

The Meadow View



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

Vol. XXXXII no. 1

February 2026

The Real Value of Floodplain Land

by Tim Lewis, President

I received a call in April of 2025 from Hank Gruner. Hank is the former Vice President of Programs at the Connecticut Science Center and has also worked with federal, state and municipal agencies and environmental organizations on a variety of wildlife conservation initiatives. Hank co-authored the book, Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut, which was part of the reason for his call. Hank was interested in conducting a frog survey in the Great Meadows, accompanied by his associate, Jeffrey Cavallaro, an Assistant Herpetologist at Quinn Ecological. They were specifically interested in locating Atlantic Coast Leopard Frogs (*Rana kauffeldi*). This new species of leopard frog, first described in 2012, was identified using molecular and bio-acoustical analyses, as well as some limited morphological differentiation. In laymen's terms, it has spots, is a slightly different color and the sound they make is somewhat different than the Northern Leopard Frog. That was how we would locate them, by listening for them.

Loving an adventure, I immediately agreed to accompany them through the Meadows at night. I notified the police departments in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield that we would be out in the meadows after dark, and we conducted two different night surveys. Unfortunately, we did not hear them. In fact, we hardly heard any frogs at all. We know there are frogs in the meadows, but concluded we were too late in the season. Having to wait for the flood waters to recede coincided with temperatures rising rapidly and mating season was obviously over. In other words, we missed the party. We discussed our options and we may be attempting another survey this spring. Hank anticipates finding these frogs in the Great Meadows since he has already located them in the Wangunk Meadows in Portland.

At around the same time, GMCT received an email from David Irvin who is a Central District Service

Forester for the Bureau of Natural Resources, Forestry Division of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Service Foresters provide free technical assistance to land trusts, including site visits for assessments of forest health, wildlife habitat conditions and climate resilience. We eagerly accepted the offer of his service.

Jim Woodworth and I met with David, along with Will Adam and Wethersfield Tree Warden Brian Kenny in late May to walk through our 19.2 acre Wolf parcel located on the northwest side of Wethersfield Cove. Unfortunately, a large area of the flood plain forest was under water, caused by the rise of the CT River from recent rains. David was not

disappointed and was impressed with what he saw and hopes to pay another visit.

We surveyed as much as we could, and along the way discovered a plant that David could not identify. It was a Green Dragon, *Arisaema dracontium*, a good sign since it serves as an important ecological indicator. It often signals the presence of a rich, undisturbed habitat, suggesting a healthy ecosystem.

David sent us his report shortly after the site visit. It will help guide GMCT in our future conservation efforts at the Wolf parcel.

Just recently we received an email from Walter Kittredge with Oakhaven Sanctuary, a small

native plant nursery and gardening store located in North Reading, MA. Walter is a retired Harvard botanist who has been studying the flora of Wethersfield for decades and requested permission to continue that study on GMCT's parcels in the Great Meadows. Specimens gathered from his study will be deposited at the University of Connecticut and the New England Botanical Society Herbarium at Harvard.



Frog comparison—Northern Leopard Frog on left, Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog on right. Photo by Jeffrey Cavallaro

See Value of Floodplain, page 7

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting March 25, 2025.
2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2025 (see below)
3. President's 2025 Annual Report (see p. 1)
4. Report of the Nominating Committee (see below)
5. Election of Directors to serve through the end of their respective terms: Motion: That Tim Lewis, Christiaan

Hogendorn, and Tom Pilch be elected to serve as Directors for their respective terms.

6. Election of Officers by the Directors to serve until the next Annual Meeting. Motion: That Tim Lewis, Diana Evans, Pete Hinman and Richard Doran be elected to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively of the GMCT for the 2026 – 2027 term.

Nominating Committee Report

Retiring Directors: None

Directors to be elected

(Town - Term of Office – Term Expiration)

- Tim Lewis (Rocky Hill – 2nd – 2029)
- Chris Hogendorn (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2029)
- Tom Pilch (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2029)
- To be announced (Glastonbury – 1st – 2029)

Directors Continuing Terms:

- Alan Baglia (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2027)
- Kathy Beaty (Rocky Hill – 2nd – 2027)

- Paul Bourdon (Wethersfield – 1st – 2027)
- Derek Caelin (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2028)
- Diana Evans (Wethersfield 2nd -2028)
- Pete Hinman (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2027)
- Tom Kehoe (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2027)
- Brenda Sullivan (Glastonbury – 1st – 2028)

Officers:

- President – Tim Lewis
- Vice President – Diana Evans
- Secretary – Pete Hinman
- Treasurer - Richard Doran

2025 Treasurer's Report

By Rick Doran, Treasurer

Fiscal year 2025 closed with Income of \$33,205 and Expense of \$31,333. 50% of our expenses are attributed to the ongoing project at the Wood Parcel and 60% of those expenses are covered by Grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the CT Land Conservation Council. Our other major expenses in 2025 were for insurance, scholarship gifts, and land acquisition costs.

Our checking account balance stands at \$10,254 secured and monitored at TD Bank.

The budget planning process for 2026 is being discussed by the Finance & Development Committee. They will be presenting their recommendations for 2026 estimated Income and Expense to the Board of Directors next month.

Our Vanguard investment account remains in a positive position, balanced for income and growth. At the end of 2025, we transferred \$92,000 from this account into our TD checking account to purchase more than 30 acres of land in Glastonbury. This resulted in an 8% reduction in total invested assets at year end. However, without this transfer our invested assets would have increased by more than 13% from year end 2024 to year end 2025. Our investment assets remain in a good position for continued favorable results.

The annual Audit of the Treasurer's records will be performed by members of the Board of Directors within the next month to ensure that sound fiscal practices are continuing to be employed.

March 2026 Membership Report

by Pete Spangenberg

I'm pleased to report that the GMCT membership count has increased. We currently have a roster as follows: A generous memorial donation honoring his wife added a new lifetime family membership to the family of Tom Judson, bringing the count up to 11 family life members. Since our last annual meeting of March 2025, we added Bill Ford, Pete Hinman, and Maureen Horowitz to the roster of lifetime Individual members bringing us to 56. Thank you to all our life members.

Since our last annual meeting we added 15 new annual individual members and 2 new annual family memberships. We currently have 56 annual individual members and 49 annual family memberships that are current on dues. Welcome to those new members and thank you to all who have renewed and donated. There are approximately 70 annual individual or family members whom we hope will continue their memberships and renew soon. Thanks to several generous donations and those who donate in addition to their dues, GMCT is further able to support our scholarship program, the Eagle Scout / Poetry Table project at the Wood Parcel, and the basic financial needs of the land trust operations.

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

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 – Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350 – Life Member	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 – Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550 – Family Life Membership	Address _____
Phone : _____		Email Address: _____
Pay via PayPal or		
Send Check payable to Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. to P.O.Box 171, Glastonbury, CT 06033		

GMCT purchased six parcels of farmland from Botticello Acres, LLC

GMCT is proud to announce our recent acquisition of 31.6 acres of alluvial floodplain farmland in the Great Meadows of Glastonbury. This purchase, from Botticello Acres, LLC, includes 6 parcels in total and is adjacent to two parcels GMCT purchased from Botticello in 2023.

Botticello Acres, LLC, known as Botticello Farms is located in Manchester, and has been in operation since 1973 when family members decided to sell the excess vegetables from their family garden. Now a successful second generation farming operation, they have over 50,000 sq. Ft. of greenhouse space and 300 acres of farm fields, and are the last operating commercial farm in Manchester.

GMCT has purchased this prime flood plain farmland to preserve it in perpetuity and keep it in agricultural production, and will lease it by agreement back to Botticello Acres, LLC, as long as they wish to continue farming. This purchase was made possible by generous donations to GMCT’s E.B.Wolf Land Acquisition Fund..



2025 Land Management Committee Annual Report

by Larry Lunden, Land management Chair

In December we acquired six parcels from Botticello Acres, LLC. This adds 32 acres to our holdings, bringing the total to 229 acres. These parcels will be rented back to Botticello Acres.

Pete Spangenberg is continuing to lead the inspectors. I thank him for keeping our inspections up to date. The inspection of the McCann parcel found a duck blind that could be on the parcel. Further investigation showed it is just north of the Brooks parcel, not on our parcel. The inspections from the fall of 2024 to winter 2025 were completed in March

Gerry Hayes is continuing to run our leasing program. I thank him for continuing this major project that carries out one of the main goals of the Trust.

2025-2026 Parcel Inspection Report

by Peter Spangenberg, Parcel Inspection Coordinator.

Parcel Inspections: As of mid-February 2026 when this summary was prepared, the bitterly cold and snowy winter has significantly hindered the annual parcel inspections. Only 6 out of a total of 60 parcel inspections have been completed. Once the snow melts and the weather warms, inspectors will complete the required inspections. Any GMCT members wishing to participate in parcel inspections should feel free to contact me at info@gmct.org.

2025 Farmland Leasing Program Report

by Gerry Hayes, Farm leasing program

Farming lease extensions were prepared and consummated in March of 2025 with five farms. Leases were extended with the following farms. Fair Weather Growers, LLC, Rocky Hill, Overbrook Farms, of Manchester for land in Point Meadow, Glastonbury, Botticello Farms, also of Manchester for land in Glastonbury Meadows, Anderson Farms for land in Wethersfield, and Winding Brook Farms, Wethersfield for land in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill Meadows. The Winding Brook Turf farm lease had the addition of the newly acquired 0.3 acre Zaleski Parcel..

2026 Brisk Winter Walks—ice, snow, mud, wind chill!

The 2026 Brisk Winter Walk series ran the gamut of winter weather, perfect snow cover on New Year’s Day at the Wood parcel (left) had a hint of ice lurking below the snow. This trend continued at the DiPaola parcel (right) and Rocky Hill meadows, shortened by the icy conditions on the farm road. The next weekend brought a reprieve with seasonably cool and muddy conditions for the walks from the Ferry landing to the Coal Wharf (lower left) in Glastonbury and the Elm Street Extension walk along the River in Wethersfield (far right). But that’s where it ended! Weekend snow storms and dangerously frigid wind chills the remainder of the walks were postponed and then canceled.



Companion Forest and Bird Walk 10:00am, Saturday, March 28, 2026

Wethersfield. About 1 hour. Meet at 412 Hartford Ave, corner of Jordan Lane, for a short walk through the gate to view the flood plain forest of the **Wolf Parcel on the Cove and Folly Brook**. Stay for a longer walk, another two 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 up on the dike and observe the eagles nest and peer into the Great Blue Heron rookery and then, spring conditions permitting, walk down into the Folly Brook flood plain forested area and out to the river and back.

The Wood Parcel—2001 to 2026—Preservation—Open

GMCT Mission: “We wish to save the floodplain’s vital agricultural, scenic, archaeological and w

25 Years of enhancements at the Wood parcel

2001—The purchase of the 20 acres of open space from Sara Wood in 2001 to preserve the land from development stretched the financial resources of the Trust. GMCT funds were replenished by an Open Spaces and Watershed Area Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) from DEEP, a generous legacy from Eleanor Buck Wolf, and a Capital Fund Raising campaign led by President Ralph Moyer. The Trust formed the Eleanor Buck Wolf Land Acquisition Fund which has funded a number of land acquisitions including the recent purchase of parcels in the Glastonbury meadows from Botticello Acres, LLC, and remains available for future land acquisitions. While the Trust’s mission is to protect its acquisitions in perpetuity, accepting the OSWA grant added a layer of protection in the form of an easement held by the State of Connecticut in perpetuity for the Wood parcel.

Over these 25 years, the Trust has worked to open up the Wood parcel to the public by building an accessible trail and improving the environment with the help of countless volunteers, and through partnerships with Town, State and Federal governments, local businesses, and non-profit environmental groups.

2006—The first stage drew highway funds from the Spring Street/Maple Street/Middletown Ave. alignment project. Funds were available to hire DeAngelo Construction to clear the Beaver Brook channel of obstructions (i.e. a blown out culvert), clear piles of gravel on the path to the brook, and remove other trash. The temporary access from the road for construction equipment served as the beginning of a parking area. Left over funds were used to purchase and install the first bench (rt.).



2011-12—The installation of the shiny aluminum bridge (L.) funded by the Trust and manufactured by Superior Docks of Maine gave permanent access over Beaver Brook to hikers, wheel chair users and critters alike. The Kiosk (Rt.) was constructed to invite the public in to enjoy the trail over the bridge, looping past the 18th century well and outbuilding foundation, and along the marsh and turtle pond to the cornfield and beyond.



2017—The MDC donated plastic culvert pipe and crushed stone to repair the broken MDC pond outfall culverts installed in 1952 over the sewer line that conveys old Wethersfield sewage out across Elm Street and under I91. Wethersfield Construction donated the equipment and operator labor to replace the culverts.



2018—Earth Day work session headlined by Senator Murphy and 60 Wethersfield High School (L.) and community and family volunteers removed trash and began improving the trail to meet USDA Forest Service accessibility standards.

2020—Over time numerous elm trees on the parcel succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and ash trees succumbed to the emerald ash borer. Christian Marks, Nature Conservancy forest scientist, donated 25 DED resistant Elm Trees of various cultivars and supervised planting them throughout the Wood parcel forest. Part of the USDA Forest Service/Nature conservancy elm species restoration project. Over 60 volunteers participated, including Girl Scouts and families (Rt.).



2021—A CT Humanities grant funded an extension of the Old Wethersfield Heritage Trail informational kiosks in Old Wethersfield to three signs (L.) on the Wood parcel accessible trail, putting the Wood parcel on the Phil Lohman map (Rt.).



—An Environmental Review Team from the State Dept. Of Cons. And Dev. studied the Wood parcel and made a report. Kip Kolesinskas, UCONN soils expert, tested the corn field soils, and recommended planting a cover crop. Joe Barsky (L.), CT Ag Experiment Station forestry expert, evaluated the forest, recommending invasive removal by contractors with heavy equipment if we could get funding, and native tree and shrub planting by volunteers..

ening to Public Access—Environmental Stewardship

etland resources, and are committed to work with like-minded groups and landowners.”—1968



2022—State archaeologist Sarah Sportman and Friends of the State archaeologist (L.) met with Frank Winiarski, local amateur archaeologist, who has been collecting Native American artifacts from the corn field for 50 years to view his collection. Out on the field archaeologists discovered human bones and returned



with Mohegan tribal archaeologists and an elder to dig in the two locations, finding nearly intact skeletons. They re-interred the remains below the plow line with proper ceremony (Rt.).
—To qualify for grants from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) we hired Tom McGrade (L.), forester with Ferrucci & Walicki, LLC, to develop a Forest Management Plan for the Wood parcel forested areas.

2023—Working with Fernando Rincon of the Windsor NRCS office, and Eric Dunnack, NRCS forester, the Trust signed Wildlife Habitat and Crop Field contracts with the NRCS EQIP program, committing the GMCT to prescribed practices and providing approximately 70% funding reimbursement for costly contracted services..



2024—The brush management practice started in January with TRLandworks, LLC, and their powerful machine grinding up 60 year old invasive bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose, growing since 1958 when Route 3 extended Maple Street to the Putnam Bridge. This was accompanied by Vegetation Control Services Cut Stem herbicide application to the equally mature bittersweet vines entangling living and dead trees.



—On the crop field, a grassy strip was set aside and planted with native grasses to control erosion off the field. Anderson Farms planted a cover crop of Ray’s Crazy fall mix each year to control erosion and to enrich the soil of the field.



—Also in 2024 GMCT signed a contract with CLCC for a Climate Smart Stewardship Grant designed to complement NRCS funding, by making up the difference in costs not covered by the NRCS and supplying Funds in advance rather than reimbursement!



—Summer 2024 VCS returned for the Foliar follow up spray (L.) to kill the mowed bush honeysuckle, MFR, and knotweed that had re-sprouted after being mowed to the ground..

—Fall 2024 native shrubs were planted to transition from the corn field to the forest around the pond. Archaeologists (Rt,) dug the holes for the plants and sifted the soil for artifacts adjacent to the field with the Native American Burial sites. At left, NRCS forester Eric Dunnack, Mohegan tribal archaeologists, James Quinn and David McCormack, NRCS archaeologist, Krista Dotzel, and NRCS’s Fernando Rincon supervised.



—RHHS Lend a Paw volunteers planted the 40 shrubs in the holes dug by the archaeologists. Trust volunteers installed protective deer enclosure fencing around each plant.



2025—The final major heavy mechanical invasive removal practice involved Graver Tree Service (L.) topping several large Arum Cork trees to create snags for woodpecker habitat. Later that summer the follow up foliar herbicide treatment of the regrowth of bush honeysuckle, MFR, and Japanese knotweed was completed by VCS. VCS also attacked the phragmites in the swamp near the street. They will complete the follow up treatment on the phragmites next September.



—Earth Day planting project saw volunteers planting 65 evergreen seedlings and 5 native shrubs in holes dug by Boy Scouts. This will create an evergreen grove on the higher ground of the former 18th Century house and barn yard.

—Lend a Paw volunteer day spread stone to improve the accessible trail and cut invasive shrubs killed by the foliar herbicide treatment.

—An ambitious Eagle Scout project led by candidate Reid Welch made major improvements to the accessible trail and excavated and graded a base area for the installation of an accessible picnic table.

2026—The culmination of the Eagle Scout project will be the assembly and installation of the accessible picnic table and the installation of a “wayside” sign (Rt.) on top of the table with a poem by Margaret Gibson written to celebrate the Wood parcel. Look for a Spring Grand Opening and poetry reading Contributions welcome!



Betty Schmitt Scholarships awarded to '25 Graduates

GMCT was proud to continue our Betty Schmitt Memorial Scholarship for a fifth year in 2025. A \$1,000 scholarship is given to a graduating senior from Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Glastonbury High Schools who will be studying Environmental Science. A new category, Agriculture, has been added. Tim and Denise Lewis presented the awards to each recipient.

The 2025 recipient from Wethersfield is Marguerite Sipala (above right). Marguerite is attending the Coast Guard Academy, majoring in Environmental and Oceanic Science.

The Glastonbury recipient is Ania Minkos (center right) who is attending The College of William and Mary, majoring in Government and Environmental Science.

And, finally, our recipient in Rocky Hill is Emily Morris, who is studying Animal Science and Agri-business at Iowa State University. Emily worked at Hayes Farm in Rocky Hill throughout her High School career, and has a passion for farm work. Below right, Emily poses with farmers Fran and John Whalen at the farm.

This scholarship was created through the generosity of the Schmitt family in honor of Elizabeth “Betty” Schmitt, who chaired GMCT’s Land Acquisition Committee and was a fervent supporter of public education and a passionate advocate for the environment. GMCT received a donation from an anonymous donor to our Scholarship Fund in 2025 that will allow the program to continue for this year. If you would like to help support this program, please make a donation at our website: <https://gmct.org/donations/> and select “Betty Schmitt Scholarship and Memorial Fund”

All donations to our Scholarship Fund go directly to our student recipients. Thank you!



CT Trails Day 2025—Paddle, Peddle, Walk

CT Trails Day saw the usual GMCT/Connecticut River Conservancy sponsored paddles in the Cove, the GMCT/ Bike-Walk Wethersfield bike ride, and the Little kids’ nature hike at the Wood parcel, with a twist or two thanks to the high water in the river.

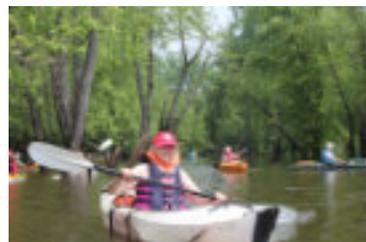
The nature hike at the Wood parcel brought out only one intrepid family for a mosquito hastened walk on the nature trail, posing at right with leader Kathy Beaty. The high water on the river had spawned clouds of pesky insects the likes of which the Wood parcel has never seen!



The bike riders on their route through the village and along the farm roads in the meadows kept moving, and the mosquitoes didn’t pursue them out on the water, as they rode the Ferry to Glastonbury (right).



On the other hand, the paddlers were delighted to paddle in the Wolf parcel floodplain forest on the overflowing Folly Brook. Mosquitoes rarely bother paddlers on the water. (Bottom left and right).



Salute to Business Betty Rosania Award

At the Economic Development and Improvement Commission Salute to Business dinner, Jim Woodworth was awarded the Betty Rosania Award for “Significant Contributions & Service to the Community.” At right, Mayor Ken Lessor and GMCT President Tim Lewis pose with Jim. Joe Hickey, a founding member of the GMCT, received the Betty Rosania award in 2018 on the 50th Anniversary of the Trust.



2025 Source to the Sea Cleanup

GMCT and CRC collaborated on the Annual Source to the Sea Cleanup at the Cove. Friday night, the Wethersfield Dad’s club, transported across the channel in Dennis Walter’s pontoon boat, attacked the I91 trash overflow area. At right Gary Giumetti, top Dad and kids fill upcycled grain bags. Far right Paul Woodworth muscles a tire. Below, the Saturday morning crew poses for a group photo before fanning out in Cove park and out along the River bank.



Friends of the Kycia Farm and GMCT March Garden Seminars

Bats: Diversity and Conservation



DEEP Wildlife Biologist
Dr. Devaughn Fraser

March 19
6:00pm-7:30pm
At the Heirloom Market
263 Main Street

Dr. Fraser worked to identify the genetic basis of resistance to white nose syndrome in bats. Bats provide services like pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, but face challenges like disease and habitat loss. She will introduce the 9 species of bat native to our state, and discuss the methods we are using to monitor and protect our local bats.

21st Cent. Forest Health Challenges

DEEP Central District Service Forester

David Irvin

March 26

7:00pm-8:30pm

At the Keeney Memorial
Cultural Center
200 Main Street



As Central District Service Forester, David Irvin visits private Land Trust and municipal forested areas to study the health of the forest and report to the owners. Last May, David visited the GMCT Wolf parcel flood plain forest and in October he visited the Kycia Farm upland former pasture, now forested and submitted detailed reports. David will address the forest health issues he observed in each area and suggest measures to improve the diversity, resilience, and environmental value.

DEEP Central District Service Forester, David Irvin, right, touring the Kycia Farm forested area off Collier Road with Brian Kenny, Town Forester, and Friends of Kycia Farm Board members Lauren Pagani and Paul Bourdan.



Companion Forest and Bird Walk

10:00am, Saturday, March 28.

GMCT Wolf Parcel, 412 Hartford Ave. See p.3.

Annual Dinner Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2026 5:30 PM

Special guest speaker—Mark Seth Lender
Guilford resident and NPR
Explorer in Residence, *Living on Earth*



Nature Next Door—The Wild is all around us. You can find it high in the Polar Ice, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Maasai Mara. But also very near to home. There is nowhere in these United States more than a tank of gas or a full charge on an EV round trip from the Natural World. And that world has commonalities. Mark Seth Lender will

speak about what ties it all together. Included will be photographs and fieldwork from his 35 years of fieldwork on every continent on earth.

Please join the GMCT members and friends at our Annual Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, March 24th Elizabeth's Restaurant, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill.

The cost of the dinner — \$40 per person for members or guests.

Social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 with cash bar and dinner beginning at 6:30. A short annual business meeting will follow dinner, with reports from the president and committees, election of directors by the membership, and election of officers by the new Board of Directors. The presentation by Mark Seth Lender will follow the brief business meeting.

To Register and pay online:

Go to www.gmct.org/event-registration.

By USPS!

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

P. O. Box 171

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Value of Floodplain Land, Cont. We enthusiastically agreed and are looking forward to meeting Walter later in the spring/early summer to show him our parcel locations.

All three of these instances are indicative of the value of the Great Meadows and demonstrates the need for conservation of this precious resource. As David Irvin stated in his report, "These floodplain forests are valued ecosystems that provide many services, including a natural water retention and buffer against flooding developed areas, carbon sequestration, water purification, and provide more rare types of habitats and biodiversity. As stated in Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut, "Because of the fertile nature of their soils, as well as their flat terrain, and lack of rocks, these floodplains are important for agricultural production, but also serve as essential habitat for many important species."

It is GMCT's mission to protect this valuable land.



Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.

P. O. Box 171

Glastonbury, CT 06033

www.gmct.org

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The Wood parcel at 25 years...see pages 4 and 5