

Brisk Winter Walks 2015

This is the schedule for the Great Meadows Conservation Trust winter walks for 2015, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center in Wethersfield.

Rescheduled to Saturday, January 10, 10:00 am

~~Sunday, January 4, 1:00 pm, Wethersfield.~~ About 1 ½ hours. Meet Jim Woodworth at 160 Middletown Ave, south of Maple St, on GMCT's Wood Parcel. Cross the shiny bridge and follow the trail along the marsh and around the loop past the 18th century house site. Hike will continue along the edge of the farm fields that once hosted the original "Pyquag" Native American summer camp and along the marsh.

From I-91 south take exit 25 S to route 3 south, or from Glastonbury take route 3 south over the Putnam Bridge. At the second light turn left onto Middletown Ave. From I-91 north take exit 24 to route 99 north. Take route 99 1.3 miles to a traffic light. Turn right onto route 3 north. At the first light turn right onto Middletown Ave. Make a U turn and park on the left side of Middletown Ave.

Sunday, January 11, 1:00 pm, Wethersfield. About 2 hours. Meet Jim Woodworth at 412 Hartford Ave, corner of Jordan La, for a short walk through the gate to our Wolf parcel and DeMille easement. See habitat improvements made with the help of a WHIP grant and volunteer work. Stay for a longer walk, another two and a half hours, up Hartford Ave. and out along the Hartford dike that divides the Folly Brook Nature area from the South Meadows Industrial Park.

Saturday, January 17, 10:00 am, Glastonbury. Meet Larry Lunden at 57 Point Rd, off of Naubuc Ave south of route 3 overpass. A long hike to our Dickau, Beers, Baril and Bidwell parcels in Point Meadows.

From I-91 take exit 25 N, route 3 north. Take the first exit to Main St Glastonbury. At the end of the ramp turn right and follow to end. Turn left and then right onto Point Rd, a small and difficult to see road. From route 2, take exit 5 D to route 3 south. Take the first exit to Main St Glastonbury. At the end of the ramp turn left and follow to end. Turn left; go under the highway, and then right onto Point Rd.

Saturday, January 31, 10:00 am, Rocky Hill. About 2 hours. Meet at 78 Goff Brook La, off of Old Main St. Join Jim Woodworth on a hike to several of our DiPaola, Brooks, McCann, or Ryan parcels in the Rocky Hill Meadows.

From I-91, take exit 24, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Silas Deane Highway, route 99 south. Take the Silas Deane a short distance to the second traffic light past the interchange. Turn left onto Marshall Rd and follow it to the end. Turn left onto Old Main St, and take the first right onto Goff Brook La. Meet just past the railroad crossing.

Sunday, February 8, 1:00 pm, Glastonbury. Meet Dan Schnaidt behind Glastonbury Town Hall, 2143 Main St. Hike to our Preissner parcel and out into the Glastonbury Meadows where we will see our new First Church of Christ, Glastonbury, parcel.

Saturday, February 14, 10:30 am, Glastonbury. Meet Larry Lunden at the Connecticut Audubon Center at 1361 Main St. We will take a short hike along the Connecticut River to our Austin and Matava parcels in the Glastonbury Meadows.

Saturday, Feb 21, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Wethersfield. 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 peel away the centuries to imagine the river bank before the bridge, and 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 highway across the ancient farmland and wetlands of the great meadows.

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 to 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 to exit onto Great Meadow Road, and turn right toward the parking lot.

Saturday, Feb 28, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, East Hartford. 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 in the "Wethersfield Triangle" of land marooned on the east side by the meandering of the river. Goodwin College students are studying environmental science here, experimenting with invasive species control and habitat enhancement. 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

Dress for the Weather and ground conditions. Many places will be muddy. Weather and water conditions may revise or cancel. This area is used for hunting, so wear an orange vest if you have one. Call the CT Audubon Society for the latest information, 860-633-8402. Free.