



THE MEADOW VIEW

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

VOL. ~~X~~ XI #2

FALL 2000

President's Message:

Your Trust has been busy during the months since the last issue of "Meadow View." In June the Board voted to go forward with the year long study of the Great Meadows. I wrote to you recently requesting your support for this project by the students in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at UMass. This will serve as another aspect in our protection of this wonderful regional asset. A similar study was undertaken thirty years ago and I am sure that you will agree that changes have occurred within this wonderful regional asset. The major thrust of the final report will be a detailed inventory and analysis of the region with recommendations for conservation and development.

Your response has been most generous. Toward the total \$10,120 price of the study, to date over \$2600 has been received from you the members of the Trust. In addition each of the three communities of the Trust has responded to our request for support and has contributed \$1500 to the Trust for the study. This brings the total contributed to date to \$6645.00 I would like to express my appreciation to you our members and to the three town Councils for this demonstration of support. To those of you who would still like to contribute -- it is never too late!

The study is regional in scope (Glastonbury, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield). In late May we cosponsored with the Wethersfield Conservation Commission, an illustrated lecture by Mr. James Gibbons, Land Use Specialist at the University of Connecticut. His convincing "going away" message was that it is possible and in many cases essential to plan open space growth and preservation on a regional basis. He gave several examples in the state where this was a reality. Our study will be an example of this kind of cooperation.

Finally, I invite you to join us at a membership dinner meeting Monday, October 30 in Rocky Hill. Our own Peter Revill will be speaker. His talk titled "The Dam Discussion" is subtitled "The Trout was wonderful, but why did the lights go out?!?! Looking forward to seeing you that evening.

Ralph Moyer

IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR!

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

MAKE IT COUNT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Peter Revill was born in England. Educated in Switzerland and England, he has been in this country since 1946. In his 38 years of work for the Metropolitan District, he was involved with many aspects of water supply engineering including reservoirs and dams.

Peter's concern is with the apparent conflict in the environmental field between those who want to restore natural river fishlife by removing barriers such as dams, and those who see dams as essential for water supply, irrigation and renewable hydroelectric power. He will review the history of dams in New England, and note some of the removal plans here and elsewhere.

BITS AND PIECES

Head-lines that caught the eye!*

"Environmental Group Faults Many Lawmakers" Connecticut League of Conservation Voters report on inaction on key bills in the last legislative session. Article by Daniel P. Jones Hartford Courant June 28, 2000

"Towns' Open Space Plans Get \$4.5 Million Boost from State" DEP grants for 995 acres of open space Article by Hamilton & Moy, Hartford Courant, August 9, 2000:

"Forestry 'God' To Be Honored in Simsbury - Gilbert Pinchot Pioneered Concept of Conservation" A tribute by Steve Grant, Hartford Courant, August 10, 2000

"Activist's Persistence A Force of Nature" A Tribute to Eleanor Wolf, a Founder of the Trust and continuing driving force by Michael Kolber, Hartford Courant, August 21, 2000

"How does one become a rocket scientist?" For Hans Tschinkel, it was an accident of war as he made history." Article by Joyce Rossignol for September issue of "Glastonbury Life."

(Continued p.4 'Bits & Pieces')

THE MEADOW STUDY

The Trust's Board voted in June to go forward with the study under the direction of Dr. Robert Ryan, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, at University of Massachusetts' Center for Rural Massachusetts. During the summer Dr. Ryan gathered resources and made arrangements with each town engineering department for access to GIS mapping. At the start of the fall semester, he held his first meeting with the students who had signed up to do the study

On September 11, the students came to Wethersfield Town Hall to meet with key staff members from the three communities and members of the Trust's ad hoc study committee. Also present were representatives of the Wethersfield Game Club and the Rocky Hill Fish and Game Club.

Dr. Ryan outlined the scope of the study. The initial phase would include a preliminary assessment of:

1. Environment/ natural resource protection;
2. Cultural/historic resource preservation;
3. Recreation access and trail development
4. Land Use change/development issues.

Following meeting, the students, with Mary Carter and Jolly Steffens as guides, went on a tour starting with a grand overview of the meadows from an outlook accessed through private property, the Wisnioski's home on Old Main Street in Rocky Hill. The tour climaxed with a ride on the Glastonbury-Rocky Hill ferry.

The students gave a remarkable introductory presentation to the Board/Operations committee at its September 28 meeting. In three short weeks, the students, working in pairs, had interviewed local resource people, had taken many pictures, including use of the new digital cameras. Using GIS mapping and computer graphics, they outlined briefly what they had learned and even offered some tentative recommendations for each town to consider. A lively question and answer discussion followed. The next report on the study will be at the October 26 meeting of the Board/Operations Committee.

THE GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST

Presents

THE DAM DISCUSSION

“The Trout was Wonderful, But Why Did the Lights Go Out?!?!”

**A Talk By the Trust’s Own
Peter Revill**

A FALL DINNER MEETING

For Members of the Trust
To Be Served by the Women’ Group at the

United Methodist Church
623 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill

Monday, October 30, 2000

The Dinner Menu:

6:00 p.m. Fruit Punch with cheese and crackers, fruit or vegetable platter

6:30 p.m. Dinner (select one)

_____ Baked Ham with raisin sauce, scalloped potatoes, and peas

_____ Cheeze Lasagna

Green Salad

Apple Crisp for dessert

Coffee or Tea

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Reservations for dinner at \$10.00 per person must be made by Tuesday, October 24.
Clip and mail with check payable to the Great Meadows Trust to
Judy Haddad, 18 Clove Hill, Wethersfield, CT 06109



P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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About Speaker
Bits & Pieces
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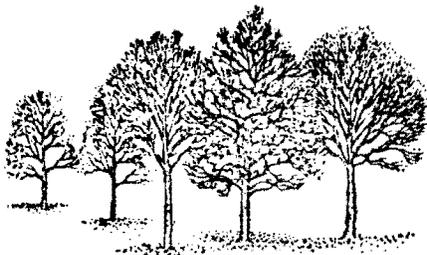
Bits & Pieces *

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“Planting New Forests Can’t Match Saving Old Ones in Cutting Greenhouse Gases, Study Finds” by Andrew Revkin, NY Times, Sept. 22, 2000:

“At Front in Fight For Forests” A Tribute to John Hibbard, retiring after 38 years as Executive Director of Connecticut Forest and Park Association by Steve Grant, Hartford Courant, Sept 27, 2000

(*If you are interested in rereading any of the articles headlined, copies are on file and will be photocopied on request by calling 860-633-9379 or call the paper or use its web site



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS OF THE TRUST:

President: Ralph Moyer, Weth. (860) 529-5408
Vice President: Mary Carter, R.H. (860) 257-7887
Secretary: Francine Bransfield, Gl (860) 657-3333
Treasurer: Gary Gagnon, Gl, (860) 633-6021

DIRECTORS:

Ingrid Boelhouwer, Wethersfield, (860) 529-1185
Clyde Brooks, Glastonbury, (860) 633-7406
Neal W. Cox, Rocky Hill, (860) 563-4143
Joseph Hickey, Jr., Wethersfield, (860) 529-4363
Peter J. Revill, Rocky Hill, (860) 529-9254
Pamela St. John, Wethersfield, (860) 563-2931
Paul E. Stacey, Glastonbury, (860) 659-3458
Donald G. Watson, Rocky Hill, (860) 529-4373

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership: Joan Mihm, Gl - (860) 633-1806
Land Acquisitn: Pam St. John, W. (860) 563-1010
Land Mgm't: Larry Lunden, Htfd, (860) 232- 2416
Program: Judith Haddad, Weth., (860) 529-8907

BOARD & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETS

at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in December it is on the first Thursday. No meetings are held July, August nor November. Call secretary for meeting site which is moved in turn within the three communities.

Contributors to this Meadow View: Peter Revill, Ralph Moyer and Jolly Steffens, editor