



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

**Call to Annual Meeting—Thursday, March 22, 2012**  
**The Gallery, 141 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury**  
Details—Page 7

**Warm weather and good publicity bring out a record 403 Winter Walkers**

Over 60 walkers imagined a flood plain sans bridge, highway and highrise then walked out past a screech owl peaking out of a duck box and cement silos to Crow Point



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

Vol. XXVIII no. 2

March 2012

**2011 President's Annual Report**

**Mark Packard, President**

Hello again. A wonderfully warm winter has brought us full circle to the start of another year preserving the Great Meadows. Please read on for a short report of some of the important work that we have undertaken in the previous 12 months.

**Wood Parcel Bridge**

After years of talking, planning, drawing, meetings, approvals, the GMCT has purchased and installed a bridge on our Wood parcel at the corner of Route 3 and

Middletown Avenue in Wethersfield. This wonderful addition was made possible by the hard work and dedication of our own Jim Woodworth. You can now park your car just off Middletown Avenue and venture down a short path to 35 foot long bridge. The bridge affords a wonderful view of the marsh and also provides unfettered access to the rest of the parcel on the east side of Beaver brook. Please stop by and enjoy this new addition.

**Elm Street**

The GMCT has been busy as of late attending meetings in Wethersfield on an application for a 4000 square foot office/equipment storage building to be built on Elm Street, an Agricultural Conservation Zone. This is a very important issue for Elm Street



**The "Bridge Grand Opening"— a walk in a gentle snowstorm. Mayor Donna Hemmann braved the snow to cut the ceremonial grape vine**

and the meadows as there are many acres of meadow land on Elm Street that could be lost to development should this building be permitted. The Trust and the Elm Street neighbors were successful at a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting when the ZBA voted against the application. The applicants have a pending court appeal against the Town of the decision and have indicated they intend to apply to alter the Agricultural Conservation Zone regulations to allow their building.

**Elm Trees**

A wonderful partnership was reinforced in 2011 between the Nature Conservancy and GMCT. A rather wet parcel of land near the Rocky Hill/ Wethersfield town line was not being used as it was too wet for many crops. A parcel that was lying idle was instead turned into a horticultural experiment. Christian Marks, from the Nature Conservancy, has planted disease resistant elm trees and will be studying ways to bring back the once numerous and stately trees to the Connecticut River flood plain. A second stand of trees was planted on town owned land in Glastonbury by Glastonbury Partners in Planting (GPIP).



**Gerhard Schade uses the two foot method to start a hole for an elm tree in Glastonbury's Riverfront Park.**

**See President's Report, p.2**

### Agenda—Annual Meeting, March 22, 2012

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting March 28, 2011
2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2011
3. President's annual report to the members
4. Report of the Nominating Committee
5. Election of Directors to serve through 2015  
**Motion: that Joseph Hickey, Elizabeth Schmitt, Pamela St. Jean and James Zagroba be elected to serve as Directors for**

- their respective designated terms.**
6. Election of Officers to serve until next annual meeting  
**Motion: That Mark Packard, Tom Kehoe, Sandi Kelly and Richard Doran be elected to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively of the GMCT for the 2012 – 2013 term.**

## Nominating Committee Report – 2012 February 23, 2012

**Committee Members: Sandi Kelly, Tom Kehoe, Ralph Moyer**

### 2012 Slate of Officers and Directors:

**Officers:**

- President – Mark Packard  
(Glastonbury – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2013)
- Vice President – Tom Kehoe  
(Glastonbury – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2014)
- Secretary – Sandi Kelly  
(Rocky Hill – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2013)
- Treasurer – Richard Doran  
(Wethersfield – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2014)

**Directors:**

- Joseph Hickey  
(Wethersfield – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2015)
- Elizabeth Schmitt  
(Glastonbury – 2<sup>nd</sup> - 2015)
- Pamela St. Jean  
(Wethersfield – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2015)
- James Zagroba

- (Rocky Hill-1<sup>st</sup>-2015)
- Vacancy - Rocky Hill (2013)
- Continuing Directors:**
- Sandy Weiss  
(Rocky Hill – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2014)
- Mark Packard  
(Glastonbury – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2013)
- Sandi Kelly  
(Rocky Hill – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2013)
- Rebecca M. Zaliznock  
(Wethersfield – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2013)
- Tom Kehoe  
(Glastonbury – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2014)
- Penny Rusnak  
(Glastonbury-1<sup>st</sup>-2014)
- Richard Doran  
(Wethersfield – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2014)

### President's Report, cont. Rocky Hill Landfil

Our involvement with the former Rocky Hill landfill continues. Because we own an abutting parcel to the landfill we have a very strong voice in what happens on that site. As reported last year Meadow Properties, LLC, is trying to reopen the landfill under the premise that it needs to be properly capped. GMCT has taken the stance that only necessary repairs, if needed, should be made and impact should be minimized as much as possible. We have been closely monitoring the process and have even taken the Town to court

when it became apparent they had not followed their own regulations (this case is still pending). The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has issued a consent order to the property owners requiring certain actions be performed by certain dates. We continue to track the necessary actions and have been an active part of the review committee.

Please join us, there *is* strength in numbers and our voice with our elected officials gets stronger with every member who commits to our shared stewardship of the Great Meadows.

### Special Guest Speaker GMCT's own Betty Schmitt "Native Nayaug"

Guest speaker Elizabeth M Schmitt's presentation, illustrated with vivid photographs and historic maps, will explore the places of the Sachemdom of the "Wangunk" and the place of its clan or tribe—the Nayaug—our local Indigenous People who summered for centuries in the Great Meadows of South Glastonbury and wintered in the highlands.

Ms. Schmitt, who lives on Tryon Street, aka "the highway or Nayaug Street," has degrees in Architecture, Fine Arts and Education and is now engaged in retirement. She enjoys the exploration of history and of "her-story"; artifacts, sociology, habitats and land use, culture, linguistics and the concept of "the sense of a peoples' place."



Betty (rt.) joins State Archeologist Nick Bellantoni as he leads sixth graders in archeological digs in Nayaug.

## The Gallery

141 New London Turnpike  
Glastonbury

**Thursday, March 22, 2012**

**Social Hour 5:30 • Dinner 6:30**

Annual Meeting and speaker to follow

### Buffet Dinner Menu

- Cheese and cracker tray, cocktail meatballs*
- Tossed Salad and assorted cold salads*
- Carving station with roast prime rib of beef and baked ham*
- Pasta with Alfredo and Marinara sauces*
- Baked scrod, breaded with lemon and butter*
- Vegetables du jour, red roasted potatoes*
- Dessert du jour*

*Regular and decafe coffee and tea*

Cash bar for all other beverages and soda

**The cost per person for dinner is \$28.00, tax and gratuity included**

.....  
—clip here—

### GMCT Annual Dinner Reservations

Please reserve **no later** than March 15th  
for the dinner Thursday, March 22th, 2012

**Questions may be directed to Rick Doran at 860- 690- 9983 or info@GMCT.org**

The cost per person for dinner is \$28.00.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinners @ \$28.00**

**Memberships @ \$15 individual/\$25 family**

**Additional Donation**

**Total Enclosed:**

_____	=	_____
_____	=	_____
_____		_____
_____		_____

**Please enclose a check payable to "GMCT" and mail to:**

**GMCT Annual Meeting  
Rick Doran  
223 Main Street,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109**

Mark your Calendars:

**Conference, Work, Bike Rides, Walks**

**March 24—CT Land Conservation Conference  
CCLC, Wesleyan U.**

**March 31—Work Session Wood Parcel 9am**

**May (TBA)—Bicycle ride Heritage Trail 6:30pm**

**CT Tails Day—**

**June 2—Crow Point Wethersfield 9am**

**—Ferry Landing Rocky Hill 9am**

**June 3—Bike Ride Wethersfield Cove across  
Rocky Hill Ferry to Glastonbury and Return**



Gerhard (rt.) and Duffy Schade, led a late fall hike to Phillip’s Cave, the winter hearth and home site of the Nayaug tribe who summered on the river in the Great Meadows. The south facing rock formation in a hollow in the Glastonbury hills is named after the archeologist who uncovered layers of cultural artifacts, reflecting generations of the Native American tribe. The property was recently acquired by the Town of Glastonbury as part of its land conservation program.

**Plein air painter captures the essence of the Great Meadows**

When Jane Zisk founded the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society, her aim was to promote fellowship among artists and find companions to paint with in quiet places like our Great Meadows.

Last summer Jane participated in the Wethersfield Neighborhood Arts & Heritage Project, in which 12 professional artists painted historic homes in Old Wethersfield. Homeowners and painters spoke about their collaborative experience at lectures at the Wethers-



**“Summer Great Meadows” by Jane Zisk**

field Academy for the Arts. Jane painted scenes in the meadows and collaborated with Jim Woodworth, Stewardship Chair, representing the GMCT.



**Ode to Great Meadows  
by Jane Zisk**

*Day dawning*

*the smell of paint*

*blaze of light*

*soft wind stirs*

*farm fields sown*

*birds in flight*

*the artist’s delight*

**Left: Jane paints a turn in the road framed by trees in the Rocky Hill meadows as Billy Collins drives by on the way to tend his bean fields. This canvas and several other of Jane’s meadows landscapes are on exhibit through May at the Hartford Fine Arts & Framing Shop on Pitkin Street in East Hartford.**

**Tom Kehoe, Director and Vice President Nominee**

By Duffy Schade

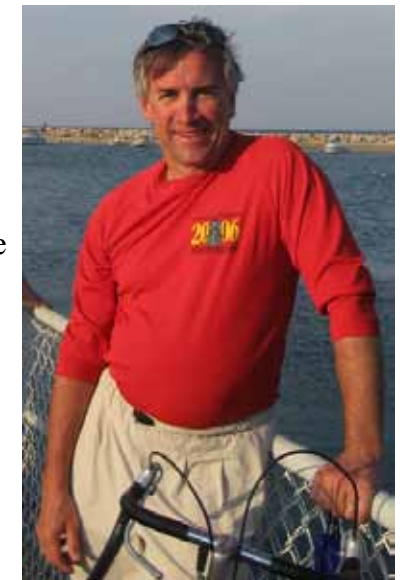
Glastonbury’s loss--and for that matter the State of Connecticut’s loss--is Great Meadows’ gain. While Tom Kehoe was State Representative for Glastonbury from 2005 through 2010, time for other activities was in very short supply. The November 2010 elections shocked a lot of Glastonbury voters when he was not re-elected. As was made apparent by Tom’s time in the General Assembly—the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) named him an Environmental Champion—he is a passionate advocate for the environment. So when asked if he would be interested in serving on the GMCT Board of Directors, he responded that he welcomes the opportunity to work with us for land preservation. He was elected to the Board’s “Class of 2014” at the Annual Meeting this last spring.

On top of his “day job” as General Counsel for the US Services business of Alstom Power, Inc. an international company and world leader in transport infrastructure, power generation and transmission, in his “spare time” Tom has jumped in to serve Glastonbury’s environment in a number of ways. He was president and on the board of directors for the Land Heritage Coalition, particularly during the fight to stop some schemes of the Metropolitan District Commission to develop its land in Glastonbury

into housing or a golf course. He served on the Glastonbury Town Council from 2003 to 2005, before being elected to the Connecticut Legislature for two terms. There he obtained top grades for his votes on environmental issues. He introduced the concept of Complete Streets, tying in with Smart Growth.

In addition to being a marathon runner, Tom is an avid biker. He is a founder of Glastonbury Bikeways, advocating for bike trails and a bicycle/pedestrian lane on the Putnam Bridge. While in the legislature he obtained a state grant to help fund the multi-use trail now under construction from Bell Street to Smith School.

In expressing why he is willing to serve on the GMCT board, he said, “I’ve always been a champion of open space in Connecticut and I admire the trust’s efforts. It’s a great mission,”



**Tom Kehoe—bicyclist and environmental champion**

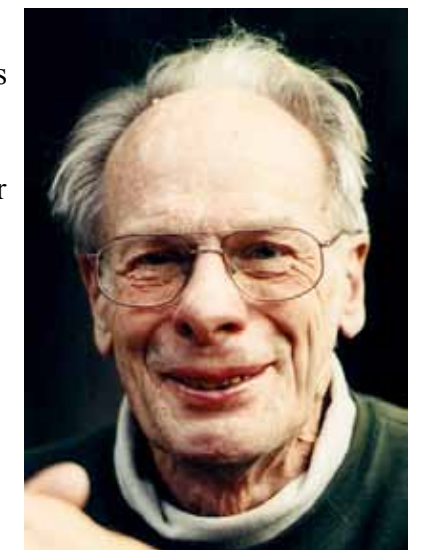
**Remembering Peter Revil by Jolly Steffens**

As a member of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust for many years, Peter, as a board member, took on a number of challenging roles. An important one was as chair of the Land Management Committee. From their comfortable old home in Rocky Hill, one could walk to the high bluffs overlooking the Connecticut River and the rich farmland below.

Peter’s responsibility entailed research through town files for records of deeds, where feasible marking the boundaries, making clear and precise maps of each parcel as acquired by the Trust and annually inspecting Trust-owned properties and in turn writing annual reports. I remember one winter tramping through the snow trying to keep up with Peter as we checked on one of the new properties in the Meadows. After a chilly walk, we settled in their comfortable living room and Peter’s wife Ellie served up a warming cup of tea.

It was Peter who, in 1969, began the first newsletter for Trust members, appropriately called “The Meadow View.” When I was president of the Trust, Peter kept after me to get my report in on time and then very politely edited it! Peter was one of many Trust members recognized for their contributions and guidance in the preparation of the 2001 publication of “The Great Meadows of the Connecticut River, a Review of its Resources & Recommendations For Its Protection and Preservation.”

We remember Peter as a dedicated and thoughtful person, with a gentle sense of humor who never lost his very British use of English. Thank you Peter for sharing your talents and gifts with us these many years. We’ll miss you.



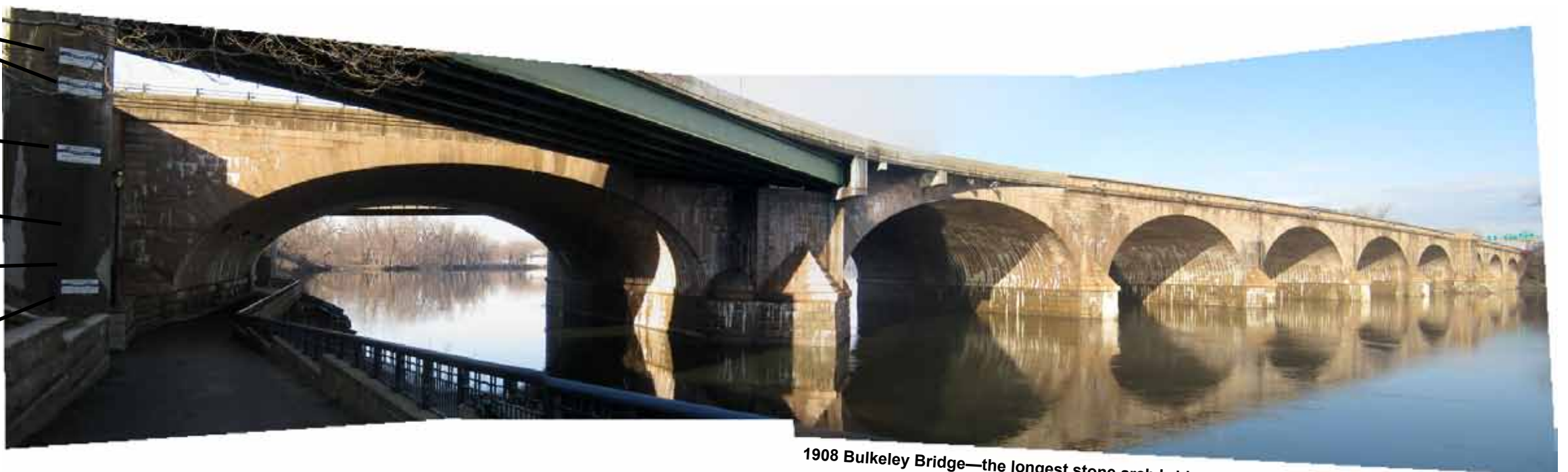
**Peter Revil—1923-2011**

# Gauge at Hartford's majestic Bulkeley Bridge measures height and flow of mighty Connecticut River

A walk along the River Walk in Hartford brings you face to face with the heights of the Great Floods—if you tilt your head way back. Inside the cement tower is the actual river gauge.

Heights of flood waters are only a few feet lower downstream where the meadows fulfill its purpose as flood storage. Entry points to the meadows begin to flood about 10 feet on the gauge. By 20 feet, the entire meadows is one huge paddlers' paradise of a lake. But for farmers, a flood in the peak of the growing season brings staggering losses. For example, Anderson Farms lost 30 acres of sweet corn worth \$100,000. Fairweather Acres lost 200 acres of green beans, 40 acres of pumpkins, and enough mixed vegetables to total \$1,000,000 in losses from hurricanes Irene, Lee.

- (1) 37.60 ft on 03/21/1936
- (2) 35.40 ft on 09/23/1938
- (3) 30.74 ft on 06/01/1984
- (4) 30.60 ft on 08/20/1955
- #23 on the historic crest list, hurricane Irene crested at 24.78 ft on August 31, 2011
- Lee—21.55 ft on Sept. 9
- 20.3 feet—Average Height of Spring Freshet



1908 Bulkeley Bridge—the longest stone arch bridge in the world

### Plan ahead!—Check the gauge on the web

Before your next bike ride or kayak paddle in the meadows, check the National Weather Service site that predicts the height of the River over the next 3 days. The U.S. Geological Survey site graphs the gauge record of the last 120 days. Find links to both at [www.gmct.org/links](http://www.gmct.org/links).

## Treasurer's Report by Richard Doran

I am pleased to report that the treasury of the GMCT remains in a positive and balanced position. Our net worth increased by 6% over the year. A new initiative moved forward this year. Members now have the opportunity to pay Membership Dues and make donations online, using the Trust's new **PayPal** account, which can be accessed @[www.gmct.org](http://www.gmct.org). For those considering donations and bequests, I'd also like to remind you that the GMCT's Funds are allocated to four separate funds: The **General Fund** for operating expenses. The **E.B. Wolf Fund** for land acquisition. The **Stewardship Fund**, for maintaining and improving our existing land holdings. Finally there is the recently established **Endowment fund**. The Treasurer manages the trust's investments at Vanguard with advice from the Finance Committee and approval from the Board of Directors.



### Larry Lunden assumes role as Trust Archivist

Starting this year, Larry Lunden has accepted the position of Archivist for the Trust. In an ongoing effort to meet the Standards and Practices for land trusts published by the Land Trust Alliance, Larry is working on our old records to ensure they are complete and stored safely.

Two changes of location were accomplished during the year. Our safe deposit box was moved to TD Bank in Wethersfield by Treasurer Rick Doran. With the help of our President, we moved the archives to the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center in Wethersfield. Many thanks to Christopher Shepard for finding space for us.

Larry has spent significant time sifting through the records we are storing. **See Archives, next page**

## Land Management Report 2011

by Larry Lunden, Land Management Chair

We now own 45 parcels with a total area of 170.6 acres. We have three easements with a total area of 14.7 acres. An elusive parcel, which has not been found before, has been discovered. It was one of the Dickau parcels we bought in 1977, but never were able to locate. I have worked extensively with the town of Glastonbury to help them update the maps of Point Meadows. They have discovered a series of maps filed at the time the Putnam Bridge was built, and many of the property lines need to be revised to bring them into agreement.

We have completed inspections on 12 parcels this year. This is fewer inspections than in recent years. I have initiated a training program to teach the parcel inspection procedure to our Land Management Committee. We now have a fill in the blanks form to make the process easier. Several of the members have written reports, and I hope more will do so. I find I can't do all the inspections myself.

Several of our parcels in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield have been flooded by a beaver dam for a number of years. To enable clearing their right of way, the Metropolitan District, the MDC contracted with trappers to remove the beavers, but found they had moved out, perhaps up Beaver Brook to Wethersfield.

Our leasing program with local farmers continues to keep 50 acres of farmland in active use. Our new Baril parcel is now being leased also.

We held six winter walks for the public, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Audubon Society at Glastonbury and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. We had an attendance of 177 people total in spite of two feet of snow. We got publicity in the Hartford Courant and Journal Inquirer. Meetup.com continues to be a good form of publicity.

**Archives.** The parcel records have been reviewed, and many of the important documents have been copied and stored in a second location for safety. Larry has gone through many of the other records and tried to file them together by subject matter, and weeded materials that don't relate to activities or accomplishments of the Trust.

Larry has composed a draft version of a Records Policy based on LTA Standards that will tell us how to handle our records and when to dispose of them. He hopes this can be completed in the coming year. The one big challenge with an all volunteer organization is that officers keep their records at home, where they could get lost if the officer becomes inactive. He says he will be relying on the board of directors to encourage our officers to give the Trust records to the archives when they are no longer actively needed.