

Press Release:

Great Meadows Conservation Trust. Inc.

Earth Day Work Party!

9 am to 12 pm, Saturday, April 27.

Come when you can, stay as long as you can, work hard, have fun!

The Wood Parcel, corner of Middletown Avenue and Maple Street/Route 3

Four Ways to Celebrate Earth Day and Improve the Environment!

1. Join Jim Woodworth and Linda Nielson to take on the Bush Honeysuckle infestation! We're clearing invasive species to make way for planting disease resistant Elm Trees in the fall, donated by The Nature Conservancy. Bring gloves and loppers. We'll treat the stumps with herbicide as we go along to prevent resprouting. Introduced as an ornamental in the 19th Century, bush honeysuckle outcompetes native plants by leafing out early, shading its competition, sending out chemicals to inhibit other plant growth; birds spread its berries. The 18th Century Robins homestead dooryard, displaced by Route 3 sixty years ago, is overgrown bush honey suckle and multiflora rose, dotted with dead elm snags. Make way for native pollinator trees, shrubs and flowers.
2. Join Phil Wilsey, AMC and CF&P trail building expert for trail improvements. Bring your gloves and shovels, wheel barrows if you got'em! Help spread 5 yards of recycled stone material donated by Wethersfield Construction to extend the parking area, make the trail all weather and wheel chair worthy.
3. Join Erik Marziak to enhance and expand the "Beaver Dam Analog" to prevent erosion of rich soil from the corn field. Last Spring's efforts proved effective in reducing erosion, but more is needed to slow and filter runoff from climate change enhanced rain events.
4. Join the Scouts of GSA Troop 10300 and take on the garlic mustard that flourishes along the trail in the woods and other places. This is a flower with a two year life cycle that pulls up pretty easily, and is pretty easily identifiable. The first year it develops a "roseate" of toothy leaves, and then the second year it shoots up a stem with flowers. Each plant can produce 15000 seeds. The more we can pull up before they go to seed, the better. Brought to America as a garlic flavored herb high in vitamin A and C, with medicinal qualities, garlic mustard replaces crowds out native plants. Bring a pail and fill it with garlic mustard. Take some home for dinner, and come back and pick more!

RSVP at info@gmct.org or Jim Woodworth @ 860-808-9968 or just show up!