



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

Volume XIX

Autumn, 2005

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Great Meadows Conservation Trust is co-sponsoring in the following events.



### 17th ANNUAL NAYAUG CANOE & KAYAK RACE & RIVERFRONT CELEBRATION

On the Kinne's farm off Pease Lane  
South Glastonbury

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005

9:30 a.m.: Riverfront Pancake Breakfast  
On-going musical entertainment,  
Police K-9 demonstrations and more!

One & two mile races start at 12:00 noon  
Five & eight mile races at 1:30 p.m.

Registration starts 2 hours before each race and ends  
30 minutes before each race

Race entry fee: \$12 each (Girl & Boy Scouts \$6 each)

Sponsored by: Land Heritage Coalition, **Great Meadows Conservation Trust**, Service Club of Glastonbury. It is part of the New England Canoe & Kayak Racing Association Point Series.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005  
7 - 9:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
GLASTONBURY TOWN HALL, 2155 MAIN ST.

This informal evening with the candidates for Town Council will give citizens an opportunity to meet and influence candidates on the future of Glastonbury. The candidates will be asked prepared questions relating to our environment, our air, water and land; to needed changes in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development; to continuing land preservation and acquisition; ways to encourage maintaining remaining workable farmland and on to protect our historic districts. Written questions from the audience will be welcome.

Sponsored by: Land Heritage Coalition, **Great Meadows Conservation Trust**, Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury and Glastonbury Coalition for Sensible Growth and Kongsicut Land Trust.



## **VIEWED FROM A KAYAK**

**by Jim Woodworth**

On a perfect August afternoon, the Wethersfield Cove was a natural paradise as I guided my kayak among the moored boats toward Folly Brook. A southerly breeze fanned my back. Sun glistened on the water. Mud flats at the mouth of Folly Brook were studded with sea gulls, white feathers drifted like huge snowflakes before the breeze, tiny least sandpipers dipped in the mud. As I waited for the flooding tide to lift and push me over the sand bar, a huge osprey circled, skimmed the surface for tiny swirling and jumping fish, and landed on the far shore. As I drifted over the bar and turned toward the green tunnel of Folly Brook, a great blue heron lifted gracefully off, while another, a gawky adolescent, lowered its long neck and ducked under the overhanging roots on the bank to hide from me. As my yellow boat drew closer, it squeezed through a narrow opening in the roots, flew awkwardly across the brook, and bumped into a tree trunk before stalking away through the trees and ferns. As I glided into the cool shade of Folly Brook, a green heron with juvenile streaked neck and gray wings appeared on a limb of a tree trunk dipping into the brook. As I paddled deeper into the darkened tunnel leaves, it seemed to beckon me in, never leaving my sight as it flitted from one trunk to the next. Finally, as I neared the tangle of downed trunks blocking passage beyond the curve, a second, then a third heron appeared, before they flew off around the corner, sharp "skew" piercing the silence. What looked at first like a log floating in the water, on second look was a pair of giant snapping turtles, locked in a lifeless embrace. Pivoting in the water, I paddled toward the sunlight. Another green heron, silhouetted against the blue sky, flew off into the marsh on the DeMille easement. A belted kingfisher perched on a black willow snag, rose to hover overhead, wings fluttering, and plunged into the shallow waters. On the muddy shore, a solitary spotted sandpiper, wearing its sober gray and white fall colors, foraged the mudding bank. Crossing over the sandbar against the tide, I saw the waters of the cove spread out, dotted with boats at anchor, the shore lined with fisherman basking in late afternoon sun.



## **EAGLE BORN IN MEADOWS**

**by Duffy Schade**

Another bald eagle now sours in the updrafts over Great Meadows and swoops low over the river and coves in search of fish. Her black leg band bears the unromantic name of 8D, identifying her as the female born this year in the Great Meadows.

On May 27th Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Wildlife Technician, Geoff Krukar climbed up the tree supporting her nest, put her into a canvas sack and lowered her to the ground. There Wildlife Division biologist, with the help of several others collected data on her, an attending veterinarian monitored her vital signs, and individual bands were put on her legs for future identification. Meanwhile her parents flew overhead, undoubted anxious to reclaim their offspring and bring her food. Soon she was returned to the sack and Krukar hauled her back to the nest and retreated to the ground. Banding eagle chicks has provided useful information for studying and managing the species. This spring an eagle who was raised in the wild by foster parents in 1993 was identified by his band as he nested in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

Our chick is one of 14 raised in Connecticut this year. Two others nests in Hartford county produced two young each. The DEP Wildlife Division does not disclose the exact location of nests in order to protect the eagles from disturbance.

8D will be uniformly grayish-brown until she is four or five years old, when she will attain the distinctive white head and tail and brownish-black body. She will become larger than a male eagle, obtaining 10-14 pounds, a length of 43 inches and a 7.5 foot wingspan. Male reach 8-9 pounds, 34 inches in length and a 6-foot wingspan. She may live to be 25-30 years of age. If she cannot find enough fish, she will eat anything that she can catch easily or scavenged such as waterfowl, small and large mammals and livestock carrion.

Although bald eagles are increasing in numbers in Connecticut, they remain on the state endangered list. Federally they are on the threatened list.

## NEW BROCHURE



The above photograph appears on the front piece of Great Meadows Conservation Trust's new brochure. It was a team effort, so there are many members to thank, including the following. Phil Lohman designed the layout and prepared it for printing. Text was assembled, written, and proofread by Duffy Schade, Jolly Steffens, Dick and Joan Mihm. Duffy also supplied the photographs. Mary Carter arranged to have the printing donated by Northeast Utilities Berlin Reproduction Department. We are particularly grateful to them.

## FERRY 350 CELEBRATION

GMCT members, Rick Doran, Peter Maxwell, Jolly Steffens and Jim Woodworth, were instrumental in the successful celebration of the Glastonbury-Rocky Hill Ferry's 350th birthday on June 11th. Our land trust was one of the cosponsors.

The celebration took place in the Ferry Parks on both sides of the river. Saluted by a spray from hoses of the South Glastonbury Fire Company and escorted by two bagpipers, the Color Guard of the National Guardsmen ferried to Rocky Hill for opening ceremonies there. As several bands played, hayrides, antique cars and tents with supporting organizations' displays lent a festive air. Jim Woodworth lead a bike ride from Old Wethersfield through the Meadows to Rocky Hill Ferry Park as GMCT's special contribution to the activities. DOT Deputy Commissioner Richard Jaworski, State Senators Ciotto and Handley and State Representatives Gogins, Buerrara and Doyle all came and spoke briefly. The Ferry made a record 70 crossings as it carried folk back and forth free of charge.

Letters of commendation and proclamations from President Bush, the House of Representatives, Senators Dodd and Lieberman, Connecticut State Assembly and Governor Rell demonstrated strong political support for the previously endangered Ferry.

Peter Maxwell and Jolly Steffens  
contributed to this story.

## WINTER WALKS IN GREAT MEADOWS

Co-sponsored by GMCT and  
Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury

Sat. Jan. 14, 2006, 10 a.m. – noon

GMCT parcels in Glastonbury.

Leader: Larry Lunden, GMCT Land Management Chair

Meet: CAS Center at Glastonbury, 1361 Main Street

Sun. Jan 22, 2 – 3 p.m.

Eleanor B. Wolf parcel, Wethersfield

Leader: Jim Woodworth, GMCT president

Meet: Hartford Avenue, opposite Jordon Lane.

Sat. Jan 28, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GMCT Hockanum Meadows parcels, East Hartford

Leader: Jim Woodworth

Meet: Hockanum Park, High Street, East Hartford

Sun., Feb. 5, 2 – 3 p.m.

Methodist Church parcel in the Rocky Hill meadows

Leader: Larry Lunden

Meet: Ferry Park, next to the ferry Landing, Rt. 160,  
Rocky Hill.

Sat., Feb. 11, 10 – 11 a.m.

Our Wood parcel, Wethersfield

Leader: Jim Woodworth

Meet: Middletown Avenue, south of Maple Street.

Dress for the weather and ground conditions. Bad weather may revise or cancel. Call the CAS Center at Glastonbury: 633-8402 for up to date information.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Bruce A. Maclachlan**, a life -long conservationist & outdoor man, was Life Member of GMCT, also, a member of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, Hartford Audubon and the Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury, serving on its board for a number of years. He led youth groups on trips on the river, as well as camping in the White Mountains & on wilderness trips. Twice over the years, he & his wife paddled the length of the CT. River together.

**William H. Lohman, Jr.M.D.**, a long time member of GMCT, was an ardent horseman. Through his daily rides along the farm roads & trails he knew well the Great Meadows in Glastonbury. Wanting to protect those meadows, he supported the conservation work of both GMCT and the Land Heritage Coalition.

Submitted by Jolly Steffens



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## CONNECTICUT RIVER *SOURCE TO THE SEA CLEAN UP DAY* Saturday, October 1, 2006

Connecticut River Watershed Council is calling for volunteers to get their hands and clothes dirty and clean up the shores of the Connecticut River watershed. The local effort is being coordinated by Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury. The annual project will begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information call the CAS center at 633-8402.



Last year Gerhard and Duffy Schade participated in the river cleanup by canoe.

## MOTOCROSS BIKES IN MEADOWS by Jim Woodworth

The Rocky Hill Town Council passed an ordinance on September 19 prohibiting “Organized Motorcross Riding or Racing”. The ordinance cited findings that motorcycle or car racing is “a sporting activity that is noisy, produces dust and vehicle pollution and increases traffic in generally agricultural, undeveloped and/or residential areas,” and further that motorized racing is a “potentially dangerous sporting activity with a material risk of injury to its participants, spectators and/or officials, imposing an increased burden on Town Police, Fire and Ambulance services.”

While the ordinance will not affect the operation of the Connecticut River Motorcross Track that has been operating in the Rocky Hill Meadows for ten years, it will prevent future loss of farmland to racing operations. Jabber Productions has an application pending before Inland Wetlands to build a second motocross track. Jabber, who had withdrawn their applications before they came to public hearings in Rocky Hill Inland Water and Wetlands Commission and Plan and Zoning Commission in 2004, submitted a Flood Encroachment Application to DEP in July 2005. While this application has yet to be decided, Jabber has submitted a new application to Rocky Hill IWWC. A Public Hearing is scheduled for Oct. 15, 2005.

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This issue of Meadow View was edited and photographs by Duffy Schade.

Contributions by: Peter Maxwell, Jolly Steffens and Jim Woodworth.