

**The Great Meadows Conservation Trust  
In Glastonbury, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, Connecticut**

**Vol. XIII**

**Autumn 2003**



**PROGRAM MEETING  
MONDAY, NOV. 3, 7:00 P.M.  
HANK J. GRUNER  
WILL SPEAK ON  
BIODIVERSITY & FLOODPLAIN  
MANAGEMENT**

Hank J. Gruner, a herpetologist from The Science Center of Connecticut will be our speak on "Biodiversity and Floodplain Management" at our program meeting on Monday, Nov. 3, at 7:00 p.m.. It will be at Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main St., Glastonbury.

Mr. Gruner is the Biodiversity Coordinator, Connecticut Programs working with the Farmington River Valley Collaborative to develop and implement the "Farmington River Valley Biodiversity Program." As a herpetologist he has conducted field research and worked with local, state and regional planning agencies on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles for 15 years. He is coordinator of both the statewide Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project and the North American Monitoring Program. He is also Vice President of Programs and Exhibits at the Science Museum of Connecticut where he coordinates several statewide educational initiatives.

Mr. Gruner has been recognized by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Garden Club of America for his contributions to conservation and education. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management.



Hal Buckingham greeting canoeists Dave Morine and Ramsey Clark as arrive at Rocky Hill during their paddle from the Connecticut River's source to the sea. (Photo by Charles Steffens)

**\$5000 GRANT BOLSTERS ELEANOR BUCK  
WOLF LAND PRESERVATION FUND**

The Trust is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$5000 grant from the Peter Jay Sharpe Foundation of New York City to be "dedicated to the acquisition of land within the Great Meadows via the Eleanor Buck Wolf Land Preservation Fund." This grant enables the Trust to build on the legacy of Eleanor's activism and her generous financial legacy to preserve land in the Great Meadows. The grant came to the Trust through our kindness to "strangers" Dave Morine and Ramsey Clark who paddled from the source of the CT River to the sea, meeting with and sustained by "the kindness of strangers" in land trusts in the four states. The Foundation, which remained anonymous during the voyage, added one stipulation. "On each parcel of land acquired, there should be a simple wooden sign erected that reads, 'This land was protected with help from the kindness of strangers.'" Our sincere thanks are extended to Dan Lufkin and the other Directors of the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation. Thanks also go to

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trust members Hal and Joyce Buckingham who hosted the two paddlers at their home in

Glastonbury, and Jim Woodworth and Phil Lohman who provided lunch at the Cove.

## **LAND TRUST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES**

The Land Trust Alliance, as a service to its member land trusts, has developed a Standards and Practices manual for the guidance of land trust operations. It includes practices that it "believes are essential for the responsible operation of a land trust - a land trust that operates legally, ethically, and in the public interest and that conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship." [From the introduction to the standards] There are thousands of land trusts nationwide. This manual helps new and established trusts improve the quality of their operations. Adhering to accepted standards helps the land trust develop credibility among donors, landowners, and governmental agencies. The manual contains examples of how other land trusts have tackled common issues. It has training material on handling operational problems and many refer to it as the "Bible".

Under the auspices of the Land Trust Service Bureau, of which Great Meadows is a member, Mike Kiernan led a workshop for the Trust. He provided a questionnaire for members of the board and operations committee to fill out as an organizational self-assessment. After summarizing our responses, he met with us to review how well we met the standards and said the overall health of our organization was good. There are areas for improvement, work on such as long range planning, a policy on conflict of interest and criteria and procedures in land selection.

A Land Management Plan to document our management practices was written and accepted by the board and this year a Land Book was developed describing each property in detail. The Eleanor Buck Wolf Fund has been established for land acquisition. At monthly board and operations committee meetings one of the standards is discussed as it relates to current issues.

--Larry Lunden

## **MEET THE CANDIDATES**

To help voters know how candidates for Glastonbury Town Council stand on various issues concerning the town's environment, GMCT joined four other organizations to sponsor a Meet the Candidates Night in early October. David Haught, president of Land Heritage Coalition, served as moderator to pose questions suggested by members of the sponsoring groups to the 12 candidates (one was out of town on business, so could not participate). Each of them was given opportunity to respond to two of those questions and one other from the audience.

The need to control escalating growth was a common theme of many of the candidates. A number of the candidates spoke in favor of approving the referendum item to increase the town's Land Acquisition Fund by \$3 million because purchase of open space is an important way to manage growth. One incumbent stated that the town is currently pursuing several pieces of property. If these purchases happen, the present Land Acquisition will be depleted, additional bonding will be needed for the town to continue this successful program.

Both candidates who responded to a question about development of the proposed River Front Park answered that they would like to see trails and a ball field, but no permanent buildings other than the Community Center.

The other co-sponsors were: Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury, Glastonbury Coalition for Sensible Growth, Kongsicut Land Trust and The Land Heritage Coalition.

## **TRUST TO DONATE TOPO MAP OF THE MEADOWS TO NEW NATURE CENTER**

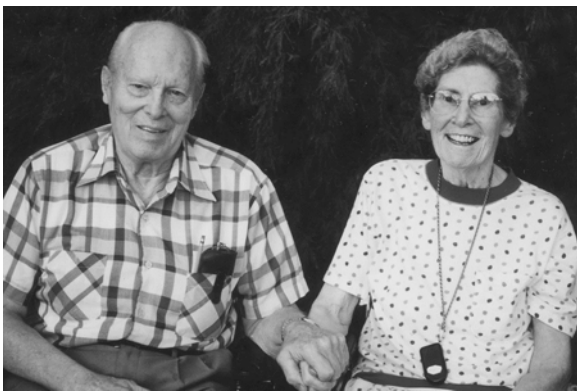
The Trust plans to donate a large topographical map to the planned E. B. Wolf Nature Center. The map would be similar to a map on display at the Audubon Center in Glastonbury. This contribution to the educational mission of the Nature Center will further the goals of Eleanor and Dick Wolf.



## **FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER BUILDING ON ELEANOR WOLF LEGACY**

The Friends of the Wethersfield Nature Center are currently raising funds to reach the dream of Eleanor Wolf for an expanded, more visible, learning center dedicated to nature and the environment. From the Eleanor Buck Wolf estate, a grant of \$100,000 is available to supplement a grant from DEP of \$250,000 that must be used by 2005. In addition to the bequest from the estate, a private citizen has offered a matching grant of up to \$100,000 to match funds raised by the Friends. Perry Cornwall, past president of the Friends organization, reports that fundraising efforts are going well. Donations can be sent to the Friends of the Nature Center at 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

The Friends are sponsoring Open House events at the site of the future Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center—the former Moeller Home on Prospect Street at the entrance to Mill Woods Park. The Trust wishes the Friends Godspeed in their efforts to raise money and build a groundswell of support from the Town for a Nature Center worthy of Eleanor Buck Wolf's legacy.



Dana and Dorothy Waring (photo by DD Waring)

## **REMEMBERING DANA WARING**

Connecticut lost another influential environmentalist with the death in July of Dana Waring. He was a life member of Great Meadows.

Dana was awarded the Environmental Excellence Award by the Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury at the Center's Earth Fair in April 2001. He was honored for the many contributions to protect the natural world in the town of Glastonbury, in the State of Connecticut and beyond.

As a Boy Scout leader in the 50's and 60's, he instilled in a lot of young men a love and respect for the outdoors. An early member of the Glastonbury Subchapter of The Nature Conservancy, he was its chairman for many years. When the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy was organized, he was elected and served as chairman for eight years.

In Glastonbury, he was a founder of Kongsicut Land Trust in 1977 and was its president until his death. His quiet diplomacy and patience resulted in its acquisition of the Zihrup Preserve and Swan property and other pieces of land preserved by the Trust in the town.

Dana was instrumental in the formation and became the first chairman of Glastonbury Beautification Commission. When some of its mission was incorporated into that of Glastonbury Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency, he was appointed to that commission where he served for 12 years, many as vice-chairman. One of his contributions as a member was to urge acquisition of open space with public access to trails in places such as Cotton Hollow, at Great Pond, along Red Hill and on the Shenipsic Trail in eastern Glastonbury.

He was a member of the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut as a representative of Pratt & Whitney where he was an engineer. For eight years he was a member of the Governor's Council on Environmental Quality.

He was an inspiration to many of us with his dedication and effectiveness in preserving land. The legacy Dana and his wife Dorothy will continue as a large portion of the land of Highmead, their home in Glastonbury, is going to Kongsicut Land Trust to be preserved as a park.



The floodplain in Glastonbury produces bountiful crops and a site for the Nayaug Canoe Races . (photo by Duffy)



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**FOREVER WILD:  
A CELEBRATION OF WILDERNESS**

Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury is presenting the following two programs that may be of interest to our members.

One of America's most multi-talented folksingers and backcountry travelers, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, on tour from Big Sky, Montana, is presenting two programs at Connecticut Audubon on Saturday, November 8.

Walkin' Jim gets his name from nearly 25,000 miles he has walked through the wild country of North America. His LONG DISTANCE HIKING WORKSHOP at 1:00 will feature Jim's accumulated experience of planning, practicing, and packing for his treks -- a program he says is for doers and dreamers. Jim's goal is to share his passion for the last wild places and increase yours.

At 7:30 p.m. Jim will present FOREVER WILD, his multi-media featuring backcountry ballads, inspiring poems, stunning slides, and stories from journeys into our last wild, pristine areas.

Jim will even sign his new book, *Walking With the Wild Wind*, at both programs.

Nov. 8 promises to be an exceptional day with a unique and talented personality who will turn up your enthusiasm for our national natural treasures.



***The Great Meadows of the Connecticut River***  
Copies of the Study are now on sale at \$10.00 each.  
Call Jolly Steffens, 633-9739.

**GREAT MEADOWS  
CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.  
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This issue of Meadow View was co-edited by Duffy Schade and Jolly Steffens.  
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