastonbury - Holland Brook. Twenty one people attended the meeting which followed at 2:00 PM.

The president gave her report which covered much of the material given above in "President's View."

The treasurer reported a net increase of 16% in the assets of the Trust. Copies of the report were available for inspection.

Membership chair Joan Mihm reported that we had two new life members. She also sadly reported the death of Bill Robbins, a life member and Operations Committee member. John Lepper read a memorial to him.

Thanks were expressed to Jim McIntosh for his many years of generous service as our attorney.

Joyce Bauer is stepping down as Program chair. She was thanked for the many stimulating programs she has provided.

Elected by the membership to serve as Directors until the Annual Meeting of 1999 were: Peter Revill and Neal Cox of Rocky Hill, Gary Gagnon of Glastonbury and Anne Kuckro and Paul Courchaine of Wethersfield. The Directors then elected officers for the year ahead:

President	Jolly Steffens
Vice President	Deborah McIntosh
Secretary	Eleanor Revill
Treasurer	To be filled by Board at next meeting.

(Gary Gagnon has been elected Treasurer.)

Following the business portion of the meeting Ruth Bergengren gave a program of her beautiful color slides, "ALL THE BEST SWAMPS."

At the Annual Meeting, two very special people were recognized for their contributions to the Trust. Eleanor and Peter Revill were among the first to join the newly formed organization and they have been deeply involved for most of the years ever since.

"Ellie" became the second Secretary of the Trust in March 1973, succeeding Russell Brenneman. She also served concurrently as Secretary to the Operations Committee from 1974 - 86. Over the years she has served on many committees and task forces, more than once on by-laws, program and nominating committees. She is an ardent recruiter of new members for the Trust, recommending good people to serve on the board and its committees.

Peter, with his expertise as an engineer and his many years with the Metropolitan District Commission, was a good resource person for the fledgling land trust. He early on became involved with land management and became chairman of that committee ten years ago. He produced maps, organized summer work parties, led winter and fall walks to introduce members to the meadows. He has also served as vice president.

Eight years ago Peter proposed that the organization start a newsletter and volunteered to be its editor. He has been editing *The Meadow View* three times a year ever since. It is a team effort, in that Ellie, as proofreader, edits the editor's work. *The Meadow View* was recognized at a recent convocation of the Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB).

Ellie and Peter volunteered to serve on a LTSB committee responsible for planning the annual convocation which offers land trusts guidance in managing their responsibilities.

The Revills, in grateful recognition of their many years of service to the Trust, were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a framed color photograph of the meadows from an overlook at Quarry Park in Rocky Hill by Edith Royce Schade, professional photographer and Trust Board member.

WILLIAM D. ROBBINS

It is with profound sadness that we note the death of Life Member William "Bill" Robbins, who died unexpectedly at his home in Rocky Hill on April 1. He was 36.

A descendant of the noted Robbins family, he was a life-long resident of Rocky Hill. He attended local schools and graduated from the University of Connecticut.

Bill was a member of the Trust's Operations and Land Management Committees. He played a major role in helping the Trust to acquire the DiPaola parcel, and was active in the acquisition of the quarry for use as a state park.

He was a Life Member of the Rocky Hill Historical Society, and was active in the Morgan Archaeological Society, participating in several digs in the Meadows. He also was active in the Rocky Hill Neighborhood Association.

He served on the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions and on the Republican Town Committee.

He was deacon, church historian, and youth leader of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church.

Robbins leaves his wife Cheryl, son Nathaniel, his parents Douglas and Nancy Robbins; and his brother Ronald and sister-in-law Rosa Robbins.

John Lepper

MAY BIRDWALK

Our Spring Birdwalk, jointly sponsored with the Connecticut River Watershed Council, was a great success. Between forty and fifty members and guests met at 7 A.M. May 4 at Putnam Park in Wetherfield for a walk in the Meadows. Tom Maloney, Connecticut River Steward, was the leader.

No one felt like swimming through freshets and flooded fields, so, after birding the Putnam Park area, the walk was moved to the Rails to Trails site and Quarry Park in Rocky Hill.

With Tom's able help walkers could identify several species of brightly colored migrating warblers, woodpeckers, a variety of flycatchers, gnatcatchers, thrushes and other birds. A young fledged red tail hawk put on a show for us. From the ridge above Quarry Park we could easily view the extent of the spring flood.

Walkers expressed thanks for the tour and a hope for a repeat in 1997. Our gratitude to Tom Maloney for a wonderful morning.

Mary Carter

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Land Management Committee, under its co-chairs Neal Cox and Larry Lunden, has grown to eleven members and meets monthly.

Recently we have managed to have an abandoned car removed from our DiPaola Parcel by the Rocky Hill Police Department.

We are planning to produce an up-to-date report on each of our 32 parcels. Our statement of duties is being updated for review by the Trust's Board.

Research continues into the mystery of the Austin Parcel in Glastonbury. This two acre donation has never been found!

Other activities include investigating marking our parcels with signs. We are also looking into encroachments by neighboring farmers and possibly leasing the land involved.

The most ambitious project of the Committee is to write a history of each parcel. This would document the acquisition procedure and be a basis for future plans for the land. If you would like to help in this effort, or have relevant information, call Neal Cox (563-4143) or Larry Lunden (232-2416).

Larry Lunden

CHANGES AT TNC CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

After ten years of outstanding leadership of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, it was with mixed emotions that Les Corey announced his resignation. He and his family have moved to Tucson, Arizona, where he is now vice president/executive director of the Arizona Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. In a wonderful farewell send-off party, many were on hand to salute Les for his many contributions to protecting Connecticut's beautiful, ecologically sensitive and fragile places. His warmth and good humor, his persuasive skill with people negotiating for acquisition of key parcels, his teamwork in that effort with corporations, state and local groups will be missed.

In his honor, a fund has been established for a Connecticut Chapter TNC Internship program. Those wishing to donate may make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy, marked Les Corey Internship and mail to TNC Connecticut Chapter, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

In a recent letter to members, Robert Schneider, Chair, was pleased to announce that Denise Schlener had accepted the offer to become the next executive director of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She will begin her new duties September 9th.

Ms. Schlener comes to TNC from her position as director of strategic planning and development at Yale's Institute for Biosphere Studies, the Peabody Museum of Natural History and the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. A graduate of Middlebury College, she holds a master's degree in environmental policy and management from Yale School of Forestry. Prior to work at Yale, she held management positions with the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Land Conservation Coalition of Connecticut and the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

MATTABESSET RIVER GROUP FORMED

We welcome a new member to the conservation groups in the Connecticut River valley, especially one serving a town in which the Trust has an interest, Rocky Hill.

The formation of the Mattabesset River Watershed Association was reported in the Hartford Courant, August 25. The watershed area of 69 square miles covers parts of Middletown, Cromwell, Berlin, Rocky Hill, Newington, New Britain and Southington. Included is a substantial part of southwest Rocky Hill. The Mattabesset flows into the Connecticut River north of Middletown opposite Wilcox Island.

The new association is concerned with the high level of water pollution due to lawn fertilizers, animal droppings and other nonpoint sources. By promoting recreation such as canoeing on the Mattabesset the group hopes to raise the public's awareness of the river, now largely ignored. We wish them great success.

OUR ORGANIZATION

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Elected)

Julianne Steffens (G)	President
Deborah McIntosh (G)	Vice-Pres.
Eleanor D. Revill (R)	Secretary
Gary Gagnon (G)	Treasurer
Joyce Bauer (W)	
Paul Courchaine (W)	
Neal Cox (R)	
Anne Kuckro (W)	
John C. Lepper (W)	
Peter J. Revill (R)	
Edith Schade (G)	
Donald G. Watson (R)	

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Appointed by Pres.)

Julianne Steffens
Deborah McIntosh
Eleanor Revill
Gary Gagnon

THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of the Board and the following
(appointed by Pres.)

Carl Bergengren (G)
Nanc Berges (W)
Ingrid Boelhouwer (W)
Clyde Brooks (G)
Thayer Chase (W)
June Cox (R)
Joseph Hickey (W)
Henry Kinne (G)
Larry Lunden (W.Htd.)
Joan Mihm (G)
Carol Millard (G)
Peter M. Stern (G)
Eleanor B. Wolf (W)
G. Glastonbury, R. Rocky Hill, W. Wethersfield

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gary Gagnon	633-6021
Neal Cox	563-4143
Larry Lunden	232-2416
Deborah McIntosh	633-2179
Joan Mihm	633-1806
Ellie Revill	529-9254
Duffy Schade	633-4885
Julianne (Jolly) Steffens	633-9379

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Finance June Cox (Chr.) Gary Gagnon, John Lepper, Peter Stern.

Land Management Neal Cox, Larry Lunden (Co Chrs.) Clyde Brooks, Mary Carter, Thayer Chase Chris Fritz, Joseph Hickey, John Lepper, Peter Revill, Edith Schade, Christa Sywenskyj.

Program Joyce Bauer, Nancy Berges, Lisa Olsen, Eleanor Revill, Edith Schade, Peter Stern

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust was incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit tax exempt land trust to protect and preserve the flood plain lands of the Connecticut River in Glastonbury, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. The Trust has acquired land, holds conservation easements, and leases land for farming.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION please write to Membership Chair, Great meadows Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

CREDITS

Material for this issue has been provided by Mary Carter, Mary Goodwin, John Lepper, Larry Lunden, Eleanor Revill, Julianne Steffens and Editor Peter Revill.



P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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