

The Meadow View



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

Vol. XXVII No. 1

Winter 2011

President's Report for 2010

Mark Packard, President

2010 was a long year. Policies and procedures to be written, court dates to be kept, expectant acquisitions to be inspected. Your Board and Operations Committees were very busy in 2010. I've tried to capture the highlights below. Suffice it to say, the Trust has a strong presence in the Meadows and the Meadows are better off for it.

Baril Parcel Although technically not transferred to the Trust until February 2011 I'm taking credit for this donation in 2010. Carl Baril of Glastonbury and his family from points beyond have deeded a wonderful parcel of tillable farmland just north of the Putnam Bridge, to the Trust. It's amazing the amount of effort

that is undertaken to make a transaction like this take place. Title searches and environmental assessments, parcel inspections and board approvals. All need to be considered before we accept the donation of a parcel.



President Mark Packard (rt.) and Secretary Rick Doran join hikers in the

See President's —page 3

Trust Founding Member Joe Hickey Honored by American Trails

American Trails has awarded a Path of Excellence program State Trail Worker Award for Connecticut to Joe Hickey

Joyce Rossgnol

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Joe Hickey was chosen by American Trails as this year's recipient of the State Trail Worker Award for Connecticut.

Mr. Hickey was praised for his "lifetime of service to protecting and preserving Connecticut's trails and open space. He has walked up and down every hill and knoll in the state scouting new trail routes, trail connections, and land preservation opportunities."

Mr. Hickey has worked in various capacities at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in the State Parks Division. There he was involved in the development of several state outdoor recreation plans that were a requirement to receive land and water conservation funds. For years he served as the state's trails coordinator and he was a leading advocate for trail development within the DEP. He was also responsible for implementation of the Recreation Trails Program in Connecticut.



Joe (center) celebrating the Wilkus Farm preservation.

Mr. Hickey was instrumental in forging a creative partnership between the DEP and the Connecticut National Guard to develop the Air Line State Park Trail, one of the state's first rail-to-trail projects. Guardsmen cleared and graded the old rail bed, and the DEP realized huge cost savings along the way. Several subsequent trail projects benefited from this bond.

He represented the DEP on several advisory boards during his tenure, including the committee that approved the designation of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. He was also active in the designation of the Quinebaug Shetucket Natural Heritage Corridor and the Last Green Valley.

Following his retirement, he has been active in the Land Conservation Coalition and successor organizations like the open space task force. He was appointed by Governor Rowland/Governor Rell to the Connecticut Greenways Council, on which he has served for more than 10 years. He was awarded the council's Lifetime Achievement award in 1999. He is also a member of the Connecticut environmental review

See Joe—page 2

Annual Meeting Agenda—March 28, 2011

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting 2010
2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2010
3. President's annual report to the members
4. Report of the Nominating Committee.
5. Election of Directors to serve through 2014.
6. Election of Officers to serve until next annual meeting.
7. Vote to Amend the By-Laws:
Article VI, 3. Land Acquisition Committee. The func-

- tion of the Land Acquisition Committee shall be to **recommend to the Board of Directors the acquisition** of parcels of land and easements, primarily in the Connecticut River flood plain in the Towns of Wethersfield, Glastonbury and Rocky Hill, in the name of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. by means of purchase, gift, easement or devise.
8. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2011

Members: Duffy Schade, Sandi Kelly, Ralph Moyer
2011 Slate of Officers and Directors

Officers:

- President – Mark Packard (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2013)
- Vice President – vacant
- Secretary – Jim Zagroba (Rocky Hill – 2nd 2012)
- Treasurer – Richard Doran (Wethersfield – 1st – 2014)

Directors

- Richard Doran (Wethersfield – 1st – 2014)
- Sandy Weiss (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2014)
- Tom Kehoe (Glastonbury – 1st – 2014)
- Penny Rusnak (Glastonbury-1st-2014)

Continuing Directors

- Mark Packard (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2013)

- Ingrid Boelhouwer (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2012)
- James Zagroba (Rocky Hill – 2nd - 2012)
- Joseph Hickey (Wethersfield – 1st – 2012)
- Elizabeth Schmitt (Glastonbury – 1st – 2012)
- Sandi Kelly (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2013)
- Richard Johnson (Rocky Hill – 1st -2013)
- Rebecca M. Zalznock (Wethersfield – 1st – 2013)

Retiring Directors

- Judy Haddad (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2011)
- Peter Maxwell (Rocky Hill – 2nd – 2011)
- David Ahlgren (Glastonbury – 1st-2011)

Spring Events Details @ www.gmct.org

Mon., March 28. 7pm, Ken Etheridge talks Eagles. Pitkin Community Center, Wethersfield. Hillside Garden Club. .

Sat., April 30. 7am. Hike Quarry Park with Larry Lunden 10am - 3pm. Earth Fair, CAS Glast.

Connecticut Trails Day Hikes, Saturday, June 4

- 8am-11am. Hike from Ferry Park with Ken Etheridge.
- 9am-noon. Hike Crow Point with Jim Woodworth

Sunday, June 5, 10am-noon. Bike Heritage Trail with Jim Woodworth Cove Park to Ferry Landing

GMCT joins Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

N to N Energy Challenge, a new community-based program to promote energy efficiency and clean energy, hopes to leverage friendly competition to help residents save money, cut energy consumption, and reduce pollution. Sign up now for a lighting audit and receive up to 15 free CFL bulbs. Help convince your neighbors to get a \$75 energy audit. Earn points for the GMCT. Details at www.ctenergychallenge.com. Questions? **860-232-6232**.

Joe—continued

team, a group of professionals who volunteer their time to evaluate the environmental impact of projects around the state.

Instrumental in land protection efforts along the blue-blazed trail system, Mr. Hickey provides the Connecticut Forest and Park Association with a working vision for protected lands and trail corridors across the state. His development of the proposed East-West Trail will someday link the Appalachian and New England trails. He is known and respected throughout the state's trail community for his tenacity, his vision and for his much-coveted set of annotated topographic maps.

Mr. Hickey said of the award, "I was very pleasantly surprised. I've tried to make a difference for many years but this was a shot out of the blue. I have been a lifelong conservationist and getting the Great Meadows Trust off the ground was my idea. I went to (the late) Eleanor Wolf and said 'we've got to do something.' She got people together and we were off and running.

"I'm doing a lot of volunteer work with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association right now on trails. One of my dreams is to

establish a new hiking trail that would connect the National New England Trail, (the old Metacomet Trail) and the Appalachian Trail. I've had mixed results so far. Some major landowners have said yes. I've also had a chance to work on a smaller trail out in the Canaan area. The so-called Iron Trail would extend over Canaan Mountain north to the Iron Furnace.

"I'm still in the game and rocking the boat and hopefully will be for a long time to come."

Here in Wethersfield, Mr. Hickey was honored as person of the year at last winter's Irish Dinner. He has been a long-time member of the Irish-American Home Society in Glastonbury and has served on the Irish Northern Aid Committee. He is also a member of the Irish-American Cultural Institute. He has served the town as the chairman of the planning and zoning commission, and the conservation commission and clean energy committee. Mr. Hickey currently is head of the design review committee and the shade tree commission and is a member of the Wilkus Farms planning committee.

Land Management Report 2010

Larry Lunden, Land Management Chair

We now own 45 parcels with a total area of 172.1 acres. We have three easements with a total area of 14.7 acres. We have completed inspections on 30 parcels this year. Over the last three years we have inspected all of our parcels.

We held eight winter walks for the public, with a total attendance of 232, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Audubon Society at Glastonbury and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. Meetup.com continues to be a good form of publicity.

Our leasing program with local farmers continues to keep 50 acres of farmland in active use.

One of the new Hayes parcels in Wethersfield came with an inconsistency between the location of the parcel on the assessor's maps and the actual use of the fields. We had a survey of the parcels in the area completed, and we reached a boundary line agreement with our neighbor. The town is still processing the changes needed.

On one of our winter walks, we discovered an elegant tree house built on one of our parcels. We are currently in negotiations to lease the small area to the neighbor.

The town of Rocky Hill has produced a new set of assessor's maps using GIS technology, resulting in more precise location of the parcels. The maps are also available on the web. I added the corners of our parcels to our GPS files to make it easier to locate our parcels in the field.

The Metropolitan District Commission has a right-of-way through the Wood parcel for a sewer line. They came in to

President's Report from page 1

Land Trust Alliance. For the past few years we have been working towards accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. Gaining this accreditation requires policy reviews as well as the creation of other policies that had not been documented in the past. We have made great strides in this area and are looking forward to accreditation in the future. A land acquisition policy and a records management policy have both been drafted. These are not small tasks and committee members have spent many hours drafting and reviewing these important documents. Having these policies in place will help to guide present and future members of the Trust in fulfilling our goal to protect and preserve the meadows. Accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance will help us show others we are an organization worthy of doing business with.

Land Acquisition Committee At our Annual Meeting last year, author and renowned Conservationist David Morine challenged us to fulfill the mission of the Trust—to get our assets out of the bank and into the Great Meadows. Indeed, it's worth pointing out that owning land strengthens our voice in many ways. When we own even

do some maintenance on the line, and to establish a roadway for their vehicles to access the line. We combined the roadway with the trail on the parcel to reduce the impact on the vegetation. At the same time they moved a junk car off the parcel for us.

We acquired a new parcel from the Baril family in Glastonbury—the first acquisition in Glastonbury since 1983. The 0.7 acre parcel consists of a farming field, and will be leased to Overbrook Farm for pig corn in the spring. Additional parcels are under study for the Acquisition Committee, and possible action is still pending.

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 discovered a map in the Glastonbury town records that shows where it is. At 450 square feet, it is our smallest parcel. I asked the town assessor to update their maps to show the parcel.

We are planning to participate in an easement defense insurance program being developed by the Land Trust Alliance. Baseline photos and field notes were completed in 2009 and baseline documentation and landowner acknowledgment letters should be completed in the coming year.

small parcels, we become abutters to larger parcels, and have a stronger voice with the town when development threatens. We've restructured the Land Acquisition Committee to include two people from each town, and are working hard to acquire key pieces of the meadows in all three communities. We are actively seeking to expand our holdings, and influence, in the process.

Rocky Hill Landfill A case in point for the influence garnered by owning land is the former Rocky Hill landfill. Because we own an abutting parcel to the landfill property, we have a very strong voice in what happens on that site. 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. The CT Department of Environmental Protection has issued a consent order to the property owners requiring certain actions be performed by certain dates.

It's a tired, but still true maxim: "There *is* strength in numbers." Our voice with our elected officials gets stronger with every member who recommits to our shared stewardship of the Great Meadows.



Larry Lunden and Jim Woodworth led 177 hikers, snowshoers, and skiers through the record snows of 2011.

2010 Treasurer's Report

Value of Great Meadows Conservation Trust Funds

	Value on 01/01/2010	Value on 12/31/2010
EBWLPF Fund	\$145,215.50	\$157,157.15
Endowment Fund	\$5,004.34	\$5,007.43
GMCT General Fund	\$40,209.10	\$43,170.43
Total Stewardship Fund	\$8,203.67	\$8,893.45
Grand Total	\$198,632.61	\$214,228.46

DICK AND JOAN MIHM—VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Duffy Schade

Bald eagles nest in the Great Meadows. Corn grows as high as an elephant's eye in the Great Meadows. People farm, bird-watch, walk, bicycle, hunt, ride snowmobiles, fly model airplanes and love the Great Meadows. Great Meadows Conservation Trust endeavors to preserve the Great Meadows for all these reasons and more. At the core of our success lies countless hours of quiet, diligent work by our Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Dick and Joan Mihm. For their work, GMCT is celebrating them as their 2011 Volunteers of the Year. Actually that title is an under-statement, because between them Joan and Dick have freely given us their time and talent for over four decades!

Dick became Treasurer in 2006. He has put his experience from working for Quodata Corporation, a Hartford software firm, and then the Phoenix to use by developing a database spreadsheet in Excel software for keeping track of the trust's complicated finances. Income and expenses are appropriated into four separate funds. The General Fund is funded mostly through annual dues and contributions under \$25.00. These monies are used for general operations of the trust: postage, printing, officers insurance, etc. The E.B. Wolf Fund is used for land acquisition and is funded through monetary gifts and contributions over \$25.00. The Stewardship Fund is used to maintain and improve our existing land holding and is funded primarily through lease rents and grants. Finally there is an Endowment fund that was established through a bequest from the estate of William Reed, who was a member of the



**Dick and Joan Mihm—
2011 Volunteers of the Year**

Trust. The Treasurer also manages the trust's investments with Vanguard with advice from the Finance Committee and approval from the Board of Directors..

Many a kid who went through Glastonbury High School remembers Mr. Mihm as a physics teacher. Dick was head of the Science Department for several years before joining the corporate sector. He was a member of the Glastonbury Conservation Commission for many years. Since retiring in 2000 he volunteers for the Glastonbury Historical Society helping with the photograph collection at their museum, putting his computer skills to work.

Even while raising their two children, Kathy and Steven, and working part-time at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library (now retired), Joan has been our Membership Chairman for over 35

years. She jumped into the Membership Committee soon after she and Dick joined the trust in 1970, and took over the chairmanship from Marion Flagerty in 1975. The job was easy then! Thanks to Bob Fellows, a GMCT member and President of Glastonbury Bank and Trust, all contributions to the trust, whether membership dues, donations or other payments, were sent to our address c/o the bank, and deposited into our account. The bank kept all the transaction records and reported them to Marion, all *pro bono*. However, soon after Joan took on the task, Bob Fellows retired and moved away. The succeeding bank officers decided that henceforth GMCT would be charged for this service. There was not enough money in our young treasury to pay for that.

See Joan & Dick—Page 6

2010 Treasurer's Report, cont.

Treasurer Report - 2010- Fourth Quarter							
GENERAL FUND		Budget	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Income							
	Membership Dues	\$2,100.00	\$1,475.00	\$275.00	\$385.00	\$765.00	\$2,900.00
	Life Memberships	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
	Contributions	\$300.00	\$111.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$161.00
	Annual Dinner Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,265.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,320.00
	Matching Gifts	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Grants	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Misc. Income	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$1,037.00	\$1,049.00
	Vanguard Investment Interest	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Transferred From Vanguard	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$4,135.00	\$2,851.00	\$655.00	\$407.00	\$2,117.00	\$6,030.00
Expenses							
	Administration	\$400.00	\$22.71	\$167.95	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$990.66
	Insurance	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,082.30	\$1,082.30
	Newsletter Printing	\$500.00	\$301.95	\$8.35	\$61.91	\$195.00	\$567.21
	Postage	\$450.00	\$127.60	\$0.00	\$176.00	\$114.40	\$448.00
	Stationery	\$150.00	\$104.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$104.51
	Membership in Organizations	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Awards and Gifts	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Annual Dinner Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,381.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,381.59
	Misc. Expenses	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Transfers To Vanguard	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$4,135.00	\$1,938.36	\$176.30	\$237.91	\$2,441.70	\$4,794.27
STEWARDSHIP FUND							
Income		Budget					
	Contributions	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Land Rental-Leases	\$3,500.00	\$850.00	\$1,295.00	\$1,320.00	\$0.00	\$3,465.00
	Grants	\$100.00	\$2,216.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,216.54
	Vanguard Investment Interest	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Transferred From Vanguard	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$4,850.00	\$3,066.54	\$1,295.00	\$1,320.00	\$0.00	\$5,681.54
Expenses							
	Administration	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Insurance	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,908.00	\$1,908.00
	Stewardship	\$2,750.00	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195.80	\$2,445.80
	Transfers to Vanguard	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$4,850.00	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,103.80	\$4,353.80
E. B. WOLF FUND							
Income							
	Contributions	\$950.00	\$1,365.00	\$425.00	\$120.00	\$420.00	\$1,910.00
	Grants	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Memorial Gift	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Matching Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Vanguard Investment Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Transferred From Vanguard	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$1,100.00	\$1,365.00	\$425.00	\$120.00	\$420.00	\$2,330.00
Expenses							
	Land Acquisition	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Legal Fees	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Taxes	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Transfers to Vanguard	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total							
	Income	Total Income (Quarters)	\$7,282.54	\$2,375.00	\$1,847.00	\$2,537.00	\$14,041.54
	Expenses	Total Expenses (Quarters)	\$4,188.36	\$176.30	\$237.91	\$4,545.50	\$9,148.07
ENDOWMENT FUND							
Income							
	William Reed Component	\$5,004.34					\$5,007.43
	Endowment Fund Income	\$0.00					\$3.09
Expenses							
	Income Withdrawal	\$0.00					
BankNorth Checking Account		Balance	General	Stewardship	E.B.Wolf		
	1/1/2010	\$10,350.05	-\$1,328.89	\$10,127.67	\$1,551.27	\$10,350.05	
	12/31/2010	\$15,188.52	-\$148.16	\$11,455.41	\$3,881.27	\$15,188.52	

WINTER HOME By Duffy Schade

A safe place to hang out, water and food, what more can a goose ask for when a blanket of snow covers the landscape and most fresh water bodies are frozen? Several hundred Canada geese are finding the Connecticut River and Glastonbury Meadows a good place to be this white winter.

My husband, Gerhard, and I drove up to the old Hallmark Tire Company (future site of the Glastonbury Boathouse) one cold mid-January morning to have a look at the Connecticut River. In spite of the cold weather we had been having, an open channel flowed past fused ice chunks on each shore. At a distance downstream, we noticed that the icy edge was densely speckled with geese! Scores and more of them rest in a place where few if any predators would dare to tread.

A week later, we followed snowmobile tracks in the Glastonbury Meadows on cross-country skis. We headed south, closer to the old Meadow Drain than the river. Geese were constantly flying overhead—big V's, broken V's, small disorganized groups, a few singles, all heading south. Why south, it's January—isn't that



Geese love corn on the cob too!

a little late for migrating? The answer came as we approached an un-harvested cornfield—a short beeline from the place we had seen them on the river.

As someone approached from the far end of the field., a few geese took off, then more and more. Hundreds of angry geese became a noisy cloud. The sound reminded me of Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds". Their honking faded as they headed back to their refuge on the river.

Geese are now common in Connecticut all year, as they were in Colonial times, though then they were mostly migrants. Their numbers declined in the 18th and 19th centuries as unregulated and market hunting decimated their population. In the early 1900s protective regulations reversed the trend. Game breeders, private groups and sportsmen released Canada geese over the years. These resident geese adapted to our changing landscape and their numbers continue to increase. They have everything they need in the Nutmeg state, so have no reason to migrate. As they graze and defecate on golf courses, lawns, farmers' fields, and pollute reservoirs, many people consider them a nuisance.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) identifies three distinct Canada geese populations in the

Joan & Dick—from Page 4

Tasks that fell into Joan's lap quite quickly grew. We needed to have a new address. So we obtained a Post Office box in Glastonbury. Who would be in charge of collecting mail from it? As dues and other payments amounted to the biggest source of mail, Joan stepped up. She became the one to pick it all up and make certain that each piece reaches the proper destination.

Joan inherited from the bank a metal large index card file box and a ledger containing membership records from the 1968 founding of the trust. That remains the source of information about our membership. There is a card for each member, single or family, with name, address, and phone number on to which Joan enters each renewal and contribution. She also records each check in the ledger with its important data, and she notes the date when she deposits the check. The treasurer has no need to even see these checks.

All that is only part of the job she has been doing these many years. In addition she writes thank you notes to everyone who donates over \$25.00. To major donors she sends a formal letter

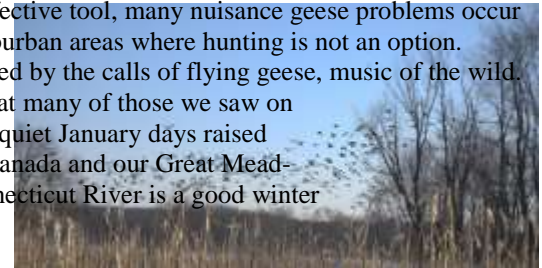


Down river from the old Hallmark Tire Co. (future Glastonbury Boathouse site) specks on the ice are resting Canada geese. Photos by Duffy

state from fall into early spring. The Atlantic Population nests in northern Quebec and spends winters from Massachusetts southward to North Carolina, primarily in the Chesapeake region. The North Atlantic Population breeds in the Canadian Maritime provinces and western Greenland and winters primarily in southern New England and eastern Long Island. The Atlantic Flyway Resident Population breed throughout Connecticut, but are found in highest densities in urbanized areas where hunting exposure is low.

It is generally these year-round resident geese that cause the most damage, being here in spring and summer. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages Canada geese and all migratory game birds, primarily through scheduling hunting seasons timed to occur when migrants are not present in Connecticut and directing hunting toward the resident population. Though hunting is an effective tool, many nuisance geese problems occur in urban and suburban areas where hunting is not an option.

I am still thrilled by the calls of flying geese, music of the wild. I like to think that many of those we saw on those otherwise quiet January days raised their young in Canada and our Great Meadows on the Connecticut River is a good winter home for them.



acceptable to the IRS. How do members get their annual report, dues requests and newsletters? Although she used to have help from members in each town, it comes down to Joan who stuffs, applies address labels, stamps and sends them off. Dick has helped with developing a database of membership information that produces mailing labels. Not long ago they were all hand-written.

Joan and Dick announced at least a year ago that they wished to retire from their volunteer work for GMCT. Indeed these are hard shoes to fill. GMCT is fortunate that Rick Doran, Past-president and Secretary, has agreed to be the new Treasurer. Sandy Weiss, who is a nominee from Rocky Hill for the Board of Directors, has agreed to take on the Membership role.

This is Joan's second Volunteer of the Year award from GMCT, as she was recognized in 1999. She is the first to win it twice. That is the very least our Trust can do to celebrate the work she and Dick have done. The Board of Directors and Operations Committee will miss seeing them at monthly meetings.

**Special Guest Speaker
TNC's Christian Marks
The State of the CT River
Flood Plain Forest**



Christian will share with us the results of the ambitious field study of floodplain forests he has led throughout the entire Connecticut River watershed.

Christian's data will guide forest restoration efforts that will expand their capacity to provide water filtration, flood control, and wild-life migration corridors



Tree marker #4896 on a sturdy oak tree in our Wood Parcel is one of 14, 212 trees that Christian Marks and his crew measured, tagged, and recorded in their GPS database from the Canadian Border to Long Island Sound. TNC and Goodwin College, with GMCT's support submitted a grant proposal for flood plain forest restoration on Crow Point.

Lucky Lou's Bar and Grill

222 Main Street

Wethersfield

Thursday, March 24th

Social hour 5:30 Dinner 6:30

Annual Meeting and speaker to follow

Buffet Dinner Menu:

Salad of baby field greens

Chicken Arugula over chive mashed potatoes

Blackened petite salmon over toasted orzo

Pasta Maria—vegetarian pasta

Dessert of rice pudding, or dessert of the day in mini espresso cups

Reg/decaf coffee & tea included

Cash Bar for all other beverages and soda

—clip here—

GMCT Annual Dinner Reservations

Please reserve *no later* than March 17th

for the dinner Thursday, March 24th, 2011

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

The cost per person for dinner is \$27.50.

Name(s): _____

Phone Number _____ Address _____

Dinners @ \$27.50

_____ = _____

Memberships @ \$15 individual/\$25 family

_____ = _____

Additional Donation

Total Enclosed:

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

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



Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Glastonbury, CT 06033
WWW. GMCT.org

Call to Annual Meeting Dinner Meeting

Thursday, March 24th

Lucky Lou's Bar and Grill, 222 Main Street, Wethersfield

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A Loon fishes in Keeney Cove



The Meadows—Open Space
by Ed Chiucarello

I walk Great Meadow Road
Over Goff Brook
Along a field in the Rocky Hill Meadows
I am in open space
My breath lengthens
My tempo slows
My eyes fill

A brisk January day
I stop
Patches of light brown grass puncture fields of snow
Cumulus clouds hug the Glastonbury hills

I am in open space
Filled with peace
My breath sighs
My heart beats