

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

Vol. XXII

Fall 2006

COMING ATTRACTIONS

"LISTEN TO THE RIVER"

Tuesday, October 10, 2006 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Riverfront Recapture Boathouse in Hartford.

The Trust for Public Land, as part of their Connecticut River Program, wants to know what land in the river's watershed you love and why you want to see it protected for future generations. So they are holding a series of public forums to "Listen to the River," asking citizens to help identify important lands for conservation in the Connecticut River valley and its watershed. The meetings and follow-up report will provide momentum for the many groups, like Great Meadows Conservation Trust, who help protect land.

The Connecticut River is New England's great river and its supporting landscape is our heartland. Sprawl affects scenic landscapes, forests, farmland and water quality, demanding that we protect important places for future generations.

In the greater Hartford area residents are invited to testify at a "Listen to the River" forum on October 10th. For more information and directions, please visit: www.tpl.org/ctriver, or call Clem Clay at the Trust for Public Land 413-584-6686 or ClemClay@tpl.org.



~FOR GLASTONBURY VOTERS~ CANDIDATES NIGHT 2006

Wed. Oct. 18th 7 p.m. -
Council Chambers
Glastonbury Town Hall

MEET THE CANDIDATES

For State Senate:

Mary Anne Handley Stewart Beckett III

For State House of Representatives:

Thomas Kehoe Susan Karp
Christopher Stone Daniel Moura

HEAR THEIR POSITIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Once again the opportunity to shape public policy by electing candidates for state office is up to us, the people. At this "Candidates Night" forum voters will hear candidates for Glastonbury seats in the State Senate and House of Representatives express their knowledge of and positions on environmental and land use issues of importance to Glastonbury residents. The moderator, Judy Harper, chairman of Glastonbury Conservation Commission, will ask the candidates questions developed by the sponsoring organizations, followed by written questions from the audience.

Great Meadows Conservation Trust is one of the co-sponsors of the event hosted by the Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury. Other co-sponsors are Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury, the Historical Society of Glastonbury, Kongscut Land Trust and Glastonbury Coalition for Sensible Growth. The sponsors, being non-profit organizations, do not endorse candidates.

Candidates Night is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

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**OPEN SPACE FUND REFERENDUM
IN WETHERSFIELD
TUESDAY, NOV. 7th**

Wethersfield residents will have a historic opportunity to approve \$4 million of Open Spaces Funding in a referendum on the ballot on November 7. When key open space parcels come on the market, the funding will be available to the town to make timely, competitive offers. Over the course of the 20th Century Wethersfield farm fields and orchards gave way to subdivisions, leaving Wethersfield one of the most built out towns in the state. Preserved open spaces not only enhance and preserve the character of the town, they require less costly town services than residential development.

The Wethersfield Conservation Commission developed criteria to inventory and prioritize the few remaining open spaces for their preservation value. Over the summer, the commission asked Tim Northrup of The Trust for Public Lands to study the value of the highest priority parcels, and the financial resources of the town. TPL recommended that the town seek authorization for \$4 million of funding. Should no parcels become available in three years, the funding would need to be reauthorized. The Town of Glastonbury has been using this type of funding for years to preserve hundreds of acres of open spaces.

All polling places will be open 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(By Jim Woodworth)

**MDC REFERNDUM FOR
ROCKY HILL & WETHERSFIELD
TUESDAY, NOV. 7th**

Residents of both Wethersfield and Rocky Hill will vote November 7, on a referendum that would provide funds to stop the overflow of 1 billion gallons of raw sewage every year, including Folly Brook, Beaver Brook, and Goff Brook, streams that flow past Trust properties.

Finally, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) has a plan to come to terms with the consent decrees from the Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency, and its aging and inadequate system of pipes and treatment plants.

According to MDC's website, "The Clean Water Project will repair and rebuild the MDC District's sewer system, including measures to reduce the amount of storm water in Wethersfield's sewers, and a major rehabilitation and rebuilding of the core system in Hartford. The Project will open up new sewer capacity and curtail both sewage backups and polluting overflows into the Wethersfield Cove, Connecticut River, and other waterways." (http://www.thecleanwaterproject.com/town_weth.htm)

An information session is scheduled for October 19, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Buck Wolf Nature Center, 156 Prospect Street, Wethersfield.

(By Jim Woodworth)

**PUBLIC "SCOPING" MEETING
SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH
AND WILDLIFE REFUGE
TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 7-9 p.m.**

Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, Wethersfield

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is unique. It is the only watershed project in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was established in 1997 to protect populations of migratory fish and birds, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and other native species throughout the Connecticut River watershed. It is a formidable challenge to protect these resources.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages national wildlife refuges, works in partnership with States, conservation organizations, business and industry, and concerned citizens to cooperatively protect these resources. The Service has acquired land for the refuge at specific locations that are of the highest value to wildlife.

The Service has begun developing a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the refuge. The CCP will establish management goals and objectives for the refuge's wildlife management, habitat protection, and public use programs for the next 15 years. The CCP process provides an opportunity for States, conservation and local organizations, communities, and concerned citizens to participate in the development of this far-reaching plan. As the first step in the planning process, refuge staff and Service planners will host open houses at locations throughout the watershed, including this one in Wethersfield. Participants will have the opportunity at these meetings to learn about existing refuge programs, help the planning team identify key issues, share ideas and concerns, and make recommendations on how the refuges should be managed in the future.

Information from the open houses, and through other public involvement opportunities, will guide the planning team as it develops proposed management alternatives. These proposed alternatives will be included in a draft CCP, which the Service expects to release for public review in December 2007.

For more specific information about the location of the open houses and for up to date information on the planning process, go to the refuge's planning web page at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Conte/ccphome.html>.

**NAYAUG CANOE RACES
POSTPONED**

Due to downpours, gusty wind and occasional thunder on Saturday, October 1, the Nayaug Canoe Races were postponed. As of the writing of this newsletter, there is a tentative new date planned for Sunday, October 22. For confirmation of the day and time, or further details, call Dave Ahlgren 633-5665 or Baylis Earle, 633-9050.

GMCT AWARDS MATCHING GRANT TO FRIENDS OF NAYAUG

At their September meeting, GMCT's Board of Directors voted to award a Matching Grant of \$10,000 to Land Heritage Coalition for Friends of Nayaug (FON). The purpose of the grant is to help FON fulfill their obligation to raise \$200,000 toward the Town of Glastonbury's purchase development rights of the 26-acre Killarney Farms in the Nayaug section of South Glastonbury.

Killarney Farms owner, Walter Kelley is building a house for himself on the land, but the rest, including two large tobacco barns will remain as farmland. As agricultural land that is in the Connecticut River flood plain, it is within the mission of GMCT to help preserve it. (See the Spring 2006 issue of *The Meadow View* for further details.)

As a matching grant, GMCT will donate a dollar for every dollar up to \$10,000 that is donated by individuals by November 1, 2006. Board members hope that this incentive will motivate more contributions so that the grant will bring in a total of \$20,000 by the end of October. So, if you have been considering contributing to saving farmland in South Glastonbury, this is a very good time to do so.

The Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury is serving as fiscal agent for all donations to FOA. To make a tax-deductible donation, make your check payable to the Land Heritage Coalition and in the memo section please write: "FON/GMCT matching gift." Send to: Friends of Nayaug, C. MacDonald, Assistant Treasurer LHC, P. O. Box 557, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.



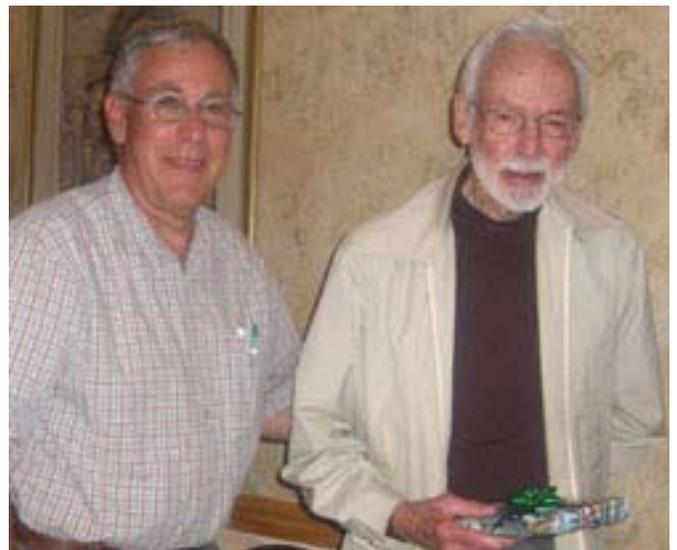
Viewed from Ferry Park in South Glastonbury across fine agricultural fields, Killarney Farms is in the distance.
(Photo by Duffy)

GMCT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WISHES FAREWELL TO TWO MEMBERS



Paul Woodworth (center, with dark hair) attended his last Operations Committee meeting in June. He is off to pursue a degree in Stream Restoration in the Geography Department at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. So that he will not forget other members of the "Ops Committee", he can keep this photograph. (Left to right) Front row: Jolly Steffens, Jim Woodworth and Ingrid Boehouwer. Center row: Mary Carter, Lisa Olson, Joe Hickey, Paul Woodworth, Ralph Moyer, Clyde Brooks. Back Row::Judy Haddad, Rick Doran, Duffy Schade, Peter Maxwell and Larry Lunden.

We wish Paul enjoyment and success in this new chapter of his life.



Clyde Brooks, right, is moving back to his birthplace to be closer to his son. At the September dinner/Operations Committee meeting, Jim Woodworth (left) presented him with a token of thanks for his many years of service as a Director and member of the Ops. Comm. He has served as GMCT President and many other capacities over the years. We wish Clyde a good new chapter in his life, also.

(Photo by Duffy)



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WOOD CHIPS FOR OUR WOOD PARCEL



(Left to right) Rick Doran, Peter Maxwell, Wethersfield High School volunteer Ryan Peterson, Alex Hasychak, and Jim Woodworth spent a recent sunny evening spreading wood chips Brook on the Trust's Wood Parcel at the corner of Middletown Avenue and Maple Street/Route 3.. They laid out a walking trail along the berm to the edge of Beaver Brook. The wood chips were donated by the Town of Wethersfield, that funded the "stream bed improvement project."

The project took shape in June with the excellent work of DeAngelo Construction. In short order Scott DeAngelo yanked out the blown out old culvert, drowned fridge, old coke machine, and assorted junk obstructing the steam bed and cluttering the landscape. He smoothed out and tapered the berm, allowing for high water to flow freely, installed erosion control fencing around the edge, covered the exposed soil with an erosion control blanket, and seeded the whole area. While minimizing the number of trees that needed to be removed, he opened up the view into the marsh.

Soon DeAngelo will install a bench along the edge of the marsh so visitors can pause along the pathway to enjoy the view. A new asphalt apron, gravel driveway and turn around with parking for two cars,

invites visitors to walk or drive into the area. The Trust land management committee anticipates working with community partners to install a larger sign with plantings and build a bridge across the brook at the end of the berm. The bridge will allow access to the wooded area on the far side of the brook where trails will be developed leading to an 18th Century foundation, and along the marsh to the farm field beyond.

KIDS PICK UP LOTS OF JUNK



Troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helped Metropolitan District Commission staffers pile up an impressive heap of trash and treasures from around the Wethersfield Cove, during the Source to the Sea cleanup on Saturday, Sept 30.

This issue of The Meadow View was edited by Duffy Schade.

Contributions by: Duffy Schade, Jolly Steffens and Jim Woodworth