



# gosa *instant!* news

Groton Open Space Association *Instant!* News, Fall 2012, Volume I, No. 4



Photo of Candlewood Ridge by Sue Sutherland

## Urgent Action Needed NOW to Save Open Space in Groton and Across the State

Connecticut is facing a serious budget deficit. As a result, Governor Malloy is recommending a \$5 million cut to the Community Investment Act (CIA), a piece of landmark legislation passed with strong bipartisan support in 2005 to provide funding to protect and preserve the beauty and unique character of Connecticut for future generations. Yet in 2009 and 2011 open space grants were cut from the budget. This cut portends yet another blow to open space.

CIA funds have been and remain critical to GOSA's efforts to buy and protect land in watershed areas. Two properties have already been purchased and protected by GOSA with CIA and other state funding assistance\*—land that would otherwise have been clear cut and covered with housing and impervious surfaces. **Last spring GOSA applied for another CIA/CT DEEP OSWLA grant to help purchase a magnificent piece of wild land in the north of Groton called Candlewood Ridge. This grant, and more than 30 others state-wide, are now in jeopardy because of the proposed budget cuts.** \*Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition

Why is this particular piece of land so important to us all? Almost half of Candlewood Ridge is wetlands which act like a sponge and protect the Haley Brook watershed from runoff. GOSA's purchase will not only protect a rich diversity of wildlife, including some very rare species, but it will also provide important flood protection to our citizens. It can help prevent

another disaster like the March, 2011 storm that flooded the Old Mystic area, destroyed the bridge on Rte. 184, and cost over \$2 million to replace.

In four days (December 19) the state legislature will be convening a special legislative session to cut the budget. **Once again we urge you to write a letter, send an e-mail or call to ask that the CIA funding be preserved.**

To learn more about the CIA go to *Where We Live: Preserving The Character Of Connecticut*  
<http://www.yourpublicmedia.org/node/13252>

**Governor Dannel Malloy**  
Governor.Malloy@ct.gov  
(860) 566-4840 or (800) 406-1527

**Representative Elissa Wright**  
Elissa.Wright@cga.ct.gov  
860-240-8585 or (800) 842-8267

**Senator Andrew Maynard**  
Andrew.Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0591 or (800) 842-1420

**Sen. Don Williams, President Pro Tempore of the Senate**  
Don.Williams@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8600 or (800) 842-1420

**Sen. Martin Looney, Senate Majority Leader**  
Martin.Looney@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8600 or (800) 842-1420

*Continued on page 2*

**Sen. John McKinney, Senate Minority Leader**

John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8800 or (860) 842-1421

**Rep. Chris Donovan, Speaker of the House**

Christopher.Donovan@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8500 or (800) 842-1902

**Rep. Brendan Sharkey, House Majority Leader**

Brendan.Sharkey@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8500 or (800) 842-1902

**Rep. Larry Cafero, House Minority Leader**

Lawrence.Cafero@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8700 or (800) 842-1423

**Sen. Edward Meyer, Environment Committee Senate Chair**

Edward.Meyer@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0455

**Rep. Richard Roy, Environment Committee House Chair**

Richard.Roy@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0440

**Sen. Gary LeBeau, Commerce Committee Senate Chair**

Gary.LeBeau@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0511

**Rep. Jeff Berger, Commerce Committee House Chair**

Jeffrey.Berger@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0380

**Sen. Steve Cassano, Planning & Development Committee Senate Chair**

Steve.Cassano@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-5302

**Rep. Linda Gentile, Planning & Development Committee House Chair**

Linda.Gentile@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0553

**Sen. Edwin Gomes, Housing Committee Senate Chair**

Edwin.Gomes@senatedems.ct.gov  
(860) 240-0441

**Rep. Larry Butler, Housing Committee House Chair**

Larry.Butler@cga.ct.gov  
(860) 240-8585

*Below: Rare species found at Candlewood Ridge: Left to right, spotted turtle, pumpkinseed fish, brown thrasher, and banded sunfish.*



**GOSA News** will support the mission and purpose of the Groton Open Space Association by publishing electronic newsletters that will inform the public of past, present and future GOSA activities and threats to the health of open space. **GOSA News** will also serve as a link to the GOSA website <http://gosaonline.org/> for additional information and as a link to other key sites. Our mission is to inform and inspire the public to become actively involved. We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be sent with the writer's name, address and daytime phone number via e-mail to: [gosamail@gmail.com](mailto:gosamail@gmail.com).

**GOSA Mission and Purpose**

To work to promote conservation, environmental preservation, open space and recreational areas in Southeastern Connecticut.

To educate the public about the value of open space, conservation and environmental preservation.

To enlist public support and funding to promote, acquire or maintain open space for public use, alone or in cooperation with local, state or federal agencies, or with other nonprofit organizations. GOSA is a nonprofit tax exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

**GOSA News Staff**

Editor: Eugenia Villagra  
Associate Editors: Lillian Kezerian, Patty Oat, Elizabeth Raisbeck  
Layout: Eugenia Villagra  
Layout Designers: Eugenia Villagra, Rusty Warner  
Contributor: Eugenia Villagra  
GOSA News Contact Information: [gosamail@gmail.com](mailto:gosamail@gmail.com)

**Membership**

To join, send a check to GOSA and include your name, address and e-mail. Annual dues are \$10 per year.

Groton Open Space Association, Inc.  
PO Box 9187  
Groton, CT 06340-9187

E-mail: [gosamail@gmail.com](mailto:gosamail@gmail.com)