President’s Report for 2010

Mark Packard, President

2010 was a long year. Policies and procedures to be written, court dates to be kept, expectant acquisitions to be inspected. Your Board and Operations Committees were very busy in 2010. I’ve tried to capture the highlights below. Suffice it to say, the Trust has a strong presence in the Meadows and the Meadows are better off for it.

Baril Parcel Although technically not transferred to the Trust until February 2011 I’m taking credit for this donation in 2010. Carl Baril of Glastonbury and his family from points beyond have deeded a wonderful parcel of tillable farmland just north of the Putnam Bridge, to the Trust. It’s amazing the amount of effort that is undertaken to make a transaction like this take place. Title searches and environmental assessments, parcel inspections and board approvals. All need to be considered before we accept the donation of a parcel.

Trust Founding Member Joe Hickey Honored by American Trails

American Trails has awarded a Path of Excellence program State Trail Worker Award for Connecticut to Joe Hickey

Joyce Rossgnol
Reprinted with permission from Wethersfield Life Magazine, Jan. 11, 2011

Joe Hickey was chosen by American Trails as this year’s recipient of the State Trail Worker Award for Connecticut.

Mr. Hickey was praised for his “lifetime of service to protecting and preserving Connecticut’s trails and open space. He has walked up and down every hill and knoll in the state scouting new trail routes, trail connections, and land preservation opportunities.”

Joe (center) celebrating the Wilkus Farm preservation.

Mr. Hickey has worked in various capacities at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in the State Parks Division. There he was involved in the development of several state outdoor recreation plans that were a requirement to receive land and water conservation funds. For years he served as the state’s trails coordinator and he was a leading advocate for trail development within the DEP. He was also responsible for implementation of the Recreation Trails Program in Connecticut.

Mr. Hickey was instrumental in forging a creative partnership between the DEP and the Connecticut National Guard to develop the Air Line State Park Trail, one of the state’s first rail-to-trail projects. Guardsmen cleared and graded the old rail bed, and the DEP realized huge cost savings along the way. Several subsequent trail projects benefited from this bond.

He represented the DEP on several advisory boards during his tenure, including the committee that approved the designation of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. He was also active in the designation of the Quinebaug Shetucket Natural Heritage Corridor and the Last Green Valley.

Following his retirement, he has been active in the Land Conservation Coalition and successor organizations like the open space task force. He was appointed by Governor Rowland/ Governor Rell to the Connecticut Greenways Council, on which he has served for more than 10 years. He was awarded the council’s Lifetime Achievement award in 1999. He is also a member of the Connecticut environmental review council.
Annual Meeting Agenda—March 28, 2011

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting 2010
2. Treasurer’s report for fiscal year 2010
3. President’s annual report to the members
5. Election of Directors to serve through 2014.
6. Election of Officers to serve until next annual meeting.
7. Vote to Amend the By-Laws:
   Article VI, 3. Land Acquisition Committee. The func-
   tion of the Land Acquisition Committee shall be to rec-
   ommend to the Board of Directors the acquisition of
   parcels of land and easements, primarily in the Connecti-
   cut River flood plain in the Towns of Wethersfield, Glaston-
   bury and Rocky Hill, in the name of the Great Meadow-
   ows Conservation Trust, Inc. by means of purchase, gift,
   easement or devise.
8. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2011

Members: Duffy Schade, Sandi Kelly, Ralph Moyer
2011 Slate of Officers and Directors

Officers:
   President – Mark Packard (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2013)
   Vice President – vacant
   Secretary – Jim Zagroba (Rocky Hill – 2nd 2012)
   Treasurer – Richard Doran (Wethersfield – 1st – 2014)

Directors
   Richard Doran (Wethersfield – 1st – 2014)
   Sandy Weiss (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2014)
   Tom Kehoe (Glastonbury – 1st – 2014)
   Penny Rusnak (Glastonbury-1st-2014)

Continuing Directors
   Mark Packard (Glastonbury – 2nd – 2013)

Ingrid Boelhouwer (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2012)
James Zagroba (Rocky Hill – 2nd - 2012)
Joseph Hickey (Wethersfield – 1st – 2012)
Elizabeth Schmitt (Glastonbury – 1st – 2012)
Sandi Kelly (Rocky Hill – 1st – 2013)
Richard Johnson (Rocky Hill – 1st-2013)
Rebecca M. Zaliznock (Wethersfield – 1st – 2013)

Retiring Directors
   Judy Haddad (Wethersfield – 2nd – 2011)
   Peter Maxwell (Rocky Hill – 2nd – 2011)
   David Ahlgren (Glastonbury – 1st-2011)

Spring Events Details @ www.gmct.org
Sat., April 30. 7am. Hike Quarry Park with Larry Lunden.
10am - 3pm. Earth Fair, CAS Glastonbury.
Connecticut Trails Day Hikes, Saturday, June 4
   8am-11am. Hike from Ferry Park with Ken Etheridge.
   9am-noon. Hike Crow Point with Jim Woodworth.
Sunday, June 5, 10am-noon. Bike Heritage Trail with Jim Woodworth Cove Park to Ferry Landing.

GMCT joins Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

N to N Energy Challenge, a new community-based pro-
gram to promote energy efficiency and clean energy,
hopes to leverage friendly competition to help residents
save money, cut energy consumption, and reduce pollu-
tion. Sign up now for a lighting audit and receive up to 15
free CFL bulbs. Help convince your neighbors to get a
$75 energy audit. Earn points for the GMCT. Details at
Land Management Report 2010
Larry Lunden, Land Management Chair

We now own 45 parcels with a total area of 172.1 acres. We have completed inspections on 30 parcels this year. Over the last three years we have inspected all of our parcels.

We held eight winter walks for the public, with a total attendance of 232, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Audubon Society at Glastonbury and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. Meetup.com continues to be a good form of publicity.

Our leasing program with local farmers continues to keep 50 acres of farmland in active use.

One of the new Hayes parcels in Wethersfield came with an inconsistency between the location of the parcel on the assessor’s maps and the actual use of the fields. We had a survey of the parcels in the area completed, and we reached a boundary line agreement with our neighbor. The town is still processing the changes needed.

On one of our winter walks, we discovered an elegant tree house built on one of our parcels. We are currently in negotiations to lease the small area to the neighbor.

The town of Rocky Hill has produced a new set of assessor’s maps using GIS technology, resulting in more precise location of the parcels. The maps are also available on the web. I added the corners of our parcels to our GPS files to make it easier to locate our parcels in the field.

The Metropolitan District Commission has a right-of-way through the Wood parcel for a sewer line. They came in to do some maintenance on the line, and to establish a roadway for their vehicles to access the line. We combined the roadway with the trail on the parcel to reduce the impact on the vegetation. At the same time they moved a junk car off the parcel for us.

We acquired a new parcel from the Baril family in Glastonbury—the first acquisition in Glastonbury since 1983. The 0.7 acre parcel consists of a farming field, and will be leased to Overbrook Farm for pig corn in the spring. Additional parcels are under study for the Acquisition Committee, and possible action is still pending.

An elusive parcel, which has not been found before, has been discovered. It was one of the Dickau parcels we bought in 1977, but never were able to locate. I discovered a map in the Glastonbury town records that shows where it is. At 450 square feet, it is our smallest parcel. I asked the town assessor to update their maps to show the parcel.

We are planning to participate in an easement defense insurance program being developed by the Land Trust Alliance. Baseline photos and field notes were completed in 2009 and baseline documentation and landowner acknowledgement letters should be completed in the coming year.

These are not small tasks and committee members have spent many hours drafting and reviewing these important documents. Having these policies in place will help to guide present and future members of the Trust in fulfilling our goal to protect and preserve the meadows. Accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance will help us show others we are an organization worthy of doing business with.

Land Acquisition Committee At our Annual Meeting last year, author and renowned Conservationist David Morine challenged us to fulfill the mission of the Trust—to get our assets out of the bank and into the Great Meadows. Indeed, it’s worth pointing out that owning land strengthens our voice in many ways. When we own even small parcels, we become abutters to larger parcels, and have a stronger voice with the town when development threatens. We’ve restructured the Land Acquisition Committee to include two people from each town, and are working hard to acquire key pieces of the meadows in all three communities. We are actively seeking to expand our holdings, and influence, in the process.

Rocky Hill Landfill A case in point for the influence garnered by owning land is the former Rocky Hill landfill. Because we own an abutting parcel to the landfill property, we have a very strong voice in what happens on that site. Meadow Properties, LLC, is trying to reopen the landfill under the premise that it needs to be properly capped. GMCT has taken the stance that only necessary repairs, if needed, should be made and impact should be minimized as much as possible. We have been closely monitoring the process and have even taken the Town to court when it became apparent they had not followed their own regulations. The CT Department of Environmental Protection has issued a consent order to the property owners requiring certain actions be performed by certain dates.

It’s a tired, but still true maxim: “There is strength in numbers.” Our voice with our elected officials gets stronger with every member who re-commits to our shared stewardship of the Great Meadows.
2010 Treasurer’s Report

Value of Great Meadows Conservation Trust Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Value on 01/01/2010</th>
<th>Value on 12/31/2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBWL PF Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>GMCT General Fund</td>
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<td>Total Stewardship Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$198,632.61</td>
<td>$214,228.46</td>
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</table>

By Duffy Schade

Bald eagles nest in the Great Meadows. Corn grows as high as an elephant’s eye in the Great Meadows. People farm, bird-watch, walk, bicycle, hunt, ride snowmobiles, fly model airplanes and love the Great Meadows. Great Meadows Conservation Trust endeavors to preserve the Great Meadows for all these reasons and more. At the core of our success lies countless hours of quiet, diligent work by our Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Dick and Joan Mihm. For their work, GMCT is celebrating them as their 2011 Volunteers of the Year. Actually that title is an under-statement, because between them Joan and Dick have freely given us their time and talent for over four decades!

Dick became Treasurer in 2006. He has put his experience from working for Quodata Corporation, a Hartford software firm, and then the Phoenix to use by developing a database spreadsheet in Excel software for keeping track of the trust’s complicated finances. Income and expenses are appropriated into four separate funds. The General Fund is funded mostly through annual dues and contributions under $25.00. These monies are used for general operations of the trust: postage, printing, officers insurance, etc. The E.B. Wolf Fund is used for land acquisition and is funded through monetary gifts and contributions over $25.00. The Stewardship Fund is used to maintain and improve our existing land holding and is funded primarily through lease rents and grants. Finally there is an Endowment fund that was established through a bequest from the estate of William Reed, who was a member of the

Trust. The Treasurer also manages the trust’s investments with Vanguard with advice from the Finance Committee and approval from the Board of Directors...

Many a kid who went through Glastonbury High School remembers Mr. Mihm as a physics teacher. Dick was head of the Science Department for several years before joining the corporate sector. He was a member of the Glastonbury Conservation Commission for many years. Since retiring in 2000 he volunteers for the Glastonbury Historical Society helping with the photograph collection at their museum, putting his computer skills to work.

Even while raising their two children, Kathy and Steven, and working part-time at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library (now retired), Joan has been our Membership Chairman for over 35 years. She jumped into the Membership Committee soon after she and Dick joined the trust in 1970, and took over the chairmanship from Marion Flagerty in 1975. The job was easy then! Thanks to Bob Fellows, a GMCT member and President of Glastonbury Bank and Trust, all contributions to the trust, whether membership dues, donations or other payments, were sent to our address c/o the bank, and deposited into our account. The bank kept all the transaction records and reported them to Marion, all pro bono. However, soon after Joan took on the task, Bob Fellows retired and moved away. The succeeding bank officers decided that henceforth GMCT would be charged for this service. There was not enough money in our young treasury to pay for that.

Dick and Joan Mihm—2011 Volunteers of the Year

See Joan & Dick—Page 6
### 2010 Treasurer’s Report, cont.

#### GENERAL FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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#### STEWARDSHIP FUND

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<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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#### E. B. WOLF FUND

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<tr>
<td>Matching Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$420.00</td>
<td>$2,330.00</td>
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#### Grand Total

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<td></td>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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#### ENDOWMENT FUND

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#### BankNorth Checking Account

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<tr>
<td>12/31/10</td>
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<td>$10,350.05</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
By Duffy Schade

A safe place to hang out, water and food, what more can a goose ask for when a blanket of snow covers the landscape and most fresh water bodies are frozen? Several hundred Canada geese are finding the Connecticut River and Glastonbury Meadows a good place to be this white winter.

My husband, Gerhard, and I drove up to the old Hallmark Tire Company (future site of the Glastonbury Boathouse) one cold mid-January morning to have a look at the Connecticut River. In spite of the cold weather we had been having, an open channel flowed past fused ice chunks on each shore. At a distance downstream, we noticed that the icy edge was densely speckled with geese! Scores and more of them rest in a place where few if any predators would dare to tread.

A week later, we followed snowmobile tracks in the Glastonbury Meadows on cross-country skis. We headed south, closer to the old Meadow Drain than the river. Geese were constantly flying overhead—big V’s, broken V’s, small disorganized groups, a few singles, all heading south. Why south, it’s January—isn’t that a little late for migrating? The answer came as we approached an un-harvested cornfield—a short beeline from the place we had seen them on the river.

As someone approached from the far end of the field, a few geese took off, then more and more. Hundreds of angry geese became a noisy cloud. The sound reminded me of Alfred Hitchcock’s movie, “The Birds”. Their honking faded as they headed back towards their refuge on the river.

Geese are now common in Connecticut all year, as they were in Colonial times, though then they were mostly migrants. Their numbers declined in the 18th and 19th centuries as unregulated and market hunting decimated their population. In the early 1900s protective regulations reversed the trend. Game breeders, private groups and sportsmen released Canada geese over the years. These resident geese adapted to our changing landscape and their numbers continue to increase. They have everything they need in the Nutmeg state, so have no reason to migrate. As they graze and defecate on golf courses, lawns, farmers’ fields, and pollute reservoirs, many people consider them a nuisance.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) identifies three distinct Canada geese populations in the state from fall into early spring. The Atlantic Population nests in northern Quebec and spends winters from Massachusetts southward to North Carolina, primarily in the Chesapeake region. The North Atlantic Population breeds in the Canadian Maritime provinces and western Greenland and winters primarily in southern New England and eastern Long Island. The Atlantic Flyway Resident Population breed throughout Connecticut, but are found in highest densities in urbanized areas where hunting exposure is low.

It is generally these year-round resident geese that cause the most damage, being here in spring and summer. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages Canada geese and all migratory game birds, primarily through scheduling hunting seasons timed to occur when migrants are not present in Connecticut and directing hunting toward the resident population. Though hunting is an effective tool, many nuisance geese problems occur in urban and suburban areas where hunting is not an option.

I am still thrilled by the calls of flying geese, music of the wild. I like to think that many of those we saw on those quiet January days raised their young in Canada and our Great Meadows on the Connecticut River is a good winter home for them.

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Joan & Dick—from Page 4

Tasks that fell into Joan’s lap quite quickly grew. We needed to have a new address. So we obtained a Post Office box in Glastonbury. Who would be in charge of collecting mail from it? As dues and other payments amounted to the biggest source of mail, Joan stepped up. She became the one to pick it all up and make certain that each piece reaches the proper destination.

Joan inherited from the bank a metal large index card file box and a ledger containing membership records from the 1968 founding of the trust. That remains the source of information about our membership. There is a card for each member, single or family, with name, address, and phone number on to which Joan enters each renewal and contribution. She also records each check in the ledger with its important data, and she notes the date when she deposits the check. The treasurer has no need to even see these checks.

All that is only part of the job she has been doing these many years. In addition she writes thank you notes to everyone who donates over $25.00. To major donors she sends a formal letter acceptable to the IRS. How do members get their annual report, dues requests and newsletters? Although she used to have help from members in each town, it comes down to Joan who stuffs, applies address labels, stamps and sends them off. Dick has helped with developing a database of membership information that produces mailing labels. Not long ago they were all handwritten.

Joan and Dick announced at least a year ago that they wished to retire from their volunteer work for GMCT. Indeed these are hard shoes to fill. GMCT is fortunate that Rick Doran, Past-president and Secretary, has agreed to be the new Treasurer. Sandy Weiss, who is a nominee from Rocky Hill for the Board of Directors, has agreed to take on the Membership role.

This is Joan’s second Volunteer of the Year award from GMCT, as she was recognized in 1999. She is the first to win it twice. That is the very least our Trust can do to celebrate the work she and Dick have done. The Board of Directors and Operations Committee will miss seeing them at monthly meetings.
Special Guest Speaker
TNC’s Christian Marks
The State of the CT River
Flood Plain Forest

Christian will share with us the results of the ambitious field study of floodplain forests he has led throughout the entire Connecticut River watershed.

Christian’s data will guide forest restoration efforts that will expand their capacity to provide water filtration, flood control, and wildlife migration corridors.

---clip here---

GMCT Annual Dinner Reservations

Please reserve **no later** than March 17th for the dinner Thursday, March 24th, 2011

**Questions may be directed to Rick Doran at 860-690-9983 or info@GMCT.org**

The cost per person for dinner is $27.50.

Name(s):________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number________________Address________________________________________________________________________

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dinners @ $27.50</td>
<td>____ = _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships @ $15 individual/$25 family</td>
<td>____ = _______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Enclosed:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please enclose a check payable to “GMCT” and mail to:

GMCT Annual Meeting
Richard Doran
223 Main Street,
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Call to Annual Meeting Dinner Meeting
Thursday, March 24th
Lucky Lou’s Bar and Grill, 222 Main Street, Wethersfield

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The Meadows—Open Space
by Ed Chiucarello

I walk Great Meadow Road
Over Goff Brook
Along a field in the Rocky Hill Meadows
I am in open space
My breath lengthens
My tempo slows
My eyes fill
I am in open space

A brisk January day
I stop
Patches of light brown grass puncture fields of snow
Cumulus clouds hug the Glastonbury hills

I am in open space
Filled with peace
My breath sighs
My heart beats