



# GREENWICH LAND TRUST

## Notes from the Field: Bond Preserve

The Bond Preserve contains seven-acres of wetland located in the heart of central Greenwich. The property has a unique history both with the people of Greenwich and the geology of the region. The Bond Preserve is a kettle bog formed by a large submerged piece of glacial ice that created a deep depression. The formation filled with peaty, muck soil over time. Soil cores show that sections of the property have pure peat soil as deep as 50 feet. The wetland holds immense quantities of water and contributes to cleaning and re-charging ground water for the



Connecticut DEEP staff mows *Phragmites australis* with a wetland specialized "Marsh Master."

community.

Over the years, invasive reed (*Phragmites australis*) has spread throughout the wetland and displaced native vegetation. The monoculture of reed greatly reduced habitat for wildlife and resulted in local flooding.

Greenwich Land Trust has worked with Connecticut DEEP's Wildlife Habitat and Mosquito



Greenwich Land Trust Youth Corps employees stand next to the split rail fence they installed at the Bond Preserve.

Management program to control the *Phragmites* infestation, using specialized wetland equipment.

Since removing a majority of *Phragmites* from the property, a diversity of native wetland plants, including cattails, sedges, dogwoods, and wildflowers have returned. These plants provide vital food and shelter to native wildlife.

The Bond Preserve was part of a larger farm owned by the Husted family in the 1600's. The farm was mainly used for raising horses and the area of the Bond Preserve was used for hoof treatment with water thought to contain medicinal qualities. Colonel Thomas Hobby rode off to the Revolutionary War on one of the grey dappled horses from the Husted farm. These horses became known as "Hobby horses" and were the model for

the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century Hobby horse toys.

Sections of the farm were later sold for development and the Bond property became part of a larger residential site. It was given to the Nature Conservancy by longtime resident Harold Bond and his wife Helen in 1965. It was then transferred to the Land Trust in 1991 to assure the preserve received care and management.

The Bond Preserve's close proximity to several schools makes it an ideal location for student service projects and hands-on learning. Each October, seventh grade students from Greenwich Academy visit the Preserve for a lesson on local ecology and to harvest reeds used for a class lesson on indigenous American building techniques.