



# THE MEADOW VIEW

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

VOL. ~~XXI~~ #1

SPRING 2000

## THE NEW TRUST'S PRESIDENT'S VIEW:

Following the annual meeting of the Trust on March 20th, Tom Harrington, a biology teacher, gave a very informative talk and slide presentation about the American kestrel. The Trust has been placing kestrel boxes in the Meadows. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening.

Let me, also, bring to your attention to two future meetings of the Trust. On May 31 the Trust is co-sponsoring with the Wethersfield Conservation Commission, a "power point" slide presentation by James Gibbons, a land use specialist. His fifty minute talk: "Greenways: Making Connections" will be given at the Solomon Welles House in Wethersfield. The second event will be a talk on dams by Peter Revill - more about this in a fall newsletter. I urge you to attend both events.

Open space acquisition continues to make its way towards the front burners. I draw your attention to two recent articles. An article in the Connecticut Section of the Sunday New York Times (April 16) reminds us of the loss of Connecticut farmland and notes a bill before the General Assembly (H.B. 5175) to reverse this trend with more funds for the farmland preservation program. The other article in the Hartford Courant (April 21) is closer to home. It is about recently formed citizens group, the Wethersfield Land Coalition, which is pressing the need to spend public funds to preserve some of the remaining open spaces in town.

(Con't. p. 3- "President's message")

(Also p. 2 see article on "Wethersfield Land Coalition")

## GREENWAYS: MAKING CONNECTIONS

A Presentation by

James Gibbons, Land Use Specialist,  
University of Connecticut Extension Service

Sponsored by

Wethersfield Conservation Commission &  
Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.

- Find out how Glastonbury, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield can identify and create greenways
- Learn about "Smart Growth" and
- The Economic benefits of Greenways

Wednesday, May 31, 2000 - 7:00 P.M.

Solomon Welles House  
220 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield

Call Recreation & Parks Department  
(860)-721-2890 by May 24 to register

## TOWN TO PURCHASE FARMLAND TO ADD TO RIVERFRONT GREENWAY

At a recent town council meeting in Glastonbury bonding through the town's reserve for land acquisition was approved for purchase of farmland. The Longo's have agreed to sell parcels in the Meadows. The Beckett property also extends to the river. (Con't p. 3 Farmlands)

## WETHERSFIELD LAND COALITION

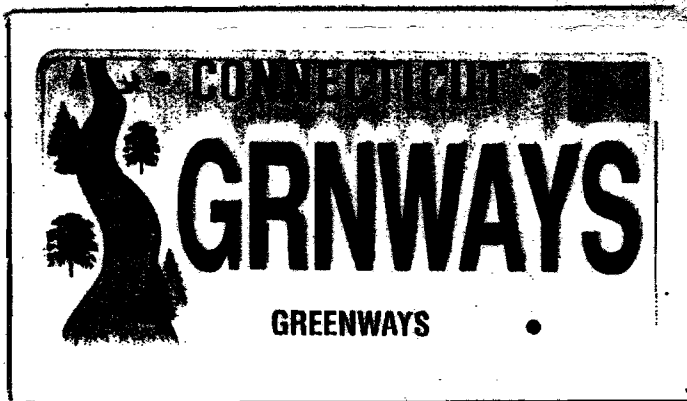
The Wethersfield Land Coalition was recently formed by a number of town residents interested in protecting natural resources, farmland and open space in Wethersfield.

The mission statement adopted by the Coalition at a meeting in March is quoted from a recent promotional flyer: "Create and operate a non-partisan, non-profit organization of concerned citizens to be advocates of the land. The organization will work with private individuals and organizations, state and local government, landowners, and others to explore, advocate and realize methods of preserving undeveloped property within the town of Wethersfield, including the formation of a land trust, educate the public on the value of land preservation, provide input on proposed developments and other activities that may impact natural resources within the town and advocate changes in local regulations to better preserve and protect those natural resources."

The flyer states further: "meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Wethersfield Town Hall. Dues are \$10 per individual and \$20 for a family. Additional contributions are welcome. Questions may be referred to Mathew Cholewa, acting president."

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust welcomes the Wethersfield Land Coalition as a partner in land preservation and protection.

### NEW GREENWAYS LICENSE PLATES NOW AVAILABLE



## A REPORT ON THE 31ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUST

The 31st Annual meeting of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. was held on March 20, 2000 in the Parish Hall of the United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Following dinner served by the women's group of the Church, the President, Neal Cox, convened the meeting. He referred to the annual report as mailed to members with the call to the meeting and commended the committee chairs for their work as evidenced in their reports. The treasurer Gary Gagnon reported little change in the fiscal status of the Trust. Even with the rise and fall in the Market, the Trust increased its investments by \$2000.

To serve as Directors to the year 2003, the Nominating Committee presented: Francine Bransfield, South Glastonbury, Ingrid Boelhouwer and Joseph Hickey, Jr. of Wethersfield, and Donald Watson, Rocky Hill, and Officers for a one year term: as President, Ralph Moyer, Wethersfield; Vice President, Mary E. Carter, Rocky Hill; Secretary of the Trust, Francine Bransfield and Treasurer, Gary Gagnon, both of Glastonbury. The report of the committee of Neal Cox, Joseph Hickey and Duffy Schade was accepted unanimously.

In recognition of her many years of service to the Trust, Jolly Steffens was presented with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Trust and a framed photograph of the meadows in South Glastonbury taken by Duffy Schade.

Neal Cox introduced Ralph Moyer, the new president, and passed on to him the Old Goat to be in his keeping while he is in office. Moyer spoke of the privilege of being associated with a group dedicated to the preservation of a great place. He also commended Neal Cox for his three year term as President.

For the evening program, Mark Carabetta introduced the speaker Tom Harrington, a biologist and teacher at the Bacon Academy in Colchester, CT., currently involved in the study of Kestrels as a Species of Concern in Connecticut. Mr Harrington spoke of the plight of the kestrels and showed slides, with exciting shots of kestrels in flight. He brought a kestrel nesting box to show how they are constructed and then presented it to the Trust for placing in the Meadows.

## ARE LEGISLATORS PRO-ENVIRONMENT WHEN THEY VOTE?

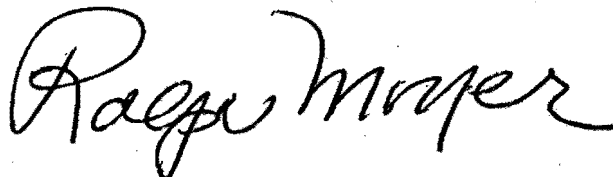
To determine how Connecticut State Legislators are as pro-environmentalists, the newly formed Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) plans to evaluate the voting records of these legislators on selected issues. Atty Russell Brenneman and former legislator Julie Belaga, cochair the CTLCV. They announced in February five major environmental issues that will be in the first annual CTLCV Scorecard. In a statement released to the press the group "will work to make environmental protection a priority with elected officials, political candidates and the public by mobilizing voters to elect pro-environmental leaders to government."

Give the legislators high marks if they supported funding for the farmland preservation and open space this session. A low score goes for passing legislation that did little to speed the clean up the "Filthy Five" power plants.

### PRESIDENT'S VIEW: (continued from p. 1)

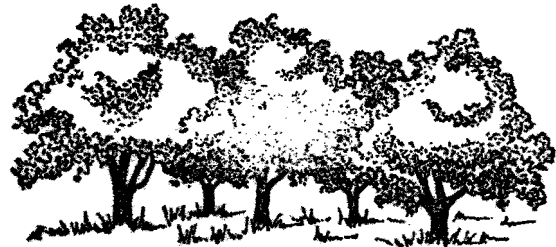
A word about communications and today's technology. While it will not displace "snail mail" entirely - e-mail and the web pages are increasingly used modes of communication. I would like to investigate the possibility of the Trust creating its' own web page to serve our members better. If there anyone with an interest and/or expertise in creating a web page, please get in touch: (ralph.moyer@trincoll.edu.)

Finally, a note of appreciation is to Neal Cox who has served admirably as our President for three years, and to many of our members who contribute unselfishly of their time to the Trust.



## DIRECTOR OF CONNECTICUT AUDUBON CENTER HONORED

Judy Harper, Director of Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury, was recently named Environmental Administrator of the Year by the Connecticut Outdoor Environmental Education Association at the organization's annual conference. Judy, a Life Member of the Trust, was a founding member of the Center almost 20 years ago and, after serving on its board of directors and as administrative assistant, was named director in March 1993. The Trust congratulates Judy and offers best wishes for continued success providing in environmental education.



### FARMLANDS (Continued from p.1)

Both acquisitions will add connecting links to the town's greenway along the river.

In addition to 42 acres in three parcels along the river in the Meadows, Michael and Paul Longo are also to sell to the town their 140 acre upland dairy farm. Their father Louis Longo spoke at the public hearing about how pleased he was with his sons' decision to sell to the town and happy that the land will remain open space for children to enjoy and to learn about the land.

The town will acquire from the Stuart Becketts 21 acres of farmland with the Old Cider Mill which has been in continuous operation for generations. This purchase is made possible with a matching grant from the State's Natural Heritage and Recreation Program



P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

#### BOARD & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEET:

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 in July, August nor November.

Call secretary for meeting site which is moved in turn within the three communities.

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS OF THE TRUST:

##### OFFICERS:

President: Ralph Moyer, Wethersfield, (860) 529-5408  
Vice President: Mary Carter, Rocky Hill, (860) 257-7887  
Secretary: Francine Bransfield, Glastonbury, (860) 657-3333  
Treasurer: Gary J. Gagnon, Glastonbury, (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, Glastonbury - (860) 633-1806  
Land Acquisition: Pamela St. John, Weth. (860) 563-2931  
Land Managem't: Larry Lunden, Hartford, (860) 232-2416  
Program: Judith Haddad, Wethersfield, (860) 529-8907

#### OTHER MEMBERS

#### OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Joyce Bauer, Glastonbury  
Thayer Chase, Wethersfield  
Anne C. Kuckro, Wethersfield  
John C. Lepper, Wethersfield  
Deborah McIntosh, Glastonbury  
Carol Millard, Recording secretary,  
Ashford  
Charles Morgan, Ashford  
Elizabeth A. Olson, Glastonbury  
Eleanor D. Revill, Rocky Hill  
Edith (Duffy) Schade, Glastonbury  
Juhanne (Johy) Steffens, Glastonbury  
Eleanor B Wolf, Wethersfield

#### COUNSEL:

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

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Tom Maloney, River Steward,  
CT River Watershed Council  
Frank M. Child, Woodshole, Mass.

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Meadow View edited by J. Steffens