



THE MEADOW VIEW

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

Vol. X No. 1

Summer 1999

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Reading the Hartford Courant recently, I came across the article about the Edwards Dam being demolished near Augusta, Maine. This was a most enlightening feeling, realizing that we environmental conservationists must be on the right side.

To see environmental issues winning out over commercial interests is very encouraging to me. The efforts of the good people in Maine started over 10 years ago and are just bearing fruit. It isn't an overnight phenomenon.

Slow steady effort to restore or maintain our God given natural environment seems to be paying off.

Keep up the good work! All together, we're going to keep the ship afloat.

Neal Cox-July 2, 1999

*"The nation behaves well if it treats
its natural resources as assets
which it must turn over
to the next generation."*

- Teddy Roosevelt

HELP ON LAND MANAGEMENT

The Land Management Committee (LMC) members continue to be active on many fronts. Peter Revill with Charles Morgan, the Trust's Attorney, are drafting a management plan stating our policies with respect to land use and protection. A sample conservation easement has been prepared by the LMC to be available to Land Acquisition committee when negotiating with land owners.

Mark Carabetta has installed two kestrel nesting boxes one on the Crilly and the other on the Dipaola parcel. He plans to get more boxes in place as ground conditions permit.

A team of parcel inspectors has been recruited to keep an eye on the meadows. Presently someone is needed to inspect the Point Meadows area around the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury. To join the team call Larry Lunden at 232-2416.

CONNECTICUT RIVER SOURCE TO THE SEA CLEAN-UP OCT. 2

The first Connecticut River Source to the Sea Clean-up, is to be held Saturday, Oct 2, 1999. The Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Massachusetts Community Water Watch are orchestrating this first Source to the Sea Clean-up as a one day community clean-up along the river and its tributaries. In Glastonbury the Town Council has been asked to support a work day on its properties along the river, particularly the Liebler Fields and the tank farm. Another group
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p.2 (Clean-up)

will see to the river along Earle Park. The Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury will work along the river at the Kinne farm getting ready for the 11th Annual Nayaug Canoe Race and Riverfront Celebration they will be holding the next day, October 31. Is anything happening in your community? Join in the action!

SAVE THE LAND

Land is being saved. At a recent all day "Save the Land" conference held at Wesleyan University, the focus was on saving farmland. Examples of individual action as well as well-orchestrated group action were presented on how it is being done, even in urban-suburban communities in this state.

Farming is a business and it must be profitable for most owners to continue. If the farmer wants out or if there are no willing heirs to take over, then to save the land for its value for growing crops, other options must be explored. To buy the land or to purchase the development rights calls for money. At the conference sources of funding were suggested. Local land acquisition funding Initiatives or land banking was urged. This can enable a town to act independently on a purchase or in applying for matching grants. Glastonbury has twice voted \$2 m in bonding for land acquisition. Is there action in your town for a land bank or bonding fund?

State legislators and the Governor must be persuaded to increase bonding for the state farmland preservation program. This year the legislature set aside only \$1 m in bonding for the State farmland preservation program. This is in marked contrast to the extraordinary allocation for the State Open Space Programs.

Also mentioned and now under consideration in Congress are House Bill 1950 which proposes \$50 m for farmland preservation with matching grants for state programs and the Senate Bill 333 which proposes \$55 m. Act now: call, write, send e-mail. You can help "save the land."

CONNECTICUT RIVER DESIGNATED AN AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER

In 1998, the Connecticut River was designated an American Heritage River by President Clinton. The Great Meadows Conservation Trust was one of hundreds of organizations up and down the River Valley that wrote letters in support of its nomination. Local historical societies, business and community leaders joined in. The Connecticut River is one of fourteen in the U.S. to be so designated. The Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) had taken the lead in bringing the nomination to the President.

Again led by the CRWC, a core group has been meeting to define the purpose, to outline goals for achieving a measure of success. These are community based plans intended to "to renew the economic vitality of River communities, to preserve the integrity of the Valley's historical and cultural resources and to protect and manage the River ecosystem." A vision of the future of the River calls for clean fishable/swimmable water, more access for recreational use, assuring wildlife habitat, and providing opportunities to learn about the history along the river.

The American Heritage River Initiative (AHRI) as it is called includes projects already in progress such as River Front Recapture in the Greater Hartford Area and waterfront and harbor management plans for Middletown, Portland and Cromwell. Staff of Hartford County Soil and Water Conservation District with other conservation districts in other states will be working on agricultural and natural resource protection plans along the river. Public television and local science centers will be coordinating education programs focussing on the river's historical and cultural assets. In all the AHRI provides a stimulus to projects in progress as well as to new ones. The Trust's role will be to continue its on going efforts to preserve and protect the Great Meadows.



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUST

The 30th Annual meeting of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. was held on Thursday, April 14, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of the United Methodist Church in Rocky Hill. After a delicious dinner served the United Methodist Women, the business meeting was conducted with dispatch by the President Neal Cox. Before giving his report The Treasurer Gary Gagnon was pleased to announce that the United Methodist Women planned to send the profits from the dinner to aid refugees from Kosovo.

"The Trust is fiscally sound this year thanks to two major contributions!" Gagnon reported. One was an anonymous gift of 300 shares in Glaxo-Wellcome stock and the other from the final settlement of the estate of Sigmund Oune. Gagnon thanked Joan Mihm for her invaluable assistance in the many facets of handling the Trusts funds. Trust also received a \$1000 grant from the Ruth and Robert Satter Charitable Trust to be used for direct acquisition of land or for an easement on open space.

The President then spoke of current issues. Referring to the Governor's major bonding proposal for land acquisition this year, he felt that our legislators must be urged to support it. On the American Heritage River designation for the Connecticut River - one of fourteen in the U.S. so named - Cox believes that it offers protection through a broader historical perspective of the river and not focused exclusively on its natural resources and wildlife.

Commenting on potential for land acquisition in the immediate area, he mentioned that the White Oaks property at Crow Point Cove was on the market and that the Trust is seeking a conservation easement on it. On the Porter Brook property in Glastonbury, a proposed site for a Home Depot, an easement to the Trust is under consideration. The contested Enterprise Zone in Wethersfield, although defeated at referendum, is expected to be reintroduced.

In the report of the Nominating Committee given by its chairperson Ingrid Boelhouwer, the proposal to

suspend the by-laws for this one time to allow election of a director for a one year term rather than the mandated three year term was approved. Ingrid Boelhouwer of Wethersfield was elected director for the one year term. Ralph Moyer of Wethersfield was elected for his first term as a director and Gary Gagnon of Glastonbury, Neal Cox and Peter Revill of Rocky Hill were reelected. Officers elected to serve in the coming year were Neil Cox, president; Joseph Hickey, vice president; Mary Carter, secretary of the Trust and Gary Gagnon, Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned for an informal talk by Joe Hickey, a founding member of the Trust. Hickey spoke of the many projects and committees with which he had been involved related to the protection of the Connecticut River leading to the more recent American Heritage River designation. He expressed: "...hope as well as concern for the relevance as well as the support the designation may have for the Connecticut River conservation efforts today."

AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO JOAN MIHM

In recognition of her many years of service as a volunteer, this year at the Annual Meeting of the Trust, Joan Mihm was awarded a certificate of appreciation.

A member of the Trust since 1970, Joan was invited to join the Operations Committee, the working body of the Trust, in 1974. She served on the Membership Committee shortly becoming its chairperson. Always willing and with attention to detail, she has carried out the multiple responsibilities of her role. These include frequent trips to the Trust's P.O. Box in Glastonbury and redistributing the mail received. During a year Joan sees to the Trust's multiple mailings for dues, newsletters and program notices. She has a loyal cadre of volunteers she has recruited to help her. In addition, as Gary Gagnon mentioned with appreciation, Joan also deposits all checks received and keeps careful records. Contributions are acknowledged with personal thank you notes.
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CT River Source to the Sea Clean-up
Save the Land
American Heritage River Initiative
Annual Meeting
Award to Joan Mihm
Officers, Directors & Operations Committee

P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033



NO SUCH STREET



NO SUCH STREET

Mrs. Walter Goush:
Rocky Hill Garden Club
Wethersfield CT 06109



P.4 (Award)

Along with the Trust's warm thanks and its certificate of appreciation, Joan was also presented with a framed photo by Duffy of "The Ferry Slip in Winter."

THE TRUST'S OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Neal W. Cox, Rocky Hill
Vice President: Joseph E. Hickey, Jr., Wethersfield
Secretary: Mary E. Carter, Rocky Hill
Treasurer: Gary J. Gagnon, Glastonbury

Directors:

Ingrid Boelhouwer, Wethersfield
Clyde Brooks, Glastonbury
Ralph Moyer, Wethersfield
Peter J. Revill, Rocky Hill
Pamela St. John, Wethersfield
Edith (Duffy) Schade, Glastonbury
Paul E. Stacey, Glastonbury
Donald G. Watson, Rocky Hill

Other Members of the Operations Committee:

Joyce Bauer, Glastonbury
Carl Bergengren, Cromwell
Francine Bransfield, South Glastonbury
Thayer Chase, Wethersfield
Judith Haddad, Wethersfield
Anne C. Kuckro, Wethersfield

John C. Lepper, Wethersfield
Larry Lunden, West Hartford
Deborah McIntosh, Glastonbury
Joan Mihm, Glastonbury
Carol Millard, Recording secretary, Ashford
Charles Morgan, Ashford
Elizabeth A. Olson, Glastonbury
Eleanor D. Revill, Rocky Hill
Julianne (Jolly) Steffens, Glastonbury
Charles Wisnioski, Rocky Hill
Eleanor B Wolf, Wethersfield

Counsel to the Trust:

Charles Fortune, Esq. Day Berry & Howard,
City Place, Hartford
Walter H. Mayo, Esq.,
100 Meadows Road, Wethersfield

Advisory Committee members:

Tom Maloney, CT River Watershed Council,
Easthampton, Massachusetts
Frank M. Child, Woodshole, Massachusetts

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