



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



The view of the marsh from "Ralph's Bench"

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

Vol. XXXVII no. 1

May 2022

## President's Report by *Tim Lewis*

I took a drive to Old Lyme during the first few days of April. It was a beautiful spring day, too windy to paddle but still warm enough to be out enjoying the sunshine.

At the Great Island State Boat Launch near the mouth of the CT River, there is a viewing platform. With a pair of binoculars, you can spy on all of the many Osprey platforms on Great Island. Every platform was occupied with these beautiful birds of prey that had just returned from a 4,000-mile flight from South America. The entire area was busy with activity as Ospreys worked to repair their nests. It was like watching folks returning to their summer cottages.

Spring is an exciting and busy time! Everything is coming back to life after a long winter. Farmers are busy preparing their fields in the Great Meadows. If you are a vegetable gardener like I am, you are anxious to get out and start planting. You, too, may have already started your lettuce, peas and other cold hardy plants.

We at Great Meadows Conservation Trust do not hibernate in the winter. We had a successful series of Brisk Winter Walks. New interpretive signs were installed at our Wood Parcel as part of the Heritage Walk project in Old Wethersfield.

At the Wood Parcel volunteers cleared invasives, followed by Earth Day planting of native trees and shrubs as we begin to act on the recommendations of the Environmental Review Team.

I made a list of our activities and accomplishments throughout the year. These include parcel inspections



Every platform on Great Isle was occupied by these beautiful birds of prey that had just returned from their winter in South America,

and reports, land management, land acquisition, trail maintenance, lease agreements, easements and even some legal issues. There are volunteer activities such as water chestnut pulls, source to sea cleanups and trails day activities and winter walks. There is financial management, publicity such as this newsletter, but also manning of tables at farmers markets and earth day activities. We also continue to monitor town activities relating to the Great Meadows and environmental issues.

These are accomplished by our members, and by community volunteers, high school environmental clubs, with assistance from organizations like the Connecticut River Conservancy, and Nature Conservancy.

As I have served as President these past two years, I have heard many people in the community, as well as members of our town and state government, tell me how much respect they have for GMCT and the work we do. I hope you feel that way too.

If you would like to experience a sense of satisfaction and witness some of our good work, please feel free to join us on one of our work days. Or, contact us to see where your strengths can be put to good use. I promise we will not seize upon you like an Osprey catching a fish. Instead, we'll be happy to have you join us in our work for as much or as little time as you can spare. Look for announcements on our Facebook page.

**To Join or renew your membership!** Go to [www.gmct.org/membership](http://www.gmct.org/membership) or use this form.

( ) \$20 – Individual ( ) \$350 – Life Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) \$30 – Family ( ) \$550 – Family Life Membership Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check payable to Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. to P.O.Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

## Agenda – Annual Meeting, June 11, 2022

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting March 27, 2021.
2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2021(see p. 2)
3. President's 2021 Annual Report (see p. 1)
4. Report of the Nominating Committee
5. Election of Directors to serve through 2023.  
Motion: That Chris Duff, Diana Evans, Paula Tamburo, and Jim Zagroba, be elected to serve as Directors for their respective terms.

6. Appointment by Directors of Directors to serve out unexpired terms: Motion: That Denise Lewis and Penny Rusnak be appointed to serve as Directors through 2024.
7. Election of Officers by the Directors to serve until the next annual meeting. Motion: That Chris Duff, Diana Evans, Pete Hinman and Richard Doran be elected to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively of the GMCT for the 2022 – 2023 term.

### 2022 Nominating Committee Report

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Penny Rusnak, Chair, Rick Doran, Peter Spangenberg, Ralph Moyer.

#### Retiring Directors:

Tim Lewis (Rocky Hill)  
Penny Rusnak (Glastonbury)  
Peter Spangenberg (Wethersfield)  
Sneha Jayaraj (Rocky Hill)

#### New Directors

(Town - Term of Office – Term Expiration)  
Chris Duff (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2025)  
Diana Evans (Wethersfield – 1st – 2025)  
Paula Tamburo (Glastonbury – 1st – 2025)  
Jim Zagroba (Rocky Hill – 2nd – 2025)

#### New Directors (to be appointed by Board)

Denise Lewis (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2024)  
Penny Rusnak (Glastonbury – 1st – 2023)

#### Directors Continuing Terms:

Kathy Beaty (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2024)  
John Ferguson (Glastonbury – 2nd– 2023)  
Gerry Hayes (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2024)  
Pete Hinman (Wethersfield – 1st – 2024)  
Tom Kehoe (Glastonbury – 1st – 2024)  
Linda Nielson (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2024)

#### Officers

**President – Chris Duff**  
(Rocky Hill –1st – 2025)  
**Vice President – Diana Evans**  
(Wethersfield – 1st – 2025)  
**Secretary – Pete Hinman**  
(Wethersfield – 1st – 2024)  
**Treasurer - Richard Doran**

### Get to know our new Board Members

**Diana Evans (Wethersfield):** I've been a member of GMCT since I moved to Wethersfield in 2014 and served two terms on the GMCT board; I've also served as Vice President. I am deeply committed to GMCT's mission of preserving the Meadows as open land disappears across our state. I've participated in many of GMCT's activities, from brisk winter walks to events at the Wood Parcel to GMCT picnics. I am recently retired from 40-plus years of teaching Political Science at Trinity College and serve on the boards of several organizations, including Common Cause of Connecticut.

**Denise Adams Lewis (Rocky Hill):** I am Tim's wife, mother of 2 married sons, and grandmother of six grandchildren. This is my most important legacy. I worked for almost 30 years at Rocky Hill High School as a special education paraprofessional. I have invested in the lives of teens in many capacities since 1974. I am hoping to get young people involved in working with GMCT. I have served as chairperson of organizations such as District Parent Advisory Council, PTO, Daughters of the American Revolution (Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Chapter), and was the assistant Registrar of Voters in Rocky Hill. I have had to speak many times for these organizations. In addition to these roles, I have served as a volunteer in many capacities both in church and in town. I think preserving land for future generations is important for all of us.

**Penny Rusnak (Glastonbury)** has been a member of the Trust since working to restore funding for the Ferry in 2013 She's also a member of Meshomasic Hiking Club,

Appalachian Mountain Club, Glastonbury Land Heritage, Friends of Welles Turner Library. Worked 20 years in IT in Healthcare insurance, 18 years at Hartford Public Library. Mother of son and daughter. Previously served as GMCT director for 2 terms plus one year as vice-president. Assisted with organising GMCT archives and led several winter hikes over the years.

**Paula Tamburro (Glastonbury):** I have been a Trust member since 2014 and recently renewed as a Life member. I have been a regular participant in the Source to the Sea cleanup of the Wethersfield Cove, have taken part in Brisk Winter Walks on various parcels, and participated in some parcel inspections. I have helped in planting the pollinator garden and followup garden maintenance. I am nature photographer and have enjoyed taking photographs of some of our parcel landscapes, vegetation, flowers and wildlife.

### Farm Lease Report – 2021

By Deb Creeden and Rick Doran

The Trust continues to lease 45 acres of our land to five farmers for planting crops in the Great Meadows. Intermittent flooding and high water levels again prevented Overbrook Farm from cultivating ten acres at Point Meadows in Glastonbury. The other farmers, including Anderson Farms, Botticello Farm, Fair Weather Growers and Winding Brook Turf Farm, successfully grew their crops in 2021, for total lease income of \$3440.

## 2022 Membership Report

By Pete Spangenberg, Membership Chair

The GMCT has improved the way we handle annual memberships. Now, members can look at the mailing label of their Meadow View newsletter and see when their annual membership is due for a renewal. We will also be including the membership renewal information in most of our outgoing communications where possible. We hope the new system will bring some needed clarity and members will find it easier to understand and maintain their memberships.

As always, renewals can be mailed to us at PO Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033 using the form in the newsletter or they can be renewed using a credit card or a PayPal account by following the Donate link at the GMCT website [www.gmct.org](http://www.gmct.org) in the Membership section. If you are planning to attend the June 11, 2022 Annual Meeting at the Mill Woods Park Pavilion, you can pay the \$20 for the

meeting and, if needed, include a \$20 individual or \$30 family membership renewal. It helps us if you write a brief note about your donation where it says “add special instructions to the seller” in the PayPal payment area.. As of April 30, 2022, the GMCT has a membership roster as follows:

- 6 Family Life Memberships.
- 46 Individual Life Memberships.
- 45 Honorary, Courtesy, Special Memberships (no annual fees).
- 38 \* Annual Family Memberships current on dues. (subject to update from Rick)
- 40 \* Annual Individual Members current on dues.
- 116 \* Annual Individual or Family memberships not current on dues in the last several years

## Land Management Report 2021

By Larry Lunden, Land Management Chair

We did not acquire any new properties this year. We still have 190 acres under ownership or easement, in 50 parcels.

We are in the process of developing a management plan for our Wood parcel. The CT Environmental Review Team created a wonderful report on the parcel, with experts from many fields. This will give us guidance on how best to preserve the habitat and make it a welcoming place for our visitors. Jim Woodworth is moving ahead with several of their recommendations.

The Connecticut Aviation Authority requested an aviation easement over one of our properties so they could cut trees that grow into the flight path of aircraft leaving or arriving at Brainerd Field. Their consultants inspected the area. There is some question as to whether the city of Hartford wants to continue having the airport. The issue has been dormant for most of the year. This prompted me to investigate the easements we already have

on several of our properties. They are for utility lines including electric, gas, and sewer.

Goodwin University is proposing to pave the South Meadow trail all the way to the Putnam Bridge. This would give a firm surface for the trail users. We are still working out the details needed to accomplish the project.

Ed Chiucarello set up a Google drive for Land Management. I have uploaded many documents so all of the committee can access them.

We continue our agreement with the Wethersfield Game Club to hunt on our properties. They keep an eye on the activity in the meadows, and alert us of anything untoward. We reached out to the Rocky Hill Fish and Game Club to formalize their hunting activities, but that is still pending.

I thank Jim Woodworth for his work on Stewardship, Deb Creeden and Rick Doran for managing the farm leases, and Sandi Kelly for coordinating the parcel inspections.

## Treasurer's Report – 2021

By Rick Doran, Treasurer

The operating income of the Trust for calendar year 2021 was \$23,100. This includes the generous memorial scholarship gift of \$10,000 contributed by the Schmitt family. Our operating expenses for 2021 totaled \$12,700 and included major costs for insurance, stewardship projects, newsletter printing and three \$500 scholarships.

The Trust investments with Vanguard Fund grew by 18% in calendar year 2021, compared with 2020. The \$10,000 gift from the Schmitt family was transferred into a memorial scholarship fund within our Vanguard portfolio, but even without the \$10,000 transfer, our Vanguard investments grew by 15% in 2021. Five of our six stock and bond funds increased in 2021, but our 100% bond fund, GNMA, remained flat for the year. The Trust investments

remain on target to provide us with our planned short term growth and long term income strategies.

The operating budget for 2022 is being planned for Board review and approval as a balanced position of \$17,150 for income and expenses. Appreciative thanks goes to Finance & Development Committee members Jim Zagroba and Ralph Moyer for their oversight, counsel and input.

An audit of the Treasurer's accounting was performed by the Audit Committee and all transactions in our operating account, plus our investment account with Vanguard, were found to be justified and confirmed with corresponding written evidence. Audit Committee members Gerry Hayes and Tom Kehoe are to be thanked for their financial knowledge and thorough review.

## Through the seasons of Stewardship

### 154 walkers enjoyed 8 Brisk Winter Walks and an early Spring Stroll

A special treat greeted the New Years Day walkers from the Wood parcel: Anderson Farms yellow beets were delicious!



Walkers on the Goodwin Trail in East Hartford passed through the Wethersfield "triangle" East of the River.



An early Spring walk gave a second look at the Folly Brook Wildlife Area from the top of the Hartford dike and at the foot, with views of soaring eagles and nesting herons. Studies are scheduled both for the future of Brainard Field and Trail connections from Hartford to Wethersfield via a DEEP grant.

Eagles and Great Blue Herons nesting



Crow Point excavation—Looking East toward Glastonbury, March 1962.

Goodwin college's Bruce Morton, rt., and walkers pose with the view looking West across the Crow Point Cove. Sixty years after the mining of fill for I91 and the Putnam Bridge approaches, fish and birds thrive in the man made cove. Near that far shore, an osprey was rescued, rehabbed and released last September.



## Earth Day Arbor Day Volunteers Adopted and Planted Shrubs and Trees

Planning for the Earth Day/Arbor Day planting began long before April 23 as tree species, sources, and planting sites were explored.

Earth Tones, LLC, a provider of native plants in Woodbridge was chosen as supplier. The sites for planting were chosen based on soil type and shade or sun level requirements for each variety.

GMCT chain sawyers Bob Ludwig, Whit Osgood and Jim Woodworth, with helpers Rick Doran and Shell Peratta worked to remove invasives and clear areas for planting.

The Adopt-a-Tree opportunity brought out the generosity of many members, including Marian Brusberg and Mary Frazier. Jennifer Glick sponsored several trees and came to supervise the planting. Erik Maziarz sponsored trees and planted them near his bee hive. Amy Morin Bello sponsored trees and came with family to plant them as well.



Amy Morin Bello and Jim Woodworth prepare to plant some trees

GMCT Master Gardener Kathy Beaty came, along with landscaper Teresa Feijoo and Wethersfield High Botany teacher and Environmental Club advisor Joanne Norris, who came with a small army of enthusiastic planters. Posing at right, the Eviro club planters prepare to plant a grove of paw paws. They also set in a Hackberry tree, a tupelo, and hazel nut shrubs. Watered, mulched and deer caged, too.

The hope is that the young people will come back to check on the trees they planted as they grow, mature and begin to produce fruit and nuts for wildlife and people. The paw paws produce a berry nearly as large as a banana with hints of mango.



Preparing to plant a paw paw, a berry like a banana



WHS Envo Club members tour the Wood parcel after planting.

## Wood Duck Boxes, a bat house, and secretive residents of the marsh

Late winter is when wood duck boxes are cleaned and filled with fresh shavings, but the Trust box at the Wood parcel pond had rotted. The Wethersfield Game Club provided a replacement mounted by Bob Ludwig at right. Kathy Beaty's critter cam caught a wood duck checking out the new box. Though not moving in right away, female wood ducks are in the pond.



Whit Osgood repaired the old box and he and Linda Nielson mounted the refurbished box on a tree across the marsh near the large willow tree at the end of a newly cut path to the right away from the bridge.

Sam Meeker, a post-grad researcher from UConn is exploring American bittern habitat. This secretive brown streaked heron hides out in reedy marshes like the Beaver Brook marsh. Sam plays the pre-historic sounding bittern calls and waits for a reply. When a bittern approaches to check out the



"intruder," a mirror lures the unsuspecting bird into the trap. Sam records the bird's vitals, bands it and releases it. While the equally secretive Virginia rail call is answered and noted by the Merlin sound ID app, a bittern has yet to reply.

Back in December Journey Horn and her sidekick Penny of Girl Scout Troop 10268 assembled a bat house, planted a 12 foot pole, and mounted their house 12 feet up in an open area along the Wood parcel path. They picked enough golden beets that day to spend the next day pickling and roasting. This spring Journey came back to re-mount the house (far right), and planted the first paw paw tree in what would soon become a grove of paw paws.



## ERT Farmland and Forestry Report informs two year Wood parcel stewardship plans

The Environmental Review Team report of June 2021 has given direction to stewardship plans on both our farmland and our forest at the Wood parcel.

On our cornfield, we planted a cover crop of oats, radishes, peas and some winter rye last September both as a green manure to enrich the soil, and to reduce erosion of the precious topsoil off the field into the swamp. Oats, radishes and peas are all designed to winter kill, making cultivating in the spring easier. The photo at right shows the field in April as the Anderson's tilled the field first with their "subsoiler" that slices down through the soil 24 inches, before plowing and harrowing.

Next year, the USDA NRCS will fund the cover crop seed. They will also be funding a Forest Management Plan (FMP), a prerequisite for funding of forest management "practices."



## CT Trails Day Schedule—Take your pick!

Preregistration Required for Paddles, helpful for hikes and bike rides. To register, go to <https://trailsday.org/>. Chose town, click on the event, and click on the register button.

**Wethersfield Nature Walk — GMCT Wood Parcel**  
Sat. Jun 4, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, 1.5 miles

Join Jim Woodworth and Kathy Beaty for a nature hike for little kids at the Wood Parcel. Bring your young naturalist for a short walk over the bridge, through the woods, by the turtle pond, along the marsh and brook, and out to the farm fields where corn is being planted, strawberries ripening and spinach harvested. If we're lucky we'll see turtles in the pond, muskrats, beaver or great blue heron or green heron in the brook, and birds soaring over head, flitting through the trees, chirping away. We'll organize a scavenger hunt to see what we can see.. Jim Woodworth, (860) 808-9968, [jkwoodworth5@att.net](mailto:jkwoodworth5@att.net) and Kathy Beaty. 860-805-1987, [kathy-beaty0399@gmail.com](mailto:kathy-beaty0399@gmail.com),  
Rain Date: none

**Wethersfield History Tour And Nature Walk**  
Sat. Jun 4, 1:30 pm

Before the hike begins, join Wethersfield Historical Society board member Mike Munroe at the Cove Warehouse at 1:30 pm for a free 30-minute guided tour of Cove Warehouse in which you will discover the fascinating history of the Connecticut River and its impact on Wethersfield's economy. At 2 pm, let your imagination soar back to hundreds of years ago when ships roamed the Connecticut River as Jim Woodworth of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust shares with you the natural beauty of the Connecticut River and surrounding wildlife on a 30-minute nature walk from the Cove Warehouse to the Connecticut River. Jim Woodworth, (860) 808-9968, [jkwoodworth5@att.net](mailto:jkwoodworth5@att.net), Mike Munroe, 860-985-4115, [jelan54@aol.com](mailto:jelan54@aol.com)

**Wethersfield Bike Ride**  
Sun. Jun 5, 09:00 am to 12:00 pm, 15 miles.

Join GMCT's Jim Woodworth and Bike/walk Wethersfield's Rob O'Connor for a Wethersfield to Glastonbury Bike Ride starting at Wethersfield Cove, peddling through the historic village, along farm roads through the meadows, across the Ferry (\$4.00 round trip cost), up Ferry Lane to Killam-Bassette Farmstead in Glastonbury and back.

The ERT forestry report by Joe Barsky, (right) forestry expert of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, advised hiring a heavy equipment contractor to "mulch" the invasive multiflora rose and bush honeysuckle and then using volunteers to plant a selection of trees, including species that would add wildlife value and resilience to the forest. These activities are planned for next year to be funded by the NRCS, following the FMP.



This spring's Earth Day/Arbor Day planting is a preview of next year's plan. Invasives were cleared by hand to make room for planting the recommended tree species including tupelo and hackberry, as well as white pine, blueberry, hazel nut, and paw paw. Each of the trees and shrubs were outfitted with their own "deer exclusion" cage to prevent deer from eating the twigs next winter. The Paw Paw trees did not receive the fencing because deer don't prefer them...we'll see!

Jim Woodworth, (860) 808-9968, [jkwoodworth5@att.net](mailto:jkwoodworth5@att.net), Rob O'Connor, [robert.oconnor8@gmail.com](mailto:robert.oconnor8@gmail.com)

**Connecticut River Paddle**  
Sunday, June 5, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Join the Connecticut River Conservancy's Lower River Steward Kelsey Wentling and GMCT's Tim Lewis for a paddle on the CT River. Launch from the Glastonbury Boathouse and explore the meandering CT River, Crow Point Cove and Keeney Cove. Observe bird life and natural and man-made changes to the River.

This is an intermediate paddle. Life vests are required. You must also provide your own canoe or kayak. Sunscreen, snacks and water are highly recommended. Heavy rain or high water cancels.

**Pre-registration is required.** For more information contact Tim Lewis 860-558-4819, [hand2dplow@yahoo.com](mailto:hand2dplow@yahoo.com) Registration includes signing your waiver and agreeing to all Covid protocols.

**Wethersfield Cove Paddle**  
Sunday, June 5, 10:00am - 11:30am

Join Great Meadows Conservation Trust's Paul Woodworth and USCA Certified Canoe Instructor Dan Pelletier, in a paddle around Wethersfield Cove. Explore the north side of the cove and Folly Brook. View bird life and learn about clean water efforts.

This is a novice paddle. A limited number of boats are available. Life vests are required. Sunscreen, snacks and water are highly recommended. Heavy rain or high water cancels.

**Pre-Registration is required.** For more information contact Tim Lewis: 860-558-4819, [info@gmct.org](mailto:info@gmct.org) Registration includes signing your waiver and agreeing to all Covid protocols!

# State Archaeologists meet Frank Winiarski, local collector

On a sunny day in April, Chris and Jared Anderson were plowing their corn fields as they and Uncle David had been doing for decades. Frank Winiarski, local Wethersfield historian, brought a selection of the Native American artifacts he'd been collecting and carefully cataloging since 1959 in the Wood parcel corn field.

Waiting to see Frank's collection were State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman and UConn Anthropology Professor Kevin McBride. Joining the professionals were three of the volunteer archaeologists, without whom archaeology would not function in Connecticut

Lee West, Scott Brady, and Ed Goodrich are members of the Connecticut Archaeological Society and FOSA (Friends of the State Archaeologist). Lee, for example, spends every Monday at the UConn lab assisting Sarah Sportman in cataloging specimens collected at sites across the state.

After a somewhat wide-eyed and careful examination of Frank's artifacts, including photographing each one, the group proceeded down the trail to see the field where these objects—spanning the mind boggling time frame from 8000 B.C to 1640—had been collected.

The group strolled down the trail, but they had not



**Frank Winiarski, center brought a selection of his collection of Native American artifacts that he has collected since 1959 on the Wood parcel corn field to show (from left), Lee West, Kevin McBride, UConn Anthropology Prof., Scott Brady, Sarah Sportman, State Archaeologist, and Ed Goodrich. Lee, Scott, and Ed are members of FOSA (Friends of the State Archaeologist.)**

walked more than 40 feet into the soft earth of the newly plowed field when their eyes were drawn to what they recognized as human bone fragments laid out on the earth! (at right)

They carefully collected the fragments and marked both sites with GPS. The sites were marked off so that the harrowing planned for the next day avoided the sites.

The following week Sarah Sportman returned with three members of the Mohegan tribe, including chief tribal archaeologist, James Quinn and elder Jay Levy. They were joined by Catherine Labadia, Archaeologist from the State Office of Historic Preservation (member of our ERT), and Fiona Jones, daughter of the late State Archaeologist Brian Jones.

After carefully excavating with trowels down two feet to get below the plow depth, they wrapped the bones they'd uncovered in a red cloth and laid them gently at the bottom of the grave. Elder Jay Levy performed a burial ceremony with chanting and sacred smoke fanned by feathers, before completing the burial by returning the fertile soil.



# Writing the Land brings poet David Leff to the Meadows

by Tim Lewis

In 2014, the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust was successful in helping to protect the area around Northfield, MA from a proposed pipeline. The action so impressed Lis McLoughlin, that she decided to find some way to support Mount Grace and all Land Trusts who work to protect land from development. It was that inspiration that let her to create the project that is now known as Writing the Land (WTL).

Writing the Land, according to Lis, "is an attempt to honor nature and our relationship with it in a way that is as equitable and transparent, as it is deep and entangled." WTL assigns a poet to a land trust for the calendar year. During that time, the poet visits the location(s) to create work inspired by place and preservation. The project emphasizes the importance of individual connection to land and place.

Great Meadows Conservation Trust is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Writing the Land, and have been assigned David Leff as our poet. David is an essayist and the poet laureate of Canton, CT. He is the author of six nonfiction books,



**David Leff**

**"A particular concern of mine is the value of natural places in thickly settled areas. They have a singular contemporary value and are often rich in both cultural as well as natural history." — David Leff**

three volumes of poetry, and two novels in verse. David served as poet-in-residence for the New England National Scenic Trail in 2016-17. He also served as former deputy commissioner of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

David will be visiting three of our parcels to witness the changing of the seasons throughout this year. They are the Dipaola, Wolf and Wood parcels. His first visit was during the second week in January, when the land was dressed with a fresh blanket of snow. Sandi Kelly, Jim Woodworth, and Tim Lewis walked with David to introduce him to our land, and share with him the history of the area.

In accepting the assignment, David said, "I'm delighted to be working with the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. A particular concern of mine is the value of natural places in thickly settled areas. They have a singular contemporary value and are often rich in both cultural as well as natural history. I am interested in the connections these lands have to both adjacent developed areas and the larger Great Meadows."

GMCT is looking forward to working with David (and leaving him alone with his thoughts as needed) as he develops his poems.



**Jim and David tour the Wolf parcel**

# 2022 Annual Meeting and Dinner with Special Guest Speaker!!

*In Person!* Saturday, June 11, noon to 4 pm

Food catered by Max Bibo

Special Guest Speaker—Frank Winiarski

Mill Woods Park Pavilion

154 Prospect Street, Wethersfield

Cost: \$20—Adults, \$10—Children

All members in good standing are invited to join us on Saturday, June 11 from Noon to 4pm at the Mill Woods Park Pavilion in Wethersfield. Food will be catered by Max Bibo's. The cost will be \$20 per person for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under, and children 3 and under are free. This will be a rain or shine event.



**Guest Speaker:** Our guest speaker will be Frank Winiarski, a Wethersfield resident who has spent 60 years collecting Native American artifacts in the Great Meadows. He became interested in Native American artifacts thanks to an early find of arrowheads when he was just 8 years old. He has spent many days each year since then searching the meadows of East Hartford, Wethersfield, Glastonbury and Rocky Hill. Frank will talk about his findings and experiences and will have many of his artifacts on display



We will also be holding elections for our Board of Directors. See Annual Meeting agenda and Nominations committee report, page 2.

**Please RSVP by June 3**

Questions may be directed to Rick Doran at 860-690-9983 or [info@GMCT.org](mailto:info@GMCT.org)  
Hope you can join us on June 11. It will be a great time of socializing and getting caught up. After two years of "virtual Annual Meetings, we've missed you, and will love to see you all!

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

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

Adult lunches @ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Lunches @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

*New! Check your membership status on the mailing label on this newsletter and include membership dues here if needed!*

Memberships @ \$20 individual/\$30 family \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options:

### By USPS!

Please enclose a check payable to "GMCT" and mail to: GMCT Annual Meeting  
Rick Doran, 223 Main Street,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

**By credit card!** Pay via our PayPal account: Go to [www.gmct.org/membership](http://www.gmct.org/membership) and click on "Donate." In the "add special instruction" area, list the # of lunches and memberships and totals.