



THE MEADOW VIEW

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

Vol. X// #/

Fall 2001

PRESIDENT'S VIEW:

As you receive this newsletter summer is coming to a close and we look forward to the beginning of fall. It is time to bring you up to date on activities of the Trust.

The Great Meadows Study, by students at University of Massachusetts' Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, was accepted by your Board in May. On June 11 Ms. Juliet Hansel and Dr. Robert Ryan gave a well-received presentation on the study. Staff present from each of the participating towns were given an electronic copy of the report to be made available through town web sites.

A limited edition of the Great Meadows Study with will be available this September. This was a major project by the Trust. I wish to thank the Board and Operating Committee members, especially members of the Study Review Committee for the many hours spent correcting and editing the report at each stage of the project and a special note of appreciation to Jolly Steffens who served as study coordinator and liaison between the Trust and the UMass students.

An unanticipated bonus of this project: Ms. Juliet Hansel, while editing the Meadows Study, also, undertook, for her Master of Regional Planning degree, an exhaustive study of farming within the Great Meadows. Her thesis includes results of Great Meadow farmers' opinions through an extensive survey, as well as, salient comments through personal interviews with farmers. This 100-page thesis, "Understanding Farmer Attitudes about Farmland Preservation in the Urban Fringe - A Case Study of the Great Meadows on the

(See President's View page 2)

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NEW FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CONVENED

In his letter to newly appointed members of the Trust's Fund Development Committee, Moyer states: "...the Trust now owns the Sarah E. Woods property in Wethersfield. What with taxes, lawyer fees and title insurance, the cost was ...\$118,000. This acquisition depletes much of our financial resources. Thus the need for this committee has never been so urgent!"

An appraisal of the parcel submitted by the Trust, to meet requirements for a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, was not acceptable to the Land Acquisition Committee. A second appraisal and a survey of the property is now needed to qualify for the grant - all at added cost to the Trust.

For the recently completed Great Meadows study, its printing and distribution costs now brings the Trust's total cost to \$17, 500. Over \$8500 in donations for the study has been received to date. However response to grant applications to fund the study has been negligible.

At the first meeting of the fund development committee held this summer, several fund raising strategies were reviewed. These included: pledges, gifts of appreciated stock, also life annuities or major gifts in trust. The latter two, the Trust has been advised, are better managed through such organizations as the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving or the Trust for Public Land, rather than by an unstaffed organization such as the Trust. (See Fund Development page 2)

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW (continued from page 1)

Connecticut River" may be obtained through Dr. Ryan at UMass. We have a few copies.

There have been several generous gifts to the Trust, which I gratefully acknowledge. Larry Lunden, our chairman of the land management committee, has donated \$10,000. About his gift, Larry said: "I hope it will stimulate others to do likewise!" From an anonymous donor, the Trust now has 15 shares of Bristol Myers Squibb stock certificates. We are also grateful for a \$1670 grant from George H.C. Ensworth Memorial Fund.

In other income, Jim Woodworth, a new member of the Land Management committee, reports that we had a successful year in renting several of our properties to local farmers.

There are new programs this fall I hope you will attend. One is a talk on organic farming and integrated pest management and later a walk with an organic farmer. Also, with fall elections coming up, the Trust joins other conservation groups to invite candidates for local elections to present their views on issues compatible with the Trust's interests.

An invitation to all: If you have time to volunteer for Trust activities, please call me at 529-5408. Have a wonderful fall!

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FUND DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

Members of the Fund Development committee are at present: Clyde Brooks, June Cox, Gary Gagnon, John Lepper, Deborah McIntosh, Ralph Moyer, Don Watson and Jolly Steffens. Others "...who might bring a special talent or background in raising money will be welcome..." Moyers says and those interested in participating are asked to call him.

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INVASIVE SPECIES

By Larry Lunden

Invasives plants are those that can establish themselves quickly, grow fast and outcompete native plants for space, water and sun. In many cases they can push out all other vegetation in an area, leaving wildlife, dependent on a variety of plants, to die. The result is a slow, silent threat to biodiversity. Some 4000 species have been imported into the US, mostly from Europe and Asia. Over 300 are considered invasive. Half of these were imported for horticultural purposes. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has identified 87 occurring in the state.

Control of these plants can be done if stopped before they spread. To eradicate large stands of them is prohibitively expensive and labor intensive. Some states, Connecticut not among them, have passed noxious weed statutes that prohibit the sale of invasives. Education of the consumer, landscape designers, town landscape planters and the Department of Transportation can slow the spread.

Examples of invasives found on Trust properties in the meadows, that may also be in your backyard, are loosestrife, bittersweet and burning bush.



Purple loosestrife. *Lythrum salicaria*
A primal response of women to purple has put this plant in many a home garden. The dense purple blanket in many lakes and wetlands attest to its invasiveness. A European beetle has been found and approved for control in this country and are now being released in several areas in this state.



Oriental or Asiatic bittersweet *Celastrus scandens*: The red seeds and yellow seed cases make this a popular Christmas wreath material. In the meadow it will entwine trees and begin to dominate the canopy, shade out the tree leaves and weakening them. The weight of the vines will bring a tree down. After Christmas, the advice is to put bittersweet decorations in a plastic bag and into the trash. Do not put it on the compost pile nor throw it where no one can see you. It will easily sprout and spread.

(See INVASIVES page 3)

2001 ANNUAL MEETING Report by Judy Haddad

The Annual meeting of the Trust was held on March 28, 2001 at the United Methodist Church Parish Hall in Rocky Hill. A catered dinner prepared by the United Methodist Women preceded the meeting. President Ralph Moyer convened the meeting and referred to the annual reports mailed earlier to the members. Nominations for directors to serve to 2003 were presented and approved as follows: Clyde Brooks and Paul Stacey, Glastonbury, Mary Carter, Rocky Hill and Pam St. Jean, Wethersfield. The slate of officers was approved as presented: Ralph Moyer; President; Mary Carter, Vice President; Paul Stacey, Secretary and Gary Gagnon, Treasurer. Board members on-going are Francine Bransfield, Ingrid Boelhouwer, Neal Cox, Joseph Hickey, Peter Revill, and Donald Watson. Before adjournment the President asked for a brief report on the Meadows Study. This was given by Juliet Hansel, one of the graduate students who edited the final draft.

The main speaker for the evening was Chris Stone, Storm Water Permit Coordinator for Department of Environmental Protection. With an informative slide presentation, he spoke about the new and existing regulations regarding storm water run-off and outlined the responsibilities of the state and local officials especially on new construction projects.

THE MEADOWS STUDY

Entitled "The Great Meadows of the Connecticut River in Glastonbury, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield", prepared for the Great Meadows Conservation Trust by the Department of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will be in print and ready for distribution in late September. Pioneer Graphics in Rocky Hill was selected to print the study.

The 80 page study includes digitized color maps and a number of color photographs of historic sites, the meadows and a few of endangered species found there. The front cover has an aerial photo of the river in winter. On the back cover is a 1985 sketch of the Glastonbury-Rocky Hill Ferry courtesy of the Rocky Hill Historical Society. To order see insert.

LIFE MEMBERS OF TRUST RECOGNIZED

Dana Waring, a life member of the Trust, was honored by Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury with its Environmental Excellence Award at their Earth Fair in April. He was recognized for his many contributions to protect the natural world. As a Boy Scout Leader he instilled a love and respect for the outdoors in a lot of young men. Founder and leader of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Glastonbury, he later served many years as chairman of the state TNC Chapter. Dana, was a founder of the Kongsgut Land Trust and is presently its chairman. He served on Glastonbury's Beautification Commission and then on the new Conservation Commission, as well as, on the Governor' Council on Environmental Quality.

H. William Reed, Jr., Bill is best known as the protector of the Great Pond Preserve in South Glastonbury, a 50 acre wooded area with a drop-down glacial pond in its midst. A full page photo of Bill at the pond graced the front page of the July 1, 2001 issue of "Glastonbury Life." While best known for his work on the Preserve, this octogenarian, a former engineer at Pratt & Whitney, was also a founder of the local Sub-chapter of the Nature Conservancy and remains a Trustee. He and his wife Betty are Life Members of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust.

Eleanor Wolf, cited for her conservation work in an article headlined: "Activist's Persistence A Force of Nature" appeared in the August 21, 2001 issue of the Hartford Courant. Through the "patient persistence" of Eleanor & others, a Race Track proposed in 1968 in the Wethersfield Meadows was blocked. At 91, Eleanor, a founder and life member of the Trust, continues her active involvement in the work of the Trust.

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INVASIVES Continued from page 2



Burning bush or winged euonymus: The copious red berries and the bright red fall foliage give the shrub its name. The dense shade and denser root system prevent any other plant from growing under it. Birds spread the seeds from one shrub over a wide area. Advice: cut it down!

A SHORT PADDLE DOWN THE CONNECTICUT RIVER
From Keeney Cove to Faust Park - August 2000
By "Duffy" Schade

If I could sing as I paddled that brilliant August morning, it would be a song praising the trees that made us feel we were in the early months of the 20th century, rather than a hundred years later. Their lush greenery hid most of the suburban scene as our canoe slipped along the great meanders from Keeney Cove to the ferry landing by Faust Park in South Glastonbury. Gerhard and I had a passing glimpse of the new houses growing in the former Berruti orchards in Glastonbury, but most of the hillside developments were screened by foliage. Along the shore I marvelled at how trees that have toppled into the stream tenaciously hold unto life.

If I could sing the chorus of my song would be about the Connecticut River itself, its timelessness, the power of the water that is so very much cleaner than when I first came here in the late 1950's. Thanks to our wet summer, the water level was high. The current made our paddling effortless. If I dipped out a glass of her water, I wondered where those molecules might have originated - perhaps in spring in Canada that feeds one of the Connecticut Lakes. How long would it take to reach Long Island Sound?

If I listened: It was only the sounds I heard reminded me that this is the year 2000: airplanes - model and real - motor boats, boom guns from the corn fields to scare off predators and motorcycles. Yet the sounds of silence were there, too.

If I looked: Wildlife was not at peak action on the September-sky day, but we did see a mallard, a great blue heron, an egret, a kingfisher and several cormorants. We wondered where the beavers were at work as we noticed freshly cut and stripped sticks along the shore. It seemed unlikely that they would build their house on the tidal river. Perhaps they are Vermonters!

What a rich source flows by our Great Meadows!

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P.O. Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033



FALL EVENTS OF INTEREST:

Sunday, September 16 - from 2 - 5:30 p.m. - **1st Annual Celebration of Connecticut Farms**
Jones Family Farm in Shelton, Connecticut
Sponsored by Working Lands Alliance & Hartford Food Systems
Contact: Elizabeth Wheeler, 860-296-9325 - E-mail: lwheeler@hartfordfood.org

Thursday, September 28 - 7:00 p.m. **Organic Farming & I.P.M.**
Speaker: Bob Roller, UConn Agricultural Extension Service,
Friends Room at Welles Turner Memorial Library, Main Street, Glastonbury
Sponsored by the Trust. Coffee & dessert. Contact: Lisa Olson - 633-8417

Saturday, October 6 - **Third Annual Connecticut River Source to Sea Clean-up.**
Sponsored by Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury, Steve Connelly, Chairman, 633-8402

Sunday, October 7 - 13 - Food & Fun from 9 a.m to 4 p.m.
13th Annual Nayang Canoe/Kayak Races & Connecticut River Celebration
Kinne Farm, Pease Lane off Tryon Street, South Glastonbury.
Sponsored By Land Heritage Coalition and the Service Club of Glastonbury.

Wednesday, October 10 - **Candidates Night in Glastonbury**
7:00 p.m.- the new Smith Sister's Middle School, Addison Road off Hebron Avenue.
Cosponsored by the Trust, Land Heritage Coalition & other conservation organizations

Sunday, October 28 (raindate: Nov 4): 1-3 p.m.
Walk in Point Meadows with Atty. George Purtill, local organic farmer
Sponsored by Great Meadow Conservation Trust. Contact: Lisa Olson.633-8417

IN THE NEW YEAR

January-February, 2002 - A Mini-series on the Connecticut River.
Cosponsored by Connecticut Audubon in Glastonbury & Great Meadows Conservation Trust.

THE GREAT MEADOWS ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER
COPIES NOW AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The recently completed updated study of the Great Meadows, prepared for the Trust by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at University of Massachusetts, is now ready for distribution.

I/we wish to donate toward the costs of the study: \$75 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ other ___

For my/our donation of \$25.00, in addition to our \$10 dues, if requested the Trust will send us one copy. Additional copies may be ordered at \$25.00 per copy. Postage included.

Number of copies desired _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

Clip & mail this form with check payable to the
Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc., P.O.Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

**GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

OFFICERS:

President: Ralph Moyer (02), Wethersfield, (860) 529-5408
Vice President: Mary Carter (04), Rocky Hill, (860) 257-7887
Secretary: Paul Stacey (04), Glastonbury, (860) 657-3333
Treasurer: Gary J. Gagnon (02), Glastonbury, (860) 633-6021

DIRECTORS:

Ingrid Boelhouwer (03), Wethersfield, (860) 529-1185
Clyde Brooks (04), Glastonbury, (860) 633-7406
Neal W. Cox (02), Rocky Hill, (860) 563-4143
Joseph Hickey, Jr. (03), Wethersfield, (860) 529-4363
Peter J. Revill (02), Rocky Hill, (860) 529-9254
Pamela St. John (04), Wethersfield, (860) 563-2931
Francine Bransfield (03), Glastonbury, (860) 659-3458
Donald G. Watson (03), Rocky Hill, (860) 529-4373

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership: Joan Mihm, Glastonbury - (860) 633-1806
Land Acquisition: Pamela St. John, Wethersfield. (860) 563-2931
Land Management: Lawrence (Larry) Lunden, West Hartford, (860) 232-2416
Program: Elizabeth (Lisa) Olson, Glastonbury, (860) 633-8417

**OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Joyce Bauer, Glastonbury	Charles Morgan, Ashford
Thayer Chase, Wethersfield	Elizabeth (Lisa) Olson, Glastonbury
Anne C. Kuckro, Wethersfield	Eleanor D. Revill, Rocky Hill
John C. Lepper, Wethersfield	Edith (Duffy) Schade, Glastonbury
Lawrence Lunden, West Hartford	Julianne (Jolly) Steffens, Glastonbury
Deborah McIntosh, Glastonbury	Eleanor B Wolf, Wethersfield
Carol Millard, Ashford	James Woodworth, Wethersfield

COUNSEL:

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

River Steward, Connecticut River Watershed Council
Frank M. Child, Woodshole, Massachusetts.

BOARD & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS in 2001-2002:

Board & Operations Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in November 2001 the meeting will be on the fifth Thursday. No meetings are held in July, August.
Call secretary for meeting site which is moved in turn within the three communities.