



Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.  
 P. O. Box 171  
 Glastonbury, CT 06033  
 www.gmct.org



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

Vol. XXVIII no. 1

Winter 2012

## Grand Bridge Opening Wood Parcel's "agricultural, scenic, archeological and wetland riches" —to be open and accessible

Join the Trust and hikers at 10am, Saturday, Jan 21, when Mayor Donna Hemman will clip the ceremonial grape vine and open the shiny new bridge crossing Beaver Brook and opening wildlife habitat, archeological and agricultural riches to the public.

Our "Brisk Winter Walk" will cross the bridge and follow the newly cleared loop trail past the 18th Century House site and out into the farm fields of the "Great Plains" along the Beaver Brook marsh.

Nick Bellantoni, state archeologist, will be on hand to take a first look at the archeological potential of the 18th Century House site.

Mayor Hemman, will accept thanks representing the town for the improvements to the streambed and providing a small parking area, a bench and the pathway to the edge of Beaver Brook and the help of Town Engineer Mike Turner and wetlands agent Don Moisa.

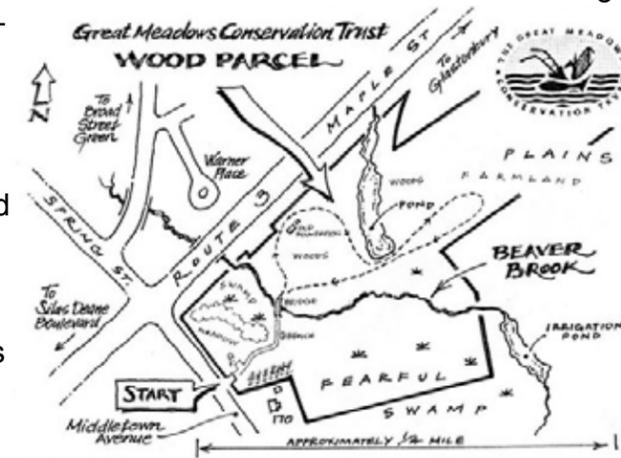
The installation of the new 34' aluminum bridge fulfills the obligation of the GMCT under the terms of the DEEP Open Spaces grant and

easement, to open the parcel to the public

The new bridge was delivered between Christmas and New Years (who knew three old guys with bad backs, and one Dad and 7 year old son) could lift a 34' bridge off the rack of the pickup truck, turn it around, slide it down the path, into the brook, hoist it out of the brook onto the high bank. Of course, one of the old guys came with a block and tackle, and the manufacturer knew aluminum bridges.

On January 2nd, a crew of volunteers installed the sleeper, leveled up the bridge, and secured the cables holding the bridge, allowing it to swing, but not float away in a flood.

The crew, including Eagle Scout Justin Rutty and friend, dragged the temporary bridge over to the clogged culvert, and then ended up unclogging the culvert. MDC and Dave Rutty have agreed to provide materials to replace the broken culvert, providing Josh Ballestos, Eagle Scout candidate, an opportunity to complete his Eagle Scout requirements.



## GMCT Brisk Winter Walk Schedule

See page 3 or WWW.GMCT.org for details....

**Saturday, Jan 21, 10:00 a.m., Wethersfield**

**Sunday, Jan 29, 1:00 p.m., Glastonbury**

**Saturday, Feb 4, 9:00 a.m., Wethersfield**

**Saturday, Feb 11, 9:00 a.m., East Hartford**

**Sunday, Feb 12, 1:00 pm, Glastonbury**



## First two brisk winter walks draw 140 walkers to the flood plain

**Saturday, Jan 7, 10:00 am, Wethersfield–E.B. Wolf Parcel, Hartford dike.** On a balmy morning, 100 walkers met Jim Woodworth at the Wolf Parcel and strolled through the floodplain behind Hartford Avenue, observed the tree markers placed by the Nature Conservancy flood plain forest study, and checked out the wood duck box along the shore of Folly Brook.

The floodplain was a lot cleaner after 6 Wethersfield High School community service volunteers



**Wethersfield High School Community Service Volunteers remove floatables from Folly Brook banks.**

scrounged among the poison ivy and mud to gather plastic and aluminum bottles swept off the streets of



**107 walkers view flood plain on sunny warm morning**

Wethersfield and Hartford and deposited along Folly Brook on the way to the Wethersfield Cove. The crew couldn't move the 12' section of PVC pipe. About half of the walkers continued out along the Hartford dike where "civilization" and nature meet: floodplain to the south, modern, improved sewage treatment plant and airport to the north. Beyond the airport, below the dike 33 walkers walked along the sewer outfall, to the river where an eagle soared above the sparkling river, white head and tail glimmering in the sun.

**Sunday, Jan 15, 1:00 pm, Rocky Hill–Dipaolo and Hayes Parcels.** Forty hardy walkers met Larry Lunden at Goff Brook La, off of Old Main St. and walked out into the meadows with a stop at GMCT's

DiPaolo parcel to observe the newly planted disease resistant Elm plantation of five different Dutch Elm disease resistant cultivars provided by TNC forester Christian Marks. Still the second most common species in the forest, the hope is to restore the elm species to its former glory as the dominant species in the flood plain forest. Lunden led the hikers out to view trust Hayes properties leased to Winding Brook Turf Farm and Fair Weather Acres. They observed the old and new eagles' nests. Eagles begin working on their nests about this time, but none appeared on that sunny afternoon.



**GMCT's elm plantation survived Japanes beetles in July, floods in August and September and the October snow storm**



**GMCT's Ed Chiciurello, TNC forester Christian Marks, and hardy interns from UMass and Mt. Holyoke planted 40 elm and maple saplings. The bad news: it was pouring rain. The good news: the rain watered the trees...and kept the mosquitoes down!**

Wethersfield and Hartford and deposited along Folly Brook on the way to the Wethersfield Cove. The crew couldn't move the 12' section of PVC pipe. About half of the walkers continued out along the Hartford dike where "civilization" and nature meet: floodplain to the south, modern, improved sewage treatment plant and airport to the north. Beyond the airport, below the dike 33 walkers walked along the sewer outfall, to the river where an eagle soared above the sparkling river, white head and tail glimmering in the sun.

### **New! Pay Your Membership Dues & make Donations Online @ [www.gmct.org](http://www.gmct.org)!**

Pay your Membership Dues and make Donations to the Great Meadows Conservation Trust by credit card! PayPal Business Accounts for NonProfits allows donors to make secure contributions through their PayPal account—if they have one—but also with a regular credit card. The cost (2.9% plus \$.30) compares favorably with an envelope, and a stamp, for a \$15 individual or \$25 family membership. For Life memberships and larger donations, consider adding 3% for the convenience and security. GMCT is an all volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. 100% of our funds are used to forward our mission of preserving the flood plain's agricultural, wildlife habitat, wetland, and archeological resources for the benefit of the public through ownership and stewardship.

## Photos record changes: 1936—c.1955—2012

At right is Wood Parcel Corner of Route 3 and Middletown Ave as it looks today except for shiny new bridge!

Photomerge by Jim Woodworth



At right Sarah Wood sits with her family under the cool shade of the giant pine tree on a summer day c. 1955.

Photo courtesy of the Wethersfield Historical Society



At right is the Wood House at the end of Warner Place reflected in the rising waters of the 1936 Flood

Photo by Edward W. Willard, Sr..



## GMCT Brisk Walks Continue....

**.Sunday, Jan 29, 1:00 p.m., Glastonbury Meet Jim Woodworth and Mark Packard, GMCT President, at Ferry Park, 263 Ferry Lane.** Walk upstream along the Connecticut River through farm fields to explore the Trust's easement on the late 19th Century coal dock. **Directions: From Route 17 in South Glastonbury, take Route 160 towards the ferry. The park is on the left just before the ferry slip.**

**Saturday, Feb 4, 9:00 AM, Wethersfield,** about two hours. Meet Jim Woodworth and Goodwin College's Bruce Morton, Program Director of Environmental Studies, at the Putnam Park parking lot, 100 Great Meadow Road, just north of the Putnam Bridge. We'll explore the 300+ acre Crow Point property owned by Goodwin College. We'll observe the process of nature reclaiming the land and waterways excavated for fill to build the highways across the ancient farmland and wetlands of the great meadows, and observe the "before" of the hoped for invasive species removal and forest planting from a pending DEP habitat improvement grant. We will have a van to shuttle the group from the parking lot along Great Meadow Road into the meadows.

**Directions: From I91 N, take exit 25/26 and bear right on Exit 26 to Wethersfield. At the end of the ramp, turn left under the Putnam Bridge to the parking lot. From I91 S, take exit 26, Marsh St. /Old Wethersfield. At the end of the ramp, turn left under the highway, and right at the T toward the Putnam**

**Park lot. From Route 3N/ Maple Street, take the exit toward I91 north, but bear right Exit onto Great Meadow Road, and turn right toward the parking lot. From Route 3S, take the I91N exit at the end of bridge, but bear right Exit onto Great Meadow Road, and turn right toward the parking lot.**

**Saturday, Feb 11, 9:00 am, East Hartford,** about one and a half hours. Meet Jim Woodworth and Goodwin College's Bruce Morton, Program Director of Environmental Studies, at Hockanum Park, 324 High St. Explore our Wilson-Carvalho and Hockanum Meadows parcels. Goodwin College students study environmental science here.

**Directions: From Route 2 west, take exit 5 A, Main St. At the second traffic light take a left, and then another left and under the highway onto High St. From Route 2 east, take exit 5 A, High St. Once on High St, follow it south, past the elementary school, to the park on the left.**

**Sunday, Feb 12, 1:00 pm, Glastonbury.** Meet Larry Lunden at the end of Hollister Way North, off of Main St north of the end of the Youte 17 exit ramp. Park at the end near the barn or next to the tennis courts. A short hike to our Austin and Matava parcels in Glastonbury Meadows.

**Walks will last 2 to 3 hours. Dress for the Weather and ground conditions. Many places will be muddy. Weather and water conditions may revise or cancel. Call the CT Audubon Society for the latest information, 860-633-8402. Free.**