

The Meadow View



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

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Why Plant Natives?

By Tim Lewis, President

How much impact can planting native plants have in your yard or garden? First of all, what exactly is a native plant?

According to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), “A plant is native if it has occurred naturally for thousands of years in a region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. These plants have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife over thousands of years, meaning that many native animals are dependent on these particular species to survive.”

NWF goes on to state that native plants are important because they are the foundation of the entire food web that all animal life relies on, and are essential host plants for many insects, including the caterpillars that become butterflies and moths which themselves are an extremely important part of the food web as well as pollinators.

Now the question is, if you planted a flowering plant in your yard and you see bees on those flowers, have you planted a native plant? In answering that question, my landscaper, who I hired to help me with a very difficult area of my yard, pointed out something very interesting when she showed me some Balloon Flowers (*Platycodon grandifloras*) growing on my front bank. She pointed to the honey bees pollinating them. “Great!” I said. “Yeah,” she responded, “But, neither the bees nor the flowers are native,” she answered.

Don’t misunderstand me. Honey bees are very beneficial, and if you are raising honeybees, that’s great. I love honey as much as the next bear. But the fact is, they were imported from Europe in the 17th century and can be considered, according to NWF, domesticated, much like chickens and other livestock. Balloon Flowers

are also non-native. What I was witnessing was non-native bees pollinating non-native flowers.

My landscaper then took me to my Wild Bergamot, aka Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), and it was loaded with all sorts of native bees of all sizes. In fact, the closer I got, the more species I could find. It was, yes, buzzing with activity. “This is a native plant, and it is attracting native bees,” she explained. Indeed it was, by the hundreds! The symbiotic relationship with native wildlife...



Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) in a carpet of Carolina Spring Beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*) at our DiPaola parcel.

We are in the midst of an extensive project to replace invasive plants with native habitat at our Wood parcel. This endeavor is spearheaded by our Stewardship Chair, Jim Woodworth, and has been funded by grants from NRCS and CLCC. You can read all about it in this issue.

Our DiPaola parcel has no major infestations of invasives. There you will find the woods thick with Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and the ground carpeted with Carolina Spring Beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*), both flowering in early spring.

Treat yourself to a stroll on the Wood parcel trail where a patch of yellow trout lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) or wild oats

(*Uvularia sessilifolia*) may catch your eye. Through the seasons a changing panoply of native wild flowers from Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) to white turtleheads (*Chelone glabra*) will delight the frequent visitor.,

As for planting natives in your yard, if you have not done so and are not sure where to start, get in touch with us. Board member Chris Hogendorn chairs a Pollinator Pathway group, and last summer lead a “Walk on the Wild (flower) Side. Some of our members have given garden tours in their yards, and have offered free advice, specifically suggesting a few pollinating plants to start with, and how to plant them. Start small. The benefits will be huge. We will be sure to discuss this and more during our Brisk Winter Walks. We hope you can join us!

GMCT Awards Betty Schmitt Memorial Scholarships to future environmentalists

For the fourth year, GMCT has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, and Glastonbury High Schools who will be studying Environmental Science.

This scholarship was created through the generosity of the Schmitt family in honor of Elizabeth “Betty” Schmitt, a Glastonbury resident and longtime employee of the CT State Department of Education. Betty, who chaired GMCT’s Land Acquisition Committee, was a fervent supporter of public education and a passionate advocate for the environment. President Tim Lewis and former Director Denise Lewis attended the awards ceremonies and made the presentations to each of the awardees.

This year’s recipient from Rocky Hill High School is Alyssa Longo, at right, who will be studying Environmental Conservation and Sustainability at SCSU.



Gabe Zagaya, at left, will be attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Gabe was president of the Environmental Club at Wethersfield High School and volunteered many hours for the GMCT removing invasive species at the Wood parcel during his senior year, getting some hands on experience improving habitat for wildlife.

In his thank you note to GMCT, Gabe wrote, “It has been my absolute pleasure helping out the Trust this past year, and I am so grateful that you and the GMCT chose to recognize my efforts and passion for the environment in such a wonderful way! I am so glad to be taking my experiences with the GMCT

with me to URI.”

Gustave Selleck, at right, graduated from Glastonbury High School, and will be attending CCSU, majoring in Environmental Science. If you wish to donate to continue this worthy cause, make your donation at <https://gmct.org/donations/> and select “The Betty Schmitt Memorial Scholarship Fund.”



Sandi Kelly “Retires” from 20 years of service on Rocky Hill OSCC

Sandi Kelly’s c. 20 year service on the Rocky Hill Open Space and Conservation Commission came to an end this month. She served as Secretary of the OSCC for many of those years, playing an important role in protecting the environment in Rocky Hill.

Over the years Sandi played a key role in preserving the Straska Farm and transforming a long standing eyesore and brown field on the west side of town into a bucolic New England scene of a red barn perched above acres of rolling farmland. Through her membership on the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Committee to her leadership in the “Save the Farm” citizen advocate group, Sandi helped the referendum pass. At right, Sandi poses in her “Save the Farm” T-shirt with Senator Matt Lessor and Representative Kerry Wood, who helped obtain the brown field grants to clean the farm and build the education barn. At right, Sandi and farmer Lisa Gilbert celebrate the victory. Lisa and Fran Whalen of Hayes Farm and Billy Collins of Fair Weather Growers lease extensive acreage on the former Straska farm. After the devastating floods of 2023, these upland acres were crucial in sustaining these farm operations and preserving local food production.



Sandi has been a member of Great Meadows Conservation Trust since 2008. She served on the Board as a Director from Rocky Hill from 2010 - 2016. During that time she also served concurrently, as Secretary and Vice President.

Sandi also served on the GMCT Land Management Committee, completing annual parcel inspections which must be completed per the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. Sandi is mentoring a new generation of Trust parcel inspectors. At right, Sandi hands off the inspection responsibilities for the Ryan, Brooks and McCann parcels in Rocky Hill to Alan Baglia. Kathy and Jeff Beaty have also taken over inspecting the Methodist Church parcel and the DiPaola parcel from Sandi. Kathy and Jeff keep an eye on the DiPaola parcel through their internet accessible critter cam.



To Join or renew your membership! Go to www.gmct.org/membership or use this form.

() \$20 – Individual () \$350 – Life Member Name _____
 () \$30 – Family () \$550 – Family Life Membership Address _____
 Phone : _____ Email Address: _____ Pay via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) or
 Send Check payable to Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. to P.O.Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Paying It Forward! Legacies from three Trust members bolster the Scholarship fund

Jim Thompson, Phil Lohman, and Bob Pulford each made important contributions to the GMCT over their years of involvement with the Trust. They and their families chose to suggest memorial contributions be made to the Trust in their obituaries. The Trust is pleased to dedicate those contributions to the Betty Schmitt Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to a graduate from each of our high schools planning to pursue environmental studies.

Jim Thompson 1945 - 2024 Jim Thompson joined the GMCT Board just last year after a 50 year career as an environmental lawyer and continued to advise and practice until his death. He began his career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He then spent decades in private practice, most recently working with the firm of Eversheds-Sutherland on a green energy project. Jim was a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Talcott Mountain Science Center, and recently enjoyed volunteering on the Glastonbury Conservation Commission and the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. In addition to reviewing the GMCT's NRCS contract, Jim bush wacked the perimeter of the early successional habitat area with the NRCS forester slated for brush mowing, tying ribbons on trees, marking the limits.



Phil Lohman 1940 - 2024 Phil was born and raised in the Bronx and graduated from NYC's High School of Music and Art in 1956. At SUNY College of Forestry he studied landscape architecture but mostly liked drawing trees, so after graduating, pursued illustration and graphic design, developing his skills in informational graphics at the Museum of Natural History in NYC, the US Army, the American School for the Deaf, and the Hartford Courant, where he worked in the Graphics Department for 23

years. Phil loved Wethersfield- it's where he lived, met his late wife Geraldene, grew deep friendships, and rode his bicycle happily for 47 years. Phil embraced his role as "local artist," drawing maps, logos, caricatures, and house portraits as well as designing signs, brochures, newsletters, and the Red Onion parade mascot. In 2024 he was the first ever recipient of Wethersfield's Key to the Town Award. His nomination reflected the relationships he built at Temple Beth Torah, the Webb Deane Stevens Museum and the Wethersfield Historical Society. Phil shared his graphic skills with the GMCT, trail maps, designing the membership brochure, and special 50th Anniversary graphics (above), as well as the sketch of the Beaver Brook Overlook (right) focused on the St. Croix Elm tree. .



Bob Pulford 1929 - 2024 Bob was born in Brazil, educated in CT, earning a BS in Civil Engineering from Yale in 1951. He served as an engineer in the Navy, building bases in Maine and RI, and worked for CI&P/NU for 30 years. Bob had been a Life Member of the GMCT since 1989, a former Director, and a long-time generous benefactor. Like many members of the Trust, Bob served for many years on the Wethersfield Conservation Commission, including years as Vice-Chair.

George H. and Constance Wolcott Mason Fund II at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

George and Connie Wolcott Mason contacted the GMCT in 2005 and donated 3 parcels in the Wethersfield Meadows that had been in the Wolcott family since the mid-17th Century. The three Wolcott sisters, Connie, Sarah and Dede graduated from Wethersfield High School in the 50's and 60's before moving out of town. The High School was built on Wolcott family farmland c. 1950. These parcels in the meadows had been stewarded by the Wolcott family for 300 years and the GMCT promises to preserve them "in perpetuity." At right, George and Connie stand with Jim Woodworth on turf growing on Wolcott parcel number 3 in May 2005. After Connie died in 2022, and beginning this year, their Donor Advised Fund will provide a yearly grant of more than \$3000 to the Trust for Stewardship and other Trust charitable uses.



Pfeffer leads a Biking and Birding tour of the Wood Parcel

Alison Pfeffer (right) led a group on a bike ride from Heirloom Market (left) to bird at the Wood parcel, ID-ing a barred owl roosting in a tree in broad daylight. Alison's Dad, who passed away this year, directed a grant from his Donor Advised Fund to the Trust.



2024 — Year One of Climate Smart Land Stewardship at the Wood parcel

The results are in: 6.2 acres of “brush management” — brush mowing and hand removal of invasive bush honey suckle, multiflora rose, bittersweet, and Japanese knotweed

6.2 acres of “chemical difficult control” — cut stem and foliar herbicide treatments
2.4 acres of hand site preparation and planting of 35 native trees and shrubs, early successional habitat restored
180 feet of deer exclosure fencing installed to protect the new plantings
.4 acres of perennial erosion control native grass seed planted by hand
5 acres of cornfield planted in a cover crop of soil enriching and erosion controlling “green manure”
Over 50 volunteers worked over 200 hours removing invasives and planting—and watering—native trees and shrubs
Grant support totals: Federal NRCS = c. \$5800, Connecticut DoAG via CLCC = c. \$6000



Boneset



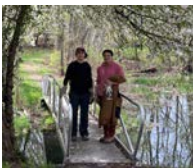
Catalpa tree

February Brush mowing of nearly all 6.3 acres of early successional habitat in February. One day of work by Ted D’Onofrio and his forest brush mower mulched the bush honeysuckle, some with 15” trunks and the MFR, with 2” canes into shreds (near right)..



March John Chicoine, above right, of Vegetation Control Services followed up with a day of cut stem treatment of the 4 inch bittersweet vines that draped many trees, cutting those that couldn’t be reached by the brush mower, and treating the cut stems with herbicide to keep them from growing back..

April The .3 acres of invasives out of the 6.2 acres that were either too wet for the heavy mulching equipment, or interspersed with healthy native gray and silky dogwoods were hand removed by volunteers from Wethersfield High School Environmental Club and others working on Earth Day. Gabe Zagaya the President of the Enviro Club took on the equivalent of an independent study, learned to identify invasive and native plants, worked at least 10 hours on his own and led a group for an Earth Day work session, adding up to 7 volunteers and 15 hours of work. At right, Sara Trueax, an alumna of the high school and Rebecca Fuller, a senior from Glastonbury High Ag program contributed another 15 hours. A week later (Earth Day II) 10 adult volunteers responded to our Facebook and email outreach, and cleared invasives from a wooded area adding another 20 hours of volunteer work.



Twenty-eight native shrubs were purchased in the CT River Coastal Conservation District Strong Native Plant sale. GMCT volunteers fostered these plants all summer until the fall planting season.

May The “critical area planting” of .4 acres on the edge of the corn field where water from the corn field pools behind the straw bale dike and drains into the swamp. After rototilling, Pete Spangenberg raked and Jim Woodworth broadcast the perennial native seed mixture from New England Wetland Plants—“New England Erosion Control/Restoration mix for Detention Basins and Moist sites.”



In **May** and **June**, Anderson Farms planted 6 plantings of corn on the cornfield to be harvested late July..

August The harvest of the final planting of sweetcorn on the Wood parcel was completed by in early August and GMCT’s Paul Bourdan gleaned fresh corn for the food bank at St. Justin’s Church in Hartford.

Mid-August Foliar herbicide treatment—VCS treated the regrowth of the bush honeysuckle, Multi-flora rose, bittersweet and Japanese knotweed with foliar spray. At right, the Vegetation Control Services gator with its tank of herbicide and long hose enabled them to reach and selectively spray the bush honeysuckle and knotweed sprouts, while sparing spicebush and other natives (Follow up scheduled for next August.)



September The remaining 5 acres of the cornfield was planted with a cover crop of “Rays Crazy Fall Mix” the week after Labor Day when it hadn’t rained for weeks, and only rained a trace until Nov. 20. At right, Chris Anderson broadcasts the seed mix, Jared Christensen “tickles” the seed in. However, the entire mixture of NRCS funded seed, not only germinated, but grew 6 to 10 inches tall, including peas, hairy vetch, triticale, daikon radish, crimson clover, turnips, oats, and annual rye, occasionally foraged by deer, holding the soil from wind and water erosion, and enriching the soil in many ways. The daikon radishes and greens were delicious!.



September, continued Girls from Girl Scout troop 10261 donated and planted a sweet pepper bush by the brook (at right) near the bridge. They are working to earn their Girl Scouts Bronze Award. One of the activities involves helping animals in their natural habitat and helping the environment. When the pepperbush is in bloom the sweet perfume will fill the air, attracting pollinators. At right, the tulip tree seedling the girls planted three years ago grew to a sapling; the Brownies grew to Girl Scouts!



On the “early successional habitat” area between the pond and the corn field, newly cleared of invasive multiflora rose, bittersweet and bush honeysuckle, our plans called for a total of 5 native trees and 28 wildlife friendly shrubs: 6 hazelnut, 12 blueberry (6 wild and 6 hybrid), and 10 winterberry holly whose leaves fall off, but the bright orange berries provide food through the winter. Two transplanted sycamore, a cottonwood and an oak rounded out the nascent forest. Our NRCS advisors, Fernando Rincon and Eric Dunnack helped us to lay out the planting sites.

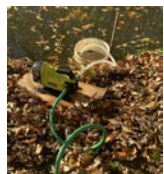
October 1 Eight professional archaeologists and 5 amateur members of FOSA (Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist) dug the planting holes as they sifted for Native American artifacts on the edge of the artifact rich corn field. Far right, Dave McCormick, Mohegan tribal archaeologist, and his assistant dig and sift for artifacts. Numerous quartz chips were recovered, indicating arrowhead making, and one tiny pottery shard emerged, but no sacred artifacts. Near right, Jim Woodworth with WHS student observers, Charlie Kulpa and Nathan Liu, pose with Krista Dotzel, NRCS CT Archaeologist and Sarah Sportman, CT State archaeologist, who supervised the digging and sifting of 20+ holes. FOSA member Scott Brady, who grew up on Middletown Avenue and knew the site as a kid, kneels in the foreground.



October 10 A Rocky Hill High School freshman class kicked off their “Lend a Paw” capstone program by volunteering a day for the GMCT. Working enthusiastically and efficiently, the 17 students and their two teachers planted all 28 shrubs, 4 trees, and 9 raspberry plants, in the holes dug by the archaeologists and many more they dug themselves. They also spread a half yard of stone dust enhancing the accessibility of the trail.



November Once planted in the midst of the drought, all 40 plants needed to be watered deeply every week. To meet the challenge the Trust bought a cordless transfer pump (far right) to pull water from the brook to fill the platoon of upcycled plastic kitty litter jugs. At right, John Bowers, Pete Hinman, Kathy Beaty and Jim Woodworth fill the jugs loaded into Paul Bourdan’s wagon. Watering transitioned to deer exclusion fencing and cage building, with 5’ deer exclosure wire fencing, right.



December Far right, Sarah Trueax snaps the celebratory mission accomplished selfie, as the last deer cage is installed, with Tim Lewis, Jim Woodworth, Pete Spangenberg, Gerry Hayes, and Pete Hinman rounding out the crew. At right Jim Woodworth and Lauren Pagani plant an oak seedling with a Charter Oak pedigree that Lauren grew from an acorn dropped from the towering white oak in front of the Keeney Center. The Charter Oak seedling had been planted in 1904 by Stephen F. Willard, who with other delegates to the Constitutional Convention, each received a Charter Oak seedling to plant in a prominent place in home towns all over the state.



The 2024 Annual Dinner featured a presentation by and to Kari Kostango

The 2024 Annual Dinner was the first post Covid return to indoor dining at a new location, Casa Mia on the Green at Rolling Greens Golf Club in Rocky Hill.

The special guest speaker was Kari Kastango, the first person to swim all 410 miles of the CT River, many of those miles with the assistance of Tim Lewis.

In addition to a celebration of Kari's amazing feat, it was also a celebration of the progress being made in cleaning up the River by groups like the GMCT, locally, and the CT River Conservancy, watershed wide. At the end of Kari's presentation, it was State Senator Kerry Wood's turn to make a presentation to Kari in the form of an official Citation from the General Assembly in honor of her long distance swimming achievement.



Beaverland How one Weird Rodent made America by Leila Philip



Kathy Beaty, GMCT's critter cam queen, caught the new beaver residents, spring of 2023, at the Wood parcel in action, as they turned the turtle pond into a beaver pond. The fascinating efforts at the Wood parcel of these industrious engineers coincided with the publication of Leila Philip's best selling nonfiction book on the role of beavers in shaping the environment of North America, before the arrival of Europeans with their insatiable appetite for beaver pelts wiped them out, and their return in recent years. Leila's presentation at the Keeney Center was well attended and included sales of signed copies of *Beaverland*.



At left is a photo of the beaver lodge just south of the Route 3 culvert, occupied every few years by beaver families. Delicately peeled sticks and chewed stumps, especially of aspen trees, and silky dogwood are also tell-tale signs of beaver activity. At right is a night vision photo of an ambitious beaver laying in its stash of sticks and limbs for the long winter ahead, thinking really big, gnawing away on a 24 inch trunk.



CT Trails Day featured a bike ride, an intermediate paddle and a novice paddle



The Trails Day bike ride formed at the DMV, rode through the Village with a stop at Anderson Farms (left) on the Green, cruised down into the Meadows, and through the fields along the River on the farm road to the RH Ferry Landing, across the Ferry, up Ferry Lane and Tryon Street to Killam Bassett Farmstead(right), and back again.



Under the helm of Tim Lewis (right) assisted by Rebecca Todd, CRC director, and Rhea Drozdenko, Lower River Steward, a large group of **Intermediate paddlers** launched from the Cove and paddled upstream past the airport, past the former trash to energy plant, and into the mouth of the Park River tunnel. As the tunnel curved, the paddlers plunged into the total darkness, illuminated only by their lights.



An equally enthusiastic group of **novice paddlers**, some with their own boats, some cradled in the CRC's fleet (right) of Oru folding kayaks, got their sea-legs under the guidance of instructor Dan Pelletier, and Paul

Woodworth, circumnavigated the Cove, and then ventured out onto the big River, gaining close encounters with great blue heron and osprey and confidence.

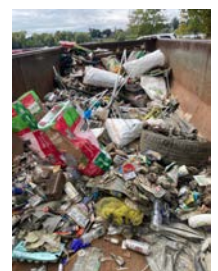


Source to the Sea Cleanup: a crowd of willing workers filled a dumpster



S2S, led locally by the GMCT, and watershed wide by CRC, drew families, students, and engineers from Benesch in Glastonbury, posing for a group photo at left before fanning out to fill repurposed Hops on the Hill grain bags with trash

bound for the dumpster at right. A Benesch trio scored a BMW rim. State Rep Amy Morin Bello (right) posed with Tim Lewis and Jim Woodworth before heading out to fill her recycled bag.



Brisk Winter Walks – 2025

Wednesday, January 1, 1:00 pm, Wethersfield. About 1½ hours. Meet Jim Woodworth at 160 Middletown Ave, south of Maple St, on GMCT's **Wood Parcel**. Enjoy the Heritage Walk panels, accessible trail enhancements, native shrub plantings, and lush "Rays Crazy Fall Mix cover crop on the corn field! Cross the shiny bridge and follow the trail along the marsh and around the loop past the 18th century house site. Hike will continue across the culvert by the Pond, and out along the edge of the farm fields that once hosted the original "Pyquag" Native American summer camp and burial site. We'll continue along Anderson Farm fields, along the marsh, across the **Frechette Field and Dowd Parcels** and Winding Brook turf fields to t91 and return.



Sunday, January 5, 1:00 pm, Rocky Hill. About 2 hours. Meet at the meadows gate at 78 Goff Brook Lane, off of Old Main St. Join Tim Lewis on a hike to several of our parcels in the Rocky Hill Meadows. We'll walk the farm roads, take a turn around the **Goff Brook Trail** in the **DiPaola** parcel, and walk out into the meadows, noting the Nature Conservancy flood plain forest study transect and the planting of DED tolerant Elm Trees.

Saturday, January 11, 11:00 am, Glastonbury. About 2 hours. Meet at the Glastonbury ferry landing on Ferry Lane for a short turn around the Ferry Park trail, see bench in memory of GMCT's Betty Schmitt, and then cross Ferry Lane and walk upstream along the River through fields and pastures to the **Walker Easement** on the **Coal Wharf**. Nearby are archaeological digs dating to the earliest settlement in Glastonbury, and a planting of DED tolerant elm trees positioned to spread their seeds on the spring freshet to the flood plain forests down-stream.



The Moon over the River

Monday, January 13, 4:00 pm, Wethersfield. As the winter twilight fades in the western sky, meet at the Keeney Center parking lot, 200 Main Street, Old Wethersfield. Walkers will stroll down Main Street to Wethersfield Cove Park (about 1 mile), walk through the parking lot to the Cove channel, under the I91 overpass and out to the River's edge. As the sunset fades in the west (4:31 pm), the Wolf Moon will rise above the tree line on the eastern shore, shimmering on the river below!

Saturday, January 18, 11:00 am, Wethersfield. About 2 hours. Meet at 258 Elm St, at the underpass under I-91. A long hike down to the River and along the farm road, now designated a Greenway, to our **Wolcott, Crilly and Zeleski** parcels in the Wethersfield Meadows. From the Broad Street Green take Elm Street East, crossing Route 3. From the Silas Deane Hwy take Maple Street/Route 3 north, at the stop light, turn right on Elm Street.

Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm, Wethersfield. About 1 hour. Meet at 412 Hartford Ave, corner of Jordan Lane, for a short walk through the gate to our **Wolf Parcel and DeMille Easement on the Cove and Folly Brook**. 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. We'll walk through the area of the "tree removal" for the Brainard Airport approach and learn about advantages of "shrub/scrub" and early successional habitats.

Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am, Wethersfield. Meet Goodwin University'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 University. 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.

Sunday, January 26, 1:00 pm, Wethersfield (to Glastonbury). About 2 hours. Meet at the Putnam Bridge trail parking area off Great Meadow Road. Take a long hike over the Putnam Bridge, down the ramp and turning left onto the Point Meadow farm road toward our **Dickau, Beers, Baril and Bidwell** parcels in Point Meadows. We'll visit the late great state champion and national co-champion green ash tree (see photo at right).



Saturday, February 1, 9:00 am, East Hartford. Meet Goodwin University'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 as the river meandered. We'll observe the tree "obstruction removal" carried out by CAA on the approach to the Brainard field runway. We'll explore the trails that Goodwin university has constructed with the help of DEEP trail grants and will soon pave from S. Meadow Rd. south along the River to connect with the Putnam Bridge trail.

Dress for the Weather and ground conditions, including mud or snow. Weather and water conditions may revise or cancel. These areas are used for hunting, so wear an orange vest if you have one. Check gmct.org for any updates or cancellations.



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View of the marsh festooned with Virgin's Bower aka Devil's Daring Needle native clematis (*climatis virginiana*)!—Wood parcel