

**GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.**  
**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2008**

**Time: Dinner: 5:30 pm – Meeting: 7:00 pm – Program: 7:30 pm**

**Place: Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury,  
1361 Main St, Glastonbury**

Just south of the intersection of Route 17 and Main Street.

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**7:30 pm Program: Attorney Russell L. Brenneman:**

***"Rescuing Connecticut - Land Saving Action."***

**Attorney Brenneman** was "present at the creation" of the Trust 40 years ago, and over his distinguished career, has profoundly influenced environmental law, institutions and policy in Connecticut and beyond. An "Of Counsel" member of Murtha Cullina's Environmental Department, he concentrates his practice on land use, environmental protection, and natural resource law. He served as special counsel to Commissioner Dan Lufkin when the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection was organized. He is Chairman of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, Educational Fund, and serves as a member of the International Council of Environmental Law. For a number of years, he taught environmental law at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and currently teaches environmental policy at Trinity College.

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**A Catered Dinner will precede the meeting and program**

**5:30 pm - *Hors D'Oeuvres featuring locally made cheeses from Cato Corner Farms, crackers and wine***

**6:00 pm - *Buffet ... Soup – Salad – Chips Sandwich Platter  
Dessert with Tea or Coffee***



✂ \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve ***no later*** than March 24<sup>th</sup> for the dinner Wednesday, March 26

The cost per person is \$25.00

Questions may be directed to Lisa Olsen - 633-8417

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

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

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**GMCT Annual Meeting, E. A. Olsen, 52 Hitching Post Lane, Glastonbury, CT 06033**

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting 2007
2. Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2007
3. President's annual report to the members
4. Report of the Nominating Committee.
5. Election of Directors to serve through 2011.
6. Election of Officers to serve until next annual meeting.
7. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Rick Doran, Secretary of the Trust

### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** Ms. Ingrid Boelhouwer, Ms. Judy Haddad  
Mr. Peter Maxwell, Mr. Mark Packard

**DATE:** February 1, 2008

#### **Nominations for Board of Directors (2008-2011)**

Glastonbury:	Mr. David Ahlgren	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Mr. Richard Mihm	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rocky Hill:	Mr. Peter Maxwell	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Wethersfield:	Ms. Judy Haddad	2 <sup>nd</sup>

Retiring Director ineligible for reelection: Ms. Lisa Olson

#### **Nominations for Officers**

<b>President</b>	Mr. Richard Doran
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr. Peter Maxwell
<b>Secretary</b>	Ms. Duffy Schade
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Richard Mihm

#### **Continuing Board of Director Members**

Name	Town	Term Expire Date	Term #
Ingrid Boelhouwer	Wethersfield	2009	1 <sup>st</sup>
James Woodworth	Wethersfield	2009	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Duffy Schade	Glastonbury	2009	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Wendell Coogan	Rocky Hill	2009	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Mark Packard, Chair**

# GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

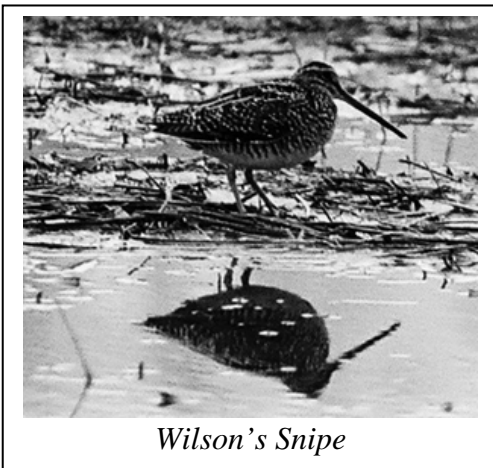
### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Five years ago outgoing President Ralph Moyer passed on to me the mountain goat, symbolic of GMCT leadership in environmental stewardship. The goat is perched on a pinnacle above a plaque that reads "Presented to the GMCT (in 1973) by the Connecticut (chapter of) The National Wildlife Federation for outstanding contributions to the wise use and management of the nation's natural resources."



While the old goat may have accumulated a layer of dust in the ensuing 35 years, it's clear that the Trust has sustained this charge over the 40 years since the Trust's official incorporation.

The record of the efforts of the Trust to defend the "natural resources" of the Great Meadows is preserved in the working files that I will soon be passing on to Rick Doran, and, thanks to the effort of Jolly Steffens, Larry Lunden, and Paul Flannery, in the archival files at the Wethersfield Historical Society. When one of those perennial proposals comes up again, like the boat launch at Putnam Bridge, a new intrusive use for Crow Point Cove, or a reopening of the Rocky Hill dump for leaf composting, one can look in the files and find the hand written notes of Eleanor Wolf ("Counting all the 500 year and 100 year floods I've witnessed, I must be 1700 years old!"), or a letter written by Ralph Moyer ("Therefore, we respectfully urge that no such proposed landfill reuse occur.").



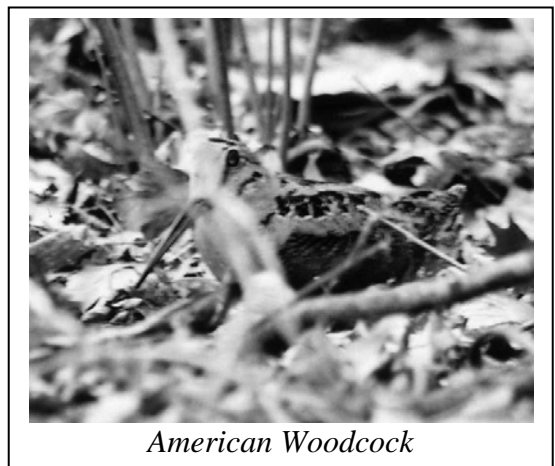
*Wilson's Snipe*

Over those 40 years, the environmental movement has grown through the efforts of the Land Trust Alliance, and the efforts of local land trusts such as ours to adopt the Standards and Practices that are "the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust." In 2003 we participated in a self assessment. In 2006 we resolved officially to make "continual

progress toward implementation of these standards and practices." This continual progress was evident in the careful inspections of possible new properties carried out by Larry Lunden, who, as land management chair, keeps vital records in accordance with the standards.

Likewise, in the area of financial management, Treasurer Dick Mihm's Excel wizardry has brought our financial management and accountability into compliance.

Trust acquisitions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, beginning with the Wood Parcel purchase, continuing with the Wolcott and the Hayes gifts have added many parcels and much acreage to our holdings. Our stewardship responsibilities have grown, as has our income from farmland leases. Dick's efforts in creating a stewardship fund, and directing lease income toward it, are vital to future efforts to be good stewards, not only of our own properties, but in collaboration with the Hartford Audubon Society, the Game Clubs, Goodwin College, to work



*American Woodcock*

toward improving the wildlife habitat over the greater landscape of the Great Meadows.

As I reflect on the past 5 years, I think of solitary moments like those captured in the photographs of the woodcock and the snipe, one mirrored in a spring puddle in a bean field, the other hidden in twigs 500 feet away on the forested edge of Goff Brook. I am grateful for the privilege of serving as president of the Trust.. I will cherish the twin rewards of personal friendships with Trust members and of a deepened relationship with the Nature.

**Jim Woodworth, President**

### **REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

At the end of 2007, we had 143 Family or Individual Members and 44 Life Members.

#### **New members in 2007:**

Susan Oliver	Coventry
David Dickson	Glastonbury
Ruth & Joseph Lux	Glastonbury
Judith & Robert Tierney	Glastonbury
Bill Asteriades	South Glastonbury
Sue & Andrew Dasinger	South Glastonbury
Elizabeth Doran	South Glastonbury
Judy Richey	South Glastonbury
Rose Riley	Wethersfield
Scott Smith	Wethersfield
Ellen & Samuel Spratlin	Wethersfield
Carol Szymanski	Wethersfield

#### **Deceased Members in 2007:**

Richard Wolf, Life Member since 1982	Wethersfield/Rocky Hill
Eunice Wells, member since 1970	Wethersfield

#### **Support from the following Garden Clubs:**

Hill and Dale Garden Club	Glastonbury
Hillside Garden Club	Rocky Hill
Rocky Hill Garden Club	Rocky Hill
Wethersfield Garden Club	Wethersfield

**Joan Mihm, Chair**

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

The GMCT year kicked off with successful Winter Walks in the Flood Plain. Jim Woodworth and Larry Lunden, Land Management Chairman, took turns leading the hikes scheduled to monitor GMCT holdings in the meadows and to introduce members and people in the community to the natural spaces so near to them and to the city and suburbs. The walks were cosponsored with CAS, Glastonbury, the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center in Wethersfield, and Goodwin College in East Hartford.

Our annual dinner highlighted locally grown food, with local wines and cheeses preceding the delicious catered dinner. The featured speaker was Jiff Martin, New England Field Representative from the American Farmland Trust and Project Director of the Working Lands Alliance. Her presentation, "No Bar Code: A Local Agricultural Renaissance," focused on the new appreciation of locally grown food.

In June, the Trust supported Connecticut Trails Day on June, with a Nature Hike in the flood plain led by Ken Etheridge, and CT Open House Day on the Glastonbury/Rocky Hill Ferry with free Ferry rides and an information booth, spearheaded by Peter Maxwell.

In October the Trust cosponsored the Annual Nayaug Canoe & Kayak Race & Riverfront Celebration, part of the New England Canoe & Kayak Racing Association Point Series.

Also in October the Trust cosponsored a Meet the Candidates night in Glastonbury.

**E.A. Olson, Chair**

## **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

Our parcels continue to be in good shape. Our parcel count now stands at 47 with an approximate acreage of 187. Eleven parcels were inspected during the year. Presently ten parcels have not been inspected during the last five years.

Seven parcels came to us in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill from the heirs of the Hayes family. They were given in honor and memory of their parents, Edward P. Hayes, Sr. and Anne T. Hayes. Together they add about 29 acres to our holdings. When combined with our other holdings, they form a significant block to possible development along the Wethersfield – Rocky Hill border. Before giving the parcels to us, the family granted a hunting easement to the Wethersfield Game Club.

Unfortunately the parcels came with an inconsistency between the location of the boundary on the maps and the actual usage of the land. Such things are not uncommon in the meadows, and the Trust is pursuing a resolution to the situation that is agreeable to us and to the neighboring landowner. Another inconsistency was found between the deed description of one of the parcels and the parcel attributed to us by the town. I researched this extensively, but could not find enough information to shed light on the problem. We decided to accept the town's allocation as is.

The new Hayes parcels contain some 24 acres of crop land that is presently in use by a local farmer. This brings our total crop land to 50 acres, almost doubling what we had before. This land will be rented to the farmer in the coming year. Our existing farmers continued their leases of our lands. The Coast Guard continues to lease a small plot for channel marker number 122. The town of Wethersfield continues to lease a road diversion area where the river bank was washed out.

We held six Winter Walks with a total attendance of 107. We visited some properties in the Glastonbury Point Meadows area that have not been visited in many years. To help with planning visits to the meadows, I took a series of water level observations and correlated them with the river gauge readings that the USGS makes available on the web. I made a spreadsheet that will predict which entry

points into the meadows will be flooded over.

The National Audubon Society and the Hartford Audubon Society asked us to participate in the nomination process for an Important Bird Area. This is a recognition program of National Audubon Society that highlights areas that are of importance to birds. We are now collecting data on what birds are present in the meadows and have the help of a professor from Trinity College to analyze it.

**Larry Lunden, Land Management Chairman**

### **LAND ACQUISITION REPORT 2007**

The Land Acquisition Committee completed the receipt of a gift of several parcels of land in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill given in memory of Edward P. Hayes, Sr. and Anne T. Hayes. The committee continues to be active in contacting land owners in the Meadows to procure land, and monitors land records in the three communities. Several parcels in the meadows were inspected by members of both Land Acquisition and Land Management committees to evaluate them for potential acquisition. To accomplish the goal of preserving land in the meadows, the help of all members is vital.

**Pamela St. Jean, Chair**

Auditors Report – 2007

March 5, 2008

Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.

To the Board of Directors:

We have reviewed the consolidated statements of cash flows for the one year period beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007. The statements were compared to bank and mutual fund statements, receipts, deposits, and disbursements. All documents were found to support the consolidated statement, as well as the year-end financial report.

In our opinion the financial statements and reports of GMCT's financial position for the period noted are presented fairly, in all material respects.

Richard Doran  
96 Parish Road  
Rocky Hill, CT



Neal Cox  
42 Riverview Road  
Rocky Hill, CT







Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.  
P.O. Box 171  
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033



# ANNUAL REPORT 2007