



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

Vol. XXI

Spring 2006

## GMCT PROGRAMS & EVENTS SPRING 2006



Photo by Jim Woodworth

**Tuesday Evenings in May on the River  
Led by Jim Woodworth**  
For further details call Jim Woodworth  
(529-0997)

Meet at 6:00 pm. Bring your own canoe or kayak, paddles, PFD. Plans are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or river conditions.

1. Tuesday, May 16 Keeney Cove. Meet at the Point Road causeway (off Naubuc Avenue, just south of Glastonbury Avenue) at 6:00 pm. Alternate A (less strenuous): Launch north of the Point Road causeway, paddle under Route 3 to explore the abandoned river bed, observe great blue heron and spawning alewives. Alternate B: Launch on the south side of the Point Road causeway, paddle out by the beaver lodge to the CT River, south to Crow Point Cove inlet, explore Crow Point Cove, and return. (sunset 7:50 pm)

2. Tuesday, May 23 meet at the Wethersfield Cove at 6:00 pm. We'll paddle across the cove to explore Folly Brook, view the Eleanor Buck Wolf parcel from the water. From there we'll skirt the North side of the cove, and then paddle out to the river. Wethersfield "East," the triangle of Wethersfield lies directly east of the Cove entrance, marooned by the meandering course of the river, south of East

Hartford, North of Glastonbury. Continuing upstream, we'll pass United Aircraft Wilgoos Test Facility, where jet engines were tested. Just north of Wilgoos is the site of a former tank farm, that will soon become the Goodwin College campus. Depending on our stamina and time, we'll continue upstream to the Trinity College Boat House on the east bank and the trash to energy plant on the west before floating back downstream. (Sunset 8:06 pm)

3. Tuesday, May 30 meet at Rocky Hill Ferry Landing at 6:00 pm. Rendezvous at the Ferry Landing Boat Launch at 6:00 pm. Paddle upstream, passing the old coal dock protected by the Walker Parcel easement (G-3), passing the fishermen at the mouth of Roaring Brook, passing the mouth of Meadow Drain, with the ultimate goal of marker #122, opposite the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill border. Drift downstream, exploring the Meadow Drain and Roaring Brook "estuaries," returning to Ferry Landing as the last rays of the sun disappear behind the "rocky hill." (Sunset 8:18 pm)

**GRAND OPENING  
WETHERSFIELD MEADOWS  
BICYCLE PATH  
JUNE 3, 10:00 A.M.**

Wethersfield has developed a bicycle path through the meadows of Wethersfield, with the goal of having it continue through Rocky Hill. Negotiations of establishing that southern section continue. Come celebrate and enjoy Wethersfield's new trail. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Putnam Park Office Building parking lot in Wethersfield (exit 26 off I-91 to Great Meadow Road). We will bicycle along the path to the Rocky Hill town line. The official opening ceremony will happen at 11 a.m. at Putnam Park where refreshments will be served.

## MORE SPRING EVENTS

### WALK IN THE CT RIVER FLOOD PLAIN JUNE 3, 8:00 A.M.

Join Ken Etheridge, Great Meadows Conservation Trust naturalist, for an exploration of the meadow, marsh, and wooded habitats of the floodplain where as many as 50 bird species can often be spotted. Meet at Ferry Park next to the ferry landing on Route 160 in Rocky Hill. Dress for the weather and ground conditions. Long sleeves, long pants recommended. Bring bug spray, water, snack. Estimated distance is three miles, it will take about three leisurely hours. Conditions may revise or cancel.

This walk is co-sponsored by Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury as part of Connecticut Forest and Parks Association Trails Day celebration. For further information call CT Audubon Center: 633-8402

### CONNECTICUT OPEN HOUSE AT THE FERRY JUNE 10, STARTING 10:30 A.M.

The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry will again be featured in the Second Annual Connecticut Open House event, June 10th. The DOT will likely be operating the ferry for free, to promote interest. Various organizations will be displaying their information at booths on both sides of the river, including GMCT, starting at 10:30 am.

Please contact Peter Maxwell if you can help, at 529-9939 or e-mail: peter\_maxwell@urscorp.com.

## DIRECTORS & OFFICERS ELECTED

The following people were elected, or re-elected to the Board of Directors at Great Meadows Conservation Trust Annual Meeting, March 15, 2006:

Ingrid Boelhouwer	—	Wethersfield
Wendell Coogan	—	Rocky Hill
Edith Schade	—	Glastonbury
James Woodworth	—	Wethersfield

### Officers Re-elected:

James Woodworth	—	President
Elisabeth Olsen	—	Vice-president
Richard Doran	—	Secretary
Richard Mihm	—	Treasurer

### The following will continue serving as directors:

Clyde Brooks	—	Glastonbury
Edward Chiucarello	—	Rocky Hill
Richard Doran	—	Rocky Hill
Judith Haddad	—	Wethersfield
Peter Maxwell	—	Rocky Hill
Richard Mihm	—	Glastonbury
Elisabeth Olson	—	Glastonbury
Pamela St. Jean	—	Wethersfield

## WINTER WALKS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!



Jim Woodworth, GMCT President, leader of the first winter walk, explains to the crowd the story behind an historical marker on Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield. (Photo by Duffy)

A column by Peter Marteka in the January 2nd Hartford Courant brought out over 60 hikers to the second winter walk, even though the first one (and later a second one) was postponed because of flood waters. In prior years, it was highly unusual to have even a dozen walkers show up. Of course it was also unusual to have freshets in the winter.

Jim Woodworth and Larry Lunden, Land Management Chairman, took turns leading the five hikes scheduled to monitor GMCT holdings in the Glastonbury Meadow, Eleanor Wolf and Wood parcels in Wethersfield, Methodist Church parcel in Rocky Hill and Hockanum Meadows parcel in East Hartford.

## “USING THE LAW TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES”

That is the title of a forum that Great Meadows Trust co-sponsored, along with 17 other non-profit groups, held at Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Glastonbury on March 22. A local planning committee, including Jolly Steffens representing GMCT, put together the forum as part of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) “Environment 101” series.

Over 80 people attended the event, including representatives from area towns, as well as Council members, commissioners & staff. The panelists were Julie Belaga, Co-chair of CTLCV, Dwight Merriam, a partner in Robinson and Cole and an expert on land use law, David Sutherland, Legislative Director of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Mary Ellen Kowalewski, Director of Community Development for the Capitol Region Council of Governments, and Walter Woodward, Connecticut State Historian. Judy Harper, director of CAS Center at Glastonbury and Chairman of Glastonbury Conservation Commission was moderator. They touted the potential for interaction between aspects of the funding sources, that might include, for example, opportunities to preserve both an historic house and the farmland it stands on.



Farming will continue on Killarney Farms (beyond the small trees in the foreground) on the land surrounding the two historic barns and one house now under construction to the right of the one on the left. The owner had planned to build five more houses on the land along Tryon Street. (photo by Duffy)

## TOWN OF GLASTONBURY PURCHASES DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS By Chip Geer, Chairman, Friends of Nayaug

Bolstered by the encouragement to act of a strongly-committed group of town residents, the Town of Glastonbury will buy, with the group’s financial assistance, the development rights to well-known farmland property located within the Glastonbury Great Meadows.

The Glastonbury Town Council’s unanimous action came during its March 28 meeting, and marked the end to a 20-month-long public campaign to restrict, as much as feasible, unwanted development on the 26-acre parcel.

The resident group, the Friends of Nayaug, formed in 2004 out of a concern over proposed plans to construct as many as six homes on land that has been farmed for hundreds of years. Now, due to the Town’s action, much of the property will continue to serve its historic purpose. Under the terms of the purchase agreement, Killarney Farms, as the property is known, will continue to be farmed, the historic barns located on it will be maintained, only one home will be built upon it, and an informal public right-of-way will be granted along its south boundary. The land will remain, as well, an important wildlife habitat, home to many of the various species found in the Great Meadows.

The acreage, located off Tryon Street in the Nayaug section of South Glastonbury, is a significant part of the viewscape seen from the Glastonbury-Rocky Hill Ferry landing, and falls within the National Historic District designated by the federal Department of Interior last year.

The negotiated selling price for the development rights is \$875,000. The Town of Glastonbury can spend no more than the appraised value of those rights, or \$675,000. The Friends of Nayaug has agreed to raise the remaining \$200,000. Approximately \$135,000 has been raised in gifts and/or pledges so far. The group has until December 2007 to reach its goal.

The Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury is serving as fiscal agent for all tax-deductible donations, which can be paid this year and in 2007. Contributions may be sent to the Land Heritage Coalition, with the notation, “Friends of Nayaug,” P.O. Box 557, South Glastonbury, 06073. For additional information, phone 633-1728.



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## ROCKY HILL FOUNDRY PROPOSAL REJECTED TWICE. WHAT'S NEXT? By Ed Chiucarello

What is happening with the proposal for 80 condominiums along the CT river at the former-Foundry site in Rocky Hill? There have been numerous public hearings in front of the Connecticut River Assembly (CRA), and the two land use commissions

CRA in Rocky Hill met on March 9, March 30 and April 13, 2006. On April 13, the Assembly voted 6-3 to issue an unfavorable comment with prejudice for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development will significantly impact the view from the Connecticut River;
2. The mass and coverage of the proposed buildings and the overall scope and size of the project is incompatible with the surrounding area;
3. The proposal poses potential pollution risks during construction and maintenance; and,
4. The proposal will significantly alter the natural topography of the land as a result of the fill required.

The Rocky Hill Open Space and Conservation Commission met two times in March and April, then on May 10th voted unanimously to reject the Foundry Proposal.

So what's next? Some time in June, the Rocky Hill Planning and Zoning Commission will rule on the proposal. What happens after the Planning and Zoning ruling is anyone's guess. Presently,

the attorney for the developer has filed a lawsuit against CRA and one of its members. So time and money will be spent in the courts.

Will the town step forward into negotiations with the developer for the property? Will the developer try again with a new scaled-back proposal which meets the CRA recommendations?

As environmental stewards, we need to do the right thing for the CT river. CRA and Rocky Hill's Open Space and Conservation Commission have spoken clearly. What will happen next? That's a good question.



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Meadow View, Spring 2006

Contributors: Ingrid Boelhouver, Ed Chiucarello, Chip Geer, Duffy Schade, Jolly Steffens, Peter Maxwell and Jim Woodworth  
Duffy Schade, Editor